

A photograph of two women belly dancing. The woman in the foreground is older, with short grey hair, wearing a black long-sleeved top and a black skirt with silver sequins. She is smiling and has her arms raised. The woman in the background is younger, with long brown hair, wearing a white tank top and a red sash. She is also dancing with her arms raised. Large, flowing red veils with tassels are in the background.

St. Helens First

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

FIRST UK
ESSENTIAL OIL AND
WILDFLOWER FARM

A BRAND NEW
FUTURE

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dancing to bling**
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community centres –
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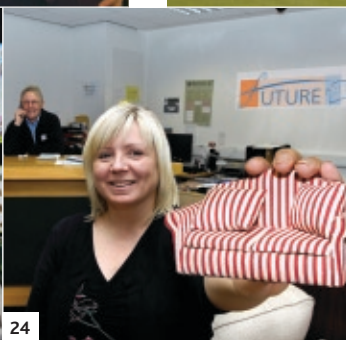
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St.Helens Chief Executive's column



The Audit Commission has reported that St.Helens Council continues to be one of the best authorities in the country.

In fact, its score for use of financial resources earned it third place in the country as St.Helens continues to improve year on year offering value for money for its council tax payers.

The Annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) report by the Audit Commission reveals the results of countrywide inspections of councils, announcing that St Helens has again retained its top 4 star rating achieving its best scores ever.

Financial management and use of resources was again assessed as excellent. The Council continues to deliver service improvements whilst setting inflation only increases in council tax.

Other highlights included improvements in the priority areas of economic development, adult social care and health services, services for children and young people and community safety and crime and disorder strategies.

I hope you enjoy this edition of St.Helens First which is packed with interesting news and feature items.

Carole Hudson,
Chief Executive



Whether it's to find out how to recycle your household waste, check what's on, pay your Council Tax or request a specific service, the way you contact the Council is up to you!

Online: www.sthelens.gov.uk
Email: contactcentre@sthelens.gov.uk

Telephone: 01744 456789
(8am – 8pm, Monday – Friday and 10am – 2pm, Saturdays)

Minicom: 01744 671671
Face to Face: Contact Centre, Wesley House, Corporation Street, St.Helens (open 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday).

By text: Ask about signing up to our new SMS text alert service when you call the Contact Centre.

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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St.Helens First is printed on recycled paper.



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

If you don't foster, who will?

If you have the enthusiasm, energy, commitment and love to care for someone else, room in your home and in your heart, then fostering could be for you.



The Council's Fostering Team is always seeking foster carers for children of all ages but it is particularly looking for people to care for older children – teenagers who need a stepping stone to independence. Likely to be working or studying, they only need a foster home for a couple of years but many will keep in touch with their carers for years after.

All who foster in St.Helens are provided with much help, encouragement and training from a comprehensive support network. They have their own support worker, are linked to an experienced carer, meet regularly with other foster carers and have access to advice and training.

There are many misconceptions about who can and cannot foster but restrictions are minimal.

- You can be single, married or living with a partner
- Employed, unemployed or retired
- Live in your own home or rented accommodation
- You don't need a big house or garden
- You don't need to be able to drive or own a car
- There's no age limit and you can have pets

Look out for events and adverts in the local press during Fostering Fortnight (10th – 24th May) which will give more information about fostering or go to the Council's website www.sthelens.gov.uk



If you think you have what it takes to foster or want more information call the Fostering Team on 01744 456256 or email fostering@sthelens.gov.uk

Bin men save the day for May

A group of St.Helens bin men saved the day for a Haydock pensioner who had inadvertently lost her MoT and £40 worth of car tax.

May Hughes, 74, put an envelope on the bonnet of her Ford Fiesta as she sorted out her car keys and handbag. But she left it on the bonnet as she set off to get her car taxed.

After searching everywhere she arrived back home to find bin men Neil Groves, John

Beesley, John McNamara and trainee David Mustard waiting for her with the lost MoT and car tax money.

They had seen the envelope and cash drop off the car and waited for her to return to be reunited with her lost property.

Says May: “The lads were really friendly and wanted to make sure I got my things back as quickly as possible. They do a grand job and they deserve some praise for their thoughtfulness.”



Bin lorry driver Neil with May



UK's first essential oils and wildflower farm

Fields of lavender and wildflowers will become a familiar sight in St.Helens with the prospective launch of the UK's first essential oils and national wildflower farm.

Phytobotanica UK Ltd, founders of the first essential oils research centre in Europe, and Landlife, a wildlife charity

based at the National Wildflower Centre in Knowsley, will jointly develop Inglenook Farm in Rainford producing crops, undertaking research and creating a haven for wildlife.

Subject to securing planning permission for reuse of the outbuildings, Phytobotanica will also

relocate its processing and visitor education facilities to the farm, which will become a colourful addition to the already thriving rural economy in St.Helens. The project is an integral part of the borough's Rural Economy Action Plan (REAP), as well as the wider City Growth Strategy.

19th Century Mansion new venue for civil ceremonies

The historic Mansion House in Victoria Park has thrown open its impressive doors to civil ceremonies.

Built in 1850 and set in panoramic parkland near the town centre, the Mansion House has a number of rooms available with a large

choice of table layouts and menus to suit all tastes plus helpful wedding planner staff to help with your special day.

Once a Victorian gentlemen's residence it boasts an imposing entrance and central hall with elegant staircase ideal for photographs plus

other rooms overlooking parkland, some with water feature views.

Older townsfolk will remember it as the town's former museum. Age Concern now run the building.

For further details contact 01744 752644.



Direct Payments are opening up a world of opportunities

A scheme which offers a cash amount for people to purchase their own care and support is opening up a new way of life for people across the Borough.

Residents who are eligible for Community Care Services (CCS) can choose Direct Payments which offer a way of receiving the care they need.

It's a cash amount from the Council's Adult Social Care and Health Department and is completely separate from the Department for Work and Pensions direct payment scheme.

The amount you receive is based on a financial assessment and will not affect your finances or benefits. Your contribution, if any, will be dependent on your financial circumstances.

A Champions Group was set up as a point of contact to bring issues, problems, and suggestions to the group. Common queries include whether a specific bit of equipment would be available through a direct payment or whether someone has capacity to consent to a direct payment if they have Alzheimers. They also share information and good practice about creative use of direct payments.

Anyone who uses or is eligible for CCS can access Direct Payments.

This includes people with physical or learning disabilities, older people, mental health problems, disabled people aged between 16 and 17, people with disabled children and carers.

Once in receipt of payment it means you can employ your own carers or personal assistant, decide on the hours they work and how they give support.

The Council's Direct Payments Team will offer help and advice with a wide range of issues to help you.

For more details ring 01744 456204 or 456200





Jane's new life thanks to Direct Payments

Since Jane Parr received her Direct Payments it has opened up a whole new world for her.

Jane, who has learning difficulties, has been able to follow up her dreams and ambitions. Working with her Personal Care Assistant, Angela, she has joined a social club and is a lady who likes to lunch to improve her social network.

But her main boost has been to develop her love of cats by volunteering to make blankets for the Cat Protection League. Every week, with her mum, they knit blankets, and with Angela's help takes them to the local branch to fund raise.

Via her Direct Payments Jane can enjoy a family holiday with mum, dad and Angela who provides respite care so that everyone can have a good time.

Holiday boost

The parents of one 15 year old St.Helens youngster have been able to have a holiday, safe in the knowledge that their son is being well cared for.

The much needed respite break was made possible thanks to Direct Payments. They have been able to pay for respite care in the form of a nursery assistant who has known their son from being a toddler. She steps in from time to time while mum and dad have a care break.

Emma is dancing with delight

Thanks to Direct Payments Emma Hough is now enjoying her favourite hobby of dancing thanks to help from her Personal Assistant.

Emma, who has learning difficulties, now attends dance classes plus visits to the cinema and clubs. And, because, her Personal Assistant is 18, it has opened up a network of new friends her own age.



Emma with her mum

Playing the generation game

People of different generations have a lot to teach one another. This is the valuable lesson that families in St.Helens are learning.

