

St Peter's Community News

October 2009

FREE

People making the news in
the St Peter's area of Ashton-under-Lyne

INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE



Your MP speaks

Exclusive interview with David Heyes,
MP for Ashton-under-Lyne

West End Park

Tameside Local History Forum
take a look at its bygone days



MAKING A DRAMA

Labour of love for local woman finally becomes a reality

by **Stephanie Platt**

On Tuesday September 8th, I interviewed Carol Borowiak-Howard, local resident and producer of the film *Turf Wars*.

'*Turf Wars* is about the relationships between the young white people and the Asian people that live in the West End of Ashton,' says Carol. 'I wanted to do some kind of drama where they could learn about what their problems were and why and hopefully, by doing it, they could come together.'

'It started because of the trouble on the streets of West End. I know that my son was going on the park and most of the nights he would come home talking about racism, fights, people pinching

each other's clothes and kicking each other off the park. Eventually, one night he came home and he'd been kicked and had his football shirt and trainers pinched.'

Behaviour like this is what influenced Carol to do something to try and solve the problem. That was when *Turf Wars* began.

'We put two theatre productions on. It was a six week project and all those young people that were on the stage acting were not actors. They were people who had had to deal with those issues themselves. So to say that they did it all in six weeks and put on an hour's performance was absolutely brilliant.'

'After the second production we were told by numerous people that it was fantastic, it was written in the papers, it should go onto a DVD, it should go into schools, the work that's been done should be written about and how the racial crime and street crime was



• A scene from Carol Carol Borowiak-Howard's film *Turf Wars*, which is soon to receive its local premiere, over two years after production began.

going down because the kids were off the streets doing something else.'

One problem that Carol had was that she couldn't find funding for *Turf Wars*, but that was until she received a phone call from St Peter's Partnerships, who said that if they put an application for St Peter's Community Grants funding, that they would be able to apply for a £2000 grant, which they got and that started them off. St Peter's Partnerships didn't only help by giving funding, but they also got the Police involved and went to some of the rehearsals. Their SPY youth workers also appear in the film.

During the process that has taken two-and-a-half years, from the theatre production down to the editing of the film, the group also worked with GW Theatre Company.

Carol told me that doing *Turf Wars* was her introduction into the film world, and when asked what she has done since this project she told me that she has written a few plays for schools, worked in prisons and with the Police in Oldham, produced a documentary, worked on films with students and that she is about to work on a war film about two lads that went to school together. They are both in the army and one is dying because he has been shot. The film shows flash-backs of their relationship.

Luckily for me, interviewing Carol seemed pretty easy as I already knew her, because I was in the film of *Turf Wars*.

To contact Carol about *Turf Wars* you can call her on 07877 302 751.

If you live in St Peter's

THIS IS YOUR PAPER

...and you can write for it.
See p2 for details of how
to get involved

JOBS

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JOURNALISTS WANTED

St Peter's Community News is a paper written by and for people who live in the St Peter's area of Ashton. If you're not sure if that's you, it roughly means the **Town Centre**, **Holy Trinity**, **West End** and **Portland Basin** areas, plus **Guide Lane** down to Shepley Road and **Henrietta Street** up as far as Cranbourne Road.

If you want to write or take pictures for the paper, then there is nothing

stopping you! Just get in touch with us. You can write about anything that is likely to be of interest to people who live in the local area, and you don't need to be an expert with words or have any particular qualifications. Lots of support can be provided to help you write stories, conduct interviews and so on. If you don't have anything to write about, we can help there too.

English doesn't even

have to be your first language. In this issue, we've translated an article from Urdu, for example. We also want to include material in community languages in future editions if we can.

You can also write to us or email us with comments about the paper, opinions, funny stories and so on, because we are hoping to start a 'your letters' section.

Hope you enjoy the first issue.

Contact us:

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St Peter's Training Centre
Blandford Street
Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7HS

0161 241 6124

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twitter.com/stpetersnews



• SALSA, pictured a few months ago with the then Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside, Jack and Carole Davis.

CURE FOR ITCHY FEET DISCOVERED IN ST PETER'S

Community dance group SALSA are strictly for everyone

Yes, it's true! Residents in St Peter's have found a cure for itchy feet, and they call it 'Salsa Dancing'...

Under the expert guidance of teachers Lynne Booth and Chantelle Holland, they are putting their best foot forward and learning the saucy steps of Salsa and Latino. Residents meet to strut their stuff every Monday from 6.30 pm to 8 pm at West End Methodist Hall, Trafalgar Square.

So what is Salsa? What is Latino? You may well ask. It's *Dirty Dancing* comes to Ashton, that's what! A

chance for people of all ages to have *the time of their lives*, an opportunity to meet people, keep fit and dance, dance, dance.

Regular Jackie Best says: 'I really enjoy it and have a laugh as well. I only wish the lessons were longer'.

'Its fun and accessible,' says Gaynor Edwards. 'Plus, it's a great way to keep fit, learn something and meet new people.'

So come along, or get in touch for more information on 0161 339 6053.

by Lynne Booth

تعلم اللغة الانجليزية مجاناً
مفت انگریزی کی کلاسیں

DARMOWA SKOŁA ANGILESKIEGO

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APRENDA INGLÉS GRATIS

COURS D'ANGLAIS GRATUIT

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

Speakeasy is a class for anyone who wants to improve their English. Come and join us it is **free**. It could help you to find a job, communicate with other people and improve your prospects.

The classes are informal, fun and run by Zaff, who is nice and lets you learn at your own pace.

Classes are held every Friday morning at St Peter's Training Centre, Blandford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

For more information please call St Peter's Partnerships on **0161 214 8470**.

by Bogodan, João, Kamolrat, Maciej, Nawaz and Tahir



DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN SHOWS SIGNS OF SUCCESS

After consultation with local parents in the Holy Trinity area of St Peter's, the Holy Trinity Parents Forum agreed that dog dirt and fly tipping were issues for local people in the area.

Working with St Peter's Children's Centre, St Peter's Partnerships and Ashton District Assembly, we were able to design and produce metal signs to display around the area in the hope that the signs will deter people from allowing their dogs to foul the streets. We hope that the signs will also encourage dog owners to be responsible and pick up after their dogs.

Children's Centre workers, Tameside Patrollers, St Peter's Partnerships, local community representatives and local parents

were invited who worked together on a walkabout to agree where the signs would be situated as together they could identify problem spots in the area and issue fixed penalties when people are spotted not cleaning up once the signs are displayed.

Holy Trinity Parents Forum is supported by St Peter's Children's Centre and consists of local parents meeting twice a month.

Together they discuss local issues and to tackle problems by doing projects like the dog dirt campaign.

Last year, alongside the dog dirt campaign, a fly tipping campaign was also launched, producing flyers and window stickers making people aware of the dangers of fly tipping and the hefty fines payable

if caught fly tipping.

A number of 'alleyway cleanups' have also taken place in the Holy Trinity area which have been a huge success. They have also brought neighbours together in an activity which promoted cohesion in the community and developed a fighting force against fly tipping.

Holy Trinity's new project which is underway, is working alongside the District Assembly to provide litter bins for the area, after old ones were vandalised.

If you're a local parent and you want to get involved in the Parents Forum, please talk to Nikki Spiers, Holy Trinity Parent Forum Representative, or Syeda at St Peter's Children's Centre on 0161 330 6666.

by Nikki Spears



MEETING PEOPLE IN ST PETER'S

Rumi Zaman, owner of Resham Clothing on Stockport Road.

Interview by Madiha Khushnood. Translated from Urdu by Chandni Yaseen

So Rumi, tell us about yourself.

I am married and have three children. I came here from Bangladesh in 1992.

How did you go from being a housewife to being a businesswoman?

I always enjoyed designing clothes for my family and friends and I wanted to turn my hobby into proper work. I realised it's difficult to work on a larger scale from home, so my family suggested I should open a shop.

Tell us about your business.

