No.196 April 2000
FREE

The Balsall Heathan

Greeting Our Royal Highness

A Right Royal Make-Over!

Residents awoke last month to see a group of shadowy figures moving around the area leaving in their wake a trail of fresh paint! These mysterious decorators were The Balsall Heath Forum's staff, who were giving the area their own unique make-over in time for the visit of Prince Charles.

The Forum staff and Street Watch helped with security on the day of the visit. As you can see, the West Midlands Police were **very thorough** and even checked the drains. (There was no-one in there!)

The Balsall Heathan

Your Community Newspaper

His Royal Highness Prince Charles headed the list of dignitaries paying their respects to the work of our community last month. Prince Charles' visit to Balsall Heath came as a great thrill for those who were lucky enough to see him, speak to him, or, in one case, (see further on) kiss him.

The Prince had come to see how our neighbourhood had been changed and improved since his last visit in 1980. He said that everyone who had worked to make the enormous difference he saw had done brilliant work. They had built a community amazing in its capacity to work together. A splendid variety of communities had created one great community in Balsall Heath.

Some of the people who have worked tirelessly to make this difference were recognised and acclaimed when they received Balsall Heath Honours from the Lord Mayor Cllr Ian McArdle. They are listed inside and the Balsall Heath Honours List is to be an annual event for us to look forward to each year. It is a way of acknowledging the local people who have helped achieve things for the area.

The Prince has left, but the work continues. The next surge of progress in Balsall Heath will be another great one, everyone is sure. The neighbourhood is set for further success and the realisation of more plans on which so many groups are working.

Looking forward to it and to the next royal visit!

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Printed	by Clarkeprint Ltd (performing miracles as ever!)

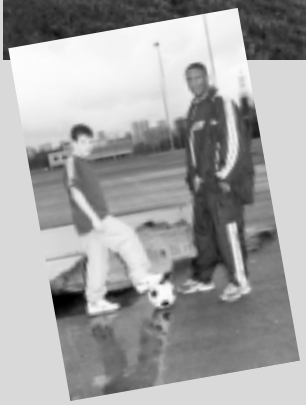
St. Paul's Community Project Ltd.

The Balsall Heathan is published by St. Paul's Community Project. The editor is responsible to the Editorial Panel. The Editorial Panel is a sub-group of the Balsall Heath Forum's Participation Group. St. Paul's Community Project is a charity (number 508943) and company limited by guarantee. *The Heathan* is not run for profit and is financed by sponsorship, advertising and the assistance of charitable trusts.

The Balsall Heathan is distributed free to 6000 homes in the area. The Editorial Board welcomes contributions from all who live in, work or are concerned for the welfare of the area. They are delighted to have the help of volunteers with any aspect of running the paper. Please call us on **0121-440 1349**

Please send your news and views to *The Editor, St. Paul's Centre, Hertford Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 8NJ. Tel/Fax: 0121-440 1349.*

On The Ball!



Watch This Space - *Well at least it's flat! Our concerns about the astroturf must have carried enough weight to have scared those in charge into action! Hopefully we won't have to wait as long for a new pitch.*

Last month, *The Heathan* led with the story about the unplayable state of the astroturf pitch at the Birmingham Sports Centre. As we reported, this pitch was once the premier in its league, but was vandalised, ignored and allowed to decay into a useless mess. Still, no-one seemed to mind. Officials quibbled over its ownership, local tearaways even took to joyriding on it. A total waste.

On the day in March that *The Heathan* hit the streets a miracle happened. From nowhere, lorries appeared carrying teams of men who proceeded to rip up the mess and cart it off to the refuse tip. Inside a week the whole thing had disappeared leaving an entirely barren (but flat!) concrete surface.

What next? Well, it seems Balsall Heath DOES have a chance of winning a Sports Action Zone to help improve sporting opportunities across the area. The young people certainly desire (and are insisting on) more attention to their need for facilities.

The City's Leisure Services Department is trying to get a pilot scheme going. Meanwhile, the City still thinks residents aren't interested in using the Astroturf space or Sports Centre. Obviously, there is a need for young people, older people, residents in general to make their views known! Some are already petitioning their councillors.

We hope to have more on this in our next issue.

New Beat Co-ordinator

Our new beat co-ordinator is PC Dunleavy. You can contact him about any local crime concerns on 626 1286.

Thanks

PC Dunleavy has already seen the local community and the local police working together to prevent crime in our area. When soccer violence spilled over into Balsall Heath recently, local police acted swiftly to deal with it, but PC Dunleavy believes it could have been much worse if local people had not called the police promptly. He asked the Heathan to pass on the thanks of the local police to all those who called them to report the incident.

