

# Trust Talk

Issue 2: March/April 2008

**Welcome to 'Trust Talk', the newsletter which aims to keep you in touch with what's going on at Trust Thamesmead and in our community.**

In March our Board of Trustees agreed four strategic themes which will form the framework for our plans and direction for the next three years. These are:

- An Inclusive Community
- Skills for Life and Work
- Improving Community Infrastructure
- Children Young People & Families.

The Board also agreed three underlying principles that will shape 'how' we deliver the Strategy based on our proposed 'Community Anchor' approach:

- Advocacy = where we, working with others, identify an unmet need or shortcoming in service delivery and make representations
- Partnership = where we combine our resources with others to maximise our effectiveness
- Community Engagement = where we work with local people to build their capacity and strengthen local community organisations

Over the next month we will be consulting with our key stakeholders on the actions, outputs and resources needed to deliver the Strategy. If you would like to talk to a member of our team about how your ideas and plans might fit with ours or you just want to find out more about our plans then please contact David Stone on 020 8320 4470 or email [dstone@trust-thamesmead.co.uk](mailto:dstone@trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

Meanwhile it's been an eventful few weeks at the Trust as we've worked with various organisations to help deliver a wide range of activities in Thamesmead.

## Sporting Club Thamesmead

In the last issue of Trust Talk we were delighted to report that Bexley Council had given the go-ahead to our plans to redevelop the facilities at Thamesmead Town Football Club. We have been working on this £4 million scheme for 2½ years and receiving planning permission meant we could go ahead with a substantial bid to the Football Foundation.

Project consultant Richard Fishlock, of Continuum Sport & Leisure, says that our £1 million application for Sporting Club Thamesmead has now been submitted. We are hoping for a successful outcome in July.

## T'riffic Thamesmead

The Trust's 'T'riffic Thamesmead education pack project has been warmly embraced by local schools to the extent that all 13 Bexley and Greenwich primary schools in Thamesmead have confirmed that they will be participating.

The Trust's Head of Communications and Marketing, Elaine Johnson, told Trust Talk: "It's just fantastic that every single primary school in Thamesmead has signed up for the project, which it's hoped will give children a deeper understanding of the history and heritage of the area, foster pride in their community and give them a sense of belonging.

"The packs, which will be based on the national curriculum, are aimed at Yr6 pupils who will enjoy and learn from a creative week of discovery after their Key Stage 2 SATs in June.

"We're currently researching archive materials for the pack and have uncovered some real gems which we know will inspire the children including a series of maps going back as far as the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, newspaper cuttings, old photographs and documentary films. If you have something for consideration for inclusion please let me know on 020 8320 4477 or email [ejohnson@trust-thamesmead.co.uk](mailto:ejohnson@trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

## Surviving the Holocaust

The Trust has given 60 budding historians from Woolwich Polytechnic School the opportunity to bring their studies to life. Year 11 and 12 students spent an afternoon listening to the testimony of Holocaust survivor Ruth Barnett, who gave a very powerful and moving talk about her life in Nazi Germany, the time she spent living in England as one of many thousands of Kinder transport children, and her eventual return to Germany.

The students impressed Ruth with their knowledge of the subject, asking her many pertinent questions and discussing the relevance of the Holocaust in today's world and the issues around conflict and genocide.

Trust Arts & Events co-ordinator Danny Thorpe told Trust Talk: This is another example of where the Trust is working in partnership with local schools to deliver real benefits to Thamesmead young people. The students were engaged, informed and an absolute credit to the school.

“This event also marked the culmination of our work with Heartstone, an organization which exists to challenge racism, prejudice and intolerance. We have now hosted two Heartstone exhibitions in Reception at our Town Centre offices, the first looked at Black History Month and the second dealt with the Holocaust. The Trust would like to thank the Arts and Leisure department at Bexley Council for facilitating these.”

## International Women's Day

Thamesmead residents and town centre workers were able to experience a range of complementary therapies including Reiki and Indian head massage at an event to celebrate International Women's Day in March.



The event, which was held in the Trust's reception area, was much appreciated by those who took advantage of the free treatments.

One participant said: “How lovely for women to take ten minutes to relax from their hectic schedule.” We couldn't agree more!

## The T Factor

There's been a great response to the invitation to audition for this year's Trust Thamesmead T Factor competition.

Trust Marketing & Communications Assistant Julia Hickson told Trust Talk: “With 42 acts applying for The T Factor and a great mix of solo singers, groups and dancers we have an exciting T Factor audition and final to look forward to.”



The T Factor auditions are taking place on Saturday 5 April with the final being staged on Wednesday 14 May at the Greenwich Theatre.

## Festival Update

Plans continue to progress for this year's Trust Thamesmead Summer Festival which is taking place this year on 12 July.

The festival, which is again being held in Birchmere Park, will have a sporting theme to tie in with the high profile that sport will have throughout the summer with the Olympics taking place in Beijing and the subsequent handover to London for 2012.

Look out for the next issue of Trust Talk when we will be announcing the main stage line up.

## Worth the Wait

The often long wait in the town centre Post Office queue need not be quite so tedious from now on.

Why? Because there's a new Trust Thamesmead television advert to help pass the time. The ad highlights some of the impacts we are making in the community, again using images from the Trust's extensive photo library.



The Trust's Head of Marketing & Communications Elaine Johnson told Trust Talk: "The advert continues the theme of our Annual Report where we reported on the real impact that the Trust is making in the community.

"For example we know that 85% of people accessing Building Futures said the service met their needs and that in the year to March 2007 more than 400 local people were helped into either jobs or training.

"It's difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of this method of advertising but we are promoting our website quite heavily and the stats show that the monthly figure for visitors to the site has increased from just under 1,000 to an average of 1,700 in the past year, which is great."

