

St. Helens First

SAINTS' STADIUM
LATEST

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR
CARBON FOOTPRINT

July - October 2008
St. Helens Council's
Community Magazine



Taking on the gas guzzling school run

St.Helens Town Centre Summer Events 2008

GORMLEY'S "FIELD" EXHIBITION

20th June -
23rd August
St.Helens College
Antony Gormley's
World Famous
Artwork returns home
for the first time



ECLECTICA MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Victoria Square
FREE Music Festival
combining top notch
national & local bands



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26th July
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Arts & Music events showcasing
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St.Helens Council

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European Funding is Creating New Opportunities



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At the library: Call into any library in St.Helens to pay your Council Tax.

St.Helens Council offers a translation and interpretation service including foreign languages, British Sign Language, Braille and Audio Tape. All public areas in the Town Hall have disabled access.

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Talking Pages
This magazine is available in talking book and Braille on request by contacting 01744 456166/5.

St.Helens leader's column



Welcome to the Summer edition of St.Helens First which for many of you will contain news on the hot topic of the moment, the planned Saints' stadium which received unanimous support from the Council's Planning Committee. The ball is now firmly and squarely in the hands of the Government Office, North West and we all eagerly await news on progress. Environmental work via our Ward Committees continue to make life better across the Borough, so please take time out to go along to your next meeting to air your views on what environmental changes you would like to see in your locality. The £150-million Building Schools for the Future programme, the valuable work done by carers, the Carbon Footprint, neighbourhood news are just some of the features in this edition which I hope you find interesting and informative.

Council Leader
Brian Spencer

Field of dreams

New art works put St. Helens at the cultural hub of the North West as Dream and Antony Gormley's Field head for the town.



Members of the community have been active in the Dream project

St. Helens will join an elite group of towns across the country to feature new landmark artwork to rival the Angel of the North.

Dream, chosen by a group of local ex-miners, takes the form of the head of a girl with eyes closed in a dream like state, the creation of internationally renowned artist Jaume Plensa. Fittingly it will be sited on top of the former Sutton Manor Colliery overlooking the M62.

Around 20 metres in height it is the result of a year long consultation with ex-miners and the local community who wanted a piece of public art that looked to a bright future and created contemplative space for generations.

It will be fabricated in pre-cast concrete with a white, almost

luminescent finish using a white marble/concrete aggregate mix in contrast to the black of the coal that still lies below surface.

The progress of Dream is being filmed for the Big Art Project, an ambitious public art commissioning initiative from Channel 4. It is being totally funded from a mix of art. Although supported by the Council no taxpayers' money is being used in the project.

And in a second coup for the town, Field for the British Isles, one of Antony Gormley's best-loved works of art featuring 40,000 clay figures, has returned to town. Field was created 15 years ago when the figures were handmade by 100 people, aged seven to 70, at Sutton High School using local Ibstock clay.

Winner of the 1994 Turner Prize, Antony Gormley is renowned for his distinctive representations of the human form. His best known works are the Angel of the North and the life sized figures on Crosby beach.

In 1995 Field was purchased by the Arts Council Collection, run by the Hayward Gallery, with the support of the Henry Moore Foundation and the National Art Collections Fund. Since its acquisition Field has been seen by nearly 400,000 visitors from across the country in venues as diverse as a train-shed, a church, a cathedral and a warehouse.

You can see Field at St. Helens College where it will be on display until 23 August. Open from 10am-5pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm, closed Sundays.

Green passports take on the gas guzzling school run

Youngsters at Sutton Manor Primary School are walking their way to good health.

During Green Travel Passport Week 75% of them walked to school – well above the national average of just 49%.

The Council's Road Safety and Travel Awareness team launched the Green Travel Passport to promote walking or cycling to and from school. It aims to reduce the 'school run' so cutting down on harmful gases being released into the air and to lessen potentially hazardous congestion around school gates.

Part of the national Travel to School initiative, it gives pupils a passport in which they collect stamps when they walk or cycle to school. The Green Travel scheme raises awareness about the environment while promoting the benefits of exercise too.

Youngsters who live too far away from school to walk or cycle are also catered for as 'park and stride' areas have been created around schools.

To find out how to get involved, schools should contact Peter Almond on 01744 456851 or Kathryn Barker on 01744 671655.



Out of Africa



While most couples entering retirement dream of putting their feet up Ron and Sue Hayes have been putting their energy into volunteer work.

The intrepid pair, from Windle, have returned from 12 weeks in Tanzania with Light in Africa.

Ron and Sue heard about the organisation on Radio 5. Impressed, they decided to have a go. Light in Africa looks after 150 orphans, many who have lost their parents to Aids and illness caused through extreme poverty.

During the three-month stay they cared for five children at their nursery near Mount Kilimanjaro. They redecorated the bare building and helped with outreach programmes at other Maasai villages.

Say Ron and Sue: "It was incredibly worthwhile. We were very impressed."

Take on the Summer Reading Challenge

On your marks, get set go! Join the race to read at your local library with the 2008 Summer Reading Challenge, Team Read.

When children aged four and 11 join Team Red, they will get a membership card and fold out poster. Each time you read a book, you will collect stickers. All you have to do to complete the Challenge is read 6 books, and you can choose any kind of books. You might like funny books, horror, sports, poems – you can read anything you want! You will be rewarded with a certificate and medal when you finish plus other goodies too!

Throughout the summer holidays, libraries are putting on special Team Read activities and story sessions. Libraries have lots of computers, so you will be able to log in to the Team Read website when you join the challenge – www.teamread.co.uk



Future of Saints stadium now in the hands of the Government

Following a resounding thumbs up from councillors the planning application and the future of the Saints Stadium now lies with the Government.

St. Helens Council's Planning Committee recently gave unanimous support for the Stadium planning application which has now been sent to the Government for approval. Now it's a waiting game to see what the Government thinks about the development.

The triple planning application from developer Langtree, retailer Tesco and housebuilder Taylor Wimpey plc is one of the biggest received by the Council, and will bring a massive town centre regeneration.

