

H C A N

Highfields Community Association News
J u n e 2 0 0 9

**If anyone can
Highfields
Can!!!**

Highfields Centre

- Sports Hall • Main Hall
- Multi-Gym • Bar Lounge
- Aerobics Studio
- Audio, Video & Arts Studios
- IT Studios • Youth Wing
- Adult Education Classes
- Under Fives Suite
- Community Lounge

Local facilities for
Highfields Communities



Our new members of staff...
more details inside

Governance given a long overdue boost!

“Sheila Lock taking an active lead to deliver Community Governance for Highfields Centre is a welcome boost” said Abdul Osman, Chair of Highfields Community Association (HCA), welcoming Leicester City Council Chief Executive’s intervention and the commitment she has given to making the changes necessary for handing over the centre, services, staff and resources to HCA.

Meetings between HCA and Senior Officers of the City Council have been taking place since the Cabinet decision made in December 2006. In the first phase, the building, Community Services staff and associated resources will be transferred to HCA. Other services and resources will be the subject of further talks.

“I can’t wait much longer and I’m really glad Sheila’s finally going to get things done properly” said Mohammed Shaikh, member of HCA’s Governing Body. For background media coverage of our journey – www.highfieldscentre.ac.uk



HCA GB: Abdul Osman (Chair), Iris Lightfoote (Vice-Chair), Furzana Khalifa (Secretary), Dr Shofiqul Chowdhury, Esmail Esmail, Mussa Hajat, Winston Isaac, Andy Lucas, Sibongile Mpofu, Tirathpal Naute, Afzal Popat, Mohammed Shaikh, Swaybah Hussein, Jay Patel, Priya Thamootheram.

HCA Governing Body

The Governing Body (GB) meets regularly to oversee the developments taking place and agree the next steps. Sub-Committee reports and recommendations are considered and decisions taken. GB members also represent the HCA and attend training days to gain knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities, managing staff, services and resources.

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Our AVAPAC team: (left to right) Saqib Deshmukh Co-ordinator, Jaydev Mistry, Naji Richards, Kieran Walsh, Kajal Patel and Abbas Holcroft.

Welcome to AVAPAC

The new arts' studios at Highfields Centre have been funded by the Government Office for East Midlands, in conjunction with East Midlands Development Agency, Sport England and Leicestershire Learning and Skills Council. Highfields Community Association is working closely with Leicester City Council and the above funding bodies to fulfil its long standing goal of community governance of Highfields Centre.

So far, we have run arts based holiday activities for young people aged 11-15 during Summer 2008 and October half term (the latter in conjunction with City Gallery), a poet in residence project working with three local schools in the Highfields area, produced a DVD of the Adult Learners Certificate event held here and hosted a number of theatre companies and events as well as film screenings.

Our vision:

To provide a quality arts service to local communities that skills and empowers them creatively so people don't just gain confidence or fill their leisure time but gain real skills through training courses and project and help to create a progressive culture which is all inclusive and records all our journeys.

Our services include:

- Rehearsal room (without engineer)
- Filming of events
- Film production/mastering
- Film package (both of the above)
- Introduction to digital film sessions/course
- Video editing/digital transfer from VHS to DVD
- Digital transfer of photographs
- Drama workshops
- Poetry/Creative writing workshops

Current and upcoming work:

- On 27th & 28th of May AVAPAC arts team put on a production of Antigone with local young people in the main hall. This was the first theatre production by the team and approximately 100 people attended over the two performances. Antigone is a timeless play with universal themes. Although it was written 2,500 years ago the struggle of a woman against power and injustice still resonates in these current times. The play was notionally set in Thebes in Greece but the context reflected liberation struggles in Sri Lanka and Palestine. The production took three months in total to complete and was a big success. More details and photos on the Highfields Centre website
- The launch of a book of poetry written by local children and young people who took part in our poet in residence project.
- Holiday arts sessions to work with an artist to produce external and internal banners and murals to celebrate our success.
- An exhibition to mark the journey back to community governance and the history of the Centre.
- A series of celebration events to promote the Centre
- Commissioned to work with **TREC** (The Racial Equality Centre) to put together a video project based on the recent visit to Leicester by Jesse Jackson.

We are currently working with **Leicester City Council Children Services** to produce a play on the take up of services for **under-fours** in the Highfields area. The play will highlight how to take up services for under 4s and how children and their families become more confident and successful about these services.



Our Sports & Health Development Team (left to right): Jarvis D'souza (Senior SHD Officer), Jeff Simon, Farzana Potter, Liam Byrne, Salim Admani and Jay Patel (Saffron – Highfields Sports Link Worker)

We can be healthier, fit and active in Highfields with the arrival of new colleagues in May 2009! So please **get in touch with Jarvis, Jeff and Jay to arrange your induction** and get the best out of our facilities! Many affiliated groups of HCA are already benefitting from using our facilities. All at very reasonable rates of charge and concessions made for those at school and unemployed. Call us on 253 1053. Please visit our website to find the latest programme on offer.

