

HOTRA August Parish News

Pelham beach Playa – multi use games area. This opened for use on 9th July. For 2 hours a group of about 14 young men used the space for a kickabout. Very quickly it became clear that the number of balls escaping through the top was huge. These threatened users of the trampolines, the Crazy Golf and the promenade. So on Saturday 10th July the space had to be closed. An emergency meeting was held and agreed that the only solution is to cover the top with a mesh. This would have to have a slight incline to ensure balls kicked on to the top outside the compound would roll off. The use for supervised Basketball and Dodge ball is probably safe until the roof is covered. Inevitably Planning approval for whatever is done will be needed. Helpful suggestions are welcome. dick@hotra.org.uk

Chess Square opening. Over 60 people turned up for the formal opening of the statues by the new Mayor Cllr Kim Forward. Many members of the Edmunds family were there to hear that the statues are dedicated to the memory of Wendy Edmunds. Some of the designs from the children of Torfield School have been reproduced in stainless steel 'bubbles' on the adjacent walls. All of the children whose winning designs were used were given a muffin with chess board style white and dark chocolate icing – from the Friday Market where Wendy was Treasurer – and a Winners badge with a chess board design together with a £5 book token for the Childrens Bookstore. This was a pleasant event and the Mayor thanked every one for their contribution. **Leigh Dyer** is the local metalsmith / artist who has worked very hard to produce such magical statues to a very high standard. If you need any metal work specially made then Leighs workshop is in West Street.

Saturday morning Chess Club. It is hoped to set up a regular club for younger players using the square and the large pieces. Notices will be put up in the square when this is about to take place.

Stade Community building and the Open Space. The building work will be completed by the end of 2010. A new charitable body will be set up to run the facilities. To help plan for what happens there HOTRA is organising a survey. This will go to all Old Town households after the Carnival. We want to know what local people would like to see happen there both inside and outside. There is the whole year to fill. There is a huge potential and your ideas will be considered. The findings from the survey will be reported back in the autumn. Please think what you and your family and friends enjoy doing and let us know.