

Leeds North East Circulation FREE to 700 Households

C O M M U N I T Y

Highlights

Highlighting News & Views in Your Community



MINSTER

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JAGUAR

AUTHORISED DEALER

Jaguar S-type test drive

Community Highlights drives into the millennium with the help and support of Minster Jaguar, Barrack Road, Leeds.

We were offered test drives for the local community and the first test driver was Claude Hendrickson, the manager of the Yes Cyber Cafe.

Patricia: Did you find that the car had adequate space inside?

Claude: Yes, it certainly

had the space that I had expected, it's a good family car with a nice leather interior.

Patricia: How did the Jaguar corner?

Claude: It certainly handled the road well for its size and it drives very well, actually.

Patricia: How do you think it compares with other cars?

Claude: It has that original Jaguar look from the sixties and it certainly turns peoples heads as you drive past. It's a nice car in a class of its own because it's so different to, say, a BMW or a Rover.

Patricia: Was there anything that you particularly disliked? – before you answer that question, I know what you're going to say, that the test drive wasn't long enough!



Patricia Jones pictured with Howard Jessop from Minster Jaguar, alongside a new S-type car

Claude: Exactly! Well I did have an hour, but more time would have given me more of a feel for the car. The only thing that I wasn't too keen on was the Teak finish combined with wood, inside the car. It just looks a little bit plasticky, but on the whole it has a very nice interior, very executive! It was everything that I had expected.

Patricia: Well, time's running out, so down to the last question. Would you recommend a Jaguar to anyone who could afford one?

Claude: I'd definitely answer yes to that question,

because it's a car that needs to be bought by someone who really wants a Jaguar car, not just any vehicle. I, personally, would certainly go for the S-type, it's superb.

Claude then looks at me and says "Maybe one day, eh?", and laughs.

The new S-type – a car that certainly made a lasting impression on Claude Hendrickson.

Patricia Jones
Editor

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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

4TH ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

Hillcrest school improvement

Jubilant pupils and staff were today celebrating after official confirmation that their school was no longer failing its children

Hillcrest Primary School in Chapeltown, Leeds, was given two years to improve or face closure after being placed under special measures.

A report in 1996 by the Office for standards in Education (Ofsted) criticised the schools quality of teaching and management and the low attainment of pupils.

But continued assessment has shown the Cowper Street School has made gradual progress.

Now Ofsted inspectors have released a new report praising the 250-pupil school's 'substantial improvement.'

Head teacher Margerat Moyals, who was appointed in April, said "We're all thrilled to be taken out of the special measures.

"It's been a difficult time for everyone and there have been times when the future of the school has been in doubt.

"Now, though, we've a clean bill of health from

Ofsted and I know we will continue to develop."

The Ofsted report concluded progress was 'at least satisfactory in all lessons and good in half, While the quality of teaching was judged to be almost always satisfactory and good or very good in 50 per cent of lessons.

DIVERSE

Pupil behaviour was also praised, with inspectors highlighting it to be consistently satisfactory and

often good.

The school was judged to be 'well led and efficiently managed' by the acting head Gill Robb-Webb, who ran the school from September 1998 to April.

It is a far cry from the damning report of 1996, after which four acting head teachers were appointed.

Deputy chair of governors Peter Gruen said: "The last two years have been rough on everyone, so this is welcome news for us all."



A word from the editor

Welcome to Community Highlights 4th year anniversary issue.

I'd just like to say a big thank you to all my advertisers, and also the local community support.

Believe me, the past four years haven't been easy financially, running Community Highlights on a shoestring, so please continue to support the newsletter, coming up to the millennium and throughout the coming years.

Get your articles in for the forthcoming millennium issue, out before Christmas.

Editor

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The next deadline for Community Highlights copy is the first week in December 1999 for the Christmas/Millennium Edition



New future for old station

Plans to turn a former Leeds police station into a community arts centre move one step closer

Bids to buy the old Chapeltown Police Station in Chapel Allerton have to be submitted before Friday 22 October and the local community is hoping the offer it is due to hand in will be favoured by the police authority.

A project team made up of local residents, has produced details for a community arts centre with the intention of helping youngsters off the streets and reducing youth crime in the area.

SETBACK

The team received a setback in June when the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, Graham Moore,

turned down appeals from the local community to allow them to rent the building.

But campaign residents backed by local MP Fabian Hamilton, have held a series of meetings with the police and say the outcome has been very positive.

Resident and secretary of The Chapel Allerton Project, Penny Sanders, said she thought the police were now aware of their aims and appreciate the benefits it would bring.

RESPONSE

She said: "We have been extremely pleased with the response from the people in the police force we have spoken to about our plans.

