BENGALI FESTIVAL p12

Eco-friendly bags for Kirkby market p4

Summer of fun
Festivals, fêtes and fun
Welcome to the latest Knowsley News. This issue explores many of the various activities and events on offer this summer while providing you with an update on how we have brought crime down by almost a third in the last year. Knowsley has its own 88 programme going on as part of the Capital of Culture celebration. Our double page feature and what’s on section gives you a flavour of what’s on offer.

Feeling safe is important to us all. Knowsley and its partners recognise this and have created the Safer Knowsley Partnership, which is already seeing major success in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour issues. The partnership was formally launched at a recent awards ceremony that gave honour to unsung heroes from our neighbourhoods, businesses, police and voluntary workers who have gone above and beyond to stamp out crime.

Knowsley’s fascinating past is also being brought back to life in focus. This issue explores many people’s lives in their area.

The Conservation and Interpretation Project has given Knowsley’s historic crosses, milestones and landmarks some much needed pampering and they are back to their original glory.

We celebrate the outstanding efforts made by you all to recycle even more of your household waste. The launch of the new grey bins has led to a big increase in the amount being diverted from landfill sites.

And we look forward to the Bengali Association of Merseyside and the North of England’s annual Hindu festival in October, which will bring hundreds of visitors to Kirkby.

Enjoy

Cllr Ron Round
Leader of Knowsley Council

Top marks for Kirkby school P5
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Messaging service to reduce crime

The Safer Knowsley Partnership has launched its community messaging service. The partnership, which includes Merseyside Police, Merseyside Police Authority, Knowsley Council, Health and Fire Service, is working with local communities to make Knowsley a safer place to live, work or visit.

Community messaging aims to improve the communication between residents and partner agencies to make a greater impact in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Many people are already making a difference by joining one of the many watch schemes in the area, including Home Watch, Business Watch and Pub Watch.

The partnership recognises that joining a watch scheme doesn’t suit everyone, and that’s why community messaging has been introduced in Knowsley and it’s free of charge to anyone living or working in Knowsley.

By signing up to this service, you will receive information specific to your neighbourhood, including crime issues, community meetings and events.

Information can be received to suit your needs and lifestyle – choosing from email, fax or messages to a mobile or landline. Councillor Jackie Harris, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Social Inclusion explained ‘This is an excellent example of how the local community can make a difference by becoming involved in reducing crime and making their neighbourhood safer. This new service will help the public to access information tailored to their neighbourhood and ensure communities are kept updated on what is happening in their area.

Best of all it’s free and I want to encourage as many people as possible to sign up to this new service.’ To find out more about watch schemes in your area, community messaging and registration, phone 777 6285 or log on to: www.knowsleycommunitymessaging.org

Knowsley News is produced by Knowsley Council four times a year and distributed to all households in the borough. The next edition will be published in September. If you have any comments or feedback – please contact the editor, Jayne Pugh, on Jayne.Pugh@knowsley.gov.uk
Eco-friendly bags for Kirkby market

Kirby market traders are doing their bit to help the environment by swapping to biodegradable carrier bags.

The new carrier bags are made from biodegradable plastic, which disintegrates within months in landfill sites. The bags are stronger than other types of carrier bags so market customers can reuse them and do their bit to help the environment too.

Councillor Graham Morgan, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development and Kirby ward Counsellor, Malcolm Sharp are pictured with a Kirby market trader and the new biodegradable carrier bags.

Councillor Morgan said: "The new biodegradable carrier bags are just one way that we are reducing the amount of waste in Knowsley. We want to encourage people to make a difference and ensure that Knowsley is a clean and green place for people to live."

Top marks for Kirkby School

Simonswood Primary School has been given top marks.

The report by Ofsted, the Government’s education inspection body, describes the school as ‘outstanding’ and praises the quality of teaching at the school. Head teacher Phil Newton is described as inspirational and the care, guidance and support staff give to pupils is outstanding. Parents have praised the school and say that their children, ‘run into school and come out smiling’ and they also praise the

Play and Stay sessions that develop parents’ ability to interact with their children. This clean bill of health is also boosted by the inspectors’ confidence in the school’s constant efforts to improve. The report adds: ‘Although this is a first class school, there is no resting on laurels here; the staff are neither complacent nor content to stand still.’

Phil said: ‘This is a tribute to the outstanding work and effort of all the staff and pupils here. It confirms what we all feel about our marvellous school and it’s great to get such praise for what we do, day in, day out.’

We’ve ditched the car and walked to school

As part of national Walk to School Week children and parents were encouraged to enjoy the benefits of walking to school.

Councillor Graham Morgan, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development said: ‘We asked parents who usually drive their children to school to try walking with them instead. ‘That little bit of extra exercise each day can make a surprising difference to both the parent’s and child’s health and fitness, encouraging a healthier lifestyle and helping to tackle obesity.’

‘With less cars arriving at the school gates at the beginning and the end of the day, the schools are more pleasant environments, and much safer for everyone.’

St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School in Kirkby invited Park Brow and Cherryfield primary schools to celebrate the week. Pupils at St Joseph’s also took part in a funky foot competition. Kirby councilllor, Jayne Aston is pictured with the children. All Knowsley schools received educational resource packs from the council’s travel plan team, which contained wall charts to record the pupils’ journeys to school, activity diaries, posters and stickers. Knowsley Council works with parents, children and schools all year round to develop school travel plans to encourage pupils, parents and staff to walk or cycle to school.

A number of schools now have cycle parking thanks to funding from the Directorate of Children and Family Services and Maxvern Primary School has installed new cycle sheds to encourage more children to cycle to school.

More shops and facilities for Huyton

In response to shopper’s requests to continue to improve Huyton town centre, Knowsley Council has partnered with In Shops to build new public toilets.

