

St. Helens First

Oct 2007 – Jan 2008 St. Helens Council's Community Magazine

**Saints
Homecoming
special**

**Cool new
recycling
campaign**

**One
degree
above**

need to contact the council? **do it your way**



on the web, by text, on the phone,
face to face, by email or even
from the library...

- find out about recycling
- check what's on
- pay your council tax
- check the library catalogue
- it's up to you!

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minicom:

01744 671671

operating hours:

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10.00am - 2.00pm (Saturday)

email:

contactcentre@sthelens.gov.uk

online:

www.sthelens.gov.uk

face to face:

Contact Centre, Wesley House,
Corporation Street, St. Helens,
Merseyside WA10 1HF

opening hours:

9.00am - 5.00pm
(Mon-Fri)



**St. Helens
Council**

it's easy to contact us

Contents

Youngsters are
a degree above



Inside this issue

Oct 2007 – Jan 2008



11



24



14



17



Teentalk

Feature

P4 Mayor's diary

P5-8 Saints' homecoming special

P9 Teeing off for sport

P10-11 Tasty treat for pupils

P15-18 In and around your community

P19 'City slicker' living

P20-21 New health developments

P24-25 Recycle for St. Helens

News

P12 Reaching for the stars

P13 Help for carers

P14 Leading role for Rachel

P23 Museum milestone

P28-32 Your What's on guide

P33-36 Teen Talk

St. Helens leader's column



Welcome to the October edition of our award winning St. Helens First which I hope will be of interest with its usual mix of news and features about our Borough.

Particular focus has been given to local communities in this edition with news about what is going on in your local neighbourhood.

Once again First celebrates local successes and all that the Borough has to offer people who live, work and visit.

I hope everyone will take an interest in the Council's campaign to increase recycling figures and read the informative two page feature on what you can do to be greener and help in the fight against global warming.

Watch out for an exciting new announcement about Saints' and the special tribute being prepared for the club by the Council befitting a world class club and team.

There are also features on city slicker living coming to town as well as healthy school meals, children's sporting success and the major developments taking place in our hospitals and health centres.

Council Leader
Brian Spencer



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 or contact us via our dedicated Council Access points*.

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.

*Council Access points in selected libraries only.

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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.

Memorable days for terminally ill people



The Mayor of St. Helens Cllr Sheila Seddon is supporting a relatively new charity through her Mayor's Appeal.



The Mayor Cllr Sheila Seddon is pictured in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall.

The St. Helens-based HoneyRose Foundation was set up almost three years ago by Lynn Duffy in memory of three of her friends who, despite suffering terminal illnesses, were determined to achieve personal goals for as long as they were able.

The Foundation helps terminally ill adults of all ages who find themselves in the same situation to achieve and enjoy their very

own special day, event or weekend away. More than 120 families have already benefited from the charity's work and activities organised for them help to bring a degree of normality back into their lives at what can be an extremely difficult time. The Foundation works closely with the MacMillan Nurses at Willowbrook Hospice and the Willow Foundation – a national charity dedicated to

improving the quality of life of seriously ill adults aged 16 to 40 through the provision of special days.

The Foundation relies entirely on fund raising and donations. To find out how you can support it call into the shop in Hall Street between 10am and 4.30pm from Monday to Saturday, call 01744 451919 or visit the website www.honeyrosefoundation.co.uk

The Mayor is also supporting St. Helens District Sports Council – an independent body and registered charity. It aims to improve quality of life by providing leadership that promotes physical, active

and healthier lifestyles in whatever sport people have chosen to participate in regardless of their age or ability. The charity liaises closely with communities, schools, the voluntary sector and the Borough's sporting clubs to encourage more people to take part in sport and to boost standards. Clubs that are members of the Sports Council can apply for grants or loans to enhance their facilities and equipment. The charity also helps clubs to achieve accredited quality standards both locally and nationally.

For further information about the Sports Council go to www.sthelensdsc.co.uk

Big drive for charity

The Mayor of St. Helens Cllr Sheila Seddon says a big thank you to everyone who helped make her Mayor's Appeal Golf Championship such a success raising more than £3,000.

Thanks go to everyone who was involved in organising, sponsoring or donating to the tournament which was held at Sherdley Park Golf Club. A special thanks goes to the club for hosting the event.

All proceeds go to the Mayor's Appeal.

Cllr Seddon said: "Once again, many thanks to all the companies listed below for making the event so successful."

Brian Ball Butchers, Stan Shuker and Sons Butchers, ASDA, Morrisons, Tesco, Nexus Nightclub, Bullock Construction, Shiels Brothers (Fishmongers), Haydock Park Racecourse, CR Fishwicks and Co, Dowhigh Ltd, Mr Culy Top, Thistle Hotel, Hilton Hotel, Fairfield Independent Hospital, Pinder & Sims, NatWest, Dairy Crest Ltd, St. Helens Town Partnership, Burns Jewellers, Prescott Self Drive, Wrenco Contractors Ltd, Halton & St. Helens PCT, Waterfields Bakeries, Brakes Groceries, Pilkington plc, A & B Builders, St. Helens Star, St. Helens Reporter, GPW Recruitment, Fosters the Florists, Newton le Willow Blinds, NGF Europe, Jackson Lloyd Building Contractors, St. Helens Chamber of Commerce.



The Mayor greets Saints legend Apollo Perelini on the stage at the Council's special homecoming celebrations. See pages 5-8.

Saints' statue honour

St. Helens Council has announced plans to commission a statue to celebrate the unprecedented success of St. Helens Rugby League Club.

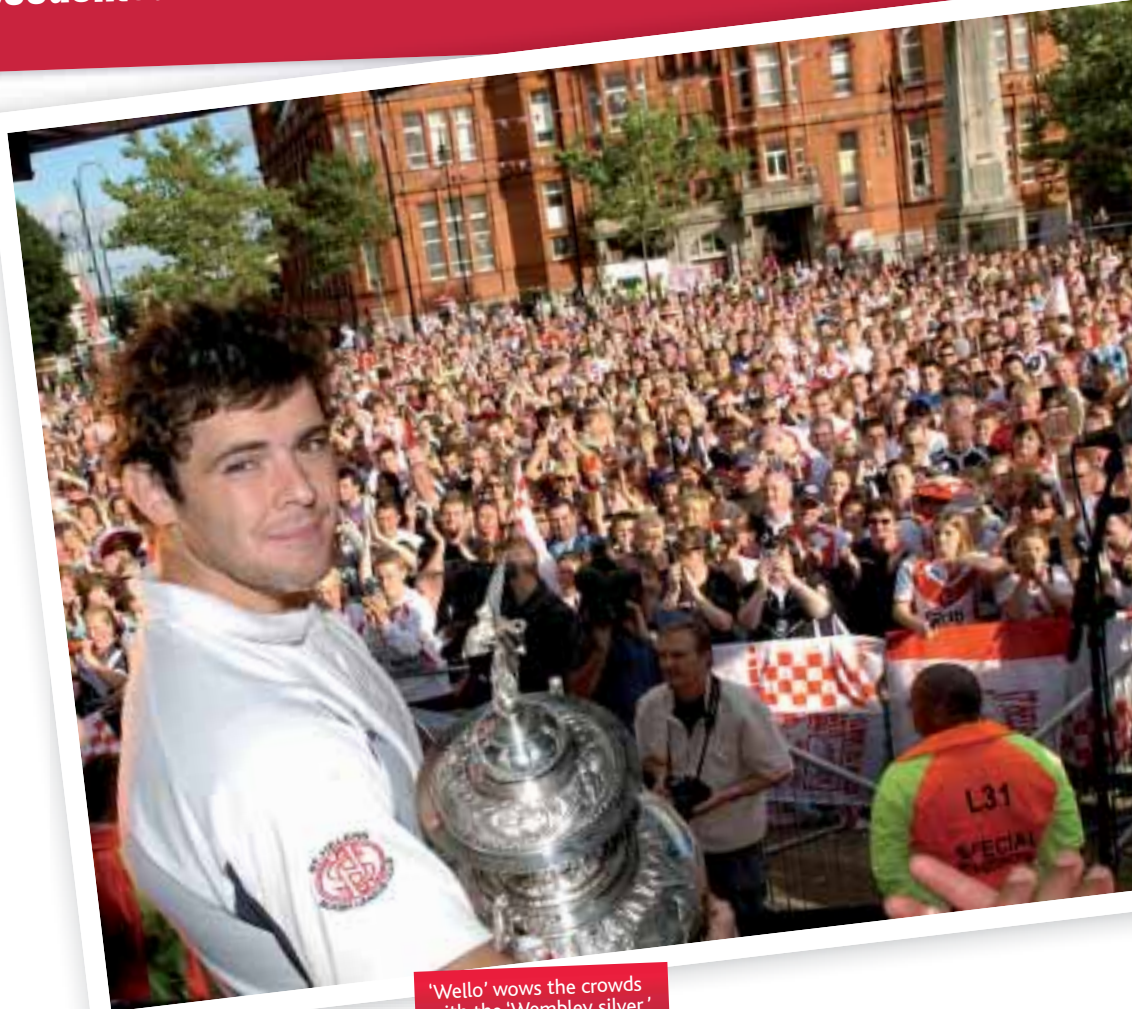
The statue will be placed in a prominent position yet to be officially announced.

Talks have already begun with a sculptor to discuss the project brief and talks will be on going with the rugby club to progress the details. The statue will reflect the results of a community competition to name fans greatest ever Saints' player.

The statue announcement was made at the civic reception to celebrate the teams Wembley Victory in the Challenge Cup over Catalan Dragons.