It will transform the currently derelict 46-acre former United Glass site into a £25-million 18,000 capacity stadium, with a mix of seating and standing, for St Helens Rugby League Club and a multi-million pound Tesco Extra. The town's current Tesco on Chalon Way will then be redeveloped into alternative retail outlets, further regenerating the town centre. As part of a separate plan, a high quality residential area will be built by Taylor Wimpey plc, replacing the historic Knowsley Road, the home of Saints for 116 years.

John Downes, Managing Director of Langtree says: "Langtree is proud

to be playing such an integral role in the development of a new stadium and in the regeneration of St Helens. The planning application is the product of a lot of hard work over the last few years by everyone involved and the result will be a fantastic new development with the new Saints Stadium as its centrepiece."

Saints Chairman Eamonn McManus commented: "The support of the Council has been tremendous. We now look forward to a similar positive outcome from the Government and would urge all to continue with expressions of constructive support for a project so critical to the future of the Club and of the town."



◀ (Left to right) Tony Colquitt, Chief Executive of Saints, John Downes, Managing Director of Langtree and Eamonn McManus, Chairman of Saints' at the site of the new stadium



"St. Helens Council Leader Brian Spencer said: "The development will bring a range of benefits, not just to our own town but to the region in general, bringing massive investment and jobs. This has been 10 years in the making but I am sure everyone will agree that this will be a first class stadium fit for a world class club."

Saints and Great Britain full back Paul Wellens has played for his hometown club for a decade and will enjoy a testimonial season next year. "I was about five when I started going to Knowsley Road. My eldest brother used to play for Saints. I have thousands of memories of playing there. But we can't stay where the facilities are not up to scratch for the modern game. I'm sure we could attract even more fans with the new stadium and it's the only way to take the club to the next level both on and off the field."





Are rising fuel prices giving you the blues?

Looking for a simple solution to reduce your fuel bills, and help save the environment at the same time?

Do you want to change your energy supplier, or the way you pay your bills?

Wouldn't it be great if you could do this without having to spend a penny!

The good news is some of you can!!

The Affordable Warmth Unit has insulation grants* available for eligible homes in St. Helens.

For further information contact the AWU on 01744 456744 or 01744 671611, alternatively come and see us at Wesley House, Corporation Street, St. Helens.

* Funding is limited and grants will be dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Pioneering Parr projects sets the standard

Community project so good it is being rolled out in three more areas.

A pioneering partnership project in Parr has been so successful that local resident Eddie McConville had this to say to visiting Housing Minister Caroline Flint: "It has made a huge difference to people's lives. The only problem is that I have nothing left to complain about in Parr. I feel redundant!"

Launched in April 2006, Parr Neighbourhood Management – re:newparr – encourages residents to have a much greater involvement in improving their part of town, working alongside various agency representatives to renew the community for the benefit of all. The partnership approach has worked so well in Parr that Neighbourhood Management is now being extended to Thatto Heath, Four Acre and the Town Centre North area.

The Partnership Board, of which Mr McConville is a member, is now

having a real impact and is influencing how resources are directed to areas of greatest need. Local people are given a greater say through the Residents' Partnership which prioritises local issues while Action Groups ensure effective delivery of services. The work of these groups includes helping people into work, learning and training; improving housing and the environment; supporting parents; reducing crime; addressing transport

Parr Neighbourhood Management encourages residents to have a much greater involvement in improving their part of town

issues and young people's needs.

Parr has been spruced up by a number of improvement projects including 23 clean-up days when 250

tonnes of fly-tipping and rubbish was recycled, 15,000 bulbs have been planted and new housing has been built. On the employment front, Marks & Start, backed by Marks & Spencer and one parent families' group Gingerbread, is helping single parents into training and improving their job prospects while the Juicy Jobs project is also boosting employment chances.

Health too is a big priority and the Outreach Team is making residents more aware of the signs and symptoms of breast, lung and bowel cancers to boost detection rates and improve health prospects.

The Neighbourhood Management partners are: the Council, Helena Housing, Merseyside Police, Job Centre Plus, Halton and St. Helens PCT, St. Helens Chamber, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Children and Young People's Service.

The Board is chaired by Councillor Terry Shields. For more information call Tony McKinnon on 01744 675682.



The Minister (centre) with some of the members of the re:newparr team.

Food for thought

St.Helens is becoming synonymous with household name foods. In a celebration of old and new St.Helens First takes a look at today's culinary offer and that of yesteryear.

From famous household names to exciting new brands, food and drink firms are thriving in St.Helens.

The food business contributes more than £9.5 billion to the regional economy and local companies are leading the way.

More than 100 years of expertise goes into every jar of Bartons Pickles. Not only is Bartons the oldest existing original family-owned pickle manufacturing business

in England but the business is still based in its original family premises in Lascelles Street.

Director Joanna Jenner says: "The business was started by my Great Grandfather. We think he started to make piccalilli containing Turmeric as one of the main ingredients due to the wealth of spices coming through the Docks in Liverpool.

"He would have collected the spice from the fruit and vegetable market at Liverpool. They sold their pickles through the streets of St.Helens by hand cart, then horse and cart."

 Another local firm celebrating its centenary is Nichols plc, makers of Vimto.

First made by John Noel Nichols in Manchester in 1908 as Vim Tonic, Vimto has become one of the nation's favourite drinks. The multi million £ success story is based in Newton le Willows.

Vimto is made to a secret recipe with a mixture of fruits and 23 different herbs and spices. Members

of the Nichols family are still involved in the business.

James Nichols, fourth generation of the family, says: "Vimto is a unique product and there is nothing else like it."



Tea the way it should be

Lancashire Tea is another local brand that is making a name for itself

nationally. Also based in Newton-le-Willows, the company was established two years ago by Paul Needham and Lyn Hitchen, who were so convinced that they could launch a great brand of tea they mortgaged their houses to finance the business.

Paul says; "We have had lots of fantastic support from local shops and customers and now, as the business is growing, Lancashire Tea is sold in 1,000 outlets and we supply all the major supermarkets." It is also a major sponsor of SSAFA Forces Help, with money from every pack of Lancashire Tea sold going to the charity that helps ex-servicemen and their families.



