



BIG LOCAL WORKING FOR YOU

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- Resident Profile-Meet
- What's on in your area
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Community Christmas Fair



This year, the Lion Farm community will be running our second Community Christmas Fair. It will bring together St James School, Rounds Green Library, Sandwell Adventure Play Association, Lion Farm Action Centre, St James Church, and our local traders,

The event will include: Santas Grotto, fair rides, Craft stalls, Games and activities, refreshments and food.

The event will start our Christmas celebrations around the Estate and last year was a great opportunity for everyone in our area to celebrate Christmas together.



The event starts at 4pm with the Christmas lights switched on by Gracie the Lion our

Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local Mascot.

We have a Echolalia band coming along to play carols and Christmas hits.

Many stalls will be selling crafts and other Christmas present ideas for you to buy.

The local traders on the Lion Farm are supporting the event by providing the opportunity to order your turkey and share a variety of tasty treats to share with all your family

Refreshments will be available in Rounds Green Library.



The Action Centre will be hosting Santa.

St James Church will be showcasing local dance talent and a variety of

stalls for buying those Christmas treats.

St James School will be a marketplace of games, activities and stalls

Come along and join the celebration of Christmas on the Lion Farm Estate.

Christmas Events in our Churches around our Area

Come and Celebrate at St James Church over this Christmas period.

December 1st 10am Advent Family Service

December 24th 7pm Candlelight Carol Service with mince pies and mulled wine

December 25th 10am Christmas Morning Celebration

December 29th 10am Christmas Eucharist

January 5th 10am Family Service

Christmas at St James Church



It's Christmas at Oakham Church

Saturday 7th December 11am – 3pm Christmas Craft Fayre handmade crafts and gifts for Christmas, plus cake!

Sunday 22nd December 6:15pm Carol Service Oakham all ye faithful!

Tuesday December 24th 11:10pm Christmas Eve Service join us for mince pies as we see in mince pie

Wednesday December 25th 10:30am Christmas Morning Service

December 29th 3pm Christmas Service, Our final service of the year.

Tuesday 31st December 8pm, New Year Fancy Dress Party, the theme is The Movies = Join us for games, food and fun

Christmas at Holy Cross Church

Advent Workshop Sunday 1st December 4.00-7.00

Over 60s Christian Dinner Friday 13th December 12.30pm

Carols by candlelight Tuesday 17th December 7.30pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service Tuesday 24th December 4.00



What's On at Rounds Green Library

Special Events

Ancestry for beginners

Mon 9th

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Learn the basics of searching your family tree.

Carer's Café

Wednesday 11th

10.30am-12.00noon

If you are a carer and would like to meet up with others or get information then please drop in.

Festive Coffee Mornings

Friday 13th / 20th

10.00am – 12.00 noon

Come and enjoy a free cuppa and mince pie

Jewellery Making

Friday 20th

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Come along and join our craft hour.

Beginners and Experienced jewellery makers welcome.

ZUMBA!

Every Monday

5.45pm-6.45pm

FREE

We are having free taster sessions of Zumba every week so come and try it. No dance experience required, just the ability to have fun!

Councillor Surgeries

10.00am -11.00am

If you have a concern about your local area and would like to speak to a Councillor, they will be available on the following dates:

CLLR Sharon Davies

Saturday 7th

CLLR Yvonne Davies

Saturday 21st

We would like to wish all our customers and friends

A Very Happy
Christmas!



Children's & Family Activities

Polish Creative Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th December

10.15am – 12.00am

Polish community family social event with games & fun.

Baby Signing

Every Friday Afternoon

2.30-3.30pm

(partner led event– charges apply)

Festive Story & Crafts

For Under 5s

Saturday 14th

12.30pm-1.15pm

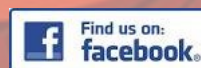
Christmas Crafts for kids

Saturday 21st

11.30am – 12.00noon

Friends of Rounds Green Library

New members always welcome.



The December meeting of the Friends will be on

Monday 9th at 2.30pm

Are you interested in volunteering in your library?

We are currently seeking to recruit suitable volunteers interested in gaining experience in working in a library.

If you are interested in general library work, children's story time, craft activities and many other roles, we would like to hear from you.

Please ask staff for details



Lion Farm Action Centre
Harry Price House
Hartlebury Road,
Oldbury
B69 1EQ
0121 544 3094

Lion Farm Action Centre

Job Club

Lion Farm Action Centre delivers two job clubs each week to help people who are unemployed, supporting with CV writing, Online job searching, completing application forms both on line and paper versions, and advice with interview techniques. The clubs are well attended and several users of the service have secured full time or part time employment. Many of the job club regulars have enrolled with UKOnline through Lion Farm Action Centre to

