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ISSUE FIVE

east



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Not Just for Kids
The Next Tram to Arrive...

ISSN 1745-8277 AUTUMN 2006



the magazine about regeneration in east manchester

three pounds



Golden Time

Roger Williams reports from the hi-tech Beswick school where pupils take it all in their stride.



For anyone taught in the drab relics of the 1960s, this bright new world is almost unrecognisable.

A sign tacked on the door of one of the junior classrooms reads, 'Beware – Trespassers Will Be Tickled to Death.'

Tickling probably wasn't quite the kind of stimulation the authors of New East Manchester's education plans had in mind in their vision for a new generation of inspirational, non-institutional schools which would energise teachers and pupils alike.

But Beswick's Ashbury Meadow Primary School, formed by the merger of the old Ashbury and Bank Meadow schools, is in the vanguard of change which will see every school in the city rebuilt or refurbished over the next 15 years. If you want to see examples of what the government calls 'Classrooms of the Future' there's no need to travel by Tardis. They're right here in Rylance Street.

For anyone taught in the drab relics of the 1960s, this bright new world is almost unrecognisable. Ashbury Meadow, which opened its doors in September 2004, is an inviting place: bright and airy with large, high-ceilinged classrooms over two storeys. An IT suite brimming with computers. A courtyard area where pupils grow their own vegetables and towering sunflowers sway. A large playground, where children clamber over carefully placed tyres, in the shadow of the City of Manchester Stadium.

Every classroom has versatile interactive whiteboards which can be used for anything from showing TV news clips which will prompt lively group discussion to demonstrating fractions without the whole class having to crowd around a model. It's a blackboard for the PlayStation generation and the children are receptive. A couple of bright sparks in Year Six have even gained the know-how to do their own presentations using it.

There's a play therapy room, the Acorn Room, where children who are upset or angry can go to unwind and discuss issues with staff members or each other. Even the smaller details, such as the carpets throughout the school, have an impact.

"Visitors always comment on how calm and quiet it is," says headteacher Lorna Rushton. "You don't hear echoes, or the sound of chairs scraping."

As smart as the school looks, a cynic might suggest there is an emphasis on style

over substance. It's a charge which Mrs Rushton emphatically rejects.

She says, "Having an environment like this makes an enormous difference to the pupils' attitudes. It gives across the message that they are worth it. It says, 'we have good facilities, we expect you to behave yourselves and look after them.' There can be a feeling if you are in delapidated, run-down premises that anything goes."

The old Ashbury and Bank Meadow Schools were more than frayed around the edges. Roofs leaked, window frames rotted, boilers broke down. Numbers on the school roll were also in decline. The two schools came together in 2003, operating as one from dual sites for a year before moving into their new home. Ashbury Meadow is already well subscribed, but designed with scope for extension so that it can effectively double in size – accommodating the increased primary school age population as 1,100 new homes are built in Beswick.

Mrs Rushton was handed the task of leading the new school. It was an exciting time, but one of upheaval.

The most pressing task facing the head was uniting two different sets of pupils, parents and staff under the banner of a single school. This wasn't helped by delays in the construction of the new building which meant the start of the inaugural term had to be put back. Contractors continued to put the finishing touches to the building, outside school hours, well into the first term.

"It took a while to gel together and for the children to have a single identity," Mrs Rushton admits.

Yet there were encouraging signs from the start, not least the children's disappointment at their extended nine-week holiday.

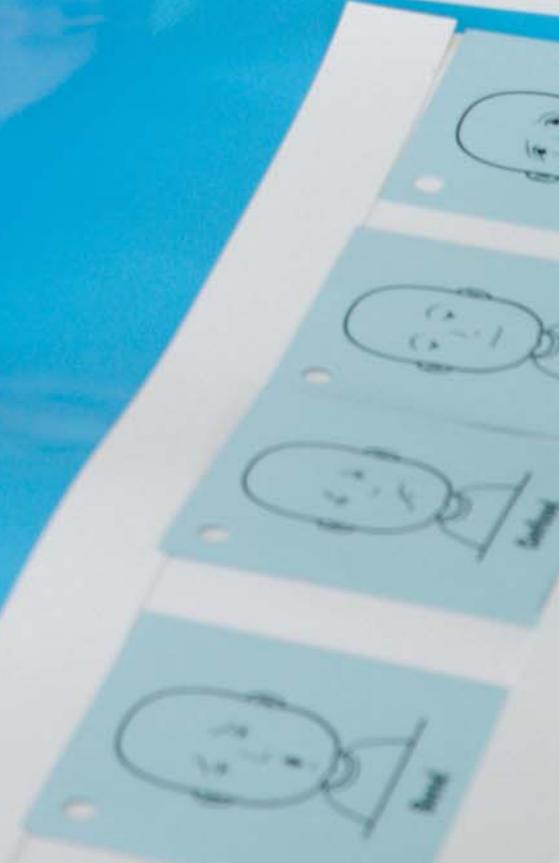
"They were eager to be in the new school," says Mrs Rushton. "I was struck by that."

