

ALT VALLEY VOICE

Issue 2, November 2017

Community News from North East Liverpool



Hindu festival brings the East to sports centre

THE Hindu festival Durga Puja was celebrated recently at Croxteth sports centre by the Bengali Association of Merseyside and North of England.

It provided an opportunity for people to sample an authentic taste of Eastern Indian culture during a key date in the cultural calendar.
● See Page 4 for full story.

POLITICIANS BLAST JOB CENTRE CUTS

Liverpool councillors and MPs have fiercely criticised the government's rejection of proposals to maintain jobcentre services in the Alt Valley area.

In the face of the decision to close Norris Green jobcentre, which shut its doors on September 15, the council lead for employment and skills Lana Orr, alongside local councillors and MPs, had put forward proposals to relocate front line jobcentre services into empty space within Norris Green library.

Orr said: "I think our proposals would be effective. It would be an enhanced service because you don't have people having to go to the jobcentre, travel all the way to the one-stop shop and travel somewhere else where you can sit on a computer and do your job searches - you'd have everything all in one community hub."

The proposals were controversially rejected by the Department of Work and Pensions as

the library supposedly does not hold enough floor space, a claim that Orr asserted was "nonsense".

"It became clear when we recently met DWP officials that the floor space issue hadn't really been interrogated at all and that there probably would have been enough floor space in Norris Green library.

"The council will do anything to keep that jobcentre provision in the local community.

"But in order to make that happen you have to have a willing person on the other side in terms of the DWP, and, to be honest, I don't think there is an appetite or a desire from the DWP to make it happen."

With the jobcentre closed, unemployed residents have to travel further to attend appointments at the Eaton Road jobcentre leaving them at greater risk of being sanctioned and spending more of their money on public transport.

West Derby MP Stephen Twiggs, whose

constituents will be badly affected by the decision, stated: "I'm just so angry and disappointed on behalf of local people.

"The government are just putting their fingers in their ears and ignoring it, it's quite clear they are determined to cut back on jobcentres.

"This is a jobcentre that serves one of the most deprived parts of Liverpool with some of the highest unemployment in Liverpool. It's a big worry."

You can make your voice heard if you oppose the government's decision to remove jobcentre services from the Alt Valley area by emailing the DWP Minister Damian Hinds MP (ministers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or by calling the DWP reception on 0207340 40000.

You can also email your complaints to the DWP's regional manager Peter Jamieson who at peter.jamieson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

● Bridge Centre is helping those hit by welfare cuts - see page 2

SEE INSIDE: What's on - page 11... Reds' keeper Danny meets kids - page 12

Gems offer Christmas cheer to families in need

Croxteth Gems are planning for Christmas early, preparing for another successful 12 days of Christmas project.

The project identifies families who are in financial need and delivers a box of gifts to their door.

The project ran last year with 60 families receiving a £25 supermarket voucher for Christmas dinner, pyjamas, three toys, a selection box and a hamper filled with

food. This year they hope to reach 100 families and have been busy fundraising.

Jean Hannah Croxteth Gems Youth and Play coordinator, said: "We got £1,000 worth of pledges within five days.

"Hopefully, the Big Give, if they like the idea of the project will match fund it which will give us £2,000. But we are applying for other funding and fundraising ourselves in other different ways.

"Liam Moore, from Voice in the City, is organising a Stars In Ya Eyes Christmas Cabaret with Conscience on December 1st at Devonshire House Hotel.

"I've been collecting stuff since last February. We finished last Christmas and just started again."

Jean added: "The 12 days of Christmas project is an opportunity to fight back against the distorted narrative of shows like

Benefits Street, which do not represent working class communities.

"To tell the story like the fella who was left on his own with four little kids and the only thing in the house was a colouring in picture of a Christmas tree on the wall.

"People in this community who've got it are more than happy to share what they've got. Because it's Christmas, and that's what Christmas is all about."

BRIDGE HELPS THOSE HIT BY WELFARE CUTS

Norris Green Jobcentre closure is already having a massive impact on those using its services.