Take a butchers at the old Co-op meat stall in Helena House, Cotham Street



Fishwicks greengrocers in Liverpool Road.



Soups, sauces and soaps at Lennons in Cloughton Street



Frying tonight! The Friday fish run at Spavins fishmongers in Barrow Street

Sweet dreams at the old Sayers confectioners in Liverpool Road



Young sports leaders are looking forward to using their new-found skills which they gained at the first St.Helens Leadership Academy.

Leading the field

Organised by the School Sports Co-ordinator Programme (SSCo) and supported by local sports clubs and the Council's Sports Development team, the Academy was a big hit with pupils. The day involved more than 300 Year 9 students taking part in sports including badminton, athletics, rugby, golf, netball, football and basketball plus inclusion projects at St.Helens schools.

The pupils were given the chance to work towards a leadership certificate and they learned much from the day such as improving communication skills, organising festivals and tournaments while boosting their self confidence.

Danielle Lynch, Becky Whittle

and Lucie Lawson, from St. Cuthbert's Catholic Technology College for Business and Enterprise, had this to say: "At the end of the day everyone met up on the bus and swapped stories. We had a fantastic time and we look forward to using our new skills in Year 10. Some students learnt how to react in a serious situation, others learnt how to work as a team with people who have learning difficulties and don't always understand like other people do. Our confidence has grown and we hope to use the skills we have learnt to do activities with others."

It is hoped that some of the sports

leaders will go on to support the ongoing Olymkids programme which is targeted at five to eight-year-olds. Olymkids is a local project which is addressing a national drive to increase the number of children participating in competitive events in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games in London. It is run by the Council's School Sports Co-ordinator Programme and Sports Development.



To find out more call Dianne Murphy on 01744 671684 or Rob Vaughan on 01744 455436.

New Mayor for St.Helens.

Willowbrook Hospice project to benefit as John names his Mayor's Appeal.

Councillor John Beirne is the new Mayor of St.Helens.

A well known local hairdresser with salons in St.Helens and Warrington, he has lived and worked all his life in St Helens and the surrounding local areas.

Councillor Beirne attended Parr Mount Junior Parr High schools and still lives in the Parr area.

He was elected as a Councillor in 1990 and has been a Parliamentary candidate for St Helens North three times.

Councillor Beirne attends Holy Trinity Church and says that he

"strongly believes in freedom, fairness and civil liberties," adding: "I will uphold my office with dignity and integrity. I view this as a huge honour and look forward to my Mayoral year."



His Mayor's Appeal is Willowbrook Hospice which opened in 1997 helping to care for more than 4,000 people. It is embarking on a £1-million plus extension to provide a dedicated Outpatients' Suite complete with new fragrant gardens with water features where patients and visitors can relax.

Anyone wishing to support the Appeal can do so by sending donations to The Mayor's Parlour, St Helens Council, Town Hall, Victoria Square, St.Helens, WA10 1HP.

Cheques should be made payable to "The Mayor's Appeal Fund".

Improving access to medical care

Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust is looking at providing new services that are closer to people's homes and open at more convenient times.

The St.Helens services being looked at are GP Practice 2 at Marshalls Cross and GP Practice 3 for vulnerable groups while others are in Widnes and Runcorn.

The PCT want your help in shaping the service. Look out for opportunities to have your say in the local press or visit www.haltonandsthelenspct.nhs.uk.

Keith's helping hand

A new free service is now available at Central Library for people who find small print difficult to read.

As library staff researched the kind of desk-top magnifiers available, they had a helping hand from library user Keith Webster, who is visually impaired. Mr Webster is something of an expert about the equipment as he has a desk top magnifier of his own.

The equipment, which can magnify text up to 50 times its size, can be used to read books, leaflets, maps, personal mail, bills and photographs.

Its purchase, during National Year of Reading will give visually impaired people the chance

to read more books and other literature.

Mr Webster, who lives in Parr, said he was glad to have been of help adding: "This is an excellent piece of kit, high technology and right up to date. It will be very useful to lots of people."



Fostering is a family affair

Fostering is a family affair for Diane and Andrew Clifton and their daughter Leanne Ormandy.

They started to foster children when Leanne was 15 and she became so used to being part of a foster family that she too is now fostering children.

Julie Ellis, Team Manager for the Council's Fostering Team, said: "To have a mum and daughter both

fostering is fantastic as we have large sibling groups requiring placements."

Diane began fostering when she took pity on John, a 10-year-old who had a bad name. She said: "One of my children ran into the house saying "John's going to set fire to our fence". I thought I can either shout at him like everyone else or try to find out why he's doing this. John told me he

needed a foster carer and asked if I would foster him."

The Council is always seeking foster carers and is especially keen to find people to look after older children and siblings who want to stay together.

To find out more call 01744 456600 or email fostering@sthelens.gov.uk

GET ON YOUR BIKE

for a healthier lifestyle

St.Helens Council and its partners are launching a three year Cycle for Health Initiative to get people on their bikes and in to a healthier lifestyle.

The initiative is funded by Wellbeing, Groundwork, the Big Lottery Fund, and TravelWise and aims to boost health through increased fitness.

The Council's Road Safety and Travel Awareness Team and Halton and St Helens NHS, Primary Care Trust and Cycling Solutions are offering cycle rides using fully trained instructors. The free rides are for people who are referred by their GPs onto the Choices Lifestyle Referral Scheme which assesses them before they attend the rides.

A key part of the programme is Cycle Solutions electric ecofriendly van which gives off no carbon footprint and will be taken to events so that people can be taught how to look after their bikes.

During the next three years a number of venues across

the Borough will increase.

At present two venues are up and running at Four Ways Children's Centre at Clock Face and at the Sankey Valley Rangers Centre in Blackbrook. The children's centre session is every Tuesday and the Blackbrook session is every Wednesday. Both are held between 1pm and 4pm.

Bikes and equipment are provided free of charge and rides are graduated from easy to more complex to allow the clients to improve their ability and stamina to gradually get back to health and bring groups of people together. If you are interested in taking part in

this activity, contact your GP for more information and referral.

