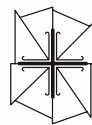


# issue 11

aquinas  
COLLEGE



Aquinas College, Stockport e-journal November 2011

## *Euroweek comes to Aquinas*



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# Eddie's Editorial

**Thank you for downloading the latest issue of our e-journal.**

This term has been marked by Euroweek which the college hosted between 1st and 8th October. Although this was the twentieth gathering, Aquinas College has only been representing the UK for the last five years. Hosting two teachers and eight students from 19 of the countries which make up the European Union, arranging collection from airports, railway stations and bus terminals, coping with delayed flights meant a phenomenal amount of work for the organisers. It has to be said they coped brilliantly with the planned and the unexpected alike! A

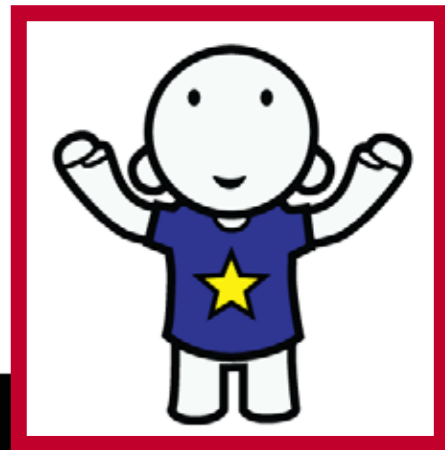
really tremendous and worthwhile achievement. Well done team! Next, as promised in the last issue, we have a few photos of our beautiful new building. It really is stunning and the natural light, even on a dull day, is really appreciated. The first photo (night time, front entrance from Nangreave Road) was taken by architectural photographer Andrew Wall and is reproduced with his permission.

The others show some of the exceptional facilities we enjoy. David Chandler writes about the sculpture which now graces the Quiet Garden. The following articles and photos show a little of the amazing diversity at Aquinas - from the Archaeology fieldtrip and the Romanian exchange to the Fairtrade Conference and the

Servant Leadership course, Pathways residential and visit to Edgeley Park. Finally five pages of Sport News which cover a report from Josh Turner, captain of England U 18 Lacrosse squad's USA tour to Men's Health & Fitness and the latest Netball and Football results. Just a little, in fact, of the rich and varied nature of Aquinas life which is captured in these pages.

Please let us have your news, stories and photos for our next issue in the New Year. These can be emailed to Alan at [abestaff@aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:abestaff@aquinas.ac.uk)

Thanks to Alan and Carol for their expertise and perseverance, without whom none of this would have been possible and this issue would not have been produced.



## Stockport Welcomes 200 European Guests

**We welcomed eight students and two teachers from almost every European Union country, meaning around two hundred guests, as part of an event called Euroweek.**

Aquinas College has represented the UK at Euroweek since 2006, by sending students and staff to a range of different countries. Last year the event was hosted by Bulgaria.

Euroweek is an exceptional Comenius project, which is unique to the EU. The week itself involves students and

teachers coming together to celebrate the similarities and differences our countries share, through debates, sightseeing, international buffets, traditional dances, and much more.

It was the twentieth anniversary of Euroweek this year, and was hosted by Aquinas College during the first week of October.

*"I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation and delivery of Euroweek. So many people helped out in so many ways that trying to mention all the contributions would be impossible. I know that those involved helped to make it the great success it was and it simply*

*would not have been possible without the hard work, commitment and above all else the kindness that people displayed.*

*So whatever your part, large or small, in the realisation of a fantastic week of sharing our culture with our European friends thank you very much."*

