

NEWS

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# Young start 2000 with a clean slate

YOUNGSTERS who have apologised for picking on their brothers and sisters in time for the new Millennium are among winners of a county-wide schools competition.

The winners of the Clean Slate competition celebrated their success by enjoying tea with the Lord Mayor of Oxford Val Smith, in her parlour.

The national Clean Slate campaign was the idea of voluntary worker Edward Peters, of Victoria Road, Oxford, who made-up with his own friends.

The judging panel for the competition included Mr Edwards and the *Oxford Mail's* Readers' Editor, Peter Unsworth.



FRESH START: Children show Val Smith their work

# Children burn a link with the past

YOUNGSTERS made a symbolic gesture for the Millennium when they burned their bad memories as part of Clean Slate Week.

The children, at Edward Feild Primary School in Bicester Road, Kidlington, were encouraged to mark the national campaign by writing down their bad memories before consigning them to the flames.

The idea is the brainchild of Oxford-based voluntary worker Edward Peters. His believes that people should mark the Millennium by putting aside something that has weighed on their consciences. He said: "It is a way of adding meaning to the event. We want people to use this time to think as well as to party."

The idea was born after Mr Peters, of Victoria Road, decided to bury the hatchet with some friends with whom he had fallen out.

He approached them, prepared to apologise if necessary and accept theirs if offered, and wipe the slate clean. The friendship was rekindled and the campaign was born.

Mr Peters said one woman's decision to 'clean her slate' had changed her life.



CLEAN SLATE: Andrew Geaney tosses his bad memories into the flames

Picture: Antony Moore

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