Cowboy country calls for cup contenders

It’s destination Dallas for borough footballers

PLUS

AINTREE TICKETS UP FOR GRABS
WIN easyJet FLIGHTS TO EUROPE
ALAN BLEASDALE EXCLUSIVE
Tell us!

Do you want more of a say about services in your area?

Why not come along to your local area forum and tell us?

Knowsley Council spends over £225m a year providing services across the borough.

The independent watchdog, the Audit Commission, says we are doing a ‘Good’ job.

Knowsley has seen:

- a 34% increase in jobs over the last five years
- teenage pregnancy falling at twice the national rate
- environmental cleanliness in the top 10% across the country
- improving education results for our children

What do YOU think?
Could we be doing better?

Area forums are held every six weeks across the borough at a venue near you. Come along and meet your local councillor, find out about what is happening in your area and tell us how you think we can improve the way we work.

See page 16 for details of when your next local area forum will be held and where it meets.
Welcome to the first issue of Knowsley News

I’m a child of Knowsley – well, Huyton really. My family have lived there since 1937. A lot of them still do. One of my greatest friends lives on the Northwood estate in Kirkby, and I taught most happily in both Huyton and Halewood.

Outside of my immediate family, Knowsley has been the biggest influence upon my life. And so it should be. It was where I grew up, mainly next door to the Farmers Arms on Liverpool Road, Huyton. I jumped the Alt, fell off walls and climbed trees in Lord Derby’s Estate. I virtually lived in Huyton library when I wasn’t throwing myself around the football fields of the neighbourhood.

It was where I fell in love and married. Why, I am so old, I can even remember the Mayfair Picture House in Huyton town centre. It wasn’t the best of cinemas – when you sat down, the dust stood up.

Consequently, anything that can show the positive side of a place that I only have the fondest of memories about will always have my support. I wish this magazine well. It is massively important to encourage the people of this borough to know what is happening in their community.

It is your community. Use it and serve it as best you can.

Alan Bleasdale

Read an exclusive interview with Alan Bleasdale about his Huyton roots on p9

Knowsley News is a new magazine for residents of the borough. It is produced by Knowsley Council and will be distributed to all households in the borough four times a year. The next edition will be published in June.

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

Knowsley News is also available in other formats including Braille, large print, audiotape and translations.

Telephone customer services on 0151 443 3197 or email: customerservices@knowsley.gov.uk

Edited, designed and printed by Limehouse www.limehouse.co.uk
This means clear benefits for the borough throughout 2005 and into next year.

Television shopping channel QVC is on course with its £18m UK development programme centred on its warehousing and call centre in Kirkby.

The company’s ambitious expansion plans are a vote of confidence in the existing Knowsley workforce, now set to increase by 350.

US-based information technology giant Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) aims to fill 100 posts at a new office at Kings Business Park, Huyton. As part of a major Government contract to provide a new IT system for the NHS, the Knowsley operation will handle the new service for a large part of North West England and the West Midlands.

Elsewhere, preparations are continuing for the start of Land Rover car production at Jaguar’s Halewood factory.

Parent company Ford is investing millions in Knowsley, with production of the next generation of Freelander vehicles switching here from the West Midlands. Due to start next year, this could create up to 1,000 new jobs at Halewood.

Huyton town centre’s transformation is continuing, following the successful opening of the new split-level Asda superstore last autumn. Demolition of the old store will make way for construction of 28 shop units, plus leisure and office accommodation. There is already strong interest from retailers and others considering opening up in the new development. New shops should be ready for trading early next year.

Kirkby is all set for a new £9 million leisure centre. Construction at the Cherryfield Drive site will start in May, with the doors due to open at the end of 2006. The new centre will boast a 25-metre swimming pool, learner pool, gym, sports hall, multi-purpose hall and artificial pitches. The existing Kirkby Sports Centre will remain open until the new building is ready. For more details, contact Derek Jones at Knowsley Council on 443 3470.

ARTY kids at a Knowsley school have done their bit to celebrate the Queen’s 50th year as head of the Commonwealth.

Pupils from the Knowsley Central Support Centre have produced a mural for the Golden Tapestry – a huge display to be unveiled at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games next year.

Associate head Wendy Mann said: “The staff and kids are delighted with the mural, which we have made part of our welcome display, for now, so all visitors to the school can enjoy it.”
TRAM PLAN IS MAKING TRACKS

MERSEYSIDE'S new tram system linking Kirkby with city centre Liverpool has cleared another major hurdle.

The Department of Transport has granted planning approval for the proposed 18km route from Kings Dock, close to Liverpool's famous Pier Head, to Kirkby town centre.

The Liverpool to Knowsley scheme, known as Merseytram Line 1, includes 30 tram stops and a 750-vehicle park-and-ride site in Croxteth to ease city centre road congestion.

“This scheme is capable of giving a real boost to the image and profile of Knowsley and Merseyside”, a Department of Transport spokesman told Knowsley News.