Danny Pearson  
Principal







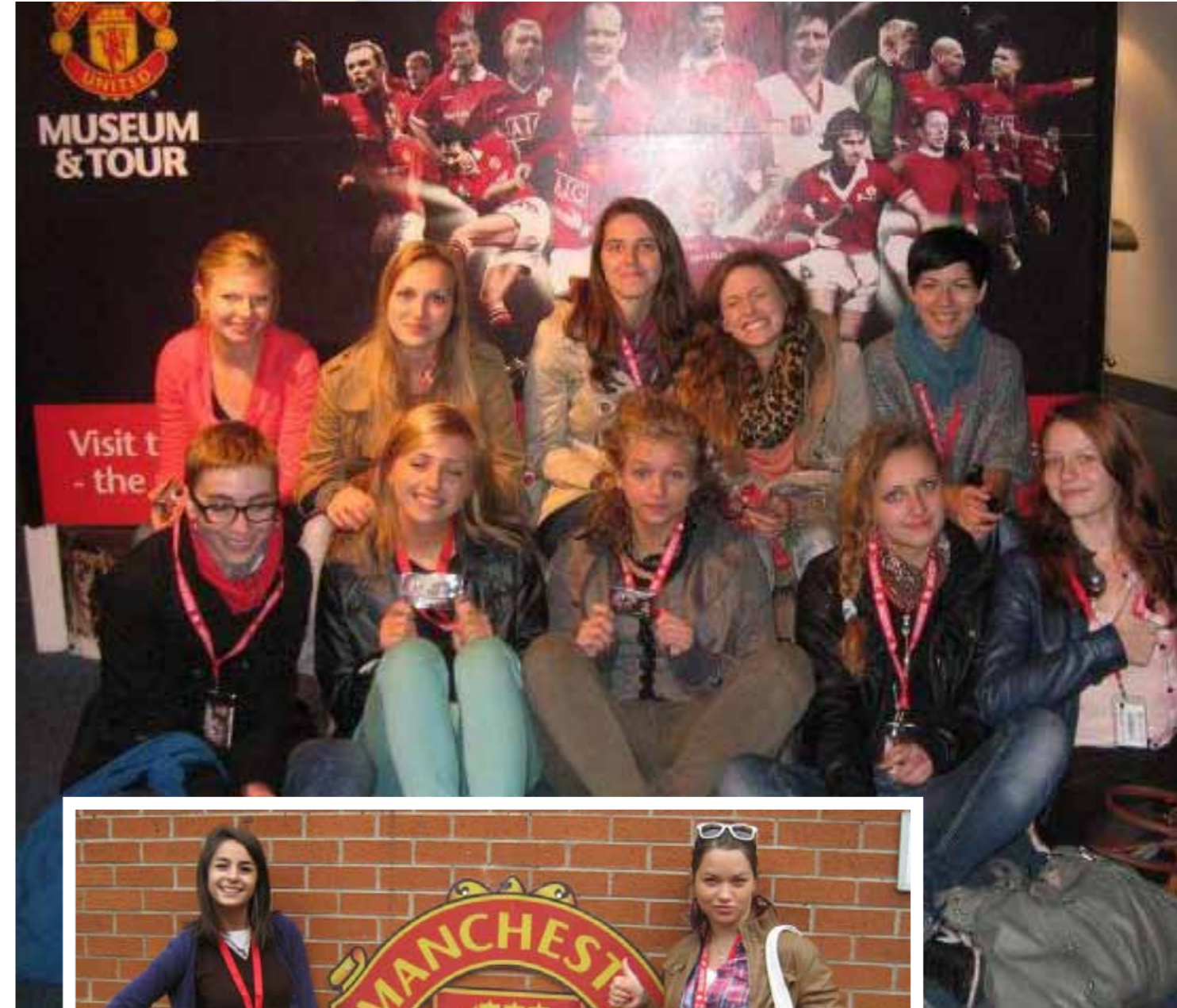
*Bulgarian Dance Performers*



*Bulgarian Delegation visit  
Manchester United Football Club*



*Polish delegation at Manchester United Football Club*



*Euroweek Students at  
Manchester United  
Football Club*



# *Euroweek goes to Wales...*

*Students visiting Wales*







*International Buffet*



# Party Time !!!







*Slovenia Delegation*



*Aquinas Euroweek Team*



*“Our Beautiful new building”*





## Sculpture - "Font"



**When we all realised the new college would be a reality around February 2009 John Kennedy, that dynamic and visionary Aquinas maths teacher, thought that our students should plan and design a permanent decorative contribution to the college.**

Other decorative projects had already been discussed; the new chapel and its stained glass, a mission statement wall and the St Michael mosaic were all part of

the planning. John printed a set of interactive cards for all tutor groups featuring an invitation to design a sculpture for the new building.

