

A COUNCIL MAGAZINE FOR RESIDENTS OF HALEWOOD, HUYTON, KIRKBY, PRESCOT, WHISTON AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Issue 5 Spring 2006

# Knowsley

NEWS

[www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)

## NUMBER'S UP FOR MOBILES

Councillors back  
school phone ban

PLUS  
**BOROUGH'S EMPLOYMENT DRIVE**  
**LATEST ON HUYTON'S NEW SHOPS**  
**WIN GRAND NATIONAL TICKETS**



Knowsl@ Council



# DYING FOR A DRINK?

Around 1,000 children under 15 are admitted to hospital each year in the UK with alcohol poisoning - some of these fatal.

**GIVE KIDS THE KNOCK BACK - HELP STOP UNDER-AGE DRINKING**

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## Welcome

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### Hello and welcome to Knowsley News.

This issue we focus on important work which will change thousands of people's lives in the borough for the better.

Much has been done to improve the employment rate in Knowsley and the launch of the Employment and Skills Strategy, highlighted in the Round Your Way section, can only help to build on that.

One of the aims of the strategy, a first for Knowsley and the country, is to help people on incapacity and disability benefit in the most deprived parts of the borough.

We know there are people who want to work but think their personal circumstances will prevent them doing so. And there are others who simply don't know where to go for advice.

This strategy will see the council working with employers to see if they can help residents in this situation, maybe by adapting their workplace or just by offering someone the chance to rebuild confidence and self-esteem.

This will help us achieve our goal to raise employment levels in Knowsley to 70% by the end of 2010.

I visited the registered charity Knowsley START in Huyton and was amazed by the dedication and commitment of the staff. They boast a success rate of 78% for getting people who are referred to them into education and employment – something they deserve a huge pat on the back for.

All this work is just another example of how people from the borough are working hard to push back the boundaries and make Knowsley an even better place to live.

Cllr Ron Round  
Leader of Knowsley Council

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 June. If you have any comments or feedback – or would like to write a letter for publication – please contact the editor, Gareth Roberts, at: **Knowsley News, Municipal Buildings, PO Box 21, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 9YU. Tel: 0151 443 3397. Fax: 0151 443 3507. Email: knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk.**

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**Knowsley**  
NEWS

**Borough in brief**

**Lotto joy**

EMPLOYEES from St Mary's Day Care Centre in Halewood recently scooped a Lotto jackpot of £530,969. The 21-strong syndicate included volunteers, carers, administrative staff and management. They bought the winning ticket at Threshers, Leathers Lane, Halewood. It's a double joy for the centre, which has benefited from a number of Lottery grants over the last four years, totalling more than £1m.

**Have your say**

MEET local councillors, council officers and people from other partner organisations at the latest round of Community Area Forums. All meetings start at 6pm:  
**14 March:** North Kirkby Area Forum, Kirkby Suite.  
**15 March:** North Huyton Area Forum, Huyton Suite  
**21 March:** South Kirkby Area Forum, Kirkby Suite.  
**22 March:** South Huyton Area Forum, Huyton Suite.  
**28 March:** Halewood Area Forum, Halewood College.  
**29 March:** Prescot/Whiston Area Forum, Prescot Leisure Centre.

**Facelift in Kirkby**

RESIDENTS have given the thumbs up to a clean-up scheme in Kirkby, after feedback said they had noticed a 'definite improvement'. The Facelift campaign ran for eight weeks and included graffiti removal, weed scraping, footpath sweeping and litter picks. Council officers, neighbourhood wardens and members of the community all pitched in as part of the Knowsley Pride campaign, which aims to make Knowsley the cleanest, greenest borough in the country. Plans are now being made to extend the campaign to other parts of the borough.



# BOROUGH BACKS BAN ON PHONES

**SPECIAL REPORT** by Vicki Gianelli

SCHOOLS in Knowsley have been advised to ban mobile phones, after statistics showed that children are five times more likely to be victims of mobile phone theft than adults.

Police statistics show 15% of mobile phone thefts across Merseyside were in Knowsley, with many taking place around school gates.

Borough councillors backed the move, after the council consulted headteachers and pupils to develop new guidelines which

recommend a total ban in primary schools and limited use in secondary schools.

Cllr Graham Wright, Chair of Knowsley's Education, Training and Culture Scrutiny Committee, said: "It was clear from the responses of headteachers and pupils that there was support for a total ban on mobile phones in primary schools. Secondary schools requested more flexibility for students who need a phone for personal safety reasons when travelling to and from school and

we have responded to that in formulating the guidelines."

Gill Price, Head of St Brigid's Primary School in Stockbridge Village, welcomed the new guidelines. Her school had already adopted a mobile phone ban. She said: "Our policy has always been a total ban of mobile phones from the outset. I am pleased to see the guidelines adhered to borough-wide as they lend support to schools and help to get the right message across."

## LAUNCH OF ACTION ON ALCOHOL ABUSE

A RANGE of initiatives have been launched in a bid to beat booze-related problems in Knowsley. A hard-hitting advertising campaign from the Police and Knowsley Council highlights a crackdown on people buying alcohol for kids. Posters will warn it is a criminal offence to buy alcohol for under-18s and that this can result in a fine of £5,000. Council officers have also carried out spot checks on pubs, clubs and off-licenses. Initiatives in the borough are supported by Knowsley's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. A seminar for young people has already helped to educate school children on the effects of alcohol abuse. It's all part of the Government's aim to target alcohol-related harm without ruining people's enjoyment.

## Going Green

PUPILS at Brookside Community School in Stockbridge Village were amongst the first to go green in a new recycling initiative – Recycling Rewards for Schools.

Knowsley Council is offering prizes for primary schools whose pupils encourage family and friends to pledge to recycle. Pledges are rewarded with points that can be exchanged for TVs, projectors, cameras, computers and musical instruments.

Pupils were given finger and wrist bands and vouchers for theme parks for pledges. Lakes for six pledges. The pupil who collects the most pledges is rewarded with a mini MP3 player.

Cllr Bob Swann, Knowsley Council's Cabinet Member for Environmental and Operational Services, said: "We must all learn to recycle to help preserve the environment for our children. Households who sign a pledge are showing their commitment to use our recycling services regularly, which also benefits the school."



# MAKING A TOWER OF STRENGTH

RESIDENTS have had their say on the second stage of a project which aims to breathe new life into a Knowsley neighbourhood.

The Transforming Tower Hill programme aims to create a safe, attractive and quality place to live.

Proposals include the creation of a redesigned, safe, tree-lined urban park, along with new housing, well-lit roads and footpaths.

The park will include facilities for young people and will be designed to reduce anti-social behaviour and provide a new heart to the Tower Hill community.

These investments, and the refurbishment work already underway, make up a multimillion-pound programme of works that started in 2004.

A brand new LIFT health centre has already been opened, and a community centre is nearing completion. Future plans include more facilities for young people, better sports provision, improved transport links and extra childcare services.

Cllr Ron Round, Leader of Knowsley Council, said: "Our long term goal is to improve quality of life for each and every resident in Tower Hill, as indeed our new agenda Making A Difference to People's Lives includes every resident in Knowsley.

"Our aim is to literally transform the experience of living in Tower Hill by tackling a wide range of security, social and quality issues."

## Borough in brief

### IN OUR THOUGHTS

ONE of Knowsley Council's longest-serving councillors died in February. Councillor Margaret Flaherty served the St Bartholomews ward in Huyton for 25 years. She was Knowsley Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Social Inclusion. Cllr Ron Round, Leader of Knowsley Council, said: "Margaret will be greatly missed by her colleagues on the council and the community that she served for so many years." First elected in 1981, Cllr Flaherty was Mayor of Knowsley from 1995 to 1996. She was Chair of the council's Health, Development and Public Protection Committee from 1997 through to 2000.

### BENEFITS IN MINUTES

RESIDENTS who think they may be entitled to benefits can now find out in minutes with Knowsley Council's new online benefit calculator. The service at [www.knowsley.gov.uk/housing/](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/housing/) gives an approximate amount of benefit that users are entitled to. Those wishing to claim can contact any of the council's one stop shops, or call 443 4042.

### PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS

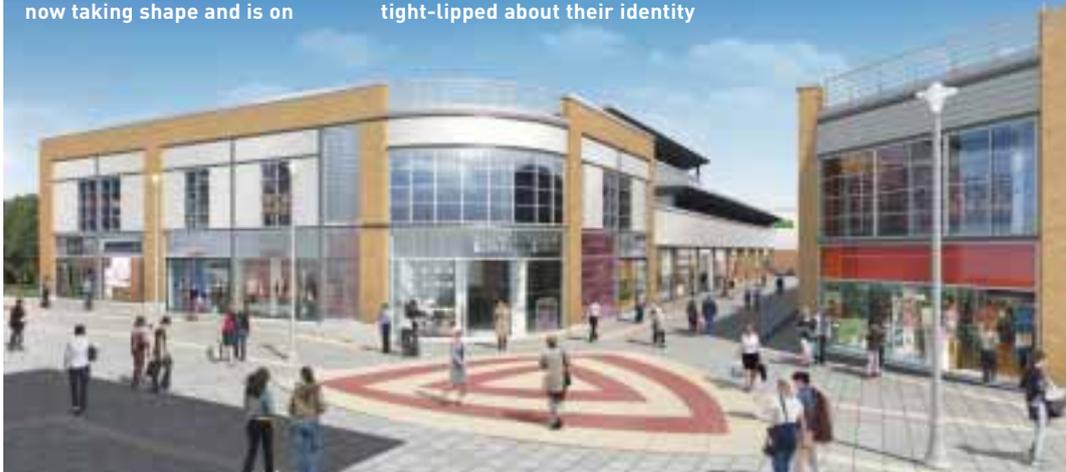
KNOWSLEY Partnership's Annual Report reveals improvements in education, changes in housing in the borough and latest developments in tackling crime and disorder. Due out shortly, summary leaflets will be available in one stop shops and libraries across the borough and the full document will be on Knowsley Council's website - [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk) If you require a copy please contact Heather Vaughan on 443 3054.

## A NEW LOOK HUYTON

THIS artist impression gives a sneak peek at how a new shopping complex in the centre of Huyton will look. The new 100,000 sq ft development is now taking shape and is on

course to be completed in July. It will feature 26 units and negotiations with major retailers are taking place but planning chiefs are keeping tight-lipped about their identity

until they are officially on board. High street value store Wilkinsons have confirmed they will occupy a huge 25,000 sq ft area in the centre.