Nowhere is the detrimental impact of the changes more apparent than in the Bridge Community Centre.

The centre, which is situated on Daneville Road in Clubmoor, has seen the use of its Support and Talk service increasing since the jobcentre closure with local residents struggling with the changes.

Su Carson, who runs the centre, states: "When we were reaching the closure date for the jobcentre we were noticing a greater use of our Support and Talk service and since the closure our numbers have doubled. Where we used to do one date a week, we now run three days per week."

Support and Talk is a volunteer run listening service that runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Bridge Community Centre.

The service is a space where people

can discuss their problems and worries.

Recently these concerns have been focused increasingly on job centre changes with residents having to travel to the jobcentre on Eaton Road in West Derby due to Norris Green closure.

"With the big changes people are conforming to whatever they are asked to do in fear of losing their benefit - they've all got families, they've all got homes.

"It's devastating watching it. We're trying to pick up the pieces.

"We've got a vulnerable lady who has learning disabilities and minimal reading and writing skills.

"She travelled to Eaton Road and was put on an employability course for three days per week in Bootle.

"When she came back from the job centre she was in a terrible state. Not only does she have to pay nearly £5 for travel to sign on but three days per week she would have to pay to get to Bootle and back - that's a lot of money

from her benefits.

"With her learning disability and the changes, she felt she had to go and couldn't say no."

With the changes already increasing the numbers engaging in voluntary support services at the Bridge, it raises the question of how much the job centre closure, and welfare changes more generally, is impacting on GP surgeries and mental health services.

Have costs been saved or just transferred to another department?

Additionally, who picks up the pieces if areas aren't lucky enough to have such hardworking and dedicated community workers and volunteers?

Su said: "I'm a firm believer in old fashioned community work.

"It doesn't cost a lot but we get virtually nothing yet we provide so much. But just because we don't get nothing, doesn't mean we're going to do nothing."

Unite shows union role in community

Unite the Union is working alongside the Alt Valley community to offer support to young people by facilitating learning and raising awareness of training and skills.

It facilitates Employee Rights and Responsibilities (ERR) training at Alt Valley Community Trust's Dovecot Multi Activity Centre aimed at marginalised youth.

There will be a short session on problem gambling, drugs & alcohol and the use of social media in the workplace.

It is also working with CommunityUnity and was part of an open day for students in August with a view to starting

construction apprenticeships in the area.

Billy Butterworth, the North West learning organiser for Unite, said: "With the new term started, this CommunityUnity initiative has real potential.

"It will complement the city's construction charter with a view to provide local young people with an opportunity to gain a meaningful apprenticeship, becoming directly employed and being part of the regeneration plans for years to come."

You can contact Unite the Union and learn how it can help you - by phoning Dovecot MAC library on 0151 254 1879.

Croxteth Park Farm Christmas Grotto
From Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Eve!!



Adults go FREE!	£10.00 per Child
Arts & Crafts	Farm Visit
Letter to Santa	Free Toy from Santa

Make your annual Grotto visit this year at Croxteth Park Farm

Open 7 days a week!!
With festive snacks

To book your visit please call
0151-233-6249 or 07547239478

Croxteth Park Farm 

PARKING CAMPAIGN TO GET BUS STOP RETURN

Community members are being urged to not double-park on Broadway in order for the 61 bus route to return to the popular Broadway shops.

Incessant double parking on the street had left the street unsafe for the 61 bus route according to Arriva which redirected the bus to Lorenzo Drive a year ago.

Norris Green Councillor Barry Kushner stated: "Broadway is a central hub in the community and we need a bus stop there.

"I think we should turn that speed cushion outside Lloyds bank into a zebra crossing. That means you can't park 20 metres either side of the zebra crossing but there's plenty of parking in Broadway."

The changed route has left residents having to travel half a mile from Broadway to get the bus.

Arriva has no principled objection to moving the bus stop back to Broadway, whilst Merseytravel affirmed its support in helping to resolve the situation.

However, for the bus stop to return it must be proved that double parking has stopped and that it is safe for the bus to navigate down the street.

