

Community Pride

Bradford's civic silverware, which has been stored out of sight for years, is now on display for all to see in new glass and bronze cabinets in City Hall. They were unveiled last month and the Lord Mayor, Coun Allan Irving Hillary, and Council Leader, Margaret Eaton, were among the first to enjoy the display.



COMPETITION Win tickets to see Tom's Midnight Garden

When ten-year-old Tom hears the grandfather clock in the hallway strike 13 he is transported back to the Victorian era.

He finds himself in a wonderful secret garden where he meets orphan Hatty. Tom and Hatty's adventures are brought to life in the Birmingham Stage Company's haunting adaptation of Philippa Pearce's 1950s classic, 'Tom's Midnight Garden'.

It visits the Alhambra Theatre between Tuesday, May 18 and Saturday, May 22.

Community Pride has a family ticket (two adults and two children) to give away for the first evening performance at 7pm on May 18. To win an enthralling night out for the whole family answer the question below.

Entries must be received by noon on Friday, May 7 2004. One winner will be drawn from all the correct entries. The competition is open to residents of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area only. The decision of the Marketing and Communications Director is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

For more information about productions at the Alhambra, The Studio and St George's Hall contact 01274 432000 or visit www.bradford-theatres.co.uk

TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN Competition

Name

Address

Contact number

e-mail

Question: Who wrote 'Tom's Midnight Garden'?

Answer

Return to: TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN Competition, Community Pride, Room 21a, City Hall, Bradford BD1 1HY, by noon on the closing date of Friday, May 7 2004.

City Hall showcase for civic silverware

Civic housekeeper Lynn Geldard shows off the 131-year-old gold and silver mace which was used ceremonially until 1974.

Bradford's priceless civic silver collection, which has been built up over the last century but was usually stored out of sight in a special vault, is now on permanent public display in City Hall.

The civic silver is housed in specially-built glass and bronze cabinets designed to fit into alcoves on the civic corridor. Fibre optic lighting shows it off to its best advantage.

It was unveiled at a special viewing for councillors and former Lord Mayors last month.

The collection includes Bradford's ceremonial gold and silver mace, studded with semi-precious stones, which dates back to 1873; a tea service inset with amethysts, which is still used on a regular basis when the Lord Mayor entertains guests at City Hall; and an elaborate six-branched Victorian candelabra centrepiece with matching candlesticks.

The silver has been lovingly cleaned and kept in pristine condition by civic housekeeper, Lynn Geldard, for the last 14 years.

She said: "It is an amazing collection and it has been an honour to clean it all - even if it is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge because silver doesn't like the air and discolours quickly."

"It was a shame it was locked away and now it is on display it has a real 'wow' factor."

Free tickets to see the magnificent collection are available from Tourist Information Centres in Bradford (01274 433678), Haworth and Ilkley and at Council information offices throughout the district.

Ticket holders can view the silver on Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, July 17 (11am-noon) and on Fridays on May 21, June 25 and August 20 (2pm-3pm).



Reproduced with kind permission of the Alhambra and Stage

Lord Mayor, Coun Allan Irving Hillary, said: "A lot of people don't even know that this wonderful, unique collection exists. But it belongs to everyone in the district and I'm delighted they will now have much more opportunity to see and appreciate such an important part of their heritage."

Bingley tuning up for all that jazz

Jazz fans from around the country will be heading for Bingley as it hosts a three-day festival next month to raise money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal. The Bingley Jazz Festival will feature 14 bands from local performers to international stars at various venues in and around the town. It runs from Friday, May 28 to Sunday, May 30.

The renowned Pasadena Roof Orchestra will launch the festival at a Jazz Ball on the 28th at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel.

The Lord Mayor of Bradford, Coun Allan Irving Hillary, said: "I've been a jazz enthusiast all my life and I hope many people will come and support this wonderful event."

The Lord Mayor's Appeal has already raised more than £50,000 for Bradford Outward Bound Association and the Nell Bank Activities Centre in Ilkley.

For more information about the Appeal and the Bingley Jazz Festival contact Alexis Jenner on 01274 434965 or alexis.jenner@bradford.gov.uk

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

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Community Pride

www.bradford.gov.uk

Smashing time for old Broadway



Nibble by nibble the jaws of a 100-foot crane have eaten into Forster House as demolition makes way for the Broadway development in the city centre.

A 100-tonne machine with giant 'jaws' has started to crunch into two old office blocks in Forster Square.

The demolition of Forster House and Midland House paves the way for the new Broadway shopping complex and was launched with the help of local schoolchildren and a party of VIP guests including the Council Leader, Margaret Eaton.

At the press of a button, the demolition vehicle began pulling down hundreds of tonnes of concrete. The event marked the start of the £20 million Connecting the City programme to prepare the Forster Square and Broadway sites for the £200 million shopping scheme. As well as demolition work, changes will be made to city centre roads and drains and environmental improvements will be carried out. Coun Simon Cooke, Executive Member for Regeneration, said: "This is an exciting time for the city centre and I am looking forward to seeing cranes in the sky around Broadway."

Property group Stannifer Broadway has been given the go-ahead to build a major complex comprising more than 75 shops, a department store, offices and car parking.

The Connecting the City programme is being jointly funded by the Council, the European Union, the Government and the local Regen 2000 Single Regeneration Budget project

Elections 2004

There are Council elections on Thursday, June 10 2004. Democracy matters. Make sure you cast YOUR vote. Election Special on



A pupil from Haworth Primary School votes in a mock election for schoolchildren at City Hall.

Safer city streets

Bradford is becoming a safer place and it's all down to teamwork.

The police's new Community Support Officers, the Council's street wardens, network of CCTV cameras and Anti-Social Behaviour Team have proved to be a winning combination.

Bradford has had the second biggest fall in crime in the country and there were no robberies reported in the city centre for seven weeks from the beginning of February.

The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team deals with people who are committing robberies, burglaries and thefts, carrying out acts of vandalism and criminal damage, harassing the community or simply causing a nuisance by being drunk, disorderly or abusive.

The team has dealt with 250 cases over the past year and has obtained 26 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) so far, a fact Anti-Social Behaviour Manager Kirsti Massey says reflects the amount of preventative work the team does.

She said: "We work with schools, parents, youth services and projects to provide youngsters with activities they are interested in."

