

Knowsley

NEWS

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where there's a Will

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Knowsley@Council



what's hot

All the latest news

How James Bond-style methods are catching criminals, why Knowsley is hot at beating the cold, and where a walking bus scheme has become a school favourite.

Funding boost for primary schools

GREENGATES primary in Knowsley is to benefit from a multimillion-pound new school building thanks to funding announced by the DfES. By GEMMA MELLING

The Halewood school – created last year after the mergers of New Hutte and Roseheath schools – is one of a handful to receive funding as part of the Government’s pilot Pathfinder scheme.

The money - £6.5m – will be used to create a primary school fit for the future, offering not only state of the art design and technology, but also serving as a hub for the local community.

Knowsley is the only authority in Merseyside to have been chosen to receive this funding, which is part of a £150m nationwide investment unveiled by Schools Minister Jim Knight.



Headteacher, Anne Johnson with pupils Jacklyn Mousley, Amy Halliday, Dean Owens and Tony See from New Hutte and Roseheath.

It comes after money was also secured to create new primary schools in Northwood, Kirkby, and in North Huyton.

Together with the Greengates scheme, these three building projects will help Knowsley Council and the Government to

get an idea of how all primary schools may look in the future.

Cllr Ron Round, Leader of Knowsley Council, said: “This latest funding, which will enable a rebuild of Greengates school in Halewood, is great news for Knowsley and is key to our plan to create learning environments fit for the future for all our schoolchildren.”

“Having already been chosen as one of the first authorities to rebuild all its secondary schools as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, we are delighted that we are going to be able to enjoy a similar transformation in some of our primaries.”

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[knowsleynews@
knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk)

Cash rewards for environmental projects

THE hunt is on for the best community groups in Knowsley.

Groups who are helping to improve their local environment can enter the 2007 Community Environmental Challenge, with a top prize of £1,000 and runner-up prizes of £500 and £300.

Previous winners included projects on recycling and energy conservation, litter and graffiti control and support for community environmental days.

For further information, or to apply, contact Tom Eccles on 443 2419.



Live and let dye

A JAMES Bond-style crime-fighting technique is helping police in Knowsley to catch burglars.

Smart Water is a permanent non-toxic liquid, which is invisible to the naked eye but glows when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Property can be marked with the water and every batch has a unique code that is stored on a national database, so stolen items can be quickly returned.

The Knowsley Partnership has teamed up with the makers of Smart Water in a bid to encourage home and business owners to mark their property and catch out thieves.

Every school in Knowsley has already been protected with a device which when triggered sprays the offender with Smart Water linking

them undeniably to the scene of a crime.

Knowsley's custody suite has been installed with ultraviolet lighting to link offenders to crime scenes. Councillor Jackie Harris, cabinet member for Community Safety and Social Inclusion said: "The introduction of Smart Water technology throughout Knowsley is a positive and proactive response to targeting criminals operating across the borough.

"Smart Water will hopefully become a deterrent to thieves as the substance stays on clothing and skin for months. Our message is clear – if they steal, they will be marked."



Criminals are caught red handed with Smart Water



Pat Holden:
an excellent
teacher

Pat's the way to do it

A KNOWSLEY teacher has been named top of the class for her unique lessons.

Pat Holden was named an 'Excellent Teacher' (ET) by a new Government scheme. She was one of just 20 teachers in England and Wales to receive the honour and the first in Merseyside.

Pat said: "The Excellent Teacher scheme is the perfect way to develop my career. I was inspired to apply as I believe in helping teachers to develop themselves and support each other."

Pat has been teaching English, Maths and Science for over 33 years to children from nursery age to year six at Prescott Primary School. She also teaches French and is a champion of ICT, using Apple Mac technology to improve computer skills.

"I genuinely feel I could not have achieved the status without the support of the head teacher, Cath Carson, and all of the staff at the school. The children love the idea that an ET has landed in their classroom!"

Budding fundraisers

CHILDREN at a Knowsley junior school showed they had pots of care to spare by taking part in a blooming great fundraiser for a cancer charity.

Youngsters at St Margaret Mary's RC in Pilch Lane, Huyton got their hands dirty planting daffodils for Marie Curie Cancer Care's Pots of Care Campaign.

The flowers will blossom in spring, in time for the launch of the charity's national Great Daffodil Appeal which helps fund nursing for cancer patients and care and support for their families.



Hot deals to save energy and cash

KNOWSLEY residents can slash their heating bills by up to £200 a year by taking advantage of the council's Heatstreets grant scheme.

More than 7,000 homes in Knowsley have had loft and cavity wall insulation fitted in the last three years. This has helped the borough become the most energy efficient in the country.

Typically such work costs £99 for a cavity wall insulation and £75 to £125 for loft insulation.

To register an interest phone the

Merseyside Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (MEEAC) on 0800 512 012. They will arrange for a free surveyor visit.

Residents over 60 or those on benefits should be able to get this work done without charge.

If you have any queries call the council's Energy Conservation Team on 443 2216.

Energy saving tips

Setting your heating to automatically turn on/off

YEARLY SAVINGS £51

Turning your thermostat down by 1 degree centigrade

YEARLY SAVINGS £49

Boiling only the water you need

YEARLY SAVINGS £30

Switching off unused lights

YEARLY SAVINGS £24

Putting silver foil behind radiators fixed to external walls

YEARLY SAVINGS £15

Only using your dishwasher when it's full

YEARLY SAVINGS £15

Washing laundry at 40 not 60 degrees

YEARLY SAVINGS £12



Britain's best neighbour

GRAN Lily Muscat from Fincham Square, Huyton, has been crowned Britain's Best Neighbour by the National Housing Federation, which represents housing associations across the UK.

Lily, 60, has lived in the area for 33 years. Despite ill health, Lily continues to lead the Fincham Square Residents' Committee and has inspired friends and neighbours to make huge changes to the area.

She has organised tidy up days, fundraising for day trips and even arranged for a paving company to sponsor the football kit for a local children's side.

She said: "I was shocked to win the award. None of what we have achieved would have been possible without the determination of the residents and the support of KHT and other agencies.

"Bringing people together has made a real difference to the area and helped to make it somewhere we are proud to live."

Chief Executive of Knowsley Housing Trust Bob Taylor said: "This award is fitting recognition of the outstanding contribution and commitment that Lily and countless other residents in Knowsley make towards their communities day in and day out."





Pupils get animated

PUPILS in Knowsley have been getting creative during National Enterprise Week. Young people aged 16-18 took part in a creative workshop with Twin Vision. The Liverpool based charity helped young people work on a piece of animation, which they kept on DVD.

Alison Riley, Creative Space Manager, said: "This was a really rewarding workshop. It enabled us to reach younger people during Enterprise Week and show them that being creative can open up a vast range of employment opportunities.

For more information please phone 0151 477 4000 or email creative.space@knowsley.gov.uk



All aboard for healthy scheme

KNOWSLEY leader Councillor Ron Round took time out from his busy schedule to join a walking bus scheme at Park Brow School in Southdene.



BUS BUDDIES: Cllr Ron Round and Cllr Jackie Harris join the walking bus

One of the first in the UK, the scheme forms part of a wider travel plan encouraging all pupils and parents to walk to school.

Walking buses are a fun and healthy way to travel to and from school.

Each walking bus has an adult 'driver' at the front and an adult 'conductor' at the back.

The children walk in a group along a set route picking up additional 'passengers' at specific 'bus-stops' along the way. The bus runs rain or shine and everyone wears a reflective jacket.

Councillor Ron Round said: "One of our main priorities is to create safe neighbourhoods and our Road Safety and Travel Plan Team are really achieving this by reducing child casualties by 47% in our communities.

"We are committed to keeping all our residents safe. And proud to be the only metropolitan council in the country recognised for our 'excellence and innovation' under the Government's Beacon Status. It's a testament to the hard work being done."

Council champions children

SERVICES for children and young people in Knowsley are top quality, according to a recent inspection by Government inspectors.

It found that Knowsley 'champion' the needs of children and young people and had contributed to improved education, social care and health.

The inspection gave Knowsley Council and its partners the highest grade for all the areas they judged and said there was "an excellent or outstanding capacity to improve even further".

