

H-CAN

Highfields
Community
Association
News
December
2008

If anyone can, Highfields Can!

What does success look like?

Well, success looks like Halima Ibrahim winning the Student of the Year award.

Success is working at a national level and putting vital questions to ministers of government like Priya did with Hazel Blears MP.

As you see below we are on the verge of successfully achieving full Community Governance.

Sports, Arts, Music, Video, Adult Education, Advice, Information are running successfully in our centre, as you'll see from pages 2 and 3.

Usain Bolt represents the highest form of success in athletics, an Olympic Champion!! The Chair of our association was in Beijing to witness the great event. Page 4 also provides the progress we have made as an association from 1974 to the present.

You too can be successful by taking up classes, joining in activities, becoming a volunteer and developing yourself, and your opportunities in life, jobs and education. See what you like on pages 2 and 3 and we look forward to working with you. Whilst at the centre you can join Highfields Community Association and be part of the change we need for our communities.



Student of the Year: Halima Ibrahim (3rd from left) at Adult Certificate Presentation Evening, August 2008. Sheila Lock (2nd from left) Chief Executive, LCC, made the presentations.



Development Trusts Association, National Conference, Leeds Sept 2008. Hazel Blears, Government Minister and Priya Thamotheram in a panel discussion.

A big step closer to full Community Governance!

A report is due to be considered by the Leicester City Council Cabinet in January 2009, with a view to us achieving our goal of full Community Governance in 2009!

Our struggles to re-establish ourselves as a centre of excellence, revive services and support for our communities resulted in LCC making a decision (December 2006) to bring Highfields Centre under Community Governance (CG) and it established the Interim Strategic Management Board (ISMB), comprised of a 3-way partnership with the LCC, External Funders and HCA. It was provided with delegated powers to make recommendations/decisions and it has been greatly facilitated by the Development Trusts Association (DTA). In 2007, HC was included by LCC as the main project in its successful application to the national Asset Transfer demonstration programme.

At its July and September 2008 meetings and in response to the slow pace of CG implementation, the ISMB agreed unanimously to recommend the transfer of all the LCC services at HC to HCA. This has resulted in a more focussed approach to completing our 12 year journey to date of raising £4.5m to build the new Highfields Centre and to bring it back under CG. It has been a long and at times, a difficult journey but to paraphrase Frantz Fanon, the great African revolutionary, only independence won as an equal is real independence!!

©Highfields Community Association, Highfields Centre, 96 Melbourne Road Leicester LE2 0DS. Tel: 0116 253 1053
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Audio, Visual, Performance, Advice, Information, Adult Education Classes at Highfields Centre

The new Gladstone membership system is in place – at reception you can find out how can to become a member of HCA. As a member you will be able to participate in the work of the HCA. By joining an **affiliated group** of the HCA you get discounted use of services and facilities.

Highfields Multi Access Centre (H-MAC)

Supporting local people into work

- Need help finding work?
- Having difficulty finding a job?
- Lacking experience?
- Need help developing your skills and training?
- Want to know about the variety of jobs on offer?

If you are currently unemployed and are looking for work, our Advisors at H-MAC can provide you with individual support to help you find a suitable job or training opportunity. We can assist you to complete application forms and preparing for interview. Our Personal Advisors can arrange work placements for you, helping you to gain skills and qualities that will make you more employable.

So, if you have either lost your job recently and are looking for a new direction or have been out of work for some time, we can help you in the journey back to employment.

For more information, contact
Mushtaq Dakri on 0116 253 1053

Open: Monday-Thursday 10-5pm
Friday 10-2pm



Lennox Carty, international dub poet is as our writer in residence. Local school children & young people from HC are working with him to produce an anthology of poetry that will be published next year. Themes covered: life in Highfields, our journeys & struggles and our hopes for the future. **Adults and Elders are invited to submit their ideas by 31st January 2009.** Contact Saqib Deshmukh for Audio, Visual, Performance Arts related matters on 0116 253 1053.

Other news includes:

HCA submitted a £2 million bid to myplace in September to modernize the main hall into a world class Youth arts theatre, with community usage. We'll know in February 2009 if we can progress this further.

Summer & October Holiday projects ran successfully for young people aged 11-15yrs

City Gallery is now linked with HC through Youth Arts Ambassador scheme.

Youth Drama Project will be launched in January 2009

Monthly Arts Events starts with 'Common Struggle' a film shot in Leicester in the early 80's about the Imperial Typewriters dispute & life in Highfields on Friday 23rd Jan 2009 at 7pm, HC Bar Lounge. All Welcome.



Women only Yoga Classes
15th January for 10 weeks
(£46.50/reduced fee
£13.95)

**Contact Jo Fox for all
Adult Education Courses
0116 253 1053**

**Enrolment starts 5th
January 2008**

**Fees payable – if not on
Benefits**

**Community Journalism -
14th January for 20 weeks
(£124.00/ reduced fee
£37.20)**

**Driving theory
preparation - 5th January
for 10 weeks (£62.00/
reduced fee 18.60)
**Get by in Arabic - 23rd
February for 5 weeks
(£24.00/reduced fee
£7.20)****

**Sewing & Garment
Making Workshop (E) -
12th January for 10 weeks
(£62.00/reduced fee
£18.60)**

**Hand Embroidery -15th
January for 10 weeks
(£62.00/reduced fee
£18.60)**



**Successful Students Adult
Certificate Presentation
Evening, 14th August 2008**

Sports, Under Fives, After School Care, Advice, Immigration, Community Legal Services at Highfields Centre



FITNESS SUITE: Opening Times

Monday	4pm to 7pm
Women only	
Tuesday	4pm to 7pm
Wednesday	4pm to 7pm
Women only	
Thursday	4pm to 7pm
Friday	6pm to 9pm

Payment options

Pay as you Train:

Working Rate: £ 3.50/session
Concessionary Rate: £ 2.50/
session
or 4 for 5 (pay for 4, get 1 free!)
Inductions (booked in advance)
Working Rate: £5
Concessionary Rate: £3.50

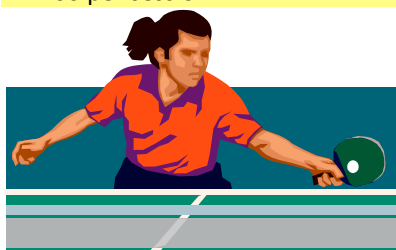
Competition time!