Line 1 would cost an estimated £224m. Funding for the massive project is being finalised. As yet, there has been no announcement of a starting date.

TRAM tracker

The Department of Transport has approved the route for the proposed 18km tram line linking Kings Dock to Kirkby.

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Grow for it
KNOWSELEY Flower Show organisers are appealing to green-fingered residents to start sowing their entries for this year’s event. The show, now in its seventh year, is scheduled to take place at Court Hey Park, Huyton, on 7 August. With over 100 competition classes, including cut flowers, geraniums, pot plants, roses and dahlias, there’s something for everyone. For details, call Carla Sinkin on 443 3120 or visit www.knowsleyflowershow.com

Youth footie comp
TEAMS from across the globe will descend on Knowsley for one of the best youth football tournaments in Europe from 23 to 31 July. Last year, 31 teams from 14 countries played in the Liverpool-Knowsley International Youth Tournament, with players travelling from as far as China, USA and Iceland. Teams of boys, girls and mixed sides ranging from under-7 to under-18 will compete. For more information contact the tournament office on 443 3925 or visit www.lksoccertournament.com

Tsunami support

KNOWSLEY is ready to play a part in the worldwide aid effort in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Books of condolence have been opened at Knowsley Council so staff and visitors can pay their respects to the victims. Together with the faith community and the Local Government International Bureau, Knowsley hopes to set up a partnership with one of the affected communities. Council leader, Cllr Ron Round, said: “I believe the best way of supporting the rebuilding effort in South East Asia is for us and our partners to join forces across Merseyside.”

Donations can be made direct by ringing the Disaster Emergency Committee on 0870 606 0900, logging on to www.dec.org.uk or posting your donation to DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal, PO Box 999, London, EC3A 3AA.

Borough in brief

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New chief executive
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Ms Ramsey, 42, joins the council from Newcastle City Council where she is currently assistant chief executive.

Knowsley Council leader, Cllr Ron Round, said: “Sheena’s combination of skills and experience are right to take Knowsley’s agenda forward in the future.”

Ms Ramsey said: “Knowsley has a strong reputation of achievement and a real can-do approach. I am delighted to be appointed to this role and relish the challenge facing me.”

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Anti-social behaviour, 1960s housing in need of a facelift and out-of-date community facilities are just some of the issues facing the 9,000 residents of Tower Hill in Kirkby. But work on a revamp is well under way after 81% of locals backed a five-year plan to improve the area.

"Tenancy conditions are being enforced, while support is provided for residents who complain about nuisance neighbours."

Funding for the project is being sought from public and private funds including Knowsley Council, Knowsley Housing Trust (KHT), the Primary Care Trust and central government. A £6 million drive to improve housing is also paying off. A major refurbishment programme by KHT includes outside repairs, double-glazing, central heating and new kitchens and bathrooms to bring homes up to modern living standards.

And tenants can personalise the look of their home by choosing from a range of appliances and fittings.

Dealing with trouble
KHT chiefs are also getting tough with trouble-causers.
Tenancy conditions are being enforced, while support is provided for residents who complain about nuisance neighbours.

The trust is also working with the council and the police to issue acceptable behaviour contracts for some households, followed up with legal action through anti-social behaviour orders for persistent offenders.

New homes
The council plans to reallocate land that has attracted anti-social activity for the building of up to 200 new homes. These could include homes for the elderly and new homes for rent or purchase. Providing quality open space for residents is also high on the list of priorities with Tower Hill to benefit from £123,000 of lottery cash. The money - a slice of £1.8 million of funding to improve Knowsley neighbourhoods - will be spent on making the Croft Estate safer.

PROGRESS SO FAR

- A FLAGSHIP £5.5m health and community centre, with a new library, close to Ravenscroft School. Work should be completed by the autumn.
- Floodlit all-weather sports pitches, following a grant of £500,000 from Sport England. Work under way.
- Four Sure Start centres to provide free pre-school education for three and four-year-olds. Work nearing completion.
Ann Highton has lived in Tower Hill for 30 years and is secretary of the residents’ association.

“Something has got to be done with the park, because it attracts anti-social behaviour and it doesn’t get used much by families. New houses on there would stop some of the vandalism, such as dumping cars that end up burnt out. We need the area to become respectable again.”

Teresa McLoughlin, has lived on the estate for 36 years and chairs the Tower Hill Community Association. She has reservations about the plan:

“There’s too many houses and not enough amenities. A lot of the crime is because kids are frustrated – better facilities would help to solve that.”

Project manager Mark Glover said previous developments have not always been the answer but this time plans have been worked out in consultation with residents.

“We’ve learned a lot about what works and what doesn’t. We want to generate investment and opportunities in the area. By releasing some land for housing and reinvesting money into real quality open space we hope to create a new future for Tower Hill.”