Strengths included the number of schools achieving 'healthy schools' standards, safeguarding practices, provision for teaching disabled children and young people, the youth offending service and the high proportion of looked-after children in employment, training or education.

The Building Schools for the Future programme was praised for its state of the art learning centre plans, as was the integrated children's services and the road safety education programme, which are national examples of good practice.

Council Leader, Councillor Ron Round said: "There is nothing more important than ensuring the future success and well-being of our children and young people. It is an absolute priority for the Council and its partners."

Pupils get a kick out of coaching

A SPORTS programme is helping 14-16 year olds learn more about leadership skills.

Pupils learn to mentor and coach primary school pupils in sport, obtaining skills and qualifications.

David Hayes, Knowsley's PE and School Sports Manager said: "Sports leadership is a proven motivator for pupils and this programme has many other benefits as well.

"It has raised their self esteem, and enabled them to focus their energies in a positive way by giving something back to their community."



Kids are marching on

KIKRBY children are playing to the sound of their own beat as they celebrate award success with their marching jazz band.

Carolina's Jazz Group have clinched the division two UK Federation of jazz band championships for the second year running and the White Rose championships.

The Kirkby-based band includes 32 performing members and has been marching in Knowsley

since 1978. The group practice at Southdene Community Centre in Kirkby every Friday from 6-8pm and are on the lookout for new members.

Beverley Harris, a teacher at St Margaret Marys Infant School in Huyton, inherited the job of training the band. She said: "My grandparents ran the band, then my parents and now me! The squad includes young people from the ages of 3 to 23 and all are welcome."

Travel safe this Christmas

TRAVEL safe and be on your guard are the messages Knowsley Council is sending to revellers over the festive season.

Cabs will be in high demand over the Christmas and New Year period and the council's licensing service is warning of the dangers of unlicensed taxis.

Ian Rushton, Principal Licensing Officer, said: "Rogue taxi drivers in unlicensed vehicles are illegal and have not been examined by the council for safety and roadworthiness and are not insured to carry passengers for hire. All Knowsley licensed vehicles are tested every six months and drivers are checked by the police."

Residents are being advised to

check for a licence plate at the rear of the vehicle showing the vehicle licence number, registration number and expiry date of the licence.

Drivers should be wearing an ID badge showing their photograph and another ID badge should be on display inside the vehicle.

For more information or to make a complaint, please contact the Licensing Service on 443 3936 or email ian.rushton@knowsley.gov.uk

■ A small increase in taxi fares in the borough has recently been approved.



Flashing futures captured

YOUNG people's visions of the future have been captured as part of National Youth Work Week. Billboards around the borough will showcase the work that was taken using creative digital photography.

The young people from groups across Knowsley took inspiration from this year's theme – mental health and emotional well being – to stage and photograph symbolic images that express their opinions on the subject.

Working with Knowsley Council's Youth and Play team, the fantastic results were then showcased at a special Flashing Futures event held in Kirkby.



Fair Trade fun

IT WAS the turn of the children to educate their parents when pupils from a Knowsley school invited their mums and dads to try Fair Trade products.

Youngsters from Simonswood Primary in Kirkby held a market event to learn more about Fair Trade, which offers a better deal to workers in poor countries.

The day also included a performance of multi-cultural music, dance and drama and a raffle.

Area Partnership Boards

CLOSE neighbourhood working is helping to improve services in Knowsley and you can get involved to have your say.

Six Area Partnership Boards were set up this year across Knowsley to guide and direct the way public services are provided in your area. They aim to contribute to regenerating local neighbourhoods and communities and make a positive difference to local people's lives.

Each board includes representatives of key partners based in the different areas including local councillors.

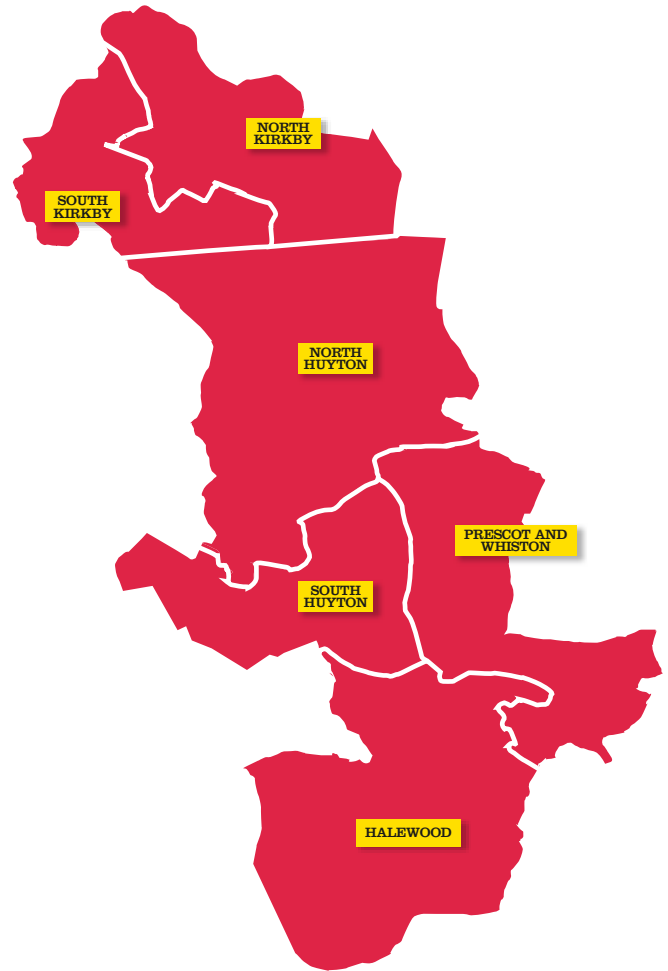
Your board gives clear direction for the future development of your area. It is responsible for the development and implementation of the local area agreement - a document that sets out the aims for each area.

The board is also responsible for

involving the local community, and decides the date and topics for the Area Public Forums.

Residents in Knowsley are welcome to attend meetings of the board and will observe the proceedings from the public gallery. Residents will not be expected to participate actively in the meeting but can raise any issues with their councillor. Members Surgery details are available through the Council's Democratic Services section on 443-3502 or on the Council's website - www.knowsley.gov.uk

You may wish to raise it with the officers who have been dedicated to support your area. They are contactable through the council's Neighbourhoods Division on 443 3022.



New help and advice hotline

A NEW help and advice service has been launched in Knowsley for people aged over 55.

IKAN stands for 'I know a man who can' and is aimed at improving the health and general wellbeing of people over 55.

The IKAN team can do all sorts of things from arranging a handyman to health checks. The team can also provide information on local activities, clubs and transport, pension advice, fire safety checks and personal alarms.

The multi agency team includes an older persons advocate, senior occupational therapy assistant community development worker, social care worker and trained staff who deal with cardiac rehabilitation and medicine management.

The IKAN team can also provide information on benefits, health, social care, home safety, fire safety, community safety, leisure activities, and education.

The IKAN team provide their services FREE to Knowsley residents aged over 55. See what the team can do for you, call them on 0800 694 0270 to arrange a home visit or find out when they will be in your area.



in focus

We take a closer look

We look at support for parents in the borough, businesses that are full of innovation and enterprise, and how partners are coming together to create a safer Knowsley.



Full of enterprise

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Working for a safer Knowsley



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A partnership for parents

A partnership for parents

Parents of children with Special Educational Needs are getting more support than ever before thanks to the Knowsley Parent Partnership.

BY VICKI GIANELLI

MORE than a quarter of children in Knowsley are registered as having Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Knowsley Parent Partnership (KPP) helps their families with everything from filling in forms and writing letters to supporting them in meetings with schools and other professionals.

Chris Lee, Parent Partnership Coordinator, said: "We provide information and support for parents of children with SEN or disabilities. This means any sort of special needs from physical disability to autism, to behavioural difficulties and learning needs or speech and language difficulties.

"Issues that we deal with range from helping parents understand individual education plans, addressing support in schools, to looking at transport issues and exclusions from school."

There is also a Choice Adviser based within KPP who provides information and support to all parents for the transition from primary to secondary school, helping them make an informed decision about which school they want their children to go to.