Two years on, the school has an established feel. Ofsted's exacting inspectors rated its education 'satisfactory' and praised its successful navigation of a difficult period of change, concluding, 'this is a school which has laid a firm foundation for improvement.'

Ashbury Meadow still faces challenges. Years of deprivation are not reversed overnight and some of its pupils start with



Our Feelings Chart







The living willow sculpture is a big hit during playtime, below: the school council discusses school dinner menus.

lower than average communication skills and behaviour levels. Attendance figures of 93 per cent, while improving, are just below the national average. Achievement is on an upward trend but as usual statistics – which don't take into account natural variations in ability between year groups – paint a slightly distorted picture. Between 2004 and 2006 the number of final year pupils achieving the expected standard in Maths rose from 52 per cent to 66 per cent. In the same period Science results went up from 77 per cent to 88 per cent but this year's English result has dipped from a high point of 83 per cent last year. Yet overall there's a strong sense of movement in the right direction.

Part of this is the product of the school ethos, every bit as important as the attractive surroundings, which strives to make pupils feel involved and valued. Members of the school council, for example, were given a say in the appointment of deputy head Michael Cowieson – even helping interview candidates.

There's also an imaginative reward scheme, called Golden Time, which every Friday afternoon recognises pupils' good behaviour during the week by allowing them to take part in fun sessions such as cooking or football.

"We are certainly getting there," Mrs Rushton says, "We've finished the getting to know each other stage and now it's a case of developing the academic side but also promoting life skills like team-working, self esteem and communication. Also, working in partnership with parents and the community so that we can raise aspirations together."

'Aspirations' and 'partnership' are key words in the headteacher's conversation. When the school was planned it was not only as somewhere children go to learn, but as a focal point for the whole area. Ashbury Meadow was built with a community wing, incorporating a Children's Centre and a sports hall designed to be flexible enough to offer a wide range of adult activities.

The building is busy well beyond the traditional school day, from a before-school breakfast club helping pupils get the day off to a nutritious start to evening classes in everything from first aid and self-defence

to belly dancing and cheerleading. The programme in the Children's Centre includes a daily playgroup, parenting classes and courses offering qualifications in childminding and being a teaching assistant. A 'babbling babies' class shows parents how they can help their children's linguistic development, the Leapfrog group helps children from the nursery and their parents develop skills such as resolving squabbles harmoniously and Job Centre Plus staff visit to support people who want to return to work. The unifying theme is empowering individuals, from toddlers to grandparents, by building their confidence and skills.

Wendy Dudley, New East Manchester's education development manager, sees Ashbury Meadow as a prime example of the future role of schools.

"The school is definitely a model for how other schools in the area will be improved," she says. "It's not a template, because things like design continue to evolve, but in terms of themes it is a model. It's an aspiration for what we want to do elsewhere."

To walk down Rylance Street is to visit a place in transition. Boarded-up houses stand forlorn and a notice on a lamppost advertises impending demolitions. Yet across the road Lovell's ultra-modern development The Way is taking shape and Sportcity is just a football's kick away.

Ashbury Meadow may be less conspicuous but its importance to the regeneration of Beswick can't be overstated. If new families are to be attracted to the area, and existing ones to remain, then good schools are essential. A new high school for east Manchester, to be located in Beswick, is scheduled for 2010. Ashbury Meadow is already up, running and well-placed to enjoy its own golden time. If it comes close to its full potential it won't only be trespassers in Mrs Madeley's class who are tickled pink.