I started two years ago. I mainly stock Asian clothes. I use to sell unstitched material mainly for ladies. Customers soon started asking me to stock clothes. I also now sell shoes, jewellery, head veils. And I do sewing and alterations.

Do you have something for all occasions then?

Yes. I have clothes for all occasions. For example, at the moment I am totally busy selling clothes for Eid. During the wedding season, I also stock wedding Lehngas.

How do you manage being a housewife and running a successful business at the same time?

I have always been very good at managing my time. The only day I am free is Sunday. On weekdays I send my children to school in the morning and open my shop at 10. I then reach home at around 6 in the evening and that's when I cook food for my family

and keep my house clean. Everything is well-managed.

You must be very tired by the time you go to bed at night.

Yes. But now the routine has set in and I am used to it.

Wow. You are hard-working. So how is to have a shop in the West End, in terms of location?

This is a nice area. My shop is on the main road, so I like it here. It's a nice location, but having a shop in Ashton town centre would be ideal as it would attract more customers.

What do you do to have an edge over other local businesses?

I constantly strive towards having the latest and best designs in an affordable price-range. I always have my customers in mind and only sell clothes which they will be happy to buy. Nowadays, everyone is struggling with money but they like to be able to afford the clothes they want. But I always maintain balance when it comes to pricing.

How have things changed since you set up?

Initially, I had very few customers, but now the shop is running well. It's all about how you behave with your customers. I always like to greet my clients with a huge smile and a warm atmosphere. I like to look after them and meet all their needs as best as I can. A happy customer will come back.

Any future plans to extend the business?

Yes. I am already thinking of increasing the size of the shop. I want to start doing menswear. Especially traditional kurta and sherwani.

How has recession affected your business?

Often, women come into my shop and while they absolutely love the dress, they are unable to buy it because they just don't have enough money. But I believe things have improved a bit.

What is the best thing about running a business?

For me, the best thing is getting inner

satisfaction. Actually be able to pursue your dream career is amazing.

What would you say to women who want to start a similar business?

People should always listen to the heart and pursue their goals in life. If a person is hard-working and dedicated, then nothing is impossible. The rewards are high. And yes, women can do anything they set their mind to.

Thank you for all your time Rumi. The shop is getting busy, so we'll end it there.

Thank you. I hope people visit my shop. I have something for everyone.



LIBRARIES ON A QUEST TO GET CHILDREN READING

- Libraries in bid to get children more eager to read
- Tameside libraries organise activities for kids
- Volunteers, aged 11-16, help out staff after selection process

We all know, both children and parents, how difficult it is to get kids busy during the summer holidays. So when the chance for activities comes along, parents are happy to take their kids. In an attempt to get kids more interested in reading, all of the Tameside libraries organised a summer reading activity. This activity was called Quest Seekers.

Pupils aged 11-16 could take part as volunteers to help the library staff, in return getting an AQA award for volunteer work with children.

Activities

Every week the staff and volunteers planned an activity for the children to do, and for five weeks the children did different craft activities, involving the

volunteers leading an activity in turn for the children. Children were always eager to cut, glue, colour and chat with fellow children taking part. On the last week, the kids were treated to games, like pass the parcel, and the best of all, crisps, chocolate, fruit (no, the bowl was not emptied) celery (none consumed) and lots more. The volunteers are now looking forward to a party in November which will be enjoyed by all who organised the activities, both the volunteers and staff, followed by an awards ceremony later on in the month.

Volunteering

It was a great experience for me as a volunteer helping all the kids, and I am sure I will do it again another year,



if not next year then another time. But, of course, not everyone who applies to volunteer actually gets to be a volunteer. There is a process, of a couple of meetings, forms, and if the staff think you are good, that's when you get through to becoming a volunteer. When we got picked, we had to arrive at the library half an hour before the activities started and stay an extra half hour after the activities were over to clear up. It was hard but really

great fun, and if you are in a high school in Tameside then I strongly recommend you try for it next year or another time, because it is a great experience and a great help to your future!

If you are interested for your child to take part next year or if you want to become a volunteer, please contact your nearest library for more details.

by Aashi Yaseen

ALL NEW JUNIOR FOOTBALL AT OXFORD PARK

Oxford Park Junior Football Club is a new group of approximately 20 to 30 boys and girls aged 6 to 11 who get together with one common passion - football! It was formed because there were no other junior sports groups in St Peter's. It is a great chance for local people to participate in sport without having to travel out of the local area. We are hoping to get involved with a local league!

It has been running since late August 2009 and members come

from all over St Peter's. Most members are from St Peter's, West End and Poplar Street Primary Schools but anyone aged between 6 and 11 can join.

We meet every Wednesday from 4.30 pm until 6 pm and every Saturday from 10 am until 12 pm. We use the astro turf at Oxford Park Sports Centre, Pottinger Street.

I run the course in conjunction with three local young volunteers who have done their Sports

Leader Award. It is a great place for local young people to get training.

We are really keen to get local parents and residents to volunteer to take ownership of the group and manage it with our help.

If you are a young person aged 6 to 11 or you are a local parent who would like to volunteer and get involved in the Oxford Park Football Club please contact me, Andrew Baker on 0797 680 0568.

by Andrew Baker



HOW I WAS BOWLED OVER

My bowling club is Oxford Park Veterans BC, here on your doorstep. We play every Wednesday in the Tameside Veterans League. It's great entertainment and competitive; there's also lots of laughs and banter. You can also make many friends from other clubs.

Oxford's records date back to 1933 but it can be presumed that the club goes back further. The Green used to be 'County Standard' and attracted many of the region's top bowlers, winning the Ashton and District Veterans League Championships in 1969.

Sadly, those days proved to be the pinnacle, and over the ensuing years the club was allowed to fall into decline. The top bowlers departed along with a very successful ladies bowling team. Membership then fell dramatically.

The once hallowed Green was mutilated by acts of vandalism, dog faeces and broken bottles rendering it

almost unplayable. Finally, three years ago, a demolition order was administered on the club-house and the club was on the verge of closing after eight decades.

With morale low among those members left, action needed to be taken quickly. After lengthy negotiations, the club-house was refurbished and security fencing was placed around the green and a keeper employed to upgrade the playing surface.

The club now offers its members six cup competitions, social outings during the year, a monthly five-page 'Blues News' newsletter. The club-house offers refreshments, snooker and pool, darts and more. The nearby Leisure Centre provides indoor short mat bowls during the winter break when the outdoor green is closed.

For more information about the club, why not call in and speak to us...you may find that you're 'bowled over', just as I was.

by Bob Rowley

OXFORD PARK SPORTS CAMP

In summer 2009, children from all over Tameside went to Oxford Park to take part in a multi sports camp.

When we arrived, we had to sign in (that means tell them we're at sports). It's free if you live in St. Peters area! First, we got into teams and played dodge ball. My team beat Joe's team in a match. I got the winning shot by throwing the ball as accurately as I could at my big brother Josh.

Next, we played cricket. Joe scored 8 '6s which is excellent! When it was the blue team's turn to bat, a boy called James started to run and fell

over. He cracked his head open. Everybody stood gazing at his wound. He was rushed straight to hospital and had surgery.

After playing cricket, we went into the youth room to have our dinner. Everybody was eating crisps and chocolate and barely any sandwiches.

Shortly after the incident, we played football and had lots of fun. Hamsa's team beat Hasnat's team 3 - 0.

Mine and Sam's team got into the final! Unfortunately for Sam though, my team won 2 - 1!

As soon as we finished playing football, we

started to play basketball. Mine and Joe's Team drew 8 - 8 (that means we both scored 4 times).

Later, we played a penalty shoot out. A boy called Kieran was in net, Joe got up to the 3rd round and I only got up to the 2nd round. The older children played penalty shoot out as well, they were ages 11 - 13.

Finally, it was home time so everybody started to collect their items and went home.

by Samuel Katihrob (age 11) and Joe Worthington (age 10), St Stephen's Primary School

A FAST GETAWAY



• Wow! This looks like a challenge...

