



EXPANDING HORIZONS

e-NETWORK NEWS

JULY 2005

LOCAL NEWS

How Accessible Is Merseyside's Heritage?

Do you enjoy a day out - but find getting around difficult? Have you had a good experience visiting a heritage site or do you think historic attractions could do more to welcome people with disabilities?

Heritage organisations, under the banner of the regional Historic Environment Forum, have organised a seminar to find out more about the experiences of people with disabilities at historic sites in Merseyside. The public seminar, sponsored by English Heritage, the National Trust and the Disability Rights Commission, invites everyone who visits or uses historic buildings, and particularly those with disabilities, to share their views at 2.30pm on 15th June at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

Speakers will talk about issues such as how historic sites are addressing the Disability Discrimination Act and will provide plenty of opportunity for feedback and time to ask questions.

To book your free place at the seminar please contact Bharti Mehta at English Heritage on 020 7973 3241, or email your ideas for better disability access to historic buildings to, Bharti.Mehta@English-Heritage.org.uk.
<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=158626&NewsAreaID=112&NavigatedFromSearch=True>

Sefton CVS Launch Black & Racial Minority Communities Network

Sefton CVS are to launch a Black & Racial Minority Communities Network. This network will be a mechanism for sharing information about key policies, raising issues of concern, and promoting event and activities.

This new network will help to highlight issues affecting people from Black & Racial Minority Communities in Sefton and feed this information into relevant decision making bodies such as the Sefton Borough Partnership.

For more information, contact Carolyn Spittle on telephone: 0151 928 2233, ext 103

<http://www.seftoncvcs.org.uk/>

Office Space at Comtechsa

Are you a small community, voluntary or charitable organisation looking for accessible office space within Liverpool City Centre? Then please call Comtechsa Limited on 0151 707 4300 or e-mail:

john.wood@comtechsa.org.

NATIONAL NEWS

Lottery Millions to Breathe Life into Living Landmarks

Living Landmarks is a major new funding initiative from the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) – launched on 15 June 2005 providing opportunities for communities to make big improvements to their local environments through multi-million pound awards.

Living Landmarks also offers the chance of winning as much as £50 million for a single project of national significance.

Through *Living Landmarks*, BLF will fund a small number of large-scale projects of national and regional significance across the UK, which will transform, revitalise and regenerate communities. The Fund believes that the new programme, launched today will capture the imagination of communities and increase their involvement with the Lottery by re-connecting people with the good causes they support.

BLF wants local communities and the public to take the opportunity to get involved in developing ideas and projects and in the decision-making

£140 million will be awarded across the UK through two distinct funding streams. Under the first stream, a small number of grants of between £10

million and £25 million will be awarded to projects of regional significance. The successful projects will be chosen by the programme committee, which will include experts from the areas of architecture, regeneration and the environment.

The second stream will award a single grant of between £25 million and £50 million, to a project of national or regional significance, in conjunction with the People's Millions programme and ITV, where the winning project will be decided by a public vote.

Groups eligible to apply for funding include:

- statutory authorities
- charities formed as a trust
- charitable or not for profit companies
- public or private limited companies
- individuals (individuals must demonstrate a commitment to form an appropriately constituted and regulated organisation)

For further details of our eligibility guidelines or to receive an application pack, contact the Big Lottery Fund on 0845 0 10 11 12.

The closing date for applications is **6 January 2006** and short listed projects will be notified by **May 2006** and awarded development funding to allow them to develop their project proposals. A programme committee will make decisions about which successful projects will receive grants of between £10 and £25 million in July 2007. Public voting will take place on the ITV People's Millions programme resulting in the award to one project a grant of between £25million and £50 million.

<http://www.biglottery.org.uk/newsroom/release.aspx?prId=1291>

Drug Prevention Bulletin Now Available

The second edition of the National Collaborating Centre for Drug Prevention (NCCDP) Drug Prevention Bulletin is now available online at:

<http://www.cph.org.uk/publication.asp?id=184>

The bulletin is one way that the NCCDP is working with a wide range of professionals and practitioners to discuss and disseminate the growing evidence base available to underpin drug misuse prevention work with young people.