They have been supportive about what we are trying to achieve and recognise the importance of a project like this for the local community."

The group believe that the project, close to the inner city Leeds, meets many of the aims and philosophies of the Crime and Disorder Act, as well as government initiatives to combat teenage disaffection and assist the work of the police in tackling youth crime.

The centre will include a central information point where families on benefits will be able to get vital advice and a parent network will run offering help and information.

There will also be an

initiative to combat drug misuse and opportunities for training and leisure via a new start programme.

Other bids to be submitted are expected from developers wanting to turn the building into a theme pub, large restaurant or even break it up into private housing units.

Penny, of Allerton Park, added: "This listed building has been an integral part of the local community for more than a century. If it is sold to developers it will be lost to the community forever.

"We have such a lot of support for the centre, which would benefit everyone who lives there, it would be short-sighted to ignore it."



Ministers says self-build homes to be a nationwide blueprint

A government minister who toured inner-city Leeds yesterday said she was taking inspirational home grown ideas from the streets of Chapeltown back to London with her

Hilary Armstrong, Minister for local Government and the regions, was in Chapeltown, Harehills and the surrounding area to see the progress and work being carried out to regenerate the district.

She visited more than a dozen organisations during the trip arranged by Fabian Hamilton, MP for Leeds North East, who said her visit had been a success.

Ms Armstrong toured a home zone area in the Methleys in Chapel Allerton, Leeds, one of nine pedestrian

priority zones being piloted around England.

She also saw the work of the Chapeltown-based Front-line Project, which was launched in 1987 by 12 unemployed people, who wished to gain qualifications in construction to build their own homes with guidance.

Since then 12 houses have been built and all members of the project gained their NVQ or City and Guilds qualifications.

Neighbours Adam Anderson, 34 and Trevor Carey, 33, opened their self-build homes to the visitors

and said they were proud to live inside the houses they had built themselves at Front-line Close, off Roundhay Road.

The Front-line House Trust has now been set up to provide access to others wanting similar opportunities in the building industry.

PROUD

Front-line Coordinator Claude Hendrickson said "The self-build is a very impressive project and we are delighted that the minister wants to see our work. It allows unemployed

people to achieve something and build and live in their own place.

Ms Armstrong said: "Front-line is a good example of how a few individuals have had the energy and will to launch their own project. They are now passing on their experiences so others will benefit.

"And the Home Zone is an opportunity for people to seize the initiative and help make their environment more people friendly. I am taking note of what I have seen today and passing on tips to the Government."



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Classes for tots are success

Schoolchildren in Leeds are now getting younger – with three year olds now turning up

Gone are the days when learning began with the traumatic first step through the school gate around your fifth birthday and a tearful parting from a parent.

Armed with extra financial help from the government, the city is mapping out an early learning opportunity for more than 8,000 three year olds.

MINDERS

Leeds with 1,200 child minders, 200 playgroups, 61 private nursery groups, 37 council early years centres and 23 voluntary child education groups, can justly claim to lead the way in childhood care and education.

By this time next year, a

free nursery education place will be available for more than 80 per cent of Leeds' 8,597 eligible three year olds.

The city is proud that at the moment there is access to nursery education for all four year olds and it is determined to lower that age limit.

It is being helped with injections of Government funding.

Recently £36 million was set aside to boost nursery education for three year olds and this week saw more than 40,000 children of that age start their schooling.

Leeds got a share of that pot, allowing the city to increase provisions and add 1,247 places to their classroom registers.

The new free places for

"Those registered are inspected and have the quality of their curriculum carefully monitored – there is certain to be expansion in this area for rising numbers of children needing places at a younger age"

eligible three year olds in Leeds are in private, voluntary, independent and local authority early years centres.

Jake Lincoln, an executive officer in Leeds City Council's Department of Education, said "Leeds is very proud of its place at the top of the league table in this country's provision of nursery education and it intends to stay there, develop and improve."

Jackie said that at the moment only 25 of the city

playgroups were registered with Ofsted, the government school inspectors.

She added: "Those registered are inspected and have the quality of their curriculum carefully monitored – there is certain to be expansion in this area for rising numbers of children needing places at a younger age."

In the Front-line there are early learning centres and at the forefront of the 37 is Lovell Park where there are 55 children from a huge

The six themes of the nursery are knowledge and understanding, personal and social development, language skills, creative projects, physical movement and mathematics

cross section of backgrounds, some with health and learning problems and spanning ages from six months to five years.

The centre opens at 8am and to help working mums whose children love it, it does not close until 6pm.

Centre manager Margaret Clarke said: "We're taking 12 extra three year olds into Ofsted tested groups and looking forward to an Ofsted inspection of what we do using playgroups.

