Sackville News





13th July 2015

Dear Parents

As I mentioned in the last edition of Sackville News, a lot of events and opportunities are taking place in the school at the moment, culminating in our **Curriculum Enhancement Week** which will be reported on in our final issue for this year.

Welcoming our **new intake students and their parents** last week was very positive. We are delighted to have a large cohort joining us this year, with **first preference choices for Sackville** having increased considerably to the point where a waiting list is likely. The students enjoyed a variety of activities including a treasure hunt to familiarise themselves with the school site. The heat on Wednesday was considerable, especially at our parents' evening where the hall was full to bursting!



Our tutors for next year joined us on Wednesday and it was good to welcome **Mrs Robinson**, one such tutor, to our music department as she began a full time teaching role with us just ahead of Eggsfest!



As ever, the breadth of activities in the school is immense and it has been pleasing to have a season of so many rewards. Our **sports days** included many presentations two broken records: the year 7 high jump by Harvey Byatt and the year 10 shot by Vicki Pellett. Our year 7s also won the Mid Sussex Athletics Championships. We have also enjoyed the **Brunel Awards**, celebration breakfasts and celebration teas rewarding great commitment and achievement.

All of our year 11s enjoyed a celebration assembly followed by a wonderful **prom at the Felbridge Hotel**

and the year 13s, not to be outdone, held their prom in the same week at the East Grinstead Sports Club.

Many parents may have read about the success of our young scientists and engineers at the **National Science and Engineering Competition** held at Ardingly Showground. The students had worked all year on a space-based project and had to display their work to thousands of visitors at the Big Bang Fair. They were questioned by at least three sets of judges about their projects and were expected to

communicate their findings





accurately, confidently and enthusiastically. Visitors were also keen to see what they had achieved so it was a busy morning. **Tristan Boland** researched how the output of a solar cell was affected by the frequency of lights using an LED array he had built himself. **Ellie Bush, Jenny Brockbank, Beth Yates and Izzy Jeffries** designed, built and then tested telescopes, whilst **Nick Barham** modelled the discovery of exoplanets.

After a show entitled "The genetics of superheroes" the presentations were made. We were thrilled that the girls' group was awarded the SEPNet prize for Physics and stunned that Nick Barham walked away with **four** awards! These were:

- The Electa award for Science
- The Institute of Physics prize for physics
- The Photek prize for enthusiasm in project work
- Runner up: NSEC junior science and maths

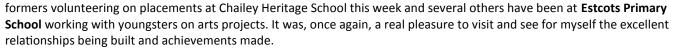
It is a real credit to all who entered that their work was so highly regarded by the judges, with one judge also seeking Tristan out for special praise. We are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm and achievements!

Last week, Sackville achieved a **silver democracy award** for its curriculum delivery in this area; I am sure that parents will recall our mock general election that was a very realistic experience for all. Mr Morris and two students **Daisy Stahl** (year 10) and **Megan Harris** (year 9) travelled up to Westminster to receive the award. Daisy has been elected to the UK Youth parliament and Megan has been elected to the West Sussex Youth Cabinet. The ceremony was held in Portcullis House, hosted by Tim Loughton MP, and was followed by a tour of parliament.



Our **Art and Design and Technology exhibitions** were fine showcases of the marvellous work our students do. All of us who visited were bowled over by the variety and standards achieved, with everything presented so professionally. The work of Nori Ishii and Rosie Aylmer was chosen to be exhibited in the Mall Gallery in London.

It has been so good to see our students working with others in the community in many positive ways. We have seen more of our sixth



On a similar theme, we held our 'Young Interpreters' Day' at Sackville last week where we welcomed local primary school children for whom English is not their first language. They undertook a wide variety of activities, all led by our students, and had a great morning.

Many parents will have visited – or maybe heard – our **Eggsfest open air extravaganza** on 8th July where we hosted our local primary schools and Imberhorne to a celebration of music. The huge choir of all ages singing the finale 'Lovely Day' was incredibly moving and reminded me of why I came into the profession to work with young people; there are no better moments than these!





As one parent put it: "I just wanted to say what a fantastic evening last night was, everyone was grinning from ear to ear!".

We hope to welcome many of the youngsters through Sackville's doors in the future and would appreciate parents informing or reminding the community that our **Open Evening** is on **Thursday 24**th **September** this year, with Open Mornings throughout the following week.