Tracy and James' story

AFTER countless trips to the headmaster's office for bad behaviour Tracy Walsh, from

Huyton, was at her wits' end with son James, 13, who attends Knowsley Hey School.

"James's difficulties in school were becoming a constant nightmare for me. I always knew he had a problem, but it wasn't until he was diagnosed with Attention Deficit hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and conduct disorder that I knew for sure.

"You would never be able to tell that a child has special educational needs by simply looking at them, so people would judge James without realising.

"Half the battle for parents of children with SEN is diagnosis. It was such a relief to find out that James' conditions can be treated.

"I first contacted the KPP in November 2005 when I was at the end of my tether with the whole system and with their help I was able to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

"A dedicated worker helped me to fill in forms and accompanied me to important meetings. They really push issues for you and even set up a meeting for me with the head of the local education authority.

"Not enough people are aware of the parent partnership and the support that they offer. Just knowing someone is there to listen to my worries and concerns is a true lifesaver."

School judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted

BUZZING classrooms, unique programmes and exceptional teaching and learning led to a glowing Ofsted report for Knowsley Central Area Support Centre.

The special school was rated 'outstanding' by Government inspectors. It provides education for pupils with complex needs including learning difficulties and social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The inspector's report cited the innovative emotional well-being programme and the extraordinary personalised behaviour management programmes as one of the 'magical ingredients of this very successful school'.

Chair of Governors Steve Donnelly said: "I am proud to be part of this wonderful school and I am constantly amazed by the achievements of the staff, and more importantly the achievements of the pupils."





Could you help?

Could you spare two hours a week to be an Independent Parental Supporter? Full training is offered to volunteers who will work with parents, accompanying them on school visits and helping to fill in forms.

Visit www.knowsley.gov.uk/parentpartnershipservice for more information or call 0151 443 3283.

Full of enterprise

Businesses were honoured for their investment, innovation and contribution to the local community at the annual Knowsley Economic Forum Enterprise Awards.

EIGHT firms from the borough picked up awards at a glitzy ceremony, which raised more than £2,000 for charity. Held at the Huyton Suite, it was the Mayor of Knowsley's fourth annual charity evening.

The winner of the Best Overall Company in Knowsley award went to engineering company Primary Fluid Power Ltd, which has been based in Knowsley for 30 years and employs more than 100 people. The company has designed and manufactured several innovative systems including a unique rolling bridge in Paddington and a Dutch River Swing Bridge at Goole, East Yorkshire.

The bridge has a contemporary design, created by Thomas Heatherwick, who dreamed up the unusual structure that stands in the waterside regeneration area of west London, but it was Primary Fluid Power Ltd's team of engineers who developed the technology of hydraulic ramps and electronic controls to make the £250,000 bridge unfold with elegance.

Stephen Merrie, Primary Fluid Powers Managing Director, said: "Winning this award is fantastic recognition to our talented management and highly qualified workforce. It was a welcome surprise to even be nominated."

Cllr Graham Morgan, Knowsley Council's Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Cabinet Member, said: "Knowsley is committed to

inward investment and enterprise and this event is a fantastic way of recognising businesses and what they do for the borough.

"It is thanks to the council's hard work and successful local businesses that we have reduced unemployment from 22% to 4% – the largest decrease of any local authority in Great Britain over the past 20 years. We are also proud to be one of only five authorities in the country to be highly commended in the recent Enterprising Britain Awards."



Tricks of the trade

UNEMPLOYED Brian Johnson from Tower Hill, Kirkby, had given up hope of learning a new trade – until he heard about a unique range of construction training courses called Fusion21.

"Fusion21 gave me a chance to get started at something I wanted to do – plastering. It's fantastic from my point of view because they are putting me through my NVQ and it is everything that I have wanted," Brian says.

"With being 38, I didn't think there was much chance of learning a trade. Now I've got a job, money in my pocket and am really enjoying what I do. The future's looking good."



Brian, now employed by Bramall Construction, is one of more than 324 unemployed men and women from across Merseyside who have gained permanent employment after

completing Fusion21 courses over the last four years. 146 of them have been from Knowsley.

Run by a group of Merseyside-based housing associations, the training programmes cover everything from kitchen and bathroom fitting, multi-skilling and window fitting to plastering. Trainees learn 'on the job' with contractors employed by the Fusion21 housing associations to refurbish their homes.

At present it is restricted to people who are New Deal eligible (generally those who are unemployed and over 18) but this is changing from April 1, 2007 when it will be open to a wider client group.



ROLL OF HONOUR

Best Overall Company in Knowsley:

Winner: Primary Fluid Power, Knowsley Business Park

Highly Commended:

QVC Knowsley Industrial Estate, Kirkby

Best Community or Social Enterprise:

Winner: Your Travel Boroughwide, North Mersey Business Park

Highly Commended:

Acorn Venture Urban Farm

Best Contribution to the Environment:

Winner: Knowsley Start Ltd, Huyton

Highly Commended:

Acorn Venture Urban Farm

Best New Business:

Winner: Banknote Bodyguard Ltd, Knowsley Industrial Estate Kirkby

Highly Commended:

Merrie Designs

Best Small Business:

Winner: AereLink, Knowsley Industrial Estate, Kirkby

Highly Commended:

King Construction, Knowsley Industrial Estate, Kirkby

Most Innovative Business or Organisation:

Winner: GETRAG, Halewood

Highly Commended: Glen Dimplex Home Appliances

Best Enterprise Student:

Winner: Lauren Coleman of Kirkby

Best Silver Entrepreneur:

Winner: Mike Howl - 008 Productions

Council services this Christmas



Christmas and New Year Refuse and Recycling Collection Arrangements

In order to minimise disruption to refuse and recycling collections over Christmas and New Year, the following arrangements have been put in place.

Monday collections

If your collection normally happens on a Monday, the collection due on Christmas Day will be made on Saturday, 23 December 2006. The collection due on Monday, 1 January 2007, will be made on Tuesday, 2 January 2007.

Tuesday to Friday collections

All other collections between Tuesday, 26 December 2006 and Friday, 5 January 2007 will be one day later than your usual collection.

For further information, please call the Environmental Hotline on 0151 443 2400.

After the parties... Let the recycling begin!

Recycling collection sites in your area are:

Kirkby

- McDonalds car park, Irlam Drive
- Kirkby Sports Centre

Prescot

- Tesco, Staveley Way
- Scotchbarn Swimming Pool

Halewood

- Ravenscourt Shopping Parade
- Halewood Leisure Centre

Cronton

- Holy Family Church Club

Huyton

- ASDA
- Huyton Leisure Centre



Don't forget to recycle this Christmas

See back page for everything you need for a Green Christmas!

Knowsley Library Service

Libraries will be closed and mobile and housebound library services will not operate on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Throughout the rest of the Christmas and New Year period, branch libraries and mobile and housebound services will operate as normal.

Halewood Library	0151 486 4442
Huyton Library	0151 443 3734
Kirkby Library	0151 443 4290
Page Moss Library	0151 489 9814
Prescot Library	0151 426 6449
Stockbridge Library	0151 480 3925
Whiston Library	0151 426 4757



Active Knowsley Leisure Centres

Knowsley Leisure Centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. On Christmas Eve they will open at their usual times and close at 3.00 pm.

On all other days they will be open according to their usual opening hours.

