

THE Noize

Beechdale Community Newspaper



Beechdale's got talent on page 9

Summer 2011

CROWDS FLOCK TO COMMUNITY FUN DAY

INSIDE...



Young members of Frankie's Gym prepare for their performance at Beechdale Community Fun Day

Crowds flocked to join in the merrymaking at Beechdale's Community Fun Day this summer.

Residents old and young gathered in Stephenson Square for the festivities, which raised funds to help spruce up the estate.

Fairground rides, a bouncy castle, a host of games and a tug of war were all part of the fun-

packed programme for the day.

Volunteers from Beechdale Resident Fundraisers organised the day, following the success of their first event - last year's Christmas fair.

The group hopes to hold regular events throughout the year to help boost community spirit and raise funds for items such as benches and plants to improve the appearance of the estate.

Sue Oxley, Chair of Beechdale Resident Fundraisers, said: "It was a fantastic day. We had a good turn-out, there were lots of things to do and everyone enjoyed themselves."

Anyone interested in finding out more about Beechdale Resident Fundraisers should call Sue on 01922 638948.



Toddlers waddle for charity on page 2



A healthy helping hand on page 5



Dancers wow the crowds on page 12



Spreading the fire safety message at Bloxwich Fire Station are (front) Crew Commander Ian Pickard with (back, left to right) firefighters Simon Shakespeare, Lee Hewitt, Tony Bishop and Nigel Dawes

SAFETY TIPS FROM FIREFIGHTERS

Bloxwich fire crew is offering some seasonal advice to keep families safe over the summer.

Barbecues:

- Site your barbecue in a suitable area away from trees, sheds and fences.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when lighting them.
- Do not use accelerants such as petrol.
- Never leave them unattended.
- Keep children well away.
- Make sure they are properly extinguished.

Garden fires:

- Make sure fires are in a suitable container well away from trees, sheds and fences.
- Sparks and embers can rapidly

spread the smallest of fires.

- Make sure buckets of water or a hosepipe are nearby in case the fire gets out of hand.
- Never leave them unattended and keep children well away.

Fires in the open:

- Don't light fires in public open spaces.
- Be careful when smoking in public spaces and parkland – make sure cigarettes are properly extinguished.
- Do not play with, or discard, matches.
- Be observant and on the look-out for fires starting. If you spot one, call 999.

Toddlers waddle for charity

They may be pint-sized but children at Beeches Day Nursery wanted to do their bit for charity by taking part in a sponsored walk.

The nursery, in Stephenson Square, holds a 'waddle toddle' every year and children collect sponsorship before being taken on a walk by staff.

The theme of this year's walk, which took place on 15th June, was 'In The Wild' so youngsters donned fancy dress before being

taken around Reedswood Park. Around 30 children took part and raised £219.

Nursery manager Ann McWatt said: "The children all got a little medal for taking part and it was a really fun day. The sun was shining and the children loved it."

Pictured are Nursery Manager Karen Southall, children pictured left to right, Cleeve Poxon (4), Alexis Holland (4), Liam Jones (4), Ashton Lees (4)



MY NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR NIGHTMARE



Nick Woods, Beechdale Operations Team Leader, outside Carol's house

Beechdale couple Gary and Michelle Devey were evicted from their home after making their neighbour's life a misery with racist abuse and threatening behaviour. Here their neighbour, Carol Hylton, tells her story.

Carol, who grew up on the Beechdale estate, moved to Stephenson Avenue with her son Leon in October 2008.

She said: "I just wanted a house with a garden but I ended up

next door to the family from hell. The first night we moved in, the karaoke machine started next door at 12.30am and went on till 5am. Leon was about 18-months-old and the music was so loud it kept us both awake.

"It happened again the following weekend. I went round and asked them if they would keep the music down a bit but it happened again the following night. The music was just the start - there was drunken fighting, shouting, the police turning up in the middle of the

night. Other people who lived on the estate said it had been going on for 15 years.

"When I contacted Beechdale Community Housing, they said they needed people to come forward to make formal complaints before they could do anything and told me to start keeping a diary of incidents.

"On some occasions I had to call environmental health about the music levels. The Deveys would then start banging on my walls, making threats and shouting racist abuse. They were really nasty and aggressive and even smashed my bathroom and kitchen windows.

"It was a nightmare. At times I felt like giving up and just moving out, but I have family on the estate and I didn't see why I should let the Deveys drive me away.

