

THE Noize

Beechdale Community Newspaper

Easter fun on page 5



Spring 2011

COMMUNITY FUN DAY ANNOUNCED

INSIDE...



Volunteers have joined forces to organise a fun day for the whole community in Beechdale this summer.

The event, which could include fairground rides, a bouncy castle, tombola stalls and a tug of war, will take place in Stephenson Square on Saturday 18th June between 11.30am and 4.30pm.

It has been organised by Beechdale Resident Fundraisers, which is a new group that formed to organise a Christmas fair last year.

The group has around 15 members and plans to hold regular fundraising events on the estate. The money raised will fund things to brighten up Beechdale such as benches and plants.

Fundraiser Sue Oxley, of Jenner Close, said: "We want to do something to bring the whole community together and are busy organising the fun day. We know exactly what we want and will have attractions in the square and the Lifelong Learning Centre for people to enjoy.

"Fundraisers usually raise money

for charity, which is fantastic, but we want to do something to raise money to buy things that will improve our estate."

Beechdale Community Housing Association (BCHA) had organised successful summer fun days for the community in previous years and is supporting the residents' event.

To get involved with Beechdale Resident Fundraisers, call Sue Oxley on 01922 638948.

Photo: Sue Oxley (front) with some of the summer fun day organisers.

Tidying up Beechdale on page 3



Stepping out for charity on page 8



SPORT New classes on page 12



BUILDING SKILLS IN DIY

Centre helps people to master the basics

Around 150 people a week are learning the tricks of the trade at Frank F Harrison Construction Skills Centre.

Courses in basic plastering, brickwork plumbing and tiling are offered at the centre in Leamore Lane to teach people what they need to know to complete jobs around the home to a professional level.

The centre, which is fully equipped with bays for students to practise their skills in, provides a base from which Walsall

College and Walsall Adult and Community College teach some of their courses.

But it also offers seven week courses in basic skills to adults over 19-years-old under its Adult Community Learning programme which are taught in three hour sessions on an evening each week. They don't lead to a qualification so are ideal as a taster before committing to a longer course.

Debra Mohammed, from the centre, said: "It is absolutely fantastic because people can come and try their hand at four

different trades and get enough knowledge to do small jobs at home and for their family and friends so it saves people money in the long run."

Rates for courses are at a much reduced rate because they are heavily subsidised by Frank F Harrison Community Association and people receiving certain benefits do not have to pay.

The next Adult Community Learning courses will be at the start of May and enrolment is taking place now. For more information, call the centre on 01922 492480.

Photos: (right top to bottom) Brandon King gets to grips with plumbing, Alan Scott masters the art of plastering and, Chris Charles at work in the Skills Centre and (left) Ashley Matthews (15) tries his hand at bricklaying.



REACHING OUT TO TENANTS

Staff from BCHA will be visiting up to 100 tenants over the summer to make sure they are getting the support they need.

Tenancy officers are identifying residents who they have little or no regular contact with, so they can talk to them about whether they are making the most of the services available to them and whether

they need extra help.

Nick Woods, Operations Team Leader at BCHA, said: "We are trying to identify people who might be vulnerable, such as the elderly or disabled, and who are in need of help.

"We will then work with them and our partner organisations to set up a support package to meet their needs."

Champagne celebration for Dawn

Champagne flowed when Morrison's resident liaison officer for Beechdale was nominated for a prestigious award.

Dawn Lomas was one of just four people nominated for regional Resident Liaison Officer of the Year in the TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) Awards.

On April 1 - the first anniversary of starting work with Beechdale's repairs contractor - she was presented with champagne and a certificate in recognition of her work.

BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

The BCHA office will be open on Good Friday, April 22, but closed on Easter Monday, April 25, and Tuesday, April 26.

It will also be closed on the Bank Holidays on April 29, May 2 and May 30.

During these times, tenants can contact Morrison's out-of-hours number for emergency repairs on 0800 999 2061.

NUISANCE TENANTS SHOWN THE DOOR FOR RACIAL ABUSE

A couple who made their neighbours' lives a misery with racist abuse and threatening behaviour have been evicted from their Beechdale home.

Gary and Michelle Devey were ordered to leave their home in Stephenson Avenue after BCHA successfully obtained a court order to gain possession of the property last month.

The couple were jailed last July by Wolverhampton Crown Court after they admitted racially aggravated public order offences towards their neighbour. After serving half of a four-month jail sentence BCHA continued to receive complaints about their behaviour.

BCHA received 94 complaints about the Devey's anti-social behaviour over the last two years, which included racist abuse, drunken behaviour, late-night noise, fighting, arguing, shouting and loud karaoke sessions which were proven at the trial.



Beechdale Community Housing Association becomes Beechdale Community Housing, a local management board, this spring.

The change follows the completion of the partnership process with Friendship Care and Housing which has been taking place over the last year.

All tenants should have recently received a copy of the Beechdale Bulletin explaining the final stage of the process. If you have not received the newsletter, please contact Sukhi Sohal on 01922 648252.

A judge at Walsall County Court also granted an injunction order that prevents the Deveys contacting the affected neighbours and entering an area of Beechdale which includes Stephenson Avenue, Stephenson Square, Kelvin Road, Fleming Road and Rutherford Road until 11 March 2013. A power of arrest has been

attached to all the clauses of the injunction order.

Alison Cotton, BCHA Operations Manager, encourages any resident to come forward if they are suffering any type of anti-social behaviour. She says "Thank you to the residents who have helped us get this result and it goes to show what we can do, together,

to stop this type of behaviour. Everyone has the right to live in their homes happily and peacefully and we will not tolerate bad behaviour from anyone."

Are you having any problems? BCHA can help you, give you advice, take action or just listen to you if this is what you want.

BEES KEEP IT CLEAN

Children will be joining community volunteers in a drive to tidy up the Beechdale estate.

Youngsters from Charlie Caterpillar's Nursery and Hatherton Primary School will get to work on a major litter-pick with members of the Beechdale Estate Environmental Society (BEES).

Members of staff from Beechdale Community Housing Association (BCHA) will also take part in the event, which takes place on June 10 and is part of the national Big Tidy Up campaign organised by Keep Britain Tidy.

BEES chair Pat Dean said: "Taking part in the Big Tidy Up and helping to improve the state of the area is a great opportunity for us to get out into the community and show others that we care about the area."

Nick Woods, Operations Team Leader at BCHA, said: "This clean up will demonstrate that the residents care about the

future of their local environment and that they are not prepared to live, work and play in an area blighted by rubbish."

The BEES group was recently

set up by local residents to work with BCHA to improve the environment of Beechdale and tackle areas of concern such as fly tipping and speeding traffic.

Photos: Children at Hatherton Primary School (left to right) Martyna Slwinski, Luca Holmes, Andie Humphries, Courtney Guest urge residents to take part in the Big Tidy Up.



Beechdale noticeboard

Looking to take up a new hobby and make new friends?
There's lots going on in Beechdale, so look no further!

Monday

Bowling Club for the over-50s
9am-midday at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre. Contact: **01922 746967**

Stay and Play
(ages 0-5) 9.30-11am at Hatherton Children's Centre (Hathertots Creche). £1 per family. Contact: **01922 712507**

Early Days Parent and Baby Group
9-11am at Hatherton Children's Centre. Drop-in group for new and soon-to-be parents, with children up to 1-year-old. Health visitor there from 9.30.

Place 2 Be
Activity club for 8-12-year-olds. 5-7pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.

Baby Peep
(ages 0-12 months) 9.30-11am at Hatherton Children's Centre. Fun learning activities. Contact: **01922 712507**.

Over-60s Luncheon Club
10.30am-1.30pm at Lifelong Learning Centre, Stephenson Square. Crafts, gentle aerobics and a range of talks. Contact: **01922 710670**

Tuesday

ZumbAtomic Group
(4-8-year-olds) 3.30pm-4.30pm. Dance exercise sessions at Hatherton Children's Centre. £1.50 a session. Book a place on **01922 712507**.

The Tuesday Night Project
(13-19-year-olds) 5pm-7.30pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre. Recreational activities and internet cafe.

Rock Tots – mothers and toddlers
9.30am-11am at The Rock Church, Edison Road. Contact: **01922 441721** or Hannah Evans **07846 936221**

Wednesday

Toddler group
10-11.30am at Beechdale Library, Stephenson Square. 75p, including refreshments.

Over-60s Luncheon Club
12-2pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre. Bingo, outings and other activities. Contact: **01922 710670**

Youth club
(13-19-year-olds) 5.30pm-8pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre. Drop-in session to play badminton, basketball, pool and Wii.

Thursday

Bowling Club for the over-50s
9am-midday at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre. Contact: **01922 746967**

Take a Break
(ages 0-3 years) 9.30-11.30am at Hatherton Children's Centre. Fun sessions for children to allow parents to have a break. £2 Places must be booked. Contact: **01922 712507**.

Over-50s group
Every third Thursday, 10-11am. Talks of interest in Beechdale Library, Stephenson Square.

Kids' soft play
10am at Rock Church, Edison Road, Beechdale. Contact: **01922 441721**

Tots and Teens
(for teenage parents with children up to 5 years) 10.30am-midday at Hatherton Children's Centre.

Internet Cafe
(13-19 year-olds) 5-7pm. Drop in and surf the web at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.

Creative Drama
(8-15-year-olds) 5-6pm. Drama sessions at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.

Friday

Over-60s Luncheon Club
10.30am-1.30pm at Lifelong Learning Centre, Stephenson Square. Crafts, gentle aerobics and a range of talks. Contact: **01922 710670**

New! : A ladies afternoon has been launched at the White Horse Pub, Green Lane, from 1pm – 2.30pm.

Saturday

Bike Club Positive Activities
Scrambling and bike maintenance sessions for 13-19-year-olds, 9am-5pm at Frank F Harrison Scrambling Track.

Frankie's Gymnastic and Ballet Club
(4-15-years-old) 10am-12pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre

Sports activities for 8-19-year-olds
11am to 1pm at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.

Sunday

St Catherine with St Chad NYOC
(Not Your Ordinary Church – Not Your Ordinary Cafe) Come along for coffee, tea and cakes on the second Sunday of each month at the church. This is an informal gathering with entertainment.

The Rock Church Family Service
Held at The County Hotel, Birmingham Road, Walsall 10.30am start, www.therockchurch.co.uk

Nite Life – Evening Fellowship
at The Rock Church, Edison Road. 6.30pm start followed by tea and coffee.

EASTER FUN AT NURSERY

Youngsters have been donning spring bonnets and hunting for chocolate eggs as part of Easter festivities at a nursery on the estate.

Children at Charlie Caterpillar's Nursery are enjoying a range of activities to mark the occasion, celebrating the idea of new life.

They have been planting bulbs from Bloxwich Market in pots as gifts for their parents, making pom-pom chicks, seeing baby bunnies and choosing a new nursery pet.

Easter bonnet parades have also been held, as well as an Easter egg hunt in the grounds of Hatherton Primary School.



Photo: Priya Kurnaz and Grace Middleton enjoy the Easter fun at Charlie Caterpillar's Nursery.

- Children aged three since the start of September to March 31 are eligible for 15 hours free nursery provision a week. Contact the nursery on 01922 497136 for full details.

CLOSING THE DOOR ON VANDALS

New security gates are being installed to prevent vandals and arsonists creating havoc on an old garage site on the estate.

There had been reports of anti-social behaviour on the land off Kelvin Road, which backs onto residents' gardens, and firefighters were called out three times to incidents there last autumn.

BCHA has worked with the North Walsall Area Partnership, firefighters, local councillors and Walsall Victims' Champion Karen Bateman to win £2,500 of funding to pay for the metal gates.

The gates, which will be installed in May, will be maintained by BCHA. Arrangements will be made for residents who use the site for parking to have keys.

WALSALL'S LIBRARIES REVIEWED

Beechdale residents have been having their say on the future of Walsall's libraries under a far-reaching review of the service.

Walsall Council has been seeking people's views on what they want from libraries and how they want to access them.

Residents were invited to fill in a questionnaire about their existing use of the service and how it could be developed.

Walsall Council leader Councillor Mike Bird said the consultation was not focused on closures but might result in services moving to a different location, the use of mobile libraries and self-service facilities for users.

He said: "Difficult decisions need to be made and some libraries may not continue to operate in their existing buildings but that does not necessarily mean the service will disappear from the community altogether.

"It may be that the review indicates the library is no longer in the centre of the community and would be better located elsewhere.

"This review is about bringing the library service into the 21st century."

The council will consider the findings of the consultation, which ended on April 10, over the summer. Find out more at www.walsall.gov.uk/library_consultation_2011

Arthritis Care Meetings

Join us for talks, social activities and chair exercise classes on the second Thursday of each month (12th May, 9th June, 14th July) at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre, Stephenson Square, from 7 – 9pm

New members wanted

Call Sheila:

01922 634246

Pat Sheriff:

01922 635224

SETTLING IN TO NEW HOME

Frank F Harrison Community Association has moved to a new home at the heart of the estate.

The association moved into the Lifelong Learning Centre in Stephenson Square at the start of this month.

Debra Mohammed, of the association, said the decision was made to move from its previous base at Frank F. Harrison Engineering College for financial reasons.

She said it was more viable to move than to pay the rent the school had to charge because many of its classes already meet at the Lifelong Learning Centre and it would be available at more times of day.

For details of the classes and courses offered by the centre, call 01922 710670.

- New sports classes for children - see page 12.

The community association is also due to launch a new youth



Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre- the new home of Frank F Harrison Community Association.

club for children next month thanks to funding from BCHA.

Talks are currently taking place to finalise arrangements for the club which will be aimed

at 8-12-year-olds. It will be launched in May and will meet at BCHA's office every Monday evening during term-time. Times are due to be confirmed shortly.

NEWS FROM

Beechdale's Bobbies



for their help and support in the fight against drug crime.

The raids were part of West Midlands Police's ongoing Operation Intrusive, a campaign tackling drug crime, anti-social behaviour, theft and burglary.

Police in Beechdale are also currently working with scrapyards in the area to combat metal thefts, under Operation Steel.

DRUGS RAID SUCCESS

Drugs raids in the Beechdale and Leamore area have led to six arrests over the last few months.

Officers, who executed warrants at four properties across the patch, have thanked the local community

New recruit swells the ranks

Pc Lucy Spanner has joined the team which covers the Beechdale estate.

Lucy, from Staffordshire, has been a police officer for 11 years, starting in London's Metropolitan Police before serving

in Handsworth and Bloxwich, including work with the child abuse investigation unit.

Her appointment brings numbers in the Leamore Neighbourhood Policing Team up to nine. One of her main responsibilities will be working with Frank F Harrison Community College.

Officers recently visited the school with drug sniffer dogs and a mobile knife scanner as part of an awareness raising event about the dangers of drugs and weapons.

Winning the fight against crime

The latest figures for the Beechdale and Leamore area show a reduction in crime since last year.

For January and February this year, compared to the same period last year, theft is down by 46 per cent, drugs crime by 33 per cent and burglaries by 17 per cent.

patrol their local area, looking out for problems ranging from anti-social behaviour to fly-tipping.

A new national initiative to tackle crime will be launched in Beechdale this summer.

Street Watch involves members of the community helping to patrol their local area, looking out for problems ranging from anti-social behaviour to fly-tipping.



PC Lucy Spanner

Street Watch

A new national initiative to tackle crime will be launched in Beechdale this summer.

Street Watch involves members of the community helping to

Anyone interested in becoming a Street Watch volunteer can contact local coordinator Sue Oxley on 01922 638948.

BEAT SURGERIES

Residents can raise issues with local police officers at monthly beat surgeries held at the BCHA offices. The next sessions will be on May 16 at 10am and June 24 at 11am.

MEMORY LANE

Community spirit going strong



Our trip down Memory Lane feature asks residents to turn their mind back to how life on the estate used to be.

Here, Teresa Timmins shares her memories with readers.

"I moved into my home in Remington Road with my husband Tony and our daughter Tracey. The estate was a very different place then. The power station at Reedswood was a real landmark, there was nothing like the supermarket or shops that are on that site now.

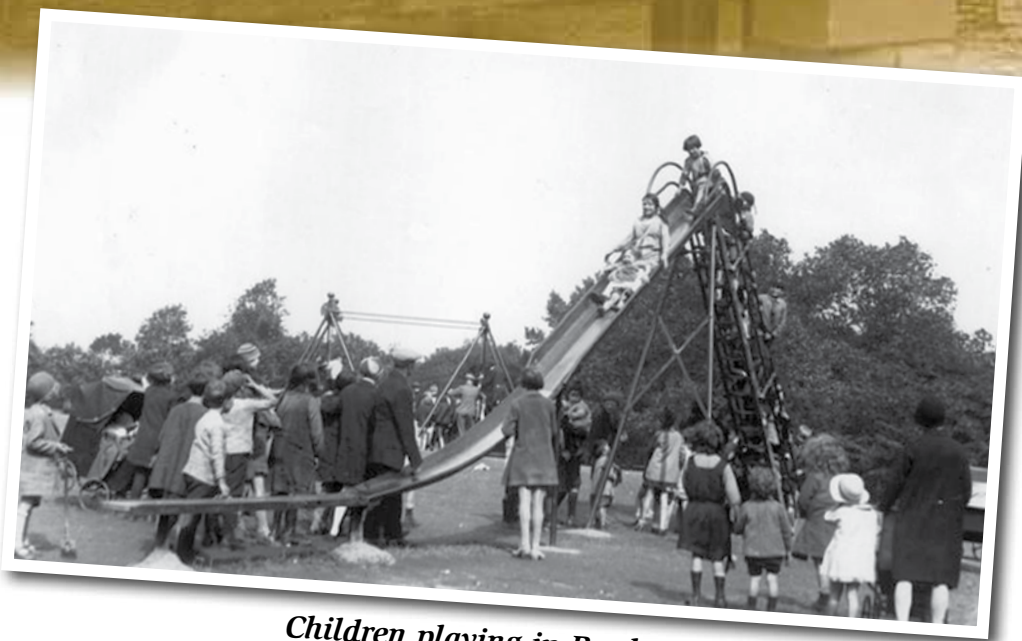
My children growing up are the best memories I have and they went to the school at the end of our road, Remington Road Junior and Infants School, which is no longer there. In the '60s and '70s, you could happily let children walk over to Reedswood Park and they loved it there.

There has always been a real sense of community spirit, I remember us having a street party for Charles and Diana's wedding and, on Bonfire Night, we all used to go onto the hill by the waterworks in Green Lane and have a community bonfire - you can't do that these days.

We had a residents' association that used to take people on day trips. The thing with Beechdale was that when people moved into their house, they would never want to move away. A lot of us have seen our children grow up here and now see each other's grandchildren doing the same, it's a lovely place."

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY?

Would you like to share your memories of Beechdale's past with readers? If so, call Michelle on 07824 466228 or email michelle@wordassociation.co.uk



Children playing in Reedswood Park in the 1920s.

Spotlight on Reedswood Park

Reedswood Park dates back to the late 19th Century and was provided for people in the surrounding area to enjoy because it was such a compact and industrialised area.

These photographs show a tank which became a local landmark during the First World War.

The British tank, known as Julian, was taken on a tour around the country and people were asked to throw their spare change into the 'tank bank' or buy National War Bonds and War Savings Certificates from the tank to raise money for the war.

Walsall's 'Tank Week' took place in March 1918 when the tank spent the week outside the council house and drew crowds of people in their best dress who had never seen a tank before.

It was then moved to Reedswood Park where it was positioned on a grass mound

near the Miner Street entrance and it stayed there for several years.

Photos kindly provided by Walsall Local History Centre.



Julian the tank outside Walsall Town Hall in March 1918.



Julian the tank in Reedswood Park.

Recipe corner

School cook Jenny Clarke has opened up the recipe book used by Walsall's schools to share some of the favourite lunchtime dishes with readers of The Noize.

Each edition we feature a recipe chosen by Jenny, who is unit supervisor at Hatherton Primary School. Here, she shares a recipe for vegetarian coronation wraps which are an ideal snack on a summer's day.



VEGETARIAN CORONATION WRAP

(serves 10)

Ingredients:

10 wraps
Shredded lettuce
20 slices cucumber

250g Quorn pieces
3 tbsp tikka paste
125g natural yoghurt

Method:

- 1) Mix tikka paste and yoghurt in a bowl.
- 2) Add quorn to the mix and marinade for two hours.
- 3) Spread mixture on a lined baking sheet.
- 4) Cook in a moderate oven for 10 minutes.
- 5) Chill.
- 6) Spread mixture on wraps.
- 7) Arrange cucumber and lettuce over the filling.
- 8) Fold over wrap diagonally and slice in half.
- 9) Serve with jacket potato.

VICTORY FOR MOTORWAY CAMPAIGNERS

Campaigners have won their fight to remove a motorway gantry which has been an eyesore for Beechdale residents.

The 35ft gantry over the M6, near Junction 10, has been taken down by highways bosses a year after being installed.

It follows a fierce campaign by residents in Murdock Way.

But they have vowed to fight on to have another gantry reduced in height which currently looms over homes further down the street.

Campaigner Jim Sargent said: "This is a partial victory but the fight goes on.

"We are also asking for more sound barriers to reduce the traffic noise we get in our homes, which has been made worse by the recent opening up of the hard shoulder during peak times."

BOSS IS SHINING STAR

Staff at BCHA have nominated their boss as the team's shining star.

They made a surprise presentation to Chief Executive June Moriarty with the "Star

of the Month" award, which is given to employees who go above and beyond the call of duty.

June, pictured, received the accolade in January for the exceptional effort, commitment and time she put into BCHA's partnership deal with Friendship Care and Housing.

Staff also praised her for the support she gave them and the way she kept everyone informed throughout the whole process.

June said she was delighted to have been chosen to receive the award.



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STEPPING OUT FOR RACE FOR LIFE

A team from BCHA is busy training ready to take part in this year's Race For Life to raise money for Cancer Research.

The team includes June Moriarty, Hilary Cocker, Wendy Walker, Natalie Davis, Dawn Lomas, Sukhi Sohal, Alison Jones, Denise Bamford and Diane Whistance.

They will complete the 5k route, which happens at venues across the country, at Walsall

Arboretum on Sunday 26th June. If you are going along, then remember to cheer on the girls!

Anyone wanting to sponsor the team should speak to Sukhi Sohal in the BCHA office.

Photo: BCHA's Alison Jones, Natalie Davies, Denise Bamford, Sukhi Sohal, June Moriarty and Morrisons Dawn Morrison who will be completing Race For Life.



We have noticed that chicken pox is once again plaguing many of our patients.

There is very little that can be done for someone with chicken pox, apart from using calamine lotion for the itching. Antihistamines may also help, but check this with your local chemist.

We would also urge you to inform the surgery if you get chicken pox, so your patient records can be updated.

Health tips:

Hayfever season is almost upon us, so patients are advised to make sure they have the medication they need to help

them through what can be an annoying time.

Contact your surgery to order your antihistamines, making sure you allow 48 hours for collection of your prescription. Alternatively, you can get advice from your local pharmacy on what might suit you best and buy medication over the counter.

With summer approaching, ensure you have sun cream to hand to protect yourself and your family, particularly children and babies.

Make sure you also keep a stock of calamine lotion and antihistamines ready to relieve sunburn and insect bites.

TENANT REWARD SCHEME WINNERS

Winners of the latest Tenant Reward Scheme draw were Sue Oxley of Jenner Close, Maureen Matthews of Gurney Road and Laura Hingley of Newton Place.

Each has been presented with their £100 prize.

BCHA launched the initiative to reward tenants for meeting criteria such as keeping up-to-date with rent payments and keeping their garden tidy.

Qualifying residents are entered into a prize draw each quarter.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Stubbing out cigarettes

A campaign has been launched by Walsall Council to help people stop smoking.

The Break The Chain campaign, which is led by the council's Environmental Health Team, also aims to crack down on the sale of illegal cigarettes and tobacco.

To report suspected illegal tobacco sales, call the Customs helpline on 0800 59 5000.

For advice about stopping smoking, call Walsall Stop Smoking Service on 01922 444044 or visit www.walsallcommunityhealth.nhs.uk

Estate walkabouts

Residents and BCHA staff will be taking part in walkabouts which will patrol the whole Beechdale estate over the next year.

Members of the BEES group (Beechdale Estate Environmental Society) will be joining the walks, which take place on the fourth Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4pm.

The patrols cover different areas of the estate and are followed by an hour-long meeting to draw up an action plan to tackle any issues of concern.

Details of forthcoming walkabouts can be found on the BCHA website and in the office reception area.

Karaoke Night

A karaoke night at Beechdale Social Club will raise funds for the Help the Heroes charity on St George's Day

The event, which is free but includes a fundraising raffle, will be held on April 23, from 8pm. An entertainment night at the club recently raised £300 for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.

BEECHDALE WORDSEARCH

WIN A £25 SHOPPING VOUCHER

Find the following Easter words in the word search to be in with a chance of winning a £25 shopping voucher.

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

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Easter | Cake |
| Bunny | Sunday |
| Egg | Celebration |
| Chocolate | Religion |
| Bonnet | Tradition |

Please complete the grid and send it back by Friday 20th May 2011 to **The Noize, c/o Word Association, 6a Forrester's Road, Burbage, Leicestershire, LE10 2RX** or drop your completed form into the BCHA office.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone number



Congratulations!
The winner of the winter wordsearch was Mrs Lorraine Chadbund from Stephenson Avenue who won a £25 shopping voucher.

BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE

Pirates, treasure hunts and lightning strikes were the order of the day during a fun-filled visit to Hatherton Primary School.

Staff from the Thinktank science museum in Birmingham spent a day at the school as part of

Science and Engineering Week.

They got the children involved in a host of activities, teaching them about a range of subjects, including electricity, recycling and gravitational forces.



Photo: Madison Sherman (6), Abigail Carnegie (7), Brooke Keats (7), Mollie Capewell (7) get stuck into Science and Engineering Week at Hatherton Primary School.

the George Stephenson Family Pub and Fuzzy Ed Funhouse



Join our family club and enjoy the benefits, simply log on to www.ourfamilyclub.co.uk.

Keep an eye out for the brilliant vouchers on www.myvouchercode.co.uk.

Take advantage of our free WiFi access point.

Why not pop in and book a Fuzzy Ed party for your child's/children's birthday.

We now have new 3D Sky TV showing your favourite sports.

Forthcoming events

- Easter activities for the kids in the Funhouse throughout school half-term.
- Royal Wedding tea party in the Funhouse on April 29th.

