

The EXCHANGE

the newsletter of Regeneration Exchange

September 2004

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Social Futures Institute competition Snapping happy on Teesside



Teesside University's Social Futures Institute asked youngsters in the area to capture their own idea of home in a picture.

The competition was held as part of the background to the Institute's major conference 'A place to call home'.

Teachers in Tees Valley schools were invited to encourage students to think about why the area is home to them, and to capture their idea in a photo.

The winning entries of the competition - sponsored by Regeneration Exchange - were exhibited at the conference in July.

Says Institute director Dr Tony Chapman, 'we strongly encouraged entrants to produce imaginative, striking or quirky images enhanced by digital technology to increase the artistic quality of the piece, or to merge or overlay different images. We were also interested in images that told us something about the future of the Tees Valley, perhaps by putting images of different people and places together or changing their size relative to other objects.'

The entries to the competition were judged by members of the Social Futures Institute Management Board. The four prize-winning entries have won a digital camera for their school.

Our picture shows one of the entries from the winners of an additional special award, the children of Sacred Heart C of E Primary School, Ayresome Street, Middlesbrough. Each of their series of paintings showed two sides of the same street. One side of the street was beset with problems such as litter, vandalism, car fires and other types of antisocial behaviour. On the other side, all was neat, clean and peaceful, just as a good neighbourhood should be.

Tony Chapman adds, 'we were tremendously impressed by the entries. The children used a great deal of imagination to think about what makes community life special and what makes a neighbourhood a safe and secure place to live.' There are plans to show the whole exhibition in local libraries in and around the Tees Valley.

Info Service

The Exchange is the newsletter of Regeneration Exchange. Regeneration Exchange promotes communication and networking between regeneration partnerships, partner agencies and groups in the North East. The project is steered by a management group made up of practitioners from initiatives across the region.

Regeneration Exchange can:

- support and arrange conferences
- facilitate visits between projects
- provide a help desk and signposting service for regeneration practitioners
- refer to other relevant agencies and contacts for resources and information

If you would like to contribute to *The Exchange*, or if you have ideas for us, please contact Karen Gillard or Neil Tait at

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**REGENERATION
EXCHANGE**

New centre in Hartlepool



Sport England and New Deal for Communities are the joint funders for Hartlepool's new community resource, the Stranton Centre (pictured).

The aim is for the whole family to make use of the centre, located beside Stranton Primary School. The Centre is open six days a week, for up to 12 hours a day. It offers a range of sporting facilities as well as a state of the art ICT suite, available to the whole community.

NE screen industries: money makers

The first comprehensive report of North East screen industries shows that companies in the moving image sector contribute £121 million a year to the region's economy.

Consultants Pembridge Partnership were commissioned to look at the economic impact of the growing film, TV, video and computer games industry in the North East. They found potential for further growth - the region has four per cent of the country's population, but as yet, only 1.3 per cent of the moving image workforce.

The report, entitled *Creating Success*, was compiled for screen agency NFM, Northern Film and Media. NFM chief executive Tom Harvey, said, 'Northern

Film & Media develops people and their ideas, we want to see this work from North-East practitioners on screens all over the world and this study is a vital tool to help us towards this goal.'

Lottery funding for culture city bidders: Newcastle-Gateshead, who lost out to Liverpool in the City of Culture 2008 contest earlier in the summer, will get a £2.75 million award from the new Urban Cultural Programme, a partnership between the Millennium Commission and Arts Council England. The money will support the Newcastle-Gateshead Initiative's Culture 10 programme, to maximise the potential of projects including parks and gardens and a major exhibition at the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens.

What works in renewal?

Find out the answer to 'what works?' in North East Neighbourhood Renewal in Action, a new toolkit designed to respond to the needs of practitioners and policy makers. The toolkit aims to document what makes some interventions successful and others less so, what enables partnerships to promote good practice and 'good news stories' - and how do we know when interventions are working? Research by Regeneration Exchange, Government Office North East's LSP Team and the Social Futures Institute at the University of Teesside has produced the toolkit, downloadable at <http://www.regenerationexchange.org/ne-nr-in-action.htm>.

Community awards for Hartlepool school

Pupils at St Joseph's RC Primary in Hartlepool have won awards for their ideas informing the experts about what they'd like to see in the Burbank area of the town. **Community Awareness Awards - part sponsored by Regeneration Exchange - were presented to children who came up with the best model, drawing, painting or a virtual design setting out ideas for new activities and facilities.**

Housing Hartlepool, the not-for-profit housing organisation that took over the running of Hartlepool Council's housing stock earlier this year, set the challenge. Eddie Price, from Housing Hartlepool, said, 'the standard of the pupils' work is amazing. These youngsters - and maybe their children - are the future of the local community, so I am delighted they are becoming actively involved in planning for that future.'

