

# St. Peter's COMMUNITY NEWS

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

January/March 2011

## On Your Bike



SPYCYCLE is a project developed by St. Peter's Youth (SPY) along with Greater Manchester Police and British Cycling. It was set up with money granted by Tameside MBC from their 'It's Up2U' event earlier in the year. It has recently played a key role in organising with British Cycling to deliver their 'Bikeability' course (today's version of what used to be known as the cycling proficiency test - designed to give young people the skills and confidence to ride bikes safely on today's roads in a practical, informative and fun way).

The recent challenge was to deliver a week long course to pupils at St. Peter's Primary school but this was not without its problems though, as only two pupils had both a bike in full working condition and a helmet to go with it! It was at this point that teacher Kevin Connaghan turned to Spycycle for help. SPY's Mike McDonald takes up the story:

"Greater Manchester Police agreed to donate a number of unclaimed bicycles to us and although many of these needed some sort of repairs, we organised a team including our local PCSO and worked with the young people, teaching them basic repair and maintenance skills. The agreement was that if a pupil attended a 6 week workshop and developed their skills then at the end of the course, they would be given the bike that they had been working on!" The cycling training went ahead at St. Peter's Primary School and from having just two Year 6's with usable bikes and helmets, the school now has a class full of 10 and 11 year olds, kitted out and qualified to cycle safely following the course.

"Every pupil ended the week with either a Level 1 or Level 2 Certificate in Bikeability and considering that one or two of them

had never even ridden a bike before, that was quite an achievement," added Mike. It's an incredible development for the school and is one that Sarah Cleall-Harding, British Cycling's Senior Coaching and Education Officer comments: "The effort and determination that St. Peter's School have shown to get their pupils riding is incredible. The transformation of some of the pupils in such a short space of time makes all that effort worthwhile and we were more than happy to play our part." SPY along with GMP and British Cycling also provided all the children with cycle helmets as well, to offer increased riding protection and safety.

(Adapted from an article on British Cycling's web site).

For information on all matters cycling, go to: [www.britishcycling.org.uk](http://www.britishcycling.org.uk)



## Inside...



## SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITY

At the Annual General Meeting, local MP David Heyes presented a certificate to the Safeguard It team commemorating the completion of 10,000 Home Fire Risk Assessments in just 3 years. The teams have completed a further 2,000 since October. Well done everyone.



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## At last, Signed, Sealed, Delivered it's OURS



St Peter's Partnerships has bought the disused vicarage at St. Peter's Church and is now planning to create a community hub right in the middle of the ward. Watch this space for further details as plans are confirmed.

# RECYCLING SAVES YOU MONEY



## Waste hotspots across the borough are being tackled to help boost recycling and save money.

In November, Tameside Council and their partners targeted neighbourhoods with the lowest levels of recycling and the highest levels of fly tipping in focussed 'weeks of action'. The first of these took place in and around Blandford Street in the Holy Trinity Area of Ashton.

Council officers visited households to advise on recycling, waste collection and fly tipping. They also tackled a number of 'grot spots' to help people get back on track in keeping their neighbourhood tidy. Tameside Council Executive Member for Environmental Services Cllr Catherine Piddington said: "Last year we saved over £1.6m by putting our rubbish in the correct bin. If we put more of our waste in the correct recycling bin and not in the black bin then we can save much more money, all of which keeps council tax down.

"We want to support residents by making sure everyone has the right information about recycling and waste collections so that the problems don't continue. The week was deemed to be so successful that similar initiatives are to be carried out in other areas where fly-tipping and low recycling levels are an issue. Councillor Joyce Bowerman, a Trustee of St. Peter's Partnerships as well as Chair of the Ashton District Assembly, took part in the day and said: "It was great to see residents working together with council staff to improve our local area. By raising residents' expectations and increasing their civic pride, we believe that the improvements that have been achieved are more likely to continue. Sometimes residents find it confusing to know which bin is used to recycle which types of waste and so we demonstrated the correct recycling bins to them" she added.

### Remember:

BLUE bins (which are collected every 4 weeks) are for newspapers, magazines, tetra-pak cartons and cardboard.

GREEN bins (which are collected every 2 weeks) are for glass bottles, plastic bottles, food and drinks cans.

BROWN bins (which are collected every 2 weeks) are for food and garden waste.

For further information on recycling and waste services, to check your collection dates, when the cycle begins, or to order new or additional recycling bins free of charge visit: [www.tameside.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/recycling) or contact the council's Environmental Call Centre on 0161 342 8355.

## Interview with Tameside Community Patroller Dave Jones - Part 1 by Bob Rowley

Sixty two year old Tameside Community Patroller Dave Jones, was born and brought up in Ashton-under-Lyne and attended West Hill secondary school in Stalybridge. When he left school in 1963, he became a motor mechanic and spent 40 years in the trade before deciding that he'd like a change of direction.

As I began interviewing Dave, I very quickly became aware that here was a man with a passion for his work who was genuinely interested in the welfare of others. I was impressed by his enthusiasm and desire to help to improve the local community. Having spent the past eight years in the Denton South area, Dave was moved to St. Peter's ward in September 2010.

He hopes to contribute to improving conditions in the area by getting to know the residents, listening to their concerns and in doing so build up a mutual respect and understanding.



Dave is married to Heather, he has two sons, Mathew and Andrew and a stepson Gavin. He is also a Grandfather.

### Q & A's

I began the interview by asking Dave:

**Q** "How long have you been a Community Patroller and what made you decide on this type of work?"

**A** "I began in 2002. Working as a motor mechanic with United Utilities was quite heavy and as I was approaching my 60's I felt it was time for a change. The idea of working in the community appealed to me and I was lucky enough to be successful with my application. I love the job."

