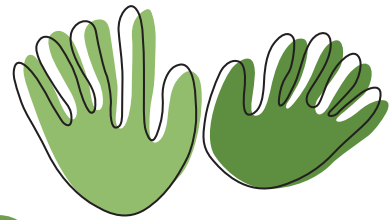


# Hands on Handsworth



Issue 2

A community magazine for Handsworth

New cop swaps out now

Handsworth Beams with Pride

Boat House Café rides a wave of success

Get Involved  
in the photo  
competition  
on pg 5





# Update on Progress from Handsworth Neighbourhood Partnership

– Chair Councillor, Paulette Hamilton

**Once again this year I am pleased to be in a position to chair the Handsworth Partnership.**

This is made up of local community representatives and partners and provides direction and support to our dynamic neighbourhood manager Tracey Thorne, who is working hard with the Partnership, the community and with partners to deliver the 'Handsworth Delivery Plan 2010/11.

You will all be well aware of the financial pressures on central and local government. The Neighbourhood

Programme across the city and in Handsworth is not exempt from those pressures. As we face the challenges ahead I will strive to ensure that any decisions taken by the Handsworth Partnership are heavily influenced by the views of local people and that, as far as the available resources permit, the needs of Handsworth residents are met.

**Councillor Paulette Hamilton**  
Handsworth Wood Ward

# Editorial

I am delighted that we are able to present the second edition of the magazine. The first edition went out in March and proved to be very popular. It is always hard to produce local magazines as there are so many worthy stories. The spring & summer months have been very busy in Handsworth.

This edition reflects some of the great work happening within the local neighbourhood. The follow up story to the Pride in Handsworth Awards details all the lucky winners and recognises the important contribution made by so many residents and community groups over the years to improving the neighbourhood.

We are really interested in involving local people in the production of this magazine. If you're interested in becoming a local community journalist or photographer then get in touch.

Any ideas or feedback for the next edition is welcome.

## **Tracey Thorne**

Neighbourhood Manager for Handsworth  
Birmingham City Council  
Tel: 0121 303 3401

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	1
<b>Handsworth Newsroom</b>	2-3
<b>Letters</b>	4-5
<b>Greener Handsworth</b>	6-7
<b>In My Neighbourhood</b>	8-9
<b>Safer Handsworth</b>	10-11
<b>Be Healthy</b>	12-13
<b>Make a contribution</b>	14-15
<b>Handsworth Beams with Pride</b>	16-17
<b>Historic Handsworth</b>	18-19
<b>Succeed Economically</b>	20-21
<b>Useful Contacts</b>	22

## **Acknowledgements:**

This magazine is produced through Handsworth Neighbourhood Management by Birmingham City Council as part of the Be Birmingham Transforming Neighbourhoods Programme. This edition has also been developed in partnership with Urban Living through their Beyond Bricks Programme and Multi Story.

Thanks to the Handsworth Wood Ward Committee & Lozells & East Handsworth Ward Committee who have provided additional funding from community chest to produce this magazine.

Thank you to Larrie Tiernan for sharing the front cover photograph taken at the Simmerdown Festival 2010 in Handsworth Park.

# Handsworth Newsroom

## Two Handsworth projects were short listed for Homes & Communities Agency Awards

**Two local initiatives have beaten off competition from 260 entrants from around the UK to make the nominations for the 2010 Homes & Communities Awards and competed against 50 other nominees at the finals held in London on 23 September.**

Handsworth housing organisation Midland Heart along with residents from Raleigh Close and Church Green were nominated for their contribution towards tackling crime and influencing regeneration plans for the area.

Whittled down from hundreds of entries, the work at Raleigh Close did really well in being shortlist for the 'Stronger Communities' category. Representatives from the partnership attended the evening but lost out to Balsall Heath Forum who won the category.

The nomination highlighted the regeneration work Midland Heart have carried out for the Handsworth Wood community, working in partnership with West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime, installing

CCTV, improving outdoor lighting and working closely with the police to build a strong community rapport.

*"Our objective was to engage with the community, build relationships between community partners to bring a lasting solution and return to a sense of community," said David Taylor, Head of Housing for Midland Heart. "By working in partnership with the community to identify their hopes and aspirations, we have addressed the issues which really mattered to them."*

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## Mapping your neighbourhood

From September 2010 onwards Groundwork West Midlands will be undertaking some 'community mapping' in Handsworth. You can help them!

Community Mapping aims to create a resource which can be used to improve disused spaces and secure external funding to put them to use. Maybe you know of a space with potential? Or you just fancy joining

us for a photo safari? Or perhaps you want to learn a bit more about making maps on the computer?

