

## December 2013 Parish News

### **New childrens playground**

HOTRA are asking the Foreshore Trust to fund a new childrens playground on the seafront. Previously HOTRA campaigned to improve play facilities for young people. Starting in 2010 the multi use games area was built next to the trampolines. This is well used by older teenagers especially. Next a playground for younger children was built by the Pirate golf course. This has proved so successful that at busy times this summer it could not cope. Clearly more playspace is needed. We would like to see the next playground is especially designed for slightly older children - those aged 8 - 14. This should include some more challenging equipment. Between the Go kart track and EHSAA compound would be an ideal location.

This provision is very much in line with the original intentions of our Victorian forebears who laid the foundation for the establishment of the Foreshore Trust. It is also good business sense as nearby traders can expect a permanent boost to their sales.

The idea has the support of the Coastal Users Group who advise the Trust. Cllr John Hodges is the Chair and likes the idea. Lets hope the money can soon be found.

### **A Tale of Two Gardens Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 7.00 for 7.30 Stade Hall**

Matthew Wilson - BBC gardener, author and plantsman, will be giving an illustrated talk. Tickets £5 in advance from Andrew Colquhoun [01424 442546 ] Organised by Lower Torfield Allotments Association in aid of the Dragonflies project for local bereaved children. Part of the Fellowship of St Nicholas.

### **Reindeer Day Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

From 11 onwards there will be a series of entertaining events in the High Street and George Street organised by local traders. There will be lots for children - and the young at heart to do. Events will include a Reindeer procession which starts at the Town Hall at 1.15. It will travel along the seafront and hopefully reach Butlers Gap by about 1.45. The reindeer will then move on to the Jenny Lind which becomes Santas Grotto from 2.00.

The reindeer will then go on to rest for a couple of hours in Roebuck Yard before going back to their usual seasonal employer.

Congratulations to the traders for putting in a lot of extra work to organise this. Please show them your support even if the weather is uncertain.

*There will be a special January HOTRA Newsletter delivered throughout the Old Town early in 2014.*