

C O M M U N I T Y

# Highlights

PROMOTIONS

The Newsletter for Chapeltown, Harehills & Surrounding **Issue 11**

## Introduction

1998

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and have made positive New Year's Resolutions in order to focus and change your lives for the better. Chapeltown is booming. Lots of new projects and businesses are taking over. The year 2000 is nearly here. So what ever you want in life, now's the time to go for it.

## What Community Highlights stands for

A newsletter combating the negative images portrayed by the media, bringing people and communities together, young and old, highlighting positive news, current affairs, training projects, role models, up-and-coming businesses and promoting the success and achievements of a multicultural society in Chapeltown and Harehills.

## Community Talent Risson Mackintosh

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**Editor: Patricia Jones**

Winner of Black Women's Achievement Award 1992  
Mary Seacole Award 1992  
Black Women's Promotion Award 1994  
Voice Community Award 1997



## Community Talent Risson Mackintosh

Risson Mackintosh has been painting for 15 years now, and is greatly inspired by colour and techniques. The successful blending of traditional skills such as marbling, graining and ragging, with modern techniques and applications, has given Risson an enviable reputation for creativity and craftsmanship. Decorative paints, marbling, woodgraining, glazing and fine art, can open up a whole new round of problem-solving solutions, to create space and moods and give the client personal preference to their taste and style, and can also work with existing furnishing. Risson is apprentice-trained and attended Leeds College of Building. He has built up an overwhelming amount of skills over the years. Risson specializes in rag-rolling, dragging, sponging, stencilling, lining and ageing, contemporary, high technique, Victoria dining rooms, art deco and Pompeii style. In the near future Risson would like to move into bigger commissions and larger houses. Risson puts together samples and small drawings to give clients a good idea of results. He also offers imaginative paint finishes based on people's lifestyle and preferences. A portfolio is available on request. If you're thinking about decorating, Risson would be more than delighted to hear from anyone interested. You can contact him on Leeds (0113) 245 2592.

### UNSUNG HEROINE

*Do you know someone who has done well but never gets noticed*

Someone who has fostered a child or maybe a good hearted person?

Send us written piece with £15.00 and we will come out and surprise them with a bottle of wine and a present.

## Sol River

Sol River, at the Quarry Theatre, with *Unbroken*, his commission for Phoenix Dance Company (one of 4 pieces in the evening's repertoire), 10th-14th February. In *Unbroken*, Phoenix dance entirely to River's text, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Sol says it's a privilege to write for Phoenix Dance and to have something on the Quarry stage. *Unbroken* is written in four languages and one dialect - English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Patois. This book is greatly recommended.

**P. Jones**

"River writes like Beckett on amphetamines."  
**The Guardian**

"River's power and authority makes one eager to see what he's going to do next." **Time Out**

(The book includes *Unbroken* for Phoenix Dance.)

Available at Waterstones, Albion Street, Leeds (tel. 242 0839). Published by Oberon Books, ISBN 1-870259823.

## Revive Your Business

**Is your business dying?  
Don't give up! Try your luck with  
community Highlights!**

Why not promote your business or project with a newsheet/Newsletter all done at a reasonable rate? Well even organise a show to promote your business - why not give us a bell or write to:

**275 Harehill Lane, LS8 3RQ**

**Don't Postpone!  
Pick Up The 'Phone And Dial  
Community Highlights  
0976 539533**



## **Community Link-up**

### **Leeds Black Elders Association**

This company was incorporated on 11th December 1992 under the 1985 Companies Act as a company limited by guarantee. It became a registered charity (charity number 1017231) on 11th February 1993.

The company is a voluntary association established for the relief of the aged and, in particular, but not so as to limit the generality of the foregoing, the alleviation of the loneliness and isolation of such ethnic minority elders as are resident in the general area of the Leeds 7 postal district and the vicinity and as are in need thereof by providing or promoting the provision, and by the management of, a day centre complex and associated facilities and services. There are two major projects:

**Leeds Black Elders Volunteering Project.** Volunteers are recruited and trained to work with the elderly undertaking such duties as home visits, shopping and maintenance work.