Hard copies are available on request: Please contact

NCCDPinfo@livjm.ac.uk.

NCCDP are developing the bulletin to provide up-to-date information on new drug prevention programmes and interventions either in development or in operation and highlight examples of good practice. Consequently, they would like to hear about examples of innovative and successful drug prevention

initiatives or young persons projects from your area. Furthermore, the bulletin provides a good forum to discuss issues of wider interest to the field.

To contact NCCDP directly, telephone Lynne Wilkinson, Information Officer, National Collaborating Centre for Drug Prevention on 0151 231 4542.

www.cph.org.uk/nccdp

Housing Corporation to Boost Support for Vulnerable People

The Housing Corporation today set out a renewed commitment to vulnerable people with the announcement of changes in funding criteria for supported housing.

The new criteria relaxes the requirement for long term guaranteed revenue funding to accompany bids for capital funds for new development. This will make it easier for housing associations and potentially other organisations to secure support for new homes, hostels and foyers for vulnerable people.

Following changes in funding rules accompanying the introduction of Supporting People in April 2003, Housing Association bids dropped resulting in a halving of annual spend between the 03/04 and 04/06 funding rounds.

The new funding rules will open the door to Housing Associations and others coming forward with more proposals for new schemes which meet needs identified in Regional Housing Strategies and local authority Supporting People Strategies.

The *Vulnerable People Strategy* commits the Corporation to:

- Invest a significant proportion of our capital funding programme on schemes that will directly benefit vulnerable people
- Achieve close co-ordination between our funding and regulatory systems and those of other parts of Government
- Identify and promote best practice models for the provision of housing, support and care for vulnerable people
- Ensure throughout this work that vulnerable people are offered choice and a maximum degree of independence in the way they live their lives
- Recognise that every member of society has a contribution to make, and that a strong community benefits from the inclusion of, and responds to the needs of its more vulnerable members.

<http://www.housingcorplibrary.org.uk/housingcorp.nsf/AllDocuments/6A1C851041C9894F802570150039D6BA>

URCs Unveil Ambitious Regeneration Targets

Ambitious future plans for Urban Regeneration Companies (URCs) have been outlined by Margaret Ford, Chairman of national regeneration agency, English Partnerships. The combined force of 21 URCs expect to deliver 1.5m sq m of new commercial floor space, 30,000 new city centre homes, 35,000 new jobs as well as lever in around £1.5bn in private sector investment through the life of the URCs.

The last 12 months has seen progress on some major schemes such as Liverpool Lime Street Gateway, Sheffield Retail Quarter, Manchester Business Park and Corby Parkland Gateway. Funding of nearly £30m provided through English Partnerships has also provided a major boost to a range of projects within the programme.

A monitoring and evaluation framework has been put in place which will help capture some of the wider outcomes and positive progress being made, as well five year reviews for the three pilot URCs in Liverpool, East Manchester and Sheffield. The Liverpool review has already created evidence for the "energising" effect of URCs.

English Partnerships, who pioneered the URC model, is a founding member and funding partner of 18 URCs in partnership with RDAs, local authorities and the private sector. The model has proved powerful and flexible as a means of securing the regeneration of urban centres. The agency will continue to provide best practice advice and support enabling URCs to look at new ways of generating funding and resources. The way they engage with private sector partners will be key to successfully turning around sites more quickly.

New thinking is already in evidence in some regions: The East Midlands URCs have worked with the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) and English Partnerships to create the East Midlands Property investment fund in the belief that collective assets can attract more investment and expertise. <http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/page.aspx?theLang=001Ingdef&pointerid=E867EE57812B40BCA19B9C21A65DFE4D>

Asset Ownership Central to Long Term Poverty Solutions, says Blunkett

Tackling the growing assets divide is crucial to ensure future generations are removed from, rather than managed in, poverty, David Blunkett announced when speaking to the IPPR, the Work and Pensions Secretary on 5 July 2005.