Council Leader Brian Spencer said: "This tribute is long overdue. The statue will be placed on one of the most prominent gateway sites into the Borough which will fittingly be near the site of the proposed new stadium site.

"The club have been marvellous ambassadors for our Borough and we thought it was



'Wello' wows the crowds with the 'Wembley silver.'

Team pic with representatives from St. Helens Council who held a victory homecoming for the club



time we chose to honour the club for their sporting and community achievements over their long and prestigious history. I am very proud to be making this announcement in recognition of a world class sporting club which is such a vital part of our Borough's past, present and future."

In 2001 the Council awarded the club Freedom of the Borough status following its record breaking sporting achievements. ►



A trio of young fans wait to welcome home their heroes



V for victory is written all over this young fans faces as the tension mounts and the crowds wait to welcome home the Wembley winners



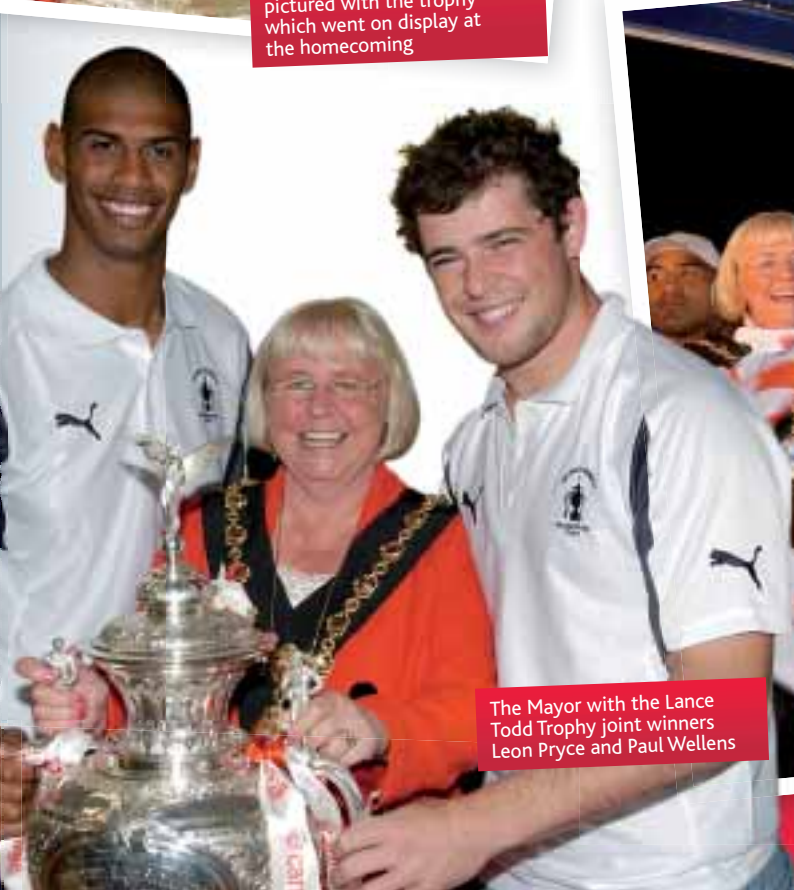
Thousands of fans lined the roads along the victory route off the M6 and into Victoria Square



One young fan is held high to get a better look at the players paraded on the stage



Council Chief Executive Carole Hudson with Saints' Chief Executive Tony Colquitt pictured with the trophy which went on display at the homecoming



The Mayor with the Lance Todd Trophy joint winners Leon Pryce and Paul Wellens



Saints' Chairman Eamon McManus takes to the stage to thank fans for their support at Wembley and during the season in which he hopes to bring home more trophies

An artist's impression of the proposed new stadium on the site of the former United Glass works

Planning process begins

A mountain of paperwork has built up in the Council's Planning Section after three applications relating to Saints new stadium flooded in.

Development Control Manager Stuart Barnes (centre), pictured with Planning Team Leaders Melanie Hale and John Waddilow, are awash with documents.

Stuart said: "The three applications initially came in 18 boxes and then further information came in. In total we have over 100 individual documents to wade through. Some are provided in paper copy, others on CD and they range from site location, site layout, elevational plans and landscape plans to retail, environment, transport, flood risk and noise assessments. There are also supporting planning and design justification statements."

The applications relate to:

- a stadium and a Tesco on the United Glass site
- Tesco's existing site at Chalon Way being redeveloped for retail
- the redevelopment of Saints Knowsley Road ground for housing.

A mountain of work awaits Council planning officers as they go through the 30 boxes containing the three planning applications

Since the original date of submission, there has been an assessment of the nature and content of the information submitted and continuing dialogue with the agents in relation to the proposals.

Once all required information is submitted, officers will consult with a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies and other Council departments and will notify neighbours of the three sites and other interested parties. The information will be posted on the council's website (www.sthelens.gov.uk) where you can post comments electronically.

Planning officers will visit the sites and appraise the proposals against development plan and national policy then disseminate the responses received. Full and detailed reports will then be prepared for Planning Committee and the resolution and full details of each application will be referred to the Government Office for the North West, to determine whether or not the applications will be called-in for a Public Inquiry.



Olymkids boosts sporting skills in the run up to the 2012 Olympic Games.

Driving ambition

The ongoing Olymkids programme has been introducing youngsters to the world of golf.

Part of a national initiative to increase the number of children taking part in competitive events, it is being run by the St. Helens School Sports Partnership and the Council's Sports Development team. It involves high schools providing sports events for primary schools. At a recent festival at Sutton High Sports College over 1,000

youngsters were given the chance to compete in 10 different sports challenges. One of these saw 150 pupils from seven primary schools taking part in a popular Tri-Golf festival

The golfing theme continued after Eccleston Park Golf Club teamed up with the Sports Partnership and organised an open weekend to introduce youngsters aged two to 14 to golf. Around 150 of them took part in a nine hole Tri-Golf competition – the first

time that many of them had held a club – and received tuition from the club's PGA professional Bryan Joelson-Mulhall.

In an attempt to support the extensive schools' golf

programme, the club has reduced the joining fee from £150 to £30 for juniors and Bryan is visiting schools, offering group sessions and courses for youngsters.

"The weekend was a fantastic success. The golf club is committed to supporting the development of junior golf and is working closely with the Council to ensure a good quality of junior provision is provided to meet community needs."

General Manager, Mark Jones

A treat for the

The tables have been turned on school meals in St. Helens primary schools where healthy, freshly prepared dishes are brimming with nutrients.

St. Helens is ahead of the game and has already met the Government's new nutritional standards for primaries which must be in place by 2008. This is not,

however, entirely new as over the past few years a quiet culinary revolution has been taking place as Council caterers have tickled the tastebuds with a mouth watering range of healthier options at school dining tables.

The national standards ensure that school meals provide pupils with between 33 and 40% of their daily nutritional requirements so addressing increasing public concerns about children's diets and rising rates of child obesity.

So what's happened to transform school meals into more appealing, well balanced



tastebuds

dishes? Deep fried foods are on the back burner, served just twice a week. Turkey twizzler type dishes are banished as the new menus steer clear of reformed or reconstituted foods. Gone too are sweets and savoury snacks along with highly salted condiments.

The new look menus provide

an interesting, healthily cooked selection of foods ranging from the traditional roast chicken, pork steak, fish fingers and home made beef burgers to food from further afield, including chicken curry, lasagne and vegetarian pizza to tempt the palates of the more adventurous young diners.

The kind of combinations offered include bolognese or haddock and tuna fish cakes, peas and carrots, spaghetti or jacket wedges and raspberry smoothie or frozen yoghurt. Braised steak accompanied by green beans, new potatoes or garlic bread and fresh fruit with jelly and ice cream. Other choices include battered cod or beef curry, mushy peas and tomatoes, chips or boiled rice and iced orange cake and

roast pork or fish crumble, cauliflower and broccoli, roast or new potatoes and an orange smoothie or frozen yoghurt.

In addition, a selection of salads, vegetable sticks, bread, fruit and yoghurt are always available plus skimmed or semi-skimmed milk, fruit juices and water.

Kevin McNicholl, the Council's Contracts Manager, says the new look menus have gone down a treat. He said: "The feedback from parents has been very positive and many of them have been very complimentary.

Our menus already conform to the Government's stringent standards and we are proud of what we are serving up to youngsters in St. Helens."



Young 'graduates' reach for the stars

The pre-school class of 2007 at Four Ways Children's Centre proudly donned their caps and gowns, made by staff member Rebecca Brennan, at their 'graduation' party. It celebrated four years at the nursery and included a performance by the youngsters singing graduation songs including Reach for the Stars.

Diplomas were handed out by Nursery Manager Chris Black who told parents: "We are very proud of the children. They have grown so much in confidence and are now ready to continue their learning journey at primary school. All staff wish them a very bright future."

Four Ways, supported by the Council, is one of several Children's Centres across the Borough providing integrated education and day care facilities. At Four Ways, Childcare tax credit enables families to access

They say you know you're getting older when the policemen look younger, but what about when the graduates are as young as these little ones?



affordable child care and funding is available for all three and four year olds. For further

information about placements contact Chris on 01744 678064 or email christineblack@sthelens.gov.uk

St. Helens First success

St. Helens First, your community magazine, is runner up for a national award for the third year running.

It was second in the Best Council Publication (design) in the Good Communications Award (GCA) which recognises excellence in local government communications.

