

The Birchfield Bugle

Spring 2015

Birchfields' Community News

Issue 12

Judy Murray visits Broadway Academy



The mother of tennis superstar Andy Murray was at Broadway Academy in Birchfield to support the Tennis Foundation's launch of their Tennis in Education Strategy, which aims to maximise young people's personal potential through the sport. Head teacher **Ron Skelton** was thrilled, he said: "Broadway Academy is

renowned nationally for its record of academic achievement. However, we strive to develop the academic, physical and spiritual education of our students and tennis is a great medium for breaking through class barriers and addressing ingrained stereotypes. Bringing tennis to working class, inner city children through programmes such as Beyond the Baseline helps them aspire to become anything they hope to be and encapsulates our school motto 'Our Children, Our Community, Believe it can be Done.'

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Archbishop Welby at Birchfield NEAR NEIGHBOURS Conference

says, "my hope and prayer would be for a beautiful community because of their commitment to one another and their respect for diversity in that community."



CRAZY POST CODE CHOICE REVEALED

Birmingham Cycling Revolution Champion Councillor Lisa Trickett shows off one of the new 5000 Orange BIG BIRMINGHAM BIKES as she draws the winners of the first batch of Free Bikes. Was your B20 postcode road lucky enough to be entered in the draw?

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STORY
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Westminster Primary school are very grateful to Mr. David Campbell (shown left) of Everyman Books who came from London for the second year running to adjudicate and in particular we wish to thank him for his kindness in bringing many of his attractively published Everyman children's books to give as prizes to winners and runners up. HRH Prince Charles was indeed right to call David, "this wonderful man". Thanks also to Mr Gurnie(shown right) who coaches the talented future Public Speakers.



I'm writing to tell you my experience of winning the public speaking competition.

I was sitting in my classroom when my teacher announced that the public speaking competition was going to take place at 11am. I was intrigued to know who was taking part in the semi-finals.

As my class finished, the judges pronounced the winners. My name was on the list, as soon as I got there, at 12:00 sharp, I saw many other students from the year's 3,4,5 and 6. First a pupil from year 6 recited his speech. As time dragged on, it was my turn to take the stage.

As I nervously approached the spotlight, I felt a million feelings gush through my veins. "Hi my name is Suliman and I am going to....."wasting no time at all, I commenced with my nightmare. It was long and nerve wrecking. But I made it. Phew!



Mohammed Suliman

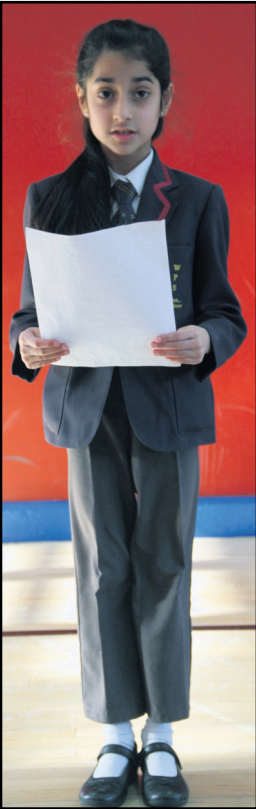
"It was a nightmare".

I sat down with the rest of the competitors. The judges took their places at the stage. Was my name on the list? Mr Gurnie read out 24 names, and guess what, my name was not on the list. It was true, there was no doubt, I won the Public Speaking 2 years running. Just to make sure, I heard my name being read out as a winner along with another girl...I was absolutely thrilled! I had booked my seat to London for the first time. I was gob smacked.

and that's how I felt. My parents were over the moon.



photography by Mojtaba Abedini of ASTON VISION



WESTMINSTER SPEAKS PUBLICALLY

I am Duha Omar the winner of the senior public speaking competition 2014.

I was facing 5 year fives and 8 year sixes. I was very nervous. I was thinking that I wasn't going to win because I was facing older contestants. I thought that the year sixes had better vocabulary and more interesting words. As soon as my name was called out I was sweating my legs were knocking mostly because the judges were looking for high quality words.