Cllr Kushner stated that a community campaign is needed to raise awareness of the issue so to encourage those drivers to park somewhere else.

"We need to speak to people in the shops and around the community to make sure people know the reasons that the bus stop has moved and the impact that's having."

Alt Valley Voice encourages you to support this campaign and asks you to think again when looking for space to park at Broadway.

We can help you start your business

Starting a business is one of those dreams that most of us have, but then put out of our minds quite quickly because it's what 'other people do'.

But, they are not 'other people'. They are people holding down jobs but want a change or are frustrated with unemployment, or have finished studying and want to make their mark on the world.

So what is the difference between those who take the step and those who don't?

Here at Alt Valley Community Trust, the Smarta Business Starter team can help you make that step with useful short FREE courses.

You can educate yourself on what is involved with running a business, what steps you would need to take to get started and what financial support you can tap into to get going.

Visit our website www.smartabusinessstarter.co.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter. You can also call Kayleigh Clarke on 0151 546 5514 or email kayleighclarke@altvalley.co.uk.

Bingo hall could be vital community hub



CHANCE... Mecca bingo hall on Broadway could become an asset in Norris Green

A decision needs to be made over the old Mecca Bingo Hall at Broadway.

The hall is a valuable community asset, owned by Liverpool City Council, but its doors have been shut for years without any benefit for the local community.

A retail company has been in discussions with Liverpool City Council over the lease for the old Mecca Bingo Hall, with the previous lease coming to an end and options being considered.

However, Neighbourhood Services Company (NSC) have made an alternative plan to take over the building with the intention of making it a hub for small social businesses including space for local resources and support, such as a café, a vegetable shop and the Credit Union.

With the Alt Valley area recently losing community assets, such as Norris Green

Jobcentre, a resource such as this should be developed for the benefit of the community and not left to fall into such a ruined state.

Liverpool city councillors have met with the interested retail developer and requested that proposals should incorporate certain community resources, such as the vegetable shop, the Credit Union and a café.

However, progress has been slow and the practicalities of such a proposal are questionable.

Norris Green councillor Barry Kushner said: "We have to use it as an opportunity to have an impact on Broadway - it's a district centre.

"The proposals have to be something that has a broader impact on that shopping area generally.

"It should include things that we know that the community needs."

Ellergreen Out of School Club and Crèche

OPEN - MONDAY TO FRIDAY 3PM TO 5-45PM TERM TIME

COLLECTION FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS £7.00 PER NIGHT

ACTIVITIES, ARTS AND CRAFT SNACK PROVIDED

HOLIDAY CLUB

8 AM TO 5.30 £15.00 PER DAY SNACKS PROVIDED

ALL STAFF ARE NVQ LEVEL 2, 3, 4, 5 IN CHILDCARE AND PLAYWORK.

SECURE ACCESS AND OUT DOOR PLAYAREA FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US ON

233-4597 OR EMAIL US ON outofschool@hotmail.co.uk

EMBRACING DIVERSITY WITH HINDU FESTIVAL

Croxth Sports Centre was transformed with the return of the Hindu celebration Durga Puja.

The religious festival is in its third year at the Sports Centre had flourishes of colour, delicious food and Bengali music

Dr Sabyasachi Sarker, president of the Bengali Association Association of Merseyside and North of England, which organises the festival, stated: "We've been organising and celebrating this festival in Merseyside for the last 41 years. It's a Hindu religious festival that's mostly celebrated in Eastern parts of India but now it is all across the world."

Durga Puja is an annual festival celebrating the goddess Durga. The festival ran from 26th-30th September and was attended each evening by around 400-500 people from across the North West of England Hindu community.

However, the festival was also open for the wider community with visits from schools and local residents.

Sabyasachi said: "Some of the school children came in and young people. They try to learn and find out a little bit about the diversity and what happens in the community."

"The response has been very positive.

"I have lived in West Derby for the last 40 years and Croxth has changed so much in that time. I think it's changed for the better in the last 15-20 years - it's brilliant here."

The festival was a massive success and going from strength to strength.

