

# Whickham lads launch pop magazine

A semi-detached house in a quiet Whickham street may not seem the sort of place to find a thriving pop magazine.

Two teenagers, however, have just launched their second magazine from such surroundings with help from the Prince of Wales Trust.

The teenagers, who write about their local idols, are Stephen Joyce aged 15, of Lambton Avenue, Whickham, and Simon McKay, aged 16, of Ashfield Avenue, Whickham.

## pop magazine

Both lads already run a magazine called 'Eccentric Sleeve Notes', which circulates locally.

In January their second venture into the publishing world will hit the book stands.

Called Blind in the Toy Shop, the magazine has been helped on its way with a £70 grant from the Trust.

Stephen said that they had applied for the grant after read-

ing about the fund.

He added that they felt they fitted the requirements of the Trust, in that they were youngsters working on their own venture in a local community.

Simon said that their first magazine concentrates on better known bands who play in the area.

Their new venture will look at new and up and coming bands, however.

"We decided on that title because that is how new groups feel when they first try to get into the business, with recording contracts and live appearances," said Simon.

The lads spend most of their spare time either reviewing or interviewing groups or writing and preparing the magazine.

Both lads said that at first their parents were dubious about the magazines but they soon came round to the idea.

Stephen said: "We write all the material ourselves."

He added that the grant had been a big boost in setting up the second magazine, which the lads hope to bring out monthly.



STEPHEN JOYCE, left, with Simon McKay, looking over one of their magazines. (Ref: 4249/10A)

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BLAM / ISSUE 4 April 82

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