He spelt out three key ways of ensuring assets enable families to build intergenerational stepping stones out of poverty:

- Social fund reform including additional funding of £210 million over 3 years

- Raising capital limits to ensure that the benefit system encourages households to save appropriately
- Working with institutions to encourage greater community partnerships and tackle financial exclusion

Highlighting the work that is already being done across government, such as the Child Trust Fund, the new shared equity scheme for homebuyers, and the savings gateway, David Blunkett said that giving everyone the opportunity to build assets for the future would be at the heart of our reforms.

A full version of the speech can be read online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/2005/05_07_05.asp

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2005/jul/cdis12050705.asp>

Disability Debate – Shaping the Future of Equality

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) has launched a major new initiative - *The Disability Debate*. The Debate is an opportunity for you to play an active role in shaping a new agenda for action to bring about a society in which disabled people can participate and contribute as equal citizens.

Over the summer the DRC will run a series of 'debating points' covering issues such as risk, welfare and work, the role of professionals in disabled people's lives, and whether it is right that some disabled people live, learn and work in places which separate them from the wider community. There will be opportunities for you to discuss the issues directly with people in positions to bring about change.

The DRC has published a discussion paper, *Shaping the Future of Equality*, which sets out the major issues facing disabled people in 2005 and some future challenges.

To read the paper, register to receive regular updates and take part in our discussion forum, please visit www.disabilitydebate.org

“What About Us?” - Diversity Review Research Published

People from inner cities, disabled people and the black and minority ethnic community are among the groups whose needs could be better served by many organisations who offer outdoor recreation opportunities. Once they have 'tasted' the experience, these groups are keen to continue visiting, according to new research published on 12 July 2005 by the Countryside Agency.

What About Us?, is new research carried out as part of the Countryside Agency's Diversity Review*, looked at ways of improving the opportunities for young people, disabled people, people from the black and minority ethnic community, and people in inner cities to get out and enjoy the outdoors. It also

looked at their perceptions of what the countryside has to offer them. The research reviewed the steps already in place to encourage under-represented groups to use the countryside and what improvements could be made.

Key findings and recommendations highlighted by the research include:

- It has long been an assumption that under-represented groups have no interest in the countryside. This review shows that this is not the case;
- All these groups are keen to enjoy the outdoors once they have 'tasted' the experience. Young people need programmes tailored to their needs;
- A lack of confidence and information is the biggest initial barrier among people. Practical barriers like a lack of public transport only come into play when people look at how they can make a visit;
- A lack of confidence among providers in approaching people from these groups results in a lack of engagement with local people who could use their facilities;
- Little attention is paid to communicating directly and appropriately with these groups and positive images are scarce;
- The variety of disabilities is not being recognized, particularly sensory and learning difficulties. Easy access routes for wheelchair users and people who have trouble walking far, though necessary, only cater for a minority of disabled people.

What About Us? is available from the Countryside Agency's website at www.countryside.gov.uk/diversity
<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/WhoWeAreAndWhatWeDo/pressCentre/prdivreview.asp>

New Investment in Offenders Education

A new package of measures to educate offenders out of crime and into employment was unveiled by Ivan Lewis, Minister for Young People and Adult Skills and Prisons Minister Hilary Benn.

Speaking at the Department for Education and Skills' Prisoners Learning and Skills Unit's annual conference, the Ministers announced a new investment of 10 million from 2004 to increase learning opportunities for offenders in the community. A further 14.5 million Pounds for the Custody to Work initiative would also be spent to increase the numbers of prisoners going into jobs or education when they leave custody.