**Q** "What is the fundamental difference between a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), and a Community Patroller?"

**A** "A PCSO has more powers, whereas we deal more with environmental issues. We are able to enforce the law, but it's mostly basic issues such as litter, graffiti, dog-fouling etc. We are entitled to ask for people's names and addresses if they break the law, but only on a voluntary basis. However, we have the option of phoning for Police intervention if a situation develops which we are not able to deal with."

**Q** "Do you have a pre-set route to patrol, or is each day determined by certain events or reported incidents?"

**A** "The work is extremely flexible. For instance I began today by accompanying a colleague on a home visit; this is where we advise people on crime prevention and is known as a 'Home Security Service'. I was then dropped off at Oxford Park, where the rest of my day continues on foot and I determine my own route and I continue to follow up any enquiries or outstanding work. I keep a detailed record of my work in my notebook, but this is for my own benefit and not a requirement, it's not used in the same way as a Police notebook."



## TOGETHER WE DID IT! by Audrey Ward



It all began in 2008 when the children from Canon Johnson School came to the Cranberries Club in Ashton to sing carols. They brought with them pretty little decorations they had made in their craft lesson and gave one to each of the ladies. There wasn't a dry eye in the house!

Last year the children came again to sing carols, this time and amid much excitement, it was the ladies turn to give each of the singers a chocolate filled Christmas tree decoration which they had made in their craft lesson. An idea was born. This year the children joined us to make decorations which we hung on the Christmas tree at the Canon Johnson Carol Concert, Albion Church, Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Friday 9th December. A notice by the tree declared that the decorations were made by school children and the Cranberries. **Yes, together WE DID IT!**

# St. Peter's Wonderland

by Lynne Stott

On Saturday 4th December, St. Peter's Partnerships and partner groups, Ashton West End Residents Association, Reach (Ashton Pioneer Homes), Casper and the Methodist Church Council, held a Winter Wonderland at West End Methodist Church. It was a busy day from opening at 11am. All partners had stalls with various products including a lucky dip for adults and one for the children, which was organised and run by Casper. There was a 'guess the weight of the cake' competition and a free raffle with various prizes ranging from toys to a vase. Reach provided a 'grass heads' stall and a 'guess the teddy's name' for the young ones. The kitchen was manned by members of West End Methodist Church, and guests could get hot drinks, juice, cakes, soup and a roll - all for a small donation.



Local councillor & St. Peter's Partnership trustee Joyce Bowerman opened the day and David Heyes MP also attended with his lovely wife Judith.

Thanks to everyone for their donations, your generosity made it possible to charge very little for the activities. Thank you also to the staff and volunteers who attended meetings to plan for the event on cold winter evenings and help out on the day.

## St. Peter's Partnerships AGM

by Ken Newton

The event took place at New Charter's main offices and what an interesting night it turned out to be!

The night started with a DVD, filmed and produced by SPY volunteers Luke Hill and Aisha Ahmed who were the presenters and what a good job they did. SPY have reduced crime and antisocial behaviour by 30%.

The allotment at King George's Playing Fields is doing well and is still looking for more helpers to grow their own spuds. Speaking of food it was very good and it was supplied by another local social enterprise, The Cafe at Hyde Park. Greenscape are doing well along with Casper, Sure Start and Safeguard It.

A large number of people attended the event including our local MP David Heyes who stayed to listen to St. Peter's school choir group and to the African drummers who treated



the audience not only to a display of their talents but also to a workshop where they taught willing guests to play. Karen Butigan told us about St. Peter's Partnerships' achievements which included the success of the Community

Newspaper. She also informed us of the ongoing training projects and what is in the pipeline for 2011.

**Well done St. Peter's Partnerships!**

## Volunteer Journalists Wanted (and local delivery helpers too!)

St. Peter's Community News is a paper written by and for people who live in the St. Peter's ward of Ashton-under-Lyne. This is roughly the area including all the town centre, the Holy Trinity, West End and Portland Basin areas plus Guide Lane down to Shepley Road and Henrietta Street as far as Cranbourne Road.

If you'd like to write or take photos for this paper, then there is nothing stopping you! Just contact us: You can do this by email, telephone or in person at the details listed here.

You can write about anything that is likely to be of interest to other people who live in the local area and you don't have to be an expert with words or hold any special qualifications. Lots of support can be given to help you write stories, conduct interviews and so on. If you don't have anything to write about, we can help there too by suggesting interesting topics or providing details of newsworthy events that you could cover.

St. Peter's ward is a caring community but we need more volunteers to help us deliver copies of this newspaper on a door-to-door basis to their neighbours and other people in their local area. Could you help? You could be providing them with all the interesting and useful stuff that's in here and it may only take 10 to 15 minutes but this could be a great use of your time! If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with us, please get in touch.

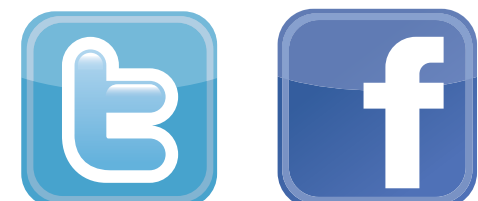
St. Peter's Community News  
Clyde House, Clyde Street  
Ashton-under-Lyne OL7 0NQ

**For Reporters:**  
tel: 0161 214 8312 or email:  
[peter.hawley@stpeterspartnerships.org](mailto:peter.hawley@stpeterspartnerships.org)

**For Deliverers:**  
tel: 0161 241 6124 or email:

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# 2011 Census coming to a letterbox near you



Since 1801, a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose (except in 1941 during the war). The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. It enables central and local government, health authorities and many other

On Sunday 27th March 2011 every residential household in the United Kingdom will take part in a census, or count, of the entire population.

organisations to plan for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. Water companies use the census data to plan the pipes for clean and waste water, to make sure there's enough for everyone. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. The benefits are far reaching. The census statistics also help decide the allocation of government funding for local authorities and play a major part in working out what local services are needed in communities. Therefore it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible.

