

Trust team brave elements to raise cash for good cause

BVT staff braved the elements for a good cause in November.

Staff raised more than £1,200 for St Basil's by joining in a satellite 'Big Sleep Out', running alongside the main event organised by the charity.

The Sleep Out took place at Rowheath Park, next to the Pavilion. Those who participated were Diane and Chris Thornton, Sally Rock, Alan Shrimpton, Ashleigh Evans, Steven Wood, John Lynock, Alison Corbett and Ruth Cutler.

The team had every intention of spending the whole night outside, but the bad weather unfortunately got the better of them! After spending an hour battling the wind and rain, they retreated to the men's changing rooms with wet bedding in tow. However, this didn't provide a much better retreat because some people's snoring prevented a good night's sleep for all!

Steve Wood did his best to stick to the night's brief, but the team had to persuade him to come in from the freezing cold at 4am for fear of his health.

If the team were to run the event again, they would make it



● BVT staff preparing for a cold night ahead

more like St Basil's main event at Digbeth which had cardboard houses, lighting, heat from open fires, and a soup kitchen.

St Basil's is an organisation which works with young people to tackle youth homelessness. The team helps young people develop their confidence, skills and opportunities, and combat homelessness.

To find out more, log onto www.stbasils.org.uk

Focus on UK's first urban village



In the 1980s, work began on the redevelopment of the industrial wasteland of inner city Birmingham. In 1996, Bordesley became the UK's first urban village, and BVT was one of the partners instrumental in its design. The Trust now owns 29 flats in the village, four shops, a dental surgery, and it also manages the Phoenix Hall community centre. Bordesley Village is situated beside the Grand Union Canal. Entering the village, the roar of the encircling traffic is reduced to a whisper. The centre is surrounded on three sides by modern flats, houses and shops. It is mainly home to young families with children.

The older generation said they had found it easy settling into the village. One gentleman, pointing to the 19th century pub, said: "I'm glad we are not

bound by some of the old rules of Bournville. It's also nice to have a few of the old buildings left in the village."

Younger people liked its close proximity to the city and its transport links. One lady told me she had purposely moved from the suburbs to the village because it felt safe, it was modern and convenient, and it had a good community spirit. The Phoenix Community Hall, in Bordesley, is run with enthusiasm by the hard work of Karen Turvey, and her dedicated staff and volunteers. Numerous articles in past issues of Outlook magazine are testament to the success of the centre - it caters for the needs of the multicultural society in and around the village. The Hall is supported by the

Bordesley Village Community Association, which is made up of local volunteers who meet on the first Monday of every month.

The learning centre, situated in one of Bordesley's shops, runs in partnership with Bloomsbury Cyber Junction. It is a drop-in centre which is open to all.

On April 3, the Phoenix Community Hall will host a senior citizens' challenge day, which will involve residents from Bournville. The community's citizens will be collected from Bournville by bus so that they can join in with the surprise activities of the day in Bordesley. Advanced bookings are essential.

For all enquiries about Phoenix Community Hall, contact Karen Turvey on 0121 753 1780.

Outlook is also available on audio tape. Please contact us on 0121 472 3831.

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