

Letter from the editor

In the last edition of Outlook, we asked you to tell us what you thought of the magazine... and you certainly did that!

You responded with some very strong views.

84 per cent of

respondents liked the design of the magazine, 71 per cent thought the content was very good and informative with a good mix of articles, and nearly 80 per cent liked the competitions and prizes on offer.

It wasn't surprising to hear lots of interesting ideas about what you'd like to see in future editions of Outlook. These included:

- More advice on refurbishing older properties in sustainable ways
- More information about future plans
- More articles about tenants who take a pride in their surroundings
- More photos of the areas we live in (not just Bournville)
- More stories about local events
- Fewer words and more pictures
- Debates getting real interaction between residents
- Biographies on some of the notable Cadbury-family members
- More stories on freeholders and leaseholders
- More historical stories, old photos and memorabilia

One or two people said they'd prefer a 'less glossy' newsletter. This comment refers to the high-quality appearance of the paper and queries its sustainability. The current paper used for Outlook is FSC approved and derived from a fully sustainable source. In fact, it is as environmentally friendly as a 50 per cent recycled option.

Unfortunately, 100 per cent recycled paper would increase the cost dramatically and reduce the paper quality considerably. However, from this summer, we have reduced the thickness of the paper, meaning a small cost-saving. In future editions, we'll be doing our best to take on board as many of your suggestions as we can. Meanwhile, keep the ideas coming in!

Thank you very much to all those residents who took the trouble to reply to our survey

Please contact the Outlook editor Alastair Flint on 0121 415 6406 or email alastairflint@bvt.org.uk



• Alastair Flint

• Cover image: Richard Burden MP, Jenny Warner from Sport England and BVT Chief Executive Peter Roach at the MUGA event - see Page 3

Long-lost heritage

A grant from the WA Cadbury Trust and CH and HH Taylor Trust has helped restore a piece of Birmingham's long-lost heritage in Bournville.

The Quadrangle in Mary Vale Road, a Grade Two listed building, was built by Richard Cadbury in 1898. Nowadays, its bungalows are managed and let by the Bournville Almshouse Trust to provide a home for people in need.

To help restore the building, the Bournville Almshouse Trust renovated its stonework, iron railings and ornamental gates, all of which were originally removed in the 1940s, as part of the War effort to recycle iron.

The new railings were hand-crafted using traditional blacksmith skills and stonemasonry and wrought-iron work was also employed. One panel of railings was deliberately left out as a reminder of the part played by ordinary people in World War Two.

The project was completed in May. It cost more than £50,000 and the CH and HH Taylor Trust and the WA Cadbury Trust grant-aided the total cost.

Bob Stanton, Head of Housing at Bournville Village Trust, said: "As well as improving a site of significant heritage importance, we are helping to improve the lives of the people who live in the Almshouse bungalows. HRH the Duke of Gloucester, who visited the Almshouses two years ago, commented on the benefits that the work will make to the area. "We have also obtained grant funding from another local Trust, the Cook & Wolstenholme Charitable Trust, which has allowed us to replace the bells in the clock tower that were removed in 1958. The bells began ringing again on June 27 2008," Bob added.



• Work has involved using many traditional skills

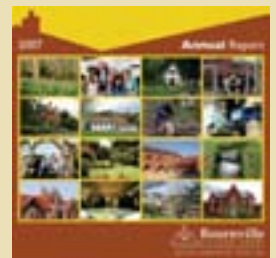
Check out report

Bournville Village Trust's Annual Report for 2007 is now available.

The report looks at the activities of the Trust over the course of last year and reflects on a very busy but rewarding 12 months.

Inside the Annual Report you will also find details of Trustees, the Executive Team, and a comprehensive review of financial performance for 2007.

Copies of the report are available from reception at the Estate Office, Oak Tree Lane, Bournville, via email at info@bvt.org.uk or telephone 0121 472 3831.



Shenley community event welcomes MUGA opening

Shenley's Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was officially opened by MP Richard Burden on July 4.

The MUGA, in Green Meadow Road, will provide a much-needed outdoor sports facility for the adjacent youth centre, Green Meadow Primary School and the local community.

Financial support for the construction of the MUGA came from BVT and Lottery funding from Sport England's West Midlands Regional Sports Board.

The MUGA was designed to appeal to young people in particular as there is very little for them to do in the area. Facilities include a children's play area, provisions for football and basketball, park benches, floodlights, and features for those with disabilities.



• It was all smiles as youngsters took part in a host of activities

To help celebrate the MUGA's official opening, BVT hosted a community Fun Day from 2pm which included circus acts, stalls, a barbecue, face painting, a bouncy castle, and a tug-of-war. In addition, Green Meadow School organised a five-a-side football tournament. The winning team was representing Sport England against a team representing the Trust. It is estimated that an extra 2,000 people per year will take part in sport and recreational activities thanks to the new MUGA.



• MUGA was designed with young people in mind



• Trustees Mary Penny and Bronwen Lilley with her grandson Rudi

Thanks all round

BVT would like to say a big thank you to all those who completed and returned their Planned Maintenance Satisfaction Surveys.

The information received from these surveys is invaluable to BVT as it helps the Trust improve its services. All of those who returned a survey in 2007 were entered into a prize draw to win £100 Woolworth's vouchers.

The lucky winners are as follows...

- **Mr Hunt** - Double Glazing
- **Mrs Alcock** - Internal Decorations
- **Miss Cresswell** - Rewiring
- **Ms Williams** - Kitchen Modernisation
- **Ms Arnold** - Roofing
- **Ms Hasty** - External Painting
- **Mr Heath** - External Painting
- **Mr & Mrs Stroud** - Secondary Glazing
- **Miss Jones** - Central Heating (Telford)

Swipe and pay scheme is extended

If you use an allpay.net plastic swipecard to make payments to BVT, you'll be pleased to know that there are now more places available for you to use your card. BVT's bill-payment provider, allpay.net, has joined forces with Woolworths to make it even easier for you to pay for bills. You can now simply hand over your swipe card at any one of the chain's 800 stores nationwide, together with your payment in cash or with a debit card, and pay your bills in this convenient way.

BVT is also pleased to announce the reinstatement of the PayPoint network to all allpay.net customers. The allpay.net plastic swipe card is accepted in all PayPoint outlets along with a payment by cash.

PayPoint has more than 18,000 payment outlets across the UK. With payment terminals located in newsagents, supermarkets and petrol stations, this network provides users with long and helpful opening hours.

You can locate your nearest Agency by logging on to www.paypoint.co.uk/locator