

# Memorable milestone half a century on...

**Bournville resident John Taylor has recently reached a memorable milestone - 50 years living in the same house.**

John, aged 76, has been a resident at Green Meadow Road since October 1955.

He celebrated reaching the landmark with his wife Val at their home.

John, who had two stints as a Cadbury employee during his working life before retiring in 1987, said he could still recall clearly moving into the property all those years ago.

"People and life are so different these days, but our house is still

much as it was then," he said.

"We have had work done over the years - central heating, re-wiring, as any house would," said John.

"The result is a very clean house in a happy and secure environment. The house is unbelievably good - well-insulated, warm - just ideal for us and our family really."

Val and John have a daughter who lives in Portugal and another locally - and there are three grandchildren to keep them busy.

"I have never wanted to move away from here because it is a home rather than a house," said John.

"The house is the same structurally - there's no extension been put on.

The major difference you will find is the gardens.

They've been left to our own imagination and skill. I've also put in some steps at the front of the house."

"My wife has devoted much time to community service, social



• A happy home for 50 years

issues and fundraising so there is a lot to keep us here," he added.

"There were more fields then, for example where Shenley Court School now stands," he said. "But the foundations for a good life are the same - a stable household, a working environment and people deriving a satisfaction from that," he added.

"The community was closer too, but we didn't have distractions then such as iPods and so much TV!" he joked.

The Trust wishes Val and John many more happy years in their home.



• John and Val Taylor

## New computer benefit system

Birmingham City Council's Benefit Service, the organisation which processes claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit, has introduced a new computer system.

The purpose of the move is to modernise the Benefit Service.

Although the installation of a new system has resulted in some disruption, the Benefit Service has confirmed it is dealing with the backlog in processing new claims for housing benefit and changes to people's existing claims.

You can claim housing benefit from your local council office to help you with the payment of your rent if you are on a low income or unemployed.

**If you have any queries or concerns relating to your housing benefit entitlement please contact the Benefit Service on 0121 464 7000.**

## Make sure you're covered

We have all heard unsavoury tales about people who have never bothered to insure the contents of their home and have lived to regret it.

Bournville Village Trust is keen this does not happen to Trust tenants. We have teamed up with insurers Jardine Lloyd Thompson to offer all tenants an affordable home contents insurance scheme.

This may be something you have been putting off, but it's always better to be safe than sorry, which is why we have developed the partnership with Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

**For more information on the scheme and how to get an application form:**

- Call at your local housing office.
- Ring 0845 601 7007.
- Email [crystal@jltgroup.com](mailto:crystal@jltgroup.com)

# Bumper cash boost for ground-breaking project

A bumper cash grant of £50,000 has helped boost a ground-breaking project which aims to improve the quality of life for youngsters in South Birmingham.

Get Hooked on Fishing (GHOF) Midlands recently successfully bid for the grant from the People's Millions (Big Lottery).

GHOF was established six years ago in the North East of England to engage young people at risk of exclusion by using angling to help improve their quality of life.

The successful grant bid is good news for Bournville, as it means work has now begun to improve the condition and facilities at Rowheath Pool.

Gloria Gain, Director of Community Services, said: "The improvements to the lake will be of long-term benefit to the local wildlife, and the community will be able to enjoy the improved surroundings as well as better fishing access and disabled access."



## The objectives of the project are to:

- Clear the lake (completed first quarter of 2006)
- Fit an aeration system (March to June 2006)
- Improve fishing access and access for disabled people (March to October 2006)
- Replenish the fish supplies (August 2006)

Gloria added: "By improving the lake area GHOF will also be able to deliver better quality fishing, environmental, conservation and educational sessions to the public which will improve their quality of life and knowledge. Access for disabled people currently exists in the park; however, what this project will additionally provide is angling access for disabled people." The project will bring further indirect benefits to the community. There is a community centre, Rowheath Pavilion, within the park grounds which is under-utilised. Improvements to the lake will encourage local people into the area and help bring people into contact with the centre and its activities.

## Event Alert!

Don't miss the chance to book your child's place at the summer playschemes.

They take place from July 24 to August 4 at Phoenix Hall, in Bordesley Village and from July 31 to August 11 at Woodlands Park Hall, Bournville.

Children from eight to 11 are welcomed to the fortnight of fun during the long summer break. Days run from 10am until 3pm and costs £15 per week.

**For further details please contact the Community Team on 0121 415 6481 or email [mariedocker@bvt.org.uk](mailto:mariedocker@bvt.org.uk)**

## Progress continues at Lightmoor landmark

Work is progressing apace on the first part of the Lightmoor Village, in Telford, Shropshire. The first houses in this historic 800-home community were handed over in March.

The scheme comprises 40 houses, ten of which will be acquired by Bournville Village Trust and offered for rental. The showhome opened in February and the first sales were made shortly afterwards. Anyone interested in the new houses can either visit the site or telephone the showhome on 01952 504834.

Lightmoor is a joint venture between the national regeneration agency English Partnerships and Bournville Village Trust. John McNulty, BVT's Director of Development, said: "We are delighted with the progress of the development so far, which represents a true landmark in the history of the Trust. Lightmoor village will enhance Telford as a distinctive, modern town which attracts visitors from across the globe."