The Ministers also detailed how major investment this year will be spent to improve education and training for offenders, enhance their employability and

help reduce re-offending. In all, 97 million will be spent this year on initiatives to educate offenders. These include:

- improved use of ICT to help prisoners learn up-to-date IT skills and to learn on-line
- making best use of available technology in recording and transferring prisoners' educational needs, progress and achievements, so that prisoners will no longer have to go through repeated assessments when they move between prisons
- more lower category prisoners to access day-release learning in the community, to help them to attain skills which employers want
- improved information, advice and guidance arrangements for juvenile offenders - with the aim to have 90% of young people in the youth justice system in full-time education, training or employment by 2004: supported by additional personal advisers in young offenders institutions and youth offending teams.

http://www.electronic-government.co.uk/archive/index2.cfm?article_id=46

New Safeguards for Vulnerable People

Particularly vulnerable people who lack capacity to make their own decisions will be supported and represented by a new Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA), Health minister Rosie Winterton today announced. The IMCA service will mean that certain people who lack capacity - this may include people who suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's disease, brain injury or a very severe learning disability - will be helped to make difficult decisions such as medical treatment choices or changes to residence. It is aimed specifically at those people who do not have relatives or friends to speak for them.

A three-month public consultation opens today covering some important operational details in setting up the IMCA service. These include:

- the main functions the IMCA will carry out;
- how to define "serious medical treatment" - one of the triggers for involving an IMCA;
- whether to extend the service to cover other groups of people or different circumstances.
- the Department of Health has made £6.5 million available to set up the scheme, which was introduced under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Implementation is planned for April 2007.

The consultation document is available on www.dh.gov.uk. The consultation closes on 30 September 2005. An accessible version of the consultation document is also available. A CD-Rom of the consultation documents with audio recording of the easy read version and translations in several ethnic minority languages will be available shortly.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/PressReleases/PressReleaseSNotices/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4114976&chk=C64usZ

Consultation on Equality & Diversity Data

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has launched a new consultation entitled *Inclusion, Equality and Diversity: Data*.

The Pupil Level Annual School Census (OLASC) in January 2003, required schools to return pupil ethnic background data based on the categories specified in the 2001 national Census of Population (England and Wales).

This consultation document is designed to give Local Authorities guidance in order to support the collection and recording of wider inclusion, equality and diversity data which are proposed to be reported via the School Census. This data will help schools to plan to provide effective personalised learning opportunities for all pupils, including responding to pupils' diverse learning needs.

The consultation sets out guidance for Local Authorities advising them on the collection and recording of data on pupils' ethnic background, first language, faith, traveller status and disability. This data will inform inclusion and equality strategies at school, local authority and national level, thereby helping to ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential.

The consultation aims to examine the usefulness of guidance and other help that might be needed in preparing to record these data. It is taking place now in order to inform the commissioning process for Schools Census in 2007.

The closing date for the consultation is Tuesday August 9th 2005

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1340>

Social Enterprise Generates £18bn Turnover for the UK Economy

Social Enterprises generate some £18billion in annual turnover and employ over 775,000 people groundbreaking new findings published by the DTI show. Social Enterprises are businesses driven by social or environmental goals rather than the need to maximise private profit.

The Small Business Service: Survey of social enterprises across the UK provides a snapshot of this diverse and important business sector, and how it contributes to society and the environment. Social enterprises are diverse, in size and sector. Almost a quarter (23%) are in London, but they operate in every region of the UK and they represent around 1% of the UK's (employing) businesses.

Other main findings of the survey are:

- The vast majority of employment and turnover in social enterprises is generated through their own trading activity; 905 of those surveyed generated at least 50% of their income through trading;
- Although around half of social enterprises receive grants, donations and subsidies (which account for 12% of income) and over 82% of turnover is from trading income;
- Of 33% of social enterprises derive their income from Health and Social Care; other important sources of trading income are social and personal services, real estate and renting, and adult education.
- Over 50% of social enterprises are located in the 40% most deprived areas and play a role in urban regeneration. Most social enterprises exist to help particular groups of people either through employment of providing goods and services;
- The most common groups helped are those with disabilities, young people the elderly and those on low incomes. Nearly a quarter had environmental objectives.