"My advice to others in a similar situation would be to stick together as neighbours and make a proper complaint. The longer it's allowed to go on, those causing the problem think they are untouchable because people are scared, so things get worse.

"The message is - don't be scared. There is a lot of back-up out there - from the housing association, environmental health, the police and the courts."



THE LANDLORD'S VIEW

Nick Woods, Operations Team Leader at Beechdale Community Housing, said: "The Devey family had been Beechdale tenants since 1985 and, although there had been the odd incident reported of anti-social behaviour, there were no regular reports of ongoing nuisance. When Carol moved in, we began to get incidents reported more regularly.

"We kept in touch with Carol and tried to find other potential witnesses to the nuisance. During 2009, despite several formal warnings regarding their behaviour, the incidents continued and took a more sinister and personal nature.

"We responded by serving a Notice Seeking Possession

and protecting neighbours by getting legal injunctions. This calmed the situation temporarily but the behaviour soon recommenced and the police and environmental health joined us in dealing with the situation.

"We had to work hard to get all the information to our solicitors. Despite our efforts to get other members of the community to stand together and be witnesses at court, only Carol and her partner Aaron went ahead with this. This made the case a lot trickier and the courts always see eviction as a last resort.



"Although it is a difficult decision to stand up and make complaints about your neighbours, this is the only way we can get any recourse through the courts. If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, call your Tenancy Officer for an appointment."

It cost nearly £40,000 and took 12 months of work to finally obtain the eviction.

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.

A HEALTHY HAND AT FAMILY FUN DAY

Fun and games will put the focus on health and fitness at a family fun day being held on the estate.

Hatherton Children's Centre has organised the event which will take place on the playground at Hatherton Primary School in Bloxwich Lane.

People are invited along between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 13th August to join in the fun.

Marquees will be on the playground offering attractions including fruit smoothies to taste and free menus to take away, health checks and advice on giving up smoking.

There will also be plenty of activities for families to try including a zumba session, crafts, sports activities and a penalty shootout with the estate's Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Nick Woods from Beechdale Community Housing.

Judith Heminsley, Family Support Outreach/Health Co-ordinator at Hatherton Children's Centre, said: "We hope the community will come along and have lots of fun with us, as they have at past events."

There is no need to book but more information is available from 01922 712507.



Hatherton Children's Centre staff James Hurst, Elaine Millington, Najma Kaiser, Terry Hynes and Rhian Ferguson gear up for the fun day

YOUNGSTERS STEP BACK IN TIME



Enjoying World History Day are pupils (front) Damian Benton, Georgia Bailey, (back left to right) Rebecca Edwards, Shaina Sutton, Liam Horney and Harvey Jones

Youngsters stepped back in time on World History Day at their Beechdale school.

Different year groups at Hatherton Primary School researched various periods of history and gave presentations to fellow pupils to mark the international event on July 1.

Subjects - which all had a link to the date July 1 - included the history of sunglasses, the Tour de France, the Popeye cartoon character, The Beatles, Princess Diana and the planet Saturn.

Building up to NEW JOBS on Beechdale

A new house-building factory is bringing up to 30 new jobs to Beechdale.

The Accord Group is taking on a derelict five-acre site off Stephenson Avenue to create a new base which will make environmentally-friendly timber houses.

A range of jobs, from management to shop floor positions, will be available and recruitment is taking place over the next two months.

The site was previously home to Links to Work, a service which offers training and support to help disadvantaged people get a job. It has since moved to a base in Willenhall.

The Accord Group, a West Midlands housing association, provides homes and services to people across the region.

NEWS FROM

Beechdale's



DRUGS RAID SUCCESS

A police blitz on anti-social behaviour is closing the net on nuisance families in the Beechdale and Leamore area.

Officers have arrested and charged a number of people in Walsall for anti-social behaviour offences, including two people from the Beechdale estate.

Sgt Chris Jones, who heads up

the local policing team, said: "We are working with the public and Beechdale Community Housing to tackle any reports of anti-social behaviour in a positive manner.

"But we rely on the public to give us intelligence. If people are causing a problem, members of the community need to stick together, contact us and give statements so we can take action."

Arrests have been made as part of the force-wide Operation Protect and Serve, which has stepped up efforts to focus on prolific offenders with the help of information from the public.

Pedal power thwarts offenders

Bicycles are the new secret weapon in the fight against crime in Beechdale.

