

Our city

**City gears up to
celebrate
Olympics**

Torch Relay
route map
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10 AND 11**



Changes to top council team as our city carries on going for gold

By City Council Leader Councillor **MOHAMMED PERVEZ**

THE Olympic Games, which will see our city's finest athletes and sportspeople excelling at what they do and striving for the performance of a lifetime, are a good opportunity for us to reflect on the many other things Stoke-on-Trent does best.

This special Olympic issue of *Our City* includes great news for the local economy on how local companies have competed for, and won, major contracts associated with the Games.

It also tells how our Mandate for Change – which we launched last summer to “go for gold” to attract investment and create new jobs in our city – continues to bear fruit.

Together we can look forward to an exciting year, with regeneration of the City Centre gathering pace, more schools being rebuilt under our Building Schools for the Future initiative and the Prince of Wales saying, through his 16 charities, that he will work more closely with us to regenerate the Mother Town of Burslem.

This Olympic year offers us

Council Leader Mohammed Pervez, centre, with councillors forming the Cabinet, left to right, Olwen Hamer (Transformation and Resources), Ruth Rosenau (Regeneration, Planning and Transportation), Alan Dutton (Education), Adrian Knapper (Health), Andy Platt (City Services and Green Enterprises),

Paul Shotton (Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement & Commissioning), Mark Meredith (Economic Development) and Gwen Hassall (Social Services). Councillor Janine Bridges, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, is pictured, inset.



all the opportunity to come together as a city to celebrate the Games and its significance to our country and our communities.

The Olympic Flame comes to Stoke-on-Trent at the end of the month and I look forward to joining thousands of people at an evening celebration to mark its arrival... an opportunity for the eyes of the world to be on our city.

The Games have certainly captured the city's imagination. Young people have joined in making flags for

a parade where schoolchildren will represent 90 Olympic nations.

Walkers are staging their own Olympic relay across 50 guided walks in the Potteries. And in children's centres, mini games are being staged with sports like “Roll the Daddy” and projects on Ancient Greece to help give our youngest residents the very best start in life.

As Team GB fine tunes its competitors through the last Olympic qualifiers, we are also announcing some changes to the team of councillors which decides on

policies and budgets and, ultimately, is responsible for making decisions and running the council.

The city's Cabinet are skilled and determined people, who will work hard to meet the many challenges ahead.

Supported by the Labour Group and other members of the council, we have a talented and united team of people who care passionately about our city and will continue to deliver the progress on regeneration and job creation that we have already started.



City of London Lord Mayor David Wootton during his visit to the Moorcroft Visitor Centre, Cobridge.

London support for ceramics industry

LORD Mayor of the City of London David Wootton continued his drive to support Stoke-on-Trent's ceramics industry with a high profile visit to the city.

He toured leading pottery factories before addressing industry chiefs, council bosses and senior politicians at a lunchtime discussion.

Mr Wootton, whose father hails from Stoke-on-Trent and who still has family in the city, made it a priority of his year in office to raise the profile of Stoke-on-Trent and the pottery industry in particular.

It is part of his effort to demonstrate how the City of London can support the needs of all UK businesses. During his day-long visit he spent time at the Moorcroft Heritage Visitor Centre, Middleport Pottery and Steelite International.

As well as taking part in a round-table discussion with the city council and business leaders, he also met with representatives of The Prince's Regeneration Trust on securing jobs and growth in North Staffordshire.

Mr Wootton said: “I am a champion for the whole spectrum of UK business,

creating opportunities for investment, jobs and growth. I know the importance of the UK ceramics industry – not just for the people of Stoke-on-Trent and the surrounding areas, but for the wider economy.

“Manufacturing has a crucial role to play in our economy – providing hundreds of thousands of jobs, and making products which are admired and respected the world over. Our collaborative efforts are crucial to building a strong economy, increasing export and attracting international business to the UK.”

Working together

Council Leader Councillor Mohammed Pervez said: “We are grateful for the Lord Mayor of London's support which helps us to raise the city's profile nationally and internationally.

“Parts of our ceramics industry are growing, securing significant new business and creating much-needed jobs, with the council's backing through our Mandate for Change. Discussions during his visit showed our city's commitment to working together with a wide range of partners to secure more growth and prosperity.”



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Live webcast of full council meetings

MEETINGS of the full council can now be viewed online. To see and hear the debates and decisions which affect life in Stoke-on-Trent, visit stoke.gov.uk and click on webcasting.

A list of dates and times of council meetings and committee meetings can be found on our website at stoke.gov.uk/meetingdates

Give us your feedback on this issue of **Our City** by emailing ourcity@stoke.gov.uk or write to: FREEPOST *Our City*.





The phenomenal St Peter's Academy rowing team with some of their medals, left to right, Lauren Ellis, Iman Jabbar, Holly Foster and Harriet Lawton.

Teenage rowers are the best of British

OARSOME is the only way to describe the unbeatable indoor rowers of St Peter's Academy in Penkull who continue to add to their ever-growing list of titles and records.

The team of four Year Nine girls all aged 14 have racked up seven national titles and set 24 British records in the past three years. Now one of them has scooped individual gold at British and European level.

Holly Foster topped the podium at the British Indoor Rowing Championship and European Open in Nottingham. She rowed 1,069 metres in four minutes – the second best performance of all time.

Crematorium stages remembrance hour

RELATIVES and friends will have a special opportunity to remember loved ones during an hour of thanksgiving and remembrance at Carmountside Crematorium.

The event, at 2pm on 17 June, will offer a memory board, where photographs can be displayed, and the opportunity for names to be read out as part of the service for a small donation. Anyone who wants their loved one's name to included should call 01782 235020.

Her achievement matched team mate Lauren Ellis, who herself has already won individual English and British titles at the same discipline.

Together with team mates Harriet Lawton and Iman Jabbar they are an immovable force in indoor rowing at their age group. They continually break their own records as they take on all comers at National Indoor Schools competitions and row in a six-discipline league competition against 220 other schools over nine months.

Their coach Neil Gilson has run out of superlatives for his girls. He said: "They are quite simply phenomenal. They are unbeaten since they came together three years ago and repeatedly break their own records. They're getting quite blasé about it now.

"They have a massive work ethic. It's unbelievable to see the energy they produce. They have broken 18 consecutive British records and are nothing but extraordinary."

Academy Principal Joe Burns said: "I've been very impressed by the dedication and commitment of all four girls. In my 30 years in teaching, I have never before come across a group of four young people who work so well together.

"I'm delighted at their continued success and I look forward to hearing of their further achievements in this sport.

"In this Olympic year, it's really fantastic to see our young people performing so well in such a competitive environment. Well done girls."

STRIKING GOLD: Holly Foster's British and European Championship medal.



Gala to celebrate £2m restoration of Burslem Park

A celebration gala is being staged at Burslem Park to mark the completion of its £2million restoration.

The council has worked closely with community organisation the Burslem Park Partnership to transform the green space with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund Parks for People Programme. Work carried out over the past year includes restoration of the pavilion, the Victorian terrace garden and two fountains, which had not been in use since 1895.

The fun-packed opening event on 23 June runs from 11am to 8pm and features live music, fun fair attractions and a BMX demonstration on the skate ramp.

Park users of all ages have produced flags and banners for the event after the Partnership was awarded £9,860 by Arts Council England to promote the park as an inspiring and creative place.

Start on the new Business District

WORK on the first phase of the city's new Central Business District (CBD) starts this month as the former Andromeda building, in Cannon Street, is removed to make way for office development. The news has been welcomed by the city council which is working with developer Genr8 to define requirements for the new buildings.

Councillor Ruth Rosenau, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transportation said: "The CBD is a key project within the regeneration of the City Centre and it is exciting to see work starting on the site. We are continuing to work with the developer to define the project requirements and are pleased to see the project progressing to the next stages with enabling works."

The Andromeda building was built in the 1980s and houses the former Regimes nightclub and Rileys snooker club.

Songs of Praise comes to city

THE popular BBC1 religious programme *Songs of Praise* is coming to the city. Two shows will be recorded at Longton Methodist Central Hall on 23 and 24 June.

Anyone interested in taking part as a member of the choir or congregation is welcomed. Free parking on these days will be provided by Longton Tesco.

To apply for a ticket send name, address, telephone number and how many tickets are being applied for to email: songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk (please include "Longton, Stoke-on-Trent" in the Subject box); phone: 0161 335 8429 and leave a message on the answer phone; or write to: Songs of Praise Ticket Office, (Longton, Stoke-on-Trent), 1st Floor, Dock House, MediaCityUK, Salford, M50 2LH.

Sprinklers boost safety in schools

SAFETY is being enhanced for pupils with the installation of sprinkler systems in all the city's new schools.

They will be fitted as standard into 21st Century education facilities constructed under the £250 million Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council's decision to install the potentially life-saving systems has been praised by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Chris Enness said: "We have worked in partnership with the city council and are pleased that sprinklers are being fitted. A lot of schools across Staffordshire are still being built without them - despite Government guidance."

Councillor Ruth Rosenau, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transportation said: "The city council is building 21st Century educational facilities and throughout every aspect of the design, safety has to be paramount."

Council meeting webcasts attract hundreds of viewers

LIVE and archived webcasts of council meetings in Stoke-on-Trent are already attracting hundreds of online viewers.

Just under 350 people generated 6,109 separate hits as they dipped into live streaming of a full council meeting in March. More than 300 people watched the archived footage all the way through.

Meetings attract an average of 30 people who sit in a council chamber public gallery which can seat up to 120.

Council Leader Mohammed Pervez said: "It's been an excellent start and is a clear sign of a modern council that wants to

engage with its communities while making open and transparent decisions which can be viewed by people wherever they happen to be."

Council and Cabinet meetings are broadcast via a state of the art system of microphones and cameras, tailored to suit the Grade II listed council chamber.

More than 70 microphones connected to hi-tech touch pads enable councillors to speak and cast their votes electronically. Three cameras automatically pan, tilt and zoom in to whoever is speaking while a fourth fixed camera gives a wide-shot of proceedings.

Users see moving images and have access to agendas so they can pinpoint which individual subject or councillor to watch. Safety features allow pauses and delay transmission for 20 seconds.

The trialled webcasting of some committee meetings is now being organised while ideas to cover annual operating costs include hiring out the facility to local companies and for weddings.

To watch live streaming or check out the archives go to www.stoke-public-i.tv/core/



One of the cameras which films the meetings.



St Gregory's Primary School pupils visited the council chamber to see how the latest technology is used to webcast meetings. Charlotte Taberner, 9 and Aaron Houlihan, 11, are pictured using the microphones and interactive panel.



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Burslem Park

Grand Reopening

Saturday 23 June, 11am - 8pm

Free entertainment includes:

- Live music and dance performances
- Refreshments and licenced bar
- Fairground attractions
- Outdoor crafts and activities
- Sports skills coaching
- Extreme mountain bike show
- Community and heritage attractions
- Plus much more...

Join us for a FREE day of summer family fun, as we celebrate completion of the park's £2m restoration. The official opening will take place at the Moorland Road gates at 12pm.

Parking available at Port Vale Football Club.

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The Burslem

LOTTERY FUNDED

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Mandate for Change

Going for gold as our proud city writes its own 2012 Olympic story

By City Council Chief Executive

John van de Laarschot



OLYMPIC hero Lord Coe, who spearheaded the bid to bring this year's Games to London and has led preparations for the huge event, has sent a special message to the people of Stoke-on-Trent to make sure they are "part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity".

