



WHAT'S



N

IN ST. HELENS

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2009



St. Helens
Council

st.helens

The Heart of the Northwest



A St.Helens Summertime to Remember



Councillor Wally Ashcroft
Executive Member for
Culture, Sport and Heritage

Throughout the Summer you will be spoilt for choice for things to do, with fantastic festivals, special events and places to visit right here on our doorsteps.

Highlights over the coming months include the annual St.Helens Festival, memorable St.Helens Live music events, vibrant visual arts exhibitions, even our very own beach will be created in Church Square. Plus at locations throughout the Borough we have activities and events in our parks and public spaces, libraries, sports and heritage venues.

So do something different this Summer, participate, explore and celebrate everything that is wonderful about St.Helens.

I hope you enjoy it!

St. Helens Festival



LEISURE

4th - 5th July 2009 (Open 12 - 6pm)

Make sure you keep the Festival dates free in your diary now. That's because you will not want to miss this top event.

This year's big event, set in Sherdley Park, will be bursting with activity. Everything from the fast-paced high adrenalin stunts in the Main Arena to Children's World, every child's heaven! There will be a Country and Heritage area featuring craft, flowers and wildlife; and generous helpings of music, dance, art and sport. A new kite festival, street entertainers, sports tournaments, equestrian, military displays, classic cars and the funfair are just some of the many more attractions on offer.

Open from 12noon daily, this free-to-enter family event is a guaranteed great day out. What better way to spend a Summer weekend?

You'll have a flutterly brilliant time!

Information will be regularly updated on the Festival website, www.sthelens.gov.uk/festival, keep logging on for the latest information. You can also contact the Festival Team on 01744 675326 or email eventinfo@sthelens.gov.uk

Sponsored by:


Halton and St Helens


St Helens Chamber
Your success is our business



Seaside Fun

No summer is complete without a trip to the beach, and this year you don't even need to go anywhere, as we are bringing it to you!

Church Square will be transformed into our very own **Urban Beach** from **18th July through to 5th September**, with a programme full of fun for all the family.

There is no excuse but to enjoy every moment with traditional deckchairs, palm trees, children's attractions, buckets and spades and free donkey rides.

Ensure you make the most of this St. Helens Summer!

Scenic St. Helens

Providing us all with a unique opportunity to enjoy the summer in St. Helens, St. Helens Council's Ranger Service has an action-packed programme of events taking place. Held in parks and venues across the Borough, there is something for all the family to learn from, participate in and enjoy.

More and more local people are taking part in the guided walks which stretch for miles through our countryside, or learning to pond dip, gain conservation advice at bat and moth nights, or relaxing at a brass band concert in our parks.

Just ensure you don't miss out on seeing our natural environment at its very best.

Details of all Rangers' events and activities can be found online at www.sthelens.gov.uk/events or by calling 01744 677772.

Comical Capers

Between **4th and 10th October**, **St.Helens Comedy Week** returns to venues throughout the town centre. This hugely successful programme of events will once again bring together up-and-coming local comedians, plus established regional and national celebrities from the comedy circuit. Confirmed so far is TV personality Dave Spikey, with full details still to be announced.

Before then there are many stars of stage and screen, as well as our own homegrown talent performing at our local theatres.

St.Helens Theatre Royal

Shake, Rattle 'n' Roll

Saturday 20th June

The Salon

25th – 29th June

The Bill Shankly Story

Wednesday 8th July

Derek Acorah

Saturday 29th August

Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

12th & 13th September

Billy & Wally with Special Guest

Stan Boardman

Sunday 20th September

The Citadel

Tripe and Onions

Thursday 25th June

Our Day Out

Friday 26th June

Solstice

Saturday 27th June

Held in Taylor Park

THECOMEDYTRUST



The Sounds of St.Helens

Throughout 2009, St.Helens has many musical events taking place at venues across the Borough.

Highlights include St.Helens Live, a popular programme of events that brings a mixture of renowned local, regional and national performers to St.Helens. Also this Summer, the St.Helens Live Music Festival will take place on Saturday 8th August in Victoria Square, with the exciting line-up soon to be announced.

No matter what your musical preference, whether it's classical to choral, brass to swing, rock to pop, we are sure there will be something for everyone.

