

ISSUE 3 : SPRING '19

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

CASTLE VALE

Spring Edition

SEE IT...  
REPORT IT

A new text system has been launched to report any matters of concern within your community. Read on to find out more!

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SIMPLY TEXT:  
VALE to  
86688

ALONG WITH YOUR  
MESSAGE TO REPORT ANY  
CONCERNS TO US



pg 04

## CLEANING UP CASTLE VALE

Find out what they've been doing for the estate inside.



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## COMMUNITY CHAT

Find out more about the first chat event showcasing Castle Vale's community stories.

# WELCOME TO OUR LATEST CVCH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest CVCH newsletter; we're excited to bring you another packed edition keeping you updated with all things Castle Vale. As the spring air breathes new life into the area, we felt it would be the perfect opportunity to focus on the great things happening in our community and the part that we can all play in keeping our neighbourhood safe and clean.

In this issue, we showcase the hard work of the CVCH Estates Team, offering a 'behind the scenes' of what they do day in, day out, to maintain the neighbourhood. Our local Sergeant also provides an update on the key fields of criminal activity, and offers tips & advice on what to look out for to stay safe. Some of Castle Vale's renowned amenities are featured, including the swimming pools' recent 24 hour fundraiser.



## FUNdraising

Eager employees at The Pioneer Group spent a busy 2018 raising **£1,930.09** for chosen charity SIFA Fireside through a number of fundraising opportunities.

From a jacket potato club to raffles; shoebox appeals and fitness groups – Directors even formed a STEPs tribute band at Christmas to generate donations!

SIFA Fireside is a leading charity, enabling homeless and vulnerable people to take control, paving the way for healthier, fulfilling lives. By providing inclusion, engagement and equal access to services for those who are disadvantaged, or experiencing homelessness, the charity hope to influence strategic development of homelessness both locally and nationally.

We have a strong community with many talented people, great volunteers and significant charity work. The recent event, 'Community Chat' (page 4) was a chance to celebrate that and represent everyone with a strong voice.

With so many devoted groups working for the cause of one estate, we know that the majority of people want to take responsibility and support the area to flourish and thrive. Therefore we are launching a campaign called 'See it Report it' for residents to report any community problems to us through text. So whether it's fly-tipping, dog fouling or anti-social behaviour, you can simply text 86688 with the keyword VALE and your message to report any concerns for us to take action. Together we can tackle any issue and continue working hard to make Castle Vale strong, safe and clean.

*Kate Foley, Housing and Community Services Director*



**Promising Futures**

A local trust stole our hearts for 2019 and we're thrilled to announce that Promising Futures is our new nominated charity for the year.

Promising Futures was established to enhance the life chances and provide opportunities for young people, up to the age of 18, who live, work or go to school in Castle Vale.

This nomination is close to our hearts and we can't wait to put the fun into fundraising!

# *It's official* CASTLE VALE IS A GREAT PLACE!

A visit by 15 national housing leaders from across the UK, including the Bishop of Manchester, visited the Vale and were wowed by what they saw and heard. Their mission was to find out what makes places great and how housing association landlords contributed to this. They have now visited housing estates in the North, Midlands and South of the country and will be shortly publishing a report and submitting this to government to influence national housing policy and future investment.



What they saw in Castle Vale was an estate that had been able to sustain the transformation that had been carried out by the Housing Action Trust, a locally based housing association delivering on-the-doorstep services backed up by a great community offer by a number of small and larger voluntary organisations. They were struck by how everyone pulled together and the voice and leadership role of tenants and residents in the governance of local organisations. Above all they were inspired by the presentation made by our young leaders – three pupils at Greenwood Academy.

## SOLAR PANELS

Those of you with an eagle eye may have seen our office has received attention recently as we take an exciting new step towards energy efficiency. Community Energy Birmingham has been working hard to install solar PV panels onto the roof of our head office which is expected to reduce the building's carbon footprint by a staggering 22 tonnes per annum! By reducing our

carbon emissions we are not only shaping our services to be more environmentally sustainable, but also generating savings of up to £43,000 over the life of the project. These funds will allow, not only us, but Castle Vale to be more resilient in the future.



## Community Organisers Awards

Residents from Tyburn, have recently been rewarded for the work they do to help improve connections in the local community. Volunteers from Community Organisers – a project set up by Ageing Better in Birmingham – received awards recognising their invaluable contribution to reducing isolation of individuals in the area. Awards and certificates were given to 16 locals, who have all taken steps to improve their neighbourhood. Through coffee mornings

and befriending services, these wonderful volunteers have made an impact on so many people's lives already. All their hard work is for free so it's important to us that we show every single one of them just how much we appreciate their efforts.

For more information on our volunteering opportunities please contact:

[sarah.powers@compass-support.org.uk](mailto:sarah.powers@compass-support.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY CHAT

Thursday 11th April saw the launch of the very first Community Chat for Castle Vale, this was held at Greenwood Academy and was a great success!

Residents shared lots of great community stories and experiences along with learning how much rubbish is collected across the estate, and even having a chance to name the area they live in!