"The school is definitely a model for how other schools in the area will be improved... It's an aspiration for what we want to do elsewhere."



The Acorn Room at Ashbury Meadow: a space to unwind and meet up with friends.

Not just for kids

Len Grant discovers a local Sure Start scheme that gives parents a second chance at education... and they love it!

“I think I got addicted... after the Wells Centre I started college and worked my way up to the course I’m doing now.”

Angela Arrowsmith had always wanted to be a midwife, but family problems, bullying and in her words, ‘being very naughty’ meant she left school at 13 without a single qualification. Now, nearly 20 years on, the single mother of four has enrolled on a university access course in preparation for a midwifery degree at Salford University next year.

“A few years back I could have been one of those mums stuck in the house all day,” she says. “I’d never have thought I would actually pursue the career I wanted, but now I feel I’m actually getting there.”

Angela’s educational transformation is a result of her discovering the opportunities offered by Sure Start at her local children’s centre. She, and dozens like her across east Manchester have literally had their lives turned around after attending courses aimed at parents and carers of children under five.

Sure Start is a government initiative which aims to improve the prospects of young children through a coordinated effort across education, health, childcare and family support. So, by supporting parents and stretching their aspirations the idea is that children benefit because their parents are able to train or get into work.

Ironically it was Angela’s own midwife who encouraged her to attend breastfeeding classes at the Wells Centre, near her home in Clayton. From there she progressed to being a breastfeeding support worker to help other mums.

“I was really nervous at first,” recalls Angela, “But I thought, no, I’ve got to do this, it’ll be just like starting a new school! And

when I went in it was absolutely great. It was fabulous, I loved it!”

Although many women, and it is mainly women who attend, come on the course originally just to get out of the house, a high proportion of them progress to take advantage of opportunities that perhaps they’ve missed out on earlier in life.

“Schooling has failed many people,” explains Chris Hayes, the educational co-ordinator at Sure Start seconded from Manchester Adult Education Services, “and sometimes children are not ready to learn at that time. But all is not lost if you can offer a second chance. Quite often circumstances have changed and people are ready to take hold of what’s on offer. And in my experience they get hold of it with both hands. When the bug bites they really do get hooked.”

The bug certainly bit for Angela. After the breastfeeding she did a sewing course and with some guidance from Chris went on to study more seriously and achieved English to Level 2 and Maths to Level 1.

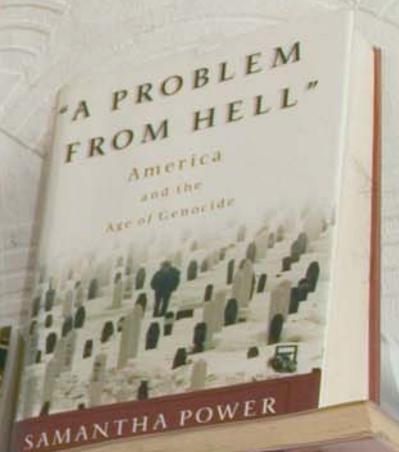
“I think I got addicted,” recalls Angela. “I started at college after the Wells Centre and worked my way up to the course I’m doing now.

“With all this studying I’ve been able to help the kids out with their homework. I know my eldest girl realises how important it is to work hard at school so they don’t have to struggle to get back on track later in life! She’s actually doing really well, I’m really proud of her.”

Chris Hayes is herself what’s called an ‘adult returner’ so she knows the challenges faced by her team’s adult students.









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NO FOULING

“Flexibility is important... All the courses are during the school day so picking the children up isn’t a problem, and we provide free childcare for the younger ones while their parents are learning.”

Sure Start courses are held at:

Ashbury Meadow
Children’s Centre,
Rylance Street,
Beswick,
0161 219 6634.

Clayton Sure Start
Children’s Centre,
North Road,
Clayton,
0161 231 1698.

St Clement’s
Children’s Centre,
Abbey Hey Lane,
Higher Openshaw,
0161 301 3268.

“There can be any number of reasons why people don’t get a fair crack at the whip the first time round,” says Chris. “I was made to leave school at 14 to become the family breadwinner and in those days would have been destined to spend my working life behind a sewing machine.”

