

# Letter from the Editor

It's been a busy but most enjoyable time since the last edition of Outlook was printed.

In this latest edition, we will bring you right up to date in terms of events, happenings and news from around the Trust.

Amongst the highlights are the annual Tenant Conference, held at The Beeches Management Centre, which once again offered a packed programme from start to finish. You can read all about it and see the photographs on Pages 6 and 7. We are also featuring the Bournville Junior School Centenary and the progress at Rowheath, as well as the chance to win tickets to the National Space Centre in Leicester.

And, to bring you completely up to date, we have a feature on the Bournville Festival on Page 15.

## More than ever, this is YOUR Outlook.

We have worked hard to produce a new 'look and feel' to the publication. We are always looking for stories and are happy to receive ideas from you - details of how to get in touch are below.



• Alastair Flint

If you have a story for Outlook, would like to write a letter, have a comment to make or ideas for a feature, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Outlook editor Alastair Flint on 0121 415 6406 or email [alastairflint@bvt.org.uk](mailto:alastairflint@bvt.org.uk)

# Time to celebrate a century on

## Founded in 1906 by George Cadbury, Bournville Junior School will celebrate its centenary year in 2006.

Part of Bournville Village Trust, the school has always been a vital part of the community with a high demand for places and a recent glowing OFSTED report.

Despite the school's current success, George Cadbury faced a battle with the local council and the Board of Education to ensure that the building of the school would go ahead all those years ago.

Designed by Alexander Harvey and completed in 1905, the late Gothic style building is a complex design of contrasts and the tallest building on The Green.

To commemorate the centenary, the circular window in the south wall of the hall has been replaced with a stained glass window which depicts particular characteristics and symbols associated with the junior school. Illustrated are the four school houses: Jupiter, Mars, Venus and Neptune together with symbols from the school badge.



• A vital part of the community

Learning, energy and enlightenment are suggested by the head image of cogs, light and objects bursting forth. The shaking hands represent friendship and citizenship, while the cocoa tree and pod acknowledge the importance of the Cadbury family to the foundation of the school.



• The stained glass window creates a strong image

The idea of the window came from the retired Deputy Head Teacher, Baden Carlson, as the school were forced to use unsightly black blinds to shield the strong sun from the children's eyes in the Hall.

Clare Johnson, of Norgrove Studios Ltd, in Bentley near Redditch, was commissioned to design the window around suggestions from the School and Governors. The glass mostly came from a local firm in Alvechurch who are the only company in the country to make traditional stained glass.

In order to help celebrate the centenary, Bournville Village Trust made a contribution towards the cost of the window.

# Delight as new residents are welcomed



• **First Resident**

After years of planning, it was a delight for everyone involved with Lightmoor Village to welcome their first new residents, John Knowles (left) and Leanne Horler with Ross Edwards (right).

The residents were greeted by local MP, David Wright and representatives of the joint venture

creating Lightmoor - English Partnerships and Bournville Village Trust. Amongst the BVT representatives was Duncan Cadbury, who, as chairman of BVT's Shropshire Advisory Committee, will have an increasingly important role as Lightmoor develops under the Trust's



• **First Tenants**

long-term management. "We want to create, in a modern way, a second Bournville, which will be as successful and influential as George Cadbury's original version in Birmingham," Duncan explained.

Although around 75 per cent of the homes will be for sale or shared equity, BVT management will extend to the whole of the village in a similar arrangement to that which has been such a feature of Bournville for the past 100 years.

The Trust will maintain high standards throughout the village and aims to make Lightmoor one of the most popular residential destinations.

## Policy review sparks rethink on windows

**The Trust has always had a strong preference for timber on the grounds of appearance and we have spent a long time seeking to resist the use of PVC-u, for windows and other building components, particularly on the Bournville Estate in Birmingham.**

This has proved increasingly difficult in some areas as we witness the relentless march of PVC-u and its undoubted popularity with householders over the last 10 or 20 years. Rightly or wrongly, it is seen as a relatively cheap and maintenance free product and the Trust itself has used PVC-u on some of its window programmes to replace metal window frames which were prone to heat loss and condensation. In 2005 we commissioned a report from the Building Research Establishment (BRE) which examined the Whole Life Costs and Environmental Impacts associated with a range of window materials, including timber and PVC-u. This report has just been completed and rather interestingly it concludes that softwood window frames are 7.5% cheaper than PVC-u over the 60 year life of the study.

More significantly for BVT it concludes that PVC-u has a much greater impact on the environment than timber and this has prompted a policy review which takes a stance against the future use of PVC-u as follows:

a) For our own housing stock, and for new housing developments undertaken by BVT, we will cease to use PVC-u immediately.  
b) On many parts of the Estate we accept that the battle against PVC-u has effectively been lost a long time ago. We are prepared to allow PVC-u in most areas in future, although we will continue to express a strong preference for timber on environmental and aesthetic grounds. We will not charge a fee for an Application for Consent to use timber in areas where PVC-u will normally be permitted.

Householders on the Bournville Estate will still need to seek approval for PVC-u and will need to comply with conditions relating to appearance and style.

c) However, there are a number of areas of the Estate which are deemed to be of particular merit and where timber is still very predominant (as pictured below). Applications for PVC-u for windows, doors, conservatories, soffits, bargeboards etc in the areas listed below will not be supported and residents will be required to use timber:

- Bournville Village Conservation Area
- Bournville Tenants Conservation Area
- Bournville Works Housing Society Area
- Meadow Rise/Harvey Mews
- Laurence Court



The Trust hopes to be able to work with residents, manufacturers, architects and other interested parties to achieve the best possible results to retain the overall integrity of the estate.