Halewood Leisure Centre	0151 443 2124	King George V Sports Complex	0151 443 5712
Heatwaves Leisure Centre	0151 443 2750	Kirkby Sports Centre	0151 443 4404
Huyton Leisure Centre	0151 443 3786	Scotchbarn Leisure Centre	0151 443 4643

Cash Office

Christmas Opening Hours

Fri, 22 Dec	9.00am - 4.30pm
Sat, 23 Dec	9.30am - 1.00pm
(Huyton and Prescot Only)	
Mon, 25 Dec	Christmas Day - Closed
Tue, 26 Dec	Boxing Day - Closed
Wed, 27 Dec	9.00am - 4.00pm
Thu, 28 Dec	9.00am - 4.30pm
Fri, 29 Dec	9.00am - 4.30pm
Sat, 30 Dec	9.30am - 1.00pm
(Huyton and Prescot Only)	
Mon, 1 Jan, 07	New Year's Day - Closed
Tue, 2 Jan, 07	9.00am - 4.30pm

One Stop Shops

Christmas Opening Hours

Fri, 22 Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm
Sat, 23 Dec	9.30am - 1.00pm
(Huyton, Prescot and Kirkby Only)	
Mon, 25 Dec	Christmas Day - Closed
Tue, 26 Dec	Boxing Day - Closed
Wed, 27 Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm
Thu, 28 Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm
Fri, 29 Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm
Sat, 30 Dec	9.30am - 1.00pm
(Huyton, Prescot and Kirkby Only)	
Mon, 1 Jan, 07	New Year's Day - Closed
Tue, 2 Jan, 07	9.00am - 5.00pm

Register Office

Christmas Opening Hours

Fri, 22 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Sat, 23 Dec	Open for ceremonies
Mon, 25 Dec	Christmas Day - Closed
Tue, 26 Dec	Boxing Day - Closed
Wed, 27 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Thu, 28 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri, 29 Dec	9.30am - 4.30pm
Sat, 30 Dec	Open for ceremonies
Mon, 1 Jan, 07	New Year's Day - Closed
Tue, 2 Jan, 07	9.30am - 4.30pm



Role model for reducing crime

An initiative from the police, council and partners is cutting crime by up to 80% in the borough.

ANTI social behaviour is big news at the moment and a top priority in Knowsley.

"Unfortunately, it only takes a very small group or even an individual to make the lives of many others a misery," says Jackie Harris, Knowsley's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Social Inclusion. "But the police and council are working together on several initiatives to tackle this problem."

Initiatives include intensive policing operations known as Model Beats, during which council and partners carry out a high visibility blitz on certain areas. This could include vehicle stop checks, inspections of licensed premises, litter picking, fixing street lighting and cutting back overgrown shrubbery.

Model Beats have recently taken place in areas such as Northwood in Kirkby and Brookwood in Huyton, which have seen crime drop by as much as 80%.

Section 30 dispersal orders – giving police the power to move on trouble groups – have also helped reduce crime in areas including Huyton, Kirkby and Prescot. There are currently orders on Longview Shops, Huyton, Kennelworth Avenue, Kirkby, and Parbrook Road and Altbridge Road, Huyton.

Louise Evans, anti-social behaviour manager for Knowsley's

"We recognise that anti-social behaviour is one of the most important things that residents want us to tackle."

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, says: "A lot has already been done and we will build on these successes to reduce crime even further.

"However, there is much still to do and residents can play a vital part by reporting anything they see. We do take it seriously and will act."

Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are another weapon in the war on nuisance. These are issued when other intervention methods have failed, and if offenders break their order, they will be arrested.

Currently Knowsley's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has eight ASBOs and four criminal ASBOs on troublemakers in the borough.

"We recognise that anti-social behaviour is one of the most important things that residents want us to tackle," says Councillor Harris.

"This is a top priority for us in Knowsley and we will continue to use every power available to us to crack down on this mindless minority, improving safety for everyone."



Getting hot on cold calling

In an attempt to combat bogus callers Knowsley Council is setting up a pilot No Cold Calling Zone.

What is Cold Calling?

Anyone who knocks on your door uninvited.

What is a No Cold Calling Zone?

This is an area whereby the residents have made a decision that they do not want anyone knocking on their doors offering to sell goods or carryout work on their property.

The zone is easy to identify as signs are erected on lampposts and/or walls at the access points to the zone. Residents are also given free No Cold Calling Zone Stickers and encouraged to place them in their front windows so unwanted callers are aware they are unwelcome and should not knock on

residents doors as to do so will put them in breach of the No Cold Calling Zone. Residents will also be given cards, which they can hand to any persistent callers who may still breach the zone.

What is the aim of No Cold Calling Zones?

The aim of the zone is to reduce the number of unwanted callers knocking on residents doors as many of these could be bogus callers, distraction burglars and rogue traders.

Our aim is to intercept those callers who are intent on persuading residents to let them carry out work on their property, or offering services or goods at "TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE PRICES".



Hotline against hate

VICTIMS of hate crimes such as homophobia, racism and domestic violence now have a new hotline that offers help 24 hours a day.

The hotline, 0800 953 44 33 is free, will not show up on your phone bill and you do not have to give your name.

The fully trained and sympathetic operators can make sure you get the help you need, whether it is from the police, council, housing association or other agency. Alternatively, they can offer an understanding ear.

Parking that's on the mark

PARKING in Knowsley is safer than ever, thanks to rigorous security measures in all the borough's car parks.

Knowsley is the first and only council on Merseyside to achieve the Park Mark Safer Parking award - presented to car parks which deter criminal activity and create a safer environment for customers and their cars - in every one of its car parks.

The award is granted to parking areas that have achieved the requirements of an assessment conducted by the police - including a very low number of car park based crimes.

Work, rest and plays

Willy Russell talks exclusively to VICKI GIANELLI about his latest work, *The Wrong Boy*, his hobbies and his memories of growing up in Knowsley.

HIS the man who created *Shirley Valentine*, *Educating Rita* and *Blood Brothers*, one of the longest-running musicals in the West End.

His plays are constantly in production, he's had Oscar nominations, critical acclaim and boasts a worldwide following. But far from getting carried away by it all, the 59-year-old is the first to admit he owes a huge debt to his upbringing in Knowsley for his phenomenal success.

The young Willy Russell enjoyed an "idyllic, rural childhood with a fast talking scouse sensibility" growing up on the former Maypole Estate in Whiston. "I had a cultural Liverpool upbringing in terms of the language," he explained. "But equally I had it completely rural because we had the run of Lord Derby's estate."

Willy gained "lots of inspiration" from his school days at Maypole Primary School then at Woolfall Secondary School. A selection of his experiences are brought to life in his most recent literary adventure, *The Wrong Boy*. The book, which is currently being adapted for a major television series, is about a hapless northern teenager who recounts the bizarre, hilarious and terrible story of

his life, through long letters to his own hero, the cult musician Morrissey.

"Everything I write has some connection with my past and certainly, the defining moment in *The Wrong Boy* happened in Knowsley, but you'll have to read the book to find out more!"

After leaving school, Willy worked briefly as a hairdresser in Kirkby before heading to Kirkby College to start his road back to education.

Hobbies like bird watching and sketching take up most of Willy's spare time but his quest to write the next big thing appears too enticing to sacrifice. "You are only as good as the last thing you've written," he quipped, "it's a cliché but it's so true."

So what words of wisdom did Willy have for budding writers? "Don't trust the advice of anyone who would give you advice," he says with a wry smile. With his infectious enthusiasm and creative wit, it's clear that Willy has managed to retain his down to earth, Liverpudlian sense of humour.



A young Willy Russell

What's next for Willy?

Could *Blood Brothers* the movie soon be hitting our screens? Together with Alan Parker, Willy has written the screenplay to the long-running hit show. He explained: "I am currently in talks with American film companies to finance the project." But the playwright insists it's still early days: "Until I'm sitting there on the opening night of the movie, I'm treating it as highly unlikely that it will happen."

Willy applies the same philosophy to each of his projects, stating that he "never takes things for granted". Yet with *Blood Brothers* still playing to large and enthusiastic audiences twenty years after it first opened in 1983, how could tinseltown resist?

It might be some people's idea of a nightmare, but Kirkby girl Rebecca McCormick may soon land her dream job – working for Big Brother TV star Jade. BY VICKI GIANELLI

A dream job with Jade

SUPER-ORGANISED Rebecca (pictured below) is in the running to land a life-changing role as a personal assistant to Jade Goody and is being followed by the cameras for Living TV's reality show, *Jade's PA*.

Rebecca works for the New Deal for Communities (NDC) project in Knowsley but she's swapped the River Alt Centre in Huyton for a flash Finchley pad in London whilst she fights it out for her dream job.

"It would be a fantastic challenge for me and it's my dream to break into the media industry."



And she's confident of success after fighting off competition from thousands of applications to reach the last 10.

Rebecca said: "My job as Media and Communications Officer at the NDC has definitely helped me prepare for the role as Jade's PA.

"I've always worked for directors and managers of organisations and I'm used to doing tasks for busy people. But if I got the job I'd definitely miss the local people, and my colleagues, especially my boss."