**Community Development Project.** The main aims of this project are to identify the needs of elders, in particular, but not exclusively, the needs of ethnic minority groups and wherever possible, seek to respond to such needs by directing to or making appropriate provision.

The volunteering project has now moved to:  
180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 4HP.  
Tel. 0113 237 4332.

Leeds Black Elders Association currently work with over 100 older people from the Leeds community.

## **Celebrate Good Times**

**Are you celebrating?**

Send in your request.

Get your Anniversary,

Christening, Graduation or Birthday  
mentioned for £10.

## **Community Entertainment**

### **Roots in Boots (or Cinderella with Hot Pepper Sauce)**

A black pantomime was performed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in January. The writer, Ansell Broderick, wrote the pantomime ten years ago by taking the traditional story of Cinderella and giving it a strong Jamaican flavour. At the time, he was employed by the Leeds Department of Education as an actor teacher.

Ansell, who is now 37, has toured with the Royal Shakespeare Company and performed *Macbeth* in Sierra Leone and Malawi.

His interest in writing and performing was inspired by the Jamaican tradition of story-telling, a tradition which is fast dying out in the television age. A character which keeps popping up in Jamaican tales is Anansie, a mischievous creature whose tricks have created much mayhem in the world.

*Roots in Boots* was first performed at the Mandela Centre on a budget of just £200. The recent production still drew on the community for its cast rather than professional actors, but there was also a professional dancer from the Northern School of Contemporary Dance - Philip Lambert (featured on last issue's Community Talent page)

*Roots in Boots* was a perfect night out for all ages. There was more to this panto than pumpkins and slippers! Well done Ansell, I enjoyed every minute of the show, and so did everyone else. Keep up the good work.

Watch out for Ansell's next play, *Who's Boss*. With luck, it will be ready next autumn to be performed at the Playhouse. It is about a young man growing up in the inner city, and it should strike a cord with a lot of people.



# Community Role Model

## Pen Picture on Claude Hendrickson

Claude Hendrickson was born of Nevisian parents in Leeds in the early 1960s and grew up in the Chapeltown area of Leeds. He is one of the most influential activists of his generation in the Community.

Claude is most noted for his six-year *Frontline Community Self-Build Housing Association* project that built 12 two-bedrooms houses on land at Ravenscar Mount, Leeds 8, in 1994-5.

Claude founded the 5-year-old *Chapeltown Young People's 10-2 Club*, a night-time diversionary drop-in club based at the Chapeltown Community Centre. The Club caters to young African and African-Caribbeans aged 16+ who have problems accessing mainstream opportunities, or who just benefit from the alcohol-free environment the Club maintains. Recently, Claude took members of the Club on a 12-day Youth Exchange to Oslo, Norway, as part of the European Year Against Racism programme.

Claude sits on several management and advisory committees, including the Chapeltown Citizens Advice Bureau (Chair 1995/96), the Mandela Centre, and the Chapeltown Community Centre. He is also a governor of Blenheim Primary

School in Leeds 2.

Claude has a *Supervisory Management qualification*, and currently runs the *First TEE Project*, a training, education-to-employment initiative sponsored by the Leeds T.E.C. Ltd., Leeds City Council and Leeds College of Building. The Project works with schools and detached young people, accessing and providing "college" tasters in different vocational disciplines.

Claude runs workshops around Self-Build and is an issue-based consultant to several S.R.B. programmes, housing concerns and youth organizations.

Since the age of 14, Claude has been involved in a number of "Black" community groups, and has campaigned on issues such as housing, policing, young people, education & training, crime & drugs, and around the regeneration of Chapeltown.

In 1997, Claude was nominated for the *15th Annual Community Awards*, sponsored by the Voice Newspaper, winning the category for "Youth & Community" work.

