Olympic Torch lights up Knowsley

Meet your councillors

Olympic Torch lights up Knowsley

Summer fun in Knowsley
Welcome to the latest edition of Knowsley news

Whether it’s the borough’s fabulous tourist attractions that are appealing to you or the events coming up at the leisure & culture park, there’s a whole host of entertainment opportunities in Knowsley this summer.

In this Olympic year in particular, there are some really exciting sporting events happening in the borough. Only last week, the arrival of the Olympic Torch was celebrated and with the Paralympics coming up and the Tour of Britain being welcomed into Knowsley, it’s a really exciting time for us all. So why not take a look at what’s on offer in our summer fun special on pages 13 to 16, as well as the usual what’s on guide on pages 28 to 29.

There are also lots of other interesting news and updates in this issue - everything from regeneration to recycling, from employment to road safety. And following on from the recent local elections, you can also see a full list of your elected members on pages 2 and 3.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and that you and your families have a happy and healthy summer!

Cllr Ron Round
Leader of Knowsley Council

Introducing the new Mayor of Knowsley

Cllr Norman Hogg has the honour of serving as the Mayor of Knowsley for 2012/13.

Born in Halewood, Norman has represented the Halewood West Ward for the last 14 years and is a governor at Halewood Centre for Learning and Holy Family Junior School.

Norman’s wife of 49 years, Wendy, is the Mayoress for 2012/13 and the Mayor’s chosen charities are:

- HoneyRose Foundation - a charity which supports local people who are suffering from a terminal illness.
- Friends of Knowsley Young Carers - a project to provide relief and support to young people in Knowsley who provide care to a family member.

A donation will also be made to Listening Ear Merseyside, which is a community-based charity that provides a free and confidential listening, counselling and bereavement support service. Norman said,

“It is a great honour and privilege to serve my borough as Mayor this year. I’ve always been extremely proud of my Knowsley roots and Wendy and I are delighted to be able to represent the borough and see some of the fantastic things that are happening here.

In my role as Mayor, I’m particularly pleased to have the opportunity to raise money for my chosen charities, which do a fantastic job in our communities.”
Your views
If you have any comments, please contact Knowsley Council’s Communications team.

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Front cover:
Circus performer Steve Wallis, entertains families at St George’s family fun day.

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Meet your councillors

Knowsley’s councillors and MPs are here to serve you and your community.

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Six key areas (see below) were outlined where it was felt extra resources and efforts could help to make a real difference to the borough and the lives of our residents.

Work has now been focused in each of these areas and teams are concentrating on delivering these priorities. We have set out exactly what we realistically want to and can achieve, assessing what is already in place and working well, and also putting into place action plans to tackle these issues head on.

A clear reporting structure has also been agreed with Cabinet, to allow progress to be monitored across these six areas.

These six pledges are absolutely key for us and for our residents in the coming years.

Some of this work has already been underway, but we hope that by bringing together current work and focusing our efforts and resources, we can make a real difference to our communities.

This is a key focus for us as a council and we will continue to keep you, the residents, up-to-date on this work and its positive outcomes.

£2.2 million pledged to help bring all of our centres for learning up to the national average or better for GCSE attainment. That means a minimum of 50% of our pupils securing 5 GCSEs A* to C, including English and maths.

£150,000 external funding secured to support five community-owned businesses to break into the local economy. This will help to build strength and skills in our communities and help more residents into jobs.

£200,000 to support us in our work as the lead authority for jobs, skills and tackling poverty across the City Region. This will help to ensure our residents directly benefit from future investments, job creation and improvements in the wider region.

£1.4 million to be invested in the development of more than 400 new affordable homes by March 2015, and making land available for an additional 2,250 homes in the borough.

£3.3 million pledged to help 10,000 of our residents into long-term jobs — improving skills and support for job seekers, as well as attracting and building relationships with more employers.

£100,000 to ensure debt/money advice services and affordable credit is accessible to every one of our residents.
Olympic Torch lights up Knowsley!