John McHale, chief executive of Knowsley Housing Trust, said:

“Many of our tenants have told us our improvement programme is having a positive impact. We want to work alongside local people and our partners to ensure a prosperous future for those who live and work in Tower Hill.”

Local councillor Eddie Connor said: “The old community centre was past its useful life and in the end we had to close it for safety reasons because the electrical system needed replacing. We’ve worked with children at the school to plan a state-of-the-art new centre which will provide so much for them and their families all under one roof.”

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

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The Smoke-Free Knowsley Campaign is NOT pushing for a total ban on smoking.

But campaign organisers Knowsley Council and Knowsley Primary Care Trust hope to support the rights of workers and the general public to enjoy a smoke-free environment.

The campaign’s aims include:
► Reducing exposure to tobacco smoke for workers and general public
► Helping employers introduce no-smoking policies
► Promoting services to help people stop smoking.

A public survey on Smoke-Free Knowsley has been distributed across the borough.

And scores of businesses in the area have been given Clean Air awards after successfully adopting smoke-free policies.

KNOWSLEY residents are being urged to have their say on a plan to stub out smoking in enclosed public places in the borough.

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In the running?

RUNNERS in this year’s Knowsley Corporate Challenge can take in Lord Derby’s picturesque estate as they head for the finishing line.

Open to runners or walkers of all abilities, the popular team event starts at 11am on Sunday, 19 June at Knowsley Hall.

Organisations from both the private and public sector can enter and there is also a ‘family and friends’ category. Entries will be accepted from teams of four, including one woman.

Closing date Friday 10 June.

For entry forms or more details, call Sharon Doyle on 443 3120/2156.

SHOULD WE BE SMOKE FREE?

YOU can have your say by filling in the form below and returning it to Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Division, Kirkby Municipal Buildings, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby, Knowsley, Merseyside, L32 1YY. Please return by 25 March. No stamp required. Alternatively, email your views to: tracy.dickinson@knowsley.gov.uk

For help on how to stop smoking call 0800 195 2131

Do you support the rights of workers and the general public to have a smoke-free environment? □ YES □ NO

Age? □ UNDER 16 □ 16-24 □ 25-44 □ 45-64 □ OVER 64

Are you a smoker? □ YES □ NO

Comments:

Education chief bows out

THE man who has helped to transform Knowsley’s education service over the last four years, is leaving the borough.

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Steve Munby, is to take up a new appointment as chief executive of the National College of School Leadership.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST
Alan Bleasdale

THE award-winning playwright reveals his proudest moment is leading a bunch of Knowsley footballers to national success

By Gareth Roberts

Alan Bleasdale has penned some of Britain’s best-known plays in a writing career spanning 30 years.

But it was the dad-of-three's time in charge of a side including a young Peter Reid that brings the biggest smile to his face.

Bleasdale, who played football for non-league sides Skelmersdale United and Warrington Town, revealed: “The achievement I am most proud of in my public life isn't Boys from the Blackstuff, Scully or GBH.

“It's the fact I took Huyton Boys to the English Schools Trophy in 1970-71. We beat everyone in sight and until then I don't think Huyton had been past the last 128 in the competition.”

Knowsley, and Huyton in particular, has played a huge part in Bleasdale’s life.

Born in Whiston Hospital in 1946, he lived in Lansbury Road until he was five when he moved to Liverpool Road and started school at St Aloysius Primary.

Bleasdale, whose favourite places in Knowsley are Jubilee Park and Huyton Library, explained: “My dad was from 100 Lordens Road and my mum lived at 82 Lordens Road.

“My dad and one of his brothers were walking down the road and when he saw my mum he said: “That’s the woman I’m going to marry.”

Huyton also had a major influence on Bleasdale’s big break – Scully.

“I have an awful lot to thank Huyton for, particularly St Columba’s, a Roman Catholic secondary modern at the time.

“I loved teaching the kids and they told me loads of stories. A couple got me so excited, I remember driving home from school to our house in Knotty Ash, kneeling on the floor and writing my first Scully story on a tray on the couch.’

Bleasdale’s best-known play is arguably Boys from the Blackstuff – a gritty tale of the disastrous money-making efforts of a gang of roadworkers.

“The other great influence was my wife’s family, who were also from Huyton. A huge number of them were asphalters.

“I’d go out for a pint with them and they’d tell me all these amazing stories about the boys from the blackstuff. When I was offered a film by the BBC in the mid-70s I realised I’d been given a gift by my in-laws.”

More than 30 years after his first play, Alan Bleasdale is still writing.

His current project is the story of the Laconia – a Cunard White Star Liner sunk by a German U-boat in World War II.

And the secret of his success? “All the reading I did, which I did for pleasure and I just have a great interest in humankind.”
FORMER mentoring programme members **Colin** and **Tom** are urging other vulnerable youngsters to sign up to the scheme.

**Tom:** “It changed my life. It’s like having a friend to talk to. Before I had a mentor I used to rob cars or vandalise places. We always had police knocking on the door.

