

# Birstall gala

**BIRSTALL GALA** takes place this year over the weekend June 27 and 28.

This free event organised by Birstall Parish Council and held on the School Lane playing fields is now in its tenth year.

The Saturday is made up a number of bands who will be playing between 1.30 and 9.30pm. A gala spokesman said: "We feel we have a good mix of music and hope there is something for all our young audience."

On the Sunday there will be all the fun of the fair with ice cream stalls, hot dogs and stalls by local organisations and charities. There will be musical entertainment, a boxing display from Carl Gunn's gym and an appearance by Miss Leicester 2009.

The Sunday will start at 10am with a church service attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood, Roy Brown and Gillian Brown. After the service the Mayor will officially open the new Sibson Road car park, unveiling the Edith Murphy plaque.

The day concludes with a free Last Night of the Proms concert, starting at 7.30pm, with the Hathern Band and climaxing with a firework finale.

# Good citizen

**THE BIRSTALL Citizen of the Year Award** is now in its fifth year and recognises the often unseen work of the many good citizens of the village.

Nominations are now being sought for the 2009 recipient.

The award is made by Birstall Parish Council. Chairman Stuart Jones said: "The idea is to recognise the work of those who go unrecognised, not professionals – doctors, teachers or councillors who do important work – but people who give their time and energy as volunteers to help the community. I hope to encourage people to do more for Birstall".

The award is presented during the annual two day Birstall Gala in June and nominations for the award should be forwarded to the Parish Council, Council Offices, Birstall Road, Birstall LE4 4DH. Past winners were Mr Jex Woods (Birstall & Wanlip Age Concern), Mrs Brenda Watts (Friends of Belgrave Cemetery), Andy Corbett (Birstall Village Cricket Club) and the current title holder is Mr Allan Kinton for work with Birstall & Wanlip NHW.

# New hair product

**A NEW hair repair product from America** has proved popular at a Birstall hairdressing salon.

Shapes Professional Hair Care on Birstall Road sold out of their initial order of 24 bottles of Moroccanoil within a week.

Claire Halford from Shapes said: "It is simply amazing to work with, I have never seen anything like it, the look and feel of the hair is so different. We have worked with hundreds of hair products and treatments over the years and this product gives results like nothing I have ever seen."

Shapes is offering 50 free wash and blow dries together with a complimentary Moroccanoil treatment within the salon. Claire said: "Call us on 0844 445 7540 today to sample this amazing product for yourself."



# NHW news

## Water Safety

**WARMER WEATHER** not only brings out thieves, it brings out the young people seeking adventure.

They may not think that what they are doing is dangerous, and often it is not, but when water is involved extreme caution is needed. It has been brought to the attention of Birstall & Wanlip NHW and also the local police that young people are playing in dangerous areas, mainly in Watermead Country Park around the lakes, and also on the new developments, on Hallam Fields.

The new drainage area under the bridge on the entrance to the development has become a playground for young people. They may not realise the dangers, which is why parents need to ensure their children understand the risks. The steep sides around the drainage area for Hallam Fields are a death trap. Steep sides and mud that acts like quick sand present great danger for those playing in the area.

In Watermead Country Park the lakes and rivers are a great place to go and relax. If you know that your children are in the area then tell them about the hazards. Many people are seen swimming in the lakes during summer months. Undercurrents and objects in the water can cause death.

Use the local swimming pool instead, for just a few pounds, you can enjoy a swim in a safe and controlled environment.

Please, if you see anybody in these areas that are putting themselves in danger, just warn them, what the outcome could be. Help them to help themselves. It is vital that as a community we look out for each other, and prevent any devastating accidents that could happen on our doorstep.

## Roy Rollings

Birstall & Wanlip NHW Committee Member

## Crime Report: Birstall April 13, 2009 to May, 2009

Assaults & harassment 10, burglary 7, burglary other 12, damage 5, damage to motor vehicle 4, fraud 1, robbery 1, theft 9, theft of cycle 2, theft from motor vehicle 2, theft of motor vehicle 2, theft stores 1

PC Richard Carruthers reports that five of the above crimes were detected

# War on graffiti

**THE PROBLEM** of graffiti in Birstall continues to receive attention from the parish and borough councils as well as the police.

Birstall Parish Councillors are volunteering to paint over graffiti on NTL cable boxes and are making repeated trips to the same boxes – as soon as they are repainted the graffiti is reappearing.

Birstall's Beat Constable PC Richard Carruthers caught three young people defacing a climbing frame while he was on a covert patrol on Meadow Lane. He said: "On a Friday night I crept up on three youths committing damage, they were all males aged 18, 20 and 21. They have never been in trouble before and were visibly shaken by my presence. Marker pens were seized. They will be scrubbing all the graffiti off the climbing frame and will leave me a voicemail when they are finished and I will then inspect."

The authorities are stressing the importance of the public continuing to report all graffiti to Charnwood Borough Council on 01509 634563 or online at [www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/graffiti](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/graffiti)

# Helping Gambian school

**STUDENTS AT Longslade College** have been fundraising for a Gambian nursery school.

And later this summer a group of students, accompanied by head of social sciences Kim Philpot, will be travelling to Africa to visit the school, the third successive year students have made the trip.

In April the Take Care Nursery School's headteacher Bakari Kujabi visited Longslade to talk to students and receive a cheque for £310 from Fern Betts (17) and Becky Scotcher (17). They organised a sponsored walk around the college grounds – 150 students took part.

Fern said: "Having looked at the photos of the nursery school it made you think about all the stuff we have and how even £10 will make such a difference."

Bakari said the money will help to pay for the school's feeding programme. He said: "On Mondays we prepare food for the children which is very important – we have noticed we now have a large turnout on



**Pic: Bakary Kujabi with teacher Kim Philpot and students Fern Betts and Becky Scotcher**

Mondays. We can do this more often if we get funds. It helps to improve the role of the school within the community."

He added: "Another priority is a fence for the school, we get a lot of snakes in the school, one of our cooks was bitten, and we want to protect the children from hazards.

The fence will also protect the plants we grow from animals."

"It is really brilliant the support we are getting from Longslade and we are really grateful" he added.

20 students aged 16-18 years will be visiting the nursery school this summer. Teacher Kim Philpot said: "These visits change the students' whole perspective on life and what is valuable."

For more details visit [www.takecare-nursery.co.uk](http://www.takecare-nursery.co.uk)



# Allan's award

**A VOLUNTEER WITH Birstall's Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)** has been presented with an award in recognition of his contribution to neighbourhood policing.

Allan Kinton, treasurer of Birstall and Wanlip's NHW, received a certificate at the AGM of the Leicestershire and Rutland NHW Association in April.

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