They can be found at In Shops, Lansdowne Way (previously known as Fantasy World) and are open Monday to Saturday 9am–5.30pm.

The facilities opened in June along with new shops.

The Safer Knowsley Partnership was out in force to support National Drugs Week.

Throughout the week:

• Advice and support roadshows took place in Kirkby, Huyton and Prescot

• Youngsters were educated on the dangers of drugs, including the launch of a ‘green matters’ booklet on the adverse effect of cannabis use

• 27 people were arrested and two cannabis farms were recovered in Huyton

Steve Aggar, Assistant Chief Executive for Crime and Disorder for Knowsley said: ‘The partnership is working effectively to tackle drugs and reduce drug–related crime in Knowsley. This will improve the quality of life in our neighbourhoods and make Knowsley a safer place.’

If you have information about drugs in your area, call Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.
Birthday honours for Pam and Joan MBE

Head teacher Pam Jervis and lollipop lady Joan McLoughlin have had their work recognised by the Queen in her birthday honours list.

Pam and Joan have been awarded MBEs for their continued work with young people in the borough.

Pam Jervis, Head teacher, Brookfield High Sports College and Knowsley Community Sports network chair, has been awarded an MBE for her services to sports education. Pam has worked at Brookfield High, Kirkby since 1992 and has been involved in supporting sport both regionally and nationally.

On receiving this prestigious honour Pam said: “I am very passionate about the benefits of sport in the widest sense for young people, their families and our community – and for the contribution sport makes to improving lives and for providing inspiration to young and old alike.”

To receive an MBE is a great honour and I am very proud to receive it on behalf of all those people who have made it possible – and with whom I share it.”

Lollipop lady, Joan McLoughlin, from Huyton, who has worked at the Oak Tree crossing in Liverpool Road, Huyton for more than four decades was overjoyed by the honour of receiving her MBE.

Joan said: “I can’t believe it, getting the MBE is a real surprise. It’s such an honour to get this, it shows appreciation for the 41 years of service that I have given to making sure kids cross the road safely. I love my job the kids really make it worthwhile.”

Looking for something to do this Bank Holiday?

Why not visit your local Knowsley leisure centre?

Family Bank Holiday Fun Day, Monday 25th August 2008, 10am - 3pm.

Bring the attached voucher and access free swimming, badminton, table tennis, steam room, sauna and much much more FREE of charge.

The sauna/steam room provision is restricted to over 16’s only. Please ring 443 2200 and contact the centre of your choice to check availability.

Also for one day only FREE FITNESS SUITE INDUCTION normally £15.00 (BOOKING REQUIRED, ALONG WITH YOUR COMPLETED VOUCHER WHEN YOU ATTEND. THIS OFFER IS AVAILABLE FOR OVER 15’S ONLY)

All activities are subject to availability. All centre users must have a GET ACTIVE CARD. Your first card is issued FREE of charge and two forms of proof of identity will be required. Please ring 443 2200 and contact the centre of your choice for further details.

Summer of love

A beautiful new gazebo in the garden at Knowsley’s registration office in Prescot is offering the perfect venue to be married outdoors with the backdrop of rolling lawns, flowers and trees.

Knowsley is the only council in the North West offering this facility and it can be used for marriages, civil partnerships, naming and citizenship ceremonies. The cost is very reasonable, compared to other venues. To book or for further details, contact 443 5210 or email registrars@knowsley.gov.uk

Next issue of Knowsley News:

There will be more details on the regeneration options for Kirkby town centre.

There will be an in-depth look at the plans to transform Stockbridge Village as the first stage of a £10 million project gets underway to create new leisure and community facilities.

A 15 year strategy to make Knowsley the borough of choice has been launched. A four-page pull out on the work of this vision and the future of Knowsley will be in the next issue of Knowsley News.

www.activeknowsley.co.uk

Participating centres: Halewood Leisure Centre, Huyton Leisure Centre, Scotchbarn & Kirkby Leisure Centres

All participating centres are open between the hours of 9am-5pm on August bank holiday

NEW Junior Active Gym sessions. For all 12-15 Year olds. An induction & parent consent forms must be completed for this activity. Ring the centre of your choice for more details.

Name: ....................................................
Address: ..................................................
..................................................................
Contact No. .............................................

VALID on 25th August 2008
(subject to terms & Conditions)

Your Family Fun Day Voucher

These are just some of the activities on offer in our leisure centres during the summer holidays. Please go to any Knowsley leisure centre for a more comprehensive holiday programme leaflet.

www.knowsley.gov.uk
During the last two years Knowsley’s historic crosses, milestones and landmarks have received some much needed pampering and are now back to their original glory. Restoration work has been managed by Knowsley Council and performed by selected construction students from Knowsley College through the Conservation and Interpretation Project. The students have been gaining real life experience in cleaning and restoration of ancient artefacts. This has included replacing broken sandstone steps and re-carving a headpiece for the historic Kirkby Cross.

Events have also been held for residents and local schools to learn about the artefacts and their history, including a photo exhibition of the historic crosses, milestones and landmarks in the libraries. Christine Anders, Knowsley Council’s Design and Conservation Officer said: “Now the landmarks have been restored it’s important they don’t become rundown again. The future of Knowsley’s local heritage will soon become the responsibility of our young people and workshops have been organised for primary schools to encourage children to take part in activities to learn about the artefacts.”

The work is now in its final year and the finishing touches are being put to an activity booklet for school pupils. There will be more events in the future and Knowsley is going to introduce its own version of the blue plaque scheme to identify key sites. The restoration of Knowsley’s historic crosses, milestones and landmarks has been made possible by a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for almost £200,000.