If you are interested in volunteering to work on this scheme as a cycle leader contact Dawn Jones, Road Safety Cycling Officer on 01744 671656 or Hannah Jones, Health Improvement Specialist on 01744 697433.

If you are interested in having your bike checked, let us know by ringing Dawn Jones on 01744 671656 to book a time.

If you know of a group of adults who would welcome this maintenance course, where some spare parts are available to repair your bike please contact Gill Roberts, Senior Road Safety Officer, on 01744 456077.



Andy Taylor, Project Manager for Cycle Solutions with Gill and Dawn (right).

Youngsters design their own play area

As more and more people use their local ward committee to bring environmental improvements to their area St.Helens First takes a look at a very special 'Basildon bond' formed by one community.



Footballers, cyclists and flower lovers have welcomed the improvements made to Sutton Heath by Ward Committee funding.

The Basildon Tenants' and Residents' Group, liaising with the Council and Helena Housing, asked youngsters what they would like provided in their part of town. As a result, goal-posts took root at Platts Playing Field and a cycling track was introduced at the nearby Basildon Estate.

Residents' group secretary Karen McMahon said: "The cycling track is a great facility where children can ride their bikes and scooters in safety away from the roads."

In addition, more than 400 recently planted flowerbeds have brought a splash of colour to the area.

Elsewhere works scheduled include more than £10,000 of tree planting at Four Acre and Market Street, Earlestown plus new seating areas, more dog bins and

hanging baskets and planters across the Borough.

A number of projects are on the Ward Committee wish lists yet to be assessed and processed. These include a summer house on Billinge Hill, parkland lighting, new fencing, open space clean ups, parking improvements and the restoration of the Crown Green bowls in Kentmere Park.

Your local Ward Committee has up to £30,000 a year to spend on environmental improvements.

Your Ward Committee dates

St.Helens North

Billinge and Seneley Green; Blackbrook; Earlestown; Haydock; Moss Bank; Newton; Rainford; Windle

1st September 2008
27th October 2008
26th January 2009
23rd March 2009

St.Helens South

Bold; Eccleston; Parr; Rainhill; Sutton; Thatto Heath; Town Centre; West Park

2nd September 2008
28th October
27th January 2009
24th March 2009

All meetings run from 7.00pm – 9.00pm

For more information about your next Ward Committee contact 01744 456958, visit www.sthelens.gov.uk/wardcommittees or email kirstywatson@sthelens.gov.uk

£150-million investment for St. Helens schools

A £150-million plus scheme to create 21st century Learning Campuses has moved a step closer.

The Council has approved detailed proposals, which will further its ambition to create world class 21st century Learning Campuses to inspire learning for decades and transform teaching and learning in schools.

The Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme has allocated more than £150-million to transform the Borough's high schools. It is the biggest ever investment programme to be managed by the Council, and will be completed over a number of years.



Proposals include:



An artists impression of how one of the schools could look.

A proposed new £20-million Catholic Learning Campus for the Community on the site of St Cuthbert's Catholic Community College for Business and Enterprise, to replace St Cuthbert's and St Augustine's to cater for 1350 pupils aged 11 - 16.

£5 million for a purpose built specialist facility at Mill Green Learning Campus for 45 young people 14-19 with complex needs.

£16.5-million to remodel De La Salle School with partial new build catering for 1200 young people aged 11 - 16.

In addition Cowley Language College is being rebuilt ahead of the BSF programme and funding is in place to ensure it meets the high BSF standards. Work on site began in October 2007, and the newly built 11-16 building catering for 1200 pupils will open in September 2009. Cowley's 6th form centre for 300 students will be a combination of remodelling and refurbishment of part of the existing building with completion scheduled for September 2010.

£16-million to rebuild and partly remodel Haydock Sports College catering for 1000 pupils aged 11 - 16.

£5-million to rebuild Penkford Technology School for 55 young people.

£22.5-million to rebuild and remodel Rainford High Technology College catering for 1200 young people 11 - 18.

A new build Academy to replace St. Aelred's Catholic Technology College and Newton High. Currently the scheme is at the Feasibility Stage and the Sponsors, the CE Diocese, the school, RC Archdiocese and Liverpool Hope University, have completed a consultation on the proposal. The Academy would cater for 1350 young people plus 300 post-16 students.

£13-million for part new build and part refurbishment of Rainhill High Media Arts College catering for 1200 young people with post-16 provision for potentially 250.

£17-million for part new build and part refurbishment of Sutton High Sports College for 1200 young people plus post-16 provision.

The first schools scheduled for building work to start will be Rainford and De La Salle; construction will start



in 2010, with plans to complete the build by 2012. This will be followed in successive phases by the remaining schools. It is hoped that by 2014 work on all the schools will have been completed.

There are plans for a further £16-million investment in ICT for the whole programme including Cowley and the proposed new Academy.

Crime and anti-social behaviour still top of your agenda

During the past year the Council has been consulting you on a number of issues. Drugs, alcohol related crime, robbery, domestic violence and burglary remain at the forefront of your concern.

Your views are now helping to shape the future to take St.Helens into a new era of a safer, stronger and more prosperous Borough.

The results of a series of recent consultations have been fed back into the Council's decision making process putting you at the steering wheel of the very services you receive.

Echoing national concerns, your main concerns surround crime and disorder. Not surprisingly community concerns matched the priorities of St.Helens Police. These have now been logged into the Crime and Disorder

Reduction Partnership so that moves to tackle areas of concern remain top priority.

Anti social behaviour, grot spots, recycling and dog fouling were top of your environmental agenda. Designing out crime by use of alleygates, tidying up areas making them more visible and introducing access controls to try and stamp out illegal motorbike riding are a high priority.

The growing work of Ward Committees are tackling these very issues which you can read about on Page 15.

Many of you were keen to recycle as much as possible and this led the Council to boosting its recycling by introducing a new Plastics recycling initiative being rolled out across the Borough (see pages 26 & 27 for news on our Carbon Footprint).

If you would like more information about how you can air your views, take part in future consultations or just have your say contact Kirsty Watkinson, Consultation Manager on 01755 456958.



Stressed?

