

# greetsgreen

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

JUNE/JULY 2009



Children's  
services  
on your  
doorstep

[www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk)



**Businesses BID  
together to cut  
crime see page 6**

**News from Greet  
Green Community  
Enterprises  
see centre pages**

**School celebrates  
massive turnaround  
see page 8**

Front cover: *There are more than 800 families with children aged five and under in Greets Green. New Children's Centre Manager, Adam Cooper, is on a mission to let all local families know what's available to them on their doorstep.*

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# Dear Resident

You may have noticed some changes in this issue of the magazine. That's because a whole host of changes are underway at Greets Green Partnership now that we've entered the final year of the 10 year New Deal programme.

While we've reduced the number of pages in the magazine, we've introduced a new four page pull-out focusing on the work of Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE). As GGCE is the organisation which has been set up to continue some of the work started by the Partnership, as the months progress, its projects will become bigger and broader while more Partnership projects come to a close. That's why we're bringing residents more news about the initiatives being launched by GGCE and how you can get involved in this exciting new organisation.

The Greets Green Magazine will still be coming out every two months and will still bring you lots of news about local people who are benefitting from its different projects. Read on page 6 how local businesses are hitting back at criminals thanks to new CCTV cameras and for details of how parents are helping to shape the future of the Children's Centre, turn to page 10.

**BRIAN MCKINSTRIE**

Communications & PR Manager, Greets Green Partnership

## Contents:

### FEATURES

Businesses BID together to cut crime p6

Small Sites facelift for Kingsmill play area p7

### REGULARS

Partnership Update p4

#### News from GGCE

On the move with Andy's Cars p1

Youngsters enjoy Easter fun p2

Three more join Young Advisors p3

Meet the Board p4

Jobs & Skills Update p9

Crime & Community Safety Update p10

#### Cover Story:

Health Update p10

Greet News p11

Competition Corner p11



### YOUNG GREETS GREEN

School celebrates massive turnaround p8



# HERO NAMES MORE HEROES

**When Jinder Cheema was nominated as one of Greets Green's Community Heroes she couldn't have been more delighted.**

Jinder, a Link Worker at Lodge Primary School, was recognised for going beyond the call of duty to ensure everyone she works with gets the support and encouragement they need.

But that wasn't the end of the story for Jinder. Now the local mum of three has turned the tables and changed from nominee to nominator to put her own Community Heroes forward for the prestigious award.

Jinder nominated the ladies at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Edward Street (pictured here) in recognition of their tireless work providing food, or 'langar', for visitors to the Gurdwara. The whole idea of langar is for food to be served, free of charge, in the Gurdwara and

eaten by everyone sitting as equals, including Sikhs and non-Sikhs. Jinder explained: "I'd been thinking about doing something for a long time because they do such fantastic work. Then when I was nominated, I thought they should be recognised in the same way.

"There are several ladies who have each done more than 25 years service, and all on a voluntary basis.

"They are there all day, every day preparing food. Although everybody does their bit to help when they can, they oversee things and make sure everything runs smoothly. On some days, people can have a five course

meal at the Gurdwara and at weekends there can be up to 1,000 people to feed. This involves 20 or 30 women working in the kitchen to prepare the food. It's a phenomenal undertaking and it simply wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication over many years of the ladies who, to me, are true Community Heroes."

Receiving the award, the ladies of the Guru Nank Gurdwara said they were just happy to be serving the community.

"We are very grateful for this award and as a thank you we would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy the food with us," they said.



If you know someone who deserves to receive a Community Hero award, call Richard Wyatt at Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



## HAVE YOUR SAY

**Greets Green residents are being invited to make their voices heard on issues affecting their neighbourhood by joining a new Tenants and Residents Association (TRA).**

Sandwell Homes is hoping to set up the group if there's enough interest from people living in the area – so get in touch!

Ian Carson, Sandwell Homes' Neighbourhood Office Manager, explains:

"The Tenants and Residents Association will be a crucial step towards safeguarding the investment made in the area over the past 10 years by Greets Green Partnership. We thought we'd start small and then branch out if there's sufficient interest.

"The new association won't just concentrate on the bricks and mortar issues of housing, but on all issues affecting the area, such as the removal of fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour, transport and education."

By joining the association, residents will be given a voice and the chance to contribute to improving the local community. Sandwell Homes has already been canvassing opinions about the association, and has sent out a questionnaire to some homes. Once the responses have been looked at, an initial meeting will be set up.

It's hoped that the association will cover Adams Street, Bailey Street, Borwick Avenue, Bridge Street, Claypit Lane, Eaton Avenue, Harwood Street, Hilton Street, Manley Close, Skidmore Drive, Sutton Crescent, Turner Street, Wattle Road, Wheatley Street and Young Street.

**For more information, call Sandwell Homes on 0121 569 5177 or Neighbourhood Rep Jessica Ferguson on 0121 553 7635.**



The Partnership has said farewell to some familiar faces recently – and we wanted to share with you where they’ve moved onto.

**John Paddock**

Deputy Director, John Paddock joined Greets Green Partnership in 2001 as Programme Manager. He made sure that all New Deal funding was invested in things which would really make a difference to the area.



Now working as Diversity Manager at the Audit Commission, John said: “My time at the Partnership was an amazing experience and a great opportunity to take a lead role in the delivery of what has been a highly successful programme of regeneration. The neighbourhoods of Greets Green and the lives and life chances of its residents have been improved through a broad range of solid and sustainable approaches.

“Moving on to the national stage at the Audit Commission I will draw heavily on my experiences in Greets Green in my work to support the national drive to improve the quality of public services and the key role that residents and services users can play in influencing positive change when given the opportunity to do so.”

Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa, Vice-Chair of the Greets Green Partnership Board, said: “I don’t think we would have achieved anything like we have without John’s involvement and commitment. He is very highly respected in the community and has performed outstandingly.”

**Phil Hartley**

Having joined the Partnership initially as Crime & Community Safety Theme Leader, Phil later also took on the Housing Theme Leader role – and made a success of them both.



He made sure that Greets Green was

# Partnership staff

Greets Green Partnership has now entered its 10th and final year with a strong team of staff in place to lead the organisation to the end of the programme in March 2010. These are:

- 1. **Richard Wyatt**  
Communications Officer
- 2. **Trevor Cooper**  
Finance Manager
- 3. **Joe Hall**  
Monitoring Officer
- 4. **Oliver Langford**  
Finance Officer
- 5. **Maxine Millward**  
Officer Manager
- 6. **Christine Davis**  
Regeneration Participation Officer
- 7. **Gurdeep Sagri**  
Monitoring Officer
- 8. **Brian McKinstrie**  
Communications & PR Manager
- 9. **Abdul Monim Khan**  
Community Services Officer
- 10. **Kully Ludhar**  
Senior Monitoring Officer
- 11. **Gemma Rock**  
PA to the Executive Director
- 12. **Ian Jennings**  
Commissioning and Projects Officer
- 13. **Ally Allerson**  
Executive Director
- 14. **Cheryl Flynn**  
Administration Officer
- 15. **Katherine Hewitt**  
Programme Delivery & Succession Manager

**Not pictured:** Dorothy Gardner, Evaluation Manager; Jodie Martin, Administration Officer; Rekha Pal, Monitoring Officer; Sally Sandel, Health Theme Leader





at the head of the queue for new street lights and now every street has better lighting, making residents feel a lot safer. He also championed the environmental improvement work which is transforming streets across the area and helped the neighbourhood policing team to work with residents to drive down crime.

Plus there was the alleygating he helped to get installed, the community alarms for vulnerable people and his work in raising awareness of drugs and alcohol issues. With a good eye for detail, Phil ensured that nothing was missed and that all the projects he got involved with made a big difference to local people.

Phil is now working for Black Country Housing Association and is looking forward to improving homes and communities for people across the Black Country.

**Rohit Mistry**

As Community Services Theme Leader, Rohit did an excellent job in leading the Community Services team. Coming from a community development background, he was particularly good at identifying networks within the community and looking at how people from all different communities could work together.



Rohit is now working for the Neighbourhoods and Town Teams unit in Sandwell Council, as Neighbourhood Manager for the Windmill Eye regeneration project in Smethwick.

**Marianne Monro**

Marianne had been with the Partnership since the very beginning of the New Deal programme and almost every resident in Greets Green will have met or chatted with her at some point.



In recent years, she was a key member of the Housing Team and no-one has been welcomed into more residents' homes!

Marianne worked tirelessly to drive forward the clearance programme, insisting that partners changed the way they worked so that local people's voices were heard. As a result, this approach has been adopted throughout the council and residents are being listened to.

She dealt with the sensitive issues of housing regeneration with compassion and practical support and made sure she got results for residents.

Marianne has also moved on to become part of the neighbourhood team setting up the Windmill Eye regeneration project in Smethwick.

The Partnership also said farewell to the following valued members of staff:-

**Bob Lloyd** is now working as an Estate Manager in Tipton. **Herdip Khangura** is an Academic Coach for Sneyd Community School in Walsall. **Navida Bukhari** is an Extended Services Co-ordinator for Birmingham City Council. **Barbara Everson** is completing her professional studies. **Jackie Owen** is now employed by GGCE. **Simon Ware** is completing his Masters (MSc) in Human Rights and Human Nature and **Chris Jeffreys** has retired. We wish them all good luck for the future.

# Looking to the Future

**The Partnership's Succession Strategy was launched at a special event in March, held at The Public, where people were able to find out how its efforts to improve life in the area will be carried on when the programme ends in March 2010.**

Following a welcome by Gary Bowman, Director of Sandwell Partnership, delegates viewed a short DVD covering some of the work of the Partnership since its launch in 2000. A series of speakers gave their views on the Partnership during the event, including local resident Amy Bahat who has grown up with the Partnership and seen her neighbourhood transformed.

The day ended with a speech from Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa, Chairman of Greets Green Community Enterprises, the organisation set up to continue some of the work started by the Partnership. Along with Young Advisors, Rohan Bennett and Hannah Wooliscroft, Gurbachan highlighted some of the initiatives which will be carrying on in Greets Green.

Greets Green Partnership Executive Director, Ally Allerson, added: "During the past nine years the Partnership has achieved some amazing things with the help of our partners. We've seen crime levels drop, education levels rise and an increase in the amount of residents happy with their homes.

"However, we're not just satisfied with improving life in Greets Green during our lifespan. We're determined to make sure the work we have started will be carried on. Our Succession Strategy will set out exactly how this will be achieved."



*Celebrating with us...(from l to r) Cllr John Edwards, Amy Bahat, Di Kamp (Meta UK), Gary Bowman (Sandwell Partnership), Ally Allerson (GGP) and Geoff Fisher (GGP).*

# Businesses **BID** together to cut crime

**A major initiative to cut crime which was threatening the future of Greets Green businesses, has been given a boost with the expansion of the BID scheme.**

The Business Improvement District (BID) was originally set up in 2006, bringing together firms in the Albion Business Consortium around Albion Road. Each business paid an extra contribution on their rates to fund additional services and improvements, such as the installation of a new CCTV system and a staffed control centre in 2007.

The BID covered about 80 local businesses and Greets Green Partnership worked with Sandwell Council, Groundwork Black Country and the BID Steering Group to get it off the ground in a record eight months.

Areas covered included Oldbury Road, Albion Road, the Brandon

Way Industrial Estate, Oldbury Road Industrial Estate, Izons Lane and Brandon Way.

Since then, crime has fallen and more businesses have been asking to join the BID after seeing the success of the CCTV system.

As a result, the BID area has now been expanded and also covers Cornwallis Road, Credenda Road, Millards Industrial Estate, Greets Green Industrial Estate and Belper Enterprise Park. A total of 22 businesses are covered.

BID Co-ordinator, Geraldine Thomas, pictured below with PC Andy Ward, says: "Businesses in the area had been hit hard with an increase in people wanting to steal scrap metal.

"Most recently, a car repair company had to close because it couldn't get insurance after people had been breaking in and vandalising the cars for repair.

"More and more businesses began approaching us when they heard how crime had been reduced by the CCTV

cameras. People asked if they could be included in the BID area and we decided we needed to expand."

Four new CCTV cameras covering the area have been installed and are linked to the existing control centre. A team of staff watch the cameras and alert the Police when necessary.

In August 2007 when the CCTV cameras first became operational, there were 24 recorded incidents of crime. Since then, they've dropped to just five incidents in February, all of which were reported to the Police and resulted in arrests.

**To find out more about the BID area, call Geraldine Thomas on 07941 988330.**

## Cameras do their job

**PC Andy Ward of West Bromwich Police says the key to the success of the BID CCTV initiative is that word is getting round - if you try to commit crime in the area, you'll get caught on camera.**

"It's a fantastic scheme," he said. "Criminals have been breaking in from the canal and getting away along the tow paths, and the factories and industrial units are being hit.

"Now we've expanded the BID area to cover another four industrial estates, two of which are on the canal, so the new cameras will record any criminal activity. It's been hard work but it's rewarding."

Additional signs are also being erected to put anyone off attempting a crime.

PC Ward added: "Word has spread that there are cameras in operation from 6.00pm - 8.00am, and that they're on roaming and recording during the day. If anyone breaks in, we can look at that CCTV footage."



# NEWS

## FROM GGCE

**greet's green**  
community enterprises ltd



## Unemployed? HELP IS AVAILABLE

**The Shaw Trust is a national charity funded by the European Social Fund to help people overcome the barriers to getting back into employment.**

These may be learning difficulties, mental ill health, alcohol and drug issues, language issues or a lack of basic literacy skills. A wide range of pre and post employment support is available including job clubs, goals training and confidence building.

The Trust also works with other training providers to offer more specific courses.

"While many men are currently accessing the support we have available, we're not seeing many women," explains Kam Chopra from the Shaw Trust.

"We'd like to encourage any unemployed women to get in touch, such as mothers who are looking to return to work after having a child."

**Some services are offered from Belper Enterprise Park but an appointment is necessary. To arrange an initial assessment, call the Support Centre on freephone 0808 180 2003.**



Paul Orme, Darren Bowker, Andrew Cashmore and Alex Gardener are awaiting your call.

## ON THE MOVE WITH ANDY'S CARS

### A new taxi firm has hit the streets in Greet's Green!

Operating from Unit 5C at Belper Enterprise Park, Andy's Cars is specialising in jobs in the local area. Proprietor Andrew Cashmore, said: "We're a totally new company, started from fresh with three drivers and myself. Our aim is to provide jobs for local unemployed people as we want to employ three or four office staff."

Although Andy's Cars is a brand new company, the drivers - Alex Gardener, Darren Bowker and Paul Orme - will all be familiar faces as they've been working in the area for other taxi firms.

"I've been a driver myself for 14 years," Andy adds. "We're particularly keen for older people and women travelling on their own to get in touch because we're safe and reliable."

**Need a lift? Give Andy's Cars a call on 0121 580 4707.**

Greet's Green Community Enterprises  
Unit 9 Belper Enterprise Park,  
Greet's Green Road, West Bromwich B70 9EN  
Tel: 0121 525 2772  
Email: ggce@live.co.uk

**greet's green**  
community enterprises ltd



Wood Lane Community Centre,  
157 Wood Lane,  
West Bromwich B70 9PT  
Tel: 0121 525 2662  
Email: woodlane@btconnect.com

# YOUNGSTERS ENJOY EASTER FUN



## UNIT FOR RENT

### Need more space?

A brand new industrial unit measuring 2,510 square feet, is now available for rent in Charles Street.

Greets Green Community Enterprises recently bought four industrial units in Charles Street not far from the organisation's base at Belper Enterprise Park.

One of these is currently available, so don't miss out.

Anyone interested should contact Charles Caddick at Sellers Surveyors on 01384 456789.

Children had an eggstra-ordinary time at Wood Lane Community Centre during the Easter holidays. The youngsters, aged three to 11, took part in lots of Easter activities and outings, creating plenty of goodies to take home.

"We made Easter cards, papier mache eggs, and had an egg hunt," said organiser, Naomi Nicholls. "There was a movie day with films and popcorn, and we went on a trip to the Sea Life Centre, before finishing with a party on the Friday."

Although only a small number of youngsters attended, Naomi says it was a fun and lively couple of weeks with plenty going on.



## SAFE FUTURE FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

**Good news! The future of Wood Lane Community Centre after-school club has been secured.**

GGCE was approached by Sandwell Council to see if the organisation wanted to take over the running of the after-school club when the previous proprietor became ill and the venture faced the threat of closure.

Chief Executive of GGCE, Andrew Rainsford, explains: "We're pleased to be able to keep open the after-school club which is an important

child care facility in Greets Green. "It's only a small club but it complements the larger facilities in the area and is vital for those who use it. We've also been able to preserve two jobs as Naomi and Amena will continue to run the club."

About 10 children currently attend the after-school club and plans are underway for more school holiday activities.

**For more details, call Wood Lane Community Centre on 0121 525 2662.**



New recruits... (from l to r) Miles Davis, Mohammed Ali Akbar and Sharon Lavender.

## Three more join young advisors

**Three more teenagers have joined the busy team of Sandwell Young Advisors.**

The group was set up last year, and is made up of trained youth consultants who help organisations such as local authorities, PCTs and the Police work better with young people and engage with them.

Six Young Advisors were initially recruited in Greets Green. Four of them – Rohim Mohammed, Hannah Pearsall, Natasha Wooliscroft and Rohan Bennett – are still very active, having helped the Police to design a new 'pub watch' website and RegenCo to understand how West Bromwich town centre should be improved to meet the needs of young people.

Now three more Young Advisors have been recruited so that they can work with many more organisations.

**Miles Davis**, aged 17, coaches an Under 10s football team and works as a Lifeguard. He said: "Joining

Young Advisors seemed a good career opportunity because I want to work with young people in the future."

Eighteen year old **Mohammed Ali Akbar** is studying at college and has done voluntary work for the Bangladeshi Youth Forum and at the Confederation of Bangladeshi Organisations (CBO). "I felt this was a good opportunity for me to gain more experience," he says.

**Sharon Lavender**, aged 17, is in the first year of the sixth form at George Salter Collegiate Academy and has grown up in Greets Green.

She loves playing sport and also coaches younger children. She says: "I already work with young kids and I want to gain more experience."

Katherine Hewitt, Programme Delivery & Succession Manager at Greets Green Partnership, said the group has really taken off with more people wanting their services. "The Young Advisors are currently doing some work for ROSPA around

## Seaside holiday SUCCESS

Residents recently headed to the seaside for a fun holiday in Weston-super-Mare, organised by Greets Green Community Enterprises.

And anyone who missed it can now book on the next trip to the South Downs!

Business Administration Support Officer, Sharon Crowley, who went on the Weston trip said: "It was a really successful holiday – a good time was had by all!

"A total of 24 residents went on the trip and enjoyed the entertainment every day and evening."

Sharon is now planning the next GGCE holiday, which departs on Monday 21st September for five days and four nights full board at the South Downs Holiday Village, Bracklesham Bay, South Downs.

The price of £195 also includes two excursions, to Portsmouth and Bognor Regis, and a gala dinner with wine on one night.

**For more information, or to book a place, call Sharon at GGCE on 0121 525 2772.**

road safety," she explained. "We're pleased because it's a national organisation.

"They're also working with Sandwell PCT raising awareness of a national young people's website. They've now carried out a variety of different work and their experience is growing all the time."

**To find out how the Young Advisors could help make your organisation and its publicity material more youth friendly, call Andy Grigg at GGCE on 0121 525 2772 or email [ggce@live.co.uk](mailto:ggce@live.co.uk)**

# Want to join the Board?

The Board of Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE) is looking for more members – can you help to make a difference in the area?

GGCE is the successor organisation to Greets Green Partnership. It has both a commercial and community focus, and has recently bought Belper Enterprise Park and industrial units in Charles Street, where it's encouraging small businesses to set up shop. It also runs Wood Land Community Centre.

The GGCE Board, made up of local residents and representatives from local businesses, meets on a monthly basis and is vital in helping the organisation move forward.

If you're interested in finding out more about becoming a Board member, call GGCE Chief Executive, Andrew Rainsford, on 0121 525 2772.

# MEET THE BOARD

Greets Green Community Enterprises (GGCE) is run by a Board of local people who shape the direction the new organisation is taking.

In this regular feature, we'll be finding out more about current members of the Board and asking them why they've decided to get involved in GGCE.



Here we meet **Gurbachan Singh Dhinsa** who Chairs the Board of Greets Green Community Enterprises. He's also a member of the Management Committee for the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and was awarded an MBE for his services to the community in the Queen's New Years Honours list last year.

### How long have you been involved with GGCE?

I got involved right from day one - I was one of the ones who started the whole organisation up. I'm also Vice Chair of the Greets Green Partnership Board and decided to get involved in GGCE because we

needed somebody to be a link between the two organisations.

### What do you enjoy about volunteering?

I like to support organisations that are making things better in Greets Green. The Partnership has been good at improving the area - you can see the changes - and a lot of the work to improve education and health and drive down crime will continue. Now GGCE is taking on some of that work, I want to be part of it.

### Why should people now join the GGCE Board?

We want Greets Green Community Enterprises to work on behalf of the community, as Greets Green Partnership has done. This means that local residents need to get involved and make their views known so they're not left behind.

### How do you spend the rest of your time?

I'm a Governor at Sandwell College and I run two community centres so I'm keeping myself pretty busy on the community side. I've been a community activist for the last 30 years but since I retired from work I've had more time to get involved.

I still work about 37 hours a week - the only difference is I'm not getting paid now!

## BRING IN YOUR OLD COMPUTERS!

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- data wiped to American defence standards
- free service for local residents
- competitive charges for businesses

Enable your business to comply with the WEEE Directive and get your unwanted computer equipment disposed of responsibly.

Call GGCE on 0121 525 2772



# SMALL SITES FACELIFT FOR KINGSMILL PLAY AREA

One of the first projects to be completed way back in July 2001 has now been given an overhaul to make sure it's still looking good as the Partnership nears its end.

The Kingsmill Play Area in Gads Lane has received a facelift through the Small Sites project, which will also be helping to improve other areas of Greets Green throughout 2009-10.

The £200,000 play area was originally created by Sandwell Council Planners and Landscape Architects, funded by Greets Green Partnership with a contribution from Allied Bakeries. It was designed by pupils at Guns Village Primary School and became one of the Partnership's very first projects to help to regenerate the area.

Over the years, the play area deteriorated through wear and tear, and the Partnership allocated £12,000 through its Small Sites project to recondition the much loved facility. Further funding of £2,835 was secured from Sandwell Council to give the play area a new lease of life and bring it up to current play standards.

New gateways were installed, the playing surface was improved, new signs were put up and the entire playground was painted. It was officially re-opened at a special event in April by Sandwell Mayor Cllr Bob Price, who said: "Thanks to the hard work of Greets Green Partnership and Sandwell Council, children have somewhere clean and safe to enjoy themselves."

Youngsters from Guns Village Primary School's Student Council also attended the opening and enjoyed trying out the revitalised play equipment.



Helping the children celebrate...  
(l to r) Sunish Patel Parks Manager Sandwell Council, Sandwell Mayor Cllr Bob Price and Katherine Hewitt from Greets Green Partnership.

## MORE SMALL SITES IMPROVED

**The refurbishment of the Kingsmill Play Area was just one of 16 Small Sites projects which were completed by Greets Green Partnership during the 2008-09 financial year.**

In total, more than £100,000 was spent on improving a range of problem areas following requests from residents. These included resurfacing Railway Street after 10 residents, representing all homes

on the street, went along to their Neighbourhood Forum meeting to ask if the work could be done.

New fencing was also erected at Bromford Lane, the parking area next to the Post Office and Whitehall Road allotments was resurfaced, and the trees were thinned out at Marl Hole Park.

Greets Green Partnership Executive Director, Ally Allerson says: "The

great thing about the Small Sites project is that not only does it encourage residents to get involved, it also produces physical results which can be enjoyed by everyone."

Now more Small Sites projects are planned for the coming year so that residents can enjoy seeing their neighbourhoods spruced up.

**To find out more call Abdul Monim Khan on 0800 953 0215.**

# SCHOOL CELEBRATES MASSIVE TURNAROUND

**Dozens of teenagers in Greets Green are looking forward to heading off to university this autumn following a major transformation of George Salter Collegiate Academy.**

**Just six years ago the school was poorly performing and under subscribed, with less than half the pupils who were leaving local primary schools going to the only high school in Greets Green.**

Now, pupils are queuing up to start at the school, with parents from outside the area wanting to get their youngsters an education in Greets Green. This year, an astonishing 350 applications were made for the 180 places available in Year 7.

The current Year 11, who are now taking GCSEs, are the first year to have gone through the system of the new, improved school. They're aiming to beat last year's GCSE pass rate of 89 per cent – which has risen from just 16 per cent in 2003! Plus, following the launch of a sixth form at the school, students are busy taking their A levels and, out of

58 students, a massive 41 have already been offered conditional university places, which is a major success.

John Nicholson explains: "Back in 2003, the GCSE pass rate was only 16 per cent which meant the school had to raise its standards or close. Over three years the Department for Education & Skills put in £250,000 to transform the school and Greets Green Partnership matched this amount in the first year to pay for the ICT systems needed.

"The Partnership also invested a further £250,000 in other initiatives to turn the school around, including introducing Pastoral Managers, whose posts are now being entirely funded by George Salter.

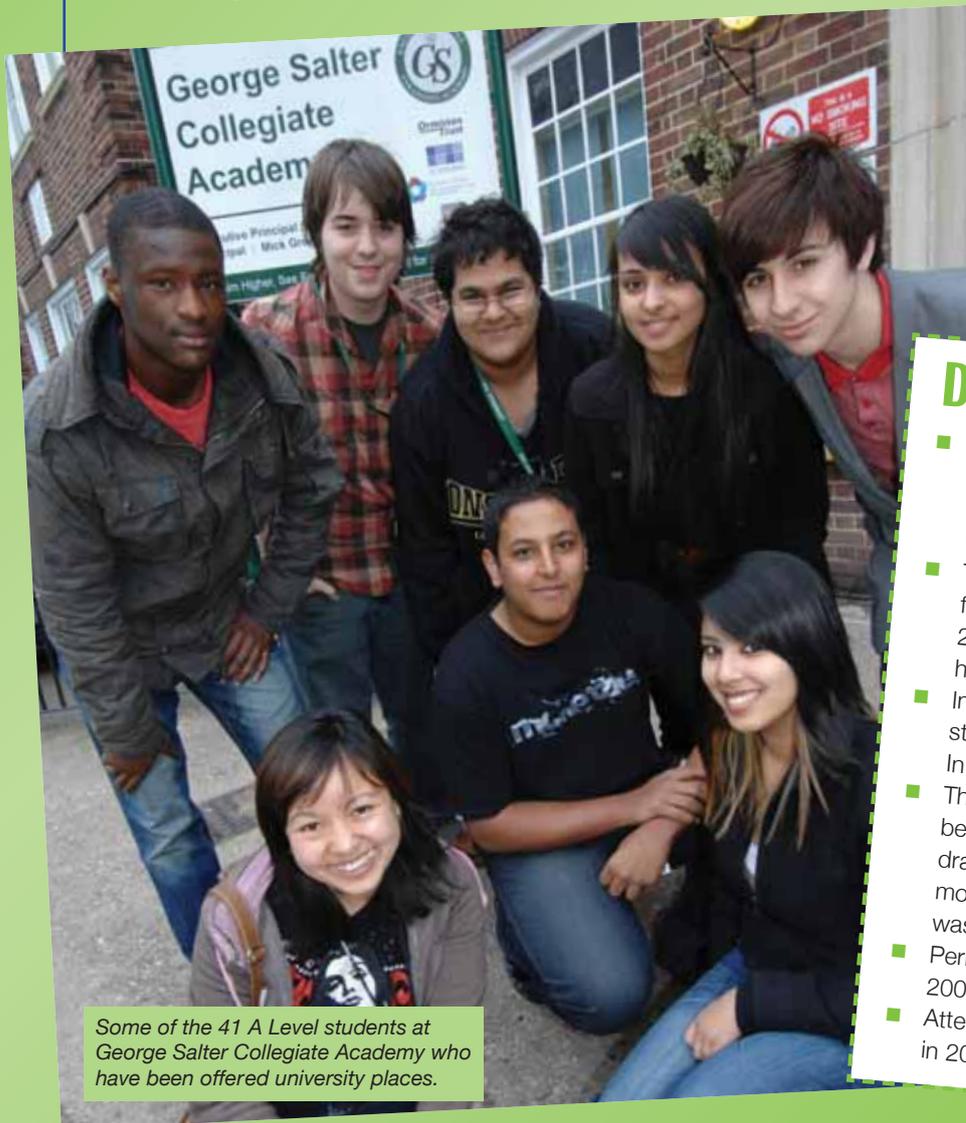
"All the money put in by Greets Green Partnership was aimed at raising standards and giving young people a better future. And those improvements will continue once the Partnership comes to an end."

In 2005 the school was reorganised into a house system, each with a Zone Director, Head of House and Pastoral Manager to support students, parents and staff.

Two years later it became George Salter Collegiate Academy and continued to go from strength to strength. Its 2005 Ofsted report said that "the school's success hasn't been achieved at the cost of caring - at George Salter's it is obvious that every child really does matter.

Now pupils are achieving results which were never dreamed of six years ago and the future certainly looks bright both for the school and all the youngsters who pass through it.

**To contact George Salter Collegiate Academy, call 0121 553 4665.**



*Some of the 41 A Level students at George Salter Collegiate Academy who have been offered university places.*

## Did You Know...

- GCSE results have gone up phenomenally at George Salter Collegiate Academy. There was just a 16% pass rate in 2003, which rose to 63% in 2006.
- The Sandwell average score of pupils achieving five or more passes in A\*-C grade was 47% in 2006, making George Salter the second highest achieving school in Sandwell.
- In 2007, GCSE results rose further to 84% of students achieving five or more A\*-C grades. In 2008 that figure hit a fantastic 89%!
- The number of fixed term exclusions - pupils being excluded for three-five days - has been dramatically reduced. In 2003/04 there were more than 350 exclusions and in 2007/08 this was down to just 51.
- Permanent exclusions have fallen from six in 2005/06 to none at all in 2007/08.
- Attendance has risen at the school from 88% in 2003/04 to 91% in 2007/08.

# SUPPORT AVAILABLE

**Many people from all walks of life have seen their business ventures take off thanks to help from the Business Support project funded by Greets Green Partnership.**

The project is in its final stages and the remaining grant money is now pretty much committed. However, there's still a whole range of help and advice available for existing businesses and new entrepreneurs in Greets Green.

To find out more call Katherine Hewitt, Programme Delivery & Succession Manager at Greets Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.



## PUPILS GET HOOKED ON THEIR HOBBY

**Reading about a Community Hero award in the December issue of the Greets Green Magazine inspired David Bird to make a heroic gesture to help others.**

David saw how Salik Ullah, caretaker at George Salter Collegiate Academy, runs George's Carp Crew in his spare time. The fishing club is for pupils of all ages, some of whom have behavioural or attendance issues.

As David runs a fishing bait company called Central Baits, he decided to give the group some free bait and other fishing items – and is also inspiring them to keep up and improve at their hobby with £100 of prize money up for grabs!

“There will be prizes for whoever catches the biggest fish by the end of the season, the most improved angler and the one who gets the most weighed in over the season,” explains Sal.

David said: “I’m always pleased to help. People like Salik can donate their time, which to me is priceless. That’s something I can’t donate as I’m just too busy, but what I can give is fishing bait and I was pleased to be able to help Salik encourage the youngsters.

**To find about more about George’s Carp Crew, call 0121 553 4665.**

## Adel’s life is on the move again

**Adel Ahmed’s life has been transformed by Greets Green Partnership over the past few years and it’s recently taken a whole new direction.**

Thanks to a Business Start Up Grant, he’s gone from being unemployed to self-employed and is busy getting his new business off the ground.

A couple of years ago the Partnership had another major impact on his life when he moved from the Housing Assessment Area (HAA) to a brand new home with their help.

Adel’s move back in 2007 nearly fell through when he lost his job five weeks earlier, but he was helped over that hurdle by a Property Appreciation Loan organised through the Partnership. Now his Business Start Up Grant has literally put him back on the road to success as he’s started Sandwell Transport, his own removals and courier business. “I was unemployed and I

needed something to get out of the mess I was in so the grant was fantastic,” Adel says. “What was especially helpful was the six-week course I was able to go on about how to run a business.”

Adel received help with applying for the £1,500 grant which he put towards the cost of buying his van. He’s also been able to borrow from friends and family.

“I’ve benefited enormously from Greets Green Partnership in the past few years,” Adel adds. “We used to live in Oxford Road, but were helped to move to a new four bedroom house with a garage and car parking space in Creed Way. I live there with my elderly parents, my wife and three children.

“My business isn’t very busy at the moment but it’s better than being unemployed. It’s been a big journey moving house and being unemployed at the same time. Now it’s time for me to make the most of the opportunity I’ve got.”



**To contact Sandwell Transport, call Adel on 07961 934422 or email [sandwelltransport@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandwelltransport@yahoo.co.uk)**

# Inspector returns to area she loves

**Greets Green has a new Sector Inspector – but Gillian Munslow is already very familiar with the area.**

She's been a Police Officer for 23 years, and has spent 19 of them covering the Greets Green area. "I first came to the area back in 1989," Inspector Munslow explains. "I've been a PC, Sergeant and am now Inspector here. I love the area. My husband is also a serving officer in Greets Green and was born and bred on The Lyng."

In 2005, she was involved in looking at neighbourhood policing for Greets Green and is now pleased to be back, seeing how it's working out in the area.

"During the past few years, crime has been reduced year on year," she says. "We've been so successful in the Greets Green area that we've reduced recorded crime past our target. Public confidence is also increasing so we've got to be doing something right."