"Retail staff in the city and town centres are much happier. They are joining Shop Watches and Pub Watches and are far more confident about coming forward with evidence because they can see that the ASBOs are working."



Council Leader Margaret Eaton (pictured), co-chair of the Safer Communities Partnership, said: "ASBOs have made people think twice about their behaviour but it is important that we do not rest on our laurels. We will continue to make sure the District is an attractive and safe place for both local people and visitors."

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The contents of this newsletter can be interpreted on request in community languages. It is also available on tape or in Braille - please contact 01274 434667.

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G-Wiz - Getting from A to B has never been greener



Fleet Services Contracts Facilitator Phil Thomson prepares to road test a G-Wiz electric car

An electric-powered runabout is just one of a number of eco-friendly methods the Council is looking at to get its staff from A to B.

The G-Wiz car, about the size of a Mini, can cover up to 40 miles on a fully-charged battery. That means plugging it into an electric socket for six hours, or just two hours for an 80 per cent charge.

The Council's Fleet Services tried out the car for a month to see if it could work as a pool car for officers such as planners and surveyors who need to drive around the district on site visits.

Two other 'green' alternatives have already been adopted. Bio diesel is processed from organic oils and fats and normally mixed with regular diesel. Fleet Services uses a five per cent mix which reduces CO₂ emissions by three per cent.

This ultra low sulphur/bio diesel mix is used in all fleet vehicles and tests show it has cut emissions of harmful soot, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. The Council uses more than 2.6 million litres a year.

Compressed natural gas has also proved effective. It produces 70 per cent less carbon monoxide and has 90 per cent fewer ozone-forming chemicals. It is used in the chilled food delivery vans operated by the Council's Education Contract Services.

Fleet Services Manager Frank Atkins said: "We are always on the lookout for something which is environmentally friendly, value for money, well produced and gives the performance we require." Greener fuels have been put to the test in a range of fleet vehicles from refuse collection wagons to vans and small cars.

How green are you?

To mark World Environment Day on June 5 the Environment Agency is asking people to pledge to make small changes to their daily lives to lessen global warming, save water or reduce the growing problem of rubbish.

The Agency's website suggests 10 things you can do to help save the environment, such as using energy-saving light bulbs, turning off the tap when you brush your teeth or switching off your TV rather than leaving it on standby.

To do your bit log on to www.environment-agency/wed/campaign/

Charter draws the line for 'graffiti pests'

Businesses are lining up to join the Council's bid to scrub out graffiti around the district.

The Council has launched a Graffiti Charter to try to keep the city and surrounding areas as free from graffiti as possible.

The Charter aims to get businesses to sign up and guarantee that they will do all they can to keep their properties free from this problem and improve their appearance.

In return they will receive certificates from the Council and a ten per cent discount on graffiti removal costs.

The scheme is backed by Bradford Chamber of Commerce, Encams - a registered charity that carries out environmental campaigns - Business Link and West Yorkshire Police.

Joining is voluntary and several businesses have already shown an interest, including Roshonoff, a firm that manufactures and sells industrial cleaning products in Mount Street, Bradford.

Managing Director David Holmes said: "We have customers coming from all over the world and obviously graffiti does not give them a very good impression of the area.

"However, it is not the Council's fault. I rang them up and they were very helpful. I think it is a lack of pride in the city. We need to do something about it

and help each other. That is why we support the Graffiti Charter."

Sandy Needham, Chair of Bradford Chamber of Commerce, said: "Graffiti gives people the impression that no-one cares about the Bradford district. It creates a negative image.

"We know that businesses and their staff do care about their environment and want to see Bradford being maintained as a clean, attractive area."

Coun Anne Hawkesworth, Executive Member for Environment, said: "We want to make Bradford a welcoming environment for people to visit, shop and work and introducing the Graffiti Charter will help to do that.

"Cleaning up the environment is one of the Council's top priorities and scrubbing out this problem is crucial to boosting the image of the city.

Brian Dobson, Assistant Manager, Environmental Protection and Waste Management, said: "Graffiti pests have been coming from Leeds and Sheffield to leave their mark here on industrial estates, subways and on walls around housing estates.

"We want to emphasise that graffiti is classed as criminal damage and people can get a conviction if caught."

For more information contact **Brian Dobson on 01274 432108 or b.dobson@bradford.gov.uk**



Council graffiti-buster Keith Cornish gets to work cleaning a wall.

Making the city's streets safer

(continued from page 1)

Two new initiatives are tackling specific areas of anti-social behaviour - kerb crawling and off-road vehicles.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has already issued around ten warnings to kerb crawlers.

They are initially asked to sign a guarantee, known as an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, that they will not return to certain red light areas, but if they flout that guarantee then magistrates can impose an ASBO excluding them from those areas.

The police are also looking at using new laws which means they can seize vehicles from people

misusing them for crime and anti-social behaviour, such as kerb crawling. The drivers could face an unlimited driving ban as part of their sentence.

Bradford Council and Bradford Community Housing Trust are funding training and off-road motorcycles for the police to tackle the problem of youths using quad bikes, cars and bikes to wreck pieces of open land around the district and cause nuisance and danger, particularly to residents of housing estates.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team will apply for ASBOs against those who are caught to prevent them going on any of these areas.

Emma Copland and Gus Marshall, both aged ten and pupils at Stocks Lane Primary School, Clayton Heights, get into the recycling habit.



On target for recycling

Recycling schemes will grow in Bradford and a further household waste site will be built thanks to a £1.5million boost from the Government.

A successful bid to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) means that the Council is well on its way to meeting its target of doubling its recycling by 2005.

Another 30,000 paper recycling bins will be offered to householders and a further 15,000 properties will get glass recycling bins on top of the current 2,000 homes that already have one.

And the Government money also means that an eighth household waste recycling centre can be built - ideally in the Shipley or Frizinghall area. This would boost recycling from these sites from 42 per cent to 50 per cent by 2005/6.

In addition paper recycling schemes are being introduced at 100 schools in the district to

encourage young people to get into the recycling habit.

Richard Longcake, Principal Waste Management Officer, said: "Another household waste site will make a big difference to those wanting to recycle and dispose of waste and bulk items that they might otherwise struggle to get rid of."