The eight restored historic artefacts are:
1. The Dovecot, Ingoe Lane, Kirkby
2. The Weeping Stone, St Chads Park, Kirkby
3. St Chads Cross, St Chads Church, Kirkby
4. Cronton Cross, Hall Lane, Cronton Village
5. The Milestone, Liverpool Road, Huyton
6. Cronton Stocks, Smithy Lane, Cronton
7. Huyton Cross, Bluebell Lane, Huyton
8. Roby Cross, Roby Road, Huyton

A big thank you goes out from Knowsley Council to all residents for their great response to the new recyclable waste service, which has seen collections soar to a massive 526 tonnes in the first week.

Since the new grey wheelie bin service was introduced on 2 June, the amount of waste residents are recycling rocketed from an average of just 177 tonnes in the former green box system.

Knowsley is now well on the way to reach a target of each household recycling or composting a third of a tonne of waste a year.

Cllr David Leverington, Knowsley’s Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Delivery said: “I would like to say a big thank you to all of our residents who have responded so positively to this new service. “The fact that the new bins can take most types of recyclable waste seems to have really helped people and I am sure we can all do even more”.

“It’s important we all reuse and recycle as much of our waste as possible as sending waste to landfill is not sustainable and the Government will impose substantial fines on those councils that don’t meet their recycling targets.”

The new grey recycling bins are for paper, food tins, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, drinks cans and cardboard and are collected fortnightly, on the same day as the weekly household rubbish collection.

The summer months are a perfect time to make full use of your blue bins for garden waste, which are collected on the same day as your grey bins.

It is important to remember that bin liners and plastic bags should not be put into the recycling bins and tins and plastic bottles don’t need to be crushed as this makes them more difficult to process.

The new recycling service has been introduced in direct response to a survey carried out amongst residents to find out how the council could make recycling easier.

For more information on the recycling service call 443 2400 or visit www.knowsley.gov.uk/recycling

Recycle for Knowsley – More Bin – Less Effort

www.knowsley.gov.uk
Crime is down by a massive 29% in Knowsley thanks to the effort of the police, the council, its partners and residents. The drop in crime is the biggest in the North West and the Safer Knowsley Partnership held an awards ceremony at the Suites Hotel Kirkby to celebrate this achievement and the courage and determination of local people. Award winners included a couple who stood up against anti-social behaviour, a football project to engage young people at risk of getting into trouble and a police operation to crack down on repeat burglaries.

Steve Agger, Knowsley’s Assistant Chief Executive for Crime and Disorder said: “The courage, commitment, innovation and professionalism of people who live and work in the borough never fails to inspire me.”

“It is right that we recognise and celebrate the superb achievements of those who have contributed to such significant reductions in crime and have done so much to enhance the reputation of Knowsley”.

“Our aim now is to build on what we have achieved and move forward to continue this extremely important work.”

The Safer Knowsley Partnership brings together Merseyside Police, Merseyside Police Authority, Knowsley Council, Knowsley Primary Care Trust and Merseyside Fire and Rescue. It was officially launched at the awards ceremony, along with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan for the coming year.

The partnership has six key priorities for the year:

• Reassuring people and reducing the fear of crime
• Targeting persistent offenders
• Tackling the supply and use of drugs
• Maintaining the reduction in burglaries and vehicle crime
• Addressing violent crime
• Developing positive activities for young people

If you do become a victim of crime, help is only a phone call away:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Hotline
  443 2000
  0800 953 4433

- Race Hate & Domestic Violence Hotline
  548 3333
  0800 955 111

- Knowsley Domestic Violence Services
- Crimestoppers

The Local Operational Group in Stockbridge Village won an award for bringing the Kickz football project to the area. The project is the brainchild of the Football Foundation and is aimed at young people who might be at risk of getting into trouble. The project attracted more than 60 young people aged 12 to 19, engaging them with police officers and football professionals as well as other teenagers.

The success of the Kickz project in Stockbridge Village led to the development of a Youth Forum and Liverpool FC’s Sweeper Zone Project.
The Bengali Association of Merseyside and the North of England is holding its annual festival at the Kirkby Suite in October.

The event runs from 6-9 October and is held to celebrate the Hindu festival Durga Puja (Durga meaning ‘mother, Supreme Goddess’ and Puja meaning ‘worship’).

The event has taken place in Kirkby for the last 29 years. With its fantastic transport links and accessible amenities Kirkby was chosen as the location of choice after the celebrations grew year on year. Originally held at the Kirkby sports centre the celebrations moved, last year, to the Kirkby Suite.

Dr Ghose, Secretary of the Bengali Association of Merseyside and North of England said:

“This festival is one of the most important festivals in the Hindu calendar and is celebrated by Hindus across India and across the world over four consecutive days.

“Last year’s celebration in the Kirkby Suite was particularly special as we had moved to a new venue. The Kirkby Suite was such a marvellous place to hold the festival we hope we can continue there for many years to come.”

The Puja itself begins with morning prayer from 1:30am, with afternoon prayer taking place between 2 and 4pm and evening prayer at 7 to 10pm. After each prayer session fruit is blessed and offered up to the goddess, this fruit is then shared amongst the people attending. At the end of each prayer session the congregation are then invited to touch the plate of fire and then their head as a symbol of purity.

Between the prayer sessions schools are invited to attend and take part in the festival providing children with a valuable cultural experience. Last year schools learned about prayer and had the opportunity to wear saris and bang the drum.

Everyone is welcome to come along and take part in celebrating Durga Puja and enjoy this fabulous festival.

The Association also holds cultural events all year round to promote social integration.

For more information visit: www.liverpoolpuja.com
Building on last year’s success, which saw Knowsley’s parks and open spaces used by 20% more families during the summer holidays, SafeSpace will introduce a high visibility police and council warden presence in the parks to act as a deterrent and reassuring presence.

SafeSpace 2007 also sparked a 10% drop in anti-social behaviour incidents across the borough and a 50% reduction of litter in parks and open spaces. It is managed by the Safer Knowsley Partnership, which includes Merseyside Police, Merseyside Police Authority, Knowsley Council, Health and Fire Service.