The Awards were launched three years ago and St. Helens First was runner up for best design in 2005 and runner up for best journalism last year. The magazine is written by the Councils Press and

Public Relations Manager, Chris Cahill and Press and PR Officer, Kay Dingsdale, both former journalists. St. Helens First has been cited as one of the most cost effective public sector magazines in the country.

in brief

Former Aelredian becomes cabinet minister

Former St. Aelred's pupil, Andy Burnham, has landed a crucial role in Gordon Brown's Cabinet. The former Health Minister was appointed Chief Secretary to the Treasury and will play a crucial role in shaping government spending plans over the next three years. Andy is a Leigh MP.

Dyslexia drop in meetings

St. Helens Dyslexia Association, based at the Millennium Centre in Corporation Street, holds regular meetings at 7pm on the third Tuesday of every month. Attendance is free and there is no need to book. For further details ring 0870 990 7336.

Look out for...

St. Helens freelance rock writer Neil Daniels has a new book out 'Defenders Of The Faith: The True Story Of Judas Priest' is published by Omnibus Press. It includes exclusive interviews, rare photographs and complete tour dates.

Check out the new mysthelens.org website

Driven by community groups, this new website showcases the heritage, culture and sense of community the Borough offers.

The guide includes more than 350 community listings ranging from music festivals to health walks, from art to

heritage. To register your community group, promote an event or find out about what's happening on your doorstep, go to mysthelens.org

Future developments include interactive events pages, a business directory, discussion forums and much more.

Greener minibuses drive into town



Driver David Ledshan with Linda Casadei, Transport Manager with bus user Janet Quirk

Cleaner, greener and better equipped high-tech minibuses are now transporting older people and vulnerable adults from their homes to community venues.

The Council's Adult Social Care and Health Transport team sought the views of service users, carers and its staff, including the essential input of drivers, before investing in new vehicles. Over the past three years, 13 of the fleet of 19 minibuses have been replaced.

The latest, seen here at Windle Pilkington House, boast pollution reducing high-tech engines, give drivers

good all round visibility but most importantly of all, provide passengers with comfort and safety features. These include a fold out step giving easier access and wider and longer lifts for customised wheelchairs. Other accessories which give passengers a pleasant trip include climate control, window blinds, a CD player and double seat belts.

10th anniversary for Hospice

In this, its 10th anniversary year, Willowbrook Hospice continues to raise essential funds to support the valuable and much needed service it provides to patients.

Willowbrook receives just one-third of its funding from the Government and it costs £5,000 a day to run the hospice. Its staff care for 1,000 patients a year who have life limiting illnesses and they are increasingly caring for people with diseases other than cancer such as

heart, lung and motor neurone diseases.

If you want to support Willowbrook please call 01744 453798.

Forthcoming events include:

1st December – Celebration Dinner, St. Helens Town Hall

10th December – Tree of Lights, Prescott Parish Church

12th December – Tree of Lights, Lowe House, St. Helens

Who cares?

We do. The Princess Royal Trust St. Helens Carers' Centre offers a wide range of help and advice to local carers.

If you care for someone who could not manage without your help and support, then you are one of an estimated 21,000 unpaid carers in St. Helens.

And of that total, just a fraction – 2,100 – are registered with the Princess Royal Trust St. Helens Carers Centre which provides them with vital support. This ranges from advice and information to therapy services, emotional and practical support, training and leisure opportunities.

During a recent River Mersey cruise organised by the Carers Centre, around 200 carers came together and spoke of the importance of activities like this which give them a welcome break, time to rest and re-charge their batteries, make new friends and escape the pressures and tensions that home life can create. One carer later commented: "The cruise helped me realise that there are other people going through what you are going through as a carer and you're not alone. I have made some new friends."

A date for the diary of carers is Friday 7th December when events will be held locally to mark Carers Rights Day, details of which will be published in the local press nearer the time. The day aims to ensure that people recognise themselves as carers and that they and their families are claiming the benefits to which they are entitled to and are aware of their rights.

Carers who want to know more about the support available to them should call the Carers Centre on 01744 675615 for confidential support, advice and independent information. The Centre is open weekdays between 10am and 4pm.

Leading role for Brave Rachel

Inspirational Rachel Maskell has overcome the odds to take the leading role in the popular musical Annie.

When St. Helens Operatic Society was casting for its forthcoming production one little girl stood out for her bubbly personality and sheer talent. What the casting panel did not know was how much the De La Salle pupil has overcome to get where she is today.

Cystic Fibrosis sufferer Rachel has undergone numerous treatments and hospital visits since being diagnosed with the disease at the age of seven.

But she rarely misses a day at school, a dance or a singing lesson. Her string of achievements includes winning dance and gymnastic competitions, performing on stage many times including the Theatre Royal and Southport Arts Theatre, being chosen as a good citizen in St. Helens and Knowsley, appearing on regional TV as part of a champion children series and receiving a Gold Blue Peter badge for her determination and courage.

Annie is being staged at the Theatre Royal from 10th to 13th October and tickets are available from Pat Jones on 01744 758193.



What a difference 25 years makes!



Frederic at the World of Glass

It's been 25 years since Frederic Stephan was last in St. Helens to play in a football tourney as a strip of a lad.

Now responsible for Town Twinning and International Links in Stuttgart he was amazed at the massive amount of regeneration which has transformed the Borough over the past quarter of a century.

Frederic has been in town to discuss next year's programme of celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the twinning agreement with Stuttgart.

Young people from across the Borough have enjoyed a range of different projects in Stuttgart this year already, including taking part in essay writing contests, sports competitions and the opening of a brand new youth facility in Stuttgart which houses its very own St. Helens Room.

Frederic said he was very impressed with the town.

WAG's want your support

No it's nothing to do with wives and girlfriends of celebrities! The St Helens Wildlife Advisory Group (WAG) is preparing to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to celebrate the wildlife of St. Helens.

Local residents are being asked to support the application. The group needs to demonstrate public support

for the project. So to show your support email stephenlittler@sthelens.gov.uk with your YES / NO responses to:

1. I support the proposed Wild in St. Helens project
2. I wish to see wildlife promoted within St. Helens
3. I would be prepared to participate in a 'Wildlife Garden survey'

4. I agree that wildlife is an important part of our heritage

For more information contact Rick on 01744 456789.

You can gain email access through your local library. Alternatively you can send a letter to Stephen Littler, St. Helens Council, Town Hall, St. Helens WA10 1HP.

IN AND AROUND YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

St. Helens First presents a four page feature on news and views in and around where you live.

The **Generation** Game

“How does your garden grow Mrs Culley?” asks George as he helps water the plants at the Alder Hey Allotments.

George is one of many youngsters who are learning how to plant and cultivate flowers and vegetables at Central Link Children's Centre Tots' Allotments. Beetroot, tomatoes, carrots, strawberries, sweetcorn, cauliflower, courgettes and pumpkins are among the produce that Elizabeth Culley and her sister Pat Seddon grow and George is keen to follow in their footsteps.

The flourishing Tots' Allotment, supported by the Council, welcomes families and children aged under five. Family Link Worker Gill Worrall says it is based on a thriving allotment site with a real community spirit.

She said: “The older generation love to watch the little ones dig, plant and learn. They offer their expertise and generously donate plants and

equipment. It's such a lovely place where children's imaginations are free to run wild!”

Other activities include den, scarecrow and kite making and the children get to grips with recycling – making their own plant food, turning peelings into compost and re-using old wellies, saucepans and handbags as plant pots.

Tots' Allotment sessions are held on Tuesday (1 – 3pm) and Saturday (10 – 12 noon). To find out more call 01744 25868.



Allotment site springs back into life

Another allotment project is giving green fingered adults the chance to blossom.

A year on, a group of green fingered adults are celebrating after they turned a derelict allotment site into something of which to be proud.

The allotment site, off Alder Hey Road, was adopted by the adults who have learning difficulties after

St. Helens Coalition of Disabled People secured £5,000 of funding from the Council's grants' programme. After clearing away the debris they got to work, cultivating the site and where weeds once grew, an impressive range of bedding plants, vegetables and

hanging baskets are now in their place.

The work not only looks good but resulted in the gardeners gaining an NVQ in Horticulture. They are pictured during a celebratory event at the allotments which marked the transformation of the site.

Have a heart

If you have had treatment for or have suffered cardiac problems, St. Helens Healthy Heart Support Group would like to hear from you.



The group, whose members have all had heart problems complements existing health services providing another way of accessing help and making its members aware of developments in the treatment of cardiac related problems.

Affiliated to the British Heart Foundation, it provides information on cardiac rehabilitation and secondary prevention, healthy

eating, stopping smoking and exercise programmes. Sponsored by Tyrer's, it plans social events for members and an important part of its work is supporting patients and their families.

Chair Harry Taylor said: "One of the issues raised is the isolation felt after being diagnosed and receiving treatment then, after treatment, in the period before

starting rehabilitation.

Our members are here to listen and provide answers and reassurance."

The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Unison Social Club Bishop Road from 7.30pm to 9pm.

For more information call Harry on 01744 813990 or Brian on 0151 426 7091.

Transport survey – results are in

The results of a survey involving Age Concern groups and Senior Voice members, which asked older people about their views on public transport, are now available.

The survey asked them how easy it was to access leisure, health and fresh food opportunities by using public transport. Over 50% of people found it easy to access these facilities, however over a quarter of respondents said that public transport services are unreliable.

A summary showing the key results is available from Carolyn Mitchell, Transport Planning, St. Helens Council, 01744 456188 or email carolynmitchell@sthelens.gov.uk



Travel team

The Neighbourhood Travel Team provides free advice and information on travel and transport in the St. Helens Area.

It offers help to people who are over 18 and unemployed or at risk of redundancies with attending an interview, beginning a new job or attending short accredited local training courses.