St.Helens Live

The Cory Band

Saturday 3rd October

Music Light of the World

Saturday 28th November

Christmas at the Town Hall

Friday 18th December

Other musical events include:

The Citadel

The Beat

Saturday 20th June

Eric Bogle

Friday 3rd July

Overload

Friday 10th July

Rubberneck

Friday 24th July

Midge Ure

Friday 28th August

St.Helens Sinfonietta

The Magic of Old Vienna

Saturday 20th June

United Reformed Church

An Evening of Jazz

Wednesday 8th July

United Reformed Church

Lunchtime Recital

Wednesday 29th July

United Reformed Church

The French Connection

Saturday 12th September

United Reformed Church

St.Helens Theatre Royal

Back to Broadway

Saturday 18th July

Mugkenkyo Taiko Drummers

Saturday 19th September

Ponigadoon

Wednesday 30th September



Take to the Dance Floor

St. Helens Live

MUSIC

St. Helens Live also gives you the opportunity to participate yourself, with a series of afternoon Tea Dances which take place in St. Helens Town Hall's Assembly Hall on Thursday 2nd July and Thursday 17th September between 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Back by popular demand, these authentic events are for all ages and experiences, with a mixture of live Modern Ballroom, Sequence and Olde Tyme music provided by our host Michael Conradd, a seasoned organist who has graced dancehalls and cruise-ships for many years. The dress code is casual, but feel free to dress up for what promises to be a very special occasion.

No advance booking is necessary and entry is just £3, with tea and refreshments provided courtesy of local producer Lancashire Tea, with a whole host of goodies up for grabs in our free raffle prize draw.

For further information about the St. Helens Live programme, or to book tickets, call 01744 676886 or visit www.sthelens.gov.uk/sthelenslive

Supported by:



St.Helens Cultural Awards

The St.Helens Cultural Awards are back for a second year, after a glittering weekend of events took place at the World of Glass in February this year.

Attended and supported by Hollyoaks actress Emma Rigby, Saints Legend Paul Sculthorpe, BBC TV presenter Ranvir Singh and Deputy Chair and Creative Director of Liverpool Culture Company Prof. Phil Redmond CBE, these ceremonies gave St.Helens a long-overdue opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by our cultural community.

From the many entries we received, and the difficult task our independent panel of specialist judges had to choose the 22 talented winners, it was evident just how important events such as these really are.

Our cultural champions will once again be celebrated in style with showcase events on **26th and 27th February 2010**. Both the Youth Awards and the Main Awards will recognise achievement, hard work and dedication, plus raise the profile of people, projects and participants in performing and visual arts, sport, music, and creative writing.

But awards can only be won by nominating someone!



Get Involved and Get Recognised

The St.Helens Cultural Awards provide a valuable platform to demonstrate the talent within our local communities. So if you know someone who has made a real difference to the cultural life of the Borough, ensure they receive the recognition they deserve by putting your nomination forward.

Whether they are a talented singer, musician, artist, poet, performer, writer, sports group or volunteer, we want to hear from you.

Judging by the exceptional standard of the 2009 winners, achieving a nomination would be fitting recognition in itself for any entrant.

More information and nomination forms will be available in the local press and on the St.Helens Council website, www.sthelens.gov.uk, over the next few months, but you can register your interest now by emailing marketing@sthelens.gov.uk or by calling 01744 676886.



A 'Dream' Comes True

St.Helens truly is a cultural destination these days with the new landmark artwork 'Dream' recently unveiled.

The 20 metre high sculpture was created by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, commissioned by St.Helens Council, curated by Liverpool Biennial, and supported by Arts Council England, the national development agency for the arts, and The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity.

Not only has Dream now become the star of a TV show, and made headlines across the globe, but she also becomes an iconic symbol of regeneration and hope at the same time, creating a new chapter in the St.Helens history book. For more information about Dream, visit www.dreamsthelens.com or telephone 01744 755150.



Commissioned by



Supported by



Artistic Adventures

Throughout St.Helens, our arts and heritage venues have so much to offer, whether you're looking for inspirational artworks or to step into the past. Some of the summer highlights include:

The Godfrey Pilkington Art Gallery

Becoming Artists 16th – 27th June

Thursday Art Group Annual Exhibition 7th – 17th July

Liverpool/Beauty – Surprisingly Found

Nathaly Deges & Natalie Hoffmeister 24th July – 7th August

St.Helens Camera Club Annual Exhibition 14th – 29th August

The Forgotten Garden

Glynn Davies in collaboration with Age Concern 8th – 25th September

The World of Glass

Painting Thin Air 18th July – 13th September

All Dressed Up 21st July – 13th September

New Found Lands 22nd September – 8th October

Chandelier @ Sankey 22nd September – 15th November

The Smithy Heritage Centre

Once Upon a Time in the North 4th July – 12th September

Discover St.Helens' Hidden Gems

Get ready for a journey of discovery in St.Helens as the Borough hosts a special weekend of free activities to celebrate its unique heritage.

