

THE SHEERWATER/MAYBURY PARTNERSHIP

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Autumn/ Winter 2005



Literacy is our Challenge



Why Literacy?

In the year 2005/6, the Sheerwater/ Maybury Partnership are focusing much of our energies on improving literacy in our area. Why is this so important? Literacy, or the ability to read

and write well, is important because a lack of these skills leads to poor employment prospects, low self-esteem, a lack of confidence and disadvantage which affect not only individuals but the whole community.

Why? A third of our population is under 20 and half is under 30 and low literacy at 38% is twice the National Average.

Improved literacy means better prospects. Better employment means more money, mostly going into the local economy and it is proven that individuals who read and write well are more confident, have greater self-esteem and are less likely to indulge in anti-social behaviour.

What is the Partnership going to do about it? We have been researching a system called Butterfly Phonics, which those of us who are old enough will recognise, it simply involves teaching pupils the sound made by groups of letters which will enable them to read most words by

stringing the sounds together. This system has been proven to improve the reading age by up to 13 months in 30 hours of teaching.

We are going to run a pilot programme for young people starting in January and our plans are then to roll this out, as resources become available, to anyone in our community wishing to take part. The pilot programme will involve 15 sessions of 2 hours each, with 2 sessions each week on weekdays after school or on Saturday mornings.

If you or your children would like help with your literacy, register for the programme now by phoning Steve Thomas on 01483 757931 or by e-mail at stephen-thomas@btconnect.com



BBC RaW Campaign

Have you seen TV programmes mentioning RaW and wondered what it is all about and if you should find out more?

RaW (Reading and Writing) aims to inspire adults to read more and write better.

The campaign is large scale, has a long term adult literacy focus, and is the largest the BBC has ever undertaken.

Its entertainment led approach will span 3 years – online, broadcast, publishing and various on the ground activities.

There are three phases between October 2005 and 2008; focusing on awareness and self diagnosis, passions and interests and family learning.

RaW

Enjoy reading and writing. Watch celebrity interviews and try our fun games and quizzes.



The **Partnership** is delighted to have been designated a **BBC RaW Centre** and will champion the campaign in our community to help you enjoy reading and writing.

For more information contact Steve on 01483 757931 or by e-mail at stephen-thomas@btconnect.com

Sheerwater Youth Centre by Lynn Nunnerley

It is difficult to believe now, that when the new Neighbourhood Youth Worker for East Woking started, in June 2004, there were no staff, no projects and no young people accessing Sheerwater Youth Centre. Since then the Woking Youth Work teams have worked hard to recruit, train and develop a part-time team, who are able to deliver a diverse and exciting range of projects, drop in sessions and activities to the young people.

As a result, Surrey County Council Youth Workers are now delivering a vast range of activities both during, and outside, of school term times in partnership with many different agencies, including Woking Borough Council, Woking Fire Station and Woking Athletics Club. Recent projects have included Street Art, Dj-ing, jewellery making, and film making workshops, trampolining, Cinema nights and Stay Awakes. Sheerwater Youth

Centre, in addition to being open during school holidays, also has regular sessions which are run on Mondays - Seniors Session, 7.30 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. (years 10 and above), Thursday - Youth Committee, 6.30 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. (by invitation only) and Sunday 'drop in' café, 3.30 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. (years 7 and above).



A large number of the projects and ideas come from and are organized by, the young people themselves. The Sheerwater Youth Committee has raised nearly £900 by organizing and running jumble sales and car washes, which they plan to spend on a new pool table for the Centre. The support received from local community members, especially those who recently

donated to the Jumble Sale, is much appreciated, as is that of local businesses and organisations, such as the Sheerwater / Maybury Partnership, Caring Day Care Montessori, Londis and blueglassrabbit.com. This support enabled them to buy a new Air Hockey Table and supply free fresh fruit and bottled water to all young people attending the Youth Work sessions.

In addition to the successes at Sheerwater Youth Centre so far, future projects planned include a 'Lifecut' road education project, (in partnership with Woking Fire Station), a Christmas Ball on 17th December (year nines and above) and many other activities and projects. One of the most exciting projects is to redevelop the grounds at the back of the Youth Centre into a garden and space where the young people can meet during session times.



If you would like to find out more about any of the projects at Sheerwater Youth Centre or contribute towards the 'Garden' or 'Christmas Ball' projects, please ring Lynn Nunnerley on 01483 598301 or 07968 832406

"It has been a very exciting time. A lot has happened but we are even more excited about the future. We really need more support though from local businesses if we are going to be able to deliver all we can to the young people. We would particularly appreciate financial support or donations for the Christmas Ball and Garden Project"

New Monument reach the Final



On Friday 30th September the Primary Schools in Woking came together in Woking Park to compete in the second **Football in the Community** Tournament.

This highly successful competition owes much of its success to Jane Spong and Football Coach Scott Harrison and the team of referees, whose hard work ensures all teams have a great and competitive time.

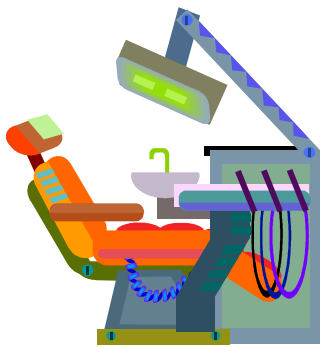
It is pleasing to report that



one of the teams from New Monument School reached the final but sadly lost by just one goal. Congratulations New Monument! - Next year the Trophy?