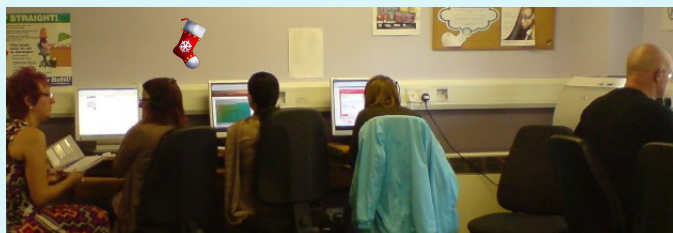


improve their computer skills. Lion Farm Action Centre is

also delivering two job clubs each week at Cradley Heath Library. These sessions are supported by part funding by the European, Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

UKOnline

Local residents have the opportunity to learn to use the internet at Lion Farm Action Centre's UKOnline sessions which run on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at LFAC and Friday mornings at Rounds Green Library. Courses consist of modules including using a



Providing new opportunities
for the people of Sandwell

keyboard, using a mouse, using the internet safely, using emails, and using Government websites for job searching and benefit advice.

Other activities at the Centre include Art, Crafts, Over 50's Friendship Group, activities for children including Pre-School Playgroup, After School Club and Parent & Toddlers.

Portway Lifestyle Centre



A place for everyone



Big Local Themes



The Big Local consultation has identified five themes that will combine to fulfill our dream and deliver our overall vision.

The themes are:

Community
Environment
Learning
Health & Wellbeing
Investment

The theme of family was also initially identified, but it was decided that the family interest would run naturally through each individual

theme

It is proposed by residents that the £million will be split into three areas:

social investment £420,000

project spending £380,000

capacity support £200,000

The capacity support will be required to bring in an additional £200,000 of project spending.

At the Big local Vision Plan Event residents identified the following tasks as being easy to do and have a high impact.

These include: Community gatherings & events, Promote & support activities already happening, Signposting service for local advice, Clubs to get people together (lunch, indoor games & activities), Community clean up days, plant more flowers in the area to beautify 'eye sores', Smart Water marking on equipment and properties. Debt and Benefits advice surgeries, Money Management guidance, Computer classes Run Job Fairs, Develop the chance for people to volunteer.

These and other activities are our key focus for Big Local in our area for the next two years.

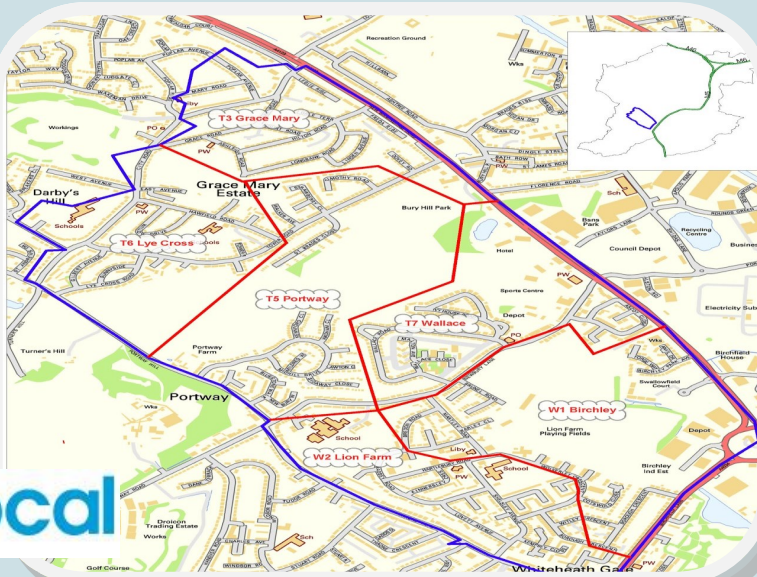



Rowley Cluster Children's Centres

Cradley Heath & Old Hill Children's Centre	01384 414777
78 Valley Road, Cradley Heath, B64 7LR	
Flying Start Nursery	01384 569384
Clifton Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6QT	
Happy Faces Children's Centre	0121 561 3746
Windsor Road, Rowley Regis, B65 9HU	
Rowley Springfield Children's Centre	0121 559 9916
Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, B65 8JY	
Tividale Children's Centres	01384 245910
Oakham Library, Popular Rise Tividale, B69 1RD	
Oakham Primary School, Darby's Hill Road, B69 1SG	

Your Big Local Area

The Big local area extends from Birchley Lane up Portway Hill to City Road.



Big Local

Big Local Round Up

Our Big local area has been very busy putting together our Big Local plan that will start to release the £1 million into our area. The plan focuses on the themes of **Community Learning Environment, Investment and Health & Wellbeing**

The plan sets out the activities identified by local people that will help in meeting the opportunities and activities that local people expect to see happening over the next 10 years.

The Plan should be approved early in 2014 by The **LOCAL TRUST** who manage the national programme. The Big local plan can be seen online at our website:
www.biglocalmillionshare.org

BIG Local Quick Wins

Some activities that Big Local has already provided in the area through a Quick Wins programme

Over the last year the Grace Mary to Lion Farm has been offering up to **£500 Quick Win Grants** to local groups and organisations.

