

LEARNING ON YOUR DOORSTEP WITH THE COMMUNITY LEARNING NETWORK

greetsgreen
community learning network



Learning Centres

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | Greets Green Access Centre T: 525 3909 | 8 | Lodge Primary School T: 553 2389 |
| 2 | George Salter High School T: 553 4665 | 9 | Sandwell Womens Enterprise Development Agency (SWEDA) T: 525 2558 |
| 3 | Ryders Green Primary School T: 553 0658 | 10 | Lyng Primary School T: 553 1480 |
| 4 | YMCA T: 553 4211 | 11 | Sandwell College T: 253 6871 |
| 5 | Guru Nanak Community Centre T: 525 6923 | 12 | Central Library T: 569 4906 |
| 6 | Newtown Primary School T: 557 8504 | | |
| 7 | Guns Village Primary School T: 553 1427 | | |



FUNDED BY: Greets Green Partnership funds the project, while Sandwell College and Sandwell Education (ELL) sponsor and manage it.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: Greets Green Community Learning Network is one of the innovative projects supported by Greets Green Partnership to enable local people of all ages to continue learning right the way through life. The Partnership manages the Greets Green New Deal for Communities area, which is adjacent to West Bromwich Town Centre and home to just over 12,400 residents living in 4,900 households.

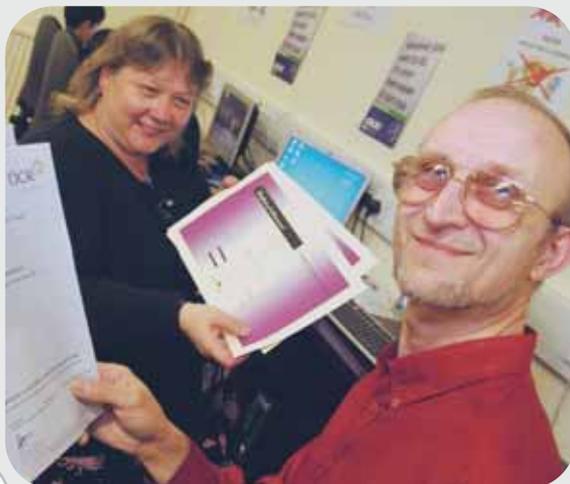
PROJECT IN ACTION: In January 2003, Saleh Saeed was employed by Sandwell Education to manage the three year project. Following a year of planning, setting up the project and developing the infrastructure, Greets Green Community Learning Network began to open the first in its network of Community Learning Centres - drop in information and communications technology (ICT) centres - in early 2004.

The Community Learning Centres, which are based in schools and community centres, work together to provide e-learning to all pupils and communities in Greets Green. In addition to improving pupil performance, the Centres encourage new and flexible ways of learning for all ages. People can access a range of courses at the Centres, which benefit from broadband internet access and email.

“The project was planned in two phases,” explains Saleh. “Five Community Learning Centres would open in phase 1 and a further five would follow on in phase 2. However, they proved so popular that we opened eight during the first phase to enable as many people as possible to enjoy ICT learning on their doorstep.”

The official launch of the Greets Green Community Learning Network was held in July 2004 to enable the achievements and successes of the first six months to be celebrated. By then, hundreds of local people had already developed their ICT skills for school, work and pleasure.

“You’re never too young or too old to start learning,” says Saleh. “Our aim is to make it as easy as possible for everyone.”



MR & MRS SWAN

“Me and my husband have completed the beginners’ IT course and the CLAIT course at Lodge Primary School and we’ve really enjoyed it. I’d never used a computer before but wanted to learn so that when the kids say ‘how do I do this mum?’ I can help! All our four children have gone to Lodge Primary so we know the school well. The computer room is fantastic with stars on the walls. We’re already looking forward to our advanced course which is starting soon. We’ve met so many different people on the courses – we’ve got lots of new skills and new friends!”