Cllr Jackie Harris, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Social Inclusion said: “Attractive and safe parks bring positive social and environmental benefits to communities. Parks are great places for children to play, to discover and to explore. They give everyone the opportunity to come together and enjoy their surroundings.”

“We want all communities to be proud of their neighbourhoods. By working together, parks will regain their place at the heart of thriving communities and we would encourage local communities to make greater use of their parks.”

“Throughout the summer, we will be working with young people to deliver a programme of diversionary activities to prevent incidents of anti-social behaviour occurring in the first place.”

In Knowsley, SafeSpace aims to:
• Create attractive and welcoming parks, play areas and public spaces
• Improve the physical fabric and infrastructure of open places
• Make open spaces cleaner and maintaining them better
• Make open spaces safer and tackle anti-social behaviour
• Engage and empower local people by getting them involved in activities
• Cater for children and young people and tackle inequalities.

Improving people’s lives is at the centre of everything Knowsley Council does. It is a vision that drives the daily work of the council.

That’s why Knowsley is promising to deliver and achieve even more during the next three years.

Knowsley Council’s new 2008/11 corporate plan outlines the priorities in full and can be viewed online at: www.knowsley.gov.uk

The next four pages provide a summary of the main priorities and what has already been achieved.

Leader of Knowsley Council, Cllr Ron Round said: “This plan sets out the challenges ahead as well as the successes we have achieved.”

“We have already gone some way to make Knowsley a great place to live, work and visit but we want to build on this and make Knowsley a prosperous and healthy place with opportunities for all.”

“The services we deliver will be tailored to respond to the needs of everyone within the borough and we aim for excellence in everything we do.”
Our priorities

The priorities have been agreed in consultation with the Knowsley Partnership, which is made up of public, private, voluntary and community sector representatives.

Every child matters

Together we will make sure children and young people:

• Are healthy
• Stay safe
• Enjoy and achieve
• Make a positive contribution
• Achieve economic well-being.

So far, we have:

• Started work on a £150m scheme to rebuild all the borough’s secondary schools by 2010
• Launched the Safeguarding Children Board to oversee the safety of children and young people
• Helped more than 2,000 children gain work experience
• Established 13 children’s centres
• Achieved an increase in 5 A*-C GCSE pass rates of 15.2%, with 51% of young people achieving this.

Knowsley believes the successes achieved and future work will help all the borough’s children and young people maximise their potential in health, education and their chosen careers.

So far, we have:

• Continued to reduce road death – down by 15%
• Improved recycling by 25% and introduced a new recycling service in June
• Cut crime by 29% - almost double the average reduction in the North West
• Reduced the number of missed bins by 70%
• Six of the borough’s parks have achieved Green Flag status for quality
• Signed the Nottingham Declaration – a voluntary pledge to tackle climate change
• Opened the new Kirkby Sports Centre, which has since been given a Quest award along with Halewood and Huyton Leisure Centres in recognition of the quality of its services.

A safer and stronger Knowsley

Together we will:

• Make it easier for people to access the services they need
• Make residents feel proud to live in the borough because of improved housing, safety and environments
• Reduce, re-use and recycle more waste
• Reduce crime, re-offending, anti-social behaviour and drug crime while increasing respect
• Improve cultural and sporting activities
• Create a borough where there are improved and more environmentally-friendly types of transport and reduced congestion.
A healthy, independent Knowsley

Together we will:
- Reduce the harm from smoking, alcohol and drug misuse
- Improve the health and well being of all residents, including children, parents and families
- Make sure vulnerable people have good access to housing, special accommodation and employment
- Support all people in need of care to make sure they have greater control over the services and care they want.

So far, we have:
- Achieved a 25% reduction in teenager pregnancy rates
- Support all people in need of care to make sure they have greater control over their employment
- Make sure vulnerable people have good access to housing, special accommodation
- Improve the health and well being of all residents, including children, parents and families
- Reduce the harm from smoking, alcohol and drug misuse

Together we will:

A prosperous Knowsley

Together we will:
- Increase economic growth
- Improve people’s skills for employment
- Increase the proportion of people who are economically active
- Encourage enterprise, particularly among disadvantaged communities.

So far, we have:
- Supported 2,102 Knowsley people into jobs through the Knowsley Works programme
- Achieved the highest reduction in unemployment on Merseyside
- Achieved the highest reduction in long-term unemployment on Merseyside
- Achieved the highest reduction in child poverty on Merseyside
- Achieved the highest reduction in the number of people living in poverty across the borough

A group of local residents who got together to improve their area have won a prestigious award.

The United Residents Association was formed just over a year ago to tackle local issues and bring together like-minded people.

They have made a real difference to the area and recently won the United Communities Award in the Spirit of Merseyside Awards night for the Community Foundation for Merseyside.

It was presented to Ruth Potter and Yvonne Hodgson, who helped set the group up, at a special ceremony at the Liverpool Echo Arena.

The association have tackled fly-tipping and graffiti and have arranged a variety of activities for local people that have led to a fall in anti-social behaviour in the Woodlands Road area of Huyton.

Their work continues and on 23 August they will be holding a fun day on Merton Crescent field, next to the community centre.

Anyone interested in getting involved in an existing residents group or starting a group of their own should contact the Community Development team on 443 9853.

South Huyton

In your neighbourhood

Action by residents wins award

Serving Roby well

The volunteers from St Bartholomew’s Church who set up the Roby Serve action service have won an award.

The group carry out an annual week of activities for local people that have led to a fall in anti-social behaviour in the area.

A tidy-up of the church and Alley gates are being installed at the back of Woodlands Road and Craigwood Way and fencing is being put up to prevent incidents of crime, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.

If you need a smoke alarm or your current one needs replacing, you can contact Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 731 5958, for a free evaluation and free smoke alarms.

