



Proud to be part of local life

Right Here

ISSUE 15
DECEMBER 2011

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the December issue of Right Here, our monthly update on KC's community activities.

As I write, the Christmas lights are adding a lovely warm glow to Hull's city centre so it's easy to forget that many people don't have the financial means or family support to enjoy Christmas with all the trimmings. That's why our lead story this month is about the Hull & Humber KC Cares Christmas appeal, which has united businesses across the city to provide gifts for more than 100 children.

We also continue last month's theme of inspiring young people with a look at a recent event to get young people interested in science, where KC used a unique way of showing them how the internet works. I have to confess that it wasn't just the kids that were inspired – I learnt loads too.

And talking about inspiring youngsters, our final feature is about two enterprising teenagers who started a well-loved community event when they were just nine years old. Who says the youth of today have no sense of community spirit?

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Warm regards,

Anna Millar

Community Relations Manager
Email: anna.millar@kcom.com



KC: the C's for Community.

We want to inspire young people.

Get them interested in, and excited about, the future. And encourage them to do the best they can.

We're putting local people first.

This isn't just another company 'giving back'. We're from here and we live and work here. And we want our people to get involved in local activities and projects that matter to everyone in the area.

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Business volunteers, party goers and Father Christmas

Over 100 children receive gifts thanks to Cares@Christmas



The smell of the turkey roasting in the oven, the Queen's speech on TV and a beautifully decorated tree surrounded by piles of presents. It might be the typical image of a family Christmas but not everyone is fortunate enough to enjoy this kind of scene. And when it comes to the spirit of Christmas, giving rather than receiving really is the order of the day.

So that's just what the city's businesses have done for a group of children, some of whom may not have had the best start in life. The Hull & Humber KC Cares Christmas appeal generated donations of 130 gift boxes from businesses, well above the target of 100.

The children from across Hull received their presents at a special Christmas party held on Saturday 10 December at the KC Stadium.

The young people were entertained by all the city's sports club mascots – Airlie Bird, Rufus the Robin, Stinger the Stingray and Roary the Tiger. Children's entertainer Dangerous Steve put on a superb show and the children were kept entertained throughout the day by DJ Scottie. And the highlight of the party for the children was receiving their presents from Father Christmas who popped in to say hello.

One of the businesses whose employees donated presents and who organised the party was St Stephen's shopping centre. Finance and Admin Manager Ruth Truelove said: "The people of East Yorkshire are renowned for their friendly, community focused spirit, and in these tough economic times it's heart-warming to know that such generosity still exists among the business community. Thanks to the employees at ABP, KC, Princes Quay, St Stephen's and Yorkshire Bank who donated presents and their time to the appeal. The party is already booked for 2012 so let the planning and fundraising commence."

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Anna Millar (right) of KC hands over a cheque to (l-r) Alicia Woodward, teacher Joanna Gilbert, and Josie Alexander, watched by Katie Dukes, Charlotte Austin, Ellie Lambert, Alex Wilson, Christopher Helm and Lacey Trebilcock-Shaw.

Teenage festival organisers do it all for some fun in the community

Alicia Woodward and Josie Alexander are inspirational teenagers. They had the passion, energy and vision to create the Elloughton cum Brough Scarecrow Festival back in 2008 when they were taking part in the Humberside Police Lifestyle Project, aged just nine and 10 respectively.

Alicia explained: "We just wanted to do something that would get people out and about in the community and have some fun. The festival was so popular that we couldn't just let it disappear after one year, so we knew we had to keep it going."

Their team name, Two's Company, has stuck and it's still the name of the group

that organises the festival, which has expanded and now includes family, friends and community members.

This year the girls organised the fourth festival and asked schools from Elloughton, Brough and Welton to enter a scarecrow into the festival. The best one, voted for by the public, was from Brough Primary. The school won £100 which they used to buy art equipment for their school.