Stories in this issue of *Our City* including an eight page special supplement show just how many opportunities there are to write our own chapter in the 2012 Olympic Story.

There are inspirational tales about the proud Potteries people who have gone for gold in Games throughout history...and aspirational news of current-day athletes and sportspeople who will try to realise their dreams in London this summer.

But more importantly, there is information on how thousands of citizens of Stoke-on-Trent can enjoy their own special Olympic moment by taking part in one of the events the council has worked so hard with its partners to organise.

So whether you turn out to watch the Olympic Flame make its way through our city, or join us to celebrate the Games at our spectacular event in Hanley Park, I hope as many of you as possible will join in and enjoy what the Olympics mean to Stoke-on-Trent.

Last summer we launched our own "gold medal bid" when we set out our Mandate for Change to make Stoke-on-Trent a great working city, to attract inward investment and help to create jobs.

Our red carpet treatment for businesses and "can do" approach are already paying off, as is our pledge to engage with different kinds of employers and work with as many partners as possible to raise the city's profile as a great place to do business.

We are helping successful social enterprises set up companies that not only create jobs and contribute to the local economy, but also meet community needs like training or caring for people at home.

But one of the most exciting initiatives under the Mandate for Change banner is news that Prince Charles, through his network of charities, has pledged to support the regeneration of Burslem.

His support alone could lever in investment and commitment from a huge range of organisations, as well as the private sector.

A great deal of hard work has gone into developing this partnership, and the Prince has suggested that success in Burslem could be rolled out to make a difference across the whole city.

Encouraging stories like these are great news for our city, and we at the city council are proud that, in an Olympic year, this city is, in many ways, taking its place on the winner's podium.

Council Leader Mohammed Pervez and Councillor Ruth Rosenau, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transportation join Regeneration Manager Julian Read outside the Wedgwood Institute.

Joy as Prince's charities agree to support the Mother Town

PRINCE Charles has given his backing to the drive to regenerate Burslem – a move which could be the key to major investment and development.

The Prince of Wales' 16 charities have made a commitment to support business and community projects in the Mother Town over the next three years.

Senior directors of the charities have been working behind the scenes with city council officers and a delivery plan for the town has now been drawn up and was presented at a community workshop.

"The Prince's charities bring a huge amount of expertise to support projects on the ground in Burslem," said Regeneration Manager Julian Read.

The plans are already off to a good start as the Burslem Regeneration Team has successfully bid for a further £1million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish and renovate some of Burslem's most attractive historic buildings.

It follows on from The Prince's Regeneration Trust's £7.5million investment to acquire and restore the Grade II*-listed Middleport Pottery – the home of Burgess, Dorling and Leigh – makers of the famous blue and white Burleigh ware.

Further restoration work and expansion of the pottery is expected to begin later this year paving the way for a visitor centre with the aim of attracting 30,000 visitors a year within five years – and the creation of 50 new jobs.

“”

The council has done all it can to encourage the Prince's charities to become involved and we will continue to work with them on regeneration projects.

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED PERVEZ, CITY COUNCIL LEADER

When the Prince of Wales made a high-profile visit to Middleport Pottery last October to see the work of his charities, his cavalcade made a detour through Burslem town centre to view some of the historic buildings.

In the same month, council Chief Executive John van de Laarschot led a presentation on Burslem's potential to executives of the Prince's combined charities – after which they agreed to throw their resources behind the town's regeneration.

Regenerating communities

The Prince's charities have a successful track record in regenerating communities and preserving heritage – most notably in Burnley where the Weaver's Triangle project will see derelict old mill buildings transformed into a university technical college and business community with extensive training opportunities and employment initiatives.

In Burslem the Prince's charities' delivery plan for the town has identified a range of regeneration opportunities including cultural and educational initiatives and redevelopment schemes for the Wedgwood Institute and the former indoor market hall.

Council Leader Mohammed Pervez said the Prince's charities support for the regeneration of Burslem was "extremely significant" and was great news for the future of the town.

He said: "I am delighted with the decision by the Prince's charities – their involvement will almost certainly accelerate the regeneration of the Mother Town. I understand Prince Charles has asked for regular updates on progress.

"The council has done all it can to encourage the Prince's charities to become involved and we will continue to work with them on regeneration projects – in keeping with our Mandate for Change policies to attract investment and jobs to the city."



China Tales

By Placer

Library Assistant Sara Pye with a selection of everyday items from past decades which will make up the Reminiscence Boxes.



Boxes packed with memories

EVER fancied going back in time to recapture youthful memories or find out about fashions and events from times long before you were born?

Thousands of people in Stoke-on-Trent have already been given a fascinating taste of time travel thanks to Reminiscence Boxes put together by the city's Libraries and Archives Service.

For instance, dolly tubs and flat irons give an idea of household chores of yesteryear. Books, DVDs, picture packs, CDs and even a well-preserved tin of Crosse and Blackwell kidney soup have all helped to take people down memory lane or give younger generations an enjoyable insight into the way we were.

The Reminiscence Boxes are used by residential homes as therapy for residents with dementia, as well as children's groups, community groups, and schools.

Some are themed packages relating to a particular decade or topics such as food, family life, the war years and day trips.

Now there is an appeal for donations of fresh items to evoke memories of royalty, hobbies and transport as well as anything suitable for separate decade boxes to bring back the 1960's, 70's and 80's.

To donate an item or reserve a Reminiscence Box phone 01782 238407 or email central.library@stoke.gov.uk

Olympic link to Lord Mayoralty

THE Lord Mayoralty in Stoke-on-Trent has a little-known connection with British Olympic history – thanks to Alderman Arthur Percy Spark, pictured right.

Born in Durris, Aberdeenshire, in 1894, as a young man he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War I and later studied medicine at Edinburgh University.

A talented athlete specialising in the heavy events of shot, discus and hammer, he won medals in the Scottish Championships and was selected to represent Britain at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.

Unfortunately there was to be no Olympic glory for Arthur. He withdrew from the



decathlon after seven events and was eliminated from the pentathlon after three events.

After qualifying as a doctor, he took up medical practice in Stoke-on-Trent where he became a councillor and an Alderman – and served as the city's Lord Mayor in 1949-50.

Bronze warrior to guard Hoard treasures

A NINE-FOOT-TALL Anglo-Saxon warrior sculpture will stand guard over a major new exhibition at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

As *Our City* went to press, the imposing Mercian statue was due to be unveiled in the venue's lobby to help showcase the latest display featuring the world-famous Staffordshire Hoard. The £25,000 artwork, which was funded by the council and is called the Staffordshire Saxon, has been created by artist Andy Edwards with the help of welding apprentices from Aspire Housing's PM Training division.

It was originally moulded in clay and then modelled using hi-tech carbon fibre with a traditional bronze-looking finish. A selection of hoard-inspired items, including buckles and the pommel of a seax (a single-edged sword or knife), are worn or carried by the warrior.

The sculpture marks the start of a new 13-month exhibition of the 7th Century Dark Ages treasure – which is the biggest and most valuable hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found.

Many of the pieces have just returned to the UK after a successful and high profile exhibition at the National Geographic Museum in Washington DC.

Councillor Mark Meredith, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: "We have commissioned and built an impressive nine foot statue to show how items from the Hoard would

The clay sculpture of the Staffordshire Saxon with welding apprentices Dan Cutter, left and Jak Forester.



have been worn or carried. "Not only is this a great exciting project to be involved in from the artistic aspect but it is also an excellent

investment to help deliver the council's Mandate For Change agenda.

"By improving our city's tourism profile we will help to protect the 5,000 jobs in tourism and maybe even create new jobs through increased visitors."

Councillor Meredith added: "More than 50,000 people visited the Staffordshire Hoard exhibition in three weeks when it opened, which is unprecedented.

"This statue is one component of a larger project to create a truly interactive and inspiring Potteries Museum exhibition."

Apprentice Jak Forester, of Northwood, who along with colleague

Dan Cutter worked on the sculpture, said:

"It's been a once in a lifetime experience to work on. Working with Andy to create the framework for the statue has really inspired me and it's amazing to think I have helped create something that will last forever."

The statue was unveiled earlier this month ahead of the *Staffordshire Hoard: Dark Age Discovery* exhibition, which runs between 21 July 2012 and 1 September 2013.



Removing the carbon fibre modelling are Moulding Manager Terry Ingram, top left, sculptor Andy Edwards and Apprentices Dan and Jak.

Five more councillors speak to *Our City* for the latest in our on-going series where we delve into their **backgrounds** to find out what makes them **stand for election** in the first place and what makes them **serve the city** and its people.



Pictured at the Civic Centre reception are, left to right, Gwen Hassall, Matthew Fry, Bagh Ali, Randolph Conteh and Ann James.

Councillor **Gwen Hassall**

Labour
Abbey Hulton and
Townsend

“ I’m not giving my age because age is irrelevant – it’s just a state of mind. I may be chronologically older than some of my colleagues but I’m new to the council, having been elected just under two years ago. I stood as a councillor because I wasn’t happy with the politics of the BNP in the city and since then I’ve served on the Cabinet in different roles. My latest portfolio carries responsibility for Social Services.

That fits in with my background of working in housing for around 20 years, often with older people. I’ve worked in sheltered schemes and the social housing sector and that has given me an insight into what people’s needs really are.

For me, being a councillor is about getting back to the community. I know that my Cabinet work can take time away from the ward but I’m determined to make sure I never lose that personal touch. ”

Councillor **Matthew Fry**

aged 31:
Labour
Weston Coyney

“ THE support of the local community convinced me to stand as a councillor in May 2011. My family and MP Rob Ffello also supported me. I’d got to know him through my work as fundraiser for the Special Olympics team in North Staffordshire.

I’ve raised about £25,000 so far to support 117 athletes and used to compete myself at county, regional and national level. I’ve got between 400 and 500 medals but had to stop competing when tests showed my IQ levels had gone from 75 to 125.

That was a big disappointment but I started fundraising instead and we get loads of support from across the city. It made me realise, as I worked in the community, what people need so that’s why I became a councillor.

I love it. It’s about being able to support people and recognise what they need. I’m always available over the phone or via email. ”

Councillor **Bagh Ali**

aged 54:
Labour
Lightwood North
and Normacot

“ I’ve been a city councillor continuously since 1996 making me the longest serving. It’s a real benchmark. If I didn’t look after people they wouldn’t vote me back.

My concern for people is what got me into politics in the first place. I’d been helping older and vulnerable people before then but thought I could help the older citizens of Stoke-on-Trent better by being politically affiliated. I’d been a member of the Labour Party for 30 years so I stood for election as it would put me in a better position to deliver.

Vulnerable people need more help so I’m available 24/7 and visit people in their houses virtually every day. It’s about community for me and not just the Asian community, the whole community.

I’m a passionate Stokie and Stoke City supporter. I get satisfaction from delivering for people and if I didn’t think I could deliver then I’d just call it a day. ”

Councillor **Randolph Conteh**

aged 53:
City Independents
Penkhull and Stoke

“ I felt extremely proud of myself when I came back to live in Penkhull and was elected councillor for the area because I was brought up in children’s homes here.

I’ve been the councillor continuously since 2002. It’s my full time job.

After nearly 20 years working down the pits, following redundancy, I volunteered with a community group. We were struggling to get funding from the council, so I stood for election thinking if you can’t beat em, join em!