"What we do is prepare children for school. It is not anything formal around a table, it is all about play, interaction and stimulation. We want them to enjoy being here and learn at the same time."

Margaret rejects any criticism that three is too early to get on the education ladder.

She said: "We are proud

of what we do through play allied with quality care. Our children come from different backgrounds and get on really well together and that will be very important in their future years."

THEMES

Helping to put that philosophy into practice is nursery officer Angela Rowe.

The six themes of the nursery are knowledge and understanding, personal and social development, language skills, creative projects, physical movement and mathematics.

Angela said: "All these are addressed through what we hope are very interesting play orientated schemes. These vary from taking children out for a day on a train to breeding frogs to writing and singing songs."

We do not think of ourselves as a school but as somewhere that prepares children for life.

Kassanovas love their visit

A Caribbean band called the Kassanovas has lived up to its name on an exchange visit to Leeds

Chevi Chiverton, a Leeds social worker who has helped to organise arrangements for the Caribbean band works for the Watoto project in Chapeltown which supports young truants, said the band had had a fabulous time during their month long stay.

Their trip included visiting the Leeds Caribbean carnival, held in Chapeltown on August Bank Holiday, where they also performed. A party from Leeds is now planning a return trip to Nevis for Millennium celebrations.

The exchange programme has been funded by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture in Nevis which aims to encourage links with Leeds.

Mr Chiverton said: "Loads of people from Chapeltown and around Leeds are going to the Caribbean for the millennium. We want to use this funding to help people, many have not been home in 30 to 40 years to celebrate in style."



Volunteer search

Youth at risk is a community-based charity, which designs, develops and delivers innovative community programmes, with young people and volunteers, in partnership with local authorities and sponsoring companies.

We have recently completed our first programme in Leeds.

We work alongside a large committed group of local volunteers to support the young people of Chapeltown and Harehills who choose to participate on the nine month programme.

We now have funding for a second

programme in Leeds, which will build on the work we have already started and will include the Burmantoffs area.

We currently have voluntary opportunities available on our new programme for admin support, event organisers, one-to-one mentors and coaches.

What we ask from you is your commitment and time... What we can offer in return is extensive training, considerable support and the chance to be involved in something truly amazing.

**If you are looking for a challenge, then we are looking for you
Call us soon 0113 235 1019**



The south Yorkshire Police Force has become the Thirteenth in the country to launch a black police association

New police bid to beat racism

The association, which has backing of the Police Federation and senior officers, as well as civilian personnel and special constables.

There are currently 71 black officers in South Yorkshire, 20 support staff and 5 specials – making up just 2.8 per cent of the force.

White police staff can join the association as affiliated members, but will not have voting rights.

The launch, at the Niagara Sports and Social Club in Wadsley, Sheffield, was attended by eminent black speakers, including Sheffield soccer referee Uriah Rennie.

Association vice chairman, Audine Warburton, a Doncaster Constable for 20 years, said "I used to think that if I haven't got a problem no-one

else did. But there have been many problems over the years and we need to challenge that. The use of inappropriate language needs to be challenged.

"If an individual feels they cannot tackle the problem on their own, they can now approach the BPA for help.

"We are hoping such an association won't be necessary eventually, but we know there are people out there having problems within the organisation.

"We don't want to imply that there is institutional racism in the force. Instead, this is a positive attempt to improve the personnel within the force.

Assistant Chief Constable Tim Hollis said; "Looking back to how we treated each other in the early days of my career, the language used makes me

ashamed. But things have now changed.

"We have made mistakes but we recognise there is a need for change, and to continue the changing process that I have witnessed throughout my career."

The association, which is affiliated to the National Black Police Association, will meet four times a year.

CONSTITUTION

The BPA shall seek to improve the working environment of black personnel with South Yorkshire Police, with a view to enhancing the quality of service to the public.

This aim will be achieved by:

- Providing a support network;
- Providing a social network;



- Working more closely with staff associations;
- Working towards improved relations between the police and black people;
- Being instrumental in improving recruitment and reducing wastage;
- Assisting in the development of new and existing policies where necessary.

Ticket to write

Have you ever been to the theatre, seen some comedy or watched TV drama and thought you could do it better?

Or do you know someone who thinks they can?

How many times have you watched something and either felt patronised or thought "This has got nothing to do with my life"?

If the answer to any of these is yes... stop whining now!

Paines Plough, a touring theatre company that specialises in commissioning and producing the work of new playwrights, has teamed up with the West Yorkshire Playhouse to find new writing talent in the Black & Asian communities of Yorkshire.