If so, we want to work with you to get an idea of what spaces there are in your neighbourhood and how we might improve them. So if you want to get involved, contact Stephen Cook on 0121 530 5500 or email [stephen.cook@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:stephen.cook@groundwork.org.uk)



# Commended on the night

## Sense of Place

The Sense of Place partnership were absolutely delighted to receive a commended award on the night in the 'Leadership of Place' category. Urban Living initiated the project in June 2009 to strengthen local people's involvement in shaping the places where they live; especially along the Soho Road and Dudley Road areas. They have worked hard to capture people's stories in a practical way, enabling them to influence local decision making. Getting together to share stories has also assisted with community networking, relationship building and growing micro enterprises.

The resulting approach of Do-Dream-Pledge can be seen at [www.sohofoundation.org.uk](http://www.sohofoundation.org.uk)

If you want to become a citizen journalist, contact project manager Nosheen Kosar, on 07779 342 203 or email: [nosheenkosar@gmail.com](mailto:nosheenkosar@gmail.com)



## Local Democracy Week

Local Democracy Week ran from the 11th October 2010 and included holding the annual Local Hearts Award. Recognised on the night were local residents; Sister Helen Ryan winner for the Female Active Citizen, Manjit Singh highly commended for Male Active Citizen and Sonia Hymen highly commended for Lifetime Achievement Award. Visit the Local Democracy Website:

<http://birminghamlocaldemocracyweek.com/>

# Letters



## Why dump it when they'll collect it?

I live in Handsworth and recently needed to dispose of a double mattress. I called Birmingham City Council and arranged for a free bulk waste collection which was collected the following Saturday. I wish that more people where I live used this service instead of leaving items for weeks at a time in their front gardens or dumping them!

Birmingham City Council provide a free bulk waste collections service for all Birmingham residents up to a maximum of six items per collection, three times a year.

You can book this service by calling 0121 303 1112 or online [www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)

## We need you!

Send in your stories, poems, recipes & photos  
Have you got any stories, news, information or photographs about Handsworth that you would like to see in the next edition?

## The next magazine will be out in January

Send to:

**Hands on Handsworth Magazine**  
**C/O Handsworth Community Fire Station,**  
**41 Rookery Rd,**  
**Handsworth,**  
**Birmingham, B21 9QU**  
or email [tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk)



## Trees that block out the light

I am concerned about the tree outside my house as it is affecting the amount of light coming into my house. How can I get this sorted?

If you have any concerns about trees you can contact Birmingham City Council on 0121 464 8728 or email [trees@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:trees@birmingham.gov.uk)

Earlier this year Amey took over the contract for maintenance of trees on the highway although all enquires should be directed through the contacts above.

Information on the programme of work for tree maintenance each year and frequently asked questions can be found on the Birmingham City Council Website by clicking Environment and then Trees. You can also use the e-form to request tree pruning or to have a tree planted.



## Could you be our cover star?

Have you got an amazing picture of Handsworth, past or present that will look great on the next front cover?

**We are looking for a photo for the cover of our winter issue and we're giving £20 to the lucky winner.**

To enter the competition, you must grant us permission to reproduce the winning photo. Your photo needs to be submitted as a jpeg file either by email or posted to us on a disc. The winner will receive a £20 gift voucher.

Closing Date:  
30th November 2010 at 4pm  
Email to: [tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk)  
Address: Handsworth Fire Station,  
41 Rookery Rd, Handsworth,  
Birmingham, B21 9QU

We are looking for a photo for the cover of our winter issue and we're giving £20 to the lucky winner.

## Have you got a star letter?

**Send us your comments or feedback about this magazine or any issues relating to Handsworth.**

Have your say?  
Give our team the chance to answer your questions?

# Greener Handsworth

## Grab your plot

**Earlier this year The Victoria & Jubilee allotments opened following a long campaign by local residents.**

The allotments were the subject of a documentary made over a decade ago by Nick Booth from Podnosh. The BBC film 'Losing the Plot' reflected what was then a confused attitude towards urban land and the lack of importance given to maintaining green space in neighbourhoods such as Handsworth.



The film featured academic and local Handsworth activist Simon Baddeley who talked about his campaign to prevent homes being built on the Victoria Jubilee allotments bordering Handsworth Park. Simon and his neighbours were unable to stop the housing development, but they did manage to get Birmingham City Council and the developers to re-instate 80 of the allotment plots.

Simon and other residents fought long and hard to ensure that this commitment was honoured, and in June this year were able to finally claim their plots.

Simon, who has regularly blogged about his campaign for a healthier approach to urban land, says, "for me the re-opening of the allotments represents a small symbol of a shifting attitude to land in our cities. At the time the documentary was made it felt like land was there for developers and individual profit. Since then demand for allotments has grown and people are showing off their pride in these places. The Birmingham Open Spaces Forum has helped bridge a gap by nurturing a better relationship between citizens and council."

Simon has expressed his delight at the development of Cannon Hill

and Handsworth Parks, and smaller parks like Waverhill in Handsworth now running their own festivals.

