



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



# Trust Talk

Issue 3: May/June 2008

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

## The T Factor

The 12 finalists in the Trust Thamesmead 2008 T Factor competition brought the house down when they performed to a full house of 400 people at Greenwich Theatre. The acts, ranging from a live band to solo singers and dance groups, aged 8-19 years old, were all hoping to go on to win the prestigious prize of performing at this year's Trust Thamesmead Community Festival at Birchmere Park on Saturday 12 July.

The judges, Michelle Gayle, Trust Thamesmead Trustee Keeley Savill, Windrush Headteacher Jo Marchant and former T Factor winner GMA, were tasked with choosing the first, second and third place winners but such was the quality on show they also went on to pick a fourth and fifth winner and ALL of them have been given a prize spot on the stage at the Community Festival.

Trust Thamesmead's Chair Jackie Smith said: "It was a privilege to be present at The T Factor Final and experience so much talent.



"Thamesmead has so much to be proud of and I have no doubt that many of those performing will go on to great careers in music and dance. Well done to all of those who took part and be prepared for the winners to rock the festival!"

The outright winner of the competition was dance group Myztikal, followed by singer Anastasia Baker, group Simple Crush and singers Derry Shellam and Sam Coomber.

## T'riffic Thamesmead Partnership

The Trust's unique partnership with primary schools in Thamesmead, T'riffic Thamesmead, is gathering pace. Teachers from ten local schools have met together to plan a range of curriculum-based activities which will take place in the classroom and out and about in Thamesmead before the end of the summer term in July.

The project is the brainchild of the Trust's Marketing and Communications Head, Elaine Johnson. She said: "Many people, even those living here, think of Thamesmead as nothing but a series of housing estates, but it is so much more than that. Thamesmead's first residents may have only moved in 40 years ago but the area has played an important historical role since medieval times.

"Many of its streets are named after people who have made a significant contribution to our society and students of sociology and architecture continue to focus on the area. Thamesmead also has an abundance of wildlife and open spaces which we want to encourage local youngsters to explore.

"We have also unearthed some wonderful items for the resource packs that form part of the project including a fascinating newspaper supplement.

Published in August 1968 by the Mercury under the title 'Thamesmead Special' it runs to 24 pages and is crammed with articles about the construction of Thamesmead and what incoming residents could expect when they moved in.



"But the gem as far as I am concerned is an Ordnance Survey map dated 1931. It is stamped 'Secret' because it has additions made by the then Ministry of War. It is a wonderful historical document of the Woolwich Arsenal and includes detailed information about the testing grounds, firing ranges and tumps that were spread all over what has become Thamesmead. Plans of the area that is now West Thamesmead are very rare indeed because it was so closely linked to the Arsenal and therefore top secret so this is a real find."

Other teaching materials include a series of maps and plans which show various versions of what the planners had in mind for Thamesmead which can be compared to the facilities that exist now. For example, at one stage there were plans for a cinema, ice skating rink, civic piazza and yacht marina.

Jubilee School Headteacher Simon Prynne said: “We are delighted to be involved in this exciting learning project for our children. Using the outstanding curricular planning guidance, known as ‘The Creative Learning Journey’, all the schools involved in the project will be well placed to provide some very special learning opportunities for our children to really discover more about the background, history and heritage of Thamesmead”.

Julia Hickson is responsible for the Trust Thamesmead website and she has developed a T’riffic Thamesmead area on the site so that many of the plans, maps and photographs can be viewed by anyone interested in this fascinating area. It is hoped that ‘T’riffic Thamesmead’ will become an annual project with hundreds of local children participating each year.

You can see the resources for yourself at [www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk](http://www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

## **Now and Then – School Days through a Lens**

Hundreds of people took the opportunity to visit this photographic exhibition at the end of May, which was organised by the Trust and hosted by the Business Academy Bexley.

The exhibition featured the work of George Plemper who taught at Riverside School in Thamesmead in the 1970s.



**Former pupils and staff of Riverside School**

Mary Austen from the Trust, who coordinated the event, said: “George powerfully captured a moment in time in the 70s here in Thamesmead and provided a wonderful opportunity to resurrect the images for an exhibition to celebrate Local and Community History Month.



**George Plemper and Jackie Smith**

Trust Chair Jackie Smith added: "It was good to be present at an evening of pure reminiscence. George's photos captured a moment in time, but also showed us how children really haven't changed much at all."

It was also good to see so many ex pupils and teachers attend to catch up with old colleagues."