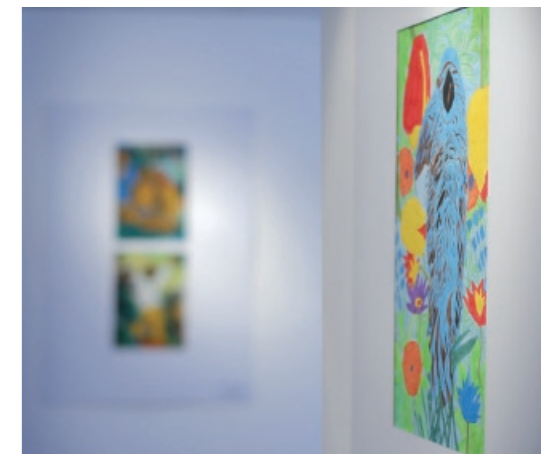
Visit your local art gallery!

Why not pop along to your local art gallery and get those stress levels under control?

Recent research involving stressed out office workers revealed that a brief visit to an art gallery can indeed reduce stress. Here in St.Helens the Godfrey Pilkington Art Gallery on the first floor of the Gamble Building, Victoria Square is the place to visit. Its interesting exhibitions offer something for everyone and special art workshops are held for children too.



- Listings include:**
- St.Helens Open Art Exhibition 2 - 23 July
 - St.Helens College Students' Photographs of Stuttgart 31 July - 13 August
 - Jim Macklin Portrait of Liverpool 22 August - 10 September
 - Thursday Art Group's Annual Exhibition 16 - 26 September
 - Caricature & Humorous Illustration 3 - 22 October & BIG Draw event 11 October
 - Art Club St.Helens Annual Exhibition 28 October - 7 November
 - Photographic Alliance of Great Britain 14 November - 6 December



Children aged seven to 11, of all artistic ability, are invited to Art Workshops during the summer holidays. The cost is £4 per two sessions or £20 for all six sessions. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by calling Cathryn Hegarty at the Council's Arts Service on 01744 455492.

The workshop dates are:
 Tues July 22, 2 - 4 pm
 Weds July 30, 2 - 4 pm
 Fri 8 Aug, 2 - 4 pm
 Weds 13 Aug, 2 - 4 pm
 Fri 22 Aug, 2 - 4 pm
 Fri 29 Aug, 2 - 4 pm

Local artist chosen for 08 celebrations



St.Helens artist Paul Cousins has been commissioned to paint one of the 100 Superlambananas being installed in Liverpool as part of the 08 celebrations.

Entitled 'Cloudorama' it was painted in the Matchworks in Garston, formally the Bryant and May Match Factory. It is placed in the grounds of the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight.

The images of clouds are an extension of the paintings Paul is doing with the theme of clouds, sky and air. It is influenced by the artist's series of sky paintings and has an environmental message. The work highlights the threat humanity faces as we pollute and tamper with the earth's atmosphere.

Paul studied at Liverpool College of Art and was awarded the John Moores Scholarship when he graduated in 1972. He has exhibited extensively in the North West, including The Hanover Gallery, Liverpool and more recently The Godfrey Pilkington Art Gallery, St. Helens. His work 'Thin Air' won first prize at the prestigious Sefton Open 2007.

Who cares? We do

Six million people in the UK provide unpaid care and support to a relative or friend who is ill or disabled. Around 23,000 carers live in St.Helens.

Often carers can feel as though they are living in a vacuum and totally isolated.

But help is at hand in the shape of the Princess Royal Trust St Helens Carer's Centre in Baldwin Street in the town centre.

The opening comes as the Government announces a new six month national consultation process regarding the future provision of care and how that care should be funded, with estimates that there will be a £6

billion shortfall in funding within 20 years.

The Government is about to publish a new Carers Strategy after a lengthy consultation.

The St.Helens Carer's Centre is now a well established local organisation, providing confidential and independent help, information, support and services local carers. It's open 9.30am - 4pm weekdays and any carer is welcome to drop in without the need for an appointment.

The Government has announced its new Carers Strategy – Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities. The work of the Princess Royal Trust St.Helens Carer's Centre has been singled out as a shining example for others to follow. The Council is currently putting together its local carer strategy to further improve the support network.

You can contact St.Helens Carer's Centre on 01744 675615.



Minister Ivan Lewis (top right) opens the Centre

"The contribution that carers make is far too often ignored. I use the Carer's Centre and get a great deal of help and advice. I don't know where I would be without the team there."

David from Newton-le-Willows

"From personal experience I know caring can demand a lot of our time and attention, which in some cases can put pressure on other areas in your of your life such as financial responsibilities and relationships. These can prove to be exhausting and mentally gruelling,"

Emma from Haydock

"I look after my son Jack who is 44 and has a learning difficulty. A few years ago I started to worry about what would happen to him when my husband and I are no longer around."

This family now receive support from the Carer's Centre in making long term plans and a 'Life Book' for Jack.

"My wife has been diagnosed with mental health problems. For many years we tried to ignore the issue but her bouts of depression made life very hard for me and the kids."

This family now get support from the organisation 'Together' and the husband has been on a stress busters course at the Carer's Centre.

"I live with my sister and mum who has very bad arthritis and asthma. Before I go to school I clean the house and prepare food for mum and my sister and often I am late for school."

The young carer now gets support from St.Helens Young Carer's Service and attends regular activities to give him his own time and space.

"When I found out my 87-year-old mum had Alzheimer's, I had no idea of what to expect or who to turn to."

This carer has had help in Dementia Awareness Training and gets support from the local Dementia Support Group and therapies at the Centre.



Sir David Jason OBE.

"Having cared for a loved one I know just how difficult and draining it can be. Some carers simply don't get an opportunity to do the things we all take for granted like spending time with family or friends for the weekend."

www.sthelens.gov.uk

Log on, look and have your say

St.Helens Council's web site is undergoing a revamp. But before changes are made the Council would like your views and feedback on what you would like to see improved or added.

A recent national survey put the website in the top 27% of local authority websites with a 'compelling user experience' status.

