

Community Pride

www.bradford.gov.uk



Green fingered ten-year-olds (from left) Olly Allen, Gary Cater and Rameesha Anjam have been helping the Council improve the natural environment at Pitty Beck and Chellow Dene. It is part of a Council project to create wetlands at the two sites which will improve the water quality in Bradford Beck – Full story page 3

We've made our website even better

www.bradford.gov.uk, the Council's website, has undergone a revamp to make it easier to use and more accessible. It will be relaunched in July.

Growing numbers of Council customers are paying their Council Tax and other bills online. More and more people from within the district and all corners of the world are also using the website as a way of communicating with the Council or finding out about its services.

The website had been receiving over two million hits every month but had become out of date and difficult to maintain since it was set up six years ago.

Any out-of-date information will be removed and content will be kept up to date and relevant. A number of templates will display the content to visitors and you can search by keywords, an A-Z listing or advanced search.

The site complies with current web standards for ease of use and consistent navigation. Print option, text only and black and white layouts are all available to make the site highly accessible to users with special needs.

Council Leader, Margaret Eaton, said: "The website is an increasingly important way for the Council to communicate with its customers and for them to communicate with us."

"The site had grown in complexity and size and desperately needed an overhaul. I am sure people will like the new look and feel of the site and will quickly appreciate and become familiar with the improved content and easier way of finding what they want."

- A further feature which has already been added to the website is Browsealoud. It allows users to have the text read out to them as the cursor moves over the words.

Browsealoud can be downloaded free from www.bradford.gov.uk to your own computer. As part of the Council's commitment to the Disability Discrimination Act all Council websites will be Browsealoud enabled.

- In our Speakout survey of 2,500 residents in 2005 28% said they had visited www.bradford.gov.uk in the previous six months.

Planning ahead

Six key priorities have been set by the Council for the year ahead. They form the backbone of its new Corporate Plan which has just been published.

The priorities are:

- Educating and supporting children
- Creating a more prosperous district
- Building safer and stronger communities

- Improving the environment
- Healthier communities and choice for older people
- Improving customer services.

The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's achievements over the last 12 months and areas for improvement in the next three years. It also sets a range of targets against which the Council's performance will be judged by the Audit Commission

and the Government.

Council Leader, Margaret Eaton, said: "The plan aims to build on our solid progress and ensure the pace of improvement is maintained. It is also an important way of showing how well the Council is doing and setting challenging targets for the year ahead."

Copies of the Corporate Plan can be viewed at libraries and Council information points or online at www.bradford.gov.uk

Your 'Buy it in Bradford' loyalty card gives you the chance to win cash prizes and take advantage of great discounts in city centre shops every night in the T&A.

And remember, you can have 30 minutes extra parking FREE if you pay for two hours on any day in most city centre Council car parks. Watch out for the stickers on the ticket machines.

BUY IT IN BRADFORD



CAMPAIGN

Inside

BRADFORD
one landscape many views

Page 2
Young people can borrow magazines



Page 8
A summer of sport and leisure



Pull-out
Environment Extra



Contact the Council

General enquiries: 01274 432111
To report a fault, request a Council service or information about a service, make a complaint or even give us a pat on the back the new Council Contact centre (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday) is the first port of call for a rapid response.

COUNCIL CONTACT

By phone: 01274 431000
By fax: 01274 740456
By text message: 07786 208100 (charged at phone companies' standard rates)

By e-mail: Use the Contact Us link on the Council website

FACE TO FACE

bdirect is a one-stop shop to help you deal with queries relating to services provided by Bradford Council, Inland Revenue, West Yorkshire Police, NHS, Pensions Service, Bradford Council for Voluntary Service, Jobcentre Plus and Citizens Advice Bureau. Visit the bdirect Customer Service Centre at Centenary Court, between the Midland Hotel and Forster Square Station, Bradford. It is open from 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday OR use the website at www.bdirect.org.uk



There are also advice centres at: Bingley Council Shop, 146 Main Street, Bingley (01274 438775); Keighley Information Centre, Keighley Town Hall, Bow Street (01535 618014); Shipley Advice and Information Centre, 2A Wellcroft, Shipley (01274 437016/7) The Manningham Centre, 1 Carlisle Road (01274 431501).

IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES

There are six Improvement Committees which scrutinise decisions made within the Council on behalf of the public and hold inquiries into matters of local concern. Their meetings are open to the public.

For more information, dates of meetings or to obtain an agenda contact the Committee Secretariat on 01274 433534 or visit www.bradford.gov.uk/council/council-and-democracy.asp

TALK TO YOUR COUNCILLOR

Councillors hold regular surgeries in their wards at which residents can discuss issues where a councillor may be able to help.

Contact details for individual councillors and details of surgeries can be found at www.bradford.gov.uk/council/councillors or by contacting the Member Support Unit on 01274 432282.

Putting the local into local services

Area Committees are one of the ways that the Council has passed down some of its decision making to a more local level.

There are five Area Committees, largely corresponding to the district's five Parliamentary constituencies – Keighley, Shipley, Bradford North, Bradford South and Bradford West.

They make sure Council services meet more closely the needs of local communities and that the concerns of those communities about a range of issues are heard.

Area Committee meetings are held regularly and are open to the public. Nine councillors sit on each Area Committee. They are selected from the councillors representing the wards across that area.