The Government plans to increase landfill tax by 70 per cent in the next four years and the Council wants to increase its recycling from ten per cent to 25 per cent by next year.

Earlier successful bids to Defra resulted in the Dowley Gap household waste site at Bingley being revamped and the Council's kerbside paper collection scheme was extended from 20,000 homes at the end of 2002 to 100,000 by this month.

For more information about recycling contact the Recycling Office on 01274 438883

Get composting!

Did you know that over 25 per cent of the contents of your dustbin, including vegetable peelings, teabags and eggshells, can be composted quickly and easily using a compost bin?

The first week in May is National Composting Awareness Week and the Council's Director of Waste Management, Richard Wixey, is calling on householders to think about how they can help their environment and save themselves money by composting more of their rubbish.

Richard said: "There are many benefits of home composting. You can greatly reduce the amount of rubbish you throw away by turning it into a nutrient-rich, peat-free alternative.

"What's more, using home compost will improve your soil whatever soil type you have. It's easy to do and costs very little in time or effort."

As part of the Councils 'Lets Get it Sorted' litter campaign two special sales will be held at which householders can buy composting bins at a fraction of retail prices.

The sales will be held on May 8 at Ilkley Pool car park and May 9 at Ferncliffe Road car park in Bingley, both from 10am to 4pm. Other recycling and composting equipment, help and advice will also be available.



Using a composting bin at home helps to reduce the amount of domestic waste the Council has to collect and it's also good for your garden.

Composting bins can also be bought through the Council's Recycling Office, which also has copies of a useful leaflet on composting.

For more information about composting contact 01274 438883

News in brief

Direct assistance for youngsters

Young people facing big decisions can get all the help and advice they need under one roof at the bdirect centre in Forster Square.



The one-stop service and its website offers information on finding your own place, getting a job, training and even where to learn to drive.

A range of organisations are based at the bdirect centre, including Bradford Council, Jobcentre Plus and health services.

bdirect is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm, or visit www.bdirect.org



Don't be square, go barmy

Centenary Square is set to go 'Basketball Barmy' again this summer, with six days of on-court action between July 12 and 17.

If last year is anything to go by, hundreds of people from schoolchildren to pensioners are expected to turn up for games and free coaching sessions from top professional players.

There will be sessions for primary and secondary schools throughout the week as well as shooting competitions, three-on-three matches and wheelchair matches for everyone from novices to aspiring Michael Jordans.

On the final day this year - Saturday the 17th - there will be a three-on-three competition, cheerleaders, other entertainment and grandstand seating in the square.

For more information contact 01274 437779



Free swims create wave of activity

Over 12,000 people used the Council's ten swimming pools during the February half-term week - more than double the usual figure for that week.

The wave of enthusiasm was the result of free sessions for under 16s offered by the Sport and Leisure Service, which launched its b active campaign last year to encourage people to be more active.

In Community Pride 2 we gave an incorrect e-mail address for the Sport and Leisure Service. It should have read sport-and-leisure@bradford.gov.uk

Cartwright - then and now

Cartwright Hall, Bradford's major art gallery, is 100 years old this year. In 1904 two million people visited the amazing City of Bradford Great Exhibition which marked the opening of the hall and Lister Park. In 2004 new generations are discovering the gallery by taking a virtual trip as part of a computer game.

Exhibitions and events are planned from May to October to mark the centenary of Cartwright Hall, tracing the building's history and recreating the atmosphere of its opening spectacle.

Cartwright Hall was paid for and given to the City of Bradford by Lord Masham, Samuel Cunliffe Lister of Lister's Mill fame.

It was built on the site of his former home, Manningham Hall, and was named after Dr Edmund Cartwright, the inventor of the first combing machine for the textile industry.

Lord Masham opened the empty building on April 13 1904 but it's first showcase was the City of Bradford Great Exhibition the following month, which was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

A complete Somali village was brought over from Africa and installed in Lister Park. On the lake a water chute was built and the naval battle of Port Arthur, fought between Russia and Japan earlier that year, was re-enacted. It was staged by Lot Morgan, "aquatic director" for circus legends Barnum and Bailey.

Man-lifting kites were flown in the park, and a new invention, the incubator, was on show, complete with babies.

An exhibition on the history of Cartwright Hall, including photos, postcards, memorabilia and some original exhibits from 1904, will run from May to October this year. A kite exhibition runs from May to September.

Artist Alan Hydes, of TV show Painting the Stars, is using original photos of the exhibition for a painting to mark the centenary, commissioned by Bradford Council's Museums and Galleries Service. The picture will be on show in May, along with a display by Benedict Phillips, created from beautiful, historic and bizarre objects acquired for the gallery's collections over the last 100 years.

For more information contact Cartwright Hall on 01274 431212



One hundred years ago Cartwright Hall (top right) was the centrepiece of the City of Bradford Great Exhibition, which was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales in May 1904 (above). A water chute which launched people into the Lister Park lake (left) was one of the star attractions. In 2004 Cartwright Hall is the centrepiece once again, this time as part of one of the symbols of modern times - the computer game. The art gallery has been recreated as a level of the popular virtual shoot-out game Unreal Tournament, a scene from which is pictured right.



Visit the virtual gallery

Thousands of people around the world, many who never normally set foot in art galleries, are visiting Cartwright Hall ... without ever leaving their homes. The art gallery appears in the latest version of the popular computer game, Unreal Tournament, played daily online by over 20,000 people and featuring science fiction style characters in a virtual shoot-out. Over 10,000 people have downloaded the Cartwright Hall version already and are chasing each other around the virtual gallery, complete with paintings and sculptures from the Council's collection on show.

Special projects officer, Steve Manthorp said: "The designer has created a pretty faithful reproduction of the gallery, but with a few extra features, such as a virtual 'trampoline' allowing players to jump onto the second floor in a split second.

"However, there's no chance of a cup of tea in the computer version of Cartwright Hall; a door that should lead to the gallery's café has become a special 'portal' shortcut, so players can move directly between opposite sides of the building."



Rising to the 'quality' challenge

Parish and town councils are working in partnership with Bradford Council to earn a nationally-recognised standard.

Quality Parish and Town Council status is the first step towards playing a wider role by working in partnership with the district council, which can choose to give them more powers to influence and run services.