Without it, no one knows how big the UK population is. Census records are valuable historical records that many family historians rely on, including the TV series 'Who do you think you are?'. Though everyone must take part, the individual information they give is strictly confidential, and the records are kept secret for 100 years. None of the detailed information is allowed to immigration, tax, police, or other agencies. Only general anonymous information is ever published. When your questionnaire envelope arrives, take care of it - you'll recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. If, like many people, you want to complete the



questionnaire online you can do so and your individual internet code is shown on the front of the questionnaire.

The 2011 Census doesn't want anyone to fall behind - so there are a wide range of help options available such as language guidance booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres to help you complete the form.

Paid and voluntary positions are available locally. More information about these and about the 2011 Census can be found at: [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

## Community Mental Health in St. Peter's by John Newton



In my community mental health development role there have been informal contacts with Khush Amdid community members. We have been able to share ideas around participation within a range of meetings and forums which create opportunities for south Asian women in the St. Peter's ward. On one of the visits with the Khush

Amdid's luncheon club we were able to raise awareness of what wellbeing means for them. The NHS Public Mental Health framework definition is 'A positive state of mind and body, feeling safe and able to cope, with a sense of connection with people, community and wider environment'. In one of the learning sessions we held with Khush Amdid, we looked at a national initiative on promoting wellbeing from a 'self care and community care' approach. 'Five ways to wellbeing' has reviewed the most up to date evidence that suggests that building the following five actions into our day to day lives is important for wellbeing:

### Connect...

with people around you, with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours, at home, work, school or in your local

community. Think of these as cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

### Be active...

go for a walk or run. Step outside, cycle, play a game. Gardening, dancing and exercising makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy and suits your level of mobility and fitness.

### Take notice...

be curious, catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual, notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to work, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

### Keep learning...

try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course; take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike; learn to play an instrument or how

to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

### Give...

do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone, smile volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with people around you. Some of the feedback from individuals helped them to recognise the benefits of their attendance at the luncheon club. Members had a real sense of 'connecting' with other members through conversation and activities that help to maintain elements of 'being active'. There have been a range of activities which have had different themes from both a 'social care' and 'personal learning' aspect. Art sessions to influencing and direct involvement of improving local Pennine care trust mental health services.

## FANTASTIC SUPPORT FOR SPY

St Peter's Youth (SPY) has been very active in approaching grant making bodies in the past, successfully bidding to The Big Lottery, The Rank Foundation, St. Peter's Partnerships and the council amongst others. This has brought over 1 million pounds worth of benefit to the area improving outcomes for children, young people and their families. However, as some of this funding will be coming to an end during 2011, SPY staff have been hard at work looking for alternative sources of funds. Youth Strategy Manager, Carl Kelsall explained:

"We approached the J Paul Getty Charitable Trust and sent them an in depth review of SPY and our activities. As this Trust supports projects involving young people from disadvantaged areas, we looked like a great match for their fund.

"In October we welcomed a visit from the Director of the Trust who came to see what difference the project is making to the lives of children and young people that live in the ward and how SPY plays a major role in developing role models that these young people aspire to be like.

Following this visit the Director recommended to the trustees that they should help fund this work, and SPY was delighted to hear in December that a grant had been awarded.

"All the members of the SPY project are extremely grateful to receive this wonderful support, which will go some way towards replacing the previous funding. Despite the significant progress that has been made in our area there remains a lot still to be done in order to bring the outcomes for our children and young people, in line with their peers in other parts of Tameside. This additional support recognises just how highly regarded SPY is and I am immensely

proud of everyone involved within this project", added Carl. SPY still seeks further support, either financial or in kind. Previously, local businesses have helped in many ways, for example, providing cycle helmets and lights, Gym mats, tee shirts, etc., - you name it we probably need it!

If your company or business would like to find out more about how you could show your support for SPY, please call 0161 214 9999.



# Giving Kids the Breast Start in Life

by Stephen Batty



Breastfeeding - just mentioning it raises many different reactions. It's almost a social taboo to talk about it. There are a few dads, including myself, in the St. Peter's area who are about to buck the trend. What am I on about? Well read on and you'll find out. Tameside, and in particular St. Peter's ward falls well below the national average for mums starting and then continuing with breastfeeding. There's a whole load of research that proves beyond a doubt that breast wins hands down over any formula. But having a professional lecturing on what's best for you doesn't mean anyone will pay attention. So our local NHS, Tameside council and Children's Centre decided to do something different, ground breaking even. It turns out that the male partner often has the biggest influence on decisions about the care of a child, even more so than midwives, health visitors and relatives. The ground breaking bit is what a group of dads from St. Peter's decided to do with this information.

They managed to round up a bunch of us dads who have supported their partners in breastfeeding and got us to help produce a DVD which will be handed out to men in the St. Peter's ward who are about to become a dad. In the DVD we share some of our experiences and thoughts on the whole breastfeeding issue. There's no professional dictating on the DVD so it's accessible to everyone.