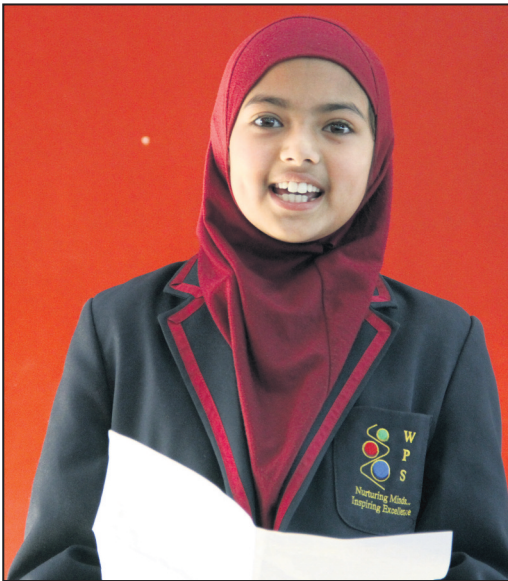
Here is a brief summary of my speech "Good morning fellow contestants, judges and parents my name is Duha Omar and today I will be talking about the topic 'only my dreams'. I have had plenty of experience of stupid dreams, for example I once dreamt that I have been eaten by an evil cute kitten but my most scariest, most terrifying dream is

I once dreamt that I was married to LOUIS WALSH".

I kept on thinking that I was very bad and I thought I had lost. I heard the other contestants and they were miles better than me. The judges called out the five runner ups. I was thinking that I was the worst competitor but then suddenly the judges said "The winner is



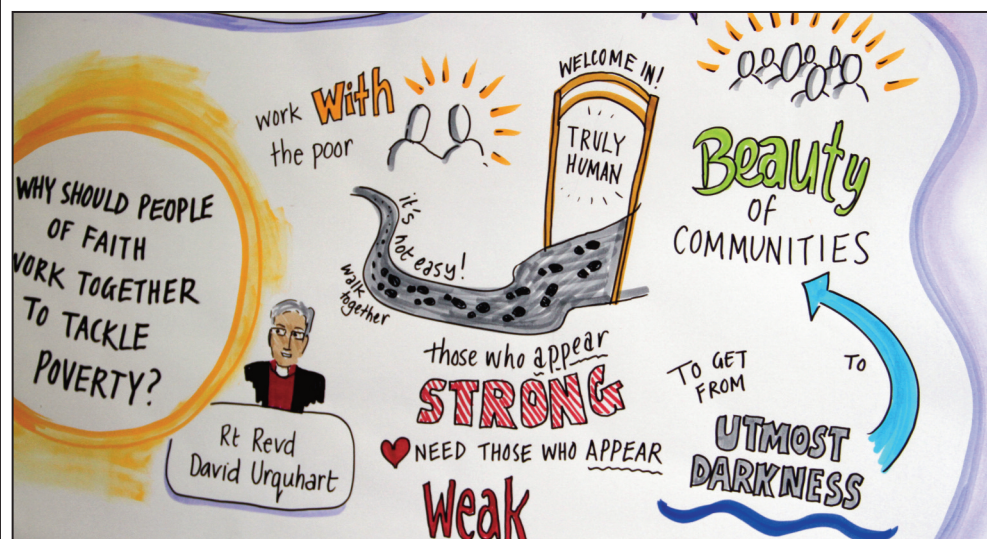
Duha Omar". I was so relieved. I felt I was going to wet myself. My eyes were getting watery not because I was sad but because I was very happy.
It was the best moment of my life.



“Have the imagination to create communities of beauty”

Archbishop urges activists at Birchfield Interfaith Conference

The gathering at Birchfield's Royal Banqueting Suite included



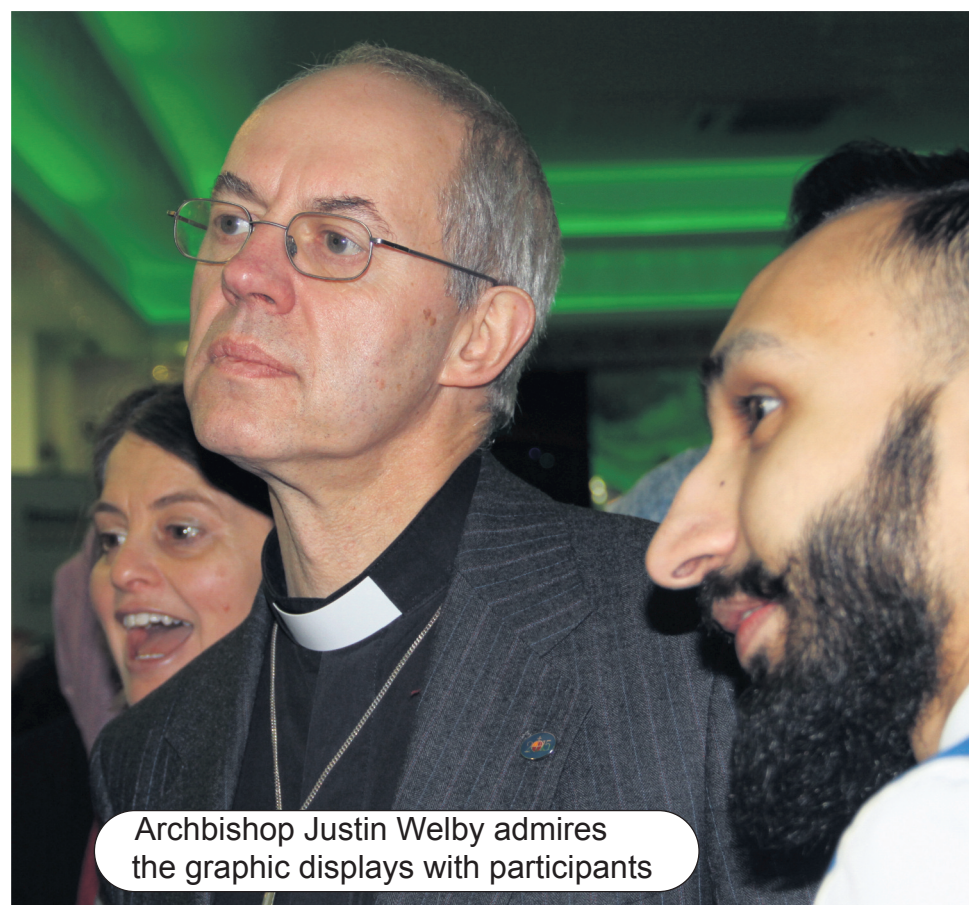
people from the Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish faiths and was hosted by Near Neighbours – a Government-funded programme to encourage people from different traditions to make friends, deepen relationships and change their neighbourhoods together.