'There is definitely a shift in people in Handsworth wanting to grow their own produce and get involved in gardening,' says Tracey Thorne, Neighbourhood manager. 'It's really encouraging to see small pieces of land used for 'Grow It' sites and the small plot at Handsworth Fire Station, maintained by local resident Sonia Hymen, who has worked closely with local school children to help them learn how to grow vegetables, is an excellent example of how small, green spaces can be used positively in the area.'

**Nick Booth can be contacted at Podnosh by visiting [www.podnosh.com](http://www.podnosh.com)**

**You can follow Simon's progress on the allotment at [www.democracystreet.blogspot.com](http://www.democracystreet.blogspot.com)**

**For more information about allotments contact the allotment team on:**

**Telephone: 0121 303 3038 or email: [allotments@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@birmingham.gov.uk)**

## Local dump site wins money to improve the local area

**A local site that has been ruined by persistent fly tipping has just won a £16,000 grant to help improve the area.**

Residents have for a long time raised concerns about the alleyway between Albert Rd and Herbert Rd, but despite repeated clean ups by Birmingham City Council, the areas either side of the alleyways where the fences are broken have been repeatedly used as a fly tipping site.

There have also been reports of anti social behaviour in the alleyways, which West Midlands Police in partnership with other services have been working to resolve.

Some time ago it became clear that simply cleaning up the site again and again wasn't working and that investment in the area was needed to enable local services and residents to work together to design permanent solutions for some of the environmental and community safety issues.

Last month Tracey Thorne, Neighbourhood Manager for Handsworth, successfully obtained £16,000 from Be Birmingham's Secured Sites Fund to help improve the area.

The first phase will include a clean up of the whole area and installation of new fencing. There is also an opportunity to create a small gated nature area or community garden.

If you are a local resident, we'd like to hear your ideas and views on how you would like the area improved.

If you're interested in getting involved, call Tracey Thorne on 0121 303 3401 or leave a comment on the Hands on Handsworth Blog <http://handsonhandsworth.info/>



## GREENER HANDSWORTH NOTICE BOARD

### HELP KEEP HANDSWORTH CLEAN

Residents can now report environmental issues online through the Birmingham City Council website. You have the option to record your name and get an update either via text message or email. Or you can anonymously report issues such as fly tipping. Help us to keep Handsworth clean and report the following issues:

- missed bin collections
- flytipping/dumped rubbish
- street cleaning

You can also use it to book free bulk collections, rubbish bags and recycling containers.

<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/>

### TURN DOWN YOUR THERMOSTAT THIS WINTER

Did you know that by reducing the temperature of a room by just 1°C you could reduce your heating bill?

**You can get some free advice and information on the Green Doctor Service on 0121 766 1100** or visit their website <http://www.family-housing.co.uk/>

### GET FAMILIAR WITH YOUR FRIDGE AND FRIENDLY WITH YOUR FREEZER

Food waste is bad for the environment and bad for your pocket. You can make a big difference by getting into the habit of regularly checking the dates on perishable items in your fridge. Move them into the freezer if you don't think you'll have time to eat them, or cook them for tonight's supper.

For tips on how to reduce food waste and save money each month visit <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

# In my Neighbourhood

## How to have a say in Handsworth!

Enabling residents to feel that they can make a contribution where they live is a key priority across Birmingham. It is really important to enable local residents to feel they can influence local decisions.

Over the last year, work to encourage active citizenship and enable more residents to have a say has been a top priority. Handsworth is fortunate, compared to other areas of the city, in that it has a number of resident-led groups that have been working in the area for years.

Attending resident associations is a good way to find out what is happening in your local area and to ensure that your views are represented. Birmingham City Council and other services consult with local resident-led groups on planning applications and a wide range of issues. Local resident groups also get involved in various community activities which give people a chance to come together and give something back to the local community.

If you'd like to get more involved or find out more about the resident groups in your area, here is a list of them with contact telephone numbers:

Grove Residents Association	0121 554 2501
West Handsworth Forum	07807 177575
Rosehill Resident Association	07860 546170
Wilkes Green Residents Association	0121 551 3858
Centenary Drive & New Inns resident Association	0845 850 120 ext 5835
Hands on Handsworth Resident Network	0121 303 3401

Social media sites and local blogs are another way to get involved or get your views heard. The Hands on Handsworth blog, run by your local Neighbourhood

Manager Tracey Thorne, has had more than 4500 new visitors since it was launched January 2010.

If you're interested in starting your own blog or just want to find out more about using social media then contact Tracey Thorne on 0121 303 3401.

Thanks to everyone that got involved in the Handsworth Big Blog Conversation during Local Democracy Week by adding a comment or sending in a photograph to [www.handsonhandsworth.info/](http://www.handsonhandsworth.info/)



# Local Ward Committees

You can also get involved by attending your local ward committee meetings run by elected councillors. This is also a good way to get your views heard and find out more about the work going on in Handsworth to improve the neighbourhood.