I’m passionate about the community and love organising consultation events to get people’s views. That with personal hard graft and drive has resulted in new play facilities in our two local parks which is fantastic for children.

A highlight for me was winning a national award. The Centre for Public Scrutiny honoured me with runner up in the non executive councillor category for my council and community work. ”

Councillor **Ann James**

aged 64:
City Independents
Great Chell and
Packmoor

“ I first became a councillor in 1999. In 2010 when I lost my seat after serving for 11 years, this came as a welcome break. Balancing home life, ward work and being a councillor can bring its pressures.

But I continued to work in the community with residents’ associations and the police on issues like antisocial behaviour and housing, and was persuaded to stand again in 2011 so I’m back as a much needed voice for the north of the city.

I believe the northern end of the city gets neglected. It’s difficult to get services to come this far but it should be treated as an important gateway to the city. It took us ages to get something done with one derelict triangle of land.

Our residents’ associations in the ward do amazing work and I couldn’t do what I do if it wasn’t for them. I think their work and commitment is more important than being a councillor. ”

Enterprise puts jobs on menu

THE appetite for healthy food served up by Bush Tucker Enterprises is so good that expansion is on the menu for the social enterprise catering business based at the Hollybush Centre in Blurton.

Their busy kitchen has been extended to twice its original size to meet increased demand for dishes that focus on freshly prepared food using fruit and vegetables together with other choices that provide the correct level of proteins and vitamins as well as low salt and fat content.

Since it started five years ago Bush Tucker Enterprises has provided training for scores of people who have gone on to careers or training in catering as well as raising awareness of the need to eat healthily by holding exhibitions and Cook and Eat sessions to promote the healthy living message.

The sustainable community enterprise now employs five people full-time to provide good quality, good value, healthy and nutritious food for all occasions – such as buffets for business meetings and other

Mandate for Change

events, plus daily meals for four local children's nurseries.

Whenever possible the kitchen uses fresh food sourced from local providers.

Bush Tucker Enterprises was originally funded by the Big Lottery Fund and is supported by the council's social enterprise start up fund and the Jobcentre Plus Flexible Support Fund, which the council helps to administer.

However this Summer it will become a Community Interest Company as a go-it-alone venture with a sustainable level of income.

The team comprises Catering Manager Jessica Perkins (who started as a kitchen assistant and gained her catering qualifications through the Enterprise's training programme), Catering Assistants Lorraine Cooper, Christine Barnett and Emma Searl, and Driver Roy Stanner.

In addition to the permanent staff, the kitchen still offers training opportunities for people of all ages from the local

Catering Assistant Emma Searl, left and Catering Project Manager Jess Perkins in the kitchen at the Hollybush Centre.



community who are looking for employment in catering or simply wish to find out how they and their families can eat more healthily.

The Hollybush Centre is a registered charity set up in 1997 by Blurton residents to provide locally based activities and services and is the base for a number of other community enterprises that have created training opportunities and

employment for the area.

Liz Hunt, the Centre's Chief Executive, said: "Bush Tucker Enterprises was originally set up as response to the health, training and employment needs of the city and has been built up into a successful community business by the sheer hard work of the team."

● To find out more about Bush Tucker Enterprises phone 01782 501919.

Val celebrates new job thanks to JET support

A 55 year old woman celebrating getting back into work has praised the city's JET centres for their support.

Val, of Weston Coyney, had been off work for some time with health issues and thought her age and lack of self-esteem would be a turn-off for employers.

An appointment with a Personal JET Adviser and Mentor helped her with benefits, created a CV and built her confidence in her own abilities. After a few weeks and an interview she was delighted to be offered a job by a local DIY store.

Val said: "My confidence has grown and I have the type of job that I enjoy and that suits me. If I hadn't contacted JET I think I would not have found work so quickly.

"Not only am I working now, but I am also starting my training in Customer Service Level 1 and I might also be looking at doing an NVQ or City & Guilds qualification in customer service and retail. My confidence is back where it used to be, which is brilliant. I would tell anyone who needed help to see JET. The advisers are so easy to talk to and they listened to me. In many ways they made me answer my own questions or find my own ways to deal with it.

"They were so positive and helpful and really boosted my confidence. They just made me think about what I needed and how I could reach my goals."

● For more information on how JET can help, please call 01782 231215.



Amelia Sparkes and Aaron Marshall, both aged seven, enjoy a dip at Fenton Manor. They are pictured below with friends Jake Bamford and Charlotte Brown.



Swimming skills boost pupils' health

HEADTEACHER Pauline Bloor is passionate about the benefits of swimming so she makes sure her pupils are among the 6,000 a week across Stoke-on-Trent using the city council's School Swimming Service.

Around 50 children from St John's C of E Aided Primary School in Trent Vale make the weekly trip to the Fenton Manor Sports Complex for safe and fun pool sessions.

Convinced about the health benefits, the school knows children are learning a valuable life skill and enjoying an experience outside of school that they might not always get during difficult economic times.

Swimming is used to promote the school to prospective parents

as every Year 2-6 pupil benefits from pool time for at least a term.

Pauline said: "There are some other providers that may be very cheap but head teachers need to be absolutely sure of the quality of teaching and the health and safety implications.

"The School Swimming Service certainly provides value for money and quality provision in modern, fit for purpose, facilities."

The service works in partnership with schools across the city to produce bespoke programmes while arranging transport, pool time and fully qualified and CRB checked teachers with first aid, life-saving and child protection certification.

Schools benefit from

minimum 30-minute lessons for up to 50 children with flexible bookings.

Sessions can also be delivered at a school's own facilities.

All lessons benefit from an awards scheme, which comes complete with certificates.

Additional information is available at stoke.gov.uk/schoolswimming by calling 01782 236929 or emailing school.swimming@stoke.gov.uk



Our City eight page

Olympic Special



Inspirational people line up to carry the Flame

TWO Olympic Torchbearers from the same city school have overcome adversity to take part in the Olympic Torch Relay... and one has now gone that extra mile to make sure the other keeps her Torch as a souvenir of her big day.

Phil Greer, the 55-year-old Site Supervisor at St Peter's Academy suffered paralysis as a child and was told he would never walk again. But he proved the doctors wrong and has enjoyed a lifetime of top-class endurance running. He has completed 28 marathons and currently coaches at national level.

Pupil Zahraa Bangee, now 16, fought her way back from a devastating brain haemorrhage to take her place as a Flame bearer. Her mum Sherin's nomination read: "I, as her mother, am incredibly proud of what a truly inspirational young woman my daughter has become."

That strength of spirit impressed Phil who sprang into action and offered to help Zahraa's family as they looked at ways of raising funds to buy her Torch.

He takes up the story: "We'd both received emails saying we could buy our Torches. Zahraa mentioned her family were looking at fund-raising so I offered to help and ran the Lichfield Half Marathon to raise £255 for her Torch and stand.

Once in a lifetime

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity for us and I couldn't let her carry her Torch and then not keep it for the rest of her life. That would have been such a shame."

Sherin said: "We were really touched by Phil's offer and appreciated his efforts. We supported him by getting family and friends to sponsor him."

Phil and Zahraa are among several people chosen as Torchbearers. Others include Ainsley Cooper, former world professional squash champion Angela Smith, Andrew Wood, former Olympian Imran Sherwani, Daniel Tatton, Stephen Glover, Thomas Buckett and Colin Scattergood. Also taking part are Ross Clarke, Daniel Ward, Sarah Green, Emma Jackson, a current 800 metre Team GB runner, Rita Banks and Clare Simcock.

St Peter's Academy Site Supervisor Phil Greer and 16-year-old Zahraa Bangee are all set for their day in the spotlight when they carry the Olympic Flame through Staffordshire's streets.



A golden opportunity to showcase all our city is achieving

By City Council Leader Councillor **MOHAMMED PERVEZ**



I am sure all of us are looking forward to the eyes of the world being on our city when Stoke-on-Trent celebrates hosting the Olympic Torch Relay.

Our city will swell with pride as the symbolic Flame travels through our historic streets... passing just a few feet from the homes of novelist Arnold Bennett and rock superstar Robbie Williams.

Our city has risen to the occasion, bringing all sections of the community together to celebrate this amazing Olympic year.

As well as the evening celebration during the Flame's two day visit, there will be a host of other events, including a colourful parade by hundreds of schoolchildren representing the many nations taking part in this summer's Games.

I am delighted to see that local businesses have been successful in bringing trade associated with the Games back to our city, boosting the local economy and supporting employment.

This is a time to look back on Stoke-on-Trent's historic Olympians, who have flown the flag for the Potteries, and to wish our current sportspeople the best of luck as they strive for glory.

This summer offers a tremendous opportunity for our city to promote everything that is best about Stoke-on-Trent and leave visitors with a lasting impression of our friendliness, culture and attractions.

I am sure once they have sampled our famous hospitality, the warmth of our communities - and maybe even our delicious oatcakes - they will take the City of Stoke-on-Trent, and its people, to their hearts.

But more than anything else, the Olympics give us all the chance to come together, enjoy this huge special occasion, celebrate our unique and special communities and be proud of all our city is achieving.

► Turn the page for maps of the route the Flame will take and details of our special evening celebration



Olympic Torch Relay

Evening Celebration
Route 30 May 2012



Magic as the Torch arrives in our city

AT 6.34pm precisely on Wednesday 30 May the people of Stoke-on-Trent will become part of the London 2012 Olympic Games and claim an enduring place in Britain's sporting and cultural heritage.

That's the moment the Olympic Torch arrives in the city – one of 66 towns and cities hosting an evening celebration.

The Torch Relay will travel 8,000 miles and be carried by 8,000 Torchbearers before the Flame arrives at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July to light the cauldron and signal the start of the 2012 Games.

Crowds are expected to line the streets as the Flame makes its way from Shelton to Hanley Park – the venue for a fun filled evening of celebrations.

Earlier that day a spectacular Community Parade, starting at 2pm, will make its way along College Road, Shelton to Hanley Park where it will be welcomed by a schools choir from the city's twin town of Erlangen.

The Parade will include 1,000 young people from over 90 schools in Stoke-on-Trent, each school representing one of the nations competing in the Games.

The city will bid a golden farewell to the Torch at 7am on 31 May when it will be re-lit during a ceremony at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery where the Staffordshire Hoard and a 9-foot sculpture of an Anglo-Saxon warrior will be on show.

Council Leader Councillor Mohammed Pervez, said: "The city council has worked with communities, schools, businesses and many other groups in the city to ensure everyone will have the opportunity to join in this once in a lifetime celebration of the area's strong heritage."

Not to scale
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Thousands set to join in the big Olympic party

AN evening of celebration in Hanley Park will provide fun for people of all ages as the city welcomes the Torchbearers carrying the Olympic Flame on Wednesday 30 May.

Gates will open at 4pm for 12,000 free ticket holders for the once-in-a-lifetime event that will start at 5pm and last for almost three hours.

Big name Torch Relay partners Coca Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung, in partnership with local organisations and the city council will stage a spectacular show to keep the crowds enthralled.

Top of the bill will be the Olympic Flame that will make a grand entrance to the venue where the last Torchbearer will light a symbolic Olympic Games cauldron on the main stage.

The packed evening celebration show includes live music by Kids in Glass Houses, acrobatic performance, a crowd interaction moment, dance by the Regent Theatre Creative Learning Department, a spectacular performance by the New Vic



Crowds in Hanley Park.

