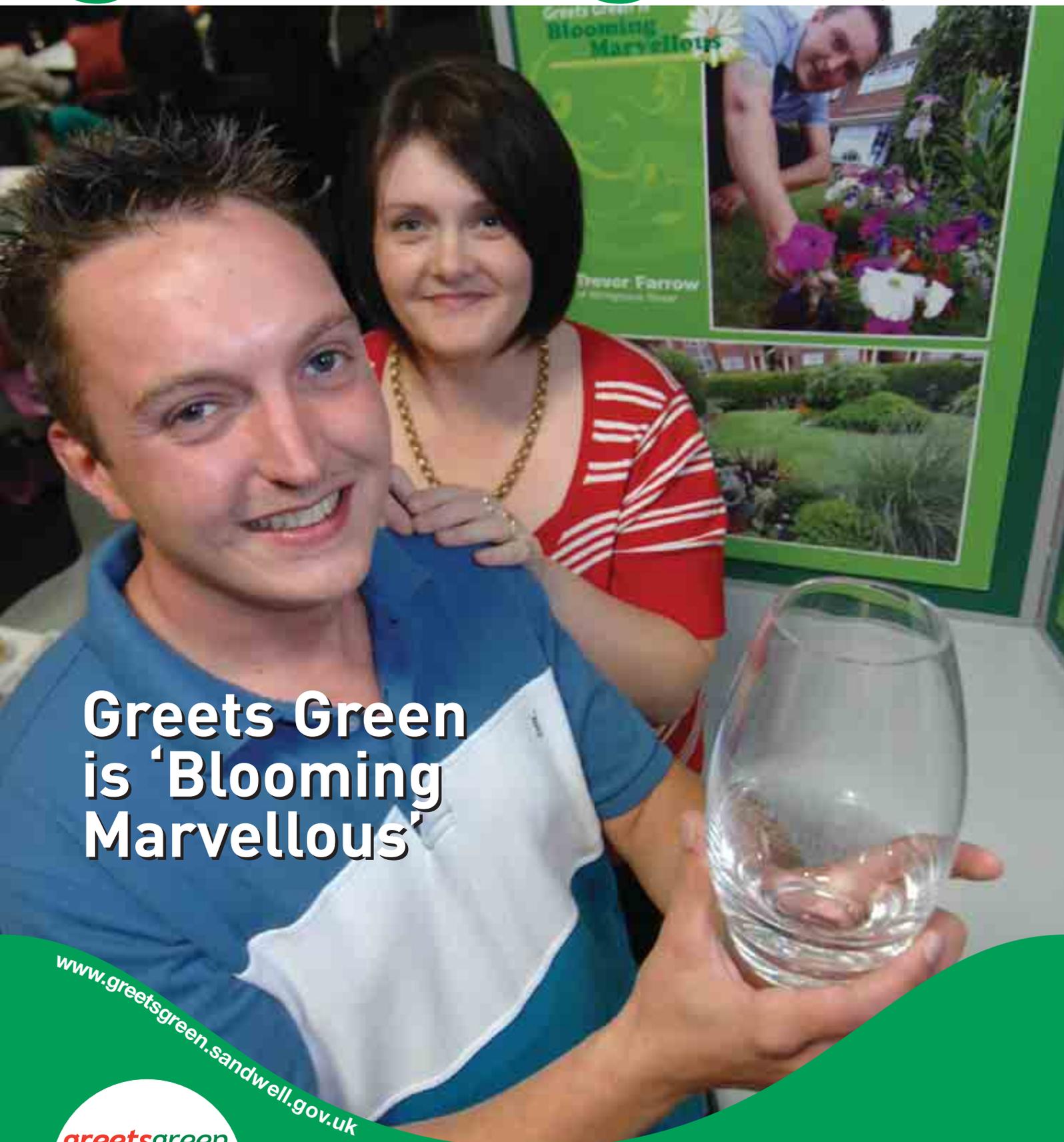


greetsgreen

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008



Greetsgreen is 'Blooming Marvellous'

www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk



The popular Small Sites project returns to Greetsgreen see page 6

There's still time to apply for a business grant see page 11

Meet the two new Police Community Support Officers see page 15

Front cover: *Local resident, Trevor Farrow is pictured with his commemorative vase presented to him and other 'Blooming Marvellous' winners at our celebration event at George Salter Collegiate Academy.*

Magazine Contact Details:

Greets Green Partnership, Ground Floor,
Court House, 335-337 High Street,
West Bromwich B70 8LU
Freephone 0800 953 0215
Tel (Main Reception): 0121 533 3188

Brian McKinstrie,
Communications & PR Manager,
T: 0121 532 6835
E: brian_mckinstrie@sandwell.gov.uk

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Creative Marketing Solutions

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এ তথ্যাদি অনুবাদে আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হলে, দয়া করে ইংরেজী জানেন এমন একজন বন্ধু বা আত্মীয়কে আমাদেরকে 0800 953 0215 এ নাম্বারে ফোন করতে বলুন।

આ માહિતીના ભાષાંતરમાં જો તમને મદદ જોઈતી હોય, તો કૃપા કરીને અંગ્રેજી બોલતા કોઈ મિત્ર કે કુટુંબીજનને કહો કે અમને 0800 953 0215 ઉપર ફોન કરે..

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨੀ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੋਸਤ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਨੂੰ 0800 953 0215 ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਹੋ।

اگر ان معلومات کے ترجمے میں آپ کو مدد درکار ہو تو انگریزی بولنے والے کسی دوست یا گھر کے کسی فرد سے کہیں کہ وہ ہم سے 0800 953 0215 پر بات کرے۔

إن رغبتم بالحصول على مساعدة على ترجمة هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلبوا من صديق أو من أحد أفراد الأسرة ممن يتحدثون اللغة الإنجليزية الاتصال بنا على الهاتف . 0800 953 0215

Dear Resident

What an exciting time we've just had with the launch of the Greets Green Community Cookbook and the Blooming Marvellous showcase event! See centre pages for details.

We're sure the cookbook will encourage many more people to start eating more healthily when they read the great recipes which lots of local people have been cooking. And now that so many residents' gardens have been on show, there'll be no stopping the rest of us with our spades!

People are working together right across Greets Green. Turn to the Community Page to see how several of the leading community organisations are now joining forces.

When we look back at this summer, we may consider it dismal due to the awful weather, but youngsters across Greets Green didn't let the rain dampen their spirits. They got active in all sorts of ways – read all about it on page 20. As ever, you'll find lots of ideas for activities you can take part in on your doorstep. Make the most of them!

BRIAN MCKINSTRIE

Communications & PR Manager, Greets Green Partnership

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Greets Green

Christmas Festival

Saturday 6th December
1.00pm - 5.00pm
Memorial Gardens, High Street



- Live entertainment
- Community and information stalls
- Refreshments
- Santa's grotto
- Fireworks
- Switching on of the West Bromwich Christmas lights *and lots more!*

Watch out for more details or call Navida Bukhari at Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215 to get involved.

FOCUSING ON CITIZENSHIP

The next in the series of free seminars organised by Greets Green Partnership to promote community cohesion takes place on Wednesday 22nd October.

The seminar is being held at the Bethel Church in Gads Lane from 10.00am-3.30pm. Places are limited and do need to be pre-booked. Contact Abdul Monim Khan on freephone 0800 953 0215.

Community Services Worker, Abdul Monim Khan, says its aim is to "raise awareness and understanding of what citizenship means in 21st century multi-cultural Britain."

The event is for residents, local community groups and voluntary organisations, faith groups and statutory agencies to explore the idea of citizenship.

"Citizenship means different things to different people," explains Abdul. "The seminar will look at what the Government means by citizenship and what it might mean locally for groups trying to promote

good citizenship. It will also examine the rights and responsibilities of a citizen."

It follows the first in the seminar series which looked at the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Confirmed speakers so far include:- the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Bob Price; Councillor John Edwards; Dave Allport of the Rewind project; Dr Chris Allen of Birmingham Race Action Partnership (brap) and University of Wolverhampton; Roger McKenzie of TUC Midlands and Gary Bowman, Director of Sandwell Partnership.