Seven criteria must be fulfilled - to have at least 80 per cent of members elected at the last election; have a qualified clerk; adopt a local Code of Conduct; hold at least six meetings each year; publish an annual report; provide regular

information to residents; and produce properly prepared and audited accounts.

Bradford Council's Interim Policy and Executive Director, Kersten England, said: "We are keen to work closely with parish and town councils and are making available our resources and knowledge to help them win Quality status."

One way is by providing training at the Council's Centre for Learning for clerks to achieve the Assessment and Qualification Alliance's (AOA) new Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Eight of the nine parishes and towns in the district are working towards Quality status and their clerks

are at various stages of that training. Training is also available for elected members.

Coun Simon Cooke, Executive Member for Corporate and Regeneration, said: "Parish and town councils can play a valuable and significant role in improving the quality of life in their communities as they rise to the challenge of Quality status.

"We hope the four new parish councils in Clayton, Sandy Lane, Wilsden and Wrose, which are holding their first elections in June, will also achieve Quality Parish Council status."

Community Pride will be featuring parish and town council news in future editions

Kids learn life-saving craft at the kerbside

Children as young as five years old are being taught kerbside skills that could save their lives.

The Council's Road Safety Team has got Government funding to run a three-year pilot of Kerbcraft training schemes in areas of the district which have a high level of child pedestrian injuries.

Research shows that children as young as five can learn basic pedestrian skills and understanding if they are taught in small groups, at the roadside, by trained adult volunteers.

Through structured learning, repetition and enjoyment, the youngsters are taught three vital and potentially life-saving skills:

- How to find safe places to cross the road
- How to cross safely between parked vehicles
- How to cross safely near junctions

Schemes are run by Kerbcraft trainers, who are often parents or other adult volunteers who pass on their existing road safety knowledge with guidance and training from Kerbcraft Co-ordinators.



New starters take to the pavements on a Kerbcraft scheme at St Anthony's RC Primary School at Windhill.

Children and parents have been benefiting from Kerbcraft schemes in the University, Odsal, Bowling, Keighley South and Little Horton wards for some time and a new scheme has just started in Shipley.

Road Safety Officer Huma Rahman said: "Learning Kerbcraft skills as young as possible can be a life-saver, literally, for some children. Kerbcraft schemes relieve an extra burden from teaching staff and is typical of the sort of training parents can give to their children themselves."



Parent volunteers receive their Kerbcraft training certificates during assembly at All Saints' Primary School, Bradford.

Denholme's Solid crew speaks out

Young people in Denholme are working with the Council to try to improve road safety in the village.

Denholme has long suffered from the effects of high volumes of traffic which make the narrow roads treacherous, particularly for children and older residents.

So in October last year a group of ten local youngsters, working with the Council's Youth Service and its Youth Participation Team, banded together to survey the number of vehicles and pedestrian movements and behaviour, judge the effectiveness of road signs, lighting and markings and identify where overhanging vegetation was causing problems.

The group call themselves 'MCB Solid', which stands for 'Making changes by speaking out loud in Denholme'. They have used photographs, maps, graphics and statistics to back up their findings, have designed a logo and posters, and have also written poetry and a rap on the subject of road safety.

Their eye-catching presentation impressed local councillors and other members of the Denholme Steering Group at its March meeting at the Mechanics Institute. MCB Solid are now working with the Council's Road Safety Team to introduce measures which will improve all aspects of road safety in Denholme.

A competition is to be held inviting local children to submit designs for a new gateway into Denholme road sign. MCB Solid want to see a sign that is "more personal to Denholme", eye-catching and mind-changing, and welcomes safer drivers into their 'space'.

They are also hoping to help raise road safety awareness amongst their peers and fellow residents at a village fun day later in the year.

Ken Scarlett, the Council's Senior Road Safety Officer, said: "The Road Safety Team is delighted to see young people taking their concerns into their own hands and we are happy to support MCB Solid for the good of Denholme road users of today and tomorrow."

Members of the MCB Solid group show off their photomontage on road safety issues in Denholme.



Plans to cool the hotspots

Twenty-two of the district's worst hotspots for road injuries are to benefit from traffic calming makeovers in the next year.

Speed limits will be reduced and traffic signals and mini-roundabouts installed as part of a Council programme costing more than £500,000.

Work to change the operation of signals at the junction of Hamme Strasse and Valley Road in the city centre, which had 46 crashes and 96 casualties in a five-year survey period, has already been done.

Devonshire Street West in Keighley is to be made a 20mph zone after 11 children were injured in 13 crashes and pedestrian crossings are planned for four hotspots along the stretch of road between Odsal roundabout and Wibsey roundabout.

The sites have been picked out because they have high incident rates and the programme is part of a bid to ensure that road casualties and deaths in the district continue to fall.

The latest figures - for 2002 - show that there was a fall in road deaths from 32 in 2001 to 26 and the number of fatal and serious injuries fell from 326 to 279. Provisional figures for people killed in 2003 show a 55 per cent reduction compared to the same period in 2002.

Injuries to pedestrians fell for the sixth successive year to a new low of 463.

Coun Anne Hawkesworth, Executive Member for Environment, said: "These figures show that overall we are making good progress in tackling road casualties.

"Our investment in traffic calming measures at 22 locations shows the Council's continuing commitment to making our roads safer. But drivers must also be responsible at all times. Many incidents can be avoided by motorists driving more slowly and carefully."

Use YOUR vote on June 10

On Thursday, June 10 the district's voters will have the opportunity to elect all 90 members of Bradford Council at the same time – three members in each of 30 wards.

Normally one-third of the seats – one in each ward - are contested each year and every fourth year there is no district council election.

However, changes to ward boundaries and their names recommended by the Boundary Committee for England, have made an "all-council" election necessary.

As a result some residents will find themselves voting this year in a different ward from previous years.

Alongside the local Council election voters will also be asked to elect Yorkshire and the Humber region's seven members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.



Senior Electoral Services Officer Linda Hinton will once again be supervising the issue and receipt of postal votes in 30 wards.

Some people will also be asked to vote for candidates to sit on four new parish councils – in Clayton, Sandy Lane, Wilsden and Wrose.

Philip Robinson, the Council's Interim Chief Executive and Returning Officer, said: "It is important that as many people as possible cast their vote."