Theatre and appearances by guest sports stars, as well as inspirational digital displays on a giant screen.

6,000 free tickets were available through the Ticketmaster website and a further 6,000 were distributed at the request of London 2012 to the Torch Relay Presenting Partners, schools participating








in the Torch Relay Community Parade, Torchbearers and Children's Promise families.

People without tickets can still enjoy other attractions in the park between 2pm and 4pm including a cookery demonstration and street sports held near to the bandstand area.

Olympic Torch Relay

Morning Departure
Route 31 May 2012

KEY

-  The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
-  Olympic Torch Route
-  Parking
-  Bus Station
-  Toilet
-  Railway Line
-  Canal/waterway



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Councillor Mark Meredith with pupils displaying giant flags which they will use in the Olympic Torch Parade.

Colours of the world brighten community extravaganza

NEARLY a thousand Stoke-on-Trent school children are literally flying the flag for the city as well as the rest of the world during the Olympic community parade.

Joined by 200 dancers and musicians, young people from 90 schools and colleges are taking to the streets on 30 May for the parade from College Road to Hanley Park to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic Flame.

Locally based arts organisation B arts was commissioned by the city council to help the children produce 200 carnival costumes

and 90 giant flags representing the Olympic nations.

Councillor Mark Meredith, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: "This is a once in a lifetime chance for our city's children and young people to become part of something that will live long in the memory."

B arts Artistic Director Susan Clarke said: "The city is bursting with creative potential and this is the sort of event we need to make the most of and tell everyone about. We hope it can become an annual event – a Stoke Day Parade – that celebrates the richness and energy of all our communities, which are such a great asset to us all."

Safety first for torch relay evening

DETAILED plans are in place for the safety of thousands of people expected to watch the Olympic Flame make its way through Stoke-on-Trent and take centre stage at an evening celebration.

Civil contingency experts from the city council have worked with other council departments and the police as they cater for several thousand people on the streets of Shelton, Burslem, Cobridge and Middleport with a further 12,000 at the evening event in Hanley Park.

Around 30 stewards will be on duty for the Torch Relay on 30 and 31 May with another 30 security supervisors helping the crowd at the park celebration. Some roads will be temporarily closed.

Peter Burgess, the council's Strategic Manager for Health, Safety and Emergency Planning, said: "We have put up barriers where necessary but this is a fun, family event so we want to allow people to get as close to the action as possible."

Exciting cycling spectacle

THE Grand Final of the 2012 Halfords Cycling Tour Series will be hosted in the city as part of a spectacular final day of racing.

The televised event will see Britain's 10 leading teams go head-to-head in an exciting team time trial event on Thursday 14 June - with many top cyclists using the race as part of their warm up for the Olympic Games.

In addition, the final of the Johnson Health Tech Grand Prix Series will take place and a special relay will be held for the first time ever on the final day, named in honour of one of Stoke-on-Trent's famous sons, cyclist Tommy Godwin

Tommy, who was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1912, still holds the world cycling records for miles covered in a year (75,065 miles / 120,805 kilometres) and the fastest completion of 100,000 miles (160,000 km).

In 1939, Godwin entered the Golden Book of Cycling as the greatest long-distance rider in the world. He rode 75,065 miles (120,805 km) in a year, averaging over 200 miles per day.

World-class ceramic ware flies the flag for Stoke-on-Trent at summer spectacular as Games trade boosts employment



First Bus driver Andy Watt, front, and Travel Clerk Paul Blair who have volunteered to drive buses carrying spectators to Olympic venues.



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT... the Dudson plate which features the route of the Thames, with Designer Julian Orr, left, and Design Director Danny Goodall.



Johnson Tiles provided materials for the athletes village, hockey centre and cycling centre, as well as for the pool refurbishment at the National Diving Centre in Crystal Palace, pictured.

Helping local businesses win in 2012

BUSINESS LOANS: Small business loans are now available in Stoke-on-Trent through a partnership involving the city council and the Black Country Reinvestment Society. A council investment of £100,000 in the Stoke-on-Trent Loan Fund has been doubled by the society as it offers loans to companies employing 50 people or less. For more information, contact BCRS on 0845 313 8410.

BUSINESS HELPLINE: More than 300 callers have already used a business helpline launched in February to make it easier for entrepreneurs to invest and grow. Backed by the city council, the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership offers help on everything from start-ups and international trade to

funding and investor development services. For advice, call 0300 111 8002.

TRANSFORMING ENTERPRISE IN STOKE-ON-TRENT (TEST): TEST is a city council funded programme designed to help deliver the Mandate for Change. It was launched by Councillor Mark Meredith, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, on 27 February and has two elements, assisting new business start-ups and helping existing businesses to grow and create jobs.

TEST comprises business and enterprise coaching, TEST-trading, mentoring, help with access to finance and recruitment, understanding supply chains and bespoke business intelligence.

City companies win Olympic business worth millions of pounds

OLYMPIC contracts worth millions of pounds have boosted order books for businesses across Stoke-on-Trent.

City-based suppliers of products and services successfully bid for tenders through a variety of routes including the CompeteFor Business portal.

Winners from the ceramics industry included The Waterford, Wedgwood and Royal Doulton Group who were appointed to produce London 2012 commemorative and souvenir merchandise. Johnson Tiles won contracts for several Olympic projects including floor and wall tiles for the athletes' village, the hockey centre and a re-vamped cycling centre.

The firm also produced tiles for the diving pool refurbishment at the National Diving Centre in Crystal Palace, which meant cutting larger metric tiles with water jets to produce smaller imperial sized measurements. Designers at Dudson were commissioned by Sodexo Prestige to produce fine dining tableware to be used at a number of high profile events, including VIP hospitality functions at the Games. One of the signature pieces being made in Stoke-on-Trent is a plate featuring a channel in the shape



Wedgwood ware produced for the Olympics.

of the River Thames. Dudson Design Director Danny Goodall said: "The Sodexo brief gave us an opportunity to create innovative items which will now be used to showcase British design and manufacturing excellence to visitors from all over the world." Praising the designs of UK manufacturers, Dr. Laura Cohen, Chief Executive of the British Ceramic Confederation, said: "The Olympics and the Jubilee will be bringing in plenty of tourists who want to buy a commemorative mug or other ceramic product and many manufacturers are finding increased interest in their entire ranges."

Executive of the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, said: "It's pleasing that several city businesses have benefited from the Olympics." Olympic opportunities have come as several city-council backed initiatives, launched in partnership with other agencies and organisations under the Mandate for Change programme, have also started bearing fruit. Latest figures collated for a monthly council Business Bulletin show a growing number of inquiries to the council's Make it Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Inward Investment Service. The city has also been nominated as one of the top 10

European cities for inward investment, economic growth and business expansion by the Financial Times, European Cities of the Future Awards for Micro Cities. Independent researchers picked out the city for its strong transport links and business connections across Europe. Councillor Mark Meredith, Stoke-on-Trent City Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development said: "To be receiving this award shows to businesses and potential investors that our city is very much open for business and that our infrastructure and location in particular make it a prime location to invest."

City business executives welcome Olympics opportunity

As one of Stoke-on-Trent's biggest employers, Steelite International is certainly fired up about this Olympic year. "Now preparations to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay are gathering pace, there's a real sense of optimism, both among businesses and the public, as we get ready to show the nation what a fantastic and vibrant city this is. "This high profile event will shine the spotlight on Stoke-on-Trent, its industries and its people, and show just why we're all proud to be part of the Potteries."



Stoke-on-Trent is a truly unique city full to the brim with character. "And much of its inimitable charm is down to its people. Creative and imaginative, the people of Stoke-on-Trent are passionate, loyal and tenacious and have all the necessary qualities to build strong communities and grow successful businesses. "Once again Stoke-on-Trent is a hub of activity and we're leading it into a new era of revival and vitality. Quite simply there is no better place for our business."



Stoke-on-Trent is Bronze, Silver and Gold when it comes to pottery, you can get anything made from a new hip joint to a gallon teapot. "Stoke-on-Trent is a key part of Britain's manufacturing base and through the plates on your table or the mug in your kitchen we all have a stake in Stoke-on-Trent."



Kevin Oakes, Chief Executive of Steelite International

Michael Haynes, Managing Director of Portmeirion Group

Matt Rice, Managing Director of Emma Bridgewater

Danny Goodall, Dudson Design Director



Men and women city with

STOKE-on-Trent is blessed with Olympic talent past and present – and has plenty of budding stars lining up for future Games too.

From men's hockey Olympic champion Imran Sherwani and runner Les West to London 2012 qualifiers, such as pole-vaulter Steven Lewis and runner Emma Jackson, the city can boast top athletes who have graced track, field and sporting events.

And there is plenty to look forward to beyond the summer Games, with promising home-grown talent setting their sights on Brazil 2016 and beyond.

Councillor Mark Meredith, whose cabinet portfolio

includes Sports and Leisure, said: "Given the successful legacy of many of the athletes and sporting stars from the city it would be fantastic if one of the latest sporting hopefuls added to this with success at the Olympics.

"We have a great pedigree for producing sporting stars and I am sure this will continue for many, many years to come."

Perhaps the most famous and certainly most successful local Olympian in living memory is Imran Sherwani.

The former police officer and newsagent was part of the gold medal winning Great Britain field hockey team in the 1988 Olympics held in Seoul, South Korea. Imran became an overnight hero after scoring twice in the 3-1 victory over West Germany.



Above: gold medal winner Imran Sherwani in action against West Germany in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Left: grocer's son Joe Deakin who represented Great Britain in the 1908 London Olympics, and right, Norman Wainwright who competed in the freestyle and backstroke swimming events at the 1932, 1936 and 1948 Games.



Keen walkers stage their own Games relay across the six towns

STANDBY for the Olympics relay event – in Stoke-on-Trent!

The 50 Closer to Home walking groups organised by the city-based national charity Federation of Stadium Communities (FSC) will be stepping out to mark the 2012 London Games with a special outing.

After each group completes its walk, a baton will be handed to a representative of the next group to walk until the groups have covered the whole city.

The free-to-join walking network covers every part of the city.

More than 3,000 people of all ages have already taken part in the

walks designed to provide healthy exercise and a chance to meet people.

The gentle outings usually last for 45 minutes to an hour, although others can be longer.

Funded by the NHS and led by volunteers, the walks are specially recommended for people who lead a sedentary lifestyle and those with high blood or cholesterol levels and weight problems.

The special Olympic walks will be held on five separate days to symbolise the five rings of the Olympic emblem.

The circular walks will start and finish at Trentham, Hanley, Tunstall,

Norton, Berryhill and Bentilee.

FSC Chief Executive Judy Crabb said: "The walks are usually held in parks and greenways in the city and include historical areas, nature and opportunities for photography to provide interest for group members.

"The special walk with a baton is not a race but a symbolic way of joining up different communities in the city just as the Olympic Games unite nations through sport."

● **To join a Closer to Home walking group or for more information about the Olympic relay events phone 01782 831900.**



Nora Boulton from Birches head, Alan Myatt from Clayton, Ken Harper from Newstead and Brian King from Dresden walking in Trentham Park in preparation for their walking relay.



Pole vaulter Steven Lewis – a former Holden Lane High School Pupil – hopes to bring a medal home to Stoke-on-Trent from this year’s Games.



