

DECEMBER  
2017

Gm<sup>2</sup>Lf  
a formula for change

BIG  
LOCAL  
WORKING  
FOR YOU.

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# Changing Times

WINTER EDITION

## New Home for Lion Farm Action Centre



Lion Farm Action Centre has moved to The Vicarage at St James' Church, Shelsley Avenue on the Lion Farm estate.

After nearly 25 years of delivering services, the organisation has moved out of Harry Price House due to Sandwell MBC's plans to convert the ground floor into extra accommodation. Since the organisation received notice to leave, Sandwell MBC has supported Lion Farm Action Centre to find a new home and provided help and advice where possible.

The Vicarage at St James' is a large house with rooms that lend themselves well to LFAC's activities. It also has access to a large garden which will present many opportunities for recreation and new activities.

The garden gives safe access to the great outdoors for children at the Centre's After School provision and will provide opportunities for art group members to paint the natural environment. We are hoping to set up a gardening club for people to get involved in looking after the outdoor space. Anyone interested in joining the gardening club or volunteering at the Centre, please email [kate.lfac@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kate.lfac@yahoo.co.uk)

We also have comfortable rooms for hire for courses and meetings.



# Dump Your Junk

**Working in Partnership with Tipton Litter Watch, GM2LF Big Local organised six skip and clean up events across the Big Local area in September.**

The project was a huge success, six skips were filled and over 80 bags of rubbish collected. Everyone who helped out with the clean ups were given a free coach trip to Blackpool on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

We would like to thank everyone who got involved in the project and the brilliant team at Tipton Litter Watch. Thank you also to Tracy Lowe, Sharon Offley and Vicky Jones, local residents, who organised the Blackpool trip and looked after everyone on the three coaches.



***Around Walker Avenue***



***Around Ashleigh Road***



***Around Sampson Close***



***Around Wallace Close***



***Around Lion Farm Playing Fields***



***Around Hartlebury Road***

**Please like the Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local (GM2LF) Facebook page and keep up to date with what is going on.**

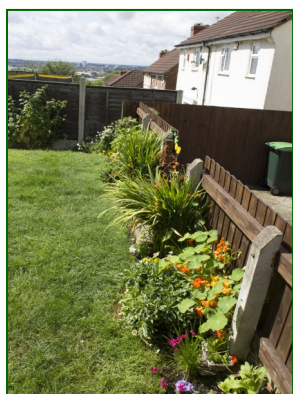
# In Bloom Winners 2017

The Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local in Bloom gardening and poster design winners were announced at the Job and Volunteering Fair held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017, at the Lion Farm Action Centre, The Vicarage.

Well done to everyone who took part, there were some fantastic entries of gardens and posters, making it even tougher for the judges this year.

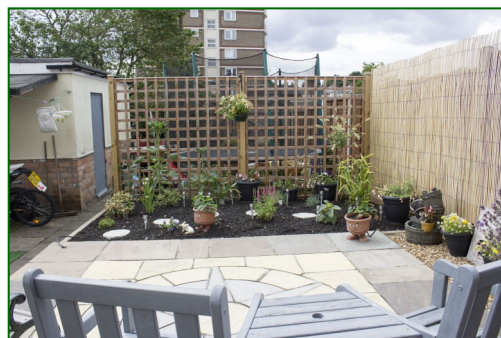
## Congratulations to the Big Local in Bloom Garden Winners

**Platinum Award – 1st**  
(Cash prize of £150)  
Janet Copson,  
pictured with Chris  
Sale, Chair of the  
GM2LF Big  
Local Partnership



**Gold Award – 2nd**  
(Cash prize of £100)  
Marianna Szentgyorgyi

**Silver Award – 3rd**  
(£50 in Homebase vouchers)  
Liam Wood and Sharon Offley



**Congratulations to our Big Local in Bloom Poster Design winners**, who each received an Argos voucher, award and certificate. The winning poster will be also be used to publicise next year's Big Local in Bloom competition.