“I’d say to someone who had an opportunity to have a mentor – go for it. You can break away from the people you’re stuck with. The biggest thing for me is not getting into trouble any more. I’ve been to college and found a job.”

**Colin** was also involved in crime before he joined the programme: “Before I had a mentor I was on the streets, fighting, robbing and selling drugs. But having a mentor changed that. He taught me right from wrong and kept me off the streets.”

The scheme has been equally rewarding for Colin and Tom’s mentor **Danny**:

“A variety of young people need mentors. They may be bullied, lacking in confidence or getting into trouble with the police.

“They felt like they had no future but the more I worked with them the more I got friendship and trust going with them.

“I have seen them getting confident, applying for jobs and going into education.”

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**CHANGING LIVES: TEENAGER STORIES**

**The council’s Citizenship and Social Inclusion team is recruiting for its successful mentoring programme.** Volunteer mentors work with youngsters involved in crime or at risk of offending.

The Bridges to Inclusion Mentoring Programme is nationally recognised and Knowsley has achieved considerable success. “We want people who have the skills, knowledge and experience to make a difference in young peoples’ lives,” said community safety and social inclusion councillor, Margaret Flaherty.

“For the right people, it is very rewarding and gives them scope to further their own personal development.”

Interested? Call the Mentoring team on 443 5497 or 443 3089.

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**PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**
How we spend your money

PRIORITY spending plans are being prepared to make sure Knowsley’s multi-million pound budget delivers even more value for money in 2005/06

Council spending this year totalled £225m and the council is now preparing its next annual budget to be considered and approved by councillors.

Financing a local authority like Knowsley is a complicated business. The council has three main sources of income:

- Money from the Government – the Revenue Support Grant (which makes up over half of the council’s income)
- Council tax paid by residents
- Business Rates paid by the borough’s businesses.

The council works hard to set a budget which strikes the best balance between an affordable level of council tax, and the need to invest in the key services it provides for residents.

Knowsley is committed to improving performance in every one of its major service areas like education, health and social care, leisure and customer services.

![How the council spent your money in 2004/5](image)

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<tr>
<th>Budget Item</th>
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<td>Levies</td>
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A-Z of useful numbers

www.knowsley.gov.uk

**General Enquiries**
- 489 6000

**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 5635

**Complaints and Compliments**
- 443 3197

**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

**Emergency (Out of hours)**
- (Monday - Friday 5.00pm - 9.00am and all day Saturday and Sunday)

**Highways**
- 443 2800
  (including footways and street lighting)

**Homelessness and Social Services**
- 07659 590081

**Housing Repairs**
- 290 7375/449 3958
Knowsley councillors: who’s who
The council has 63 councillors, or elected members, who represent particular areas known as electoral wards. There are 21 wards and all have three councillors who each serve for four years. For contact numbers or details of ward boundaries call 443 3502 or visit www.knowsley.gov.uk/a-z/councillors.html
FIFTY-SEVEN new recruits have joined the successful Knowsley Neighbourhood Warden scheme Tony Storey reports

The extended schemes now operate across the borough with an annual budget of £2.6m.

Each of Knowsley’s Neighbourhood Warden Schemes reports to the relevant Area Forum. This ensures local residents, their elected councillors and representatives from other services, work together to improve our communities.

North Huyton neighbourhood warden Lorraine Southern says the extended scheme is bringing benefits to many more Knowsley residents.

“Our patrols in Stockbridge Village are a well-established part of everyday life for residents and the feedback we get from people we meet when we are out on patrol is excellent.”

In a typical working day, Lorraine and her colleagues deal with dozens of requests for help, information and advice from residents they meet in the neighbourhoods they patrol.

**Solving problems**

“People know they can ask us for help and advice and that we can sort out some of the problems they come across like vandalised bus shelters, abandoned cars, litter and fly-tipping. It’s all about improving our communities,” said Lorraine.

“With partner agencies, we are all working for a safer Knowsley, so we can put residents in touch with people like the fire service, who can fit free smoke alarms, and the crime reduction teams who can offer advice and practical help”.

Knowsley’s wardens are assisted and supported by Merseyside Police Community Support Officers, who also patrol the borough’s streets.

For more about neighbourhood wardens in your area, call:

- Huyton Central 443 3395
- Halewood 443 2171
- Kirkby South 548 2725
- Stockbridge Village 230 0407
- Tower Hill 547 5183

**SEVEN FACTS ABOUT NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS**

**THEY:**
- provide a uniformed, official presence with the aim of improving quality of life for residents
- have all undertaken an intensive training programme
- contribute to crime reduction and tackling problems associated with anti-social behaviour in our communities
- help reduce the fear of crime among residents – especially older people and other vulnerable groups
- promote community safety; assist with environmental improvements and work with partner agencies to contribute to community development
- are supervised, and have the support of, important local services including other council departments and the police
- patrol with two-way radio sets and mobile phones and can relay information to their supervisors.
Win a GRAND day out

THE Grand National is the biggest event in the racing calendar – and you could be there for FREE thanks to Knowsley News.