The response was not great, and I thought it was ambitious because even small schemes require close control over a period longer than the student course length would permit. I asked to see the cards that had been handed in at student reception and some reflected a type of dolphin and pond idea. Others were more flippant and not likely to be pursued.

I approached John to volunteer to help because I had made a number of small bronze sculptures as part of my interest in certain themes in the past 10 years; haloes, missing saints, notebooks, book sculptures and stencils and so on. A piece of sculpture could reflect the arches of the great viaduct and the local lock mechanisms at Marple and the New Mills.

I thought I could get this project made if it was a genuine proposition with a budget.

cont....



# “Font”



After linking up we approached the project management office and got a “can do” response which got me making the first cardboard models. Initially the sculpture would be a large stencil with the original Aquinas logo, clearly visible, cut out of sheet steel arranged like a giant tent with series of 4 or 5 large holes in a circle on the other side of the piece.

Three cardboard models were discussed by Danny and his team and we left everything without conclusion by the summer holiday. After the Autumn term 2009 I decided it could not be built without weekly supervision so a simplified version over the Christmas holiday got drawn. It was to be a sort of flattened open

book. This was graciously received as a useful compromise. Then 2010 saw the move and some more distractions so everyone forgot the sculpture.

Then, with the May 18th 2011 official opening in sight Danny suggested that the sculpture still had its budget if I had not lost interest. Could we meet this deadline from February 2011? It was worth a try, so a scale model got made and measured, the project was put out to find the best tender and AllSteelSculpture in Nottingham said yes and at a modest cost. John Kennedy started to pitch the final model as a reality and drew the measurements for a very large scale version. Even the site changed at the last

minute thanks to Patrick Slevin’s prompting and discussion. The foundation is 1.5 metres deep and is a 2.5 metre lake of concrete. A week before term started it was in place. Thanks to all who made it possible.

The feedback has been really interesting. The work is dignified and subtle. It has been read in many different ways. Its title was at first “aspire” which I’m sure is good for all of us but too many corporate websites carried this name. I saw it as resembling a large metal die or piece of type or a large capital letter. I called it “font” as a result. This word has a range of meanings that also seem interesting.

It now forms part of a learning environment that generations of students will be able to reflect on as a source for their own ideas and remains a central focus in the memorial courtyard.

David Chandler









# Archaeology Fieldtrip



## Archaeology excavations at Whitworth Park – September 9th 2011

On Friday September 9th – only two days after starting their Archaeology course! – the AS and A2 archaeologists lent a hand excavating Victorian and Edwardian features at Whitworth Park, Manchester.

Supervised by Manchester University lecturers and students, and supported by Manchester

Museum staff, Aquinas students excavated trenches in search of pavilions, a boating lake and the architecture of the now 'lost' park landscape of the early 1900's.

It was a great chance for 'hands-on' archaeology and an opportunity to look at artefacts and finds, such as coins, building remains and personal possessions 'lost' whilst people strolled in the park over the last hundred years or so.

The students worked hard and kept smiling, even when on 'tooth-brush

duty' washing finds. Many thanks to all involved, particularly Cat Lumb and Dr Melanie Giles for asking us along for the day.



# Romanian Exchange 2011

Another international activity at Aquinas...



During the recent half term holiday, 18 students went with Jaki Singleton & Maxine Allcock for a week in Transylvania, Western Romania.

For the 16th year running, we were welcomed at Moise Nicoara National College by students and staff determined to entertain and amaze us, to befriend us and show us their unique brand of hospitality.

For the first weekend, we travelled far (hundreds of miles!!) and wide and certainly the most spectacular thing we visited was a salt mine at Turda. This previous industrial site has been

transformed into a tourist attraction where, deep in the belly of the earth and surrounded on all sides by tons of solid salt, visitors can go boating on a lake, play crazy golf, table tennis or basketball.

It was both beautiful and mind-blowing at the same time. This was only one experience amongst many and all the students and staff on the exchange had a truly memorable trip, where actually the very best thing was just spending time together with each other and the Romanian students, forging new and lasting friendships.

