

Your

STANHOPE

Issue five - November 2007

Halloween high spirits!

Young ghosts, witches and vampires of Stanhope gathered at Linden Grove Primary School on Tuesday 30 October to celebrate Halloween with a costume party and to raise money for the Linden Grove Breakfast Club.

The young people looked fabulous in their Halloween costumes, most of which were made at workshops arranged by local artist, Sarah Smith, before the event. There were smiles all round as everyone enjoyed hot dogs, popcorn and drinks and participated in Halloween games and activities.

Sarah Smith and Moat's Naureen Ullah had a tough time judging the winners for the best costume prizes, but in the end they selected Chloe Ponting, age six, as the winner in the category for 'best girl costume' and Callum Jackson, age four, as the winner for 'best boy costume'. Karen McCue won the prize for the 'best parent costume'. The young people were awarded Halloween crafts sets and Karen McCue won a gift basket of spa products.

The event also raised funds for the Linden Grove Breakfast Club. Proudly sponsored by Moat for the past two years, the breakfast club supplies school pupils with a free breakfast every school day and has been a tremendous success.

Jan Henry, Moat's community development officer, says: "The party was great fun and the costumes the young people created were fantastic! They really put a lot of effort into making their costumes and everyone had a great time."

Moat staff also had the opportunity to talk to parents about starting a residents' association, which would encourage resident involvement with community activities and future events. A residents' association could plan activities for the community and would be able to apply for funding to help cover the costs. Anyone interested in becoming involved is encouraged to contact Jan Henry at the Stanhope Neighbourhood Office on 01233 647396. We will provide you with an update in our next newsletter!



Christmas opening at the Stanhope Neighbourhood Office

The Stanhope office will be closed on the following dates:

Christmas Eve Monday 24 December, Christmas Day Tuesday 25 December
Boxing Day Wednesday 26 December and New Year's Day Tuesday 1 January 2008

The office will be open on: Thursday 27 December, Friday 28 December and
Monday 31 December from 9am - 5pm (limited number of staff available).
The office will open again for business as usual on Wednesday 2 January 2008.



Ashford United unveil new kit



Moat is proudly sponsoring Ashford United football club for the coming season, including providing its two teams, the under seven's and under 11's, with a brand new kit. The teams are made up of local young people, with the majority of them living on Stanhope, and they have strict codes of conduct for both players and parents.

Ashford United's aim is for young people to have fun whilst learning the art of football, away from the "win at any cost" attitude held by some clubs. The club secretary, Emma Iveson, says: "We want to play competitive football and winning is definitely part of the plan, but we are more interested in making sure that our players enjoy learning about football, teamwork and good sportsmanship. We hope to produce talented players for the future, and any player going on to compete at a higher standard is the ultimate achievement."

Moat is very pleased to support Ashford United and wish them every success on the field.

Photo shows: back row, Tyler Davies, Billy Caton, Jan Henry, Connor Ross and Kayleigh Balcombe. Front row, Luke Morton, Sean Carroll, Jamie Morton and Jack Andrews.

Girls Allowed!

Youth club for girls only from 13-19 years old

Monday evenings 6pm - 8.30pm
Christ Church Youth Centre, Stanhope Road, Ashford

Activities include: cooking, theme nights, sports, creative arts, dance mat, SingStar, badminton and ICT

For more information call
Bridget King on 01233 28173

Do you run a club or group on Stanhope?

Do you need funding for a project or event?

The Stanhope Community Chest may be able to help!

The Stanhope Community Chest offers grants of up to £1,500 for projects and activities that will benefit the community at Stanhope – see the leaflet with this newsletter for more details or contact the Neighbourhood Office on 01233 647396 for an application pack.

Stanhope Community Chest

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The Community Chest panel will be meeting to consider the first batch of applications very soon and details of their decisions will be published in future newsletters.

Past projects that have been funded include: football clubs, outings for groups for older residents, parties and personal development training for young people.

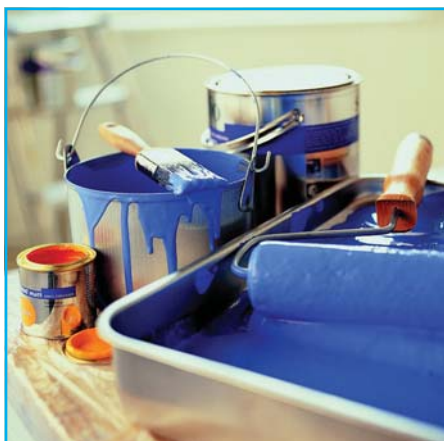
Dick Whittington is coming to Stanhope - oh yes he is!

Cre8tive productions will be bringing their touring pantomime to Stanhope on Wednesday 16 January 2008.

Linden Grove Primary School have kindly offered the use of their hall as a venue. There will be a small charge of £2 for adults and £1 for young people, which includes a drink and a carton of popcorn. Space will be limited, so book your place early.



Tickets are available from the Moat Stanhope Neighbourhood Office, Otterden Close.



Senior citizens decoration scheme

Ashford Borough Council provides the senior citizens decoration scheme. The scheme is available to any Ashford Borough Council tenant aged 60 years or over, including Stanhope residents.

When registered on the scheme, you can have one room of your choice decorated every third year.

You can get further information about this and an application form from the Stanhope Neighbourhood Office, Otterden Close, Stanhope.

Help beat a cheat!