An estimated 10 million people will watch the 158th Grand National in the UK on 9 April. And a further 600 million will tune in worldwide.

But you can guarantee a close-up view of the action by entering our competition to win a pair of tickets for the Tattersalls Enclosure – worth £30 each.

Last year’s winning horse, Amberleigh House, had a Knowsley connection – he’s owned by John Halewood, founder of Huyton-based drinks firm, Halewood International.

For a chance to win the tickets answer this simple question:

Which horse won the 2004 Grand National? Was it:

A. Amberleigh House
B. Red Rum
C. Monty’s Pass

Send your answer, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to: grandnational@knowsley.gov.uk. Closing date for entries is Monday, 4 April, 2005.

Alternatively, you can email your answer to: knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk.

Knowsley News competition rules

1. Entrants must be resident in the borough of Knowsley.
2. Employees of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and their families are not eligible to enter the competition.
3. Only one entry per person is permitted.
4. Proof of sending post/e-mail is not proof of our receipt of entry. No responsibility can be accepted by KMBC for entries that are lost, delayed or damaged.
5. The closing date is that specified for each competition.
6. The editor’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
7. The prize may not be transferred to any other person.
8. No cash alternative or alternative prize is available at the entrant’s request, but in the event of the advertised competition prize being unavailable the right is reserved to offer an alternative prize of equal or greater value to the winner.
9. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council will not be liable for any damage, loss or disappointment suffered by any person taking part or not being able to take part in a competition and will not be liable for any error, statement or misprint contained in any competition.
10. Competition winners may be required to take part in or co-operate with any publicity organised by KMBC.
11. No responsibility is accepted for inaccurate prize details supplied by either KMBC or its sponsors.
12. Use of false name or address, ie name by which the entrant is not usually known, will disqualify them from receiving any prize.
13. Contestants who are rude, abusive or deemed otherwise unsuitable by Knowsley MBC will be excluded from the competition.
14. KMBC reserve the right to amend these rules at any time. Entry in the competition implies acceptance of these rules.

Knowsley News

KNOWSLEY is committed to involving residents in as many aspects of the council’s work and services as possible.

To help you contribute to discussions on your area and the services we provide, a series of Community Area Forums has been organised for the coming months.

Residents at these forums can meet council officers, your local councillors and people from our partner organisations, such as the police and representatives from health, business and the local community, to discuss hot topics.

Held every six weeks in six areas, the next round of forums starts on 15 March.

Focusing on economy and employment, residents can find out about initiatives to get more people into jobs, as well as skills and training.

North Kirkby
Kirkby Suite 15 March
North Huyton
River Alt Resource Centre 16 March
South Kirkby
Kirkby Suite 22 March
South Huyton
Huyton Suite 23 March
Halewood
Halewood Comprehensive School 29 March
Prescot/Whiston
Prescot Leisure Centre 30 March

All meetings start at 6pm.

For details of venues, call 443 3501 or visit www.knowsley.gov.uk
Life expectancy in the borough is an alarming 72.9 years, compared to the national average of 75.8. And our men don’t fare too well against local women who can expect to live to over 77.

Why is this? A number factors are responsible: smoking, alcohol, poor diet, lack of exercise, cancer, heart disease and diabetes, among others. Plus, we all know that men aren’t keen on going to the doctor’s.

But the good news is that an extensive health campaign which aims to help Knowsley men to live longer and healthier lives has been launched to tackle the problem.

If you are a man between the ages of 50 and 65, you can receive a FREE health check and you don’t have to go to the doctor for it. A series of pubs, social and leisure clubs and places of work are the venues for the test. You can have your blood pressure and cholesterol checked and you’ll be asked to fill in a lifestyle questionnaire. Health care advisers will be on hand to answer your queries too.

The aim is to detect health conditions early so they can be treated before they get too serious - or better still prevent disease altogether.

The scheme will run for at least a year.
A ‘Dream Team’ of key staff from vital children’s services – including education, health, leisure and community services, police and social services – is transforming the way Knowsley serves its youngsters.

And children and young people have played a big part in launching the initiative by creating the Dream Team theme.

Laura Lester, 11, from Halewood designed the Dream Team logo that is now appearing across the borough.

Her drawing features a boy and girl walking hand-in-hand under the headline: “Working Together for a Brighter Life”.

The Dream Team aims to co-ordinate services for young people across Knowsley.

DREAM TEAM members have signed up to nine key objectives promoting Safe, Healthy Learning.

SAFE
1. Children and young people respect themselves, others and the wider community.
2. They are protected from harm, neglect, discrimination and exploitation.
3. Families and communities are supported to develop children and young people in a positive way.

