

Windfall up for grabs!

by Angela Kelly

GROUPS and voluntary organisations from all over the Bolton area are applying to the Bolton Evening News to Make It Happen for them.

The community awards scheme, run in conjunction with Combined Insurance, aims to give local groups a £10,000 helping hand with projects which benefit the borough's residents.

And what a remarkable collection of groups there are across the town!

Already, there have been applications from busy local organisations including Bolton Sea Cadets, Westhoughton Food Co-op, the Good Companions and Halliwell Local History Society, among many others.

The awards' criteria is as broad as the hundreds of different voluntary groups that are operating in the Bolton area — helping children and young people, aiding the elderly, taking disabled people on outings and providing enriched leisure time for all.

Any local voluntary organisation can apply for an award. All we ask is an official letter of application which explains what the group does, and a "shopping list" of items or projects it would like to fund. It would help if this list ranged from around £100 to £1,000.

We will try to feature in the Bolton Evening News as many of the organisations which apply as we can, to give them useful publicity and a higher profile.

As Bolton Evening News' editor Steve Hughes explains: "We are very glad of this opportunity to get together

with Combined Insurance to help so many local groups improve the important services they offer to the community.

"We hope that lots of local organisations will take advantage of these awards to Make It Happen for them."

Applications can be made throughout October, after which a panel of judges will decide which groups will benefit. There will then be a presentation evening in Bolton to which the successful groups will be invited.

To apply, write to: Make It Happen, Community Awards, Angela Kelly, Features Dept, Bolton Evening News, Churchgate, Bolton, BL1 1DE, or send an email akelly@boltoneveningnews.co.uk

Pupils get a healthy start to day

THE first lesson of the day at Johnson Fold Community School is easy — get a healthy start.

So, over two years ago, the school's Breakfast Club was born. And since then it has been helping young pupils get exactly the right food boost which brain cells need to help kick off the learning process.

The school serves a large council estate, which has its fair share of deprivation, single parent families and unemployment.

Headteacher Paul Smith said: "The club was set up to provide a safe base for children who are often sent out of

home early, frequently with no breakfast. Or sometimes they have dressed themselves and just grabbed something quickly to eat."

The school now provides cereals, toast and reduced sugar fruit juice at no cost to the children or parents. Any child from Reception to Year 6 can attend.

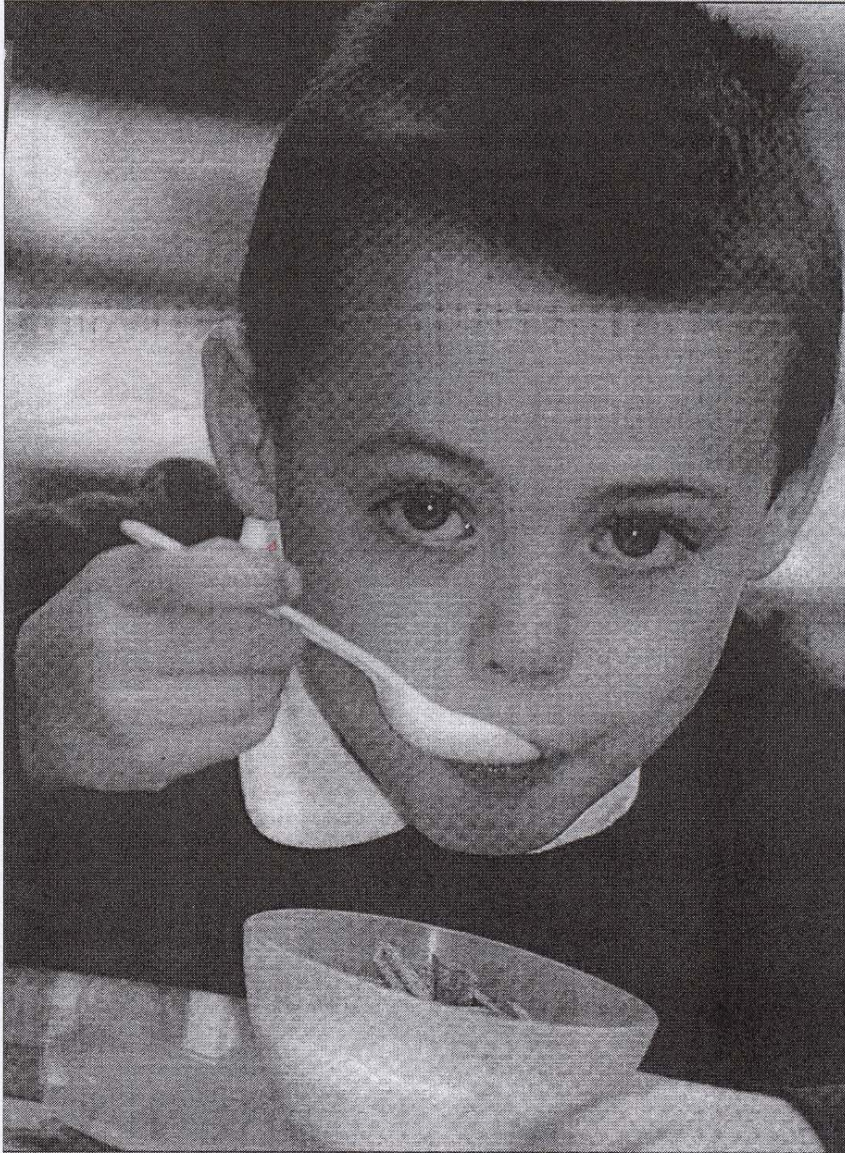
Mr Smith added: "I have several hard-working parents who give up their time voluntarily every morning to look after and prepare food for the children. Around 40 children attend each day, which is one fifth of my total school numbers. My school nurse and local health practitioner also help at Breakfast Club."

But, as the club has been running for more than two years, the toasters and other general equipment like plates and cups are starting to need replacing.

In fact, £500 would keep it going for a year but, as Mr Smith stated in his awards application, "whatever you could spare us would be wonderful!"



Combined Insurance Community Awards coverage in the Bolton Evening News
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LONG-RUNNING CEREAL: Arron Owens, aged seven, enjoys his breakfast at Johnson Fold Community School's Breakfast Club