Alongside all of this, we have been keeping a careful focus on the **development of teaching and learning** following our successful Ofsted inspection. In the last few days, we have hosted a visit by two West Sussex Headteachers, Mr Taunt from Bishop Luffa School in Chichester and Mr Wergan from Steyning Grammar School. They came with a focus on differentiation, how well we meet the needs of all individuals in the school, and observed lessons, talked with students and met Curriculum Team Leaders. The feedback from the visit will be invaluable as we embark on a new school year and the next phase of our development programme. As usual, Mr Feist (Deputy Head in charge of teaching and learning) will report on these plans in an autumn edition of Sackville News.

Best wishes,

Julian Grant Headteacher

As you can tell form Mr Grant's introduction, it has been an incredibly busy month since our last newsletter. What follows is best described as edited highlights!

Performing Arts

It's been the usual hectic end of term for the Drama and Performing Arts Department. In year 10 we have had the GCSE performance of 'Blood Brothers', in which many students exceeded their MEGs (minimum expected grades). Both Mrs Beasley and Miss Fisher were impressed with the level of professionalism shown by the students.

Meanwhile the KS5 performing arts students were hard at work refining their performance of 'Rent'. This is a challenging musical piece set in 1980s New York as the bohemian community comes to terms with the advent of AIDS.



For several students this was a final performance after seven years at Sackville – and as a member of the audience I am happy to say that Hannah Collins, Hannah Pearson, Sarah Bentley and Shen Cottee did themselves proud.

Proof that the future of the performing arts is safe at Sackville was provided by the excellent **KS3 drama club performance of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'**. This was an original interpretation performed in the middle of one of the drama studios.





Ardingly Artsfest

In late June we were lucky enough to be able to send a number of students to the **Ardingly Artsfest**. Mrs Nibloe writes:-

For the second year, we took 15 year students from years 8 to 10 to Ardingly College to take part in Artsfest 2015. Each student was able to choose their area of focus and spent three days immersed in one of the following disciplines: Art, Drama, Music or Creative Writing.

On the first day the students attended four workshops in their chosen field where they worked on learning new techniques and then honing their skills. The evening was punctuated with two performances from theatrical companies.

Friday started off a little sleepily with our students feeling the effects of the long day before. But they were quickly back into the swing of things. Students had another four sessions and during this time devised their pieces for performance the following evening.





On the final day, we spent time practising the pieces for performance including a dress and technical rehearsal. It was then show time! Over 400 people attended the evening's performance and it was set up in promenade. The evening began with a piece starring four of our students: Melissa, Rhys, Ali and Sophia. They had spent time working with staff from Glyndebourne Opera. They performed a haunting piece in the chapel where the acoustics added to the chilling impact. The piece sounded amazing and was based on memories. We were joined in the chapel by students who had been working with the National Youth Theatre on a high energy physical theatre piece based around a marriage gone wrong. Chelsea, Wade, Alex M and Brandon all played an

integral part in this piece. Whilst on our way to the next site we watched a piece that had been written by Ethan. The other part of the audience watched Nathan's script come to life. As we arrived for the next scene of the physical theatre piece, Jasmine read an extract of the short story she had written over the previous days. It was well written and warmly received by the audience. As we walked to the next piece of performance, there were four full body cast sculptures suspended from the ceiling which Alex K had been involved in creating. We finished the evening's performance out the front in the courtyard watching the

documentaries filmed by the Act2Cam students, Imogen, Juno and Sam.