Speak to staff for more details on all events.



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Tel: 01922 630458
Stephenson Avenue, Walsall WS2 7EU



FOCUS ON...MARY ELLIOT SCHOOL

GIFT TO SAY THANKS



Youngsters showcased their artistic skills by creating a colourful mosaic as a special thank you for a Beechdale community project.

Pupils at Mary Elliot School made the butterfly model – based on the school logo – from broken tiles and presented it to June Moriarty, Chief Executive of BCHA.

The gift was a thank you to BCHA for allowing the children to take over a bedsit in Hadley Road as part of their “life skills” studies.

Students have learned about

painting, decorating, furnishing and cleaning a home, as well as shopping for groceries and cooking.

Contractors have now slabbed part of the garden to allow access for pupils with wheelchairs so they can soon begin working on the community garden by planting flowers and growing vegetables.

Photo: Mary Elliot School pupil Kirsty Day presents the butterfly to BCHA’s Chief Executive June Moriarty.

FITNESS CLASSES GET THE THUMBS UP

Members of the Beechdale community are making the most of free exercise classes at Mary Elliot School.

Qualified fitness instructors, from the lifestyle services team at NHS Walsall Community Health, run the classes every Wednesday from 10am to 11am.

The classes, which cater for all levels of fitness, are open to

parents and other members of the local community.

Sessions include exercises to music and floor work including endurance and muscle strengthening techniques.

More details on community fitness classes are available on 01922 444044.

Photo: One of the fitness classes in full swing.



CHANGES AT BCHA

BCHA is changing the opening hours for payment services in the office.

Following a survey of residents about its services, the office will no longer take payments on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, freeing up staff to work on various initiatives to improve the estate and its services.



The office will remain open for all other enquiries.

By September 30, the cash desk will no longer take payments for third party organisations, such as water bills and council tax and will inform customers of alternative payment arrangements.

BCHA is also looking at introducing the option for tenants to pay rent and service charges via a Paypoint card, which can be used at various shops, as well as the BCHA office.

Photo: John Davies, of Cavendish Road, was winner of the Opening Hours and How to Pay survey draw. Tom Parkes, from BCHA, presented him with the £25 prize.

NEW FACES AT BCHA

Two new tenancy officers have joined the team at BCHA. Pauline Burke and Sonny Dhami have been recruited on a temporary basis, after tenancy officer Jag Kumar left to spend more time with his family.

Pauline Burke and Sonny Dhami



THE Sportz

Spring 2011

STARTER'S ORDERS FOR NEW CLUB



Sports coaching is being offered to Beechdale youngsters with the launch of new sessions on the estate.

Frank F Harrison Community Association is working in conjunction with BCHA to offer coaching in football, basketball

and other sports each week.

The sessions take place in the Lifelong Learning Centre between 11am and 1pm on Saturdays and are open to children aged eight to 19-years-old.

A dance group is also due to be launched in the near future and will meet at Beechdale Community Housing's office in

Stephenson Avenue between 5.15pm and 7.15pm on Thursdays and between 11am and 1pm on Saturdays.

For full details on times and details of the club, contact Aaron on 01922 710670.

Photo: Aaron Lawrence, Youth Coordinator at Frank F Harrison Community Association.

KITS FOR THE BOYS

Young soccer stars from Beechdale have beaten off strong opposition to win their league.

Beechdale Juniors Under-10s came top of Walsall Junior Youth League's fourth division.

The 12-strong team will also be sporting a brand new strip this summer, thanks to a sponsorship deal with BCHA repairs contractor Morrison Facilities Services.

Team manager Jason Plant said: "The lads are playing really well at the moment and working hard, so we are really pleased to be getting new kits for the summer."

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you fancy seeing your team news here? If you would like to let people on the estate know how your team is getting on, or if you have some other sports news to share, simply get in touch. Call Michelle on 07824 466228 or email your team's news to michelle@wordassociation.co.uk