As she says, her dad loved his children but loved his drink more and left the family home when Chris had only done three years at secondary school. She was found work as an office junior with a full time, five-and-a-half day week as well as attending night school.

“I ended up going back to my old school in Gorton. My friends were there during the day and I was there in the evening, doing office skills after a full day’s work.”

Chris was on her way to becoming what she calls an ‘office-wife’ but, after bringing up a family, went back to adult education classes and was encouraged to study further.

“I met people who challenged me in a positive way and made me think differently. They made me see there were options open to me and no barriers to what could be achieved.”

From being in the B class at school with no-one having any expectation of her, Chris gained a Diploma of Higher Education and then a Humanities degree and later a masters from Manchester University.

“It was as though I had a foot in both camps: the reality of my own community and then the academic community,” says Chris. “I felt I didn’t belong to either.”

One hurdle all the Sure Start learners seem to face is the confidence to get started, to step into that classroom for the first time. But as they all testify later, it really isn’t that bad.

“All the staff are really friendly,” says 22-year old Joanne Hutchinson whose first course was in confidence building. “You soon realise everyone’s the same... everyone’s nervous for the first session and after that it’s fine.”

“It was buses I was afraid of. Struggling on with the buggy and getting comments from other passengers telling you to hurry up. I hated it. I used to walk everywhere.”

After talking through her concerns with others and hearing their suggestions Joanne built up the courage to get back on buses with her daughter. Now she travels to see her

cousin in Droylsden and can get the bus into town for the train station.

Joanne got to know about the Sure Start courses from her cousin who works in the children’s centre adjoining the Wells Centre. At the time Joanne’s daughter, Abbey, was only three and they spent most of the day in the house.

“I was fed up being inside the whole time, and it wasn’t fair on my daughter. So I joined the confidence building course and Abby went in the crèche while I was doing it.

“Now that Abby is in school I was planning to do Maths, Sewing, and Arts and Craft this next year because I want to do an NVQ in pre-school childcare. But I’m expecting another child in a few months so I’m just going to do the sewing course and come back to my other subjects after the baby is born.”

“Flexibility is important if we want parents and carers to benefit,” explains Chris. “All the courses are during the school day so picking the children up isn’t a problem, and we provide free childcare for the younger ones while their parents are learning.”

It seems everyone who attends a Sure Start course can show how it’s changed their lives. A certificate of achievement in English hangs proudly on the wall of Rose-Mary Mensah’s Clayton home. “Although English was my second language in Ghana,” she says, “I needed to polish it up so I could apply for my job as a support worker. There’s a lot of report writing with my job so I needed to show I was capable of that. That’s where the course helped me.”

Rose-Mary has been in Britain for two and a half years after moving with her family from Holland. “I wanted the children to speak English,” she says. “I couldn’t speak Dutch and wanted the children to grow up speaking a language I could understand.”

And what advice would she give those thinking of starting a Sure Start course? “Oh, they are very friendly. It’s not just the courses they help you with, they can give all sorts of advice that will help you get a job or whatever you want to do.”



The Next Tram to Arrive...

The money's in place. The land has been cleared. In five years trams will at last be gliding through east Manchester. Len Grant finds the light at the end of the Metrolink tunnel.



And just as the canal network contributed to the exponential expansion of Manchester during the industrial revolution then Metrolink is expected to contribute enormously to the economic recovery of east Manchester.

Ever since the government withdrew its funding for the third phase of the Metrolink expansion in July 2004, Mancunians have been unhappy with the government's stance on the city's tram extensions. But while the fervent 'Get Back on Track' campaign was in full voice others were continuing to make preparations for the expansion that they knew would eventually come.

And in July this year the Transport Secretary Douglas Alexander made himself the darling of Mancunians with the widely-anticipated announcement that the government would partly finance a 'little bang', a mini extension to get things moving but where the lines stop some way short of their intended destinations.

That's good news for east Manchester as both the truncated Ashton line and the Rochdale line will pass through the area in much the same way as the canals did years before. And just as the canal network contributed to the exponential expansion of Manchester during the industrial revolution then Metrolink is expected to contribute enormously to the economic recovery of east Manchester.

Central Park's swish new £36m Gateway has been completed since last November and will see trams bringing workers and students to the hi-tech business park by 2011.

