

Articles about Charters School in the Local News October 2009

Charters wins 'tidiest' crown

By John Balsom
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A COMPETITION to find the Royal Borough's tidiest school has seen a Sunningdale comprehensive come out on top.

Charters School, won the councils Best Kept School competition looking at levels of graffiti, litter and vandalism.

The school in Charters Road scooped the £5,000 first prize grant, which must be used to further improve its environment.

Richard Pilgrim, co-headteacher of Charters, was delighted with the result and said visitors had been commenting on its neat appearance for the last few years.

He gave special praise to the school's site manager, Eric Smith, who he described as a 'real treasure' who had done an exceptional job.



Borough looks at ambience for learning

she said. The random inspections were carried out at all Royal Borough's senior and middle schools back in June with the aim of finding out what they looked like on a normal day.

Dedworth Middle School, in Smith's Lane, came out on top in the middle school category winning £3,000.

Councillor Quick said the competition had also encouraged some schools to find new ways of tackling grime.

The least tidy was Desborough School in Maidenhead.

This year Royal Borough primary schools will face the inspectors.

"He is always here on weekends making sure it is the best it can be," he said. "And a tidy school really does have a profound impact on student learning."

Cllr Eileen Quick, cabinet member for chil-

dren's services, also praised Mr Smith, saying he should go around other schools giving 'masterclasses'.

"He takes such pride in the school and absolutely goes over and above his duties,"

Charters School tops the best kept league

Charters School has scooped the £5,000 top prize in the Royal Borough's first annual Best Kept School competition.

The Sunningdale school achieved an impressive score of 99% from councillors who assessed all secondary schools on the amount of litter, vandalism and graffiti, as well as the quality of displays, both inside and outside.

Windsor's Dedworth Middle took second place overall and the £3,000 prize for highest-scoring middle school.

Both prizes are in the form of a grant to be used to further improve the school environment.

Cllr Eileen Quick, lead member for children's services and one of the judges, said: "I was very impressed by the high standard we found in our schools. It is obvious that a large number of our young people are proud of their schools and take an active interest in caring for the environment.

"Charters School is a very worthy winner, with almost full marks in every category, but several others were hot on their heels."

Judging took place in June following a drive in which pupils were encouraged to spruce up their grounds, classrooms, reception areas, toilets and corridors.

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CLEAN SWEEP: Martyn Parker and Richard Pilgrim, co-headteachers, with groundsman Eric Smith in Charters' pristine grounds.

HOW THEY SCORED

	Litter	Graffiti	Vandalism	Display	Total	%
Senior Schools						
Allwood	13	19	20	14	66	83
Cox Green	20	19	20	12	71	90
Charters	19	20	20	20	79	99
Churchmead	15	20	16.5	16.5	68	85
Desborough	9	18	13	8	48	60
Furze Platt	20	20	20	16	76	95
Newlands	18	20	20	18	76	95
Windsor Boys'	15	17	20	18	70	88
Windsor Girls'	18	20	18	14	70	88
Middle Schools						
Dedworth Green	19	20	20	19	78	98
St Edward's RF	14	20	20	16	70	88
St Peter's	18	17	18	18	71	90
Trevelyan	18	20	20	16	74	92



Students bring hope, and life-giving water, to Indian community

ACHIEVEMENT: Youngsters get a thrill as they work in Keralan village

■ By MIKE PYLE

STUDENTS at an Ascot school enjoyed a "life changing experience" when they travelled around the world to help out at an Indian school.

A group of 19 students from Charters School in Sunningdale spent the last year raising money for a trip to Kerala and the rural state of Tamil Nadu.

The students spent a month spanning July and August in the Indian sun, trekking around the area and spending a week rebuilding and renovating a primary school.

While at the school the students concentrated on improving the water supply.

Before they arrived the school had just one tap, now it has three more taps in the kitchen and classrooms.



ON TAP: Charters students sorted out the water supply for a school

The group also managed to renovate the nursery and local health centre as well as making the school's kitchen facilities better and improving the playground to make it safer and brighter.

