

greetsgreen

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2006

Dropping in!

TWO NEW COMMUNITY
ACCESS POINTS

FROM DREAMS
TO REALITY

Become your
own boss

LET'S GET
PHYSICAL!

Don't be a couch
potato this winter

greetsgreen
partnership



Issue 21

Front cover: Brand new community facilities have arrived at Newtown and Lyng Primary Schools.

The Greets Green magazine is distributed to every household in the New Deal for Communities area, and to other NDCs nationally. If you live in the Greets Green NDC area and do not receive a copy then please call us on **freephone 0800 953 0215**.

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Issue 22 will be published in
February/March 2006.



Produced on behalf of Greets Green Partnership
by Barbryn Ltd

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দয়া করে ইংরেজী জানেন এমন একজন বন্ধু বা
আত্মীয়কে আমাদেরকে 0800 953 0215 এ
নাম্বারে ফোন করতে বলুন।

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તો કૃપા કરીને અંગ્રેજી બોલતા કોઈ મિત્ર કે કુટુંબીજનને
કહો કે અમને 0800 953 0215 ઉપર કોલ કરો..

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بولنے والے کسی دوست یا گھر کے کسی فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہم سے
0800 953 0215 پر بات کرے۔

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الأسرة ممن يتحدثون اللغة الإنجليزية الاتصال بنا على
ال هاتف 0800 953 0215 .

welcome

Welcome to issue 21 of the Greets Green Magazine.

Another year is fast drawing to a close so why not start 2006 with a whole new outlook on life? Take a look at our 'Make a New Start' feature and see whether that idea you've had in the back of your mind for so long could be turned into your very own business. There's lots of help and support available in Greets Green if you do decide to go self-employed.

Or turn to our 'Let's Get Physical' feature and make the New Year a time for getting out and about in the local area and enjoying a healthier lifestyle. Lots of new projects are just starting up to help you get active. Did you know that Carters Green is set for a major transformation? See the architects' plans in our centre spread and watch out for the change starting to take shape. There's also lots of fascinating facts and figures about Carters Green in days gone by.

In Young Greets Green, there are some great photos of local families spending quality time together during Family Learning Week. There were lots of activities in the Town Hall and kids and adults alike had a fantastic time.

The Greets Green Magazine team would like to wish all readers a very happy and healthy festive season and very best wishes for 2006.

Happy reading!

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contents

FEATURES

Make a New Start

- 4 Forums Support Businesses
- 5 New Careers Take Off
- 6 Business Grants Boost
- 7 Your Questions Answered
- 8 **On The Beat**
A day in the life of PC Bob White
- 12 **A New Era is Returning**
Exciting changes in store for Carters Green

Getting Physical

- 16 On the Map
- 17 Fit for Life

REGULARS

- 9 **Partnership News:**
Community Empowerment Update
- 10 **Community Page:**
A look at SWEDA
- 11 **Partnership News:**
Education & Lifelong Learning Update
- 14 **Partnership News:**
Housing Update
- 14 **Partnership News:**
Crime & Community Safety Update
- 15 **Partnership News:**
Health Update
- 18 **Greet News:**
A round-up of Partnership and Community News

YOUNG GREETS

GREEN

- 20 **Young Greets Green**
News from Greets Green's young people



make a NEW START!

Another year is pretty much over and 2006 is about to get going. With so much help and support for businesses and self-employed residents available in Greets Green, why not consider making a new start in the New Year and become your own boss?

FORUMS SUPPORT BUSINESSES

Local businesses can benefit from meeting with others and sharing ideas by becoming involved in the business forums in Greets Green.

New Business Book for all local businesses

The first-ever Be70 Business Book is now nearing completion. All local businesses will be receiving their free copy early in the New Year.

Produced by Greets Green Partnership, the Business Book contains a range of information and advice to help and support traders and businesses, along with a local business listing.

The results of the Business Survey carried out by the Partnership this summer are included. All businesses in Greets Green were invited to take part and the survey will be repeated next year when it is hoped that even more people will respond.

"The Business Book enables local businesses to promote themselves to other businesses in the area," explained Pat Parkes, Jobs & Enterprise Theme Leader at Greets Green Partnership. "If you provide a service or supply a business, you should be in the Book. Next year we'll be expanding it to include people who are self-employed, so make sure you're included."

To reserve your FREE copy or to get involved in next year's Business Book, call Pat Parkes at Greets Green Partnership on 533 3186.

Greets Green Retail Enterprise & Training (GGREAT) is based at the 'New Enterprise Offices' at 393a High Street in Carters Green, while Albion Business Forum brings local industry together in the Albion Road/Oldbury Road area of Greets Green. The Partnership's Be70 Business Support project works with these two forums and offers wide-ranging help and support for all local traders, businesses and self-employed residents.



GGREAT Chair, Robert Stokes (pictured above), says:

"Together, we can help residents and local businesses work through the maze of business legislation and day-to-day problems. Here at the GGREAT offices businesses can access basic business awareness training run by Business Link and rent space for meetings and seminars. GGREAT can even act as a postal and telephone base for self-employed residents who want to keep their businesses separate from their home. It's important that the local business economy grows as part of the regeneration work being undertaken by Greets Green Partnership."

To contact GGREAT, call Robert Stokes on 525 7331.
For more details on Albion Business Forum, call 525 9734.

NEW CAREERS TAKE OFF

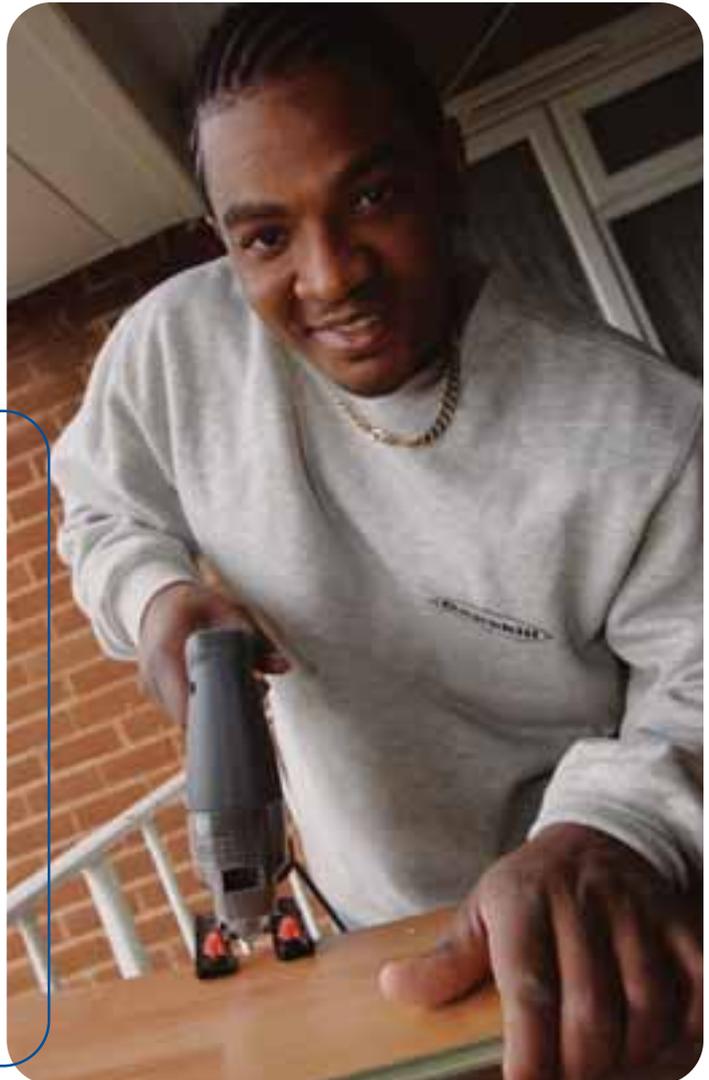
Fifteen Greets Green residents have started on a brand new career path after being selected from more than 100 hopefuls for the Gapskill Regeneration project.