HEALTHY
4. Children and young people have healthy lifestyles.
5. They are protected from risk factors which lead to physical or mental ill-health or disability.
6. All children and young people are given high standards of advice, support and treatment.

LEARNING
7. Children and young people experience achievement and self-esteem.
8. Full support is given to children and young people who experience barriers to learning.
9. Children, young people and their families are given a range of opportunities for learning and for work.

Find out more about the Dream Team at www.knowsley.gov.uk
Prescot is a town brimming with history. It’s especially famous for being a centre of clock and watch-making in the 18th and 19th centuries. But the town was also known for pottery and mining.

Today’s museum, based in a Georgian house on the site of what was once a cock fighting pit, offers a huge variety of activities that reflect the town’s unique past.

Celebrate the 1950s
If you’re old enough to remember Elvis and the coronation, don’t miss the ‘Never Had It So Good’ exhibition, which lasts until 17 April. Explore the world of rock and roll, the early days of television and see two stunning motorbikes (an AJS and a BSA) from five decades ago.

For the kids
Looking for a way to entertain the kids at weekends? Then check out the Saturday Club for children aged five to 12. The museum organises activities such as town trails, exploration of maps and coats of arms and practical art and project work. Bookings only – see number below.

The Sunday Club, for the same age group, is a drop-in club. Just turn up between 2pm and 4pm for supervised crafts activities.

OPENING HOURS
Tuesday-Saturday 10-1, 2-5
Sunday 2-5, Closed on Mondays

EASTER OPENING
Easter Saturday 10-1, 2-5
Easter Sunday 2-5
Closed Good Friday and Easter Monday

PRESCOT FACTS
- John Wyke, a clock and tool maker from Prescot, invented the mail order catalogue in the 1750s
- Prescot’s parish church was used by sailors on the River Mersey to help them navigate. The spire could be seen from the river six miles away
- The first theatre to be built outside London was at Prescot, in the 1890s
- Prescot is the birthplace of the famous 18th century Shakespearian actor John Kemble. The street where he was born was named Kemble Street.

In school
The museum also offers an extensive outreach programme for both primary and special needs schools. Actors give ‘living history’ performances on themes such as Victorian life.

For details of other exhibitions or to book the Saturday Club or schools’ outreach programmes, call 430 7787.
More information at www.knowsley.gov.uk/leisure/museum/
When noise isn’t sound

JOHN Baxter from the council’s Environmental Protection team helps out

“N”oisy nuisance neighbours hit the national headlines recently after court action by Knowsley’s Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Division.

“The case (see below) focused close attention on a problem that can easily blight people’s lives.

“So, if those next door are noisy, what can you do to solve the problem?

“Noise from neighbours can be a common form of disturbance – and it is one which can quickly and easily get out of hand unless people are reasonable. Too often, disputes over occasional noise can develop and spark a far more serious falling out between neighbours.

Recommended

“If you are disturbed by a neighbour, the first thing to do is to approach them and explain politely that you are being troubled by noise.

“This can be difficult, but it’s often the case that people are not aware that they are causing the nuisance they are.

“But do approach the matter carefully if you are worried your neighbour may react angrily.

“If the problems persist, start keeping a log or diary of what the noise or disturbance is, when it causes you difficulty, for how long and whether you try speaking to the person responsible again. Make a note of any of these conversations, dates, times and especially a record of any action the neighbour responsible may agree to take.

Legal action

“Legal action is a last resort and when it occurs there is obviously the severe risk that relationships between the parties will break down even further.”

BARKING MAD

COMPLAINTS from neighbours of a dog-owner in Knowsley prompted the council to serve a Noise Abatement Order on the animals’ owner.

When the nuisance caused by the barking of the four German shepherd dogs continued, and neighbours were still being disturbed, the council took the case to court under the Environmental Protection Act.

Magistrates fined the dog owner £2,000 and ordered that he pay an extra £100 fine for each day his dogs continue to disturb residents.

“Legal action is a last resort and when it occurs there is obviously the severe risk that relationships between the parties will break down even further. The council has powers to ensure that people show consideration to their neighbours, and that they respect their neighbours’ rights to peaceful enjoyment of their homes.”

For further guidance on how to deal with noise nuisance, contact the Environmental Protection team on 443 4712 or 4719.
What’s On

IN AND AROUND KNOWSLEY

Each issue we keep you up to date with what’s happening in your area

MUSIC

6 March
- Engelbert Humperdinck
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.
The crooner has sold 130 million records over the last 35 years and he’s still wowing audiences today. Tel: 709 3789

18 March
- Off The Wall, Pink Floyd Experience
Royal Court, Liverpool.
A tribute to one of the greatest rock bands of all time. Tel: 709 4321

7 April
- Song and Dance Show
Huyton Suite. Young people performing live songs and contemporary dance. Tickets cost £2. Tel: 443 3898 or pay on the door.

