

# Your

# STANHOPE

Issue four - August 2007

## We won!



The Stanhope Moat float in this year's Ashford Carnival won first prize in our category.

Residents worked hard with Moat staff and Whitstable artist, Sarah Smith, to create a 1960's experience commemorating the opening of Stanhope in 1967, featuring hearts, flowers and rainbows with the residents of Stanhope dressed as hippies.



A series of workshops were held to make and paint cardboard flowers to decorate the float, string bead necklaces for the flower people to wear and tie dyed t-shirts to complete their outfits.

The weather was exceptionally kind on the day and residents were overjoyed when it was announced that they had won first prize.

Sarah Smith said: "It was a pleasure to work with the residents and by all pulling together we achieved a fantastic result! There are a lot of artistic people living on Stanhope and I look forward to planning next year's float."

Community development officer, Jan Henry said: "It is amazing that our first effort won first prize! It was great to see so many residents working together. We are hopeful that those who took part will want to form a Residents Association and work with us on future projects. We have set ourselves a high standard to live up to!"



Making tie dyed t-shirts



Celebrating the win



Painting flowers



Stanhope history was made when The Nelson Public House was knocked down on 5 July. Palma Laughton struck the first blow whilst other residents looked on. It was the end of an era and we all look forward to the regeneration works to come.

On the refurbishment side, Lynsted Close is well underway, including the road and path works.

The new build of the diversion of services (gas, BT and new electrical sub-stations) is close to completion and Denne hope to be on site starting construction on the new homes during the month of August.



The Respite House is now complete and can be visited by appointment with Denne's tenant liaison officers based in their offices at Ackerley Court or at the Neighbourhood office. The house will be available for residents to use during the day whilst works are carried out in their homes.

Residents will be able to see examples of the kitchens, bathrooms, boilers (pictured above) and garden gates (pictured below) that will be on offer.



## National Skills Academy proposal to be on Stanhope

Denne Construction has been working with Construction Skills to set up a National Skills Academy on the Stanhope regeneration project. If successful, this will be the first National Skills Academy for construction in the South East of England.

In July the Denne proposal received unanimous support from the Regional Skills Forum, a body made up of key government agencies in the South East. The next stage is for final approval to be given by the Board of Construction Skills. This is expected later this year.

If successful, the Academy will provide a range of training opportunities by linking up with trade contractors working with Denne on the construction of the new housing. These will include:

- Working with local schools and teachers
- Providing site visits and work experience placements for students studying construction
- Offering apprenticeship placements
- Providing existing workers with an opportunity to qualify under the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

Key partners who will be working with Denne on the National Skills Academy will be South Kent College, the Learning & Skills Council and Construction Skills.

## PFI Residents' Monitoring Group

A group of residents have volunteered to assist Ashford Borough Council in monitoring performance against the standards in the PFI contract, the refurbishment and the development processes.

The first meeting took place on Thursday 12 July and the group were taken to see the respite centre/show house to see the standard of the new kitchens, bathrooms, paving and fencing being provided for tenants on the estate.

The Monitoring Group members are: Chris Ireland, John Muchene, Bryn Davies, Laureen Farrell, Brendan Chilton, Isabelle O'Shea and George Pollard.

# WORKING WITH US Stanhope REACT

an article by John Hopkinson

Stanhope REACT is a independent organisation and is not part of Moat, Ashford Borough Council or any other organisation. It is run entirely by volunteers.

Stanhope REACT will work with any individuals and organisations committed to improving quality of life in Stanhope.

Stanhope REACT chairman, John Hopkinson said: "We welcomed the appointment of the Chrysalis consortium to take forward the PFI as in our view it had the best proposals for community space. Stanhope REACT is delighted with the decision to provide a legacy building as we put a lot of pressure on the PFI bidders to come up with a community resource centre. We also lobbied to ensure Kent County Council put the new library in the centre of Stanhope.

Our most exciting recent development is getting a grant from The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Programme. Against severe national competition we were granted £151,900 to be spent over five years to employ a full time development worker. We expect to appoint a development worker in early August.

We are hoping that the development worker will make a huge difference to what Stanhope REACT will be able to achieve. It is our intention to work in a positive and constructive fashion with individuals and organisations which either are or should be working for the benefit of Stanhope to ensure that lasting improvements are achieved.

