

Report from Charmaine Howell
Community Development and Centre Manager
For New Wortley Community Centre

3rd quarter (July—September)

July has been a busy month with the West Leeds festival at the start with the centre contributing to the brief of decorating some pants and myself and Gary doing our bit on festival radio, we were interviewed for over an hour and got some really good plugs in for New Wortley Community Centre and our Centre Café. We had the table top sale the day before the festival so it was a busy weekend.

The BSL course finish this quarter and we had some good feed back from this, it was only a taster but we are trying to get some more courses through Joseph Priestley College.

St Johns ran a First Aid course for young people 16-25 this is part of are work with the Sita Trust and young volunteers.

We had a two day event called New Opportunities this was aimed at single parents who wish to return to work or further education. It gave advice on benefits and child care as well as job and training opportunities.

We had a Champion event based at the community centre and this give the Police, Fire Service, Neighbourhood Wardens, EATT, Estate Caretakers, CAST, Enforcement and Housing team the chance to mix with the local residents and to give advice and reassurance that they are here to help with problems and anti social behaviour.

We have had a number of bookings from child minders and the early year's service over the summer; this is because we are involved with the new Castleton Children's Centre and work closely with the local primary school.

The New Wortley Funday was a fantastic success and the weather was very good to us this year. Hook a Duck, Hook a Bottle, face painting were just some of the fun things to do as well as the chocolate fountain that had kids and adults going back for more, raffles, Tombola and cakes from the café all added to the fun and helped put some funds back into the centre.

The After School Club started back in September and planning for the rest of the year was a priority. We have started planning for Halloween and Christmas with things being made to sell at the Christmas Fayre. Numbers have increased with 23 children on are list.

New Wortley Community Association is in a joint consortium with five other organizations to put in a bid for future funding to sustain the future of Community Centres and partnerships so we can be here to help residents and service users anyway we can especially in the present credit crunch.

The last quarter as been a busy one working with the local PCSO, Neighbourhood Wardens and Enforcement agencies to combat prostitution, street drinking and begging in the area. We are working hard to help these people to get help and the right advice so they can turn their lives around and have a fresh start in life.

A good success story is the coming together of resident from the Gilpins to air their differences and they have now formed a small Gilpins Residents group and will be able to help each other clean up the streets and report anti social behaviour and drug dealing, this is a great achievement and we will support them anyway we can.

The Community café is very busy and we are already taking bookings for Christmas lunch. Buffet orders are now coming in after the summer and it looks like we will have Buffet bookings right up until Christmas.

Thank you for your support.

Charmaine Howell

**Community Development / Centre Manager
New Wortley Community Centre**