Walking the walk

A local scout troop raised £2,000 for the Zoe’s Place Baby Hospice by taking part in a ten mile midnight walk.

The 13th Knowsley Scout Group walked from Zoe’s Place in West Derby to Zoe’s Place in Fazakerley.

Twenty scouts aged between 11 and 16 years took part.

The group are based behind St Michael’s Church in Huyton and are always looking for new members.

Anyone interested can contact Janet Flynn on 07843 969290.
North Huyton

Kickz Goals thru football diary:

In just a year the Kickz football project in Stockbridge Village has trained up more than 50 12-19 year olds to be the next Steve Gerrard. All the youngsters have had the privilege of professional coaching from Liverpool and Everton Football Clubs.

The aim of the project is to open up opportunities to young people and to help them from falling into behaviour that could lead to crime.

There are two football sessions at Heatwaves Leisure Centre on Monday and Thursday 5pm –7pm. Friday night it’s ‘The Hustle’ where people can try other sports, arts and social activities.

If you would like more information on Kickz or would like to take part phone Patrick Goodison, 443 5855.

South Kirkby

Everybody needs good neighbours

Residents in Southdene celebrated European Good Neighbours Day with a special event at the community centre.

Organised by Arena Housing, with support from Knowsley Council’s community development workers and Knowsley Housing Trust, the day promoted the facilities at the newly-refurbished centre.

Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Well Being service and David Lloyd Leisure Centre all attended the event. Local children took part in a number of craft activities and produced a colourful mural to mark the day.

Residents completed surveys giving their views on what they thought should be in a Good Neighbour Agreement.

21st Century Learning

Education is changing for schools in the North Huyton Learning Collaborative (NHLC).

Since 2008 NHLC schools have introduced a number of ways for children to develop their skills in communication, application of number, information, communication and technology, working with others, improving their own learning and performance and problem solving.

These key skills will help them to be confident and successful in school, work and life in general.

St Albert’s, St Dominic’s and St Aloysius are using the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) to teach these new skills. IPC has been used in over 300 schools and 44 countries and has been so successful at St Aloysius that the international conference will be held at the school in November.

The success of teaching these key skills has had a positive impact on children, school staff, parents and carers. St Aloysius Head teacher Belinda Bannett said: “Children are becoming confident independent learners, staff are inspired and there is a true partnership between home and school.”

Kirkby memories

As part of the Unlocking Knowsley’s Hidden Gems Southdene Community Penitentiary Club have been on a walk down memory lane.

Unlocking Knowsley’s Hidden Gems is an exploration and celebration of Knowsley’s heritage organised by Knowsley Council’s Museum and Heritage service.

The Penitentiary Club has taken part in workshops which give the opportunity to share with others their thoughts, photos, stories and experiences of life in Kirkby. They have also shared their memories of life before coming to Kirkby. For some it was memories of Liverpool and experiences of World War II. Many of them came to a completely different culture when they moved to Kirkby new town in the 1950s.

All of the memories are being collated and will contribute to the development of banners that will be designed and showcased throughout the Kirkby area.
**Mill Farm Makeover**

A piece of empty land at Mill Farm Adventure Playground has undergone a makeover. Radio station Juice FM, with additional sponsorship from Adidas, arranged for the land to be re-turfed and levelled to create a football games area. Part of the land was also planted with apple, cherry and plum trees as well as shrubs and a new seating area was installed. An allotment was created nearby, where children are now growing their own fruit and vegetables. The transformation was achieved with help and support from students at Myerscough College, West Lancashire, parents and children who use Mill Farm and local wardens.

**North Kirkby**

**Fairhaven flowers**

The residents of Fairhaven are enjoying a new shared space, filled with summer colour, following the creation of a new flower bed and bench. The area was identified for a ‘Street Smart’ initiative, and the work was carried out using Community Challenge funding. A committee was set up that will enable further projects to be developed in the future. Rob Allen, Area Development Officer, said: “The residents have made this happen. They wanted to brighten the place up and open up the opportunity for people to talk about ideas and look at ways of doing things together as a community.” From a small idea they have visited the National Wildflower Centre twice, learnt how to make hanging baskets, created their own committee and have a fantastic communal area they can all look after together. It’s fantastic to see how they have worked together with partner agencies. All in all, a great partnership effort!”

Local councillors were involved in the scheme along with Knowsley Council officers, Knowsley Housing Trust, Landlife and young volunteers from Prescot Oasis Centre Ltd.

**Health Group**

Northwood Health Focus group has been awarded cash from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants for Health fund. The group plans to use the funding to run a 10 week aerobic programme along with 10 weeks of dance sessions. Members are going to take fitness tests at the beginning and end of the 10 weeks, to measure improvement.

The group was formed in September last year with help from Jeff Sayers, Knowsley Council Community Development Worker, and Joanne Cotter, Community Development Worker with Knowsley PCT. They aim to promote healthy living and mental wellbeing in the Northwood area and provide physical and educational activities to raise awareness in the community.

**Drugs warrants executed**

Officers from Merseyside Police executed three warrants on 5 June, at three addresses in north Kirkby.

One man was issued with a caution for possession of cannabis. Whilst no drugs were recovered at either of these properties, it sends out a clear message to communities that the police are taking action and responding to community information.

**Northwood**

**Healthy food on your doorstep**

A van taking fresh fruit and vegetables to the Raven Court area of Halewood has proved a big success. The Veggie Van is a not-for-profit community project, which provides fruit and veg at affordable prices.

The van has been doing twice weekly runs to Raven Court while the shopping area undergoes a major redevelopment. The van comes on Tuesdays from 10.30-12pm and on Thursdays from 9.30-12pm. The Thursday run coincides with a visit from a delivering fresh meal, so residents can buy all the ingredients they need to make a nutritious meal.