Mum-of-two Jade has made millions since appearing on Big Brother in 2002 and now runs a successful beauty salon, has her own perfume and is a regular in the glossy magazines.

The 12-month role means a move to London for the winner who will be expected to keep an eye on Jade's finances and home life and handle the ever persistent paparazzi that hound the celebrity wherever she goes.

So is Rebecca, who grew up in Rowan Drive, Kirkby, phased by the thought of managing Jade's hectic lifestyle?

She said: "It would be a fantastic challenge for me and it's my dream to break into the media industry. I'd have a real laugh working with her and being a celebrity PA is my idea of the perfect job."

The final 10 contestants are now living together and attending Jade's recruitment academy whilst competing in a series of tests and challenges. Each week, one finalist is sent packing. To follow Rebecca's progress tune into *Jade's PA* on Mondays at 10pm on Living TV.





Breaking the addiction

Smoking is the biggest single cause of early death and ill health in Knowsley – making it the number one health priority for the borough.

VERA O'HARE smoked for 40 years before deciding to quit. Luckily for the grandmother from

Aigburth, expert advice and support was available from Roy Castle Fag Ends – a community-based stop smoking service now available in Knowsley.

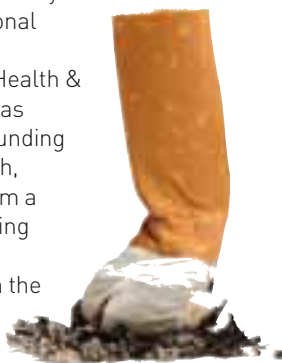
Ten months on, Vera is still off the cigarettes. "I was having a cigarette one morning when I realised that I couldn't actually taste it. So I decided to quit and went along to a Roy Castle Fag Ends session at Garston Library," she said.

"I found the advisors really helpful. They even ring me up to see how I am and if I need any support. I still go along to sessions occasionally and have my lung function tested.

"My children and grandchildren were thrilled I had quit. I was never pressured to quit by my family, it was something I decided to do for myself and I think that is why I've been successful."

Roy Castle Fag Ends has helped nearly 15,000 people in Merseyside quit smoking in the last five years. Deaths from lung cancer are 74% higher in Knowsley than the national average.

Knowsley Health & Social Care has quadrupled funding in the borough, dedicating £1m a year to reducing the number of smokers in the borough.



Over the next three years, services aim to help more than 5,000 Knowsley people quit smoking.

Knowsley Director of Public Health Dr Diana Forrest said: "Smoking is the biggest single cause of ill health and early death in the borough and we, and our colleagues at Roy Castle Fag Ends, are committed to doing everything we can to support local people to quit."

The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation Head of Tobacco Control Christine Owens said: "Fag Ends sessions will be held all over Knowsley at the same time and in the same place every week, so people can drop in whenever they want. Because no two people are the same, every smoker needs different support to successfully quit.

"This is what makes the Fag Ends approach successful; we tailor our service to what each individual needs. The important thing for people to know is that we're here and we can help!"

FREEPHONE 0800 195 2131 for your nearest Roy Castle Fag Ends session.



Up in smoke

Smoking costs Knowsley Health & Social Care in excess of £6m a year, not including the wider costs to society such as working days lost to sickness leave.

Fight off Flu this winter

Those most at risk from Influenza are being offered **FREE** jabs across the borough this Christmas.

The vaccination takes two minutes and is safe, painless, effective. You can claim your free flu jab if you are:

- Aged 65 or over
- Have a serious illness, including: serious heart or respiratory conditions (including asthma), kidney disease, liver disease, diabetes or lowered immunity due to disease or treatment
- A resident in a long-stay residential care or nursing home
- A main carer for older or disabled people deemed to be at risk if the carer falls ill.

While you may feel under the weather for a few days after having the flu jab, it is impossible to get flu from the flu jab.

Chris Mimmagh, Medical Director of Knowsley PCT and a local GP said: "Anyone can get flu but it can be more serious for people of any age with a serious medical condition and the over 65s. Influenza can make you very ill and in some cases it can be fatal. The flu jab is very safe and effective and is the best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu."

"We are urging all our over 65s to get their flu jab. The jab must be given every year as the Influenza virus is always changing, so last year's vaccine won't protect you."

To find out more about the flu or the flu jab contact your GP, Knowsley Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0800 073 0578, NHS Direct on 0845 4647, or visit www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk or www.dh.gov.uk

Your nearest drop-in session

Monday

Centre 63, Kirkby. 9.00am – 10.45am
Northwood Community Centre. 10.00am – 11.45am
Whiston Health Centre. 9.00am – 10.45am
Huyton 1-2-1 (appointments only), Archway Road. 2.00pm – 5.00pm
The Gate Community Centre, 600 Princess Drive. 1.00pm – 2.45pm

Tuesday

Hilton Grace Community & Youth Centre, Halewood. 9.30am – 11.15pm
Prescot Library. 9.00am – 10.45am
Westvale Community Centre, Kirkby. 9.30am – 10.45am
Twigg Lane Clinic (appointments only), Huyton. 9.00am – 11.00pm
Kirkby Health Suite 1-2-1 (appointments only),

Kirkby. 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Southdene Community Centre. 1.00pm – 2.45pm
Swanside Community Centre. 1.00pm – 2.45pm

Wednesday

Halewood 1-2-1 (appointments only). 9.30am – 11.30am
Page Moss Library. 10.00am – 11.45am
Southdene Community Centre. 10.00am – 11.45am

Towerhill Resource Centre, Kirkby. 9.30am – 11.15am
Heatwaves Community Centre. 1.30pm – 3.15pm
Nutmeg Villa 1-2-1 (appointments only), Huyton. 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Friday

Prescot 1-2-1 (appointments only). 9.30am – 11.00am
River Alt Resource Centre. 10.00am – 11.45am
Stockbridge Village

1-2-1 (appointments only). 9.30am – 11.30am
Arncliffe Community Centre, Halewood. 1.00pm – 2.45pm
Mosscroft Community Centre, Huyton. 1.00pm – 2.45pm
Westvale Community Centre, Kirkby. 1.00pm – 2.45pm

For further information
Freephone 0800 195 2131

ask the expert



With Christmas dinner on its way **HELEN WILLIAMS**, one of Knowsley Council's Environmental Health Officers, answers your questions on avoiding food poisoning this festive season.

Q What should I remember when cooking my turkey for Christmas day?

A The three things to remember are: thaw well, cook well, and store well (see our guide below). Always follow instructions, remove giblets before cooking, and cook stuffing separately – otherwise stuff the neck area only.

Keep blood and water from defrosting meat away from other food, work surfaces, or cutting boards. And always wash your hands thoroughly after handling raw poultry.

Cook at a high temperature (Gas mark 7/425°F/220°C) for the first 30-45 minutes, then a lower temperature (Gas Mark 3/325°F/170°C) for the remainder of the cooking time as shown in the table below. Skewer into the thickest part of the thigh to test if it is cooked – juices should run clear with no sign of red or pink – serve immediately.

Store leftovers in the fridge (below

5°C) within one and a half hours – keep for less than three days.

Q What common mistakes can I avoid when preparing food?

A Check fish is fresh – look for clear bright eyes and firm texture. Check fruit (including dried) and nuts are fresh with no blemishes, mould or insect holes. Store in dry, cool conditions.

Ensure dairy products are kept refrigerated when not in use. Keep fresh meat and defrosting foods at the bottom of the fridge to prevent dripping onto other foods. Put chilled and frozen foods in the refrigerator or freezer as soon as you can and try not to overload your fridge.

Keep the fridge at below 5C and your freezer below minus 18C. Observe microwave cooking and standing times, check “use-by” dates on pre-packed and perishable foods. Wash hands thoroughly before preparing food.

Q Should I be wary of where I buy food from?

A Yes. Always buy your food from a retailer who has a clean, well organised shop. Check chilled or frozen products are displayed below the load line of the fridge or freezer and avoid any which are overloaded or untidy.

As soon as you get home, put all fresh or frozen food in your fridge or freezer – and use an insulated cool bag to carry them home if you can.

Q I sometimes end up panicking in the kitchen at Christmas – what should I remember to do?