Area Committees are responsible for highway maintenance and improvement within their areas. They also have budgets from which they can pay for improvements to small parks and recreation grounds and grants for community clean-ups.

In the future, under a Local Area Management scheme, Area Committees are likely to take on more powers over the delivery of visible services, such as street cleansing and rubbish collections.

Through the Area Co-ordinator's Office they work with local residents' committees to develop initiatives and increase participation by residents.

An increasingly important area of work is Local Action Planning, working in partnership with Bradford Vision to

develop Neighbourhood Action Plans and Urban Village initiatives using Neighbourhood Renewal Fund cash.

Anti-Crime Partnership officers also work with the police, other agencies and Council departments to combat local crime and anti-social behaviour.

Janice Thornton, Head of the Neighbourhood Support Service, said: "The ward councillors on Area Committees make a wide range of decisions at a local level. They know their area really well and listen to what people say at Neighbourhood Forums, so the Area Committee decisions are more responsive to local issues and the needs of local communities.

"We also support local groups to make a difference in their own communities by helping to fund neighbourhood initiatives."

To find out the dates and venues of meetings or request an agenda contact your local Area Co-ordinator's office (see Neighbourhood Forums panel below for contact details).

Ashley Baker (11) and her brother Bradley (8) sample the new magazine offerings at Bradford Central Library.



which convinced us that introducing magazines for young people to borrow was a positive and welcome new service.

"The titles we have chosen are all based on the suggestions made. Many respondents gave specific magazine titles. Where only subject suggestions were made, I have tracked down titles that would be suitable for the subject and the age group."

A range of magazines are now in 17 of the district's 31 libraries – Baildon, Bingley, Bradford Central Library, Burley, Clayton, Eccleshill, Great Horton, Holmewood, Ilkley, Keighley, Laisterdyke, Manningham, Menston, Shipley, Silsden, Wibsey and Wyke – although not every title is available at each library.

The selections include Elle Girl, Cosmogirl, Bliss, Four Four Two, Aquila, TV Stars, Sight & Sound, Guitar Magazine, Animals and You, Gamesmaster, Top of the Pops, Action Man, Hair Now, Black Hair, Simpsons, Astonishing Spiderman and the official UK Xbox and Playstation 2 magazines.

"We will continually reassess the service and welcome feedback on the collections," added Christinea, who can be contacted on 01274 433915 or christinea.donnely@bradford.gov.uk.

Magazines to borrow

There's no need for young people to spend their valuable cash buying the latest issue of Sugar or Shoot magazine from the newsagent. They are now available in your local library.

In January Bradford Libraries carried out a survey and a competition in Community Pride to find out if young people aged between 11 and 16

would be interested in borrowing magazines from the library. The result was an overwhelming thumbs-up to the idea. A staggering 98% of respondents were in favour and said they would visit the library to borrow magazines.

Christinea Donnelly, development officer for young people, said: "We had a fantastic response

Air your views

Neighbourhood Forums are meetings where you can talk to the Council about local issues. The following forums will take place before the end of September 2005. To find out where they are being held and to request an agenda contact the relevant Area Co-ordinator's Office.

Bradford North Area (7pm unless stated, Area Co-ordinator's Office 01274 431066): **September** – 6, East Bowling; 7, Bradford Moor & Thornbury (Women, 1.30pm); Pollard Park & Otley Road; 8, Eccleshill (2pm); 15, Manningham; 21, Thornbury; 22, Manningham (2pm); 27, Fenby; 28, Barkerend.

Bradford South Area (7pm unless stated, Area Co-ordinator's Office 01274 431155): **September** – 6, Holme Wood; 7, Bierley (Evening); 14, Tong Street; 15, Tong Village; 21, Lidget Green and Scholemoor (Day, 1.30pm); 22, Sutton (Day); 27, Rooley; 28, Wyke; 29, Buttershaw.

Bradford West Area (7pm unless stated, Area Co-ordinator's Office 01274 432597): No Forums currently scheduled.

Keighley Area (7pm unless stated, Area Co-ordinator's Office 01535 618008): **July** – 18, Haworth/Cross Roads/Stambury.

Shipley Area (7.30pm unless stated, Area Co-ordinator's Office 01274 437146): **July** – 5, Cullingworth; 7, Shipley Central; 19, Bingley Town.

Watch the local press for further dates



The Council has teamed up with Disability Advice Bradford to update and increase the number and range of wheelchairs for short-term hire so that residents or visitors can still get out and about.

If you want to hire a wheelchair for anything from a day to a few weeks contact Disability Advice Bradford on 01274 594173.

the Council Contact call centre. It enables staff to have real-time conversations with deaf people via their minicom phone direct to the Council officers' computers

- Infra-red and sound enhancement systems have been installed in Council Chambers and committee rooms (see panel right)
- A caption performance system will soon improve deaf and hard of hearing people's experience of going to the theatre.
- Browsealoud, a free computer download, allows users of the Council's website to have the text read out to them.

Attitudes

Key staff and managers are receiving disability awareness training to improve our customer service.

Getting out and about

Improvements to over 90% of the district's controlled crossings are well under way and we are working with Metro to improve access to transport by raising kerbs at bus stops on key routes

Obstructions on pavements that have caused problems for mobility and visually-impaired people are being removed.