Colly Whitty, the Sports Centre man-



CULTURE CLUB... Durga Puja celebrations at Croxth Sports Centre

ager, said: "It's a true reflection of what the people in Croxth are really like, everyone embraces it."

"It's so culturally diverse. We had a temple in the hall - a temple can be anywhere - the boxing upstairs, the squash going on, the gym open and LFC

goalkeeper Danny Ward outside with the kids playing football.

"I want to keep the festival here and the community want to keep it here."

"We're changing our kids - they're embracing other cultures. The people want to keep it here."

Make your voice heard, and help our community

A reoccurring theme in this edition is the magnificent work being done by community organisations in the face of immense pressure caused by cuts in public spending and decreasing pots of funding.

It is Croxth Gems Youth Association tackling poverty through their 12 Days of Christmas project, or The Bridge Community Centre supporting those struggling with the closure of Norris Green Jobcentre, or Fazakerley Federation helping to reduce social isolation through their Talking Movies nights.

Providing community solutions to community problems is one of the most effective

methods, drawing on local knowledge to improve sustainability of that impact.

But, community organisations must be given support and funding to manage the strain and be effective.

If these groups and activities were to stop, then the costs would certainly be felt elsewhere in government spending on health, social care, crime and welfare.

If you would like to get involved writing or taking photos for Alt Valley Voice please contact community engagement worker Cailen Kinney at cailenkinney@altvalley.co.uk or email any comments, complaints or ideas.

Lifestyles

GYM MEMBERSHIPS FROM £15 A MONTH

CALL 0151 548 3421 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Autism in Motion is open for business



Community group Autism in Motion, which offers activities and support for children on the autistic spectrum and their parents, has opened up its new office in Norris Green Youth Centre.

The group of three mothers, Hannah, Jo and Terri, who have children on the autistic spectrum, had grown frustrated with the lack of support on offer for them and so decided to do it themselves.

Hannah said: "We're overwhelmed with the support we've had. The office is open for all parents and kids to come in to use our useful resources or just have a chat."

Terri said: "Parents can drop in to hear about the activities we run and get support from ourselves. Having a child with additional needs can sometimes be draining - we're here to support the parents and the children"

The centre has information and a sensory space and somewhere to just sit and have a cup of tea. On the walls of the office are messages of support and thanks.

One message read: "Just want to thank for all the hard work, dedication and support that you provide. Thanks to this group, I am not alone, I am not a failure. I am loving mother with amazing children who are my world!"

● Contact Autism in Motion email: aimautism@hotmail.com or call: 0787 244 4652.

STILL NO NEWS ON FUTURE OF HALL

The community is still waiting to hear news on the potential bidders to run Croxteth Hall.

In July, Signature Living publicly announced their proposal to develop the Grade II listed stately home into a hotel whilst maintaining public access.

However, no other proposals have been publicly declared leaving queries about community consultation and the accountability for the decision.

Alt Valley Voice has contacted the council asking about other bidders but have yet to receive reply.

Jean Hannah, member of the Croxteth Hall Action group and Alt Valley resident has also had no response and expressed frustration with the lack of answers.

She said: "I have emailed councillors and I have contacted the council's procurement team but have not heard anything back.

"Who are the organisations still in the process? What are their proposals?"

"What is the decision making process and who is involved? Also, at what stage can we expect to see full and open community consultation on all of the proposals?"

Croxteth Hall costs the council around £1 million per year to run which has been deemed unsustainable in this period of persistent cuts imposed from Westminster.

Bids were invited by the City Council for a partner to manage the hall and maintain public access but a decision has yet to be made despite

Croxteth Councillor and mayoral lead for parks Peter Mitchell stating in February, that they were "very close to securing a win-win situation."

Jean stated: "What has always been the most important thing is that any organisation runs the Hall and Estate in a manner that makes it profitable and sustainable, so as to avoid any future problems similar to that which it currently faces.

"That makes it accessible to the public and provides activities for all and does so in a manner that protects, conserves, celebrates and enhances its history and heritage.

"Lastly, and just as importantly, it must provide associated benefit to the deprived communities surrounding the Estate."

