

# The beginning of our town's rebirth?



ANYONE who has wandered into Scarborough's St Nicholas Street in the past couple of days might be forgiven for thinking they had taken a wrong turn.

Instead of the usual bustling town centre street, busy with traffic and lined with delivery vans, they will have seen something resembling a mini country park.

Scarborough Council's parks and countryside staff spent most of Saturday night laying turf on a stretch of the road outside the Royal Hotel, ready for a three-day arts and music festival.

The turf was laid on polythene and sand and wedge-shaped sculptures placed on top. They were then clad in thin steel with turf on top for people to sit on.

The Incline event, which includes street performers and light shows, is part of the run-up to the urban renaissance conference in the town, at which a charter will be signed by people who want to help change Scarborough for the better. The conference is being held today and tomorrow.

Council spokesman Paul Grahamslaw said: "The idea is to provide something different in the town

by Lauren Hopkins

centre, a space to relax and take in your surroundings among sculptural forms that are exciting, visually unique and outside people's normal experience or expectations of the townscape and what is perceived as art.

"Work already done has identified that Scarborough needs to make better use of and improve its public spaces. The Public Arts event is designed to make people think afresh about Scarborough."

Public Arts is a group from Wakefield which is staging the event. It included a showing of the film *Little Voice* last night. The charter, which is part of the urban renaissance programme launched at a community planning weekend back in April, will be displayed at a ceremony this evening.

It lists nine points for improvement in the town and involves issues such as better public facilities, the architecture of new buildings and a more upmarket tourism sector.

It will be available to anyone in the town who wants to sign it along with leading councillors and business figures.

Pictures by Chris Booth



OYEZ... OYEZ... Town Crier Alan Booth introduces the speakers at the opening 02361036



ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?... Members of the public make use of the seating area while being entertained 02361036



TRANSFORMATION... A night's hard work changes St Nicholas Street, left, 02368896, into the green oasis, above, 02361036



PERFORMING ARTS... The Stephen Joseph Rounders Youth Theatre Group perform Scarborough is... 02361036



OPENING CEREMONY... Spectators gather as the head of the urban renaissance team, Alan Simpson, says a few words at the start of the festival 02361033



NEW PERSPECTIVE... Alternative to a park bench with a view of the public seating area put up as grass ramps 02361036

## 'Yorkshire's playground'

SCARBOROUGH could become a major cultural town with quality arts festivals, theatre and new links to European cities such as Amsterdam, Zeebrugge and Bergen.

That is the overall message that will be sent out when the Vision for Scarborough is unveiled during a major urban renaissance conference at the Spa complex this evening.

The vision will aim to give Scarborough a role similar to that played by Brighton to London - Yorkshire's playground.

The vision is the culmination of more than nine months' work involving an

international panel of architects, urbanists, landscape designers, engineers and economists who have been working with the town team of local people.

Yorkshire Forward is overseeing the urban renaissance scheme in response to the Government's urban white paper. Yorkshire Forward believes high quality urban centres are an essential ingredient of a world-class region.

Films and models will be used to illustrate the town's vision when they are unveiled in front of an audience of more than 200 delegates from other regional development agencies, local authorities and planning experts.