Across the Borough young children, parents, carers and grandparents are enjoying learning and having fun in schools and children's centres boosting their skills while bridging the generation gap. Now, these opportunities are set to be extended and further enhanced thanks to BIG Lottery funding of £400,000.

This will, over the next four years, allow the Council to implement its FLASH programme. FLASH (Family Learning across St.Helens) will give youngsters and adults more opportunities to experience things together from learning Spanish, to exploring the countryside, visiting galleries and museums and helping one another to learn.

The funding will support existing parents' groups and create new ones, provide more high quality, fun learning opportunities and help children to continue learning beyond the classroom. There will be more 'learning through play' groups for the under ones and their families, extensions to the successful Sure Start MATCH project for men and their children and more support for the SHARE sessions in schools where parents work alongside their children to promote their development.

FLASH will create opportunities for new and innovative ways of learning and will always be inter-generational and lots of fun.

To find out more about Family and Community Learning opportunities please contact 01744 677312.



Others to benefit from the BIG Lottery Fund are:

St.Helens District Sports Council (£9,850) to develop their marketing strategy to boost awareness of their work plus more work with volunteers.

St. Mark's Church, Haydock (£9,846) towards the purchase of an old school for use by the community.

Earlestown Cricket Club (£9,750) to buy new ground maintenance equipment to improve playing surfaces.

St.Helens Cricket Development Group (£9,300) towards attending more and varied courses aimed at players and coaches to develop skills.

Liverpool St.Helens Junior Rugby (£6,484) to fund coaching courses for volunteers and playing equipment to offer extra provision and after school activities.



Budding 'Tiger Woods' takes on America

This time last year promising young golfer Ethan Davies was on the verge of quitting the game he loves and excels at.

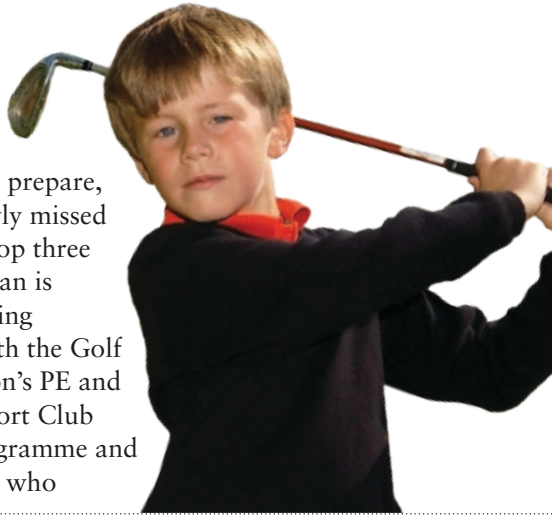
He had become frustrated at the seemed lack of opportunities locally for players of his age and his parents had to travel from their home in Rainhill to Leeds to enable nine-year-old Ethan to play in competitions.

But after his mum Jo contacted St.Helens School Sports Partnership, doors of opportunity opened for Ethan. As part of the Council's drive to support gifted and talented individuals Rob Vaughan, Partnership Development Manager, put together a help package.

Negotiations with Eccleston Park Golf Club's Head Professional, Bryan Mulhall-Joelson and Club Captain Derek Wright OBE, resulted in Ethan becoming the youngest ever member of the club. Bryan coached Ethan in preparation for his first major competition - the Young Masters National Finals - where despite only having a couple of months to prepare, he narrowly missed out on a top three finish. Bryan is also working closely with the Golf Foundation's PE and School Sport Club Links programme and Nike Golf who

are providing Ethan with equipment and advice.

Rob said: "As a result of Ethan's immense ability and the support network around him, he has now been selected to represent a European team (under 9) to play against a team from USA in the European Championships.



What a classic!

Interested in classic cars? Then the St.Helens Classic Car Association is for you.

The club has been going for six years and has a mix of classic and modern cars as well as old favourites such as Moggie Minors, Spitfires, MGB's, Cortinas, Granadas, Land Rover, Sunbeam Rapiers, Rovers, Jaguars and more.

It meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Bull and Dog, Sherdley Park.

Contact Dave Jones 01744 637052 or email davidjones66@blueyonder.co.uk

Sporting success for gym club

A local gym club for disabled people is going from strength to strength.

Spartac Special Needs Gym Club hope to follow their most successful year yet in 07 with another equally as busy.

As well as performing at the World Gymnastrada in Austria, the London Festival and the Scottish Gymnastics, to name but a few, the group also carry out local displays including the St.Helens Gymfest.

Their calendar is already full for 08 which again sees them at the Scotland even in May and the London event in October.

For further information contact theillidges@hotmail.com

Stuttgart celebrations

St.Helens has been celebrating the 60th anniversary of its links with Stuttgart this month – believed to be the first British/German 'partner town' agreement after the Second World War.

Twenty five Stuttgart visitors spent a weekend in the town visiting local attractions and enjoying a civic dinner. A week long series of celebrations included a concert from the St.Helens Sinfonietta, floral displays in Victoria

Square, a schools' exchange trip and table tennis tournament.

Memories are made of this

Edna Platt got in touch after reading a Stuttgart article in the last edition of St.Helens First which highlighted St. Helens's links with the German town.

She went on an exchange trip to Stuttgart in 1953 and met exchange partner Susanne Schoch, who

she spent many happy holidays with and the two women are still in contact today. Edna also visited as secretary of the Lyndale Singers who performed as guest of the MSV-Vaihingen Choir in 1976 then took part in Stuttgart's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1988. Also taking part in the visits were local girls Norma Naylor (nee Hill) and Beryl Pugh (nee Miller) who were also Lyndale members.

Sports clubs with something for everyone

Come and see what St.Helens Sports Clubs can offer YOU is the message to youngsters and their parents.



In a bid to increase the number of five to 18-year-olds taking part in sport in their own time a Sports Fayre has been organised in St.Helens to which pupils and parents are invited.

It is the first of its kind on Merseyside and will allow youngsters to meet sports club representatives and find out how they can get involved in the wide range of sports available locally. The event aims to increase physical activity among young people to help them live healthier lives while tackling issues of ill health,

obesity and social inclusion.

The St.Helens School Sports Partnerships in conjunction with the Council's Sports Development team organised the event, with their partners, after noticing that while pupils do sport in school, many do not continue enjoying it in their spare time. There is a particularly noticeable drop-off rate at aged 16.

The Sports Fayre will take place at the Town Hall on 16th April between 6.30pm and 9pm. It has been widely advertised in schools, sports clubs, leisure centres, libraries and

youth centres and has been promoted via the local press. It is hoped that more than 200 people will attend the fayre. St.Helens RLFC players will also be at the event and pupils and their families will be able to enter a raffle to win tickets for a Saints match.

Just turn up on the night or for more details call on 01744 675926 or Julie Fraser on 01744 455367. A directory of sports clubs is listed on the Council's website www.sthelens.gov.uk



Message in a bottle

A plastic bottle recycling trial in St.Helens proved such a big success that it is being rolled out across every household in the Borough.

The pilot scheme was introduced last year and initially saw 20,000 plastic bottles being recycled every week. The containers are emptied every two weeks as part of the kerbside recycling scheme. Items such as cordial bottles, household detergent and

cleaning bottles, milk bottles, shampoo and shower gel bottles are among the items that can be recycled.

The Council launched the trial after listening to what residents said they wanted to recycle.

You can also take your plastic bottles to be recycled at any of the following sites:

**Asda, Kirkland Street,
Town Centre**

**Tesco, Chalon Way West,
Town Centre**

**Tesco, Earle Street,
Newton**

**Tesco, Church Road,
Haydock**

**Netto, Haydock Street,
Newton**



For more information, please call the Council's Contact Centre on 01744 456789.

Also, watch out for more details in your local press and information coming through your letterbox

And there's more.....

The Council is boosting the number of green bins across the Borough by a further 5,000. This brings the current total to around 60,000. This is just one element of a major recycling campaign being launched across the Borough. Watch the local press and your St.Helens First for further details as schemes come on line.



Residents across St.Helens have been doing their bit to promote Fairtrade Fortnight which aims help disadvantaged farmers and workers in developing countries.



All's fair in St.Helens

A special coffee morning was held in the Central Library where people were invited to sample Fairtrade products while a similar Taster session was held at St.Helens College Foyer.