A public consultation event has already been held to find out what disabled people would like us to spend this year's £1.25 million on.

Hear clear!

Equipment has been installed in City Hall public rooms which will help the public to hear the meetings more clearly.

Some rooms have an induction loop or if you wear a hearing aid you can now borrow a portable neck loop. Or you can use a stethoset which helps if you are hard of hearing but do not use a hearing aid.

City Hall equipment can be booked through Customer Services on 01274 434759.

People in Keighley, Shipley and Ilkley will soon be able to benefit from similar equipment in their local Council Chambers.

DDA – we are doing our bit

In the past year the Council has spent nearly £2 million on improving access to its services in line with the Disability Discrimination Act and there is a further £1.25 million to come in the next 12 months.

The £2 million has all been spent on priorities identified by disabled members of the public after more than 160 people attended a consultation event in May 2004.

Views on what work needed to be done fell into four main areas and the Council has acted on them:

Buildings and equipment

Twenty-seven buildings have been, or are in the process of being made more accessible.

- Bradford Central Library has a new lift
- A proposed extension at Keighley Leisure Centre will create a state-of-the-art hygiene room
- St George's Hall has two new lifting platforms in the stalls area
- Mobile hoists and chairs will soon be in place at a number of swimming pools across the district.
- Haworth and Ilkley Tourist Information Centres now also have induction loops and improved access for disabled people.

Communication and information

- More than 70 frontline staff are learning British Sign Language
- A Textlink service is being piloted at

News in brief



New Lord Mayor's Appeal

Bradford's new Lord Mayor, Coun Valerie Binney, (pictured) has chosen the Burns Research Unit at Bradford University and Bradford Royal Infirmary and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance as her appeal charities during her year in office.

"I would appeal to everyone in the community to organise and support events this year to help the two charities," said Coun Binney, who would like to have a nominated person in each area of the district responsible for distributing information about the appeal in their neighbourhood.

Anyone who is interested can contact Appeal officer Alexis Jenner on 01274 434965 or e-mail alexis.jenner@bradford.gov.uk for more information.

Yorkshire Day

Bradford will host this year's Yorkshire Day celebrations on August 1, with up to 300 civic leaders expected to visit the city.

Bradford was last chosen to host Yorkshire Day in 1997, when the city celebrated its centenary.

Contact the Tourist Information Centres at Bradford (01274 433678), Haworth (01535 642329) or Ilkley (01943 602319) for details of Yorkshire Day activities.

Children help to improve Beck water

Children from Bradford schools have been helping the Council improve the water quality of Bradford Beck.

The Council's Building Control team has created wetlands at Pitty Beck and Chellow Dene which will provide a natural way of cleansing the water flowing through the beck.

Improving the water quality means it can be incorporated into plans for the city centre's regeneration and the possible re-opening of Bradford Canal.

The wetlands will be monitored by the Council and this research will be used in scientific projects across Europe and the UK.

Pupils from Crossley Hall Primary School, on Thornton Road, and Thornton Grammar School helped to plant reedbeds at the wetlands.

The reedbeds attract microscopic

organisms which break down pollutants in the water and act as a filter to collect solids and trap them so they can be broken down biologically.

Pupils from other Bradford schools have also been involved, putting in plants to create attractive wildlife areas for study and leisure.

The projects have been co-funded by the Council, the EU Interreg Project Urban Water Cycle and the Waste Recycling Group, WREN.

Coun Anne Hawkesworth, Executive Member for Environment, said: "Bradford Council is leading the way with this project to improve the city's water so it can be re-used in innovative and exciting ways.

"These wetlands will enable us not only to improve the quality of water flowing through Bradford Beck, but create wildlife areas for the whole community to enjoy."



Youngsters plant reeds along the waterside at Chellow Dene.



Ten year olds Joshua Blackham (left) and Danielle Whiteoak put SmartWater to the test on a computer keyboard at their school, Grove House Primary at Eccleshill.

Water smart way to beat thieves

Schools across the district are using high-tech water to out-smart thieves.

They have linked up with West Yorkshire Police and a company called SmartWater to take advantage of a new way of security marking school property.

The Council, which is a member of the Bradford Safer Communities Partnership, has paid for a SmartWater pack for each school.

SmartWater uses an invisible liquid which is "painted" like

nail varnish on to valuable items. It is virtually impossible to remove and leaves an individual DNA-style code which can be read using ultra-violet lights and property traced back to the owner.

Chief Inspector Keith Gilert, of West Yorkshire Police, said: "This is an excellent way to deter criminals and makes it a lot easier for us to identify property that is stolen. SmartWater also helps to get the crime prevention message across to young people at an early age."

Burglary – DOWN

Domestic burglaries fell by 30.7% in 2003/4 compared to the previous year, the lowest number in the district for over a decade.

Vehicle crime – DOWN

In 2003/4 the number of vehicle crimes fell by 17% compared to the year before and was 24.7% lower than 2001/2.

Robbery – DOWN

Robberies were reduced by 33% in 2003/4 compared with the year before and were 42.2% down on 2001/2.



Commercial crime – DOWN

The number of crimes against businesses in 2003/4 fell by 11.3% compared to the previous year.

Fear of crime – DOWN

The City Centre Wardens' annual 'Fear of Crime Survey' showed a 20% reduction in those "totally or mostly" afraid of crime.