## A shelter for learning

AN AIR-RAID shelter is helping Knowsley school children learn more about the past. Parents, staff and residents have turned an old air-raid shelter into a learning environment at Sylvester Primary School with the help of a £10,000 lottery grant. For the finishing touches, they are now asking residents to offer up any memorabilia from 1939-45. Sue Price, parent governor at the school, said: "This shelter is part of Knowsley's history, and offers us an opportunity to help our children understand what life was like during the Second World War. "We are asking everyone to search their cupboards, lofts and attics for anything that reflects what life was like for the people of Knowsley during the war." If you can help donate or loan articles, please contact Sue Price on 07812 925241.

HISTORY LESSON: Sylvester pupils turn back the clock at the air-raid shelter in the school's grounds.



# THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

**A REGENERATION programme which has helped breathe new life into an area in Kirkby is coming to an end after seven successful years.**

## Borough in brief

### Operation greyhound a success

A PIONEERING new blitz on anti-social crime on public transport is being hailed as a success.

Operation Greyhound was launched by The Knowsley Partnership, Merseytravel, the British Transport Police, Arriva and Stagecoach, to target hot-spots for three weeks using CCTV and sniffer dogs. Merseyside Police Chief Inspector Ian Valentine said: "Anti-social behaviour on buses is affecting our community and is causing some real distress. Working with our partners, we have launched Operation Greyhound as part of a long-term solution to these problems so that they can use public transport that is safer and more secure."

### New dawn for sunrise

A TEAM of dedicated youngsters have helped to refurbish a venue used by a parent/toddler support group for children with disabilities.

The Sunrise Club in Huyton received the makeover as part of the care leavers' employability project. Funded by the European Social Fund, it provides support to help young people in care, aged 16 to 24, to access education, training and employment in Knowsley.

### Use your postal vote

RESIDENTS who find it difficult getting to a polling station can apply to vote by post. Local elections are happening all over England on May 4 and everyone has a right to cast a vote. If you have not already applied for a postal vote, applications forms can be requested from the elections helpline (443 3602 / 3596) or by emailing elections@knowsley.gov.uk.

The Northwood Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Partnership secured £12million of funding in 1999 to improve the quality of life for local people. With the work of staff at Northwood House, over 400 jobs have since been created with 22 new business start-ups across Kirkby.

Ian Homard, Northwood SRB Partnership Manager, is pleased with the project's success. He said: "Our aim has been to develop new

relationships to involve local people, get residents into jobs and break down barriers to enhance engagement, attainment, aspirations and quality of life.

"A great deal of progress has been made since 1999 with substantial benefit to the community in Northwood. By improving the neighbourhood the market has confidence to develop here."

One group that benefited was the Kirkby branch of the Young

Women's Christian Association. Janet Gorey from the branch said: "Without funding and support from SRB we would not have been able to develop our service."

"We moved from a room in a health suite to a purpose-built building on Cherryfield Drive which includes a crèche, counselling rooms and IT suite. They really gave us our foundations and we owe them a massive thank you."

## Sign up to stop racism

RESIDENTS are being asked to show their support for the Knowsley Against Racism Campaign by signing a pledge card.

Cards will be available throughout the borough in council buildings, libraries, bus stations, police stations and other public areas. Window stickers will also let the public show their support for the campaign.

Launched by the council and its partners,

Knowsley Against Racism is a long-term strategy to challenge all forms of racial hatred in the borough. The pledge card campaign coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March.

Residents are encouraged to report any incidents of racism, in confidence, to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111, or the Mersey Racial Harassment Prevention Unit on 0800 138 1688.



# SCHOOLS WITH THE X-FACTOR

AN 'X-FACTOR' style competition is currently underway in Knowsley to choose the developer behind the borough's next generation of secondary schools. But instead of Sharon, Louis and Simon, Knowsley residents will select the winner.

It's all part of the Building Schools for the Future programme which aims to replace Knowsley's secondary schools with state-of-the-art learning centres.

Pupils, parents, teachers, governors and residents have been attending focus groups for the past few months to talk about what the new learning centres should be like.

They have also met the three consortia short-listed to design and build the centres, and assessed their ideas using a scoring system that



FOCUS GROUP: Luke Williamson and Lydia Morley, (Knowsley School Council), Alexandra Nicholson and Connor Macleod (Children's Parliament).

counts towards the final selection in August.

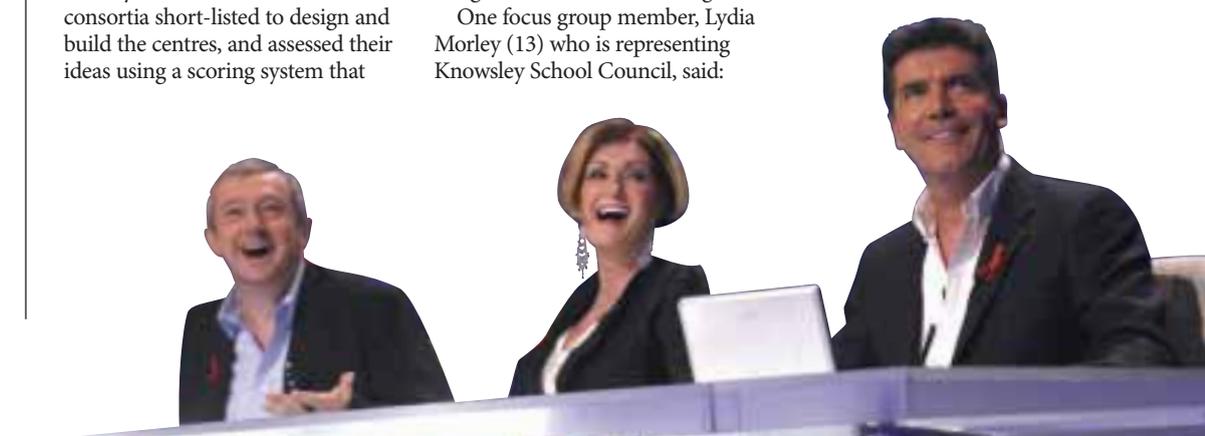
Focus group members have also been searching locally, nationally and abroad for examples of well-designed schools and buildings.

One focus group member, Lydia Morley (13) who is representing Knowsley School Council, said:

"Pupils don't usually get told things until they've been decided and if we disagree, there's no chance to change it. So this has been really good."

The plan is for building to take place over two phases, with the first four learning centres being completed by September 2008 and the rest a year later.

The three short-listed developers are; Transform Schools, a consortium led by Balfour Beatty Construction; Spirel, a consortium led by the AMEC Construction Group; Key Stage Solutions, a consortium led by the Alfred MacAlpine Group.



# Teams are taking pride

**SIX Neighbourhood Pride teams have been established in Knowsley to improve the way services are delivered in the borough.**

The move aims to bring in a co-ordinated local area based system to deal with environmental and anti-social behavioural issues. Huyton and Kirkby have two teams each with a team for Halewood and a team covering Prescot, Whiston and Cronton Village.

Teams – made up of police, councillors, council officers, wardens, Knowsley Housing Trust, and members of the youth services – will work to tackle a range of issues in response to information from the community.

Councillor Graham Morgan, Knowsley's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods, said: "This new approach is based on a commitment to ensure services are directed where they are most needed and that all organisations in the borough such as Knowsley Housing Trust,



the Police and Knowsley Council prioritise and tackle the issues that are important to local people."

James Curry and Mike Bowden (Environmental Officers) get to work on a concern raised by residents.

## Top marks for borough schools

GOVERNMENT inspectors have judged four of Knowsley's schools to be 'outstanding in every category'. Ofsted inspected 21 schools, with 90 per cent deemed outstanding or good for attitudes, values and qualities. The four primary schools celebrating top achievements are Halewood, St Laurence's, Kirkby, Springfield Special School, Kirkby, and Evelyn Primary in Prescot. Overall, 77% of the borough's schools are currently judged to be outstanding or good. Inspectors called Evelyn 'a magical place to learn'. Damian Allen, Knowsley's Executive Director of Children's Services said: "A number of recent Ofsted inspections in Knowsley have produced similar verdicts and illustrate how much progress we are making in transforming education here."

## BOOKS ON WHEELS

KNOWSLEY'S new Mobile Library has taken to the streets, and will be visiting a road near you soon.

That's the promise made by Knowsley Libraries' Outreach Team, who have been consulting residents about the new routes.

Kathy Allen, Outreach Coordinator, said: "We have introduced 70 new stops in areas that previously had limited or no

service at all. The new routes have been developed after extensive discussions with Knowsley residents. We conducted door-to-door surveys, talked to people in the street and attend numerous local festivals and events."

The mobile library is free to join and open to everyone. For full details visit [www.knowsley.gov.uk/leisure/libraries](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/leisure/libraries) or call 443 4223.



## Borough in brief

### £1.2mil funding boost

KNOWSLEY'S Older People's Services have secured £1.2million in funding to improve their services. The Department of Health awarded the money, from The Partnerships for Older People Fund, after the council's successful bid was one of only 19 chosen out of 140. The funding will be used over two years to visit more than 4,000 households to care for older people who are most in need.

### Know Cancer

EVERY library in the borough now has a dedicated cancer information point – as part of a new scheme to give families and carers more information and advice. Knowsley Library Service and the local Primary Care Trust are supporting the project as part of the Know Cancer in Knowsley campaign, which aims to reduce the borough's high mortality rate from cancer.

### On yer bike

THE BOROUGH'S Energise Knowsley campaign has organised a series of cycle rides in spring and summer. Organised by Knowsley Council, PCT and Cycling Projects, rides last about an hour, are led by trained staff and are a mix of on and off road routes. Rides take place at various locations starting at 6pm on;

- 27 Apr
- 11 & 25 May
- 8 & 29 June
- 13 & 27 July
- 10 & 24 Aug
- 7 Sept

For full details and to book your place call Steve Carson on 443 2230.

# BUILDING A CAREER

**KNOWSLEY START is giving young people with behavioural problems a new lease of life – by offering them the chance to learn skills in the construction industry.**

**T**raining includes everything from metalwork and woodwork, literacy and numeracy, to driving forklift trucks and working in plumbing.

The scheme is already proving to be a big hit, with 100 candidates a week on specially-designed placements. The charitable organisation currently has a 78% success rate of getting young people into further education and employment.

Youngsters aged 13–16 who experience behaviour and truancy problems can be referred onto the programme, including those with learning difficulties.

Knowsley START manager Patrick Burke is pleased with the success of the work-based learning programme. He said: “We are helping Knowsley’s youth to get well-paid employment whilst equipping them with the skills needed to make them first-class citizens.”

Funded through grant schemes, with help from Knowsley Collegiate and Social Services, it is hoped that the investment will give young people the opportunity to change their lives and make a fresh start.

For more information on Knowsley START ring 480 6844.



## GOOD SIGNS FOR LOCAL LAD

18 year-old Robert Fitzpatrick from Huyton spent most of his school days bunking off and misbehaving, but thanks to Knowsley START he now travels the world attending major golfing championships.