Pupils from St.Helens high schools attended a special event at St. Cuthbert's to promote Fairtrade. Pupils were told how they could do their bit to alleviate poverty and help sustainable development.

Fairtrade was launched in 1994 to help economically disadvantaged people or those marginalised by conventional trading.

St.Helens is on the road to becoming a Fairtrade town and this year hopes to announce the Fairtrade title. In order to do this a certain number of retailers and catering outlets need to have a regular stock base of 2 or more Fairtrade products. At the moment there are still too few catering outlets such as coffee shops, restaurants and pubs stocking Fairtrade to meet the strict criteria. St.Helens Fairtrade Steering group in conjunction with St.Helens Council are working hard to encourage more businesses to get on board but the best way to get the message across is a higher demand for the products. To do this we need the help of residents and visitors to ask for Fairtrade products in their local shops, cafes and restaurants.



For more information contact Cheryl Taylor on 01744 456442 or email cheryltaylor@sthelens.gov.uk

St.Helens means business

A new business park is taking shape that will create hundreds of quality new jobs.

Top of the range offices are being built at Mere Grange through a joint venture between developer Langtree and national regeneration agency English Partnerships.

Construction is progressing on the £12 million phase one of the business park, which will provide space for around 130 jobs when complete in June 2008. Further phases will be developed after this, totalling 27,870 square metres (300,000 square feet), leading to a total of around 650 jobs and around £50 million investment by 2015.

The 12-hectare (30 acre) business park will provide good quality and cost-effective commercial space for local companies to grow and to help



attract new businesses to St Helens.

Mere Grange, the old Lea Green Farm West, has been reclaimed using funds from the English Partnerships' National Coalfields Programme, the EU and Merseyside Objective One programme. It is in a prominent linkroad position (A570) which links to the M62, and is close to existing

successful industrial sites south of the town centre.

Phase one of the development will provide 5,574 square metres (60,000 square feet) of self-contained office space in 10 units of between 306 square metres (3,300 square feet) and 901 square metres (9,700 square feet).

A kind of magic

The Animal Magic article in the last issue generated so much interest that we have been asked to provide further details.

Teacher Steven Lewis-Neill runs wild workshops in schools to teach youngsters the habits of various animals. Contact 01925 220197 or log on to www.wildworkshops.co.uk

Dyslexia drop in evenings

St. Helens Dyslexia Association meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Millennium Centre, Corporation Street.

Attendance is free and the association provides advice and support. Contact 0151 426 9989.

New flats for Rainford

The Council has approved a scheme to build 18 self-contained flats in Victoria Street, Rainford. The two bedroomed flats will be available for people aged 55 and over and there will be parking facilities.

Walk this way

Back by popular demand is the Moonlight Walk which last year saw 1,000 women pounding the streets after dark to raise £67,000 for Willowbrook Hospice.

Organisers hope that this year's ladies only event will attract twice as many walkers. The 10km walk, which starts at 10pm, on Saturday, June 7, is

supported by the St.Helens Star, the Council, Pilkingtons and Merseyside Police.

Sponsorship money raised will enable the hospice to continue enhancing the quality of life of people living with life limiting illnesses. Staff do this by providing specialist palliative care

and supporting patients' families and carers. 'Time for Caring' is the ethos of Willowbrook Hospice.

For an application pack contact Diane at the Fundraising Office on 01744 453798 or visit the website www.willowbrook.org.uk

Join in the fun for St.Helens Live 08

Tickets are now on sale for St.Helens Live 08 – a series of quality concerts featuring high profile and well known artistes, hosted at St.Helens Town Hall throughout the year.

With renowned names such as the Liverpool Philharmonic, The Black Dyke Brass Band and the Lancashire Hotpots, St.Helens Live 08 is attracting massive interest and demand for tickets is high.

Organised by St.Helens Council and supported by Capital of Culture, this is one of the Borough's main contribution to Liverpool Capital of Culture 08 and hopes to attract hundreds of people to the Town Hall Assembly Room.

You can purchase tickets for any of the performances in advance at the following outlets:

- St.Helens Council Contact Centre, Corporation St (cash sales only)
- Online at Ticketline.co.uk (booking fee may apply) - <http://www.ticketline.co.uk/news.php?id=3895>
- Tourist Information Centre @ The World of Glass (booking fee may apply)
- The Citadel Ticket Office



The Lancashire Hot Pots

For more information,
please call 01744
455305 or visit
www.ticketline.co.uk
and www.sthelens.gov.uk/events



Events include:

17th May – "Showtime!"

An evening of Musical Theatre with St.Helens Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Pilkington Musical Theatre Company and Rainhill Amateur Operatic Society - £7.00

20th June – "The Way We Were"

An evening of dance and memories with the Sophie Garner Band £5.00

19th July – Liverpool Philharmonic presents "All Around the Bass" £12.00

20th September – An audience with the Lancashire Hotpots £10.00

18th October – Jive and Swing Night with Oo Bop Sh'Bam £10.00

22nd November – The Black Dyke Brass Band £12.00

20th December – Christmas Carols – Schools' Performance £5.00



The Black Dyke Mills Band

Vocational excellence is at the heart of new centre

A brand new learning centre, offering vocational studies for teenagers, opens its doors in September.

Based at St.Helens College's Technology Centre, Pocket Nook, the Collaborative Learning Centre will provide a completely new learning environment for 14 to 19-year-olds, focusing predominantly on the 14 to 16 age group. At the heart of its concept is 'vocational excellence' and opportunities for young people to work and learn new skills in an adult environment.

The kind of courses available in the high tech centre will include

engineering, construction, motor vehicle, building services, hair and beauty, complementary therapies and health and care.

The need for such a centre was identified in a review undertaken by the Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council and a number of partners including the college, schools, the Council and St.Helens Chamber were involved in its development. The building itself is sustainable with features including high levels of insulation to reduce heat loss, solar panels, the use of recyclable materials, good daylight and automatic control of artificial lighting and rainwater recycling facilities.



Lottery boost for historic heritage site

A historic heritage site in St.Helens has been awarded £865,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

St Helens Council, the Mersey Basin Campaign, Groundwork Merseyside along with a range of partner organisations have been awarded the money for the Stanley Bank Triangle Project. It will be used to enhance and promote the heritage of Stanley Bank in Blackbrook.

In the late 18th century Stanley Bank was a hive of activity. Iron ingots supplied by the forges at Carr Mill were rolled flat and slit into flat bar for use in the nail making trade and for bands around barrels.

A copper works was established in 1772 by Thomas Patten. The copper workers were accommodated in Copper House Row and relaxed in the works owned pub (now called the Ship).

Today, nature has reclaimed the site, with nationally important wildlife habitats masking the rich heritage, which lies below the surface.

Works will begin in April.

Former school gets new lease of life

A former infant school has been given a new lease of life by St. Mark's Church, Haydock.

The Church has acquired the Richard Evans Infant School building on a long lease. After a complete refurbishment it is now home to community and church activities, the church's catering facilities and local community project TANGO.

The 'something for everyone' centre can be contacted on 01744 625046.

Allotments flourish as take up rate soars

Council run allotments across St.Helens are flourishing, almost all are now occupied and there is a waiting list for some.

A few years ago just 66% were occupied but that has now risen to 98% with avid gardeners producing flowers, fruit and vegetables and others rearing poultry too. Many of the Council's 480 plots are operated on a self managed basis or form part of a Community Allotment Association which involves people working in a group.

Allotments not only help to provide a sustainable source of healthy food, but working on them is a good source of

exercise, people can learn much from gardening and allotments also provide an important habitat for flora and fauna.

Contact 01744 456789 for more details.



From belly dancing to bling



From belly dancing to digital photography classes your local community centre has 'something for everyone'.

If you fancy brushing up on a foreign language, or bringing some bling into your life with jewellery classes, it's odds on that your local community centre has something for you. Even Arabic Belly Dancing is among

a range of new activities on offer at one centre. And if you don't know your jpegs from your pixels there are photography courses plus computers made easy sessions, local history and heritage talks to name but a few. You

can bet that you can find something of interest at one or more centres.

