

# For tenants - by tenants - and great fun

**'Being a Valued Tenant' is the new DVD which has been "made by tenants for tenants". This has been created to provide advice and information to new tenants of Bournville Village Trust.**

Originally the idea for a DVD came from tenants Valerie and John Taylor. They were awarded Tenant Project Funding to produce the DVD and they worked with a wider group of tenants and Nelson Training to develop their project.

The DVD was launched on October 31 and the film features information for tenants, from a tenant's perspective. It highlights details that are in the tenancy agreement and explains in a conversational tone - and with a hint of comedy and humour - certain responsibilities; for example how to be a part of our mixed community, how to be responsible for your property and how to deal with rent arrears.

Tenant Project Funding was introduced in 2004 and since then nearly £50,000 has been spent on a wide variety of tenants' projects.

**If tenants have got an idea for funding then they should contact Zoey Stanton on 0121 415 6516 or email [zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk](mailto:zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk). Information about Tenant Project Funding is available on the website and application forms are available in all offices.**



• Tenants came up with the idea



• The cover of the DVD

## Event Alert!

The Tenant Participation Panel is busy making preparations for next year's 2008 Tenant Conference, which is to be held at the Holiday Inn at Wolverhampton Racecourse (Dunstall Park) on Saturday May 10.

Invitations for this exciting event will be sent to all Bournville Village Trust tenants around the end of January, so please remember to register your interest promptly to avoid disappointment.

**For further information about the annual Tenant Conference please contact Zoey Stanton, Tenant Participation Officer on 0121 415 6516 or email [zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk](mailto:zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk)**

## Points out as bands come in

Following a recent in-depth review of our whole lettings process, the Trust has decided to move away from the point-based threshold of assessing applications for accommodation to the more widely used bands system. All applications will still be assessed under our policy guidelines but instead of points determining acceptance onto the waiting list or rejection from it, we will now award a band according to a person's housing need. The bands we will use are "urgent plus", "urgent", "needing" and "wanting". As with all social landlords, our priority will be to help those most in need. **Should you require more details of our new bands system, please contact the lettings staff on 0121 415 6571.**

## What's in a name?

The Trust has launched an appeal for BVT residents to come up with suggestions for road names on the Lower Shenley redevelopment. The development contains a number of "Homezones", which is where the Trust is looking for input into the naming of the roads. Homezones are a unique project - residential streets in which the living environment clearly predominates over any provision for traffic. A Homezone should fulfil a number of objectives, including improved feelings of safety, greater use of public space in residential areas, making a street more visually pleasing, removing fast traffic, encouraging greater care for residents and improving the quality of the environment.

**Ideas for street names should be sent to Vicky Norris in our Development Department at the Estate Office, on 0121 415 6473 or email [vickynorris@bvt.org.uk](mailto:vickynorris@bvt.org.uk)**

# Josephine recalls lifetime of memories at the very heart of community

**Three generations of the same family has occupied Number 9, Elm Road, Bournville.**

Josephine Haslewood, the current occupier and a retired teacher, has a lifetime of memories to call upon and recalls with fondness how her family and her home has been such an integral part of the community over all those years. "My grandfather Thomas Haslewood came here with his wife Elizabeth at the end of the 1800s when the house had only just been completed. My grandparents both came from a farming background out in the countryside of Worcestershire. Thomas made the move to Cadbury's in Bridge Street, and later moved to the Bournville factory as a foreman under George Cadbury," recalls Josephine. Her house is not a large property, and yet the first tenants brought up 12 children - ten boys and two girls. Later, Josephine's parents Harry and Eva Haslewood lived at the property.



• *Josephine's happy memories in her home span a lifetime*

Now Josephine continues to live in the house, which has been her home for her whole life.

Earlier this year Bournville Village Trust saw that updating the property was in order. The bedroom at the back of the house upstairs was turned into a modern bathroom; formerly, the bathroom had been situated downstairs. The kitchen in the property had never been replaced, so major work was undertaken to install a modern and stylish kitchen. Structural work such as removing a chimney breast, digging out the floor and putting in a damp proof course, as well as replacing the ceiling and re-plastering all the walls, was needed first.

The property has also been completely re-wired and a central heating system installed, added Miss Haslewood. "I have waited a lifetime for this to happen, and I am absolutely delighted with the sensitivity and thoughtful way Bournville Village Trust has approached the whole situation. The contractor Dean Smith and his men have been thoroughly conscientious," said Josephine.

The Haslewood dynasty in Bournville is a fantastic example of the community that has been nurtured in the village for well over a century.

Having retired from teaching, Josephine is now heavily involved in St Francis Church, where she is a Pastoral Care Team member, and Sunday school teacher. More recently she has also been asked to represent the local school as a governor. "Much has been achieved and attributed to the community from this little Bournville home, and it is good to see it sailing on in to the 21st Century," she added.

## Key to the door for technology college

**Bournville Architects played a major role in the development of the new sports hall at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technology College.**

Keys for the £1.4 million Lottery-funded sports hall were handed over to the college earlier this year.

Bournville Architects had been commissioned to prepare designs for the building and assist in the bidding process.

The building, on Woodbrooke Road, presented some considerable challenges for the architects.

Differing external materials were specified to reduce the mass of the building including western red cedar timber cladding, introduced between the stack effect external block work to enhance and soften the appearance of the building.

Kalwall translucent panels also have the benefit of allowing diffused natural light into the sports hall.

The sports hall houses four badminton courts, basketball, netball and hockey amongst a variety of other sports.

Lottery funding was granted under the New Opportunities Fund, Sport and PE Initiative, which aims to provide a basic minimum of two hours' physical education into the weekly curriculum for youngsters.

Lynn Barnett, Support Services Manager at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury



• *Architects worked hard to enhance the appearance of the building*

Technology College, said: "Community use of the new Sports Hall at the college continues to increase at a rapid rate. It is now open every evening during term time and also some weekends, and there are clubs and groups offering netball, korfbal, football, badminton, basketball and karate. Future plans include pilates, dance and yoga." The facility will be available for community use and anyone interested in finding out more should contact the school office on **0121 464 4040** and ask for the Sports Hall Co-ordinator **Rob Palmer**.