The Partnership is a huge supporter of **Football in the Community** with our Chief Executive being a member of the management committee.

Dentists for Sheerwater



Surrey Heath and Woking PCT are delighted to announce that a new NHS dental practice, will be opening soon at Sheerwater Health Centre. The practice will be prioritising registrations from residents living in the Sheerwater and Maybury area.

Local dentist, Andrew Gough, who runs the Parkside Dental Centre will be opening up a new two dentist practice at the Sheerwater Health Centre, to provide NHS dental treatment for up to 4,000 new patients.

The Sheerwater Practice patient's participation group and Dr Mohamed have welcomed this additional service for their patients which will compliment the care already provided by the practice for local residents.

Sandra Hills, Director of Primary Care and Commissioning said " It is fantastic news that we are able to move ahead with this new NHS dental service. Over the last 3 years access to NHS dentists in our area has become more difficult and we have been working to improve the situation for our local patients" The PCT will be writing to all the current patients of the three GP practices in the Sheerwater Maybury area giving them the opportunity for advance registration with the practice and it is hoped that the practice will be open in early December.

Community Grants

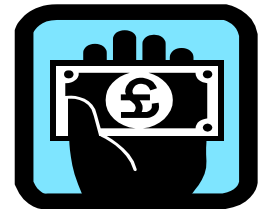
The Partnership's Community Grants Scheme has now been running for several years and over that time has helped many individuals and groups in the area to run events, purchase equipment or perhaps run a 'pilot project' to identify a need.

At the October meeting, the Grants Panel awarded money to help the Sheerwater Community Centre produce a Newsletter and for New Approaches to

Cancer to start free classes in Yoga and Relaxation. Over the coming months a new Musical Production, featuring the history of then area, will be in rehearsal thanks to a grant, so watch this space for performance dates!

If you would like more information about grants available to your group, please give Steve or Elaine a ring on 01483 757931— don't worry the application form is fairly simple and

we can help if necessary. All applications for the next round of grants should be received by Christmas please.



Clean up in Maybury



Saturday 29th October was National Make a Difference Day and a group of volunteers from Maybury Estate Neighbourhood Watch and the Sheerwater/ Maybury Partnership, supported by Serco, Woking Borough Council and Surrey Police joined together as a community to do just that!

The Volunteers spent the morning "litter picking" and providing the opportunity for residents to dispose of unwanted household items and garden rubbish.

Six full skips and two lorry loads of rubbish were the result of these volunteers' successful activities in cleaning the streets of Maybury Estate.

Several residents commented "what a difference it makes" and Adam Bone and Yvette Lanham Neighbourhood Officers from Woking Borough Council who supported the initiative were delighted with the community spirit which had brought people together to tackle their litter problem.

Wouldn't it be nice if it could stay like this all the time - Litter Free

Stop Press: Successful Inspection for BDB School

Great News is that following an Ofsted inspection the Bishop David Brown School was removed from special measures.

Key points from the inspectors:

- BDB provides satisfactory education with good features for all students
- Progress for all students is satisfactory with good and very good progress in many cases
- Care, guidance and support is good
- There is a very good inclusive ethos within the school
- Students feel safe and secure

- Student attitudes are good
- Students enjoy school
- Special Educational Needs, English as an additional language, and Hearing Support Resources all received Good judgements

Lottery success for Garden Project

The National Lottery has awarded a grant to the Woking Garden Project to enable the project to continue for a further three years. The Partnership is delighted as this was one of their initiatives back in 2002 and we continue to support this successful local charity .



Play Area Improvement Programme

In late 2005 Woking Borough Council will be introducing two refurbished play areas to the residents of Sheerwater and Maybury, the playgrounds located in Sheerwater Recreation Ground and Boundary Road are part of Woking Borough Councils Play Area Improvement Programme to improve 12 play areas across the Borough in 12 months.

Nearby residents and users of these facilities were given their opportunity to provide feedback to the designs which included cable rides, new swings, roundabouts and climbing areas. Consultations held on site have initially provided very positive feedback for the go ahead of the schemes.

It is hoped that all works will commence in the Winter ready for completion in early 2006. If you would like to see finalised designs of these play areas, or find out any more information about the scheme, please contact Karen Pash, Cultural and Community Development Assistant on 01483 743691.



Hello and Goodbye

The Partnership is delighted to welcome three new directors this year, Sandra Hills, Stuart Shephard and Mufti Liaquat Ali Amod. The Partnership looks forward to working with them and highly values the knowledge and experience they bring to our Board.

It is, however, sad that these vacancies came about because we lost Margaret Morton, Amanda Beedham and Mike Howes, who all retired due to changes in personal circumstances. We are sure that you would like to join with us in thanking them for their enormous contributions to the success of our organisation and to wish them all well for the future.

Contact us:

The Sheerwater/Maybury Partnership
15a Monument Way East
Woking GU21 5LY

Telephone: 01483 757931

Email: stephen-thomas@btconnect.com

We're on the Web!

Check out our new pages at:
windowonwoking.org.uk