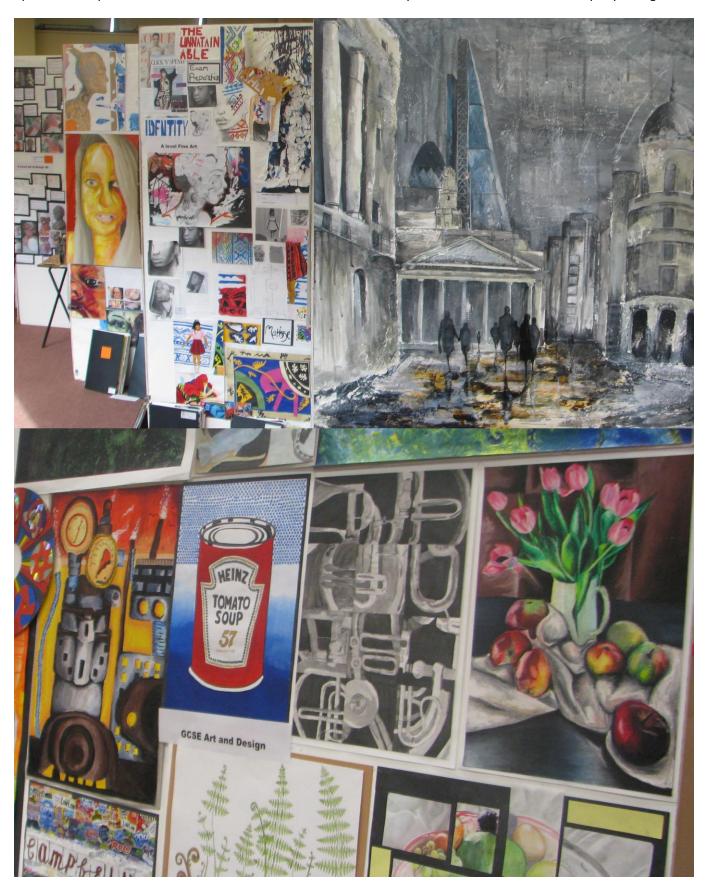
The three days were action packed and, whilst the students were looking tired by the end of it, they had an amazing time and several of them commented about how invaluable the time spent with professionals had been.

The students involved were: Melissa Turner, Ethan Chapman, Sophia Day, Ali Cumpatescu, Jasmine Reed, Alex Mustard, Rhys Harmour, Alex Keeley, Brandon Taylor, Wade Marias, Nathan Callis, Chelsea Lewin, Imogen Booth, Juno Phitidis and Sam Tarpey.



Visual arts

Not to be outdone, our annual art exhibition in the sixth form study area was fitting testament to the work that has gone on in the F block this year. The many visitors could not fail to be impressed with the standard of the work produced. It's certainly no surprise that the performance of A levels students is the best in our locality – and our GCSE art results are equally strong.



Each year Sackville art students submit work to be considered for the National student's exhibition sponsored by the Royal Society of British Artists. It is a marvellous accolade for the artists and schools to be selected to exhibit their students' work and this year Sackville put forward four submissions and had two students chosen to have their work hung at the Mall Galleries in London:

Anna Davison Y11 GCSE "Plight of the Turtles"

Noriyuki Ishii Y10 GCSE "Portraits in pencil and ink"



The art department was also delighted to host a residency from Michelle Cioccolini.

Michelle graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Drawing and Applied Arts from UWE Bristol before embarking on The Drawing Year in 2012. Her recent drawings include detailed studies of interiors, still life and ancient sculpture. She has been Artist in Residence in Salzburg, Austria and Dumfries House in Scotland. In 2014 Michelle won the Richard Ford Award and travelled to Madrid, where she spent two months making in-depth studies of paintings in the Prado Museum. Michelle currently works from a studio in West Sussex. Here you can see her (centre) with A level art students.



Design talent on show

Also this month we hosted the annual **Design and Technology exhibition**. Here again the creative abilities of our students was on show.

Once again Sackville students were successful at the South of England Show. **Katy Holland** achieved second place in the textiles section, and **Hannah Carney** was highly commended in the under 17 age group.



Music - students wow East Grinstead, and not just at EGGSFEST

Our students did not just perform at EGGSFEST this summer: they had earlier shown their talents on the stage of East Court Live.

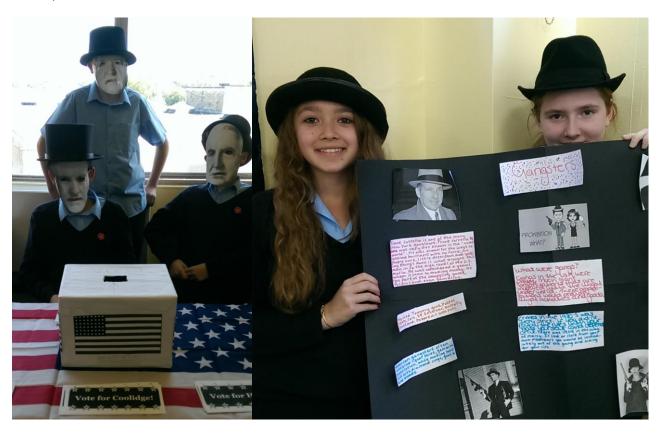


The organisers of the event tweeted:-

Thank you <u>@Sackville_EG</u> for coming to <u>#eastcourtlive</u> we are very proud of East Grinstead's talented young people

Making history

Meanwhile in history there's creativity too! Year 9s recently took part in a 'Life in the 1920s' competition, which was judged by Mr Feist. The winners were Will Roberts-Percy, Matthew Rose-Mitchell and John Hollins. Runners up were Amanda Heather and Jess Banbury.



