



Walker Eye

February 2008

The Newsletter for the residents of Walker Riverside

Riverside news round-up

Page 2



Going going gong!

Page 3



Making a mark

Page 5



It's showtime!

Yes, come on down to River's Gate and choose from the vast range of houses on offer.

You can see for yourselves with the opening of the new show homes this **Saturday – February 16.**

This landmark site, with many homes having spectacular views along the Tyne to the Baltic, Millennium Bridge and the Sage, is opening its doors to the public. The properties range from two-bed apartments to spacious four-bed homes and there is something for everybody, with apartments starting at £65,000 (shared ownership).

The new show homes are the latest in luxury living with top quality design, innovative interior design and landscaped gardens. Come in and have a look around and meet Alex Marshall and her sales team, Jane Galloway and Claire Hillard.

Move in before April and you could benefit from the range of special offers.

Sales and Marketing Manager Alex Marshall, said: "People should come along as soon as they can and not miss out. This is a hugely exciting and sought-after site and we look forward to meeting you and giving you a first-hand opportunity to have a good look round and maybe choose your next home.

Our dedicated and professional sales team will be on hand to answer your questions and sort out your requirements."

River's Gate is the first Places for People development in the area, part of the Walker regeneration scheme that will see nearly 2,000 homes built over the next 15 years.

To find out more, please drop-in to the River's Gate sales office or give the team a call – 0191 275 9446.



Update on Walker

- **River's Gate:** Places for People on target to complete 40 homes by March and the first full phase of 68 homes by July. Reservations on new homes to date include both homes for sale and for shared equity.
- **Dovercourt:** Riverside Multi-Storey review to be concluded by April. Relocation of tenants from the Dovercourt maisonettes is well underway.
- **Schools:** City Council has been awarded £10m in principle towards new schools. Expected to be confirmed by Dept for Children, Schools and Families, later this year.
- **Riverside South:** Places for People aim to start phase 1 of 50 new homes during 2010/11.
- **The Allotments:** (next to River's Gate) – Bellway Homes have appointed architects to develop drawings for 100 homes on this site.
- **Cambrian:** Bellway Homes on target to complete the 27 homes in Phasde1B by March 2008 (12 for rent and 15 for sale).
- **Saffron Court:** shared equity homes on this site are being marketed from the Information Centre on Walker Road and the local media.

pridepassionpotential

 Walker Riverside

And our survey said...

A big thank-you to everybody who took part in our residents' survey in the last edition of the Walker Eye.

We had 120 replies and that was a great response. It was good to hear that some 83% of you know about the regeneration plans, 62% said you were satisfied or very satisfied with the area as a place to live and nearly 50% of people living in Walker Riverside say it is changing for the better. Of course, we know there is still a lot of work to be done and a lot happening in Walker. That is why your views are so important. We want to keep you up-to-date with all the latest plans and changes. It is important to know what we doing right, what we are doing wrong and where we can improve. The survey results are summed-up below and there are more details on our website...
www.walker-riverside.co.uk

This is what you told us:

The good...

- 83% say you know about the regeneration plans for Walker Riverside
- 62% say you are satisfied or very satisfied with the area as a place to live. It is hoped this will increase as the project builds further momentum
- 49% of residents in Walker Riverside say the area is changing for the better
- 27% say you could have a direct influence on what is happening.

The not so good...

- 57% say that life is much the same now as before the new developments
- 48% say they have no influence over the decision-making
- 21% say the area has changed for the worse
- 17% say they do not about the plans at all.

And what happens next...

- Your survey results were presented to the Walker Riverside Project Board
- Your views will form an important benchmark as to where we need to improve
- Another survey is to be carried out later this year to ensure we are making the right progress.

Riverside news round-up: The feedback

First of all a huge thank-you for coming along to the special Riverside Round-Up sessions at the Lightfoot Centre last November.

It was really good to see you and we were very pleased that we had more than 100 residents, as well as some 30 youngsters from a variety of local groups, taking part. We certainly found the sessions very useful and we hope you did. Your views are vital to the whole regeneration programme in Walker.

After the entire whole scheme is all about you and what you want. That is why it is so important to hear what you have to say on what we are doing and how we are doing it. And we are listening and we are acting on what we heard. Let us assure you that your feedback and comments are now being channelled into the planning process as the next stages of the very exciting proposals for Walker take shape.