Alicia continued: "We were really happy that KC offered to sponsor the prize because it gave us the incentive the festival needed to get the local schools involved."

Anna Millar, KC's Community Relations Manager said: "To start a project like this is a big challenge for anyone, but the fact that Alicia and Josie took it on when they were just nine years old is truly amazing. Sponsoring the prize was the least we could do to support these enterprising young people. We wish them all the best for their event next year."

The girls have already planned next year's festival which will have an Olympic theme and take place on Saturday 16 June 2012.

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A team from last year's event take part in the KC challenge, with support from KC employee Debbie Turner

How does the Internet work? Kids and KC take action at STEM event

The annual STEM in Action event is popular with school children across the region because of its practical, hands-on and fun insight into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The two day event brings businesses, including KC, together to offer interactive sessions that show the young people the fun side of the STEM subjects they do at school.

KC's session always goes down a storm with the children taking part. The session helps them understand how the internet and communications technology they use every

day actually works, as using a series of pulleys and strings they send emails to each other.

Niki Bardsley, Education Link Administrator at HETA (Humbreside Engineering Training Association), who organises the day, said: "Every year, 300 primary school children from across the region come and have a superb day at the KC Stadium. 15 companies provide hands-on, fun sessions which involve everything from KC's fabulous internet demonstration to building rockets, cars and even wind turbines."

KC Community Relations Manager Anna Millar said: "It's important for KC to be part of this event because we're a technology business. The young people who take part could be our engineers and IT professionals of the future. The session wouldn't be possible without the time that our employees give, and they have as much fun as the young people."

To find out more about the STEM in Action event, visit www.heta.co.uk

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The 60 second interview

Niki Bardsley,
Education Link Administrator
Humberside Engineering Training Association (HETA)



What's your role at HETA?

I'm the Education Link Administrator. I liaise with schools and local companies to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) in the region. This involves working with our 400+ local ambassadors who volunteer up to four days every year to run interactive sessions ranging from careers advice to mentoring, practical workshops to demonstrations.

How can businesses support the STEM agenda?

We need more people to get involved so we're always looking for volunteers who are prepared to be ambassadors and for companies to work with us. Sponsorship is critical too – our STEM in Action event and new Jaguar F1 primary school programme are ideal opportunities for local companies to support the STEM agenda and promote themselves.

What can young people get out of STEM?

STEM is all about practical, hands-on fun learning. We make learning fun by giving real life examples of STEM subjects which the young people can relate to.

What do you find most inspiring about your role?

The reaction of the children. When you're running an event and the kids are chattering away about what they've done at the end of each session, you can just sense the buzz and know that it's making a real difference. It's the best feeling in the world.

If you could change one thing about education today, what would it be?

I think the amount of rules that schools face now really restrict teachers. They should be free (within reason, of course – everything has to be safe for the children) to use different ideas to make their lessons more engaging. Kids love to get out of the classroom and practical, fun sessions really do help them to learn, which is precisely what we aim to do with STEM in Action.

If you would like to become an ambassador or get your company involved with STEM, please contact Niki on 01482 372482 or email niki.bardsley@heta.co.uk.

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For more information about KC in the Community call Anna Millar, KC Community Relations Manager, on 01482 602831, email anna.millar@kcom.com



Follow us on Twitter

You can reach us on
[Twitter - @communitykc](https://twitter.com/@communitykc)



Give us your feedback

If you'd like to give us feedback about this newsletter, we'd love to hear from you. Just send your comments to Anna Millar at anna.millar@kcom.com

Seek our support

There are two ways you can seek support from KC:

KC Community Grants – Every three months we give three grants of £500 to community groups, charities, organisations and individuals. The deadline for the next round of grants is Friday 2 March.

You can apply online by [clicking here](#) 

KC Community Panel – The KC Community Panel considers requests for community support of over £500. The panel is made up of nine people from across KC who meet once a month.

You can apply online by [clicking here](#) 

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