Local bobbies have a new fleet of six mountain bikes which are helping

them chase and catch offenders on wasteland, canal towpaths and other inaccessible areas.

Pedal power led to two people being arrested after being caught with stolen goods on the towpath behind Remington Road. It is also helping police tackle youths riding motocross bikes illegally on public open space.

Sgt Jones said: "Bicycles give us the best of both worlds – when we patrol on them, they enable us to cover a lot of ground but people will also stop to talk to us, whereas they wouldn't if we were in a car."

Shopkeepers welcome dedicated bobby

Shops and community groups in the heart of Beechdale now have their own dedicated bobby on the beat.

Pc Richard Bracey has taken on responsibility for patrolling the Stephenson Square area, taking in the row of shops and the many community facilities based at Beechdale Lifelong Learning Centre.

Police reach out to schools

Police from the Beechdale policing team have been out and about meeting the area's younger generation.

Officers visited Beeches Day

Nursery to talk to children about their work and let them check out the inside of a patrol car.

They also met special needs pupils when they visited Phoenix Primary School and Castle Special School, in Leamore, with police sniffer dogs.

Officers are continuing to work with staff at Frank F Harrison Engineering College to address any issues such as anti-social behaviour in and around the school.

Volunteers on patrol

Volunteers are being sought to join a new crime-busting drive to make the streets of Beechdale safer.

Street Watch, to be launched over the next few months, involves members of the public helping to patrol their local community, looking out for problems such as anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping.

The first wave of volunteers are currently going through a vetting procedure before taking to the streets. Anyone interested in joining them should 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 Beechdale Community Housing offices. The next sessions will be on August 11 and September 14, both at 10am.

Dates for your diary

Bank Holiday opening hours

The Beechdale Community Housing office in Stephenson Avenue will be closed on Monday 29th August due to the Bank Holiday.

If you require emergency repairs while the office is closed,

please call Morrison's out-of-hours number on 0800 999 2061.

Rent free week

Tenants of Beechdale Community Housing are reminded that the week beginning 25th July 2011 was a rent free week.

SEE YOUR COMPANY'S NAME HERE

Do you want to see your business advertised in The Noize? Prices for advertisements start at £25.

Contact Michelle on 01455 614333 or e-mail michelle.wordassociation.co.uk

MEMORY LANE

Community hub nurtures music legends

Beechdale Community Housing is based in the building which was the Three Men in a Boat pub, an important focal point for live music for more than 30 years.

Noddy Holder, who grew up on the Beechdale estate, was a regular and his father Jack was the pub window cleaner. His company van doubled as transport for Noddy's various bands.

One of Noddy's early bands was The Phantoms, which played rock'n'roll music at the pub. Their photo hangs in the Beechdale Community Housing offices, signed by Slade guitarist Dave Hill when he popped in to take a trip down memory lane a few years ago.

Noddy later joined the N'Between's, a group which included Dave Hill and drummer Don Powell. The band, with its soon-to-be Slade line-up, had their first rehearsal together in March 1966 in the Three Men in a Boat pub.

It opened to serve the Beechdale estate in the 1950s and closed in July 2000.

The landlord, William Bonham, was the uncle of drummer John Bonham. The pub received numerous telegrams for John from band manager Peter Grant when he was trying to sign him up to join Led Zeppelin.

Members of the Bonham family - and Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant with his two cats, Tipton and Dudley - lived above the pub.



The Phantoms on stage at the Three Men in a Boat



Photo signed by Slade Guitarist Dave Hill



Beechdale staff Sonny Dhami, Adam Cooper and Wendy Walker admire the old pub sign in their office

Noddy's childhood home

Noddy Holder, who became famous as the lead singer and guitarist of glam-rock band Slade, was born in the Caldmore area of Walsall in June 1946.

He and his family moved to 6 Gurney Road, on the Beechdale estate, in July 1954. His mother, Leah, lived here until she died in February 2003 and was a regular bingo player at the estate's community centre.

Amanda Carter has lived in the house for the last six years. She said: "People often come up to me and ask if I realise that Noddy lived here. Neighbours say they remember him and his band playing music in the garage in the

back garden, and he used to drive a gold BMW."

NODDY FACTS

- Noddy's real name is Neville
- Slade's Merry Xmas Everybody sold over a million copies in 1973
- He was awarded the MBE for services to music in 2000
- His family now lives in Prestbury, Cheshire

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

Recipe corner

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

Each edition we feature a recipe chosen by Jenny, who is unit supervisor at Hatherton Primary School.