Hopefully the DVD will help change the attitudes of expectant dads, encourage those who hadn't even thought about breastfeeding, to discuss it with their partners, challenge those who think formula is as good as breast milk and encourage them to check out the facts. Watching the DVD may even give dads the confidence to ask for

support and information from family planning clinics and parent and toddler support groups. When my eldest child was born three years ago, I had loads of questions and needed help in supporting my wife to breastfeed. The best decision I made was to walk into a Surestart Centre and ask for advice. It took a few failed attempts to pluck up the courage and get through the door and it was definitely worth it.

As babies don't come with manuals, I'm still learning the ropes and currently we're going through it all again with our second child who's just a few months old. It's easier second time around but it's still physically and emotionally tiring at times. There will be times when you feel like giving in and taking an easier option. If you stick with it though, you'll find the benefits are well worth it.

So if you live in the St. Peter's area and your partner is expecting a baby from mid December onwards expect to see the DVD at some point soon. Just give us a chance to share our experiences and thoughts with you by taking a few minutes to watch it with an open mind.

Once the baby has arrived, if you're free on a Wednesday afternoon 1pm to 3pm in term time, there's a men's drop-in group held at West End Methodist Church Hall, Trafalgar Square, Ashton-under-Lyne (next door to St. Peter's Surestart). It offers all male carers of young children, an opportunity to meet each other and have a chat and a brew.

The DVD is free and will be handed out by midwives to all expectant dads. It will also be played in local doctors' surgeries, Surestart Centres and at anti-natal sessions.

## SPY - Super Powered Youths

by Ruhule Haque, Safia Zaman and Waqas Ahmed

You don't hear about 'super powered youths'. Well, some young people from SPY are determined to show you that every young person can be one.

SPY's 'Out of the Box' group based project, focused on young people finding fun and exciting ways to get involved in reading and writing through English Language and literature. SPY ran this session on a weekly basis for close to five months and 14 young people from the Holy Trinity and Oxford Park areas got involved.

At first, the young people researched historical locations and visited these places, experiencing the history within their local community. They also chose to view the theatrical performance,

'Blood Brothers', as they were studying its literature in schools.

The young people then brought forward the idea of creating the SPY 'Super Power Youths' comic strips. Enthusiastically, they planned and designed the content that the comic strips would contain, not forgetting the dilemmas and twists their created characters would face.

Although the 'Out of the Box' project has come to a close the young people involved wanted to share their finished efforts with the community. These are now here for your perusal.

The SPY 'Out of the Box' project has ended... but the 'Super Power Youths' legend will live on!



# The Gardening Year

## Winter: January to March

by Christine Hallam

January is a wonderful time to look out your window at the garden and dream up new ideas of making the most of it; to look at and order from seed catalogues. A few things that can be done are feeding the birds and making sure any water put out is not frozen. Fishponds need an area clear of ice by using ping-pong balls or a small bale of straw. Never break the ice with anything heavy. Also, try not to walk on the frozen grass as it causes the area to turn brown and will take several weeks to recover. Make sure plants and shrubs in the garden are covered with bracken or leaves and any tubs moved to sheltered areas or brought inside for protection.

### Winter Cutbacks

Any roses not already done need cutting back. Now is a good time to check for mildew and black spot. Cut off all effected branches and burn. Any fruit trees or bushes with dead or crossed over branches need cutting and shaping.

### Winter Sowings

If you grow your own veg now is the time to start off onions. To get a good crop sow seeds thinly in good compost and place on a sunny windowsill, they will be ready to plant out at the end of March. If you have plenty of sunny windowsills you can sow other seeds which need a long growing season, read the packet for information. Stored Dahlia tubers need checking for rot and discarded.

### Winter Compost Care

Remember that your compost heap is a rat takeaway and any heat generated will keep them nice and cosy. Check it regularly and be careful what you put in. In the winter no cooked food, meat or bread are to be added.

### Rhubarb

You can force this now but not if you only have one small amount. If you force a small amount you will need to rest it for a year after. It's best to have three separate clumps and to rotate

them. There is nothing better than the pale pink rhubarb early in the season. Remember rhubarb loves compost.

### February

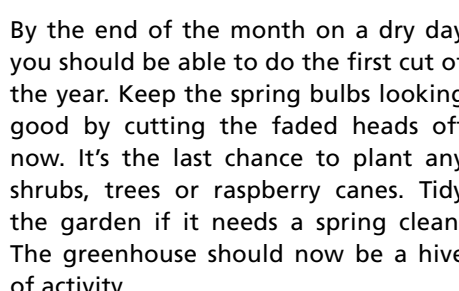
You can start begonia and gloxinia corms now. Set them in 1 inch pots, fill 3/4 full of good compost, put the corm on top then cover completely. Water sparingly and keep in the warmth but out of sunlight until they start to grow. If you have any spare sunny windowsills now is the time to sow tomato and pepper seeds. A greenhouse now comes into its own; you do not need it heated. Use bubble wrap and fleece to keep things going except for very tender seeds. You can start most things which need a long time including chitting of potatoes and flowers, even in the snow. You get the feeling winter will soon be over. Snowdrops, crocuses and muscari are all pushing through the snow and the daffs, tulips and irises are pushing up their greenery. Everything is starting to wake up after the winter sleep. In the vegetable garden the vegetable plot should all be dug over by now and an area covered with an old carpet to warm up for any early planting. For early peas and broad beans sow them in compost in gutters in a cold greenhouse, they will get a better start and the birds will not have a chance to eat them as they come through.

### March

Plant up containers with lettuce, radish, swisard and spinach for some early greens. Buy in your bedding plants if you do not grow them yourself. The best selling bedding plants in the UK are pansies packed close together, in spring and summer borders they look spectacular with their many colours and very long flowering season from May to October. After this you can get the winter flowers. If you like your herbs now is the time to plant up a large herb tub. Keep it inside for a few weeks, only plant a few seeds of each variety and put names on sticks so you know what's what. Thin out but remember to read the label so you know to put the taller ones at the back or in the middle and small ones around.