"For me neighbourhood policing is about what matters to the community - listening to the residents and trying to address their fears and concerns."

"It's good to meet residents at Neighbourhood Forum meetings and at Neighbourhood Watch committees to hear their concerns."



**To contact the Greets Green Neighbourhood Policing Team, call 0845 113 5000.**

# Children's services on your doorstep

**Greets Green Children's Centre is on a mission to let all local families know what's available on their doorstep, thanks to new Manager, Adam Cooper.**

Adam, who joined the Children's Centre in April, has plenty of experience of working in early years and childcare settings. He used to be Manager of New Hall Primary and Children's Centre in Birmingham and

has also worked for Dudley Early Years and Sandwell Early Years. Even as a student he worked with children, getting involved in summer play schemes.

"I really enjoyed the play schemes and worked on one at Lodge Road Community Centre," he says. "It's great to be back in Greets Green again years later."

"My aim is to support local families and to raise their aspirations. There are more than 800 families with children aged five and under in Greets Green. We need to maximise the services we can offer them and let them know just how much is available at the Children's Centre."

**To find out about the latest services on offer from Greets Green Children's Centre, call 0121 612 5131.**



## Parents get involved

**Encouraging more local parents to help shape the future of the Children's Centre is a key aim for Adam.**

For mum Lisa Mannion, who has two young children, getting involved with the Children's Centre has opened up a whole new world. "When I had my daughter, Katie, the only other person I knew in the area with a child was my next door neighbour," she explains. The health visitor told me about the Children's Centre and that was the start for me. "I found out about the baby clinic and the Play and Stay sessions and started going along when Katie was only about six weeks old."

Lisa is so pleased with the impact the Children's Centre has had on her own life, that she's keen to put something back into the local community and help other parents. She says: "I'm one of a group of parents who are looking to set up a parent support group. Sometimes it can be quite daunting for people to talk to a member of staff, but they'd be happy to talk to another parent who's gone through the same thing as them."

The Children's Centre is always looking for more parents to get involved and help shape services. Get in touch if you're interested in finding out more.



## OLD PHOTOS WANTED

Can you remember what Greets Green looked like back in 1999 – and do you have any photos?

Greets Green Partnership is creating a publication which looks back over the lifetime of the Partnership and what's been achieved in the area. It's looking for any photos which show local streets and neighbourhoods before the Partnership was launched so that it can compare what they look like now.



If you have any photos, please call Richard Wyatt at Greets Green Partnership on 0800 953 0215 or email [richard\\_wyatt@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:richard_wyatt@sandwell.gov.uk)

## PICK UP YOUR GUIDE!

The Greets Green Communities & Venues Guide is out now and is available at community venues across Greets Green.



The 44 page glossy guide has been created by Greets Green Partnership for anyone who wants to find a venue in Greets Green in which to hold activities and events. All the venues listed in the guide are available for anyone to hire, so take a look.

Information about the different communities in Greets Green can also be found in the guide, along with details of how to get in contact with them.

Pick up your free guide from a community venue near you or pop into the Partnership offices on the High Street and ask for a copy.

## Car boot sales at George Salter

Saturday 27th June, 11th July, 15th August and 26th September.

Venue: George Salter Collegiate Academy Car Park, Davey Road off Dudley Street, West Bromwich.

Time: 9.00am - 12noon

Cost: £5.00 per car

Everyone welcome. Please call Janet Sayce on **07757 053044** for more details.

## competition corner

Solve the wordsearch and get a few ideas for where you could spend your summer break this year without having to head abroad. Simply find the 10 words listed below in the grid and circle them. Don't forget they can appear across, down or diagonally. Send your entry by **Friday 17th July 2009** 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.**

- |           |          |       |      |
|-----------|----------|-------|------|
| YORKSHIRE | DEVON    | WALES | RHYL |
| SOUTHPORT | CORNWALL | POOLE | BATH |
| BLACKPOOL | LEEDS    |       |      |



Please fill in your details using BLOCK CAPITALS.

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

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

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

### Congratulations

to Kiran Patel, Najma Ansa and Mrs D Fullwood who each won a £10 voucher from the April/May competition.

This competition is open to all ages

# Save our events!

Over the years, Greet's Green Partnership has held lots of successful community events including Summer Fun Days, Winter Festivals and fireworks displays.

Unfortunately, there will be no annual summer event this year as our staff team is now too small to organise such a large event.

However, the Partnership is joining forces with GGCE to set up a new events group... **and we need you.**

We're looking for local residents, businesses and organisations who want to get involved in any way with sponsoring, planning and running future events.

**Thousands of local people have had lots of fun at all the community events in the past. Let's make sure we have even more fun in the future.**



[www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk](http://www.greetsgreen.sandwell.gov.uk)

**Please get in touch.**



To find out more, call Jackie Owen at GGCE on 0121 525 2772 or Richard Wyatt at Greet's Green Partnership on freephone 0800 953 0215.