The team, who were previously in low paid, low skilled jobs, have now started training in the construction industry.



They will complete training and on-site work experience which will lead to NVO Level 2 in their chosen trade such as bricklaying, plastering or carpentry.

The project brings together Greets Green Partnership, Sandwell Future Skills, the Construction Industry Training Board and local developers to create new opportunities for local people.



My new opportunity

Martin Knight (pictured right), who lives on Bridge Street in Carters Green, is one of the lucky residents to have joined the Gapskill project.

He explains: "I was doing powder coating in a factory in Tipton before but I've got a family and when the opportunity came up to raise my income, I went for it.

"There aren't many opportunities around like this which enable you to learn a valuable skill and earn some money while doing it. So far we've been training at Future Skills in Smethwick. We've been looking at the importance of health and safety on construction sites and have started doing some practical carpentry.

"I'm hoping to go into carpentry and maybe work for a contractor, but I wouldn't be able to do this without getting my NVO. The project is a brilliant idea."

FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT

Greets Green businesses now have access to free advice thanks to a joint project between Greets Green Partnership and Business Link.

Business Link has been providing a range of ad hoc business support in the past but through the new Be70 In Business project, an adviser is now

available specifically for Greets Green businesses on a flexible basis.

The adviser can help people become smarter in business by helping with business improvement grants, cash flow forecasts, business planning, workforce training, health and safety and a wide range of other issues.

Wherever you think you might have a gap in your business knowledge, the adviser can help.

Interested? Call Pat Parkes at Greets Green Partnership on 533 3186 who will put you in touch with the business adviser.

BUSINESS GRANTS BOOST

If you've got a bright idea for a business - or a fledgling firm which needs a boost to help it grow - then Greets Green Partnership can help.

Business Start Up grants of up to £1,500 are available to Greets Green residents who are looking to launch their own business, or who have done so in the last 12 months. Each business also receives ongoing support from a Business Link adviser based at the Enterprise Offices, High Street, who will help to identify markets, look at cash flow forecasts, and provide tax advice and business training.

For more information, call Pat Parkes, Jobs & Enterprise Theme Leader at Greets Green Partnership on 533 3186.



Passing the test

Phil Turburfield from Margaret Street is enjoying complete freedom having just set up his own driving instructor franchise.

"I worked for the prison service for 18 years but in the end I didn't want to be managed anymore," he says. "I thought about all the things I liked and was good at and decided to begin an 18 month course with LDC, a nationally recognised driving school.

"Business Link were excellent. They guided me through the whole process from start to finish and made me realise that I could do it. I also received a Business Start Up grant from Greets Green Partnership which covered part of the cost of the course.

"I'm now fully qualified and already have about eight pupils and I'm ready to take on more. I've driven for 32 years and was a category A driver/navigator for the prison service so I've got a lot of experience. I'm absolutely loving it. It's completely flexible and it's nice to say 'I think I'll have Tuesday off this week' and not have to ask anybody!"

To book driving lessons with Phil, call 532 0569 or 07979 340126.



Midland Mailing success

When Dave Harbach's fledgling mailing business took off, Dave and his staff were faced with the task of sealing thousands of envelopes by hand. He turned to Greets Green Partnership for a Business Start Up grant and now has a sealing machine to help his company, Midland Mailing, continue to grow.

"I set the business up with my wife, Heather. I used to be employed by Kenrick and Jefferson on the High Street. When they closed down, I worked for a printer and he asked me for advice on mailings. He said he hadn't got space to do them, so I said if I got the premises, would he use me to do the mailings? When he said yes, it was all systems go!

"We successfully applied for a Business Start Up grant from Greets Green Partnership after I'd read about the grants in the Greets Green Magazine. We're doing a job at the moment for 70,000 mailers

with a ballpoint pen included. We run the job on the main machine but have to put the pens in and seal them by hand. Rather than sitting there with a sponge, we can now use the new sealing machine. The grant has enabled us to take on more work.

"We do all sorts of mailings for banks, charities and different agencies. We've created mailings with videos, coffee mugs, pizza style boxes and at the moment we've got 30,000 chickens, sheep and goats to put in a plastic pack!

"We've got a great team of people working here - most of them are local Greets Green residents who were long term unemployed. We've currently got five permanent staff but we call in others as and when we need them - friends, family and other ex K&J people.

"If you've got an idea and are able to live on your nerves and work 25 hours a day, I'd say set up your own business."

Outside Catering

Local mum, Ruth Riman, decided it was 'now or never' and turned her dream of running a catering business into reality with help from a £1,500 Business Start Up grant.

Ruth originally started out by providing buffets at George Salter High School - where her daughter is a pastoral manager and her 13 year old son is a pupil - providing the catering for teacher training days, breakfast and other meetings.

She now runs a café at the school called Snax 4 U which provides an alternative to the school canteen for staff and pupils. She also has her own outside catering business - Buffets by Ruth - for events such as weddings and business meetings. The café is decorated with light blue gingham, has high stools for a coffee bar feel, and serves light meals including fresh baguettes, jacket potatoes and pizza.

Ruth, who previously spent more than nine years working at a CD warehouse, says: "I'd already had a lot of meetings with Business Link to learn the ins and outs of business. I then decided to apply to Greets Green Partnership for a

Business Start Up grant so I could purchase some different equipment.

"It was so expensive to start up. I needed prep tables, chiller units, cookers ... it all mounts up. Being a new business there's money going out all the time, so it was helpful to get the grant.

"This is something I've always wanted to do and when I left my other job I decided it was now or never. I took the bull by the horns and that was it. I've always been interested in food and I like to see it nicely presented."

Ruth employs a couple of staff and says it's hectic and she doesn't expect to make any money in the first year after all the investment. But she's loving it. So are there any regrets? "Definitely not!" she says.

To book Ruth for catering, call 557 4606.



Q&A YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

Pat Parkes, Jobs & Enterprise Theme Leader at Greets Green Partnership answers some of your questions about taking the plunge and going self-employed.

Q I want to be my own boss. Where do I start?

A Speak to an adviser from the BE70 Business Support project who will be able to guide you through the whole process, answering any questions you have along the way. This will help you decide if it's really something you want to do. Call Pat Parkes at Greets Green Partnership on 533 3186.

Q What does it take to be self-employed?

A Basically, guts, determination and self-belief are the main characteristics you'll need if you're thinking of becoming self-employed.

Q Is becoming self-employed complicated? Are there lots of forms to fill in?

A Business Link advisers are available to support you with anything you need to know.

You could also access training courses and seminars to develop your skills and knowledge and talk to others who are also starting a business. Speak to Pat Parkes on 533 3186 for more details.

Q I'm currently unemployed and claiming benefits, but would like to turn my hobby into a business. What type of financial help is available?

A In some cases, you may be able to work up to 16 hours per week and still sign on while you're setting up your business. Once you start to work full-time, you may be entitled to tax credits to support you and your family.

As a Greets Green resident, you may be eligible for a Start Up grant or Business Improvement grant. Greets Green Partnership can also put you in touch with organisations who can provide you with loans, particularly if you want to borrow from high street banks.

I For any further information about setting up your own business, contact Pat Parkes on 533 3186.



ON THE BEAT

Greets Green Crime Fighting Team has been successfully reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout the area. We found out from PC Bob White what a typical day involves.