Archbishop Justin Welby gave the keynote address to more than 150 people of faith drawn together from across Birmingham and the Black Country to reflect how they can tackle poverty in their communities together. Other speakers at the conference included **Nadeem Malik** of the Sultan Bahu Trust, **Shaz Manir** from the Amirah Foundation, **Fred Rattley** from Thrive Together Birmingham and **Dr Mohinder Singh** from the Nishkam Civic Association. The Archbishop was introduced by the Bishop of Birmingham, the **Rt Revd David Urquhart**.

The aim of the conference was to introduce local people to each other with the hope that they will continue meeting after the conference and work together for the good of their areas. Guests at the conference spent much of the morning in conversation and reflection, aided by a graphic facilitator. The Archbishop reminded the conference about the importance of working together for the good of the community even if there remain disagreements about faith – indeed, that learning to disagree together well is an important part of working together. He gave a global perspective

on faiths working together to tackle poverty.

He talked about the astonishing example of Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche communities – communities for people with learning disabilities as well as for those without. “L'Arche is a reminder that the



Archbishop Justin Welby admires the graphic displays with participants

apparently ‘strong’ need the apparently ‘weak’. The weakness of the strong is that they do not know their need of those who appear weak.”

He spoke about the immense privilege of living in a time and place where people from many different faiths and cultures can come together in one room and urged participants to expand their horizons of what might be possible. Continuing on the theme of interdependence he concluded by asking: “Do we have the imagination to build communities of beauty that recognise the reality of the divine?” Today, Near Neighbours is celebrating its 800th grant at a separate event in London. In Birmingham more than £600,000 has been distributed in small grants through Near Neighbours enabling thousands of friendships to be formed.

Near Neighbours Co-ordinator, Jessica Foster said: “Today has been a fantastic team effort by members of the Near Neighbours Advisory Board. We were delighted that many people had met new neighbours and had started to build local friendships. The commitment to working together and building trusting relationships was really exciting. The speakers today were inspiring and challenging and we were thrilled that Archbishop Justin was able to join us in the morning.” **by Jessica Foster, Near Neighbours Coordinator**



BIRCHFIELD WIN SENSIBLE AGAINST



BROTHERS SETTLEMENT RSPCA

Our last issue highlighted the story of the Leigh Brothers fight against the RSPCA's decision to seize all their Bird sanctuary stock

nearly 2 years ago. The RSPCA went in all guns blazing and failed to realise that one of the seized animal's was actually a plastic duck. Such was the scale of the RSPCA incompetence that witness documents submitted were left unsigned. Following legal advice, the RSPCA were instructed that they had not enough evidence to pursue a criminal case, so had instead attempted to seize custody of the animals



birds were returned, but some had died during the year and some could not be found. The brothers noticed that several birds were not

their own but did accept these replacements. Their vet was asked to inspect the animals and the living quarters and advise the brothers if improvements were necessary. Since then the brothers stock has increased as they introduced a cockrel into the flock and took on other unwanted poorly hens and nursed them back to full health. They have a flourishing flock of pigeons, chickens, quails, pheasants and Guinea fowl, on their allotment sanctuary, whilst at home budgies and finches have been busy producing youngsters. There is also a well stocked fish pond within the enclosure, and their entire allotment is



through the Magistrates Court. Supporters of the Leigh's gathered outside the court last year for a protest before the case was due to be heard. They held banners and placards demanding freedom, justice and an end to 362 days of RSPCA captivity. Protesters also highlighted the astonishing fact that

given over to growing species that will attract wildlife, such as birds, insects, reptiles, frogs, and small mammals. They have a well stocked stickleback and minnow pond.

