

Highfields Community Association News

H-CAN

If anyone can - Highfields can!

Community Centre Open!

HIGHFIELDS Youth and Community Centre has reopened following major refurbishments.

The centre partly reopened in March with a brand new wing added to the existing site in Melbourne Road.

New facilities up and running include a youth area, nursery room, offices and facilities for all the advice, adult learning and youth activities.

Work will continue on the centre

until August when grand opening celebrations are planned.

A sports hall and fitness centre are due to be finished by the end of May and a new main hall and lounge will be ready in June.

The building work has cost a total of £4.6 million.

The centre received £2m from Sport England, £1m from Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council, £500k from East Midlands Development Agency, £811k from European

Regional Development Fund and £300k from Leicester City Council.

Bids for funding go back as far as 1984, but the current project started in 1996 with a successful application to lottery-funded Sport England.

Construction work started in November 2002 and has suffered setbacks—mainly because of bad weather—totalling three months.

For more information on the centre's facilities and services call in to reception to pick up a programme.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

HIGHFIELDS Community Association is the voluntary management committee of Highfields Youth and Community Centre. It was set up in 1972 as a registered charity to oversee the development of the centre.

The relaunch of the association's newsletter H-CAN comes at an exciting time in the centre's history during the major refurbishment.

We need your contributions to keep the newsletter going.

Please contact us with your events, opinions, articles and photographs so H-CAN can become a voice for the local community.

Anyone who is interested in helping to produce future editions, please get in touch.

Email: info@hycc.ac.uk Phone: 0116 253 1053

Write: 96 Melbourne Road, Leicester LE2 0DS

CENTRE HOSTING GUIDED TOURS

FREE guided tours will be on offer during two open days in June in celebration of the new wing of Highfields Youth and Community Centre.

The tours will take place on Friday, June 4 from 9am to 4pm and Friday, June 11 from 9am to 1pm.

Tour guides will take groups around the centre at half-hourly intervals.

If you wish to attend, please book a place by calling 0116 253 1053 or call into the centre reception.

We asked for your opinions on the new centre...

After School Care Club:

It is nice and cool."

"It's OK."

"It's very nice with the new things."

"It is very colourful and good."

"It's nice. The painting is nice."

"I like it because we have lots of fun."

"It is nice because it's new."

"I think this building is nice and big. I really like it."

"Thank you for the building and lovely toilets."

"It is very good."

"I like it because it's got all the things we need."

"I like the amount of space."

"The colours are nice and bright."

Advice Clients:

"It's like a dream come true!"

"I can't believe how big it is!"

"It's so beautiful."

"Keep up the good work, an excellent service."

Gretta Tharratt from Lifelong Learning at Leicester City Council: *"It's like a Tardis—it appears small on the outside but the rooms just go back and back! People come out of there with a spring in their step."*

Mrs Rangara: *"As an individual or in community, you could enjoy some 'me' time at this centre. After completion I think we will discover more than just a drop in session, we'll find a place that can indulge all my family's wishes."*

Rehana Anwar: *"The building looks very attractive—the colours are great."*

A YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER SPEAKS

THE YOUTH Council has progressed a lot in the last few years.

The group bonding has become stronger and there are more and more young people attending with many new faces.

My experience in the Youth Council has been a positive one, I have been encouraged to take part in various activities. My confidence has grown and I am now able to speak for myself and also chair meetings.

By IRFAN CHHATBAR

With this experience I also have progressed my art and graphic skills by designing the cover for the Directory of Services for Young People.

This also got me some publicity in the newspaper and I also got other design work due to people seeing this book.

The group is represented by many different communities, colours and backgrounds and each of

us respects one another's beliefs.

With the help of the group I have gained respect and I have also shown respect to the group myself by voicing young people's concerns and needs to the management.

I am on the Children and Young People Committee and also in the Centre Management Committee. This led to some part-time youth work starting voluntarily over the sum-

mer.