### Other things to do in March

If you have a greenhouse and cold frame make sure they are kept open on sunny days. Your potatoes should be ready to put in the ground; if it's too cold don't worry they can go in up until the end of April. The lawn is now ready to feed with high nitrogen spring feed.



# The Big Dig!

by Aysha Ghafoor



**The Big Dig was exactly that.** Held on 22nd October 2010, this event was all about restoring the overgrown grounds at St. Peter's Partnerships' allotment.

Staff, local residents, Greenscape workers, council members and other volunteers, all took part and there was mud, spades, rakes, organic veg and lots of digging to eat crops too. Having spoken to some of the volunteers this October event proved popular, with a great turnout of helpers. So what makes people want to volunteer for the community allotment? I spoke to one volunteer, Sue, who saw a great opportunity in it, saying: "It is a good way to get all backgrounds of the community involved."

One idea Sue had was to grow different products, which could be used to make dishes from different parts of the world. These dishes would reflect the diverse community that we live in. This is not yet in place and is just one of the ideas that she talked about.

"It's not quite the same watching Titchmarsh on television as it is actually doing it yourself. This is a great place to get to do some planting, gardening and just simply enjoy the outdoors. It's a great opportunity for those that don't have gardens but do have a passion for it. They can come here and spend some time doing what they enjoy." said Sam, another volunteer. Having a community allotment can

give those without gardens, an opportunity to appreciate some greenery. It's also ideal for those keen to learn about growing their own organic produce, (these cost a lot more in supermarkets!). This is produce that you can take home too! There are also ideas of using different parts of the allotment plot for different projects that will include all ages and people within the community.

So as well as benefiting from growing crops, by visiting the allotment you can take advantage of the beautiful view that takes you far away from an industrial town! Not only can you come and help clear up the weeds, being outdoors might help clear and relax your mind.

This green space is open for everyone and if you want to join in contact Lynne Stott at St. Peter's Partnerships on 0161 241 6124, email: [lynne.stott@stpeterspartnerships.org](mailto:lynne.stott@stpeterspartnerships.org), and get your wellies ready for the next Big Dig!

St. Peter's Partnerships community allotment plot is at King George's Allotment, at the bottom of Mount Pleasant Street (off Guide Lane), Audenshaw.



# What is Social Enterprise?

According to The Social Enterprise Coalition, "Social enterprises are businesses driven by a social or environmental purpose" and there are 62,000 of them in the UK".

The government defines social enterprises as "businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners." Social enterprises compete to deliver goods and services just like standard commercial businesses but social purpose is at the very heart of a

social enterprise and the profits they make are reinvested towards achieving that purpose.

Well known examples of social enterprises include: The Big Issue, Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen, and the fair-trade chocolate company Divine Chocolate.



## Women in Social Enterprise

by Sarah Ballinger

St. Peter's Partnerships is always looking for ways to improve the lives of local residents and to ensure they have the chance to have their voice heard.

That's why we recently agreed to work with Oxfam to do some work around social enterprises and whether or not these may be an effective route out of poverty for women?

St. Peter's Partnerships which operates four social enterprises and advises others, is providing the practical element to the research. This will help Oxfam understand what works for women as well as what barriers they face and what can be done to remove them.

I live in Tameside and am training to be a community development worker. I am undertaking this work on a 6 months work placement with St. Peter's Partnerships. This placement and being involved in the research is a great example of the way that St. Peter's Partnerships helps local people!

The project has several stages and in the New Year I'll be arranging focus groups for women to come together and share their experiences around social enterprise. I'm hoping to bring together a wide range of people who represent the diversity of the area. It would be great to hear from women who have been involved in social enterprises and those who have never even heard of one! All views are valid so if you're approached don't be afraid to say yes! The research will be finished by April 2011 and the end of the project will result in a report from Oxfam and case studies being produced.

Until then I'd love to hear from anyone who has any views or ideas they want to feed in. Please email me at: sarah.ballinger@stpeterspartnerships.org.



## Local mum & daughter find an answer to lack of jobs



**An Enterprise Plus client feature**

When St. Peter's Partnerships hosted the September 2010 Community Gathering, a gateway to a job opportunity opened up for one local family. At the meeting Enterprise Plus staff were on hand to update local residents and volunteers on their recent work, which supports local residents in accessing training and job opportunities. Amanda Kinsey, secretary of Ashton West End Residents Association, Scouts Group member and local mother, took time to find out more for her daughter Hannah, who had left University earlier in the year. Amanda was advised that the Enterprise Plus team at Cavendish Mill would be only too happy to meet with Hannah and support in any way they could. Hannah met with an advisor and discussed a range of options; one of which was the 'Future Jobs Scheme, a joint initiative between Enterprise Plus, Tameside MBC and the Department for Work & Pensions. Supported by Enterprise Plus, TMBC and the local Jobcentre, Hannah then attended an interview with New Charter Housing Trust and is now enjoying a Future Jobs Placement with them in the Finance department. Hannah said: "I was starting to get really disheartened but the advice I received was really helpful and now I

have a job and am gaining the experience which is so valuable in today's job market. Help is out there, you just need to ask"

Carol Dalton, Service Development Manager for Enterprise Plus, said: "Thanks to the support of local partners in the Future Jobs Scheme, Hannah is now putting into practice the skills she has developed at University. We are so happy for Hannah and really pleased we could help her."