This is a short snap-shot of what we heard.

Housing

- Concern about the affordability of new housing
- Too long to demolish properties
- New housing not being built as quickly as planned
- Provide new homes before we demolish
- More properties for rent
- More bungalows
- Clear consultation on naming new developments

Environment

- Traffic calming needed throughout project area
- Why does Thomas Gaughan have to move?
- Poor lighting
- Potential for anti-social behaviour with new public square
- More re-cycling facilities



Riverside Round-Up Session

Heart of Walker

- Need for family friendly pub
- Essential to have a bank
- Improved bus turning point
- Suitable parking
- When it is all going to happen?
- Welcomed plans for new school near the Lightfoot Centre. Access, parking and proximity to other services on Walker Road should be considered

Young people

- Need to be more involved
- Walker Eye for and by teenagers needed
- Information to be accurate and up to date
- Poor lighting
- Change difficult for communities to deal with
- Park wardens recruited to make people feel safer

Employment and training

- Targeted advertising and promotion of opportunities
- More and varied apprentices
- Job opportunities for all
- One-Stop Shop for Heart of Walker
- Wider access to adult training
- Attract new businesses to industrial area
- Promotion of local job opportunities for school-leavers
- Agreements with housing developers to employ local people

Feedback

**More feedback on both the survey and the Riverside Round-Up will be available on our website www.walker-riverside.co.uk.
Also look out for the special feedback leaflet.**

Going going gong!

They think it's all over – well it is now. And what a huge success it was. All thanks to you.

We are talking about the first-ever Walker 'Oscars' with a glittering ceremony held aboard a River Tyne cruise at the end of last year. It was a unique opportunity to recognise the many people who have gone that extra mile to make Walker such a great place to live.

The winners ranged from youngsters to pensioners.

Jonathon Kennedy, aged 12, described as a "bundle of sunshine" by his teachers at Walker Technology College, picked-up the 'Potential' award. His father died when he was young and he keeps the family, his mothers and two sisters, together as he often takes on a fatherly role.

Grandparent Rena Carpena, who helps out with outings at West Walker Primary School,

Jonathon Kennedy pictured with his Pride Passion Potential award



took the Passion award with Sister Josepha and Sheila Sanderson, taking the Pride award for their nationally recognised work with the Images for Change project.

The Grand Prix gong was jointly-shared by youngsters from the Helpful Kids group at the Thomas Gaughan Centre and the Walker Wanderers. The Helpful Kids have organised 'Womble' litter-picking days and the Wanderers set-up summer events for schoolchildren.

Community Engagement Manager Jackie Jones said: "It was a wonderful event and so good at last to be able to recognise the good work of so many people. They all contribute to help make Walker a wonderful community."

The event was supported by Bridging NewcastleGateshead and Shepherd Offshore.



The award winners at the Pride Passion Potential Awards ceremony

Pride Passion Potential Awards 2007 Award Winners

Potential

Open to the young people who have shown effort and the potential for success beyond the expected

Winner

Master Jonathon Kennedy

Joint Runner-Up

Walker Wanderers

Helpful Kids – Thomas Gaughan

Community Centre

Pride

Open to anyone who has been a great ambassador for the community.

Winner

Sheila Sanderson/Sister Josepha

Runner-Up

Betty Hutchinson

Passion

Open to those who have shown great strength of character to achieve success.

Winner

Rena Carpena

Runner-Up

Betty Cheetham

Caring for carers: support for informal carers study

Do you look after an older person with memory problems? If so, you may be interested in taking part in some research being conducted by a PhD student at Newcastle University.

What is the research about?

The aim of the project is to find out how caring for an older person with memory problems affects carers' lives and what support they have.

If I decide to take part what is involved?

Taking part involves an interview on your own with the PhD student. Some people who decide to take part would be also asked to keep a diary for 2-3 weeks about their care duties.

If I want to take part, what is the next step?

If you want to know more about the research or are interested in taking part please contact Valerie Egdell (the PhD student) at the following:

Telephone: 0191 2228510

Valerie Egdell
School of Geography
Politics and Sociology
Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU



The new plans for the Heart of Walker are taking shape – and we want to hear from you.

You will get a chance to see the latest proposals when we go out and about to put them on show. This will take place at a variety of venues throughout Walker for six weeks, beginning in March and going through to the middle of April.