To book your place, call Lucy Morrison now on 0171 240 4533



Confronting youth crime

Since April this year a special project to enable victims and offenders to communicate, either directly or through a third party, has been running in the Chapeltown, Harehills, University and Burmantoffs areas of the city.

It is targeted at young people who have offended

and their victims.

For victims, the project provides an opportunity to challenge the offender, express feelings, needs and losses and getting questions answered.

It helps offenders to accept responsibility for their actions, understand how what they have done has affected others, and try

to make amends.

The project builds on a unit run by the Probation Service for many years (Leeds Victim Offenders Unit) and is funded jointly by the Police, Social Services, Probation Service and LIRB.

Referrals normally come from the police or the courts but the project is happy to

receive direct referrals from victims of crime, offenders of victim support schemes.

The normal criteria for initial contact by the scheme are:

- There are an identifiable victim and offender;
- Both victim and offender are willing to take part;
- The safety of all parties can be ensured.



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Children are CHAMPS

Young people in a Leeds community are being invited to sample a range of sports and other diversions offered by an organisation providing opportunities and activities for youngsters

The CHAMP project (Chapelton and Harehills Area Motor Project) is hosting an awareness and fun day for children aged nine plus from Halton Moor.

The group works by harnessing young people's passion for cars and bikes and channelling that enthusiasm into a positive alternative to crime.

During the day long event on Saturday September 25, there will be games, competitions, aerobics, dancing, information stalls, a barbecue and much, much more.

A poem by Joanne

Noisy people shout and scream
When I am asleep and trying to dream

They wake me up with such a din
Kicking someones rubbish bin

People singing in the night
I wake up with such a fright

I close my eyes tightly shut
And in the morning I wake up

By Joanne Hemmingways

Malaysia

I recently went to Malaysia
Which is thousands of miles away
The journey took forever
Forever and a day

The Creatures there are massive
as big as big can be
And all they did was watch
Stare and peer at me

The food I thought would be rations
of noodles, curry and 'poo'
I never expected to be eating
Tuna and corned beef stew

There are no toilets in the jungle
You dig a hole to poo
You hope and pray to the Lord
that no-one's watching you

Trekking in the jungle
is frightening and scary by half
Your rucksack hurts, your feet are sore
but we sure did have a laugh.

by Helen Griffith



113/115 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 3HY
Tel: 0113 200 7700 Fax: 0113 200 7701 E-MAIL: uha@unityha.co.uk

Unity News

Harehills residents uniting for change

People living in the Roberts Avenue area of Harehills have now formed their own residents' association. 158 tenants of Unity and Ridings housing associations have joined up to campaign on issues that affect their neighbourhood.

Important issues for them are more things for their children to do, revamping the local play park and doing something about speeding traffic. They hold regular meetings and would love to welcome new members. Phone Carol at Unity on 200 7732 for more information.

Housing minister visits Chapeltown

On 15th September we were pleased to play host to Hilary Armstrong, who is the Government minister in charge of housing and inner-city regeneration. Hilary met Unity staff, including our chief executive, Ali Akbor.

Hilary was impressed by Chapeltown's vitality and optimism. Hopefully this visit will help bring more funding into the area.

Let us pay for half your home!

Too good to be true? Not with Unity's new shared ownership scheme!

We are building six bungalows at Blackmoor Road in Moortown. They are aimed at local elderly people, who can buy a 50% or 75% share in a home. Buyers have to pay some rent if we have a 50% share. However, anyone who buys 75% of the property will not have to pay any rent!

The bungalows are very affordable and contain all the usual fixtures and fittings expected in a modern home, plus:

- a warden call system;
- smoke detectors;
- a burglar alarm;
- a shower over the bath;
- grab rails;
- a garage (optional extra).

The bungalows should be finished in October 2000 and will be worth between £55,000 and £60,000.

If you are interested or know someone who may be, please call us on 200 7700 and ask for an application form.

Enquiries about Unity properties – please telephone 0113 - 200 7700.



LEEDS
CITY COUNCIL

Fostering and Adoption

Black *Children*

Need Black Families

Leeds City Council Department of Social Services is urgently seeking people and families from Black and Asian communities who are able to offer a Fostering or Adoption Commitment to Black and Asian Children.

We need carers from all the black communities who can foster children and young people for shorter or longer periods and those people and families able to offer a permanent adoption commitment to young children.

The children come from a range of backgrounds and experiences but have in common the need to be cared for by adults familiar with their culture, customs, language and religion. These children need the invaluable support of people able to reflect their backgrounds and help promote a positive sense of identity.

We provide Training, Support and a range of Financial assistance to help you make a real difference to a child or young person's future.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT US ON:

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