Every year we go camping with FAST Club and SPY. My school is St Peter's Primary School and we do lots of stuff with our friends at Holy Trinity Primary School. Ali and Kev always organise lots of stuff for us to do in the holidays.

The camp site is Linnet Clough and it is huge with lots of tents. Some are big and some are small. It even has an assault course. I love challenging myself and my friends on this. All the staff are really friendly and funny, they look after us and make sure we eat plenty, that we are safe and that we are enjoying ourselves.

We get our sleeping bags and decide which tent to sleep in with our friends, we then have lunch

then all go climbing together. We climbed at a place called Windgather. It is windy!

When it goes dark at the camp site we all go for a walk, it is exciting and although it is a bit scary it is fun! We look for bats and foxes, Pete keeps saying there are ghosts too but we haven't seen any yet! We did find some frogs though this year. The next morning we go home but we always do something fun before we go back like go to the park or Archery.

I always meet new friends at camping and can't wait to go again.

by Paige Hibbert, Year 6, St. Peter's Primary School

HOOWAY THE DADS!

My name is Stephen Calland and I am a member of the St Peter's Children's Centre Dads Football Team.

I am originally from Liverpool but moved here 8 years ago and now I live near the Children's Centre in the West End of Ashton. I have always loved Football. I am a devoted Liverpool Fan and also like to follow local teams Curzon Ashton and Stalybridge. When I was younger I played for Kirby Boys football club in Liverpool, then I moved on to a local pub football team before joining the dads group.

I have been a member of the football club since the team started and I found out about it from my girlfriend, who is a Breast Start Volunteer at the St Peter's Children's Centre (giving advice and information about breastfeeding).

The dads' football group is a group of dads and carers and we meet every

Sunday normally at Curzon Ashton's grounds, off Richmond Street.

The team has just finished its 4th season. This year we came 7th in the league, the year before that we were runners up, the year before that we won! We have also taken part in different football tournaments. The last one was at Oxford Park Sports Centre. It is a great place to meet other dads and has given me new friends and lots more confidence.

At the moment we have seven members but we are always on the lookout for new dads to get involved! You don't need to be an expert footballer, just enthusiastic!

If you are interested in coming along to the Men's Football please call John McGlynn on 0161 308 5084. All you need is to be a dad or carer for a child under five.

by Stephen Calland



NEW EXPLORER SCOUTS IN ST PETER'S



A new unit of Explorer Scouts started in Oxford Park with an open day on 27th September. It will meet normally on Sunday nights at 7.30 pm to 9 pm from 4th October, but because of the many activities that Explorer Scouts do they will be also meeting over some weekends.

Explorer Scouts are young people, girls and boys, from 14 to 18 years old that wish to be Scouts. Scouts is a uniformed youth group. They have to accept the Scout law and promise, which is the major difference between Scouts and other youth groups.

The Explorer Scouts follow on from the successful new 2nd Ashton Scout group, Beaver Scouts (6 to 8 years) and Cubs (8 to 10 years), which already meet in the Park. So when young

people leave Scouts at 14 years they can now join the new Explorer Scout Unit.

As the new Explorer Scout Leader, I can't wait for the unit to start. I love working with young people at 14 and seeing how they develop into young adults at 18 through the Scout training programme, which helps them to be responsible citizens as members of their communities.

I have all the qualifications to take the Explorers canoeing on the canal next to the park, as we hope to start a canoe centre there, and can take them climbing and camping. Freya Jones, my Assistant Explorer Leader, and myself will also be training the Explorer Scouts to get all the necessary qualifications to get the highest award in Scouting, the

Queens Scout Award, which is not an easy badge to get. I am also on the County Scout Team that takes Explorer Scouts to jamborees all over the world, so hopefully some of the Explorer Scouts from St Peter's will be joining in. It's a great experience for young people.

If any young person, boy or girl, would like to join or find out more about St Peter's Explorer Scout Unit then come along any Sunday at 7.30 pm, or contact me on 07779 3336039 or at mo.wakefield@yahoo.co.uk. If you need any information about joining Scouting as a child or an adult in Tameside then contact Alan Fish on 0161 330 0305 or alan.fish@dsl.pipex.com.

by Mike Wakefield

INTERVIEW: DAVID HEYES, MP FOR ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

Interview by
Maria Pimlott
Photography by
Lee Roughley



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm 63. I've been MP for Ashton for eight years. Before that, I was a councillor on Oldham Council and I'd been active in the Trade Union movement and worked in local government. And the last six years before I became an MP I was manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Manchester, which stood me in good stead for the job of being an MP, I think.

Thank you. Can you describe your day as an MP?

Well, it varies with the seasons. In September, it's a widely-held belief that all MPs are on holiday for about twelve weeks. Well, I promise you it ain't true! I actually think it's the most enjoyable part of my job. It's a bit like a routine office job with sensible hours, quite a contrast with the time when I'm down in London, where it's a long working day. If you were to ask me to choose, I'd say my favourite time, really, is when I'm here, living with the people that I know, being able to do things like this, talk to you.

Did you always want to be an MP when you were young?

Never entered my head. And didn't, actually, until I was finally selected to be the candidate, when Bob Sheldon, my predecessor, retired. People interested in political careers came from all over the country, and a lot of us locally felt that we'd prefer to have a local person, somebody more rooted in the local community. And I got together with a few friends and said lets look around for somebody that we can support. I was a bit surprised when they said 'well, if we're going to do that, you should have a go'. So I thought, well, actually, why not? So I kind of stumbled into it by accident. We were in a pub having a few pints and it was one of those decisions I think everyone makes from time to time when you've maybe had more to drink than you should and you do something maybe a bit unwise. But I hope people in Ashton don't think it's unwise.

What do you do to make sure you are in touch with local people and they can influence the decisions you make on their behalf?

I don't actually need to go out there to find out what people think because

there's no shortage of people out in the community who want to come and tell me what their concerns are. I have

advice sessions about six times a month. Often, people have a problem in their lives and they want me to help to sort it out. And that's why the Citizens Advice Bureau experience that I had is really helpful. Some people come and tell me I'm doing a good job, but more often they tell me that I should be doing the job in a better or different way. It's also about having good contact with groups. Now, you know that's St Peter's is a very active community. I've always felt welcomed by St Peter's Partnerships and I've always tried to keep in touch with what's going on in St Peter's, what the problems and issues are. The job of MP is really about having as many contacts as you possibly can and about keeping on track with people who have responsibilities, but also being prepared, if necessary, to challenge them, because they don't always get it right. An

important job of an MP is to keep in touch with local sentiment and to represent it to the people

who've got the power, who make decisions that dictate what goes on.

Do you think enough people attend your surgeries?

I'd be delighted if no-one ever came to my surgeries if it meant there was no-one with any serious problems. Sadly, it isn't like that. It's quite normal for there to be 25 people there. It's not a very good system, I must admit, because we don't have appointments. Some people sit and wait there for two or three hours. But, in most cases, we can be helpful. There is still power in an MP's letter. If

you write to public officials who've been doing less than they ought to have done on behalf of people, you do get a better response.

We get something like 500 letters and emails every week, and that translates into us doing around

about 2,500 serious cases a year. And I'm not talking about little, simple bits of advice.

Would you consider letting local people shadow you in your work so they have a good idea of what your day-to-day job is?

I usually try to do it if I can, especially if it's someone who lives in the constituency. There is a problem with it, though, which is that there is often an element of confidentiality. If you came to me with a really serious personal problem, you wouldn't want someone listening to that just because they wanted the benefit of the experience of shadowing an MP. But, yeah, in principle I'm definitely up for it.

Okay. Gordon Brown recently said that he would consider taking a pay cut so that more money could be spent on training local people. Is this something that you would consider?