'Stamp your feet,' third sector told

Volunteers and community organisations - the 'third sector' delivering many vital public services - could be 'written out of the script' when local government is reorganised.....that's the view of Hull University's Professor Gary Craig, speaking at the Shaping the Future conference in Durham in the summer.

The third sector needs to be highly organised and learn to 'stamp its feet' in order to be heard, Professor Craig told delegates. Otherwise, there's a risk of a small number of councillors having 'strategic responsibility but no experience whatsoever', maintaining social services without knowledge of important issues such as the children's

bill and disability discrimination act.

The conference, held at Durham County Cricket Club in Chester-le-Street, was organised by One Voice Network on behalf of the CVS Network for the county.

The CVS Network was successful in getting £50,000 from the Home Office's Early Spend budget in order to map the gaps in support services for the sector. The investment plan now being put together mirrors the plan for action in the government's newly published Change Up initiative and, claims the Network, the plan puts County Durham in the forefront of development in the voluntary and community sector in the region.

Crime prevention campaign

Crime reduction starts with widening the debate on crime and punishment, and with community-based solutions, says SmartJustice, the crime reduction campaign. SmartJustice North East is the first regional office, and is based in Durham. Campaign officer Helen Attewell explains the thinking behind SmartJustice is that 'resources spent on crime prevention initiatives, rehabilitation of offenders and non-custodial sentences will have more impact on crime than sending petty criminals to prison who are likely to reoffend on their release.'

The campaign is funded by the Millfield House Foundation, and plans to build up a regional presence and a network of people and organisations who share the same aims.

You can find out more at www.smartjustice.org or by contacting helen.attewell@smartjustice.org

Older voices in housing

Key messages from a conference in June on Housing for older people included the importance of choice, quality and having one's say...and then being listened to. Supported by a consortium of the Association of North East Councils, the Regional Older People's Advisory Group, Help the Aged, Government Office North East, and Regeneration Exchange and Community Champions Awards, the day held in Durham's County Hall saw a mix of workshops and speakers, including Vera Boulter, from the Housing and Older People's Development Group. The group wrote a poem to mark the day:

"So why can't people have a say?

We could offer our shoulders for the experts to lean on.

We could offer our feet, hearts, mind and eyes"

Green for go

Community events and the creation of new woodlands are among the environmental regeneration projects now up and running with Greening for Growth, the programme from the South East Northumberland North Tyneside Regeneration Initiative (SENTRI).

There's a new van to help, supplied by the Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP), which supports the work to back a high quality environment. The NSP have recently helped fund the 'Business Case for the Environment', a nationally important research project setting out the case for investment in the environment, plus a series of events for National Tree Week and a complementary photographic project.

John Litherland, Executive Director of NSP, said, 'partnership investment in Greening for Growth is helping transform the image of South East Northumberland and the rural coalfield. NSP is looking forward to future Greening for Growth developments.'

Earlier this year, the first phase of the Forest Park programme, a further part of Greening for Growth got underway. It covers 20 hectares of woodland close to East Sleekburn. Over 70,000 trees have been planted as part of a project to improve the landscape of large areas of the A189 corridor.

Jeremy Sherlock, SENTRI director, said, 'the South East Northumberland Forest Park is a long-term programme which will bring far-reaching benefits to people in the area. This attractive new development will continue to increase our culture and improve the quality of life for our residents. Hopefully, this project together with others will engage people and help to build confidence in the area's future.'

SENTRI is a partnership programme supported by One NorthEast, local government, and other private, public and community sector agencies.

Ask the Expert:

Each issue we'll pose a question to one of the many specialists, activists and workers in our region.

Norma Foster, general manager of the website n-e-life.com, is our expert this time.

Q. Use of the Internet and other aspects of IT is essential to all businesses, but what do we still need here in the North East to make the most of the opportunities - and what are the ways in which n-e-life.com can help?

A. The internet and IT are essential to businesses, and those in the North East are currently making more, and better use of, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) than at any other time. The conclusions of the recent government's International Benchmarking Survey show good news: over the last three years, the North East has picked itself up from bottom of the league table to an impressive fifth place out of 12 regions.

However, there remains room for improvement. There's still a growing divide between small and large businesses - in fact, the same divide shows nationally, and internationally. Many small businesses are less able to use ICT in the sophisticated ways that the larger businesses can. This is largely down to lack of resources, time, and understanding.