A number of locations across St.Helens will be open for visitors to explore and enjoy during **Heritage Open Days on September 12th and 13th** and the events will all be guided by experts, giving visitors a real insight into the remarkable places and people that have shaped the Borough.

From leading visitor attractions, The World of Glass and the North West Museum of Road Transport, to Grade II listed buildings and gardens, art and culture and a thriving farm business, there really is something for everyone.



Your chance to take part... Challenge St.Helens

Now in its second year, thousands of runners of all ages and abilities will once again take part in 'Challenge St.Helens' on Sunday 20th September.

This exciting event aims to raise money to support three deserving charities, Macmillan Cancer Support, Willowbrook Hospice and Claire House Children's Hospice, with organisers hoping to beat last year's total of £6,500.

Starting and finishing in Victoria Square, participants can choose to take part in either the 5 kilometre race or the 1 kilometre family fun-run around St.Helens Town Centre.

Register today for your chance to take part!

For further information about
Challenge St.Helens
or to register, call

01744 22266 or visit
www.challengesthelens.org.uk



Get Active

Throughout the Borough, clubs and organisations are offering classes, coaching and competitions in all types of sports. So whether you're a participant or spectator, young or old, an expert or a novice, ensure your summer is adrenalin-filled and action-packed.

Other sporting highlights include:

Haydock Park Racecourse

The Charlatans Music Evening

20th June

Glass Times Raceday

2nd July

WaterAid Ladies Evening

3rd July

bet365 Old Newton Cup

4th July

Raceday

17th July

Cancer Research UK/Bjorn Again

Music Evening

18th July

Ladies Evening

7th August

Totepool Rose of Lancaster Stakes

8th August

Betfred Sprint Cup

5th September

The Prince's Trust Raceday

15th September

Vale UK Raceday

25th September

Lester Piggott Raceday

26th September

Saints RLFC

Saints vs Celtic Crusaders

Friday 26th June

Saints vs Wakefield

Trinity Wildcats

Friday 17th July

Saints vs Wigan Warriors

Friday 31st July

Saints vs Huddersfield Giants

Friday 21st August

Saints vs Catalans Dragons

Friday 11th September



Discover Your Library

Come and see for yourself just how much St.Helens Libraries have to offer. Not only do they have a wonderful collection of books built up over the years, but also archives, talks and events, free broadband internet access, the latest chart CDs and DVDs and even copies of your favourite magazines. Your local library has it all!

Also taking place during the school holidays is the 2009 Summer Reading Challenge. All children taking part need to help our three Quest Seekers, Raj, Belle and Louis, find the golden book. By reading six books of any kind, they will help the 3 friends. Every child that takes part will receive a Quest Seekers pack, and all children who complete the challenge will be presented with a certificate and medal at special Quest Seekers ceremonies later in the year.

Other library events in the coming months include:

Centenary Celebrations

Newton-Le-Willows Library - 6th July & 22nd July

Harry Potter Day

Central Library - 11th July

Thomas the Tank Engine Event

Central Library - 30th July

Rainhill Library - 21st August

For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge or to book your place at these events, contact your nearest library.



The Summer Reading Challenge in libraries





Want To Know More?

For further information regarding all the events and more, please visit www.sthelens.gov.uk/events or www.visitsthelens.com

Get Involved

If you are organising or taking part in an event, then let us know about it. Please upload your event at www.sthelens.gov.uk/events or post details to Marketing Services, Wesley House, Corporation Street, St. Helens, Merseyside WA10 1HF or telephone 01744 676886.

No group or organisation has been intentionally omitted from this guide. Information has been provided by each individual organisation and permission granted for its inclusion; therefore, St. Helens Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.



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For a translation of any St.Helens Council publication, please provide your name and address and the name of the language you require to the Contact Centre, quoting the title and/or reference number of the document.



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