Each elector will be issued with two ballot papers, one for the District election and one for the European. If you live in one of the new parish council areas you will be issued with a parish ballot paper.

Bradford Council election

The ballot paper for the Bradford Council election will contain the names of all candidates for your ward who will be contesting the three seats.

You are required to mark a cross (X) against the names of a MAXIMUM OF THREE candidates.

The results will be announced in the media and displayed in City Hall and on the Council's website, www.bradford.gov.uk

European election

The ballot paper for the European Parliament election will contain a list of parties and their candidates. You are required to mark a cross (X) against ONLY ONE party.

Seven MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) will be elected in Yorkshire and the Humber region through a form of proportional representation called a list system.

The number of seats each party wins will reflect the number of votes they received in relation to the other parties.

The ballot papers will be stored securely until the evening of Sunday, June 13, when they will be counted at the same time as in other European countries to establish the number cast for each party.

Bradford's figures will then be combined with those throughout the rest of the region and the seven successful candidates from the various party lists worked out.

The results will be announced in the media and displayed in City Hall and on the Council's website, www.bradford.gov.uk

Parish council elections

Residents in Clayton, Sandy Lane, Wilsden and Wrose will be asked to vote for candidates for new parish councils.

Wilsden Parish Council is divided into two wards. Wilsden itself will have eight parish councillors, whilst Harecroft will elect a single parish councillor to reflect the number of electors in each area.

Clayton Parish Council will elect a total of 13 parish councillors in two wards. West Ward will have eight parish councillors and East Ward five, also reflecting the number of electors in each of the wards.

Sandy Lane Parish Council will have six parish councillors and is not divided into wards.

Wrose Parish Council will have nine parish councillors and is also not divided into wards.

The ballot paper for your local parish council will contain the names of a number of candidates. You will receive instructions with the ballot paper about how many candidates you may vote for.



Counting assistants made sure the numbers were right at last years count for the Council election in Eccleshill Ward.

Parish council responsibilities include managing open spaces and recreational facilities, footpath lighting, allotments and the provision of seats and litter and dog waste bins.

They can also fund other projects for the benefit of the community and make representations to other agencies on planning and other issues.



Observers representing the candidates in the election check that the votes are counted correctly.

Elections will be postal-only

On June 10 the traditional polling stations and ballot boxes will stand redundant after the Yorkshire and the Humber region – along with the East Midlands, North West and North East – was chosen to be a pilot for postal-only elections.

Electoral Services Manager Susan Saunders said: "The all-postal pilot will mean quite a lot of changes to the normal election process this year, both for Council staff and voters."

"It will be an entirely different experience for people to vote from home rather than attending at a polling station and physically putting their ballot paper in a ballot box."

Instead of visiting a polling station each elector will receive an envelope in the post to their home address. It will contain two ballot papers, one for the District election and one for the European; a written and pictorial description of how to complete them correctly, a security statement which must be signed; and a freepost envelope in which to return everything.

If you live in one of the new parish council areas you will also be issued with a parish council ballot paper.

The ballot papers and declaration must be returned in the envelope supplied by June 10, either by post or to a designated drop-off point.

Ward changes

As a result of the changes recommended by the Boundary Commission for England many ward boundaries have altered and names disappeared.

The Odsal, Rombalds, Undercliffe and University wards are no more. City, Manningham, Royds and Wharfedale are new creations.

Only Craven and Ilkley wards are completely unchanged.

Some residents will find themselves voting in a different ward this year.

The Boundary Committee is an independent body set up by Parliament to review the electoral arrangements of every major local authority in the country. Its aim is to make sure that the number of people represented by each councillor in an area is similar.

Each authority is reviewed roughly every 10 years and this year it's the turn of Bradford and all the other district and county councils in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

A map of the new wards is reproduced right.

To find out whether you have moved from one ward to another, visit the Electoral Services office in City Hall, Bradford or telephone 01274 432312.



Do you need to arrange a proxy vote?

If you are on holiday or away from home for any other reason between May 24 and June 10 you can apply for a proxy vote so that someone else nominated by you can vote on your behalf.

It is in your interest to do this as soon as possible, otherwise your ballot paper may be sent to your home address.

To arrange for a proxy vote at the forthcoming local council, European and, if applicable, parish council elections visit the Electoral Services office in City Hall, Bradford, and fill in a form in person.

OR

Telephone Electoral Services on 01274 432287 and ask for a form to be sent to your home. Also, remember that if there is more than one person in your household who wants to arrange a proxy vote you need to ask for the correct number of application forms.

Boost for masterplan



Bradford Centre Regeneration's masterplan for the city centre has taken a step forward with the Council's decision to take it into account when it is considering future planning applications.

The Chief Executive of Bradford Centre Regeneration, Maud Marshall, said: "We are delighted by the decision. It is a major step forward. Ahead of us, however, is an enormous amount of work to translate this exciting vision into reality. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to the challenge and to working very closely with the Council to achieve our objectives."

"Over the next few months, we will start the preparatory work necessary for the renaissance of Bradford city centre. This will include a start on a number of early projects and the creation of detailed development plans for the four neighbourhoods - the Bowl, the Valley, the Channel and the Markets.

"We will also be commissioning feasibility studies into key elements of the plan, such as transport and, of course, the Odeon site."

The Council's decision follows a major public consultation on the masterplan, which was drawn up

by internationally-acclaimed urban designers Alsop Architects. The results of the consultation were very positive with around 65 per cent of respondents describing the overall plan as either "wow" or "exciting". Only 13 per cent said they "hated" it.

For more information contact BCR on 01274 437713 or visit the website www.bradfordurc.co.uk

Big changes in store in Little Germany

New homes, offices and leisure facilities are breathing new life into the historic buildings of Little Germany. One of the best known landmarks, Eastbrook Hall, is set to be transformed into apartments and offices. The centrepiece of the plans would be over 60 apartments in a courtyard scheme. The conversion would preserve the old Methodist Hall's striking frontage and its dome.

Close by, The Priestley on Chapel Street is looking to boost business as a conference and events venue. The art centre runs a busy programme of local theatre productions and live music, including jazz, as well as offering bar facilities.

The area's wonderful architecture is attracting more and more property companies and homebuyers.