Enterprise Plus started its Future Jobs programme back in January 2010. Since then over 131 applications have been received and 119 interviews have taken place with local residents wanting to take part in the work opportunities with Enterprise Plus, Safeguard It and Greenscape. This has led to 37 people starting on the programme so far and 20 people have completed their six month paid jobs within these enterprises. "We are really pleased to report that as a result of this programme nine people have gained permanent employment with other local employers. A great success for local residents, community organisations and employers alike," added Carol.

**For advice and help on getting the job you want, contact Enterprise Plus on 0161 214 8470.**



## PUDSEY'S PAYBACK

Staff from Tameside's Probation Service stood brushes and rollers in hand, alongside Enterprise Plus staff and volunteers, to decorate the new crèche at Cavendish Mill whilst raising cash for Children in Need. Probation staff not only gave up their time to carry out the work but also paid for the privilege - with all cash raised being donated to this worthy cause. The work included painting and decorating the walls and ceiling and now that the refurbishment is complete it will

create further opportunities for parents and carers, in particular a mobile crèche facility which is really needed by the community. This new facility is St. Peter's latest social enterprise initiative and we are offering an opportunity for anyone interested in helping us to develop the crèche, to get involved. It will offer local people a range of volunteer and paid hours and training will be provided.

If you want to find out more, please ring 214 8470.

## A cup of history on your doorstep

by Aysha Ghafoor

'Pre-Gest-Tea' - that's PG Tips to you and me - came from right here in Ashton-under-Lyne and was started by Arthur Brooke who was born and bred here. He started a business called Brook & Bond Company in 1869 and his first teashop opened on Market Street in Manchester. He later expanded to other major cities with a warehouse in London from where he sold wholesale stock to various stores.

The idea for the name came from the fact that you could drink it to aid digestion before food (pre-digestive). The name was shortened to PG by local store managers as it was easier to say when ordering supplies! The brand name was then legally changed to PG Tips, the 'Tips' part of the brand name being derived from the fact that the tea is made only from the 'tips' of the leaves.

Specially sourced from India and China, Brooke chose how the teas were made, ensuring the end result was a perfect blended combination. As well as the quality of the product, advertising also played a major part in the success of his company. He understood the concept of advertising and how this could help him increase the popularity of his teas. "Good tea unites good company,

exhilarates the spirits, banishes restraint from conversation and promotes the happiest purposes of social intercourse." This quote is one of the first slogans he used. The biggest advertising campaign and one that everybody associates with PG Tips, is the "Tipps family" which were chimpanzees. One of these adverts holds the record for being the most shown advert on British television! Adverts have included famous people and digital monkeys. Not only have the ads changed and evolved, the actual tea has too. PG Tips is the only company in the world that has triangular shaped bags and this is now what distinguishes PG Tips from all other teabags. PG Tips 75th anniversary was celebrated in 2005. For this, a limited edition golden pack was made including a one-off 'diamond' tea bag worth £7,500 which was made by Boodles jewellers!

As you can see from this brief history an enormous amount of excellence has come straight from the St. Peter's area. This is inspiring in that it demonstrates that anybody, anywhere, can achieve and build something as big as this. So next time you pour a cup of PG tips you can be proud that it was first created by a previous member of your community.



## Local organisations represented in House of Lords visit

In October 2010 St. Peter's Partnerships were invited to the House Of Lords as part of their role in the CREATE Consortium (a group of organisations lobbying for the Community Allowance which will enable community organisations to create new jobs and pay local unemployed people to do work that strengthens their community).

Together with the Enterprise Plus team who are leading on this project, SPY Youth Forum nominated Laura Hill, Hannah Spiers, Nazia Begum and Jelal Mohammed to represent them at this event. A presentation about the proposed Community Allowance made to MP's, government policy makers and the heads of national charities by Baroness Stedman-Scott involved Oxfam and our local representatives.

Hannah Spiers was brave enough to share her mum Nikki's experiences of

being on benefits and undertaking voluntary work within SPY, Sure Start and Ashton Pioneer Homes, that gave her valuable experience and qualifications which led to real long term employment opportunities. Hannah felt that if the Community Allowance would have been available it could have helped Nikki move to employment more quickly. Nikki is now a breast start advisor at Little Angels, Tameside.

The group met Baroness Stedman-Scott and shared their experiences of the challenges of living in Ashton-under-Lyne and the difference that SPY is making in young peoples lives. The Baroness was so impressed that she invited the whole Youth Forum group to come to the House Of Lords in early 2011 to have tea with her and talk more. Jelal Mohammed said: "The Community Allowance is a good idea and SPY Youth Forum fully support it."



## Developing partnership puts local people first

Local advice and training provider Enterprise Plus has expanded its capacity to help local people in an exciting partnership development with New Charter Housing Trust Group. Based in Cavendish Mill in Ashton-under-Lyne, Enterprise Plus offers information, advice and guidance to people looking for work, to increase their range of skills enabling them to move on into jobs. Their landlords, New Charter, had previously operated an adjoining facility to them as a training centre and in the new arrangement they have handed over the management of this facility to Enterprise Plus.

Enterprise Plus Development Manager, Carol Dalton explained the significance of this development:

"We can now support people throughout the whole employment process from giving help and support in looking for work such as supporting CV writing and helping with preparation for interviews, through to helping them access training and developing their skills. Having these extended facilities in the same location means we are even better placed to work with local people.

Tony Powell, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods for New Charter Housing Trust Group, which provided the ground floor office at Cavendish Mill, attended the official opening of the new facility. He said: New Charter is pleased to be able to provide opportunities for our tenants. By entering into this very positive arrangement with Enterprise

Plus, we hope that together we can improve tenants' prospects of employment and improve their quality of life.