Ken Knott, chief executive of Ask:Akeler, the park's developer, is understandably

pleased with the news. "It couldn't have come at a better time for us as we're about to commit to the next phase of 45,000 sq ft development," he said. "There's no doubt Metrolink will help us attract further high-grade, global businesses to the park."

Over in Sportcity the infrastructure is also ready and waiting for the new trams. Unseen by the busy traffic on Alan Turing Way an impressive tunnel curves under the road taking the line past ASDA and then alongside Ashton New Road towards a station called New East which will serve the velodrome.

History repeats itself as the trams take the same route as the electric trams of Manchester Corporation and head up the main road through Clayton towards the temporary terminus at Droylsden. Engineers expected this to be a through station on the way to Ashton but will now have to devise a way of turning the trams around before they return to Manchester.

On match days and during those big events visitors to Sportcity will have another alternative to the car and the bus. "It's the final link in our integrated transport strategy," explains Gary Crate, Sportcity's estate manager. "The trams will replace numerous car journeys and, what with our 85 metre high wind turbine going up soon, will help to reinforce our green credentials."

For a regeneration project on the scale of New East Manchester, the arrival of a modern,





Above: the land is cleared at Holt Town and, below, the approach to the Alan Turing Way Tunnel.



Opposite: from their balconies Sportcity Living residents will see trams glide through east Manchester.

Right: approaching the Sportcity tram stop.



efficient transport system will be an immense boost. Holding on to existing residents and attracting new ones is vitally important to the area's long term survival. The tram will pass alongside New Islington and Holt Town as well as Sportcity, all important areas where developers are hoping to attract newcomers.

1400 new homes are being built in New Islington and although it's within easy walking distance of the city centre, a station on Pollard Street will give residents a quick connection to rail and bus links as well as other parts of the tram network.

Countryside's Sportcity Living development has already proved popular with local people and those looking for affordable apartments outside the city centre. Indeed from their balconies residents will be able to watch as trams emerge from the underground tunnel that leads to Sportcity.

Ben Coster, Countryside Properties' regional director, is in no doubt of Metrolink's significance. "With quick and convenient access to the tram literally on the doorstep, more and more newcomers and local people alike will be attracted to the next phase of our development which will bring new family homes as well as apartments."

But if it's arrival is so anticipated, and if the infrastructure is already in place, why do we have to wait until 2008 before the engineers start to lay the track?

GMPTe's Interim Service Delivery Director, Michael Renshaw, explains: "Work is underway to develop the arrangements for the various aspects of this scheme including the design and construction of the network and the manufacture of additional vehicles.

"Only once this process has been undertaken will a confirmed programme for construction and commissioning be determined, but we envisage work to start on site during 2008."

It will be this time next year before the successful bidder for the contract is announced and maybe another six months before work begins. It could be another five or six years before you take that ride from the city centre up Pollard Street but what a significant journey it will be.

Why do we have to wait until 2008 before the engineers start to lay the track?

Part of the Fabric

Dan Dubowitz's civic works link up the past, present and future of Ancoats as Jonathan Schofield reports.

Dan Dubowitz pauses at the corner of Jersey Street and Henry Street and gestures to the apartments being built over the road from Royal Mill.

"Ancoats was all about incredibly dark and dense workplaces," he says forcefully. "But now they're changing into flats, places of domesticity. Why do people want to live here given that past, is it some spirit or energy?"

We move on and Dubowitz continues to talk as we sidestep scaffolding and skips. His delivery is a stream of facts and details, in turn illuminating and confusing, but underscored by infectious enthusiasm.

"I want to explore the link with the past and a future that will be very different in function and appearance. It's about making a real place, past and present and allowing people to make a connection between the two," he says.

We stop at a large roughly squared rock placed by the side of Henry Street with a hole cut into its surface. "Under this stone, through the hole, there's a tunnel. At one point, Royal Mill bought the mill over the road, just behind us, where the new flats stand, and joined them together. This tunnel shows us that these places were lock-ins. The bell rang and if you weren't in, the doors closed and you lost your job. If you were inside, you were in for the duration, moving between buildings through the tunnels and aerial walkways. The managers didn't want their workers outside on the streets, they wanted to know where they were every minute

of the day. That type of control from employers is hard for us to understand now."