SO MUCH IS HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY



CARNIVAL FUN... Hundreds turned out to the annual Norris Green carnival again this year. The event is organised by Norris Green Community Alliance working alongside other community organisations and groups. The day was a massive success with fun for the whole family with fairground rides, games, food and music



Boxers come to Croxteth camp

Merseyside & Cheshire Elite Boxing held a four day boxing camp at Lifestyles Croxteth Sports & Wellbeing Centre which was attended by 75 participants from clubs across the area and Merseyside.

● For full details see Page 12.



SO MUCH IS HAPPENING IN COMMUNITY



NO PLACE LIKE HOME... Alt Valley Community Trust's Croxteth youth drama group as the cast of Wizard of Oz



FARM LIFE... Hebden Children's Group rode in the tractors and made friends with the meerkats at Croxteth Farm

Diddy Daycare

Dovecot



Day Nursery

Catering for diddy people aged 6 weeks to 4+ years

Dovecot Multi Activity Centre
Back Dovecot Place, L14 9BA
0151 230 0193

Croxteth



Diddy Daycare Croxteth
Back Gilmoss Lane
L11 0AY
0151 546 4388

We currently offer 2, 3 & 4 year funding for up to 30 hours free childcare per week

Book challenge gives kids summer reading

More children returned to school with their reading skills improved due to Croxteth Library's book challenge.

Over 70 children and parents took part over summer, with the challenge for them to maintain their reading during the break.

Before returning to school the children and their families discussed books they had read with the group.

The challenge was supported by librarian Lesley Farrar and volunteers Sandra & Peter Lees and Jeanette Edwards.

Lesley said: "The children love

telling me about the books they've read and the characters.

"It's about the community coming together - parents, aunts, grandads are there when the children choose books.

"It's a big community event and it's keeping the children up with their reading during the summer holidays.

"You have six weeks off school where they might not pick up a book. It's not easy going back is it?"

"I just think it's brilliant that they keep up their reading during that time off."



TAKE IT AS READ... Croxteth library's Book Challengers

FILM NIGHTS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER



PICTURE SCOUSE... Fazakerley Film Federation bring people together to watch and discuss Liverpool movies

Nights at the movies will continue in Fazakerley with the news that Fazakerley Federation's project Talking Movies has been funded until March 2018.

Funding had originally run out in September but Cobalt Housing has stepped up to financially support the project.

Talking Movies is a social event once a month where local people, in particular older residents, are treated to some Liverpool cuisine and watch a Liverpool related film followed by a group discussion.

Angela Rogers, the health & wellbeing coordinator who runs Talking Movies:

"We're really happy we've secured the funding from our social landlord to continue our successful Talking Movies project.

"People love watching Liverpool based films and it's really interesting comparing the older films and new and discussing social change."

Linda Payne is one of the residents who attends and said that it's had a big impact on her and others attending: "I think it's really good. It's a chance to come together, have a chat and see lots of Liverpool films.

"It's been really enjoyable and interest-

ing. It's always good to get out and meet people."

With social isolation an increasing concern, especially among older people, social activities such as Talking Movies are important in bringing down social barriers and improving wellbeing.

Without proper funding and support for these activities the cost will be felt elsewhere in the NHS and social care.

The next Talking Movies will be at Fazakerley Federation on the 6th November, 1-4pm. Please contact 0151 523 1073 for further details.

GET READY FOR WORK AT UNIQUE SIXTH FORM



HIGHLIGHTS PACKAGE... Hairdressing students show off their skills on new courses offered by Communi-versity

The first term has started at the new collaborative Fazakerley High School at Alt Valley Communi-versity with 40 learners aged 16 -18 enrolled working towards qualifications in Hairdressing, Childcare, Playwork, Teaching Assistants, Health care and Construction.

The courses offer learners the opportunity to gain certification in vocational qualifications, Maths, English and ICT, as well as valuable work experience with local employers including Corinthian Primary School, Dovecot Primary School, Croppers and Sophisticutz hair salons and Aintree hospital.