After training in joinery and painting he found a placement with Dorling Signs Ltd, a major contractor of sporting signs. After seeing the skills Robert learnt from START, they decided to

take him on permanently.

He said: “I’ve got the best job out of all my mates now and I earn the most! Knowsley START really helped me sort out my attitude and my life. I travel all around the world now, Thailand, Spain, all over Europe. This year I’ll be at the Ryder Cup in Ireland. Without START I would have gone down a very different path.”



## THOUSANDS SET FOR JOBS UNDER GROUNDBREAKING SCHEME

KNOWSLEY Council has announced a new drive to get 8,200 people from the borough into work.

As part of a national first, an Employment and Skills Strategy will aim to raise Knowsley’s employment levels to 70% by the end of 2010.

The project is a partnership between the council, the Learning Skills Council and Job Centre Plus. It will focus on providing people with the support and skills required for work – including coaching, mentoring and vocational skills.

Five groups will be prioritised: those on incapacity benefit or with work-limiting disabilities; lone parents with dependent children; over-50s; people with low or no qualifications; and women wishing to return to work after looking after their family. Employment in Knowsley has boomed in the last 10 years and the strategy aims to build on this. Targets include getting 400 lone parents and 800 incapacity benefit claimants into work every year. Knowsley Council leader Cllr Ron

Round said: “The employment rate in Knowsley is on the up but there is still much work to be done.

Knowsley has led the way and is respected nationally for how it has removed barriers to employment for some of the borough’s most excluded residents. With this in mind, I am confident that the council and its partners will achieve its targets.”



# IN KNOWSLEY

## Granting a fresh start

**BUDDING** entrepreneurs have been getting their small business ideas off the ground with the help of a £500 grant from Knowsley's Fresh Start campaign. Set up by Knowsley Council and its partners, the campaign aims to create 270 new businesses in the borough by the end of the year. As part of the scheme, free help and advice is also available to residents starting a business or becoming self-employed. Specialist advisors will help to administer grants, and advise on general start-up support, at Knowsley's Business Resource Centre in Admin Road, Kirkby. For more information call 477 4000.

### UP AND RUNNING

These four new businesses all benefited from a Fresh Start grant.

**Mark Wiggins (45) and John Watson (45) from Huyton (pictured top right) set up Watson Wiggins Restraints Ltd.**

**Business:** "Training vulnerable staff to defend themselves. Aiming to work with community wardens, A&E staff, social workers and door persons."

**Inspiration:** "John and I got our heads together and thought it was a good idea. We started to set up just over a year ago and it's going OK. We have just won our first contract with voluntary mental health group, Mind."

**Fresh Start grant:** "Helped to pay for public liability insurance."

**Advice to others:** "Try and get as much funding as you can, keep sight of your goals and stay positive."

**Kate Gorst (26) from Huyton (below) set up Altru Drama Ltd**

**Business:** "Working with children in schools, youth clubs and play schemes to help them put-on Theatre performances."

**Inspiration:** "I have been teaching drama to A-Level students for three years and fancied working with younger children."

**Fresh Start grant:** "Helped fund a tour of the theatrical and educational production Hungry for Health, which is aimed at 7-11 year-olds and looks at health, nutrition and diet."

**Advice to others:** "Do loads of planning and research and look for gaps in the market."



**Paul Kelly (24) from Prescot set up WeAreBril Business:** "Graphic design."

**Inspiration:** "Because there were so few design studios looking to employ. I've trained for it, and wanted to do it since I was a kid, so I'm trying to go it alone."

**Fresh Start grant:** "Helped with general start-up costs including equipment and promotion."

**Advice to others:** "Get as much professional advice as you possibly can."



**Marie Pendleton (45) from Huyton set up Threads.**

**Business:** "Making curtains and clothing alterations."

**Inspiration:** "A training course called Train 2000, which helps women to start out in business."

**Fresh Start grant:** "Helped towards general overheads like rent and council tax."

**Advice to others:** "Plan everything properly and stick to your business plan."

### Joining the JET set

AFTER 40 years as an upholsterer in Garston, David Jenkins (pictured below) feared the worst after losing his job.

But now the 55-year-old from Halewood is enjoying some new-found confidence after help from Halewood JET – one of Knowsley Council's partners in delivering the Employment & Skills Strategy.

JET set up a placement for David in an administration role at Create – a Speke-based charity and social business that recycles used electrical products. He said: "I was like a fish out of water at first but I am really enjoying it. I would never have considered this type of work had it not been for the help I have received. "It has made me think about another career path and made me realise I have other skills that can get me into work."



Launching the new strategy: Knowsley Council Leader Cllr Ron Round, Knowsley's Head of Employment and Social Inclusion Team Tracy Fishwick, Knowsley Council's Chief Executive Sheena Ramsey, Gill Motlock from Job Centre Plus and guest speaker David Simmonds from Inclusion.



# Get *active* in Knowsley

**GOOD news for Knowsley residents – the council is investing millions of pounds into creating the best leisure facilities on Merseyside.**

**A**ll over the borough, projects are underway to make new state-of-the-art leisure facilities available and affordable. Last year the council invested £360,000 in high-quality fitness equipment, but this year's plans are even bigger. Knowsley News takes a closer look at new facilities that are already making an impact, and what residents can expect in the future.

## **A new £12million leisure centre in Kirkby**

Work is underway on the council's most ambitious project to date – a new £12million leisure centre in Kirkby. The state-of-the-art centre on Cherryfield Drive will include a pool, gym, running track and floodlit artificial pitches. Due to open next year, it will provide a base for many local sports clubs, offering world-class facilities to everyone from elite athletes to local residents.

Last year a £50,000 ten-station Shapers Plus gym and a £30,000 Junior Shokk gym opened in Kirkby Sports Centre. Sports clubs have also been using modern synthetic pitches at the new Tower Hill Primary Care and Community Resource Centre. The pitches cost £750,000, jointly funded by Sport England and Knowsley Council.

## **£542,000 upgrade for Prescot sports pitches**

The council is investing £542,000 on new synthetic sports pitches for hockey and football. The work includes a new synthetic playing surface, shock pads, fencing and floodlighting. Work has started and is due to finish by July.

This spring, Shapers gym at Huyton Leisure Centre will be transformed with a £200,000 refurbishment.

New technology will allow users to follow personalised programmes and track their own progress.

Huyton's £4.5 million King George V community-based sports complex is also proving popular. Used by various clubs, it includes AstroTurf pitches, tennis courts, football pitches, bowling greens, a boxing club and a community hall.

**“Last year the council invested £360,000 in high-quality fitness equipment, but this year's plans are even bigger.”**

## **£50,000 on inclusive fitness in Halewood**

Halewood Leisure Centre had recently benefited from £50,000 on its inclusive fitness equipment, to ensure people with disabilities benefit from the centre. Teenagers from a special educational needs school have been among the first to use the facilities. The group from Elms School in Stockbridge Village enjoyed swimming lessons and the new fitness suite.

The project was funded from bodies including Sport England, Knowsley Council, the Inclusive Fitness Initiative, Knowsley Primary Care Trust, Knowsley Health Partnership and the Learning Disability Development Fund.

**For information on sports and leisure in Knowsley, visit [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk) or contact the Sports Service on 443 4404.**





## SPECIAL OFFERS

Get active at Knowsley leisure centres with this range of special offers for residents:

Membership for £27.50 a month

- ▶ Unlimited use of fitness suites with free induction
- ▶ Personalised exercise programmes and classes
- ▶ Swimming, sauna and steam rooms
- ▶ Badminton and squash courts
- ▶ No joining fee, no minimum contract

Annual Swim Pass for £99

- ▶ Unlimited use of the borough's pools
- ▶ 50p off-peak swims For under-16s and over-60s only

50% off many activities for:

- ▶ Residents on low income
- ▶ Registered disabled
- ▶ Full time students
- ▶ Elite athletes
- ▶ Under 16s

For more information contact the Sports Service on 443 4404.



### Fitness fun for teenagers

TEENAGERS from a special educational needs school in Knowsley have benefited from the facilities at Halewood Leisure Centre.

The group from the Elms School in Stockbridge Village have enjoyed swimming lessons at the centre and have been inducted as members of the fully-inclusive fitness suite.

For more information contact Halewood Leisure Centre on 443 2124.



# Dave Kirby

**RIBBED** at school for writing poetry, Dave Kirby's passion for football helped him pick up the pen again – and he's never looked back since.

By Gareth Roberts

**A**T age eleven his poem about the human body was published by the Liverpool Echo, but the ridicule he received stopped Dave from chasing a career in creative writing.

The 46-year-old from Kirby explained: "It didn't go down well at St Kevin's Comprehensive. I was vilified by my mates for daring to write poetry. There was one English teacher, Mr O'Brian, who told me I had talent with words. But I never wrote anything sincere again in school for fear of ridicule."

After leaving school in 1975 Dave worked in factories, bars and then settled into the family trade of plastering. But a passion for football and Liverpool FC inspired him to return to rhyme. Dave said: "A lot of my early work was football related so it attracted the fanzines. I now perform poetry at certain after-dinner events but that's only because football is marketable."

Kirby has been a huge influence on his work, which now includes plays and scripts. He said: "If I'm writing a poem I like to capture the emotion of

something I've lived through. Kirby has played a massive part – not just in moulding me into the person I am but by being a creative and diverse town. It has an inner-city culture mixed with a semi-rural location. As a kid you could go to Anfield or Goodison then later climb trees in Spinney Woods.

"People like my great mate, the actor Andrew Schofield – the comedian Sean Stiles – writers like Nicky Allt, Stephen Butchard, Phil Redmond – we all went to St Kev's and are proud of our roots."

Dave is working on projects like an educational film about fire-related disorder, a play at the Unity Theatre in April called Lost Soul and another at the Royal Court in August called Brick-up the Mersey Tunnels written with Nicky Allt. Dave has also been approached to write a play of Michael Shields' story, an innocent Liverpool fan locked up in Bulgaria.

And his advice for writers? Dave said: "Writing books and scripts isn't just a case of picking up a pen – it's like all other professions. To succeed requires dedication and a tough apprenticeship – only this one pays nothing at all until you manage to break through."



## AN INNOCENT LAD by Dave Kirby

Have you ever woken from a terrible dream  
and you lay there playing it, scene-by-scene  
and you're not quite sure just how you feel  
you're just relieved that the dream wasn't real.

But what if that nightmare didn't end  
and you woke up somewhere without a friend  
and your dream became a living hell  
in a squalid Bulgarian prison cell.

The trip of a lifetime it should've been  
to see his beloved football team  
but Istanbul and all its glory  
was soon to tell a different story.