Contact your elected councillors directly by telephone, email or by attending their individual surgeries:

## Handsworth Wood Ward Councillors



**Cllr Narinder Kooner**  
Chair Ward Committee  
0121 303 2039



**Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal**  
Chair, Perry Barr Constituency  
Partnership  
07973 726070



**Cllr Paulette Hamilton**  
Chair, Handsworth  
Partnership  
0121 303 2039

Next Handsworth Wood ward committee meetings will be held at **7.00pm on Wed 15 December 2010**, at Laurel Rd Leisure Centre.

## Lozells & East Handsworth Ward Councillors



**Cllr Mahmood Hussain**  
Chair Ward Committee  
Chair, Perry Barr  
Constituency Committee  
0121 551 7977



**Cllr Hendrina Quinnen**  
07895 599464



**Cllr Don Brown**  
0121 523 8509

Next Lozells & East Handsworth ward committee will be held at **7.00pm on Wed 24 November 2010**, at Welford Rd Primary School.

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For further information and details contact Louisa Nisbett, Committee Manager for Perry Barr Constituency on 0121 464 4104 or visit <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/democracy>

# Safer Handsworth



## Cop Swaps

West Midlands Police have come up with a new and innovative way to engage with children and young people in Lozells and East Handsworth. They've invented their own card game.

Cop Swaps is a set of 30 cards designed by the Lozells and East Handsworth Neighbourhood Policing Team. Each card has a caricature of a local officer, the officer's name and a set of pretend powers, with a message encouraging good citizenship or community safety advice.

Local officers will be going into local primary schools in the area to promote the new initiative through school assemblies. Children and young people will be able to collect the cards by learning the

messages and repeating them to one of the officers from the Lozells & East Handsworth Neighbourhood Police Team.

Cop Swaps was launched in schools from the 13th September and run for 30 weeks with a new card released each week. It is hoped that at the end of the scheme the children will have engaged with the police officers 30 times and learned up to 30 citizenship or community safety messages. Those children that get a full set of cards can use them to play a game similar to Top Trumps.

For more information or to find out more about your local police team you can contact the Lozells & East Handsworth Police Team on 0345 113 5000 or visit the West Midlands Police website where you can find a link to the teams neighbourhood page:

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/>

# There is no better feeling than making a positive impact on a person's life

## An interview with Community Safety champion Lincoln Moses

A truly inspirational and influential figure, Lincoln Moses has dedicated his life to helping hundreds of people in his community through sport and other activities. He finally gained the recognition he deserved by recently being honoured with an MBE and a Pride of Handsworth Award 2010.

Concerns about community safety have been widely reported in the media and remained a top priority for statutory services working in Handsworth since the 1980s, but this focus has often meant the contribution of local people and community groups has gone unrecognised.

Karl Greenwood from MultiStory talked to Lincoln earlier this month.

### Why is 'community' important to you?

The community is important to me because I enjoy helping people, and gaining an understanding about how each person from the community lives.

You've dedicated so much of your life to helping others and yet you still seem modest about your achievements.

### How does it feel to be recognised with an MBE for all your hard work over the years?

There is no better feeling than knowing you've made a positive impact on another person's life. It is my responsibility, due to all of the privileges I've received, to help those that have less. I don't think of the MBE as being about myself; it is about the community I come from. It's also recognition of the work and the growing success of Continental Star in turning around people's lives and uniting communities.

### You are a role model to many young people in the area. Who was your role model when growing up?

Muhammad Ali, who floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee, but behind the bravo he appears to have thought deeply about society.

### You're an ambassador for the anti-race football campaign, Kick it Out. Do you think the problem of racism is getting better or worse on our streets?

I believe it is getting worse due to the economic climate. Disliking people because of their colour is wrong. And it doesn't matter which colour does the hating. It's just plain wrong. Some of us have to change our mindset to be able to get along.

### What one bit of advice would you give to anyone wanting to work with and help people in their community?

First and foremost, take pride in knowing that you are helping to positively affect someone's life.



## Stay Safe

The West Midlands Fire Service offers free Home Safety Checks in your home. To find out how you can keep your family safe, call 0800 389 5525 or book online at [www.wmfs.net/](http://www.wmfs.net/)



# Be Healthy

## Working Hard to Support Older People

Age Concern welcomed local residents to an Older People's Day on Friday 1st October from 11.30 until 2pm at St John's Church Centre, Church Rd Perry Barr.



The aim of the day was to show older people how many activities are available locally. Age Concern had a stall to offer advice and information, and there was craft stalls, massage and manicures, a demonstration on Extend (a seated exercise) and a team from Think Tank.

The Good Companions (an older people's choir) was also on hand to sing a few songs and hopefully recruit some new talent.

Age Concern Perry Barr provides a wide range of services for older people in the area, from information and advice, home visits, befriending and exercise groups to toe nail cutting and a shopping and escort to hospital/GP service.

Two years ago Age Concern set up an independent website called Cool-info, which is full of local information about other services in the area such as local craft, art and exercise groups and support groups. These groups are often small and may be run by older people.

To connect to local services or find out about events for older people, visit the Cool-info website <http://www.cool-info.org.uk/>

For more information about Older People's Service contact Christine Higgins Project Manager on 0121 358 0309

### Be Active!

If you haven't signed up for free gym and fitness classes contact Handsworth Leisure Centre for more information on 0121 464 6336 or Laurel Rd Sports Centre on 0121 675 6712.



## Emerging from the shadows

One in five people suffer from mental health issues in the United Kingdom, and current evidence suggests that over half of us with these problems start around age 16 yrs, and for three quarters of us, by our mid-20s.

Mental Health problems in early life can have a catastrophic impact on the life chances of people, both in completing education and training and in moving forward socially and economically.

It can become difficult for young people to be clear or definite about what they are feeling and for what reasons. Things may become more difficult when we try to explain what is going on and

they don't fully understand us or don't get it!

The most common problems for this age group are:

- depression
- anxiety
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- eating disorders
- emerging personality disorders
- conduct disorder

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust's service offers a service for people with emerging problems that sometimes may have a psychological link. Here they are given the opportunity to access a

number of dedicated teams that can facilitate a range of different interventions to meet the holistic needs of people between the ages of 14 and above.

In particular to young people, the aim is to provide consistency in treatment during the transition from adolescence to adulthood. This has demonstrated that a specific therapeutic approach can improve prognosis, therapeutic benefits and personal outcomes.

Should you or anyone you know need information, or just someone to talk to about concerns you may have that may relate to any of the above, please contact, Grantley Haynes on 0121 678 4655

## Free and confidential helpline for advice about drugs and alcohol

If you're concerned about your drug or alcohol use, and you want to get confidential help call the Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Action Team helpline free on 0800 073 0817 or visit the new website <http://www.bdaat.co.uk/>

# Make a Contribution

## Unity is the Key

Two newly formed residents' groups from Handsworth have joined together to form a larger, stronger group.

The groups from New Inns, Centenary Drive and Maple Close have joined to form Unity NCM and will hold bi-monthly meetings to share common experiences.

With support from Midland Heart, the group met earlier this year to form an action plan which tackled the main areas of concern. The group identified the upgrade of windows and doors in their homes as the first issue to address. As a result, most of the windows and doors in the area

have now been upgraded and contractors are currently working on the remaining houses.

The Chairs of the group, Lennie from Centenary Drive and Earl from New Inns said: 'The road ahead is not easy but Unity has made a start by working on a constitution and action plan. We have many common issues to work through, but we are thankful for the support shown to us by partners and we're hoping to work with other groups in the area to learn from their experiences'.

The group have had support from local Housing Associations, Birmingham City Council and Counsellor Paulette Hamilton. Both Chairs commented that Paulette's experience working with other local groups has sparked some good ideas that the groups have taken on board.

Would you like to come along?

If you would like more information on how to get involved, contact Martin Hall, Customer Involvement Officer on 0845 850 1020 ext 5835.



# Spot light on Local Legend – Professor Black

**For the last 30 years Professor Black has surrounded himself with feathers, sequins and jewels to build costumes for over 100 dancers ready for carnival time.**

Professor Black's costumes are so highly regarded, not only as a piece of local history, but of a wider heritage of Black History within the UK, that some of his work is held within Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's collection.

But he wasn't always a carnival costume maker. When he first arrived in Britain, he worked in a foundry for nearly twenty years until the urge to get back to his tailoring roots saw him work for a local Italian tailor making suits for the business men of Birmingham. Throughout this time his love of performance saw him pursue his other great love: magic. An aptitude for the mystery of illusion meant he was the first black man on *New Faces*, performing alongside the likes of Les Dawson, long before Lenny Henry made his first appearance on the TV talent show.

While working as a tailor and practising his magic he never forgot his desire to bring the carnival spirit of his home country to Handsworth, and became one of the founding members of the Handsworth Carnival. Today he works as an advisor to the carnival committee and continues to make carnival costumes for troupes across the country.

"We build costumes all year round and we're the only full-time carnival workshop outside London. The costumes are flamboyant and have intricate designs that relate to a carnival theme. Indian material makes up ninety per cent of the costumes because it has a good shine!"

His passion for the fun and sense of togetherness of carnival fever means he doesn't just want to see the carnival back in Handsworth, he also wants more dancers to make costumes for: 'I'd like to see the carnival become a true reflection of Birmingham's cultural diversity, with all ages, sizes and cultural backgrounds getting involved and dancing in the carnival.'