The £2 million conversion of Treadwell's Mill into 33 apartments is the latest in a string of refurbishments to create new homes. Buyers have already snapped up flats in some of the wool merchant's warehouse and an old brass works.

More city living is planned for empty buildings overlooking Leeds Road and the new ring road.

The local regeneration partnership - Regen 2000 - is also pumping £1.5 million into regenerating several old properties in the area to help encourage businesses.

Coun Jeanette Sunderland, who is a Regen 2000 board member, said: "It is wonderful to see new life being breathed into Little Germany. This historic area once made a big contribution to the prosperity of the city - it is doing so again."

The Council-run Invest in Bradford service which aims



Dave West is a great advert for city living in Little Germany. He bought the first apartment in the former brass works at Silens Works - next door to his office in the Council's regeneration department in Ollicana House. Meanwhile, the striking Eastbrook Hall (inset) is to be turned into offices and apartments.

to help local jobseekers capitalise on local building projects has also moved into the Design Exchange in the heart of Little Germany.

Over the last two years, new street lighting, better parking and new CCTV cameras have been introduced to improve life in the area.

For more information on developments in Little Germany contact Nigel Rice on 01274 431015 or nigel.rice@bradford.gov.uk

Regen 2000 on 01274 435381 and The Priestley on 01274 820666 or www.thepriestley.org.uk



A Bavarian bierkeller like this will be seen in Bradford city centre in August.

Bierkeller boost for International Market

Bradford's huge International Market over the August Bank Holiday weekend will now have a Bavarian flavour in addition to the 300 stallholders from all over Europe and Britain.

More than 300,000 visitors are expected to flock to the city centre between August 27 and 30.

They will be able to enjoy 40 hours of top-class street theatre and there are also plans for cultural events on each evening of the market, featuring live music and dance in a range of styles to suit all tastes.

The centre will also be home to an authentic Bavarian bierkeller after brothers Arnd Baggen and Eberhard Vettermann, from Regensburg, visited the city on a fact-finding tour last month.

They had heard other German stallholders, who had taken part in previous markets, praising the friendliness of the city's people and the beautiful architecture.

Now Arnd and Eberhard are looking forward to setting up a Bavarian house selling several different varieties of their renowned Bavarian beer and a range of meats, sausages and cheese from the area.

"There are some beautiful buildings here and we love your City Hall," said Arnd. "We look forward to coming in August and we are sure people will love our Bavarian beer!"

For more information about the International Market contact Markets Officer Diana Greenwood 01274 432245 or visit www.bradfordmarkets.com

Tough stance on Council Tax dodgers

When it comes to collecting Council Tax, Bradford Council is no soft touch.

More than 192,000 Council Tax bills were delivered to households around the district in March and many homes are already receiving reminders because their first instalments have not been paid.

"Every pound of Council Tax that is unpaid is a pound of the Council's budget that should be spent on providing services," said Executive Member for Community, Coun Kris Hopkins.

"Recouping it also keeps down the increase in Council Tax the following year, which has an impact on the vast majority of people who do pay on time. That's why we take a hard line."

Issuing a reminder is the first step the Council takes to ensure that all Council Tax bills are paid. Around 115,000 are sent out every year.

After that, cases of non-payment enter the court system. The Council will obtain a liability order that means it can issue bailiffs' warrants and make requests for Council Tax to be taken directly from earnings or benefits.

Continued non-payment can lead to bankruptcy or committal proceedings and every year a handful of people end up in prison for not paying.

"Bradford Council is no easy touch and we take all possible steps to bring to book those who refuse to pay. But that does not mean we won't help those who are having genuine problems in finding the money to pay their bills," added Coun Hopkins.

Facts and figures

Every year Bradford Council...

- ... collects about 98.5 per cent of the Council Tax that is due
- ... makes more applications for commitment to prison than any other council in the country - 2,000
- ... obtains more arrest warrants than any other council in the country - 2,000
- ... issues more bankruptcy notices than any other council in the country - 420
- ... issues 31,000 summonses resulting in 21,000 liability orders in Magistrates' Court
- ... makes 13,000 bailiff visits each year
- ... makes 2,500 attachment of earnings orders
- ... makes 4,000 requests to Dept of work and Pensions for deductions from benefit

The Revenues Service's helpline takes more than 170,000 calls a year and more than 32,000 face-to-face enquiries are handled.

People are encouraged to pay by direct debit and spread their Council Tax payments over 12 months. Debt counselling can help people stay within their means but still pay their Council Tax. Smaller payments over a longer period can be arranged and advice is also available about Council Tax Rebate and other benefits which may ease the burden.

Wallace Sampson, Customer Services Director, said: "We would urge anyone who is having problems paying their bill to contact our helpline sooner rather than later. It is easier to help people make alternative arrangements when the arrears are small rather than when they have built up."

Anyone wanting help over their Council Tax bills should contact the helpline on 01274 437792 or visit the website at www.bradford.gov.uk/council/revenues



A knock on the door from the Council bailiffs can result from not paying your Council Tax on time, but they would prefer to help you find a way of paying rather than seize goods.

Cut your Council Tax

If you are on a low income, have less than £16,000 in savings or investments and are not already getting help towards your Council Tax bill, the Council's Benefits Service wants to hear from you.

Thousands of people could be entitled to Council Tax Benefit but are missing out simply by not asking.

To find out whether you might qualify for help check the Council's online ready reckoner at www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits-service; speak to an adviser on 01274 432772; or call into one of our enquiry offices (the addresses are on your Council Tax bill).

Brighter gateways reflect positive image

Visitors are getting a better impression of the district thanks to work which is making the main routes into and out of the city - its corridors and gateways - more attractive.

They include the likes of Leeds Road, Manchester Road and Manningham Lane.

"Gateways and corridors have a disproportionate effect on people's image of the city," says Nick Ackroyd, manager of the Council's Landscape Design Unit.

When Community Pride asked you in the Summer 2002 issue to name your three 'grot spots' nine out of ten responses were to do with main roads in and out of the district.

"If we are to improve the visual appeal of Bradford to visitors and residents, it is vital to improve the gateways through design, cleansing and maintenance," added Nick. "It is good for the whole district as well as the people who live close by. We hope businesses are also encouraged to come to Bradford by what they see."