No, I wouldn't. I think he's posturing and I really object to Gordon and other leading

politicians doing this. It's easy, isn't it, when you're on, what, £180,000 a year is he? I get a really good salary, about £64,000 a year at present. And for most people in Ashton that's big money. It's Deal Or No Deal winnings, isn't it? But I believe – it's my Trade Union background – there's a rate for a job and it should be paid. And I do think that it's grandstanding, it's populism, it's seedy

attempts to win votes, when MPs say things like 'I'll take a pay cut'.

What single thing would you change about the local area?

Well, there's a hell of a lot I like about the local area and wouldn't want to change, so I need to say that first. I really want to see that Metrolink come to Ashton. I want to be on that first tram. It's almost become an obsession to get it because they've tried to take it away from us so often. We need to make sure that, as soon as they've built as far as Droylsden, they carry on and finish the line off to Ashton. The public transport around here is really poor. I think if we can get Metrolink in and if we can arrange our local bus services so that they feed into Metrolink, that becomes the spine of our transport system. It will make the quality of life for people so much better.

What can be done to make sure it creates jobs for local people?

Potentially, people will come and spend more money in the shops and more jobs result from that. Values of people's houses go up. So a simple job of building a tramline can have all sorts of consequences. It will make it easier to say to potential new businesses that Ashton is the place to come. For me, the clincher for Ikea was that they were going to have a first-rate public transport system right outside their door. So we know from experience that good transport like Metrolink

encourages employers into an area.

In the area where I live, Holy Trinity, it is looking a bit untidy. What suggestions do you have for making the area look tidier?

I've not had anyone complaining to me about the state of the environment around Holy Trinity in recent times. But, if you'd come to me and said 'what can

"Gordon Brown saved us from ruin. But I worry that he is out of touch"

"Iraq was a long way from being a legal act."

"There is still power in an MP's letter."

you do about this, Mr MP', then I would then take it up with the Council. I've got no power as an individual. MPs have very little power, actually, other than being involved in making laws down in London. But I find that if I take up issues like that, particularly in Tameside, I usually get a good response. It's taken seriously, and if something can be done about the problem, it gets done.

What do you think about the idea of a points-based system for immigration?

It does introduce some fairness into the system, but I have a sense that our approach to immigration is still not good. There's a popular mood out on the streets that the floodgates are open and far too many immigrants have been allowed in. And it's a myth. The latest round of laws are incredibly tight. It's almost impossible for anyone other than a professionally qualified person to get through the system that's in place. My experience is that in many instances people are being treated in a very harsh way by a system that's very rigid and inflexible, so that, for instance, a man can be here and not be allowed to bring his wife and children in. I don't think most people would believe that. They'd imagine that anyone could come in and then they'd be allowed to bring their family in. In some cases, it means that we've got people here who's family life is being devastated by the fact that they can't get through these very tight immigration rules. I worry that it is one of those cases where politicians act on the basis of popular sentiment. Newspapers tell us that people are worried about immigration, so we make laws that make it tighter. I think we've gone too far.

I have a friend who died recently while waiting for treatment for a drink problem. Tameside is one of the top twenty worst areas for increases in substance abuse. I think more resources are needed. What can be done about this?

There are some good services within the Health Service and through voluntary organisations. In Ashton, I've visited places that are there to give support to people who've got drug and alcohol problems and do it in a very effective way. It's probably a myth to assume that there's not enough in place already.

But I think that not enough is done to go out and find the people who've got the problems.

I think SATS put too much pressure on young children in school. What do you think?

Yes, I do really. The Government have said that we're going to back away from SATS for younger kids. I did the 11+. I didn't pass it, and was marked down as an educational failure at the age of 11. The children who don't do well in the

SATS tend not to get the best quality of education in the future, which distresses me. It's also a problem for individual schools. I can think of schools within the St Peter's area that are doing a fantastic job, but the children have not had the best start in life in many cases and it's a hard job to give them the support and the encouragement to bring them on. I worry that SATS are used to make judgements about the quality of teaching that goes on and sometimes to make over-harsh judgements about children.

You voted against the war in Iraq. Do you still stand by that, and do you think that foreign troops should be brought home?

You've been doing your research. Yes, I did, and I've never had a moment's doubt. The evidence that was being put forward that justified the decision was very dubious. It was clear to me that we were a long way from being able to say that this was a legal act. I just felt we were being stooged by the Americans, frankly. I think subsequent events have shown that I was right to object. We will never know how many hundreds of thousands of people died in Iraq. And over 200 British soldiers have died. I have the same concerns now about Afghanistan. We're not going to

succeed, and the argument about it being done to reduce terrorism, I think, is flawed. For me, the tensions that flow from having a war in a place like Iraq are more likely to lead to terrorism, not the opposite. That doesn't mean to say that I don't have respect for British

troops. I think the British army is a well-trained, well-organised force. Many families in Tameside have got lads and lasses serving out there,

and in no way do I not support them. They're doing their duty and what they've been told to by the command structure. It's just, I'd prefer them to be back here, really.

Lots of community activity is on short term funding. What can an MP do to make sure it continues?

Short-term funding can be a good way of testing something out to see whether it works. I think there is a problem, though. St Peter's Partnerships, for

instance, are constantly having to put together bids for funding. And many funders reluctant to fund that core activity, but without that it all falls apart. What can MPs do about it? Well, we just keep harassing ministers. I think MPs can do that, but it's not just down to MPs. You expect the Local Authority to be similarly making the arguments for more secure long-term funding.

I'm a single parent, and I am lucky enough to have got on a college course. But I'm worried that things are changing so that single parents are forced to look for work or lose out on benefits. Isn't this unfair?

I've often come across cases where people take on a course of education or do voluntary work, and they render themselves unavailable for work and that can effect their benefits. I do think childcare costs are the most important factor here, and I do know that many of the local colleges have got specific funds that can help people. But we're a long way from having a setup that's appropriate. I think that, whilst

unemployment is on the increase, we ought to be encouraging people back into education to give them a better chance of getting a job. It's worth doing, and we should be putting more into it. And we're not. It's the sort of area where I would want to continue campaigning to do better.

Okay. There is a shortage of large family homes in the St Peter's area. What can be done to change this?

Well, there's been a lot of investment in housing in St Peter's, and it's been a model that many other Local Authorities have tried to learn from. We've taken old housing that's become neglected and we've transformed them. But we've not done enough. There are large swathes of traditional-type terraced housing where there's a huge amount still needs to be done to bring them up to a decent, liveable standard. If people haven't got somewhere decent to live, how can you expect them to look after their health and their education and their children? How can you expect them to take an interest in maintaining the community? There's been vast investment in

traditional Council housing, bringing them up to a decent standard. But we've not done the same for the private sector.

There is, round here, a shortage of good-sized housing for larger families, and that's a particular problem for some

of the ethnic minority communities. It's been a failing of this Government, and I expect it will be continue to be a failing of any future Government. I've been on the backs of ministers, and there are signs that the message is getting through. But we're still a long way from transforming the quality of the housing in towns like Ashton.

Do you think that Gordon Brown is still the right man to lead Labour into the next election, and do you think you will lose seats?

There's an inevitability about the fact that whichever Government's in, eventually it's going to be out. And it does look, the way things are at the moment, that that's what we might be heading for. I'm not too pessimistic, personally. I think that when we get into an election campaign we will start to look at the real, serious issues, which are about the economy and the wealth and well-being of this country. We need to make huge decisions about how we deal with the debt that's been taken on to bail out the bankers and the economic system. I think people will look back and see that the intelligent approach to it was to not allow the banks to fail. And it was Gordon Brown's brain that was behind doing that. I think history will look back on Gordon as the man that saved the world from economic ruin in this decade. So I've still got huge respect for him. I just worry that sometimes he seems a bit out of touch. He needs to listen more. I suspect that Gordon will still be our leader when we go into the next General Election. Because I'm a socialist, I believe that a Labour Government is always going to be the best choice for the people of this country. I just hope that enough people will be persuaded to my way of thinking.