Discussions also took place on what they like about the Vale and what they would like to change - and of course cake and an Easter Egg hunt!



A wave of a hand, a friendly hello, or a smile to make someone's day - we all like to live in a friendly place, which is why Compass Support and Ageing Better Tyburn have launched a new campaign called Happy Streets. With the aim of promoting small acts of kindness from one neighbour to another, these good deeds can really pave the way to building a stronger community.

So whether it's picking up litter, cooking a little extra for a friend or family member, or offering to cut your older neighbour's grass at the same time as yours - all small acts of kindness are encouraged, because even one small act can make one huge impact. Everyone can get involved whether you're at school, work or home - you can even share good deeds on social media using **#HappyStreets**

Happy Streets will be hosting awards later this year to celebrate some of the best stories, so if you know someone that is always thinking of others and looking out for their community, you can nominate them on [www.compass-support.org.uk](http://www.compass-support.org.uk)

West Midlands Police were in attendance, alongside CVCH, Compass Support, Ageing Better, Castle Vale Stadium, Cllr Suzanne Webb and of course Greenwood Academy staff and students. Switch Radio also joined in playing some tunes and a little bit of live broadcasting.

Thank you to everyone that supported and attended the first chat; the next one is in the planning stages to be held at Castle Vale Stadium, so watch this space for more info.



## Litter Picking

Led by the Estates Team at Castle Vale Community Housing, a team of volunteers from across the community embarked on a huge estate clean-up operation on 10 April 2019.

The clean-up was organised in support of The Great British Spring Clean, a campaign by Keep Britain Tidy to reduce litter, encourage recycling and improve the environment.

Over 70 people donned high-vis vests, grabbed litter pickers and black bags and gathered 146 bags of rubbish around the whole Castle Vale estate. After six and a half hours, the volunteers picked up the equivalent of a month and a half's worth of normal household rubbish.

As well as local residents and businesses, volunteers came from The Pioneer Group, local police, the Probation's Community Payback Team, Compass Support's Community Organisers, local football team Romulus FC, Green Fingers grounds maintenance, and included councillors Suzanne Webb and Robert Alden.

Following the clean-up operation, the Estates Team is embarking on an education campaign, encouraging residents to dispose of waste responsibly. So if you're interested in keeping your area clean, high-vis vests and litter pickers will be available from The Pioneer Group, 11 High Street, all year round.

# SERGEANT SPEAKS

You have probably seen in the local and national news the recent events surrounding knife crime and youth violence; unfortunately this was felt here in Birmingham with three murders of young men in a very short space of time. In Castle Vale, we had an incident where a man was stabbed last month. Two offenders were identified quickly and were both arrested the next day. The investigation is still taking place. In response, more stringent stop and search powers were authorised by Senior Officers, and Officers from the Tyburn team have been out enforcing them where possible. If you know of a young person who may carry a knife or hangs around with those who do, please let us know. There are lots of options open to young people and the last thing the police want is to have more injuries or people criminalised if they can be prevented in the first instance. Don't forget we're always happy to have a chat about your community concerns if you spot us in the street. Alternatively you can email us at **Tyburn@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk** or sign up to our messaging system at **www.wmnow.co.uk**.



The safety of our residents, their family and friends is extremely important to us and we always want to make sure that we have the right services in place to make Castle Vale a safe place to live in. By working closely with West Midlands Police, our team are always on the lookout to detect and intervene in the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that our CCTV is operating 24/7 and we encourage anyone in the area to notify us of anything that may be cause for concern. If you would like to report anything to us please call our CCTV team on **0121 776 8880** or text **VALE** along with your message to **86688**.



**"WE COLLECT 222 BAGS OF LITTER MONTHLY"**

**"WE MOVE APPROXIMATELY 5 TONS OF BULK ITEMS EVERY MONTH"**

# THE E-TEAM!

Introducing CVCH's Estates Team. This lot work hard to keep Castle Vale a great place to live, work and play. The team recently ran some statistics on their work and updated us with some killer facts for the month:

**"WE RETURN 70 TROLLIES PER MONTH"**





Spring has finally arrived at the Conservation Area and it is blooming into life; birds singing, butterflies and bees emerging from their winter hibernation, and leaf buds and wildflowers beginning to open to name but a few. This year, through various educational and community projects, we have planted over 200 trees. This included re-establishing vital hedgerows in partnership with The Wildlife Trust.

We have also hosted several HS2 corporate volunteer days in conjunction with Groundwork, which have seen lost pathways cleared, and overgrown areas managed to improve access for everyone to visit and enjoy. As the weather continues to improve, we will be delivering free seasonal family workshops, as well as holding free shared skill days at Castle Vale Allotments thanks to recent funding.

Both events will give the community an opportunity to learn more about what is happening within their local green open spaces and how we can protect our natural environment and its wildlife.

Follow us on our social media pages [www.facebook.com/CETBrum](https://www.facebook.com/CETBrum) and [@CETBrum](https://www.instagram.com/CETBrum) to stay informed about our upcoming events.