Gold medal hopeful Dani King winning the Johnson Health Tech Women’s Grand Prix in Stoke-on-Trent city centre in June 2011.

Right: Les West, a national cycling road race champion whose hopes of Olympic glory in Mexico in 1968 were shattered when he suffered a puncture at a crucial stage of a race.



en fly the flag for **Olympic pride**

Earlier this year the 50-year-old sports teacher was inducted into the City of Stoke-on-Trent Sporting Hall of Fame – joining footballers Sir Stanley Matthews and Gordon Banks and darts legend Phil Taylor.

Also joining Imran in the Hall of Fame was Les West – a national cycling champion. The Potteries ace who finished second in the world road race championship never achieved his grand ambition of an Olympic medal after being thwarted by a puncture at Mexico in 1968.

Steak and champagne

However, he did go on to turn professional and won a series of national road race titles to add to his double triumph in the Tour of Britain Milk Race.

Earlier in the 20th century, swimmer Norman Wainwright and middle-distance runner Joe Deakin

also did the Potteries proud. Freestyle and backstroke specialist Norman represented Great Britain in the 1932, 1936 and 1948 Summer Olympics.

He also won gold, silver and bronze medals in the 1934 and 1938 Empire Games (the forerunner to the Commonwealth Games) in both team and individual events.

Grocer’s son Joe Deakin, who was born in Shelton, won gold in the three-mile team event at the 1908 London Olympics. The rifleman, who fought in the Boer War, reportedly finished 30 yards ahead of his nearest rival. However, he was unable to finish the later five-mile track race after being treated to a slap-up lunch of steak and champagne to mark the victory.

It is not a scenario that can be envisaged for today’s Team GB Olympic hopefuls, who include runner Emma Jackson.

The 23-year-old, from Trentham, has represented her country in every age group at 800 metres, and finished fourth in the 2010 Commonwealth Games. In 2011, she further boosted her Olympic credentials by breaking the two-minute barrier for 800 metres for the first time and reached the semi-finals of her specialist event at the 2011 World Championships.

It should be a double honour for Emma, a former St. Joseph’s College and Keele University student, this summer. Not only has she set her sights on competing in the Olympics but has been chosen as a Torchbearer when the Olympic Flame is carried through the city.

Steven Lewis is one of the city’s top hopes for a medal in the pole vault event. He is the country’s number one, has already scooped silver at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi and finished fourth in the 2009 European Indoor Championships. The former Holden Lane High School pupil, now 25, has set an outdoor

personal best of 5.72 metres and has been praised by Team GB head coach Charles van Commenee for his “development”.

Also looking to aim high is sprint hurdler Nick Gayle. The 26-year-old Sneyd Green born-and-bred star is hoping to line up against the best in the world at London 2012 after constantly notching up impressive results at 110 metre hurdles.

Cycling team pursuit world champion Dani King, 21, who races for Stoke-on-Trent cycling team Matrix Fitness-Prendas, of Trentham Lakes, is a favourite for a gold.

And the future looks bright too. Stoke-on-Trent’s Becky Martin, 15, narrowly missed out in the Olympic selection process for Women’s Archery but was praised for her “amazing maturity” by Archery GB Performance Director Sara Symington, and is one to watch for upcoming tournaments.

And another potential star is Taekwondo competitor Amy Truesdale, who trains in Stoke-on-Trent.

The rising star won silver in the World Para Taekwondo Championships in 2009 but also features in able-bodied competitions.

Amy, who was born with the lower part of her left arm missing, is on course to represent Team GB in the 2016 Brazil Games – if the discipline is chosen as an Olympic event.



Former St Joseph’s College student Emma Jackson, 23, from Trentham, has high hopes for the 800m track event.

Gymnasts warm up on our Manor

SOME of Britain’s top gymnasts will help to spread the Olympic ideal in Stoke-on-Trent with performances at Fenton Manor Sports Complex in the run-up to the 2012 London Games. The sports men and women will be demonstrating their talents in a series of spectacular events organised by British Gymnastics, the UK’s national governing body for gymnastics. First class facilities at Fenton Manor Sports Complex include superbly equipped sports halls, Shapes Health and Leisure Club and swimming pools – one of them is the largest in Staffordshire. Chris Austin, Events and Commercial Manager for the city council’s Sport and Leisure Services, said: “We hope the appearance of the country’s leading gymnasts and the Olympic branding at Fenton Manor Sports Complex will get more people interested in taking part in the sports and activities on offer.”

Packed event programme organised for Summer 2012

LOTS of events are being planned for the next few months to help residents enjoy the Olympic year even more. They include:

May

- 16:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games, Pub Sports Quiz, The Greyhound Inn, 8pm.
- 19:** North Staffordshire Special Olympics Athletics Championship, Northwood Stadium.
- 20:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games, Richmond Street Park, 2-4pm. Track and field sports organised in conjunction with 238 Hartshill Air Cadets. www.communitygames.org.uk
- 25:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games, Pub Sports Quiz, The Robin Hood, 8pm.
- 26:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games, Lodge Road Park, 1-3pm. Sports for everyone organised in conjunction with Sporting Ventures www.communitygames.org.uk
- 29:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games, Pub Sports Quiz, The Red Lion, 8pm.
- 29:** Torch Relay, 6.34pm
- 30:** Torch Relay Evening Celebration, Hanley Park, Stoke-on-Trent. www.stoke.gov.uk/olympics2012
- 31:** Torch Relay morning depart City Centre, Cobridge, Burslem, Middleport - 7am. www.stoke.gov.uk/olympics2012

June

- 9:** Discovering Places 2012 'Spot the Species' walk, Hartshill Park, 10am-midday. Meet Lower Park 9.45am.
- 12:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games, Pub Sports Quiz, The Old House at Home, 8pm.
- 14:** Dancing for the Games Ballroom & Sequence Dance, Kings Hall, 8-11.30pm. Tickets £4. Contact Vanessa Darlington 01782 236156.
- 14:** Tour Series, City Centre, 2-9pm.
- 16:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games Hartshill Cemetery Walk, 2-4pm led by local historian Reg Edwards.
- 21:** Holden Lane High School and Cluster Primary Schools Torch Relay.
- 25-29:** National School Sport Week.
- 25:** London 2012 World Sport Day celebrations in the UK.
- 26-28:** City Songbirds 2012 Concert Victoria Hall.
- 27:** June - TOPP Link School Sport Festival Northwood Stadium.

July

- 1:** Hartshill and Harpfields Community Games 'Canine Capers' Hartshill Park, 2-4pm. Community Games for dogs and their owners organised in conjunction with 238 Hartshill Air Cadets. www.communitygames.org.uk
- 2-7:** Creative Minds Festival 2012, Regent Theatre, www.atgtickets.com
- 3:** Staffordshire School Games Festival, Keele University.
- 7:** Haywood Engineering College PTFA Community Games, 11am-5pm. www.communitygames.org.uk
- 27:** Olympic Games Opening Ceremony London.
- 27:** Toddle Waddle and Children's Games, Crescent Children's Centre, Meir.
- 31:** National Flags Activity, Gladstone Pottery Museum. 11am-3pm. 50p plus admission.



Antonia Taffe-Smith, aged 9, Isabelle Grant, 10, and Sydney Jackson of the 7th Hanley Brownies with the Olympic badges they are working towards and an Olympic torch they made themselves.



Something for everyone as whole city joins in

THOUSANDS of people in the Potteries have taken part in Olympic inspired events involving London 2012 backed initiatives, which are based around Local Leaders and Community Games.

The Hartshill and Harpfields Residents' Association launched a packed 14-week calendar of events stretching through to early July including sports days, walks, pub quizzes and even skipping and hula-hoop competitions.

Haywood Engineering College in Burslem is staging a Community Games Festival on 7 July.

A costume parade will be followed by attractions in the school grounds featuring a mini sports activity village, a climbing wall, fairground rides and stalls.

The girls of the 7th Hanley Brownies and Guides are busy learning about the Olympics and its values as they work towards getting special badges on the subject. Forty girls, aged between seven and 15, meet once a week, to work through badges called On Your Marks, Values, Culture and Sport.

Karen Cooper, one of the unit leaders, said: "We're

doing all sorts of activities and each badge is a segment so when they've got the four, it forms a circle. The girls are loving it."

One of the girls, Lori Jones-Pullin, aged nine, said: "It's been good fun learning about the Olympics. We've been doing some interesting activities and I'm really looking forward to seeing the Torch in Stoke."

Since the announcement was made that the Games were coming to London, Stoke-on-Trent has grasped the unique opportunity to inspire and engage communities, as well as raise its profile both nationally and internationally as a centre of sporting and cultural excellence.

Godiva Awakes

As part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad 24 young people from Stoke-on-Trent have explored themes of equality, fairness and social justice in their community as part of the regional Godiva Awakes project.

In July 2012, Godiva - the legendary lady who rode naked through the streets of Coventry - will awake to a spectacular performance involving dancers, actors, aerialists, musicians, pyrotechnicians, carnivalists and our young people.



FLASHBACK... to the start of an Olympics-linked initiative in Stoke-on-Trent called World of Dance which culminates on 14 June this year with a Dancing for the Games ballroom and sequence event in the King's Hall in Stoke.

Fresh ideas for future use of green open space

THE seeds are being sown to create Stoke-on-Trent's green and open spaces of the future. A task group of councillors is coming up with ideas for the future use of parks and green spaces which make up a third of the land within the city's boundaries.

Members of the group will help determine how these precious amenities can be best used in 20 years time.

Organisations and residents have been asked by the council for their ideas – and already there have been radical and exciting suggestions on how open spaces can be used for leisure and to improve the environment.

The group has recruited the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to assist them. Groups such as residents' associations, allotment groups and anglers have already provided positive feedback and have been given the opportunity to speak to the task group.

Wildlife habitats

Interested agencies such as Staffordshire Police, Public Health, Groundwork and British Waterways as well as young people groups are also being consulted.

Ideas put forward so far include the development of more woodland to provide natural wildlife habitats and turning some of the city's open acres to sustainable crops such as sunflower seed as an

eco-friendly source of fuel oil that could help make the city self sufficient in heating and lighting energy.

Other suggestions have centred on the health benefits of creating more outdoor gyms and improving Greenways to encourage walking, running and cycling.

Councillor Andy Platt, formerly Chairman of the task group and now Cabinet Member for Green Enterprises and City Services, said: "Feedback so far has been extremely positive and has produced some innovative ideas. These will help the task

group to make recommendations to Cabinet to help in developing a green space strategy."

He added: "Maintaining all of the city's green and open spaces is very costly and we will be looking at ways of minimising future costs. However the review is not a cost cutting exercise but an opportunity to take a fresh look at what we really want from our open green spaces for the benefit of future generations."



Councillor Andy Platt, formerly Chairman of the green open space task group, and now Cabinet Member for Green Enterprises and City Services at the entrance to the River Trent path at Hanford.

Campaign aim to cut grassfires

A campaign has been rolled out for its second year in light of Stoke-on-Trent continuing to be one of the worst hit areas in Staffordshire for deliberately-set grassfires.

Firefighters have been called out to tackle 35 outdoor blazes in the city so far this year – more than a third of the 93 attended in the county.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service has re-launched its Flames Aren't Games campaign to target potential fire starters – who tend to be young teenage boys – and are urging parents to play their part.