You can see more photographs of the event and view George's photos via the Trust website: [www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk](http://www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

## **Views of Thamesmead**

As part of the research being undertaken in updating the book 'Thamesmead - Back to the Future', the author Valerie Wigfall and the Trust's Head of Communications Elaine Johnson have met with members of the Teenage Reading Group (TRG) at Thamesmead Library to hear what the young people thought about living in Thamesmead. Their thoughts were truly uplifting.

Elaine told Trust Talk: "The young people were aged 11-15, mainly girls, and from a range of ethnic backgrounds including a Sikh girl recently moved here from Croydon, a boy who arrived from South Africa a couple of years ago and a girl who had spent her early years in Afghanistan. They were all incredibly positive about living in Thamesmead, coming up with phrases such as:

'We'd rather live here than Bexleyheath. Here it's a real community with people helping each other and looking out for each other.'

'Thamesmead isn't like other parts of London. Here there are lots of trees and nice views.'

'There used to be racism here but there isn't now'

'There didn't used to be much for us to do but its getting better all the time'

'I love walking down my street in the evening when people are cooking and the windows are open. One minute I smell Chinese food, the next it's African – all sorts - and it's great'

Elaine and Valerie are also working with TRG on a photographic project. The young people have taken images of Thamesmead that they thought were both positive and negative. Three photographs will win prizes with the overall winner featuring in Valerie's book.

Later this year the young people will mount an exhibition of their photographs which will go on display in Thamesmead Library and later in our Reception area. We will let you know when.

## **Our Plans for the Future**

In the last issue of Trust Talk we told you about the strategic themes which will form the framework for our plans and direction for the next three years, which are Inclusive Community; Skills for Life and Work; Improving Community Infrastructure and Children Young People & Families.

Our 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

Since then during April and May we consulted with all of our key stakeholders to explore better partnership working, opportunities for joint commissioning/funding and collaboration on specific projects. During May and June we have been looking at capacity issues, emerging priorities and the phasing of work over the next three years.

The July Board meeting of Trustees will consider the results of the Review, a Year One Delivery Plan and the Budgets and organisational changes needed to implement 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)

## **2,000 a Month and Counting**

The Trust website continues going from strength to strength with an average of 2,186 visitors logging on each month between January and June, up from 1,577 visitors a month last year.

Marketing and Communications Officer Julia Hickson said: "Our target was to welcome 1,000 visitors each month but we have exceed all expectations with a lot of hard work including a new user-friendly navigation system and broadening how we promote the site – from including the address on every piece of marketing, by word of mouth with staff presence at events and adding material to Facebook - the Trust currently has more 380 friends on the social network site, all of whom are kept up to date with invites to events."

## **A 'Brief' Encounter at the cAve**

The cAve recently ran a team building session for a group of criminal defence lawyers. The group, from the Chambers of Marion Smullen in Inner Temple Lane, along with other local legal firms, gathered at the climbing wall for an evening of fun.

Cave Manager Ann Beard told Trust Talk: "Many had not climbed before and it was interesting to see obviously very professional people quiver at the thought of climbing two feet off the ground. However with the help of the climbing team they were soon up and down the walls and having a great time."

## **Trust's One Stop Shop**

Thamesmead Law Centre is the latest external agency to use the Trust's reception area for a "Drop In" service.

The advisors are available to give housing advice every Thursday morning and it's obvious how valuable this service is when you see just how busy they are.

Thamesmead Law Centre advises clients on Employment, Benefits, Immigration and Housing; on different days at various venues.

## Thamesmead Youth Sports Festival



Since the last issue of Trust Talk Thamesmead has seen its first ever Youth Sports Festival.

Put together by Thamesmead's youth forum Thamesmead Youth Voice and supported by Trust Thamesmead and the Tri Forum (activities run for young people by Bexley Council), 56 young people aged 11-19 who live or go to school in Thamesmead joined in a wide range of sports, including football, badminton, table tennis and basketball.

"The young people really enjoyed the day," said Trust Community Development Manager Janice Songhurst-Jones, adding: "Crossways Gym put on a display and the event provided a good networking opportunity for the Trust and other service providers - we know Working with Men is looking at ways of working with Charlton Athletic Race Equality (C. A. R. E) Partnership and Tan-Gun Tai Kwondo is looking at ways of making martial arts more accessible to local young people.

"Thamesmead Youth Voice put in a lot of hard work and felt it paid off and they had each benefited from organising the event. We hope to make the sports day an annual event and build on it year-on-year."

## Film Night at the Jubilee

An audience of around 50 residents came along to a film night at the Jubilee Community Centre which was organised by the Trust's Community Development team.