A It's vital to wash hands in hot soapy water before handling food, after using the toilet, touching rubbish bins or pets, coughing or sneezing and after handling raw foods.

When preparing food, wash knives and preparation surfaces between stages using hot, soapy water. Don't use the same utensils for raw food and cooked food without washing them in between.

Don't leave food standing around at room temperature – put it in the fridge. Never handle food if you have a stomach upset. Cover any cuts with a clean waterproof dressing. And keep pets out of the kitchen, as they can spread bacteria.

For more information contact the Public Health and Consumer Protection Division on 443 4723 or visit the Food Standards Agencies Website on 'Safer Christmas Eating' at <http://www.eatwell.gov.uk/healthydiet/seasonsandcelebrations/winter/saferchristmas>



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

12 tips for a safe Christmas

1. Don't prepare food too far in advance
2. Take chilled/frozen food home in cool bags
3. Check the 'use by' dates
4. Keep your kitchen clean
5. Keep your fridge between 0 and 5 degrees centigrade
6. Wash your hands before and after handling food
7. Keep cooked and raw food separate
8. Defrost food thoroughly before use
9. Keep pets away from food
10. Store cooked food above raw food in a refrigerator
11. Follow cooking instructions on packets
12. Cook food thoroughly

Oven ready weight	Thawing time	Cooking time (foil wrapped)	Serves
550g -1.4kg	4-10hrs	1-1.5 hrs	2-4
1.4-2.3kg (3-5lb)	10-15hrs	1.5-2 hrs	4-6
2.3-3.6kg (5-8lb)	15-18hrs	2-3 hrs	6-10
3.6-5kg (8-11lb)	18-20hrs	3-3.5 hrs	10-15
5-6.8kg (11-15lb)	20-24hrs	3.5-4.5 hrs	15-20

SPORT

Commonwealth hero inspires young athletes

CHILD athletes in Knowsley were given someone to look up to at a recent borough competition – when high jump silver medallist Martyn Bernard popped in to cheer them on!

Martyn, who took silver at this year's Commonwealth Games, was on hand to present medals to the winners of the Knowsley Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics Final at Kirkby Sports Centre.

More than 120 primary school pupils took part in the competition after winning through elimination heats.

Once again there were a number of outstanding individual performances as pupils competed to become a 'Champion of Knowsley' in their particular event. It was a good evening for St Laurence's, Kirkby, as pupil Bradley O'

Connor took gold in relay, sprint and long jump. Emily Canning, also from St Laurence's also secured gold in the vertical and long jump events.

The girls balance test went to sudden death with Amy Ryan (St Margaret Mary's), Jodie Scott (St Laurence's) and Louise Nolan (St



Aloysius) taking gold, silver and bronze respectively.

Sports Hall Athletics competitions, run in Knowsley for the past 12 years by the council's sports development team, enable young people to take part in competitive athletics within the safe confines of a sports hall.



New look leisure centre takes shape

WORK is well underway on Kirkby's new £12m leisure centre that is due to open next autumn.

Local councillors including council leader Ron Round joined Chief Executive Sheena Ramsey on a tour of the site to inspect progress and get a feel for the centre, which will bring state of the art sports and leisure facilities to the town.

Since preparation work started on the Cherryfield Drive site in January much progress has been made, with the shape of the building now clearly visible. The roof is now being completed and the swimming pool bases are in place. Over the coming months the centre will be made watertight and fitting out work will begin in the New Year.

As well as the large pool, the centre will boast a sports hall, two floodlit artificial pitches, a learner pool, fitness gym, facilities for boxing and two multi purpose halls for activities such as martial arts and aerobics, benefiting both individuals and sports clubs alike.

Cllr Eddie Conner, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Community and Culture at Knowsley Council, said: "It is pleasing to see the new Kirkby Leisure Centre start to take shape. This will be a superb facility for the borough and will replace the town's old leisure centre, which is coming to the end of its useful life.

"As a local authority, we are committed to providing excellent facilities to encourage people to enjoy sport and physical activity, which is vitally important for good health and fitness."

A healthy boost

GYM facilities at Huyton Leisure Centre have been given a £200,000 refit.

The Active Fitness gym at the Roby Road centre now boasts 60 pieces of quality cardiovascular and strength equipment.

The centre is also the first in the country to be kitted out with the latest innovation in intelligent technology, enabling

users to monitor each and every workout to help them get the best possible results from their training.

The VIVO system is the very latest idea from gym equipment manufacturers, Life Fitness, and also allows staff to monitor how often individual pieces of equipment are being used and how popular classes are.

This will allow the centre to tailor future provision according to demand.

The Mayor of Knowsley, Cllr Joan Quilliam, and Knowsley's cabinet member for Leisure, Community and Culture, Eddie Connor, attended the opening of the new facilities.

Cllr Connor said: "The new gym at Huyton leisure centre is extremely impressive now."

Knowsley lads conquer the US

TWO Knowsley footballers are shining in the States after they were spotted playing for Knowsley's Dallas Cup side.

Andy Taylor from Huyton is now in his second season in America after winning a scholarship in Oklahoma. And he has caught the eye, winning selection to a university league select side.

Luke Garvey, a former Knowsley Hey School pupil who is in his first season in the US, has been named in the representative side's second team.

Andy's mum Julie said: "Knowsley Council and all involved in the Dallas Cup must be very proud of these two young men."

Adult Education

opportunities in Knowsley



Getting back into education has never been easier for adults in Knowsley

The Council's Adult Education Service - Family And Community Education (FACE), offers affordable and enjoyable education courses at adult centres throughout Knowsley.

FACE provide a friendly and supportive service where adults can learn in a non-threatening environment. Courses are available in six secondary schools, three city learning centres and seven libraries across the borough.

The courses and qualifications aim to enhance your employment prospects, improve your health, fitness and well-being or develop parenting skills.

- Most courses lead to accreditation or certification with a recognised awarding body or examination board.
- Most courses are offered in the evening but also during the day time as well.
- Leisure courses for your enjoyment.

All Maths and English Workshops are FREE!

If you are considering taking your first step or next step in adult learning, or are unsure about what to do and need further advice and guidance, phone our Information Advice and Guidance Officer - Jackie Croft on 0151 443 3235.

For information about other courses contact a member of the FACE team on 0151 443 3273.

Why not get the whole family involved?

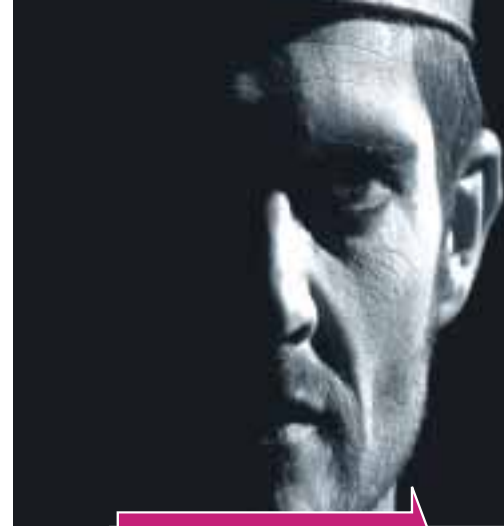
Family Learning offers a variety of accredited and non-accredited learning opportunities for parents/carers and children. It helps to raise children's attainment, inform and engage parents/carers in their children's education and provide educational opportunities for parents/carers. Family Learning courses are free.

For further information about Family Learning please contact Pam Brown on 0151 443 4501.



Knowsley Council

Whatever your desire to learn - we have a course to suit you!



➔ the guide

All the latest events near you

What's on and where, in and around the area, with seasonal pantomimes, live concerts, bird watching walks, and New Year's Eve fireworks.



As you can see, culture is alive and kicking in Knowsley – with a whole host of exciting things to do this winter. But culture is broader than that – it's everything we don't have to do to live, but need to do to feel alive.



That's not just the obvious things like sports and arts, libraries and museums but a broader range of activities including parks, children's play, heritage, visitor attractions and other leisure activities.



Getting involved in cultural activities – whether it's just going to the park or enjoying a concert – can improve your quality of life and well being as well as strengthening your community. So whatever takes your fancy in the listings – just get out there and enjoy it!