The 10-2 Club  
Chapeltown Community Centre  
Wednesday & Friday nights  
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Games, activities, careers, advice and much,  
much more

Telephone: 0831 480196

## Valentine's Comedy





# Music in the Community

## V/A - "Chapeltown 7" CD (Positive)

A compilation of musicians from Chapeltown put together by the Positive Music Agency, ranging from smokin' jazz from BABA through smooth reggae (and crazy club!) from RAS NATURAL, Wailers style rebel rock from Rockstone and Supa Yout, atmospheric dancebeats from Ansell Broderick, to tribal drumming from African drum master Musa Suma and Women's drumming group Jangta Bi. All an indication of just how healthy the Chapeltown music scene is.

More details from Positive Music Agency, 91 Spencer Place, Chapeltown, Leeds, LS7 4HD. Telephone: 248 2703 or 262 6759.

## Transcultural Recording Project

Music-makers from Chapeltown & Harehills are being sought for a compilation C.D. to promote the wealth of talent in the area. For information, contact Jon on 2622301. Send demos (however rough - they're looking for potential) to: Transcultural Recording Project, c/o CHEL Business Centre, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS7 1AB.

## A Musical Hit!

Those of you interested in popular music will be aware that the Spice Girls made it to Number One with their song *Too much*. But the only reason that happened was because the world was not fortunate enough to hear an original Christmas song which was put together by Nigel Wilkes.

Nigel was commissioned by his cousin, Sheila Howarth, to write a song for the Little London Primary School Christmas celebration. The only brief he was given was that it had to have a Caribbean flavour to it. Nigel wrote *Hurray for Christmas* and gave the song a soca beat. "Soca at Christmas time?" I hear you cry!! Well, it worked. The school loved it. The teachers loved it, and the head teacher loved it. With the help of local musicians and studio engineers, 53 pupils from the school recorded the song. A number of C.D.'s were produced and sold to help raise money for their school funds.

Nigel said: "The success of the song has made me think about taking it further next year. I have received some positive feedback from a lot of people." Nigel would like to thank: Joe, Arron, Howard and Fat Larry for their contributions.

The song made it to the airwaves as Nigel was interviewed on the Caribbean Radio Leeds programme, *The Night Shift*. Those of you who would like a copy of the song can contact Nigel through the newsletter. I will pass your details on to him.

## CABLE & WIRELESS

Linking up with Community Highlights, and giving the community a look in bringing to you information every day of the week, from within the Chapeltown and Harehills Community Channel any day between 2 pm and 3 pm.

If you would like a mention, short, to-the-point articles will be considered. Information to be sent to 275 Harehill Lane, Leeds 9.

**Community Highlights, leading the Community to bigger and better things.**



# Poetry Corner

## Community Publishing

### Poetry Corner

#### Royal Kingdoms

Kingdoms:- Ghana, Mali and Songhai.

Royal Kingdoms:- whose names the history books passed by.

Glorious Kingdoms:- Their greatness no-one can deny.

Mighty Kingdoms:- We'll never let your memory die.

Kingdoms - Ethiopia and Egyptland.

Builders of the pyramids - four thousand years and still they stand.

Knowledge of the universe - knew the stars in the heavens above.

All the people of the earth - need to know who we're singing of.

Kingdoms - wealth beyond imagination.

Zimbabwe, Timbuktu and Ashanti nations.

Birthplace of humanity, cradle of civilization.

Afrika and Motherland, since the dawn of creation.

Kingdoms - Power and majesty yet remain.

Bountiful Kingdoms - their royal blood flows through our veins.

Beautiful Kingdoms - alive in us awaiting to ascend.

Marvellous Kingdoms - Call for us to build them again.

**M. Williams**

#### What Do We Do with a Difference?

What do we do with a difference?

Do we point and stare

or do we ignore it?

Do we pretend we can't see it

or kick it to one side?

Do we kill it slowly?

Do we avoid it

and enlist the help of others

to send it to Coventry?