Heather Leedham, 16, from Ascot, said: "Nothing will ever make me feel the same sense of achievement."

Emma Zayourm 16, from Ascot, added: "The expedition as a whole has made me realise how differently the rest of the world live when compared to us."

Teacher Ella Sussex accompanied the students.

She said: "This was a life-changing experience for all involved."

"I am especially proud of how the students worked together as a team and achieved their goals during this expedition."

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Charters celebrates all round achievements

Charters School recently held its Annual Celebration of Achievement Evening. The event celebrated the progress and achievements of pupils during the last academic year. Prizes for both effort and academic achievement were awarded by the Co-Headteachers, Mr Martyn Parker and Mr Richard Pilgrim.

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Harvesting food for others

GENEROUS donations from parents and children were made at a school's harvest festival.

Charters School collected numerous cans, bottles and boxes of food which will be dished out to elderly people in the area along with fresh food from Caterlink.

A special assembly for the Sunningdale school pupils and parents was held on Friday, October 16, with some of the youngsters performing Vivaldi's Four Seasons on violins



● **REAPING THE REWARDS:** Offerings from pupils at Charters and a piano duet of Handel's *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*. Howard Quartly, head of religious and citizenship studies, said: "It was another extremely generous display that continues to show the support the school has from the parents and its pupils at this time of celebration."

Staff at the school in Charters Road wanted the harvest festival to

be about healthy schools and healthy eating as well as giving thanks for the food people have.

Two huge pumpkins were the centre of attention in the harvest assembly.

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CALLS TO CUT SPEED BEFORE CHILD IS HIT

EXCLUSIVE

by LAUREN EVERITT
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Risk of cyclists being injured

A CYCLIST is calling for safer cycle lanes to be built following the death of a 25-year-old woman who was knocked off her bike.

Andreia Alves Pinto was killed while riding her bike in Windsor Great Park and now another rider has called for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to improve cyclist safety before more are killed.

Sunil Vanmullem, who used to cycle from his Bracknell home to Slough every day, sent a message to the *News* website outlaying his fears about riding his bike along the B3022 Winkfield Road.

He said: "I have contacted RBWM on several occasions about the risk of cyclists being injured as I used to cycle this route regularly and feared that I might be struck down one day.

"I have reported this twice to RBWM over the last two years and they haven't done anything. I'm very saddened that someone had to die."

SPEEDING motorists outside a school could cause a serious accident if they are not forced to slow down, campaigners claim.

Youngsters walking to and from Charters School in Sunningdale are at a high risk of being hit by traffic while walking on the narrow pavements outside their school.

In a bid to slow down drivers and prevent accidents, people living in Charters Road have teamed up to sign a petition which was handed over to the Royal Borough last month.

Cllr Christine Bateson, who represents Sunningdale, said: "It's an accident waiting to happen and is incredibly dangerous for children.

"Drivers speed down the straight stretch of road coming off from the A30. They drive far faster than the actual speed limit which is 40mph by the school and 30mph at the A30 end."

Richard Pilgrim, co-headteacher at Charters, has also voiced his support for the petition which calls for the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph outside the school and some form of traffic calming measure.

He said: "Speeding is a big problem and drivers are always doing it.

"Obviously we talk to the pupils about the importance of road safety and taking care of themselves but we are always fearful, especially at this time of year when it's wet and the leaves are falling, that a car will clip one of our students.

"I am whole-heartedly behind the petition and hope it moves in the right direction."

The pavements are only four feet wide which only allows two people to walk side-by-side.

The petition, which has nearly 50 signatures, was instigated by 64-year-old David Keen who lives in Charters Road.

He said: "Some of the speeds of the vehicles are excessive to a considerable degree and that's why we are so concerned about the situation.

"There are always lots of students, mums with buggies and OAPs walking down the road on very narrow pavements.

A survey carried out by the Royal Borough revealed that around 2,000 vehicles a day travel along Charters Road towards the A30 with 58% of those driving over 30mph.

Officers also recorded 1,500 vehicles travelling towards Dry Arch Road, an adjoining lane to Charters Road.

The petition will go before cabinet in December.



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