For more information call 01744 21123.

Funding boost for charity

The Deafness Resource Centre, St. Helens has received £262,012 from the Big Lottery to continue its successful D/deaf Advocacy Service.

This means that any one of the estimated 28,000 people in the Borough who are deaf or hard of hearing can access one-to-one support, information forums and other support services over the next five years.

The Advocacy Service aims to ensure that deaf people and their families are aware of their rights, can defend those rights and make informed choices on issues that affect their everyday lives.

For more information please contact Helen on 01744 23887 or email deafsociety2003@yahoo.com





Royal round-up as **community** **celebrates**



Portico residents teamed up with the Council to organise their very own Community Fun Day at the newly refurbished King George V Playing Fields at Grange Park.

Members of the Portico Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Community Group devised an interesting programme which drew in the crowds.

The entertainment included a circus skills workshop, break dancing, birds of prey and ferret displays, a brass band, bouncy castle, sports activities

and face painting. There were displays from the Police and Fire Service and the Army brought along its Careers Bus. Also present were representatives from NRF projects who gave residents information about the ongoing renewal of the Portico area.

The playing fields have undergone a

£86,500 refurbishment which includes a re-vamped play area, a new Youth Shelter and a floodlit ball court and the Council plan even more improvements will be in place by March.

To find out more about the Portico NRF Community Group call Melanie Mulcahy on 01744 621524.

New **£375,000** facility at Bold

The Mayor of St. Helens, Councillor Sheila Seddon, has unveiled a new **£375,000 community facility at Bold Miners Neighbourhood Centre.**

Work included new cladding to the exterior of the building, a new roof and the entire internal structure of the building being remodelled to allow for today's modern requirements. There are now four changing rooms, all with showers,

two separate officials' changing rooms, a physio room and toilet facilities.

This project is the first of two through the "Coalfields Sports Facilities Project". The second is due at Clock Face Miners Recreation Club who have also been assisted in securing **£550,000** of funding for their improved sports facilities.

For more information call 01744 26741.



More ward committee projects in the **pipeline**

As the popularity of local ward committees increases more and more residents are coming up with ideas and suggestions for environmental improvements in their area.

St. Helens Council has again allocated **£500,000** for local environmental projects and is inviting people to air their views about how their neighbourhoods could be changed for the better. Residents are invited along to their local Ward Committee on 29th and 30th October. Watch local press for details

Projects already in the pipeline or at the planning stage include improvements

to Bankes Park football pitch; a sensory garden for the new Newton Cottage Hospital; access improvements to Sutton Mill Dam (funding is also being sought to replace the stone wall around the dam which has been vandalised) plus general tree planting and landscaping.

After October the next round of ward committees will be on 28th and 29th January 2008. Such has been the success of ward committees that the Council has dealt with over 400 issues raised by the public and had 446 project ideas, 155 of which are either being progressed or evaluated.

Centre's **X factor**

Whether you are looking for a venue for a meeting, training facility, conferencing or a fitness hall to deliver keep fit or dance, the Peter Street Centre could be for you.

For further details contact 01744 677555 or fax 01744 677556.

You can also log on to www.peterstreet.co.uk

Your vision will shape the future

The Council is seeking the views of local people on future development within the Borough.

Work is continuing on the preparation of the document that will guide development through to 2024. The 'Core Strategy' sets out the spatial vision for the Borough together with the preferred options for achieving this vision. Public consultation on the preferred options is planned for October/November 2007 with a final draft being submitted

to Government in Summer 2008.

Recent consultation on the waste management document for Merseyside generated 96 responses. These will now be taken into consideration in the preparation of the next stage, the preferred options. It is hoped that consultation on these will take place at the end of the year.

New design guidance has been introduced to help raise the quality of new development in St. Helens. The Design Guidance

Supplementary Planning Document is available at www.sthelens.gov.uk and local libraries.

A further four guidance documents are being prepared on Transport, Telecommunications, Trees and Householder Developments – consultation is programmed for Autumn and will be publicised in local newspapers and libraries.

For further details contact Jonathan Noad on 01744 456117 or jonathannoad@sthelens.gov.uk



On the waterfront

Town centre living on a canal side setting will breathe a vibrant new lifestyle back into the heart of St. Helens.

Take a closer look at the Shaw Street area of St. Helens and you will be in for a big surprise as 'city slicker living' comes to town.

Close to the new look redeveloped Central Station in Shaw Street and around the corner from the bus station, two new apartment developments are so popular that the first phase on one sold out within weeks of the sign going up.

Countryside Properties are building 265 one and two bedroom apartments on the former AC site on Hall Street.

HQ comprises a range of stylish one and two bedroom apartments. Each apartment has been thoughtfully planned and beautifully designed with modern living in mind. The homes are spacious and light, featuring only the high spec. and stylish features.

On the adjacent former Arriva site 48 two bedroom apartments are being built by Depol Associates.

And with planned improvements to the nearby historic Sankey Canal the stylish town centre living developments are sure to add a touch of style to St. Helens waterfront living.

Meanwhile....

As the final touches were put to the £6.7 million revamp of the town centre, St. Helens Council has announced more improvement works.

Work has started to upgrade Barrow Street with a new surface, tree planting and new lighting. The Council says every effort will be made to maintain access and keep disruption to a minimum.

Now that the main town

centre work has been completed more street seating areas will also be put into place.

The upgrade of the town centre, which won a prestigious national Green Apple award, is also giving young people the chance to work on an important project.

Mayfield, which teamed up with St. Helens Council to deliver the town centre Focal Point project, took on trainees to work as paviors for both schemes.



An artist's impression of the new look railway station which sits alongside the new apartment blocks



An artist's impression of the new St. Helens Hospital opening in 2008

Health **boost**

£338 million spend to improve Whiston and St. Helens Hospitals in major round of health care spending.

The new St. Helens Hospital will occupy a total floor area the equivalent of five football pitches.

It is being redeveloped, with the construction of a brand new Diagnostic and Treatment Centre on land recently purchased from St. Helens Council.

Facilities will include:

- Out-patient clinics;
- Diagnostic facilities including Radiology, Pathology and Cardio-Respiratory;
- Treatment facilities including Operating Theatres, Day Case Ward, Ophthalmology, Endoscopy, Dental and Rehabilitation units;
- Cancer Day and Breast Clinic Services;
- Intermediate care beds.

It will be open for business in 2008. Car parking provision will increase

from the current figure of 400 spaces to 696 spaces, with dedicated areas provided for staff, visitors, disabled and drop off zones.

Whiston Hospital is being redeveloped in two phases.

The new building will be six storeys high. The new facilities occupy an area equivalent to 15 football pitches. The existing Accident and Emergency block will be refurbished as a second phase to provide alternative accommodation.

Facilities include:

- Accident and Emergency;
- Intensive / Critical Care Unit;
- General and specialist out-patient clinics;
- Diagnostic services including Radiology and Cardiology services
- In-patient wards;
- Operating Theatres;

- Maternity and Gynaecological services;
- Special Care baby Unit;
- Burns and Plastics facility;
- Paediatric in-patient services;
- Pharmacy;
- Crèche facilities.

The second phase of the development will provide:

- Pathology Laboratories;
- New mortuary;
- Education and Training Centre;
- Office accommodation.

The facilities will open to patients in 2010. The second phase will be completed in September 2011. Parking will increase from the current 1,277 spaces to around 1,600 spaces, with dedicated areas provided for staff, visitors, disabled and drop off zones.

Coming soon to Garswood

Garswood will soon have a new new £2.6 million Primary Care Centre.

It is being developed by Partners4LIFT (P4L) under the Government's LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) Initiative and being constructed by Warrington based Galliford Try. It is due to open in November.

It will boast a wide range of services, including retail pharmacy, GP practice and PCT services including Podiatry, Baby Clinics and the Health Visitors.

Doors open at new health centre



The new Fingerpost Park Health Centre in Atlas Street is now open.

The two storey £3.2 million Fingerpost Park Health Centre replaces the existing outdated facilities at the three surgeries and serves 14,000 local patients.

The centre, with parking for 70 vehicles, has a range of health services including a cardiac rehabilitation and angina management suite, minor surgery unit, smoking cessation, lifestyle checks, dietetics and weight management, primary care mental health services, speech and language therapy, child health and phlebotomy, in addition to the three GP practices.



Newton Cottage Hospital enters a new era

The new £10 million Newton Community Hospital in Newton-le-Willows is on track for completion at the end of June 2008.

The new buildings are being developed by Partners4LIFT (P4L) under the Government's LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) Initiative and is being constructed by Warrington based Galliford Try.

The new 4,200m² building will boast a wide range of services, including retail pharmacy, GP practice, gym, 30 in-patient beds, treatment rooms and specialist clinic rooms, minor surgery suite, x-ray and ultrasound and a range of outpatient clinics.

Don't let Flu Knock You Out

DO YOU NEED A VACCINATION?

Please ask the doctor or pharmacist for advice about having a flu vaccination if you are:

- 65 years old or over
- Any other long term medical complaint - check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure

This will help protect you against flu over the winter months and help prevent you getting serious serious illness as a result.

PEOPLE UNDER AGE 65 AND IN GOOD GENERAL HEALTH DO NOT NEED A FLU VACCINATION.

Copies of our leaflet are available at GP practices and pharmacies.