Louise Melton is project co-ordinator of the Veggie Van and is delighted at the success of the Halewood operation. She said: “The response to this has been fantastic. Everybody is full of praise for both the produce and the fact it is brought almost to their doorssteps.”

“A goal is to encourage all who live and work in Knowsley to take up healthy eating and adopt healthier lifestyles. All our fruit and veg is bought fresh and as locally as possible.”

The Veggie Van is funded by Knowsley Primary Care Trust and was launched in 2004 with one van and two employees. Due to popularity the Veggie Van has now expanded and has two vans, two volunteers, four employees and an office based in Huyton.

**Get on your bike**

Pedal Away is a four year project managed by Cycling Project, a leading charity promoting cycling for all. Funded by the Big Lottery and part of the Target Well Being initiative, the project creates, promotes and delivers cycling initiatives across Knowsley. Activities include community cycling groups, health rides, family rides, cycling picnics, Bike Doctor sessions (help in getting your bike fixed), disability cycling and much more.

Pedal Away is also co-ordinating a summer programme of cycle rides, exploring some of the greener parts of the borough. The rides are easy going with a theme of enjoyment and bicycles are available for use on these rides.

There are two of these rides planned for this area, at Halewood Park, on 7 August and 4 September. For more information or to book a place, call 0151 2342123 or Steve Carson on 443 2230.

**Pedal Away**

A piece of empty land at Mill Farm Adventure Playground has undergone a makeover. Radio station Juice FM, with additional sponsorship from Adidas, arranged for the land to be re-turfed and levelled to create a football games area. Part of the land was also planted with apple, cherry and plum trees as well as shrubs and a new seating area was installed. An allotment was created nearby, where children are now growing their own fruit and vegetables. The transformation was achieved with help and support from students at Myerscough College, West Lancashire, parents and children who use Mill Farm and local wardens.

**Fairhaven flowers**

The residents of Fairhaven are enjoying a new shared space, filled with summer colour, following the creation of a new flower bed and bench. The area was identified for a ‘Street Smart’ initiative, and the work was carried out using Community Challenge funding. A committee was set up that will enable further projects to be developed in the future. Rob Allen, Area Development Officer, said: “The residents have made this happen. They wanted to brighten the place up and open up the opportunity for people to talk about ideas and look at ways of doing things together as a community.” From a small idea they have visited the National Wildflower Centre twice, learnt how to make hanging baskets, created their own committee and have a fantastic communal area they can all look after together. It’s fantastic to see how they have worked together with partner agencies. All in all, a great partnership effort!”

Local councillors were involved in the scheme along with Knowsley Council officers, Knowsley Housing Trust, Landlife and young volunteers from Prescot Oasis Centre Ltd.

**Health Group**

Northwood Health Focus group has been awarded cash from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants for Health fund. The group plans to use the funding to run a 10 week aerobic programme along with 10 weeks of dance sessions. Members are going to take fitness tests at the beginning and end of the 10 weeks, to measure improvement.

The group was formed in September last year with help from Jeff Sayers, Knowsley Council Community Development Worker, and Joanne Cotter, Community Development Worker with Knowsley PCT. They aim to promote healthy living and mental wellbeing in the Northwood area and provide physical and educational activities to raise awareness in the community.

**Drugs warrants executed**

Officers from Merseyside Police executed three warrants on 5 June, at three addresses in north Kirkby.

One man was issued with a caution for possession of cannabis. Whilst no drugs were recovered at either of these properties, it sends out a clear message to communities that the police are taking action and responding to community information.

**Northwood**

**Healthy food on your doorstep**

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“Haynes Owners Manual for Knowsley Man”, based on the famous car maintenance manuals, was distributed to them as part of Knowsley’s Working Well Programme. The guide gives readers advice on a range of issues including male cancers, heart disease, weight problems and blood pressure. They also receive advice on how to get the problems “repaired.”

Cllr Ken Keith, Knowsley Council’s Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services said: “We are targeting male taxi drivers with this initiative because we recognise there are a number of factors about their work which could contribute to poor health.”

“We want to do all that we can to improve the health and lifestyle of people working in the borough through Working Well and realising that men are often unwilling to visit their GPs for routine health checks, we handed out this manual to try to educate them more about men’s health issues.”

Diana Forrest, Director of Public Health for Knowsley said: “This manual is written in a style which we hope will attract local men, and help them to understand the health issues which affect them.”

The Working Well Programme - a project being led by Knowsley Council’s Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Team in conjunction with Knowsley NHS Primary Care Trust - aims to improve the health of the borough’s workforce and support businesses in fulfilling their duties under health and safety legislation. The project also helps businesses provide occupational health benefits to their employees, such as discounted gym memberships and quit smoking services. Businessess wanting more information can phone 463 4723.

KNOWSLEY FLAGS UP CABBIES’ HEALTH

Taxi and private hire drivers in Knowsley have been given a free copy of a special motoring manual, as part of an initiative to mark Men’s Health Week.

Cronton Gala revival is big success

Record crowds turned out for the revival of Cronton’s traditional summer gala.

Local people were joined by visitors from further afield as they gathered for all sorts of activities on Cronton pasture. Several popular attractions from last year were back, including scarecrow and fancy dress competitions, a fairground organ, tug of war, face painting and craft and fundraising stalls. There were some new stalls and activities, such as a barbecue, bean tent, card making, drench the wench, police horses and displays by Cronton’s own Funky Feet Dancers and a choir from the two primary schools. Congratulations go out to the Gala Committee of local residents who worked tirelessly to organise the event, which was part funded through their Santa Claus Tour and coffee morning.

Fundraising on the day of this year’s gala was also extremely successful and will give a good start towards the 2009 event.

Photo ‘Cronton Gala Diver’ overall winner of the Scarecrow Competition

Cleaning up Pex Hill

Team work pulled off a clean up of local beauty spot Pex Hill.