Where the Black Sea meets the land  
a cruel fate would play its hand  
taken from his hotel room  
into a world of total gloom.

Arrested, stripped and then detained  
manacled with locks and chains  
accused of being in a fight  
which happened as he slept at night.

Attempted murder is the charge  
though the culprit is still at large  
witnesses don't seem to matter  
leaving a family totally shattered.

Third world country – third world laws  
A place where corruption opens doors  
the Riviera of the East  
where human rights are being breached.

Just try and imagine that ordeal  
a tragic nightmare played for real  
just stop and think of how you'd feel  
then think of a kid...named Michael Shields.

His destiny is still unknown  
But we won't let him walk alone  
we'll fight and upturn every stone  
until this innocent lad ... is back home.

Dave Kirby

# MEMORY LANE

## FROM FLICKS TO PHARMACY

**PEOPLE pop in for pills and prescriptions these days, but the site of Boots in Huyton Village used to be a place for dates and double bills. JAMIE WILLIAMS tells the tale of the Mayfair Cinema.**

**T**HE MAYFAIR first threw open its doors on Saturday September 18 1937, premiering with the Bing Crosby comedy *Mississippi*. Chairman of Huyton Council J. Strathdene led the opening ceremony, attended by council members, Mayfair officials and members of the public.

A grand opening to the general public was held two days later when *The Plainsman* was screened – a romance set in the Old West starring Gary Cooper as ‘Wild Bill Hickok’ and Jean Arthur as ‘Calamity Jane’. The first of many Westerns screened at the Mayfair, locals soon dubbed the cinema ‘The Ranch’.

Film-lovers entered on Derby Road through three pairs of glass-panelled doors, leading to a foyer and the main auditorium. Costing £18,000 to build, the cinema seated 1,010 in the stalls and



Knowsley Libraries Archive Service

334 in the balcony, with golden rose décor, velvet seats and specially designed carpet.

Twenty five contractors gave Huyton one of the most modern cinemas of its time. W. Tomkinson & Sons of Liverpool were responsible for the cinema's design, and C.R. Harrison & Sons of Newton-Le-Willows installed the seating.

The curtain came down at the Mayfair on Saturday April 30 1960. The film that day was *I'm All Right Jack* – a British comedy starring Peter Sellers as a union shop steward with Terry-Thomas and Richard Attenborough co-starring.

Ownership of the building passed to Fine Fare Supermarket until early 1970 when Boots moved in. Today, if you look carefully at the rear of the building, you can still see the exits from the cinema (now bricked up) and the strange slant of the roof where the screen was located.

So next time you walk past, step back in time and imagine what it must have been like to enjoy a trip to the pictures in Huyton.

### Huyton's history – Did you know?

- ▶ Stephenson's 'Rocket' travelled through Huyton station. The sandstone at the station's entrance (under the railings) formed part of the sidling on its way to the Rainhill Trials.
- ▶ A large building similar to Speke Hall once stood near Sawpit Park in Huyton Quarry.
- ▶ The first police cell in Huyton was located at the side of St Michael's Church. Look at the steps on Bluebell Lane entrance, you will see a bricked up door.
- ▶ Wheathill House, Wheathill Road was once used by the bomb disposal team as their headquarters.
- ▶ A Cock Stool Pit (or Ducking Stool) once stood near Huyton College & Blacklow Brow. This was used as punishment for fraudulent shopkeepers, who were submerged as punishment for disorderly behaviour.

### MAYFAIR CINEMA HUYTON

#### ADMISSION PRICES:

##### MATINEES

Ground Floor – 4d (Under-14s 3d)

Balcony – 6d (Under-14s 4d)

##### EVENINGS

Front Stalls – 6d, Children up to 8pm – 4d

Back Stalls – 9d, Children up to 8pm – 6d

Back Balcony – 1/-, Children up to 8pm – 6d

Front Balcony – 1/3, Children up to 8pm – 9d

##### PERFORMANCES

Monday-Friday – 6.30pm

Saturdays & Bank Holidays – 6.20pm & 8.40pm

(Back stalls may be booked for the 1st performance only)

Matinees: Monday, Thursday, Saturday – 2.30pm

Sundays – Closed

Do you have any memories of the Mayfair Cinema you would like to share with Knowsley News? Do have any pictures or memorabilia? If so, please write to Knowsley News, Communications Office, Knowsley Council, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9YU. Or you can email [knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk).

With thanks to Jamie Williams, who runs local interest website [www.huytonwithroby.info](http://www.huytonwithroby.info)

## DVDs



### Phantom of the Opera

Phantom is a terrific over-the-top Gothic love story. There's great acting from Simon Callow and Minnie Driver, but it's the music and spectacular sets that make it a must-see. The critics panned it but I enjoyed this more than Cabaret,

## DVDs to look out for:

- Davina: My Three Minute Workout
- Star Wars III: Revenge of the Sith
- Jimmy Carr: Stand Up
- Steven Seagal: Into the Sun
- Have I Got News For You: The best of the guest presenters Vol 2
- Christian Slater, Tara Reid, Stephen Dorff: Alone in the Dark

## Books to look out for:

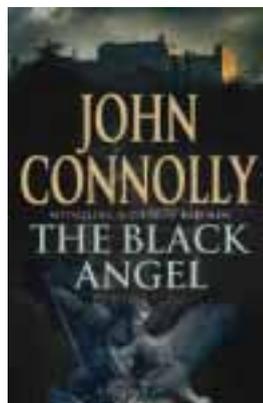
- Sun at Midnight by Rosie Thomas
- For the Death of Me by Quintin Jardine
- Nobody's Child by Kate Adie
- Sarah by Marek Halter
- Gardens of Delight by Erica James
- 5th Horseman by James Patterson

which won all the awards. One of the most successful musicals of all time, it will be going to Las Vegas where a new \$30million theatre is being specially designed for it. If you can't wait for that, borrow the DVD to see what all the fuss is about.

**Sue Stone, Stockbridge Library**

## BOOKS

### The Black Angel by John Connolly



Private Investigator Charlie Parker is on the case again. This time he's battling an old evil criminal, held prisoner for centuries. Who is the strange and disturbing Brightwell who comes to visit him? As his case goes on, Charlie learns he may be more involved than he realises. An intriguing and gripping work of fiction.

**Frank Wilson, Page Moss Library**

### The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson

Today I've just finished reading a book called The Story of Tracy

Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson. It was really good. It's about a young girl in need of a foster home. Some parts are sad, but most of it was happy and funny. Tracy can be very naughty but deep down she has a kind heart.

**Kelly Welburn, aged 9, Huyton Library**

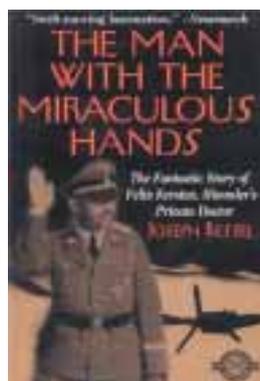
### Geisha of Gion by Mineko Iwasaki with Rande Brown

Geisha of Gion traces the true-life story of a small girl who decides, at a very young age, that she wants to be a geisha in Kyoto's Gion Koby Karyukai – the 'flower and willow world' of the Maiko and Geiko.

It's a rare and fascinating account of Mineko-san's journey, from her adoption into the Iwasaki household as successor to the Okiya, through her training in the traditional Japanese arts, to her emergence as the most successful and envied Geiko of her generation.

**Lin Rice, Whiston Library**

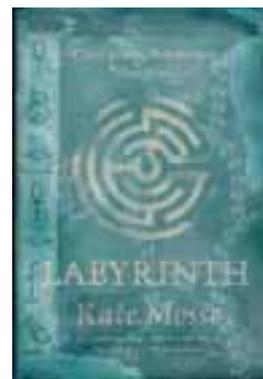
### The Man with the Miraculous Hands by Joseph Kessel



An extremely interesting read about a little-known Finnish Doctor – Felix Kersten, who treated Himmler and by way of gratitude managed to obtain the release of many Jews and other persecuted 'prisoners of war'.

**Anita Wood, Stockbridge Library**

### Labyrinth by Kate Mosse



This is a novel about the Holy Grail. It moves from the present, back into the time of crusades and knights in France's Languedoc region. Alice, the lead character, is visiting a dig and unearths something that will take her deep into the past.

The writing is kept at a fast pace and I found I couldn't wait to go back in time to see what happened next.

Although it's fiction some of the events did happen. It has inspired a friend and me to visit Carcassonne, which is in the novel.

**Gill Hunter, Huyton Library**

## Great Memories

A KNOWSLEY woman has penned her third book about life growing up on Merseyside. Mary Routledge of Spruce Grove, Stockbridge Village, has followed up her successful Memories and Memories 2 books with a third, Memories 3.

Each book has a different focus: from Mary's recollection of life in Toxteth between the 1920s and 1940s, to the history of Liverpool, and now on the period between the 1960s to the 1990s.

**We have two copies of Memories 3 to give away. Write in to Memories 3 Giveaway, Communications office, Knowsley Council, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9YU. The first two postcards drawn out of the hat after the closing date of 21 April will win a book. Usual competition rules apply.**





## MUSIC

21 March

### ■ Graham Coxon

Carling Academy, Liverpool.  
Graham Coxon comes to town to promote his new album *Love Travels At Illegal Speeds*. His last album *Happiness in Magazines* was his most successful solo album to date and included the hits *Freakin Out*, *Bittersweet Bundle of Misery and Spectacular*. Doors 7pm. £14. Tel: 0870 771 2000

29 March

### ■ Off The Wall

Royal Court, Liverpool.  
Pink Floyd tribute band breathe new life into classic songs such as *Another Brick In The Wall*, *Shine On You Crazy Diamond* and *Money*, with outstanding lighting and video effects. Doors 7.30pm. £16. Tel: 0870 787 1866

9 April

### ■ The Drifters

Liverpool Empire.  
The longest-running pop band in history plays hits like *Under the Boardwalk*, *Saturday Night at the Movies* and many more. Doors 7.30pm. £15-£17. Tel: 0870 607 7575

23 April

### ■ The Ordinary Boys

Liverpool University.  
Fresh from his *Big Brother* experience, Preston unsurprisingly takes his band on the road for their biggest-ever UK tour. Tel: 794 6868

## THEATRE

14 March-1 April

### ■ My Fair Lady

Liverpool Empire.  
The National Theatre's award-winning production of the Cameron Mackintosh favourite comes to Liverpool, celebrating its 50th anniversary. Doors 7.30pm. £15-£35. Tel: 0870 607 7575

17-29 April

### ■ Blood Brothers

Liverpool Empire.  
Willy Russell's Merseyside musical tells the captivating and moving story of twin boys separated at birth, only to be re-united by a twist of fate and a mother's haunting secret. £8.50-£28.50. Tel: 0870 607 7575

15-20 May

### ■ Buddy

Liverpool Empire.  
The popular rock'n'roll musical follows the tragically short life of Buddy Holly from his first recording contract through to his move to New York, concluding with the fatal tour of Mid-West America. £10-£26.50. Tel: 0870 607 7575.

