



The Oak Tree Centre Annual Report 2007

King's Community
Church Project

July 2008



Chairman's Report

Over this last year we have seen an amazing number of people coming through the Centre – the reason they come is we are offering something they need from Post Natal Support and help with raising families to Counselling and Learn Direct skills to help return to work. The reason they keep coming has a lot to do with the quality of the service we give and the quality of the staff and volunteers that has enabled us to bring this service to the community. Everything matters, everything counts; from the clean presentation to the welcome people receive, we have an amazing team of people that make this all happen day by day.

A number of the services we offer are provided by church based groups and it has been incredible to see the dividing lines disappear as the church people feel more and more that the Centre is theirs and the Community feel that this is their church no matter when or why they come! So much so that to support all that has successfully happened through the Centre the church has appointed a staff member as a Family Champion that will further enable us to serve the community and church to make it through the broken culture of damaged family life. There are many stories, were they mine I would shout them from the roof tops but they are other people's stories and therefore are theirs to tell. Make no mistake though, any day that you are around the Centre or church you are walking past someone's life that has benefited by us being here!

Georgina, Julia, Mick and Andy work tirelessly to make sure that everything runs smoothly and standards are kept high. Our Board members continue to offer valuable insight and advice as we work our way

through legislation etc. The quality of our volunteers is second to none and I am impressed and grateful for all that they do.

In the end we get one life and somewhere deep inside us all is the desire to make it count for something. It may just be because you are community minded or because you are a part of the church and



Afternoon tea for the local community at The Oak Tree Centre

therefore want to serve but no matter what, I hope all of you that make this happen, and all of you that use the service we offer, are enriched by the experience. I want us to be a place where people find hope, no matter what their circumstances and obviously, as the Minister of the church, I hope everyone comes to realise how important their lives are to God and somehow get to experience His willingness to be involved no matter how good or messed up life gets.

Mark Timmins

Inside this issue:

<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>Stay and Play</i>	2
<i>Community Champions</i>	3
<i>Staff</i>	3
<i>LearnDirect</i>	3
<i>Groups in 2007</i>	4
<i>Financial Report</i>	4
<i>Garden Report</i>	5

- *More people use Centre services*
- *Church and community work together*
- *Help people to make it through our damaged culture*
- *God wants to be involved*



Community Champions

This fund was set up to encourage local people to start small-scale community activities in their local area.

Towards the end of the year 2 of our members, Cynthia Gayle and Emma Nott, both applied successfully to the fund.

Cynthia's application helped get the Body and Tone class off to a flying start by providing funds for advertising, room hire, and equipment including weights. It was Cynthia's first application for funding and she was delighted to be successful.

Emma, as well as running Stay and Play, was very keen to put on a Christmas event for the whole community. So her application was for our Christmas Family Fun Day. This

event was a great success, and gave local families a chance to do Christmas shopping, visit Santa, and have fun on 2 bouncy castles.

Other attractions included craft activities, 'guess the weight of the cake' and 'guess the name of the teddy'. The Community Champions funding helped pay for the bouncy castles, Santa's presents, and advertising.

We look forward to another successful Christmas community event this year!



Bouncy castles, badge making, face painting- just some of the activities on offer at The Christmas Family Fun Day

Staffing

Our Centre could not run efficiently without its staff, whether paid or voluntary.

Georgina has done an excellent job in organising our administration, and often volunteering for reception duties as well.

Cleaning is the unseen but very important part of running the Centre, especially as so many groups use the hall. Our thanks to Graham Middleton and Nick Harrison who have worked so hard behind the scenes.

We have so many **volunteers** who do all

sorts of duties including manning the reception desk, setting the time clock, moving furniture, and providing a professional service to our customers.

On an average working week, our volunteers provided **27 hours of reception cover**, which totals over **1000** hours over the year!

This is without taking into account the many hours donated by volunteers running the various groups. A great big **THANK YOU** to you all!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

' more than 1000 hours donated by volunteers last year to run The Oak Tree Centre'

Learndirect at the Oak Tree Centre

The centre mainly provides online courses in Literacy and Numeracy up to Level 2, which is the equivalent to a GCSE A* - C. It is open **Mondays** and **Wednesday** during the day and **Tuesday** and **Thursday** evenings.

In 2007 an average of **20 - 30** learners a week used the centre. There was a relatively fast turnover of learners because many people needed a qualification to enrol onto a college course and,

therefore, had deadline to meet.

During the later part of the year, the centre also became a **UK Online Centre**, providing introductory courses to the computer, for Internet and Emailing. This is aimed mainly, but not exclusively, at older people who have not used the computer before.

Anyone interested in either, please contact **0121 569 8409**.

Alison Fentem





King's Community Church Project

Tame Road
Oldbury
B68 0JP

Phone: 0121 422 4114

Fax: 0121 422 0369

Email: admin@theoaktreecentre.co.uk

King's Community Church Project
Registered Charity no 1086226
Registered company 40356665



The Oak Tree Centre

Our groups in 2007:

- **For families and young people:** After Schools Clubs, Frequency, Friday Club, Men@Work, Mothers at Heart, Saturdays, Stay and Play, Toddler Plus.
- **For older people:** Time Out and Extend
- **Community groups:** Body & Tone (Sept-Dec), Brandhall TRA, Jazz Dance (Jan-April), Kick Boxing, (Jan—June), LearnDirect, Martial Arts (July-Dec),
- **Advice services:** SmartSpenders and Oak Tree Counselling Service
- **Community hire :** 11 children's parties, retirement party, 2 Workshop conferences, Walk leader training, community consultation events, committee meetings.

Financial Report

In 2007 the Centre continued to offer a wide range of groups and activities for all ages.

During the year we finally 'signed off' the new building and made final payments to the Building Contractors. This enabled us to draw down the final payment from the Big Lottery fund.

We made excellent progress towards repayment of the loan, owing £41180 at the end of the year, a reduction of £18000.

Further capital improvements during the year included the new garden and play area, largely funded by WREN under the landfill communities fund, and installation of CCTV

funded by Oldbury Town Team.

In the summer the sports floor was resurfaced and the Centre was decorated.

Our rental income was lower than in 2006, because of a loss of some bookings including Sandwell Council events. In spite of this decrease we were able maintain our staffing level at 2 part time staff members. The Centre continues to rely on its volunteers who provide an excellent service.

We acknowledge grants received from Baron Davenports Charity (towards running costs) and Community Champions (towards community events).

Julia Button
Treasurer



Cake Stall at Family Fun Day