



pick me up

a tonic for the ills of the time

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF PICK-ME-UP NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 41**

Spring is here! Spring is here! The most beautiful and inspirational season of the year! Birds building their nests; new leaves emerging and flowers in bloom! It is time to appreciate the life that is all around us that sustain our everyday life. It is also time to spring clean our houses and prepare our gardens for growing those lovely flowers and seasonal vegetables. A great time to get yourself and the kids involved in some local green activities. Start by visiting your local conservation areas and introduce your kids to the local plants and animals!

Make your springtime more sustainable; Check our Top Spring Green Tips at www.planetsthelens.net



SCHOOLS RECYCLING SCHEME

52 St Helens schools are turning their waste into cash – thanks to a new deal with environmental specialists South Liverpool Recycling.

Each school receives £100 per term, encouraging pupils to use new recycling containers, which accept paper, cardboard, plastic, cans and glass. The new initiative replaces a paper-only scheme and has already seeing 72 tonnes of rubbish be diverted from landfill. This is equivalent to the weight of 15 adult African elephants!

St. Helens' Educational Link Officer Grace Tatlock said: "It's great to see our young people responding so enthusiastically to the recycling message.

Liz Rimmer, General Manager of South Liverpool Recycling, said: "We are providing this free service to schools because we feel so strongly that children are the catalyst in changing people hearts and minds."

By July 2011 all St.Helens schools will be taking part in this fantastic recycling scheme.

For more information about the Schools Recycling Scheme contact: Grace Tatlock Tel: 01744676253 or Email: gracetatlock@sthelens.gov.uk

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2011

'Thankyou' to all those who have been involved in Fairtrade Fortnight 2011. The theme this year was 'Show off your label' asking local residents to show off about buying Fairtrade.

Events were organized by The Cooperative Community Members Group (TCCMG) including:

- Fairtrade coffee mornings held at libraries across St. Helens (Central, Billinge, Parr, Moss Bank, Rainhill, Thatto Heath, Eccleston and Haydock)
- The Spirit of Fairtrade Schools Art Exhibition held at St. Helens Town Hall. Pupils showing of their designs on Fairtrade Cotton T-shirts!
- Fairtrade Schools Workshop held at St. Cuthberts Catholic Community College.

Do you want to make a difference in St. Helens? Join TCCMG email sustnet@sthelens.gov.uk or visit www.planetsthelens.net for more details.



Pupils from St. Theresa's showing off their designed Fairtrade t-shirt

GREEN VOLUNTEERING DOCUMENTARY FILMED BY ST.HELENS TEENAGERS

"Wild on Life" celebrates the volunteering efforts of 28 young people from St.HelenS. Chamber's New Start project and from Arena Housing's Ravenhead Foyer, who, before Christmas rolled up their sleeves to improve local woodlands across St.Helens.

The professional standard documentary was filmed and edited by the youngsters themselves - who also created the film's soundtrack. The project was run by The Mersey Forest and Groundwork Merseyside, who funded the project through the "V" volunteering programme.

From hedge-laying to willow coppicing, the teenagers' efforts will have a lasting positive impact on the local environment, and the group hope that it will help to change society's perceptions of young people.

The film can be viewed online by searching 'Wild on Life, St. Helens' on www.youtube.com.

RE-PUBLICATION OF CORE STRATEGY

Consultation on the Re-Publication Core Strategy closed on 9 March 2011. The Core Strategy is the principal document in a framework of documents that will guide the Borough in its local development making decisions until 2027. All representations received will now be considered before submission to the Government in May 2011. An independent Planning Inspector will examine the document later in the year. Further notification of the examination will be published when details are known. Those with an interest in the document may attend the examination.

For further details please check the web site at <http://ldf.sthelens.gov.uk>.

FREE BIKE RIDE AND COURSES FOR ANYONE LIVING OR WORKING IN ST.HELENS

St. Helens Council's Road Safety & Travel Awareness Team are offering easy instructor-led cycle rides, ideal for anyone wanting to get fitter through gentle physical activity. The Cycle for Health rides takes place weekly at Rainford, Sutton Manor Colliery and Sankey Valley. Cyclists can also benefit from new programme of basic and intermediate bike maintenance courses.

For more information call the Road Safety & Travel Awareness Team on 01744 671656. To book a place on a course please contact 01744 671656.

GREEN GANG SET UP RECYCLING SWAP SHOPS & CREATE A RECYCLING GAME

Ten schools from the Local Area Partnership (LAP) for Creative Learning Group have been running recycling swap shop events between January and March 2011 after receiving a slice of a £20,000 fund from Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) and Veolia Environmental Services, as part of their Community Resource Action Fund. The swap shops have been an opportunity for people to bring, buy and swap unwanted household items. The schools involved are Allanson Street; Holy Spirit; Merton Bank; St.Austin's; St.Marys & St.Thomas; St.Thomas; Holy Cross; St.Annes: The District and St.Cuthbert's Catholic Community College for Business & Enterprise.



Five of the ten schools within the LAP group have come together to develop a new game about recycling and the environment. Pixel Fountain Ltd facilitated the workshop, helping the children utilise their skills in determining how the new game should operate. The children came up with some great innovative ideas and gained some new skills and gaming techniques. This event was organised by the LAP Group in order to meet one of their objectives within their Climate Change Action Plan

The funding was made available to community sector and not-for-profit organisations that wish to undertake projects that demonstrate new and innovative approaches to sustainable waste management.

We are trying to increase the efficiency of this newsletter. You can now view the newsletter online at www.planetsthelens.net under the 'green news' section or if you would like to receive an electronic copy you can contact us on 01744 676183 with your details or email: sustnet@sthelens.gov.uk