Some events are free and many of the activities on offer have special rates for certain groups. Many offer crèche facilities.

Centres include:

Crownway Community Centre
01925 222907

Chain Lane Community Centre
01744 677705

Deafness Resource Centre
01744 23887

Derbyshire Hill Family & Community Centre
01744 601436

Newton Family & Community Association
01925 224731

Peter Street Community Centre
01744 677555

The HOPE Centre
01744 26414

Clock Face Recreation Club
07734 096321

The Leaf Centre
01744 820044

Starting Point
01744 698800

YWCA
01744 25813

Sure Start Children's Centres
01744 678258

Sutton Manor Extended Primary
01744 678 700

Chester Lane Centre & Library
01744 677115

St John's Centre
01744 758991

T.A.N.G.O
01744 625046

Fairbrother Community Centre
01925 292221



Details about more community centres is also available from the Council for Voluntary Services on 01744 457100.

Making a difference to your community



Across all wards dozens of extra dog bins have been installed by popular demand.

St. Helens First takes a peep behind the scenes at some of the work being done via the 16 Ward Committees which give people the chance to voice their vision for their community.

Each Committee has an annual budget of £30,000 to spend on environmental projects of their choosing. Residents have a say in how and where the money is spent. Here is a snapshot round up of some of the work in progress. Many more projects are in the pipeline. Getting involved could not be easier and will give you an opportunity to make a real difference in your ward. See contact details on page 20.

Billinge and Seneley Green

Changing the goal posts!

Football fans using Bankes Park can now enjoy improved facilities thanks to alterations to goal posts. Due to the terrain of the park the goal posts were eroding the soil. A new rubber net surface has been installed to stop erosion and allow the grass to grow through.

Other initiatives in the ward include widespread bulb planting as part of Billinge and Garswood in Bloom plus additional seating areas in Main Street and Simms Road. The roundabout at Elm Avenue is also being given a planting makeover with new bulbs.



Blackbrook

Be prepared

Road improvement work outside the Blackbrook Scouts Headquarters have been carried out and continuing the visual environmental theme more waste bins have been placed outside schools in the area.

Football fanatics are now enjoying new goal posts on the Bosworth Road field.

Bold

Cleaner and greener

Environmental initiatives include tidy ups around Dunsop Avenue, Horny Crescent and Wray Avenue; new kerbs and drainage works on Union Bank Lane and additional litter bins in Forest Road and Walkers Lane.

Earlestown

Popular bridge restored

The well used Cloghe Wood footbridge has been refurbished as part of environmental works in the wood.

Other initiatives include tree planting in Market Street, ten new street signs a pedestrian barrier on Market Street and two Christmas trees.

Eccleston

Woodland boost

More tree planting at St. Benedict's Wood has been carried out along with extensive bulb planting to give a Spring splash. Improvements are being made to the hard surface area at the rear of shops in Gillars Green.



Haydock

New fencing and clean up

Land around Windermere Road has been given a clean up with substantial fencing.

More litter bins and sweeping has also been carried out across the ward.

Moss Bank

Thumbs up for new look safer park

Haresfinch Park is now a safer more pleasant place to visit say local residents who have been working with the Council to improve it.

The Friends of Haresfinch Park installed security lighting and a Mosquito alarm after receiving funding from the Council's Ward Committees network. The alarm, which releases a high pitched noise that only people aged under 25 can hear, is designed to tackle anti-social behaviour by moving on groups of youths.

Graham Roberts, chair of the Friends group said the Police have confirmed a reduction in calls for Police assistance in the area of almost one-third – one of the largest reductions on Merseyside. Other initiatives include new street lights in Haresfinch Park, more benches and improvements to the courtyard in Moss Bank Care Centre, new lights at the front of shops in Bassenthwaite Avenue and benches in the children's play area in Kentmere Park.



Newton

New allotment for youngsters

Children at Newton Primary School now have a brand new allotment, the result of partnership working with the Mesnes Park allotment group and the ward committee. More than £5,000 has been put into the allotment by the ward committee to create a horticultural haven for the youngsters. It also has new disabled access, new water supply and improved walkways.

The project now forms part of the school's curriculum and youngsters have been busy planting bulbs and strawberries.

Money has also been put aside for a new sensory garden at the new £10-million Newton Community Hospital. Here plants will appeal to all five senses, sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. The ward committee also funded the Christmas festive display which included a tree and lights.



Rainhill

Memorial seating improvements

Two seating areas will be placed at the Memorial in the village. There have also been improvements to fencing to the Old Lane Playing Fields and footpath and fencing improvements at Manor Farm. Improvements are also being made to the entry project in Rainhill Road.



Parr

New fencing

New fencing has been put in place in Evelyn Avenue, Chancery Lane and Hargreaves Street. A new vehicle turning point has been built in Surrey Street and access has been restricted along O'Brien Grove and Seath Avenue. Improvements have also been made to land near the Co-op on Parr Stocks Road.

Rainford

Floral boost for village

Extra hanging baskets and floral displays in Rainford were among the most requested projects which have also included Christmas lighting and new benches. Other work includes improvements to Crank Recreation Ground and access improvements to the Linear Park in Junction Road.



Sutton

A 'dam' good scheme

Environmental work continues on the popular Sutton Mill Dam which is being given a makeover to include improvements to woodland and pathways. Repair and improvement work is also being done on Dale Crescent.



Thatto Heath

Makeover magic

The passageway to the rear of Heyes Street has been given a clean up while at Reeves Court new pathways are being built.

New goal posts have been installed at Sutton Heath Road/ Elton Head Road and more litter bins have been placed around the ward.

Landscaping boost for ward

Extensive landscaping on land at Sherdley Road is being carried out with a new flowerbed for College Street.

Two further Christmas trees were funded from the ward budget along with more hanging baskets across the area.



West Park

Grass is greener project

Work to resurface the grass verges at Lacey Street, Lugsmore Lane, Dodd Avenue and Leslie Road is being done while some planters have been removed on the side streets leading up to Rivington Road from Cambridge Road to improve access and visibility.

Windle

Waste land booster

Waste land off Cooper Street is to be reclaimed and tidied while the path between Hard Lane and the Windlehurst estate will benefit from a clean up. More tree planting has been carried out at Victoria Park while bollards have been replaced on Windle Hall Drive and more speed limit signs have gone up around the Hard Lane estate.



Your Ward Committee dates

St.Helens North

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

2nd June 2008

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

3rd June 2008

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 e mail kirstywatkinson@sthelens.gov.uk

Charity boost

A St. Helens couple have worked tirelessly for charity since the death of their daughter.

23 years ago, raising thousands of pounds to buy much needed equipment and holidays for sick and disabled children.

Marjorie and Arthur Hurst formed the Helen Marie Friends charity after their daughter Helen died of a brain tumour at the age of just 12. All of the money raised is spent on St. Helens children. Mrs Hurst said the fund commemorates the "lionhearted spirit" of their daughter whose greatest love was to help others less fortunate than herself.

The couple, who live in Islands Brow, and their charity members have in the last year raised around £6,000. Fund raising



events over the years have included sponsored walks, barn dances, fun runs, treasure hunts, pub crawls, jumble sales, fayres, football and cricket matches and fashion shows.

Anyone who wants to contribute to the fund raising efforts of Mr and Mrs Hurst can contact them on 01744 734155.

Walkers scale another peak

St. Helens and District Rambling Club is celebrating its 80th birthday by organising more great walks and other activities.

The club has a packed 2008 including fortnightly Sunday rambles in places including the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and Snowdonia, Friday evening talks during winter and local walks during summer, weekends away and short breaks.

All walks are carefully graded for distance and height to suit individual walkers, from strenuous hikes of 12-18 miles over the fells to easy five mile strolls in the valleys.

New members are always welcome. For more details contact Membership Secretary, John Dyson on 0151 493 1266 or visit the club website at www.btinternet.com/~dandjwalks/SHDRC/Shdrc.htm

Meet the neighbours

Two neighbourhoods in St. Helens have been selected to celebrate European Neighbours Day.

People living in Newton le Willows and Sutton will take part in the May 27 event which will also see the launch of a series of Sports Taster events held across a 13-week period.