The brothers are feeling much happier now that their family has been returned and they can get on with their business of looking after their delightful stock. Visitors to the site all agree that the Brothers are providing a wonderful home for their pet birds, and an excellent educational opportunity for the local children who visit with their families. Local schools are invited to bring children for visits.

over £30,000 of RSPCA charitable money had been blown on a botched case full of lies and distortions.

Not a single animal was found to be suffering at the time of the raid, by the RSPCA's own vets. The seizure of the Leigh's animals was so distressing that it subsequently led to the near suicide of one of

the Leigh brothers. Community leaders, activists and friends have all rallied around to support the release of the animals from RSPCA detention. The three Magistrates decided on the fate of a family of 50 budgies, finches, chickens, quails, pigeons and ducks, and ruled that the brothers could keep all the birds apart from the ducks.

Most of the



WEST INDIAN CHAPLAINCY PROUD



The West Indian Chaplaincy celebrated its 40th Anniversary in true Caribbean style and what a celebration it was!

Nestling in the grounds of the Sacred Heart School, Bayswater Road, Birchfield in Birmingham is Our Lady of the Caribbean Chaplaincy. It was in 1974 that the Chaplaincy was born, the vision and baby of the late Archbishop George Dwyer, spearheaded by Fr Danny McHugh now Monsignor McHugh.

The following extract humorously describes the history of Catholic Caribbean people from various islands living in Birmingham between the 1950s and 1970s. This extract is taken from a poem which forms part of an anthology about Archbishops, Bishops, Priests and Sisters involved with the Chaplaincy and was specifically compiled for the 40th Celebration:

*The year was seventy four,
people of the Caribbean wanted to worship comfortably
within the Catholic faith for sure.
The Lord heard their prayer
and sent them Archbishop Dwyer.*

*The Lord said to the Archbishop
"My people of the Caribbean are made to feel
uncomfortable to worship in the main stream
Catholic church,
I cannot leave them in the lurch!
They are scattered far and wide
in the great divide.
Bring them together we must,
it is right and just".*

*Archbishop Dwyer to the occasion he rose,
to do the job Father Daniel McHugh he chose,
a dynamic priest to light the fire of the
Caribbean people's burning desire.
A place of welcome to worship,
celebrating God's world,
giving him glory and honour.*

Over the 40 years there has been a succession of Priests and Sisters including the late Bishop Kevin Dunn, the current priest is **Fr James Fasakin CSSp** and our resident Sister is **Sr Marie Joynes**, serving the people for 37 years.

The Chaplaincy also acquired national recognition for its uniqueness as it was featured on the BBC television programme 'Songs of Praise' in the late 1980s. The cumulative now 40 years on, resulted in 3 glorious days of celebration. A myriad of preparation, front of house and behind the scenes came together in an explosion of colours, prayers, food and entertainment. The Chaplaincy was decorated with Caribbean coloured bunting and floral displays. A wall displayed a collage of photos of past celebrations, pilgrimages and the Gospel choir, depicting a memorable journey in the life of the Chaplaincy and its members.



Paper candles were used to grace a wall in honour of chaplaincy members who have died, all of whom had been part of the Chaplaincy history.

Friday Day One set the scene for the next two days.

It began with Mass of the Holy Spirit, the main celebrant was Fr James Fasakin CSSp, Homily by Fr Ire-

naeus Vincent O.P.

Also present was former chaplains Fr W. Wilton, Fr R. Wright along with Fr Stephen Pimlott and Fr Erasmus Egenonu CSSp. Fr Vincent's analogy of the readings related to current times with anecdotal examples captured the attention of the congregation, a great start for what was to follow.

Saturday Day Two was a day of entertainment. At the start of the day, the welcoming sound of African Drums filled the air and could be heard from a far distance. A welcome speech was given by Fr James. The history about the Chaplaincy was delivered in poetry form and followed by Prayers and Readings led by Fr Irenaeus Vincent O.P. It was then music time, with every one now in the party spirit. African Caribbean dancing by young people followed by a spectacular fashion show. Members of the Chaplaincy decked out in their native costumes, strutting their stuff to soul-fulfilling music. The joyful sound of laughter echoed as young and old enjoyed the show.

A range of songs was performed by the Rainbow Community choir with a touch of African flavour, the choir is made up by men and women from the Chaplaincy and wider community. Interjected into the singing celebration was folk songs originating from the Caribbean. Everyone joined in a truly multicultural affair.

