

# UNIQUE ART .... from Japan



**U**nique examples of Japanese art graced the Civic Centre in Northallerton this spring.

The District Council offices played host to an exhibition of paintings and kimonos – the second time Richmondshire based ‘Vintage Kimono’ had brought its work to the centre.

Visitors to the offices checked out paintings on silk, vintage kimonos, ‘uchikake’ wedding kimonos,

bolts of kimono fabric and an ‘obi’ sash. Many of the paintings were inspired by a visit to Kyoto by Vintage Kimono owners Jill Clay and Katie Chaplin (pictured).

Formed through a mutual love of Japanese arts, their company was also behind a three day Festival of Japan being held in Masham last month.

For more details on vintage kimono check out [www.vintagekimono.co.uk](http://www.vintagekimono.co.uk)

## .... and from **NORTHALLERTON!**

**B**oarders and bladers can see the fruits of their artistic labours on permanent display in Northallerton.

An £8,000 art project at the town’s Stone Cross skatepark has been installed.

The powder coated aluminium sculpture was designed by professional artist Arthur Cross following a series of workshops with skaters and art students from the Allertonshire School. It has been mounted on the wall of Hambleton Leisure Centre which sits alongside the skatepark.

The £128,000 facility was opened in November 2004 - it was facilitated by Hambleton District Council but

is managed by the Northallerton Wheelers Skateboard Group.

“This artwork is a symbol of skateboarding, blading and biking – its sweeping lines reflect this popular pastime.” said Arts Development Officer, Kate Staines.

“It has taken several months to come to fruition and is just how the young people believed it should look.”

The artwork was unveiled by Chairman of Hambleton District Council, Councillor Mrs Susan Latter who represented the Arts Council – the major funder of the project. She is pictured with Spike – a regular skater and member of the Northallerton Wheelers.



## FREE TRAVEL

**F**ree travel for the over 60s and disabled in Hambleton was introduced on April 1.

The concessionary fares scheme – which currently has more than 9,000 users - was upgraded. It had been allowing users half price fares across the county – but under the new scheme all journeys are ‘free’ in line with central government regulations.

The district council is part of the North Yorkshire Concessionary Fares Partnership which brings together all the North Yorkshire District Councils, the County Council and the City of York Council to facilitate concessionary travel into and out of the district throughout North Yorkshire.

The only exceptions in Hambleton are journeys between 6 and 8.59am from Monday to Friday. Journeys for hospital appointments can be taken at any time – but the bus driver must be shown a hospital appointment card.

The scheme also takes in the park and ride scheme in York, the North York Moors National Park Moorsbus service, routes to both Darlington and Middlesbrough hospitals, and the following three peak time services – the 7.45am Hutton Rudby to Northallerton; 8.38am Great Broughton to Northallerton; and 8.45am Easingwold to York.

Everyone over the age of 60 is eligible for a bus pass as well as those people physically and mentally disabled, blind or partially sighted.

Hambleton also supports a local enhancement to the scheme through cash for a number of community minibuses operated across the district – in Bedale, Great Ayton, Stokesley, and Thirsk. These services continue to provide concessions to eligible groups on a half fare basis.

For further information on the scheme – including how to apply for a pass - contact the Council on 0845 1211 555 or check out the website on [www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk)

## OFFICERS SCOUR OPEN MARKET

**H**ambleton’s building control surveyors are amongst a rare group of council officers - they compete in the open market for work!

For builders have a choice of who inspects their work – the local authority or a private company.

Building regulations have always contained national building standards – which all new and extended homes must comply with. Traditionally these covered health and safety issues - structural stability, fire precautions and weather resistance. But nowadays they also include much wider requirements covering areas such as accessibility and sustainability.

Ensuring that builders adhere to these standards used to be the sole preserve of the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Service. But from the mid 80s private companies and individuals known as “Approved Inspectors” have been able to do this work in competition with local authorities.

To ensure that as many buildings as possible remain inspected by the local authority Hambleton’s Building Control Service has

addressed the competition by:

- ensuring that it has sufficient resources and staff with the right training to deal with increasingly complex legislation
- working in partnership with public and private partners
- consulting with customers regularly to find out what service they want
- becoming a Member of LABC Services, an organisation created by local authority building control services for local authority building control services to promote and market the service
- offering additional services such as ten year warranties and latent defect insurance

Anyone considering extending their home or business, or erecting a new building, should check who is to inspect the work. Everyone has the right to choose who inspects the work.

For informal advice contact Hambleton’s Building Control section on 0845 1211 555.

## AND KEEP BUILDING TEAMS UP TO SPEED

**M**ore than 180 people working in the building industry have been updated on new regulations.

Hambleton District Council’s building control team hosted two training days this spring for architects, surveyors, contractors and building control staff from across Yorkshire.

The days brought together Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Services and the University of Northumbria.

The new regulations – which came into force in April - have been introduced as part of the government’s obligations under the

European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to tackle climate change by reducing CO2 emissions from buildings, a major source of greenhouse gases.

All new and extended building must now comply with stringent targets for CO2 emissions. And certain new buildings will have to pass a pressure test to demonstrate that energy isn’t being wasted into the atmosphere. In some cases the use of low and zero carbon technologies - solar panels, wind turbines - will be the only compliance with the regulations can be achieved.

## LEISURE CASH

**V**oluntary organisations across Hambleton benefited from around £120,000 in grant aid last year - levered in from external funding agencies.

The District Council operates its own grants scheme for leisure projects – it is currently helping 22 groups to do everything from fitting a new village hall kitchen to installing all weather cricket practice pitches.

But these groups often need cash help from other sources – be it the lottery, trusts or sport governing bodies

And council officers can help bring that cash into the district. Last year £120,000 was brought in - on top of the £45,000 from the council’s own grants scheme.

“The District Council has its own pot of money to help local projects but that – combined with money raised in the community affected – is often not enough,” said Community Leisure Officer, David Earl.

“There are a wide range of other organisations that can help these groups – and we can help them to unlock that cash. Getting funding from outside agencies may seem a daunting process to go through but it can make the difference between a scheme getting the go ahead or failing.”

Any voluntary organisation - sport, village hall, children’s play area or youth - in need of advice should contact David Earl on 01609 767202 or [david.earl@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:david.earl@hambleton.gov.uk)