## EXHIBITIONS

5-10 June-16 April

■ Paul Elliker Exhibition - **The Last Best Place**  
Kirkby Gallery.

Bold and colourful large-scale landscape paintings. Free entry. Email: arts.unit.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 443 5619

Until 23 April

### ■ Egyptian Exhibition

Prescot Museum.  
Includes many exciting objects including a complete set of canopic jars, used to keep body parts in tombs. Free entry. Email: prescot.museum@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 430 7787

29 April-4 June

### ■ Museum and Galleries Month

Prescot Museum.  
Host of free events on the theme of making connections between the past, present and the future. Email: prescot.museum@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 430 7787

29 April - 4 June

### ■ Matisse - Drawing with Scissors

Kirkby Gallery.  
Touring exhibition from the Arts Council in London. A collection of bright and colourful Henri Matisse collages from 1950-1954. Free entry. Email: arts.unit.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 443 5619

## EVENTS

16 March

### ■ Ladies' Luncheon

Knowsley Community College.  
A three-course lunch to raise funds for the Mayor of Knowsley's Charity Appeal, supporting the Breathe Easy Group.

12.30pm. Entry £10. Email: christine.kneale@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 443 3175

18 March

### ■ Blowing in the Wind

Sawpit Park, Huyton.  
1-3pm.  
Make fantastic flying machines and wind chimes in this fun-packed afternoon. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

19 March

### ■ Kite Flight

Court Hey Park, Huyton.  
1-3pm. Make your own kite and then pray for windy weather for its first test flight. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

21 March

### ■ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

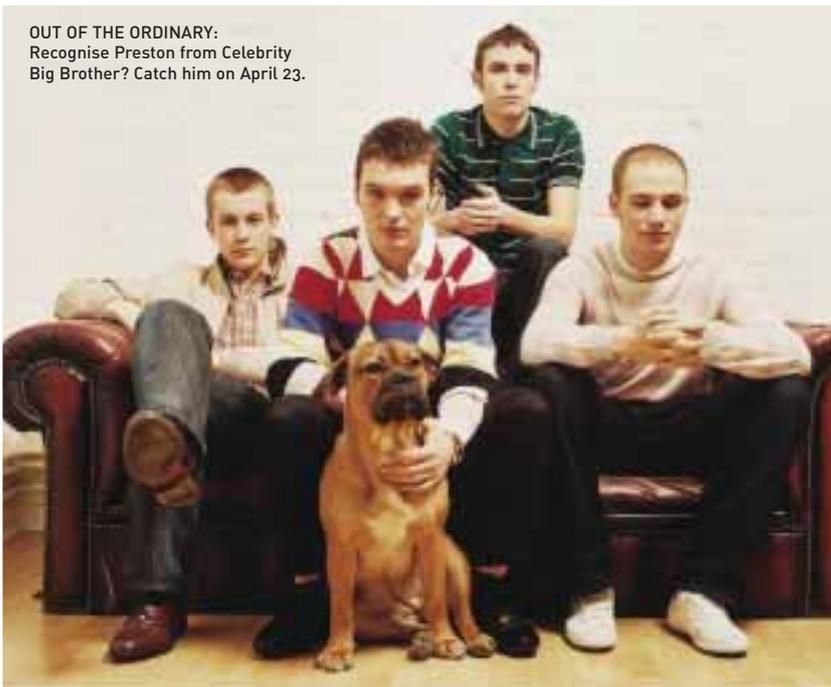
King George V Sports Complex, Huyton.  
A school football competition to raise awareness of racial discrimination. 10am-3pm. Email: kevin.lynch@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 443 5894

22 March

### ■ Panathlon Challenge

Greenbank Sports Academy, Liverpool.  
Knowsley teams compete with many others from Merseyside in this sport competition for secondary school children with disabilities. 10.30am-2.30pm. Free entry.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY:  
Recognise Preston from *Celebrity Big Brother*? Catch him on April 23.





Email: sports.development.team.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 3688

**24 March**  
■ **Charity Entertainment Evening**

Huyton Park Conservative Club. An evening of entertainment, disco and raffle draws to raise funds for the Mayor of Knowsley's Charity Appeal, supporting the Breathe Easy Group. From 7.30pm. Email: christine.kneale@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 3175

**25 March**  
■ **Circus Skills**

St Chad's Gardens, Kirkby. Clown around and have a go at juggling, plate-spinning, stilt-walking and unicycle riding. 1-4pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682.

**28 March**  
■ **Youth Band Night**

Huyton Suite. Young bands from across the area show off their talent. Tickets £2 on the door. Tel: 443 3989

**28 March**  
■ **Knowsley Secondary Schools Cross-Country Championships**

King George V Sports Complex, Huyton. 1.30-3pm. Free admission. Email: dooling@blueyonder.co.uk  
Tel: 289 8082

**28 March**  
■ **Knowsley Disability Fun Gala**

Halewood Leisure Centre. Swimming gala for children with disabilities. 10am-2pm. Free entry. Email: sports.development.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 3688

**1 April**  
■ **Dance Show**

Huyton Leisure Centre. Youngsters from the borough show off their talent. From 7pm. Tel: 443 3970

**9 April**  
■ **Copse and Loppers**

Millbrook Park, Kirkby. Help the Huyton Rangers tidy up the Millennium Green's trees and shrubs. Wear suitable clothes and footwear. 1-3pm. Tel: 443 3682

**10 April**  
■ **Wrigglers**

King George V Playing Fields, Huyton. Could you charm a worm? Entice worms to the surface of the playing field. Prizes for the best charmers. 1-3pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

**10 April**  
■ **Easter Eggs-travaganza**

Various locations around Huyton, Whiston, and Kirkby. Help the Easter Bunny find his lost Easter eggs. Use maps, follow clues and find the reward! 1-3pm. Free entry. Call for full times and details. Tel: 443 3682

**10-14 April**  
■ **Schools Out**

All Knowsley Libraries. Free school holiday activities for children including crafts, story-reading and fun with creepy crawlies. 2-4pm. Tel: 482 1849

**16 April**  
■ **Easter Stroll**

Acornfield Plantation, Kirkby. Join the rangers for a free exploration of Kirkby's countryside. 10am-1pm. Tel: 443 3682

**19 April**  
■ **Kite Flight**

St John's Millennium Green, Huyton. See 19 March. 1-3pm. Tel: 443 3682

**21 April**  
■ **Mayor of Knowsley's Charity Dinner Dance**

Huyton Suite. Three-course dinner and entertainment

to raise funds for the Mayor of Knowsley's Charity Appeal, supporting the Breathe Easy Group. From 7.30pm. £25pp. Email: christine.kneale@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 3175

**23 April**  
■ **Hustle Spring Fayre**

Huyton Leisure Centre. Activities and fun for young people including circus skills, arts workshops and music from local bands. 10am-4pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

**26 April**  
■ **Knowsley Primary Schools Netball Finals**

Venue TBC. Junior and Senior finals. The two winning school teams will represent Knowsley in the Merseyside Youth Games. 4-6pm. Email: sports.development.team.dlcs@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 4635

**30 April**  
■ **Flying Circus**

Halewood Park 12-4pm. Come and see the awesome Flying Circus perform with their amazing kites of every conceivable colour, shape and size. Free entry. Contact Halewood Rangers on 488 6151.

**3 May**  
■ **Mayor of Knowsley's Charity 5-a-side Competition**

Kirkby Sports Centre. Compete in a friendly competition, with sponsorship money going to the Mayor of

Knowsley's nominated charity, the Breathe Easy Group. 10am-6pm. Entry fee £140 per team. Email: steve.guy@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 2153

**6 May**  
■ **Spring Fun Day**

Wastlebridge Park, Huyton. A fun-packed afternoon of entertainment. 12-4pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

**7 May**  
■ **Animal Crackers**

Stadt Moers Park, Whiston. As part of National Pet Week, enter your pets of all shapes and sizes into our fun show. In conjunction with the Dog Trust. 1-4pm. Free entry. Tel: 489 1239

**7 May**  
■ **Can't see the woods for the tree!**

Acornfield Plantation, Kirkby. Explore the fascinating woodland with the Kirkby Rangers. 10am-1pm. Free. Tel: 443 3682

**11 May**  
■ **Mayor of Knowsley's Charity Golf Competition**

Blundells Hill Golf Club, Rainhill. A popular day for Merseyside businesses to raise money for the Mayor of Knowsley's Charity. Entry £140 per team. 8.30am-8pm. Email: dave.mercer@knowsley.gov.uk  
Tel: 443 2152

11 May

■ **Bluebell Express**

Stadt Moers Park, Whiston.

A walking and bus tour through Knowsley's Bluebell woods with the Stadt Moers Walking for Health Club. Places limited, bookings only. 12.30-4pm. Tel: 443 3438

13 May

■ **History Mystery Trail**

Henley Park, Whiston. Enjoy a walk and talk about the history of the Henley Park and Whitestone Millennium Green area. Meet at Henley Park Pavilion. 1-4pm. Free entry. Tel: 489 1239

17-18 May

■ **Primary Schools Kwik Cricket Tournament**

Venue TBC. Inter-school kwik cricket competition. Winning school from each age group to go forward and represent Knowsley at the Merseyside Youth Games. 12-6pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 5713

20-26 May

■ **Adult Learners Week**

Knowsley Libraries. Aimed at adults who would like to update their IT skills or refresh basic reading, maths and writing skills. Free. Tel: 482 1306

20 May

■ **Jubilee Fun Day**

Jubilee Park, Huyton. Something for everyone including circus skills, bird display, jazz dancing, face painting,

beat the goalie and lots more. In conjunction with the Huyton Farm Trust. 12-4pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

21 May

■ **Nature in Parks**

St Chad's Gardens, Kirkby. Explore the world of nature through a microscope and meet an array of animals including snakes and owls. 1-3pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3682

25-28 May

■ **Stadt Moers Sports Exchange**

Borough-wide. A 48-strong group from Knowsley's twin town of Stadt Moers in Germany will travel the borough to enjoy a programme of sports and social activities with local teams. Email: sharon.doyle@knowsley.gov.uk Tel: 443 2155

29 May-2 June

■ **Schools Out**

Knowsley Libraries. See 10 April. 2-4pm.

3 June

■ **Circus Tricks**

Sawpit Park, Huyton.