Young interpreters

Miss Williams writes:-

On Friday 9th July, Sackville hosted over 60 primary students as part of our EAL Celebration Day. These students were invited because they all spoke English as an additional language, and most were also part of the Young Interpreters programme. All of the activities were created and led by some of our own EAL students here at Sackville.

The activities included: flag games and designs, food tasting (thank you Sainsburys!), story-telling, a treasure hunt, international party games and all ending in a huge game of benchball! All of the activities were designed to be fun, creative and involve another language, and indeed all of the groups seemed to enjoy taking part in all of the different games and tasks.

Without a doubt, the most popular aspect of the day was the Sackville EAL student leaders themselves: Nuha, Michael, Tatyana, Meral, Amber, Megan, Mateusz, Marufa, Vera, Michelle, Damian, Mate, Jasmine and Alex. These students were outstanding leaders; they made each activity fun and easy to take part in and were brilliant at welcoming and looking after all of our young visitors. A special mention must also go to Zohar and Angelika, who came back to help out after being part of this event last year despite now being in the Sixth Form and at college.

Overall, the day was a huge success. It was great to see so many EAL students from the primary schools having fun, getting to use other languages and meet each other and to see how many opportunities their linguistic background can open up. We hope to welcome many of them back next year, and hopefully those who join us in September can take part as leaders.



Business

Mrs Fleming writes:-

On 18th June four AS Business Studies students attended the inaugural EGBA Business Lecture at the Chequer Mead Theatre where Jeremy Seigal (CEO of the White Stuff) spoke about the reasons the store chose East Grinstead, his business model, marketing methods and how he saw 'High Street Retail' evolving. The local businesses and students also had the opportunity to put questions after the lecture.

For students like Katie Grant and Sarah Brailey this was a good way of seeing their business studies knowledge demonstrated in a real world example and for Ryan Foulds, a chance to see how the entrepreneurial idea can be changed into a reality. James Akehurst said 'I really enjoyed the lecture; it was a fun way to support my studies'.

I just wanted to get in touch to let you know how much my son enjoyed his 3-day induction and the other associated transition arrangements. He came home full of stories every day last week of the things he had been doing, what he had been told, and potential friends he had made. What a huge amount of work it must have been for a lot of people to organise and run the whole transition process, right down to the thoughtful detail of providing children and parents with water on the first hot day! He is now really excited about starting at Sackville in September and I am feeling very reassured, so job well done!

Mysterious maths

Meanwhile over in maths, it was the turn of our key stage 3 students to solve two mysteries. Year 7s had to establish how the two enormous footprints had appeared in the school grounds overnight, whilst year 8s were concerned with solving both the murder and the identity of an unidentified victim. In the picture you can see Detective Inspector Austin questioning the final two suspects, Mrs Farrant and Miss Jones.



STEM

Maths teachers were also involved in our two recent STEM days. Year 9s looked at STEM in sport. The picture shows light gates being used to accurately measure speed.

Year 8s looked at disaster survival. In the picture students are attempting to purify water with straw and gravel.



I would like to thank you for my son's first year at Sackville. He has really enjoyed it and he settled in immediately. Sackville is a fantastic school and I am so pleased that we are a part of it.

Sackville Success in the National Science and Engineering Competition (NSEC)

Mr Bush writes:-

On a very hot day a group of year 9 students travelled to the South of England Showground in Ardingly to participate in the South East heats of National Science and Engineering Competition (NSEC). Each of the students had worked all year on a space-based project and had to display their work to thousands of visitors at the Big Bang Fair. They were questioned by at least three sets of judges about their projects and were expected to communicate their findings accurately, confidently and enthusiastically. Visitors were also keen to see what they had achieved so it was a busy morning.

Tristan Boland researched how the output of a solar cell was affected by the frequency of lights using an LED array he had built himself. **Ellie Bush, Jenny Brockbank, Beth Yates and Izzy Jeffries** designed, built and then tested telescopes, whilst **Nick Barham** modelled the discovery of exoplanets.

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It is a real credit to all who entered that their work was so highly regarded by the judges, with one judge also seeking Tristan out for special praise. We are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm and achievements!

