

it's liverpool

ECHO

Making plans for greatness

AT THE start of this month, the people of Liverpool welcomed a bold and exciting blueprint for their city centre.

And today, we are being treated to bold and exciting plans for the city's southern docklands, which look set to complement the Liverpool Waters and Wirral Waters schemes.

It could all add up to a trio of developments which represent a triangular triumph and terrific triple whammy for our world-famous waterfront!

The plans may be a long way from becoming reality, but there has been no shortage of vision or imagination from BACA Architects, the company behind the scheme.

That is the way it should be in a city which, in recent years, has rediscovered its sense of self-belief and self-confidence and is now fighting for its place on the global stage.

The future, for our city centre and our waterfront, is looking mightily impressive!

Stevie G: 26 to go!

LIVERPOOL and England's Captain Fantastic, Steven Gerrard, is set to join a very exclusive club this evening when he leads out the national side to play in Sweden.

The Anfield superstar will win his 100th cap – becoming one of only six Englishmen to have achieved this remarkable feat.

Looking ahead, the all-time England appearance record is held by former goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who has 125 caps.

Today represents a magnificent and marvellous milestone for Gerrard, but who's to say the 32-year-old won't one day enter the most exclusive club of all, by reaching 126 caps – at least?

The Voice of Liverpool since 1879

Liverpool Unites



Liverpool Unites, the ECHO's charity, has a fundraising target of £500,000 for Alder Hey Children's Hospital. All money will be used to build play areas in the New Children's Health Park due to be completed in 2014. liverpoollecho.co.uk/unites

Quick Quiz

1. In Dad's Army, what is the name of Captain Mainwaring's wife?
2. What was Margaret Thatcher's maiden name?
3. Which country did Celine Dion represent when singing in the Eurovision Song Contest in 1998?
4. What sized ball is a game of netball played with?
5. Who won the Rugby World Cup in 2007?
6. How much is a try worth in rugby league?
7. The Spanish Eurovision entry in 1986 entitled La La La contained how many las?
8. On which planet is the solar system's highest volcano?
9. Who discovered the element Oxygen?
10. What group with a palindromic name had a hit single that was also a palindrome?

1. Elizabeth 2. Roberts 3. Switzerland 4. Size 5. Joseph Priestley 6. ABBA (with SOS)

Artists and celebrities are to auction unique works in aid of a children's hospice. Catherine Jones reports

Lots of love

FANCY owning your very own original Yoko Ono or Sir Peter Blake? Perhaps Ben Johnson is more to your taste – or maybe you

hanker after Shaun Richardson's 'crochetdermy' trophy head of Red Rum?

All these, and a whole lot more, are up for grabs – well, to the highest bidder anyway – at an auction at the Museum of Liverpool on Saturday, with proceeds going to Claire House Children's Hospice.

And while there are reserves on some of the lots, including an original by the Beatles' talented one-time bass player Stuart Sutcliffe (who died of a brain haemorrhage 50 years ago), not everything is necessarily going for the proverbial arm and a leg.

"There might be bargains to be had, or the prices might go sky high – I don't know," says Christian Furr, curator of the Liverpool Love event.

"I am a little bit nervous about it because ultimately I want the works to achieve what they are worth, and to raise as much as we can."

"Stuart Sutcliffe's piece is from his sister and that's really valuable. There's a great weight of responsibility for me as a curator that it achieves the right price."

Liverpool Love, an art exhibition of specially-created pieces drawing inspiration from the city, is currently on show at the Mann Island museum.

The idea to raise funds for the Wirral children's hospice, which costs £2.5m a year to run, came from Christian's uncle Vaughan Davies.

He enlisted his artist nephew, who was born and brought up in Heswall, and Christian came up with the exhibition/auction concept.

"I did something similar at the Saatchi Gallery in 2010 where I got a lot of artists involved," explains the 46-year-old. "So I thought, to do it in Liverpool and this amazing new building on the waterfront there, it's just an opportunity I couldn't turn down for such a great cause."

He persuaded some of the biggest names in the contemporary art world to take part, alongside rising artists and people you might not normally associate with the visual arts.

Hence the final roll call includes everyone from Yoko Ono and Sir Peter Blake to Brad Faine and Chris Bracey, 'rock 'n' roll cobbler' Terry de Havilland, the Stone Roses' John Squire, and Noel Fielding of The Mighty Boosh.

"I wanted to have emerging artists shoulder-to-shoulder with established artists," says Christian who is also exhibiting his own work.



LOVE LIVERPOOL: Christian Furr, curator of the exhibition and auction at the Museum of Liverpool. Picture: COLIN LANE. Left: Adders & Ladders by Brad Faine, 2012 (Picture © Faine)

"And also those that people don't necessarily think of as being artists. John Squire is a really talented artist in his own right as well as being a musician."

Music has a strong thread through the show, and Christian admits to being a 'frustrated' musician himself. One of his friends is Frankie Poullain, bass player with The Darkness.

The group, whose manager Ian Johnson is from Liverpool, were keen to play at Saturday's auction event, says Christian, but are currently on tour with Lady Gaga.

Meanwhile Liverpool Love hasn't been without its controversy.

In the same week Mark Rothko's Black on Maroon was vandalised at Tate Modern, Jonathan Gent's artwork The Beatles in America – a representation of Fab Four genitalia – was defaced at the museum.

"The damage that was done to

working in Lyon with fellow Liverpool Love artist Chris Bracey, with whom he's also putting together an exhibition in London of neon work.

He's recently been to Jordan and is in the process of creating "some large Turner-esque paintings of the desert".

Then there are tentative plans to roll out the exhibition/auction idea internationally.

"It's all very early days and embryonic at the moment," he says.

However, first there's Saturday's auction to organise.

Noel Fielding is expected on the night, and comedian Harry Hill – who recently bought a limited edition Liverpool Love print – has also expressed an interest.

Every piece of work in the exhibition will be auctioned including Terry de Havilland's Liver Birds shoes.

"Maybe we'll get some of the footballers and their partners or wives interested in going for them?" Christian muses.

So how much is he hoping to raise on the night?

"I never like to tempt fate with anything like that," he sidesteps. "I wouldn't like to give a figure. I think anything that we can get for Claire House is a plus."

"And also it's an exhibition I want people to go and see. As long as people take something away from it, some kind of inspiration, and we raise a bit of money for what's such a worthwhile cause, that's the main thing."

One person who has already gained something from the project is artist Stephen Walter who moved to the city for six months to create his map of Liverpool.

"He immersed himself in the city and in the process fell in love with a Liverpool girl. So it really is Liverpool love in that case."

◆ The Liverpool Love exhibition is currently on display at the Museum of Liverpool where the auction takes place on Saturday at 6.30pm. More details on tickets and bidding on www.liverpoollove.org

BOOSH STROKES: Noel Fielding of The Mighty Boosh