Ashford Borough Council has appealed to Stanhope residents for help in beating benefits cheats.

Councillor Paul Bartlett, deputy leader of the council, says: "Many people see benefit fraud as a victimless crime but that is very far from the truth.

Every penny dishonestly or illegally claimed from Ashford Borough Council in Council Tax and Housing Benefit comes directly from the public purse.

It's money which we would much rather be spending on improving our services to the public. By robbing the system benefit cheats are robbing their neighbours and every Council Tax payer in the borough."

Ashford Borough Council has access to information held by agencies including the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs and runs a monthly data match search to help trace fraud.

Peter Purcell, Ashford Borough Council's revenues and benefits manager, says: "There is no escape for people committing benefit fraud. We are robust in our action and, as has been demonstrated, the court penalties can be severe.

"We have access to a range of personal information and once we have detected a fraud we will not let it go. All monies illegally claimed have to be paid back."

If you are aware of a benefit cheat then you can call the Ashford Borough Council hotline on 08000 262456 giving as much details as possible or phone the council direct on 01233 330453. All calls are treated in confidence.

Remember – it's you they are cheating!

Contents insurance for Stanhope residents

Moat recognises that residents can face problems getting adequate insurance cover, so a lowcost home contents insurance scheme geared towards your needs has been set up with Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance PLC.

With premiums starting at just over £1 per week everyone can afford to be covered.



The benefits include:

- No excess payable on any claim
- Fast and efficient claims service
- "New for Old" cover
- Accidental damage extension available at an increased premium
- Cover for damage caused by fire, lightning strike, explosion, storm or flood
- Cover for escape of water or oil from any fixed water or heating installation or domestic appliance
- Cover for theft or attempted theft
- Cover for riot or vandalism
- Cover for accidental damage to TV and hi-fi equipment and accidental breakage of mirrors and fixed glass in furniture
- Cover for freezer contents
- Cover for theft and loss of keys
- Cover for damage to interior decorations
- Accidental death cover
- Payments can be made weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually.

Application forms are available from the Stanhope Neighbourhood office.

QUESTIONS! QUESTIONS!



Moat customer service advisors and Denne tenant liaison officers are asked hundreds of questions every day by tenants. Here are a few of those that get asked the most:

What refurbishment work is planned for my home and when will it be done? We plan to renew your kitchen (including the units, sink and worktops, wall tiles and flooring); your bathroom suite (and separate w.c. if you have one) including flooring and wall tiles. All of your electrics will be rewired and your central heating boiler will be replaced if it needs it. We will replace boundary fences and carry out works to the car port area. The Denne tenant liaison officer will do a survey of your home closer to the time to establish exactly what needs doing and to run through the work with you. To find out approximately when the works are planned for your home you can visit the Stanhope Neighbourhood Office, Otterden Close or phone customer services on 01233 647396.

How do I get rehoused when my block of flats is decanted? You must go through Choice Based Lettings with Ashford Borough Council to bid for properties from the start of the decant date for your block. For more information contact June Hollis at Ashford BC on 01233 330200

I'm due to be rehoused when my block of flats is decanted – do I have to keep paying my rent?

Yes. Although you may be eligible for a lumpsum disturbance payment from Ashford Borough Council when you move this doesn't mean you can stop paying your rent in the meantime. If your rent account goes into arrears action will be taken against you, which will put you at risk of being evicted.

I'm confused about rubbish collection – some of my neighbours seem to put it out on different days?

Normal domestic waste is collected on a Monday and black sacks should not be placed outside of properties on any other day of the week. Blocks of apartments also get a collection on a Thursday. Bulk refuse, including furniture etc, is collected on the fourth Tuesday of each month and items must be put out on the Monday evening before - no sooner!

Win £50 in vouchers in our **COMPETITION**

All you have to do is answer the question below.

Q. What are the two age groups of Ashford United football teams sponsored by Moat?

A. _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Return your entry to the Neighbourhood Office, Otterden Close, Stanhope, Ashford, TN23 5TH. The closing date is 30 November 2007. The competition is open to Stanhope residents only. The first correct entry drawn will win £50 in vouchers. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Moat employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

The winner of the competition in the last issue was Mrs M J C Palmer of Leaveland Close, who won £50 in shopping vouchers.

Fun and games at the fete



Back in August, Stanhope Square and the Parish Rooms were festooned with balloons and bunting for the Stanhope Fete.

There were lots

of stalls including Dennes, Powerminster, KCC Community Wardens and Ashford Mediation, with a variety of games and competitions. The Police sent their Hawkeye Mobile CCTV unit along and the Stanhope Sewing Club had a stand with examples of their handiwork for. Marlon Benjamin brought his decks along to provide the music and an opportunity for young people to try their hand at rapping, while the Line Dancing club demonstrated their talents in the Parish Rooms. The Kent Children's Fund Network entertained children with fun and games from their "Box of Delights" and face painting was expertly provided by Sure Start.

Terry Brickland of Evans Toffee Apples in Whitstable, generously donated tubs of popcorn and candy floss. Proceeds from sales of these treats, along with drinks and hotdogs were all donated to the Linden Grove Primary School Breakfast Club. A whopping £167 was raised for this worthy cause!

We were lucky to have one of the few dry days of the summer and a good time was had by all!

STANHOPE

chrysalis ▶ moat

DENNE CONSTRUCTION powerminster limited