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UPHAM: A school competition to redesign the outside play area at Upham C of E Primary School threw up some interesting ideas.

A maze friendship bench, a chess board and an adventure trail were among the suggestions from the children.

But 11-year-old Chloe Peach's design won the competition, and many of her ideas have now been installed. There is a bench inscribed with the Lord's Prayer, which will be surrounded by plants and flowers to form a sensory garden, and outdoor musical equipment.

And the Huff and Puff outdoor play equipment - which includes a swing loop, sticky monster mitts, jumping ball and duck walker - has now arrived.

WEST LEIGH:

Children at St Alban's C of E Primary School studied aspects of traditional African art and craft during a special week in June.



Children from Upham Primary School at the 'Huff and Puff' shed

the school report

The school's African Art Week included bead-making, clay masks, weaving, drum-making, and making paper and paste models. The theme was inspired by its link school in Ghana, St Andrew's Anglican School in Asewewa.

This month, the headteacher of the school, Father Michael,

will come to the St Alban's sports day and summer fair.

HOOK-with-WARSASH: Children from Hook-with-Warsash C of E Primary School have won an inter-schools music competition for the second year in a row.

Pupils performed a

selection of songs from the school's Christmas production - *The White Feather* - which was written by Year 6 teacher Mark Baxter. The production was set in the First World War.

Choirs from many local schools took part in the event, which is organised by the Locks Heath Rotary Club.

Brian Russell, chairman of youth activities for the rotary club, said: "It was a magnificent performance and they richly deserved the award."

GODSHILL: Budding artists were given the chance to portray the Nativity scene in an art contest organised by All Saints' Church, Godshill.

Primary schools on the island were asked to submit three drawings on different aspects of the Nativity story in black and white. The winners were Summerfield Primary School in Newport, which was given £50 to spend on educational material.

The pictures - by Luke Kingswell, Milly Byrne and Teri Harris - included drawings of Mary and the angel Gabriel, Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem and the baby Jesus lying in a manger.

CARISBROOKE:

The annual profits from a Fairtrade stall at a regular Carisbrooke coffee morning are helping Africans.

The £110 raised has



Fairtrade coffee mornings at Carisbrooke

news from the pews

gone to the Christian charity Send A Cow, and will be used to buy a flock of poultry for a Ugandan family, free saplings for Ethiopian farmers and a fish pond for a Tanzanian family.

The coffee mornings also help raise money for the

Carisbrooke Parish News - the award-winning magazine produced by St Mary's Church which is given, free of charge, to all 3,200 households in the parish.

The events also give volunteers the chance to pick up copies for distribution.

The next is between 10am-12noon in the parish hall on Carisbrooke High Street.

CLANFIELD: Forty children mixed, rolled and baked at a cooking workshop run by St James' Church in Clanfield.

The children made dove-shaped biscuits and 'fizzy fire cakes' to tie in with the Pentecost theme. Boxes were also decorated in red, yellow and orange flames so they could take home their creations.

Organiser Sam Burdekin said: "It was a messy, noisy, fun-filled afternoon which gave children 'hands-on' experience of cooking."

Another two 'Cooking up a Storm' workshops are planned for later in the year to tie in with Harvest and Christingle. Contact the parish office on 023-9259 3139 for details.