Residents in these two areas living in Maritime, Arena and Helena homes are being consulted on the event which includes a clean up morning followed by a fun event

while the Newton le Willows scheme will be centred around Woods Court where residents have asked for an event including music, games, quizzes, food and fun.

Other areas in the North West included in European Neighbours Day include Trafford, Liverpool, Southport and the Wirral. Organisers hope to link each area with an "Olympic Flame" type procession.

For further details please ring Peta Stephens on 0844 7360066.

Log on for a wealth of information

St. Helens Council's website (www.sthelens.gov.uk) contains a wealth of information ranging from school admissions to licensing and local events.

Constantly updated and providing up to date news from the Council's Press and PR Office, the website also provides links to several local events, community events groups and neighbourhood services.

Mysthelens.org provides details of over 350 community events with information about local services. Sthelens.gov.uk/events explains how to plan an event and tells you what's on.

Coming soon - new pages for the Go Active leisure scheme, councillors' blog pages, and online payments for event tickets.

Kids tackle **healthy living**

Around 1,000 primary pupils have undergone sports training and picked up some tips on healthy living too thanks to professional rugby coach Neil Seabrook.



Neil, a coach with Haresfinch ARLFC, applied for £10,000 from Awards for All - half went to the club for equipment and the remainder enabled him to take a sports programme into local primary schools and the community. He worked with five to seven-year olds on their fundamentals of movement. With support from the Council's Healthy Living Team the sessions also encouraged pupils to eat healthily.

"The programme has been well received by the children and teachers,"

said Neil. "With obesity on the increase and schools being told they must provide more physical exercise, the programme is ready made. I look to give young children the skills and confidence to participate in all sport and encourage them to get involved in sporting activities out in the community. This will help to increase the level of participation across the Borough. The sessions are fully inclusive and no child is excluded, whatever barrier they might face." Contact him on 07765 801288.

Unique ceramic service takes to the road

A Ceramic Café launched in Earlestown is taking to the road to provide a unique service for townsfolk.

Originally run from a shop in Standley Street, owner Rob Manfredi has decided to take to the road with a new mobile service.

Customers paint their design on to the ceramic which is taken and glazed. It is then be returned as a fully useable piece. A totally unique gift!"

For more information ring 07790 309149.

Get ready for the Blackbrook Bonanza and the Parr de Gras

Two popular community events, back by popular demand, are the Blackbrook Bonanza and the Parr de Gras.

More than 1000 people flocked to the 07 events and this year promises more attractions than before.

Activities will include music, entertainment, face painting, Morris Dancing and a

host of other attractions.

The Blackbrook Bonanza will take place on June 14 on the fields behind Blackbrook Rugby Club from 12 – 4 while the Parr de Gras will be held on August 16 at Bold Miners in Fleet Lane.

For further details contact Eddie McConville on 01744 751097 or Hilda Sines on 01744 22349.

Libraries – more than just books

If you thought your local library was just shelves of books, think again! Whether you're a certified cyber surfer, music mad or a film fanatic, there's something there for you.

St.Helens has 13 libraries and they all offer free broadband internet access. Some also offer

computer and internet classes. You can also hire blockbuster films, chart music CDs and DVDs, for a small fee.

And now, you can also pay your Council Tax at your local library (cards only) and drop off Council Tax, Housing Benefit forms and Blue Badge applications.

You can also get a free Bookstart pack for every child under three and there is the Summer Reading Challenge Story and Rhyme Time sessions in most libraries.

You can trace your family tree via the Local History and Archives

library in the Central Library. You can see what your ancestors were doing and how they lived and they may even have a photo of where they lived as well.

Libraries are available 24/7, from any computer connected to the internet. All you need is the barcode number from your library card.

Call into your local library, with proof of ID, for full borrowing rights. Telephone (01744) 456951 or visit the website: www.sthelens.gov.uk

Museum's rare vintage

St.Helens First took a step back in time when it visited the cavernous workshop of a rather unique town centre museum.

Here in the North West Museum of Road Transport's workshop, volunteers lovingly restore vintage buses, using tools from the 1920s to strip, repair and re-fit transport of yesteryear before meticulously hand painting the buses. Mechanic Rob Brown and retired saw mill worker Frank Lyon, who can turn his hand to any job in the workshop, are currently working on a major restoration project.

It involves restoring a Widnes Leyland Lion bus from 1935 and a St.Helens Leyland bus from the early '60s that was converted into a bus for disabled people. Both have been donated to the museum and it is hoped that the Widnes bus will make a guest appearance in the forthcoming 100th anniversary of Widnes transport.

Re-opened in 2006 after a £1.5million refurbishment, the museum houses a fascinating

collection of over 60 historic buses and other vehicles including classic cars, a fire engine and bikes. It also holds special events when its vehicles take to the roads and hosts exclusive visits for schools and private parties.

A highlight of 2008 is the St.Helens Trolley Bus Day on June 29th when the St.Helens trolley bus no. 387 returns to the museum for the first time in 40 years during the 50th anniversary of the closure of the trolley bus system. And on September 21st, you too get a chance to visit the workshop when it opens its doors from 11am until 4pm.

Located in the old bus depot, Hall Street the museum opens from 11am until 4pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays excluding Christmas and New Year. Run entirely by volunteers it is keen to recruit new helpers. To find out more call 01744 451681 or go to www.hallstreetdepot.info for the full programme of events.



The Future is here



Caption

Recycling is big on the agenda now, locally and nationally, but one particular St.Helens project has been re-using furniture for the good of local people for eight years.

Future, now owned by Arena Housing Association, is a community based organisation set up to train and employ local people, many of whom are long term unemployed. It renovates and refurbishes to a high quality furniture that is donated to it then sells it on at affordable costs. Initially it had just six employees, now has 25 staff and in the past year has trained 33 people, more than 40 per cent of whom found jobs or went on to further education.

Recycling around 250 items a month, Future is run as a social enterprise and any profits made are

ploughed back into the company. Its Bickerstaffe Street shop is packed with furniture including sofas which start from £50, cookers from £120 and three piece suites from £150. Future also sells some brand new furniture including fridges, washers and beds – again at affordable prices.

Since becoming part of Arena, Future has expanded the range of furniture it sells and is going into contract furniture, providing items for housing associations and sheltered accommodation. It also supplies property services, mainly to housing associations but also to the public. These include cleaning properties, gardening, painting and decorating and testing electrical equipment such as computers.



If you have any unwanted furniture that you want to donate to Future, whose staff will collect it from you, please call 01744 616951. The shop opening hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm on Friday and 9am to 4pm on Saturday.

Rugby club celebrates

Stars from the world of rugby have been descending on Liverpool St. Helens which is celebrating its 150th anniversary and is the world's oldest open rugby union club.

The Moss Lane club have been staging a series of events including pupils from local primary

schools playing the game in Victorian costume and a re-enactment of the first game of rugby played in Liverpool.

It can trace its origins back to 1857 when Liverpool Football Club was formed.

St. Helens RUFC was founded in 1919 as St. Helens Old Boys.

Internationals who played for the club include Alan Ashcroft, John Horton, Nigel Heslop and the current club President Ray French.

Liverpool and St. Helens merged in 1986 and furnished home international players in Dewi Morris (England) and Simon Mason (Ireland).



Famous faces from rugby at one of the recent events.

Valuing volunteers

This year's St. Helens Volunteer Awards, celebrating their 10th anniversary, are set to be bigger and better than ever attracting hundreds of people to the high profile awards ceremony.

The St. Helens CVS and Volunteer Centre Awards have rewarded more than 1,400 volunteers since they began and around 500 groups have submitted nominations. The Police and St. Helens District Sports Council are among those who use the awards to recognise the efforts of their cadets and sports volunteers.

As the CVS celebrates its 75th anniversary it says a big thank you to award sponsors without whom the event would

not be possible. Set up to promote and develop voluntary sector activities across the Borough, the CVS continues to initiate and develop new projects and services while the Volunteer Centre promotes volunteering which benefits others and the volunteer themselves.

The awards will be launched in June during National Volunteers Week and the ceremony will take place at Haydock Park Racecourse in October.