Hospitality and food forms an integral part of Caribbean culture and this was ensured in abundance with a finger licking buffet of Caribbean delicacies and the traditional drinks of fruit Punch

not forgetting a selection of cakes.

There was no shortage of memorabilia which included; Poetry Anthology books, Candles, Fridge Magnets, Tee Shirts and book marks all bearing the Chaplaincy logo – Our Lady of the Caribbean. There was something for everyone, over all it was a spectacular day.

TO CELEBRATE 40th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday Day Three. The Finale

A day of spiritual joy with worship and festivity, this blessed day commenced with 'Mass of Thanksgiving'. It was 'raining priests!' The sanctuary had an overspill into the side pews

The main celebrant being Archbishop Bernard Longley, accompanied by Bishop Pargeter, Monsignor D. McHugh, Fr Philip Marsh (Provincial) CSSp and Fr James Fasakin CSSp (Chaplain)

There was a feast of other priests all vested in their splendour, it would be a shame not to mention their names; Fr Dominic Cosslett, Fr Ugo Ik-wuka CSSp, Fr Erasmus Egenonu CSSp, Fr Patrick Alemayo CSSp, Fr Irenaeus Vincent O.P., Fr Nazarius Mgungwe, and Fr John O'Brien. That moment has been captured by the lens of Mr Michael Tye in the photo below.

The Mass commenced with a rousing entrance hymn 'Let us enter into Covenant with Christ' accompanied with an orchestra of music, piano, steel pans, guitars and drums. The mood was electric so was the riveting sermon given by Fr Irenaeus Vincent, with his Caribbean persona he was able to resonate with the congregation. The final hymn 'Bind us Together' was very fitting for the occasion.

At the end of Mass everyone was invited to the meal of the day, the school's large assembly hall became a restaurant of Caribbean fine dining, with a mouth-watering a la carte menu, vegetable soup, Caribbean chicken in various forms with different spices, curry goat and rice, rice and peas, escoviche fish, vegetarian dish of chick peas with other herbs and spices, salads and coleslaw. In addition delicious home-made cakes and traditional Caribbean fruit punch was served.

After the meal, Archbishop Bernard Longley, Bishop Pargeter and all the Priests and Sisters mingled with members and visitors alike. The three day celebration was phenomenal. Over 400 people attended, it was a celebration for the whole community and beyond, people of various denominations and cultures attended. The overall experience was enjoyed immensely by all.



Chaplaincy members, friends and family gathering to enjoy fine food and fellowship.

**PHOTOS by
Mojtaba Abedini &
Mike Tye of
ASTON VISION**



The late Archbishop Dwyer would have been proud to see his baby come of age. Monsignor D. McHugh expressed his delight at being part of the celebrations and the people of the Caribbean Chaplaincy were very proud to be the hosts for this most wonderful occasion.



BUILDING BIRCHFIELD



Boss Homes site on Wellington Road is nearing completion. The 3 storey house's foundations are shown last July. By November the roof was on.

Several building projects are underway since our last edition, and a couple of proposed projects are waiting in the wings. The Birchfield Estate site is well underway and due for completion by November this year. An info/ad page from the Builders, Mansell Homes, is on our back page. However, the builders at the Wellington Road site were reluctant to speak to the Bugle saying they were too busy. The photos left and right compare the two sites that started at the same time.



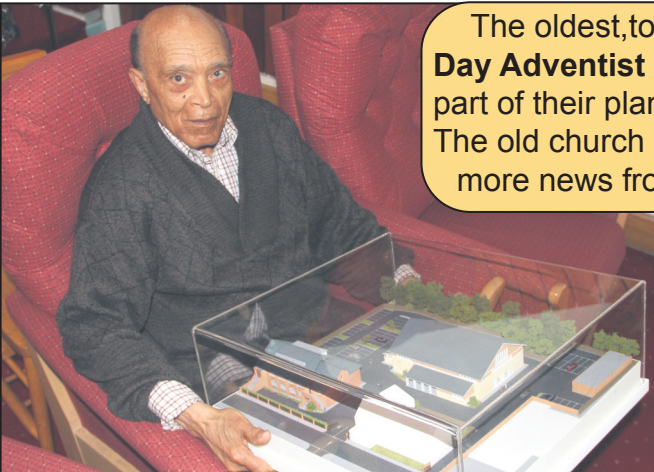
Mansell Homes site on Birchfield Road also started last July, by March '15 the roof trusses were in place. There will be 68 dwellings of various sizes for affordable rent by the Council. Together with 25 for sale on the open market the development will turn Birchfield Gateway into a very desirable area to live in over the coming years, with the ghostly tower blocks long gone.