The survey set out to understand the sectors where these businesses are active, where they operate, who they benefit and how they generate income.

The report, *The Small Business Service: Social Enterprise Survey Across the UK* can be found at: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/socialenterprise>
<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=162954&NewsAreaID=2>

FUNDING NEWS

£2.5m Fund To Boost Equality Awareness

Voluntary organisations could be in for a share of £2.5m to raise awareness of employment equality regulations, Deputy Equality Minister Meg Munn announced.

The money will help voluntary and not-for-profit organisations in their work to raise awareness of sexual orientation and religion or belief legislation and builds on the £2m already awarded in the last two years.

A range of organisations will be able to bid for the funding to help them raise awareness with individuals and employers about their rights and responsibilities under the legislation

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation and Religion or Belief) Regulations aim to:

- Outlaw discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, religion or belief in employment and vocational training; and
- Provide protection to all workers from unfair discrimination, harassment and victimisation on these grounds.

The funding is available up to **31 March 2007** and organisations are invited to submit proposals by **27 July 2005**.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=159790&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromSearch=True>

Public To Vote On Lottery Grants

The public will be able to vote on where Lottery money goes as part of plans to reform the way Lottery good cause money is given out.

It comes as the Government publishes the Lottery Bill, which would allow Lottery distributors to take account of public consultation in making decisions on where Lottery good cause money will go. This could mean the public voting on Lottery grants is showcased through TV programmes in a similar way to the BBC programme Restoration.

Other key parts of the Bill include:

- Formalising the merger of the New Opportunities Fund, the Community Fund and the Millennium Commission into a single distributor – the Big Lottery Fund, saving between £6-12m a year.
- Creating simpler rules to ensure that Lottery money will reach good cause projects faster and make it easier for groups to apply for Lottery cash.
- Change the licensing and regulation of the Lottery to continue to maximise the returns to good causes.
- A new system of allocating investment income from funds held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund. This would encourage lower balances by ensuring that distributors successful in getting their balances down do not suffer a loss of investment income, and that those maintaining high balances do not benefit.

Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport Tessa Jowell said:

"In future the public will have a far greater say over where Lottery money goes. They will be able to get involved via public opinion polls, citizens' juries,

focus groups, Internet surveys, telephone, Internet, text or television voting for individual projects or by joining a local or regional awards panel."

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/DCMS071_2005.htm?month=May&properties=archive%5F2005%2C%2Fglobal%2Fpress%5Fnotices%2Farchive%5F2005%2F%2C

AOL to Support Community Groups

Community groups and charities are being invited by internet access AOL to apply for funding to develop net-based activities. The company is offering 30 award packages, worth £2,000, through its Innovation in the Community Awards. Previous winners have included community centres, housing charities, environmental groups, sports clubs and health organisations.

For details, visit www.aol.co.uk/about/community/innovation

Entrepreneur Fund Puts Accent on Independence

Entrepreneurs in disadvantaged communities and the financially excluded are to be targeted by a new £9.4m grant programme from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Entitled *Social Change: Enterprise and Independence*, it will replace the foundation's social development programme from May.

The new programme will be divided into two categories: enterprising communities and financial independence.

'Enterprising Communities' will be open to those with entrepreneurial approaches to tackling problems in disadvantaged communities. Priorities include support for social enterprises, work that enables voluntary organisations to become more sustainable (for example through trading opportunities) and creating opportunities for people to become more economically independent.

'Financial Independence' will support work which improves access to financial services for individuals, voluntary and community organisations and businesses which are unable to use traditional sources of finance, through credit unions and Community Development Finance Institutions. It will also aim to bring organisations or activities together to make financial and advice services more integrated and accessible and through innovative means of promoting financial inclusion.

