

# Michelle rises to the challenge

**Over the past 12 months, BVT has been looking at different ways it can “go green”, encouraging staff to develop more sustainable ways of working and living.**

Michelle Dwyer, who has been Manager at one of our small care homes for people with learning disabilities for the past 18 months, took up the challenge with great enthusiasm. Michelle is a keen environmentalist and for many years she has had an allotment where she grows all types of fruit and vegetables. In the winter of 2006 she arranged for the garden of the Redditch Road care home to be landscaped, to include a small vegetable plot.

Michelle's initial motivation was to produce vegetables for the residents, to promote a healthier diet. However, the implementation of the small vegetable plot has resulted in far greater benefits. Growing their own vegetables has created an environment amongst staff and residents which has fostered responsibility, and promoted co-operation and teamwork.

Staff and residents have worked towards becoming more aware of their impact upon the environment and have not used any pesticides or chemicals. Whilst this has resulted in slugs eating an awful lot of their organic produce, the home has seen an increase in the wildlife that visits the garden. Animals such as hedgehogs are no longer threatened by the use of slug pellets and other poisonous chemicals.



• Residents and staff at Redditch Rd

## A journey of fascinating surprises - on your doorstep

**Our roving reporter Josephine Flunder is already in the Christmas spirit; here she looks at the fantastic range of shops right here on our doorstep. Read what she has to say, and you'll soon be full of festive cheer too!**

Christmas shopping and the festive season are very much on everyone's mind at the moment. So let me take you on a trip that is very close to hand and full of interesting and welcome surprises. Let me take the stress out of your shopping and show you what the shops on Bournville Estate have to offer.

What better place to start than on the village green? For the ladies, Bournville Design has a delightful idea called a 'Wish List' whereby you can go and choose from their irresistible display of affordable and stylish jewellery, ceramics and glass. They then contact your partner for you and invite him to come and look at your list at his convenience. Or maybe Carters the chemist have what you are looking for with their Christmas special of Bromley or Yardley soap and, for the younger generation, Kate Moss and the Beckhams' perfume.

The display in the window of The Bread Basket will definitely catch your eye. Step inside and you will see more of the made-to-order, exquisitely decorated home baked cakes. It's also full of scrumptious goodies waiting to be eaten. Treat your tastebuds to one of their brandy fruit Christmas cakes or a delicious gingerbread man. Also available is dairy ice cream and fresh marzipan and icing. But for sheer enjoyment, a visit to Louise is a must. It is a traditional old toyshop, an Aladdin's cave full to the brim with toys, cards, and lots of ideal presents not just for Christmas but for all year round.



• Josephine Flunder

Just a short walk from the village green is Wyevale Garden Centre, on Maple Road, which is full of useful things for the gardening enthusiast.

If it's a butcher you are after then look no further than Peter H Woliter, on Heath Road, who has been trading for 21 years. Tucked away at the back of the shop is the butcher's counter with its high quality local meat, award winning sausages, free range poultry and cooked meats. They also sell brand name jams, home made biscuits and fresh baked rolls and bread. Just around the corner on Woodlands Park Rd is a lovely little florist called The Flower Bed who are happy to take orders for table arrangements, bouquets and pot plants.

There is also a Post Office. A little further afield will take you to Shenley Lane. The convenience store sells fresh local produce, offers a Christmas club to help spread the cost of shopping and provides a free delivery service for pensioners in the area. Nyama butchers also deliver their produce free within a ten-mile radius. No matter which shop you go to on the Bournville Estate, you will find friendly and helpful staff, good choice and quality at affordable prices plus the all important individual touch. But if you still need a nudge in the right direction, on Saturday December 15 between 3pm and 7pm Bournville Village Green is having a traditional Christmas evening with Santa Claus and carol singing. Why not join in the festivities and shop at the same time?

# Tree cheers for wardens

**Community libraries in Selly Oak, Stirchley, Northfield and Kings Norton have received a literary gift from the Bournville Tree Wardens.**

Each library received a copy of the book published by The Tree Council 'Trees in Your Ground,' which covers a wide range of subjects for urban trees, including the value of trees in your garden, a brief history of British trees, choosing, planting and caring and managing trees in your garden.

The book has many colour pictures and diagrams to help with planting and caring for trees within your garden and is easy to use and a good read.

A copy of the book can be borrowed from any one of the four community libraries, and remember that Bournville is a beautiful place because of its garden, street and park trees and of course thanks to the hard work of the tree wardens.



• *Community librarian for Stirchley and Selly Oak Libraries, Marian Wolff, with a copy of Trees In Your Ground on the steps of Stirchley Library*

## High tech gift welcomed by Sikh group



• *Client to advise*

Bournville Village Trust has recently donated three new computers to the Sikh Nari Manch organisation. The group needed the PCs for the North Side Welcome Centre, located in Erdington, Birmingham.

The new Welcome Centre will be used for various yoga and dance classes, and free IT tuition for all local cultural groups. The organisation has been running for a number of years now and is highly respected as a community venture which reaches out to people in the nearby surroundings and offers a high quality service. The Sikh Nari Manch Organisation specialises in offering a variety of courses to all groups, with the specific aim of bringing the local community closer together. In 2006 the group received national recognition when it was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

## The Manor's the place to be!

Glistening in all its winter glory, Selly Manor really is a place to be this festive season.

The charity Christmas card sale, opening Thursday November 1, will prove as popular as ever. Come along to Selly Manor from Tuesday to Friday 10am until 5pm, until Wednesday December 19 and you will find hundreds of cards for sale with a wide variety of designs - with 80p in the £1 going direct to the charity.

Our annual Tudor Christmas celebration will also be happening on Friday December 7 and Saturday December 8 from 5pm to 9pm. See the stunning manor decorated with festive finery and lit by atmospheric candlelight. And you can enter into the Tudor Christmas spirit with the marvellous merry musicians Diabolus In Musica. There's an opportunity to join in the popular 16th century dances, hear an unusual hurdy gurdy and enjoy some light refreshments.

Admission prices are Adults £5, Children and Concessions £3 and Family ticket £15.



• *Selly Manor - stunning in the snow*