Halton and St Helens **NHS** Primary Care Trust



Young visitors Jacob and Grace get close up to one of the popular attractions and its handler

New **animal attractions** are pulling in the crowds



St. Helens Chamber is project managing the work – pictured are Steve Anders; Craig Houlihan; James Fisher; Chris Pagendam and Supervisor/Dave Anders with Council Leader Brian Spencer (centre) and Deputy Leader Suzanne Knight

Three calves, Maud, Hilda and Stan are among the latest crowd pullers at the new look Pets' Corner in Sherdley Park.

The popular animal centre is home to a wide variety of species including kuney kuney pigs, ponies, lambs, wallabys, peacocks and a host of furry friends with the wow factor for younger visitors.

The calves have been donated by James Heyes and Sons, local farmers at Mossborough Hall Farm Rainford. With recent difficulties experienced nationally by farmers they have now also diversified into a green waste business. They currently take 50% of the Council's green waste. They also house caravans for people as part of their new look business.

The Pets' Corner play area has also been refurbished and there's more to come.



Unique museum welcomes 6,000th visitor

The North West Museum of Road Transport has welcomed its 6,000th visitor.

The museum, in Parade Street, houses a unique and extensive assortment of historic vehicles – representing 10% of the national stock of preserved buses and coaches.

Two new attractions due in are a 1965 Guy Arab bus from Chester, which is a rich cream and maroon colour, and a restored 1943 Austin K-Type, used as a canteen for the fire service during the war and affectionately called 'Katie' by the museum volunteers.

Since it reopened after a major

refurbishment in September 2006, the museum has attracted fans of vintage transport and heritage from across the North West and UK, as well as from as far away as Australia, all over Europe, and America.

The attraction is also popular with families and groups of visitors looking for an entertaining day out. Schools have taken trips to the museum, as well as rotary clubs and Brownie and Beaver groups. Many of the Brownies and Beavers return to volunteer at the museum, earning

their community service badges by washing vintage buses!

Aiming to increase the number of visitors even further, the museum has announced a programme of events for the rest of the year ahead, including:

- Nocturnal Running Night – Sunday 18th November
- Santa Special Weekend – Saturday 22nd to Sunday 23rd December.

For further details contact
01744 621515.

Car friendly St. Helens

St. Helens has been ranked as the best in the North West for car-friendliness, and number 14 in the UK, based on independent research looking at the UK's major towns and cities.

Virgin Money Car Insurance used a range of criteria, including congestion levels, petrol prices, the abundance and cost of car parking spaces, the number of speed cameras on main approach roads, and levels of car crime. Points were then awarded and an overall ranking produced for the 64 top cities and towns in the country.

Code of conduct

The Council adopted an amended Code of Conduct on 5th September. The new requirements were devised by the Government to clarify a number of issues in the existing code, which was introduced in April 2002 as part of the new ethical framework. The Code covers areas of individual behaviour such as councillors not abusing their position, or misusing the Council's resources. There are also rules governing disclosure of interests and withdrawal from meetings where councillors have a relevant interest.

Nick Rushbrooke, the independent chairman of the Council's Standards Committee welcomed the new Code saying: "Confidence in local democracy can only be maintained when elected and co-opted members of local authorities are seen to live up to the high standards that the public has a right to expect of them. The new Code seeks to simplify and clarify the rules governing conduct for the benefit of councillors and public alike."

The IT dream team

Technology gurus at St. Helens Council have scooped a UK first. The Council has become the first local authority in the country to achieve an international information technology standard ISO/IEC20000.

For the past few years a dedicated team of over 60 IT staff have been working towards the IT Service Management Standard and were so confident of achieving the accreditation that they invited auditors from Lloyds to spend a total of six days studying the way the team deliver services to 8,000 Council staff.

Following the success organisations and councils from across the country have been knocking on the Council's door to share its best practice principles.

Cool new recycling



If you need another **black box**, just call us.
... you pay for the service so use it.



Recycle. It's easy.

Call **(01744) 456789**
for Recycling advice or to order a black box.
www.sthelens.gov.uk



 **recycle**
for St. Helens

campaign



FREE inside this edition of St. Helens First is a fridge magnet containing useful information on what and how to recycle.

It's part of a massive campaign by the Council to boost recycling rates across the

Borough. St. Helens has one of the top recycling rates on Merseyside and is keen to boost them by launching a marketing and advertising campaign. Watch out for adverts in the St. Helens Star, on WISH FM radio, billboards and on the sides of bin wagons.

The Council is also about to launch a pilot kerbside plastic bottle recycling trial across 5,400 homes in parts of Windle, Eccleston and Rainhill. If successful the scheme will be rolled out across the Borough.

New calendars detailing collection dates have been

sent out this month to 53,000 homes who need their calendar updating (the remainder of homes were done last year and are still up to date). Contact 01774 456789 if you don't have one.

Also on offer are compost bins at a reduced rate of £8, £10 and £20, great for getting rid of your autumn leaves. Delivery is free and you can order your bin online at www.recyclenow.com/compost or call 0845 077 0757 quoting reference HCA1.



Kerbside Recycling Services in St. Helens



Green Bin*

- ✓ Grass Cuttings/Leaves
- ✓ Weeds/Flowers/Plants
- ✓ Privet/Hedge Clippings
- ✓ Twigs & Small Branches
- ✓ Cardboard/Brown Paper
- ✓ Tea Bags/Coffee Grounds
- ✓ Egg shells
- ✓ Cereal Boxes
- ✓ Raw (Uncooked) Fruit/Veg peelings
- ✗ Cooked Food Waste
- ✗ Cat/Dog Waste
- ✗ Plastic Bags/Plastic
- ✗ Soil



Black Box

- ✓ Glass Bottles
- ✓ Glass Jars (please rinse & remove lids)
- ✓ Food Cans (please rinse thoroughly)
- ✓ Drink Cans
- ✗ Window Glass
- ✗ Broken Glass/Pyrex
- ✗ Plastic Bottles
- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Plastic/Metal lids



Blue Bag

- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Junk Mail
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ All Directories & Other Paper
- ✗ Envelopes
- ✗ Cardboard



Textiles Bag

- ✓ Shirts/Coats/Pants
- ✓ Skirts
- ✓ Underclothes
- ✓ Belts/Scarves
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Curtains/Blankets
- ✓ Shoes/Boots (please tie pairs together)
- ✗ Duvets/Pillows
- ✗ Bric-a-Brac
- ✗ China
- ✗ Rags



*Home Composters

Not all properties in the Borough have a green bin. If you do not have one, an alternative idea is a Home Composter. These can be purchased at subsidised rates, along with free delivery.



recycle
for St. Helens

Call the Contact Centre if your Green bin or Black box is lost or stolen or if you want to order a collection day calendar, blue bag or textile bag. Call (01744) 456789 for Recycling advice or visit www.sthelens.gov.uk

Look out for your free fridge magnet inside this edition of St. Helens First



Truancy troubleshooter is cracking down on absenteeism

Meet Alan Cogswell the man charged with improving school attendance across St. Helens as it tackles a problem shared by schools nationally.

Abseence from school is for many different reasons in a society with more complex family issues than ever before.

Alan has been brought in to manage St. Helens Education Welfare Service and is confident that early intervention and support to families is the answer. He believes that regular attendance improves young people's future life.

Over 240,000 days were lost in St. Helens this academic year due to absence. Two out of every five were unauthorised. The Council wants to see an improvement with young people enjoying and achieving well at school.

Since January the parents of 37 pupils have been taken to court for allowing their child to miss school. Education Welfare Officers are taking a more robust approach to enforcing attendance and more parents are likely to be prosecuted if there is no improvement. Says Alan "We have a responsibility to young people in making sure that their parents support regular attendance to improve achievement."

By raising awareness of the support available we hope parents will respond positively and ensure that their children attend

regularly. Education Welfare Service support to families offers parenting contracts to agree what parents, schools and the service will do to help improve attendance. Alan is uncompromising about what will happen if parents fail to respond appropriately: "failure to exercise parental responsibility and ensure children's attendance will result in legal action."

Parents or carers who have problems with their children's absence from

school can talk through the issue with the Head Teacher in their primary or the pastoral staff in a high school. Sometimes the cause of absenteeism can be a simple issue, quickly resolved.

Alan cites one case in which a 13-year-old boy with a faultless record suddenly started playing truant. It transpired that his parents had separated and he had lost contact with dad. Through Education Welfare interventions, mutually

agreed visits were arranged. Both parents took an active part in the boy's education and his attendance returned to normal.

Alan stresses "Not all cases are easily resolved but between the school and the education welfare officer it is possible to tackle the issue before it gets to court."

For further help and advice you can contact an Education Welfare Officer on 01744 678242, or email educationwelfare@sthelens.gov.uk



Sharing success

Cody Bluck's reading and writing has come on in leaps and bounds since her family took a big interest in her education.

So great was the contribution from mum Vicky, dad Andrew and brothers Adam and Billy that the Bluck family won a national award for their achievements in a family learning programme. They were awarded the SHARE Family of the Year award and Cody's teacher Pauline Jones, from Holy Spirit Primary School, won the SHARE Tutor award.

SHARE, which is provided through the Council's Adult and Community Learning

programme in schools and children's centres, encourages families to learn and have fun together. Vicky, who lives in Parr, works alongside Cody in the classroom one day each week and then, with the rest of the family, gets involved with literacy and numeracy themed activities with her at home. These include making collages, cooking and games.

Sue Greaves, the Council's SHARE tutor said: "The Bluck family found that learning with Cody through SHARE was fun and they learned a lot about school life."

To find out more about Family Learning call 01744 677314.



Flying the flag

St. Helens is now flying the flag in seven of its parks after winning seven national Green Flag awards which recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country.