Two very different films about Thamesmead were screened, a promotional film about Thamesmead which was made by the GLC in the 1970s called 'A New Town on an old Marsh', and 'Back to the Future', which premiered at the Trust's summer festival in 2005 and which featured children from St John Fisher Primary School.

The audience found the films both interesting and informative and a very lively discussion followed about Thamesmead, past and present. From this debate interest was shown by one group wanting to set up a Residents Association and another group wanting to have discussions with members of the Gallions Residents Board.

The Community Development team is now planning to work with the groups to help bring some of their ideas to fruition.

## Adult Learners' Week

Adult Learners Week, with the theme of encouraging adults to give learning a go regardless of age and background, was celebrated in Thamesmead in May with Trust staff organising and attending events in the area.

Wednesday's designated 'Sports and Leisure Day' was a fun-filled day with events at both the Arnott Community Centre and the Pop in Parlour.

The Silver Surfers who meet weekly at Arnott to follow their interest in computers welcomed other members of the community, and made book marks as well as t-shirts.

A bowls tournament was then held at the Pop in Parlour with teams from the Parlour, Gallions Wardens, Tilfen and the Trust battling it out. The day was not only great fun, but a prime opportunity to engage with the older community members, and network with Gallions and Tilfen and discuss possible future joint projects for Thamesmead.

The week concluded with an event in the Trust's reception area which included taster sessions and information about community classes and vocational courses. Everyone who came along will be contacted by Building Futures as the majority was interested in following up courses and skills development.

## Open Space Event

Trust staff were among those who attended the recent Thamesmead Open Space event at the Innovations Centre. Discussions included:

- How to improve post 16 facilities for under achievers
- How to raise awareness of programmes within Thamesmead
- Funding, Investors and Partners
- **Manifestation** not discussion of banks, a launderette, local newspaper, cinema, shopping centre and restaurants!

- Building community spirit among different cultures
- An audit of extended schools provision

## **On Your Marks, Get Set ....**

The annual Trust Thamesmead community festival in Birchmere Park on 12 July is just five weeks away.



The main stage line-up has been announced and includes 2008 T Factor finalists Mystikal, Derry Shellam, Sam Coomber, Simple Crush and Annastasia Baker: F-Street, 2007 T Factor finalist Georgia Collins; Booty Luv; Moni Tivony (aka Lionel Richie, BBC1's The One and Only); The Blues Brothers Uncut; Leke Esan and the Levites; 2006 T Factor winner G.M.A, last year's winners Audio Hawk; T2 & Addictive; Jaki Graham; Michelle Gayle and Hot Chocolate.

There will also be a Sports Zone featuring Thamesmead Town Football Club and Charlton Athletic, an Activities Zone including a mobile climbing wall promoting the cAve, a Children's Zone, Community Stalls, Greenwich Council's 'Talk Café' and Gallions Housing Association's beach which this year will have a Hawaiian theme.

## **Community Capacity Training**

As part of an ongoing community capacity training programme the Trust has hosted a 'Setting up your finance for Fundraising' workshop. Representatives from Thamesmead and Greenwich groups attended a session which was greatly appreciated by those who participated. Feedback included 'friendly', 'helpful' and 'informative'. Suggestions for future topics were put forward. These will be followed up by the community development team and the programme facilitators.

## **English Classes**

Following a meeting with the Trust's Building Futures Project Manager Sharron Hawe, Adult Education Bexley has agreed to provide a tutor to deliver an 'English for Communication' course at Jubilee Community Centre. This basic six week course in English is a stepping stone to 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' (ESOL) courses.

## Veterans' Day

Trust Thamesmead is inviting Thamesmead residents who served in the Armed Forces or worked in a munitions factory, to be our guest on a day trip including lunch and a visit to the Imperial War Museum on Veterans' Day on 27 June. Anyone interested is asked to contact Community Development Officer Roz Williams on 020 8320 4482 before Tuesday 17 June. Places are limited and must be pre-booked.

## For your Diary

If you would like any more information about the following events get in touch or check out the events section of our website: [www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk](http://www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk)

27 June	Veterans' Day outing to the Imperial War Museum
4 July	Good Choices Day, Arnott Community Centre
12 July	Get Set for the Trust Thamesmead Community Festival. Birchmere Park 10:00-8:00.
1-31 October	Black History Month in Thamesmead (events tba)
4- 11 October	Family Learning Week in Thamesmead (events tba)
13-24 December	Christmas in Thamesmead (events tba)

## And Finally

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

Trust Thamesmead, 19a Joyce Dawson Way | Thamesmead SE28 8RA 020 8320 4470  
[www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk](http://www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk)