

# greetsgreen

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2006



**A HEALTHY  
OUTLOOK**  
New health  
projects  
launched

## Building For the Future

**YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP  
VALUABLE SKILLS**



Issue 22

Front cover:

Steve Wallington is learning construction skills to set him up for life through the 'Building Skills in the Community' project.

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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# welcome

Welcome to issue 22 of the Greets Green Magazine.

Keeping fit and healthy is a top priority for young and old alike. But did you know that there are lots of health related projects starting up in Greets Green to help you to stay on top of the world? Turn to page 4 for our 'Healthy Outlook' feature and start accessing the projects and services there for you.

Enabling everyone in the community to get involved and make the most of their potential is important to Greets Green Partnership and three new workers are helping people from a diverse range of communities to make their voices heard. Meet Faiza, Rachel and Hasmita on page 9.

Flip the magazine and you'll see local sisters, Sandy and Amy who're going all out to get young women active thanks to their new girls group at the Guru Nanak Community Centre. Why not go along on a Thursday afternoon and enjoy the brand new facilities at the Centre? The youth pages also feature local youngsters getting in tune through a fantastic project with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. See our picture spread on page 23.

Don't forget to give us a call if you've any ideas for future stories for the magazine.

## Happy reading!

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## YOUNG GREETS GREEN

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# A Healthy Outlook

Whether you're five or 50 plus there's a project in Greet's Green to help keep you fit and well in both mind and body. Whatever you're looking for, be it healthy eating, football or flu jabs, there's so much help available to keep you happy and healthy in 2006.

## HEALTH AWARD CELEBRATED

**A Greet's Green company is celebrating after scooping an award for creating a healthy workplace for its staff.**

William King Ltd of Union Road earned bronze in the Healthy Workplace Awards along with West Bromwich-based Accord Housing Association.

Their work towards promoting health to their employees has included offering health assessments, stop smoking services, physical activities, healthy eating, mental health interventions and vocational rehabilitation programmes.

In their activities, both William King and Accord Housing joined forces with Workwell, a Health at Work Programme supported by Sandwell's Primary Care Trusts. Workwell will now be helping the companies progress towards their silver and gold awards, whilst encouraging other companies to be nominated into the award scheme.

Their work ties in with Greet's Green Partnership's Health Theme's 'Tackling the Major Killers Programme' which aims to reduce death rates from cancers, coronary heart disease, diabetes and accidents in the area.



*Dipak Patel (right) of William King Ltd receives their award from John Middleton, Director of Public Health.*

To find out more, contact Workwell on 557 4733.

## New Health Access Worker

**A new Greet's Green health worker has been appointed to help people make the most of the services on their doorstep.**

Community Health Development Worker, Gursharan Kaur has joined the Neighbourhood Health Management Team, and will lead on the work to improve access to services and information.

Whether it's information points and notice boards, eye-catching campaigns, or attending community meetings and activities, Gursharan

aims to raise awareness about health services in Greet's Green.

She says: "It's about enabling more people to access existing services and part of that will be to develop information opportunities around Greet's Green. I want to make sure that people know what services are available in the area where they live."

Part of her role will be to ensure people are aware of the monthly Community Health Forum, which enables local people to find out about health issues and engage with local health services.



The next Community Health Forum will be at The Lyng Centre for Health & Social Care (Meeting Room 4), Frank Usher Way on 8th March from 4.30pm. For more information, call Gursharan on 612 1663.

K

## PHARMACY



# Caring Chemists

**Residents in Greet's Green can now get care from their chemist for minor ailments rather than waiting to see their GP following the roll out of a new project.**

The Pharmacy First project was piloted by the Primary Care Trust and Greet's Green Partnership, working with a number of local chemists and Dartmouth Medical Centre. It is now being expanded across the Borough.

Leaflets and posters list all the conditions covered by the scheme. If you are registered with a Sandwell GP and are suffering from one of these conditions, you can get advice and treatment from any pharmacist who displays the Pharmacy First sign.

## CHAMPIONS TO BOOST HOME SAFETY MESSAGE

**Four Community Champions have been recruited to work with the Child Home Safety Project in Greet's Green.**

Development Worker, Flo Reynolds leads the project but was struggling to meet demand following its success in helping families by providing free safety equipment such as fire guards, stair gates and door catches. Flo is now able to expand the project and broaden its work thanks to her new team of Community Champions.

All four are local people who will help to loan out free equipment, offer advice, encourage resident involvement, and help plan events and activities in Greet's Green. The paid volunteers will enable much greater face to face contact with parents in Greet's Green.

The four Champions are: Faye Dudley, who is studying for her A levels; Asia Khatun, who is studying Child Development at Birmingham University; and young mums, Jamilla Begum and Rukhsana Hussain.

**“The more people who know about child home safety, the more we can prevent accidents.”**

Rukhsana, a member of the Greet's Green Pakistani Women's Steering Group, hopes to bridge language and cultural barriers and says: “We'll be promoting safety in the home and garden for under 5s and will be giving out safety equipment and doing talks on preventing accidents and basic first aid.”

“The more people who know about child home safety, the more we can prevent accidents. As a mother with two young children aged four and five it's something that's close to my heart.”

☐ The team is based at OSCAR in ☐ Lodge Road and can be contacted on 525 0556.



Three of the new Community Champions, l to r: Asia Khatun, Rukhsana Hussain and Faye Dudley.

## Healthy Hearts

**The Healthy Hearts project is looking for venues and volunteers in Greet's Green to help screen hundreds of local people from the age of 25 upwards. Can you help?**

The health screening programme aims to assess risk factors for heart disease, high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, obesity and diabetes among people from different community groups.

Using a mobile team of health professionals, the programme plans to hold sessions in a range of community venues but more are needed. As well as screening residents, the aim is to also train local community representatives so that they can help with the screening.

The scheme could see more than 1,000 local people being tested, with the aim of identifying any action needed to prevent more serious health problems from developing.

Anyone aged 25 and over is being encouraged to take part in the screening sessions. As the British Heart Foundation suggests: “As you grow older, the thing that bothers us least is the thing that we should worry about the most – high cholesterol is a major cause of heart disease.”

☐ To arrange a screening event, provide a venue, or become a trained community volunteer, call Dr Jeetesh Patel at Sandwell Medical Research Unit on 607 3324.

# One Stop Shop for Older People



**Older people in Greet's Green are benefiting from having their very own One Stop Shop where they can access any help they need – whether it's finding a club to make new friends or getting advice on benefits.**

Terry Chikurunhe (pictured left) has been appointed Co-ordinator for Older People at the Healthier and Safer Older Age team based at Wood Lane Community Centre, and he hopes to encourage more people to benefit from the services available.