The star of any carnival is the Carnival Queen's costume, and it can take at least ten weeks to make. A previous Handsworth Carnival Queen found love whilst dancing in international competitions and now lives in Canada with her husband, but she still sends all sorts of sparkly embellishments back to Handsworth to give Birmingham costumes the edge over the rest of the competition.

Whilst The Professor is still working away and active in the carnival scene, his skills and knowledge need to be shared with others in Handsworth to ensure his legacy is sustained, so he is now seeking an apprentice who can continue this specialist skill in Birmingham.

**If you would be interested in becoming Professor Black's apprentice, or get involved in the carnival, then drop into the Oaklands Centre or call 523 7702**



## Nishkam Centre gets Queen's Award

**Soho Road's Nishkam Civic Association has recently been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2010, the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work done in their local communities.**

The centre was among 103 voluntary groups across the UK to receive an award this year and it describes its mission as 'to practice and promote the universal values of earning an honest living, sharing, active selfless volunteering (nishkam sewa) and seeking the wellbeing of humanity and all creation (sarbat da bhalla). By applying these values in all its work, it aspires to develop and empower individuals so that they help themselves and others in building strong families and sustainable communities.'

The £6m Nishkam Centre was built in 2005 with more than £1.5m worth of nishkam sewa. The centre describes its nishkam sewadars (volunteers) as 'the lifeblood of the centre. They work with passion, allegiance and commitment and it is their tireless effort and devotion that helps to build strong and sustainable communities.'

For more information about the Queens Award visit [www.direct.gov](http://www.direct.gov)

# Handsworth Beams with Pride

To celebrate some of the fantastic community achievements over the last twelve months, the Pride in Handsworth Awards ceremony was held in May at The Hawthorns, (home of West Bromwich Albion FC.)

## And the WINNERS were.....

**Environmental Award Winner – Sonia Hymen**

Sonia is the chair of Wilkes Green Residents Association and coordinator of the local Street Champion scheme. With a high number of nominations praising her efforts she was both shocked and thrilled to win. 'This award is for the people of Handsworth, and for everyone who is doing their bit to make it a better place.'

**Green Award Winner – Uplands Allotments**

Awarded to the allotments site for their ability to promote allotment gardening and the growing of fresh produce. As the largest allotments in Europe and an active

site for holding weekly produce sales and hosting school visits it leads the way in 'growing your own' in Handsworth.

**Young Person of the Year Winner – Diani Walker**

As a young sprinter of only 14 years, Diani currently holds the title of Midland Champion 2010 as a runner for Birchfield Harriers. She said, 'I'm so happy to win this. My parents have backed me for the past five years since I started running.'

**Young Active Citizen Award Winner – Sarandip Singh Batt**

Future Prime Minister of Britain, 17 year old Sarandip is dedicated to the UK Youth Parliament and promoting politics to young

The first of what local people hope will be an annual awards celebration was established as part of the Neighbourhood Management Programme. The aim of the awards was to highlight the amazing achievements of local people and groups. A great number of hard-working people and local groups have the nominations and certificates to prove just how much they've contributed.





people. He works with Khalid Mahmood MP. 'I want to remove the negative image that Handsworth has,' he said.

#### Adult of the Year Winner – Usha Khera

For the last 20 years Usha has been promoting womens' empowerment; setting up a Womens' Health Centre, running daily activities and aiding sufferers of domestic violence.

#### Safer Community Award Winner – Tony Cope

Based at Thornhill police station, Tony volunteers his time working with Victim Support and witnesses of crimes to create a safe environment and a positive support network.

#### Golden Citizen Award Winner – Selwyn Clarke

Over the years Selwyn has worked tirelessly volunteering in Handsworth. He is chair of Rosehill Residents' Association, a street champion, chair of Soho Hall and a lollipop man.

#### Be Healthy Award Winner – Mashriq Centre (MCRC)

The centre provides support services to women of South Asian ethnicity who suffer from mental health difficulties and

makes a big difference to their lives. A spokeswoman said: 'We're proud to serve the community of Handsworth and have been doing so for the past 20 years.'

#### Living in Faith Award – The Olive Branch Community Centre

With the biggest cheer of the night the Olive Branch was recognised for its luncheon club, established in 1985. It is open to all sections of the community, four days a week providing over 50 meals a day, which are served by two local volunteers.

#### Services to the Community Award Winner – Lincoln Moses MBE

Lincoln is an active member of the community and is general manager for Continental Star. Set up to help those within the community that are often marginalised and considered by others as hard to reach. He won the award in recognition of the contribution he makes to young people in Handsworth.

#### Business Award Winner – Beverlie Weston

One of the founding members and manager of Greensprings, Beverlie has worked tirelessly to create a business that improves

the quality of life for young people in Handsworth.

#### Arts and Culture Award Winner – Handsworth Historical Society

A group run by passionate and dedicated volunteers that have made a significant contribution to safeguarding Handsworth's History and the Old Town Hall making it accessible to the wider community. To find out more about this group check out our Historic Handsworth feature on the next page.