Two fun questions now. Where in the world would you most like to visit and why?

Whenever I see pictures from New Zealand, I think what a spectacular country it is. I'm getting old and cranky now. I don't like to be too hot or too cold. But I really hate flying, and it's about as far as you can go on a plane, so that might make me think twice about it.

Okay, my next question. I'm thinking of doing a calendar with local dignitaries in the nude for charity. Would you consider talking part?

No. It would be too horrific! It would frighten the children. It's a good idea and I wish you every success with it, but I'm not taking my clothes off for you or anyone else.

"I'd had too much to drink when I agreed to stand as an MP."



"I'm not taking my clothes off for you or anyone else."

Immediately to the west of St Peter's Church, and bounded by the churchyard and gyratory traffic system, is a small plot of land about one hectare in size - West End Park. The park was attractively redesigned and refurbished during 2008, but what is the history of this area of parkland in Ashton's West End?

In the first half of the nineteenth century, working-class entertainment was often portrayed as boisterous, unmanageable, drunken and brutal. Bare-knuckle fighting, blood sports and heavy drinking were said to feature prominently. During the second half of the century, sections of the working class began to have more leisure-time, and the powers-that-be were anxious to 'civilise' working-class leisure activities. Public parks, which had developed from the 1840s, offered new and 'respectable' leisure opportunities to young and old, and male and female alike. The Ashton-under-Lyne Improvement Act of 1886 permitted the corporation to spend up to £4,000 acquiring and developing parkland. Under this law it purchased a plot of land adjacent to St Peter's Church and laid out the grandly-named West End Pleasure Grounds.

Although the pleasure grounds were modest in size the council was concerned about what we today call antisocial behaviour, and introduced bye-laws 'to better keep order'. These came into force in 1894 and offer an insight into social concerns at this time. Begging, drying of washing or beating of rugs, wilful damage, picking flowers, stone-throwing and bill-posting were all prohibited. Dogs had to be on a lead and the playing of games and singing or playing of music was allowed only with the permission of the corporation. Intriguingly Regulation 17 declared:

No person shall monopolize or unduly use for an unreasonable time, or in an unreasonable manner, any swing or other gymnastic apparatus; and no person shall demand or attempt to obtain payment of any sum or other consideration for the use of any such swing or gymnastic apparatus.

Was bullying and extortion a significant problem at the time? Clearly the corporation had concerns and introduced this regulation to ensure fair play. Anyone breaking the regulations faced penalties. The immediate sanction was for the offender to be 'expelled by any officer of the Corporation or Police Constable'. Those who were reported and brought before the magistrates faced a maximum fine of £5 – equivalent to nearly £300 at today's values.

The pleasure grounds developed over time and

WEST END PARK - FROM 'PLEASURE GROUNDS' TO TODAY



• It's not difficult to find pictures of West End Park as it is today, but Bob is on the lookout for pictures that show what it used to look like. Can you help?

included a playground with swings and climbing frames and it is believed that, sometime early in the twentieth century, a Ferris wheel operated. However, by the mid-twentieth century the pleasure grounds seem to have been of much less importance. The *Ashton-under-Lyne Centenary Yearbook 1847-1947* devotes five pages to the borough's parks and gardens, but the pleasure grounds go unmentioned.

Much of the story of the West End Pleasure Grounds has yet to be uncovered and their history remains largely unwritten. While researching this article I found

little information from the twentieth century, and was unable to locate any period photographs. If any reader has, or knows the whereabouts of, any photographs or illustrations, or has personal recollections I would be pleased to hear from them. Please contact me by phone (07840 807 462) or email (tlhf-publicity@tesco.net). Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre, on Old Street, has a copy of the bye-laws in its collection. My thanks go to the staff of the centre for their kind assistance when I was researching this article.

by Bob Hayes, Tameside Local History Forum

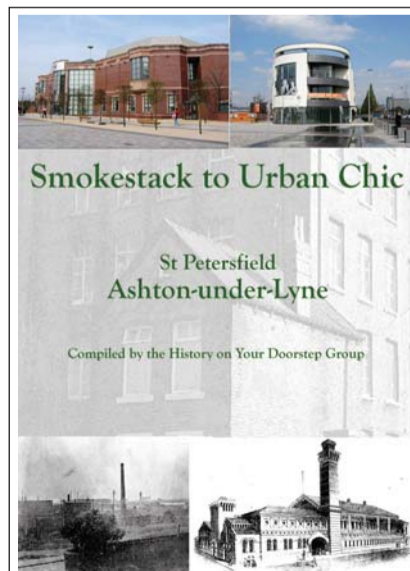


Tameside Local History Forum – bringing the past to life

- Curious about the history of your local area?
- Tracing your ancestors?
- Want to know more about a particular building or road?

Tameside Local History Forum is the umbrella group for over thirty local organisations involved with history and heritage matters in Tameside. We produce an annual magazine (*History Alive Tameside*), hold a Heritage Fair in October and maintain an award-winning website. To find out more visit our website: www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

New book about St Petersfield – out now



The Story of St Petersfield (the area of Ashton around the Magistrates' Court) from its beginnings in the 1820s to its recent transformation to ultra modern offices and apartments. It has been compiled by the 'History on Your Doorstep' group which meets on Thursday afternoons at Ashton Central Library. Its hundred pages are crammed with illustrations of buildings that have now disappeared, along with stories and memories of the Baths in Henry Square, the Shops, the Mills, Williamsons ticket works, the Murphy Riots of 1868 and much more.

Copies are £10 and available from Ashton Local Studies Library, or Portland Basin Museum, Ashton.

All the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the History Forum to help fund other projects.

MEMORIES OF ST PETER'S

A local resident, who has lived in Ashton for 89 years, has kindly agreed to share some of her memories with us...

I was born in Ashton in 1920 on Cotton Street and I have lived in Ashton all of my life. A lot of Ashton looks very different to the way it used to when I was younger.

There were lots of lovely shops along Stamford Street, starting with the booking office (for your holidays), Shipley's, Harry Judson's fresh fish shop, Manning's Confectioners, a lovely hat shop (to get your special wedding hats), a jewellers, Southey's Photographic shop, Holderness's (the Dyers and Cleaners), a large bicycle shop, Joe's Sewing Machine Shop (where you could take your hand machines there for repairing, you don't see anything like that these days!) and a large leather shop selling, high class handbags, luggage and saddles (for when you got your horse out Ha! Ha! Not many people had cars in those days...or horses).

To finish off that side of the road, we had the lovely Arcadia (The Cooperative Society). Do any of you have memories of this? I think they sold everything! There was a shoe, lingerie and gents tailoring department. In the basement was pottery, kitchenware and furniture, where my mother worked for many years. Then there was the ladies department upstairs, gowns and millinery. They also they had a large chemist and a bank. In the furniture dept they had a big carpet section, and then when you finished your shopping you could go and have a nice cup of tea in the restaurant. It was altogether a lovely building, but it has now been knocked down and rebuilt as a one storey supermarket Lidl.

On the other side of Stamford Street

there was a Timothy Whites Chemist, and Roebucks, a cheap drapers. Then we come to Ashton Steam Laundry and Ryan's the very high class drapers, selling very smart coats and "costumes" (as they were called in my time - now they are known as suits). There were more shops but I just do not remember. Perhaps you remember? Now they have all gone and we have the NHS building (The LIFT Centre) and a large car park.

Now onto the next block, there was the Ashton Baths Building, a butchers, a florist and a wallpaper shop. Then we had lovely big houses where the doctor's surgery was (on Manchester Road), which has now become the Magistrates Courts.

Then we move on to the West End of Ashton, this part was known as the "posh part" of Ashton. I think it was called this because of the 12 big houses on Trafalgar Square (called the 12 Apostles) which are now flats. At the rear of them was Mason's Mill built by Hugh Mason. The workers had the Terrace Houses on Fitzroy Street, Kelvin Street and Stockport Road. I believe they looked after the workers very well.