Try your hand at juggling, plate spinning, stilt-walking and unicycle riding. 1-3pm. Free. Tel: 443 3682

3 June

■ **Teddy Bears' Picnic**

Henley Park, Whiston. Bring your bear and some food and join the fun because today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic. 1-3pm. Free entry. Tel: 489 1239

3 June

■ **Clowning Around**

McGoldrick Park, Huyton. Stop clowning around and come down to McGoldrick Park to learn all the tricks and talents of a circus entertainer. 10am-12pm. Tel: 443 3682.

4 June

■ **Green Fayre**

Court Hey Park, Huyton. Attractions include a craft and food market, circus skills, arts workshops and much more. 11am-5pm. Free entry. Tel: 443 3438



EGYPTIAN EXHIBITION: until April 23 at Prescot Museum.

8 June

■ **Bat Night**

Halewood Park. Join us on a twilight walk of discovery into the elusive world of our local flying friends. 8.30-10.30pm. Free entry. Tel: 488 6151

**REGULARS**

■ **Words and Pictures**

Knowsley Libraries. Stories and crafts for the under fives. Call for dates and times. Tel: 448 0944

Monday-Saturday

■ **Junior Shapers**

Huyton Leisure Centre. Fitness for youngsters. 3.30-5.30pm weekdays, 9-12pm on Saturdays. Tel: 443 3761

Mondays

■ **Ladies Only Swim**

Huyton Leisure Centre. 8-9pm. 7.30-8pm on Sundays. Tel: 443 3761

■ **50+ Club**

Huyton Leisure Centre. 1-3pm Mondays and Wednesdays. Tel: 443 3761

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

■ **Tai Chi**

Huyton Leisure Centre. 9-10am Tuesday, 2-3pm Wednesday. Tel: 443 3761

Wednesdays

■ **Tea Dance**

Huyton Suite. Put on your glad rags and dancing shoes, and have some fun. 1-4pm. Tel: 0151 443 3761

■ **Line Dancing**

Huyton Suite. Come along and join in this fun and exciting activity, which can help you keep fit. 7-11pm. Tel: 443 3761

Last Friday evening of the month

■ **Big Band Night (Norman Roy Orchestra)**

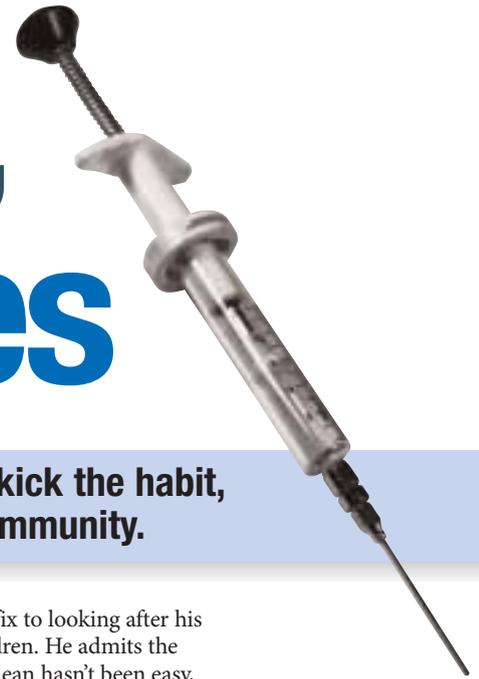
Huyton Suite. This popular monthly event sees live bands performing some of the top ballroom hits of the 1940s. Tel: 443 3761

Saturdays

■ **Youth Night**

Huyton Leisure Centre. 5-8pm. Tel: 443 3761

# Tackling drugs, changing lives



**KNOWSLEY'S Drugs Intervention Programme helps drug users kick the habit, and aims to reduce the amount of drug-related crime in the community.**

**T**he DIP was launched in October 2005. Run by Knowsley Council in partnership with the Lighthouse Project, the programme offers clients access to counselling, skills training, medical advice and complimentary therapies.

The DIP's efforts support the Government's national strategy for tackling drugs. Clients can be referred on to the programme by police, parole officers, health workers, family or can choose to self-refer.

Cllr Ron Round, leader of Knowsley Council, said: "Taking part in the Drugs Intervention Programme is a real chance for substance users to change their lives for the better. It has a very positive impact for our communities by stopping the revolving door syndrome of constantly re-offending to fund a drugs habit."

## BEATING ADDICTION

**VICKI GIANELLI met former drug addict John\*, who went clean thanks to help from Knowsley's Drug Intervention Programme.**

**J**OHAN began smoking marijuana as a teenager – but by 30 he was hooked on heroin and crack cocaine, stealing from shops to feed his £300-a-day habit.

Sacked from his job and shunned by friends, the former soldier from Halewood became so low he twice tried to take his

own life. Arrested for shoplifting, the courts made John attend Knowsley's Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP).

Since late last year he has received one-to-one and group counselling, as well as alternative treatments such as acupuncture, to help break his deadly cycle. After making it nine weeks without drugs, John finally feels like his life is back on track.

He said: "Without help from the DIP and my immediate family I would be dead now. I lost my whole life over drugs – jobs, family, friends, self-respect, I had nothing. Now I am starting to turn it all around."

John's priorities have changed from

scoring his next fix to looking after his partner and children. He admits the struggle to stay clean hasn't been easy, but specialist advice from DIP has helped.

He added: "Some days are better than others and I have a lot of ups and downs. But I want to stay off drugs and I'm sticking to it. I've got some job interviews lined up and I am determined to beat this addiction. I think if you are a strong enough person, you can do it – I have."

For more information contact Knowsley's DIP on 0151 443 5792. The DIP operates a 24 hours help service, via the ACT phonenumber, which can put you in touch with support agencies in your area by calling 0800 028 1300.

\* Details have been changed to protect the client's identity.

## Council offers STI tests

RATES of the Sexually Transmitted Infection Chlamydia are on the rise across Knowsley.

Latest figures show that 1 in 10 residents under the age of 25 could be infected. Caused by bacteria, if left untreated it can result in infertility, ectopic pregnancy and other serious problems.

To tackle the infection, the council is offering tests for under-25s in a variety of venues including family planning and contraceptive clinics, THINK clinics, pharmacists and voluntary and youth organisations.

Susie Gardiner, Knowsley Sexual Health Programme Manager said: "The goal is prevention, early detection and treatment. Treatment is simple and very effective and involves a course of antibiotic tablets.

"As Chlamydia often does not cause symptoms, so many people who are infected may be unaware. STIs such as Chlamydia can be prevented. Using condoms during sex will significantly reduce the risk."

If you have had unprotected sex and think you could have Chlamydia, go for a check-up where you can discuss other STIs and pregnancy. For more information contact the Chlamydia Screening Office on 0151 227 1471 or Family Planning Services on 01744 620 365.

# Licensed to **thrill?**

**IAN RUSHTON**, Knowsley Council's Principal Licensing Officer, answers all your questions.

**Q** "I'm fed up with the noise and nuisance caused by the pub I live by. Is there anything the council can do about it?"

**A** "Knowsley Council is now responsible for the licensing of all premises that sell alcohol, provide entertainment, and offer late night refreshments, including fish and chip shops and pizza takeaways. This became the council's responsibility under the Licensing Act 2003, which came into full effect on 24 November 2005.

"Problems such as noise from a pub can be reported to the council in person at one stop shops or via phone on 489 6000. Pubs providing entertainment have a responsibility to prevent public nuisance. We will ensure music levels are acceptable, discuss the matter with the license holder and monitor noise levels if necessary."

**Q** "Sometimes it's not just the noise from the bars, it's the sound of the taxis beeping their horns late at night. What can the police and the council do about it?"

**A** "We work closely with the police and our partners, so complaints should be made to them as well. The police have the power to close licensed premises down for up to 24 hours if there are crime and disorder problems. One Knowsley pub was closed down on New Year's Eve for a few hours because of disorder problems.

"In terms of taxis sounding their horns residents should make a note of the time and date they are disturbed and let us know. If possible try and make a note of the type of vehicle, registration or licence plate number of the taxi and we'll take the matter further with the driver."

**Q** "I've been told by a neighbour that a pub is applying to extend its opening hours. I'm concerned that if it stays open any later it will cause even more disturbance to residents – can I object to it?"

**A** "Yes, residents can object. All premises applying to vary licences must advertise their application in a



IAN RUSHTON

**"We work closely with the Police and our partners, so complaints should be made to them as well"**

local newspaper and display a blue A4 notice at the premise for at least 28 days, after submitting their application to the council. The same applies for new applications.

"Details of applications are on our website and we also write to residents and businesses within approximately 50 metres of the premises to make people aware of the application. We are the only council in Merseyside to do this and it's our way of ensuring that the community are made aware of an application in their area. Anyone wishing to object must do so in writing by the stated deadline."

**Q** "What happens once I've objected to an application? Who decides what the hours should be?"

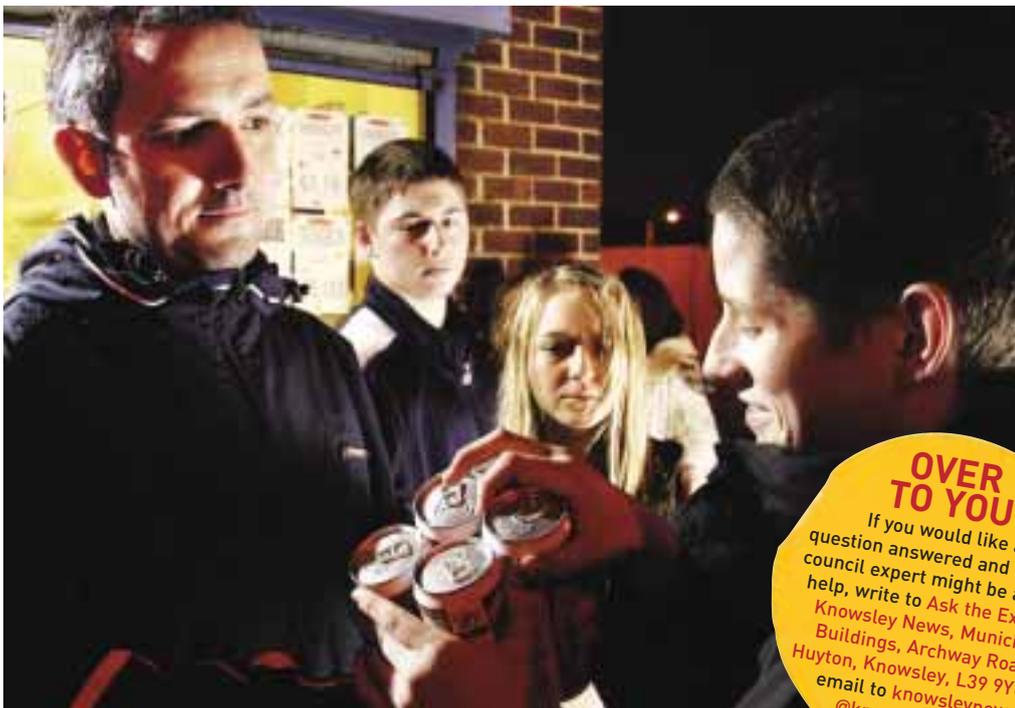
**A** "The matter will be considered by a Licensing Sub-Committee consisting of three councillors. The public can attend the hearing, either to speak or just to observe. The Sub-Committee will listen to all views and then make a decision."