Moving on...

A project which has made a big difference to the lives of local young parents will continue its work after funding comes to an end.

BABY LOVE

Bringing up baby



Life is a lot brighter for young parents in Greets Green thanks to a range of activities and services.

Louise Andrews, Development Worker for the Teenage Pregnancy project, is running a number of services in the area, some aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies and others at supporting young people who are pregnant or have already become parents.

A condom distribution scheme and drop-in sessions are up and running at the YMCA, and Louise is now working on setting up a project with George Salter High School. She's also currently developing a sex education programme which will be run at Wood Lane and Lodge Road youth clubs.

Louise says: "There's also a young parents' support group which is run at the YMCA for young mums and dads. And there's a Young Parents Forum website which is active at the moment, but is being developed further to include a message board."

A website launch is in the pipeline, but why not take a look now at www.members.lyoss.co.uk/youngparentsforum/

* Any pregnant teenagers or young parents who would like to get involved with the young parents' support group can contact Louise on 07813 319510.

Support has changed me

Kelly Robinson, aged 18, started going to the support group when she was pregnant with her first baby Micky, now 20 months old.

She said: "Lou helped me get back into training with Sandwell New Horizons. She helped me leave home and get my own house and things - she's helped me so much. Before I used to be really shy, but I don't shut up now - I'm the loudest one in the group!"

Kelly says she has really changed because of the support she's had from Louise and the other parents in the group. "I really enjoy the trips out, such as taking the children swimming and into the city centre. I'd experienced other young parents get involved. I'm having another baby now, but I'm determined to go back to college once I have had it."

Find the courage & go along!

Jenna Edwards, aged 20, started going to the group when her baby Lana was about three months old - she's now 16 months.

Jenna said: "I think it's helped me with my confidence and with going to school. I used to stay in the house all the time and only go to my family. I've found it quite easy having my daughter because my sister has five children, but I enjoy talking to other parents about things they do because people bring their children up differently."

"If young people can find the courage to go along to the group to start with, they will enjoy it. I only started going because my sister-in-law went, but I'm definitely glad I did."



The Greets Green Teenage Pregnancy project was set up in 2006 with funding from Greets Green Partnership and was delivered by Sandwell Youth Services.

Since then it's been tackling the issues of teenage pregnancy and offering support to hundreds of young parents in the Greets Green area. It's proved so important that although the Partnership funding has come to an end, the work will carry on.

Sandwell Youth Services Teenage Pregnancy Development Worker, Louise Andrews, said: "When the project began it had two main aims - to support young parents and young parents-to-be and to prevent teenage pregnancies.

"Successful partnership work and the enthusiasm and motivation of the young people have ensured the project has

been a success." During the last two and a half years the project has offered information, advice and support to more than 300 young parents and young parents-to-be from the local area.

It has worked to prevent teenage pregnancies by delivering sex and relationships education in a wide range of local youth venues including Lodge Road Community Centre, Wood Lane Community Centre and George Salter Collegiate Academy.

Drop-in services have also been developed where young people can call in for help and advice. Plus, condom distribution projects have been set up across Greets Green.

More than 1,000 young people from Greets Green have been offered information and informal education around sex and relationships. And that's not all!

You can still get help!

Even though funding for the Greets Green Teenage Pregnancy project has now ended, young people and young parents can still receive information, advice and support in several ways:

- Young Parents Group: open to men and women aged 16 – 25 who have children or who are expecting children. Social trips and activities. Based at West Bromwich YMCA in Carters Green.
- Parents United -Young Parents Forum: Meets monthly at the YMCA (see story on page 5).
- Sex and Relationships Education – local youth workers have been trained to provide information and advice, along with condom distribution, through local youth clubs.

For more information about any of the above, please contact Sue Wilson, Teenage Pregnancy Team Co-ordinator on 0121 569 8414 or Samantha Guy, Young Parents Group Community Worker at the YMCA on 0121 524 1950.

The group has made a

Gemma's Story

Gemma, aged 20, who has daughters aged two years and six months, has been attending the Young Parents Group for around 18 months.

in all my exams. I'm now happier in myself, more determined to succeed and am looking forward to carrying on at college."

She said: "Before I started coming to the group I didn't have many friends and no self-confidence. It got me out of my house and gave me somewhere to go with my daughter where I would feel comfortable. It was good to be around people who also had kids.

"After coming to the group I've more confidence in myself, in being a mom and in making new friends. I went to college last year and I got quite a few qualifications. I've done an Essential Office Skills course and I got distinctions





Around 50 young mums and dads have attended the Young Parents Group at the YMCA.

Samantha Guy, Teenage Parents Group Community Worker for the YMCA said: "As the most successful group of its type in Sandwell it's very important it continues. We've secured funding till the end of the year and are making plans to continue the group at the YMCA in the longer term."

The group has really gone from strength to strength with some young parents going back to school or college to learn new skills, and others starting work.

Recently, members of the group completed their Introduction to Youth Work qualifications and two members are about to pass on the skills they've learnt by becoming sessional youth workers and running other young parents' groups.

The funding for the project may have finished, but the work is still going strong.



Parents are united

Parents across Greets Green are becoming united thanks to the Teenage Pregnancy project.

Last year, a Young Parents Forum, Parents United, was set up which meets once a month at the YMCA. It's open to any young parents or young parents-to-be from the Greets Green area. Members run the group themselves and plan trips and activities for local young parents.

As well as providing a chance for young parents to meet others, the Forum is also working to tackle inequalities in services provided for young parents.

difference to my life...

Sarah's Story

Sarah, aged 20, has a two year old daughter. She's been coming to the group for a year. "When I first started the group I was new to West Bromwich," she explains. "I had low self-esteem and not much confidence. I knew one girl here who introduced me to the group.

I've now made loads of new friends, have completed my Introduction to Youth Work course, have had help in finding a job and have got involved in community projects and gained loads of new skills.

Now I'm happy and confident and can't wait to start work as a youth worker! We want to keep the group going now the funding is stopping so we've decided to run it ourselves."

Kerry's Story

Kerry has been attending the group for a year.

"When I first came to the group I had no support, I was bored and generally unhappy with my life," she says.

"The group has offered me a lot of support, a place to go and a chance to meet new friends. I've completed an Introduction to Youth Work course, I'm much happier in myself now and I'll soon have a job doing youth work."



SMALL SITES PROJECT RETURNS

The popular Small Sites project is back! And Greets Green residents can share in the £100,000 earmarked for tidying up local neighbourhoods through the project.

Small Sites aims to boost the appearance of the area and tackle anti-social behaviour. Much work has already been completed including erecting new fences, carrying out tidy-ups and resurfacing paths.

Now the project has returned and residents are being asked to say where they would like to see action taken.

Simon Ware from Greets Green Partnership's Community Services Team says: "Last year the Small Sites project enabled us to complete 15 projects which have all made a difference to residents.

It's sorted out some long standing problems for people."

All the ideas for the projects come from local residents and can be raised during the monthly Neighbourhood Forum meetings. For a project to be approved it must gain the support of the majority of people at the meeting.

If you want to see an area improved, come along to a Neighbourhood Forum meeting or call Simon Ware on freephone 0800 953 0215.



A tremendous job!

The first Small Sites project to be completed this year 'is tremendous' according to local resident Chris Haynes.

Chris has lived in one of the terraced houses on Rowley View for 45 years. A passageway runs across the bottom of his garden and its surface has been deteriorating over the years.

"I always go to the Neighbourhood Forum meetings and decided to tell them about the passageway," he says. "It had just become rubble really and needed resurfacing. I was very pleased when they said it could be done through the Small Sites project."

The passageway was re-surfaced at a cost of £3,000 and is now much improved. "They've done an excellent job," adds Chris. "I was talking to one of my neighbours and they said how good it was. I'm very grateful."

Born and bred in Greets Green, Chris is well known in his local area and often highlights any local issues which need addressing. "I was brought up here and am 78 now," he says. "I like going to the Neighbourhood Forums and getting involved in what's happening locally."