Put yourself in the Christmas spirit with "Dashing through the snow!" a special Christmas concert featuring the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at Halewood Sports Centre on 12 December. Knowsley's status as a key funder of the Phil means that three times a year this world-famous orchestra comes to you, to perform at venues throughout the Borough.



Knowsley has some of the best managed parks in the country, with seven Green Flag Awards to prove it. Don't let the cold weather put you off – there are events on in the parks all winter. Enjoy the Winter Wonderland at Court Hey Park or pop along to your local park in February to make a nesting box.

what's on

From fun and adventure in Jack and the Beanstalk to the heartfelt songs of Ray Lamontage, there's something for everyone in the next few months.

DECEMBER

01 – Jack and the Beanstalk: Twist and Sprout

Time: 2pm & 7.30pm
Venue: Liverpool Everyman
The Everyman Rock 'n' Roll Panto team returns for another large slice of Christmas pudding-sized fun and frolics with Jack and the Beanstalk – Let's Twist and Sprout! A unique panto you can shake, rattle and roll in the aisles to as Jack Trotter saves his true love whilst battling against the 'Giant of all Giants'.
Until January 27.
Tel: 709 4776

04 – Northern Lights

Times: 9.15am–5pm (Monday & Friday), 9.15am–7pm (Tuesday & Thursday), Closed Wednesday, 10am–4pm (Saturday), 12–4pm (Sunday).
Venue: Kirkby Gallery, Kirkby Library

An exhibition of giant lanterns made in partnership with the Liverpool Lantern Company and Knowsley Community. Until February 18.
Tel: 443 4290

05 – Winter Lights

Time: 10am–1pm & 2–5pm (Tuesday–Saturday), 2–5pm (Sunday).

Venue: Prescot Museum
An exploration of traditional celebrations of lights from across the globe. Find out more about the traditions of Hanukkah, Diwali and Christmas and find out about the role light plays in each of them.
Until February 25.
Tel: 430 7787

15 – Santa Claus: The Musical

Time: 2pm & 7.30pm
Venue: Liverpool Empire
From the producers of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang comes an original and unforgettable Christmas musical. Coronation Street favourites Roy Barraclough (Santa) and Susie Blake (The Ice Queen) star alongside tap dancing penguins and a 12-piece live orchestra.
Until January 7.
Tel: 0870 606 3536

16 – Holly and the Ivy

Time: 12noon–4pm
Venue: Copthorne Community Centre, Kirkby
Festive fun for all the family with a series of unique events. Includes winter workshops making Christmas decorations from natural materials found in the park.
Tel: 443 3682

17 – Christmas Cracker

Time: 12–4pm
Venue: Halewood Park
Santa's Grotto, sleigh rides, tinsel trail and creative Christmas workshops.
Tel: 488 6151

22 – Western Promise/Amsterdam

Time: 7pm
Venue: Carling Academy 2, Liverpool
Plus The Real Kicks, The Crescent and Man from Michael. Proceeds donated to Strummerville – a charitable foundation for the production of new music launched by Joe Strummer's family.
Tel: 0870 771 2000

28 & 29 – Ken Dodd Happiness Show

Time: 7pm
Venue: Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool
A feast of laughter and songs from this comic genius and showbiz legend provides a fun-filled evening celebrating fifty hilarious years as one of the best-loved comedians in the UK.
Tel: 709 3789

31 – New Year's Eve Fireworks

Time: 5pm
Venue: Liverpool Town Hall, Dale Street
New Year's Eve fireworks will highlight Liverpool's historic Town Hall as an opener for Liverpool's 800th birthday year.
Tel: 233 2008

JANUARY

14 – Kirkby Mossland Seasonal Walk

Time: 10am–1pm
Venue: Acornfield Plantation LNR, Spinney Road, Kirkby
Join the Ranger for a seasonal exploration of Kirkby's countryside.
Tel: 443 3682

14 – Coal, Bricks and Rotting Waste

Time: 1–3pm
Venue: Stadt Moers Park, Pottery Lane, Whiston
An historical walk around Stadt Moers Park and the surrounding area looking at changes in the landscape compared with old photographs.
Tel: 489 1239

22 – Basic Birds

Time: 7–9pm
Venue: Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Huyton
A guide to basic garden birds with RSPB officer Chris Tynan, in preparation for the Big Garden Bird Watch on 27th and 28th. Bookings only!
Tel: 443 3682

26 – Ray Lamontage

Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool
With heartfelt songs and a highly distinctive voice, Ray's debut album, 'Trouble', has led him to be described in terms of Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Otis Redding and Ray Charles... Not bad for starters!
Tel: 709 3789

27 – Dawn Chorus

Time: 7–9am
Venue: Huyton Lane Wetland Park, Huyton Lane, Huyton
Celebrate Big Garden Bird Watch, come along and see how many species we can spot. Don't forget your binoculars.
Tel: 443 3682

28 – Derek Acorah

Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Liverpool Empire
The star of television's Ghost Towns, Most Haunted and The Antiques Ghost Show live on stage.
Tel: 0870 145 1163



28 – Winter Visitors Birdwatch Walk

Time: 10am-1pm
Venue: Acornfield Plantation LNR, Spinney Road, Kirkby
Explore the local nature reserve and spot our feathered friends
Tel: 443 3682

28 – Willow Weaving Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Halewood Park, Okell Drive, Halewood
Discover your artistic flair and have a go at willow weaving under expert tuition
Tel: 488 6151

FEBRUARY

1 – Whole Lotta Led

Time: 7pm
Venue: Carling Academy, Liverpool
One of the country's top tribute bands return on their sixth annual themed tour. This year the band will perform How The West Was Won set.
Tel: 0870 771 2000

2 – Wetland Walk

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Huyton Lane Wetland Park, Huyton Lane, Huyton
A walk around Huyton Wetland, on National Wetland Day to commemorate the signing of the Convention of Wetlands
Tel: 443 3682

3 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Sawpit Park, Hall Lane, Huyton
Do your bit for our garden bird population by providing purpose built nest boxes. All in materials provided. Part of National Nest Box Week.
Tel: 443 3682

6 – Starlight Express

Time: 7pm
Venue: Liverpool Empire
Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical is brought to you by the original West End creative team and features state of the art technology, electrifying music and all-new dazzling sets and costumes.
Tel: 0870 145 1163

9 – Europe

Time: 7pm
Venue: Carling Academy, Liverpool
Stockholm's greatest export, the million selling rock band Europe, who were responsible for the rock classic 'The Final Countdown' are back with their fantastic seventh album 'Secret Society.'
Tel: 0870 771 2000

10 – Steven Seagal and Thunderbox

Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Philharmonic Hall
Recognised worldwide as one of Hollywood's leading action heroes, Steven Seagal has starred in and produced more than 20 films. The 7th degree black belt Aikido master is also an accomplished musician and songwriter and stops off at the Phi as part of a 30+ date UK tour.
Tel: 709 3789

11 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Whitestone Millennium Green, Driveway, Whiston
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 489 1239

15 – Bird Talk

Time: 6.30-8pm
Venue: Halewood Park, Okell Drive, Halewood
Local bird expert and RSPB officer Chris Tynan will be giving us an illustrated insight into the lives of our feathered friends.
Tel: 488 6151

16 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Henley Park, Delph Lane, Whiston
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 489 1239

17 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Copthorne Adventure Playground, Copthorne Walk, Kirkby
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 443 3682

17 – An Evening Of Music

Time: 7.45pm
Venue: Huyton Suite
An evening of music with the Birkenhead Operatic Society in aid of the Mayor of Knowsley's Charity Appeal which this year is raising funds for life-saving equipment for babies at Whiston Hospital. Tickets £4.
Tel: 443 3175

18 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Halewood Park, Okell Drive, Halewood
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 488 6151

18 – Russell Brand

Time: 7pm
Venue: Liverpool Empire
Winner of Time Out's Stand-Up Comedian of the Year gong and described as 'the most exciting comedian of his generation', Big Brother's big mouth brings his award-winning wit to Liverpool. Adults only.
Tel: 0870 145 1163

22 – The Feeling

Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Mountford Hall, Liverpool University
The five-piece indie-popsters already have a string of recognisable, radio-friendly hits under their belts. Harking back to the heady days of The Beatles and Supertramp, the Feeling are a good-time band, whose foot-stomping, heart-wrenching anthems will melt the coldest of hearts.
Tel: 256 5555