The Quick Win grants are to help promote the Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local project. Explore what the people who live and /or work in this area think about it, and what facilities they value and use. Find out what people would like to see developed in the area with the £1 million.

Since September the Big Local Quick Wins Grants have supported:

A Holiday Club at Rounds Green Library

Holy Cross Church have provided Fruit Baskets for residents.

Table tennis table for St James RE:Act youth Club.

Lion Cubs Den were given a grant to provide outdoor play equipment to help develop the learning of the children in their care.

Free Online Basics Course at the Lion Farm Action Centre and Rounds Green library.

A Grant towards a Christmas pantomime at Oakham Church.

Wallace Youth Club have been supported to go on a trip to the Safari park with local families. The grant will help build better relationships with the families of the young people that attend the youth club

SAPA will be working with Litter Watch and SERCO refurbishing and brightening up

Big Local Carnival

The Big Local Partnership organised a Community Fair which took place on 26th September at the Lion Farm playing fields. The Carnival was the final opportunity for residents across our Big Local area to come together to give their approval and opinion on the proposed themes, activities and use of the £1million that have been collected at various events over the last year.

The event included performances by local singers and bands who performed a variety of well known songs. The event had a variety of stalls with raffles and tombola's, Other activities included bounce back

nets and inline skate boards, There were also quad bikes, bouncy castles and refreshments, Sandwell Council's ECO bus and Mobile Library were telling people of the service provided by Sandwell Council,

Weather wise the day started a little overcast and rather chilly, but as the day went on, we were treated to some lovely afternoon sunshine. The event was a great success and the Big Local survey showed that residents were in favour of the Big Local Plan.



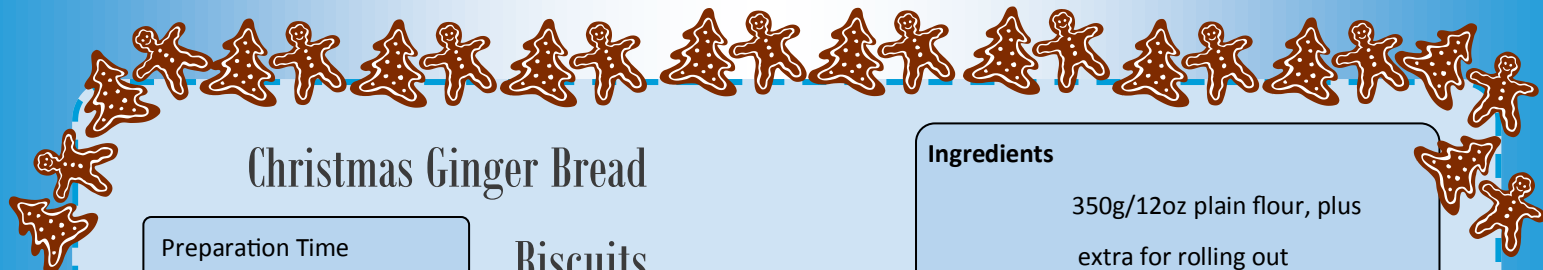
Big Local

Volunteers Required

Our Big local plan needs You to make it a success. Over the next two years there will be lots of opportunities for residents from within our Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local area to come together to make an impact and help create a community that cares for each other.

We will require volunteers to deliver leaflets and newsletter, get involved in environmental projects, to clean up our streets, plant flowers

If you would like to get involved then please contact us at gm2lf.office@gmail.com and tell us about your skills, and talents that you can use to help make our Big Local Plan a success



Christmas Ginger Bread

Preparation Time

30mins to 1 hour

Cooking Time 10 to 30 mins

Makes about 20

Biscuits



Ingredients

350g/12oz plain flour, plus
extra for rolling out
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
125g/4½oz butter
175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
1 free-range egg
4 tbsp golden syrup

To decorate

writing icing
cake decorations

Preparation method

1. Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar.

2. Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps

together. Tip the dough out, knead briefly until smooth, wrap in Clingfilm and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.

3. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/ Gas 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.

4. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on a lightly floured surface. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap

between them. For decorations, use a skewer to make a small hole in the top of each biscuit.
5. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until lightly golden brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. When cooled decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations.

The Million Share Prize Quiz— Win £100 shopping voucher



Find the Christmas Symbols in the newsletter and write the page number in the circle in the Competition Entry Form

To enter, complete the entry form and return to Lion Farm Action Centre, Harry Price House, Hartlebury Road, Oldbury, B69 1EQ

Competition Entry Form



Tie break Question:

What Community Event would you like our Big local Community to celebrate together?

.....
.....
.....

Name.....

Contact Number.....

Closing date for entries:

31st January 2014

Getting Involved

Big Local is about **local people** getting **involved in changing their community**. If you would like to become part of a **theme group**, help in **planning** and **organising** events or get involved with one of the groups featured in this newsletter, then please contact us.

Email:

gm2lf.office@gmail.com

Gm2Lf
a formula for change