Observatory summer season

The prolific Mr Bush continues:-



Although the nights are now much lighter our observatory is still in use. Recently we swapped our reflecting telescope for two solar telescopes, each of which can be used to safely view the sun.

Our white light filter allows students to see sunspots in the photosphere whilst our Coronado hydrogen alpha filter enables filaments and prominences to be observed in the chromosphere.



We were thrilled that the skies were completely clear on Thursday 18th June for a visit by eight very enthusiastic key stage 2 students from Hever Primary School. They were able to observe two groups of sunspots in white light and also saw filaments of hot plasma streaming off the sun in hydrogen alpha light. There were lots of "wow!" moments too. Here's what their teacher, Kath Barton said:

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!

What a super morning - we really enjoyed ourselves and all of us learned a lot (me included!) It was a wonderful opportunity for the children, who were buzzing for the rest of the day. Jack says he's saving up to buy himself a solar viewer."

We have some great pictures too, so thanks for your interest Hever, and come back soon!

Updates and more information are available on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/SackvilleObservatory



Under the knife in biology

Over to Carly Wooding for this one:-

As part of our A level Biology Workshop we dissected three very different organisms; a frog, a locust and a rat. We learned the correct way to dissect the specimens. We also attempted to identify the major organs such as the kidneys, stomach and intestines and also the organ systems including the respiratory and digestive systems. The frogs and locusts had both been preserved; however the rats which we dissected were fresh which consequently meant that they smelled really bad which lead to innovative designs of paper face masks!



Rather you than me to be honest Carly!

Opportunities offered by our alumni Network - Future First

In late June five of our **year 9 students went to Citibank** for a day to experience what life is like working in the financial capital of the world. The students were accompanied by Miss Yendell. For several of the students the day was a real eye-opener, with at least one student now focusing on what is necessary to achieve a career in the City. Participating students were Sam Ford, Dan Harding, Alex Brain, Kim Dicks and Michelle Elnar.

This programme was organised by the charity behind our alumni network, **Future First**. The main purpose of the organisation is to allow us to build links with past Sackvillians who might now be interested in giving something back to today's students. If you went to Sackville and have not signed up, please do so here: https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student-ms-s1/sackville





In July, Future First also sent in representatives from a number of companies to talk to our year 12 students, especially those not intending to go to university.

Finally, there are a number of former students coming in to our **Futures Day** for year 10 during Curriculum Enhancement Week. For this students have opted to listen to up to six different presenters as they begin to make the decisions about what to do after year 11.

Still wondering which sixth form provider to choose?

Speaking of our sixth form, we have just received from *Oxford Analytics* the analysis of the 2014 A level results, and we are delighted to say that they confirm that **Sackville is the place to come for A level and BTEC studies**.

The progress our students make is compared with other schools in West Sussex and with our group of local schools (Crawley, East Grinstead, south Surrey, Tunbridge Wells and Uckfield). Our **mathematics**, **physics**, **PE**, **religious studies** and **travel** results are the **best in West Sussex** (that's compared to all schools and sixth form colleges). A number of other subjects were second or third best in the county. For **PE**, our results were **22nd in the whole country**!

In our local schools, performance was **best** in **art**, **textiles**, **PE**, **maths** and **religious studies**, and second in **physics**, **geography** and **sociology**.

Sackville in the community

We are immensely proud of the number of students who go the 'extra mile' to do things that benefit others. Over the last month there have been several cake sales for different charities, all of which are close to different students' hearts.

Last week, **Charlotte Thomas and Libby Vine** took part in the Brighton 5km Mud Run as part of the Race for Life. The girls have raised more than £600 between them. I am told it was very hard work!

No less dramatic, though slightly less strenuous, is **Alex Mustard** having a serious trim of his locks for Cancer Research UK. He donated his locks to the Little Princess trust, which provides real hair wigs to young people who have lost their hair as a result of cancer treatment. So far Alex has **raised more than £750**.





He's going to look like a new boy in school I think!

As usual a large number of our students are currently volunteering in different places. As Mr Grant mentioned, we often have students working in our neighbouring primary schools, either as sports leaders or to help in classrooms. Recently, we have had an increasing number of students volunteer at **Chailey Heritage School**, and we have recently even been featured on their website. Currently volunteering at the school are Roxana Diba and Aika Sandi.

Both girls are applying to study medicine next year and volunteering at this remarkable school is just the kind of thing that will enhance those applications.