CHOCOCY BEET CAKE

(serves 6)

Ingredients:

175g chocolate sponge mix
45g grated cooked beetroot
45g grated carrot
100ml orange or apple juice

Icing (optional):
50g icing sugar
10ml orange or apple juice

Method:

- 1) Place the chocolate sponge mix, beetroot and carrot into a bowl fitted with a whisk. Blend in the fruit juice on a slow speed for 1 minute, scrape down and then mix for a further 4 minutes on medium speed.
- 2) Transfer to a tin.
- 3) Bake in a pre-heated oven at 190C/Gas Mark 5 for 20 – 25 minutes until risen and firm to the touch.
- 4) If icing, blend the icing sugar with the fruit juice to form a smooth paste and drizzle over the cake.
- 5) Allow to cool then cut into portions.



PAYMENT CHANGES AT BEECHDALE

Beechdale Community Housing changed the opening hours of its office for payment services in May to free up staff to work on various initiatives to improve the estate and services.

Please see the new opening hours in the box below.

Beechdale is also looking to introduce the option for tenants to pay rent and service charges via a Paypoint card, which can be used at various shops, and will keep tenants informed of progress on this.

Please remember that the easiest way to pay your rent is Direct Debit. The advantages of

paying by Direct Debit include:

- It is quick and easy (you only need to fill in one form to set up the Direct Debit instruction.
- It is convenient (you don't have to remember to pay your rent or leave your home to do so).
- Beechdale will make any changes to your Direct Debit but will tell you first.
- You are covered by the Direct Debit guarantee against any errors by Beechdale or the bank.
- You can cancel your Direct Debit any time.

If you are interested, all you need to do is fill out the Direct Debit form and return it to Beechdale, either by post or by visiting the office. You can get a copy of the form from Beechdale's office in Stephenson Avenue or by calling 01922 648252.

By September 30, the cash desk will no longer take payments for third party organisations, such as water bills and council tax. Look out for posters in the reception or ask staff about alternative payment arrangements.

Payment Office
Opening Hours

Monday 8.45am to 4.30pm
Tuesday 8.45am to 12.00 noon
Wednesday 8.45am to 12.00 noon
Thursday 9.30am to 5.15pm
Friday 8.45am to 12.00 noon
Saturday 8.45am to 12.00 noon

The office remains open for all other enquiries.

CARPET FITTER

Customers own carpets fitted

Can supply and fit carpets at very competitive prices

Expert fitted
40 years experience
Free estimates

Call Bill Astle on
01922 620563

FOCUS ON... FRANK F HARRISON ENGINEERING COLLEGE

STUDENTS HOPE TO HIT THE RIGHT NOTE IN TOP COMPETITION

Teenagers at Frank F Harrison Engineering College could find themselves taking to the stage at the O2 Arena after entering a competition to showcase their talents.

Year 10 students at the college have entered a competition being run by the charity Blastbeat, which is an organisation that

aims to improve children's lives in local communities.

The students, pictured, have created their very own company, called Break The Silence, to take part and will have to go through several stages, with every stage being judged.

They have been tasked with staging a show consisting

of performances from bands representing other schools in the area.

The overall winner of the competition will secure funding and the opportunity to run their company as a career.

All of the bands competing will have a chance at going on to perform at the O2 Arena and other venues. The bands are automatically entered in a separate competition which gives young musical talent the chance to be heard by some of the most powerful names in the music industry.

For further information visit www.breakthesilenceproductions.webs.com or their Facebook page at Break the Silence Productions.



PERFECT RECORD FOR STUDENT ADAM!

Congratulations are in order for Adam Parsons, a student at Frank F Harrison Engineering College, who has not had a day off school since stepping through the door five years ago.

Adam, pictured, has recently taken his GCSE examinations to complete his five-year education and is awaiting his results.

He said that he feels really proud to have achieved this and hopes to continue this pattern into the Sixth Form where he will be studying for A Levels. He hopes to go on to train as a lawyer.




*News from
Beechdale Surgery*
With Dr Singh

We are working to set up a Patient Participation Group to represent the needs and wants of our patients.

However, to date, the response has been poor so we are urging anyone interested to get in touch with us.

The idea is that the group will bring new ideas to the surgery, flag up particular services they want us to provide and benefit all our patients.

Issues already highlighted include:

- alcohol dependency
- drug addiction
- teenage pregnancy –

Walsall has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the country but the lowest take-up of long-acting reversible contraception, such as IUDs and contraceptive implants.

We also want to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of regular cervical smear testing – it can save lives.

ENTRANTS NEEDED – BEECHDALE'S GOT

TALENT



Do you watch Britain's Got Talent and shout at the screen knowing you could do better?

A talent contest is being planned for the estate to show off the talents of Beechdale's residents. Organiser Dave Christian wants to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking part.

The Beechdale's Got Talent competition will take place over two Saturdays – September 3 and September 17.

Entrants will perform at Beechdale Social Club in Stephenson Square and judges will then pick the finalists who will return two weeks later to battle it

out to be crowned the winner.

If you are interested, call Dave Christian on 01922 642525 for more information.

Dave Christian and Dawn Lomas, from Morrison, tune up for the talent show



BEECHDALE WORDSEARCH

WIN A £25 SHOPPING VOUCHER

Do you fancy winning a £25 shopping voucher? Simply find the 10 summer-related words in the grid below to be in with a chance to win.

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

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| Sunshine | Picnics |
| Holidays | Ice-cream |
| Fun | Barbecue |
| Flowers | Sun cream |
| Beach | Burgers |

Please send us your completed grid along with the details below and you will be entered into the prize draw. The closing date is Friday 26th August.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone number.....

Entries should be sent to **The Noize, c/o Word Association, 6a Forresters Road, Burbage, Leicestershire, LE10 2RX** or handed in at the Beechdale housing office in Stephenson Avenue.



Congratulations Karolina! The winner of the spring wordsearch in The Noize is Karolina Solarczyk (pictured) from Jenner Road, Beechdale. Karolina found all 10 Easter themed words and wins a £25 shopping voucher. Well done Karolina!

BEECHDALE TEAM STEPS OUT FOR CHARITY

Staff from Beechdale Community Housing stepped out for charity in the annual fundraising Race for Life.

The all-female 10-strong team raised £1,600 for Cancer Research UK by completing a five kilometre course around Walsall Arboretum.

Joining Beechdale staff for the challenge was Michelle Pearson, from Word Association which produces The Noize.

Sukhi Sohal, Beechdale Community Housing's Executive Support Officer, said: "The team all know somebody who has suffered from cancer and we felt we should do something that will make a difference. We are really proud of raising so much and our thanks go out to those who sponsored us, everyone from the team at Beechdale and our friends and family."

Race for Life has become the UK's largest women-only fundraising event. Since it began in 1994 over two million women of all ages have run, walked or jogged in the five kilometre events, raising more than £140 million in sponsorship for the charity.



Gearing up for the race are the Beechdale team (left to right) Sukhi Sohal, June Moriarty, Natalie Davis, Wendy Walker, Diane Whistance and Michelle Pearson

SATISFIED CUSTOMERS SCOOP PRIZES

The winners of the latest Customer Satisfaction prize draw are Tracey Boxold from Rutherford Road, who won the winter competition, and Anthony Bryan from Ramsay Road who was the winner for the spring.

Both winners have been presented with £25 shopping

vouchers.

The draw, held every three months, is for customers who complete questionnaires after using Beechdale Community Housing's services, such as gas servicing, repairs, help with anti-social behaviour problems or applying for a home.

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

This summer, we are challenging children on the estate to send us a record of their favourite thing to do over the summer holidays. This could be a drawing, a painting or a poem – we'll leave it up to you!

We will print as many of your entries as possible in the autumn edition of The Noize and the winner will receive £20

of book vouchers.

To be in with a chance of winning, send your entry to The Noize, c/o Word Association, 6a Forresters Road, Burbage, Leicestershire, LE10 2RX or hand it in at the Beechdale housing office in Stephenson Avenue.

All entrants should be under the age of 16 and include your full name, address and a contact telephone number.

RESIDENTS WELCOME SECURITY GATES

Residents have welcomed new security gates installed to stop vandals, arsonists and fly-tippers getting onto an old garage site on the Beechdale estate.

Beechdale Operations Team Leader Nick Woods checks out the new gates



The metal barriers have been fitted at the entrance to land off Kelvin Road, where trouble-makers had been causing a nuisance to residents and started three fires there last autumn.

Beechdale Community Housing worked with North Walsall Area Partnership, firefighters, local councillors and Walsall Victims' Champion Karen Bateman to win £2,500 of funding for the gates.

Rubbish has also been cleared from the site and police have stepped up patrols in the area.

Nick Woods, Operations Team Leader at Beechdale Community Housing, said: "Residents have thanked us for acting so promptly and told us that the gates have made a big difference to their lives and given them peace of mind. They say they can now close their doors at night and not worry about what might be happening outside."

YOUNGSTERS TURN LITTER PICKERS

Hundreds of schoolchildren took to the streets as part of a national litter-picking event.

Around 300 pupils from Hatherton Primary School, along with 30 parents, took part in the day-long Big Tidy Up on the Beechdale estate.

They collected 150 bags of rubbish, as well as weeding

Stephenson Avenue and painting fences in Jenner Close and Gurney Road.

The event - praised as an "exceptional success" by residents - was organised by Beechdale Community Housing with the help of repairs contractor Morrison, who provided the skip.



Beechdale youngsters celebrate their litter picking efforts

YOUTH COUNSELLING SERVICE LAUNCHED

A free and confidential counselling service has been launched on the estate to help young people looking for help with a range of issues.

Anyone aged 14-25 can go along to speak to Barbara, a qualified counsellor, at the weekly sessions. She will be at

Beechdale's office in Stephenson Avenue between 3.30pm-6.30pm every Thursday.

Maureen Grainger, of WPH Counselling which is providing the service, said: "Barbara has worked in the Walsall area for many years and is really easy to talk to and every appointment is in the strictest confidence. She can really help if people are suffering from things such as depression, anxiety,

relationships, bullying or abuse. It doesn't matter how large or small the issue, talking to someone really can help."

Sexual health information can also be provided at the sessions and contraception plus chlamydia testing are available.

Anyone wanting to make an appointment should drop in and see Barbara during one of the sessions.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CREATE THE NOIZE?

Would you like to help create The Noize?

We are currently looking for more roving reporters and sports journalists to help make The Noize.

There is no age limit and no experience is necessary- all you need is an interest in Beechdale

and bringing the community together.

The newsletter, produced by Beechdale Community Housing, is sent out to all homes on the estate four times a year.

A meeting is held before each edition is produced to decide

what stories we will include and you are welcome to come along.

If you would like to become a part of the team, please call Michelle Pearson on 07824 466228 or email michelle@wordassociation.co.uk for full details on how to join us.

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

THE Sportz

Summer 2011

GET ON THE BALL

Does your team want to make the headlines?

Contact Michelle on 01455 614333 or email michelle@wordassociation.co.uk

YOUNG SOCCER STARS CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Football stars in the making celebrated a season of success at Beechdale Juniors' annual trophy presentation evening.

The club's new Academy section (for four-six-year-olds) is going from strength to strength, with numbers rocketing from five to 20 players in recent months.

The Under-7s' first season went

well, despite having only seven members of the squad. Having now boosted their numbers to 10, they are hoping for a flying start to the next season.

Beechdale Under-8s had a fantastic run, only losing five of their 30 matches. Players also got to meet England footballing legend Sir Geoff Hurst when they won the Fair Play Award in a national Butlins youth tournament at Skegness this summer.

The Under-9s finished second in Walsall Junior Youth League's third division with just seven players, while the Under-10s came top of the fourth division and the Under-11s ended middle of the table.

Jason Plant, manager of the Under-10s, said: "All the teams have worked hard and given 100 per cent this season. They've done fantastically well and we're very proud of them."

CALLING ALL BUDDING ACTORS

Youngsters with a passion for acting, singing or dancing are invited to join Beechdale's Creative Children's Drama Group.

The group, formed in 1999, meets every Thursday during term-time from 5pm to 6pm at Beechdale Community Housing offices.

Organisers are appealing for new members, aged 8-12, to go along to one of their meetings - with a parent or guardian - to sign up for future shows.

DANCERS WOW THE CROWDS

Twinkle-toed youngsters tripped the light fantastic when they performed at Beechdale Community Fun Day.

The Ikonik Angels - a recently launched dance group of 8-19-year-olds, funded by Beechdale Community Housing - put on their own show at the popular event.

Group member Terri-Lea Walker said: "The show was wicked and lots of fun."

Aaron Lawrence, Youth Project Coordinator for Frank F Harrison Community Association, said: "The show was excellent, everyone performed fantastically and all their hard work really paid off. I am really pleased with their effort and commitment."



Members of the Ikonik Angels dance group get into the groove