Celebrations greeted the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Knowsley on Friday 1 June.

The iconic flame was carried from St Helens into Prescot through Knowsley Safari Park and into Huyton, before heading into Liverpool.

The torchbearers included teenage women’s rugby ace Claudia Dowdeswell and 16-year-old Joe Shaw from Huyton. Joe is a volunteer at a centre for disabled children and helps his sisters who have special needs.

A joint Olympic and Diamond Jubilee celebration welcomed the torch into Knowsley Safari Park, with Radio City hosting a special talent show.

Prescot-based community group, Merseyside MALS (Mentor Achieve Learn and Support), who offer help to victims of crime and domestic abuse, were also involved in the celebrations.

Local school children also got into the Olympic spirit. Around 800 pupils walked through Stockbridge Village to celebrate the coming of the Olympic Torch to the borough. They started out at Christ the King Centre for Learning with mocked up versions of the iconic flame, and were joined by pupils from other local schools.

Continuing the celebrations, the Paralympic Torch will arrive at Kirkby Sports College over the August Bank Holiday weekend. There will be a welcoming ceremony and a community event to celebrate the local people, athletes and groups who are involved in Paralympic sport.

Employment news

Knowsley Works - the council’s specialist recruitment team - is working with businesses across the borough to help hundreds of people into employment.

Since March this year, 260 people have already started new jobs at Jaguar Land Rover, after the company announced 1,000 new vacancies.

The jobs at the Halewood plant include production operators, supervisors and engineers, as well as opportunities to train towards an Intermediate (Level 2) Apprenticeship.

Johnson Controls, based at Boulevard Industry Park, Halewood, has also taken on 57 people to produce seats to supply to Jaguar Land Rover.

At Dairy Crest’s Kirkby manufacturing plant, 28 people have started work in production and support operations. The company makes the well-known brands such as Clover Lighter, Utterly Butterly and Vitalite.

The Merseyside Apprenticeship Programme is now in its third phase and this summer a further 100 young people will begin two-year apprenticeships with employers across Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton.

If you are job hunting or are a business looking to recruit, contact Knowsley Works on 443 5010 or 443 4780.
Moving memorial to Kirkby soldier

Irish Guard Lance Sergeant Mark Burgan, was serving in Afghanistan when he died in Helmand Province last March.

The local community came out in force to pay their respects when Mark died and councillors met with his family to discuss a fitting tribute to him.

It was decided that, to mark his sacrifice and that of all of the fallen servicemen and women from Knowsley, Wignall Park in Southdene would be renamed Memorial Park.

During a special ceremony, a veteran cut a ribbon at the renamed park which was watched by comrades from Mark’s regiment, his family and friends, councillors, school children and the community group that helps run the park.

There was also a commemorative service in St Joseph’s RC Church, and a tree was planted in Mark’s name at Kirkby Church of England Primary School, where his sister works.

Campaign tackles dog fouling

Irresponsible dog owners are being targeted by the latest borough-wide ‘Love Where You Live’ advertising campaign.

Over the summer months, the council will be running a campaign which includes posters, advertising vans and banners, to encourage owners to tidy up after their dogs and help keep our streets and parks free from dog mess.

To find out more, visit www.lovenwhereyoulive.org. Tell us why you love where you live and what you do to look after your local area.

Protect your shed this summer

Many residents across Knowsley will have sheds, garages and outhouses storing valuable tools and equipment. These buildings are often left unlocked and can be a magnet for thieves.

Residents are being advised, particularly throughout the summer months, to make sure their items are safely secured and locked away. This helps to protect your property and lessens the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

You can also register your possessions for free at www.immobilise.com, which helps police to identify the owners of lost and stolen property.
What's hot

One Stop Shop surgeries

Did you know that besides the many council services available at our One Stop Shops, there are also a number of partners and surgeries available that may be useful to you?