Gill Mason, Principal of Alt Valley Communi-versity, said: "I am delighted to

welcome learners to our new unique vocational 6th form.

"I would like to thank staff, parents and employers for all of your support to ensure we can offer valuable work experience and learning opportunities for our young people."

Alt Valley Communi-versity has also been successful in securing further funding to support traineeships including construction with qualifications being offered in plastering, joinery and trowel trades.

A traineeship is an education and training programme which incorporates work experience, preparing young people for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready' and is de-

signed for people aged 16 to 24.

Likewise, Communi-versity is the Local Authority main named provider for Teaching Assistant Apprentices and Early years Apprentices across the city.

It is signing up new apprentices for Teaching Assistants level two and three.

Dave Mason, of Alt Valley Communi-versity, stated: "Congratulations to our learners Clare Rossiter, Joe Anderson and Michelle Johnson who have all completed our teaching assistants programme and achieved their diploma and have now secured a job."

If you want to learn more about courses on offer at Alt Valley Communi-versity please contact 0151 546 5514.

Learn new skills and meet new people

Want to learn a new skill or kickstart that new career you have always wanted?

Alt Valley Communi-versity Trust has launched its adult education centres for the new academic year with lots of exciting courses available.

Ellergreen Community Centre in Norris Green is open Monday night with courses, running from 6-9pm, including GCSE Maths and English, basic

counselling and a healthy cooking course with a top Liverpool chef.

Meanwhile, at Lifestyles Croxteth Sports and Wellbeing Centre there are day time courses on Wednesdays including yoga, pilates and health & motivation.

Sharon Lee, manager of Ellergreen Community Centre, said: "Over the summer we have asked members of com-

muni-versity what courses they want and now we delighted to be able to deliver some of these with excellent and experienced tutors."

The education centres give the opportunity to learn new skills FREE of charge with roots to accredited courses and qualifications available for those who want to continue.

Tammy Burgess of Alt Valley

Community Trust, said: "We want our courses to be educational, enjoyable but also social, which is why we make sure there's time during breaks to have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and hear about what people on other courses are doing."

For more details call Ellergreen centre on 0151 233 3337, or Communi-versity on 0151 546 5514.

A week of mental health awareness

Alt Valley Community Trust will be running a week of activities to raise awareness of mental wellbeing.

Mental Wellbeing week will run during the October half term (23rd-27th) across centres in Croxteth, Norris Green and Dovecot.

Activities include a tea party at Croxteth Sports Centre on Tuesday 24th October for older people from a local residential home aiming to reduce social isolation.

There will also be a variety of

wellbeing activities at Dovecot Multi-Activity Centre in the sports centre on Wednesday October 25th.

Additionally, Ellergreen Community Centre will host a Wellbeing Fun Day on Thursday October 26th between 11am-3pm. This will include yoga and mindfulness, a mini-petting zoo of animals from Croxteth Farm, as well as a market place of information from mental health organisations.

On Friday October 27th from 7-10 pm there will be a Scouse

Supper event with discussions and debate around mental health accompanied by a free bowl of scouse.

Sharon Lee, Community & Wellbeing manager, said, "It's important we normalise discussions surrounding mental health. But we also want to promote wellbeing and that's why we're having a range of fun activities that do just that."

Liverpool Public Health reported that those on GP registers for severe mental illness have increased by 16% since

2009/2010 and Liverpool's suicide rate has increased by 30% since 2008-2010.

In this time mental health services have been struggling to cope with the increased demand and limited resources.

The need for open discussions on the issues is paramount to improve awareness and to reduce isolation and stigma.

If you want to more details about what's on offer during Mental Wellbeing week phone Ellergreen Community Centre - 0151 233 3337.

BARNESY IS ON SIDE FOR KINSHIP CARERS



REDS LEGENDS... Howard Gayle and John Barnes show their support for the Kinship Carers coffee morning

Liverpool legend John Barnes was the special guest to kick off Kinship Carers week.

The former footballer, who spent a decade playing for Liverpool and has 79 caps for England, visited Kinship Carers coffee morning alongside another former red Howard Gayle.