The number of residents reporting that they feel safer walking alone during the hours of darkness in their local area increased to 46% in 2002/3, up from 40% in 2001/2. (Source: West Yorkshire Police survey)

Your district IS safer

Bradford district is a safer place to live, work and play than it was three years ago. That's the message from the district's Safer Communities Partnership, which has just launched its new 2005-2008 strategy detailing how it will build on that success.

There were 9,000 fewer victims of crime in the district in 2003/4 than in the previous year. Overall crime figures fell by 20% in the same period. Crime is also falling quicker than in similar areas around the country.

The Partnership comprises Bradford Council, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the district's four Primary Care Trusts, working with a range of other organisations. Its work focuses on tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in a variety of ways in addition to traditional policing methods.

Residents work in partnership with voluntary organisations, public agencies and businesses to help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Local initiatives are developed through five Anti-Crime Partnerships.

Drugs-related crime has been tackled through

the Crackdown and Dob in a Dealer campaigns and the Drugs Intervention Programme which was highlighted in the May 2005 issue of Community Pride.



Extra uniformed presence:

- Over 20 street wardens
- More than 90 PCSOs
- 15 park rangers

The use of state-of-the-art technology such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and CCTV has enabled the Police to identify vehicles that have been stolen or connected with criminal activity and intercept them. The Council's anti-social behaviour team reacts swiftly to incidents in the district's city and town centres.

There are also more wardens and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on our streets.

The Safer Communities Partnership has set itself two main objectives over the next three years – to make Bradford a district where people feel safe and a district with lower levels of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

Those objectives will be achieved by tackling crime and disorder and dealing with its root causes. Four priorities have been set. They aim to:

- Provide visible responses to crime and anti-social behaviour, including litter and graffiti



Co-chair of the Safer Communities Partnership, Coun Margaret Eaton, visits the Council's city centre CCTV control room.

More than 200 CCTV cameras are located across the district (130 of them in the city centre) working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect people and businesses.

- Support vulnerable people, particularly victims and witnesses of crime and anti-social behaviour, including domestic abuse and hate crimes
- Prevent offending by tackling the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Enforce the law by all legal means and using all appropriate agencies

"However we are aware that fear of crime is still a major issue for many people. Over the next three years we have to tackle that fear as well as making sure that the district becomes even safer for residents and visitors."

For more information or to download a copy of the strategy visit www.saferbradford.org.uk

Co-chair of the Safer Communities Partnership and Council Leader, Margaret Eaton, said: "The fact that crime figures have fallen over the last three years across the district is wonderful news. It highlights the benefits of working together and reinforces the great efforts being made by many people to reduce crime."



In 2004 Bradford's Safer Communities Partnership was commended by the Home Office for the second highest reduction in burglary, robbery and vehicle crime in the country.

It's summertime. Make sure your home isn't an open invitation to sneak thieves



Summer is a prime time for crime, from burglary of houses left empty while the residents are on holiday to sneak thieves taking advantage of open doors and windows.

Coming home from a dream holiday to find that your house has been burgled can turn a relaxing break into a nightmare.

And going back indoors after gardening to find that your car keys have vanished from the kitchen table and the car from the drive can put a dampener on the sunniest of days.

So, before you board that plane or put your feet up with a good book in the garden, here are a few tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Before heading off on that well-deserved break:

- Cancel the milk and newspapers
- Make your home look like someone is living in it. If your curtains are closed in daytime it looks like your house is empty. Use automatic time-switches to turn your lights on at night
- Mow your lawn before you go and trim back any bushes that burglars could hide behind
- Avoid discussing holiday plans in front of strangers
- Uncollected mail is a sign that you are away. The Royal Mail's 'Keepsafe' service will hold your mail for up to two months while you are away
- Don't put your home address on your holiday luggage
- If you normally leave bikes or DIY tools in your shed, consider putting them in the house
- Lock all outside doors, windows, garages and sheds and if you have a burglar alarm, set it

Just before you set off it's worth a final quick check

Sneak thieves are responsible for three out of ten burglaries. They don't use force. They are opportunists who rely on you being off guard and feeling safe in your own home. They will take anything from wallets, purses and credit cards to mobile phones and car keys. They operate with speed and accuracy and can leave victims feeling embarrassed and ashamed.

To stop sneak thieves:

- Keep windows and doors locked at all times – especially if you have popped upstairs or are out in the garden
- Keep any desirable or valuable items out of sight of passers-by and away from any points of entry
- Your garage and shed may hold valuables too so keep them locked
- Consider putting gravel under areas by windows. The noise can be an alarm for you and a deterrent for them
- Postcode your property with an ultra-violet marker pen and display stickers on your windows to tell potential sneak thieves that you have done so
- Photograph items of high or sentimental value
- Never leave a key in a convenient hiding place. Under doormats or in a flowerpot are the first places a thief will look.

Teamwork the key to reduced youth offending

Mark was 17 when he was sentenced by the court to a Supervision Order and referred to Bradford's multi-agency Youth Offending Team (YOT) after being involved in criminal offences.

He was assessed to be at low risk of re-offending and he was concerned about his future due to his criminal record. YOT staff felt the priority was to build his confidence and support Mark into training or work.