KHT
All One Stop Shops
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm
Wednesday, 9am to 4pm

Department for Work and Pensions
All One Stop Shops
Appointments are by referral only, ring 0845 606 0265

Registrars
Huyton, Halewood and Kirkby
Appointment only, ring 443 2900

Housing Options
Huyton
Tuesday and Thursday, 9am to 1pm
Kirkby
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am to 1pm

Citizens Advice Bureau
Halewood
Monday and Wednesday, 10am to 3pm

Roy Castle Fag Ends
Halewood
Tuesday, 9.30am to 11am
Huyton
Monday, 2pm to 3.30pm
Appointment only, ring 0800 195 2131

Knowsley Welfare Benefits
Preston
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Age UK
Kirkby
Tuesday and Friday, 11am to 1pm

Please ask in the One Stop Shop for more details.

Knowsley’s road users are the safest in Merseyside

Latest road casualty figures show a record drop in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Knowsley’s roads.

The number has reduced by one third – almost double the average reduction across Merseyside.

Where children are concerned, there has been a two third reduction in the numbers of those killed or seriously injured. This is more than double the average reduction elsewhere on Merseyside.

Overall, casualty figures are now lower than at any time in Knowsley’s history.

Cllr Dave Lonergan, Knowsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, said,

“These figures place us as the best in our region and amongst the very best in the country.

We will continue to work hard to reduce these numbers even more and to keep road users as safe as possible.

Free loft and cavity wall insulation

A new scheme could help you reduce your energy bills by having free loft and cavity wall insulation installed in your home.

The ‘Cosy Knowsley’ scheme aims to help you become more energy efficient by keeping the heat in your home. At the same time, it could also help to cut hundreds of pounds off your household heating bills each year.

Having loft insulation could save you around £175 per year, with cavity wall insulation reducing your annual energy bill by about £135.

To arrange a free, no-obligation survey or to find out more, call British Gas on 0800 622 415.
Unemployed people in Knowsley can boost their job prospects by joining a scheme offering free training in energy efficiency.

The Community Energy Fit Champion Scheme will see 160 residents receive energy efficiency training, leading to volunteering opportunities aimed at improving their job prospects.

Those taking part in the new scheme will participate in a free half-day training course offering useful tips about how to save money on fuel bills, as well as an opportunity to achieve a national qualification for free. The scheme is backed by the council, E.ON and the charity National Energy Action.

The scheme is a key part of the council’s Sustainable Knowsley Programme.

For further information, email CEF@nea.org.uk or ring 548 0001.

Energy training boosts job prospects

Free nursery places for three and four-year-olds

Children learn a lot from play and their learning and development can really progress when they interact with other children and skilled adults in a nursery environment.

But did you know that if you have a child aged three or four-years-old, they are entitled to a free part-time nursery education place?

Children are entitled to the place at the start of the term after their third birthday. Parents can choose whether their child receives their nursery education through a school nursery, registered private day nursery or an accredited childminder. This range of options helps to meet parents’ needs whilst supporting children’s learning.

For more information and a full list of nursery providers, please ring Knowsley Family Information Service on 0800 085 2022 and select option one.

A record number of young people voted in this year’s Youth Parliament election, demonstrating a passion for the issues which affect them and their friends.

Twelve-year-old Harry Campbell from Whiston was elected following a hard-fought campaign in which over half of Knowsley’s 11 to 18-year-olds voted. Harry said:

“I’m really looking forward to representing young people to make sure their views are heard and are listened to by MPs and local councillors. I will also be leading a campaign for cheaper public transport for under-18s.”

Seventeen-year-old Daniel Thomas, from Prescot, was elected as Harry’s deputy.

Members of Youth Parliament ensure the views of young people are heard by decision makers by meeting with MPs and local councillors.

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Young people elect a new Member of Youth Parliament

I’m really looking forward to representing young people to make sure their views are heard and are listened to by MPs and local councillors. I will also be leading a campaign for cheaper public transport for under-18s.

www.knowsley.gov.uk

08
The fantastic new centre is now open and proving to be a big hit with customers.

The state-of-the-art facility is the new home for the library, Prescot One Stop Shop and the borough’s museum - all in the heart of the town centre.

Customers can now access all of their local services under one roof, after the old One Stop Shop building in Prescot Shopping Centre was completely refurbished and redesigned.

The centre reflects Prescot’s unique heritage, with a range of objects and artefacts on display. This includes long case clocks and pocket watches to represent the watch making industry, artwork from the Prescotia Art Group and pottery pieces.

Visitors are greeted with a wonderful floor mosaic originally from the BICC factory. Colours from the mosaic are used throughout the centre to bring the whole building to life.

Visitors are greeted by a floor mosaic originally from the BICC factory.

Some of the artefacts on display in the museum.

Visitors are greeted by a floor mosaic originally from the BICC factory.

The new Prescot Centre looks fantastic and I’m delighted with the positive feedback we have received. We are now able to offer superb facilities which really enhance our customers’ experience of using the library, museum and One Stop Shop.

Cllr Dave Lonergan, Knowsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, said,

More exciting plans to revitalise the historic town of Prescot are also in development.

The council and partners have bid for funding to help breathe new life into the town and its historic buildings, as well as to support ongoing regeneration.

The Portas Pilot is a £1 million fund developed by the government, following a report on Britain’s high streets by Mary Portas ‘Queen of Shops’.

The council hopes Prescot will receive some funding to support initiatives set out by local businesses and the community. These include bringing Knowsley Safari Park to life in Prescot town centre in a temporary ‘pop-up’ shop.

Other ideas will see empty units brought back into use to offer something new and different in the town. A decision is expected later this year.

The proposals for £1.89 million Heritage Lottery funding aim to improve the town centre’s appearance, emphasising Prescot’s rich heritage. It will also give local people the opportunity to learn traditional construction and restoration techniques.

A decision is expected on this in September.

You can pledge your support for these plans through the council’s website.

Knowsley has also been awarded £100,000 from the government’s new High Street Innovation Fund. Look out for more details in future editions of Knowsley News.
Raven Court opening soon!

Halewood residents will soon be enjoying a brand new shopping experience when the new, modern district shopping centre opens later this summer.

Progress is clear to see as the former Raven Court site is transformed by the new development.

Work on the two blocks of smaller shop units is well advanced and the structures have been built. Work on the larger block, which will house Aldi and the other stores, is also well underway.

The new bus lane, which runs through the development from Hillingden Avenue to Leathers Lane, is already in use. When the new bus facilities are fully operational, buses will stop in front of the smaller shop units at the centre of the development.

The 45,000 sq ft new shopping development will accommodate a number of well-known retailers including Aldi, Tesco, Home Bargains and frozen food store Cooltrader.

The smaller shops will include a newsagent, fish & chip takeaway, hair & beauty salon, as well as a Barnardos and Ladbrokes. Additional car parking and public open space will complete the centre.

Cllr Dave Lonergan, Knowsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, said,

"It has been great to see this development come to life and I am really looking forward to the completion of the new centre. Residents of Halewood will soon have access to this fantastic new shopping facility for many years to come.

Alongside The Halewood Centre, this new development will bring great benefits to local residents, with a range of shopping outlets and new bus and car parking facilities, right at the heart of the community.

Knowsley Council will aim to work with retailers to ensure that local residents have the chance to access job opportunities created in the new district centre.”

The retail development completes the major regeneration of the Raven Court site. The whole development brings together modern shopping and transport facilities into one place. It complements the range of Knowsley Council, NHS Knowsley and community services already available in The Halewood Centre.

Once the new shopping centre is complete, the total investment into Halewood will be almost £20 million.
Community reaps the benefits of multi-million pound investment

The regeneration of Stockbridge Village is now fully complete, and the local community is already reaping the rewards of this £25 million investment.

Since work commenced on site in 2010, the village centre has been completely transformed.

Old buildings have made way for new modern structures, facilities and services, which are all located around one central village square.

Cllr Dave Lonergan, Knowsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, commented,

"It is wonderful to see the scheme now completed and the buildings and spaces brought to life by local people who are making the most of these fantastic new facilities."

If you haven’t visited Stockbridge Village to take a look for yourself, you can visit www.stockbridgevillage.co.uk to find out more about what’s on offer there.

It’s not just about new buildings and facilities – there’s lots of community events and groups to get involved in, improvements being made to homes in the area, as well as fantastic local shops and services all on the doorstep.

The transformation in Stockbridge Village has been remarkable and what has been created here will be a lasting legacy for people in the area. These facilities have been designed and built to stand the test of time and be a valuable community asset, both now and in future years.

The artworks make a lasting impression

One of the striking features of the regeneration in Stockbridge Village is the series of permanent artworks that have been created across the site and in the new Neighbourhood Centre.

The artworks have been produced with the help of artists, who have worked closely with the local community.

Externally, the artworks have been integrated into granite paving and benches in the new village square. They feature images of plants, trees and flowers that have a special significance to members of the community.

Internally, the artwork celebrates the individuality of the people who live in the area. They made drawings of their own faces that were then interpreted by artists and incorporated in a number of ways. These include on the reception desk, in corridors and even on shower screens!

More than 200 homes in Stockbridge Village have benefited from energy efficiency improvements thanks to the Community Energy Saving Programme. The scheme, due to complete in December, will save over 100,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions over the next 25 years and help families to reduce fuel bills by up to 40%.

TAKE A FRESH LOOK YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED!
Working together to regenerate Kirkby

The £200 million regeneration of Kirkby is pressing ahead and a range of work is now underway in and around the town centre.

Cllr Dave Lonergan, Knowsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, commented, "This exciting project will not only see the creation of a new Tesco but also other improvements that will make Kirkby a better place to live, work and visit. Given the size of this project, this is something that will not happen overnight but is involving a co-ordinated and planned effort both from us and our partners."

Mathew Magee from Tesco, commented, "As major partners on this regeneration project, we are pleased to see activity on site. It’s a big investment for us and we’re proud to be part of an exciting future for Kirkby. The Kirkby Tesco will be a Regeneration Partnership store, which means a big proportion of the recruitment will come from the long-term unemployed in the local area.

It is an approach we have successfully used in other stores across the UK and we are very excited about bringing the success of the partnership to Kirkby - creating hundreds of jobs and giving a real boost to the local economy.

Knowsley is an area we continue to invest in and we’re already a big local employer and really proud to be creating jobs in this difficult climate."

Progress update:

- The demolition of the Golden Eagle and former nursing home on Cherryfield Drive is now complete, marking an important step in the regeneration process.
- Advance work will be taking place to demolish the existing market office’s facilities to make way for the creation of the new and improved Kirkby Market. Some temporary facilities will be provided throughout the redevelopment.
- Structural surveys and other internal work will be taking place at the former Civic Suite building to prepare for the creation of the new public services centre.
- The construction of the new Kirkby health centre continues to forge ahead with the external shell of the building due to be completed in late summer.
- Feedback from the residents due to relocate as part of the regeneration continues to be positive. Most recently, some took part in a site visit to another development to see the quality of new homes they can expect when they move.
- A Community Energy Saving Programme is working to improve the energy efficiency of more than 1,700 selected homes in approved areas of Kirkby.
- Investments continue to be made into new homes across Kirkby. A £2.8 million eco-homes development in Quarryside Drive and Burwell Walk is now fully occupied, whilst work on a new Extra Care housing scheme - Baileys Court - on the site of the former Holly Vale flats, is nearing completion.
Looking for something fun to do this summer? Luckily, you don’t have to travel far to enjoy a good day out!

The following four pages are packed with exciting things to do across the borough this summer.

As well as these fantastic events, don’t forget to check out the borough’s great tourist attractions. **Knowsley Safari Park** provides a fabulous day out for the whole family, whilst **Aerial Extreme** is perfect for thrill seekers.