Along with new Administration Assistant, Gemma Paddock, who is the first point of contact for anyone calling the team, the aim is to reach out to as many older people as possible in Greet's Green. By calling the team – which also includes an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, social worker and community champion – a whole variety of services for older people can be accessed, including help for carers,

home aids and adaptations to help those with disabilities, exercise classes to help prevent falls, benefits advice, and support for those wanting to join clubs to get out of the house more.

If you would like to find out more about the help available through the team, call 601 2208.

## New Lease of Life

**A local resident who has already benefited from the team is Gillian Cotterill aged 59. She found she was losing her confidence and finding it hard to get out after the death of her husband Brian two years ago.**

She was put in touch with the Spring Chicks group for older ladies, which meets at SWAN in Phoenix Street on Thursday afternoons for activities such as exercise, arts and crafts or trips out.

"We're old in body but certainly not in mind and I love it there," says Gillian. "And it has given me the confidence to go and join other things."

Gillian is also now involved with the Community Health Forum, the Patients and Public Involvement group which visits health services, the Older People's Health and Safety Forum, the University of the Third Age, and Agewell.

"I don't think people realise what's out there," she says. "It's hard to take that first step but I'm glad I did."

## CREATING HEALTHY MINDS

**Sandwell MIND is raising awareness about mental health issues amongst workers and residents in Greet's Green.**

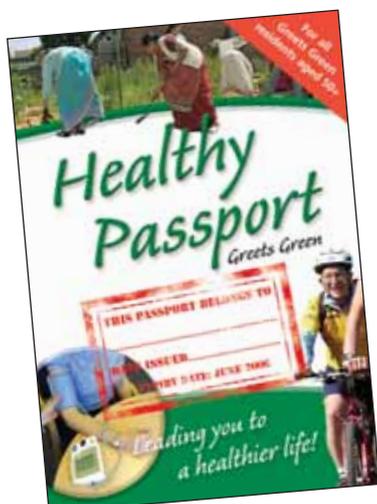
The mental health charity has organised 12 Healthy Minds training sessions in January, February and March for professionals, community organisations and local people living and working in Greet's Green.

Among those taking part are Greet's Green Partnership staff, community organisations, wardens, GP practices and Youth Forum members. Topics covered include recognising prejudices, looking at why people develop mental health problems and sometimes fail to access services, and dealing with difficult situations.

The aim is to raise awareness to reduce misunderstandings and ensure that local services are easily accessed.

For further details of forthcoming sessions, call Sandra Vaughan, Training & Development Manager at Sandwell MIND on 543 3930.

## PASSPORT TO A Healthier Lifestyle



**Aged over 50 and live in Greet's Green? Register for your FREE Healthy Passport today!**

Earn 'healthy points' which you can exchange for prizes.

Arrange a home accident assessment, a mediation check, enjoy a health walk or take part in an Extend class – plus lots more.

**Interested? Contact Maggie Turner, the Older People's Champion for Greet's Green or Terry Chikurunhe, Co-ordinator for Older People on 601 2208.**

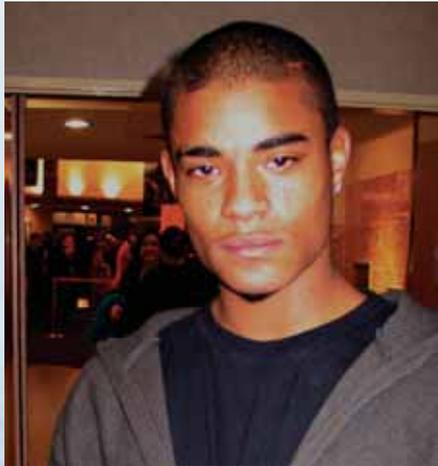
# GOING pUBLIC

The Public's eye-catching new building, which is set to open this Autumn in the heart of West Bromwich, is drawing attention from across the UK. But the real aim of the creative arts organisation is to make a big difference to local people through its wide-reaching community events and activities.



Having begun life in 1974 as Jubilee Arts, a small-scale community enterprise in West Bromwich, The Public was launched in 2003 to develop creative programmes to tackle a wide range of social issues.

Programmes include workshops, conferences, books, films, videos and highly visible arts activities, bringing local people together with artists.



Saul Augustus-Dore

One of The Public's recent programmes was the unique Civic Life film project which saw local people become film stars. Participants stepped out on the red carpet at the UCI Cinema, Merry Hill for the premier of 'Town Hall' last November.

Local resident, Saul Augustus-Dore, said: "Being involved in the film has been a stepping stone for me. I hope to get involved in a lot more creative projects." Emma Cartwright added: "I felt like a film star watching it in the cinema. It was cool to be in the film."



Film director Joe Lawlor.



A special edition double DVD which contains two films - 'Town Hall' and 'The Making of Town Hall' - is available from The Public by calling 525 6861 at a cost of £8.25 including postage.

A large scale screening of the film is now planned to precede the opening of the £53.9 million Public building which has received funding from various sources including a £2 million investment from Greets Green Partnership.

More than 1120 people have already had a sneak preview of the new building as open days and tours were held during 2005. A series of community briefings will take place across Sandwell this year when residents can find out how they'll be able to use the building on a daily basis.

#### The building will include:

- creative play and performance spaces
- a café, bar and restaurant
- offices and spaces for new creative industries
- The Public gallery.

School children and community groups are already working with the artists commissioned for the gallery to develop the artworks which will appear in it.

To find out more about The Public's programmes in Greets Green, call 525 6861.

The new Public building designed by Will Alsop.

If you would like your community group to be featured on this page, contact Communications Officer, Brian McKinstry, at Greets Green Partnership on Freephone 0800 953 0215 or email [brian\\_mckinstry@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:brian_mckinstry@sandwell.gov.uk)



Left to right: Reg Manning, Allen Salliss, Melvin Ward and Sal Ullah.

## Wood Lane Community Centre offers a great meeting place for everyone in Greets Green.

It's already home to a variety of groups and activities, ranging from bingo and kick boxing to coffee clubs and the Citizen's Advice Bureau. And over the forthcoming year it aims to encourage even more people to make the most of the community centre on their doorstep.

Wood Lane Community Centre is managed by Melvin Ward and the team also includes Administrator, Allen Salliss, Site Manager Sal Ullah and Development Worker, Reg Manning.

Reg is currently looking at ways to increase the number of activities and variety of groups who use the Centre, and urges anyone with ideas to drop in on Friday mornings between 10.00am and noon for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

These coffee mornings are a joint venture between the PCT's Community Development Worker, Joyce Hays and the Community Centre, when people can also learn about health issues and have a free health check.

He says: "Our coffee mornings are running every Friday until the end of April and we hope this will encourage people to call in and tell us what activities they would like to see at the Centre and in their community. The Centre is in the community, for the community."

The Community Centre has many facilities including a large hall which holds about 40 people seated for meetings, a meeting room upstairs and one downstairs which both double as training rooms, plus refreshments such as tea and coffee.

### What's on?

Among the organisations which already use the Community Centre for meetings are council, health and youth groups, and the weekly calendar of activities for local residents currently includes:

**Monday: Citizens Advice Bureau** staff available from 1.30pm-4.30pm to offer free advice to local residents; an **Over 50s group** from 4.30pm-5.30pm; and **kick boxing** for youngsters aged five upwards from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

**Tuesday: Smoking cessation** class from 6.00pm-7.00pm.

**Thursday: All Stars Dance Academy** for youngsters aged four to 18 years from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

**Friday: Coffee Morning** 10.00am - 12noon; **prize bingo** - doors open 6.00pm.

Wood Lane Community Centre can be contacted on 525 2772 or 525 2662 or email [woodlane@btconnect.com](mailto:woodlane@btconnect.com)

# A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Greets Green enjoys a very diverse community, and enabling and encouraging all local people to become a real part of their community, is at the heart of the Partnership's work. Three long awaited appointments are helping even more residents get involved.



## FAIZA FOCUSES ON PAKISTANI WOMEN

**New Pakistani Women's Development Officer, Faiza Mirza, was brought up in Greets Green and used to attend Guns Village Primary School. She hopes that her local knowledge will enable her to build on the work of her predecessor, Nadia Farhat and tackle any gaps in services for Pakistani women.**

Her work will include liaising with the Pakistani Women's Steering Group, with Pakistani Men's Development Officer, Imran Khan, and with service providers such as the various health and council departments.

"I'll be working closely with women in the community to see what kind of issues need to be addressed," says Faiza. "As a Greets Green resident, I understand the problems here because I face them myself on a day to day basis."

**I** To contact Faiza, call Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215 or mobile 07970 318032.

## African Caribbean Support

**The African Caribbean community in Greets Green is also set to benefit from having its own advocate with the appointment of Rachel McFee as African Caribbean Development Officer.**

A key aspect of Rachel's work will be with the African Caribbean Steering Group. "We're looking for new members and for younger members to come on board," Rachel adds. "We want it to be a voice where Greets Green residents can bring their problems and issues."

Another aim is to ensure people have access to the right training and access to services and information to help them develop their community groups.

Rachel has a background in community work and community research, and is a Director of OSCAR Sandwell, a Community Director of George Salter High School, and a Non Executive Director of the local Primary Care Trust.

**I** Rachel is based at Dorcas Housing at Court House on the High Street and can be contacted on 553 7737.



## Developing the Hindu Community

**The new Development Manager for the Krishna Community Forum, Hasmita Parmer, is working to develop services to meet the needs of the Hindu community, build the groups associated with the Shree Krishna Mandir, and encourage joint working with other communities in the area.**

"We're looking to refurbish the existing community building at the Krishna Temple and turn it into a community centre for everyone in Greets Green," she says. "We already have various courses taking place such as sports clubs, over 50s activities and advice workshops, and we want more people to use the centre."

Hasmita used to work for an Asian Women's project in West Bromwich and



is hoping to encourage more community working in Greets Green so that all local projects work together to benefit local people.

**I** To contact Hasmita, call Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215 or mobile 07970 318034.

# BUILDING SKILLS

**Young people are gaining vital work experience so that they can gain full-time jobs in the construction industry through a new training project.**

It can be hard for young people to gain apprenticeships even if they have completed college courses. The Building Skills in the Community project aims to bridge that gap by helping them combine college training with work experience.

The joint initiative by Greets Green Partnership, the Young Builders Trust, Sandwell College and Dudley College, is overseeing the training of almost 20 young people in construction industry skills.

Last summer, the project's recruits were assigned work placements with community organisations and completed a teambuilding activity break in Devon. Fourteen 16-19 year olds are now studying at Sandwell College towards their Foundation Construction Award, equivalent to NVQ Level 1, in brickwork or carpentry, and preparing to go out on work experience.

They can then either continue at college to gain an Intermediate Construction award, or gain employment and



on-the-job training to achieve their NVQ Level 2. Another two students are at Dudley College.

**I** The project hopes to start recruiting more young people from Greets Green later this year, and is currently appealing to any local contractors willing to offer work experience, at no cost to themselves, to get in touch. Call Shane Stevens on 07919 327545 or Chris Nightingale from the Young Builders Trust on 421 5514.



## Building a career

**Our cover star, Steve Wallington is one of the Building Skills in the Community trainees and had already completed a course at Dudley College when he joined the project. He's now studying towards NVQ Level 2 in Carpentry and working for Castle Carpentry on a construction site for new apartments in Bloxwich.**

He says Castle hopes to give him a full time job if they have a vacancy when he has completed his course, and believes the Building Skills in the Community project has helped him to make the leap between college and work.

"Before I was at college doing it on my own and I had to look for apprenticeships myself, and it's really difficult," he says. "Some of my mates had to pack it in because it's so hard to get apprenticeships. The project helps you with that."

Steve has enjoyed both college and his work as a carpenter and would definitely recommend the project to others: "I do different things every day and it's a challenge. I really enjoy it."



**Greets Green Partnership's new Housing Theme Leader is looking forward to involving local residents in driving forward the plans to improve housing.**

David Guy is responsible for delivering the Partnership's Housing Strategy and Action Plan to improve homes and the built environment for people in both public and private housing. This will include working with key partners including Sandwell Council, Sandwell Homes and Urban Living to create homes fit for the 21st century across the area.

David's appointment means the Housing Team is now up to strength and one of his first key tasks is to find a developer and work with residents on plans for new housing on Greets Green's clearance sites.

Having worked throughout the UK for housing associations, regeneration partnerships and local authorities, David was previously Regeneration Manager with Dudley Council.

He says: "I'm enjoying meeting a wide range of people who all want to see the quality and choice of housing available in Greets Green improved. I'm really looking forward to the challenges that I face. While I know it isn't going to be easy, it's very exciting to see how committed local residents and partners are to working with Greets Green Partnership to improve the area."

**I** For help and advice on any housing issue call the Housing Team on freephone 0800 073 0798.

## New Project To Clean Up

**Local people are being invited to join a steering group for Greets Green Partnership's brand new Cleaner Environment Project which is set to be launched soon.**

As cleanliness, litter and rubbish are a top priority for local people, the Partnership is working with Sandwell Council to reshape how the Council services which deal with these issues are provided. The aim is to address the long term problems of litter and rubbish in the area.

"The Council currently has teams of staff working on a rota basis to cover Greets Green as well as other areas in the Borough," explained Neighbourhood Manager, Rohit Mistry. "This new project will fund a four strong team who will be dedicated to Greets Green. This is the

first project of its kind in the Borough and we hope it will set the standard for other areas."

The multi-skilled team will deal with a broad range of issues including street cleansing, litter picking, basic graffiti removal, fly tipping, gully inspections and emptying litter bins. Funding has been provided by Greets Green Partnership to kickstart the project, but Sandwell Council has made a commitment to mainstream the project once the Partnership comes to an end.

**I** To guide the work of the team, a steering group made up of local people is being created and members are now needed. If you're interested in seeing a real difference made to local streets, call Rohit on 533 1866 to join the steering group.

## START COMPOSTING

**Composting at home can reduce the amount of rubbish you put out for collection and helps create a more beautiful garden.**

Instead of putting fruit and vegetable peelings, grass cuttings, garden prunings, eggshells, teabags, cardboard and even the contents of your vacuum cleaner in the bin, turn them into compost!



Sandwell Council is working with the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to offer local residents a great offer on compost bins during 2006:

- 220 litre compost converter - £4.00 (including home delivery)
- 330 litre compost converter - £6.00 (including home delivery)

**I** To order your compost bin call 0845 073 2001 (8.30am until 5.15pm). Each household is limited to ordering three compost bins.

### Garden Waste Collected

If you'd prefer your garden waste to be collected, call Contact Sandwell on 0845 359 7501 from 8.00am - 8.00pm on weekdays and 8.30am - 1.30pm on Saturdays.

Greets Green residents can book for up to six bags of garden waste to be collected and it's all composted and recycled into soil improver instead of being disposed of in landfill sites.

# LOOKING TO THE

**Greets Green Partnership is now in the sixth year of a 10 year regeneration programme and is making a huge difference to local residents of all ages. But what will happen when the Government funded New Deal for Communities programme comes to an end in 2010? We asked Ally Allerson, Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership to explain the plans for the future.**

“Throughout the life of Greets Green Partnership it’s been recognised that there’s a need and a desire to leave something lasting in the neighbourhood which can continue some of the work the Partnership programme has begun. This new organisation will be called Greets Green Community Enterprises.

“It won’t be able to cover everything, but it will certainly continue to bring various community groups together to enable them to have a stronger voice and influence decisions about their area.

“We hope Greets Green Community Enterprises will carry on things such as helping people into jobs, creating employment opportunities and maybe managing some of its own work space. We need to make sure that the new organisation has some assets under its control so that it can generate the income needed to run programmes in the community.

**The main aim of the organisation will be encouraging community ownership and leadership and enabling local people to play a role in their neighbourhood.**

“So far, we’ve got the company registered and a Shadow Board of local residents has been appointed by the Partnership Board. Over the next few months it will begin employing its own staff so that it can fill the place of the Partnership.

“Greets Green Partnership is achieving a great deal. We’ve improved the life chances of local people, especially young people, who are the next generation we want to live in the area. In the years to come, residents will see a revitalised, vastly improved neighbourhood coming into being through Greets Green Community Enterprises.”



## Meet the Shadow Board



**Gurbachan Dhinsa**



**Susan Bartleet-Cross**



**Fajli Bibi**



**Ann Coll**

# FUTURE



*The current Greets Green Partnership Board at a recent meeting.*

## **Gurbachan Dhinsa**

"We spent the first couple of years of the Partnership working hard to set projects up and making the community aware that we exist.

"I told everyone that we can't wave a magic wand but we will make things happen in Greets Green. Now people come to me and say 'you were right, things are being done'. I've lived in Greets Green for 30 years and have been involved in the Partnership from day one. What we promised is happening. Now I want to see it right through to the end which is why I'm involved in the Shadow Board. I want to leave something behind at the end of the Partnership."

## **Susan Bartleet-Cross**

"I've been a Business Representative on the Greets Green Partnership Board for several years and have seen the Partnership inject so much money into the area to improve it for all residents. It has stimulated jobs, made improvements in education and health and has

supported many new initiatives. But the Partnership won't be there forever.

"It's tried to make sure that new projects that are approved are sustainable which means that there needs to be an organisation here when the Partnership ends. I've worked for the West Bromwich Building Society in the Greets Green area for 28 years so I've had a lot of local involvement. We need Greets Green Community Enterprises to create an asset base so that money can continue to be ploughed back into the community."

## **Fajli Bibi**

"In August 2001 I was elected as Neighbourhood Rep for West Bromwich Central and Lodge Road and I've seen the changes the Partnership has made in these areas.

"The project which will make the biggest impact is still in the developmental stage though as a major housing plan is underway to regenerate the Edith Street area. So there's still such a lot about to

happen. Community work is my passion and I've been doing it since I was 12 years old. I've lived in Greets Green all my life and I don't want to see things go back to how they were when the Partnership ends. We must look at long term projects and put something ongoing in place which will carry on regenerating the area for years ahead."

## **Ann Coll**

"During the past four years I've been involved in lots of groups and organisations in the community and have got a real lot out of it. I wish I was 20 or 30 years younger so I could have used all the skills and confidence I've now gained to get a different job.

"I live on the Marlhole estate and community development is always something I've been interested in. The Partnership needs people to come forward and get involved. If the new organisation can carry on from the work which Greets Green Partnership has started, there'll be something good for the people of Greets Green in the future."

# POLICE ON THE ROAD

**Watch out for the two new high profile police vehicles which have hit the streets in Greets Green.**

Funded by Greets Green Partnership as part of its £½ million investment in the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, the new vehicles feature instantly recognisable Police livery as well as the Partnership logo. The aim is to give the Crime Fighting Team an even greater visible presence on local streets and estates so that would-be criminals are deterred and residents feel safer.

The marked Vauxhall Astra cars are being used to respond to incidents as well as to patrol the area to create a visible presence on the streets of Greets Green.

Sgt Panesar-Grix explained: "These cars will dramatically assist with the work that the Team are doing. In addition to the Police markings, they also have the Partnership's logo which further identifies them as the Greets Green



*Phil Hartley, Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader, with the Greets Green Partnership sponsored police vehicles and members of the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team.*

Crime Fighting Team's cars.

help to reduce it further still."

"We've already seen a significant drop in crime since the Team was launched last year and we hope that these vehicles will

**i** You can contact Greets Green's Crime Fighting Team on 0845 113 5000.

## Local Bobby Returns

**Local teams are being set up so that every neighbourhood in Sandwell has its own dedicated team of Police and local authority staff to provide a visible and accessible point of contact. To do this, we need you to let us know what issues matter in your area.**

A public consultation event is being held at West Bromwich Town Hall on Monday 20th March at 6.30pm. Residents will find out more about what Neighbourhood Management is and can vote electronically using hand-held devices on issues that concern them. The main issues identified by residents will be prioritised and put into action from April.

**i** For more details, contact Kate Guest on 0845 113 5000.

## Operation Rednose

**Operation Rednose proved a big success for the Greets Green Crime Fighting Team during December with between 80 and 90 people being stopped in connection with suspicious activity.**

The aim was to provide a high visibility Police presence by Officers patrolling on foot. This helped to prevent crime and raise reassurance amongst local people.

The Operation's second phase saw the Team visiting each home in the Greets Green area to find out what residents believe the issues are which the Police should be dealing with. All the information received will now be used to address the community's concerns.

Residents were also asked to take part in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, but unfortunately few came forward. "I'd urge all members of the Greets Green community to sign up



to this scheme which has so many advantages," said Sgt Panesar-Grix.

**i** For more details about Neighbourhood Watch, call the Crime Fighting Team on 0845 113 5000.

# KICK OFF FOR FOOTBALL PROJECT

**A community football worker based with the Baggies aims to score plenty of goals in Greets Green by encouraging young people to take part in the sport.**

Russel Smith has been employed by West Bromwich Albion for three years to run the Hat Trick Community Football Project in Greets Green.

The aim is to make football more accessible to everyone across the area through a whole range of initiatives including school holiday soccer courses, after school clubs, match day activities, junior teams, adult and girls' teams.

Russel has already been in touch with local schools and hopes to have a whole range of schemes in place over the coming year – ranging from a league for schools to training for people interested in becoming coaches.

He said: "I'm trying to create a network of opportunities for the Greets Green community to play

and participate in football at all levels. It's about people being healthier, being involved, doing more activity and playing more sport. Everyone can relate to football."

In the past, Russel has worked with Manchester United, helping out when talent scouts brought young footballers from abroad. He also helped identify young talent at Stoke City.

Hat Trick is bringing together the Football Association, UEFA, Greets Green Partnership, Sandwell Council and West Bromwich Albion on a local level, but is part of a national scheme.

**i** For further details of how to get involved, call Russel on 08700 662 840 (local rate) or mobile 07904 588095.



## Food for thought!

**Community groups, businesses and schools in Greets Green are being invited to apply for funds to run healthy eating projects.**

There's a whole menu of ideas to choose from including creating healthy lunch boxes and tuck shops, running allotment projects, fruit and veg stalls and community cookery classes. Alternatively groups may have their own recipe for promoting healthy eating as part of the Food 4 U project in Greets Green.

Grants from the scheme's Food Action Fund range from £50 for one-off events to £500 for larger projects. Groups which are successful with larger projects can apply for further grants of up to £1,000 from July.

Greets Green Food 4 U Co-ordinator, Peter Turvey says: "The Food Action Fund has been set up to help local groups come up with ideas and projects that are community led."

**i** For further details about the grants and how to apply, speak to your local Neighbourhood or Community Rep or contact Peter direct on 07814 262055 or email Peter.Turvey@rrt-pct.nhs.uk

## Alarms provide protection



**Greets Green Crime Fighting Team is joining forces with Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN) to help combat domestic violence.**

**The Team has purchased 'bleep' alarms which, following an initial assessment, are being installed in the homes of local domestic violence victims to provide further protection and reassurance.**

**i To find out more, contact SWAN on 553 7074.**

# CHRISTMAS CHEER

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Greets Green Christmas Festival go with a whoosh and a bang.

Held on Saturday 3rd December in the Memorial Gardens, the event saw families visiting Santa's grotto, enjoying local choirs, bands and entertainers, and even having their faces turned into festive wrapping paper!

The event culminated in Tom Watson MP switching on the Greets Green Christmas lights with a fabulous firework finale – a fitting end to a fantastic day.

**If you'd like to join the Events Steering Group to help plan future events, call Greets Green Partnership on 0800 953 0215.**



# NEW BASE FOR OUTREACH TEAM

Formerly based at 117 Claypit Lane, Greets Green's Neighbourhood Outreach Team has now moved to a new base at the Partnership offices at Court House on the High Street.

As the team works in the community, they're often out and about rather than being in the office. Their mobile numbers are listed below or you can call any member of the team on 533 5060/5058/5059 or freephone 0800 953 0215. If they're not available, please leave a message and they'll get back to you.

## The team comprises:

<b>Bob Lloyd,</b> Neighbourhood Support Officer: 07967 378665	<b>Harshad Patel,</b> Neighbourhood Support Worker: 07810 850852
<b>Simon Ware,</b> Neighbourhood Support Worker: 07810 850851	<b>Imran Khan,</b> Pakistani Men's Development Officer: 07973 370490
<b>Allison Franks,</b> Neighbourhood Support Worker: 07967 378654	<b>Faiza Mirza,</b> Pakistani Women's Development Officer: 07970 318032



Left to right: Harshad Patel, Allison Franks, Bob Lloyd and Simon Ware.

# TRANSATLANTIC LINK UP



**George Salter High School led the way when it took part in a pioneering link up with a school in the USA as part of Teen Read Week.**

Thanks to Greets Green Partnership's links with the Chicago Public Schools Office, pupils at George Salter were invited to get involved with Teen Read Week which is organised by the American Library Association to encourage teenagers to discover new books.

The School arranged a video conference with the Young Women's Leadership Charter High School in Chicago to share their likes and dislikes about books. Students were able to chat about their favourite authors and make some transatlantic friendships.

## CAPS in use

**The first community groups have already started making the most of the new Community Access Point (CAP) at Newtown Primary School.**

The new facility was officially launched by the Mayor of Sandwell on 21st January when more than 300 residents came along to discover what's available at the CAP and to enjoy a range of entertainment and activities including displays from the Manic Mutts line dancing troupe, a town crier and the Sea Cadets.

A local parent and toddler group, plus Newtown Primary breakfast club were quick to sign up to use the facilities on a regular basis and have already started meeting at the CAP each week.

Facilities include a computer suite, meeting and function rooms, a relaxing area, kitchen and a multi sensory room. Community Learning Worker, Sandra Brown is keen for as many local people as possible to use the venue and is inviting residents to give her a call on 07969 918253 to find out more.



*The new Breakfast Club at Newtown Primary in action!*

**i** The new Community Access Point at Lyng Primary School, which offers similar facilities, is being officially opened in March. Contact Community Learning Worker, Anita Evans on 07969 918269 to book for your community group to use this superb venue.

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

## SET UP A GROUP

**Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN) is looking to set up new groups for local people throughout the year.**

Any women interested in forming a group about any issue should contact SWAN on 553 7074 or visit the SWAN base at the STA Building on Phoenix Street.

## New Training Centre

**Greets Green residents looking for work now have a new service to help them make the most of training and job vacancies.**

Race Equality Sandwell (RES) has set up an Employment Training Centre which provides laptops for internet job searches, daily papers and information to help people find work in and around Sandwell.

Located at the RES offices in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, the service also has employment support officers on hand, and offers motivation and confidence building workshops and employment away days to help people back into work.

For further information call Beverley on 541 1775.



## DOUBLE CELEBRATION

**A local wallpaper shop is enjoying a double celebration – it has won a top award and is now looking forward to its 40th anniversary.**

Decoron in High Street, Carters Green, won silver in the Best Décor Retailer category of Britain's Best Retailer Awards 2005, after being nominated by a mystery person.

Director Mark Welch says: "We're officially second best in the country! To this day we don't know who nominated us so it came as quite a shock. Then in August we celebrate 40 years in business as well, so it'll be quite an eventful year. We hope to have a good week of celebrations leading up to our birthday."

Mark says the shop prides itself on customer service and, following a recent expansion, has 500 different ranges on site plus more than 15,000 designs available to customers from its pattern books.

Contact Decoron on 553 3707.

## FUNDRAISING GOAL SCORED

**A football tournament organised by the Guru Nanak Community Centre has raised more than £200 for victims of the devastating earthquake in Asia.**

Eight teams took part in the event at George Salter High School in November in a hotly contested tournament which was won by a team from the Yemeni Community Association. Also taking part were two teams from the Guru Nanak Community Centre itself, three teams from the Pakistani community, one from the Bangladeshi community and one from the Sikh community.

Guru Nanak Community Centre Manager, Baljit Singh, said: "We have a youth forum and when they heard about the earthquake they wanted to do something to help which involved bringing together all the communities. Football was the best way to do that and it was a really excellent day."

The money will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Asia Quake Appeal.

## Going Pink

**Thank you to all the staff at Greets Green Partnership who helped to raise more than £100 during Breast Cancer Awareness Month last October.**

**A number of activities were held including 'Pink Badge Week', 'Pink Sweet Week' and 'Pink Quiz Week'. The events were all organised by Health Development Facilitator, Sally Sandel with support from Sam Watts and Herdip Khangura at the Partnership.**

# LEARNDIRECT AT SWEDA

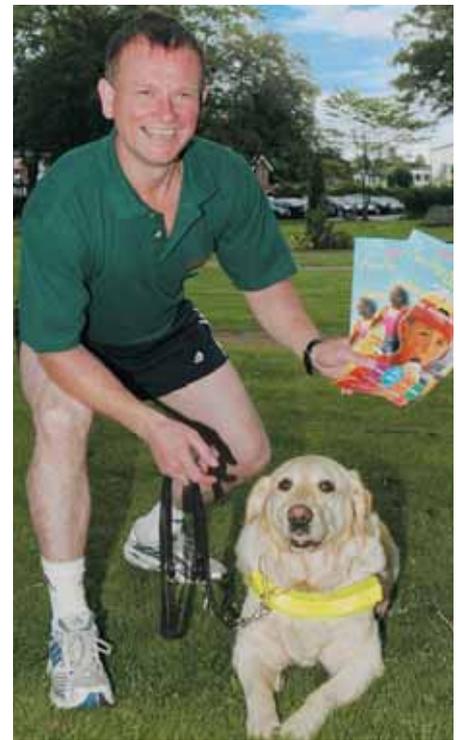
**Sandwell Women's Enterprise and Development Agency (SWEDA) is offering a range of Learndirect courses through partnership working with Jobchange Lone Parents Project.**

It enables SWEDA to offer free nationally recognised Level 2 Literacy, Numeracy and IT Courses through Learndirect, in addition to its existing in-house training.

IT Trainer and Personal Advisor, Malissa Lewis-Francis says: "It's very useful because we're able to incorporate the courses with the advice and guidance we're providing our clients. If someone needs to brush up on IT skills we can incorporate Learndirect courses as part of their programme."

SWEDA is also currently part way through a six month pilot project enabling it to offer free support for teenagers as well as adults. Funding from Black Country Connexions is allowing SWEDA to offer 13-19 year olds a range of services to help them into work, including support with CVs, confidence building, interviews and IT training.

For further information about courses or help available from SWEDA, call 525 2558.



## Cover Star

**Do you remember the magazine's July/August 2004 cover star, blind runner, Dave Heeley?**

The sporting star is one of our long standing local heroes and he was devastated when his guide dog, Carla, was diagnosed with cancer recently. It costs £35,000 to keep a guide dog with its partner for its entire working life, so if you'd like to donate to Guide Dogs for the Blind, please call 0118 983 5555.

## CORRECTION

The December page in the Greets Green Partnership calendar 2006 features a quote from local resident, Winston Smikle but a photograph of resident, Aston Fleming. We apologise for this mix up along with any inconvenience it has caused.

## Meeting Beats

**A new anthem for Sandwell was premiered by 40 young musicians following an innovative project exploring the power of percussion.**

The young musicians worked with experts including Drumlove, Gurcharan Mall and Jahman Sillah, creating music with both their own and new percussion instruments, including African drums and steel pans.

The weekly sessions were organised by The Public as part of its Meeting Beats project, and led to an exciting premier of their work at George Salter

High School in December. Suzanne Henderson, Creative Learning Project Developer at The Public, said: "Their commitment and willingness to learn and try out new instruments has been inspirational."

The weekly music workshops are continuing this year. Anyone interested can contact Suzanne on 525 6861.

## Looking for gardeners

The Children & Families Programme wants to build an extra special place for children at its new Children's Centre at the back of Ryders Green Primary School and is looking for helpers.

An area has put aside to develop an environmentally friendly and stimulating place in which children can play. If you are a budding garden designer, then please join the team to help the special place become a reality. Call Jenny or Micho on 553 6415.

## RESIDENTS WANTED FOR FAMILY PHOTOS

**For a few years, locally based photographer, Catherine Tarbuck has been working in Greets Green on photographic projects about the people who live and work in the area. Now she's looking to launch a new project about local people.**

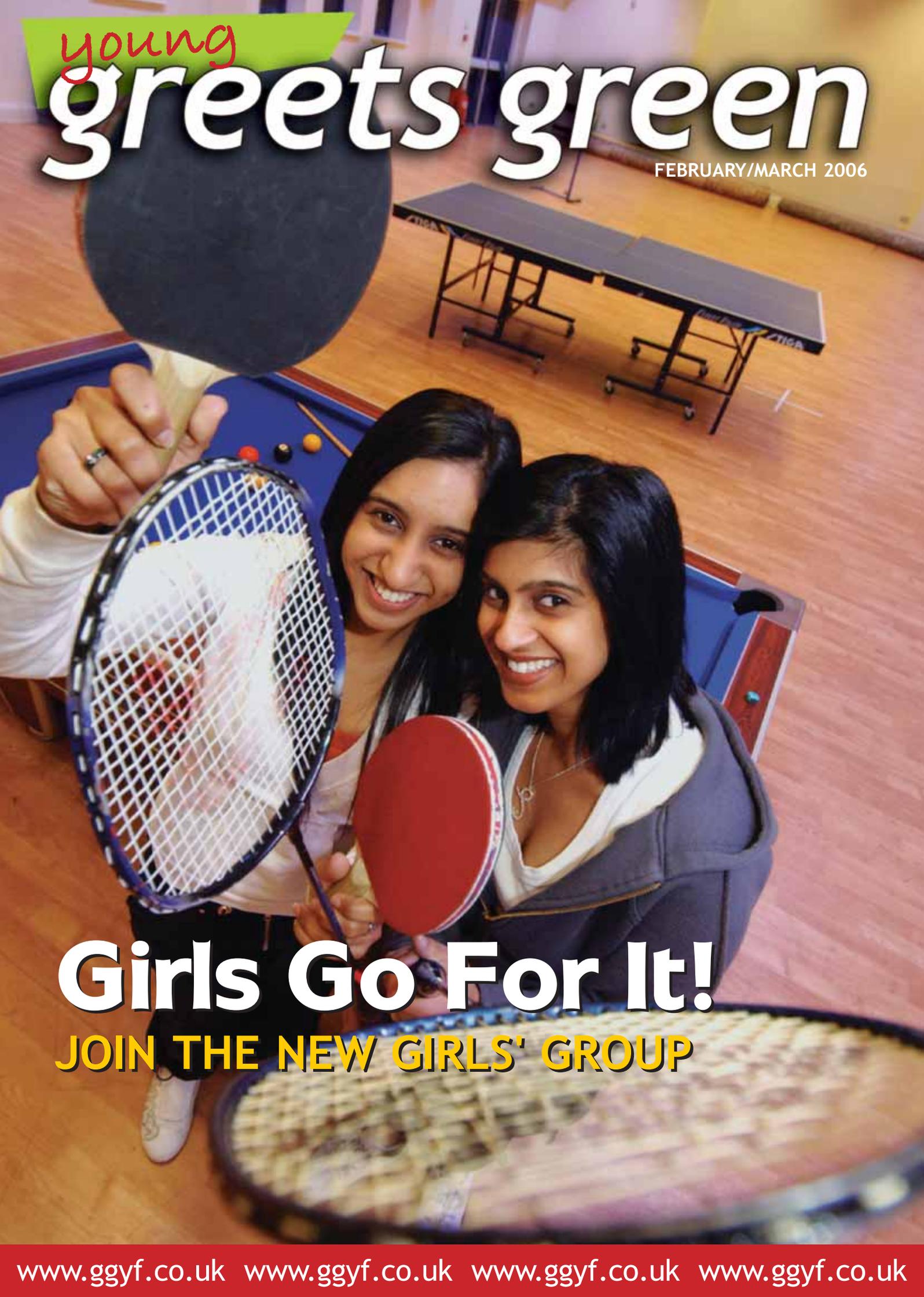
"I'm really keen to talk to families in Greets Green who'd like to take part in a photographic project about themselves and their homes," she says. "I've met some really interesting people over the last few years and would like to build up a bigger picture about the people who live in Greets Green as a way of recording the area during its regeneration and change."

To find out more, call Catherine on 553 6862.

Flip  
magazine  
for 'Young  
Greets  
Green'

# young greet's green

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2006

A photograph of two young women with dark hair, smiling and posing for the camera. They are in a gymnasium, holding tennis rackets. The woman on the left is holding a blue and white racket, while the woman on the right is holding a red racket. In the background, there is a pool table and a ping pong table. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

## Girls Go For It!

### JOIN THE NEW GIRLS' GROUP

# COME ON GIRLS!

A great night of games, activities, sport and fun is now up and running at the Guru Nanak Community Centre on Victoria Street and the best thing about it? – it's just for girls!

Sisters (and Greets Green Youth Forum members) Sandy and Amy Bahat have launched the girls' night which takes place every Thursday. Any girls aged 11-20 can come along after school until 6pm and enjoy activities such as pool, a dance mat, badminton or table tennis.

The Guru Nanak Community Centre underwent a major refurbishment last year and all its facilities are now brand new. Girls aged 16 and over can use the health and fitness zone which includes a fully equipped gym with its own showers.

Plus, there's a Community Learning Centre with computers for doing homework, surfing or playing games.

"For some reason it's hard to get girls out and doing things which is a shame because there's so many great facilities at the Community Centre which they can use every Thursday," says Sandy. "I don't think girls realise how much fun they can have here."

Both Sandy and Amy are currently doing a 12 week Active For Life programme funded by Greets Green Partnership which looks at fitness and lifestyle. At the end, they'll be qualified to help girls understand how to exercise safely in the gym and can offer advice on healthy eating and living.

"We really want to get as many girls as possible to come along, meet their friends, have a chat and enjoy all our facilities," Sandy adds. "Come on girls!"



Want to find out more? Call the Guru Nanak Community Centre on 525 6923.

## Pupils on the case



**Pupils at George Salter High School had the chance to take fingerprints as part of a "crime scene" workshop led by a forensic scientist.**

All Year 9 students at the School took part in the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) workshop, designed to enable pupils to have fun while learning about the practical applications of science.

The workshop was delivered by a professional company and used forensic crime scene based scenarios. During the morning students were taught how to take fingerprints, hair and blood samples, plus footprint samples. They then visited a 'crime scene' and put into practice their skills to solve a 'crime'.

One pupil said: "I loved it all and would love to be a forensic scientist."