As part of its Gateways Strategy various Council departments are working together on a range of projects to make the main roads into the district safer, more attractive and better maintained.

The Council is also working in partnership with agencies such as Trident, Regen 2000, Metro and the police. It is also encouraging the businesses and residents who work and live alongside the roads to be involved in the work and make sure their premises and homes are clean and tidy and give a good impression.

Work can take many forms, from tackling derelict and vandalised buildings to installing litter bins, and from landscaping and using art and clever lighting to using CCTV to deter crime and graffiti.

Manchester Road, for example, is benefiting from a guided bus route, major improvements at the Mayo Avenue junction, planting of trees and shrubs in the Jacob's Well roundabout and other environmental projects.

In Manningham 70 blue litter bins and newly-painted blue lamp posts are symbols of the clean-up operation being spearheaded, with Council assistance, by the Manningham Means Business group formed by businesses, traders and residents in 2001.

Sections of Leeds Road and Wakefield Road and the Staygate roundabout have also seen substantial improvements through landscaping, trees and flowers, improvements to pavements and shop fronts.



New pavements and other landscaping work have vastly improved the look of the Leeds Road gateway

Imran Khalid, who owns three business premises on Leeds Road, praised the recently completed work there.

He said: "Although there were some things I didn't like on the original drawings changes were made and now the finished works look good. Many of my customers have also noticed the improvements. I think they improve the image of Leeds Road for everyone."

For more information contact Nick Ackroyd on 01274 433854 or nickackroyd@bradford.gov.uk

News in brief



Matchmaking in the jobs market

Bridging the gap between people who are looking for work and local employers who have vacancies is the main aim of a new project called Jobs@.

Twelve employment advisors around the district are available to give free and impartial advice about finding work or the right training course. They also offer free job search training in the community.

The Jobs@ team can help anyone who feels they would like support in breaking down the barriers to securing a job. That might involve writing a CV, filling in an application form or just giving them direction in their search.

Employers can tap into the Jobs@ database of jobseekers or get Jobs@ to run a free recruitment campaign.

For more information contact Amir Majeed on 01274 431375 or amir.majeed@bradford.gov.uk

Making IT accessible for all

People with disabilities are being offered the chance to gain computer skills using state-of-the-art equipment in a new Council project, Touch IT.

The six-week basic skills IT course aims to help people with sensory or physical disabilities find work or prepare for further education, uses the latest speech and magnification software, specialised large and Braille keyboards and large screens.

The project is being run at Morley Street and Whetley Hill Resource Centres, Bradford, and by Keighley Association for the Blind.

For more details contact Touch IT co-ordinator Farah Hussain on 01274 435001 or farah.hussain@bradford.gov.uk



Bradford Festival diary dates

The district will celebrate its cultural diversity again this year by staging the annual Bradford International Festival between Friday, June 18 and Sunday, June 27.

The Lord Mayor's Parade will take place on Saturday, June 19 and the Mela is on the weekend of June 26 and 27.

A Garden Magic event between Thursday the 17th and Sunday the 20th will see Centenary Square 'grassed over' with artificial turf.

Keep an eye or ear on the local media for details.

For more information contact 01274 434782

Making contact in Denholme

Denholme residents now have a police and community contact point in the village which acts as a one-stop shop for a wide range of organisations.

The town's Mechanics' Institute is hosting the contact point every Wednesday and Thursday from 2-4 pm and on Saturdays from 10am-12 noon.

Residents can report concerns to trained volunteers who then pass them on to the relevant authority, such as Bradford Council, the police, victim support, citizens' advice, the fire service and health authority. Contact points are planned for Cottingley, Cullingworth, Baildon, Saltaire, Silsden, Wyke and Wibsey.

Breaking the link between drugs and crime

A new scheme designed to break the vicious circle of drugs and crime is helping one man to hold down a job and see his children again.

Bob, aged 31, had an £80-a-day heroin habit before he was sent to prison for numerous shoplifting offences in October last year.

Then a visit from staff at the Criminal Justice Intervention Programme (CJIP) signalled the start of a chance to turn his life around.

The programme offers wide-ranging support to criminals who are using drugs, enabling them to kick the habit and therefore stop committing crimes to pay for it.

The Government recently announced an extra £1.5 million for CJIP in Bradford after the area was identified as one of the 30 worst affected by drug-related crime.

It means hundreds of individuals like Bob will now benefit, as well as creating a safer community for everyone.

Bob went through detox on admission to prison, where a CJIP team member assessed his needs and offered a number of ways to help.

When Bob was unexpectedly released from prison the CJIP staff tracked him down and he began treatment that included a special implant which is an opiate blocker. He was also offered counselling and training opportunities but did not take these up.

However, with the CJIP team's continuing support, Bob stuck with his treatment, made outstanding progress, got a job and he has not been re-arrested.



A CJIP Prison Liaison Supervisor, Danny Glew, talks over potentially life-changing treatment with a client.

He has also begun to see his family again and has regular access to his children, something which was previously denied.

CJIP team manager John Chamberlain believes the success of the scheme so far is down to co-ordinating the work of different organisations such as Bradford Council, police, health, probation, prison and drug treatment services.

He said: "We aim to offer thorough and continuous support to see people through the process of coming off drugs. By plugging the gaps in caring for them, we hope crime will be reduced and the district will be a safer place for everyone."

Air your views at a Neighbourhood Forum

There are more than 100 Neighbourhood Forums in the district, which each meet three times a year. They are open meetings at which you can hear about plans the Council and other organisations have that will affect your local area. You can raise concerns or ask questions about public services in your neighbourhood or make suggestions about how it can be improved.

