



Sheiling School Ringwood - Newsletter

Autumn 2010



School News: Our 52 week provision is now open and we are registered as a Children's Home...from the start of the school year in September Watchmoor has been operating as a 52 week, year-round residential provision. The school has been successful in gaining registration as a Children's Home, which allows us to continue to develop the flexible services we offer. The new registration means we will need to fulfil some different legislative requirements and will be subject to two inspections per year. With Feirefis house re-opening in the new year (see over) we are now in a position to offer more placements to new pupils.

Ofsted...it is now three years since our last education inspection in October 2007 and we expect a follow-up inspection imminently. Much has happened since the last inspection to develop our range of services and the quality of what we do. Our prospectus has been updated to reflect this and is available on our website.

(left) Rainy Michaelmas Celebrations—The Harvest!

October Activity Days and Camp (right)...the school was buzzing during the second week of the October holiday as we hosted five days of Activities for local children and the holiday camp for some Sheiling pupils. Those attending the holiday camp were able to join with the Activity Days for most of the week. Some highlights from the week included:

Monday: Indian theme: cooking, dancing and sweets; Trampolining
 Tuesday: Sea theme: Oceanarium visit, crafts, swimming!; Cinema
 Wednesday: Under the Sea, Land of Dinosaurs —show and cooking
 Thursday: Swimming, Survival Skills, Drama with Forest Forge
 Friday: Woofability, Singing with Jeremy Avis, Baking
 The forthcoming Saturday Activity Days are already fully booked. We have received more funding from Dorset to continue to offer this valuable service and will finalise 2011 dates soon.

(right) Enjoying Go-Karts during an Activity Day!



November Bazaar

Sunday, 21st November, 12 noon to 3pm

Stock up on Christmas Gifts; Crafts, Cards and Produce made by the children, staff and parents; Children's Activities - including

candle making, games & climbing wall; BBQ and Café - homemade soup and cake; Nearly New items, including books; Raffle and Tombola

Come along and join us for a fun afternoon

FREE ENTRY and Parking Onsite

Christmas Cards...we are again selling Christmas Cards this year. There are a range of designs from paintings made by the pupils. The cards are sold in mixed packs of 12, costing £3 per pack, or 4 packs for the special price of £10! You can buy them in the school reception, or phone an order through to the office—01425 477488. Our thanks to Catharine Symington for arranging the printing. Some of the designs are shown below. *David*



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The Sheiling School Ringwood—a Camphill Rudolf Steiner school providing day and residential support and education for children and young people with learning difficulties.
 An Activity of the Sheiling Trust Charity No. 292320

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The Swimming Pool and Feirefis House will re-open soon...

following extensive refits and refurbishment, both Feirefis House and the Swimming Pool will soon re-open. The leak in the pool has been fixed! The pool itself has been retiled and the changing facilities improved. Our thanks go to the parents for their hard work raising funds for this. Feirefis will open at the start of January. To celebrate we are planning a Festive Opening event before Christmas. In line with our strategic vision for our residential buildings, the Feirefis refurbishment means the house can be used for 52 weeks provision in future.

Peter Greenwood Retires (right)... Peter has been with us for the last 7 years, helping to support the smooth running of the school through his work in finance and maintenance. After a career in local government Peter joined us as Finance Officer. He was later asked to involve himself in overseeing the strategic maintenance and refurbishment of the school's many buildings. In this capacity he planned and oversaw the refurbishment of the Sheiling House, Martin House, the Swimming Pool and Feirefis House (see left). Peter has been succeeded as Finance Officer by Sue Symes, who has been with us for over a year now. Stephen Taylor has joined us as Estate Manager, which incorporates responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings, the school estate and health and safety matters. Peter, meanwhile, has begun work at home on a long list of DIY projects under the close supervision of his wife! We wish him a happy and fruitful retirement and thank him for his diligent support for the school. DM




Keeping It Safe...we are currently reviewing our school site safety and access arrangements. As a result we want to limit the number of vehicle movements on-site. To do this we are creating a new staff car park (subject to planning permission), securing access to the three vehicle entries to the estate using keypad-entry automatic gates and reviewing pedestrian access to the site. We understand that the new key-pad entry gates will impact on parents' access to the site when they come to visit their children who board at school. We are working on the best way to manage this and will be contacting parents soon with more information. Obviously our intention is to make the children and young people as safe as possible and this naturally means we need to find the right balance between safe-guarding and ease of access to the site.

Parents' Forum and Contact...as discussed at the last parents' day in September, there is now an on-line forum set up for parents to communicate with each other. Details are in the parents' section of the website (click the Prospectus tab). The forum is at: <http://sheiling-parents.proboards.com/>. An e-mail address is also now set up for parents to enquire about the local parents' group—sheilingparents@btconnect.com.

The Sheiling School
Ringwood

Festivals and Celebrations



Throughout the School Year

October 2010

A Guide to the Festivals and Celebrations at the Sheiling School (above)...

has recently been published on our website. The guide gives an overview of the types of celebrations throughout the year, from the Christian festivals, through to birthdays, open days and sports day. The guide then details some of the festivals from the last year, showing the types of things we did as a school community to celebrate.

So far this term the main festival has been Michaelmas at the end of September. This was celebrated by the pupils going to Sturts Farm to harvest produce, having a shared meal together in Tobias Hall, doing courage games and performing a play. DM

Life-time Achievement Award...

In recognition of a life devoted to the development of Bio-Dynamic Agriculture, Dorette Schwabe (pictured right, at our Sports Day), will receive a life-time achievement award from the Bio-Dynamic Association in December.

Dorette, who has been a co-worker at the Sheiling since 1968 and is now retired but still living at the Sheiling, ran the Sheiling House Garden for many years. She was also instrumental in shaping the school's grounds, planting many of the trees which make the estate so beautiful today.

Dorette was a co-founder of the Camphill Seminar for gardeners, landworkers and beekeepers. She continues to teach on this seminar and has also given regular courses on bio-dynamic methods to allotment keepers in London. Congratulations Dorette!