Make the most of the lovely weather in one of **Knowsley’s beautiful parks**, or get back to nature with the **National Wildflower Centre**. Whatever takes your fancy, there’s bound to be something you’ll enjoy!

**Friday night fun for young people**

**Friday Night Youth Zones in Kirkby, Halewood and Huyton have a wide range of exciting activities for anyone aged 11 to 19.**

The youth zones are held in Kirkby Sports College, Halewood Centre for Learning and at the OurPlace youth facility in Huyton. Doors open at 6.30pm every week, including school holidays.

DJ workshops, break dancing, sports, arts & crafts, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and volunteering opportunities are just some of the things on offer.

Help, information and confidential advice on smoking, sexual health, drugs and alcohol is also available.

For more information, visit the council’s website and click on the Plings logo. Alternatively, you can ring 443 4541 for Halewood Centre for Learning, 443 4466 for Kirkby Sports College or 443 5323 for OurPlace.
Great new acts at Knowsley Leisure & Culture Park

There are some great shows coming up at Knowsley Leisure & Culture Park this summer.

Liverpool’s top show Laughterhouse Comedy comes to the park on Saturday 28 July, starting at 8.15pm. Tickets are £14 for an adult, £12 for concessions, and the top line-up of comedians include MC Chris Cairns, Alun Cochrane and Phil Nichol.

The Honey Honey Show is the world’s first Abba show for kids and is on Sunday 29 July at 2.30pm. It’s aimed at the whole family with Benny Bear, a full live band and songs from the hit musical Mamma Mia.

Tickets for this event are £12 for adults, £10 for children/concessions and a family ticket is £38 (two adults and two children).

To buy tickets for either show, ring 0844 561 0622 or 443 5619, visit the council’s website, or call into the leisure & culture park.

Outdoor Velodrome and BMX track coming soon!

This summer, the fantastic new outdoor velodrome and BMX track will open at Knowsley Leisure & Culture Park. The velodrome will be 400m in length, with a 7m wide cycle track.

The BMX track will be in the centre of the velodrome and will be only the second of its kind in the whole of Europe! This facility will host a range of local, regional and national cycling events and will hopefully inspire future generations of bike enthusiasts.

Knowsley welcomes the Tour of Britain

The Tour of Britain cycle race is returning to Merseyside this September and Knowsley has been selected to play host.

On 10 September, 100 of the world’s top cyclists will race into the borough for a spectacular finish for Stage Two of the tour at Knowsley Safari Park.

More details of the event in Knowsley will be provided on the council’s website and in the local media in the coming months. In the meantime, if you want to find out more about the Tour of Britain, visit www.tourofbritain.co.uk
**Make OurPlace your place this summer!**

If you’re aged 11 to 19, don’t forget to get down to OurPlace this summer.

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### Flower show set to be best ever!

There’s still time to ‘get set and grow’ for this year’s Knowsley Flower Show.

It’s the biggest free show of its kind in the North West and is expected to be bigger and better than ever this year.

The show takes place on Sunday 5 August from 11am to 5pm at Court Hey Park in Huyton, and there will be a celebration of both the Olympics and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

There’ll be an Olympics-style sports village, a large floral marquee with more exhibits and a bigger farmers’ market, as well as all the usual attractions.

The flower show will be opened by the Mayor of Knowsley, Cllr Norman Hogg, and Head Gardener at Tatton Park, Sam Youd.

There’s still time to enter. To find out more, visit [www.knowsleyflowershow.com](http://www.knowsleyflowershow.com) or ring show secretary Christine Yates on 480 8666 or Carla Simkin on 443 5353.

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There’s still time to ‘get set and grow’ for this year’s Knowsley Flower Show.

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OurPlace is next to Knowsley Leisure & Culture Park in Huyton and membership is just £5 per year. For more information, visit the council’s website or ring 443 5323.

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There’s a brand new skate & BMX ramp park as well as a dance studio, media suite, music studio, football pitches, table tennis and pool tables - to name just a few! You can also get advice and support on a range of issues affecting young people.