Full details will soon be available at the Information Centre and on the website: www.walker-riverside.co.uk

All well at Wellstream



Wellstream – success in the pipeline

Wellstream International is one of the largest companies located at the Walker Offshore Technology Park on Wincomblee Road. Located there for over 10 years, the company designs and manufactures flexible pipeline systems which are shipped all over the world for the oil and gas industry.

2007 was a significant year for Wellstream, in April the company was listed on the London Stock Exchange and in May the company opened a new manufacturing facility in Niteroi Brazil to meet the increasing demand

for its products from that region. The Company was also awarded both the British Chambers of Commerce 'Business of the Year' and North-East Business Awards 'Company of the Year'.

To meet with the rapid growth in demand for the company's flexible pipelines, the workforce has grown to over 550, making the company a major NE employer. The company is currently expanding its Walker operations with a restaurant for employees, new offices, warehousing and additional manufacturing capacity.

Big birthday celebrations

Walker Library is 100 not-out this year – and plans for the big centenary birthday celebrations are well underway.

The library was opened in October 1908 and a one-off birthday bash is planned for October 2008. Local schools are involved in

providing archives to tell the story of the library through the ages. This will form a special display.

Anyone else with old memories, images or stories is asked to contact Edna Marshall at Walker Library on 0191 278 4225.

Making a mark

Local residents are making their mark in a “gateway” park at the centre of regeneration plans for their area.

Working with a local artist they got the chance to put their hand-prints, names or other designs in a new cobbled path for Belmont Green as part of the Walker Riverside project. The green is next to the main Walker Road.

Residents, local schoolchildren and youth groups, were invited to a series of “cobble workshops” to make their mark on history.

Artist Alan Vaughan said: “This was a fantastic opportunity for local people to make their mark as a permanent legacy for themselves and future generations. Before the clay cobblestones were fired and put in place they were able to come along and be as creative as they wanted. They put their own marks down – such as foot or handprints, names, messages or simple patterns. It was all very exciting and will form a unique feature for the area”.

The cobbles will be laid in a path as part of a major landscaping of Belmont Green. Other plans include shrubs, ornamental railings and seats.

Making their mark – one of the many cobble workshops



Cobbles created by local residents

The project is supported by Belmont Area Residents’ Group, Newcastle City Council’s Regeneration team, the project’s Community Engagement Team, Newcastle City Council and Bridging NewcastleGateshead.

Wallsend-based Alan Vaughan, 48, is a sculpture graduate from Trent University, Nottingham and has a Master of Arts in Public Art from Sunderland University.

The newly-refurbished Belmont Green is due to open in May.

Building a future

The community-led development trust, Building Futures East, is being tested out as good practice model for finding jobs for young people.

The Walker organisation, on the banks of the Tyne, ensures they have suitable skills to benefit from job opportunities resulting from the regeneration of the area.

This is simply done by working in partnership with youngsters, employers and schools to finding out what they want and their successful approach has already been heralded as a shining example for others to follow.

Their work is being evaluated by The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). Policy Director Sarah Longlands said: “The Building Futures East approach hits the spot in terms of putting local communities in the driving seat, making sure the most excluded people benefit from regeneration and dovetailing this with national policies.

“Helping people who have been excluded from the labour market back into employment and training is essential for the UK to compete effectively in global markets and the Government is keen to understand what works and what doesn’t.”

Building Futures East’s chief executive, Anthony Woods-Waters, said: “People in areas of significant deprivation can often be excluded when regeneration occurs. We have had connected up lengthy dialogue with local people with an exceptional level of buy-in from employers and schools to provide vocational training and skills that maximise opportunities”.

One recent example saw apprentice joiner Jordan Brydon, aged 17, get a job on the landmark River’s Gate development.

And here's to you Reverend Robinson

It's good-bye, good luck and a huge thank-you to the Rev Peter Robinson, who has left Walker for pastures new.

He has taken up his new post as the new Archdeacon of Lindisfarne and moved to Morpeth in Northumberland.

Peter, for over eight years the Priest in charge of St Martin's and St Michael's in Byker, has been a tireless worker and hugely energetic supporter of the Walker Riverside scheme and was a member of the Walker Riverside Project Board.

He takes over an ancient title which evokes the Christian heritage of Holy Island and the kingdom of Northumbria. It now involves not only church administration and the spiritual oversight of parish churches but also partnership working with secular authorities and voluntary organisations.