10.00am Book on duty with our control room. I'm on the 10.00am – 6.00pm shift today. It varies each day to react to the community's needs. Working these hours means we can support people who work in Greets Green, liaise with local forums and provide reassurance to people at home.

10.30am Attend a briefing with the other Officers on the team. Sergeant Panesar-Grix informs us of the current crime trends and what incidents have occurred since I was last on duty. I'm able to share information with my colleagues and this is all recorded by our intelligence officer.

11.00am Our Sergeant tasks me with my specific duties. We're involved in an operation targeting car crime today. I'm to work with my regular patrol partner in a marked Police vehicle. Other colleagues are in a covert patrol car and together we'll patrol the community targeting vehicle offenders in areas where car crime has occurred.

2.00pm Meet some of the Greets Green Neighbourhood Wardens to discuss community issues. I tell them about our operation and ask them to help us patrol specific areas.

3.00pm Give a crime prevention talk to a local support group for elderly residents. I reassure them and explain how they can avoid becoming victims of crime. It's important that local people can contact Officers directly so I give them my mobile number.

4.00pm Return to the station. The operation has finished and I go out on foot patrol around Lambert's End. Local residents complain about some people driving a car erratically.

4.30pm I see the car and stop it and discover that the driver has

no insurance. There is new legislation which allows the Police to seize uninsured cars so I get it reported.

5.30pm The end of my shift is now approaching and I return to the station to complete my day's paperwork. A local resident has contacted Crimestoppers to report suspicious activity at a nearby address and enquiries have confirmed that it's involved in the misuse of drugs. A warrant has been obtained and tomorrow the team will conduct an early morning raid.

Since July, the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team has been involved in:

- Working with Greets Green Partnership to bring together partner agencies in a local joint agency group to address a range of issues.
- Conducting eight operations targeting issues such as vehicle crime, burglary of business premises and drugs.
- Tackling anti-social behaviour issues in the Claypit Lane / Wattle Road clearance area.
- Operation THALIA to target general crime issues through high visibility patrolling on foot. Its success has led to Operation THALIA 2.
- Analysing crime patterns to identify current and seasonal trends.
- Encouraging residents to report incidents to the Police.
- Recruiting an Offender Manager to provide offenders with the means and support to turn away from crime and their offending lifestyle.

 To contact Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, or to report a crime, call 0845 113 5000. Dial 999 in an emergency.

NEW PAKISTANI COMMUNITY WORKER

Imran Khan is Greets Green Partnership's new Pakistani Men's Development Worker and he's already looking to introduce new initiatives to engage with the Pakistani community.



"My role is to help the Pakistani community access the services and support available locally as they seem to be left behind in a number of areas such as education, jobs and housing," Imran explained. "I'm also looking at new projects which will benefit this community."

Working closely with the Pakistani Men's Steering Group, Imran is addressing local issues and concerns and enabling the Pakistani community to have more of a voice. The Men's Steering Group is in touch with the community and brings issues to their monthly meetings which Imran can then take up.

So far, he's considering setting up a guidance and support centre because there is such a

demand for it and looking at the possibility of mentoring with local schools to support pupils who face language barriers at home.

"This is a really interesting role which I can develop to meet local needs," Imran says. "Come and talk to me about anything and I'll either be able to offer help or point you in the right direction."

If you'd like to contact Imran, call him direct on 07973 370490 or Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



At the September 'Have Your Say' workshop at George Salter High School, residents looked at several environmental projects which Greets Green Partnership is considering funding.

A project to make environmental improvements to various small sites around Greets Green was seen as a good idea. Participants highlighted that local community groups should be consulted about work so that residents can identify local areas where improvements could be made.

Environmental improvements in Bridge Street and Swan Village were also discussed. In Bridge Street, the issue was raised that there are a large proportion of private properties and the owners may not agree to the improvements. In Swan Village, it was agreed that signage and parking need to be improved and that the drying areas shouldn't be dark and enclosed. Participants were also keen to see that the other half of Swan Village isn't neglected.



A team of heroes

This issue we're featuring the work of not just one community hero, but a team of five from the Bethel Youth Club - Lee, Adele, Devon, Sam and Peter.

Andy Falconer, a local resident and a sessional worker for Greets Green Youth Forum, nominated the youth team who've been running the Bethel Youth Club on a Friday night for the past few years. "They're really great guys," he says. "I went to the youth club every week for two years when I was 14 and 15 and they're just great. We went on a few trips out, had pool competitions, DJ workshops and lots of other stuff."

"The youth club is based at Bethel Church and the religious side is there if you want it, but they don't force it on you. I don't know what it is, but the youth workers respect all of us and we respect them. They always stick up for us and deserve to be community heroes."

If you know someone who should be recognised as a Local Hero, call Simon Ware, Greets Green Neighbourhood Support Worker on 0800 953 0215 or 07810 850851.

Come along to the next 'Have Your Say' workshops on:

Wednesday 14th December from 6.00pm in the Community Room at Guns Village Primary School.

Saturday 21st January from 10.30am at the Guru Nanak Community Centre, 21 Victoria Street.

Wednesday 22nd February from 6.00pm. Venue to be confirmed

Saturday 25th March from 10.30am. Venue to be confirmed

Pop in to hear about a particular project or stay for the whole workshop.

Call Katherine Hewitt, Community Empowerment Theme Leader, on freephone 0800 953 0215 for more details.

SWEDA

– an enterprising agency



- Unemployed?**
- Returning to work?**
- Lacking in confidence?**
- Looking to raise your self-esteem?**
- Need motivating?**
- Need mentoring?**
- Thinking of setting up a business?**
- Already running a business?**
- Get in touch with SWEDA!**

Sandwell Women's Enterprise & Development Agency (SWEDA) has been offering advice, guidance, mentoring and training to its clients for the last 15 years.

Based on Church Street, SWEDA provides support to clients from diverse communities within Sandwell such as lone parents, women, members of black and minority ethnic communities and people on low income. It provides tailor made information, advice and guidance to support its clients to find a job, access education or training courses or to start a Business.

SWEDA is on hand to help all local people return to work by providing one to one advice on confidence building, developing a CV, preparing for interviews and applying for jobs. Advice and guidance on returning to education or training is also available.

The Agency encourages enterprise development and provides advice, mentoring and training on starting and maintaining a business, business planning, funding advice, networking and a wide range of other business related issues.

It also has an IT Learning Centre offering free internet access, IT training and guidance on courses available.

The Agency is managed by Davinder Kaur who heads the six-strong team. Alongside Davinder are two Business/ Personal Advisors, Rebecca Besford and Loreen Lawson, IT Trainer Malissa Lewis-Francis, Administration Officer, Charon Kaur and Amrit Sagoo who's currently on work placement offering administration support while completing her NVO.

The Agency offers a warm, friendly, sensitive and caring environment in which to develop

skills and confidence and has, over the years, supported many clients to reach their potential by providing services which are free and confidential.

 Call into SWEDA to find out more, phone 525 2558 or visit www.sweda.org.uk



FACILITIES:

- Two large training & meeting rooms
- Computer, photocopying & fax services
- Binding & laminating services

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DROP IN

Two brand new Community Access Points (CAPs) have literally dropped into Greets Green!