Green Flags at Bankes Park at Billinge, Clinkham Wood Local Nature Reserve, Siding Lane Local Nature Reserve at Rainford and Mesnes Park at Newton have been retained and a further three have been gained at Taylor Park, The Duckeries at Parr and Downall Croft Doorstep Green at North Ashton.

Lancashire Hotpots sing it for Shopmobility

Chalon Way was brought to a standstill when local singing/comedy folk band The Lancashire Hotpots paid a visit to Shopmobility St. Helens.

The popular songsters have dedicated a tune off their new CD to the scheme based at Chalon Way multi storey car park before popping around the corner to play to a sell out audience at the Citadel.

The group also have a new DVD out now.



➔ what's on guide

www.sthelens.gov.uk

Oct 2007 – Jan 2008

If you're organising or taking part in an event then let us know about it. Please email details to eventinfo@sthelens.gov.uk or

post them to Marketing Services, Wesley House, Corporation Street, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1HF or call 01744 671746.



HIGHLIGHTS

During Oct 2007 "Jungle Party Story Times" for preschool children will be held at the following libraries to celebrate National Bookstart Week:

Rainhill Library:

Tues 9th Oct
2.30pm – 3.00pm
contact Nora Duckett
01744 677822

Billinge Library:

Wed 10th Oct
10.00am – 11.00am
contact Janet Smith
01744 677535

Peter Street Library Express:

Thu 11th Oct
9.45am – 10.15am
contact Steven Liptrot
01744 677896

Rainford Library:

Thu 11th Oct
2.15pm – 2.45pm
contact Jayne Mills
01744 677820

Thatto Heath Library:

Fri 12th Oct

2.15pm – 2.45pm
contact Toni Ramsey/Irene Haddock 01744 677842

Haydock Library:

Mon 15th Oct
9.30am – 10.00am
contact Phil Cooper
01744 677801

Newton-Le-Willows Library:

Thu 18th Oct
2.15pm – 3.00pm
contact Anne Merville / Peter Sargeant
01744 677885

HALLOWEEN FRIGHT NIGHT

30th Oct
Sherdley Park – 01744 815586
Fright night – a guided walk through the haunted Victorian gardens – First walk will start 5.45pm. Disco, competitions for best lantern and fancy dress for under and over 14's. Booking for the walks is essential please call 01744 815586 to reserve your place.

SPARK IN THE PARK

4th Nov – Sherdley Park – 01744 671746

Spark in the Park is St. Helens annual Firework's Display that lights up the sky! Attracting more than 20,000 people in 2006 this is an event not to be missed!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

17th Nov – Victoria Square – 01744 671746
The perfect way to spread some Christmas cheer! Join in with the fun and entertainment as special guests light up the town for the festive period.

RANGER SERVICE

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

SANKEY VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

01744 677772

Fungal Foray: Seek out the many different species of fungi that can be found in the Park

14th Oct

10.00am

Bird Walk: Join the Rangers and spot up to 45 different species of bird

4th Nov

9.00am

Photography Event:

Aimed at the amateur, concentrating on digital photography

18th Nov

10.30am

Feed The Birds: How and what to feed birds during the cold, winter months

16th Dec

10.30am – 12.30pm

Bird Walk: Join the Rangers and spot up to 45 different species of bird

13th Jan

9.00am

TAYLOR PARK

01744 678073

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

14th Oct

1.00pm – 4.00pm

Autumn Art: Try your hand at designing your own picture using autumn foliage from the park

4th Nov

1.00pm

Feed The Birds:

How and what to feed birds during the cold, winter months

11th Nov

1.00pm – 3.00pm

Christmas Tree Recycling:

Please leave your tree in the areas marked by

the Rangers

6th Jan

10am – 3pm

Feed The Birds: How and what to feed birds during the cold, winter months

13th Jan

1.00pm – 3.00pm

MESNES PARK

01925 229021

Fungal Foray:

Seek out the many different species of fungi that can be found in the Park

21st Oct

10.30am

Guided Walk:

Join the Ranger Service for this autumn ramble

28th Oct

10.30am – 4.00pm

Conservation Work (tree planting):

Join the rangers in 'National Tree Planting Week'. Old clothing and safety footwear is essential.

11th Nov

1.00pm

Feed The Birds: How and what to feed birds during the cold, winter months

18th Nov

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Christmas Carols:

Join Friends of Mesnes Park and get into the festive spirit

13th Dec

7.00pm – 8.00pm

Countryside Ramble: A packed lunch, plenty of fluids and suitable attire essential

27th Dec

11.00am – 3.00pm

Christmas Tree Recycling:

Don't 'tip it' – 'chip it' – Naylor's Wood Car Park

6th Jan

10am – 3.30pm





SHERDLEY PARK

01744 815586

Halloween Fright Night:

Booking essential, please call to reserve your place
30th Oct 5.30pm

Christmas Tree Recycling:

Please leave your tree in the areas marked by the Rangers
6th Jan
10am – 3pm

SIDING LANE

01744 815586

BANKES PARK

01744 815586

Clinkham Wood

01744 815586

VICTORIA PARK

01744 815586

ASHTON GREEN OPEN SPACE

01744 815586

WILLOW PARK

01744 815586

HARESFINCH PARK

01744 815586

DOWNALL CROFT GREEN

01744 815586

Conservation Work

(tree planting):

Old clothes and safety footwear is essential
25th Nov

1.30pm – 3.00pm

LIBRARIES

CENTRAL LIBRARY

01744 456954

Tot's Time

Every Monday

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Reading Group

Wednesday

24th Oct, 21st Nov

10.30am – 12.30pm

RAINFORD LIBRARY

01744 677820

Storytime

Every Saturday

10.00am – 10.30am

CHESTER LANE CENTRE AND LIBRARY

01744 677081

Storytime

Every Monday

2.30pm – 3.00pm

Tots 'R' Us

Every Wednesday

and Friday

9.30am – 11.30am

Rhyme Time

Every Wednesday

and Friday

11.20am

Toy Library

Every Thursday

10.00am – 11.00am

RAINHILL LIBRARY

01744 677822

Nursery Time –

Tuesday 6th Nov

2.30pm – 3.00pm

A Celebration of Gay Writing
with readings and quizzes

7th Nov

2.30pm

ECCLESTON LIBRARY

01744 677575

Wriggle and Rhyme –

Monday 5th Nov

2.00pm – 2.30pm

Storytime

Every Monday

2.00pm – 2.30pm

Reading Group –

Thursday 1st Nov

7.00pm – 8.30pm



Fireman Sam

24th Oct

10.00am – 4.00pm

Reading Group – Thursday

25th Oct, 29th Nov

2.00pm – 3.15pm

BILLINGE LIBRARY

01744 677535

Reading Group – Tuesday

9th Oct, 13th Nov

7.00pm – 8.00pm

Bookstart Bear –

Storytime

10th Oct

10.00am – 11.00am

GARSWOOD LIBRARY

01744 677797

Storytime

Every Monday

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Storytime

Every Saturday

10.30am – 11.30am

Bookstart Bear –

Storytime

10th Oct

2.15pm – 3.15pm

MOSS BANK LIBRARY

01744 677988

Mums and Tots

Every Monday

10.00am – 11.30am

Police Surgery – Friday

19th Oct, 16th Nov

4.30pm – 6.30pm

Credit Union

Every Tuesday

5.30pm – 7.00pm

Positive Directions –

Tuesday 2nd Oct, 6th Nov

10.00am – 12noon

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS LIBRARY

01744 677885

Afternoon Tea - Monday

5th Nov, 3rd Dec, 7th Jan

2.15pm – 3.30pm

Pre-School Storytime

Every Thursday

2.15pm – 3.00pm

Reading Group –

Wednesday 7th Nov

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Police Surgery – Thursday

4th Oct, 1st Nov

6.00pm – 7.00pm

Family History Drop-in

15th Oct, 19th Nov,

17th Dec, 21st Jan

2.15pm – 4.00pm

Bookstart Bear – Storytime

18th Oct

2.15pm – 3.15pm

PARR LIBRARY

01744 677580

Wriggle and Rhyme

Every Tuesday

1.15pm – 2.15pm

Storytime

Every Friday

1.15pm – 2.30pm

Toy Library

Every Thursday

10.00am – 12noon

PETER STREET LIBRARY EXPRESS

01744 677896

Peek a Book for the under 5's

Every Thursday

9.45am – 11.15am

THATTO HEATH LIBRARY

01744 677842

Storytime

Every Tuesday

3.45pm – 4.30pm

Councillor's Surgery

Every Friday

6.00pm – 7.00pm

HAYDOCK LIBRARY

01744 677801

Bookstart Bear – Storytime

15th Oct

9.30am – 10.30am

Bookstart Bear – Storytime

15th Oct

10.45am – 11.45am

Storytime – Mondays

10.00am – 10.30am



➔ what's on guide ...continued



Card making and Crafts

Wednesdays

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Starting Point Jobclub

Thursdays

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Reading Group –

please contact library for dates 2.00pm – 4.00pm

LEISURE

SUTTON LEISURE CENTRE

01744 677375

Sports Leaders Level 2

Award Course – Enrolment

details John Tattum

01744 455448

20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 Oct

Computer Fair 21st Oct

Dog Show 27th Oct

Computer Fair 4th Nov

Judo 11th Nov

Merseyside Gun Dog Show

17th Nov

Dog Show 18th Nov

Judo 2nd Dec

Computer Fair 9th Dec

Computer Fair 23rd Dec

RUSKIN LEISURE CENTRE

01744 28866

Junior Tennis

12th, 19th, 26th Oct

5.00pm – 6.30pm

Junior Tennis Coaching

12th, 19th, 26th Oct

6.30pm – 7.30pm

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 to suit everyone and distances range between 1 and 4 miles long. They are open to anyone and new members are always welcome.

