

Tournament raises some £1k

Arts charity Patina Lewes raised almost £1,300 towards this year's Moving On Parade at its annual Dream Team Kids' five-a-side football tournament last week.

For the sixth year running, year 5 and 6 boys and girls battled it out for the Patina Cup at the Dripping Pan football ground of Lewes FC.

Mixed teams from across the district competed at the event, which was hosted by Lewes FC with the trophy and medals sponsored by Intersport Lewes.

The theme of this year's Moving On Parade, which will take place on July 5, is children's literature with the title Once Upon A Moving On, and all the team names were book related.

After penalty shoot-out, Hamlet FC raised the Patina Cup, presented to them by Lewes Mayor Cllr Janet Bash.

Patina treasurer Brian Davies said, "We are so grateful to Lewes FC, Intersport, Pricey School students for so ably taking on the role of referees and



The winning team with the Mayor of Lewes councillor Janet Bash

managing the scorekeeping and all the people who came along to support and help.

"We were also delighted to be given a superb hamper of

goodies to raffle by Stanley and Partners and we even raffled a football signed by the excellent Lewes Women's Football team.

"Moving On is made possible by the support of the community and the success of this tournament brings it a big step closer."



Patina

Story of a Moving On

Patina – the Year 6 Moving On Parade – is happening on the 5th of this month. It's Patina's 18th year, so a bit of a special one. We thought we'd share the story of how this year's theme was delivered...

On the morning that Director Caroline Craft and I sit down for coffee, the list of the sixteen schools taking part would just, she said, be unwrapping a 'birthday' parcel. "So, the theme for this year is Children's Books. We decided to give each school the book they would be in the parade. Literally. We've just this last week – post SKID – delivered these wrapped as birthday gifts for the school libraries."

Storyteller extraordinaire Michael Bencowe – see Wildlife page 90 – is the man delivering the books. "He's woven together all the characters into one story," smiles Caroline. "He's told the tale in each school, then they opened their present to discover which book they will be."

How did you match books to schools?
"That was absolutely fair and random. The school reps pulled names out of a hat. Or rather, slips – which then sailed off in a flourish. Not that the rep knew which book they'd picked, no, that stayed a surprise for the big reveal in the school."

And how was the list of books arrived at?
"We pooled a host of suggestions. As long as they were appropriate for any age up to eleven, they were a contender. In the end, a committee of us, artists and reps drew up the list. We wanted books everyone would know and love, but also which gave great artistic scope..."

Artist Co-ordinator Raffaella Sgpr is also leaving Patina this year – after being involved from the start. She shares some parting thoughts: "I have seen the organisation shift and grow over the past



18 years and have such a warm connection to it. I am pleased to be leaving it in such a strong position in the very capable hands of Caroline and the wonderful artist team. This tradition we have created with and for the Lewes community is one which helps all involved feel connected. I hope the project will ripple far and wide.
Why not watch the parade on the day? Look out for *Winnie the Pooh*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Hobbit*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and 11 others...
Charlotte Gann



To mark Patina's 18th year, and Starfish's 21st, the two organisations are celebrating their birthdays with a two-day Young Creatives festival. The

parade is on Friday 5th, 11am-3pm, culminating, as always, in the Paddock. The parade 'Big Makes' will then be lit up (by Starfish and Lewes Drama Collective Junior Group) in the Paddock at Twilight Tales, a free community storytelling event with six fantastic storytellers (including Jon Mason, pictured) from 7-10pm.

On Saturday 6th from 1-8pm, it's Starfish in the Park, and there'll also be an exhibition of the story of Patina from its origins to today.



St Pancras rep, Jonathan Ray

What's being a 'parent rep'? Each school has one. Our role is basically to liaise with Patina and encourage Y6 parents to get involved. Which means, most of the year, joining in with fund-raising. In February, Patina had its 18th birthday bash in the Town Hall. St Pancras ran the casino. Another time we played football at the Dipping Pan. I acted as 'Master of Ceremonies'.

Why did you volunteer as a rep?
Because I have the time. And I chat to lots of people at the school gates. Also, I work as an advocate (Jonathan is a barrister) so don't mind speaking up.

Why do you think Patina matters? It's great for the Y6 children. I think, anyway, humans like dressing up for occasions which mark a moment in our lives when things are changing.
Interview by Alice Saunders





ONCE UPON A MOVING ON

PATINA AT 18

Patina – which organises the vibrant, local ‘moving on’ parade through the town, for Year 6 children leaving primary school – this year, itself, comes of age. We met up with organiser Caroline Croft (right) just before Patina’s 18th birthday party – in the Town Hall, in February – to talk birthday celebrations, and what the children’s art charity is really, at heart, all about.



“The party will be great fun,” Caroline says. “It’ll be a retrospective of Patina from 2001 to the current day, and we’ve invited the founders and supporters back, to celebrate their legacy. My colleague Raphaella Sapir (pictured left) has been involved since the very beginning which is phenomenal. Some of the kids from the first year of Moving On are turning 30 this year – soon enough we’ll have second generation kids moving on and the story continues!”

Caroline was happy to share that the 2019 Moving On theme, to be announced at the party, is ‘Once upon a Moving On’ with all the costumes and sculptures inspired by children’s literature. “We hope the schools will have enormous fun with this”, she says. “Each one will be given their own popular children’s book to work from.”

In the run up to the parade – in addition to weeks of work with children in all the local schools to develop ideas, designs and run art workshops – Patina organises theme-related events for the community. This year these include an Illustrators’ Geocache Easter Egg Hunt, taking place in and around Lewes *this*

month – on the 24th.

“We’re partnering with top illustrators based here, and have created a technology-led trail so young people and families can enjoy discovering their work and meeting them”, says Caroline. “We ran a similar event around artists’ studios a few years ago and it proved really popular.” Patina – which stands for Parents and Teachers In

the Arts – has always, primarily, been about bringing artists and school kids together, and was first formed – by parent Martha Hammick and friends, in 2001 – as a response to the arts being given less priority in the national curriculum. From the start, parents, teachers and local businesses came together to help support the project. “I am endlessly touched by the support this community gives its young people and I’m sure that gives them a strong sense of belonging, which is so important”, says Caroline. The first Moving On Parade, in summer 2002, included six local schools. This summer, 17 will take part.

The main event is on the 5th July. It will, as usual, culminate in an end-of-parade gathering in the Paddock, when Starfish bands will also play. “Starfish is turning 21 this year, so we’re joining forces for a joint birthday celebration – a two-day Youth Festival with Moving On followed the next day by Starfish in the Park. Everyone is very welcome!” *Charlotte Gann*
Patina Illustrators Geocache is on 24th March. Starts at 2pm outside Waterstones.
patinalewes.com