Bradford North Area (Contact the Area Co-ordinator's Office on 01274 431066)		
Forums were held January-March. Summer schedule to be arranged.		
Bradford South Area (Contact the Area Co-ordinator's Office on 01274 431155)		
Scholemoor and Lidget Green	Wed, April 21	Scholemoor Community Centre, Dracup Avenue (1.30pm)
Lidget Green and Scholemoor	Wed, April 21	Lidget Green Methodist Church, Legrams Lane/Cemetery Road (7.30pm)
Bradford West Area (Contact the Area Co-ordinator's Office on 01274 432597)		
Manningham (Women only)	Wed, April 21	Millan Centre, Victor Street (1pm)
Thornton	Wed, April 21	Thornton Community Centre, Market Street (7pm)
Clayton	Thurs, April 22	Clayton Village Hall, Reva Syke Road (7pm)
Horton Grange (Women only)	Tues, April 27	The Family Learning Centre, Farnham Road (10am)
Girlington (Women only)	Wed, April 28	Girlington Community Centre, Girlington Road (10am)
Girlington	Wed, April 28	Girlington Community Centre, Girlington Road (7pm)
Manningham	Thurs, April 29	Hanfia Mosque, 9 Ambler Street (7pm)
Keighley Area (Contact the Area Co-ordinator's Office on 01535 618008)		
East Morton	Wed, April 21	East Morton Primary School (7pm)
Hainworth Wood	Wed, April 21	Hainworth Wood Community Centre (7pm)
<i>A Special Lawkholme Traffic Forum will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 7.30pm at Eastwood Primary School.</i>		
Riddlesden	Thurs, April 29	Riddlesden War Memorial Institute (11am)
Beechcliffe/Utley	Thurs, April 29	St Marks Church (7pm)
Shipley Area (Contact the Area Co-ordinator's Office on 01274 437146)		
Windhill and West Royd	Wed, April 21	Windhill CE Primary School (7.30pm)
<i>A Special Ferniehurst and Middle Baildon Forum, chaired by Ali Mantle, will be held on Wednesday, April 28 at 10am at Baildon Link Community Centre, Cliffe Lane, Baildon.</i>		
Denholme	Thurs, May 6	Denholme Mechanics Institute (7.30pm)
Saltaire	Mon, May 10	Saltaire Methodist Church Hall (7.30pm)
Hirst Wood	Tues, May 11	Hughes Bakery Meeting Room, Hirst Lane (7.30pm)
Wrose	Wed, May 12	Wrose Community Centre (7.30pm)
Baildon Village	Thurs, May 13	Ian Clough Hall (7.30pm)
Wilsden	Thurs, May 20	Wilsden Village Hall (7.30pm)
Bolton Woods, Gaisby and Owlet	Tues, June 15	Bolton Woods Community Centre (7.30pm)
Menston	Wed, June 16	Menston Primary School (7.30pm)
Eldwick and Gilstead	Thurs, June 17	Eldwick Primary School (7.30pm)
Crossflatts and Mickelthwaite	Tues, June 22	St Aidan's Church Hall (2pm)
Hoyle Court, Tong Park and Charlestown	Wed, Jun 23	St James' Church, Otley Road (7.30pm)
Bingley Town	Thurs, June 24	Bingley Arts Centre (7.30pm)
Shipley Central	Thurs, July 1	Shipley Library (7.30pm)
Cullingworth	Tues, July 6	Cullingworth Village Hall (7.30pm)

Alsop Architects of London were one of the six firms who submitted visionary designs as part of the Government's 'Building Schools for the Future' programme. Will Alsop was also behind the design of Bradford Centre Regeneration's Masterplan for the city centre. Alsop's school design is pictured right.



Light open spaces characterise the design by Bath-based architects Feilden Clegg Bradley (pictured left).



Architects have designs on schools of the future

Lessons under a dome and open spaces for learning and relaxing could be the shape of the future for schoolchildren.

That's the vision of some of the country's top architects. They have been asked by the Government to come up with these ideas for its Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme - in which Bradford is at the forefront.

At this stage the designs are visions and concepts rather than firm plans for schools but some of the ideas could make their way into the buildings which will eventually be constructed.

And it's not just architects who've been putting their ideas forward. Pupils from Tong, Buttershaw and Salt secondary schools took part in a two-day design festival at Cartwright Hall recently where they discussed what they would like to see included in the schools of the future.

Bradford is one of four so-called 'Pathfinder' authorities which, since March 2003, have been working on the Building Schools for the Future project. Ten further local education authorities have now also been added to the national project to rebuild or refurbish all secondary schools across the country. These 14 areas will share around £2.2 billion of funding announced by the Government earlier this year.

Last year, Bradford announced that Tong, Salt and Buttershaw schools would be the first to benefit locally from the project.

The second phase of the scheme would include Beckfoot, Grange and Greenhead, with three new secondary special schools being co-located on these sites. Proposals for how the other secondary schools will benefit are still being developed.



Penoyre and Prasad Architects of London went for a sleek modern design (left), while De Rijke Marsh Morgan (DRMM), also of London, envisaged a domed roof over walkways and open spaces. Designs were also submitted by Mace Ltd (RTKL) and Wilkinson Eye Architects, both of London.

Education takes home good report

Bradford schools have benefited from £27 million of additional funding since 2000 and the successful results are showing.

Four years ago Government inspectors Ofsted criticised education in the district. Since then the Council has joined forces with Education Bradford and major improvements have been made, standards have risen and the district's schools have had one of their best 12 months of recent years.

The £186 million reorganisation of schools is now complete, more money is being pumped into secondary schools to get them ready for the future and results have gone up again.

Ofsted inspectors returned just over a year ago and said the education system had made good progress and "the potential for improvements is promising".

The Council signed a contract two years ago to work in partnership with Education Bradford and since then standards have continued to rise.

The number of pupils getting five or more GCSEs at A*-C now stands at 39.6 per cent. This means

the district has passed its Government target for GCSE results, a year early.

This rise in standards has run in parallel with the improvements in funding in schools, which have seen the education budget rise each year and by just short of £18m for the coming financial year.

Over recent months the number of schools rated by Ofsted as being in "special measures" and

"serious weaknesses" has dropped, despite a rise in the numbers nationally. The School Improvement Partnership Board has been set up to involve both local and national education experts in providing more support to schools.

Leading the way

Bradford is also one of the areas leading the way in the national scheme to rebuild secondary schools. The district is to share in £2.2 billion of Government funding which has been allocated to the first phase of the scheme across the country.

Schools are also looking at how they use some of their buildings when they are not required for lessons. Rather than just closing them, they are being opened up for community use as part of the Extended Schools project.

Coun David Ward, Executive Member for Education, said: "The continuing improvements in our schools are a credit to everyone involved."

"We still have a long way to go to reach the high standards we have set ourselves but it is clear we have already travelled a good distance along that road."