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS HERE FOR YOU

If you want to find out more about local services or raise any concerns, head along to a Neighbourhood Forum meeting. The next meetings will be held on:

- Tuesday 4th November at 6.30pm at Guns Village Primary School
- Tuesday 2nd December – a special Christmas Forum at George Salter Collegiate Academy

For more details, call Greets Green Partnership's Community Services Team on freephone 0800 953 0215.

ON THE BUSES

Following the withdrawal of the 630/1 circular bus service, Greets Green Partnership has been busy finding out how it has affected residents and what can be done to help.

The Community Services Team has carried out a survey in conjunction with Centro which has seen the Partnership's sessional workers talking to 315 residents on the Hamblett's estate.

"We've chatted to people across the estate and have asked them how they're managing to get about without the bus service," explained Simon Ware from the Community Services Team.

"Now Centro is pulling all the results together so that we can decide the best way forward."

For more details about the survey, call Simon Ware at the Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.

Down your street

Watch out for the Community Services Team who will be out and about 'Down Your Street' this Autumn. Stop and ask them about any local issues you have.

In October they'll be in Oakhouse South and in November they'll be in Hamblett's South.

**GGP
ASK ME**

For more information, call the team on freephone 0800 953 0215.

TALK TO YOUR REPS!

Four Neighbourhood Reps have been re-elected to represent their communities and deal with any issues which residents have.

Following uncontested elections, **Pam Jackson** continues to represent Swan Village, **Amy Bahat** represents Carters Green and **Ann Coll** represents Oak House North. **Jessica Ferguson** was also re-elected after winning the Hamblets South election. The other Neighbourhood Reps are **Janet Sayce** for Hamblets North, **Paul Green** for Greet's Green and **Fajli Bibi** for Lodge Road.

Don't forget you can talk to your Reps about any local issues you have. Along with the Community Reps, they sit on the Partnership Board and can raise your concerns at a senior level.

To contact any of the Reps, call Jackie Owen at Greet's Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215 or 0121 533 3191.

Greet's Green African Caribbean Steering Group

CELEBRATING Black History Month

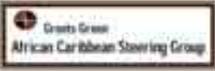
Activities include:

- food
- african drumming
- face painting
- arts & crafts
- painting
- various information stalls

Wednesday 15th October at West Bromwich Town Hall from 1.00pm - 6.00pm








Meet your Reps...



Here we find out more about Jessica Ferguson, Neighbourhood Rep for Hamblets South.

How long have you been a Neighbourhood Rep?

This is my second term but I've been involved since the Reps first started. I began as Deputy Rep for Hamblets South.

What do you like about being a Neighbourhood Rep?

I enjoy helping people – no matter what it's about. It may seem a small issue, but if it's important to someone, I like to help. I've made some lovely friends and got to know so many people through being involved in Greet's Green Partnership. When the Partnership ends, it will leave a hole in my life.

What are the best improvements the Partnership has made?

I think the Kingsmill playground is great for the children and the alleygating scheme has made local people feel a lot safer. The Partnership has also done a lot that people don't see. They've helped to make a big difference at George Salter Collegiate Academy – it's amazing. There's still a long way to go but we're only human.

What are your hobbies?

I'm involved in lots of other local organisations which takes up a lot of my time. I'm also setting up a tenants' and residents' association.



I used to breed birds – budgies, canaries, parakeets and cockatiels – until my first granddaughter was born. I love my garden and I enjoy decorating. I'm trying to get my hall finished at the moment. I also enjoy my computer and have joined Friends Reunited. If I hadn't got involved in the Partnership, I wouldn't even know how to turn a computer on.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm definitely not a leader – I just like to get involved and help people.

What would you like to say to local residents?

Thank you for putting your trust and faith in me once again and I will try to do my best for you.

More healthcare & advice available locally

Whether you're visiting your GP, getting your baby weighed at the baby clinic or seeking advice on family planning, local people in Greet's Green know the Lyng Centre for Health and Social Care.

It provides a vital service to the local community and lately the service has been extended as staff at the centre have been working with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital to offer even more healthcare and advice to Greet's Green residents.

"We're always looking to improve our health services in line with what our patients and public tell us, whether that be small or big changes," said Steve Phillips at Sandwell Primary Care Trust.

"After talking to local residents, we realised that people would find it easier if they could access a whole range of services at their local centre instead of having to go to different places. This includes a diabetes out-patient clinic, a long term oxygen therapy service and a dermatology clinic."

The centre has held several successful drop-in sessions where local residents had the chance to have a look round, ask questions and find out more about the various services on offer.

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) team are also based at the centre. They act as a voice for local patients and can provide advice on all types of local NHS services, from doctors to pharmacists, dentists and opticians.

For more information, drop into the centre on Frank Fisher Way, off Moor Street, or call 0121 612 2000.



DON'T BE SAD!

Although the Greet's Green Partnership funded Healthy Living project came to an end this summer, there are still lots of initiatives continuing at the YMCA to ensure local people can stay happy and healthy.

"We're keen to make sure we can help people lead a better and more enjoyable life," says Michael Rossington, Head of Projects at the YMCA. "We want to encourage local residents to get out of the house and meet new people while doing something which will benefit them. We are grateful to West Midlands Regional Assembly and the BIG Lottery who are funding 'Living Well in Sandwell'."

One of the new ideas to aid healthy living are the two light boxes which were placed in the YMCA café in September. The lamps have been clinically proven to help people who suffer from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), a type of winter depression that affects an estimated half a million people UK-wide between September and April.

SAD is caused by a lack of sunlight, but the light boxes can really help. Simply call into the YMCA café any morning, buy a timer card for 50p and enjoy allowing the light to shine directly onto your face. If you buy something from the café, the timer card is free and newspapers are provided so you can truly relax.

If you fancy something more energetic, yet still relaxing, go along to the Tai chi and yoga sessions which run three times a week. "The sessions can help to combat depression and are very good for people," explains Mike. "They're very friendly so you don't need to worry about turning up on your own."

The sessions cost £1 and are open to anyone. They run on Tuesday afternoons, Friday mornings and Friday evenings. Call the YMCA on 0121 524 1950 to confirm the latest times.

FREE WELLBEING EVENT

**West Bromwich Town Hall
Friday 10th October 11.00am – 3.00pm**

Come along and find out how you can help yourself to feel better. Everyone's welcome.

- Complementary therapies
- Relaxation and debt management workshops
- Healthy eating tasters and other light refreshments
- Tai Chi demonstrations
- Raffle
- Tombola
- Face painting
- Range of stalls and information stands



To find out more, call Julie Davies, Greet's Green Healthy Minds Co-ordinator on 0121 553 7074.

Celebrating OUR HEROES

LOOKING
FOR HEROES

If you know someone who you think deserves to be recognised for their hard work in the community, call Brian McKinstry at Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



Pauline puts everyone first

When local resident, Jessica Ferguson heard about Greets Green's Community Heroes, she just had to nominate her friend and neighbour of 20 years, Pauline Robinson. She wanted to thank her for the tireless support she gives her neighbours and the local area.

"She'll do anything she can to help the people of Greets Green and will always put them first," says Jessica. "She loves it round here and has spent the last few years working hard to make it a better place to live.

"If she hasn't seen an elderly neighbour for a while she's the first to knock on the door and check everything's all right. If there's a power cut she'll go straight round with candles!

"People round here know that if you complain to Pauline about anything such as rubbish in the street or anti-social behaviour, she takes action and gets things sorted."

Being such an active member of the community means Pauline is a very busy lady. She's been involved in lots of community groups, including the Health Forum, the Housing Forum, the Neighbourhood Forum and Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service (SCIPS) among others.

She's also on the Steering Group of the Time 2 Trade project where she uses her time to help others out.

Yet Pauline is very modest about all she does. "Being called a Community Hero makes me feel very self-conscious," she says. "I can't stand being at the front - I'd rather not be noticed. I'll have to wear a paper bag on my head when I go out now!"

Asked why she does so much, Pauline said: "I love helping the people of Greets Green as they're the best. I've visited a lot of places in the world but Greets Green people are the most genuine you'll come across."

Paul's a hero for helping out

A man who just loves helping others has seen his efforts recognised with a Community Hero award.

Paul Coton, aged 55, was nominated by Peter Castigan, Manager of the Adams Street Care Home where Paul is a resident.

Peter said: "Paul does errands and gardening and is always willing to spend his time helping others who need it. He's a real asset to the community.

"He puts others first, ensuring he supports certain individuals on a daily basis. He's well known in his neighbourhood because he always volunteers his time to help and support others. He really goes the extra mile."

Peter said that Paul, who has Asperger's Syndrome, also does a lot of work in the care home. "If we have visitors, Paul shows them round and he's absolutely fantastic. If anyone deserves a Community Hero award, it's Paul."

Paul, who has lived in Adams Street for more than 17 years, said: "I like doing odd jobs and helping people. It passes the time. I'm really pleased to get this award."



PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Local community organisations are set to benefit hugely from working in partnership now that they've come together as the Greets Green Community Partners.

High profile community organisations in Greets Green – Greets Green Community Enterprises, the Guru Nanak Community Centre, OSCAR Sandwell, the YMCA and DORCAS – are starting to work together to share services and resources. Now Sandwell Women's Agency Network (SWAN) is also joining the Partners.

"We have in excess of 70 voluntary organisations in Greets Green," explains Rohit Mistry, Community Services Manager for Greets Green Partnership. "We've funded the creation and development of many of them and are now looking at how to help them become more sustainable. Greets Green Community Partners brings together some of the bigger voluntary sector organisations to see how they can mutually work together to help sustain each other."

The organisations meet to discuss how services and resources can be shared. The idea is that if individual organisations cannot afford something on their own, they may be able to do so as a group.

Suggestions so far include employing a joint Human Resources Officer, putting in joint applications for funding, sharing cleaning services or making joint stationery orders to gain bigger discounts.

Stephen Bavington (pictured right), Fundraising and Marketing Manager at the YMCA, said: "I think it's a brilliant idea. We started meeting at the beginning of the year and it's very important that we work together. It's useful to build relationships and realise that we're part of a bigger picture in Greets Green. We know we're not working in isolation and there are other people and organisations we can lean on when we need to."

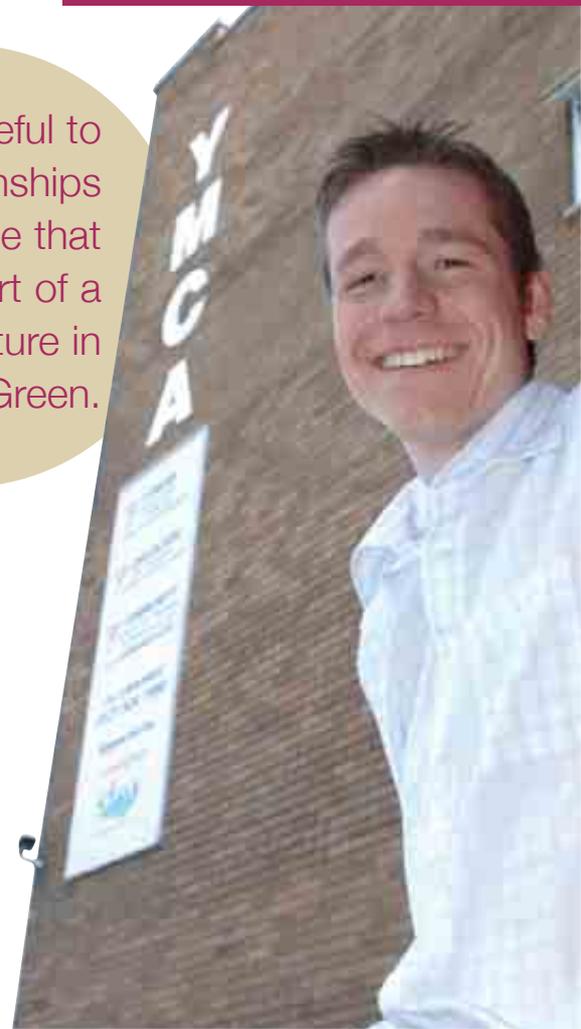
Sharon Wilson (pictured below centre), former Deputy Chief Executive Officer at OSCAR added: "It's vital we work with other organisations to maximise resources. We're trying to encourage other communities to come to us and we're looking to support the work they do too. Greets Green Community Partners encourages this."

It's useful to build relationships and realise that we're part of a bigger picture in Greets Green.

Working together...

- Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE)
- Guru Nanak Community Centre
- OSCAR Sandwell
- West Bromwich YMCA
- DORCAS
- SWAN (Sandwell Women's Agency Network)

For more details on Greets Green Community Partners, call Community Services Theme Leader, Rohit Mistry at Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



RICKY TO KICK START BUSINESS WITH GRANT

An award-winning academy that has gone from strength-to-strength is hoping to take on an employee with the help of a Business Start Up grant.

Ricky Dubidat's Black Belt Academy on the Hammec Industrial Estate in Brandon Way, has been going since 2000 and has gradually expanded. It now has around 200 clients, both children aged four-11, and adults. And it's become experienced at turning out champions – one aged only 10!

Ricky said: "I used to work in IT but I'd trained in martial arts since I was a child. At one of the places I was training, I was fighting for them around the world and I became an instructor for them.

"When I outgrew the establishment I decided to start my own class. I started teaching a few friends then I started to do it professionally – it was a hobby that just grew out of control!"

In the early days the Black Belt Academy only taught kickboxing, but since then has taken on more instructors to expand the range of martial arts taught, and has produced British, European and World champions along the way.

Ricky himself has many martial arts credentials including being a Blue Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a Phase 1 Instructor in Philipino Martial Arts, a 1st dan Keysi Fighting Method, a 2nd dan Sport Karate WSKA and a 3rd dan Kickboxing WAKO.

He says as well as giving young people an interest, martial arts has lots of benefits. "It is confidence building and gives kids the get-up-and-go to achieve other things. We've created a few world champions and the youngest world champion is 10 years old and he's fighting for a world title for the third time."

Now Ricky has applied for a Business Start Up grant to help him expand further. He explains: "I have quite a few volunteers working for me but I'd like to create a position for Amie Weaver, a 1st degree Blackbelt at Kickboxing, who's trained with me since she was 15. She's just finished her Sports Studies course."

"Amie is involved in the development of the children's classes, so I hope to expand these through the grant."



Grants & support available BUT YOU NEED TO BE QUICK!

If you want to turn your dreams of being your own boss into reality, why not apply for a grant? But as the funding from Greets Green Partnership comes to an end in March 2009, we need to hear from you before Christmas.

Q. How much money can I get?

A. Grants of up to £1,500 are available to residents looking to start up their own business thanks to funding from Greets Green Partnership.

Q. What are the grants for?

A. The grants can be used to purchase essential tools and equipment to get businesses up and running.

Q. Are grants available for existing businesses?

A. Yes. Financial support and advice is available for existing businesses in Greets Green who are developing or who have a project that will lead to the creation of new jobs. The project also helps existing businesses access advice on marketing, IT, finance and export.

Q. How can I qualify for a grant?

A. To qualify for a Start Up Grant you must be about to start a business, be in the first year of trading, be currently unemployed or on a low income. Existing businesses just need to be located in Greets Green.

Q. How many businesses have benefited so far?

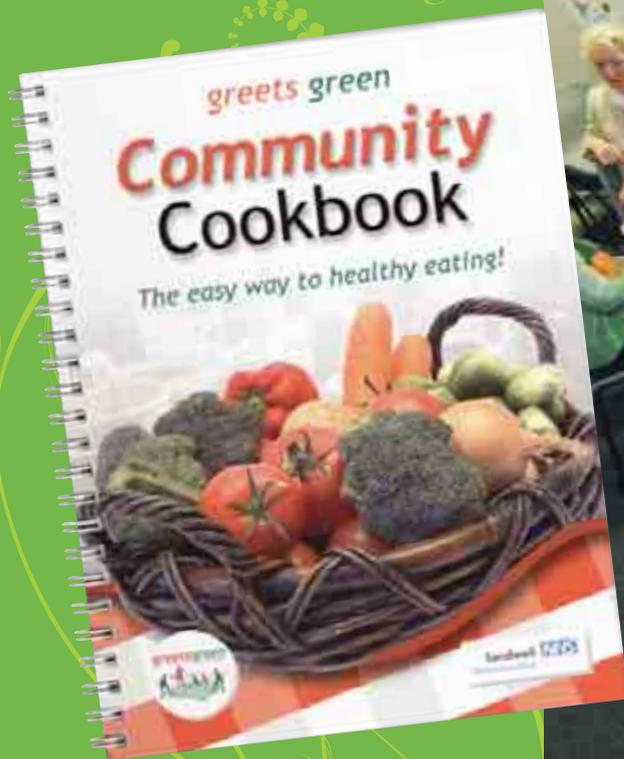
A. More than 35 Greets Green residents have benefited from the grants to date. Successful businesses include Change UR Shape health club in Pacific Avenue, Wednesbury and Tracy's Pantry in Stone Cross.

Q. Is there any other help available?

A. Yes. The Business Start Up Project, which is being delivered in partnership with Black Country Enterprise Ltd, also offers free training and support to develop your company. One-to-one support for business planning, financial profiling and market testing is available as well as information about local training opportunities.

Q. How can I find out more?

A. Contact Judith Bayliss on 01386 552619 or Katherine Hewitt, Jobs & Skills Manager at Greets Green Partnership, on 0121 533 3185.



IT'S HEALTHY, TASTY & BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

What a celebration!
On 17th September local residents gathered at George Salter Collegiate Academy for a special event to showcase the Blooming Marvellous gardens and launch the Greetings Green Community Cookbook.

Blooming Marvellous Gardens

Since the start of the year, proud residents have been showing off their gardens by taking part in this magazine's Blooming Marvellous competition.

"The aim of Blooming Marvellous was to recognise local people's green fingered efforts," explained Richard Wyatt, Greetings Green Partnership's Communications Officer. "Whether people spend their time at their allotment, or work hard to produce beautiful hanging baskets or a colourful garden, we asked them to get in touch with us.

"We wanted to show how much pride residents have in their gardens. The gardens really lift the look of the neighbourhoods in Greetings Green." Everyone who took part in Blooming Marvellous was invited to the celebration event where professional photographs of their gardens were on display. Participants were presented with a commemorative vase inscribed with the Blooming Marvellous logo.

"So many people are making a huge effort to improve the area in which they live and we're pleased to have been able to recognise some of them," added Richard.



Tasty Cookbook

The event also celebrated the launch of the Greets Green Community Cookbook which has been produced by the New Deal for Healthier Food and Fit for Life projects.

Both projects were funded by Greets Green Partnership and delivered by community food advisors, health workers and members of Sandwell PCT's food team. Grants were given to local community groups and organisations - including schools - to set up Food Interest Groups (FIGs). These groups have learnt about healthy eating and have cooked many of the recipes in the cookbook, which features over 50 different recipes.

Shaleen Meelu from Sandwell PCT says: "Eating healthily is becoming a part of everyday life for local people. The cookbook contains lots of healthy, simple recipes which everyone can enjoy. There is also information about the FIGs and the work they do to help residents learn more about healthy eating and get back into cooking."

Members of the groups featured in the Community Cookbook came along to the celebration event where some of the tasty recipes had been prepared by Rob Sims, chef at George Salter Collegiate Academy.

Copies of the cookbook were handed to the participants and many were eager to get cooking. If you'd like a copy call the Food Team on 0121 612 2962.

&
OUS!



Continuing the good work

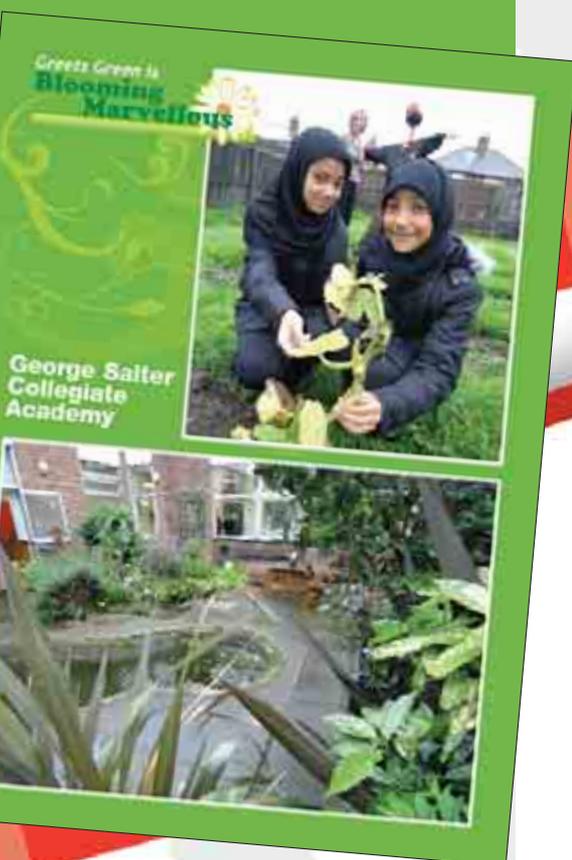
Funding from Greets Green Partnership has now come to an end. However, all the good work will be continued by the Eatwell in Sandwell project, funded by Sandwell PCT.

The project runs a whole range of initiatives including...

- Shopwell which is supporting local retailers to sell seasonal fruit and vegetables at affordable prices and to encourage their customers to make healthier food choices
- Slimwell which is helping people to lose weight and find out about healthy eating - without spending a fortune
- Cookwell which is teaching local people how to cook healthy meals

There are also lots of healthy living projects taking place with local schools.

To find out more, contact the Food Team on 0121 612 2962 or visit www.eatwellsandwell.co.uk



GET YOUR TEETH INTO HEALTHY EATING

Lots of local healthy eating initiatives are included in the community cookbook. Here we feature two of the groups which residents can get involved with...

A family affair

Parents and pupils are cooking up some delicious dishes together at Newtown Primary School.

Through the Fit for Life project, funded by Greets Green Partnership, the school has started classes where parents and grandparents can practise cooking healthy meals alongside pupils.

"The six week family cooking session is going really well," says Julie Nichols, Fit for Life Co-ordinator at the school. "Everyone can take home what they've cooked and have it for their family meal."

The class is for Newtown pupils from Year 5 downwards, and the family members cooking with them include mums, dads and grandmas. They also look at subjects such as healthy lunchboxes and have made smoothies to learn about fun ways to get their five-a-day portions of fruit and vegetables.

To find out more, call Newtown Primary on 0121 557 8504.

Cooking & eating together

Diane Purcell attends the cookery classes at Newtown Primary School with her six-year-old grandson Cole. They already enjoyed cooking together at home, but the classes have introduced them both to some new dishes they enjoy.

Diane said: "Cole has been coming to stay with me since he was born and we cook a lot but not such specialised stuff! At the school we've done a lovely vegetable lasagne, a fruit crumble and a really good fish pie.



"The classes are good because they're educating children about what sort of food to eat. Cole comes to me on a Friday night to stay for the weekend and we eat the food we've made then. We've really enjoyed the classes."

Adapting traditional recipes

A group of Yemeni women have been meeting every Sunday to discuss healthier eating – and see how they can introduce new ideas into their traditional meals.

Health Development Officer, Afrah Muflihi says: "It's been a very popular group. We've looked at issues such as coronary heart disease and fat, salt and sugar intake, but from the perspective of Yemeni food and how we can make it healthier." The group has now come to an end, but interest has been maintained and there are plans to start it again. The kitchen at the YCA has recently been refurbished and the women are looking forward to getting the Food Interest Group going once more.

To find out more, contact Afrah Muflihi at the YCA on 0121 525 3909.

Trying new things at home

Kallam Yafai has been busy trying to keep up everything she learned while cooking at home for her family in Greets Green. "We learnt how to have a balanced diet," she says. "It was interesting to find out how I could adapt traditional recipes into more healthy ones with less salt and more vegetables."