We cannot wait to welcome and see our new friends again when they return to Aquinas in February next year. Just

those pesky January exams to get out of the way first!!!



Old Romanian house



Typical warm Romanian welcome





# Aquinas goes Fairtrade...



*Some schools stayed behind for a celebratory photograph!!*

**On Monday 20th June, Aquinas went truly Fairtrade by hosting a borough wide Fairtrade Conference for primary and secondary schools.**

The event was attended by special guests – Joseph Kibuta, who is a Fairtrade producer at Panda Flowers in Kenya, and Kate Jones, the Schools Manager at the Fairtrade Foundation.

Aquinas hosted the Stockport event as part of a producer road show, and was selected as one of only ten venues nationally.

The conference itself was in the lecture theatre all morning and involved presentations by Stockport School, Outwood Primary School and Woodley

Primary School, as well as a talk and Question and Answer session with the producer.

Nine schools attended in total, and they all commented on how successful the event was.

Jake Mairs, who arranged the event said "it was so pleasing to see so many schools come together in one location and share good practice.

It shows how Stockport, and now Aquinas, is on the map for our work for Fairtrade!!"

Jake further expressed thanks and appreciation to all the schools that attended.

It is now being discussed as to whether Aquinas should pursue applying for Fairtrade College Status, so keep your

eye out for further events in the near future...



*Jake Mairs with our special guests*

# Aquinas leads the way in Scotland



*Aquinas' Coatbridge Leaders*

**Over three days at the end of June, seven Aquinas students went to a Servant Leadership Course.**

This was based at the Conforti Institute in Coatbridge, on the outskirts of Glasgow.

The course was about allowing those that attended the time to develop on their current skills and qualities, enabling them to hopefully take on leadership roles within college.



*Aquinas and Cardinal Newman in Glasgow*

Also present was the Student Council from Cardinal Newman College in Preston.

The course involved a range of workshops, which were all aimed at

particular themes, such as decision making and conflict transformation. Great friendships were made, with all those attending enjoying it, regardless of the lack of sleep!



## Residential at Quinta, Oswestry



**In June we travelled to Quinta for the annual Pathways residential. We stayed in self catering accommodation and took advantage of the amazing facilities on site.**

We had a ten pin bowling tournament in the Sports Hall and took up the challenge of the outward bound course.

Quinta has an outdoor solar heated swimming pool (yes, it is cold) and the sun was shining, so we made the most of it.

There was a disco on the first night, as well as table tennis and pool tournaments.

On the second evening, a BBQ tea, was followed by building a camp fire and toasting marshmallows.

On the final day we visited Chirk Castle, where the students were taught about medieval life.

They handled weapons and modelled battle dress. A number of our group were given a lesson in 1:1 combat too.

After three days away, we arrived back at college tired, but with lots of memories about our experiences.

Maxine Allcock  
Head of Pathways Department

## Pathways meet County Manager



**On Tuesday 27th September, five students from the Pathways department at Aquinas had the opportunity to meet Didi Hamann, Manager of Stockport County.**