The Service's Head of Risk Reduction Glynn Luznyj said: "We tend to see a sharp increase of deliberately started grass fires during the school holidays and Stoke-on-Trent is always the highest hit area in the whole of Staffordshire.

"This year we are asking parents to help us in educating their children about the dangers and consequences of starting grass fires. Local firefighters have also visited schools in the area to talk to the children about fire safety."

Last year, almost one quarter of the 1,191 grass fires in Staffordshire were in Stoke-on-Trent.

The campaign will run until October.

£1M BOOST for grass roots soccer



Sports Information Officer Dave Bloor, left, and Sports Participation Officer Les Eyre with some of the new goalposts at the council's Cromer Road Depot at Northwood.

GRASS roots football across Stoke-on-Trent is getting a £1million council boost with a four-phased programme of improvements to facilities and pitches.

All goalposts on municipal pitches are being replaced by next season.

Eighty-four sets ranging from full sized to five-a-side are being installed over the next few months.

The city council and The Football Foundation have jointly funded the project. A large portable building salvaged from the site of the new Discovery Academy has been craned into place at Trubshaw Cross to provide changing facilities and toilets for Lads 'n' Dads and other teams. This phase will be complete by next season.

The changing pavilion at Fenton Park is being completely revamped and new drainage installed to four pitches there in time for the start of the 2013/14 season.

Phase four involves upgrading existing synthetic pitches at Dimensions Leisure Centre with a third generation surface as well as proposals for a similar pitch at Northwood Stadium. This depends on further support from The Football Foundation.

Councillor Mark Meredith, whose cabinet portfolio includes Sports and Leisure, said: "This is a huge investment in improving the quality of football facilities across the city. It's a really exciting programme."

Preserving the Mother Town's great heritage

A historic pub and an Indian takeaway are among the final projects to benefit from the current round of funding to improve the great heritage appeal of Burslem.

In the past seven years the Burslem Townscape Heritage Initiative has supported the renovation of more than 50 historic properties to preserve the heritage appeal of the Mother Town.

The work, which has received a total investment of £8million from two rounds of Townscape Heritage Initiative funding and the private sector during the period, has helped to boost trade with nearly 50 more businesses open in the town today compared to 2006.

The last phase includes external renovations to properties in Queen Street and Market Place.



Campaign targets illegal driving

MOTORISTS in Stoke-on-Trent who use their hand-held mobiles while driving are being targeted during a summer-long road safety operation.

Jointly run by police and the Safer Roads Partnership, teams will be out in force in highly visible yellow vans filming people who flout the law. Those caught face £60 fines and will get three points on their licence.

Councillor Ruth Rosenau, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transportation, said: "Holding a mobile while driving is not only illegal but also puts the safety of other drivers and pedestrians across Stoke-on-Trent at risk."

Warning over risks at summer parties

STAFFORDSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to think safety first as they gear up to celebrate a summer of royal events and sporting activities.

The London Olympics, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Euro 2012 are all taking place, leading to an increase in outdoor socialising, including street parties and barbecues.

Head of Risk Reduction Glyn Luznyj said: "The summer will be an exciting times. We want people to have fun but we also want them to celebrate safely by planning ahead and taking simple precautions."

For a list of safety tips log onto www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Council scoops a safety accolade

THE council's approach to the prevention of accidents and ill health was recognised in the RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2012.

A Gold Award was presented to the council at a ceremony at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel earlier this month. It is the second year the city council has achieved gold status in this category. The RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Awards scheme, dates back to 1956 and is the largest and longest-running programme of its kind in the UK.

Hi-tech security firm creates jobs

MORE than 30 jobs will be created in the city over the next three years as a high security surveillance industry locates to Stoke-on-Trent.

Observation 247, which was originally founded by three brothers and a friend all from the military, provides professional 24 hour surveillance for the hospitality industry along with specialist covert surveillance services.

The company opened its new headquarters in Longton following support from the Make It Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Inward Investment Service.

Partnership working helps drive down crime

VIOLENT crime leading to injury has fallen by almost 16 per cent across Stoke-on-Trent as police and partner agencies work together to make the city even safer.

In the last 12 months the recorded number of these types of crimes was 2,610. This represents a 15.8 per cent decrease when compared to 3,100 similar incidences in 2010/11.

Overall crime is also down for the same period – this time by seven per cent, from 23,822 incidents to 22,144.

The latest performance figures published by Staffordshire Police also reveal that serious acquisitive crime – which includes burglary, robbery and vehicle crime – has fallen by 3.6 per cent, the 10th consecutive year there has been a reduction.

Bernie O'Reilly, Staffordshire Police Chief Superintendent for North Staffordshire, said: "The figures are impressive and a great testament to my officers and our colleagues in other organisations including the council.

"Their professionalism, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in protecting the public of Stoke-on-Trent has been the overriding factor.

"Fewer victims of this type of crime every year for the last 10 years is absolutely brilliant – but now I want us to do even better and make it 11 years of crime reductions."

A quarter of violent crime injuries are caused by domestic violence.

As a result Staffordshire Police has a well-established policy of taking positive action and works closely with the city council and partner agencies such as



Co-ordinated efforts by partners including the police and council has helped reduce incidents of violence and serious acquisitive crime like robbery, burglary and thefts from cars.

Women's Aid and Arch to tackle underlying causes.

Operation Safer Nights was launched to tackle violent crime, much of which is fuelled by alcohol, and has since seen the development of initiatives aimed at reducing violent incidents in the city and

town centres. Meanwhile, figures show that in a city with 106,000 households and a population of 240,000 people, less than three homes are broken into a day, less than eight cars are stolen a week, there are less than six violent crimes a week and less than 18 robberies take place a month.

£12m school will give best start

BUILDING work is underway on the new Kemball Special School as the £250 million Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme gathers pace.

Pupils aged three to 19 who have complex needs and profound learning difficulties are moving from their current site in Fenton to a state of the art £12 million building on the site of the Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy at Blurton.

Due to open in September 2013, the new school will provide space for up to 140 pupils and includes a hydrotherapy pool, classrooms with en-suite facilities, covered outdoor teaching spaces and two pods housing parents and interview rooms as well as soft play and sensory rooms.

A courtyard will provide outdoor dining and socialising space while a dedicated training flat has been designed to help older students develop their independent living skills. Pupils will also use Ormiston facilities to broaden their opportunities.

Councillor Ruth Rosenau is the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and

Transportation with responsibility for the BSF programme. Her sister Erica is a former Kemball pupil so Ruth has a personal interest in special needs education.

She said: "Kemball was fantastic for Erica and the new school will be even better with modern, inspirational facilities which reflect the amazing skills of the teachers. The new schools we're building across Stoke-on-Trent will all provide the best start we can for future generations."

Kemball is one of 16 secondary and special schools where a re-vamp or complete re-build is now underway as part of the BSF programme. Construction work on the remaining two schools, Holden Lane and Abbey Hill, is expected to start later this year.

● Pictured right, Council Leader Mohammed Pervaz cuts the first turf at the new Kemball Special School helped by pupils Cameron Kay and Alethea Littlejohn, watched by Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Transportation Councillor Ruth Rosenau, Construction Management Trainee Will Chambers and pupil Jacob Smith.





Children's Centre UPDATE

News and information from Stoke-on-Trent's Children's Centres

May 2012



Two-year-old Kyle Barlow demonstrates the sport of 'dad rolling' with his father Chris at Hope Children's Centre.

Toddlers in training to become wacky **Olympic champions**

IF the Olympics featured a Roll Your Daddy Race then little Kyle Barlow, as our picture shows, would already be the champion.

The tot who is three in July is already in training to top the

podium in just such a race when the Hope Children's Centre stages its very own mini Games in honour of London 2012.

Kyle is shoving his basketball-playing dad Chris, aged 20, around the house as he builds up his muscles for the Stay and Play

Going for Gold event in Central Forest Park on 6 August.

Mum Michelle Condliffe, who is 22 and expecting the couple's second baby in August, said: "Kyle loves playing ball games with his dad, basketball and football, so he's quite sporting."

The two-hour festival of family fun features several events including Roll Your Daddy, an obstacle course and a torch relay with hand-made Olympic torches.

There are also parachute games and the shoe race in which children and children's centre staff mix their footwear in a big pile before putting them on again and making a dash for the finish line.

Families will wear red, white and blue on the day as they stage a parade of nations with homemade flags and there will be a closing ceremony.

The park is also hosting a fun fair at the time.

The event comes hot on the heels of a similar children's centre Easter event in the park, which was hugely successful. Mum Alex Gimbert said of that event: "Lovely

morning, can we do this again in the Summer. Really enjoyed rounders and parachutes."

Other parents praised the outdoor games idea too so centre staff and parents put their heads together before coming up with the Olympic-themed event.

Jaime Wainwright-Jones, the city council Central Locality Co-ordinator responsible for four children's centres, said: "We organised the event after listening to the parents' feedback and what better way to encourage families to get more physical than taking some of our activities into the great outdoors and linking it with the Olympic Games, which is celebrated worldwide.

"We hope the event will also encourage dads to join in and judging by the list of activities, we are expecting the Roll Your Daddy Race to be very popular.

"We are really excited to be hosting the 'Games' and looking forward to awarding our Gold Certificates to all children taking part. Don't forget to bring a healthy picnic box."

Toddle waddle baby race

BABIES even get to take part in a mini Olympics being staged at The Crescent Children's Centre in Meir this summer.

A toddle waddle has been organised for the nought to one year olds as part of two-hours of fun organised by the centre in partnership with the Pre School Nursery based there.

Families are being invited along on 27 July between 10am and 12 noon as children aged up to eight take part in egg and spoon, sack, bean bag and sprint races. Older children will also get to dribble balls around a coned course.

Vicki McDonnell, a Senior Childcare Practitioner based in the pre-school nursery, said: "The Crescent mini Olympics will enhance the opportunities already offered not only to children who attend the nursery but those who attend the centre as they all learn and experience new activities together."

Community Development Officer Caz Gotham said: "It's a great opportunity for our local children to be part of the Olympics."