24 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Huyton
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 443 3682

24 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 10am-2pm
Venue: King George V Playing Fields, Longview Lane, Huyton
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 443 3682

25 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 10am-2pm
Venue: Bowring Park, Roby Road, Huyton
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 443 3682

25 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 1-3pm
Venue: Huyton Lane Wetland Park, Huyton Lane, Huyton
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 443 3682

25 – Nest Box Workshop

Time: 10am-1pm
Venue: Millbrook Park Millennium Green, Old Hall Lane, Kirkby
See February 3 for event details.
Tel: 443 3682

MARCH

05 – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Time: 7pm
Venue: Liverpool Empire
With sensational reviews, Bill Kenwright's 'Amazing', 'Superb', 'Wonderful' and 'Brilliant' production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's sparkling family musical continues to enjoy huge success throughout the country with standing ovations at every performance.
Tel: 0870 145 1163

08 – Deftones

Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Mountford Hall, Liverpool University
One of the world's leading nu-metal/rap bands, Deftones have an unquestionable passion for music. Booming drums, screeching feedback, and gut-born screams here we come!
Tel: 256 5555

12 – Acorn Antiques

Acorn Antiques - a spoof of everything that was ever spoofable about TV Soaps - was first seen 21 years ago and has been a firm favourite with the nation ever since. This musical version follows Miss Babs' struggle to keep her antiques business open. Until March 17.
Tel: 0870 145 1163

MEETINGS IN KNOWSLEY

Please contact Democratic Services for confirmation of venues on 443 3502.

Council

Date: December 13
Time: 7pm
Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Licensing Committee

Date: December 14
Time: 2pm

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date: December 18
Time: 4pm

Halewood Area

Partnership Board

Date: December 19
Time: 9.30am

Venue: Gallery Room, Huyton Suite

North Huyton Area Partnership Board

Date: December 20
Time: 9.30am

Venue: Gallery Room, Huyton Suite

Council

Date: December 13
Time: 7pm

Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Cabinet

Date: January 17
Time: 2pm
Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Planning Committee

Date: January 11
Time: 2pm

Licensing Committee

Date: December 14
Time: 2pm

Standards Committee

Date: March 22
Time: 4pm

Cabinet

Date: March 28
Time: 2pm
Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Governance and Audit Committee

Date: January 23
Time: 4pm

Appeals Committee

Date: January 1
Time: 10am

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date: December 18
Time: 4pm

Planning Committee

Date: January 11
Time: 2pm

Environmental and Housing Strategy Committee

Date: January 29
Time: 6pm

Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date: January 30
Time: 6pm

Economy and Employment Scrutiny Committee

Date: January 31
Time: 6pm

Licensing Committee

Date: February 1
Time: 2pm

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Date: February 6
Time: 6pm

Education, Training and Culture Scrutiny Committee

Date: February 7
Time: 6pm

Community, Safety and Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee

Date: February 8
Time: 6pm

Planning Committee

Date: February 15
Time: 2pm

Council

Date: February 21
Time: 7pm
Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Cabinet

Date: February 7
Time: 2pm

Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Cabinet

Date: March 7
Time: 2pm
Venue: Huyton Council Chamber

Appeals Committee

Date: March 13
Time: 10am

Planning Committee

Date: March 15
Time: 2pm

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date: March 19
Time: 4pm

Standards Committee

Date: March 22
Time: 4pm

Useful numbers

For more information visit www.knowsley.gov.uk or email customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk

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 2400

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

NHS Direct

0845 4647

Pest Control

443 2455

Planning Enquiries

443 2380

Refuse Collection

443 2400

School Admissions and Exclusions

443 3212

School Attendance Service

443 3279

School Bus Passes

443 5609

Traffic Signal Faults

443 2349

Truancy Hotline

0800 073 6161

Emergency and out of hours

Fire

Huyton Fire Station	01744 697712
Kirkby Fire Station	546 5151
Whiston Fire Station	426 6424

Police

Mersey Police Switchboard	709 6010
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Citizens Advice

0845 122 1300

Highways, footways and street lighting

443 2800

(Mon to Fri 8pm-8am, Sat before 9.30am and after 1pm, all day Sun and Bank Hols)

Social Services and Homelessness

07659 590081

(Mon to Fri 5pm-9am, all day Sat, Sun and Bank Hols)

Housing Repairs

290 7375 /449 3958

(Mon to Fri 5pm-9am, all day Sat, Sun and Bank Hols)

shelf life

BEDTIME stories are relaxing and enjoyable for all the family, and a great way to build your child's imagination, listening and talking skills. Sure Start Family Literacy Co-ordinator Diane Cosgrove gives us her recommendations.



The baby who wouldn't go to bed

by Helen Cooper
Determined to stay up all night, a baby takes off in a car to search for like-minded friends. But the tiger is too tired, the soldier too sleepy and even the moon falls asleep. This magically illustrated award-winning picture book is a joy to read with young children.

A cuddle for Claude

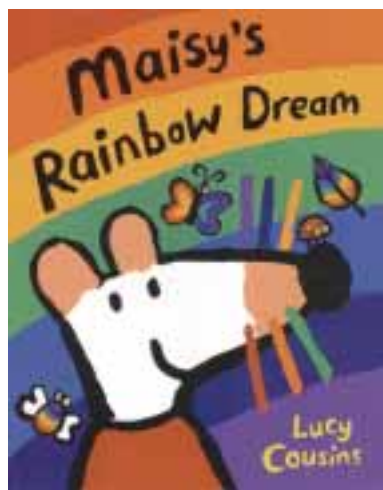
by David Wojtowycz
Claude has just one thing on his mind – getting a well-deserved hug from his mum. However, every time he approaches her for a cuddle she is too busy and sends him away. Eventually Claude concludes she doesn't love him. A colourful and appealing book with lots of clues enabling the more observant to figure out what mum is up to.



Maisy's Rainbow Dream

by Lucy Cousins
This is a large and lively picture book (easily spread across two laps). Maisy Mouse falls asleep and dreams she is on a journey with her friends. On each page the young reader is introduced to different brightly coloured animals and objects - a red ladybird, an orange

fish and a blue clock – until they arrive in Rainbow Land. The bold and riotously colourful illustrations make the story unforgettable and hugely enjoyable. Sure to be a hit!



No bed without Ted

by Nicola Smee
Simple rhyming text and bright colourful endearing images of a little girl with her pets and toys make this family story of a missing teddy into an appealing bedtime tale. Children try to find Ted by lifting flaps throughout the story. The Illustrations are imaginative and young children will be captivated from beginning to end. Be prepared! They are sure to want to hear this story again and again.



New DVDs for kids



- Walt Disney's Cinderella
- Mr Bean: animated adventures
- Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby
- Balamory: Seeking Santa
- Alice in Wonderland
- Disney's Christmas favourites
- Babar: Uncle Arthur and the pirates
- Chronicles of Narnia (BBC)

New books for kids

- Magic in the Weaving (Circle of Magic) Tamora Pierce
- My Sister's Nightmare Gretel Killeen
- When The Guns Fall Silent - James Riordan
- Mary, Kate & Ashley - Sweet 16: Starring You And Me Mary Kate & Ashley Olsen
- Iron Woman Ted Hughes
- Half Moon Ranch: Third Time Lucky Jenny Oldfield
- Measle and the Dragodon Ian Ogilvy

Twinkly Night

by Helen Stephens

One of the amazing 'Baby Dazzlers' board book series – a must for every baby to



hold, share and enjoy. Every page sparkles. This book has holographic foil that twinkles like the stars and a rhyming text, which reflects the events of a baby's life. A gorgeous bedtime book!

Smiley Shark

by Ruth Galloway

Smiley Shark is friendly and funny but unfortunately when he smiles (which he does often) his teeth are so huge that he frightens everyone and everything away. All Smiley really wants to do is to make friends and have some fun with the other sea creatures. However, none of them stay around long enough to find out what a good friend he can be - until the fisherman catches them all in his net and guess who saves them all? Smiley Shark. Fabulous illustrations with bold and lively colours and absolutely perfect to share with young children. Don't miss it!