The Partnership would like to thank everyone who took part and those who helped with organising the competition. In addition, thanks go to the team at Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service Ltd (SCIPS) for their support this year in judging the competitions and to Kirk James Photography for taking all the photographs.

# What’s on each week in and around our Big Local Area

## Monday

Oakham Library 10:15-11am Story and Rhyme Time . (Under 5’s a morning story and rhyme).

St James Church 1-3pm Indoor Carpet bowls  
Open to all within the Big Local area, competitive fun for all.

Lion Farm Action Centre 1pm-3pm Art Group  
Open to all within the Big Local area, Art Tuition for both the beginners and experts.

Lion Farm Action Centre 3:30pm - 5pm. After School Club Dance session also held on a Friday and midweek activities (Age 8 –12).

Oakham Library 3:30-pm - 4:30pm Art Club.  
Children can come and be creative with a variety of materials.

Oakham Library from 4pm Family Film Club  
Families and Children invited to come and watch our family films.

Holy Cross Church. 6pm - 7.30pm Karate (all ages).

St James Church 7—8.30pm Slimming World  
A friendly group for those that want to lose weight or feel better about themselves.

## Tuesday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9.30 –11.30am Job Club. Providing support to find employment, help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Oakham Evangelical Church 9:15am Carer and Toddlers. Pre-school play, make new friends and Carers get a chance to meet.

St James Church 9am - 11am Parent and Toddlers . A play and stay toddler group. 9am –12pm. Place of Welcome.

Lion Farm Action Centre 1pm—3pm Over 50s Friendship Club.  
Quizzes, craft and chat and fun.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm—5pm. After School Club (Age 8—12). Term time only.

Holy Cross Church 4.30pm—5.30pm Dance House for age 11 and under. 5.30pm - 6.30pm Dance House age 12 plus.

Wallace Youth Cub Tuesdays 5.30pm-7.30pm 8-16 years old . Great opportunities and activities for young people.

Oakham Evangelical Church 7pm Tuesday Crew Activities include Pool, table tennis, games, and art sand crafts. Tuck shop

## Wednesday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9.30-11.30am Job Club. Providing support to find

Rounds Green Library 10.30am - 12pm Knit and Natter.

Oakham Library 11am-12:30pm Theory test Pro and Go Citizen.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 1,30pm—3.30pm. How to use a computer and stay safe online’. Online computer training (Age 16+).

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm—5pm. After School Club (Age 8—12). Term time only.

Holy Cross Church, 3.30pm - 5.30pm . After School Club (Primary). Term time only.

Holy Cross Church , 5.45pm - 6.45pm. Rainbow Guides. 6pm - 7.30pm. Brownie Guides.

St James Church 6 - 7.30pm Tividale Shotokan Karate Club (Age 5+). Also held on a Friday 6-7.30pm.

## Thursday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9.30-11.30am Job Club. Providing support to find employment, help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Oakham Evangelical Church 10.30am. TLC Club for senior citizens, meet up, chat and take part in activities. Just £3.50 which includes lunch.

Hope Church 10:30am-12:30pm Indoor Bowling for over 50s. Great activity for unwinding and getting rid of stress.

Lion Farm Action Centre 11:30am-1:30pm. How to use a computer and stay safe online’. Online computer training (Age 16+).

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm—5pm. After School Club (Age 8—12). Term time only.

Portway Lifestyle Centre 7pm-8pm Karate for beginners.

Portway Lifestyle Centre 8pm - 9pm Karate for those aged 18 plus unless accompanied by an adult

St James Church 7-9pm RE:Act Youth Club  
Offering a range of craft, sports and a place relax and meet up with friends.

## Friday

Lion Farm Action Centre 9.30-11.30am Job Club. Providing support to find employment, help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Holy Cross Church 8.30am - 9.30am Tea and Toast.