**ROWING FASTEST 500 METRES
UNDER 18's AND OVER 18's
WOMEN AND MEN**
Winners of both groups will get a
pulse drinking bottle AND 5 free
sessions. **Free to enter**, as many
times as you want, only your best
time counts!

For all Sports related
matters, please contact:
**Jarvis D'souza or
Jay Patel or Jeff Simon on
0116 253 1053**

AEROBICS (WOMEN)

Thursday 6 – 7 pm.
Drop-in sessions
Only 15 Places
First come, first served
Suitable for all ages
Tailored routines
Exercise at your own level
Hi & Low impact options
Friendly atmosphere
£2.00 per session



Badminton & Table-tennis

Mondays 7.30-9.30pm
Fridays 5-6pm
Must book and Pay in advance
Concessionary & Junior Rates
available



Football Training

Saturdays

9am -10am 8 – 11 yr old
10am – 11am 5 – 8 yr old
£1.00

Qualified Coaches
Contact Jeff or Jay for
further details
0116 253 1053



Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)

Mondays, 4pm - 7pm
For further details:
0116 262 9899

Community Legal Advice Service (CLAC)

Advice on debt, housing, welfare
benefits, employment, community
care and family law, as well as for
general legal issues .

Fridays, 1pm – 5pm

Further details: 0845 456 0074

After School Care Club (32 places)

**Monday to Friday, 3.15pm to
5.30pm (waiting list in operation)**

**Further details from Vanda
Kotolinska**

Under Fives Services

•Playgroup (20 places)

Monday to Friday, 9am to 12noon
(waiting list in operation)

•Parents & Toddlers (26 places)

**Wednesdays & Thursdays, 1pm to
3pm (waiting list in operation)**

•Creche (6 places)

Monday to Thursday, morning and
afternoon (linked to adult classes)

Further details from **Nasira Ahmed**
0116 2531053

Advice Opening Hours

Monday 12:30am - appointment session

**Tuesday 9:30am – drop in session (10
people only)**

**Wednesday 12:30am - appointment
session (priority given to H-MAC clients)**

**Thursday 9:30am – drop in session (10
people only)**

We provide **FREE, CONFIDENTIAL** and
INDEPENDENT ADVICE to the local
communities to access their rights/
entitlements.

Adviser: Yasmin Nathani.



HCA Management Committee (1998)



Abdul Osman (HCA Chair)
Usain Bolt (August 2008)



Interim Strategic Management Board (ISMB) with
DTA consultants Paul Davies and Elizabeth Ball

Hard Work, Struggles and Success - that's the Highfields story...

These photos celebrate parts of our journey and important events are also listed. With our Audio and Video Arts suite we can now celebrate your struggles and successes - please get in touch with Saqib at our Centre.

- 1972 HCA established and agreement reached with Leicester City Council to build Highfields Youth & Community Centre (HYCC)
- 1974 HYCC completed and responsibility for HYCC transferred to Leicestershire County Council – local government reorganisation
- 1981 Priya Thamotheram appointed deputy head of centre
- 1982 Priya Thamotheram appointed head of centre
- 1987 'At the Crossroads' report published by HCA
- 1988/89 Review of HYCC by Leicestershire County Council
- 1990/92 Proposed merger with Moat Centre is successfully challenged
- 1992 Judicial review took place & HCA won legal battle against Leicestershire County Council over consultation
- 1993 HCA's 21st Anniversary Celebration
- 1995 HYCC's 21st Anniversary Celebration
- 1996 Funding application submitted to Sports England for new building
- 1997 Transfer of HYCC from Leicestershire County Council to Leicester City Council (LCC) – local government reorganisation
- 2001 LCC decision to proceed with £4.5 million project
- 2002 £4.5 million funding agreed by partners and work begins on new Highfields Centre
- 2004 Work is completed on new HC building
LCC Divisional Review & massive cuts in local voluntary sector leads to huge reduction in services in Highfields
Highfields Users Campaign (HUC) set up to campaign against LCC actions
- 2006 Priya wins order for a re-hearing of his race discrimination case against LCC at appeal tribunal and celebrates 25 years at HYCC/HC.
LCC make historic decision to bring HC back under Community Governance
- 2007 Interim Strategic Management Board (ISMB) set up and LCC increase revenue funding for the new 350% expanded centre
- 2008 ISMB support transfer of all services to HCA



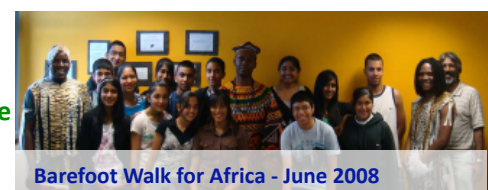
Celebration of Diversity & Unity
in the Community - August 2006



Celebration of Diversity & Unity in
the Community August 2008



Lajee Palestinian Youth group
visit - June 2008



Barefoot Walk for Africa - June 2008