Full guidance is available at www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

£10 Million for Enterprising Ideas

A £10 million fund to help local authorities develop proposals for boosting the economies of the deprived areas has been announced by Minister for Local Government Phil Woolas.

The fund will be shared between eligible local authorities who express an interest in applying for the Government's new £300million Local Enterprise Growth Initiative. The eligible authorities are those recognised as being the deprived parts of the country. The formal definition is those 88 local authorities currently in receipt of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, plus any new areas named in the next allocation round.

The aim of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) is to boost local incomes and employment opportunities in the most deprived local areas through enterprise and investment. The intended outcomes are to increase total entrepreneurial activity among the population; support the growth and reduce the failure rate of locally-owned businesses; and to attract appropriate inward investment and franchising, making use of local labour resources. The £300million funding is spread over three years.

The £10million pump-priming money will ensure that local authorities have the resources to develop partnerships with other local and regional organisations, including the RDAs and the private sector, and enable them to put forward a serious case for improving the economies of their areas.

The pump-priming money announced today will be allocated through Government Offices as soon as possible to ensure local authorities have sufficient time to develop proposals for 2006/07, the first phase of the initiative.

Local authorities can expect to receive pump-priming of between £80,000 and £120,000, depending on the size of population in their area.

The £300 million funding is to be spread over three years and planned as: £50 million 2006-7, £100 million 2007-8, £150 million 2008-9.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2005_0126

Disability Rights Commission (DRC) Funding Guide Published

The DRC has just published a new document, *Guide for Funders*.

The guide has been published after research found that disabled people faced barriers when applying for funding. The results of this research were used to form recommendations in the document and provide an excellent resource for funding bodies to:

- encourage disabled people to apply for funding
- develop accessible services

- promote equality of opportunity
- raise awareness of the rights and requirements of disabled people
- improve service delivery overall
- meet statutory legal obligations.
- Lloyds TSB Foundation, the National Association of Council of Voluntary Service's funding forum and the Big Lottery provided "funding intelligence" and feedback on drafts prior to publication.

Guide for Funders is an essential and practical toolkit for both public and private funding bodies. The document is free and is available (along with a wide selection of other DRC publications) to download from the DRC Website.

Alternatively, call the DRC Helpline on 08457 622 633.

Text: 08457 622644.

<http://www.drc-gb.org/publicationsandreports/publicationdetails.asp?id=385§ion=aboutdrc>

Champions to Open up Countryside to All

Black and Asian countryside lovers are being encouraged to help open up the national parks to other members of their communities under £1m initiative.

The Heritage Lottery Fund – backed Mosaic Partnership which will be run by the council for National Parks and the Youth Hostels Association, will train 'community champions' keen to increase access by black and ethnic minority groups to England and Wales' most highly prized landscapes. Other funders include the four national park authorities, the Countryside Agency, Nationwide Building Society and Lloyds – TSB Foundation.

The initiative builds on the three-year Mosaic Project, run with the Black Environmental Network, which aimed to break down barriers preventing people from Black and Asian backgrounds from venturing into national parks.

For further details contact Junie Joseph, telephone: 020 7924 4077, ext 226

NEW ROLES

New Chief Executive appointed for Liverpool's Kings Dock Waterfront Development

Bob Pratthey will become the new Chief Executive for Liverpool's Kings Dock waterfront arena and conference centre. As managing director at the NEC group, Mr Pratthey led the business responsible for the international Conference Centre, the symphony hall, the NEC Arena and the National Indoor Arena. In his new role Mr Pratthey will oversee the development of the planned area, conference and exhibition complex, which is due for completion before Liverpool's capital of Culture celebrations in 2008.

New Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate Appointed

Lin Homer has been appointed the new Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)

Lin, who was selected following an open competition, succeeds Bill Jeffrey who left to take up the post of Security and Intelligence Coordinator and Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office. She is expected to take up her post in August and is currently Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council where she has been responsible for 57,000 staff.

