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## Housing Refurbishment Scheme Celebration



*Left: Street Rep  
Maureen Broad  
proud to show the  
improvements  
made to her home  
in Chapel Street,  
Knutton to the  
Mayor and  
members of the  
Knutton St Mary's  
school choir*

An event to celebrate the completion of the Knutton heritage facelift scheme took place on 16th December 2008. Newcastle Borough Council's Mayor, Councillor John Cooper, opened the event with a speech followed by a performance of Christmas songs by Knutton St Mary's Primary School choir.

Seventy three houses that were once used to showcase the decorative work of local brick maker John Nash Peake, have undergone a £1.7 million scheme to breathe new life into the area. The project was funded by RENEW North Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, with input from English Heritage.

Works carried out include repairs to damaged decorative brickwork and tiles, using materials that complement and enhance the original features. Chimney pots, doors and windows were also replaced and, where appropriate, other architectural features, such as boot

scrapers, have been renovated. Many of the houses have also benefited from new rear alleyway boundary walls and entry gates.

Residents, contractors, funding and local service providers gathered in Chapel Street to hear the speech, which was



followed by a special replica terrace house-shaped cake cutting ceremony at Gordon Court.



*Above: Chapel Street during and after the Terrace Heritage Work*

# Biodiversity



*Early-bird local volunteers stand to attention on a cold and crispy morning in December 08*

Over 143 volunteers from all ages, helped to increase the landscaped character of a quarter of an acre of land between Lymedale Business Park and Cotswold Estate, Knutton during National Tree Week in December 2008. With the help of the Newcastle Countryside Project, local residents and workers, and school children planted a total of 752 mainly bare-rooted whips of various tree species.

The original Masterplan for the area had mentioned increasing tree cover in the area to help reinforce local identity. Aspire Housing's RENEW Project Officer, Laurence Reardon, has been working with the new Knutton Residents Association to increase community ownership of the countryside.

The Association was successful in obtaining funding from the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Community Action Fund, Newcastle Borough Council for its Local Agenda 21 and the Woodland Trust.

Residents' Association Chairman, Tony Eagles, was delighted with the event and said: "People don't realise that planting trees is

one of the easiest ways to offset a business' carbon footprint, as trees absorb carbon dioxide to produce oxygen. Visually, however, we will have to wait a few more years, as the trees become established."

The Residents' Association felt that with the current lack of mature trees in the area generally, there is a need to sustain and increase the benefits to the public by expanding existing woodlands, adding wildlife value to the area.

Pete Wells, from the Newcastle Countryside Project, has advised the group of residents and recruited volunteers from Bursley, Hempstalls, Churchfields, Silverdale and Knutton St. Mary's Primary Schools, as well as NCHS - The Science College.

Darren Green, Senior Regeneration Manager, at Aspire Housing said: "We are always looking at ways of working with local communities to assist them in improving their living environment. A large planting scheme, such as this, gives the opportunity for people to come together to benefit future generations."

# Knutton Terraces Heritage Work Completed

## Another Brick in the Wall

Residents of Lawson Terrace are also delighted that the heritage project has not only refurbished their homes, but also replaced the rear boundary walls.

The old wall was built at the beginning of the twentieth century and was crumbling, looked unsightly and meant that residents' homes were less secure.

Now it appears as good as new, complementing the other heritage features that have helped return homes to their former splendour.



*Before: Crumbling Walls*



*After: As Good as New*

## Victorian Style



*Julie Shea showing off her newly installed Victorian - style Window Box.*

As the Knutton Heritage facelift scheme came to an end, local residents were determined to continue the process of making a difference to prove the Village is a vibrant place to be.

One of the Alleygate Associations has now had gates fitted at each end of the alley between Gordon Street and Cemetery Road. The Association successfully applied for funding from Knutton and Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP) and Beth Johnson Housing Association to acquire Victorian-style Window Boxes. These have now been placed under the new upstairs windows at the front of their homes.

Aspire Housing installed the boxes and sponsored the pots, compost and plants to go in them (supplied by Iron and Stone Garden Products Ltd), in time for the celebration of the heritage work.

Julie Shea, Chair of Gordon Street and Cemetery Road Alleygate Association, said: "We are hoping to add a splash of colour all year round." She added that when Aspire's Marketing Team heard that the project was over-stretched, it agreed to "sponsor the flowers for the window boxes so that none of residents wanting window boxes in either street would be disappointed."

# Knutton Public Realm Strategy

In 2007 RENEW developed a public realm strategy for Knutton Village. Residents were invited to a series of consultation events in 2007 to ask opinions on the strategy and projects which were proposed to be carried out in future years.

Funding was committed by RENEW, Aspire Housing and Newcastle Borough Council to implement a series of projects including more off-street parking areas on the Cotswold Estate along the lines initiated under Environmental Improvements in 2006.