Do we look at it in awe

or purely in wonderment?

Do we hope it will disappear?

Do we pass it quietly on tiptoe

or run screaming from it?

Do we enforce it to be like ourselves?

What do we do with a difference?

Do we make contact,

Acknowledge it for barriers

to fall down?

Maybe if you ask me,

You will see I'm not different.

Just a variation of the same theme.

**M. Williams**

#### The Great in Great Britain

Britain is not my island.

Ghana is where I'm striving to go.

It's three times as big as Britain,

But not that you'd necessarily know this  
because it's in AFRICA

where all the primitive peoples are  
supposed to be.

That didn't stop them thieving us

from our homeland though,

Shackling, raping, degrading, humiliating

and putting us to work.

Evil like that was not in our hearts

or in our minds.

When we were invited here

with potential jobs on offer,

As British Citizens we cleaned up,

We took over transport.

We built up the country

BUT WE didn't RUN ANY ... THING.

Britain got rich off our backs

in slavery.

Britain won the war with conscripted

Black men from their colonies.

Britain got cheap labour

and a black arse to kick,

from the sixties through to seventies times,

and I don't want to assimilate any more.

I don't want to be controlled by state

benefits any longer than I have to.

I'm getting my skills and I'm gone.

See ya!!!

**Theodora Agbah**

#### Running River

I am a running river.

I run and run,

Going nowhere, getting nowhere.

I have to run,

That's all I know.

I have to run,

'Cos I am a running river.

I run and run 'cos I'm a water,

but I would like to know where to end,

As I run and run,

Nowhere to run.

**Florence Agbah**



## **Footbridge**

I'm a bridge people cross.  
Night and day they are crossing.  
Sometimes I get fed up watching them crossing,  
But what can you do?  
They say: "We can't go anywhere without crossing you."  
So I just have to let them,  
Crossing and crossing.  
Sometimes I feel so weak.  
When they step on me I go "ouch".  
But they can't hear what I'm saying -  
I wish they can hear me saying "ouch".  
It would perhaps have been easier.  
They wouldn't have to cross  
Up and down,  
Night and day,  
Crossing,  
Stepping on me,  
Stepping on my toe, but not knowing,  
Stepping on my head, my face, my tummy especially,  
Without knowing they are doing it - maybe sometimes  
they do.  
I wish they'd consider me, instead of mucking about.  
They should cross once a day,  
Not over and over, like they do.  
Look at my footpath - so worn out.  
Being a footbridge is hard work.

## **Florence Agbah**

# **Communities Together**

## **Methleys Neighbourhood Action**

Four years ago, the residents of "the Methleys" - an area of some 300 houses in Chapel Allerton - got together and formed their own community group, Methleys Neighbourhood Action. Their aim was to improve their environment, in particular reduce the traffic congestion and lack of play facilities for children. A year and a half ago, they turfed over Methley Terrace for a weekend and received national press coverage - the date, 17th August 1996, just happening to be the 100th anniversary of the first fatal road traffic accident involving a motor vehicle in the U.K. Now, the Council has approved in principle the stopping-up of Zermatt Mount so that it can be turned into a green space. The community group has applied to the Countryside Commission for funding for the Millennium Green and is now trying to obtain the consent of landowners. Councillor Doris McGee, the chair of the sub-committee, said: "People in the Methleys area have consistently demonstrated their ability to pursue innovative ways of improving their local environment. I hope that by clearly giving them our support in principle at this early stage of their bid, we will be able to help them gain the necessary funding for their garden."

## **Lumb Bank Valley**

*Introduction: There's a valley in Hebden Bridge that reminds me of a place in Ghana that is a special place, and it's a cave and like a house. When I saw the valley it brought memories of Ghana.*

Lumb Bank Valley  
are you the valley I once knew?

Lumb Bank  
I knew a valley just like you  
a long time ago.

Lumb Bank,  
do you have a brother  
or a sister?

Why do you remind me **so much**  
of the place I once knew?