For a full programme of the above walks and further details contact Neil on 01744 697433.

SPORTS

HAYDOCK PARK RACES

01942 725963

www.haydock-park.co.uk

First race

North West Masters

24th Nov 12.40pm

Tommy Whittle Chase

22nd Dec 12.25pm

The Last Fling Chase

30th Dec 12.30pm

ST. HELENS RLFC

0870 7505252

www.saintsrlfc.com

SHORT MATT BOWLING CLUB

St. David's Church

Clinkham Wood

Short Mat Bowling –

Every Monday – £1 Per Adult

Oct – April

2.00pm Start

POWERBOAT RACING @ CARR MILL DAM

01744 25494

www.lprc.info

Duckhams Trophy

27th Oct

Boxing Day Trophy

26th Dec

WEST PARK RUGBY CLUB

01744 26138

www.westparksthelens.co.uk

Harrogate

3rd Nov

Home

Caldy

10th Nov

Away

Leicester Lions

15th Dec

Home

Macclesfield

22 Dec

Home

Hull Ionians

26th Jan

Away

LIVERPOOL ST. HELENS RFC

01744 25708

www.liverpoolsthe

lensrugby.co.uk

Morpeth*

13th Oct

Away

Kendal

20th Oct

Away

Birkenhead

27th Oct

Park Home

Huddersfield

3rd Nov

Away

Penrith

10th Nov

Home

EDF National Trophy

17th Nov

Hull

24th Nov

Away

1st Dec

Cleckheaton

Home

EDF National Trophy

8th Dec



THE ST. HELENS CAMERA CLUB

Monday evenings September - April
8-00pm

Visiting lecturers on a variety of Photographic subjects
L&CPU Folios - Print and Slide
Photographic competitions



Both Film and Digital enthusiasts are welcome

Bishop Road Police Club

(entrance from Windleshaw Road)

Penrith
15th Dec
Away
Huddersfield
5th Jan
Home
EDF National Trophy
12th Jan
Birkenhead Park
19th Jan
Away
Kendal
26th Jan
Home

YMCA ST HELENS

St. Helens YMCA Sports & Fitness is hosting an International Junior Squash Event from the 26th-28th

Oct for more information please call 01744 23956

ARTS

HAYDOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

0151 430 6744

www.haydockmvc.com

Celebrity Concert: featuring Mr George Galway, Parish Church, St. Helens
20th Oct

Concert: Bethel Baptist Church, Loushers Lane, Latchford, Warrington
27th Oct

Concert: NSPCC Fund Raiser, Padgate Community Centre, Warrington
10th Nov

Concert with Leyland Brass Band: Fundraiser for local charities, Southport Theatre
16th Nov
Christmas Carol Concert: The Parish Church, St. Helens
8th Dec
Christmas Carol Concert: Haydock Conservative Club
18th Dec

NADOS

Newton Amateur Dramatics and Opera Society
01942 724842

ST. HELENS CAMERA CLUB

Oct 8th Nat History comp
15th Record comp
22nd Changing perspectives
29th L&CPU Print folio
Nov 5th People and places
12th Tale of two half's
19th Open competition
26th Lecture
Dec 3rd The way we were
10th Open competition
17th L&CPU Slide folio II
Jan 7th Not all that jazz
14th Photoshop
21st Portrait comp
28th L&CPU Mono folio

ST. HELENS SINFONIETTA

01744 600846

www.sinfonietta.org.uk

Harmoniemusik – Music for Wind Instruments – United Reformed Church
17th Nov
7.30pm

Carol Concert – featuring the New Cross Singers – United Reformed Church
22nd Dec
7.30pm



ST. HELENS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

01744 297770

Annie – St Helens

Theatre Royal

10th – 13th Oct

7.30pm

ST. HELENS GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

01744 612485

No details available at time of print. Please call for updates of the 2007 programme.

ST. HELENS ORGAN SOCIETY

01744 22463

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

Clare Greig – West Park Rugby Club, Prescott Road, St. Helens

9th Oct

Mike Hall – West Park Rugby Club, Prescott Road, St. Helens

13th Nov

Andrew Nix – West Park Rugby Club, Prescott Road, St. Helens (Ticket Only)

11th Dec

ST. HELENS CHORAL SOCIETY

01744 604332

Haydn: 'Nelsons Mass' / Vivaldi: 'Gloria' – Over 60 Voices, St. Helens Parish Church (New Date)

3rd Nov 7.30pm

Christmas Concert – St. Helens Parish Church

15th Dec

7.30pm

ST. HELENS YOUTH BRASS BAND

01744 755257

VALLEY BRASS

07940 509441

www.valleybrass.co.uk

No details available at time

of print. Please log onto the website for updates of the 2007 programme.

THEATRE ROYAL

01744 756000

www.sthelenstheatreroyal.co.uk

Flashback – The Ultimate Rock, Pop & Soul Show!
5th Oct
7.30pm

Vampires Rock

20th Oct

7.30pm

Swing 'N' Sinatra

25th Oct

7.30pm

Essence of Ireland

26th Oct

7.30pm

The Nutcracker

28th Oct

5.00pm

The Drifters

10th Nov

7.30pm

Dreaming of a White

Christmas

21st Nov

1.30pm and 7.30pm

The Duke of Edinburgh's

Bronze Awards Evening

22nd and 23rd Nov

7.30pm

A Christmas Carol –

Charles Dickens

26th Nov

1.30pm

The Duke of Edinburgh's

Gold & Silver Presentation

25th Jan

7.30pm

THE CITADEL

01744 735436

www.citadel.org.uk

Overload

(under 18s punk/nu rock)

12th Oct

7.30pm

Brass Monkey (folk)

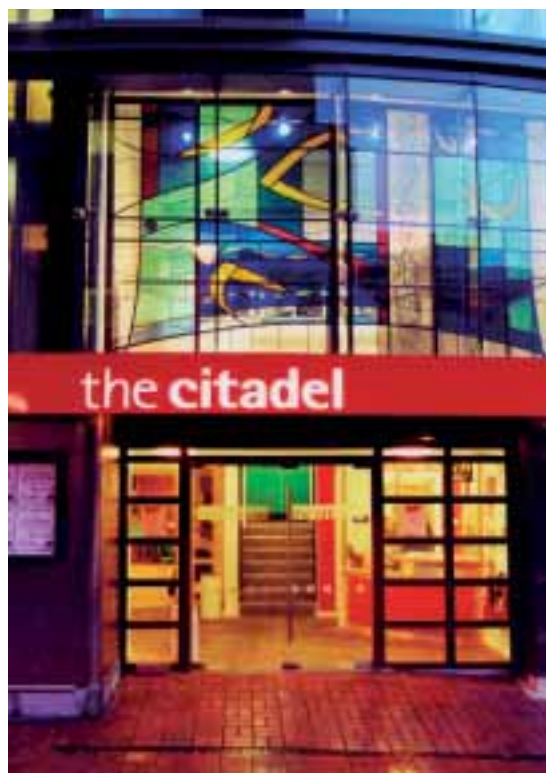
17th Oct

7.30pm

Wishbone Ash (rock)

1st Nov

7.30pm



Rubberneck (indie/alternative)

3rd Nov

8pm

Overload (under 18s punk/nu rock)

9th Nov

7.30pm

The Clone Roses + DJ Clint boon (tribute)

10th Nov

8pm

The Lancashire Hotpots (comedy folk)

1st Dec

8pm

Cinderella (community panto)

5-15th Dec

St. Helens writers' circle – every Friday

1.30pm to 3.00pm

MONTHLY NIGHTS

Please call or visit our website for more details.

Overload – A music night with a mixture of punk, grunge, nu metal and rock, this is an under 18's night with a dry bar and live bands.

Words Alive – Open Mic night for poets, writers and musicians with an opportunity for anyone to perform.

Rubberneck – Going from strength to strength Rubberneck is The Citadel's monthly indie/alternative night.

ST. HELENS FILM SOCIETY

01744 817130

www.bffsn.org.uk

St. Helens film society: 'tales of hoffman' @ the citadel

9th Oct

2.00pm

St. Helens film society: 'mutiny on the bounty' @ the citadel

13th Nov

2.00pm

GODFREY PILKINGTON ART GALLERY

01744 455492

Thursday Art Group

13th Oct – 27th Oct (Ends 1.00pm)

Multi Activity Point Project (MAPP) – Photographic Project and Competition

30th Oct

3rd Nov

Sefton Guild

9th Nov

24th Nov

(Ends 3.00pm)

Preview evening

8th Nov

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Paul Cousins

30th Nov

15th Dec

Preview evening

29th Nov

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Co-operative Learning

Art Project

20th – 22nd Dec

3rd – 4th Jan 2008

Preview evening

19th Dec 2007

5.30pm – 7.30pm

THE WORLD OF GLASS

08700 114466

www.worldofglass.com

Art From The Village –

Exhibition of Paintings from

Willow Art Group

18th Sep – 18th Nov

Offering From The Nile

– Exhibition of Ancient

Egyptian objects

27th Nov – 3rd Feb

CRAFTS

CREATIVE CRAFTS ASSOCIATION

01744 750606

www.creativecrafts-

online.co.uk

Craft and Gift Fair –

Haydock Park Racecourse

17th and 18th Nov

10.00am – 4.30pm

HERITAGE

ST. HELENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

01744 23141

Meetings at St. Helens

College at 7.30pm unless

otherwise stated

Development of the International Slavery

Museum –

Richard Benjamin

15th Oct

The Act of Union: 1603 –

Dr Anne McLaren

19th Nov

Pre Christmas Gathering @

The Friends Meeting House

10th Dec

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Footprints at Formby

(Fank Pope Memorial

Lecture) – Dr Anne Worsley

21st Jan

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

Santa Special Weekend

15th/16th and

22nd/23rd Dec

OTHER

AGE CONCERN – MANSION HOUSE, ST. HELENS

01744 752644

Age concern run courses

from Mansion House

including:

IT classes for older people

50+ Arts and Crafts

for older people 50+

Exercise and Dance

for older people 50+

Please call for more details.