# Historic Handsworth

## Barons, rucks, castles and crucks

In 2011 it will be 100 years since Handsworth became part of the city of Birmingham, but Handsworth has a rich history that predates even then. Nestled away on the corner of Slack Lane and College Road you will find one of the many historical gems Handsworth has to offer: the 'Old Town Hall' is the base of the Handsworth Historical Society.

A good example of a 'Cruck' building - having its support structures made from a single tree - it is believed to have been built in 1460, the year Richard of York defeated King Henry VI in the Wars of Roses. Handsworth Historical society were successful in preventing the Old Town Hall from being sold and an uncertain future. The society has created a mini-museum, Handsworth Archive and coffee room all in one.

Handsworth Historical Society was founded in 1952 and they've been championing the heritage of Handsworth ever since. Whilst the 'Old Town Hall' is a must see visit, it's the society's committee members themselves which really make the experience.

Pat is the person who hosts public visits and first joined the society with her mother after visiting one of their exhibitions. Paulette is the secretary and researcher who deals with ancestral queries, searching their mini archive to see if the Hodgetts that lived on Church lane really were a relative or not. Finally, we met Reg, the history buff who brings to life the tales and facts of Handsworth with such great passion you could while away many an hour hearing about the myths of Cromwell and how places got their names.

The Handsworth Historical Society hosts monthly coffee mornings and regular historical talks that everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy. On 11th September the society celebrated National Heritage Day at the 'Old Town Hall'. Come along and find out about the castle that used to exist within Handsworth Park, its Baron owners who borrowed money, waged wars, lost them all and fought in the Crusades. You can also take the opportunity to follow our Handsworth Heritage Trail, highlighting some of the oldest buildings and sites within the area.

For more information about Handsworth Historic Society, visit: [www.handsworth-history.org](http://www.handsworth-history.org)





## Healthy Histories Walk

On Saturday 11th Sept local residents took part in a FREE heritage walk as part of Heritage Open Days

The heritage walk provided a great opportunity to celebrate the historic importance of Handsworth as well as helping to attract new visitors to the area. The guided walk took groups from Soho House up to Handsworth Park and ended the trail at St Mary's Church.

For more information about the walk and to download a copy visit [www.handsonhandsworth.info/](http://www.handsonhandsworth.info/) or contact Tracey Thorne 0121 303 3401

## Handsworth Self Portraits

**This September Handsworth Library hosted an exhibition looking back on the different forms of photography to have emerged from the community over the last fifty years and more.**

September also marked 25 years since the disturbances in Handsworth, during which two people sadly lost their lives. Photographs of the disturbances taken by visiting photo-journalists have often been used to stereotype the area in a negative light, most especially in the pages of national newspapers.

The exhibition moved beyond these stereotypes by exploring how photographers from in and around the area have attempted to capture Handsworth's true vibrancy. It featured work from renowned photographers such as Vanley Burke, Pogus Caesar and Derek Bishton, as well as the photographs of a group of year nine pupils at Holte Visual & Performing Arts College, Lozells. The pupils, under the tutelage of Vanley Burke, went about recording their own lives on disposable cameras over the course of a week.

The exhibition also featured a number of Handsworth self-portraits, in the style of the original project initiated by Bishton, Brian Homer and John Reardon in 1979 (pictured). Over two days this summer, visitors to Handsworth Library and shoppers on the Soho Road were asked to stop and take their own portrait in a specially constructed 'studio'. The results were testament to the rich diversity and community spirit that is still very much a feature of life in the area today.

If you missed the exhibition you can find out more about it and look at some of the images by visiting the Self Portrait Website: <http://www.selfportrait.org.uk/>



*George and Patrick*

# Succeed Economically

## Boat House Café rides a wave of success

Visitors to the picturesque and very popular lakeside café in Handsworth Park may not be aware of the turbulent history behind the place.

There has always been a boathouse on the lake since Handsworth Park was first declared 'open to the people for ever' by the 6th Earl of Dartmouth on 30 March 1898 (you can clearly see the boathouse on the 1908 OS map of the park). But the original boathouse was burned down and not replaced until the park received a £9.5 million restoration.

But that new Boat House Café closed very quickly, possibly because the people running it didn't see it as a viable business concern. After three years of closure, local resident Mark Bent decided to approach Lee Southall,

Parks Manager from Birmingham City Council 'as a concerned citizen'. He was offered a three-day trial over a weekend. It went so well that on the second day he was given the keys and has been running it ever since.