Enterprise Plus has already started to increase the range of services available to its clients and is developing a crèche to provide childcare facilities for their clients that need them.

Enterprise Plus is located on the ground floor of Cavendish Mill and accessed via the entrance on Bank Street. It is open for business Monday to Thursday from 9am - 5pm and on Friday from 9am - 3.30pm.

For further information tel: 0161 214 8470 or go to: stpeterspartnerships.org

# Changes to welfare benefits and tax credits

## what these mean for you...

The government has recently announced a number of changes to the benefit rules which may affect you.

### If you have children:

- the amount of Child Benefit you receive is frozen for 3 years, until 2013.
- if you are a lone parent claiming Income Support and your youngest child is aged 5 or above you will have to claim Jobseekers Allowance from April 2012. If you are too ill to work or care for a person with severe disabilities there are alternative benefits you may be able to claim.
- the amount of Child Tax Credit you receive may change over the next 3 years. Some people will receive modest increases; whilst others will see the amount they receive reduce over time.

### Universal Credit - a new benefit:

From 2013 a new Benefit (the Universal Credit) will be gradually introduced. This will replace Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Tax Credits and Housing Benefit. The government hopes this new benefit will improve your incentives to work, make claiming simpler and reduce fraud and error. If you move in and out of work you would only need to tell one organisation about this to have your benefits amended (currently you would usually need to tell the Jobcentre, the Tax Credits office and Tameside council).

### If you are claiming benefits as a result of illness or disability:

- if you are presently claiming Incapacity Benefit you will be invited to a medical by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) at some point over the next 3 years. The medical will assess if you are eligible for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). If you are not eligible for ESA you will be asked to claim Jobseekers Allowance instead. This change also applies to those people who claim Severe Disablement Allowance and to those who claim Income Support on the grounds of illness or disability.
- if you claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA), the government is planning to bring in a new set of rules from April 2013. It is expected that 20% less people will qualify under these new rules. Unfortunately, we have no further details at the time of writing this.



### If you are unemployed:

from April 2013, you will find that your Housing Benefit will be reduced by 10% if you have been unemployed for more than 12 months. For example if your rent is £80 a week, and you presently receive Housing Benefit which covers all your rent, you will find that from April 2013 you will have to pay £8 a week rent. You will have to find this from your Jobseekers Allowance. Please note that this change will only apply to people claiming Jobseekers Allowance for more than 12 months. It does not apply to people who are claiming Incapacity Benefit; Employment and Support Allowance; or Income Support.

For more information phone the Benefits Freephone Advice Line on 0800 074 9985, on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 9.30 am - 12.30 pm. or visit: [www.tameside.gov.uk/welfarerights](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/welfarerights)

## INTRODUCTION OF THE SINGLE WORK PROGRAMME

This is the centre piece of the Governments plan to reform the current support that jobseekers can access when looking for work. It is designed to replace the majority of support programmes, giving providers flexibility to deliver support based on customer need. A framework of providers have been chosen by the Department for Work and Pensions and they are

asking providers to tender for this programme by the end of January 2011.

Enterprise Plus delivers the current model and will bid to become one of the single work programme providers which is expected to commence by summer 2011.

For more information call: 0161 214 8470

## Upcoming Events February 2011

Details of forthcoming and weekly events can be found at [stpetes.wordpress.com](http://stpetes.wordpress.com)

### Tuesday 1st February 2011

There is a **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** course from 10am until 2pm at T3SC, 131 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7AW (Age Concern Building). A basic awareness session promoting welfare and safeguarding children whose aim is to enable participants to recognise concerns about children and respond appropriately. For more info and to book your place contact Dawn on 0161 339 4985 or email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org). (also running on Monday 21st February)

### Wednesday 2nd February 2011

**FRIENDS OF KING GEORGE'S PLAYING FIELDS** will meet from 7.30pm onward at the Bowling Pavilion, Henrietta Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. For more info contact Alan Fish on 0161 330 0305.

### Tuesday 8th February 2011

There is an **ADVANCED FUNDING COURSE** from 10am until 3pm at T3SC, 131 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7AW (Age Concern Building). You will learn how to fully cost a bid, understand what outcomes are and construct strong answers to key questions. To book your place and for more info contact Dawn on 0161 339 4985, email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

**BME WOMEN'S NETWORK MEETING**, 11.30am until 1.30pm, Volunteer Centre, 95-97 Penny Meadow, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6EP. For more info contact Derin Adefajo on 0161 339 4985, email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

### Thursday 10th February 2011

**BME NETWORK MEETING**, 11.30am until 1.30pm, Volunteer Centre, 95-97 Penny Meadow, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6EP. For more info contact Derin Adefajo on 0161 339 4985, email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

### Friday 11th February 2011

**MP DAVID HEYES**, will be holding a surgery from 3.30pm until 4.30pm at Ashton Constituency Office, 4 St Michael's Court, Stamford Street (next to St Michael's Parish Church), Ashton-under-Lyne. For more info contact 0161 331 9307 email: [heyessd@parliament.uk](mailto:heyessd@parliament.uk).

### Monday 14th February 2011

St Valentine's Day

### Tuesday 15th February 2011

There is a **SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT** course from 12 pm until 2 pm (with lunch) at T3SC, 131 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7AW (Age Concern Building). This is a new way of thinking about the value your organisation places on the difference that you make in your project. This introduction will give you a basic understanding of the process and its strengths and weaknesses. For more info and to book your place contact Dawn on 0161 339 4985 or email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

### Wednesday 16th February 2011

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE NETWORK** meeting from 6pm until 8pm at T3SC, 131 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7AW (Age Concern Building). For more info contact Mohamed Seedat on 0161 339 4985 or email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

**THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS** meeting from 10am until 12pm at T3SC, 131 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7AW (Age Concern Building). For more info contact Anna Hynes on 0161 339 4985 or email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

### Thursday 17th February 2011

**ASHTON WEST END RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION** will meet from 7.15pm onward at West End Methodist Church, Trafalgar Square, Ashton-under-Lyne.