And he is planning to use his experience here to reinforce the position of the Church as a key player in debates about regeneration, development and changing environments. Peter is relishing his new challenge. "The Church seeks to have a voice in the kind of society, the kind of region, we want to be," he said. "To do that we have to work in partnership with others. In the globalising economy which unites us and fragments us at

"The Church seeks to have a voice in the kind of society, the kind of region, we want to be."

Reverend Peter Robinson

the same time no one organisation can handle the emerging complexity on its own. We all need each other."

Peter has been part of many changes during his time in the east end of Newcastle: "The Walker Riverside partnership board has achieved a great deal over the past three years and it's been a privilege to serve on it at such a formative stage. I am particularly pleased that we have been able to action a community engagement strategy that allows every resident and every stakeholder a way to make their views known and to get involved at an appropriate level".

In his view the Heart of Walker plans are crucial if there is to be long-term success. "I think that all the effort that we are putting into getting the Heart of Walker right is more than worth it. It is so important the education, health, leisure and community facilities are the very best we can make them. They are essential for a sustainable Walker".

Peter has represented the membership of the East End Community Development Alliance on the board. He says, "Over the past few years the voluntary and community sector has come in to its own and is now making a real contribution, as a partner, to the regeneration of Walker. The sector is more confident, larger and much better resourced than it was when I came to the east end. I hope that through its involvement with Walker Riverside it will continue to flourish".

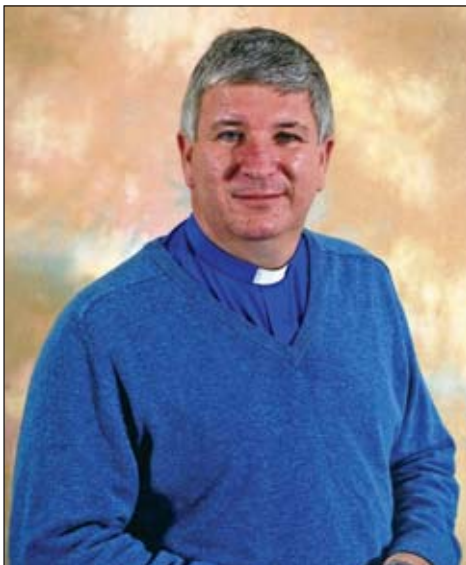
He came to the north east 20 years ago as a salesman for the oil industry.

With a degree in natural sciences from Cambridge he seemed set for a high-flying career, but instead he became a priest, eventually settling in the region with his wife Sarah who teaches adults for North Tyneside Council and his two sons, Charles and Richard.

The Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev Martin Wharton, said: "I am delighted that Peter has accepted this new challenge. Both the diocese and the people of Northumberland have much to gain from his talents and his faithful witness."

The new Archdeacon of Lindisfarne will be licensed at a special service in St Mary's Parish Church, Morpeth, on March 9 at 6pm.

Reverend Peter Robinson



St Michael's



Cunning new resident seen at the Cambrian Estate

Walker Riverside newest resident is a friendly fox.

The regular sightings of our cunning companion follows extensive woodland work on the new Cambrian.

The woods have been thinned out to allow in more light and create better views. Small areas of dense scrub have been left to help nesting birds and other small animals. More than one ton of rubbish has also been taken away. The work was carried out by the Walker

Tidy Garden Training Scheme, providing vocational training for unemployed youngsters in Walker. Some 90% of trainees have gone on to find full-time jobs.

Dawn Howe, Regeneration Officer, Newcastle City Council, said: "This is a first class example of local people working together to create a better environment – and what a fantastic job they have done".

"Cambrian residents now have a wonderful woodland full of wildlife to enjoy."

Job news...

● **Shepherd Offshore** is to create 150 jobs at the Offshore Technology Park in Walker. The oil and gas services company is planning for a major expansion and has a full order book.

● **Wellstream plans to invest** £35m expanding its capacity at its factories in Walker. The flexible pipeline maker wants to produce 30% more pipelines to service growing demand worldwide. It currently employs 500 people.

● **British Engine Ltd (BEL) is moving** its 'cable glands' division CMP from Walker to Cramlington in Northumberland. 180 jobs will relocate to the former Shur Flexible factory on the Nelson Industrial Estate. BEL currently employs 850 people in Newcastle.