CRAIC

Cherish.Revive.Access.Irish. Culture

To celebrate our Irish

Heritage, join us to

share stories of Irish origins,

folklore and memories at

one of our sessions at St.

Patrick's Church House,

Loughrigg Avenue,

Carr Mill.

Contact Margaret

or Anne for details

on 01744 29482 or 605435

ccp.sthelens@btinternet.com

RAINHILL CIVIC SOCIETY

St. Ann Millennium Centre,

View Road, Rainhill

A talk on Rennie

Mackintosh by Pat Marsden

6th Nov

7.30pm

Neil Bonner will talk about

the Victorian Baths in

Manchester

24th Jan

7.30pm

TRAINING AND COURSES

Free courses beginning

14th Jan 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

7th Nov, 16th Jan

Executive

10th Oct, 21st Nov,
12th Dec, 9th Jan

Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee

17th Oct, 14th Nov,
5th Dec

Planning Committee

9th Oct, 6th Nov, 11th
Dec, 22nd Jan

Standards Committee

3rd Dec

Adult Social Care and Health

19th Nov, 14th Jan

Children and Young People's Services

12th Nov, 21st Jan

Budget and Finance

1st Nov, 13th Dec,
10th Jan, 31st Jan

Call In and Audit Panel

19th Dec

Audit and Governance

9th Jan

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

➔ ENERGY BUSTING
SUCCESS

➔ DRAGON BOAT
CHALLENGE

➔ GET IN THE SWIM

➔ PUPILS IN LINE FOR
DIANA AWARD



News

PAGE 2

Saints star Paul Wellens joined around 150 pupils from seven high schools when they took part in a Shadowing the Carnegie Day

News

PAGE 2

Helena Housing has funded a pioneering project to deliver free computer and internet access to 250 homes



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.

St. Helens joins the digital challenge

Helena Housing has funded a pioneering project to deliver free computer and internet access to 250 homes in an area of St. Helens which has a low number of household computers.

The innovative project is a partnership between Helena Housing, which owns and manages St. Helens 14,500 former council homes, Liverpool University's AIMES centre and St. Helens Chamber.

St. Cuthbert's Catholic Community College for Business and Enterprise in Parr has provided a list of 250 pupils who have no computer or internet access at home.

Each have received a computer, keyboard, mouse and monitor – as well as free internet and email access for a year, and use of Microsoft Office. Helena Housing has provided £60,000 to fund the project.

Access is delivered via a 'community grid portal' – which local residents have helped design. All hardware is provided free of charge and it's their's to keep after the one-year pilot runs out. After that there will be a small charge for internet use.

Although the project is being delivered through St. Cuthbert's School, Helena hopes all the family will get involved.

Mums, dads, parents and grandparents all have their own user name and log in details.



Students Latvia welcome

Sutton High Sports College welcomed pupils and teachers from Latvia as part of an exercise to share good practice.

Sutton High Sports College has been playing host to 17 students and three teachers from Latvia.

Sutton High was partnered with Dobelle State Gymnasium School as part of a nation-wide sports college initiative. It was set up by the Youth Sport Trust to partner schools in economically sound and less economically sound countries to enable them to share good practice and improve teaching practices.

The visitors spent six days with their hosts during which time they observed lessons, took part in demonstrations about student sport leadership and worked alongside Sutton pupils. They also enjoyed tours of St. Helens and Liverpool and an evening of light entertainment which included a quiz and sports.

Saints' star turns over a new chapter

Saints star Paul Wellens joined around 150 pupils from seven high schools when they took part in a Shadowing the Carnegie Day at Cowley Language College which celebrated reading.

This is an annual national event which involves reading groups reading six books shortlisted by librarians and then choosing their favourite.



6th formers go global

Seven 6th formers from Rainhill Media Arts College took up the World Challenge when they travelled to Sri Lanka to help refurbish a school that was decimated in the 2004 tsunami.

Many schools in this part of the world had extremely basic facilities before the earthquake which created the Indian Ocean tsunami. This, coupled with the devastation, means there is plenty of scope for World Challenge teams to make a big difference to schools.



Paul Lynch, Peter Schenck, Adele Cuthell, Rebecca Smith, Paul Rosson, Gemma Norris and Mark Briordy spent two years raising the £2,200 they each needed to fund the trip. They teamed up with five pupils from a Birmingham school to spend three weeks in Sri Lanka – two at the school where their tasks included painting, tidying up and building fences – and one enjoying some well deserved rest and relaxation. They were joined by Design Technology teacher Rebecca Winter.

The trip was organised through World Challenge, a schools' expedition company.

Energy buster cuts costs

When a major high school in St. Helens needed to save on its fuel budget and be carbon efficient at the same time they called in St. Helens Council's energy buster Steve Lang.

The demand for electricity had grown to such a point at Cowley Language College (£64,000 a year) that it faced the prospect of having to spend up to £20,000 in order to upgrade the electricity network. That's when the Council's Energy Manager, Steve Lang and the Building Services Department got involved.

Investigations proved there was a constant electrical load both overnight and at weekends.

Cowley has 600 computers and the team found that many were switched on

without anybody using them due to the format of lessons.

Working in partnership with the College's IT department and other facilities around the country, Steve discovered the solution was in front of them.

If all schools got involved then Steve estimates a saving of around £150,000. So, if your school would like any support from the team please call Steve Lang on 01744 671782.



Lock it or Lose it

'Lock it or lose it' is the message from Merseyside Police and the Council in the ongoing campaign to combat bike theft.

An eye-catching campaign to protect against bike theft has been shown on cinema screens and buses across St. Helens.

To try to avoid becoming victims of theft youngsters are advised to ride with friends wherever possible, avoid taking short cuts and stay away from dark streets and alleyways.

They should buy a good bike lock which can loop through the wheels, frame or seats and get bikes security marked so they can be traced if stolen. You can record and register your bike on www.immobilise.com. Bikes should not be left unlocked or unattended and kept in a locked garage or shed.

Crime reduction advice can be obtained by calling 0151 777 6047 or 0151 777 6883.

If you think you are being offered a stolen bike, ring Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Meet the Magnificent Seven

Seven pupils from St. Aelred's Catholic Technology College in Newton-le-Willows were nominated for the Diana Award for their outstanding contributions to their community.

They are 15-year-old Stephanie Marsh who is an outstanding sportswoman playing in the England under-17 squad and for Everton Ladies. However, Stephanie has also been a supportive and constructive friend to others who do not share her physical gifts and ensured that they have been able to play a fully participating role in the life of the college community.

Hannah Ledsom, 16, has overcome personal disabilities to become an outstanding Child Development Skills Coordinator in her Year Eleven class. She has taken

complete charge of the interactive dolls, created an IT system that closely monitors the pupils' performance and given them the opportunity to become better parents later in life.

Karis Brown, 12, has overcome personal health problems to become an outstanding achiever in sport and ballroom dancing and has supported other pupils with disabilities in helping them to come to terms with and face their own difficulties.

17-year-old Samuel Grindley has worked to improve the college environment and keep it free from litter. He has worked to maintain and develop the College Memorial Garden and has recruited a team of enthusiastic pupils to



support this valuable aspect of college life.

12-year-old Elliott Johnson has befriended and worked with a fellow pupil recently arrived from the Asian sub continent, helping him with English, learning something of the friend's native language and making sure he feels at home.

Sixth formers, Melanie Broughton and Vanessa Lybert, both 18, have

raised over £1,000 after taking part in a sponsored parachute jump for Willowbrook Hospice after making a visit there and being deeply impressed by the work being done.

The seven pupils have been nominated for their Awards because of their inspirational qualities that are demonstrated through their commitment and enthusiasm.

Get in the swim

Keen student swimmers may be interested to know that St. Helens Council has become the first Local Authority in the UK to complete a national, professional qualification for swim teachers.

The National Amateur Swimming Association Teacher/Coach Licensing Scheme is part of the Government's plans to enhance the status and quality of teachers and coaches across all sports. The long-term aim is to encourage employers to use the licensing

scheme as part of the appointment process.

The scheme provides swim teachers with a professional status, gives customers confidence about the professional standing of the teachers and the Council confidence in the quality of teachers being employed.

For more information please contact Louise Stephenson, Swimming and Activities Coordinator at Parr Swimming Pool, 01744 677465, or email louisestephenson@sthelens.gov.uk

Dragon boat racing down under

As Teen Talk went to press, six young people from St. Helens were preparing to represent Great Britain in the World Dragon Boat Racing Championship in Sydney, Australia.

They are part of a 32 strong national squad going for gold. The six under 18-year-olds, who secured funding from the Council's Strategic Grants Programme and the Youth Opportunities Fund, were fully supported by the St. Helens Duke of Edinburgh Award through the Council's Youth Service. They are Josh Edwards, Gemma Griffiths, Chloe Griffiths, Sam Richardson, Glenn Simpson and James McRoberts who were supported by 19-year-old mentors Matt Richardson and Rebecca Griffiths.