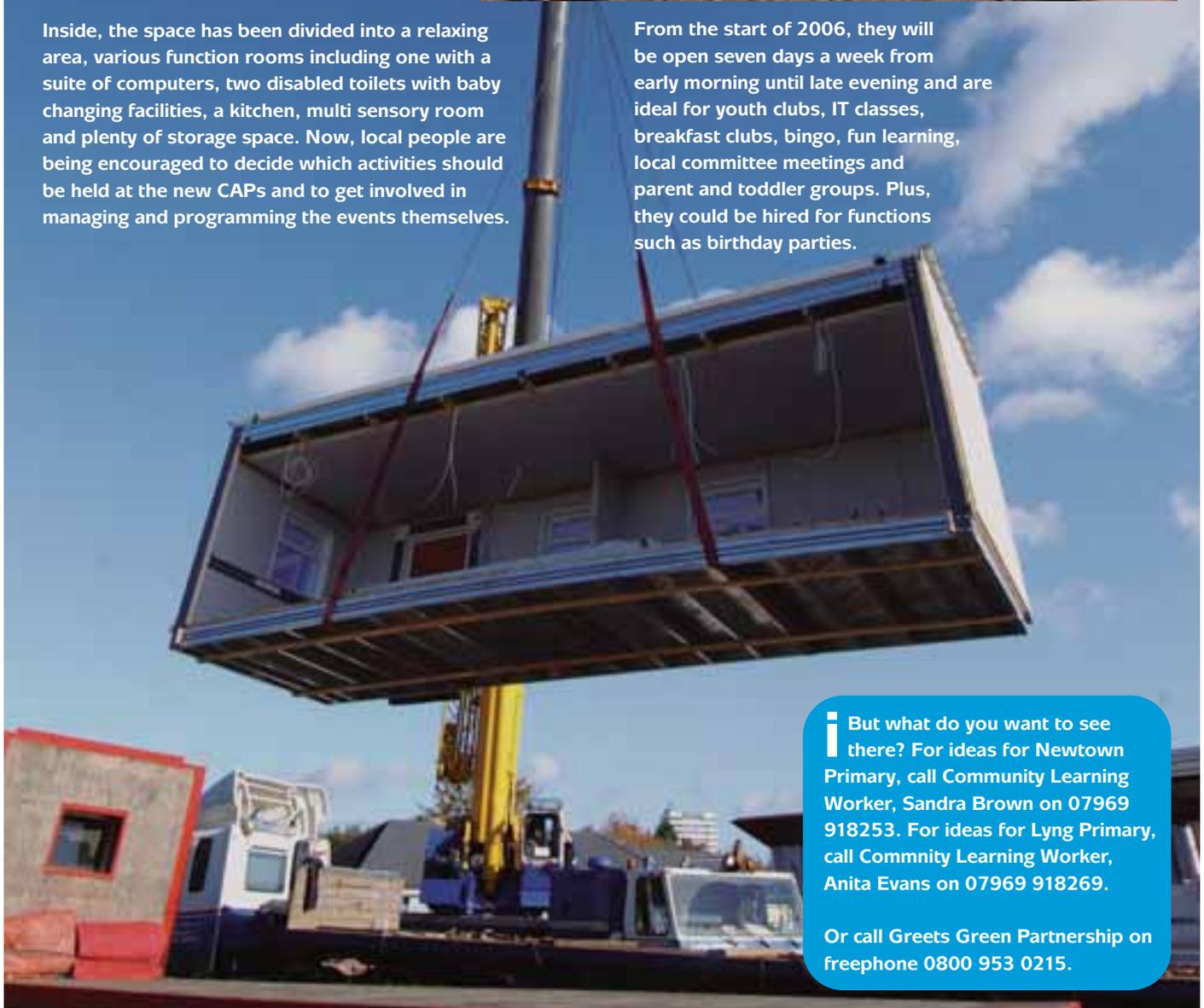
The two self-contained units were craned into Lyng Primary and Newtown Primary Schools to create facilities where clubs, groups and anyone in the community can hold events and meetings.

“We’ve created a network of CAPs at venues throughout Greets Green but these two schools didn’t have any spare room to use,” explained Stinder Johl, CAPs Project Manager. “So, we decided to create brand new units where local people can enjoy activities and learning on the doorstep.”

Once the walls had been craned in – complete with glazed windows and doors already in place – a brick skin was built around the units.

Inside, the space has been divided into a relaxing area, various function rooms including one with a suite of computers, two disabled toilets with baby changing facilities, a kitchen, multi sensory room and plenty of storage space. Now, local people are being encouraged to decide which activities should be held at the new CAPs and to get involved in managing and programming the events themselves.

From the start of 2006, they will be open seven days a week from early morning until late evening and are ideal for youth clubs, IT classes, breakfast clubs, bingo, fun learning, local committee meetings and parent and toddler groups. Plus, they could be hired for functions such as birthday parties.



i But what do you want to see there? For ideas for Newtown Primary, call Community Learning Worker, Sandra Brown on 07969 918253. For ideas for Lyng Primary, call Community Learning Worker, Anita Evans on 07969 918269.

Or call Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.

A NEW ERA IS RETURNING

Plans are underway for Carters Green to undergo a facelift to create a vibrant area during the day and night.

Architects, Scott Wilson, spearheaded consultation with local residents, agencies, businesses, traders and potential shoppers to find out how they would like to see the High Street area enhanced.

Their feedback has been used to create plans for the future and the improvements will be a key priority area during the rest of the life of Greets Green Partnership.

Graham Woodwood, Head of Landscape Architecture & Urban

Did you know?

What's now West Bromwich Albion was originally the work's football team for Salters Springs. It was founded in 1879 and they took on the name 'Albion' because many of the workers lived in the village of Albion, which eventually disappeared as industry took over from houses. Salters was located where JB&S Lees are today on Albion Business Park.

Design at Scott Wilson, said: "We're trying to bring life back into Carters Green and make it into an exciting place to live, work and visit. It's been living in the shadow of West Bromwich town centre and we want to give it an identity of its own with cafes and individual shops.

"There's so much history in Carters Green and we're looking to reveal elements of this within the design to achieve a depth of history and character in a place which is also very contemporary."

The redevelopment is themed 'A new era is returning' to reflect the old meeting the new. The consultation highlighted that people want to see Victorian canopies and traditional features during the day but at night Carters Green needs to come to life with modern art and neon.

"We've taken on board everyone's ideas to create exciting plans for the future," said Pat Parkes, Jobs & Enterprise Theme Leader at Greets Green Partnership.

Did you know?

The coat of arms was granted to West Bromwich in 1882 when it was incorporated as a Borough. In 1974 West Bromwich became part of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell.