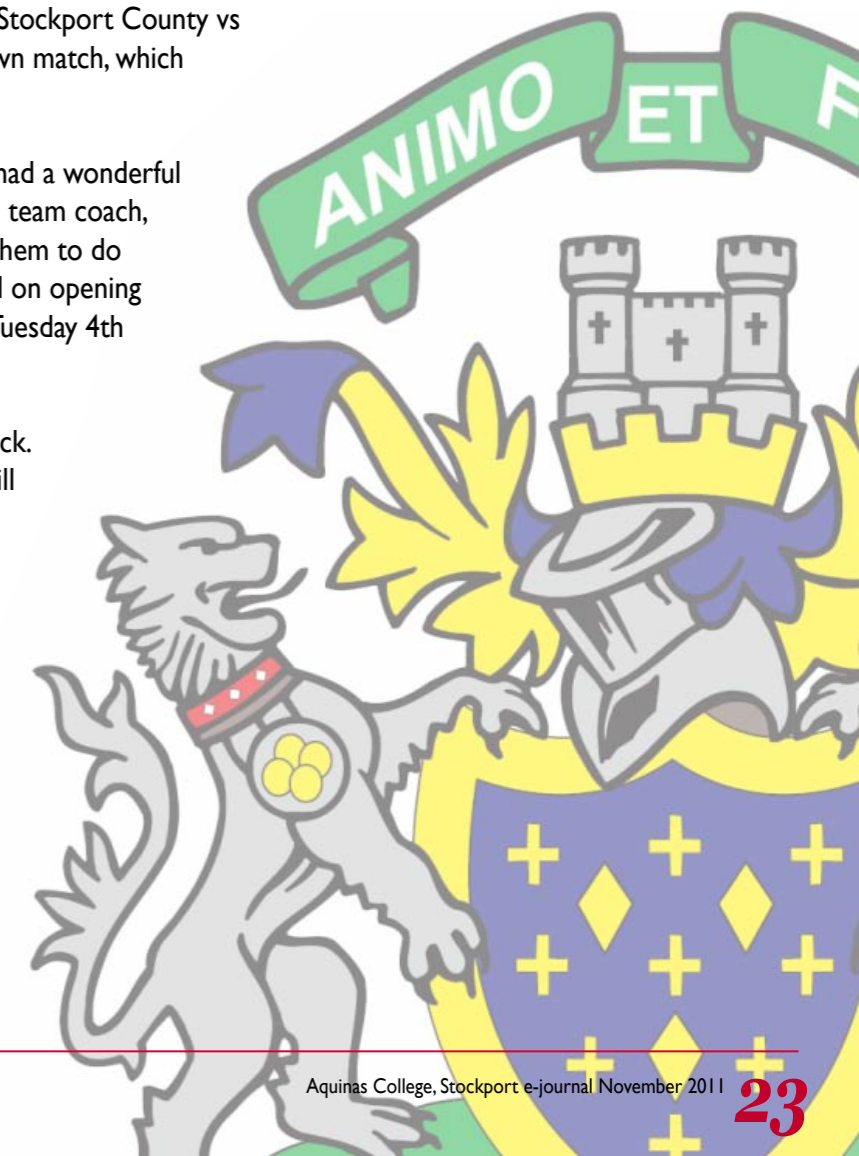
They all attended the opening ceremony of the 'icount 5-a-side Football Tournament'. A bi-monthly event for adults and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, which is held at Aquinas College.

The evening started with an opening speech from Hamann, followed by a meet and greet of all the teams who will take part in the competition and a group photograph on the pitch.

Everyone also received complimentary tickets to the Stockport County vs Fleetwood Town match, which followed.

The students had a wonderful evening and as team coach, we expected them to do Aquinas proud on opening match night (Tuesday 4th Oct).

Wish them Luck.  
Thom Greensill  
(Pathways Department)







# Sports News



**Aquinas College PE department have been working with Stockport County Community Foundation to help run and organise a new disability football league called 'I Count League'. Below is a report from Jordan Raynes who is Stockport County's Disability Officer. Jordan plays for the England National Cerebral Palsy team and has visited Aquinas to speak to the National Diploma in Sport students to help with their coursework.**

Stockport County Community Foundation was granted its Every Player Counts Funding in 2009. 90% of the funding was allocated to improve opportunities for adults in disability football. Because there is already a lot of provision out there for under 16s in disability football.

Our ambition is to improve opportunities for adults with disabilities in the Stockport area to play football at what ever level possible. Stockport County Community

The Foundation engages in a lot of work with Adults in disability day care centres colleges and special educational schools. These sessions were a big success and there was massive improvement in not only the numbers of participants taking part in the sessions but a massive improvement in technical ability (considering some had never played football before), space awareness, self esteem and confidence.

One piece of feedback we kept getting from the participants and staff we

worked with is that it wasn't easy for adults to play competitive disability football in the Stockport Area.

In 2009 Stockport County Community Foundation decided to set up a one-off 'Pan Disability' tournament in Brinnington and we had 3 teams and we had to do the tournament on a dimly lit concrete surface. Although the participants really enjoyed the mini tournament and it was the start of something.