The pair spoke to a packed room and discussed how they could support and increase awareness of the group.

John said: "Howard Gayle is from this area and he told me about Kinship Carers and the amazing work they've been doing.

"The work they've been doing is fantastic, this area needs a lot of help with all the problems it's had in the past with substance misuse.

"For these people to come together and help these kids is fantastic. Not a lot of people know about it, I didn't!

"But I think it's a fantastic charity so I'm going to speak to Liverpool FC with Howard to see what we can do to raise its profile and see whether we can get some funding. We're going to try and help."

Kinship Carers week ran from the 9th-13th October and is aimed at raising awareness and celebrating families who are looking after children who can't live with their birth parents for a variety of reasons.

Pauline Thornley, project coordinator for Kinship Carers stated: "This week has gone amazingly well, many thanks to Howard and John for taking the time to visit the group and John then donating lots of gifts for our families.

"This week has also seen the launch of a ground breaking piece of work that Baring Foundation have gave us funding for, working with Liverpool John Moores

University Professor Aoife Daley, using a Human Rights Based approach to tackle the discrimination kin families face.

"This is working in partnership with Liverpool City Council's Childrens Services to enable Liverpool to get it right for all our amazing families."

Kinship Carers offers emotional support, advice on legal matters, intergenerational family activities and days out during holidays for children.

It also runs coffee mornings and pamper days for carers to recharge their batteries on the first Friday every month.

If anyone wants to get involved, needs advice or is looking after a child, visit Kinship Carers Liverpool on Facebook or visit the website at www.kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk or call the team on 0151 270 2108.

October/ November What's On

● **TRIPLE C** is a charity that runs the community work of **St Christopher's Christ Church and The Church of the Good Shepherd in Norris Green. They are hosting an all ages Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Party at St Christopher's Church Tuesday 31st October. Children under 16 must be accompanied throughout the party by a responsible adult. Individual and family tickets will be available in advance – maximum 50p per person. Additionally, on Saturday 4th November 6pm there's a "Hot Dogs and Chocolate" event @ Christ Church Community Centre, Sedgemoor Road, before your fireworks display. Please call 0151 226 1774 for details.**

● **NORRIS GREEN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE** are local people running local activities. This October half-term they will be hosting playschemes in the Russell Rooms and A C Mitchell Church for ages 5+ (please contact for further details). There will also be a trip to see the Black Lights on the 26th October 2017, 3pm-10pm leaving from Ellergreen Community Centre. The Alliance will be hosting a Halloween Party at St Teresa's

Social Club on 31st October, 4:30-6:30pm. Finally, there are organising a Bonfire and Firework display at Scargreen Recreational Ground from 6-9pm. Please call 0151 226 2672 for more information.

● **PORCHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE** offers a wide range of activities and classes, mostly for older people. Its regular classes and activities include craft class, yoga, drama group, card making, IT and much more. It's organising its activities for Christmas including a trip to Bury's Christmas Market on 25th November leaving Porchfield at 10am. The outing will cost £8. There will also be a Christmas Fayre at the Centre with free entrance, tea/coffee and soup on the 1st December. Finally, their Christmas party will be 9th December at 7:30pm. For more information please call 0151 547 4455

● **CROXTETH YOUTH CONSORTIUM** is a group of youth providers in Croxteth. On the 30th October they have rented the entirety of Splash World in Southport and will be taking

children from across the area. Kids should arrive at Croxteth Gems at 5pm where there will be food available, before leaving the centre at 6pm. Children will not be back onto the estate until 10:30pm.

● **CROXTETH GEMS** host a playscheme for 5-12 year olds every day during the October half-term. The playscheme is between 9:30am-2:30pm. They are having a Halloween party on 31st October, 5-8pm, with a disco and games. On 5th November, 7:30-10:30pm they will be taking 50 children to Airborn Academy, which is a freerunning and urban sports facility. For more information phone 0151 547 2664.