24 April
- The Hives
Liverpool Academy 1. The Swedish five-piece rose from garage rock to one of the trendiest bands of the early 2000s. Tel: 794 6868

31 May
- Youth Band Night
Huyton Suite. Details as for 31 March.

THEATRE

8 March - 2 April
- Miss Saigon
Liverpool Empire. Musical adaptation of the Madam Butterfly story set in modern, war-torn times. Tel: 709 3232

26 March
- Harry Hill
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. More big-collared comedy from this award-winning TV star. Tel: 709 3789

17 April
- Family Favourites
Kirkby Gallery. A selection of favourite films for all the family. Tel: 443 5619

2 April
- Spring Fayre
Huyton Leisure Centre. Fun, art, crafts and activities aimed at getting young people involved in their local environment. Tel: 443 3682

25 April - 19 June
- Moving Meadows
Huyton Gallery. A professional artist will work with the community to create a moving meadow from recycled materials. Tel: 443 5619

22 May
- The Chuckle Brothers
Liverpool Empire. Barry and Paul Chuckle star in a new show, the Pirates of the River Rother. Comedy and mayhem. Tel: 708 3232

2 May
- Bluebell Express
Stadt Moers Park, Huyton. Join the friends of Stadt Moers Park on a walk around Bluebell Woods. Places limited. Bookings only. Tel: 489 1239

15 May
- Charity Bike Ride
Halewood Park. Ride along the Trans Pennine Trail from Halewood to Ainsdale and raise cash for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Tel: 488 6151

5 June
- Green Fayre
Court Hey Park/National Wildflower Centre, Huyton. Farmers’ market, craft fair, circus, arts and much more. Tel: 443 5820

22 April
- LOU REED
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.
The Velvet Underground singer, songwriter and guitarist plays a rare UK gig as part of a 21-date European tour. After the influential Velvets split in 1970, Reed moved to England to record Lou Reed (1972). The New Yorker followed that up by penning his most famous work, the 1973 album Transformer, which featured the top ten hit Walk on the Wild Side. Tel: 709 3789

22 April
- History Mystery Tour
Stadt Moers Park, Huyton. Bus tour with stops at points of historic interest. Places limited. Bookings only. Tel: 489 1239

25 April 25- 19 June
- Moving Meadows
Huyton Gallery. A professional artist will work with the community to create a moving meadow from recycled materials. Tel: 443 5619

30 April – 29 May
- Andy Goldsworthy
Kirkby Gallery. Exhibition displaying a selection of the artist’s photographs showing the energy of our natural world. Tel: 443 5619

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- The Hives
Liverpool Academy 1. The Swedish five-piece rose from garage rock to one of the trendiest bands of the early 2000s. Tel: 794 6868

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- Youth Band Night
Huyton Suite. Details as for 31 March.

2 April
- Spring Fayre
Huyton Leisure Centre. Fun, art, crafts and activities aimed at getting young people involved in their local environment. Tel: 443 3682

24 April
- Kite Festival
Halewood Park. Performance from the ‘Flying Circus’, plus have a go at making a kite at the workshop. Tel: 488 6151

25 April 25- 19 June
- Moving Meadows
Huyton Gallery. A professional artist will work with the community to create a moving meadow from recycled materials. Tel: 443 5619

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Texan test for teenage talent

THE cream of Knowsley’s football talent will be embarking on an American dream this month

By Gareth Roberts

An 18-strong squad will follow in the footsteps of Michael Owen, David Beckham, Wayne Rooney and Jermain Defoe when they travel to Texas for the Dallas Cup – billed as one of the toughest competitions for teenage footballers in the world.

An Under-19 Knowsley team has competed in the tournament since 1991 and the class of 2005 aim to better the previous best – a heartbreaking semi-final defeat in 2000 when they lost to a golden goal.

Dave Mercer, tour manager, reckons the borough side has a great chance of glory.

“We’ve got as good a chance as anyone - it’s just about self belief and confidence,” he said. “The lads have the ability.”

The squad, coached by Prescot Cables assistant boss Andy Gray, has been selected from more than 100 hopefuls.

They will play at least three games in a mini-league in Dallas and if they reach the final they will run out in front of a crowd of 15,000.

Talent scouts

The players will hope to catch the eye of American university coaches scouting for talent. And there’s an outside chance of a break in the professional game in England – Swansea City striker Lee Trundle played in the Dallas Cup for Knowsley.

Dave explained: “They have the possibility of winning scholarships worth $40,000. Fifteen lads have been over on scholarships and two have made their lives out there.”

The tournament kicks off on 20 March and Knowsley have a promise from Dave to inspire success.

He added: “One of the lads asked if they would get an open top bus tour around Knowsley if they win it. I told him if they win it I’ll PAY for an open top bus around Knowsley!”

SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF KNOWSLEY NEWS FOR AN IN-DEPTH DALLAS CUP REPORT!
Kirkby’s magnificent seven

THESE Kirkby schoolkids are Rover the moon after impressing scouts at Premiership side Blackburn.