But for this tournament to be sustainable we needed more teams and most importantly a better facility. One of the College pathway Groups that Stockport County work with is Aquinas College.

There staff was really supportive of our whole disability project. And I feel the college really helped to contribute to getting the I Count League up and running because not only did they enter a team to play in the league the college let use there top of the range 4th generation artificial surface to play

the tournament fixtures. Stockport County Community Foundation decided to run the tournament on a by monthly basis for the first season it was pan disability tournament and team were made up of local clubs college groups and day care centre.

We allowed both men and women participants to play with the emphasis being on making the tournament accessible for everyone and we didn't want to add too much structure in terms of regulations because we didn't want to exclude anyone from the tournament.

Largely because of the improved facilities and the enthusiasm from the participants the tournament ran really successfully.

And the numbers of teams increased from having 3 teams entered to having 8 teams.

The success of this tournament was noticed by the Cheshire FA who run

# Sports News



there own Cheshire Ability League and only get 3 teams entered into that. Because of our good numbers the Cheshire FA has handed us the responsibility for running the Cheshire League.

This means that this season the tournament is now every month in a league format. We have to run the league to FA regulations so we have Cheshire FA referees at all our games.

The one negative to come out of this is because the Cheshire FA say that male and female can't mix past under 16s, so this means that's the I count had to become a male only competition.

This is a great shame because the positive thing about the I Count last season was that it was inclusive to everyone.

One of the positives this season is that the League is now more regular so this gives the players and coaches something to look forward to. Also

the Cheshire FA provide fully qualified referees rather than us getting coaches or volunteers from Aquinas College to help out.

This Season we have 9 teams entered in season the I Count this season. So that it is a level playing field for all teams involved, we decided to have to divisions, these divisions are based on the ability and mobility of each team.

In the 1st division the Teams are:

- Stockport County FC
- Stockport Deaf FC
- Manchester City FC
- Sale Town FC
- Manchester Amputees FC

In the second division the teams are:

- Aquinas College
- NHS trust
- Stockport Strikers
- Stockport CP tigers

Moving forward as well as to continuing providing opportunities for grass roots disability football we want to use the league to ensure that there are opportunities for players to progress up the disability football player pathway. Also we will strive to provide more opportunities for women in disability football.

I feel the disability project has made massive improvements over the last year I feel that we could achieved what we have done without the support of Aquinas College.

Last year Leisure Studies students helped to organise and promote one of the tournaments as part of their coursework. The students involved found the whole experience extremely rewarding and gained valuable skills.



# England USA Lacrosse U18 Trip

English Knights Elite Team Photo



I was fortunate to have the chance to not only play for but captain the England U18's squad on a trip to America,

It was an amazing experience and I learnt a lot from it that has helped me to become a better player.

We flew out from Manchester Airport to Philadelphia and then had a connection flight from Philadelphia to Syracuse in New York.

We went to The All American Lacrosse Camp in Hamilton (Syracuse) and spent 4 days there training before the big tournament we had coming up in Gettysburg (Philadelphia), after the 4 days came to an end we had a 5 hour drive from Colgate University in Hamilton to The Gait Cup tournament



Josh Turner #3

in Gettysburg. We played a total of 7 games in 3 days which was unbelievably tiring, the heat didn't help matters.

Josh Turner



# Sports News



## Men's over 50 health and fitness goes from strength to strength

This year, the men's fitness class on Tuesday evening has grown in strength since the age limit was brought down to 50.

The men get on so well with each other that many of them met to play tennis and ten pin bowling throughout the period the college was closed for the summer holidays.

From 5.45pm until 6.45pm (or later) we have a good workout in the sports hall beginning with a warm up, a team game such as basketball and then circuit

training. At the end of the circuits we often play badminton or go into the fitness suite.

