

# Centenary events

By Lisa Portas

IN this centenary year, Preston Primary School has many activities planned to mark this once in a lifetime event. These include:

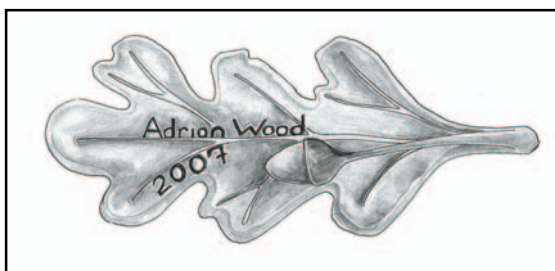
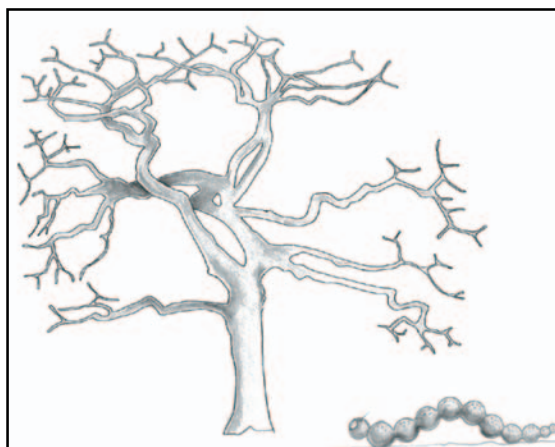
- \* a full school visit to Beamish
- \* a book detailing the 100 year history of the school
- \* a decade themed summer fair
- \* an exhibition of photographs and memories from former pupils.

A permanent memento of the centenary will be a stunning wrought iron oak tree which will take pride of place on the wall at the entrance to the new school hall. This tree is being produced by local blacksmiths, Adrian Wood and Peter Oberon, and represents the school logo and motto "Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow". Families past and present who have connections with the school will be invited to buy a leaf for the tree - which will display the family name and dates they attended the school. See the sketch opposite to see what the tree and leaves will look like.

Please visit the school website at [www.prestonprimary.co.uk](http://www.prestonprimary.co.uk) for updated news on all centenary activities.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our centenary events this year.

1907  
to  
2007



## 67 years of PTA

By Nicky Watson

THE Parent Teachers Association at Preston Primary School started an amazing 67 years ago, back in 1950. Doris Ward, a mum and active committee member, remembers the meetings well. On the last Friday of each month, all parents and teachers were invited in the evening to the school hall, where they were kept informed of school programmes and activities and had an opportunity to mix socially. There was usually an outside speaker who would talk about their job / experience and stimulate a discussion or show a film. This was followed by Head Teacher's remarks, light refreshments and an opportunity to meet teachers to report on children's progress and discuss any problems. Between 60 and 90 people used to regularly attend these meetings and the Christmas party.

As now, they also used to help out with refreshments or helping children at sports days, on outings, carol services, harvest festivals etc. They must have set the record for tea making at the school's Open Day on May 26th, 1960 since over 300 parents and friends visited that day!

## Wheelie bin racing!



UNCONVENTIONAL: Wheelie bin racing

By Nicky Watson

EXTRACT from the memories of an anonymous participant in the Summer Fair Wheelie Bin race.

Our team was ready - 2 strong men, a rider and a (nearly) clean wheelie bin. 500 water bombs had been sold to some very enthusiastic pupils and it became obvious that it was going to be a hard race - the water guns came out as well as the goggles and racing helmets.

As soon as the race started the water bombs began to fall. Corners were pretty tricky to judge - our bin tipped over but we were delighted to see that nobody could get past us until we got upright again. Nearing the finish the cheering of the spectators started to be drowned out by the screams of agony from the pullers as the weight of the bin plus rider started to take its toll.

At last the finish line was in view and with one last barrage of water bombs we limped across in 4th place. Oh well 52 weeks to train for the next one...

# A community's never ending generosity



FINISHED: Junior Great North Run 2004

By Lisa Portas

PRESTON Primary School continues to have a very active and successful PTA and a great community spirit exists between staff, pupils, families and neighbours of the school.

Fundraising activities organised by the PTA have helped to fund some significant items for the school and children including

- \* computers, laptop and software for the new ICT suite
- \* bookcases, computerised system and books for the new Library
- \* 3 interactive whiteboards
- \* playground improvements
- \* annual author visits, after school clubs, nursery play equipment.

In 2006 the PTA were particularly successful raising over £25,000. This money is being spent on lighting, a PA system and some new PE equipment for the new hall. It will also help to fund the many centenary activities being planned to make this a really special year.

The school also undertakes fundraising events for other charities such as Children in Need, Butterwick Hospice, the Hands of Love Orphanage in Uganda and most recently the children's ward at North Tees Hospital. Of course none of this would be possible without the fantastic support received at all fundraising events. So a big Thank-you to everyone who has attended any of our events over the years - and we look forward to your continued support over the next 100 years!!