Dubowitz, pats the stone. "The strength of this for me is, you could be living in a flat on this side of the road for several years, and one day you might sense the tunnel through this piece and think, 'bloody hell, the mill across the road was once linked to where my flat is. People worked right here'. I'm interested in that: the diaspora of the workforce and residents in Ancoats, the way the place was rejected and then became accepted again. In other words I'm asking whether walls can speak. And if they can speak, how do you work with that creatively when building spaces for people." He pauses. "I suppose, fundamentally, I want to create pivotal points, little schisms in the city where you get catapulted into other ways of understanding."

Whoa there. That sort of sentence gives a bad whiff of art nonsense. Is this another example of people with public grants stringing difficult words together in ways that seem to make sense but turn out empty? Occasionally, you want to stop Dubowitz and say, yea, Dan, but why do you have to do it this way? After all, the older buildings alone will allow people, if they are so moved, to find their own moment of connectivity with the past.

Yet as you walk with him, or take a stroll alone, his words start to make more sense. As well as the tunnel, amongst several works in progress, he's placed a half-glimpsed rotating machine part - a governor - in the

"I suppose, fundamentally, I want to create pivotal points, little schisms in the city where you get catapulted into other ways of understanding."



What the artist saw:
scenes from the peep-
holes being installed by
Dan Dubowitz around
Ancoats.







Ancoats Stories: giant lightboxes at Piccadilly's Metrolink station.

Previous spread:
Artist Dan Dubowitz amongst some of the Ancoats history he has been responding to for the past five years.

former church of St Peter's tower, put spy holes into an empty building on Murray Street, made sure the walled up urinal under the Rochdale Canal footbridge has been rescued from demolition and photographed numerous buildings at the height of their abandonment before developes movd in.

It's not all to do with the so-called built environment either. A very moving part of Dubowitz's Ancoats work was exhibited in Piccadilly Station three years ago and featured 12 lightboxes of derelict scenes with voices of those who have worked and played in the suburb. Titled *Ancoats Stories*, it was also published as a book and makes for moving viewing on Dubowitz's website www.civicworks.net.

By picking out people in these stories and details in his physical works that would otherwise disappear because they are not seen as important, Dubowitz is dealing with how the elements rejected by society are its barometers: they reflect our sense of identity and how we order things. They also raise questions about the human relationship to the passing of time.

For my part I grew up in Greater Manchester amidst a mass extinction. This region had suffered and rejoiced in a longer period of industrialisation than any other on the planet but heavy engineering and the textile trade were in terminal decline. As I wandered round the Spodden Valley in north Rochdale, I passed shattered stone mills with silhouettes that recalled ruined castles and walked over colossal railway viaducts devoid

of track. Spouting literally out of the landscape were the rusted remnants of machines and engines. The awareness of something mighty passing has informed the way I've looked on the world ever since.

The same process was happening in a city context in Ancoats. Ruins, the decaying works of Man, have always had this magnetic pull. They evoke a sense of the impermanence of everything, yet can fill us with wonder at all the lives lived before our own and the generations who will come after us. The more significant the area, the more this electricity crackles. The eighteenth century traveller would pause in the ruins of the Roman Forum and dwell on the follies and vanity of mankind. In Ancoats - the first modern industrial suburb - instead of distant guys in togas, we can contemplate the working class and the middle class tensions which still resonate today.

In an area that will soon become vital again, with apartments, offices, studios, squares and so on, Dubowitz's work reminds us of the process of growth, decline and re-growth that underpins all cities. Call it pathos, call it empathy, but in a place where two hundred years ago a new way of life came into being Dubowitz's work helps crystallise the value of recalling this.

Not that his work, as he realises, is anything more than a part of the story. After our walk we share a couple of ales in Bar Fringe on Swan Street.

"Each piece I do," says Dubowitz, "is ready a little bit, and some may never be realised and other new ones may come along. It's a moving feast, because Ancoats changes. The complexity when doing these is to find fifteen permanent works. The time limit is another two or three years because it ties in with the paving being done in Ancoats. And I'm always aware that the meaning of these things unfolds very slowly, which is why this place is fascinating. I can't analyse my feelings about Ancoats because it's an attraction so it's not rational. I just know that I'm working in a place on the cusp and it's hard to know how things will develop."