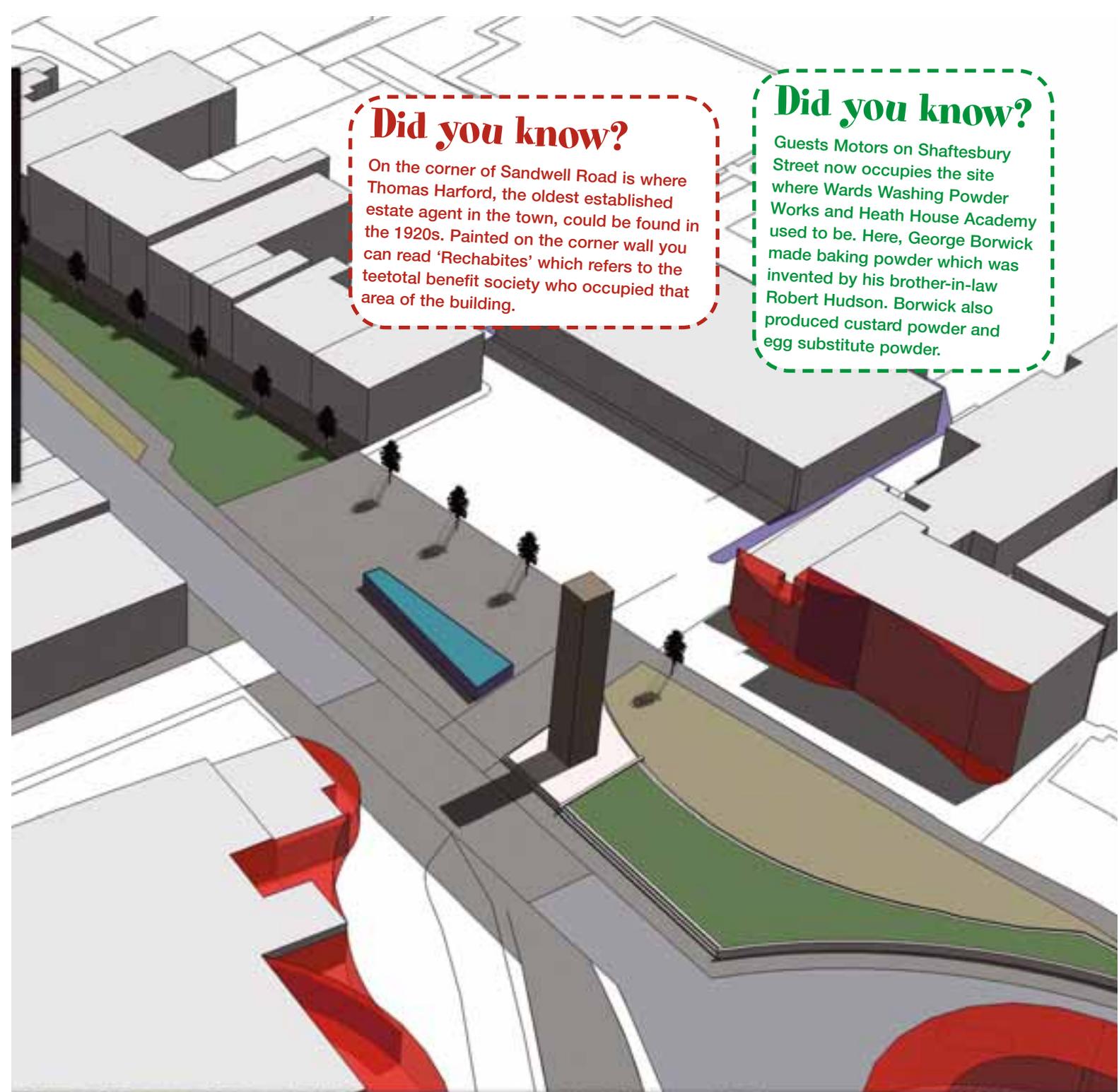


Did you know?

On the corner of Sandwell Road is where Thomas Harford, the oldest established estate agent in the town, could be found in the 1920s. Painted on the corner wall you can read 'Rechabites' which refers to the teetotal benefit society who occupied that area of the building.

Did you know?

Guests Motors on Shaftesbury Street now occupies the site where Wards Washing Powder Works and Heath House Academy used to be. Here, George Borwick made baking powder which was invented by his brother-in-law Robert Hudson. Borwick also produced custard powder and egg substitute powder.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Swan Village and Bridge Street residents have been sharing their views on a host of planned environmental improvements to make sure they fully meet their needs.

Throughout September Greets Green Partnership's Housing Team carried out extensive consultation in Swan Village to see what residents think about plans to enhance the area. Once the results have been collated, a picture can be produced showing exactly what the area will look like following the improvements.

Residents had previously highlighted issues such as safety and security, broken fencing and unused drying areas, and these are now being addressed along with a range of street improvements such as tree planting and new paved areas.

In October, a similar exercise was carried out in Bridge Street by Groundwork Black Country on behalf of Sandwell Council. All the information gathered will be used to plan local environmental improvements.



Police help local business

Greets Green Crime Fighting Team has helped staff at Subway in the High Street stay safe by handing them personal attack alarms funded by Greets Green Partnership.

Sergeant Panesar-Grix said: "We hope that these alarms will give reassurance to the members of staff."

Robberies in the Greets Green area have been reduced by 73 per cent during the past year with overall crime being reduced by 47 per cent.

To contact Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, call 0845 113 5000.

STAY SAFE FOR FREE

Carbon monoxide cannot be seen or smelled and is highly dangerous. Each year it kills approximately 30 people nation-wide.

To help local people identify if they have a carbon monoxide leak from a gas fire or boiler, Greets Green Neighbourhood Wardens are handing out CO2 patches.

"Now that winter's here, people are putting their central heating on and using their gas fires more," said Senior Warden, Neil Woodfield. "These patches recognise if there are dangerously high carbon monoxide emissions. They're a life saver."

The Wardens also have free UV pens available so that residents can postcode their valuable equipment and trace them if they're stolen and recovered.



STIR FRY SUCCESS



Pupils at Ryders Green Primary School ate a stir fry dinner they'd helped to create after harvesting the vegetables themselves.

Organised as part of National Stir Fry Day, Greet's Green's Food For Health Co-ordinator, Peter Turvey said: "The children literally got to see the process from

soil to plate. A lot of children think vegetables just come from supermarkets."

Emma and Ashley, Year 5 School Councillors, share their views on the day...

"On 30th September, we celebrated Stir Fry Day as part of our healthy eating theme for our Healthy Schools Award. Eight school

councillors went in a taxi to Salop Drive Allotments.

"When we got there, a man named Tony showed us around. He showed us squash. It was orange. It tasted like sweet potato but we couldn't eat the skin. We picked spring onions, leeks, sweet corn, cabbage and lettuce.

"Tony showed us the greenhouse. Vegetables that grow there need warmth. We picked peppers and tomatoes. We brought the vegetables back to school and our cook, Mrs Nock, prepared them and demonstrated how to make a vegetable noodle stir fry. For dinner, she prepared a chicken stir fry. Lots of children really enjoyed it."

Downsize Me

Looking to lose weight? Join the Downsize Me initiative.

The weight loss challenge is designed to help people lose inches without losing all their favourite foods. An informal meeting is being held in December. Call Peter Turvey on 07814 262055 or email peter.turvey@rrt-pct.nhs.uk for details.

There are lots of other food projects in the pipeline:-

Calling local retailers!

If you're a local retailer interested in receiving professional advice and financial support to improve or increase your stock of fresh fruit and vegetables, give Peter a call.

Food grants

Is your group interested in applying for a grant from the new Food Action Fund to develop a community food initiative? Or would you like to form a Food Interest Group where you can taste and talk about food in an informal and fun way?

Food training

Peter's also putting together a training package for people who would like to help others in the community get the most out of food, ranging from facilitating Food Interest Groups to basic cooking classes.

Security services manufacturer, Sure 24, who supplied the patches and pens, shared these top tips:

- Put your CO2 patch within about a meter of your gas appliance, but not on the top of the fire or boiler.
- Mark the date on the space provided and use the patch for about 12 months.
- Keep an eye on the patch. If it goes dark brown in the middle, call Transco and get out of your property.
- Make sure you have all gas appliances serviced every 12 months.
- Use the UV pen to put your house number and postcode on valuable items.
- Write them in places where the item won't be handled and not in direct sunlight.

For your FREE CO2 patch and UV pen, pop into the Wardens' office at 380 High Street or call them on 580 4481. If you are worried about potential risks in your home, call 0800 389 5525 for a free Home Fire Risk Assessment.

For more information on any of the above, call Peter on 07814 262055 or email peter.turvey@rrt-pct.nhs.uk

GETTING PHYSICAL

Now that the dark evenings are here and it's cold outside, you may feel like hibernating on the sofa, but now's the perfect time to do just the opposite! Throughout Greet Green, new initiatives are starting to get you up on your feet and active. So, come on, let's get physical!



ON THE MAP

Are you making the most of the physical activities on your doorstep? If not, why not?



That's what Physical Activity Mapping Worker, Adel Lewin, is finding out from all residents across Greet Green. She wants to identify if there are any barriers preventing different sectors of the community accessing the activities currently on offer.

