

# Author visits school



**A WRITER and illustrator of children's books visited Birstall to talk to schoolchildren.**

Steve Smallman's first session was at Birstall Library where 90 students from Riverside primary school, ranging from Reception to Year 5, came to listen to Steve. A group of English A Level students from Longslade Community College attended the session in order to observe Steve interacting with the primary children.

He started by reading to them from two of his popular books – Smelly Peter the Great Pea Eater and the Lamb who Came for Dinner

– each of them has an amusing twist on a traditional tale. He then showed them how to draw expressions on a face and by altering the shape of the eyebrows he could make a happy face into a sad face. One of the children asked him to draw a grumpy elephant, and they were so delighted with the result that Steve signed it and they took it back to school.

Steve then had an informal chat with the



Longslade Sixth Form students about how he became a children's author and the kind of language he adopts while writing for children.

After finishing at Birstall Library, Steve transferred to Longslade Community College to continue his sessions with the older students. First up was the Speech and Language Centre who were lucky to have Steve deliver a workshop just for them, and because the numbers were much smaller they all had an opportunity to do some drawing of their own.

In the afternoon it was the Art and Graphics students turn to watch Steve display his talents in the hall. This time he asked the students to suggest which animal he should draw and drew a puzzled goldfish, an angry beaver and an intellectual turtle.

All these pictures and his 'emoticons' will be displayed in the library until half term.

The funding for the visit was provided by the 'Behind the Book' initiative

# Spanish classes

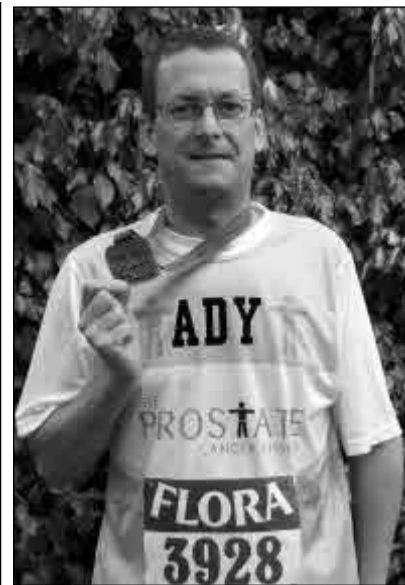
**ARE YOU holidaying in Spain this summer? If so, an intensive Spanish language course at Longslade could be for you.**

Longslade's Adult Learning Service have a course for anyone wishing to learn basic language skills to survive in typical situations when on holiday in Spain. The emphasis will be on listening, understanding and speaking and the course will be flexible to allow for the individual needs of learners.

Topics to be covered will include greeting, numbers, buying drinks, eating out and directions. Learners will have the opportunity to discuss other topics which they might like to study with the tutor. You will also discover a little about the Spanish culture, the country and its people.

Classes will be held during the week Tuesday June 23 to Thursday June 25, 7-9pm and Saturday June 27, 9.30am – 1.30pm.

For further information please call the FREEPHONE helpline 0800 988 0308 or phone the college 0116 2673389



# Marathon total

**BIRSTALL'S ADRIAN Barnacle has raised £1500 by completing the London Marathon.**

Adrian (43), of Castlegate Avenue, completed the 26 mile course in 3hrs.56mins. He said: "I was just inside my four hour target. It was a great day, the atmosphere along the whole route was fantastic, the weather was a little on the warm side which made the last few miles a little challenging but I was very pleased with the result, particularly as I overtook Gordon Ramsay en route!"

"Many thanks to those who responded to the Birstall Post appeal, the total raised for the Prostate Cancer Charity will be around £1500. It's not too late to donate, anyone wishing to do so can still go to [www.justgiving.com/adrianbarnacle](http://www.justgiving.com/adrianbarnacle), or call me on 07717 535314 to arrange a cash donation."

The July issue of **THE BIRSTALL POST** will be published on Jul 4. The copy deadline is Jun 19.

# Handbag stolen from car

**POLICE ARE appearing for witnesses after a woman had her handbag stolen from her car.**

The incident happened on Sunday May 10, between 2pm and 2.30pm at the Watermead car park off Meadow Lane. When the victim returned to her car she discovered a rear window to the car had been smashed and two handbags stolen from the boot.

PC Kevin Gray, the officer investigating the incident, said: "We would like anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident or who can remember seeing someone acting suspiciously to contact us. I would also like to remind people to remove anything of value out of their cars and do not leave anything on show as thieves will target those cars with valuables on show."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact PC 1124 Kevin Gray on 0116 222 2222, follow the instructions to leave a voicemail for an officer then key in his identification number 1124. Alternatively, information can be left with Crimestoppers, which is free and anonymous on 0800 555 111.

**TWO MUSICIANS from Birstall have released their first CD.**

Kirsty and David Birchall Nyhuus are former students at Stonehill and Longslade and together form the duo Kalbakken, performing their own arrangements of Norwegian folk songs.

In the past two years, the half Norwegian siblings have toured in the UK, Portugal and Spain and their music has been played on BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 6 and BBC Manchester, where they are now based.

The CD is called 'Then I saw Summer and Sun on the Earth'.

For details go to [www.myspace.com/kalbakken](http://www.myspace.com/kalbakken)

# BIRSTALL LONGSLADE SWIMMING POOL

# OPEN DAY/FUN DAY

**Come along and try a FREE session at the pool**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Tea/Coffee • Refreshments • Barbecue (weather permitting) • Various Stalls & Games**

**ALL SESSIONS FREE!! Limited numbers per session**

- 8.00 – 9.00 Adults only
- 9.00 – 11.00 Public session
- 11.00 – 11.30 Aquafit
- 11.30 – 12.00 Demonstration Water Polo
- 12.00 – 1.00 Fun Session with NEW inflatable
- 1.00 – 1.30 Demonstration Life Saving/Lifeguard
- 1.30 – 2.00 Break
- 2.00 – 3.00 Fun session with NEW inflatable
- 3.00 – 3.30 Aquafit
- 3.30 – 4.30 Public
- 4.30 – 5.30 Disco Splash



Pedestrian access: via Stonehill High School, Stonehill Avenue, Birstall (no vehicular access)

Car parking and pedestrian access available at Longslade Community College Wanlip Lane Birstall