Yet this is where n-e-life.com can help. We're a portal - a gateway to a range of other online and off-line services. We're playing a major role in helping businesses to embrace the internet and IT, whether it's accessing relevant funding, getting an online presence, or venturing into the world of e-commerce.

To date, over 66,000 businesses are present on the portal - making the North East the first fully online region in the UK. n-e-life.com also runs a virtual shopping mall where businesses can start trading on line in a supportive, safe environment.

In addition, n-e-life.com has contributed to the region's ICT infrastructure by developing broadband technology, alongside helping businesses grow through a range of funded support packages.

Just recently, we've undergone a massive transformation. There are now three channels - for business, for you, and for visitors. n-e-life.com is host to a wealth of news, features and links, including e-commerce and IT, funding, money and other business-related issues.

To find out more, visit www.n-e-life.com



Regeneration Masters...at Northumbria..

Northumbria University invites applications for the MSc in Urban Policy and Regeneration.

The programme is aimed at practitioners working in the areas of urban regeneration, local economic development and neighbourhood renewal, and it provides an interdisciplinary course of study, examining the key factors influencing urban change in the UK plus the contemporary policy response.

The growing emphasis on developing more integrated, partnership-based approaches to delivering public services is at the heart of the programme, and there is emphasis on assessing the effectiveness of more recent community-led approaches to neighbourhood renewal.

The course is part-time, over two years. The annual fee is £1,150. Details of contents and structure from programme leader Keith Shaw, 0191-227 4258, keith.shaw@northumbria.ac.uk

...and Sunderland.

Sunderland University's School of Health, Natural and Social Sciences has a three-stage Masters in Sustainable Regeneration, with a number of innovative aspects including environmental regeneration, crime prevention, the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Says the prospectus, 'the new School of Health, Natural and Social Sciences is in a strong position to offer a programme that can draw upon its expertise in social issues, environment, public health and sustainable development.' For more details and a prospectus, visit <http://restal.sunderland.ac.uk/sciences>.

Diary

When? September 20-21

What? Freedom to Regenerate - Creating New Dimensions in Regeneration. A conference and study visit to look at current challenges in regeneration with an aim to share expertise and experience to overcome such challenges.

Where? The Hilton Hotel, Bradford

Run by? BURA

Contact? info@bura.org.uk or 0207 5394030

When? September 21

What? Embracing Future Opportunities. The conference aims to provide the voluntary sector with an opportunity to explore innovative opportunities to sustain your group or organisation in the future.

Where? Shotton Hall, Peterlee

Run by? Easington CVS

Contact? office@easingtoncvcs.org.uk or 0191 5865427

When? September 22

What? Creating Inclusive Communities. A conference to raise awareness of community cohesion in Sunderland and inform agencies of our developments to encourage them to work together in creating an inclusive community.

Where? Stadium of Light, Sunderland

Run by? City of Sunderland Council

Contact?

claire.musgrove@sunderland.gov.uk or 0191 5531276

When? September 24

What? Participation in Governance Conference. A conference and workshop programme offering learning and networking opportunities for board members and staff of projects.

Where? St. James' Park, Newcastle upon Tyne

Run by? Governance Works

Contact? 0191 2326942

When? September 28

What? Striving for Sustainability . The 2nd annual north east conference offering a chance to from some influential thinkers and refine your strategy to adapt to the changing funding environment.

Where? Newcastle upon Tyne

Run by? External funding

Contact? elle@optimuspub.co.uk

When? September 30

What? Managing Your Neighbourhood. A one-day conference to help participants understand the range of opportunities that exist to become more involved in the management of their neighbourhoods and will explore positive practice.

Where? Nottingham

Run by? PEP

Contact? conferences@pep.org.uk or 0207 5611057

When? October 5

What? Building Sustainable Communities. A conference to examine the progress of the Government's Sustainable Communities action plan and look at ways to move the programme forward.

Where? London (TBC)

Run by? RTPI

Contact? services@rtpiconferences.co.uk or 0845 1209619

When? October 12

What? Small Town and Village Renewal - New Life for Smaller Communities. A conference to examine how regeneration can deliver social, economic and environmental benefits for smaller communities using national examples like 'Vital Villages'.

Where? London (TBC)

Run by? RTPI

Contact? services@rtpiconferences.co.uk or 0845 1209619

When? October 12

What? Working with Councils and Councillors and Engaging Middle Managers . A conference on the National Neighbourhood Management Network introducing the Working with Councils and Councillors Neighbourhood Management Action Team and looking at learning lessons and the way forward.