Not wanting to rest on its laurels the Council wants to hear from you. Do you think the site is easy to access, does it fulfil your needs, what new features would you like and how can the site be made even better?

We are constantly improving and adding to the site to improve our service to you, and put an ever-increasing wealth of information at your fingertips.

By logging on to the site you can find out about the latest events, news from across the Borough, information

about where you live, councillors' web pages including blogs, check for road works in the area plus a host of on line booking facilities.

Coming soon includes features such as:

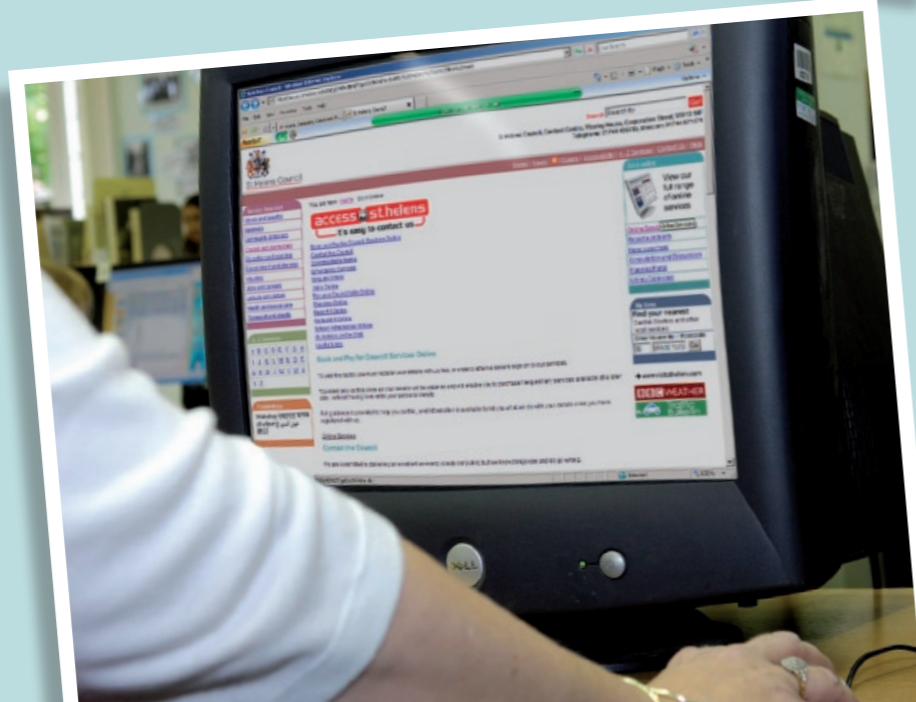
- Applying for Council jobs online
- A "Mapping Services Pages" offering touch of a button information about your area
- Local leisure work service information with the new 'GoActive' site
- Paying for School Activities online
- Looking at how you can get involved with "Fostering & Adoption"

Remember that you have a wide range of computer access through the People's Network in your local library.



To help us improve the website simply log on to www.sthelens.gov.uk and click on the banner at the top of the home page.

We look forward to receiving your views.



Help is at hand

To find out about all kinds of services and activities for children, young people and families you need look no further than Help4Me.

The free, on-line service, lists a huge amount of information ranging from sports clubs to dance classes and services including counselling and advice about financial matters. If you are looking for something to do or somewhere to go, then Help4Me is the place to visit. Provided by the Council's Children's Information Service it can be accessed via the

website at <http://sthelens.help4me.info>

The easy to use directory, which is regularly updated, provides a single reference point for practitioners, children, young people and families.

Project Manager Peter Tonks, said: "Help4Me is an extremely useful tool which will go a long way towards ensuring that people have easier access to, and are aware of, the range of

services that are available to them. You can search quickly and once the details have been found services can be contacted directly by phone, email or a drop in centre."

If you can provide a service for families make sure that your details are listed and if they are not just click the free 'Request Inclusion'.

Help for people with Dyslexia

Dyslexia affects around 1 in 10 people. It is a specific learning difficulty which mainly affects the development of literacy and language related skills.

It does not just affect a person's ability to read and write. Dyslexia is characterised by difficulties with phonological processing, working memory, processing speed, and can also affect the automatic development of skills that may not match up to an individual's other cognitive abilities.

St. Helens and District Dyslexia Association (SHADDA) is a local charity offering advice and support for local families.

A monthly drop in meeting is held every 3rd Tuesday of each month at Millennium House, Bickerstaffe Street, St.Helens, at 7.00pm.

For further information contact 0870 990 7336.

Council says thank you as hundreds air their views

More than 1700 residents responded to the Council on its consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF), the new development plan for the Borough.

Issues attracting the most interest were:

- proposals for the former Parkside colliery site;
- proposals for the Town Centre including development of a new Saints' stadium;
- the distribution of development; and
- provision of economic development land.

The views will help to shape the document before it goes to Government later this year.

In response to the 'Call for Sites' to identify where new housing and employment could be built, the Council are now assessing 560 sites to determine their development potential. A report will be available in late summer highlighting suitable sites.

To be kept informed of LDF progress or if you would like to be consulted when these and other documents are available, add your details to the database, either via the website ldf.sthelens.gov.uk or contact Planning Policy on 01744 456190.



Seeing the wood for the trees

Trees Community Centre in Newton-le-Willows is a charity/voluntary sector organisation which offers training for the local community to improve skills, boost confidence and build self esteem.

Courses include:

- Numeracy (Monday 1.00 - 3.00pm)
- E-Citizen Computer Course (Monday 9.30am - 12.30pm)
- Family First Aid (Monday 9.30 - 11.30am)
- Pilates (Monday 7.00 - 8.00pm)
- Skills 4 life (Tuesday 9.30 - 11.30am)

- Employability Skills (Wednesday 10.00am - 12 noon)
- ECDL Part 1 (Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm)
- Beginners Computers (Wednesday 12.45 - 3.15pm)
- Pilates (Thursday 9.30 - 10.30am)
- Numeracy/Literacy (Thursday 9.30 - 11.30am)

- CLAIT (Thursday 1.30 - 3.30pm)
- ECDL Part 2 (Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm)

There is an Ofsted registered Crèche and a Nursery which caters for children from birth to eight.