**Q** "I've heard that residents can apply to the council for a review of a pub licence, is this true?"

**A** "Any interested parties (including residents) and responsible authorities (including the police, fire service) can apply to us to review a licence at a particular premise if there are any problems associated with crime, disorder, public safety or nuisance. If appropriate, we'll organise a hearing of a Licensing Sub-Committee to consider the matter and residents may attend if they wish."

**Q** "My local off-licence is selling alcohol to youths – is there anything the council can do?"

**A** "The council carries out regular underage sale surveys using young volunteers who attempt to buy alcohol. A sale usually results in a prosecution. If you have a complaint or know a young person who would like to work with the Trading Standards team, call Stephanie Hudson on 443 4746."



**OVER TO YOU**

If you would like a question answered and think a council expert might be able to help, write to Ask the Expert, Knowsley News, Municipal Buildings, Archway Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L39 9YU or email to [knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk)

### Young book worms

A TRAILBLAZING new interactive book for under-fives has been developed with help from children in the borough.

The 10-week programme, run by Knowsley Sure Start and the Arts Service, gave children the chance to take part in creative activities. Every child aged three to four in Knowsley will receive the book as part of the Book Start initiative. Get yourself a copy by contacting Knowsley Arts Service on 0151 443 5619 or email [charlotte.corrie@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.corrie@knowsley.gov.uk)

### Have an ice day

KNOWSLEY councillors have backed plans to build a £12million indoor snowdome and icerink in the borough.

If plans go ahead residents could be skiing and snowboarding on a huge slope covered with real snow. The scheme would be the first of its kind in the North West.

A possible site for the six-acre development has been identified between St Thomas Becket and Knowsley Hey schools in Huyton. Experts predict it would bring in about £25m a year and create 300 jobs at peak times.

### An inspiring FACE

OVER 2,000 residents have headed back to the classroom and enrolled on courses to improve their educational skills.

The Knowsley Family and Community Education (FACE) Service is helping people aged over 16 to reach their potential.

FACE runs adult courses in various secondary schools, the three city learning centres and all Knowsley libraries.

The service offers courses in everything from art to aerobics, childcare to cake decorating and many more. For more information visit [www.knowsleyleaadulteducation.co.uk](http://www.knowsleyleaadulteducation.co.uk) – or contact your child's school, or call 443 4501.

# Useful numbers

**Benefits (Housing and Council Tax)**

**443 4042**

**Births, Marriages and Deaths**

**443 5210**

**Business Rates**

**443 4089**

**Business Services (Advice, Funding, Recruitment and Training)**

**477 4000**

**Children's Information Service**

**443 5633**

**Complaints and Compliments**

**443 4031**

**Consumer Advice/Trading Standards**

**443 4711**

**Council Tax**

**443 4476**

**Council Tax and Benefits Fraud Hotline**

**0800 073 0532**

**Dangerous Buildings/Structures/Trees**

**443 2380**

**Education General Enquiries**

**443 3232**

**General Enquiries**

**489 6000**

**Highways (including footways and street lighting)**

**443 2800**

**Homelessness**

**290 7190**

**Housing General Enquiries**

**443 5834**

**Housing Repairs (Knowsley Housing Trust East)**

**0800 731 2023**

**(Knowsley Housing Trust West)**

**0500 969694**

**Job Vacancies**

**443 5000**

**Neighbourhood Wardens**

**Huyton South**

**443 3395**

**Halewood**

**443 2171**

**Kirkby South**

**548 2725**

**Stockbridge Village**

**230 0407**

**Tower Hill**

**547 5183**

**Prescot & Whiston**

**443 4692**

**Pest Control**

**443 2455**

**Planning Enquiries**

**443 2380**

**Refuse Collection**

**443 2400**

**School Admissions & Exclusions**

**443 3212**

**School Attendance Service**

**443 3279**

**School Bus Passes**

**443 5609**

**Traffic Signal Faults**

**443 2349**

**Truancy Hotline**

**0800 073 6161**

**customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk**

**NHS Direct  
0845 4647 24 hours**

## Emergencies (Out of hours)

**(Monday–Friday 5pm–9am and all day Saturday and Sunday)**

**Highways, footways and street lighting**

**(Monday–Friday 8pm–8am, Saturday before 9.30am & after 1pm, all day Sunday and Bank Holidays)**

**443 2800**

**Homelessness and Social Services**

**(Monday–Friday 5pm–9am and all day Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays)**

**07659 590081**

**Housing Repairs**

**290 7375/449 3958**

## Additional useful numbers

**Fire**

**Huyton Fire Station, Huyton Lane, Huyton. 01744 697712**

**Kirkby Fire Station, Webster Drive, Kirkby. 0151 546 5151**

**Whiston Fire Station, Fire Station Road, Whiston. 0151 426 6424.**

**Police**

**Halewood Police Station, Leathers Lane, Halewood.**

**Open Monday–Saturday 7am–10pm, Sunday 10am–6pm.**

**Huyton Police Station, Lathom Road, Huyton. Open 24 hours.**

**Kirkby Police Station, St Chads Drive, Kirkby. Open 24 hours.**

**Prescot Police Station, Derby Street, Prescot. Monday–Friday 7am–11pm, Saturday 10am–6pm.**

To contact your police station call Merseyside Police switchboard on 0151 709 6010.

**Citizens Advice  
0845 1221300**

# Switch on to **interactive**

**GET information and advice, report faults, search local events and even contact Knowsley News – all from the comfort of your couch.** By Vicki Gianelli

**D**igital television is enabling residents in Knowsley to interact with a range of council services – at the click of a remote control.

If you have access to Sky, Telewest or NTL services – then you can access Knowsley's digi site.

Knowsley was one of the first local authorities in the country to 'go live' with its digi service in 2000, which provides details on various council services from library to sports facilities, pest control to consumer advice, recruitment, council tax, housing benefits, leisure activities and much more. You can even contact Merseyside Fire Service to arrange a home safety check.

Through Directgov, Knowsley's DigiTV allows people who don't have the internet or computer knowledge to get online. You can request information, report faults, or obtain advice by sending an email from your television set direct to the council. Even

if you don't own a computer, or the internet – you can still contact the council interactively.

As the technology develops, DigiTV hopes to introduce more interactive services and transactions.

The UK is planning to switch to digital broadcasting by 2012, and television is a perfect medium to reach the public, with 44 per cent of the population already having access to digital TV.

South Yorkshire is currently piloting a scheme that allows people to book a doctor's appointment through the digi site. There are also plans to link directly into local community forums, so you can pose questions and receive feedback from meetings.

Over 25,000 people in Knowsley currently use DigiTV and figures are rising. With the Independent Television Commission predicting up to 75% of UK households will have digital television by 2007, it is time to switch on, interact and enjoy.

## HOW TO ACCESS COUNCIL SERVICES ON YOUR TV

### Telewest/NTL

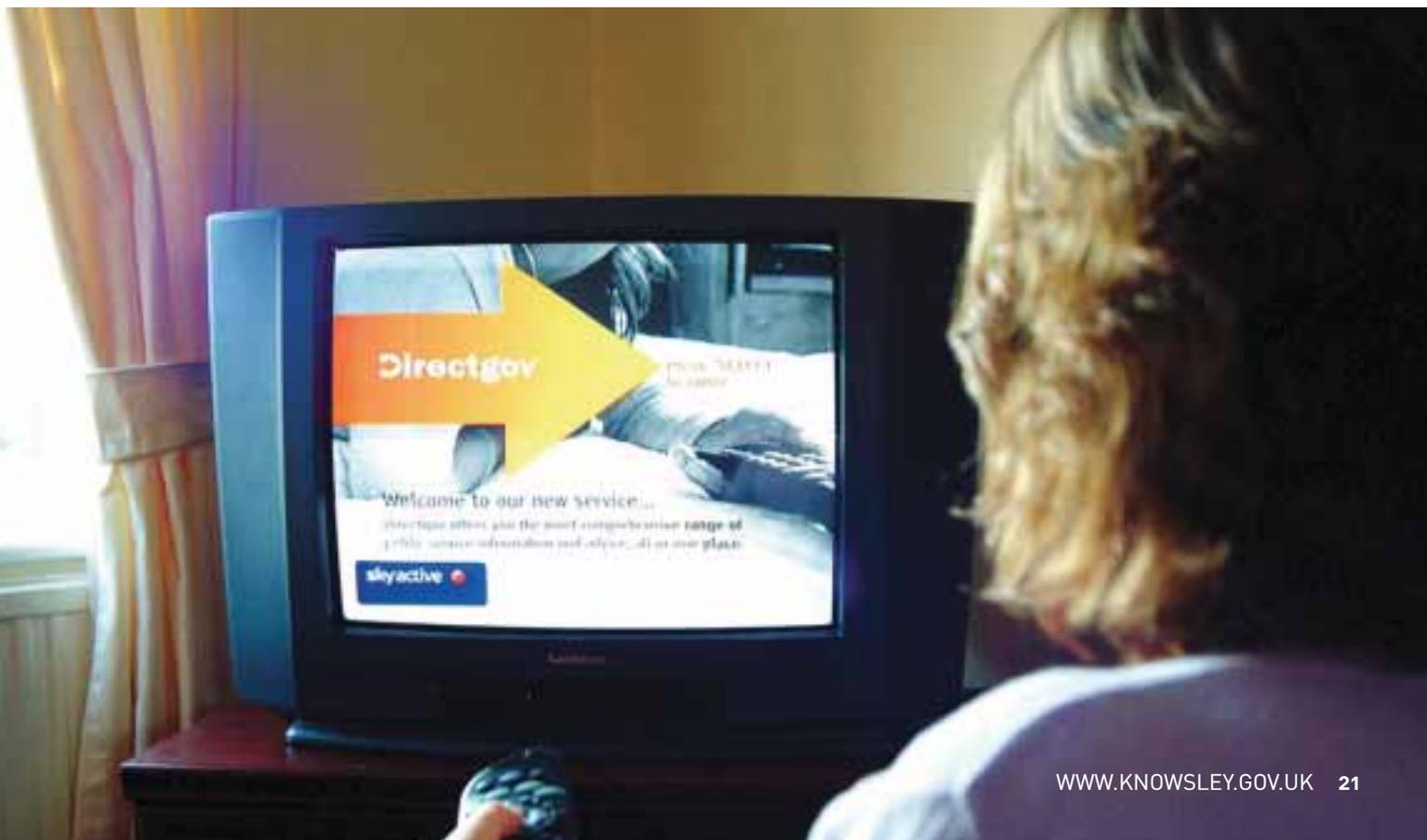
- Press interactive
- Choose News & Info
- Choose Direct Gov
- Choose Local Info
- Select Local Search

A local search will be displayed where you can key in the postcode, town or village name using your remote control or keypad.