Tempus fugit indeed, bring out the memento mori.

East is the magazine about regeneration in east Manchester and is published three times a year by Len Grant Photography on behalf of New East Manchester Ltd and New Deal for Communities

Issue 5 Autumn 2006

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Photographs © Len Grant, except
p.23 Dan Dubowitz
Text © Roger Williams, Jonathan
Schofield, Len Grant

ISSN 1745-8277

Designed by Alan Ward @
www.axisgraphicdesign.co.uk
Printed by Andrew Kilburn Print
Services Ltd.

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The opinions expressed in **East** are not necessarily those of either New East Manchester Ltd or New Deal for Communities.

Cover: Ancoats artist Dan Dubowitz takes a look into one of his peep-holes.

Back cover: Tag rugby at Ashbury Meadow Primary School.

This issue of **East** is kindly sponsored by



About East

As 2006 draws to a close we have seen yet more progress in our regeneration plans for east Manchester. In particular we've been able to announce the appointment of developer teams for three more important parts of our area. In Holt Town, between Sportcity and the city centre, master planners EDAW are devising a new "uburb", a neighbourhood that will have the buzz of city centre living but all the amenities families need for suburban living.

Meanwhile over in West Gorton we've appointed BASE, a joint venture between Barratt and Artisan, to work as lead developers on a £3 million scheme to revitalise this neighbourhood sandwiched between Ashton Old Road and Hyde Road. And in the Lower Medlock Valley a consortium of Bellway, Taylor Woodrow and Lovell will build a mainly residential scheme that builds on the potential of the river valley to create a green environment for families.

This issue of **East** begins on the theme of education which has long been regarded as central to achieving long term, sustainable regeneration. Improving aspirations and qualifications can influence a whole area's future prosperity. In east Manchester our plans to deliver excellent quality education are well advanced and recent GCSE results show A*-C passes rising from 22% to 52% in the last five years. In this issue Roger Williams visits Ashbury Meadow Primary School in Beswick to see how the amalgamation of two schools into one is proving successful.

Also there's a report on how 'adult returners' are taking up the opportunities offered to them through east Manchester's Sure Start adult education programme. Learners who thought their school days were over are gaining one qualification after another.

In 2011 east Manchester's 1.4 kilometre tram extension will complete the integrated transport jigsaw for the area. It's been a long time coming but when it's ready will bring real benefits to residents, businesses and visitors. Len Grant has followed the line to show us what will become familiar views from the track.

Jonathan Schofield takes a stroll with artist Dan Dubowitz who has been developing a series of temporary and permanent artworks in Ancoats since 2002 that respond to this fast-changing industrial suburb.

We trust, as always, you enjoy this issue of **East** but for up-to-the-minute news on all our projects in east Manchester why not visit www.neweastmanchester.com.

Tom Russell
New East Manchester Ltd

Sean McGonigle
New Deal for Communities

Contributors in this issue

Len Grant is a freelance photographer based in Manchester. For the past decade or so he has made regeneration the subject of his personal and commissioned work. He has recently curated an exhibition and book about people's experiences of regeneration called *Our House* at The Lowry in Salford. Also see www.lengrant.co.uk.

Roger Williams is a former political editor of the *Carlisle News and Star* and *Bolton Evening News* and is currently a press officer for Manchester City Council. He has a particular interest in regeneration issues.

Jonathon Schofield is the *City Life Guidebooks* editor and a BBC Radio Manchester broadcaster on cultural matters. He has contributed to other publications such as *The Independent*. Jonathan is also a Blue Badge Guide and has taken 92 different nationalities around the region from journalists and tourists to mad eccentrics.

Acknowledgements

Len Grant would like to thank Lorna Rushton and all the staff at Ashbury Meadow Primary School for their assistance. Also Alan Lowe at GMPTE Metrolink for his tour of the future tram lines in east Manchester. Thanks also to Chris Hayes and all the staff at the Sure Start adult education programme and to all those who appear in this issue of **East**.

In this issue of East:

There's light at the end of the Metrolink tunnel; Jonathan Schofield takes a peek with Ancoat's resident artist; east Manchester's adult learners and Beswick's school for the future.