Holy Cross Church 11am. Mass – short simple said service. 12pm - 1.30pm Free lunch at “Fathers Kitchen”.

St James Church 1.30-3.30pm Bingo  
A locally run social group for all residents, join the fun of an afternoon of Bingo.

Lion Farm Action Centre 1:30pm-3:30pm Multi Crafts. Try your hand at something a little crafty.

Holy Cross Church 1.30pm Bingo  
A great get together for all residents 2.30pm Cards and Dominos. A social gathering for all.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm—5pm. After School Club (Age 8—12). Term time only.

Oakham Evangelical Church 7pm Friday Youth Club. Activities and chance to meet friends. For young people aged 11 plus.

## Saturday

Rounds Green Library 10-11am Councillor Surgeries Bring your ideas and concerns to your local councillors

Portway lifestyle Centre 10.30-2:30pm Eminence Dance Works Creative Dance Group for all

Oakham Library 10:30-12pm Breakfast Club for Children 8 and over. Free Toast and drinks

Rounds Green Library 11-11:45am Colouring and Craft Club  
Colouring sheets and puzzles

Wallace Youth Project 5pm—6pm. Lowes Combat Academy & Fitness, Free Kickboxing (Age 8 - 16).

Darley House, Wallace Close 5.30pm. Get Motivated to Lose Fat Lose Fat, slimming and fitness club

## Sunday

Oakham Evangelical Church 10am Communion Service a time to stop , reflect and refresh  
6:00pm Evening Family Celebration, A lively family friendly service.

St James CofE Church 10-11am Morning Worship and Sunday School. A friendly traditional church, sharing God’s love to all.

Holy Cross CofE Church 6pm Sunday Mass. A friendly group meeting for relaxed worship and prayer. Chat and cuppa afterwards.

Newbury Lane Methodist Church 10:45am Morning Service and Junior Church  
6pm Sunday Evening Service

## CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Get Motivated to Lose Fat	07817 175998
Holy Cross Church	01384 257888
Lion Farm Action Centre	0121 544 3094
Newbury Lane Methodist Church	0121 552 2145
Portway Lifestyle Centre	0300 012 0121
Oakham Evangelical Church	01384 859012
Oakham Library	01384 255563
Rounds Green Library	0121 552 2879
St James Church	0121 552 5491
Wallace Youth Club	07817 175998

**If you would like to submit an article for inclusion on the website or in this newsletter please email Helen Trueman: [helen.gm2lf@outlook.com](mailto:helen.gm2lf@outlook.com)**

***Mention of products or services in this newsletter should not be construed as an endorsement or recommendation by GM2LF Big Local Partnership.***

# Money Matters

## A New Website to Help People in Sandwell Manage their Money

The BetterOff Sandwell website is part of Sandwell's work to tackle poverty, help people budget better and avoid debt.

BetterOff Sandwell will help residents to:

- access advice on benefits and ways to improve their job opportunities
- apply for welfare benefits
- find work that pays and record their job search activity
- see how their money changes when they move into work

You can also use the website to get debt advice, appeal a benefits decision and find childcare.

It's easy to create a BetterOff account. You can do this through Facebook or Google, or by registering your email address or mobile number.

Keep on top of your budget, search for jobs and see what benefits you may be entitled to – check out the BetterOff Sandwell website and get the support you need.

Visit [www.sandwell.betteroff.org.uk](http://www.sandwell.betteroff.org.uk)

[www.sandwell.betteroff.org.uk](http://www.sandwell.betteroff.org.uk)

**BetterOff Sandwell is free and easy to use. It will help residents to:**


- access advice on benefits and ways to improve their job opportunities
- apply for welfare benefits
- find work that pays and record their job search activity
- see how their money changes when they move into work

**better off Sandwell**

## Contact GM2LF Big Local

 Visit our website: [www.gm2lf.org](http://www.gm2lf.org)

 Like us: Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local (GM2LF)

