

PTA News

Number 2 November 2010

**Chichester
High School
For Girls**



Together we aspire
Together we achieve

Gardeners' event a great success

Gardening enthusiasts enjoyed a highly entertaining and informative evening on Friday 15th October when they attended the PTA's first 'Gardeners' Questions and Answers' event.

Nearly 80 people took their seats in the Centenary Theatre to hear a knowledgeable panel of professionals answer a wide variety of questions, ranging from conifer hedges to garden ponds, orchids to powdery mildew. The panel, chaired by John Humphris, President of the Professional Gardeners' Guild, comprised John Brookes of Denmans Garden; Anna Burtenshaw, of Manor Nurseries Angmering; and Ivan Turner, formerly of the Roundstone Garden Centre, Angmering, and ex-head gardener at Wiston House.



*The panel (L to R):
John Brookes, Anna
Burtenshaw, Ivan
Turner and John
Humphris*

The Sports Hall had been transformed for the evening into a vibrant 'Garden Market'. Instead of the usual basketball hoops and badminton nets, there were tables covered in colourful plants, ornamental grasses, and floral designs, as well as displays of garden sculptures, handmade trugs and sieves, cards and cakes on a floral theme.

Speaking on behalf of the working group which organised the event,

Continued on page 7



In this issue...

Gardeners' event a great success	1
PTA Committee update	2
£3,000 for theatre equipment	3
£££ winners	4
Second-hand uniform	4
Buying Christmas presents on-line?	5
Help! Help! Help!	6
Models wanted!	6
Old mobiles and ink cartridges make us £££	6
Christmas Fayre	8
Dates for your Diary	8

PTA Committee Update

Have you ever wondered what (or who) is behind the label 'PTA Committee'? Read on to find out...

What is the PTA Committee?

The PTA Committee is a group of parents, plus a couple of members of staff*, who meet to discuss and plan fundraising and other events. All parents and carers with a child at the school are automatically members of the PTA and are very welcome to come along to committee meetings - you don't have to be personally invited, elected, or know someone who knows someone! We really do want more parents to just turn up and join in.

**Fiona Oliver-Watkins, who is President of the PTA, and Sue Lambourne*

How often does the PTA Committee meet?

There are two committee meetings each term. They are held in the school library and usually start at 7.30 pm. The next meeting is on Wednesday 12th January. In addition, once a year we hold an Annual General Meeting at which we review the previous year and fill the officer roles.

Who are the PTA officers?

To enable the smooth running of the PTA some committee members have taken on particular jobs. At the AGM on 3rd November these members were elected or re-elected as follows:

Bob Beaney	Chair
Julie Brombley	Treasurer
Sarah Caffyn	Secretary
Jo Jardine	Licensing Officer
Becky Kingdon-Butcher	Supporter Mobiliser
Elizabeth Beaney	Raffle Co-ordinator

In addition, some parents volunteer for other, unelected roles. For example, Vanessa Lisle runs the Pledge 10 Club, and also processes second hand uniform. Peter Waters acts as the Link Governor to the PTA, providing a two way channel of communication between the PTA and the school governors. Sarah Caffyn edits and produces the Newsletter.

I have other commitments that might prevent me attending meetings - how can I keep in touch with what the committee is doing?

Most of us lead very busy lives and can't get to all the committee meetings. But it's still possible to keep up with what's going on by asking for your name to be added to the PTA Contacts List. Everyone on this list is sent by e-mail meeting agendas and minutes, plus any other relevant information. If you'd like to be on this list, send contact details (e-mail, 'phone, address) plus your daughter's name and year group to pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk.

What were the PTA's main achievements during the last year?

- Chi High's Got Talent, a new venture, which raised £330 and gave any girl who wanted to an opportunity to audition and, if successful, to perform in the Centenary Theatre in front of a packed house.

Continued on page 3

£3,000 for theatre equipment

Fundraising is central to what the PTA does. We raise money at school events by selling refreshments, second hand uniform, and raffle tickets; from ongoing initiatives such as Pledge 10 (see page 4), thegivingmachine (see page 5) and our recycling scheme (see page 6); and by organising special events like Gardeners' Questions & Answers and the upcoming Christmas Fayre. Taken together, these provide a significant source of income and allow us to make periodic donations to the school for the acquisition of additional educational resources.