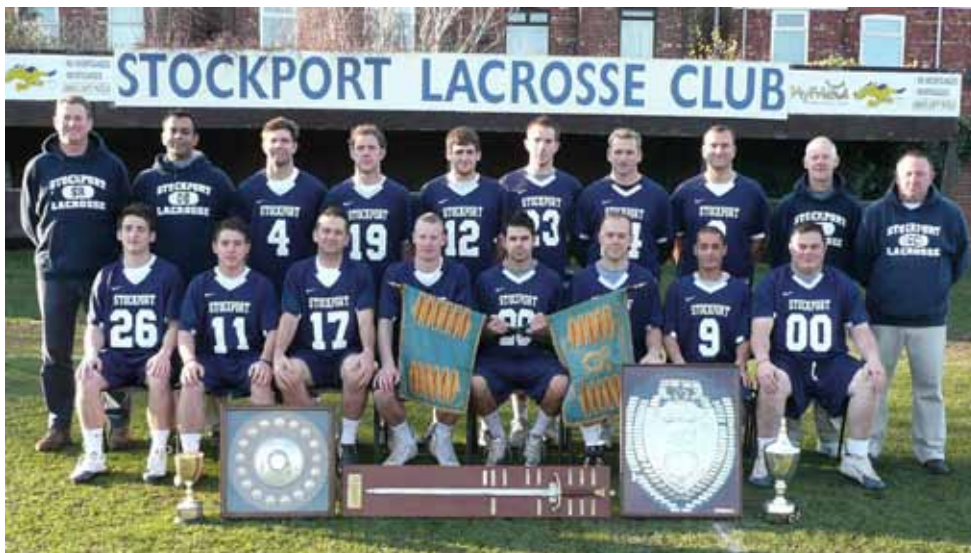
Although it is only a once-a-week session, most of us have considerably improved our fitness level.



If you would like to join or look at our other courses for adults please contact:  
Sheila on 0161 419 9163 or email [sheila@aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:sheila@aquinas.ac.uk) or visit [www.aquinas.ac.uk/adultcentre](http://www.aquinas.ac.uk/adultcentre)



# Sports News



## Stockport Lacrosse

Since starting our training partnership with Aquinas have been successful in winning:

- Two premiership league titles
- Flags championship - (lacrosse equivalent to fa cup)
- Wilkinson sword (champions of all england)
- Iroquois cup (champions of all england)
- European club championship
- Two referees trophies (lacrosse equivalent to community shield)
- Bath 8's festival
- The stockport 8's easter festival
- Brine aggregate trophy

Coaches Ravi K Sitlani / Keith Gosnay & Sean Ring:

*"Our partnership with Aquinas College has been a big part of our success and having one of the best all weather surfaces in the area to train on throughout the season has helped us to build a very strong and talented squad and become the Champions of England and Europe"*

## Sports Results – the story so far....

### Netball

Aquinas 28 v Winstanley 51

Aquinas 63 v Xaverian 30

Aquinas 56 v Hopwood 25

### Football 1st team

Aquinas 3 v Sir John Rigby 1

Scott Norris, Josh Palmer and James Perry. Joint MOM Sam Grimshaw and Luke Walker

Aquinas 2 v Winstanley 0

Scorers - Josh Palmer (2) and MOM

Aquinas 0 v Xaverian 4

Andy McKernon MOM

### Football 2nd team

Aquinas 2 v Sir John Rigby 2

Callum Farrell and Tom Dowd. MOM - Nick Barber

Aquinas 5 v Winstanley 2

Kiarno Samms (3), Callum Farrell, MOM - James Howard

Aquinas 2 v Xaverian 0

Tom Dunning, Kiarno Samms – MOM

Jack Barraclough

Aquinas 7 v Hopwood 2

Kiarno Samms 3, Callum Farrell, Jack Barraclough, Scott Norris and Ryan Usher. MOM - Andy Mottershead

**Greater Manchester Cup** – both teams have progressed to the 2nd round after 1st round victories.

1st team - Aquinas 3 v Winstanley 1

2nd team – Aquinas 4 v Ashton 3

At time of writing the 1st team are due to play Loreto College in the British College National Knock-out Cup that we won last year.

Well done to everyone who was successful and made the teams and good luck for the season.

Dave Conlon

Physical Education Department

**If you wish to send an article to our newsletter please email to:**  
[abestaff@aquinas.ac.uk](mailto:abestaff@aquinas.ac.uk).

**Thank you**