The Trust's ad is being shown 27 times a day, 148 times a week and research tells us that on average there are 11 people queuing in the Post Office for between 5 and 15 minutes at any one time. This means that the advert promoting the Trust will be seen by approximately 7,500 people every week.



## Surfing the Net

Thamesmead Surfers who meet weekly in the IT suite at the Trust's Arnott Community Centre were recently thrilled to hear about their successful application to Awards for All for £5,000.

Trust Community Development officer Roz Williams has worked with them on developing their constitution, policies and funding application and they are now formally constituted with elected officers and a bank account.

"The grant will enable them to use the Arnott for 12 months for their classes," said Roz, "They can also have social outings, invite guest speakers to their meetings and continue their social networking and skills development. The group is also benefiting from other Trust services and programmes having recently participated in the capacity building training facilitated and held at the Trust, and attending Older Person's events organised by the Trust."

## A Name from the Past

The Trust's Arnott Pre-school on the Moorings estate had an unexpected visitor recently, as Manager Tracy Norcott explains: "We were locking up at the end of the day when our door buzzer sounded. I answered our intercom and a man with an American accent said he was an architect and asked if he could have a look around.

"He produced identification bearing the name S Mooring and, as I showed him into the building, I commented that his name was very familiar in this area.

"He then told me that he had help design the Arnott and surrounding area and said that a group of the first tenants had asked for this area to be named after him.

“There’s been a burning question I’ve wanted to ask for a long time and here was the man who might be able to answer it for me. I wanted to know why the hall has such an unusual ceiling. He told me that it was to do with the acoustics and he was amazed that the ceiling was still intact after so many years. Mr. Mooring was interested to hear how the Trust now managed the community buildings and about the recent ‘Getting Perfect’ film.

“He told us that he was a trainee during the development of the first two phases of Thamesmead and told us that if we looked closely at the film Clockwork Orange we would see him in the background.”

## 103.7fm TGR Sound

Three members of local community radio station, 103.7fm TGR Sound have visited the cAve to try out the indoor climbing wall, interview climbers and staff and review the extreme sport. They had a fantastic time and the feature they recorded has been aired several times.

103.7fm TGR Sound is on-air 24/7 is mainly presented by volunteers who live locally. The station has been soundly beating Time FM in the listener ratings for several months and is rated as the fourth most listened to radio station in the area after Magic, Capital and Heart FM. You can catch them at 103.7fm or online at [www.tgrsound.co.uk](http://www.tgrsound.co.uk)

## Trust News in Brief

**We can help:** the Trust’s weekly fruit and vegetable market stall has two new much-needed volunteers both of whom are already very active in their local communities. One is the leader of the Beavers/Cubs group which meets weekly at Manor Close and the other is a member of the Gallions Residents Board. They will undertake their “on the job” training through the Greenwich Community Food Co-op.

**They passed:** Twelve students have successfully completed the six month Teaching Assistant training course run jointly by Trust Thamesmead and Groundwork, the charity which creates opportunities for people to learn new skills and become more active citizens. Gaining their qualification was a significant achievement for some of the students who had to combine studying and work placement along with looking after their young families. Congratulations to them all.

**A Brit of News:** T Factor finalist and singing sensation Georgia Collins is celebrating having been offered a place at The BRIT School. This is the only free performing arts college in the country and has been produced some of the leading names in music, with former pupils including Amy Winehouse, Adele and Kate Nash. Earlier this year Georgia performed live in front of 20,000 people and millions of television viewers, at The O2 at the opening of an NHL Ice Hockey Tournament. Georgia is very excited about starting her studies in September.

**Playing Swopsies:** the Trust's Community Development team is planning to extend the Chinese and Vietnamese community's book exchange project at Thamesmead Library by taking it to the Thamesmead Chinese Line Dancing group, which meets weekly at the Atrium.

**Be a Friend of the Trust:** Do you have a Facebook account? Then why not follow in more than 100 other people's footsteps and become a friend of Trust Thamesmead? Log onto: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## Trust Thamesmead Events Coming Soon...

18 April

Thamesmead Youth Sports Festival.  
For 11-19 year olds living or going to school in Thamesmead. To register contact Janice on 020 8320 4470 or email [janice@trust-thamesmead.co.uk](mailto:janice@trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

21 April – 9 June

Hair Styling Course for Thamesmead residents with access to public funding. This eight-week course (10:00-12:00) at Southlake Centre in Seacourt Road, will give participants a basic knowledge of hair styling. More information from Building Future's the Trust's training and job project. T. 020 8320 4470

21 April – 9 June

Hair Cutting Course for Thamesmead residents with access to public funding. This eight-week course (12:45-2:45 every Monday) at Southlake Centre in Seacourt Road, will give participants a basic knowledge of hair cutting. More info from Building Future's the Trust's training and job project. T. 020 8320 4470

19 – 25 May

Adult Learners' Week helps to inspire thousands of people to see what learning could do for them, offering them the chance to catch up on skills they've missed out on in the past, or develop themselves for the future. Every year Trust Thamesmead works in partnership with service providers to lay on an array of activities for Thamesmead residents and this year is no different. Check out [www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk](http://www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

12 July

Get Set for the Trust Thamesmead Summer Festival in Birchmere Park.

You can get more information about all the Trust Thamesmead events listed here and many other regular weekly activities by calling 020 8320 4470 or visiting [www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk](http://www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

## Feedback Welcome

We hope you've enjoyed reading 'Trust Talk'. If you'd like to comment on anything please contact the Editor Elaine Johnson. If you know of anyone else who would like to be added to our distribution list please email: [ejohnson@trust-thamesmead.co.uk](mailto:ejohnson@trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

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