One of the main themes behind the Walker Riverside project is the continuing bid to create new jobs, raise skills, increase business competition and promote enterprise.

A lot of work has been done and success to date includes:

● **165 people** attended a recent 'Opportunities' event at the Lightfoot Centre with many now finding jobs and training.

● **60 young people** sampled a broad range of opportunities within the construction sector.

● **125 residents** registered with Newcastle Futures and 41 have got jobs.

● **109 Walker businesses** involved in the regeneration programme.

● **17 new business** start-ups established.

● **Three local apprentices** employed by Mansells on the River's Gate site.

● **Two residents given jobs** with Places for People – one in Property Maintenance and the other in the local area team.

Councillor surgeries

Due to the proposed demolition of Walker Resource Centre, as part of the Heart of Walker plans, advice surgeries for your local councillors – Cllr John Stokel-Walker, Cllr David Wood and Cllr Margaret Wood are now at:

- **Walker Library** Welbeck Road
1st Thursday of every month 6pm – 7pm
- **Monkchester Community Centre**
Monkchester Road 3rd Thursday of every month 6pm – 7pm
- **Lightfoot Sports Centre** Wharrier Street
2nd & 4th Friday of every month 6pm – 7pm
(this has relocated from the Walker Resource Centre).

Sing-a-long Walker

The Common Sound Singing Group meets every Wednesday at 5.30 - 6.30pm at the Thomas Gaughan Community Centre and is open to anyone over 16 (or under accompanied by and adult). The group is FREE and sings songs from all over the world – from Geordie songs to African, Gospel to Folk and anything any of the members brings along or writes themselves.

The group is facilitated by Eleanor who works for the Sage Gateshead and is a friendly and talented singing tutor. The group is made up of people from all ages, backgrounds and experience and is friendly and welcoming to new people – so don't be nervous just come along! It's a great way to meet new people and combat stress and we always have a laugh! **You don't need to book-up just come along to the Thomas Gaughan at 5.30pm any Wednesday you like. For more information call Simon Wood, Community Worker on 2621649 or simon.wood@newcastle.gov.uk**

Free event

Free event for Newcastle Residents, this year's Regeneration Festival will be held on Thursday 6 March at St James' Park, Bamburgh Suite. A lot of people in Newcastle's communities have worked with the council and other agencies to make some big changes to the City. Come and see how Newcastle is getting better all the time. **It's free and you don't need to book.**

Walker Riverside Information Centre

We are open every weekday from 10am – 3pm. Here to answer your questions. Drop in and see us. We are on Walker Road (next to Nisa)

Tel: 0191 275 9207

John Boste Youth Centre

This page has been written by our friends at the John Boste Youth Centre, Philipson Street, Walker.



John Boste Youth Centre – Girls Group.

We are a group of young women who, if given the opportunity, really enjoy getting involved in new projects. Our group have been involved in organising and running children's parties and disco's, volunteering in the six week holidays and holding 'pie n pea' nights.

Most recently we have been working with a creative writer to produce a piece of work we are going to develop into a performance in May.

Fundraising

Young people and staff at the Boste raise funds all year round. We need money to keep the centre open, for activities, for trips out and to buy equipment.

The Girls Group hold fundraising events such as 'pie n pea' nights and bingo sessions.

If you would like us to organise something for your group or organisation – please call Stephen – 2626451

Volunteers

If anyone is interested in helping out at the Boste, please come along to one of our sessions or ring Jodie on 2626451

Photographs

If anyone has any photographs of the John Boste we would love to see them. Old or new as we are planning a special exhibition of them in June.

Opening times

Monday: 5pm to 8pm
Tuesday: 7pm to 9pm
Wednesday: 5pm to 8pm

Sports, DJ-ing decks, internet access, cookery, pool, arts and crafts, dance machine... and many more things to do. Please drop-in.

**John Boste Centre,
 Philipson Street, Walker, NE6 3AE**

Tel: 0191 2626451

3					9	2		
8						1		9
9	4						7	
6			5	9				
		4	8	7	6	3		
				2	3			8
	7							2
5		3	2					1
		6	1					4

KidsKorner Competition!

Complete the following sudoku puzzle by filling the blank squares with the numbers 1 to 9 so that every row and column contains only one instance of each number.

Drop in your completed puzzles by Friday 29th February to the Information Centre on Walker Road and be entered into a draw for gift vouchers!