The YOT referred him onto the Prince's Trust Team programme, a full-time personal development course, and during the 12-week programme he had a work placement in the offices of a housing association.

At the end of the course Mark was offered a full-time job with the housing association. He was quickly promoted, has not re-offended and is still in touch with his YOT project worker.

Mark is one of many success stories for the Youth Offending Team since it was set up five years ago.

The 15% reduction in re-offending during that period has contributed to

the district's Safer Communities Partnership becoming the second most successful in England and Wales in 2003/4 for reducing crime and disorder.

Bradford YOT consists of staff from the

police, probation, social services, education and health authorities working together to reduce youth offending through crime prevention, targeted youth schemes, parenting support schemes and contact with the victims of youth crime.

Around 30 community projects work alongside the YOT to provide a broad range of activities such as art, media and practical skills to involve young people whilst building confidence, self-esteem and prevent re-offending.

Many of these projects rely on the efforts of volunteers, some of whom also sit on Youth Offending Panels and are involved in mentoring schemes.

Over the past five years the YOT has

helped more than 700 children and young people through the multi-agency Young People's Support Unit. Through the Victim Involvement project it has enabled over 800 victims to have their say in how young offenders take responsibility and make amends for their actions.

Head of the Youth Offending Team, Paul O'Hara, said: "A lot of hard work goes into helping prevent young offenders going back into crime and the team's impact on the reduction of youth crime in Bradford has been significant."

"Its work contributes to a safer community for all and we are committed to reducing the rate of re-offending even further."



Business Watch network on the increase

Growing numbers of local traders are teaming up with the Bradford District Safer Communities Partnership, comprising of the Police and the Council, to stay one step ahead of criminals in their area.

Eighteen Business Watch schemes now operate across the district.



Participating businesses display yellow Business Watch signs on lampposts and in shop windows to warn potential criminals that the traders are on the lookout for them.

Benefits include:

- Common aim of reducing crime
- More awareness of security problems and solutions
- Better communication between police and traders
- Tip-offs when known offenders are active in the area
- Business Watch signs to reinforce the message

Kay Adams, chair of Bingley Business Watch, said: "I've had my own door kicked in and feel safer being part of the scheme. It means that traders can exclude known trouble-makers with the support of the police and the Council."

ShIPLEY Shopwatch is relaunching as

ShIPLEY Business Watch. Traders are working with the police, the Council and the ShIPLEY Anti-Crime Partnership and can relay information to each other using radios linked to the CCTV system or by telephone.

Gary Smith, from Keighley police, said: "The support of people who work and trade in the town is essential for the Business Watch to be effective in reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in the ShIPLEY area."

For more information contact Gary Smith on 01535 617041, ShIPLEY Anti-Crime Partnership officer Sheila Brett on 01274 437146 or visit www.saferbradford.org.uk

Unique award for Adoption and Fostering Unit

A commitment to giving a high level of service to some of Bradford's most vulnerable people has made the Council's Adoption and Fostering Unit the only one in the country to be awarded the prestigious Charter Mark.

The Charter Mark is awarded by the Government to public sector organisations which demonstrate excellence in providing customer service.

It is the second time the unit has received the award. The first time was in 2000 and on this occasion staff had to prove that services had continued to improve over the last five years.

The unit's social workers secure around 300 foster and 60 adoptive places for children each year as well as supporting around 450 post-adoption families. Last year

they also managed 170 'letterbox' exchanges between adopted children and their birth parents.

Adopters, foster carers and children are regularly consulted on how they can best be supported by the unit and the results are fed back through newsletters.

As part of the drive to meet the needs of customers the unit also conducts its own research, for example into services provided for black, Asian and mixed parentage children and families.

On receiving the award, Council Leader Margaret Eaton said: "The Adoption and Fostering Unit does a great job, often in trying circumstances, giving children who have had a difficult start in life a second chance with a new family. I'm delighted it has been recognised in this way."



The Charter Mark award was presented during a private party in City Hall attended by staff and children and their carers. Fifteen-year-old Roy McQuade is pictured holding the award.

What's On 2005

Until Sept 25, Maximum Meaning, Minimum Means (Bradford Industrial Museum): Exhibition celebrating Abram Games, the inventor, graphic designer and artist. 01274 435900.

Until February 26 2006, Birds of Bradford (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): 01274 584140.

July

9-Sept 11, Bradford Open (Cartwright Hall): An unrivalled showcase for the district's artistic talent. 01274 431212.

9-Sept 25, Get Well, Get Well (Manor House, Ilkley): Exhibition about the role of the 'Water Cure' in the development of Ilkley. 01943 600066.

10, British Legion VE & VJ Day 60th Anniversary (Bingley): Procession 10.30am; Remembrance Service at Cenotaph at 10.45am; and exhibition and 1940s entertainment at Bingley Arts Centre, noon to 4pm. 01274 568694 or 07771 533034.

12, Kalai Kaviri (Victoria Hall, Saltaire): Sacred classical, folk and oriental dance drama from one of India's premier young dance groups. 7.30pm. £5 (£2.50 concessions). Tickets from Saltaire Tourist Information.

14, Guided Walks (Manor House, Ilkley): Looking at local history and archaeology. 2pm and 7.30pm. also 2pm on July 21 and 28 and August 4 and 11 and 7.30pm on Aug 11. Free. 01943 600066. **14, Paul Weller and Guests** (St George's Hall). 14-16, Wicked (Alhambra): Footsteps Theatre School perform hits from Broadway, the West End and commercial pop.