I am working towards the national Youth and Community Work qualification which will hopefully enable me to do more youth work.

The Youth Council is all about young people having their voices heard. It also gives young people the opportunity to take part and show off the skills they have and share these skills within the group.

Centre users to help run services

THE COMMUNITY will have more influence in the running of Highfields Youth and Community Centre, thanks to a new management system.

The proposed management board will include representatives of user groups of the centre as well as other interested parties.

It will have responsibility for planning the delivery, staffing and quality of services.

Highfields Community Association Chair Adam Edwards said: "The new

Emma Hutchings
Interviews HCA Chair
Adam Edwards

model means that users can have a more direct input into the overall running of HYCC.

"They will be able to participate in making decisions about the current curriculum of lifelong learning programmes and the development of new subjects reflecting the particular interests and needs of those who use the centre."

A review of the way the centre is governed was

commissioned jointly by the community association and the Lifelong Learning division of Leicester City Council last year.

They appointed Timiti Training Consultancy to conduct the review, which reported in January.

Timiti recommended a model of interdependence, where committee members sign up to agreements with funding bodies.

Mr Edwards said: "The term interdependence was carefully chosen to refer to an arrangement in which users are not totally inde-

pendent of other key stakeholders in controlling the delivery of lifelong learning at HYCC.

"But nor are they totally dependent on the decisions made by any one particular funding body, such as the Lifelong Learning Division, which currently has ultimate control."

City council officers are working with executive officers of the association to set up the new model by the autumn.

■ HYCC could soon become **Highfields Centre** if the city council approves the name change.



PARENTS AND TODDLERS

The group runs every Wednesday and Thursday 1pm to 3pm. Forthcoming events include a toy library, a bookshare scheme and a storytelling session at Highfields Library.

Congratulations to Maria, Saira and Javed who appeared in the Roti book produced by SureStart. Contact Nusrat for details.

Clubs and Services News

ADULT LEARNING

From September we will be using the new facilities to provide a wider range of opportunities including health and fitness, new ICT courses, arts and crafts, graphic design and much more.

There are spaces available on ESOL/Driving Theory course and new accredited Youth Work Training Programme.

During June there will be taster sessions including nail art, self-defence and exercise with Bhangra.

Contact Rosemary Campbell for more information.

OQDP

The Overseas Qualification Development Programme hosted 40 overseas qualified nurses and healthcare professionals for a conference.

Congratulations to Dr Meena Bakhtiary from India who is working at Liverpool Women's Hospital after passing her exams with the OQDP.

YOUTH

Whatever your interests, we do it all so why not come and check it out for yourself! Daily youth activities are provided for young people of various ages, background and gender. We have women and girls only provision, youth clubs, homework support, ICT, Youth Council and more.

Events in the coming months include a Youth Health MOT Friday June 4 and Celebration of Diversity and Unity Thursday 26th August.

Look out for further details of a Young Carers workshop, Youth Work training opportunities and Summer Youth Activities July 26 to August 19.

For further information contact Ali, Gafar or Jay.

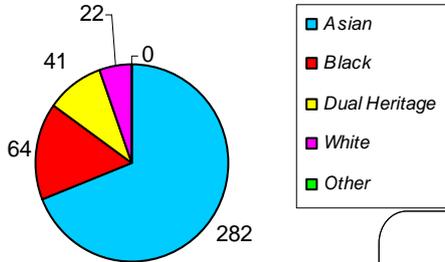


CELEBRATION: The Under-Fives provision have successfully achieved their Pre-School Learning Alliance accreditation. All staff were presented with certificates by Mayor Ramnik Kavia.

CENTRE USERS REFLECT AREA'S DIVERSITY

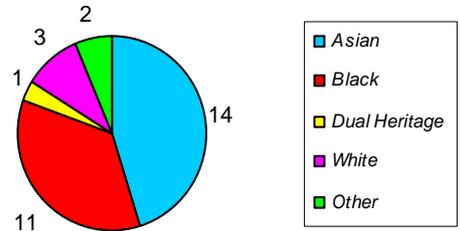
These charts show the numbers of people using the facilities at Highfields Youth and Community Centre and the percentages of people from different ethnic backgrounds who used the services in 2003. The figures come from the 2003 staff annual report.

