

Talent spotted for benefit of those in the Third World

The Trust helped organise a major talent show to benefit a community centre in one of the world's poorest countries.

The show - Community Showcase - raised money to help build a community centre in Malawi.

Amongst a hugely varied range of activities were community exhibitions, artwork, poetry reading by Birmingham's Poet Laureate, singing from Harborne Baptist Church Gospel Choir, and a dance demonstration. The Trust's Rebecca Debenham, who helped to organise the project, said: "It was an inter-generational event and highlighted both young and old people's talents. It really was a day for showcasing what local people can do - and many were able to demonstrate their talents and raise money for an extremely good cause at the same time."



• Local Councillor Jan Drinkwater and the new Lord Mayor Randall Brew who attended the community event.

Sleeping out for homeless

St Basil's - a charity which works with young people - is working in conjunction with the Trust to organise a "sleep out event" to raise awareness and money for homelessness in Birmingham.

Individuals will be encouraged to sleep out overnight on Friday November 30. The proposed location for the event is Rowheath Pavilion in Heath Road, Bournville and surrounding parkland - facilities will be available inside the pavilion.

No equipment will be supplied for this event and people are encouraged to gain sponsorship in order to raise money to highlight the plight of the city's homeless.

Residents are welcome to join staff. To find out more and secure a place contact Sally Rock on 0121 415 6564 or Ruth Cutler 0121 415 6511.

Money, money, money

A variety of tenant projects have already benefited from funding this year.

To date, more than £12,000 has been awarded for a variety of such schemes. Amongst these are improvements to St Joseph's Avenue, an IT training session hosted by Woodlands Tenants' Association, and the formation of a steering group in the process of producing a DVD for tenants.

If you are a tenant of Bournville Village Trust and you wish to find out more about tenant project funding or have a potential idea, contact Zoey Stanton on 0121 415 6516/8 or email zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk

Event Alert!

This year's Youth Conference is to be residential and is being held at Bilberry Hill Centre, Rose Hill, Lickey Hills on October 22 and 23.

Young people will be invited to attend a series of fun-packed activities where they can test their leadership and team-building skills.

Anyone interested in helping organise the event or coming along, please contact Rebecca Debenham on 0121 270 0978, to register.

Tally ho! It's conference time!

This year's Annual Tenant Conference took place at the Tally Ho Conference and Banqueting Centre in May.

Attendance was good again this year, and our thanks go to everyone who helped make the event such a huge success.

Tenants took part in a range of information sessions including:

- **How tenants would spend £4million** - this focused on tenants' involvement in maintenance and working out how they would spend a budget based on what matters most to them.
- **Anti-social behaviour/respect agenda** - this session used interactive drama focussing on anti-social behaviour.
- **BVT: the way forward** - tenants heard more about the differences which had been made through tenant involvement and discussed future plans.

Guest speakers during the day included Michael Gerring from the Tenants and Residents Organisation of England, and Dennis Rees from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS). Partners at the event included Mercian Housing Association, promoting home ownership; Nelson Training, the police, TPAS, St Basil's and the Central Midland Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.



• Fun, games, and lots of laughter

Congratulations go to the Shenley Sharks for winning the "It's A Knockout" competition, and to Ian Fentham from Bournville for winning £100 gift vouchers.

"This initiative places us in the top 25 per cent of successful housing associations nationally."

There is already a date to put in your diary - Saturday May 10 2008 - make a note to be sure you don't miss out! Zoey Stanton, Tenant Participation Officer for the Trust, said: "We provide many opportunities for our tenants to participate in the management of our estates and to make decisions in relation to the housing services we supply. This initiative places us in the top 25 per cent of successful housing associations nationally. The results from the 'Ask the Audience' session held at the conference will now be analysed to enable the Trust to continually improve the services provided."



• People really got into the spirit

Positive feedback already sparking ideas for next year's event

We have also received a huge amount of feedback from tenants who participated. Some of the most enjoyable aspects of the event were the opportunity to listen, networking, taking part in the workshops, and the chance to meet some great people, "It's A Knockout", the interactive "Ask the Audience" session.

Tenants also told us about what they gained from attending the event. Amongst the key points made were an increase in confidence, learning more about how they can get involved with BVT, finding out more about what's in store in the future, more about the environment and energy-savings. Tenants also said that the conference helped break down barriers between tenants and BVT.

Already tenants have been putting forward lots of ideas for next year's event and these will be taken into consideration by the organisers of the 2008 Conference.

• Feedback has got us thinking about next year's event already!