I'd love to be there again  
but perhaps it is **destroyed** by now.

After all, it's twenty-odd years ago  
you sheltered me **once** in your cave  
just like the way you sheltered the hunters  
in the cold windy nights.

Lumb Bank,  
are you the one, are you the valley?

Please Lumb Bank,  
are you the valley I once knew in Africa?  
Do you have a brother, a sister?

Lumb Bank, are you the valley?

## **Florence Agbah**

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## **St. Mary's Parish Centre**

St. Mary's Church in Garforth has a Sunday Club for young people aged 4 to 12, which used to meet in the church hall. Unfortunately the hall was burnt down in June 1995. Since then, local people have been vigorously raising funds to build a new centre, while the club has been meeting in scout huts and guide huts at the back of the church. Now their efforts have been rewarded and the building of a Centre next to the church at a cost of £185,000 has been completed just before Christmas.



# *Positive News*

## *Opening Gala Performance at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance*

The N.S.C.D. in Chapeltown has celebrated the completion of its £3.2 million redevelopment with a Gala Performance on 30th January 1998. The Minister for the Arts, Mark Fisher MP, officially opened the new buildings at the College before a performance featuring N.S.C.D. students, special guest artists, and a group of the College's community class children.

The performance was also attended by local M.P.'s Fabian Hamilton, John Battle and Keith Fatchett; the Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds; Graham Devlin (Acting Secretary General of the Arts Council); Roger Lancaster (Chief Executive of Yorkshire & Humberside Arts); as well as a full audience of other guests and supporters.

The performance consisted of two pieces danced by N.S.C.D. students and choreographed by Chantal Donaldson and Darshan Singh Bhuller; R.J.C. productions; David Hughes; Chantal Donaldson, Dawn Donaldson and Stephen Derick from Phoenix Dance; and a piece by the N.S.C.D.'s community class children.

Work started on the ambitious building project in October 1996 and has created "state of the art" dance training facilities for the N.S.C.D.'s 200 full-time students and the local community, including three new studios, a library, lighting studio and seminar rooms. The new buildings, designed by Leeds architects Allen Tod, have been created to compliment the College's existing site - a "listed" former synagogue and accompanying lodge. The result is a stunning mix of old and new styles which blend into an accessible and modern complex offering unrivalled dance facilities. The project has been supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England.

The N.S.C.D. was founded in 1985 and has since grown into one of the U.K.'s leading dance training schools. It offers students a Bachelor of Performing Arts (dance) degree awarded by the University of Leeds, and its position in the

maintained sector allows the College to attract young people from a variety of different backgrounds. It also maintains a strong community programme with weekly dance classes for children and adults.

N.S.C.D. Principal Nadine Senior said: "We are delighted that the Minister for the Arts will be opening our new development at this Gala Performance. The last 18 months have been quite a strain for staff and students, but we can now boast some of the best dance training facilities in the U.K., allowing the N.S.C.D. to face the 21st Century with confidence."

The Gala Performance, sponsored by Leeds T.E.C. and information technology suppliers Connectivity Plus, will take place in the College's Riley Theatre, which has also been completely refurbished as part of the development. Alistair Graham, Chief Executive of Leeds T.E.C., said: "We are very pleased to sponsor this exciting gala performance as part of our commitment to give practical support to organizations in Leeds which are making this city the Arts Centre of the North."

## *Praise for the "School of Many Cultures"*

Bankside Primary School in Chapeltown has won top marks from Ofsted inspectors, despite the fact that over 80% of its pupils have had to learn English as a second language. The school is praised for providing "a good education in a caring, secure and supporting environment in which pupils from many backgrounds, cultures and faiths are valued and nurtured." Of the headteacher, Mrs. Jennifer Horton, the report states that she "provides very strong leadership and is ably supported by a dedicated and hardworking staff who are committed to raising attainment. The quality of teaching across the school is mainly good, often very good and sometimes excellent." The school is described as being "very good" and the pupils are described as having "very positive attitudes to their learning". The inspectors report: "Overall, the pupils' behaviour is very good. The school has not excluded any pupil for a number of years and this has the very positive effect of encouraging pupils to try their hardest, particularly those who have



been excluded from other schools. The pupils are generally very courteous and trustworthy and take pleasure in doing their classroom jobs to the best of their ability. The promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is given a high priority and makes a very important contribution to the exceptionally good ethos of the school." The inspectors consider that the school provides very good value for money and that it is extremely popular with parents and has been oversubscribed for several years.