Ball Green
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 231096

Burslem
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 238989

Norton
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 231096

**Stoke-on-Trent
Worth**
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 232977

Tunstall
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 236655

Kingsland
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 238352

Penkull
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 236333

The Hope
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 234357

**Thomas
Boughey**
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 237100

Blurton
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 231815

The Crescent
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 596421

Fenton
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 237650

The Grange
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 233775

Hanford
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 234024

Treehouse
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 233670

Westfield
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Tel: 01782 237500

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S CENTRES

CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN THE NORTH OF THE CITY

Ball Green

01782 231096

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Ball Green Primary School, Whitfield Road, Ball Green ST6 8AJ

MONDAY
Stay and Play Drop-In 9:30-11am

TUESDAY
Adult Learning and Crèche 1-3pm
(Ask at reception)

FRIDAY
Little Sprouts Stay and Play
Gardening Group (0-5yrs) 1:30-3pm

OTHER SERVICES

Toy Library
Volunteering Programme
Jumping Beans
Tiny Talkers



Burslem

01782 238989

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Vale Park, Hamil Road, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 1AW

MONDAY
Maths Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 9:30-11:30am
Stay and Play Drop-In 1-2:30pm

TUESDAY
English Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 9:30-11:30am
Growing Together 1-2:30pm
(Referral only)

WEDNESDAY
Stay and Play Drop-In 9:30-11am
Baby Massage Drop-In 9:30-10:30am

THURSDAY
Tiny Explorers Baby Group
(0-18mths) 9:30-11am
Health Visitor Drop-In 9:30-12pm
Adult Learning and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 12:45-2:45pm

FRIDAY
Lets Get Creative 9:30-11am
(Messy play Drop-In, please bring a change of clothing)

OTHER SERVICES
Toy Library
Volunteering Programme
Jumping Beans
Tiny Talkers



Norton

01782 231096

A Sure Start Children's Centre

St Nicholas Avenue, Norton, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 8JW

MONDAY
English Course and Crèche 1-3pm
(Ask at reception)

TUESDAY
Sweet Peas Baby Group 9:30-11am
(0-18mths)
Adult Learning and Crèche 1-3pm
(Ask at reception)

WEDNESDAY
Stay and Play Drop-In 9:30-11am

THURSDAY
Childminders Stay and Play Drop-In
(Childminders only) 9:30-11:30am
Growing Together 1-2:30pm
(Referral only)

FRIDAY
Maths Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 9:30-11:30am

OTHER SERVICES

Toy Library
Volunteering Programme
Jumping Beans
Tiny Talkers



Stoke-on-Trent North

01782 232977

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Bishop Road, Chell Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6QW

MONDAY
Stay and Play Drop-In 9:30-11am
Adult Learning and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 12:45-2:45pm

TUESDAY
Health Visitor Drop-In 9-10:30am
(Ask at reception)
Messy Monkeys Baby Group
(0-18mths) 9:30-11am
English Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 12:45-2:45pm

WEDNESDAY
Stay and Play Drop-In 9:30-11am

THURSDAY
Maths Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 9:30-11:30am
Tiny Talkers 1-2:30pm
(Ask at reception)

FRIDAY
Growing Together 9:30-11:30am
(Referral only)

OTHER SERVICES
Toy Library
Volunteering Programme
Jumping Beans
Fathers Group



Tunstall

01782 236655

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Woodland Street, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6AP

MONDAY
Stay and Play (Booking) 9:30-11am
Maths Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 12:45-2:45pm

TUESDAY
Childminders Stay and Play Drop-In
(Childminders only) 9:30-11:30am
Baby Massage 11:30-12:30pm
Drop-In
Jumping Beans 1:30-2:30pm
(18mths plus, booking required)

WEDNESDAY
Adult Learning and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 9:30-11:30am
Mum 2 Mum Breastfeeding Café
Drop-In 9:30-11:30am

THURSDAY
Stay and Play (Booking) 9:30-11am
Young Parents Group 10-12pm
English Course and Crèche
(Ask at reception) 12:45-2:45pm

FRIDAY
Busy Babies Group 9:30-11am
(0-18mths)
Well Baby Clinic 9:30-11:30am
Growing Together 1:30-3pm
(Referral only)

OTHER SERVICES

Toy Library
Volunteering Programme
Tiny Talkers
Teenage Parents Group
(Coming soon)



Families welcome to take part in packed activity programme

EVERY family in Stoke-on-Trent can make the most of a great range of services and facilities at the city's children's centres.

The teams reach out into their local communities to support families and give children the very best start in life.

But anyone is welcome to pop into their local centre and take part in one of the dozens of activities featured on this pull out and keep special feature.

Children's centres provide a range of services including:

- childcare and children's learning and development
- health services

- family support
- specialist support for children with additional needs
- outreach workers
- information for parents
- activities to help parents and carers get back to work.

Each children's centre also delivers additional services tailored to meet local needs.

There are even opportunities to volunteer and learn new skills that could lead to qualifications, a job or career change.

Contact details are included with each centre's calendar.



CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN THE CENTRE

Kingsland

01782 238352

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Eaves Lane, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 9AS

MONDAY
Time 4 You* 12:30-2:30pm

TUESDAY
Midwife Clinic (Booking) All Day
Baby Weighing Clinic 9-10:30am
Babbling Babes/Growing Together 10:30-11:30am
Staying Connected* 12:30-2:30pm
(Limited crèche places)

WEDNESDAY
Stay and Play (PICL) 10-11:30am
Stay and Play (PICL) 1:15-2:45pm
(Abbey Hulton Primary)

THURSDAY
Midwife Clinic (Booking) All Day
Ready Steady Learn 9:30-11:30am
(Please enquire)
Baby Weighing Clinic 1:30-3:30pm
(Abbey Hulton Clinic)

FRIDAY
Breastfeeding Café 10:30-12:30pm
Messy Monsters Craft 1-2:30pm

OTHER SERVICES

Toy Library (By request)
Sensory Room (Booking only)
Speech and Language Support*
Play and Learning in the Home*
Kingsland Kindergarten (Day Care)



Penkull

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Greatbatch Avenue, Penkull,

MONDAY
Stay and Play (PICL, 2-5yrs) 9:30-11am

Growing Together 1:15-2:45pm
(Baby Stay and Play for 0-12mths)
Midwife Clinic (Booking) All Day

TUESDAY
Triple P 9:30-11:30am
(Appointment only)
Breastfeeding Café 10:30-12pm
Stay & Play 1:15-2:45pm
(PICL, 1-2yrs)
Midwife Clinic (Booking) All Day

WEDNESDAY
Parent Forum 9:30-11:30am
(23 May, 30 May)
Chill and Chat 9:30-11:30am
(13 June, 20 June)
Cook and Eat* 9:30-11:30am
New Birth Registration Drop-In
(30 May, 27 June, Trent Vale Health Centre) 10-11am
Transition Group* 1-3pm

The Hope

01782 234357

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Garth Street, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent ST1 2DA

MONDAY
Stay and Play (PICL, 18mths plus) 9:30-11am
Health Visitor Drop-In 9:30-11:30am
Holistic Therapies Course 1-3pm
Hand and Nail Art (Starts 11 June) TBC

TUESDAY
Connect Community Group
(Limited crèche places) 9:30-11:30am
Health Visitor Drop-In
(Hanley Health Centre) 9:30-11am
Growing Together* (24 July) 1-2:30pm
Post-Natal Group 1-2:30pm
Health Visitor Drop-In
(Cobridge Health Centre) 1-3pm
P & L in the home* 1-4pm
Silk Painting (Starts 12 June) TBC

WEDNESDAY
Baby Stay and Play - Growing
Together (0-18 mths) 10:30-12pm
Mandarin Group 12:30-2pm
Babble and Speak* 1:30-2:30pm
ZUMBA at the PARC (Portland Street,
Hanley, £3.00 per session) 7pm
Jabadao Taster Session 10-11:45am
(16 May, Booking only)

THURSDAY
Ready, Steady, Go 9:30-11:30am
(Transition crèche to NEG/School)
Baby Massage/Yoga 10:30-12pm
(Venue TBC, booking only, 12 July)
Hands from Around the World*
10:30-12pm

FRIDAY
Triple P* 9:30-11:30am
Parent Forum 1-2:30pm
(First Friday of the month, all welcome)
Connect Business 1-2:30pm
(Third Friday of the month)

OTHER SERVICES

Speech and Language Support*
Play and Learning in the Home*
Family Support in the Home*
Family Walking Group
Volunteering Programme

Thomas Boughey

A Sure Start Children's Centre

College Road, Shelton,

MONDAY
ESOL 9:30-11:30am
(English Speaking for Other Languages)
EYFS Crèche* 12:30-2:30pm
Ready Steady Learn 1-3pm
(Transition based group)

TUESDAY
Baby Stay and Play 1:15-2:45pm
(PICL, 0-2yrs)

WEDNESDAY
Little Stars* 9:30-11:30am
(Additional Needs Group)
Stay and Play (PICL) 1:15-2:45pm
(2-5yrs, held at The Shelton Centre)
Parent Time 9:30-11:30am
(23 May, 20 June)

CHILDREN'S CENTRES ACTIVITIES



CHILDREN'S CENTRES IN THE SOUTH OF THE CITY

Blurton

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Oakwood Road, Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 3AR

01782 231815

MONDAY	THURSDAY
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-1pm	Growing Together 9:30-11am (0-5yrs, book at reception)
Jo Jingles (1-5yrs, £2 per family, term time, book at reception) 11:15-12:30pm	Start Up Literacy 12:30-2:30pm
Growing Together (0-5yrs, book at reception) 1-2:30pm	Baby Massage 1-2:30pm (Book at reception)
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Baby Clinic 9:30-10:30am (Hollybush Community Centre)	Growing Together 9:30-11am (0-5yrs, book at reception)
Play Together Group 9:30-11:30am (Book at reception)	Baby Signing 1:30-2:30pm (Book at reception)
Baby Club 10-11am	Growing Together (Newstead Primary School, term time only) 1:30-3pm
WEDNESDAY	OTHER SERVICES
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-11am	Indoor and Outdoor Playspace (open Monday to Friday)
Job Club 9:30-11am (Hollybush Community Centre)	Baby Massage (one to one sessions)
Baby Jabadao 9:30-11am	Volunteering Programme
Baby Clinic	Sensory Room
Blurton Children's Centre 11-Noon	
Blurton Health Centre 1:30-3:30pm	
Start Up Numeracy 12:30-2:30pm	
Parent Forum (fortnightly) 1-2:30pm	

The Crescent

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Pinewood Crescent, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 6HZ

01782 596421

MONDAY	THURSDAY
Crèche Training, Parent Forum, Volunteering and Respite 9-11:30am (0-5yrs, book at reception)	Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-1pm
Jo Jingles (£2, book) 10-10:45am	Crèche Training, Volunteering and Respite 9-11:30am & 12:30-3pm
Parent Forum 9:45-11:30am	Child Health Clinic 9-11am (Weston Heights Community Centre)
Baby Jabadao (0-First steps) 1-2:30pm	Numeracy 9:30-11:30am
TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-1pm	Crèche Training, Keep Fit, Volunteering & Respite 9-11:30am
Child Health Clinic 9:15-11:30am	Fitness/Zumba 9:45-10:45am (Book at reception)
Busybodies 9:30-10:15am (Meir Park Playgroup)	Growing Together 0-5yrs 1-2:30pm
Play Together (0-5yrs) 9:30-10:45am & 10:45-12:15pm	OTHER SERVICES
Baby Club 10-11:30am	Cook and Eat
WEDNESDAY	Volunteering Programme
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-1pm	
Crèche Training, Volunteering and Respite 9-11:30am	
Triple P 9:30-11:30am	
Growing Together (0-5yrs) 1-2:30pm	
Let's Get Started 9:30-11:30am (Invitation only, starts 2 May-22 Aug)	



OF THE CITY

01782 236333

Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7JU

THURSDAY
Health Visitor Drop-In 9:30-11am (0-5yrs)
New Birth Registration Drop-In 9:30-11am (31 May, 28 June, Penkull CC)
Stay & Play 10-11:30am (St John's Centre, Trent Vale, 0-5yrs, term time only)
Midwife Clinic (Booking) All Day
FRIDAY
Singing Sunflowers 9:30-10am & (0-5yrs, Stoke Library) 10:15-10:45am
New Birth Registration Drop-In (25 May, 29 June, Stoke Library) 11-1pm
Tiny Talkers* 1-2pm
Music and Movement 1-2pm (18mths-5yrs)
OTHER SERVICES
Toy Library
Sensory Room (By request)
Speech and Language Support*
Play and Learning in the Home*
Family Support in the Home*
Volunteering Programme

Fenton

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Travers Court, Temple Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 4NR