In each location the players stay with a different family and play games against local sides.

In 15 years, 220 players from the borough have played in the tournament.

“The kids in the area sometimes get a bad press,” said Dave Mercer. “But we see wealthy Dallas families wanting to keep in touch with those who have stayed with them.

“Some of the families have been in tears when the lads are leaving. They can’t believe how good their manners are. Knowsley’s Dallas Cup sides are really good for the area’s reputation.”

The Eastcroft Park Primary pupils, all aged six and seven, were invited by Ewood Park talent-spotters to train at the club’s satellite school in Liverpool.

And officials from the Lancashire club were so impressed with the boys they have invited them to further sessions.

Learning mentor John Coyne said: “I have been running school teams for over four years and I have never seen so many kids come through at such a young age.

“To have Premiership clubs looking at them is exceptional. Everybody at the school has high hopes for them.”

Knowsley Action Guide

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

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

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

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

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

Contact numbers:
Halewood: 463 2124
Huyton: 443 3786
Kirkby: 463 4404
Scotchbarn: 463 4643

Knowsley News has teamed up with Codemasters to give away a copy of the game on X-box, Playstation 2 and PC formats.

To enter, answer this simple question:
Who is the manager of Liverpool FC?

Send your answers to: Liverpool FC competition, Communications department, Municipal Buildings, Archway Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 9YU.

Knowsley News competition rules apply - see page 16.

Make sure you include your name, address, daytime telephone number and which format you require.

You can also email entries to: knowsleynews@knowsley.gov.uk

Closing date: 4 April. The first correct entry drawn for each format will win a game.

TEXAS TRIP

KNOWSLEY’S annual trip to Dallas is only possible with the generosity of American families.

Split into twos, the squad stay with families before, during and after the tournament.

They first spend three nights in New York, before moving on for five nights in Georgetown and then 10 in Dallas.

In each location the players stay with a different family and play games against local sides.

In 15 years, 220 players from the borough have played in the tournament.

“Some of the families have been in tears when the lads are leaving. They can’t believe how good their manners are. Knowsley’s Dallas Cup sides are really good for the area’s reputation.”

Kop a top computer game

EVER fancied pulling on the famous red shirt of Liverpool FC and cracking in a screamer in front of a packed Kop?

Now you can – well almost. Codemasters’ video game Liverpool FC Club Football 2005 allows you to have a full virtual career with Rafael Benitez’s men.

You can line up alongside Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher and Milan Baros by putting yourself in the game using the player editor.

Knowsley News has teamed up with Codemasters to give away a copy of the game on X-box, Playstation 2 and PC formats.

YOUNG STARS: L-R Sean Carragher, seven; James Hunter, six; Ryan Brannigan, seven; Louis Coyne, six; Michael Bibby, six; Wade Kewley, six; and Kai Moore, six, have been training with Blackburn
We’ve teamed up with the budget airline to offer you the chance to fly to one of 13 destinations (see below) from Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

You could enjoy the canals, culture and cafés of Amsterdam, marvel at magnificent Madrid or trawl the bars of Berlin.

All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning two return tickets to the easyJet destination of your choice (subject to availability) is fill in the Knowsley News feedback form.

Your details will be entered into a draw and the first person out of the hat will win the flights.

Flights must be booked within a month of the closing date of 11 April, 2005 and travel must take place within six months of this date, with a minimum of three weeks between booking and travelling. Knowsley News competition rules apply. See page 16.

easyJet DESTINATIONS FROM LIVERPOOL

Alicante
Amsterdam
Barcelona
Basel
Berlin (Schoenefeld)
Cologne/Bonn
Geneva
Madrid
Malaga
Nice
Palma (Majorca)
Paris (Charles de Gaulle)

KNOWSLEY NEWS FEEDBACK FORM: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

1. How much of Knowsley News did you read?
   - All of it
   - Most of it
   - Some of it
   - None of it, I want the flights

2. Overall, what do you think of Knowsley News?
   - Excellent
   - Good
   - OK
   - Poor
   - Rubbish

3. Do you think Knowsley News is easy to read?
   - Yes
   - No
   If No, please tell us why?

4. What would you like to see in future editions of Knowsley News?
   - More
   - Same
   - Less
   - News about the borough
   - Sport
   - Consumer advice
   - Stories from your area
   - Local history
   - Features on local celebrities
   - Competitions
   - Features on councillors
   - Information about services in Knowsley
   - What’s on
   - Letters
   - Youth/schools news
   - Council/area forum meetings
   - Health issues

5. How often would you like to receive Knowsley News?
   - Monthly
   - Bimonthly
   - Quarterly
   - Never

Please return, together with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to Knowsley News, Municipal Buildings, Communications Department, PO Box 21, Archway Road, Huyton, Knowsley, L36 9YU

All the information you provide will be treated confidentially and will only be used for the purpose of this survey.