Site manager, Jason Roberts, pictured next to the hoardings left by a previous 'regeneration' project showing murals of the demolished tower blocks. Centre Picture shows Jason with a local apprentice, one of many who are working on the site learning valuable skills for the future. Picture above right, shows Jason in his office with the site plan of the 93 mixed units of housing constructed for Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust.



These are the investors from **Aronex Developments** at a local Ward meeting last year when they brought their plans to turn Livingstone House into "**The Grand Square**", complete with swimming pool and gynasium and up-market studios accommodation for young people. Their sales pitch for the former council property is "**a grand investment property with a huge potential of high return on investment. It is located within the vicinity of Perry Barr/Birchfield which has been identified by the Government as one of three 'growth points' for the Birmingham city.**" They have received Planning permission to go ahead with the project which will also allow the Neighbourhood Forum to use the Community Hall for meetings. Currently the building is being cleared of asbestos in preparation for the Grand Square refurbishment, which will be a splendid new jewel in Birchfield's redevelopment.



The oldest, together with younger members, of the **Hutton Road Seventh Day Adventist Church** inspect a model of their proposed new church which is part of their planned redevelopment of the old factory unit adjacent to their site. The old church building will become a Youth department. We hope to feature more news from this church's building work in our next issue.



Judy Murray visits Broadway Academy to launch new tennis strategy



JUDY Murray came to Perry Barr in March to launch a new strategy aimed at maximising young people's potential through the sport. The mother of tennis superstar Andy Murray was at Tennis Foundation's launch of their Tennis in Education Strategy at Broadway Academy.

She said: "Tennis is so adaptable and it can be played almost anywhere if you have a bit of imagination. Schools are the perfect place for kids and teenagers to try all sorts of sports. Tennis can be played by pupils of any age and ability, using mini nets with softer balls in a school hall or playground.

"The more pupils we can engage with, the more chance we have to stimulate a love of our game that will feed our clubs and parks.

"That's why I'm supporting the Tennis Foundation and LTA with the work they are doing to engage all young people, whatever their background, to enjoy all the benefits that tennis can bring whether playing, coaching, volunteering, refereeing or finding a career in the sport."

The foundation has also teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust to roll out the Beyond the Baseline social change programme following a successful pilot in 2014

Foundation has already given the chance to 2.8 million children to play tennis in their school but with rising childhood obesity and inactivity still clearly such an issue, we have looked again at what we can offer to help combat these serious problems.

"With a renewed focus on secondary schools, colleges and universities, partnerships are key to helping us achieve our aims and we're very fortunate to work with a number of other sporting organisations and charities to make a real difference to young people's lives."

LTA Chief Executive Michael Downey said: "Education is a key strand of our British Tennis strategy and fundamental to our ambitions to get more people playing tennis more often.

"The LTA and the Tennis Foundation will continue to work together to deliver a strong and effective tennis offer in the education setting, ensuring a positive early experience of tennis, lifelong habits grounded in physical activity and the growth of our game."

"Tennis is a fantastic way for young people to learn about confidence, discipline and determination – and develop skills that will help them once they step off the court."

You can download video footage and interviews from the visit here:

<https://vimeo.com/122642128> Password: Tennis

Councillor Hendrina Quinnen reflects on her term in office



"I feel honoured to be elected as a Councillor in **Lozells and East Handsworth Ward**, since June 2009.

My family and I lived in Handsworth, in the early 1990s and I have since then returned to work as a teacher at Wilkes Green Infants School, During my spare time, I read books and write novels. **Starlight in the Ring** by H. N. Quinnen (my pen name), published by Top Hat Books, is my debut Historical Novel. When thinking about our Ward, one of the things that stand out for me, is its rich culture, and how we get on well together, sharing and learning about each others' beliefs and faiths, with residents from about 162 different countries.

To be able to serve these residents, with my colleagues Cllr Mahmood Hussain and Cllr Waseem Zaffar, in one of the most diverse ward in our country, is a real privilege.

I am the Chair of the Ward Committee, where the residents and Officers meet to discuss local matters that affect them. I ensure that the meetings are democratically conducted, and every one's voice is heard.

I take the opportunity to attend other meetings, namely, the Residents' Groups, Neighbourhood Forums and Celebrations Ward-wide. I also respond to the Residents through other means of communication.

I work as a partner with our Community Activists and Voluntary Organisations, identifying issues that need attention as well as providing solutions to many. I have witnessed this Partnership growing stronger, year after year. Of course, we do have some challenges that we face – lack of jobs, keeping our streets cleaner every day, school places and housing shortages; with our Partners, we are trying to address these issues. Voluntary Organisations and some individuals are doing their share, battling to keep our streets cleaner and making our ward a lovely place to live in.