15, Esholt Walk (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): Nine miles 10.30am. 01274 584140.

16, Band Concert (The Grove, Ilkley): Two by Two Quartet. 1pm-4pm. 01943 609379. **16, National Archaeology Day** (Manor House, Ilkley): Hands-on session for visitors of all ages. 1.30pm-3.30pm. Free. **16-Sept 4, Puzzles and Illusions** (Cliffe Castle, Keighley): Exhibition which gives an insight into how our brains work. 01535 618231.

17, Band Concert (Lister Park). 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769

18-23, Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat (Alhambra)

20-23, Les Miserables – School Edition (The Priestley, Little Germany): Bradford premiere of the musical version of Victor Hugo's classic, performed by Bradford Youth Players, 7.30pm. £9/£6, 01274 820666 or www.thepriestley.org.uk. **20-31, Baby of the Year Competition** (Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley): 01535 664198.

21-23, Book Fair (Kings Hall, Ilkley).

23-30, Ilkley Tennis Tournament (Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club).

24, Band Concerts (Cliffe Castle, Keighley and Myrtle Park, Bingley): 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769.

27, Wild Wednesday (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): Environmental activities for children. Free but children must be accompanied. 2pm-4pm. Also on August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. 01274 584140. **27, Puppets Workshop** (Bolling Hall): Family activity. The story of puppets and a chance to make your own. Sessions 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. 01274 431814.

28, Nature Detective (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): A half day of wildlife activities for 8-12s. Places must be booked. Small charge. No adults necessary. Also on August 4, 11, 18, 25 and Sept 1. 01274 584140. **28-30, The World of Charles Dickens** (The Priestley, Little Germany): £6.50/£4.

29, Shipley Glen Family Walk (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): Three miles. 10.30am. 01274 584140.

30-Sept 18, Young Open (Cartwright Hall): Gallery walls and display cases packed with work by young people from 0-16. 01274 431212.

31, Band Concerts (Foster Park, Denholme and Lister Park): 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769.

August

1, Yorkshire Day celebrations (Districtwide). **1-31, Ilkley Summer Festival** (Ilkley): Including continental market and themed children's days. 01943 602319.

3, Tudor Time Detectives (Bolling Hall): For ages 7-12. Search the Hall for clues, investigate the suspects and solve the crime. Sessions 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. 01274 431814.

7, Fun in the Park (Riverside Gardens, Ilkley): Live music, acrobatic entertainment and unstoppable comedy. 1pm-4.30pm. Free. 01274 434769.

7, Band Concert (Myrtle Park, Bingley): Friendly Band. 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769.

10, Toys and Games (Bolling Hall): For ages 7-12. Silk painting workshop. Sessions 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. 01274 431814.

12, Baildon Bank and River Aire Family Walk (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): 4.5 miles. 10.30am. Bring packed lunch. 01274 584140.

13, Wildlife Connections (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre): A half day event with activities including pond dipping and kite making. Noon-5pm. 01274 584140. **13, Fitness Marathon** (Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley): In aid of Manorlands. 01535 664198.

14, Band Concert (Foster Park, Denholme): 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769. **14, Bingley Show** (Myrtle Park): One of the biggest one-day agricultural shows in the country. 9am-6pm. 01274 564400 or www.bingleyshow.co.uk.

15-27, Summer Shopping Competition (Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley). 01535 664198.

17, Spymasters (Bolling Hall): For ages 7-12. Looking at the history of spying and famous spies with games and activities. Sessions 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. 01274 431814.

18-22, Funfair (Lister Park)

21, Band Concert (Cliffe Castle, Keighley): 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769.

22-27, Wait Until Dark (Alhambra): Thriller with Susie Amy (Footballers Wives) in the role which earned Audrey Hepburn an Oscar nomination.

24, Key to the Kingdom (Bolling Hall): Family activity. Explorers and discovery. Sessions 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. 01274 431814.

27, Band Concert (The Grove, Ilkley): 2pm-4pm. 01943 609379.

28-29, Haworth Carnival: 01535 642329 or www.haworthvillage.co.uk

29, Band Concert (Lister Park): Yorkshire Building Society Community Band. 2pm-4.30pm. 01274 434769.

31, Superheroes (Bolling Hall): For ages 6-9. Compare superheroes. Sessions 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm. 01274 431814.

September

3, Keighley and District Agricultural Show (King George V playing fields, Marley, Keighley): 01535 645074 or www.keighleyshow.org. **3, Music at Myrtle** (Myrtle Park, Bingley): The annual free concert featuring Bradford band Smokie; The Drifters; Blondie tribute act, Blondied, and Robbie Williams tribute act, Robin Millions. From 5pm. 01274 434769. **3, Band Concert** (The Grove, Ilkley): FM Folk Band. 1.30pm-4.30pm. 01943 609379.