01782 237650

MONDAY	FRIDAY
Health Visitor Drop-In 9:30-11am	Parent Forum 9:30-11:30am (1 June, 22 June)
Cook & Eat (4wk course) 9:30-11:30am	Baby Jabadao (0-Walking) 1-2:30pm
Zumba Fitness Class (£3.50) 10-11am (Term time only)	SATURDAY
Fenton Book Buddies 11-12:30pm (28 May)	Dads Morning (2 June) 10-Noon
Growing Together (0-5yrs, invite only) 1-2:30pm	OTHER SERVICES
TUESDAY	Toy and Book Library
Play Together (0-5yrs) 9:30-11:30am	Community Garden
Baby Massage 9:30-10:30am (Ask at reception, 6wk course, 0-6mths)	Play and Learning Home Visits
WEDNESDAY	Sensory Room (book at reception)
Breastfeeding Café 10:30-11am	Volunteering Programme
Indian Head Massage 1-3pm (5wk course, 23 May)	
THURSDAY	
Outreach Drop-In 9:15-11am (Clarice Cliff Primary School, 24 May)	
Jabadao (0-Walking) 10-11:30am	
Coffee Morning Drop-In 9:30-11:30am	
Play Together (0-5yrs) 12:30-2:30pm	



The Grange

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Normacot Grange Road, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7AW

01782 233775

MONDAY	FRIDAY
Play Together (0-5yrs) 9:15-11:15am	Baby Jabadao 9:30-11am (0-First steps)
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9:30-2pm	Growing Together (0-5yrs) 1-2:30pm
Let's Get Started 1-2:20pm (Invitation only, starts 14 May-20 Aug)	OTHER SERVICES
TUESDAY	Crèche
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9:30-1pm	
Busybodies 9:30-10:15am (Meir Park Playgroup)	
WEDNESDAY	
Growing Together (0-5yrs) 9:30-11am	
THURSDAY	
Jo Jingles 10-10:45am (£2 per family, book call 01782 233775)	
Child Health Clinic 1:15-2:45pm	



Hanford

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Jubilee Road, Trentham ST4 8EF

01782 234024

MONDAY	OTHER SERVICES
Play Together 9:30-11:30am	Outdoor Play Area
Baby Jabadao 12:30-2pm (0-First steps)	Volunteering Programme
TUESDAY	
Growing Together (0-5yrs) 9:30-11am	
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-3pm	
WEDNESDAY	
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9-3pm	
Crèche for Training and Parent Forum 9:30-11am	
Parent Forum 9:30-11am	
Pandas Group (0-5yrs) 12-2:30pm	
THURSDAY	
Midwife Clinic ▲ 10-2pm	
Growing Together (0-5yrs) 1-3pm	
FRIDAY	
Play Together 9:30-11:30am	



01782 237100

Stoke on Trent ST4 2DQ

THURSDAY
Dove Service* 9-11am
Health Visitor and Baby Weighing Group Drop-In 1:30-2:45pm
Chill and Chat Drop-In (Limited Crèche places, must be booked) 9:30-11:30am
FRIDAY
Cook and Eat/Crèche (May only) 9:30-11:30am
Freedom Project Crèche 9:30-11:30am
Fun to Talk - Speech and Language (2yrs plus) 1:15-2:45pm
OTHER SERVICES
Speech and Language Support*
Play and Learning in the Home*
Family Support in the Home*
Volunteering Programme



Treehouse

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Dawlish Drive, Bentilee, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 0HW

01782 233670

MONDAY	FRIDAY
Playspace and Café 9:30-4pm	Playspace and Café 9:30-4pm
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9:30-3pm	Moss Green Growing Together (Riverside Housing Office) 9:30-11am
Baby Jabadao (0-First steps) 1-2:30pm	Midwife Clinic ▲ 9:30-3pm
TUESDAY	Lets Get Started 9:30-11:30am (Invite only)
Playspace and Café 9:30-4pm	Play Together 1-2:30pm
Health Visitor Drop-In 9:30-11am	Antenatal Group 1-2:30pm
Growing Together 9:30-11am	OTHER SERVICES
WEDNESDAY	Crèche (Mon, Wed, Thur)
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9:30-3pm	Playspace (Open to the public)
Baby Massage 1-2:30pm (0-12mths, book at reception)	Start-Up Courses available (Term time only)
Parent's Forum 9:45-11:00am (30 May)	Volunteering Programme
Start Up - SMILE 10-12pm (SMILE training & employment Drop-In)	
THURSDAY	
Playspace and Café 9:30-4pm	
Midwife Clinic ▲ 9:30-3pm	
Fitness Group ▲ 10-11am	
Growing Together 1-2:30pm	

Westfield

A Sure Start Children's Centre

Bucleuch Road, Normacot, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 4RF

01782 237500

MONDAY	FRIDAY
Play Together 9:30-11:30am	ESOL 9:30-11:30am
Twins and More Siblings 10:30-12pm	Parent Forum (18 May) 9:30-11:30am
Start-Up Course ▲ 12:45-2:45pm (Speak to Andy for more information)	Baby Massage (0-12mths) ▲ 10-12pm
TUESDAY	Growing Together 1-2:30pm
ESOL 9:30-11:30am	
Post Natal/New Baby 10-11am (0-9mths)	
Busybodies 11:30-12:15pm	
Baby Clinic 4:30-6pm (First Tue of every month, please book)	
WEDNESDAY	
Speech & Language Therapy ▲ 9-5pm	
Development Checks ▲ 9:30-1pm	
Play and Sing Together 1-2:30pm	
THURSDAY	
ESOL 9:30-11:30am	
Breastfeeding Cafe 10:30-12pm	
Baby Jabadao (0-First steps) 1-2:30pm	
Baby Clinic 1-3pm	

OTHER SERVICES
Soft Play Area (Mon-Fri) 8:30-5pm
Midwife Clinic (Mon-Fri) ▲
Crèche Training, Volunteering and respite (Mon-Fri)
Asian Ladies Advice Group Drop-In (17, 22, 31 May) 11:30-1:30pm
Play and Learning Home Visits (Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri)
Lets Get Started 9:30-11:30pm (Coming soon on Wednesdays, places are limited, ask for more information)
PACT Drop-In Session
24 May 1-2pm
12 June 11-12pm
21 June 2-3pm
Volunteering Programme
Early Intervention Team
Training and Employment Support

Children's Centre UPDATE

Children's Centres in Stoke-on-Trent are having a massive impact on the lives of the families they engage with. Here, *Our City* talks to parents and volunteers about their experiences.



Midwife Andrea Hoy chats to Michelle Lawton, 19, centre who is supporting her friend and mum to be Gemma Pattison, 19, right.

Midwife service boosts community health

Patriotic theme for summer

Thomas Boughey Children's Centre is staging a red, white and blue-themed summer to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.

Flags and bunting will adorn the centre in Shelton, and visiting children will be asked to paint pictures based on the patriotic colourful scheme.

In addition, fancy dress days will be held giving the youngsters the chance to dress up as Her Majesty and other members of the Royal Family. Meanwhile, royal-themed cooking sessions are planned.

On an Olympic note, the children are busy designing torches that will be displayed in the centre's windows in time for the official Olympic Torch Relay at the end of May.

And mini-Olympic-style events are set to be staged during Stay and Play sessions with competitors receiving their very own medals for taking part.

MIDWIVES and Stoke North Locality Children Centre have teamed up to offer young parents a raft of health and welfare advice at weekly sessions.

Parents under the age of 20 years will be able to access midwifery services at Tunstall Children's Centre alongside comprehensive children's centre support.

The specialist help will include antenatal care for expectant mums and visitors will be able to access a new tailored support programme called Young Parents-to-Be.

The programme aims to offer young parents new skills in a friendly supportive environment, which will include information on staying healthy during pregnancy and parenting advice.

There are fun activities for parents and their babies including bump art, baby massage and ways to promote a child's holistic development. Parents-to-be will also have the opportunity to meet young couples with children and share their experiences.

Community Midwife Andrea Hoy and Maternity Support Worker Tracy Byatt are also on hand every week to answer questions, provide antenatal care and to help and support young parents through to the birth of their babies.

Antenatal examinations, blood tests and Chlamydia screening are also carried out.

Lynette Womsley, who co-ordinates the sessions, said: "All young parents are offered the opportunity to



Emma Clews, 20, Fraser Hough, 19 and their 24 day old baby Blossom Hough. Emma and Fraser previously took advice from the antenatal care group.

attend the sessions, which are held on a weekly basis.

"This is an exciting partnership which brings together the expertise of the community midwife service with the specialist support offered by the children's centre."

The Young Parents-to-be group is held weekly on Thursdays between 10am and 12pm at Tunstall Children's Centre.

Anyone requiring further information can contact Lynette at Tunstall Children's Centre on 01782 236655.



Max Clark, aged three, dressed up for Olympic fun.

Toddlers tog up in togas for events

SPORTS MAD Max Clark is only three but he is already entering into the spirit of the Olympics as staff and parents plan Games-themed events at children's centres in the south of the city.

Dressed in his little Greek-style toga, Max is pictured looking forward to taking part in a variety of fun activities over the summer.

One-off sports days are being organised as well as themed days based around dressing up and healthy eating. Cultural awareness will also feature as the children taking part study each country competing at London 2012.

Max's mum Kelly, 31, is already looking forward to helping plan events at Treehouse, where she volunteers on reception and contributes through the Parent Forum. She also serves on the wider Parent Partnership Board.

She said: "Max is only three so he's not really that aware of the Olympics yet but I think it's a great idea and we'll definitely be taking part. He loves running around and getting fresh air. His favourite sport is football and he's a real outdoor kid so he'll love the sports days."

Jacqui Higginson from the centre said: "The Olympics has caught everyone's imagination so it'll be fun as we and our parents come up with ideas together for our themed days and events."

Day of fun staged in Burslem Park

FAMILIES are being invited to join children's centre staff for an Olympic-inspired day of local and international sport, arts and food.

The Family Games and World Picnic Event will take place in Burslem Park this summer and taking its lead from the 2012 Games, it will feature a packed programme of family fun and challenges. Burslem Park Rangers will encourage residents to discover the historic venue's collection of plants from around the world. And the whole family can get involved with StreetGames and the Ministry4Sport who will be running workshops.

Stoke North Locality Play and Learning teams will be putting babies and toddlers through their paces. For more details about the event, which runs from 11am to 2pm on 8 August, call 01782 238989.



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FORTHCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, STOKE:

Cabinet meetings are scheduled at 5.30pm:
31 May 2012, 28 June 2012 and 26 July 2012,
30 August 2012 and 27 September 2012.

The Annual Council meeting is at 11.00am on
24 May 2012. Full City Council meetings are at
5.30pm: 5 July 2012 and 6 September 2012.

For more information on your councillors go to stoke.gov.uk/councillors
Councillors can also be contacted through the Councillor and Civic Support Team who can take
messages and forward them on. They can be contacted on 01782 231922 or 231924.



HUNDREDS TAKE PART IN
COLOURFUL FLAG PARADE

CITY ATHLETES
MEDAL HOPES

STOKE-ON-TRENT'S
PROUD OLYMPIC HISTORY

DAD ROLLING STARS
IN MINI OLYMPICS

CITY BUSINESSES SCOOP
OLYMPIC CONTRACTS

INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE
CARRY THE FLAME