What I can say to them and many others who are playing their part in our community, on behalf of the Council and my Colleagues, **"thank you, let's keep going - together we are stronger"**

Letter to Editor

"when will someone do something about the awful mess by the Crown & Cushion. I was horrified to see a large rat run onto the footpath from the discarded waste from shops left on land next to Perry Barr station. There are also lots of empty cooking oil drums left there too. Things are getting worse daily, can someone help please"

Concerned A, Perry Barr

Editor; we will take your concern to the monthly Police Tasking Group again, but it was raised 2 months ago, but no action appears to have been taken. Maybe Councillor Quinnen, Ward Lead for the environment will take up your complaint, we will pass on your letter to her and the Neighbourhood Forum.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH was celebrated for Young People at The Lighthouse,Young Peoples centre last year by West Midlands Police with activities for all ages, food and fun,and useful information.



Daily Bus Service keeps us moving

Cheerful Driver John is well respected on the local Central Bus 61 service as he stops at every street corner to help older folk as they go to and return from shopping trips along the route.



Many children take the daily ride to school as well.“Some lonely people like to use this friendly bus”, says John, who will retire himself in a couple of years.



Father Saun's daily service came to an end after 64 years serving parishoners

in Birmingham. He retired to Dundrum,Co Dublin, Ireland last September.



Some of our local children came for the first time

7th ANNUAL Faiths For Fun Event

"85 children of different faiths were made very happy at the 7th annual Faiths for Fun event organised by Birmingham Council of Faiths & Birmingham Scouts on 1st March. The fun started when children joined in the parachute game as they arrived, then as part of multifait teams they visited 7 faith bases in turn to learn something about each faith through fun activities such as cut out Love Your Neighbour hearts at the Christian base and a Mother's day activity at the Hindu base; Jewish Bingo and Buddhist meditation; Baha'i Unity songs & dance; 5 Pillars of Islam; and popcorn 'langar' at the Sikh base. Everyone enjoyed refreshments at half time and finally dance in the sports' hall. The event concluded with youngsters being presented with a certificate of participation.



Bishop Byrne who opened the complex chats with resident Tom

St Teresa's Court opens to Elderly



Grandmother Susan with her family



A unique new housing scheme has opened as part of a wider regeneration project to breathe new life into our area.Work began in April 2013 to build the complex of 42 apartments on land next to St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church in Wellington Road, on the site of the church's former social centre which had fallen into disrepair.The £6 million development provides quality affordable homes for people aged over 55, complete with communal facilities including a stunning rooftop garden.Thanks to the scheme's links to the local church, residents also benefit from practical, emotional and spiritual support on their doorstep.Monsignor Daniel McHugh, Executive Director of Cornerstone Regeneration, said: "We have worked in partnership with Trident and the local parish on this landmark development which is part of ongoing regeneration work in Perry Barr. As well as providing a welcoming home for older people, it aims to help strengthen community spirit in the local area as its communal facilities will be available for use not just by residents but also members of the wider community." We hope to report on the new Community's activity in our next issue.

Is Birchfield part of Birmingham's £30million boost Cycle Revolution? CRAZY POST CODE CHOICE REVEALED

In February Cllr Lisa Trickett, the Council's Cycle Champion, started the process of selecting 1,500 lucky winners of Birmingham's New Orange Bike scheme, funded by the Government. If you wanted a free bike you checked the council's post code eligibility identifier on their web site. If you were lucky you then had to buy a £6 Leisure card and wait. Over the two phases of the giveaway, up to 3,000 Raleigh bikes will be given to people who cannot otherwise afford to buy a bike, with entry to the free draw restricted to those living in priority postcode areas. But unfortunately on this occasion many roads in our **Birchfield B20 Neighbourhood Forum** area loose out.

Here are the **UNLUCKY** roads

,Apollo Way, Ashcroft Grove, Birchfield Road, Brackley Avenue, (opposite lucky Chalfont Road off the same unlucky Hutton Road), Bridgelands Way, Calthorpe, Crompton, Grosvenor Avenue & Road, Havlock, Hutton, Hill Grove, Kingsley, Leslie, Livingstone, Old Mill Close, Stamford Grove, (Stamford Road is OK), Westerings, Wellington, Wood Lane, Westminster Road, but Westminster B20 3LH is OK.

Other **LUCKY** roads are:

Burton Wood Drive, Chalfont Road, Church Vale, Church Hill Road, Haughton, Heathfield B19 1JQ, Maxwell, Putney Avenue & Road, Robert, Stamford, Turville and Wilton.