Lin will be tasked with implementing the next stage of the Government's comprehensive reform of the UK's immigration and asylum system as set out in the five-year strategy 'Controlling our borders: Making migration work for Britain', published earlier this year.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1310

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Merseyside Youth Games

The fourteenth Merseyside Youth Games was once again hailed as a huge success! Over 3000 young sports people participated in 10 sports, representing their borough over the weekend's event!

Record numbers of spectators and family members showed their support. The event took place on the 9th and 10th July at the Oval, Bebington, Wirral. The weekend's sports included Boccia, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Rugby Union, Swimming, Netball, Tennis, Gymnastics and Hockey.

Over the weekend events, the English Cricket Board Road Show and the England Squash Road Show and Active Places, a Sport England initiative all held demonstrations. The Royal Marines also volunteered their services all weekend and key sponsors of the event include Warburtons, Capita, Colourplan, and Riverside Housing, many thanks to them all.

Jeans Stephens, Director for Merseyside Sport said: -

"This years event has been absolutely fantastic and it is so good to see more and more young sports people participating. Sport has a major role to play in positively effecting the quality of life of all young people in Merseyside and this year's games is a testament of the hard work and vision of all those dedicated people, to deliver one of the most celebrated mass participation events in Youth Sport in the UK. Well done everyone and I hope to see you all again next year!"

A big thank you goes out to everyone who participated, supported and volunteered over the weekend! The Merseyside Youth Games owes its success to all of the above, without whose help the weekend would not have been the success that it was!

For further details contact Kerry Stewart - K.Stewart@livjm.ac.uk

Third Sector Risk Management Conference

Get advice on managing risk from professionals and find out how the government can help on the **26th July at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster, London** from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Third Sector is running a one-day conference for voluntary organisations in the UK, with Charity Logistics to discuss everything you need to know to protect your organisation.

The aim of the day is to discuss the practical guides and best practice models to achieve effective risk management for charities in the UK.

Apart from taking part in debates, delegates will also have the opportunity to network with colleagues from other voluntary organisations.

If you have any questions, please call Clare McNulty on 020 8267 4804

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk>

Grass-Root Presents Music-Life Festival 25th – 27th August 2005

Schedule of events are:

- Thursday 25th: careers expo
11am - 4pm
- Thursday 25th: indie and rock night
6 - 9pm

- Friday 26th: instrument and vocal workshops, industry skills DJ'ing, breakdancing, business and much more.
10am - 5pm
- Friday 26th: open-mic stage (register on the day)
6 - 9pm
- Saturday 27th: urban and dance day - hip hop, dance, breakbeat, drum n bass and breakdance show
3 - 9pm

All Ages Welcome

To get your FREE tickets and full details of the venues please contact us on: email: events@grass-root.net or text: 07871 257 388
www.grass-root.net

Low Demand Housing: Practical Investment and Implementation Solutions

The Low Demand Housing conference will be held 13-14 September at the Thistle Hotel, Manchester in association with Regeneration & Renewal. It will combine experience and expertise from leaders in both Pathfinder and non-Pathfinder areas to provide you with the information you need to create a sustainable Housing Market Renewal scheme in your area.

Attracting over 200 delegates, the conference will be attended by the following organisations:

Housing Associations, Local Authorities, New Deal for Communities, Property Developers, Regeneration/Housing Consultancies, Regional Development Agencies.

Speakers Include:

Joanna Averley, Deputy Chief Executive, CAGE, Mike Maunder, Head of Housing Markets, Audit Commission, Derek Long, Head of Operations, Low Demand and Pathfinders, Housing Corporation, Jean Nowak, ODPM, Michael Gahagan, Chair, Transform South Yorkshire.

If you want to reach key players in this arena, please call me on 020 8267 4454 or email william.kendrick@haynet.com. Opportunities are limited so please act quickly if you want to sponsor or exhibit at this event.