Local residents from Cronton and Widnes joined up with council staff and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) for the event. The event was supported by Cronton Cleanup Campaign, along with the BTCV and Knowsley Council’s Pride team.

A grand day out

There was fun for all the family at the Knowsley Village Community Gala Day.

The event was held at Knowsley Village Primary School, organised by the parent teachers association. Among the attractions were fairground rides, hanging basket making, face painting, wild animal show, a local art exhibition and fundraising bingo. The event was supported by Knowsley Village Community Association, Knowsley Housing Trust, Knowsley Council, Knowsley Village Council and Knowsley Women’s Parish Guild.

In your neighbourhood

Prescot, Whiston, Cronton and Knowsley Village

Cronton Gala revival is big success

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From wild flowers to football, to ethnic paintings to circus tricks, it’s all on offer this summer in Knowsley. There are more activities on offer than ever providing an opportunity to have new experiences and enjoy a wealth of sports, arts, festivals and events as part of this year’s Capital of Culture celebrations without having to leave Knowsley.

Already this summer, we have had a wealth of events and festivals. Last month saw the return of the Theatre in the Park with an all-new outdoor production of Lewis Carroll’s classic tale, Alice in Wonderland at Stadt Moers Park.

Still to come on the calendar is the 10th Knowsley Flower Show (10 Aug), which not only offers budding gardeners the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes, but fantastic attractions including the ‘Youth Arts Friendship Field’ with live music and the chance to master circus skills.

Why not enjoy the wealth of art that is being exhibited. Huyton gallery is showing work from Liverpool born and London based artist Chila (until 17 Aug) whose playful and thought provoking art works draw on diverse cultural sources.

To keep active and get healthy this summer go down to your local leisure centre. There is plenty on offer including free swims for juniors, fun pool sessions, crash course swimming lessons and free active gym sessions for 12–15 year olds. There are also football camps, rugby camps and multi-sports camps.

Cllr Eddie Connor, Knowsley’s Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture said: “There’s something for everyone from small events in the local park or library, to events that attract visitors from across the UK such as the Knowsley Flower Show. Participation is a major part of the programme, there are opportunities to dance, act, sing, compete in sports tournaments and even the chance to get your art work on display.

“There are exciting opportunities to experience activities you might never have done before. We want our cultural programme to leave a legacy of improving people’s lives, whether it’s seeing your first classical concert or learning a skill that opens up a new hobby or even leads to a career.”

This is just a flavour – copies of the Knowsley ’08 event brochure can be found in libraries, one stop shops and at events or you can log on to: www.visitknowsley.com

This summer’s highlights:

Knowsley Junior Coarse Fishing Festival
7 Aug
Halshead Park, Prescot

Knowsley Flower Show
10 Aug
National Wildflower Centre, Court Hey Park, Huyton

About Face
11 Aug 2008 to 2 Nov 2008
Kirkby Gallery

Chila Kumari Burman
Until 17 Aug 2008
Huyton Gallery
The summer has begun and as you look forward to your week abroad or keep your fingers crossed for good weather a bit closer to home do you ever think about the effects the sun can have on your health?

Sun protection is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and vulnerable to the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation. Keeping your eye out for SunSmart Campaign posters and leaflets in GP practices, libraries, leisure centres and schools throughout the borough. For more information about the importance of sun safety and how adults and children can protect themselves from the sun visit www.sunsmart.org.uk

It’s important that everyone tries to be safer in the sun, both on holiday and at home and protects against skin cancer this summer.

How to be SunSmart:
1. Spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm
2. Make sure you never burn
3. Aim to cover up with a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses
4. Remember to take extra care with children
5. Then use factor 15+ sunscreen

The good news is that the majority of skin cancers can be prevented if you protect yourself from the sun. Getting burnt can double your chances of getting skin cancer, so it’s really important everyone follows the SunSmart code which highlights five important ways to protect your skin when in the sun.

Keep your eye out for SunSmart of skin cancers can be prevented if you without delay.

You should also report mole changes to your GP within 24 hours.

You can protect yourself from the sun. If you have a mole which looks different than the others on your body it is important that you talk to your doctor.

For more information visit www.knowsley.gov.uk or email customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk
Until 17 August 2008

Chila Kumari Burman
Venue: Hoyton Gallery, Hoyton Library, Civic Way
Liverpool born artist Chila will be exhibiting her playful and thought provoking art works. Contact: Jo Dry/Sarah Craven
Phone: 443 5617

Until 31 October 2008

The Way We Watched
Venue: Prescot Museum, 34 Church Street, Prescot
The Way We Watched explores children’s TV from the 1950s until the late 1980s. The Way We Watched is the biggest celebration of contemporary art to take place in the country. It involves the local community and schools to create the exhibition. Contact: Jo Dry / Sarah Craven
Phone: 443 5617

AUGUST

6 August 2008
Bug Hunt
Venue: Acrefield Local Nature Reserve, Spixney Road, Kirkby
Contact: Kirkby Ranger
Phone: 443 3682

6 August 2008
Bug Hunt
Venue: Sted Moors Park, Pottery Lane Whiston
Contact: Tony Hearn
Phone: 489 1239

7 August 2008
Bug Hunt
Venue: Halsewood Park, Okell Drive, Halsewood
Contact: Halbylden Ranger
Phone: 488 6151

8 August 2008
Knowsley Junior Cease Fishing Festival
Venue: Mill Farm
This is the chance to sample the waters of Mill Farm big lake, which is renowned for quality fishing. Cost: £4.50
Contact: Steve Guy
Phone: 443 2153

10 August 2008
Knowsley Flower Show
Venue: Times
Venue: Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Hoyton
The 10th Knowsley Flower Show is affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society and is one of the largest free horticultural shows in the North West. On site parking is limited - free bus service from Hoyton town centre bus station and Bowling Park Golf Course.
Contact: Lisa Corkhill
Phone: 443 2155