How crazy is that ! We are told it is due to a calculated "index of deprivation" figure; explain that to residents of Westminster Road which has been designated a safer Cycling Route from Handsworth Park to Aston, (remember the Consultation that came through your door). We are told that unlucky post code households can ask for a free loan bike with the option of buying it for a reduced amount after 6 months.

The Council says, "There has been huge interest in the Big Birmingham Bikes giveaway, with the initial phase of 1,500 cycles set to hit the streets shortly. Part of the £24.3million Phase One of Birmingham City Council's Cycle Revolution, **BIG BIRMINGHAM BIKES** is a ground-breaking initiative aiming to encourage people of all backgrounds to get cycling regularly. In December 2014, Raleigh bikes was awarded the contract to provide up to 5,000 Big Birmingham

Bikes that will help encourage more cycling in the city. In total, approximately 3,000 of the new bikes will be given away to people who are keen to cycle but for whom the cost of buying a bike is a barrier. The remainder will be available for shorter term loan through Big Birmingham Bikes Cycle Centres and other partner organisations across the city."

The project forms part of the council's wider Birmingham Cycle Revolution initiative, designed to make cycling a more mainstream form of transport in the city.

The Council say that they "have had phenomenal success in allocating bikes to those from the most deprived parts of our city". They also offer **BIKEABILITY** cycle training at 22 cycle centres across the city for those that can't cycle or need a confidence boost and free led rides if you can already cycle.

This link, www.birmingham.gov.uk/bbb explains more about the scheme.

Their simple aim is to get more people out and about cycling in Birmingham than ever before! If you want to know what the rest of the money is spent on besides Orange Bikes, then check out the web link, as the target is for a 27 per cent increase in cycling in the **BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION** area by 2016 and for cycling to make up 5 per cent of all journeys by 2023 compared with less than 2 per cent at present. Other areas of expenditure are on, **Main Corridors (£15.000m)** About half of the funding would cover high-quality "flagship" routes on five main corridors, It is expected that about 30km of route will be delivered in total. our A34 is Birchfield Road/B4138 Kingstanding Road is one such Corridor. Other spends are **Parallel Routes (£1.750m)** Providing local, quieter routes. **Canal Works (£6.000m)**, and **Green Routes ((£2.250m)** through parks.



Cycling Champion, Councillor Lisa Trickett, centre, checks out one of the 5000 new Birmingham Cycle Revolution Orange machines with her Council colleagues, left, Edward Wicks from the Cycling Development Office, and right, Bryn Lewis, Big Birmingham Bikes Community Theme Lead.

Find your new home at The Founders!

The Founders is an exciting development of new homes coming soon to Perry Barr. Situated just off the A34 Birchfield Road, within easy reach of the M6, Junctions 6 and 7, demand is expected to be high for this exclusive collection of beautifully designed 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes, due to launch in late April.

Built by Mansell Homes, these stylish homes will enjoy a high specification, with contemporary kitchens and superbly appointed bathrooms including downlighters and vinyl flooring as standard. Conveniently located, close to the 'One Stop' Shopping Centre these new homes are also within easy walking distance of Perry Barr railway station - ideal for the short commute into Birmingham City Centre.

The spacious one and two-bedroom apartments are in a small block of just six properties, all with balconies or terraces. The two-bedroom houses are semi-detached, with integral garage and first floor lounge. There is a great selection of three and four-bedroom housestyles to choose from, including semi-detached, link detached and detached. The fabulous five bedroom homes have an attached garage and feature a kitchen and separate dining room to the ground floor, lounge with balcony and master bedroom with ensuite to the first floor, plus four further bedrooms on the top floor.

Mansell Homes offers a range of schemes to help make home-buying easier and more affordable.

For people who are struggling to afford to buy their first home, or for those who already own a home but need more space for a growing family, the Help

to Buy scheme is available on the new homes at The Founders. This is a fantastic way to get on to, or to move up the property ladder, making a huge difference to affordability.

Help to Buy is the government scheme that allows you to pay from just 80% but own 100% of your beautiful new home (subject to status and qualifying conditions). You only need a 5% deposit and your independent financial advisor will help you secure an equity loan up to 20% (interest free for the first five years) and arrange a mortgage for the 75% balance.

Mansell Homes also offers an Assisted Move scheme for buyers who have a house to sell. It helps take the stress out of moving, Mansell Homes does all the hard work – we even pay the Estate Agents fees, which represents a significant saving.



To register your interest in these new homes - and to secure your invitation to the exclusive launch event, please contact us today.

The Founders is situated in Burton Wood Drive, off Birchfield Road, Birchfield, Perry Barr, Birmingham B19 1LL



www.mansellhomes.co.uk

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, PLEASE TELEPHONE:

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MansellHomes