Look out for more details in the local press or go to the website www.sthelenscvsvs.or.uk

To nominate someone call St. Helens Volunteer Centre on 01744 751759 or email sthelensvb@care4free.net

Where Should New Housing Go?

The Council has undertaken a 'Call for Sites' to give everyone the opportunity to suggest where new housing and employment could be built. Sites suggested will now be assessed and those found suitable will help the Council to identify housing supply for the Local Development Framework – the new development plan for the Borough.

Consultation on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy was completed late in 2007. Your comments will be used in preparing the document for the next

stage – submission to Government. It is hoped that submission will take place in Autumn 2008, when you can comment further.

Documents are also being prepared to deal with Waste Disposal, Affordable Housing, Climate Change and Transport. Your comments will be invited on draft versions of these documents later in 2008. If you would like to be consulted when these and other documents are available, simply add your details to our database, either via the web site ldf.sthelens.gov.uk or contact Planning Policy on 01744 456190.

One million hours of kindness

Could you really make a difference by contributing to a national initiative to provide 1-million hours of kindness?

Hope 08 involves thousands of churches

working together in delivering hope to the country. In St. Helens local churches are aiming at providing 5,000 hours of kindness as its contribution to the

50,000 aimed for the rest of Merseyside and 1-million nationally.

Churches, local residents, businesses and voluntary organisations are signing up to the project which

is being co-ordinated by Merseyfest locally. The event will run from May 24 to June 14.

For more information contact 0151 648 1200.

New Beacon Centre leads the way

The new Beacon Building in College St is now home to a wide range of services for young people and the wider community.

A host of St.Helens Council services now operate from the Beacon centre along with the YMCA, Connexions, St Helens College and Primary Care Trust.

The move to the building is part of a range of developments to create Integrated and Targeted Youth Services.

The building has a Sports Hall, gym and coffee shop for people of all ages and is already well used as a gathering point.

There is also a 'state of the art' nursery with computers, areas for quiet games, art, craft, mark making, a 'home corner', reading and outdoor play.

The ground floor Connexions Centre offers young people 'face to

face' information and advice about training, education and employment opportunities and use of on-line facilities.

On Tuesday's (3pm and 4pm) the PCT School Nursing Service provides a confidential service, Clinic In a Box, where young people can drop in and have a chat about health issues.

CIB offers pregnancy testing, condom issuing and emergency contraception. You can get sexually transmitted disease screening from CIB or through the Terence Higgins Trust on Thursdays between 3pm-5pm.

Office accommodation houses experts working to help young people and families with training, education and employment, teenage pregnancy, leaving care, education



welfare, youth and sports development and community safety issues. These include activities across the Borough as well as on site weekends and evenings, covering Sports Leadership, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, sex and relationship education, food hygiene. Many more are planned for the future.

St Helens College Sports Department, provide both on site training for young people studying a variety of sports and fitness courses as well as running the gym and sports hall on the ground floor.

If you are interested in joining the gym ring 01744 738572.

For more information on the nursery call 01744 750848.



Teenage pregnancy figures fall

As more young people choose to become parents later in life, teenage pregnancy rates in St.Helens have fallen for the third year.

Awareness raising activities organised by the Council and its partners over the last 10 years has seen a drop in the numbers of teenagers becoming pregnant.

St.Helens has a tradition of early parenting but this is changing as today's young people choose to

complete their education and find work before having children.

Teenage Pregnancy workers continue to reach out to young people in a bid to reduce under 18 conception rates further and to help those who do become teen parents to continue their studies and find employment. There has been a steady increase in the numbers of young mums and dads going back into learning.

Hundreds of young people and

professionals have accessed informal relationships and sex education sessions in the last couple of years and now Speakeasy courses have been arranged for parents which help them to speak to their children openly about sex and relationships issues. The training is completed in around 14 hours over five or six weeks in community venues. Look out for details in the local press. To find out more call **01744 675665**.

choices

Health Trainer

You make the choice. Health Trainers make the difference!

We are a **free** and **confidential** service offering **support** and **motivation** to local people wanting to make positive changes toward a healthier lifestyle.

Health Trainers will support you to:

- Eat healthier
- Reduce stress and improve wellbeing
- Increase activity levels
- Lose weight
- Give up smoking
- Access a range of services to give you further support

...and we will provide a **free** Health Check to help you to monitor your own progress!

Contact your local Health Trainers at:

St Helens Healthy Living and Health Improvement Teams
Bold Miners Neighbourhood Centre
Fleet Lane, Parr, St Helens

Phone: (01744) 697432 / 697433

Email: healthtrainers@sthelens.gov.uk

Halton and St Helens 
Primary Care Trust


St. Helens
Council

choices

what's on guide

www.sthelens.gov.uk

May - August 2008

If you're 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 them to Marketing Services, Wesley House, Corporation Street, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1HF or call 01744 455305

HIGHLIGHTS

ST HELENS FESTIVAL

01744 455326

5th - 6th July, 12-6pm
Sherdley Park

Building on the success of the first St. Helens Festival, this year's event guarantees to be the biggest must-visit event in the 2008 calendar in St. Helens! Expect to see more attractions, more entertainment and more interactive activities and fun than ever. The two-day quality event is a celebration of everything good that St. Helens has to offer from arts, heritage, culture and music to craft, entertainment, sport and much more. There will be colourful displays and shows, interactive stalls, jaw-dropping stunts and a full timetable of entertainment, guaranteed to leave visitors wanting more.

ST HELENS LIVE 08

01744 455305

St. Helens Town Hall

A fantastic year-long programme of live concerts featuring some of the biggest national names in an eclectic variety of genres will take place all exclusively within the historic venue of St. Helens Town Hall. There is sure to be something for all tastes and ages throughout the year from classical to folk and swing to musical theatre.

"Showtime!": An evening of musical theatre
17th May 7.30pm
"The Way We Were":
An evening of dance and memories with the Sophie

Garner Band

20th June

7.30pm

"All Around the Bass":

The Royal Liverpool

Philharmonic

19th July 7.30pm

ST. HELENS MARCH AND HYMN TUNE FESTIVAL

31st May

Victoria Square

St. Helens Council in association with Lancashire Contests presents a brass band competition as part of the Borough's contribution to European Capital of Culture 2008, while showcasing an important part of our heritage

RANGER SERVICE

Some of the Rangers Service events have limited availability, please call for more details and to book your place.

SANKEY VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

01744 677772

Guided Walk Two Beacons

Walk: 12mile Hike

18th May

10.00am

Bird Watch: Early morning bird watch, looking and listening for up to 45 species of bird.

15th June

7.00am

Guided Walk Two Beacons

Walk: 12mile Hike

20th July

10.00am

TAYLOR PARK

Junior Fishing:

7yrs to 14yrs only

28th May

11.00am - 4.00pm

Brass Band: Local brass band



playing for you in the Park
22nd June
2.00pm - 4.00pm

MESNES PARK

01925 229021

Exotic Pets: A display of exotic creatures from around the world
8th June

1.00pm - 4.00pm

Exotic Pets: A display of exotic creatures from around the world
13th July

1.00pm - 4.00pm

Newton Music Festival

18th-20th July

SHERDLEY PARK

01744 815586

St Helens Festival

5th-6th July

12.00pm - 6pm

Race for Life: 2008 Cancer Research event for women
18th June

SIDING LANE

01744 815586

Moth & Bat Night:

28th June

10.00pm

Moth & Bat Night:

12th July

10.00pm

Exotic Pets: A display of exotic creatures from around the world
20th July
1.00pm - 5.00pm

BANKES PARK

01744 815586

CLINKHAM WOOD

01744 815586

VICTORIA PARK

01744 815586

ASHTON GREEN OPEN SPACE

01744 815586

WILLOW PARK

01744 815586

Rural Crafts Display: Traditional crafts from a bygone era
26th May
12.00pm - 5.00pm

HARESFINCH PARK

01744 815586

DOWNALL CROFT GREEN

01744 815586

LIBRARIES

CENTRAL LIBRARY

01744 456954

Reading Group

Wednesdays

21st May, 18th June,

23rd July

10.30am - 12.30pm

RAINFORD LIBRARY

01744 677820

Storytime for under 7's

Every Saturday Morning
10.00am - 10.30am

CHESTER LANE CENTRE & LIBRARY

01744 677081

Reading Group

Wednesdays

7th May, 4th June, 2nd July

7.00pm - 8.00pm

Story Time

Every Monday (term time only) 2.30pm - 3.00pm

Toy Library Service

Borrow a toy for two weeks for £1 (four items for children age 0-5)