 Follow us: @GM2LF\_Official

### General Enquiries

**Helen Trueman**, GM2LF Big Local Development Co-ordinator

**Email:** [helen.gm2lf@outlook.com](mailto:helen.gm2lf@outlook.com)

**Tel:** 07724 5842411

**Post:** Lion Farm Action Centre, The Vicarage, Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury, B69 1BG .

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***Wishing Everyone A Very Merry Christmas  
& A Prosperous New Year!***



# Children & Young People

## Wallace Youth Project

**Tuesdays**  
**5.30pm -**  
**7.30pm**

**8 to 16 years**

**Contact Tracy**  
**Lowe on**  
**07817 175998**



**Darley House,**  
**Community**  
**Room**  
**Wallace Close**  
**Oldbury**  
**B69 1HP**

**Wallace Youth project would like to thank the Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local for their recent funding. Following a flood to the Youth Club earlier this year, the youth club that has been running voluntary for the past 18 years had to close, due to water damage. Funding was successfully granted, and the Youth Club is back open.**

To build on membership of young people and an incentive for attendance, the youth club is offering a free off-site weekend to all young people in Easter 2018 who attend the most. (spaces are limited to young people with the best attendance)



## Forest School & Sensory Garden

**In 2016, Grace Mary Primary School received £1,000 Big Local funding to enable them to update their existing sensory garden and forest school earlier this year.**

The sensory garden is used to enhance the pupil's sensory experience. Through sight by using distinctive shapes and colours of plants, and through hearing by using sounds that occur naturally such as leaves and stems rustling, buzzing insects and those activated by people such as splashing water wind chimes and sound sculptures. The garden also enhances the curriculum for all pupils including those with additional needs.



The forest school provides all children of all abilities with the creation of a space, full of natural resources. It enables children to explore and discover the wildness in a safe way.

# Community Safety

## Big Local Crime Prevention Work

**During September and October in partnership with Oldbury and Rowley Police, GM2LF Big Local held four crime prevention events.**

At each event people were given tips on crime prevention and advice on spotting scams from Sandwell CAB. People could also register for a free crime prevention pack as listed below.

- Burglary Crime Prevention Pack
- Shed Crime Prevention Pack
- Car Crime Prevention Pack

In conjunction with these events and as part of the Safer 6 Campaign, Neighbourhood Officers from Sandwell Council went around the area speaking to local residents and also registering their interest for a pack.

Demand for the packs has been high and GM2LF Big Local are now working with the Council and the Police to get the packs distributed and installed.



*PC Nick Steventon, Oldbury Police explaining the packs at St James Church*

If you would like further information about the packs, please contact Helen Trueman on 07724 584241 or email [helen.gm2lf@outlook.com](mailto:helen.gm2lf@outlook.com)



## A New Way to Report Low Level Crime

**West Midlands Police has taken the first step towards a new interactive website that's set to revolutionise the way members of the public contact the force**

**and give people the chance to report some crimes online.**

The website gives people the chance to report low-level crimes online, track the progress of cases and access a wealth of information and advice on a wide range of issues.

And a "What if...?" query box means portal visitors can get help and advice on everything from parking and anti-social behaviour to burglary and domestic abuse.

Bespoke information has been generated on a huge range of subjects all written by experts so members of the public can get answers they need without having to call the 101 non-emergency number.

**Visit:** [www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

## Know What's Happening Where You Live and Work

**If you live, work or have an interest in the West Midlands, register to become a recipient of messages of information, crime alerts and witness appeals local to you. Just click on the JOIN button on the front page of WMNOW to sign up.**

WMNOW is a free community messaging system from West Midlands Police (WMP) and other partners.

As a registered recipient you will not only benefit from two way messaging but will also hear about positive police action in your community, help identify suspected or wanted criminals or learn about community groups, events and meetings in your area

**Join for free today:** [www.wmnow.co.uk](http://www.wmnow.co.uk)