3-4, Arts Festival (Haworth): Featuring live music, street theatre and parkour and dance workshops. 01535 649421 or www.haworthartsgroup.co.uk

4, Party in the Park (Myrtle Park, Bingley): Top names from the charts will once again grace The Pulse's annual concert. £8. www.pulse.co.uk

9, Eldwick Switchbacks Walk (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): Five mile wander to the edge of Ilkley Moor, returning over 'drumlins' and along Shipley Glen. 10.30am. Bring packed lunch. 01274 584140. **9-12, Heritage Open Days** (District wide): 01274 433763. **9, Bat Talk and Walk** (Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, Baildon): 7pm. 01274 584140.

10-18, Saltaire Festival (Saltaire): Music and theatre, continental street market, a two-day Art and Craft Fair and the CAMRA Beer Festival in Victoria Hall. 01274 584714 or www.saltairfestival.co.uk. **10-18, Art Exhibition** (Kings Hall, Ilkley).

For information about performances at the Alhambra, Studio or St George's Hall contact 01274 432000 or www.bradford-theatres.co.uk

Could you be better off too?

Many people across the district are better off since the Council's Benefits Service launched its 'Cut Your Council Tax' campaign with an article in the March 2005 Community Pride.

More than £250,000 of previously unclaimed Government money is to be paid out across a range of Council benefits. Several people have already received backdated Housing and Council Tax payments of nearly £4,000 each.

Over 90% of the new claims have come from people over 60 and Council Deputy Leader, Kris Hopkins, said: "We really want to help people in the district with their housing costs and the early results of this campaign are very encouraging. However there are still a lot

of people out there, many of them pensioners, who are not claiming benefits they are entitled to."

Head of Benefits, David Gray, said: "If you think you may be entitled to Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit please fill in the coupon. If you've been sent a form please fill it in and send it back as soon as possible. We are here to help and can provide visits if you can't get to one of our offices."

For more information contact 01274 432772 or visit www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits-service. Alternatively, return the coupon right and the Benefits Service will send you a form and let you know what information they need to process your claim.

I wish to claim (please tick):

- Council Tax Benefit
- Housing Benefit
- Second Adult Rebate

Cut your Council Tax

Name

Address

Postcode

Date

Signature

Return the coupon to:
FREEPOST RLTC-KEGA-JGRX,
Bradford Council Benefits Service (Dept 18),
Britannia House, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 1HX.
You do not need a stamp.

News in brief



Back to his roots

TV gardener and local lad, Alan Titchmarsh, visited Haworth Primary School to spend an afternoon with children from the Gardening Club.

He talked about his earliest memories of gardening, gave them a few tips on planting runner beans and opened a new polytunnel in the school grounds. The flowers which pupils grow in it will be planted in baskets and tubs outside the doctors' surgery, police contact point and fire station in Haworth.

Big-hearted Alan (above) came along at his own request after having to turn down an earlier invitation to launch the club's charity calendar.

Now you can pay us 24/7

Council customers can now pay their bills by debit card 24 hours a day seven days a week thanks to a new touchtone telephone payments system.

It is initially available for payment of Council Tax, Business Rates and other Council debts. It will be extended later this year to include all payments to the Council.

To use the service call 01274 430043.

Keighley welcomes Tour

Keighley is gearing up to welcome the riders in the 2005 Tour of Britain cycling race which will be spinning through the district on Thursday, September 1.

An event in Victoria Park that morning will include a range of fun cycling-based activities and will also promote cycling routes around the district.

The professional riders on the Tour will tackle some challenging climbs as they race 170km from Leeds to Sheffield on the third of six stages. At Cow and Calf and Oxenhope they'll be looking to gain points towards the "King of the Mountains" award within the main event.

The route will be passing through Otley (11.26am), Ilkley (11.40am), Keighley (noon) and Oxenhope (12.24pm). Times are approximate.

For more information visit www.tourofbritain.co.uk

Workstep gives disabled people a helping hand

Workstep, a national programme run in Bradford by the Council's Skills for Work Service and JobcentrePlus, is one of the best in the country for training and employing disabled people.

That was the verdict of adult learning inspectors who praised the work being done to help people develop skills and further their careers.

Their report highlighted how working environments and the structure of the working day had been tailored to meet

individual needs. They awarded the Council grade 2s (good) – a mark so far achieved by only five out of the 86 Workstep providers across the country.

Matloob Hussain is among more than 60 Workstep clients who now work at Industrial Services Group (ISG), a Council-run commercial operation based at Paddock. ISG specialises in making PVC-u windows and doors, festival lighting features and mailing and packaging.

The PVC-u operative said: "The value of Workstep is that it provides real skilled jobs for people with disabilities in a secure environment, enabling them to earn a living and gain their self-respect."

Meanwhile, Graham Farr is one of more than 40 people working for other local companies and sponsored by Work-Able, a scheme set up 15 years ago by the Council to enable people with disabilities and ill health to find and retain work.

His future at Switchgear & Instrumentation Ltd was uncertain when a serious illness led to many months off work.

Graham said: "Doctors told me I wouldn't be able to return to my job as a machine operator with Switchgear, but now I am retraining to do a more challenging and fulfilling job in Quality Assurance. Workstep and Work-Able have made that career move possible."

Coun Dale Smith, Lead Member for Education, said: "The results of the inspection have underlined the Council's commitment to providing opportunities for everyone in the district and the contribution of employers, whose support is crucial to the success of the programme. But the real achievement is that people have seized the opportunity offered by Workstep."