Kallam is now trying to bring her family round to her slightly adapted recipes but admits it hasn't always been easy! "I tried to get them to cut down on salt, but they weren't very happy," she explains. "The younger two were all right so I moved onto introducing semi-skimmed milk instead of full fat. You just have to keep trying!"



NEW PCSOs JOIN THE TEAM

Two new Police Community Support Officers, or PCSOs, have joined the local Greets Green Crime Fighting Team, strengthening the fight against local crime.

Marina Walton has added the area to her patch in West Bromwich town centre. She said: "I've been a PCSO for about two and a half years now. A town centre presents different issues to a neighbourhood though so I'm learning more about it.

"I've joined PCSO Jones and she's introduced me to many local people. I'll be going along to the Neighbourhood Forum meetings and finding out about the issues which are affecting local residents."

Chris Webb was formerly a regular Police Officer in Chelmsley Wood, but has now become a PCSO in Greets Green. He said: "I'm busy finding out a bit more about the work of Greets Green Partnership and am getting used to the new area and the work that needs to be done."

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

NEW LIGHTS

Every single street in the Greets Green Partnership area will be benefiting from new, brighter street lights by next March.

Greets Green Partnership has provided funding to complete a third phase of street lighting in the area. Already, 436 new lights have been installed and now a further 400 will be erected.

The project, which is being managed by Sandwell Council's Street Lighting Department, has already made many residents feel safer at night as the new lights are much brighter.

Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader, Phil Hartley, said: "I'm delighted that we've been able to install new street lighting in all the roads in the Greets Green area as many residents have highlighted it as an issue in the past.

"The new high quality lighting will improve the quality of our streets, help reduce the fear of crime and improve the image of the area."

For more details, call Phil Hartley at Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



Greets Green

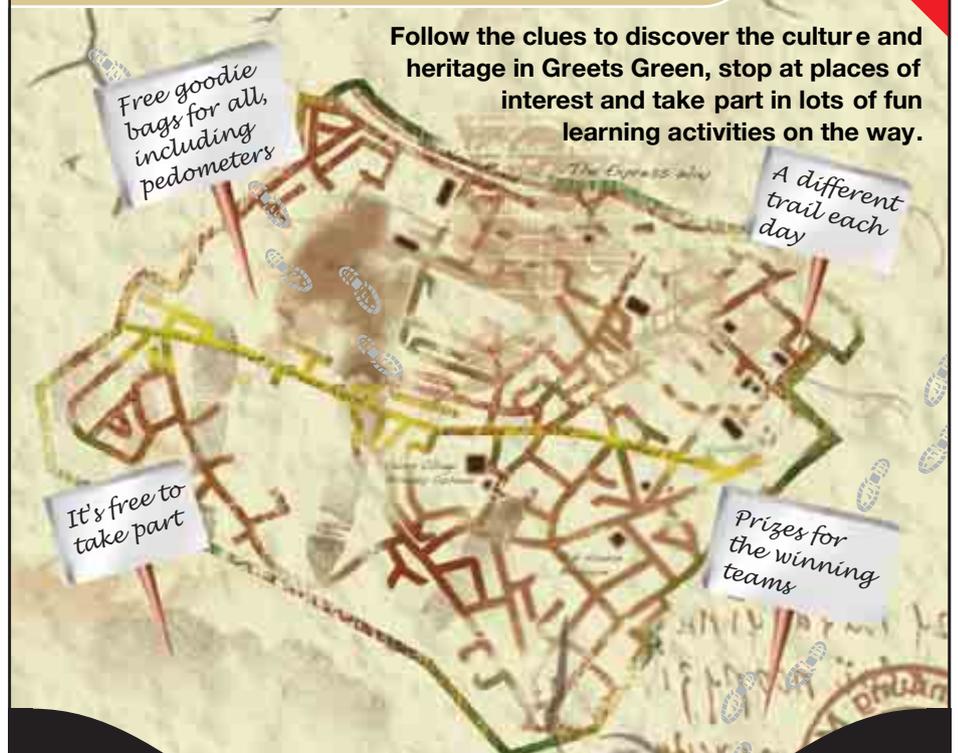
Treasure Trail

28th & 29th October

PART OF FAMILY LEARNING MONTH

Half-term fun
for families and
groups of all ages

Follow the clues to discover the culture and heritage in Greets Green, stop at places of interest and take part in lots of fun learning activities on the way.



10.00am to 2.00pm each day starting from the Memorial Gardens.



To register, call Event Organiser Navida Bukhari on freephone 0800 953 0215.

21ST RESIDENT GOES SOLAR

The Greets Green Sustainable Warmth Project is celebrating its 21st solar water heating installation!

While many people face soaring fuel bills, 21 Greets Green residents are managing to reduce their water heating costs by up to 45 per cent by converting to solar power.

Mr Chatwin of Bromford Lane became the 21st Greets Green resident to have central heating and solar panels for water heating installed, and is already delighted with their performance.

"I was reading the Greets Green Magazine and saw the story about the lady in Caroline Street who'd had solar panels installed," Mr Chatwin explains. "I wondered whether I could get them fitted at my house so gave the Sustainable Warmth project a call."

Thanks to funding from Greets Green Partnership, the project offers a range of services to homeowners in the area who have an annual household income of less than £15,000. These are carried out by Sandwell Warm Zone and include central heating, loft and cavity wall insulation, and solar water heating.

Mr Chatwin has a south facing property which meant he was able to have solar water heating installed. "When you're a pensioner you don't get a lot of spare cash," he says. "Anything that keeps costs down is a help."

"I also wanted to do my bit to be green. I'm really pleased with how well it's heating my water so far. I told my next door but one neighbour how good it is and he's now having it installed too."

"I've lived in Bromford Lane and Cambridge Street for about 70 years now and getting solar water heating is something I'd never have dreamt of in the past. It's a good talking point when I go to the club!"

Cathy Kirby from Sandwell Warm Zone said: "Seeing the Greets Green residents taking up the measures on offer is wonderful."

If you're interested in looking at an alternative way of heating your hot water, give the Sandwell Warm Zone team a call on 0121 569 5015.



Greets Green Sustainable Warmth Project

See if you qualify

Section A

1. Do you own your own home? Yes / No

If "No" please contact us to find out if you can still qualify.

If "Yes" please go to question 2.

2. Do you have a Central Heating System? Yes / No

If "No" please complete Section B below. If "Yes" please go to question 3.

3. Is your Central Heating System over 15 years old? Yes / No

If "Yes" please complete Section B below. If "No" we are sorry but we cannot help you under the scheme at this time.

Section B

Total Household Income (Net Monthly)*

Minus

Monthly Mortgage Payment
(including buildings insurance cost)**

Total

If the total is less than £1290 – CALL US NOW!!

(You do not need to return this form to us. It is for your assistance only)

0121 569 5015

* This includes the Net (after tax) income of all persons living in the property. Please include any benefit income apart from Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance.

** Do not include contents insurance.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORK GETS UNDERWAY

Major environmental improvements are starting to take shape in Greets Green. Following door-to-door consultation with residents, work is now underway in Bromford Lane and Claypit Lane, while Dartmouth Street residents have been discussing the improvements they would like to see.

To find out more, call the Greets Green Housing Team on freephone 0800 953 0215.

Improvements in Claypit Lane

Residents' feedback is leading the environmental improvements scheme in Claypit Lane where work recently began on site.

"Residents' needs have been listened to and the scheme has been designed based on what they've told us," explained Marianne Monro from Greets Green Partnership's Housing Team. "There will be some major changes."

Earlier this year, Greets Green Partnership's Housing Team knocked on doors in Claypit Lane and asked residents for their views on a range of high quality improvements. They were also able to influence some of the work such as the colour of all the metalwork.

A range of improvements are now getting started which will include new boundary

fencing, brick walls and security gates, new paving, parking bays, traffic calming measures and street lights.

"The scheme has been really well thought out and will enhance the look of Claypit Lane," said Marianne. "Work will be completed in phases throughout the next year and is set to make a huge difference to the look of the area."



It's marvellous in Bromford Lane!

Evelyn Haden and sons Roger and David think the work which has started on their home in Bromford Lane is 'marvellous'!