Mondays

4pm to 5pm Community 5-a side Football
7.30pm to 9.30pm Badminton and Table Tennis

Wednesdays

4pm to 5pm Community 5-a side Football

Saturdays

9am to 10am Football Training 5 - 8 yrs old
10am to 11.30am Football Training 8 - 11 yrs old
4pm to 5pm Badminton

Fitness Suite

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

Women Aerobics

Every Thursday 6pm to 7pm Drop-in sessions
Only 15 Places. **First come first served**

Inductions need to be booked in advance

All activities delivered by Qualified Coaches.

Level 2 Sports Leader Award



My name is **Amina Khan (16)** and I am a regular

user of the Highfields Centre and a member of **Active Youth** led by Jay Patel. During the Easter holidays I did the **Level 2 Sports Leader Award**. It was a very intense course and you have to be very committed to go everyday. The course was educational and fun and I also got to meet new people. This course has inspired me to do more courses like the Higher Sports Leader Award. **Join Active Youth** and you too can improve your job prospects!

Exciting opportunities for all at Highfields Centre Adult Learning

An exciting range of courses **starting in September** which will include:

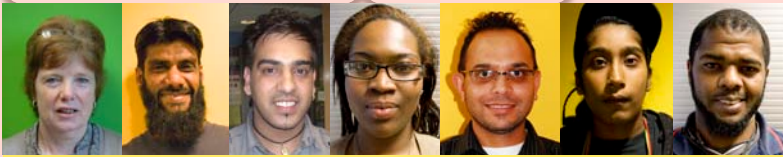
ESOL Computing Dressmaking Hand Embroidery Access to Employment in Care First Aid NVQ Childcare Cert. in Advice work Yoga Driving Theory Get by in Arabic Food Safety

Come in and see our brochure for the full range of courses we offer. Enrolments will be in early September. We look forward to hearing from you. **Jo Fox** Learning Zone Co-ordinator. **0116 253105**



Another success for

Our Premises Staff Team



(left to right): Pat Gardner (Premises Manager)

Highfields Community Association - Affiliated Groups

By affiliating to HCA, all groups can use rooms and facilities at a reduced rate. Groups will also benefit from offers of training and support so that they can better access funding, develop capacity and capability and take more active part in the committees and governing body of HCA. For membership details, please contact Pat Gardner at Highfields Centre on 2531053. **Current Groups:**

1. Active Youth
2. Afghan Association
3. All Stars FC
4. Alfurqan Community & Culture Association
5. Ansaar
6. Bapu XI Cricket Club
7. B.M.D Mandal
8. Body Building Club
9. Bangladeshi Youth & Cultural Shomiti
10. Certificate in Advice Work
11. Charnwood Primary School
12. Crown Hills Community College
13. Cutchi Sunni Muslim Association
14. Federation of Iraqi Refugees in Leicester
15. Federation of Muslims (Youth Forum)
16. Fit & Active Family
17. Foundation Housing Association
18. Grasshoppers Chess Club
19. Health Fitness Club
20. Highfields Primary School
21. Highfields Rangers Under 11
22. Jameah Girls Academy
23. Leicester Asian YA
24. Khidmah Organisation
25. Leicester Khalifa Highfields Cricket Club
26. Leicester City Council Dawn Centre
27. Leicester Civil Rights Movement
28. Leicester Nirvana
29. Lessa Sports Organisation
30. Melbourne United
31. Medway Leicester Bengali School
32. Midlands Academy of Business & Technology
33. Muslim Youth Organisation
34. Nevis Development Association
35. NHS Leicester City
36. Overseas Qualification Development Service
37. Pedestrian Arts
38. Riyadh Youth Organisation
39. Safe with Sports
40. Sathya Sai School
41. Shuban
42. Somali Development Service
43. Sri Lanka Islamic Forum (Leicester)
44. Sunni Muslim Jammah
45. Sunshine Association
46. True Expression
47. The Race Equality Centre
48. Viking International Youth Club
49. Vishwa Hindu Parishad Leicester
50. Warriors
51. WEA East Midlands Region
52. ZDK Karate

Highfields Multi – Access Centre (H-MAC) Supporting local people into work.

Since the project was launched in February 2008 by Sir Peter Soulsby MP, we have supported almost 100 people into work across a range and employment sectors. We have engaged with almost 500 clients and have provided one to one support to help people develop their learning, skills and end thereby improve their employment prospects.

Please call us on 253 1053, make an appointment for advice and support to improve your job opportunities.

Dipa Solanki is among the hundreds of people who have sought help at the Centre. She has now found a job as a trainee dental nurse in the city. The 27 year old who moved to Leicester from India in December 2007 said staff at the Centre had provided tremendous support in her search for work. Similarly, **Hannah Patel** says "My first meeting with Furzana Khalifa was brilliant she showed me where I had been going wrong when I was applying and updated my C.V. so it only included the necessary information that employers would be looking for. Soon I had an interview and was successful ,I start my new job this month".