"I'm going out to the different agencies and community groups providing the activities and speaking to as many people as possible within the community," explains Adel. "I want to see if residents are taking part in them, if they're running their own activities instead or if they're not getting any exercise at all."

"If activities aren't fully representative of the local community, we want to find out what's stopping people joining in so that we can make changes."

Adel will use all the information she gathers during the next six months to 'map out' the current picture of physical activity in Greet Green, identify gaps and produce a report for the Active Lifestyles Advisory Group.



A new Active Lifestyles Programme will be developed from the results of Adel's mapping exercise and this will be implemented by the Active Lifestyles Co-ordinator as part of the new Active Lifestyles Project in 2006.

Adel knows the area well having lived in Dartmouth Street for 10 years before moving to Smethwick and is looking forward to getting out and about in Greet Green.

To find out more, call Adel direct on 0121 500 1645.

Back to school

A final year student at Wolverhampton University has been helping Year 9 boys at George Salter High School view physical exercise as a lifelong activity which will improve their health for years to come.

As part of his dissertation, David Hooper, has been teaching health related exercise at the school, concentrating on heart health and looking at the reasons why pupils take part in physical exercise.

"I've found so far that pupils like change so the key is to promote interest and enjoyment in PE by undertaking different activities," he says.



FIT FOR LIFE

Shaleen Meelu is helping pupils, parents, teachers and the wider community really get fit for life at George Salter High School as part of the Greets Green Partnership funded 'Fit for Life' project.

She became Fit for Life Development Officer at the start of October to encourage children to eat healthily and take part in physical activity so that they have a better future. Few studies have followed children throughout their school life to assess the long-term outcomes of poor diets and lack of physical activity. The new Fit for Life project aims to address these issues by focusing on pupils for the next five years.

Shaleen has been appointed to introduce activities focusing on healthy lifestyles,

sport, physical activity and food technology, involving pupils, parents, teachers and local communities. She will also co-ordinate the collection of height, weight and fitness data.

"I'm looking at different activities to suit different communities such as a physical activity programme for Asian girls and Bollywood dancing to encourage parental participation," she says.

"I'm also thinking about cookery clubs, running skills sessions during breakfast clubs and a host of other ideas."

 Shaleen is setting up a forum to discuss ideas for Fit for Life activities and initiatives at George Salter. If you're interested in getting involved, call Shaleen on 500 1554.

Active courses available

Places are still available on Greets Green's Active Life Programme. The health, fitness and lifestyle course combining exercise, health education and basic skills in a recognised qualification, is being funded by Greets Green Partnership until March 2006 and 50 places are on offer to learners.

In addition to healthy living, safe exercise and lifestyle issues, the course covers shape and weight management, stress management and diet and nutrition. Participants will also take part in practical, enjoyable activity based on the needs and abilities of the learners.

"The Active Life course is designed to be as accessible as possible and learners study at times to suit them and in local venues such as community centres, leisure and sports centres, schools and colleges," explained Andrew Thompson, Area Projects Manager - Active Life.

"We use a mixture of on-line learning and workbooks available at different literacy levels to ensure as many people as possible can take part in the programme."

The Active Life team is currently trying to identify potential learners and groups who would benefit from this course.

 If you're interested in taking part, call Andrew Thompson on 07866 739 022 or email Andythom7@hotmail.com

GET ACTIVE AT THE YMCA

The YMCA gym has undergone a complete refurbishment and is now open for business. All Greets Green residents are being encouraged to see what it has to offer.

Funded by Greets Green Partnership, the refurbishment has included new cardio equipment, new flooring and improved shower facilities. The YMCA also has a community café for healthy snacks after your work out.

"We opened as a centre for healthy living three years ago and have more than 500 Greets Green residents who currently use the Centre's facilities," explained Helen Waters, the YMCA's Healthy Living Project

Manager. "We want to encourage even more residents to come along so have made some improvements."

As not everyone wants to come into the Centre, the YMCA is also planning to head out into the community to run physical activity classes for local groups.

 If your group would like to find out more, call Helen at the YMCA on 524 1950.

Healthy Passport

Residents in Greets Green aged 50 and over are being encouraged to take steps towards a healthier life by taking part in the brand new Healthy Passport scheme.

Passport holders gain 'healthy points' by taking advantage of the local activities and services available for older people such as getting a flu jab, having a health assessment or stopping smoking. These points can then be exchanged for prizes. Look out for more details in the next issue about how you can join the scheme.

 For more information, contact your Older People's Champion on 601 2208.

If you have any news get in touch.
Call Barbryn on T: 01564 741847,
E: susan@barbryn.co.uk or the Greets
Green Partnership on T: 0800 953 0215,
E: brian_mckinstrie@sandwell.gov.uk

A new anthem



Local musicians have been getting in tune to create a brand new anthem for Sandwell.

The Public invited percussionists to attend 10 music workshops at George Salter High School every Saturday until December as part of its 'Meeting Beats' project. Instruments ranged from the Dhol, Tabla and African drums to steel pans, samba and drum kits, and everyone explored their own instruments as well as new ones. The sessions were co-ordinated by music group, Drumlove, who helped the young musicians to compose the anthem.

To find out more, call The Public on 525 6861.

NEW WASHERS FOR SALE



If you're looking for a new washing machine that's half the price - but good as new - then a local recycling scheme could have just what you're looking for.

The White Goods Recycling scheme is run by Groundwork Black Country and Renew Trust with funding from Greets Green Partnership. The scheme recycles old machines picked up by Comet stores when they deliver new appliances. It also provides training for local people, who become qualified in areas such as Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and can then move on to college or full time employment. Because of growing health and safety legislation, qualified technicians are snapped up after training.

A recycled washing machine will cost between £100 and £140, and Programme Development Manager Paul Brooks says that one at the top of the price band will be as good as new.

The recycled goods are available from the Varney Avenue outlet. To find out more, call Paul at Groundwork on 525 9734.



FALCONS' FUN DAY

Hot on the heels of winning two cups, the Lyng Falcons held a Fun Day in October to raise funds for a chance to win yet more trophies.

The Under 13s football team, captained by 13 year old Danny Riman and managed by Mark Garrity, won the Bilston Division 2 League and then went on to win the Division 2 cup, before being promoted. They're currently top of the League in Division 1. The team now has a chance to play in a

tournament in Blackpool next year so wanted to raise funds for the trip.

One of their first fundraising events was a fun day at Lyng Primary School with a penalty shoot out competition, tombola and car boot sale. The day raised £300 and the team is now planning more events.

If you can help, please call Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215



SHINING BRIGHT

Christmas has arrived early in Lawley Street!

Mr Thompson and his daughter, Louise, have been decorating their house with amazing coloured lights for the past eight years and for the last three years raising lots of funds for the County Air Ambulance. "Last year we raised £2,000 through donations from people who came to see our lights display," said Mr Thompson. "Whatever we raise we're grateful for and would like to thank everyone who visits this year."

Go and see for yourself!

Restaurant and Take Away
Finest Bangladeshi Cuisine

On the menu

A restaurant run by a Greet Green entrepreneur has introduced Braille menus.

The forward-looking Akash Balti restaurant in the High Street is already no smoking and its latest move follows a request from customers.

Owner, Didar Ali, a former George Salter High School pupil who still lives in Greet Green, said: "We get a lot of blind people in the restaurant from across the area and they are mostly regulars.

"We recently spent over £50,000 doing up the restaurant and they asked to have Braille menus, so I've had some printed. Before, one person used to read the menu out, whereas now they can just read the menu themselves. It's a lot easier."

📄 Akash Balti can be contacted on 525 1500 or log onto www.akashbalti.co.uk

30th Anniversary

Celebrations were the order of the day at Great Bridge public library in the first week of October.

