



# Newsletter

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**Summer Fair, phew what a scorcher! (Sue Croft)**

Last Saturday saw another fabulous Summer Fair. To date we have made over **£6,000** and there are a few bits and bobs still to come in on top of that. Please see below how each individual class got on.

An enormous thank you goes to the Fair committee; Elaine McCormick, Jo Grieve, Carey Parsons, Louise Shepherd Evans and all the class reps who mustered their troops brilliantly. Thank you goes to the setting up team; Nick Newton, Stephen Pritchard, Bob Hardy, John Breaks, Neil Mott, Phillip and my long suffering CSA husband Martin.

The toy and book stall team who spent the whole week previously organising huge amounts of donations.

Rob and Karen from Computer Kids who gave up their Saturday to run the obstacle course.

Mark Boyle who manned the Teddington Mini Rigby all afternoon.

Roger Perrin and his band.

David Butterfield and the Governors for manning the gate.

Everyone worked extremely hard to create a fantastic atmosphere, again many thanks to all of you.

Summer Fair 2010	Profit	Class
Bar	589	6K,
BBQ / Refreshments	465	RB, RA, RM, RF, 2W, 2B
Books/DVDs	227	1C
Bottle Tombola	674	1B
Cuddle a guinea pig	40	6S
CSA, Outside toys	144	
Gate	721	
Home Produce	394	3C
Kids Bar	308	1H
Advertising	610	
Nature Trail	41	4M
Littlies roller coaster	121	3S
Rock Shop	54	2H
Robs obstacle course	195	5D
Penalty Shoot out	100	4T
Pint Pot Tombola	263	5H
Raffle	1262	4P
Swimming Pool	80	3R
Toys	334	Nursery
Mini Rugby	127	Mark Boyle
Pony Rides	74	Park Lane Stables
Ferret Racing	<b>-49</b>	

## And now – a review of the Summer Fair from Rodney Barkworth - new Chairman of the CSA

Hello there!

I'm not entirely qualified to write on Summer Fairs. The last Summer Fair I was involved with was actually a 'spring fair' (summer was too hot) in 1982 when I was a kid and milk came in bottles. At this fair we had a stockwhip cracking display, a competition judging the local farmer's cows, massive watermelons and a number of overly ambitious efforts at cake making without regard for the effects heat has on fresh cream!

There certainly wasn't Pimm's with fresh mint leaves. Nor was there a range of beers. Instead, there was a single brand of beer or a 'very sophisticated' glass of rhine riesling with an ice cube. For children there was a fruit punch made of tinned pineapple pieces or tinned 'tropical surprise', soft drink and the pulp of a passion fruit. Poured into the punch, after a couple of sales, would be a new 'carefully selected' bottle of soft drink and some new tinned fruit to create a dazzling new flavour to wow and amuse all who dared try. The country women's association provided the lukewarm teas and coffees. When the fair finished the local lads (newly qualified drivers with hot utes) would entertain with some circle-work on the local parking lot. As you do and as it is in rural Australia. I've probably got you reaching out to the internet for some translations...

Step forward to 2010. A world away. My wife's colleague was curious about our Collis Summer Fair and decided to pop along for an hour or so. She was dazzled and drew comparisons to her own school fair, a smaller affair with a table of cupcakes, scones, a variety of soft drinks in cans and a second hand book and toy sale.

This Summer Fair transcended my idea of what such an event is for reasons that it succeeded on so many fronts - from being a strong source of fundraising through to providing one of the community focal points for Collis (and dare I say, Teddington).

It provided a fabulous unstructured (compared with classroom learning) opportunity for students to have some laughs with their colleagues, and for parents to mingle. To get rid of a bit of clutter and to acquire some more... and to do something different... It was also a wonderful opportunity to see the interaction between parents, community and private organisations and the CSA - the blending and level of dedication behind these efforts culminated in something I thought was fabulous and very successful!

It is a sad day though in the history of Collis Summer Fairs, because this is the last fair under the direction of Sue Croft. Being un-initiated in the ways of the school fair (this was my first as an active participant) I came along to help out - to 'float' with whatever role was required to understand what goes on across the range of activities on the day. From my perspective there was nothing entirely random, nor left to chance with the organisation of the day. I'm sure you'll agree that it is a difficult task to manage various teams who haven't worked together before and result in something the calibre of the Collis Summer Fair.

This obviously was not Sue's first summer fair - indeed she has been involved in them for the last 5 years. Sadly, her time at the head of the Summer Fair is now at an end - I'm sure you'll join me in thanking Sue sincerely for her tireless efforts in coaching, organising and otherwise serving up such a wonderful event!

I'd also like to extend my thanks to all who helped out - from all of the teams: parents, class rep's, community / private organisations and CSA members! I'm sure you realise the impact your input had in being much more than selling burgers / kiddie cocktails / cakes / bicycles / counting the proceeds and locking or unlocking the gates - you helped create a wonderfully warm and successful community event. Totally fabulous day and a resounding success! Thanks!

Remember, this is **our** Collis Summer Fair. The '**our**' bit implies we've all got a part to play in the next one. Ideas, suggestions (we've already had a couple... so please, keep them coming) and most critically, the back-up and person-power to make these things happen is what we're about. You're welcome to call - 07912 502 907 or email [rodney.barkworth@bizaps.net](mailto:rodney.barkworth@bizaps.net).

Also – some additional thanks – being the end of the school year, Sue and I would like to thank all parents and community members for being involved in any way whatever you have helped with – whether it was baking cakes, helping at the crèche, organising events, gardening, or cleaning up after events. Your assistance is greatly appreciated and reflects the true nature of the CSA – it's **our CSA**.

And finally .....

### **School Swimming Pool open over the holidays**

As usual each summer, we are opening the school pool each afternoon for Collis children over the first three weeks of the holidays. The pool will be open each day between 2pm and 4pm from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August and will cost £1 per child. However, in order for this fantastic facility to run, we need parent helpers to supervise each day and are looking for volunteers! There will be a professional lifeguard on duty each day and the supervisor's role is to open and close the pool area and to sign people in and out of the pool. It's a really easy and a great way to spend an afternoon – it's a job that can also be shared – 2 hours catching up with a friend whilst your kid(s) are having fun in the pool – what better way to spend an afternoon? Please contact Ros Thelu on 07986 885332 or [ros@purchex.com](mailto:ros@purchex.com) if you can help.

If you are online shopping over the next few weeks, don't forget to check the Easy Fund Raising website to see if you can raise a few pennies for Collis – at no cost to you! [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

We wish you all a very happy summer holiday!