In Trafalgar Square (where West End Church is now), there was a lovely Church called Trafalgar Church where Bert Whalley used to attend. He was a professional footballer, and became chief coach at Manchester United. Sadly, he died with the Busby Babes in the 1958 Munich plane crash.

Then we come to Oxford Park and this was (and still is) a very well-liked park. The tennis courts were always in use, as were the bowling greens. Opposite the park were large "stately houses" all along (there was no garage or old



•Trafalgar Square as it once looked. Some things have changed, but we recognise the 219 bus and the puddles. Picture courtesy of Tameside Libraries.

people's home). These were owned by the gentry and doctors of Ashton. Next to the park there was a field full of sheep which I passed on my way to work. It is now built on with houses.

Now coming on to Stockport Road from Chester Square (where St Peter's Church is). Opposite this was the Rycroft Chapel. There was also a Sunday School building next to it. I was Christened here and my father was a Deacon. I continued to go there for many years. They owned all the ground where the APH flats are (one of them is called Rycroft House). Opposite this was West End Park, a lovely Park and Bowling Green.

There used to be a Double Decker trolley bus that went from Ashton all the way to Manchester that cost me 6 pence a trip!

I went to Holy Trinity School and then to Hegginbottom Secondary Modern School on Fleet Street, Ashton, where I left at the age of 14.

I used to work across the way from these houses next door to Lenard Hartleys Grocery Shop and Butcher Shop. I was a hairdresser at a Salon called Miss Davises. I was there from the age of 14 to 17, where my wages was 5 shilling a week! I then moved on to work at Holdnesses Dryers and Cleaners as the relief Manageress. It is a job that took me all around the North West of the country. I then spent 30 years working in the city centre of Manchester at Kendalls. I stayed there until I retired.

I hope this brings back some memories for some people and I hope that you have not been bored by my story!

FUN FOR ALL AND ALL FOR FUN AT OXFORD PARK



• Reporter Karl Marshall interviewing Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) at the event. Photo by David Morris.

A few sports fun days were held at Oxford Park, in the West End, this summer. Our reporter went along to the last one to find out what was going on.

For everyone who wasn't at the Oxford Park fun day, make sure you are there next time!

The fun day started at 1.30 in the afternoon and finished at around five. The event was mainly for young children, teenagers and families. It seemed really well organised and also seemed like a lot of people enjoyed themselves.

There were local agencies there including SPY, St Peter's Partnerships and St Peter's Children's Centre. It also encouraged parents to get

involved and there were lots of community workers around for any questions about the day, plus the Neighbourhood Police Team, St John Ambulance Volunteers and Greater Manchester Fire Service for any questions.

One of the fire officers said: 'We like getting people involved in knowing about the Fire Service, meeting members of the public and letting the kids learn about the fire engine and how it works'.

The children and adults learn

about the services and how everything works. The people I interviewed loved the event, Louise from the local area said 'Very good inside and outside, good activities for the children and also love meeting new people and love seeing the children making new friends'.

To sum up the day, it was a really good event and lots of people turned up and took part so it was a real success. Make sure you turn up at the next one, see you there!

by Karl Marshall

HOLY TRINITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Third Monday of each month at Holy Trinity Community Centre, Dean Street

Holy Trinity Residents Association normally meet at the Community Centre, but this month we were at St Peter's Training Centre on Blandford Street.

We are inviting all residents in the Holy Trinity area to come along and voice their opinions on problems about where they live. As well as local residents, we are an association that invite people such as Councillors, the Police and PCSOs, Tameside Patrollers, community workers and Housing Associations. We get together on the third Monday of every month.

We try to deal with problems such as Anti-social Behaviour and fly-tipping. We have had some great successes in the past, like campaigning to get the Hockey Pitch on Katherine Street refurbished and used for young people to play sports. We have also organised Fun Days on the Millennium Green.

At our meeting on September

21st, we heard from Peter Denton, LINK worker at T3SC, who is organising a network for local residents to have their say about improving local health and social care services. Sue Coverdale from Tameside Patrollers spoke about refuse collections, with the new recycling regime starting. There was also a Home Watch update and Carl Gurden for St Peter's Partnerships feeding back on research his team had helped us to do about what local people want from the Residents Association. We will be talking more about that at the next meeting.

We're always looking for new members with new ideas to voice their opinions and help work out what to do. The next meeting will be on Monday 19th October at 6.30 pm. Hope to see you all there.

by Susan Dale

ASHTON WEST END RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Third Thursday of each month at West End Methodist Church, Trafalgar Square

Ashton West End Residents Association hold their meetings every third Thursday of each month (except for August and December) at 7.15 pm in the West End Methodist Church, Trafalgar Square. If you have any problems or local issues or if you are just interested in what is happening in your area why not come along and discuss it with us? We always try to help and everyone is welcome.

We usually get a really good turnout, and we usually have a guest speaker. At our last meeting on 17th September, Kyle Barnes

from Tameside Council came along and answered a number of questions residents asked him about the various changes to refuse collections that have been recently implemented in the West End area. He gave out the new recycling calendar which is available for residents.

Our meetings are always informative, interesting and usually very cheerful! We discuss many issues and also have updates on what is happening in Oxford Park, with the Police through PACT (Partners and Communities Together) and,

recently, the newly re-formed Home Watch scheme, plus any redevelopment news.

Oxford Park has recently won the Green Flag award again and Friends of Oxford Park are thinking of having a promotional event. They are meeting on 20th October at 7 pm in the Pavilion in the park. Ladies bowling is being set up in the park.

The date of our next meeting is Thursday 15th October, as always at 7.15 pm at the Methodist Church. We hope to see you there.

by Joyce Bowerman

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

From 4th November, traditional analogue TV will start to disappear in St Peter's, starting with BBC2. If you don't already get digital TV, you can buy a new TV, but you don't have to. Almost everyone needs to do no more than get a freeview box and attach it

between the TV and aerial, similarly to the way you connect a video player. There is no need to get a 'digital aerial' (there is no such thing), and if anyone offers to set you up with a new aerial and equipment for hundreds of pounds, it is probably unnecessary.

REMEMBERING A TRAGIC EPISODE IN HISTORY

by Peter Rewko, AUGB Ashton-under-Lyne

On Saturday 12th September 2009, around 70 members of the Ukrainian community in Ashton-under-Lyne assembled at the Ukrainian Centre on Stockport Road to officially bless a new commemoration plaque to the millions of victims who perished during the Holodomor of 1932-33 (Stalin's

enforced famine on the Ukrainian nation). Distinguished guests included Ewgen Cholij (President of the Ukrainian World Congress), Bohdan Ratysz (Chair of the Holodomor Commemoration Committee) and Councillor Wendy Brelsford, who is helping the community in

getting Tameside Local Authority to recognise the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian Nation.

Proceedings were opened by Branch Chair Stefan Wolosiansky and Secretary Petro Rewko who

welcomed all and thanked them for giving up their time to be present at this very important and emotional event. Bohdan Ratysz addressed the community, thanking them for their kind invite and underlining the need to maintain the Holodomor at the forefront of the work of the Centre in getting the British Government to recognise it as an act of genocide. Events such as this and more Local Authorities accepting the Holodomor as a genocide can only help our cause.

Father Rij then performed a Memorial



Mass in memory of all the victims of the Holodomor and blessed the newly erected plaque on the Community Centre's front wall. He reiterated that we must never forget the events of 1932-33, and this plaque will act as a permanent reminder to all who visit the Centre. Our distinguished guest Ewgen Cholij then spoke to the community. He pointed out that everyone's efforts in maintaining the memory of the Holodomor are recognised by the Ukrainian World Congress and recapped on last years commemorations in the UK and the rest of the world.

After his kind words, the official ceremony was ended with the singing of the Ukrainian National Anthem.