Sports news



It's been a successful month for Sackville sports teams, as you will have noticed if you check the school website regularly. Pride of place must go to Abby Beswick and Vicki Pellett who competed at the All England Schools Track and Field Championships at Gateshead on Saturday. Abby qualified for the semi-final in the 100 metres, and finished 10th overall. Vicki threw a personal best in the hammer, and narrowly missed progressing to the final three throws. Both of these are fantastic achievements against the very best athletes in the country. Being in the top ten nationally is something special.

The future of athletics at Sackville also looks good, with the Sackville junior team winning the annual Reg Clarke Games at Broadbridge Heath. This was followed by further athletics success for the year 7s as the year 7 team won the Mid Sussex Athletics Championships. Harvey Byatt (100m and high jump), Sky Ure (discus and shot), Erin Harnett (800), Antonia Deeley (1500) and Callum Stone (1500) all won their events. The victorious athletes are pictured on the next page.



Meanwhile, **Connor Grady** in year 9 has joined Wednesbury based Total Control Racing for the rest of the Ginetta Junior Championship season. I expect he could teach me a thing or two about driving the school minibus!





On two wheels, there has been more success for the **Smith brothers Toby** and **Jamie**.

The brothers recently went to Fort William to compete in the third round of this year's British Cycle Trials Nationals. The first day of competition was made all the harder by the torrential rain making sections extremely slippery, one section having been washed away by the overnight rain.

Day two brought sunshine and the boys both achieved podium positions. Jamie (Year 7) finished third in the Novice class and Toby (Year 10) came first in the Intermediate Class. Their medals were presented by their idol Danny MacAskill at the end of his show in front of 18,000 spectators.





Finally we have just heard today that **Heidi Crowther** in year 7 has secured 4th place at the National Trampoline Finals in Telford. Heidi, pictured here on the right, faced some tough competition, and has plans to add skills to her routines as she moves up an age group.

We are all delighted with her achievement to reach National Finals at her first attempt at NDP 8 level.

It does constantly amaze us what talent there is at Sackville!

Help wanted

The **First Hartfield Scouts** are looking for a **former student** with good web design skills to re-design and overhaul their website. This would suit someone who needs a real life project for university, or who just fancies a challenge. Any older sisters and brothers out there who could help? If you are interested, please contact Richard Wellbelove at rtw@ashdownoutdoors.co.uk.

Meanwhile, the **ICT department at school** want help in setting up an **after school programming club**. If there are any parents, or indeed companies, out there who might be willing to help please contact Mr Lea on <u>ilea@wsgfl.org.uk</u>. Any programming environment would work!

I felt the need to write to express my thanks to you and all the teaching staff at Sackville for the support given my children over the years and in particular during year 11 and leading up to their exams. All of the tutors have been brilliant, some giving up their time during the holidays to provide revision classes and support, and I feel the school couldn't have done any more to ease the pressures of the GCSEs.





EAST GRINSTEAD & DISTRICT LIONS

www.eastgrinsteadlions.org.uk email:eganddlions@gmail.com



Profit from the day benefits the local community projects, residents and causes that East Grinstead & District Lions support throughout the year

> Guest commentator Neil Munday From Radio SuSy 103.4 FM

Donkeys ridden by jockeys from Little Brook Equestrian, Newchapel



7 Races from 1:00 **Tote Facilities** Donkey Rides Fun Dog Show Classic Cars Stalls Punch & Judy Children's Rides Beer Tent Car Boot Sale Birds of Prey Refreshments



Sunday 19th Ju

12:00 - 5pm

Free admission

King George's Field (next to Kings Centre) Moat Road, East Grinstead, RH19 3LN

New for 2015 Car Boot Sale Cars pre booked (by 12 July) €8 (email as above) On the day Cars £10 Vans £15

Fun Dog Show

Organised by: Portland Road Veterinary Surgery, 27 Portland Road, East Griestead, 8H19 4EB (01342 327799 www.portlandrets.co.uk) Classes

Prettiest Bitch Best Crossbreed Best Child Handler Best Veteran

Handsomest Dog Dog most like its owner Dog with the wagglest tail

Best Puppy (4-12 mths)

Dog judge would most like totake home

Dog registration from 12:00 until 1:15. Judging commences at 1:35. £1 per class entered - Rosettes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Please come prepared to clean up after your dog.

If you are driving to the event please park responsibly