Says Mrs. Horton: "The pupils deserve a lot of credit for their hard work and determination and I'd also like to thank parents who support us in so many ways."

Says the Chairman of governors, Councillor John Clare: "As far as I know, Bankside is one of only two Leeds schools this academic year to be regarded as providing very good value for money. The report reflects the very high expectations and beliefs that the school has in the children. It is also a tribute to the dedication of the staff, parents and pupils who work so hard."

## WE NEED YOU

Now in its 12th year, the Yorkshire Evening Post Women of Achievement awards will be presented at a lunch at the Town Hall on Tuesday 28th April. All proceeds from this event are donated to Wheatfields Hospice who care for people with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

We need to hear about women who have achieved in any walk of life, eg.

women who strive to make our own communities better places in which to live, women who have had to struggle against the odds to get to where they are today; women who help other women to achieve their full potential, women who have achieved in the areas of sport, art or commerce; women who give their time and skills on a voluntary basis to benefit others; young women aged 16-21 who are an example to those around them.

We want to celebrate women's achievements but we need your help to tell us about them. Please contact Alyson Wort or Claire Marshall at Wheatfields Hospice, Grove Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 2AE. Tel. 0113 2787249.

**THE COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER**  
PRESENTS  
**A NIGHT OF FUNDRAISING**

**Valentalant SHOW & DANCE**  
with the  
**THE POETRY EXPRESS 10 - 2 CLUB**

**SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY**

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**RECORD THE ROADS HOW**

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CONTACT Paul 0976 539531



# LEEDS CONSTRUCTION & TRAINING AGENCY



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- ◆ Are you employed, looking for work and/or training in construction or maintenance?
- ◆ Are you a local contractor in construction or maintenance?

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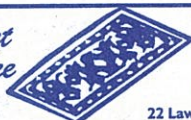
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## Building on success....

Leeds Construction & Training Agency (LCATA) was established in 1996 by Leeds Partnership Homes to deliver government funded programmes (SRB2) to the urban renewal areas of Beeston, Burley, Chapeltown, Harehills and Hyde Park.

## Notjust another Agency...

Geraldine Delaney, Project Director, explains that CATA has much more to offer than just bricks and mortar and is determined to build on its achievements.

The aim of the Agency is to get local contractors on to the housing associations' approved contractor lists and help them through the minefield of paperwork. CATA has unique access to over 25% of housing association contracts and 'to date, has harnessed at least E400,000 of work for local contractors.

*'We are already seeing an increase in construction related vacancies and new businesses as a result of additional work that local contractors have accessed'.*

The Agency can also offer a whole range of tailored support and training for businesses and individuals working in construction. From NVQs to Health & Safety training, the support provided enables local contractors to compete effectively for local contracts. To date over 120 local contractors have benefited from accredited training arranged by CATA.

The programme aims to provide support, training and jobs, and is working in partnership with the housing associations in the delivery of new housing and with Care and Repair, Leeds who offer a range of services to the local community, including energy efficiency and safety and security works.

*If you are a contractor looking for local contracts, or are unemployed and looking to work or train in construction, contact the Agency on 01 13 245 4660 or freephone 0800 216676.*

You can find us at  
**Tennant Hall  
Blenheim Grove  
LEEDS LS2 9ET**



Leeds Construction & Training Agency is a subsidiary of Leeds Partnership Homes Ltd. Company Registration No. 2431232