RAINHILL LIBRARY

01744 677822

Reading Group

8th May, 12th June, 10th

July 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Storytime (0-4yrs)

6th May, 3rd June, 1st July

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

01744 677575

Story and Rhyme Time

Afternoon Reading Group

Thursdays

29th May, 26th June,

31st July

2.00pm - 3.15pm

Evening Reading Group

Thursdays

1st May, 5th June, 3rd July

7.00pm - 8.30pm

Story and Rhyme Time

Fridays

10.30 am



BILLINGE LIBRARY

01744 677535
Reading Group
Tuesdays
13th May, 10th June,
8th July
7.00pm – 8.00pm

GARSWOOD LIBRARY

01744 677797
Storytime
Every Monday
(term time only)
1:30pm – 2:15pm

MOSS BANK LIBRARY

01744 677988

NEWTON LE WILLOWS LIBRARY

01744 677885
Adult Reading Group
7th May, 4th June, 2nd July
7.30pm – 9.00pm
Teenage Reading Group
30th June, 28th July
4:00pm – 5:00pm
Pre-School Story Time
Every Thursday
(term time only)
2:30pm – 3:00pm
Afternoon Tea with
themed speakers
12th May, 2nd June, 7th July
2:15pm–3:30pm

PARR LIBRARY

01744 677580
Storytime for under 5's
Every Friday
(Term time only)
2:30pm – 3:00pm
Toy Library
Every Thursday
10:00am – 12noon
Free Healthy Living
Activity Session
28th May

PETER STREET LIBRARY EXPRESS

01744 677896
Storytime for the
under 5's
Every Thursday
(term time only)
9:45am – 10:15am

THATTO HEATH LIBRARY

01744 677842
Story Time for 4-8yrs with
adult parent/carer
Every Tuesday
(term time only)
3:45pm – 4:30pm
Toy Library Service
Borrow a toy for two weeks
for £1 (four items for
children age 0-5)
Every Wednesday
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Toy Library Service
Borrow a toy for two weeks
for £1 (four items for
children age 0-5)
Every Friday
2:00pm – 4:15pm
Free Healthy Living
Activity Session
12th May

HAYDOCK LIBRARY

01744 677801
Storytime
Every Monday
(term time only)
10:00am – 10:30am
Indian Head Massage
Sessions
8th May
2-4pm.

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

SUTTON LEISURE CENTRE

01744 677375

HAYDOCK LEISURE CENTRE

01744 752695
Climbing Club
Every Wednesday
6pm – 9.30pm
Saturday Morning
Climbing Club
Every Saturday
10am – 12pm

NEWTON LE WILLOWS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

01925 224731
Adult Dancing: Jive, Quick
Step, Latin American and
many more.
Every Tuesday
Children's Ballet Classes:
Suitable for beginners and
those with experience
Every Tuesday
Arabic Dancing:
An enjoyable way of getting
and keeping fit.
Every Thursday

THE THOMPSON CENTRE (within Allanson Street Primary School)

01744 678144
Martial Arts club for adults
and children
Every Tuesday
5.30pm – 7pm

Heart Smart Healthy Living
initiative which includes
Tai chi
Every Wednesday
6pm – 8pm

WALKING

GET YOURSELF LIVELY ... WALKING!

01744 697433
Get Yourself Lively Walks:
A series of short-guided
walks in parks and open
spaces around the Borough
aimed at promoting a
healthier lifestyle. These
weekly walks offer a variety
of difficulty levels too suit
everyone and distances
range between 1 and 4
miles long. They are open
to anyone a new members
are always welcome.
For a full programme of the
above walks and further
details contact Linda on
01744 697433.

SPORTS

HAYDOCK PARK RACES

01942 725963
www.haydock-park.co.uk
Old Newton Cup Day:
Lancashire Oaks
5th July
Totesport Silver Bowl
24th May
Betfred Swinton Hurdle
10th May

ST.HELENS RLFC

0870 7505252
www.saintsrlfc.com
Saints Vs. Les Catalans
Dragons
17th May
Saints Vs. Hull KR
6th June
Saint Vs. Bradford Bulls
13th June
Saint Vs. Huddersfield
Giants
29th June
Saints Vs. Castleford Tigers
11th July

SHORT MATT BOWLING CLUB

St David's Church
Clinkham Wood



POWERBOAT RACING @ CARR MILL DAM

01744 25494
www.lprc.info
National Championships
and Comcare Trophy
17th-18th May
The Daily Mirror Trophy
1st June

WEST PARK RUGBY CLUB

01744 26138
www.westparksthelens.co.uk
No details available at time
of print. Please log onto the
website for updates of the
2008 programme.

LIVERPOOL ST.HELENS RFC

01744 25708
www.liverpoolsthelens
rugby.co.uk
No details available at time
of print. Please log onto the
website for updates of the
2008 programme.

YMCA ST.HELENS

01744 23956
Summer Dance: Several
different styles of dance
boys and girls (4yrs to
16yrs)
24th, 31st of July
09.30am to 12pm
Summer Gymnastics:
For Children (from 4yrs)
23rd, 30th July / 6th, 13th
August 10am-12.30pm and
1.30pm-4pm

WAVERTREE SPORTS COMPLEX

(Please
call sports development
01744675923)
Merseyside Youth Games
5th-6th July

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

RAINHILL HIGH ARTS SCHOOL MEDIA ARTS COLLEGE

01744 677205
Media Arts Week: Wide
range of arts activities and

workshops
30th June-4th July
St Helens Youth Music
Awards:
1st July
7.00pm - 10.00pm

ST.HELENS COLLEGE

01744733766
"Here and Now" at Godfrey
Pilkington Art Gallery:
Exhibition of students
artwork
16th-29th May

'Field for the British Isles':

Exhibition by Antony
Gormley
July & August

ARTS

HAYDOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

0151 4306744
www.haydockmvc.com
No details available at time
of print. Please log onto the
website for updates of the
2008 programme.

NADOS

01942 724842
www.haydockmvc.com
Outside Edge: a comedy
about cricket
1st - 3rd May

ST.HELENS SINFONIETTA

01744 600846
www.sinfonietta.org.uk
The Violinist Entertains
Talk & Recital by Patricia
Donnelly
8th May 2008
7.30pm
Lunchtime Recital
28th May
1.00pm
The Prescot Festival
27th June
7.30 pm
A Lunchtime Recital of Jazz
Don May & Tom Sykes
and friends
23rd July
1.00pm

ST.HELENS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

01744 297770
No information available at
time of print

ST.HELENS GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

01744 612485
"Showtime" St.Helens
Live 08
17th May
7.30pm

PILKINGTON MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

01744 602855
"Showtime" St.Helens
Live 08
17th May
7.30pm

ST.HELENS ORGAN SOCIETY

01744 22463
www.organfax.co.uk/clubs/
st.helens.html

ST.HELENS YOUTH BRASS BAND

01744 755257
www.sthybb.pwp.
blueyonder.co.uk
A Band Concert: At Liverpool
Parish Church
13th May
3.00pm
Recital Evening: At Bold
Miners Centre
9th June
7.3 0pm
A, B and C Bands
Gala Concert
30th June
7.30pm

THEATRE ROYAL

01744 756000
www.sthelensrtheatreroyal.
co.uk

THE CITADEL

01744 735436
www.citadel.org.uk
The Men They Couldn't
Hang: Folk music
2nd May
8pm

Nine Below Zero: Blues music

3rd May
7.30pm
Overload: Under 18s event
9th May, 13th June
11th July
7.30pm
John Cooper Clarke: Punk
Poet
11th May
8pm
Popa Chubby: Blues Music
16th May
8pm
The Hamsters: Blues Rock
17th May
8pm
Frank Sidebottom &
Bernard Thresher
23rd May
7.30pm
The Muffin Men: Tribute
Night
24th May
8pm
Stairway to Zeppelin:
Tribute Night
21st June
8pm
Rubberneck:
Local Band night
12th July
8pm
The Jamm: Tribute Night
25th July
8pm

PARR SILVER BAND

01744 883157
Music in May: Unique
concert of popular music in
aid of Willowbrook Hospice.
9th May
7.30pm

RAINFORD LADIES' CHOIR

01744 884563
Music in May: Unique
concert of popular music in
aid of Willowbrook Hospice.
9th May
7.30pm

ST.HELENS FILM SOCIETY

01744 817130
No information available at
the time of print.