Below: *Parking Schemes for the Cotswold Estate*





## Questions to the Editor

Knutton Village Farm has won £50,000 of lottery funding. On hearing the news, David Dixon a Knutton Street Rep writes "Good News!! We are so glad and pleased for all concerned. I know it's a farm, but it would be nice to see what is happening on our doorstep so to speak. Is it possible to visit the farm and see what goes on there?"

### Editor's Note:

*The Village Farm won the funding by beating rivals in a television vote on Central News. The TV vote came after the project reached the final of the Big Lottery Fund's Peoples' Millions contest.*



Picture above: Rare Tamworth Pig at Knutton Village Farm

The public determined the winner by voting on Monday 24 November 2008.

Located next to Newcastle Children's Centre and having already received funding from RENEW and other partner agencies, the farm is due to open to the public in 2009. Volunteers will then be allowed to grow food and produce power through renewable technology.

The funding will pay for a big barn and outside paddocks containing animals, which volunteers will also look after. Bikes inside the barn can be pedalled to generate electricity to run an information DVD. The farm will provide training courses and guided tours as well as after-school and holiday activities for families and schools.

## Small-Scale Environmental Improvements for 2008/09

### Six passed to next stage

Applications for small-scale environmental projects were submitted by local residents in July and August 2008. A working party of agencies and residents involved in the area judged the 2008-09 submissions. The projects will be funded by RENEW and Aspire Housing.

Six projects have been shortlisted and residents living near to the proposed works will be consulted before any work takes place.

The shortlisted projects are:-

1. Upgrade of the existing CCTV system at Ashfields Court, Cross Heath.
2. Clear up overgrown woodland at the top of Cheviot Close, Knutton.
3. Replace metal fencing behind Roberts Avenue, Cross Heath (to be match funded by Newcastle Borough Council).
4. Tidy triangular island outside Dave's Chippy on St. Bernards Road, Knutton.
5. Install boundary fencing and gates between two properties on St. Giles Road, Knutton leading to disused recreational land.
6. Create extra parking at Poplar Close, Cross Heath.



Ashfields Court to receive another small-scale improvement in 2009 funded by Aspire Housing

# Down Your Way



Left: Weston Close, Lower Milehouse (2008)



Lillian Frost is proud to live in Weston Close, often talking about the plaque put up to commemorate the building of her road “homes built for heroes”. Yet this slogan comes from the policy of building public housing after the First World War but the Lower Milehouse Estate dates from the 1950s.

The mystery is solved when a close look of the photograph taken shows that the plaque actually celebrates the “Festival of Britain”. This was a national exhibition which opened in London and around Britain on 3rd May 1951. The principal exhibition was held near Waterloo station at the South Bank of the river Thames, London. Other exhibitions toured Britain by land and sea.

The Festival occurred 100 years after the Great Exhibition of 1851 which demonstrated that Britain at that time was a world leader in culture and industry.

Shortly after the end of World War II, much of London was still in ruins and redevelopment was badly needed. The Festival was an attempt to boost morale and demonstrate progress.

A copy of the rules of the ‘Down Your Way’ Photograph Competition, can be viewed on the Photographs Page on our website <http://www.knuttoncrossheath.co.uk/Photographs.html>

If any other reader has any images, reflecting the changes happening in the neighbourhood please contact Laurence at Aspire Housing.

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## Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P)

Parenting is an extremely important and rewarding job, but it can sometimes be frustrating and demanding. Children don’t come with an instruction book. Problems with behaviour and emotions are common to many families, and sometimes a bit of support can make a lot of difference.

The Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) is an approach that promotes good communication and strong relationships between parents and children. Programmes usually last for eight weeks and are normally completed as part of a group. Groups are friendly and participants can join in as much or as little as they want. Triple P has helped many thousands of families, and has the seal of approval of parents and practitioners worldwide.

Sessions will be taking place at Ramsey Road Community Centre - so if you would like further information or are interested in using the service, please contact Lisa Dale, Triple P Facilitator on 01782 425883 or [lisa.dale@northstaffs.nhs.uk](mailto:lisa.dale@northstaffs.nhs.uk) or visit [www.firststepsstoke.co.uk](http://www.firststepsstoke.co.uk).



Knutton Cross Heath  
NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT



## Useful Contacts

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Website: [www.knuttoncrossheath.info](http://www.knuttoncrossheath.info).

### **Aspire Housing**

01782 635200

Darren Green, Janet Rawlinson, Kevin Hancock or Kadenia Cole

(Please note that Vicky Roe and Cheryl Prichard are on maternity leave from January 2009)

To discuss Shared Ownership ask for Dan Gray

### **Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council**

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, Civic Offices, Merrial Street,  
Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG

Main switchboard - 01782 717717

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### **Neighbourhood Wardens**

01782 742515

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### **RENEW North Staffordshire Helpline**

01782 232024

The Residents' Friend service offers independent information and advice about the Housing Market Renewal Programme.

Contact Emily Tomkinson, Residents' Friend,

Telephone 01782 408787

Drop in Tuesdays, Ramsey Road Community Centre, 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm.

**Home visits are also available on request**

**This newsletter can be provided in alternative formats on request.**

**Please telephone us on 01782 635200**