Refreshments were served in the lounge area in a more relaxed atmosphere, giving Ewgen Cholij the opportunity to explain the work and role of the Ukrainian World Congress to the community. After many conversations on various issues with members of the Ashton Community, Ewgen and Bohdan said their farewells and left the Centre. The Ashton Ukrainian Community feels very proud of its achievements and the Committee felt the day was a great success. We invite all from near and far that, if ever in the vicinity, they please take a minute to pop over to visit and view a lasting memory to all those tragically lost in 1932-33. Ukraine Remembers – The World Acknowledges.

WHAT WAS THE HOLDOMOR?

In the 1930s, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, whose leader was Josef Stalin. Stalin was determined to industrialise agriculture, and set up systems to distribute food around the Soviet Union. In 1932 and 1933, the amount of food required to be exported from Ukraine was far greater than its economy could support. Because people were not allowed to cross the borders and leave the Ukraine, millions are estimated to have starved to death. Historians agree that there was no natural reason for the famine to occur, and campaigners say that it was deliberately caused by Stalin in order to crush opposition to his rule. According to the UN, the famine 'ranks with the worst atrocities of our times'. However, since the full scale of the tragedy became clear following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, campaigners have sought to have the famine internationally recognised as a genocide – a deliberate attempt to destroy a population.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Details of more forthcoming and weekly events can be found at <http://stpetes.wordpress.com>

Saturday 3rd October 2009

Everyone is welcome to attend **World Mental Health Day at Topaz** from 10 am until 2 pm at the Topaz Well Being Centre, 216 - 218 Katherine Street, Ashton. There will be workshops including: Armchair Aerobics, Wii, a local walk, a football tournament, Indian folk dance and bike maintenance. The Alcohol and Drug Advice Service will also be available. For further info contact 0161 330 9223 or visit www.topaz-ashton.org. **Free event.**

Sunday 4th October 2009

Have you got that extra special something? **Tameside Police want to recruit new volunteers!** The Special Constabulary's mobile recruitment vehicle will be at Ashton Police Station on Manchester Road, Ashton, from 11.30 am to 4 pm. People interested in becoming a Special will be able to find out more about joining the Force. For further info contact Russell Lawson on 0161 856 9249 or 07825 116728.

Tuesday 6th October 2009

The Museum of the Manchester Regiment and Setantii are hosting **Tales of Tameside** from 6 pm until 8.15 pm. If you served with the 8th or have a relative that did, then this talk is for you. It complements the Museum's current special exhibition and the publication of a new book detailing the battalion's contribution to the defence of the realm and the many people that have served in its ranks. For further info, ring 0161 342 2254. **Free admission.**

Wednesday 7th October 2009

T3SC are hosting a **free** training day on **how to write a press release** at St. Michael's Court, St. Michael's Square, Stamford Street, Ashton, from 10 am to 12 pm. The editor of Tameside Advertiser will show you examples of ones that have been successful. You will also get the chance to create a press release for your group. To book your place ring 0161 339 4985 or email dawn.acton@t3sc.org.

St Peter's People will be running an drop-in for **help with Internet job-searches** and online applications, at St Peter's Training Centre, Blandford Street, Ashton, from 10 am to 3 pm. For more info call 0161 214 8470.

Friday 9th October 2009

David Heyes, MP for Ashton-under-Lyne, will be holding his surgery from 3.30 pm until 4.30 pm at his constituency office, St Michael's Court, Stamford Street (by the parish church). All are welcome. For further info ring 0161 331 9307.

Saturday 10th October 2009

Everyone is welcome to join **Tameside Radio's 2nd birthday celebration**. There will be entertainment including Mike James Orchestra and Singers, Andy Prior the Swing Band Singer, dancing and much more. Party the night away from 7.30 pm at Hyde Town Hall. For tickets and further info contact 0161 343 8446 or visit www.tamesideradio.com.

Wednesday 14th October 2009

St Peter's People will be running a one-day **free confidence-building** course, at St Peter's Training Centre, Blandford Street, Ashton, from 10 am to 3 pm. For more info call 0161 214 8470.

Thursday 15th October 2009

T3SC are hosting a **free Business Planning** training course running from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm at St. Michael's Court, St. Michael's Square, Stamford Street. Developing a business plan can be a daunting task, but more organisations are needing one. This course tells you where to start and gives practical tools to help you. To book your place, phone 0161 339 4985 or email dawn.acton@t3sc.org.

St Peter's People will be running a one-day **free** course on **writing a CV** at St Peter's Training Centre, Blandford Street, Ashton, from 10 am to 3 pm. For more info call 0161 214 8470.

Ashton West End Residents Association will be meeting at West End Methodist Church, Trafalgar Square, Ashton, from 7.15 pm to 9.15 pm. Everyone welcome.

Friday 16th October 2009

The deadline for community groups to apply for **St Peter's Community Grants** will be at 12 pm. Phone 0161 241 6124 or visit stpetes.wordpress.com/grants.

Saturday 17th October 2009

Diwali, the Festival of Light, will be celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs.

Saturday 17th October to Saturday 24th October 2009

Guide Bridge Theatre (Audenshaw Road, Ashton) is hosting **Sleuth**, a play dealing with the problems of a love triangle. The story revolves around two ruthless men, locked together in a deadly power game playing devious and potentially murderous mind games. For more info contact 0161 330 8078. Audience members are respectfully requested not to give away the plot!

Monday 19th October 2009

Holy Trinity Residents Association will be meeting at Holy Trinity Community Centre, Dean Street, Ashton from 6.30 pm. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday 20th October 2009

T3SC are hosting a **free Basic Bookkeeping** course from 10 am to 2.30 pm at St. Michael's Court, St. Michael's Square, Stamford Street, Ashton. The course covers all you need to know to become a good treasurer for your organisation. To book contact 0161 339 4985 or email dawn.acton@t3sc.org.

Wednesday 21st October 2009

All are welcome to attend the **Conservation Day - Alder Culling Time** at Park Bridge Heritage Centre,

Ashton from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be removal alder trees, using the logs to create a wildlife-friendly structure. Please book on 0161 330 9613 or email parkbridge@tameside.gov.uk. Free admission.

T3SC are hosting **Radio Tips Training** with Tameside Radio, from 10 am until 12 pm at St Michael's Court, St Michael's Square, Stamford Street, Ashton. To book contact 0161 339 4985 or email dawn.acton@t3sc.org.

Thursday 22nd October 2009

St Peter's People will be running a one-day **free interview techniques roleplay** course, at St Peter's Training Centre, Blandford Street, Ashton, from 10 am to 3 pm. For more info call 0161 214 8470.

Friday 23rd October 2009

David Heyes, MP for Ashton Under Lyne, will be holding his surgery from 5 pm until 6.30 pm, at the Town Hall, Ashton. No appointment necessary, everyone welcome. For further info contact 0161 331 9307.

Sunday 25th October 2009

British Summer Time ends - **clocks go back** one hour.

Locally grown and sourced produce will be available from 9 am at **Ashton's outdoor marketground**. For more info ring 0161 342 3268.

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2009

Tameside Sports Development have put together a sports programme for October half term holidays. Multi sports, cricket and sports for young people with disabilities will be available. All sessions are run by qualified coaches. For more info and booking details please contact Tameside Sports Development on 0161 609 1277.

Wednesday 28th October 2009

St Peter's People will be running a one-day **free confidence-building group session** at St Peter's Training Centre, Blandford Street, Ashton, from 11 am to 2 pm, with lunch included. For more info call 0161 214 8470.

Thursday 29th October 2009

Everyone is welcome to attend the **St Peter's Community Gathering** from 6 pm until 8 pm. Come along to share you views and news about the area and find out about what's going on. Everything is free, including snacks and refreshments. For further info contact Neilum or Sophie on 0161 241 6124/6135 or email community@stpeterspartnerships.org.

Saturday 31st October 2009

Halloween.