In June hundreds of parents of girls about to join the school watched PTA Treasurer Julie Brombley present Fiona Oliver-Watkins with a giant cheque - not only was the cheque physically rather large, it was made out for a whopping £3,000. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the school, Ms Oliver-Watkins thanked the PTA warmly. She added, "It will be put to excellent use in the Centenary Theatre and benefit a great number of pupils. We're currently hoping to install projection equipment and a very large screen, and this donation will go a long way to achieving this."

PTA Committee Update *continued from page 2*

- Gardeners' Questions & Answers, another new event, which raised £745 and received much positive feedback.
- A donation to the school of £3,000 towards equipment for the theatre; a further £100 was given to help celebrate the school's centenary.
- Continuing to hold the frequent hamper raffles, which provide a regular source of income, and run the second-hand uniform service - despite a shortage of parents willing to help at events.

You can contact the PTA at pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk.

£££ winners



The lucky winners of the first two Pledge 10 draws this academic year are Sarah Caffyn and Jackie Robinson. They each win £25 - and their numbers remain in the bag to have an equal chance of being pulled out at any of the remaining eight draws.

The Pledge 10 Club combines fundraising with the excitement of a lottery. For an annual outlay of just £10, you could win £25 in our monthly prize draw from October to June, with a £75 bonus draw held in July (subject to a minimum of 30 members). The funds raised in this way are shared between prize money and funding school projects.

If you're not already a member, join today to be included in the remaining draws. It's easy to join: just complete a membership form available from school or download it from the PTA link on the school's website (go to Parents → PTA → Pledge 10 Club Membership Form) and return the form to PTA c/o Finance Office, CHSG, Kingsham Rd, Chichester PO19 8EB.

Don't know what to give Granny / Uncle / Best Friend for Christmas? Why not give them a Pledge 10 membership that they can enjoy right through to July!

Second-hand uniform

Last year we raised £153 from the sale of second-hand uniform. Please pass on any items of uniform your daughter no longer needs - she can hand them in at Pupil Reception; all proceeds go to PTA funds. PTA volunteer Vanessa Lisle launders all used uniform before it is offered for resale via Pupil Reception and at parent consultation evenings. Prices are keen, so if your daughter needs a larger (or longer!) skirt or a spare jumper or anything else, just ask at Pupil Reception.



Blazers	£5.00
Jumpers	£2.00
Shirts	£1.00
Polo Shirts	£3.50
Skirts	£2.00
Trousers	£2.00
Science Overalls	£2.00
P.E. Shorts / Skirts	£1.00
P.E. Polo Shirts / Knickers	£1.00



Pupil Reception is open from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Buying Christmas presents on-line?



Yes? Then you can help raise funds for CHSG without any cost to yourself. How? Read on...

Before you start your on-line Christmas shopping, please register with thegivingmachine.co.uk and choose Chichester High School for Girls as your beneficiary. Then, from thegivingmachine.co.uk website access over 300 retailers* who pay a commission to thegivingmachine.co.uk, a not for profit organisation which will pass most of this commission to your beneficiary: Chichester High School for Girls, retaining only a small amount to cover running costs.

Important:

- Using this site does **not** cost you anything.
- Anyone can choose CHSG as their beneficiary, so please encourage your family, friends and work colleagues to join thegivingmachine.co.uk and nominate CHSG.

CHSG PTA joined thegivingmachine.co.uk in April this year and so far we have 12 registered givers and have raised £27.92 for PTA funds. **Our target for April 2011 is to have 100 givers and to have raised £200. Please help us to achieve this.**

Registering and using thegivingmachine.co.uk site is straight forward (see below) but if you need help contact Sarah via pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk and she will talk you through the process.