Attending the 30th anniversary celebrations were former librarians of past years who shared many happy memories with the present day staff. Dudley born author, Michael Taylor, kick-started the week by inviting people to discuss his popular books on family sagas. A genealogy 'taster' followed on Wednesday for all people interested in tracing their family history.

Friday brought 'celebration day' when MP for West Bromwich, Adrian Bailey, was invited to cut the cake. Commenting on his own former career as a professional

librarian, he stated how important libraries are in the community.

Saturday morning saw a fun day event for children of all ages with a local magician / juggler providing plenty of entertainment.

📄 The modern Great Bridge library with its books, DVDs and computers has the power to transform people's lives. To contact the library, telephone 557 3277.

Thanks to local resident, Geoff May, for supplying this article. If you would like to submit a story for possible inclusion in this magazine, contact Greet Green Partnership's Communications Officer, Brian McKinstrie, on 532 6835.

XMAS GET TOGETHER

Come along to the Joint Neighbourhood Forums Christmas Get Together on Monday 19th December. The festive event will take place from 6.30pm in the Community Room, Guns Village Primary School on Hanbury Road. Anyone who's already come to a Neighbourhood Forum meeting, or who's interested in getting involved, is invited to attend the event.

There'll be a chance to meet other local residents, councillors including Councillor Hussain, representatives from Sandwell Council's Support Services Department and Greet Green Partnership. Tell them your views on the types of environmental improvements you'd like to see locally. Plus you can meet the Greet Green Magazine team and find out how to share your ideas for stories.

Mince pies and refreshments will be provided. Just turn up!

FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME!

Football memorabilia has returned to the home of Albion.

Keith Simcox has opened Goalden Times in Carters Green at 339 High Street, selling football programmes, autographs, photographs, badges and a range of other memorabilia. West Bromwich Albion football team was originally founded nearby and Keith is pleased to be selling such prized items close to their roots.



"I've always been an Albion fan and have collected Albion memorabilia all my life," he says.

"It seemed to make sense to start a business selling it at the home of Albion right on the High Street. The bus stops right outside so it's easy for fans to get to." Keith received a Business Start Up grant for shutters for the shop plus business support from Black Country Investment and Business Link.

📄 To find out more, you can call Keith at Goalden Times on 525 2561.

Flip
magazine
for 'Young
Greet
Green'



young
greets green

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2006

Family fun

**A WEEK OF FAMILY LEARNING
IN GREET'S GREEN**

COME ON DOWN TO WOOD LANE YOUTH CLUB

Now open from 5.30pm -
8.30pm, every Wednesday,
for anyone aged 7-25

x-box, pool, dance mats,
table football...

Just
turn
up!



Farewell Holly

Greets Green Youth Forum wishes Holly all the best for the future.

A sessional worker with the Youth Forum, Holly is leaving to join Sandwell Young Carers.

She says: "Working with Greets Green Youth Forum has given me the experience of working in a youth setting. That experience has enabled me to get on the ladder to becoming a youth worker which is what I've always wanted to do."

Jay Alexander, Senior Youth Development Worker, added: "Holly has been a great member of the team and has put in a lot of time and effort for the Forum. It's really good to see her moving on into youth work."

STREET GAMES EXPAND

The free programme of Street Games has proved so popular that community coaches are now being introduced to run even more sports in even more venues throughout Greets Green.

Up until Christmas, the Street Games will continue at George Salter High School. On Friday nights, there's floodlit football from 6.00 - 7.00pm and on Saturdays there's cricket from 3.00 - 4.30pm for 7 to 11 year olds and from 4.30 - 6.00pm for 11 to 16 year olds. Just turn up on the day and join in!

In the New Year, four community coaches will be encouraging young people to take part in a wide range of different activities at local multi-use games areas and other community venues where youngsters meet.

Watch out for more details.

MONDAY EVENINGS 7pm - 10.30pm

U18's Nite

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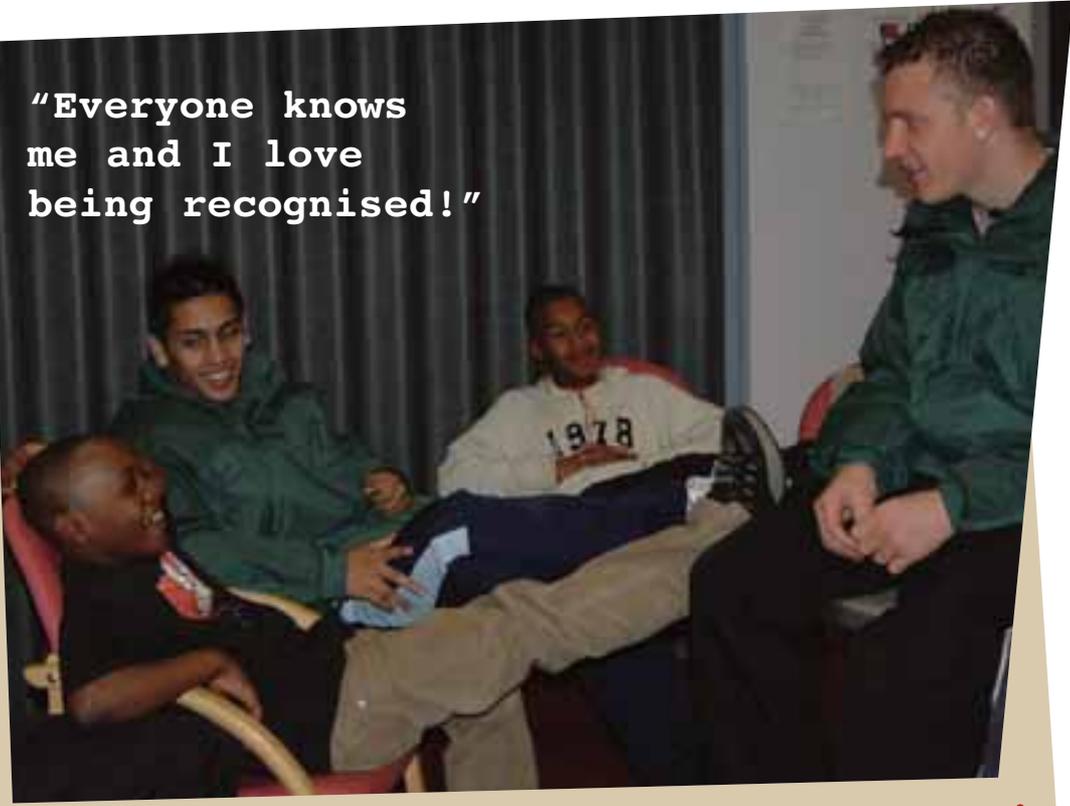
BEST WEST END
FOOTBALL CLUB

greetsgreen

GGYF IS UNABLE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, ONCE THEY HAVE LEFT THE EVENT. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CHILDREN HAVE A SAFE MEANS OF ARRIVING AT, AND GETTING HOME FROM THE VENUE. IN THE INTERESTS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY, WE WILL BE OPERATING A PHOTO ID SYSTEM, AND ALL YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING THE BUILDING WILL BE SEARCHED. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL RESULT IN ADMISSION BEING REFUSED.

GREET'S GREEN YOUTH FORUM & BUSBY'S PRESENT

"Everyone knows me and I love being recognised!"



Greets Green Youth Forum is proving to be a great stepping stone into paid youth work for local young people as several former members have been finding out.

+ INTO YOUTH WORK +

Minah Hoque was Chair of the Youth Forum but recently decided to apply to become one of the Forum's team of paid sessional workers. "I've been working with the Youth Forum on a voluntary basis for the past couple of years and have seen what's happening in the area and wanted to get more involved," he says.