Where? St. James' Park, Newcastle

Run by? BURA

Contact? lisa@bura.org.uk or 0800 0181260

When? October 14

What? Managing Your Neighbourhood. A one-day conference to help participants understand the range of opportunities that exist to become more involved in the management of their neighbourhoods and will explore positive practice.

Where? Leeds

Run by? PEP

Contact? conferences@pep.org.uk or 0207 5611057

When? October 23

What? NDC Regional Residents Forum. A quarterly forum for NDC residents to raise and discuss issues.

Where? Newcastle (TBC)

Run by? Regeneration Exchange

Contact? regeneration.exchange@sunderland.gov.uk

When? October 28

What? Reaching Out. A one-day conference to explore how groups can maximise local involvement with groups that are often under-represented to ensure participation is inclusive.

Where? Southampton

Run by? PEP

Contact? conferences@pep.org.uk or 0207 5611057

When? November 3

What? NECC Business Brokers. An event looking at engaging businesses in regeneration.

Where? Newcastle (TBC)

Run by? NECC & Regeneration Exchange

Contact?

regeneration.exchange@sunderland.gov.uk

When? November 11

What? Programme Issues Group. A quarterly meeting for people involved in funding programmes to raise and discuss issues.

Where? Gateshead.

Run by? Regeneration Exchange

Contact?

regeneration.exchange@sunderland.gov.uk

When? November 11

What? Reaching Out. A one-day conference to explore how groups can maximise local involvement with groups that are often under-represented to ensure participation is inclusive.

Where? Darlington

Run by? PEP

Contact? conferences@pep.org.uk or 0207 5611057

When? November 14-16

What? UK Business Incubation's 6th Annual Conference and Dinner. UKBI's 6th annual international conference and dinner, spread over three days it usually attracts over 300 delegates from the global incubation community.

Where? Cardiff, Wales

Run by? UKBI

Contact? events@ukbi.co.uk or 0121 2503626

When? November 16

What? Keeping our Streets Safe. A conference that will consider the potential for safer streets offered by design, education and community initiatives.

Where? London (TBC)

Run by? RTPI

Contact? services@rtpiconferences.co.uk or 0845 1209619

When? November 17

What? LSP Worklessness Event. A one-day conference to look at issues of worklessness in regeneration and LSP's.

Where? St. James' Park

Run by? GO-NE & Regeneration Exchange

Contact?

regeneration.exchange@sunderland.gov.uk

Hailing a taxi ambassador!

Local taxi companies plus the councils of Newcastle and Gateshead have used cash from the Single Regeneration Budget to fund an ambassador scheme for cab drivers. Now, visitors to the region can get the low-down on all the sights and places to visit, as taxi drivers undergo special training to help their passengers make the most of their cab ride. Our picture shows cabbie Samuel Haddock, from Gateshead. He says: "I think this scheme is a great idea. My passengers often ask me about which hotels, nightclubs, restaurants and places to visit. These training sessions will provide all the information I need which I can pass on to them."



Rathbone seeks placements

Rathbone Training provides high quality learning and training support for people experiencing significant disadvantage - and local centres are looking for employers who can offer placements for some of their learners on 'e to e'(entry to employment) courses.

New-in-post Karen Nichols, the capacity building officer in the Newcastle office, is building up an entry-to-employment database. 'I'm here to offer support for the employer, and to help sort out any problems they may have,' she explains. 'We already have some high profile names - John Lewis, and the Sage in Gateshead - but organisations of all sizes are welcome. You don't have to commit yourself to any long period. Some employers can offer 'taster days' to the learners, and others may be able

to take on someone for a week or a month.'

Karen is currently setting up an employer forum to identify employer needs regarding skills and recruitment, identify local skills and education gaps and to provide employers with information on employment support. Employers get benefits too - there are positive links with the local community, plus accessibility to untapped areas of the labour market. Rathbone, backed by the EU Social Fund, prepares their learners with support and training, and they all have the support of their personal adviser, making sure they're ready for the working world.

For more details, contact Karen on 0191-234 5566, or email her at knichols@rathbonetraining.co.uk. Information about Rathbone is at www.rathbonetraining.co.uk

Betty Weallans: job change



Regeneration Exchange's co-ordinator Betty Weallans (pictured) starts a new job this autumn as Neighbourhood Manager for the Blyth-based Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme, looking at improving Croft and Cowpen Quay. After five years in her post at Regeneration Exchange, she's looking forward to being one of the 'customers' for a change! Betty says a big 'thank you' to her colleagues and to the members of Management Group past and present, and everyone who has contributed to the success of the Regeneration Exchange since it began in 1999.

City of
SUNDERLAND


**REGENERATION
EXCHANGE**

one
NorthEast