MARIE PARSONS

"I started going to Lyng Primary in the Spring to do the CLAIT course. You learn all about how to find your way around a computer including word processing, databases and publishing. I wanted to extend my knowledge and when I heard about the centre I thought I'd have a go. The school is so local to me and I can just walk down there which is ideal. I work as a learning support assistant at the school and my children go there so it's very handy. I'm enjoying it immensely and it's a great way to find out about other things happening in the community as everyone chats to each other."



MANDY & RICHARD SIMPSON

"I'd used a computer about 15 years ago but they've certainly changed a lot since then! That's why I decided to do the beginners' computer course at Lyng Primary. My husband has taken on more responsibility at work which means that he uses computers more, so he decided to join me when I moved onto the CLAIT course. We both look forward to our Thursday evenings at the school. It's somewhere familiar as our children have gone there. You're learning with other parents who you've seen in the playground for years! We all have a laugh and a joke and it's very informal but you learn a lot. If I need to get back into a job using computers in the future, I know I'll have the right skills now."

FRANCISCA JOSEPH

"When I was walking past SWEDA one day, I noticed that it was a facility for women and realised it was just what I was looking for. I went in and the staff were so friendly and helpful that I was back the next day. The staff showed me how to use the computers to update my CV and helped me create a questionnaire about children's nurseries. As a result, I've now got a new job as a Deputy Manager at a nursery. I'm now designing my own business card. At SWEDA you feel safe. There are lots of other women around you and everyone is able to share their skills. They've learnt from me and I've learnt from them!"



ADAM MUFLIHI

"In the summer holidays I learnt how to create my own website at the YCA Learning Centre. I put games and pictures of football players on it and wrote about my hobbies. It really helps having the centre so near as one day the internet wasn't working at school so I was able to go along and use the computers. I take my homework there – but I also enjoy playing the computer games!"

ARWA ABDO

"I volunteer at SWEDA doing admin and reception work and I've been able to develop my computer skills at the same time. I didn't have much confidence before but now I can do anything! I feel comfortable here. I'm very interested in



computers so I decided to volunteer to help others to learn IT at the Centre. I give support to people of all ages who come along to use the computers. If they have any questions, I help them and I spend time showing people how to do something new. It gives me a lot of satisfaction.”



NORUS AHMED

“I’ve had a lot of fun at the YCA Learning Centre. I learnt all about logo designs and how to create them. The YCA already had a black and white logo but I was asked to design it in colour so I chose the colours of the Yemeni flag. I’m hoping to use the new skills I’ve learnt at school in the future.”

AHLAM SAEED

“I’ve done lots of different activities at the YCA Learning Centre. We have to do quite a lot of research for homework so I use the computers at the Centre. If I can’t do something, I ask one of the supervisors and they give me help. I sometimes take my homework down to the girls’ group on a Sunday. I really enjoy it there.”



MIKE HIBBERT - HEADTEACHER, RYDERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Our Community Learning Centre has given our children a lot of opportunities they wouldn’t otherwise have had, particularly in terms of access to modern ICT equipment. We’ve been able to launch after school clubs for year 6 children to enable them to improve their numeracy and literacy skills. They are able to look at revision web sites and use software supplied by the Greets Green Community Learning Network. Our SATs results met the targets agreed with the LEA and we achieved 20 per cent at level 5 in numeracy which was much higher than we were expecting. Our Learning Centre has certainly been a key factor in this.”

Greets Green Partnership was awarded £56 million in 2000 to deliver a 10 year regeneration programme under the Government’s New Deal for Communities (NDC) initiative. It is currently funding more than 100 projects throughout the area, covering community empowerment, crime and community safety, education and lifelong learning, health, housing and urban form, and jobs and enterprise. The Partnership area, which is adjacent to West Bromwich Town Centre, is home to just over 12,400 residents living in 4,900 households.

To find out more, call Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



Greets Green Partnership,
Ground Floor, Court House, 335-337 High Street, West Bromwich B70 8LU
Freephone 0800 953 0215
Fax: 0121 533 3168