● **HEBDEN CHILDREN'S GROUP** is run by parents to provide activities and safe play for children of all ages within their community. In October half-term they'll be having a play session on 26th October at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1-3:30pm. It's free to attend and they welcome children and young people of all ages. Please check for updates on their Facebook page by searching Hebden Childrens.

ILM will kick start career

Opportunities for young people today seem to be narrowing with fewer jobs and fewer employers willing to take a chance on inexperience.

But how can you get the relevant experience without an employer at some point taking a chance?

This was a question 27-year-old Amal Al Shamahi was asking herself.

Amal was raised in Yemen but returned to the city of her birth - Liverpool - in 2015 as a refugee.

Amal wanted to work but struggled to get a job without previous experience of

working in the country.

She took up a voluntary position at St Paul & St Timothy's Infant School but there were no paid positions available.

Things changed when Amal met Joe from the ILM programme.

The ILM (Intermediate Labour Market) programme overcomes the barriers to work by minimising risk for employers and facilitating opportunities for young people.

Young people are offered six months of paid experience for 35 hours per week at minimum wage. Employers

only pay 33% of the wages, therefore minimising the risk of giving a young person a chance.

In addition, ILM project workers offer a link between the employer and the young person to offer support and help resolve any issues.

Communiiversity contacted St Paul & St Timothy's Infant School and told them about the programme and with the costs reduced they were willing to take that chance.

Amal started her six month placement in September 2016 and still works there a year later.

Amal states: "The ILM pro-

gramme has enabled me to gain work experience, self-confidence and show my capabilities and commitment.

"I am now working as full-time teaching assistant as well as engaged in level three teaching assistant course.

"I would like to thank everyone at the ILM programme for the support they gave me throughout the program."

The project is funded by the European Social Fund and runs until 2018 with final placements starting in January. Call Joe Donnelly or Jessica Mason on 0151 546 5514.

ALT VALLEY SPORT



Dan's the man as kids get their kicks

REDS' keeper Danny Ward joined a group of young people at a Premier League Kicks session in Croxteth Sports and Wellbeing Centre.

The Welshman met with participants of the programme, which is run by the LFC Foundation, and observed activities - a skills and drills session and Zorb football - before answering the youngsters' questions.

Danny said: "It was great to come down to the session and meet with the participants to see how they benefit from the programme.

"It's always enjoyable for the team to get out into the community and spend time with our local young people. It's important to give something back."

Premier League Kicks has a long history of using the power

of football and the value of sports participation to help hard-to-reach youngsters in some of the most high-need areas of the UK.

From the 23rd - 27th October Premier League Kicks will be hosting football training sessions at Croxteth Sports and Wellbeing Centre from 9:30am - 3:30pm for children aged 10+. Call 0151 548 3421 for details.

SPORTS CENTRE A REAL KNOCK-OUT!

Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson was the guest of honour for the final day of Merseyside & Cheshire Elite Boxing four day boxing camp at Lifestyles Croxteth Sports & Wellbeing Centre.

The camp was attended by 75 participants from clubs across the area and was headed by the England & Regional coach John Warburton.

Joe Anderson said: "I am thrilled so many young people have taken the opportunity, with the support of their clubs and parents, to be involved in this week's programme.

"Indeed, it is not all about being the

best but being part of a sport which actively promotes health and wellbeing along with good discipline."

The event marked the end of a summer full of activities and events at Croxteth Sports Centre.

This included a summer play scheme with activities such as table tennis, tag rugby and mini-metafit, as well as a three day football camp hosted by LFC Foundation.

Centre manager, Colly Whitty was proud to see so many young people during the half term break, as well as praising the partners and

volunteers who made it successful.

"What a pleasure to work in partnership with LFC Foundation and Merseyside & Cheshire Elite Boxing as well as all the lovely people that came through the doors.

"I would like to personally thank all the volunteers in particular who gave up their valuable time to make the kids summer a good one."

To keep up to date with activities at Lifestyles Croxteth Sports & Wellbeing Centre visit www.facebook.com/lifestylescroxteth or call on 0151 548 3421.

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY FOR US?

If your community group or sports team has a story or a photograph for us then email: cailenkinney@altvalley.co.uk