

Work well advanced to complete Lottery spend

Readers may recall that the **Get Hooked On Fishing** project won a **£50,000 Lottery grant for work at the Rowheath Pool**.

This ground-breaking scheme aims to improve the quality of life for youngsters in South Birmingham by engaging those at risk of social exclusion by using angling to help improve their lives.

Work is well advanced to complete the Lottery spend. The first task was to look at which fish were currently living in the pool, and a netting operation undertaken in May revealed this to mainly be small roach and larger carp.

BVT Director of Estates Alan Shrimpton said: "Then



• A netting operation was undertaken



• Rowheath Pool

the specialist advisers spread a special biological agent across the whole water surface. This is now working on the sludge at the bottom of the pool in an entirely natural way.

"This is much easier than trying to physically remove the mud and will help restore a balance in the water. This balance will also be assisted by two floating agitators - in effect small fountains that introduce more air into the water.

"The next phase is to install the new fishing platforms to the banks and then, finally, to introduce new fish to the pool."

Barbara steps down from her role



• Barbara Edgehill

After 17 years of devoted service at the Trust, Barbara Edgehill is retiring from her post as Director of Supported Housing. She was originally appointed as Home Manager for the Trust's first Care Homes for people with learning disabilities, and quickly built up the Supported Housing department to deliver the valuable service on which so many residents now depend. More than 110 staff work in the Supported Housing Department, and Barbara has developed training courses to ensure all staff are qualified to provide a top-class service.

BVT has regularly received complimentary reports from the independent care inspectors, and we are grateful to Barbara for the way she has led the entire Supported Housing team.

Barbara said: "After retirement I'm looking forward to having a relaxing time, spending lots of time pottering in my lovely garden, and enjoying a luxury cruise across the Atlantic."

She is also planning to attend day-classes in floristry and do some investigation into her family history. We all thank Barbara for her commitment to the Trust, and send our good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Barbara's department covers several linked services -

- Three sheltered housing schemes, providing more than 120 flats for older people
- Five care homes for residents with a learning disability
- The Holdings - seven self-contained flats (and a training flat) for young people leaving care
- Central Control Helpline - round-the-clock emergency service for vulnerable residents
- Adaptations for disabled residents to allow them to stay in their own homes

Phoenix Hall marks decade at the heart of family life

Phoenix Hall - a community facility - has celebrated a decade at the heart of family life.

The hall, in Bordesley, was opened in 1996 to provide a place of support for families.

Ten years on, the area is thriving and to celebrate its anniversary, residents organised a fun day and invited many old friends from the past who had helped make Bordesley such a success.

The hall has played a crucial role in supporting local families by providing playgroups, a before and after school club, senior citizens' lunch groups, a youth club and adult education classes.



• Sir Reginald Eyre and Roger Cadbury with local children at the tree planting

On June 21 1996, to celebrate the completion of the project, the then Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, officially opened the centre. On June 21 this year everyone who played a part in the regeneration of this Heartlands community met to celebrate.

A day of activity and entertainment included the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Mike Sharpe, unveiling a plaque, as well as children from Kingston Day Nursery planting flowers and landscaping.

Entertainment was also provided by a choir from St Andrews Junior School and Birry and Drumnation, who ran drumming and poetry schools at Phoenix Hall ten years ago.

Dr Carl Chinn joined in on celebrations by hosting a live broadcast on



• Karen Turvey of BVT with the Lord Mayor

Radio WM about the history of the area, whilst a remarkable exhibition of old photographs was displayed throughout the day as the local community shared their memories of old Bordesley.



New temporary office a boost for Lightmoor tenants

Lightmoor Village tenants will find support on their doorstep with a new temporary office on site. In order to establish effective local management, the part-time office is based in the heart of the village at 39 Round House Park, which is close to the Persimmon showhome.

Jason Basford will manage BVT's maintenance responsibilities as well as dealing with day to day issues within the village whilst Kevin Webb, project director, will head the Lightmoor Development work.

Kevin said: "BVT see this office as a very important commitment to the

long term management and stewardship of the village. All other queries can be directed to the main Shropshire Office at Courtside House." To contact either Jason or Kevin call 01952 507452.

Overall responsibility for Lightmoor Village will lie with BVT's Shropshire Area Manager, Kevin Whitby, who is based at Courtside House, near the Thomas Telford Statue in the town centre.

If you are interested in renting a BVT property at Lightmoor please telephone Housing Officer Jane Griffiths on 01952 293777.

Building on site

A new community building is now in place at the former caravan site on the Hole Farm Estate.

It is currently only a temporary building as planning approval is for an initial 12 months, but it is hoped this can be extended, and once the need has been established, more permanent facilities can be provided. Tenant project funding has provided a welcome boost for the project. Woodlands Tenant Association was awarded over £2,000 funding, which will enable the association to buy much-needed equipment for the new community facility, such as furniture, kitchen accessories and tableware.