11 August - 2 November 2008
About Face
Venue: Kirkby Gallery Library, Newton Gardens, Kirkby
This will be a fantastic and exciting display of images in all medium by people of all ages. People will be working with artists in lots of different venues from early year’s settings and schools to residential homes to create this stunning display.
Contact: Jo Dry / Sarah Craven
Phone: 443 5617

11-15 August 2008
Knowsley Hall Open Days
Venue: Knowsley Hall, Prescot, Merseyside
A rare chance to see the inside of Knowsley Hall, home to the Earl of Derby since 1385. Tours running from 10am to 4pm [must be booked in advance]
Contact: Knowsley Hall
Phone: 443 3682

13 August 2008
Mersey Community Youth Games
Venue: Times
Venue: Wavertree Sports Complex
Knowsley will be sending a team of 150 young people to join 600 young people across Merseyside. They will take part in competitions and spot taster sessions.
Contact: Sports Development Team
Phone: 443 6349

13 August 2008
Mersey Community Youth Games
Venue: Times
Venue: Wavertree Sports Complex
Contact: Knowsley Hall
Phone: 443 3682

1 September 2008 - 30 November 2008
Biennial

6 September 2008
Hoyton Library, Civic Way, Hoyton
Liverpool Biennial is the biggest celebration of contemporary art to take place in the country. It involves the local community and schools to create the exhibition. Contact: Jo Dry / Sarah Craven
Phone: 443 5617

7 September 2008
Halewood Country Show
Venue: Halewood Park, Okell Drive, Halewood
Birds of prey and dog display teams, traditional country crafts including charcoal making, bodging, willow weaving and thatching, plus circus skills workshop, face painting and arts and craft activities.
Contact: Halewood Ranger
Phone: 488 6151

13 September 2008
Pet Show
Venue: Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Hoyton
Contact: Hoyton Ranger
Phone: 443 3682

14 September 2008
The Viking Trail
Venue: Times
Venue: Millbrook Park, Millbrook Millennium Green, Old Hall Lane, Kirkby
Follow the trail of the Vikings in this historic parkland area and learn about the past.
Contact: Kirkby Ranger
Phone: 443 3682

14 September 2008
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Venue: Times
Venue: Millbrook Park, Millbrook Millennium Green, Old Hall Lane, Kirkby
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Phone: 443 3682

ST GREGORYS CHURCH HILLSDALE ROAD, HOYTON
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

SEPTMBER

1 September 2008 – 30 November 2008

High Impact Youth Theatre
Time: Every Monday - 7-11 yrs: 5.30-7.30pm / 12-18 yrs: 7.15-9pm
Venue: St Georges Church Hall, Hillside Road, Hoyton
Price: £1 per session
Weekly children’s and youth theatre sessions
Contact: Learn at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

Halewood Youth Theatre
Time: Every Tuesday 6-8pm
Venue: Halewood College, The Avenue, Halewood
Contact: Learn at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

Hoyton Gallery Art Club
Time: Every Thursday 4-5.30pm
Venue: Hoyton Gallery, Hoyton Library, Civic Way, Hoyton
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

Kirkby Youth Theatre
Time: Every Monday – 7-11 yrs: 5.30-7.30pm / 12-18 yrs: 7.15-9pm
Venue: Kirkby Gallery, Kirkby Library, Newton Gardens, Kirkby
Price: £1 per session
Weekly art club for 8-12 year olds
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

ST GREGORYS CHURCH HILLSDALE ROAD, HOYTON
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

Sunday Funday
Time: Every Sunday 2-4pm
Venue: Prescot Museum
Price: FREE
Drop in make and take art workshops
Contact: Iain Morley on 430 7787.

Hustle – Street Dance
Time: Every Saturday 5-7pm
Venue: Halewood Leisure Centre, Baileys Lane, Halewood
Price: FREE
Weekly street dance session for 12+
Contact: Leanne at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

LITTLE FEET AND STREET FEET
Time: Every Friday - 5-7 yrs: 4.30-5.30pm / 8-12 yrs: 5.30pm - 7pm / 12+: 7-8.30pm
Venue: King George V Sports Complex, Longview Lane, Hoyton
Price: £1.50 per session
Weekly street dance sessions for children and young people
Contact: Learn at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Halewood Youth Theatre
Time: Every Tuesday 4-5.30pm
Venue: Halewood College, The Avenue, Halewood
Contact: Learn at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

Knowsley Arts Service
Weekly children’s and youth theatre sessions
Contact: Learn at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

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Time: Every Monday – 7-11 yrs: 5.30-7.30pm / 12-18 yrs: 7.15-9pm
Venue: Kirkby Gallery, Kirkby Library, Newton Gardens, Kirkby
Price: £1 per session
Weekly art club for 8-12 year olds
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

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Time: Every Thursday 4-5.30pm
Venue: Hoyton Gallery, Hoyton Library, Civic Way, Hoyton
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.

Kirkby Youth Theatre
Time: Every Monday – 7-11 yrs: 5.30-7.30pm / 12-18 yrs: 7.15-9pm
Venue: Kirkby Gallery, Kirkby Library, Newton Gardens, Kirkby
Price: £1 per session
Weekly art club for 8-12 year olds
Contact: Jo or Sarah at Knowsley Arts Service on 443 5619.
Green prize

As Knowsley’s new recycling service gets into full gear, we have a competition that gives you the chance to show just how much you know about our new service.

In the borough we now have three refuse bins, grey, blue and maroon.
Can you tell us what type of refuse goes into each bin?
If your correct answer gets pulled out first, you will win a wind-up radio that will enable you to keep up with the latest news, views and music and do your bit for the environment.

Answers to Knowsley News recycling competition, PO Box 21, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9YU. Closing date Monday 1 September.