### Sky

- Press interactive
- Choose News & Info
- Choose Direct Gov
- Choose Local Info
- Select Local Search

A local search will be displayed with the postcode pre-filled. Sky technology knows where the box is located. You can change the postcode using your remote if you wish to search for another local authority.



# DESTINED TO DAZZLE IN DALLAS

## Coach predicts glory for Knowsley's squad

By Gareth Roberts

**T**EENAGERS from Knowsley are following in the footsteps of Michael Owen, David Beckham and Wayne Rooney – by seeking Stateside glory in the Dallas Cup.

An 18-strong squad travels to America on 29 March for the youth tournament, playing in New York and Austin before the tournament kicks off in Dallas on 9 April.

A Knowsley under-19 team has competed in the annual tournament since 1991, reaching the semi-finals in 2000 and the quarter-finals last year.

Kevin Hodgson, who played for Knowsley in the 1996 and 1997 tournaments, now coaches the class of 2006. The 28 year-old from Huyton went on to play semi-professionally and now works with youngsters at Tranmere Rovers.

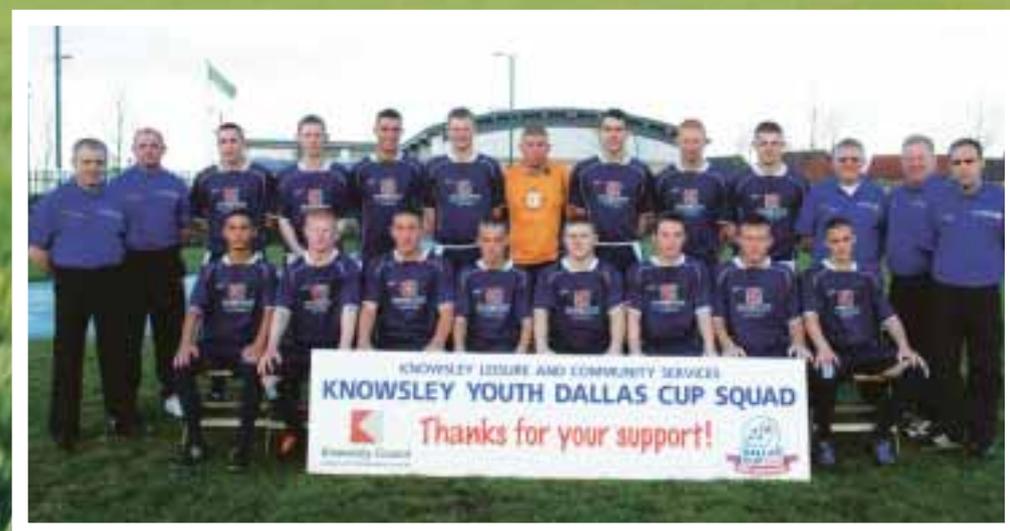
Kevin is confident Knowsley, who have trained twice a week since October, can dazzle in Dallas. He said: "The squad is very strong ability-wise and are probably technically better than the teams they will face.

"It will come down to fitness, attitude, discipline and whether they are prepared psychologically – this is what we have been working on. If we get these factors right there is no reason why they can't go all the way."

The Dallas Cup is also an excellent opportunity to showcase talents to watching scouts. Huyton-born Swansea City hotshot Lee Trundle starred in the Dallas Cup, while several players have also won sporting scholarships.

Andrew Taylor secured a £15,000-a-year scholarship with Oklahoma University after playing in last year's competition. Kevin is convinced that the team of 2006 can go all the way. He added:

"We've got a few good lads here who could go on to make a full-time career out of the game. They are quality lads both on and off the pitch and it will be a great experience for them."



# AWARD HAT-TRICK FOR JUDO COACH

National prize inspires former bronze medallist to come out of retirement.

**E**X-OLYMPIC star Terry Powell is celebrating after winning three prestigious coaching awards, and scooping runner-up spot in the UK's Community Coach of the Year Award.

The Halewood star, who coaches Judo to children in Knowsley, beat off stiff competition from across the country to win the title.

Terry, 45, first landed the Knowsley District Sports Council's Coach Award and then went on to triumph at the Merseyside Sports Partnership's Coach of the Year ceremony. He was then automatically entered into the national competition held at the Dorchester Hotel in London.

He said: "Winning all three awards was just fantastic and going to the Dorchester was a great experience. We were just thrilled to be there. A highlight was meeting Sir Bobby Robson, who picked up an award for outstanding achievements in sport.



Terry Powell (pictured with a class)

"Judo has been my life for 23 years and I am happy to pass on my skills and knowledge to children in the borough."

Terry is now being spurred out of retirement by the British Judo Association and is back into training for the sport which won him a bronze in the Atlanta Paralympic Games.

Terry's wife Shelley added: "I thought my days of being a Judo widow were in the past but it seems Terry will be taking the sport up once again. I am so pleased and proud that he

won the awards. He has spent so much time within the community giving something back after many years in the sport."

Both of Terry's sons see their father as a role model. Dan, 14, and Marc, 16, have followed in his footsteps and enjoy Judo sessions.

Terry currently coaches children aged six to 12 at Halewood Inclusive Judo Club at Halewood Leisure Centre. To find out more call 0151 443 2124.

## Mayor tees off for charity

**B**USINESSES are invited to enter the annual Mayor's Charity Golf event in May. The Mayor of Knowsley, Cllr Jim Keight, will donate all proceeds to Breathe Easy, which campaigns to protect people from the harmful effects of smoke.

Teams of four can enter for £140 (£35 per player) or sponsor Tee boxes for £260 each. The tournament takes place on Thursday 11 May at Blundell's Hill Golf Club, Rainhill. Using Stableford rules, it takes in 18 holes, with prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed teams. Entry fees also include a three-course evening meal.

Organisers are hoping to repeat the success of last year, where more than £2,000 was raised for Knowsley Young Carers. For an application form or more information, contact Dave Mercer at Knowsley Council's Leisure and Community Services Department on 443 2152.

# WORLD CUP COMES TO KNOWSLEY

**KNOWSLEY will stage its own version of the World Cup, when one of the biggest youth football tournaments kicks off in July.**

**T**eams from Iceland, Canada, Germany, France, Republic of Ireland and China will take part in the Liverpool-Knowsley International Youth Soccer Tournament and Mini Cup. Last year 135 youth teams took part, including 25 from abroad.

Tournament organiser Eddy Jennings said: "The quality of the football played last year was of a very high standard, at times it was exceptional. That is why the tournament is now considered by many to be the best of its kind in England."

The tournament runs from Tuesday 25 July to Sunday 30 July at Geoffrey Hughes Playing Fields in Allerton. The Mini Cup will be held at King George V Sports Complex in Huyton from Saturday 2 July until Sunday 23 July.

For more information contact Eddy Jennings on 443 2154, or visit [www.LKsoccertournament.com](http://www.LKsoccertournament.com)

## Knowsley Action Guide

Halewood = Halewood Leisure Centre  
Huyton = Huyton Leisure Centre  
Kirkby = Kirkby Sports Centre  
Scotchbarn = Scotchbarn Leisure Centre, Prescott

### MONDAY

Boxing: Kirkby 5pm  
Ju Jitsu: Halewood 6pm, Huyton 7pm  
Karate: Kirkby 6pm  
Kick boxing: Kirkby 8pm

### TUESDAY

Athletics: Kirkby 6.30pm  
Boxing: Kirkby 5pm  
Junior Football Coaching: Huyton 6pm  
Karate: Halewood 8pm  
Kick boxing: Halewood 7pm, Huyton 8pm  
Taekwondo: Kirkby 7pm  
Junior Badminton: Halewood Primary School 4pm

### WEDNESDAY

Boxing: Kirkby 5.30pm, Halewood 6pm  
Cycling: Kirkby 5.30pm  
Ju Jitsu: Halewood 7.30pm  
Kick boxing: Kirkby 8pm  
Kuk Sool: Huyton 8pm

### THURSDAY

Athletics: Kirkby 6.30pm  
Boxing: Kirkby 5pm  
Ju Jitsu: Halewood 7.30pm  
Karate: Huyton 7pm, Kirkby 7pm.  
Kick boxing: Halewood 6.30pm, Huyton 8pm  
Taekwondo: Kirkby 7pm  
Junior Badminton: Brookfield High School, Kirkby 6pm  
Adult Badminton: Brookfield High School, Kirkby 8pm (after Easter)

### FRIDAY

Boxing: Kirkby 5pm, Halewood 6pm  
Ju Jitsu: Huyton 7pm, Halewood 8pm  
Junior Basketball: Halewood 7pm  
Kuk Sool: Huyton 7pm

### SATURDAY

Archery: Halewood 1.15pm  
Junior Badminton: Huyton 12noon  
Karate: Huyton 11am

### SUNDAY

Junior Badminton: Kirkby Sports Centre, 12pm

### Contact numbers:

Halewood: 443 2124  
Huyton: 443 3786  
Kirkby: 443 4404  
Scotchbarn: 443 4643



**WIN!  
GRAND  
NATIONAL  
TICKETS!**

# BACK A WINNER!

**ENTER our 2006 John Smith's Grand National competition and you could be enjoying the biggest racing event of the year!**

**E**VERYONE is scrambling for tickets to this showpiece event, but we've teamed up with Aintree Racecourse to give you the chance to win a pair of tickets for the Tattersalls Enclosure.

Last year's meeting pulled in record crowds – with 10 million watching on TV in the UK, and a further 600 million worldwide.

Race-goers at the main event witnessed a fairytale story as Hedgehunter won in

sensational style – just 12 months after falling at the last fence in the 2004 Grand National.

To taste the drama yourself on Saturday 8 April, just answer this simple question:

**Which horse won the 2005 Grand National? Was it:**  
**A. Amberleigh House**  
**B. Hedgehunter**  
**C. West Tip**

Send you answer, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Grand National Competition, Knowsley Council, Communications, Municipal Buildings, Archway Road, Huyton, L36 9YU. Closing date for entries is Monday April 3 2006. Usual competition rules apply.