Through Greets Green Partnership's External Improvements Scheme, certain residents on Bromford Lane have the chance to benefit from a range of major improvements including new windows and roofing, and only have to pay 10 per

cent of the cost. Some residents, such as Evelyn who's aged 89 and on income support, are having the work totally funded by Greets Green Partnership.

"We're having a lot of work done including new windows at the front and back, a new wall and pathway at the front, a new front door, new roof to the kitchen and bathroom, new chimney pots and the yard re-laid," explained Roger Haden. "The

work is fantastic. The cost would be quite substantial and there's no way we could have afforded it. My mother has lived here for 65 years - ever since she got married. She doesn't want to move and this work means she won't have to.

"It's maintaining what's a good, strong, well built property for many more years. Me and my brother had already thought we should have the windows done, so this work has come at the right time."

Work started on the Haden's property at the end of August and other properties will soon be benefiting too.

Ian Jennings from Greets Green Partnership's Housing Team said: "This scheme is really going to improve the appearance of the properties on Bromford Lane. We've selected one block of terraced houses for the first lot of work and we're funding 90 per cent of the cost.

"The Council will then carry on funding the same work to the next two blocks. It's an excellent scheme."





Our tribute to Vera

Since the last issue of the magazine, Greets Green has lost a much-loved friend with the passing of Vera Barnes.

Vera had been an active member of the community for many years and was perhaps most well known for setting up the Goldies Club for over 55s five and a half years ago when she herself was 85!

Over 50 members of the group, which meets every other Monday afternoon at the YMCA in Carters Green, turned out in March this year to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Ally Allerson, Executive Director of Greets Green Partnership said: "Vera's energy and enthusiasm always marked her out as an exceptional member of the community. Greets Green has a lot to thank Vera for and she will be much missed."

Friend and local resident Olive Bedworth, who has known Vera for over 35 years and is also deputy chairman of the Goldies Club said: "Vera was an extremely nice lady, a very kind woman who would help anyone. She was also a very good friend and I will miss her a great deal."

Vera, a great grandmother, who has three children, worked in the booking office for 30 years at New Street Station. She also volunteered as a Samaritan and was a magistrate in West Bromwich for 28 years.

COMMUNITY COACHES

Twenty-two young people and adults from Greets Green and George Salter Collegiate Academy have taken a course to pass the FA's Level 1 Coaching Football Award.

They are now able to volunteer their skills with local clubs, teams and schools to benefit the wider community with their new football qualification. The course took place at George Salter and included learning about codes of conduct, laws of the game, football for all and grassroots football.

Some of those who took part already work in schools or with clubs and teams, while others are now taking part in volunteer placements and working towards their Level 2 coaching awards.

Among those who took part was local resident, Darren Saxon. He said: "By having



the chance to do this award I can support my sons to develop in the correct way in football. There are so many bad examples of parenting and supporters I see every week at football games. I would recommend that every parent takes this course."

For more details on football development at George Salter Collegiate Academy click on the Community and Sports link at www.georgesalter.com

WALK 2 LONDON FROM CHINA!

If you missed the chance to 'Walk to Beijing' don't despair. You're now being invited to set off back from China and walk to London.

The 'Walk to Beijing' initiative was a big success with more than 3,000 people taking part. Out of the six towns in Sandwell, West Bromwich walkers topped the table and took the gold for the most steps - 170 million steps!

Andrew Wood, Healthy Walks Co-ordinator for Sandwell PCT, said: "Altogether, people walked an amazing 644,260,058 steps, or 400,000km – not just to Beijing, but round the world nearly 10 times."

Now with thoughts turning to the Olympics in London in 2012, the Walk 2 Beijing: London has been launched. Anyone living or working in Sandwell borough can take part.

Everyone is given a health check and receives a step counter. At the end of three months they get a second health check and if they've managed to improve their health they're given a shopping voucher.

To sign up as an individual or a group, call 0121 612 1407.

LOOKING FOR STARS!

Greets Green Partnership is searching for stars to perform at various community events. Do you have any kind of talent? Are you a singer, a dancer or a performer of any kind? Individuals and groups can apply.

Please contact Navida Bukhari on freephone 0800 953 0215.

**greetsgreen
Star Search**

60 YEARS OF EXERCISE

On 5th July, George Salter Collegiate Academy joined forces with Sandwell Primary Care Trust (PCT) to celebrate the diamond anniversary of the NHS.

Visitors to the school fete were invited to step back in time and try out some typical activities from 60 years ago including hopscotch, hula hooping and skipping, as well as some modern activities like dance mats and football.

Nathan Moore from the Physical Activity Team said: "The children taking part had very good skipping and hula hooping skills which surprised me. They all said they'd learnt at school, so the old ways of keeping active have not been lost or forgotten.

"Both the old and new activities were difficult and had the children breathing heavier and sweating. So although the type of physical activity has changed dramatically over the years, it's not changed how hard we work when we exercise."

The PCT also marked the anniversary with a range of other local events including healthy eating advice and food tasting at the YMCA, public health information stands in Queen's Square Shopping Centre, with an NHS timeline, photos of the past sixty years of the NHS in Sandwell and top tips for staying healthy, plus a display of photos at the Central Library, where information on alcohol intake and drinking past and present was also available.



COMPETITION COULD BE A THRILLER

Are you a budding short story writer or poet? Do you have a story to tell that could be a winner?

The Adult and Community Learning project is working with the library to stage an Autumn Writing Competition for people aged 16 and over.

It's being run to celebrate that 2008 is the National Year of Reading, and the national theme for October is 'word of mouth'.

Competition entries have to be in by 31st October, so there's still time to enter.

There are three categories: poetry, short stories of a maximum 500 words, or, if story writing isn't your thing, you could design an autumn-themed poster or collage and enter in the words and pictures category.

Nikki Russell, Extended Services Adult & Community Learning Co-ordinator, said: "Local author Roger Ellory is running a

couple of writing workshops for us so people can get inspired."

Birmingham-born Roger Ellory is the author of books including *Candlemoth* and *City of Lies*. He's running workshops at the Central Library on Monday 20th October and Wednesday 22nd October from 6.00 - 7.00pm.

Collect your competition entry form from West Bromwich Library.

FLO'S IN CHARGE

It's all change at Greets Green Children's Centre which is looking for a new Manager following the departure of Jenny Mahimbo.

In the meantime, the centre, which provides a vast range of services for families with children aged 0-5, is being run by a couple of familiar faces – Deputy Manager Flo Reynolds and her assistant Glynis Webb.

It's hoped the new manager will be in place before the winter. Watch this space!



YOUNG

greetsgreen

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008



Holiday fun at 'Woodies'

www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk



Summer fun for children in Greetsgreen see page 20

GCSE joy for George Salter Collegiate Academy see page 22

Have a go at our prize competition, open to all ages see page 23

SUMMER FUN for children



Youngsters in Greets Green have been enjoying loads of activities put on especially to brighten their summer.



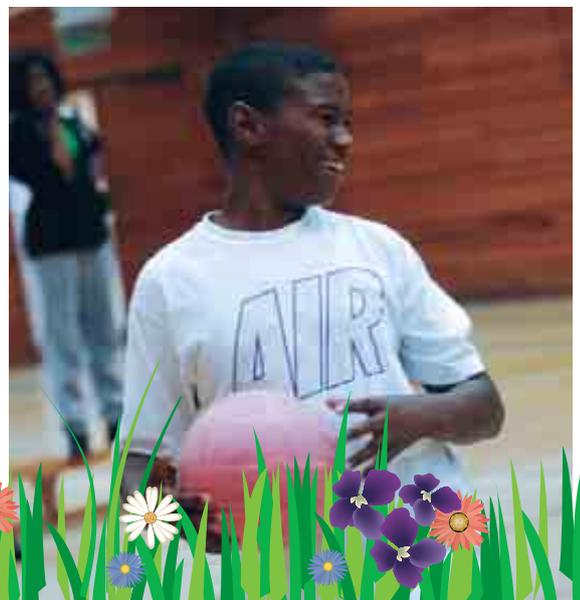
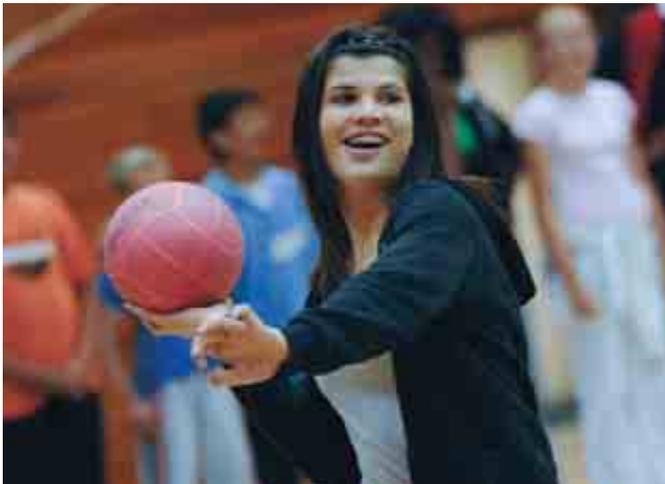
George Salter Collegiate Academy

At George Salter Collegiate Academy lots of fun sports ensured children got active. Boys got stuck into basketball, cricket, football and multi-sports – and were rewarded with a trip to Alton Towers at the end of the summer.

Girls had fun trampolining, playing dodgeball and doing dance and other activities for three weeks.

Plus, children aged six - 11 were able to take part in a West Bromwich Albion camp to hone their football skills for three weeks. And youngsters who were about to move from primary school to George Salter Collegiate Academy were able to try out the sports that they're now doing as part of their PE lessons.

Community Education & Sports Development Manager, Rus Smith, said: "It's been a very successful summer. We've had about 100 children doing sports each week."





'Woodies Club' at Wood Lane Community Centre

Youngsters wanting to try lots of different activities headed along to Woodies Club which ran for the second summer in succession at Wood Lane Community Centre.

Allison Franks said: "We held ceramics workshops, circus skills sessions and salsa dancing. There were also trips to Birmingham Museums, the Jewellery Quarter and the Pen Museum.

"We had a good turnout of children this year and we're hoping next year will be even better." Children also cooked up some healthy treats at special cookery classes run by the Healthy Eating team. Favourites included healthy pizzas and blueberry muffins.

Everyone at the Woodies Club was given breakfast when they arrived, ate their own packed lunch and had a cooked meal later, such as spaghetti on toast.

An after school club is now running at Wood Lane Community Centre. To find out more, call the centre on 0121 525 2772.



GCSE JOY FOR STUDENTS

Pupils at George Salter Collegiate Academy collected another great set of GCSE results this year.

A total of 88 per cent of students achieved five or more A*-C grades, which was four per cent up on last year. The national figure shows that 65.7 per cent of GCSEs were given a grade of A*-C.

The George Salter top grade pass figure

is continuing to rise year on year, since 2003 when it was just 16 per cent.

The Government has also now started calculating the percentage of pupils with five A*-C grades including English and Maths. At George Salter a third of pupils, 33 per cent, achieved this.

Associate Principal Mick Green said: "We are delighted that our students have

done so well. This continuing level of improvement and commitment from staff and students is a very small example of the high standards here at George Salter Collegiate Academy. The school is proud of everyone involved in this achievement."

To find out more contact George Salter Collegiate Academy on 0121 553 4665 or go on-line at www.georgosalter.com



GREETS GREEN SCHOOL WINS THE 'WORLD CUP'

Ryders Green School was one of 10 schools from West Bromwich and Sandwell which played six-a-side football in the Sandwell Schools annual 'World Cup'.

More than a hundred youngsters took part in the event, which had to be switched to indoors at George Salter Collegiate Academy due to the rain. Teams played in two groups of five teams with the winners of both groups playing each other in the final.

The final saw Ryders Green and Cronehills battle for victory – with Ryders Green taking the overall honours. The style of football was excellent and was supported by West Bromwich Referee's Association and George Salter's BTEC sports pupils.

To find out more about football at George Salter, click on the Community and Sport link at www.georgosalter.com

On your feet!

The YMCA is looking to get its own streetdance team up and running – do you want to be involved?

Streetdance classes run on Saturdays from 9.45-10.45am for anyone aged 8-15.

They cost £1.50 if you live in Greet Green - just turn up!

It's hoped that the classes will soon lead to a team being set up, so make sure you're part of it from the start.

And there's more!

Don't forget you can also have a go on the dance mats and sports wall at the YMCA on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4.30-5.30pm.

There are 16 dance mats and the computer tells you whether you're a dancer in the making or have two left feet! Play loads of great games on the sports wall and get active and have fun at the same time.

Sessions cost £1.50 if you live in Greet Green.

SUCCESS IS REAL!

A football team which brings together all different nationalities in Greet Green is celebrating its successes both on the pitch and in developing a new youth side.

Since our feature on Real West Brom FC in the December / January 2007 issue, the team has completed another great season of games and is also now well on the way to creating an equally successful Real West Brom Youth FC team.

It's been given £1,000 for both projects from Greet Green Partnership's Active Lifestyles Fund to buy equipment and hire training facilities. Plus, the youth side has received funding to buy team kit from the Greet Green Youth Support Fund.

Five members of the two teams – two adults and three from the youth team – are also doing their Level 1 Coaching certificate as part of their football development.

The youth team brings together young people from many backgrounds and addresses social issues through football. It's now hoping to get funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund so that all its squad members can undertake a

Football Organisers Award. Around 25-30 youngsters are currently involved from a whole range of communities in Greet Green, including young people from Yemeni, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Afgan, Nepalese, African Caribbean and Sikh backgrounds.

The adult team is also doing well, finishing 6th in the Premier Division of the Birmingham Shapla League. It now hopes to continue its success and also support other groups and organisations who want to set up their own football sessions.

Real West Brom General Manager Abdul Kahar said: "Both the adult and youth sides are going really well. The youth team trains every Saturday at the park and have had a few friendly matches.

"The plan is to now get them into a league. They can take over from us when we hang our boots up! Both teams are made up of all nationalities and they're bringing the community together."

Good luck to Real West Brom FC and Youth FC!

Want to find out more? Call Manager, Abdul Kahar on 07973 550 565.

FOOTBALL MANAGER WANTED

Is your dad a budding football manager?

The Hat-Trick project is looking for a new manager to lead Greet Green Albion Under 8's. Ideally they will already be Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked and have an FA qualification.

Experience in youth football is required, along with good knowledge of FA and league formats.

The new manager must be approachable, able to communicate with children and adults, and have loads of enthusiasm and commitment to be a positive role model for young people.

Know someone who fits the bill? Get them to call Dave Lawrence at Hat-Trick on 0871 271 9840.

competition corner

Simply send your entry by Friday 7th November 2008 to: Magazine Competition, **FREEPOST GREETS GREEN PARTNERSHIP (no stamp required)**. The first three correct entries out of the hat will each win a **£10 voucher**.

Autumn is upon us once again. Why not try and find all 12 of the related words in the grid below to be in with a chance of winning one of this month's £10 shopping vouchers.

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| LEAVES | ORANGE | FLOWERS | RAIN |
| FRESH | DARK | FALLING | NIGHT |
| AUTUMN | MIST | CLOUDY | COLD |

L	A	N	W	A	Q	V	F	I	A	D
E	S	I	E	U	Z	B	L	O	S	F
A	D	G	R	T	C	L	O	U	D	Y
V	F	H	T	U	X	N	W	P	K	G
E	G	T	Y	M	C	M	E	L	M	Y
S	H	I	U	N	F	Q	R	A	I	N
K	H	O	B	G	R	A	S	F	S	F
O	R	A	N	G	E	Z	T	R	T	V
M	J	P	H	N	S	W	C	O	L	D
D	A	R	K	Y	H	S	X	E	D	C
J	K	L	U	F	A	L	L	I	N	G

Congratulations

to Keshia Lewis, Mr Clifford Partridge and Mitchell Bishop who each won a £10 voucher from the August/September competition.

Please fill in your details using BLOCK CAPITALS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No. _____ Age: _____

This competition is open to all ages