For further details contact 01925 596108 or pop into the centre at 143 Alder Street, Newton-le-Willows.

St. Helens Council 2008 – 2010

Billinge & Seneley Green

 Susan Murphy 	 Joe Pearson 	 Richard Ward 
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Haydock

 Eric Sheldon 	 Janet Sheldon 	 Jim Caunce, MBE, JP 
---	--	---

Sutton

 Stephanie Topping 	 Kenneth Knowles 	 Brian Spencer 
--	--	--

Blackbrook

 Paul McQuade 	 Linda Maloney 	 Eric Smith 
---	--	--

Moss Bank

 Richard Ferry 	 Anne Heyes 	 Carole Kavanagh 
--	---	--

Thatto Heath

 Richard McCauley 	 Patricia Martinez- Williams 	 Sheila Seddon 
---	---	--

Bold

 Matthew Dunn 	 Stephen Topping 	 Tom Hargreaves 
--	---	---

Newton

 Neil Taylor 	 Peter Astbury 	 Suzanne Knight, JP 
---	---	---

Town Centre

 David Crowther 	 Janet Hennessy 	 John Beirne 
--	--	---

Earlestown

 Charles Banks 	 Keith Deakin 	 Leon McGuire 
--	---	--

Parr

 Terry Shields 	 Keith Roberts 	 Ken Pinder 
--	--	---

West Park

 Marie Rimmer, CBE 	 Marlene Quinn 	 Robbie Ayres 
---	--	---

Eccleston

 Geoffrey Pearl 	 Shirley Evans 	 Teresa Sims 
---	--	---

Rainford

 John Parr 	 David Grice 	 Betty Lowe, MBE 
--	--	---

Windle

 Ken Roughley 	 Nancy Ashcroft 	 Wally Ashcroft 
---	---	---

Rainhill

 Stephen Glover 	 Joe De'Asha 	 Mike Doyle, JP 
---	--	---

Labour 23
 Liberal Democrats 19
 Conservatives 6

How you are helping to reduce St.Helens carbon footprint

Whether it's filling your green waste bin, putting cans and glass bottles into the black box or popping plastic bottles into your pink bag it is all helping to reduce the carbon footprint and protect the planet.

In this throwaway age it's very easy to bin it and forget. But did you know that St.Helens Council is leading the way in trying to reduce the Carbon Footprint by using local companies to deal with its recycling.

It means that the more we recycle the less waste has to be taken to landfill sites which take up large tracts of land for years.

When you recycle your plastic bottles, cans and paper they have only a short journey to go before they eventually turn up as garden furniture, clothing accessories, shoes and even St.Helens First!

Two local farms, Mossborough Hall, Rainford and White Moss near Kirkby take the waste from the green bins which is returned to

environmentally friendly garden compost.

The average household uses 400 plastic bottles a year. If everyone in St.Helens recycled their bottles it would equate to 31 million bottles a year enough to cover the Saints' pitch 10 times over. The new kerbside plastic bottle collection goes to Yield in neighbouring Widnes.

In nearby Ellesmere Port the paper mill deals with 400,000 tonnes of newsprint every year collected from local councils and paper banks. The machine operates 24/7 365 days a year producing a mile of paper every minute. The paper is then distributed to publishers on massive rolls that weigh the equivalent of 20 cars.



Pop your plastic bottles into the new pink bag which is collected by your in house collection crews and eventually ends up as new garden furniture, shoes, umbrellas, clothing accessories and more plastic bottles!

Newspaper and magazine print goes into your blue bag and it taken to Ellesmere Port where it emerges as environmentally friendly recycled paper re-emerging in printed material such as St.Helens First



Benefit thieves, someone, somewhere, could be reporting you now.



The benefit fraud hotline 0800 854 440 gets hundreds of calls every day from people reporting benefit thieves.

Call in confidence about any suspected benefit fraud in your area on:

0800 953 0217

or contact your Council at:
benefitfraud@sthelens.gov.uk



St. Helens Council

NO IFS, NO BUTS.

Benefit fraud is a crime, break the law and you could face a criminal record.

TARGETING BENEFIT THIEVES

teen

talk

- ➔ MEET YOUR YOUTH PARLIAMENT REP
- ➔ KARATE SUCCESS FOR TRIO
- ➔ HOLLIE IS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
- ➔ RYAN IS GOLFING CHAMP



News

PAGE 3

Daniel's winning designs



News

PAGE 4

Duke of Edinburgh success



Teen talk is a magazine aimed at young people. It's a magazine for you and about you. So if you would like to submit an article contact your teacher or ring St.Helens First on 01744 456166/5.

Anthony's Parliament call-up

Meet student Anthony Neal who won the votes of young people to become the St.Helens representative on the UK Youth Parliament.

Anthony, aged 17, who is studying A-Levels at Carmel College and lives in St.Helens, was selected from 16 candidates.

During his year as YP representative he will work with his deputies to voice the views of young people at regional and national level. They

will get involved in three North West campaigns: Facilities for Young People, Transport Issues and Standard Age - the age at which young people can, for example, vote or get married.

Anthony said: "I will be making sure that the opinions of young people are heard and I am particularly interested in public transport and the need to make it

cheaper for young people."

The Youth Parliament is an independent national body which represents no party political view. To find out how to get involved contact Karen Little in the Council's Youth Service on 01744 675643.



Hollie mixes with celebs at London award ceremony

Carmel student Hollie Cookson has won Britain's Best Young Photographer competition.

Hollie, who is currently studying the Art Foundation Diploma at Carmel College, spent a day with Getty Images Photographer Dave Hogan and was one of the official photographers at the NME Awards! She rubbed shoulders with the "Pro's" to photograph loads of celebrities including Kate Nash, Kaiser Chiefs, The Mighty Boosh, Muse, Agyness Deyn, Kelly Osbourne, Patrick Wolf, The Enemy to name but a few!

"I'd say the best bit was photographing all the stars, mainly The Mighty Boosh and Muse because they're such heroes of mine! Being on the "red carpet" and wearing my photo pass sticker said it all - I wore it with pride and felt really privileged.