** Retailers you can access via thegivingmachine.co.uk include all the big names such as Argos, Amazon, Currys, Ebay, Halfords, John Lewis, Next, Toys R Us, Tesco, Vodafone, plus many others.*

How to register on thegivingmachine.co.uk

Go to the home page, then follow these simple steps:

1. Click on the 'Join' tab and select 'Giver'.
2. Click 'Find beneficiaries'.
3. Select 'Search by name'. Type in 'Chichester' and click red search button.
4. You will see a list of Chichester schools. Click the 'Choose' button beside CHSG.
5. Either click Save, or if you want to add another beneficiary click 'Find more' and repeat steps 3 to 5. (If you choose more than one beneficiary, you will be asked to put a % by each of them before you go on to the next step.)
6. Enter your details (first name, e-mail, password, postcode). Click Save.
7. Tick the option that describes how you heard about [thegivingmachine](http://thegivingmachine.co.uk).
8. Tick 'Terms and Conditions' box.

You are now registered!

!!! STOP PRESS !!! STOP PRESS !!! STOP PRESS !!! STOP PRESS !!! STOP PRESS !!! PRESS !!!

We will have a lap top at the Christmas Fayre on 3rd December and Sarah will be there to help you register with [thegivingmachine](http://thegivingmachine.co.uk).

Help! Help! Help!

Are you able to help us?



We desperately need more parents to help at parent consultation evenings and other events. This usually involves serving refreshments, selling raffle tickets, and selling second-hand uniform. Although the parent consultation evenings run for two and a half hours (4.00-6.30 pm) you don't have to help for the whole time - giving just an hour of your time will ease the burden on the small group of parents we have relied on during the past year.

If you might be able to help at an event, please add your name to the Helpers List. To do this, e-mail your contact details to pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk. You will then be invited to help at forthcoming events, but are under no obligation to do so!

Models wanted!

Ever fancied sashaying down a catwalk? We're holding a fashion show in March and we're looking for adult volunteers (up to size 20) to model current fashions. As well as the fun of taking part, models will receive a complimentary ticket to the event which entitles the holder to a free drink!



The fashion show, which will take place on Friday 25th March, is being held in conjunction with Travelling Trends. The audience will be able to see, try on and buy the season's fashions at greatly reduced prices. The PTA will raise funds from the sale of tickets, refreshments and raffle tickets.

If you would like to be a model, or help organise the event, please contact Sarah Caffyn on pta@chichestergirls.w-sussex.sch.uk.

Old mobiles and ink cartridges make us £££

If you have any old mobile phones or used printer ink cartridges, please ask your daughter to drop them into the collecting bins at Pupil Reception. Last year we raised £180 from recycling mobiles and ink cartridges.

The ink cartridges are recycled as part of Recycle It, a printer cartridge recycling initiative run by Cartridge World. Cartridge World gives us 50p for every cartridge we collect, and £1 for every cartridge parents have refilled in their store. Our local Cartridge World shop is at 13 The Hornet, Chichester. When you take your cartridges there to be refilled, ask for a card which they will stamp once for each cartridge refilled. When the card is full (four stamps), hand it in at Pupil Reception so that we can redeem it - for £4!



Gardeners' event *continued from page 1*

Sally Gutowski-Smith said "We're really grateful to everyone who has helped make it such a successful evening: the panellists, the market stallholders, and of course the audience who asked some excellent questions. We've had such positive feedback that we might take up the suggestion of several members of the audience and make this an annual event!"



Our thanks go to the following businesses which participated in the Garden Market: Aldingbourne Country Centre, Brick Kiln Garden Centre, Chi-Africa Ltd, Cosmic Cakes, East Ashling Nurseries, English Gardenware, Katherine Stayt Floral Designer, Leesa's Alpines, Manor Nurseries, Phoenix Trading, Meadowgate Ornamental Grasses, Shopwhyke Nurseries.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 3rd December
6.00—8.00 pm



Raffle
Toiletries
Jewellery
Stationery
Accessories
CDS & DVDs
Cards
Gifts
Refreshments
Books
Make-up
Tombola

Come along to the main school hall and relax with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Entry: Adults 50p Children Free

Dates for your Diary

Friday 3 rd December	Christmas Fayre 6.00-8.00 pm
Wednesday 12 th January	PTA Committee Meeting 7.30 pm (School Library)
Friday 21 st January	Chi High's Got Talent
Wednesday 9 th March	PTA Committee Meeting 7.30 pm (School Library)
Friday 25 th March	Travelling Trends Fashion Show