The event was funded by Sandwell Education Business Partnership's WorkWise Project.

Contact WorkWise on 569 2347.

# Honour for young hero



**When Ashley Winsper was named Young Person's Champion at the Greets Green Christmas Festival, it was a surprise to him but not to his friends on the Youth Forum.**

The 15 year old George Salter High School pupil is known as someone who is the first to arrive for Greets Green Youth Forum meetings and the last to leave – always keen to help.

Ashley, who is also a member of Sandwell Youth Parliament and represents young people on the Hamblets Residents' Group, was presented with a £10 WH Smith voucher and says: "Getting the award was a total surprise. It's made me feel really good. It's not something that happens every day."

He says the reason he is so dedicated to his work representing young people in the community is because "it's interesting and you get to meet new people and see different things" – and because he wants to help give young people a voice on issues that concern them.

He also wants to help redress the balance. "You get



residents and the older generation blaming things on young people, which I think is quite unfair," he says.

Sandy Bahat, Chair of the Youth Forum, who nominated Ashley for the award, says it's well deserved: "Ashley came down to the Sk8 Park on Saturdays last year even though he wasn't a member of the Youth Forum and kept volunteering and helping out. He then joined the Forum.

"He's one of those people who just does it all without waiting to be asked and without expecting recognition. Everyone likes him and gets on with him."

# WIN A GOODIE BAG!

**Need a new bag?** Simply complete our wordsearch below and you could win a Greets Green Partnership string bag and goodies. All you have to do is find the 10 words listed below in the grid. Don't forget, they can appear forwards, backwards or diagonally.

Circle them and send your entry to: Goodie Bag Competition, FREEPOST GREETS GREEN PARTNERSHIP (no stamp required). The first five correct entries out of the hat will each win a bag.

SUGABABES	G	P	C	G	G	L	A	W	J	P
GORILLAZ	R	K	F	O	B	O	E	K	S	L
MADONNA	E	W	T	R	L	S	G	E	O	O
COLDPLAY	C	A	D	I	T	D	B	T	E	N
EMINEM	N	S	R	L	S	A	P	M	L	M
SHAYNE WARD	O	X	I	L	B	I	I	L	O	J
WESTLIFE	Y	F	R	A	N	N	O	D	A	M
USHER	E	D	G	Z	E	N	C	F	J	Y
BEYONCE	B	U	N	M	U	S	H	E	R	N
AKON	S	H	A	Y	N	E	W	A	R	D



Closing date: Friday 3rd March 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



# getting **STUCK** IN



**"It's not good enough talking about things, we need to get them done!"**

That's what the new Chair of Greets Green Youth Forum, Sandy Bahat believes as she starts to get stuck in to introducing new ideas for young people. Sandy, aged 24, has been involved in the Youth Forum for a few years and wanted to become Chair so that she could really make things happen.

She explains: "It's time for change. It's often the same people who go along to meetings, so I want to look at how to spread that information more widely so that more people know what's going on locally."

"I'm really interested in health issues - talking about health, sharing information and getting young people fitter too. I'm also keen to do something for the 18-24 age group. They're often the ones who need to access information such as how to get a job, what their options are or single parent issues, but they might not know how to find it. I'd like to set up some advice sessions for them."

A full-time Manager at McDonald's, Sandy still finds plenty of time to dedicate to the Youth Forum. "Youth work is an area I'm very interested in and I think I'll always be involved in the community," she says.

She's made the most of her years in the Youth Forum so far including a 'Stewarding at Public Events' course and she has completed the introduction to Youth & Community Work course.

## ARE YOU DRUG AWARE?

Young people in Greets Green are to be trained to deliver drugs awareness education to their own age group.

The scheme is being managed by DECCA - the Drug Education, Counselling and Confidential Advice team - supported by the Health and Crime and Community Safety

Themes at Greets Green Partnership. Students from George Salter High School and members of Greets Green Youth Forum are being encouraged to participate in the project.

The aim is to see whether a peer-led approach to drugs education will help to divert young people away from substance misuse, as the idea is that young people are more likely to listen to, confide in and speak more freely with people their own age.

Peer educators aged 14 to 25 years are being recruited and will undertake a three month course learning about the four main drugs affecting young people - alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and volatile substances. They'll also develop the skills needed to teach the facts so that others their age can make informed choices.

Participants can then decide whether to undertake further training before moving on to use their knowledge in formal or informal settings, such as in classrooms or through youth work. Their qualifications will be nationally recognised and could also lead to paid employment in the field.

To find out more, call Jon Bull at DECCA on 0845 838 5317.

Sandy adds: "I helped out as a steward at the wheelchair basketball championships at the NIA for a few days last year and really, really enjoyed it. Now I'm on a mission to get the Youth Forum even more active."

The Youth Forum is looking for more young people aged 11-25 to get involved. Give them a call on 525 9509 for more details.



# Symphony Casts Spell Over Pupils

**Pupils from Greets Green primary schools were left spellbound by a trip to Birmingham's Symphony Hall.**

Youngsters from all five primary schools - Ryders Green, Lodge, Lyng, Guns Village and Newtown – attended a performance of Prokofiev's children's classic, 'Peter and the Wolf' by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Lodge Primary School class teacher, Chris Perry said: "The children were very impressed with the venue and couldn't get over how many different instruments there were. They were quite gripped by the music. All the children said they'd like to go again."

A range of classroom activities last term led up to the schools' concert in December, including the chance to have a CBSO player visit pupils in class. Lodge Primary School was visited by a viola player who led music and singing games with the children.

The concerts for primary school pupils are held twice a year and CBSO Education Manager, Keith Stubbs hopes the children of today will be inspired to become the audiences of the future.

"Hopefully it will increase their understanding and enjoyment of music," he said.

The Peter and the Wolf project follows the Greets Green Vocal Skills scheme, which has seen more than 300 pupils from the primary schools and George Salter High School get in tune through choir singing supported by specialist Sandwell Youth Music staff.



**Lodge Primary School pupils' thoughts about the concert:**

"I enjoyed watching the CBSO, but it was loud."

MANDEEP SHARMA

"Symphony Hall was massive and it echoed."

ADEEL HUSSAIN

"We heard lots of instruments, like the celeste, violin and tambourine."

SAMINA KHATUN

"I liked the clarinet, but some of the instruments were very loud."

STEPHANIE SWANN

"I liked it when the dog ate the duck."

GURSHARAN UPPAL

"Peter and the Wolf was written by Prokofiev in 1936. In it, Peter and the Hunters trap a wolf."

SAMIHA TASNIM