### Friday 18th February 2011

There is a **COLLABORATIVE WORKING WORKSHOP** from 10am until 3pm at T3SC, 131 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7AW (Age Concern Building). This workshop will help you to: increase your understanding of collaboration and its benefits/challenges, learn about different models of collaboration, identify new opportunities and more. For more info and to book your place, contact Dawn on 0161 339 4985 or email [info@t3sc.org](mailto:info@t3sc.org).

### Thursday 24th February 2011

**ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY GATHERING** will meet from 6.30pm onward at Clyde House, Clyde Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. This is an opportunity to share your views on community matters, meet other residents and service providers and get involved in community events. For more info and to receive minutes of the meetings, contact Neilum on 0161 214 8312 or email [neilum.kaursingh@stpeterspartnership.org](mailto:neilum.kaursingh@stpeterspartnership.org).

### ONGOING

### Now until Saturday 15th January 2011

Rebecca Davy's new exhibition 'SUGAR AND SPICE' brings together her previous Gingerbread House series and her new work based around porcelain figurines. Davy paints landscapes and scenes which show the process of time where things dissolve and melt away. This is on show at the Central Art Gallery, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7SG. For more info contact 0161 342 2650.

### Saturday 29th January 2010 to Saturday 5th February 2010

'LADIES DAY' is showing from 7.45 pm at Guide Bridge Theatre, Audenshaw Road, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5HJ. Booking opens from Monday 10th January 2010. For more info contact: 0161 330 8078.

### Thursday 20th January 2011 to Thursday 31st March 2011

**CREATIVE COMPUTING FOR BEGINNERS** from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm, Topaz, 216-218 Katherine Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. Topics covered will include creating simple documents with images, simple presentations with sound, video and images, producing business cards and much more. £2.50 per person. For more info and to book your place contact: 0161 330 9223.

### Now until June 2011

**TOM PALIN'S 'IN TWO MINDS' EXHIBITION** explore paintings and documents of undecidedness at the Central Art Gallery, Library Building, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7SG. Free. For further info contact: 0161 342 2650.



# Focus on... Curzon Ashton F.C.

By Bob Rowley

Many is the time that I've sat on a cold wintry night with the wind whistling through the old wooden stands at the National Park ground in the West End of Ashton supporting Curzon Ashton Football Club.

Since moving just up the road to the new magnificent 4,000 capacity 'Tameside Stadium' at the end of Richmond Street, the club now offers their supporters the benefit of far superior facilities. There's a friendly welcome in the licensed bar while the 'T-Birds' will provide refreshments in the excellent snack and refreshment bar. Visitors can also drop in to meet Nigel in the club's memorabilia and programme shop and to view the excellent upstairs

Banquet Room that can be hired for weddings, parties, business functions and seminars.

### Our roots

Curzon Ashton FC was formed in 1963 by the amalgamation of two clubs, Curzon Road FC and Ashton Amateurs FC. The club joined the Manchester Amateur League and then The Manchester League, slowly progressing through the Cheshire League Division Two (of which they were founder members), and on to the Northern Premier League.

The present Manager is Gary Lowe, who joined the club from Woodley Sports FC in the year 2000 and is now in his 11th season with over 500 matches in charge. Gary's record with the club is quite impressive and includes 2 NWCL league cup finals, FA Vase semi-final, NWCL runners-up and promotion, and NPL league cup semi-final. In the 2007/8 season, after leading the first division for most of the season, the club failed to get promotion after the play-off final. Then last season for the 3rd successive year, were beaten again in the play-offs for that elusive promotion to the Evo-Stik premier division.

In 2005 Sir Alex Ferguson brought a Manchester United FC team to play Curzon Ashton F.C. to celebrate the official opening of the Tameside Stadium. As a result of the friendship which developed between the two clubs from this occasion, Jack Crompton, who has spent most of his professional life at Manchester United and played in goal for them in the 1948 FA Cup Final, accepted the Presidency of Curzon Ashton F.C. On Thursday 3rd May 2007, a crowd of 3,210 fans crowded into Tameside stadium to watch Curzon Ashton FC play FC United of Manchester in the NWCL football league challenge cup final, a record attendance for the competition! The highlight so far of all Curzon Ashton FC's achievements has to be when they knocked out high-flying football league division three club Exeter City FC in the 1st Round of the FA Cup in 2008-09 season, watched by a crowd of 1,295.

Some of the star names to have played for Curzon Ashton FC over the years, going on to achieve football fame includes: Kenny Clements (Man City), Wayne Entwhistle (a host of clubs including, Sunderland, Leeds United and Blackpool), Eric Nixon (Manchester City & Tranmere Rovers), Steve Wigley, (Brian Clough signed him for

Nottingham Forest) and of course Gordon Taylor, (Bolton Wanderers, Birmingham City & Blackburn Rovers), who went on to become the Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers Association.

Why not pay the club a visit and see for yourself what the club has to offer.

Call us on: 0161 330 6033, email: [office@curzon-ashton.co.uk](mailto:office@curzon-ashton.co.uk) or check out the club at [www.curzon-ashton.co.uk](http://www.curzon-ashton.co.uk).

You'll be made most welcome!



Kenny Clements

Gordon Taylor