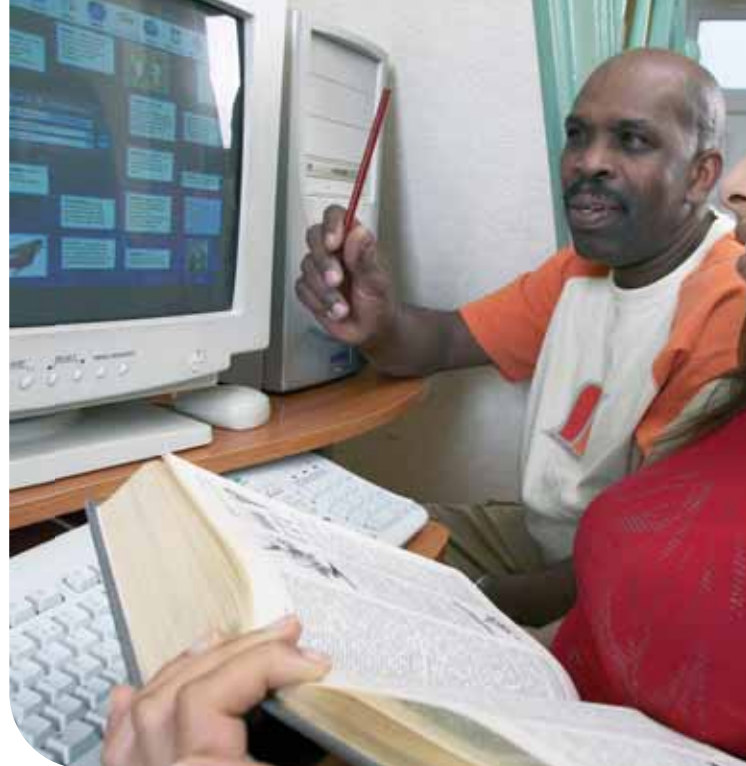
The Boat House Café is situated on the edge of the lake in a picturesque spot which is a great place to have a coffee and relax. It has become very popular and more people have started to use the park as a result.

Mark runs it as a family business and it's open every day, 9am – 7pm, including Sundays, which is the

busiest day. The café sells a wide range of refreshments and meals, including the Jerk chicken which recently came third in a Caribbean food competition. 'A lot of people do come to see what third-placed Jerk chicken tastes like!'

The Boat House Café is a great example of local people getting the opportunity to run local businesses and it's great to see how Birmingham City Council can work in partnership with local people to run community facilities. After the runaway success of the café, Mark has this year taken over running the boats from Birmingham City Council.





## Get free expert help to find a job

Neighbourhood managers joined forces with Pertemps to organise an event offering real jobs for local people living in and around Ladywood and Perry Barr Constituencies. With an area that has high unemployment and benefit take-up, Be Birmingham neighbourhood managers and Pertemps decided to give local businesses, training providers and colleges a chance to offer real jobs and training opportunities for residents.

Exhibitors include representatives from the Army, Fire Service, JobCentre Plus, City College, Enterkey and local traders from Ladywood and Perry Barr.

If you missed this event and what to find out more about local opportunities you can contact Pertemps on 0121 359 3024 or drop in to their offices at;

**Pertemps Office,  
Newtown Shopping Centre,  
Newtown,  
Birmingham,  
B19 2SS**

Pertemps can help you with:

- CV writing and interview techniques
- Advice & help to apply for current vacancies
- Looking at schemes to get you into work



**Aged between 16 and 33?**

**Jobs available now**

**Call 0121 6336431**

**Major RE Bath Army Recruiting Officer**

# Useful Contacts

## Here are some useful contacts to help keep your neighbourhood safe & clean

Missed Refuse Collection

**0121 303 1112**

Street Cleansing

(to request cleaning or  
litter picking on your street)

**0121 303 1112**

Fly tipping & dumped rubbish

**0121 303 1112**

Bulky Waste (free collection)

**0121 03 1112**

Pest Control

**0121 303 6007**

Abandoned cars

**0121 303 1112**

## Your Local Neighbourhood Police Teams

Handsworth Wood Neighbourhood Police Team

**03845 113 5000 ext 7812 6555**

Soho Neighbourhood Police Team

**0345 113 5000 ext 7811 6510**

East Handsworth Neighbourhood Police Team

**0345 113 5000 ext 7841 6541**

## Other Numbers

Anti Social Behaviour

**0121 303 1111**

Crime Stoppers

(To report any crime anonymously)

**0800 555 111**

Domestic Violence

(Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid)

**0800 0732 606**

Drug & Alcohol Action Team helpline

**0800 073 0817**

Childline

(get advice & support on a wide range of issues)

**0800 1111**

Anawim

**0121 507 1112**

NHS Direct

**0845 46 47**

## Contact your Local Neighbourhood Manager

Tracey Thorne

Handsworth Community Fire Station

41 Rookery Rd, Handsworth,

Birmingham B21 9QU

Telephone: **0121 303 3401**

Email: [tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk)

To subscribe to this magazine supply your contact details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Or email if you prefer an electronic version:

Send to: Tracey Thorne, Handsworth Community Fire Station, 41 Rookery Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9QU

or email: [tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.thorne@birmingham.gov.uk)



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