Summer Activities Participants 2003



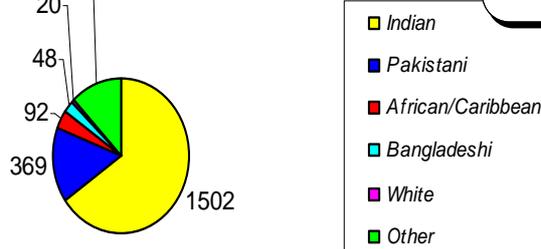
* 4,558 people attended youth sessions last year

After School Care Club Members 2003



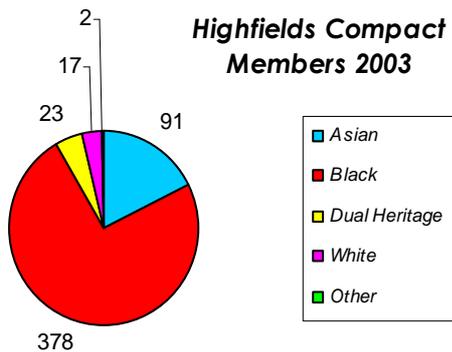
* 409 people took part in summer activities last year

Advice Service Users 2003



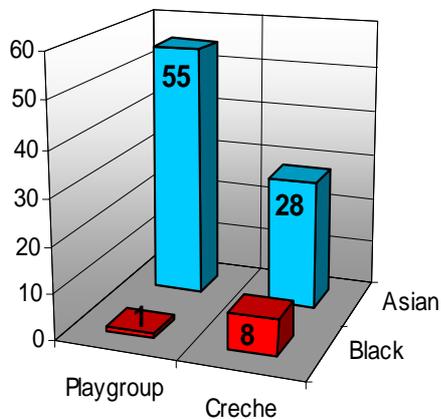
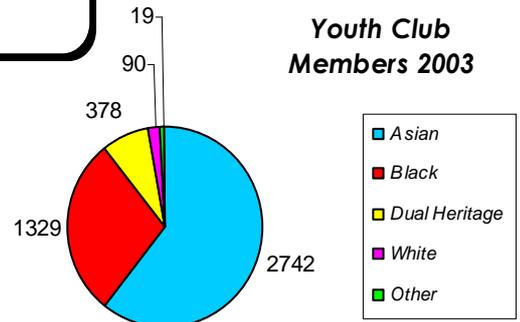
* 395 people took up adult education last year.

Highfields Compact Members 2003



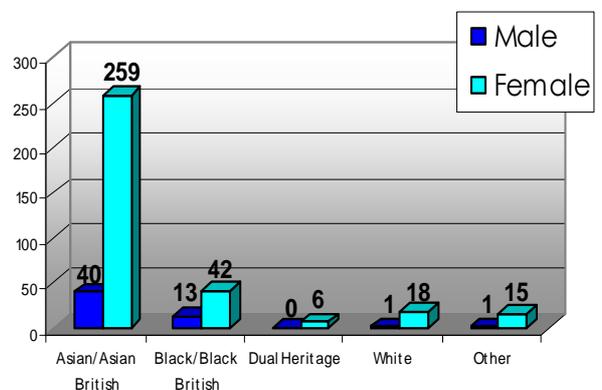
* 2,031 people received advice last year.

Youth Club Members 2003



Playgroup and Creche Members 2003

Participants in Adult Education 2003



H-CAN RELAUNCH EDITION MAY 2004

With special thanks to our guest editor **Emma Hutchings** - De Montfort University PGDip Journalism student, and contributors **Abdul Gafar, Priya Thamotheram, Adam Edwards** and **Irfan Chhatbar**.