JOBS

St Peter's Community News

Casual Sports Coaches

Various locations in Tameside

Employer: Tameside MBC

The casual coaches will be required to deliver a range of activity sessions in community settings, including leisure centres and park facilities, and be able to undertake any necessary monitoring and evaluation of sessions. The ability to work and communicate with young people is important. Must have experience in delivering activities to young people and hold a relevant National Governing Body Level 1 Sport Coaching or Leadership Qualification.

Pay: £6.50 per hour

Hours: Casual, will vary between 2 and 6 hours during evenings and weekends

Closing date: 31st March 2010

Contact details: For an informal discussion contact Steve Hampson on **0161 603 5268** quoting ref NC150.

Security Officer

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: Please contact Jobseeker Direct (see below for details)

Previous experience would be an advantage, together with SIA, CCTV and first aid knowledge. Full training given, including training to gain SIA license. Duties include patrolling shopping mall. Employer is interested in Recruitment Subsidy eligible applicants.

Salary: £6.50 per hour

Hours: 40 Hours a week over 7 days (Days, evening or weekends)

Closing Date: 12th October 2009

Contact details: Please phone Jobseeker Direct on **0845 6060 234**, quoting ref ASJ/44763.

Café Worker

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: Executive Coffee (franchise of Costa Coffee)

Pay: Meets National Minimum Wage

Hours: Permanent, 20 to 25 hours per week, 5 days a week, between 7 am and 7 pm.

Contact details: Email CV to Paul Hill at paul.hill@executivecoffee.co.uk or call Jobseeker Direct on **0845 6060 234** quoting ref. ASJ/44664.

Sales Assistant

Stalybridge

Employer: Broscombe Jewellers

Full training will be provided. Duties to include selling products, taking repairs, cleaning and all associated duties as required. Applicant must be flexible towards the working hours. This employer will consider a work trial.

Pay: Meets National Minimum Wage

Hours: Permanent, 16 Hours per week, 2 days a week between 8:30 am and 5 pm.

Contact details: You can go and see the employer about this job without telephoning beforehand. Please take a copy of your CV and ask for Shirley Willerton at Broscombe Jewellers, 60 Melbourne Street, Stalybridge SK15 2JJ.

Bar / Waiting Staff

Stalybridge

Employer: Zurri Tapas Bar and Restaurant

Applicants must be 18+. Experience essential. Duties include serving customers and waiting tables.

Pay: Above National Minimum Wage

Hours: Permanent, 20 per week over 3 days, between 6am and 12 midnight. Weekend work included.

Closing date: 8th October 2009

Contact details: You can apply for this job by telephoning **0796 2346460** ext 0 and asking for S Islam.

Minute Taker

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: Jobwise (Oldham)

For this position you must have extensive minute taking experience and good general secretarial skills.

Pay: £7.50 per hour

Hours: 35 Hours per week, Monday to Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

Closing date: 30th October 2009

Contact details: Applicants to contact Stacy Hemmings on **0161 620 2210** or email CV to stacy.hemmings@jobwise.co.uk.

Bar Staff

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: Please contact Jobseeker direct (see below for details).

Experience of bar work essential. Duties include all bar work, cleaning bar area and tables and all other duties as required. Must be aware of hygiene factors and have cash handling experience.

Hours: 16 – 20 Hours per week, over 7 days between 10 am and 3 am

Closing date: 15th October 2009

Contact details: For further details please call Jobseekers Direct on **0845 6060 234**, quoting ref ASJ/44776.

Teaching Assistants

Various locations in Tameside

Employer: Tameside Education Supply Staff Agency

Level 1, 2 and/or 3 Teaching Assistant Qualification needed. Looking for people who are interested in either day-to-day supply work or long-term placements through TESSA.

Pay: Level 1 £6.73 to £7.15 per hour; Level 2 £7.30 to £8.15 per hour; Level 3 £8.30 to £10.09 per hour

Hours: Various

Closing date: Ongoing recruitment.

Contact details: For an informal discussion, contact Ellie Dewings on **0161 342 4085**. Please quote ref CH846.

Community Meals Drivers

Tameside

Employer: I Care

Community Meals Drivers required for our 'meal on wheels' service, delivering lunchtime meals to our elderly clients in their own homes. Must own car and clean (max 3 points) driving license required.

The successful candidate will require a clear enhanced CRB disclosure and a clear PoVA check.

Hours: Part time 10.30am-2.30pm

approx, 2 or 3 days a week

Closing date: 30th October 2009

Contact details: Applicants to e-mail CV to hr@icaregroup.co.uk or contact the HR Department on **01253 829 140** for further info.

Part Time Community Meals Coordinator

Tameside

Employer: I Care

The successful candidate will be IT literate with experience of Microsoft packages, and a team player with excellent communication skills as you will be dealing with people ranging from colleagues to service users and social services. The successful applicant will require a clear CRB check.

Pay: £6.15 per hour

Hours: 7.5 Hours per day, 3 - 4 Days per week, including weekends

Closing date: 30th October 2009

Contact details: Applicants to e-mail CV to hr@icaregroup.co.uk or contact the HR Department on **01253 829 140** for further info.

Nail Technician / Beauty Therapist

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: Escape

Must have experience in acrylic nails and waxing. Sales orientated and motivated.

Duties will include all aspects of beautician work and any other associated tasks as required. You will be well-presented and have a keen interest to work within the beauty industry. Excellent customer service skills are essential. Qualifications: NVQ level 2, BTEC or equivalent.

Pay: Above National Minimum Wage

Hours: 35 Hours per week over 5 days (including evenings and weekends)

Closing date: 30th October 2009

Contact details: Applicants to send a written application with copy of CV to Hayley at 8 Market Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6BX or e-mail CV to escapeashton@hotmail.co.uk.

Cleaner

Droylsden

Employer: Little Moss High School

Two temporary cleaners required until 31st March 2010, one at 10 hours per week and one at 20 hours. If you take pride in your work and are able to use your own initiative, you might be just the person to join our friendly and

hardworking team. Training will be provided. CRB disclosure required.

Pay: £6.39 per hour

Hours: 20 or 10 hours per week

Closing date: 2nd November 2009

Contact details: For further information please telephone **0161 301 7600**.

Admin Worker

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: T3SC

We're looking for an enthusiastic admin worker to support our LINK team, maintain a members database and help to organise meetings and events, as well as doing routine admin. LINK helps health and social care providers listen to people who use their services. If you're good with people and computers and want to help people, this may be the role for you.

Pay: £15,570 - £16,991 pro-rata

Hours: 10 hours a week (flexible)

Closing date: 6th October 2009

Contact details: Contact the Central Support team at T3SC on **0161 339 4985** or email info@t3sc.org.

Enquiry Counter Officer

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: Greater Manchester Police

Having worked with the public in an advisory environment you will have the ability to remain calm under pressure. Administration experience and good IT skills are essential to this role. This is a varied role that deals with a wide range of problems and people. Each day, you could get many different enquiries including taking reports of crime, road traffic accidents and missing persons.

Pay: £16,512 - £17,637 per annum

Hours: 40 hours per week, Monday to Friday, between 9 am and 10 pm.

Temporary until 31st March 2011.

Closing date: 4th October 2009

Contact details: You can apply for this job by phoning **0161 856 9278** and asking for Recruitment A.

Bench Hand Joiner LEP

Ashton-under-Lyne

Employer: MMC Solutions UK Ltd

Must be an experienced bench hand joiner with knowledge of wood machining. Own tools are essential. Must be confident in working without supervision in a busy joinery department. Duties include operating machinery and assembly work.

Pay: £6.40 per hour

Hours: Temporary post for a minimum of 2 months. 38 Hours per week Monday – Thursday 7.45 am until 4.30 pm and Friday 7.45 am until 3.30 pm.

Closing date: Will wait for the right applicant.

Contact details: You can apply for this job by phoning **0161 343 1740** and asking for Mrs Kath Noble.

For advice on how to get the job you want, phone St Peter's People on **0161 214 8470**