"As a sessional worker I'll be building on what I've learnt so far and working with local young people."

Minah's currently studying for a BTEC National Diploma in Sport at Halesowen College and is not worried about fitting his new work in. "We have to do a minimum of six hours a week as a sessional worker. As I've already got such a good idea of what's involved because of being on the Youth Forum, it should be fine."

"Other young people should get involved. It's opened up a lot of doors for me."

Andy Falconer also became a sessional worker earlier this year having spent three years with the Youth Forum. "I love being a sessional worker," he says.

"Other young people should get involved. It's opened up a lot of doors for me."

"I enjoy being out there and actually doing something. It's gives me a real feel good factor."

"Everyone knows me and I love being recognised!"

Andy is studying for his A levels at Halesowen College at the moment but spends his spare time doing sessional work.

The team heads out in Greets Green doing detached youth work where they find out what issues are important to local young people and feed them into the Youth Forum. They also help out at Wood Lane Youth Club and they organised the fun-packed summer activity programme. "I don't like just being at home, I like being out there," adds Andy.

Karmjit Panesar used her experience with the Youth Forum to help her get a job at Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN). She's the Development Officer for Young People and her role is to get other young people interested in SWAN.

"I've started a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for girls so that it's educational for



them, they learn more about SWAN and they get something out of it at the end," she says. "Being in the Youth Forum has helped me because I was already used to working with the community before starting here."

"I think it's a good route in to youth work and would recommend it to other young people."

i You can contact Greets Green Youth Forum on 525 9509.

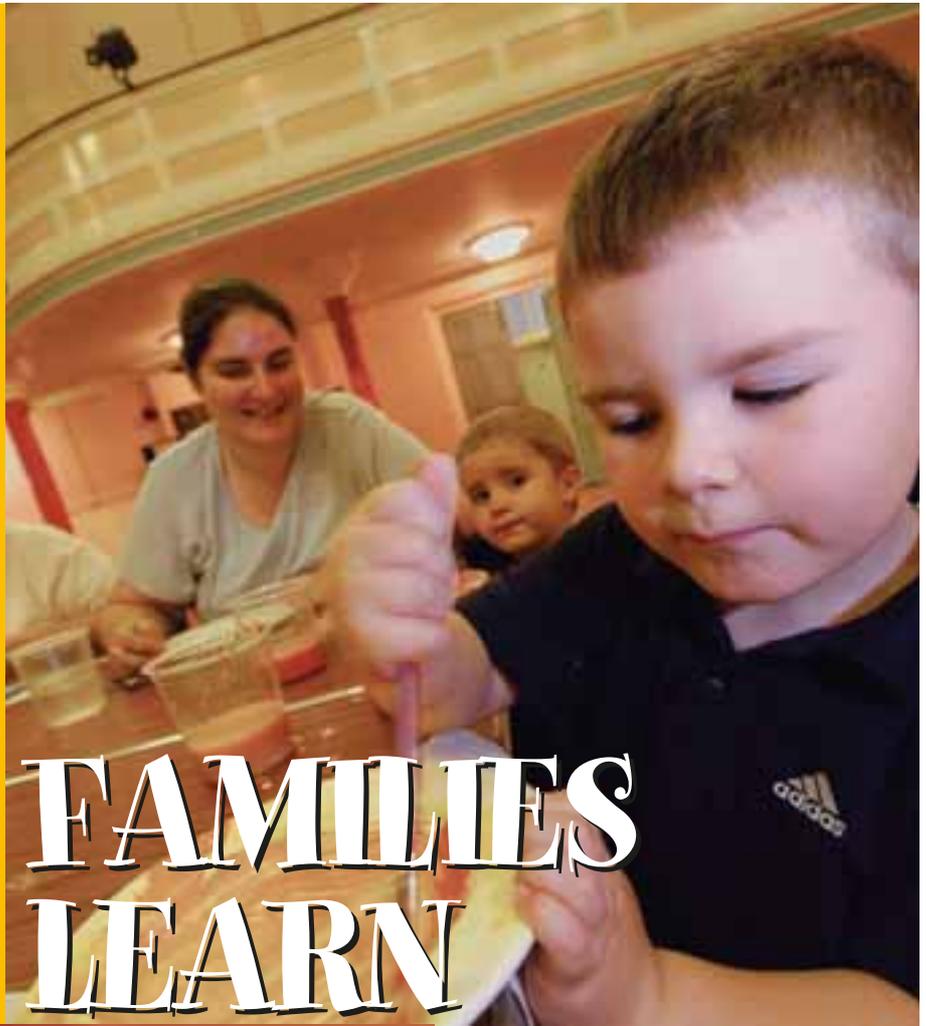


There are so many fun things to learn and it's even better if you're discovering new things with family and friends. Hundreds of people found out how true this is during Family Learning Week, organised by Greets Green Partnership.

To ensure that as many local families as possible could join in and have a fantastic time, the Partnership decided to hold Family Learning Week during October half term.

In the run-up to the week, assemblies were held in local primary schools publicising the activities. During the National Week free activities were held at the Guru Nanak Community Centre and George Salter High School.

The Community Centre was packed when families learnt more about computer gaming. There were lots of different games on display and competitions and prizes. Games were projected onto the walls and children took on their parents to



FAMILIES LEARN TOGETHER

battle it out to the end. At George Salter, youngsters were able to try out new sports with their parents including volleyball, badminton, table tennis and trampolining.

During Family Learning Week itself, the Town Hall became a fun learning zone. Each day, families could have a go at a different activity such as face painting, pottery, creating digital cards and even modern dancing!

"It was a great success as so many children and adults really enjoyed learning together," said Stinder Johl, Community Access Points Project Manager. "Our Community Learning Workers organised all the activities and provided a Week to remember for a long time."

i For more information or to contact any of the Community Learning Workers call Stinder Johl on 533 3188.



ENGLAND FOOTBALLER COACHES KIDS

A top England footballer has been giving local primary school children special coaching as part of a new Greets Green initiative.



Rachel Unitt, England Women's left back, has been spending two hours a week at each primary school, sharing top footballing tips with pupils.

The after-school sessions are part of George Salter High School's Sports Programme which will see a year of coaching at all Greets Green primary schools.

This term, pupils have been enjoying girls' football and basketball, with a festival of basketball and football planned for the end of term. A special cross country event was also held in October when more than 120 pupils took part.

From January, the sessions will include netball and hockey, and in the summer term tag rugby and quick cricket will be

on offer. "This is the first time we've put a structured sports programme into all Greets Green primary schools," said Rashmi Patel, Sports Development Officer. "The pupils are loving it."

For more information, contact Rashmi Patel at George Salter High School on 553 4665.

meeting the EXPERTS

Students from George Salter High School were able to gather information for their GNVQ Leisure and Tourism qualification at first hand by visiting Walsall Leather Museum and the Holiday Inn in Great Barr.

The trips were organised by the WorkWise project and saw 30 Year 10 students enjoying a tour of the museum and discovering the skills used in the leather industry in the past and today. They then tried out their own skills by making leather key rings.

The Manager described how the museum runs as a business and Alison Maxam, Walsall Council's Tourism Manager, explained more about tourism in the Black Country, enabling students to learn how Sandwell fits into the global picture.

In the afternoon, students were given a tour of the Holiday Inn in Great Barr and a presentation about different careers in the leisure industry.

"Visits like this enable students to produce high quality coursework with factual information," said Fiona Stone, Sandwell Education Business Partnership's WorkWise Manager.

"They're an excellent opportunity for young people to expand their knowledge about the types of careers available to them."

To contact WorkWise, call Fiona Stone on 569 2347.