Another amazing moment was when I got my photograph taken with Noel Fielding aka Vince Noir from The Mighty Boosh. He was fantastic and I'll treasure that photo forever.

Getty Photographer Dave Hogan was a pleasure to work with. His wide knowledge of the cameras was remarkable. His conversation and interaction with the stars amazed me - he always knew how to get their attention. At first I was a bit nervous shouting the celebrities to look, but he gave me a confidence boost when he told me to shout from behind the camera and just keep taking the shots - it worked a treat!"



School succeeds in LIPA franchise

Rainhill Media Arts College has been successful in being awarded the LIPA 4:19 franchise to helping more young people across the North West the opportunity to develop their performing arts skills.

LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) was launched in September 2003; a part-time performing arts academy for 4 to 19-year-olds to develop performing arts skills also help develop confidence and presentation skills.

More information regarding the LIPA 4:19 workshops can be obtained from the LIPA website at <http://www.lipa.ac.uk/419/> or by contacting the school direct.

For more information contact Paul Barrett on 01744 677205 (ext. 327) or e mail: paul.barrett@sthelens.org.uk

Ryan is a golfing master

Ryan Lewis, a pupil at Rainhill Media Arts College in St.Helens, has just been awarded the England Golf Partners' Young Volunteer of the Year award despite having never played golf before.

Ryan was part of a leadership programme in partnership with Eccleston Park Golf Club that has seen Rainhill pupils and members of the club give over 750 volunteer hours towards the development of junior golf in St Helens. Ryan has helped out with junior sessions on the new practice facility, major tournaments on the course as well as visiting primary schools to

support the Head Professional Bryan Joelson-Mulhall to deliver Tri Golf sessions.

St Helens was one of the first councils in the country to pilot the golf leaders programme through the School Sport Partnerships.

Any children wishing to start playing golf should contact Bryan Joelson-Mulhall at Eccleston Park Golf Club 0151 493 0033.



Students prove Art can change The World

Students at Carmel College have created window displays for Oxfam's flagship store on Bold Street in Liverpool, and for their traditional shops in West Kirby on the Wirral.

Eighteen of Carmel's talented art students have taken part in the three-month project and created range of designs promoting Oxfam and their stores.

Four designs were chosen and the work of all students has been exhibited in Liverpool. Carmel student, Daniel Parr (18) from Eccleston said "Taking part in this professional project has been fantastic experience."

Karate success for trio

A trio of 12-year-old girls from Newton-le-Willows are getting a serious foot-hold in the competitive world of karate.

Lydia Coleman, Samantha Anderton and Danielle Sawyer all became Black Belt First Dans on the same day when they were just 11. Earlier this year Lydia, a pupil at St. Aelred's High, won the English championship for her age group and has taken part in many synchronised events with Newton High pupil Samantha and Danielle who attends The Byrchall School, Ashton.

Lydia mum's Hazel said: "Between



them they have won all sorts of English, British and international titles and have also fought for the British team which is quite an achievement given their age."

The girls train twice a week with North West Karate Academy which has martial arts centres in Newton, Earlestown, Culcheth and Leigh.

Duke of Edinburgh

Growing numbers of young people are taking up Duke of Edinburgh awards in St.Helens as the Borough is singled out regionally for being so successful.

St.Helens is recognised as the best D of E award scheme in the North West in terms of more young people taking part per head of population and being more likely to gain the award.

Without the support of over 100 volunteers from schools and units, this, however, could not have been achieved. As a result of their commitment, this year, more than 400 14 to 25-year-olds received the Bronze award compared with 284 last year and Silver was awarded

to 160 this year, an increase of more than 60. Co-ordinated by the Council's Youth Service, the 32 units are based in schools, colleges, youth clubs and the voluntary sector. All challenge young people to develop, and to build their confidence and self esteem.

The award scheme is universally recognised as the best programme for personal development for young people. It offers flexible, tailor made programmes to individuals reflecting their interests and abilities and allows



young people to proceed at their own pace. Three awards are offered: Bronze (aged 14 and over), Silver (15 and over) and Gold (16 and over).

Activities range from undertaking a huge range of sports and other interests, to helping people in the community or embarking on expeditions such as pony trekking or cycling. To find out more call 01744 675647.

Sign up for a new future

Signing Futures is a new project led by young people, for young people.

A group of five people from the ages of 16-24 have got together to train in Deaf Awareness and Sign Language at the Deafness Resource Centre. They will then work with a Deaf Tutor to create a course aimed at children and young people.

They are available free of charge to school or youth groups, thanks to funds provided by the Princes Trust Community Cash Awards.

Interested groups will be asked to apply for the free training, and picked by the Signing Futures panel. For more information, please contact 01744 23887 (voice / text)

Enjoying and exploring culture on your doorstep

Young people in St.Helens have the chance to work with world class arts organisations on their doorstep to discover and develop their cultural talents.

Youngsters in St.Helens, Liverpool and Knowsley are included in the Liverpool city region's Find Your Talent programme which provides young people with the opportunity to get involved in a range of high quality cultural experiences for five hours a week, in and outside of school. Liverpool city region is one of 10 areas of the country piloting the Government's £25 million programme.

Through Find your Talent

young people will have the chance to perform on stage and attend top quality performances and exhibitions at museums, galleries and heritage sites. They will learn a musical instrument, take part in a musical performance in front of an audience and develop art and craft skills.

Find Your Talent is seen as an exciting initiative that could open minds and change young lives, giving more people the chance to enjoy and explore culture and the arts. To find out more go to www.culture.gov.uk or www.dcsf.gov.uk

Green Day

St. Cuthbert's Catholic Community College for Business and Enterprise hosted a special Green School Surgery for teachers and others involved in education.

The informal drop-in sessions were organised by the Council in association with ENCAMS.

The event brought together a range of organisations whose

representatives were on hand to provide advice and information to support schools on a variety of environmental topics. These included eco school standards, climate change, saving energy, Fairtrade, waste, recycling, sustainable travel, pollution monitoring, the national Healthy Schools Standard and funding for environmental community projects.