It is relatively easy to build a physical environment – houses, shops etc but it is a lot more difficult to build a social community: to break down barriers, support those with particular needs and so on. Much good work has already been done and Stanhope REACT intends to build on these achievements by encouraging greater investment in Stanhope for the benefit of residents. There are many opportunities for Stanhope out there: what REACT and other organisations, in partnership, must do is grab them!

REACT is now a limited company. We have just updated and approved our development plan. We do not claim to represent the views of anyone other than our own organisation or speak on behalf of residents."

Stanhope REACT are keen to add to their membership. Please contact John by email at [johnhopkinson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:johnhopkinson@blueyonder.co.uk) or call 01892 680345.



Ashford Sunflower Nursery at the Ray Allen Centre provides childcare by experienced and committed staff in a secure, stimulating and happy environment

- The nursery is registered to take children from birth to 7 years and 11 months
  - Healthy eating policy
- Flexible hours from 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday
- Government funded places available

For more details or to arrange a visit please contact Margaret Monk on 01233 613848.

## Estate Inspections

**Come and join your housing officers on their monthly estate inspections.**

Each month the housing officer and any interested residents will physically walk around the areas with a view to identifying:

Communal repairs - Monitoring the cleaning and gardening contracts - Untaxed and abandoned vehicles - Overgrown and untidy gardens  
Rubbish - Graffiti

Residents will be written to nearer the time inviting them to attend. The estate inspections will not cover resident's individual repairs inside their properties.

For more information on when inspections are taking place in your area phone your housing officer or Customer Services on 01233 647396.

**What kind of community events and social activities would you like to see happening on Stanhope?**

Give Jan Henry, community development officer, a call on 01233 647396 and let her know your ideas!



Jan Henry



The winners of this year's Parish Council 'Stanhope Garden Competition' are Mr and Mrs Smith of Lynsted Close who won a total of £60 shopping vouchers for their green fingered efforts.

Pictured above by Mr and Mrs Smith's pond are judges Maurice Stewart, Stanhope's Community Warden and Kent County Councillor for South Ashford, Derek Smyth.

The third judge, Kate Norman, customer services advisor for Moat said: "This year's standard was very high but unfortunately we did not receive any entries from our tenants. We hope next year that some of the tenants will also enter their gardens in the competition."

Moat was happy to co-sponsor this year's event.

## Breakfast Club gives Stanhope kids a good start to the day!

For the second year running, Moat is proud to sponsor the Linden Grove Primary School Breakfast Club. This club provides a free breakfast for young people between 8.15am and 8.45am, setting them up for the day.



Jenny Wilson runs the club, along with a group of willing helpers. She has noticed a significant

improvement in the behaviour of the children who come to the club. She explained that many of the children would often skip breakfast, which the most important meal of the day, until the Breakfast Club was set up.

Deputy Head Teacher Lee Hovey also praised the success of the club, saying: "The Breakfast Club has made a huge difference to the young people's alertness and concentration levels in class, as well as vastly improving some of their attendance levels. Before, some used to arrive after 9am, and this could disrupt the whole class. Now we know they're in school bright and early, and when they get to class they're awake and ready to learn".

# Win £50 in vouchers in our COMPETITION

All you have to do is answer the question below.

**Q.** What is the name of the artist who worked with residents to design and make the prize winning Carnival float?

**A.** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Return your entry to the Neighbourhood Office, Otterden Close, Stanhope, Ashford, TN23 5TH. The closing date is 14 September 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 Melissa Vassallo of Eastry Close, who won £50 in Tesco vouchers.

## Flowerpot painting at the community garden party

Moat invited residents to paint a flowerpot at the garden party held by Sure Start at the Ray Allen Centre in June. It was a showery day (no surprises!) but that didn't stop



residents coming along and having a go at painting a pot and many other activities.

The Ray Allen Centre Community Garden has been looked after by the volunteer bureau with community members for many years. The centre has recently been expanded so that other organisations or individuals can get involved and find out for themselves how rewarding gardening can be.

### Join the Ray Allen Centre Garden Gang!

The Garden Gang meets regularly to share ideas and do some of the work in the garden. To join, you don't need to have any gardening experience, you just need to have an interest and enjoy sitting, playing or working in the garden.

For more information drop in to the Ray Allen Centre and speak to Monica Williams or call 01233 620495.