For more information about Workstep or other services offered to disabled people contact Work-Able on 01274 432170 or e-mail admin.workable@bradford.gov.uk



Matloob Hussain (right) demonstrates his new-found skills making double-glazed window frames to (from left) Jeff Holt and Sheila Crowther of ISG and Coun Dale Smith.

Boring school holidays? Enjoy the great outdoors

"Mum, what can we do? Dad, I'm bored." The cries parents dread to hear during the long summer school holiday.

Fear not, because Sport and Leisure Service staff are intent on providing a range of activities to satisfy the shortest of attention spans.

Don't miss National Play Day on Wednesday, August 3 (1pm-4pm). It's part of National Play Week and the theme is "Fit for Play". Your children can try bouncy castles, sports and games, arts and crafts and there will be

information stands and refreshments.

It's free and is taking place on the grassland by Baildon Recreation Centre. Bradford Area Play Association (BAPA) and the Council's Sport and Leisure and Early Years and Childcare services have done all the organising, so you can just turn up and enjoy.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and you do need to book (from July 15). Contact BAPA on 01274 597704 or marilyn@bapa.org.uk

cultural, educational and constructive activities based around themes such as healthy living, the environment and physical activity and play.

But the emphasis is always on fun. Your child could find themselves getting soccer, golf or rugby coaching, taking part in a dance workshop, getting an introduction to the creative arts or on a day trip to Scarborough, Flamingo Land or American Adventure.

For more information and prices check out www.bradford.gov.uk/tourism/sport/play.asp; contact your local library or the Community Play and Activities Development Unit on 01274 435496 or e-mail play.development@bradford.gov.uk

● If your youngsters fancy making a splash over the summer there are a

range of sailing, canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing courses at the Doe Park Water Activities Centre in Denholme during July and August.

They're a great fun introduction to water sports, you can sign up for a day or a week and they're open to adults as well. So, why not get your own feet wet too.

For more information and prices visit www.bradford.gov.uk/doepark or contact Doe Park on 01274 833826 or e-mail adventure.development@bradford.gov.uk

● A *b active* camp is planned at The Leisure Centre, Keighley, during the school holidays providing sports activities all day during the week for the 5-8 and 9-12 age groups. Contact 01535 681763 for details.

Competition

Tu-tu good to miss



Matthew Bourne's production of *Swan Lake* is daring and totally original. It transforms one of ballet's best-loved stories into a stylish, witty, poignant contemporary tale with extravagant designs.

Bourne is perhaps best known for replacing the traditional female *corps de ballet* with a menacing male ensemble, a formula he brings to the Alhambra from September 26 to October 1.

You can experience Bourne's ballet of our times, with a little bit of help from Tchaikovsky, courtesy of Community Pride. We have two pairs of tickets to give away for the opening night on Monday, September 26 (7.30pm). Just answer the simple question below.

Entries must be received by noon on Friday, August 12. If you are sending your entry by post please remember to use a stamp. Two winners will be drawn from all the correct entries. The competition is open to residents of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area only. The Editor's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

● Carol Hamilton, of Eccleshill, and Tatiana Bastow, of Wrose, each won pair of tickets to see *Fame* at the Alhambra after winning our May competition. They correctly said that New York is also known as The Big Apple.

SWAN LAKE Competition

Name

Address

Contact number

e-mail

Question: A young swan is known as what?

Answer

Return to: **SWAN LAKE Competition, Community Pride, Room 21a, City Hall, Bradford BD1 1HY.**

Bradford Theatres will send you information about forthcoming events. If you do not wish to be added to our mailing list please tick this box.



● Free sports activity and coaching sessions will be held at the Multi-Use Games Areas that have been set up across the district and a Bradford Bulls Olympic Day at the Horsfall Stadium is also planned. Watch out for details of these events at sports centres and in the local media.

Ilkley Lido – the coolest place to be this summer

Ilkley Lido will be the venue for the 13th Ilkley Triathlon on Sunday, September 4. Two hundred athletes are already preparing for a 7.30am start and a test involving a 500-metre swim in the Lido, a nine-mile cycle ride and a three-mile run.

Sixty others are waiting on the reserve list should anyone drop out of the event organised by Leeds and Bradford Triathlon Club and Bradford Council's Sport and Leisure Service.

But if the heat is on this summer and you need to cool off or you just fancy something a little more relaxing, Ilkley Lido is open every day throughout the summer until at least September 2.

You can enjoy a seaside atmosphere on your own doorstep at the area's only outdoor pool with its water fountain, lawned area and café and picnic tables. There are tennis courts, a putting green and crown green bowls and if the weather turns nasty there's a heated indoor pool as well.

Until July 22 Ilkley Lido opens from 11.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday, then from 10am on weekdays after that. It is open from 10am to 5.30pm on weekends and Bank Holidays.

For more information contact the Lido on 01943 600453.

● There is more good news for swimmers with the reopening of Eccleshill Pool on Monday, July 11 after a £1.5 million revamp.

The new entrance and changing rooms, featuring a state-of-the-art electronic locker system, can now be accessed directly from the car park, with improved disabled access.

A lot of work has also been done on upgrading behind-the-scenes plant and equipment to keep the water and the building warm.



Ilkley Lido takes six days to fill with over 250,000 gallons of water. Fortunately staff at the lido were given a helping hand by pupils from Burley Woodhead Primary School before opening the doors for the summer season.