ST. HELENS FOLK DANCE CLUB

01744 754810 / 01744
734394
Meeting's held at The
Unison Club, Bishop Road,
St.Helens every Wednesday
/ for more information
about our dances please
contact us.

RAINHILL GARRICK SOCIETY

01744 813429
A performance of Summer
End by Eric Chappell
15th -17th May

GODFREY PILKINGTON ART GALLERY

01744 455492
Open Art Competition:
Annual exhibition of
selected local artists
2nd-23rd July

THE WORLD OF GLASS

08700 114466
www.worldofglass.com
'SL Art' Exhibition:
celebration of work by
Supported Learning from
St.Helens College
17th June - 27th July

ST.HELENS CAMERA CLUB

www.sthelenscameraclub.
co.uk
Weekly Meetings:
Police Club, Bishops Road,
St.Helens.
Every Monday

REGENCY ROOMS

01744 759466
Adult Dance Classes:
Absolute Beginners
Every Sunday
8pm

CRAFTS**CREATIVE CRAFTS ASSOCIATION**

01744 750606
www.creativecrafts-online.co.uk

HERITAGE**ST.HELENS NATIONAL TRUST GROUP**

01744 26484
Lectures are in the United Reformed Church, King Street. Admission is free for members, and non-members pay a £1 donation to the National Trust.

ST.HELENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

01744 23141
Meetings at St Helens College at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated.

BILLINGE HISTORY SOCIETY

www.billinge-history.com
Local History Presentations
First Tuesday of each month 7:30pm

THE NORTH WEST MUSEUM OF ROAD TRANSPORT

www.hallstreetdepot.info
01744 621518
FREE Bus Tours around St.Helens for Museum visitors – 1st Sunday of Every Month

SMITHY HERITAGE CENTRE

01744 730744
Jumpers for Goalposts:
How children lived in the past through to the modern day
21st June
1.00pm-4.00pm

'In Touch With the Past':

National Archaeology Week
12th July
1.00pm – 4.00pm

OTHER**AGE CONCERN – MANSION HOUSE, ST HELENS**

01744 752644
Age concern run courses from Mansion House including:

- IT classes for older people 50 +
- Arts & Crafts for older people 50+
- Exercise & Dance for older people 50 +

Tea Dance

Every other Tuesday
2pm

ST.HELENS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

01744 735242
Meetings Second Tuesday of every month at Windle Pilkington House at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated.

TRAINING AND COURSES

Free courses beginning January 2008 - Various community based venues including:

- Computer courses
- Family First Aid
- Learning Through Play
- Parent Time
- And more....

Enquiries to Adult and Community Learning 01744 677312 or your local Community or Children's Centre.

ST.HELENS COUNCIL MEETINGS
01744 456110

St.Helens Council

Council

14th May, 9th July

Executive

15th May, 25th June

Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee
28th May, 2nd July, 30th July

Planning Committee
20th May, 15th June

Standards Committee
23rd June

Adult Social Care and Health
9th June, 14th July

Children and Young People's Services
2nd June, 7th July

Budget and Finance
5th June

Call In and Audit Panel
4th June

Audit and Governance
30th June

Communities and Neighbourhood
11th June, 23rd July



Some information contained within this guide was collected from sources outside St. Helens Council and therefore St. Helens Council accepts no responsibility or liability for the accuracy of the information, or content of any outside organisations websites.

teen

talk

- ➔ PUPILS GET A LICENCE TO THRILL
- ➔ BE THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION
- ➔ NEW BREAKDANCE PROJECT
- ➔ VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

News

PAGE 2

Be the centre of attention



News

PAGE 4

Double Daniel Craig link with St.Helens



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.

Be the centre of attention

Fed up? Nothing to do? Then you may not know that there is a range of activities for young people on your doorstep. So if you are into M.Cing with instruction from local M'ers, football, cricket, cyber cafes you can access them through a network of centres.

The Council has a range of facilities including libraries, leisure centres and youth centres which all aim to provide young people with a wide variety of leisure activities.

Grange Valley Youth Centre, Clipsley Lane, Haydock provides activities for young people every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. It has a multi functional main hall providing space for pool and table tennis and also music and arts projects, drama and

dance. Following discussions with youngsters who use the centre the building has had a mini make over with the development of a 'comfy corner' with state of the art audio visual systems complete with play stations. The most popular activity currently at the Grange Valley is M'Cing with young people having the opportunity to access the latest equipment and instruction from local M.C'ers.

On the nearby King George V Park a new artificial turf pitch has been installed. Here youth workers organise football, cricket and rugby



What an adventure

Congratulations to 13 students from Newton High School who have passed the Adventure Service Challenge and Health Motivation Course.

The course has eight sections including first aid, camp craft, rambling, road craft and cookery.

The service is provided by St.Helens Council's Youth Service.

Licence to thrill for young film makers

Award winning film makers from Sutton High Sports College have been on the set of the new Bond movie, *Quantum of Solace*.

The 18 pupils met top film makers and backroom experts at Pinewood Studios. They were invited to the famous studios following their success in winning Best Overall Film in the Clapperboard Youth Projects.

Their film was judged by Johnny Vegas, writer Frank Cottrell Boyce and Lime Pictures Chief Executive Caroline Reynolds.

The film, which focuses on

modern day slavery, was written by the students, with the support of television writer Andy Lynch.

For more information about Clapperboard ring 07973 783 140.



It was a double James Bond/ Daniel Craig link for St.Helens when Casino Royale stuntman Sebastian Foucan popped into town to shoot for a pivotal chase scene for the big budget British action thriller *The Tournament*. He was seen leaping from roof to roof in Church Square. Sebastian is pictured on P1 of *Teen Talk* filmed in action.

Daniel Craig (pictured) was born in nearby Chester.

Young people in award ceremony

More than 100 young volunteers who have given up their time for others were invited to the Park Inn for a celebratory evening.

The 11 to 25-year-olds have, between them, given more than 7,700 hours of their time, worth around £60,000, to local organisations. They received awards in recognition of their commitment.

They helped groups such as the Fire Service, training providers, girl guides and people wanting to become cadets.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer call 01744 675685.

Democracy in action

St.Helens Council has given many 17 and 18 plus year olds the chance to help out on the May 1 Polling Day. This gives them the opportunity to learn more about democracy and the chance to earn some extra money.

For more information about how to be involved in opportunities within the Youth Service telephone 01744 675575.

Breakdance project

An innovative Breakdance project, designed to improve physical activity levels and boost the 'feel good factor', is being piloted in St.Helens.

Tom Glynn from the Breakdancing UC Crew has worked with Hannah Jones & Jen Brown, Health Improvement Specialists, to devise a 10 weeks after-school Breakdancing programme.

The programme includes weekly Health Improvement information sessions covering: Physical Activity, Self Esteem, Sexual Health, Drugs, Tobacco, Food & Nutrition and Positive Mental Health. Initially, this project is targeting Year 8 children and interest by these children has greatly outweighed the places available on the programme.

For more information contact Jen or Hannah on 01744 697433.

Hot paint!

A group of St.Helens teenagers have decorated their youth base at Millfields Fire Station, Eccleston.

The Youth of Eccleston group was formed last year with the help St.Helens Council, Merseyside Fire and Rescue and Police Community Support Officers who between them gave the young people a base at Millfields Fire Station.

Supported by the Council's Youth

Service and the Y4V (Youth for Volunteering) project they put forward two successful bids for funding which they used to buy decorating materials and then set about adding a touch of colour to their youth base.

Currently around 600 local young people are involved in volunteer projects.

To find out more ring 01744 675575.