# C.A.T.C.H



Heard of CATCH Radio? Interested in finding out and joining?  
Please contact **0121 776 8880** for more information

# Happy Birthday

## TIGGYWINKLES CHIVENOR!

**TiggyWinkles**  
DAY CARE NURSERIES

Tiggy Winkles Chivenor celebrated 15 years of being open this March!

All children and staff had a lovely morning playing party games and eating some tasty treats to mark the occasion. The nursery announced that they are proud to have served the Castle Vale community for 15 years and it has been an honour to look after so many children during that time.



*Birthday Celebrations*



## KNIFE CRIME CAMPAIGN

From April 2019 Compass Support's Youth Team will be delivering work to raise awareness on knife crime within the local community.

Funded through the Police and Crime Commissioners, the team will be delivering a project called 'Cul-De-Sac' which will look at the risks and consequences of knife crime.

Each project is 8 weeks long and will be delivered in local schools and at The Sanctuary and at the end of each course, the young people will launch a campaign in the local area to raise awareness to their peers. Other elements of the work will include parent sessions, guest speakers, and targeted mentoring support.

During school holidays, youth workers will be working on the streets throughout the day and will have a live text service that can be texted if residents have concerns involving young people and the staff will visit the identified area.

Any further questions please contact the youth team on  
**lee.crofts@compass-support.org.uk**

## Castle Vale Library

Castle Vale Library is located on High Street and is open Monday and Tuesday 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00, Thursday 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00 and Saturday 09:00-15:00. In addition to the books available to borrow, a selection of books are available for sale at just 10p each. As well as a wealth of reading material, computers are available and the library offers a printing and photocopying service. A children's area is open with a range of age appropriate books, as well as a study area where free Wi-Fi is available.

## SWIMMING POOL FUNDRAISER



Castle Pool Community Partnership is a swimming pool run by volunteers and a small number of paid staff. The charity took over the running of the pool in 2014 as a community asset transfer, after campaigning to stop its closure by Birmingham City Council. The charity is now run by a small team of volunteers and paid staff.

On weekdays, we teach swimming to local schools between 8am and 3pm. We also run children's swimming lessons on Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 4pm and Wednesdays at 4.30pm at a cost of £5 per week.

We have adult only swimming on Wednesday lunchtime 12-1pm costing £3 & family swimming on a Saturday afternoon costing £3 per adult & £2 for over 4's (under 4's are free)

We hire the pool and upstairs hall privately during the week to external companies and we are currently in the middle of a fundraising campaign as we need to raise funds for our plant room. One of our most recent fundraisers was a swimathon session and raffle with some goodies donated from The Pioneer Group.

For more information please call  
**0121 748 3196** or email  
**stephaniehennessy@castlevalle.org.uk**

There is an area where you can meet with friends for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat, or just sit and relax and read a book or newspaper.

Throughout the year there is also a host of special arts & craft days and story reading sessions. For details of these, keep your eye on Tyburn Community Library's Facebook page.

# The Notice Board



## Living with a lung condition?

Come along to one of our lung health lunches.

Have a bite to eat and hear about how to

- get the most out of your local services
- find online support to help you manage your condition

Free if you have a lung condition or care for someone who has a lung condition.



**Address:**  
The Sanctuary  
Tangmere Drive  
Castle Vale  
Birmingham B35 7PX

**Time:**  
10.30 (for an 11am start) to 2pm

**Dates:**  
Thursday 9th May  
Thursday 16th May

**Sign up now**  
To guarantee your place at the lunch and the online session afterwards:

- book online at [blf.org.uk/lung-lunch](http://blf.org.uk/lung-lunch) or
- call **Hannah** on 020 7668 5570

You can also come on the day.

**Want help getting online?**  
The Sanctuary will provide a free taster session on the day after each event to help you make the most of online support. You'll need to sign up for a place - numbers are limited.



**. FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE .**



Spitfire Advice & Support Services Ltd is a charity that exists to provide help, information and support free of charge for residents of the Castle Vale area. We are a unique resident led organisation offering a range of **Debt and Welfare Benefit Advice**. We are much more than a drop in advice centre, we are at the heart of the communities we work to serve.

Contact us to find out more:  
**0121 747 5932** [advice@castlevale.org.uk](mailto:advice@castlevale.org.uk)



**bringing new life to furniture, homes, people and their communities.**



**DONATE**  
At Upcycle Birmingham we are passionate about bringing unwanted items back to life by giving them a new look and a new home.  
We accept a majority of furniture and household items and don't forget, by donating to Upcycle Birmingham you are supporting your local community and reducing the amount of unwanted furniture that goes to landfill.

**BUY**  
Upcycle Birmingham offers an exciting new way of buying items for the home bringing with it a new approach to social and economic regeneration.  
We not only bring new life to furniture and homes, it brings new life to people and their communities too.  
Check out our eBay or Shpock shop for all our latest deals.

**0121 748 5795**  
[MICHELLESMITH@CASTLEVALE.ORG.UK](mailto:MICHELLESMITH@CASTLEVALE.ORG.UK)  
[WWW.UPCYCLEBIRMINGHAM.ORG.UK](http://WWW.UPCYCLEBIRMINGHAM.ORG.UK)

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