ON the BEAT

Car Crime

As part of the continuing initiative to cut car crime, information from our local police has been delivered to every house in Clifton Road. Let's all work together to beat car crime.

Neighbourhood Watch

Did you know that according to CGU Insurance, a house is 13 times less likely to be burgled if it is in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? For information on how to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for your road or avenue, call Alison Price at Acocks Green police station on 626 4159.

Belgrave Road

Work has started on the modernisation of Belgrave Road Police Station, and a new cell block is being added. The station is set to become home to the area's Operational Command Unit, or OCU, which is currently based at Acocks Green, later this year. Edward Road will remain the local station for Balsall Heath.

New HQ - Belgrave Rd Station

Brave & Strong

On April 1st (of all dates) the Moseley Road was invaded by rival football fans who should have been at the Blues ground. Clearly looking for a fight and not a football match, they threw bricks and bottles at each other outside the New Inn pub. Residents and passers-by were terrified.

Three police officers from Edward Road arrived at the violent scene. Most people would have turned tail and fled. Led by WPC Maude Orme our local officers went into the heart of the conflict, made an arrest and put a stop to what could have become a truly terrifying incident.

Residents report that the ring leaders appeared determined to hurt each other, and gave no heed to passing traffic or pedestrians. The Balsall Heath Forum publicly says; "Balsall Heathans are grateful to our local officers. You did not flinch and put a brave and swift stop to what could have escalated into a much more serious incident. Well done to all three of you!"

Neighbourhood Management

Rodger Patrick, who is seconded from the police to pilot the idea of co-ordinating statutory input to Balsall Heath, has made rapid progress. He has now held several walkabouts with residents and professionals. These have resulted in:

The removal of 27 dumped cars. Fitting entry gates. Clearing rubbish. Identifying graffiti and the culprits. A host of issues, little & large which require further action.

One main issue which residents are discussing is the transfer of all Council houses to local ownership. A business plan is being prepared which will detail how this can be done and how resultant revenue will pay for the further improvement of the whole neighbourhood.

Health & Beauty

The Venture, on Malvern Street, recently hosted a Beauty Promotion Day for Women. Organized by Salma Ladak, (women's activity development worker), the day offered women the opportunity to find out about courses in make-up, threading, waxing, massage, mehndi, reflexology, cake decorating and ESOL, whilst qualified staff offered free childcare. In addition the event gave women, who have already completed said courses, a chance to promote and practice their skills. The Venture holds a partnership with South Birmingham College's Seven Streets Center, offering free childcare to students.

Mehndi and cake decorating were amongst the skills being displayed at the Venture's open day

Souper!

Residents in Highgate have been enjoying the meals at their monthly lunch club so much that organisers are now opening the kitchens on a fortnightly basis. The Elderly Lunch Club at Stanhope Hall is open between 12.00 - 2.30pm to all elderly residents who, from May, can enjoy a hot meal on the second and last Thursdays of each month for only £2.

DID YOU KNOW?

Balsall Heath Health Centre boasts a fully equipped prayer room to meet the spiritual needs of users of the centre. The room is equipped with religious texts, a prayer mat and a compass.

Credit Union Is Paying Dividends

Members of the Balsall Heath Credit Union have received their first dividend as shareholders it was revealed last month. At the Union's AGM, the members, whose numbers have risen by 400% over the past 12 months, learned that they are set to carry on reaping the benefits of using their community bank due to the Credit Union's assets doubling in 1999. If you are interesting in joining the Credit Union, you can join for as little as £1.25 and then start banking at Balsall Heath Library and the offices of Moseley & District Housing Association. For further details, please phone 248 1448.

Farm Birthday

Malvern Street City Farm is celebrating its 20th Birthday. To mark the occasion, the farm is having a public birthday party on 13th May and everyone is invited to come along and meet the animals and especially help the chickens move into their modern new home.

Yurt Alert!

Keep your eyes peeled this month - we are expecting a visit from a yurt on April 28th for two weeks! You might also see this nomadic Mongolian travelling home at a school near you.

The Balsall Heath Honours List

Sister Agnes - The churches of Balsall Heath

Sirfraz Ahmed - The big business involvement in Balsall Heath and opening a care home

Naseem Akhtar - Women

Raja Amin - Making the area safe

Mohammed Azam - The development of the Willows Crescent Mosque

Kay Brazier - Services to the residents of Balsall Heath over many years

Norma Brookes - The users of the Balsall Heath Church Centre

Neville Brown - The Congregation of the Children of the First Born

Maza Dad - The youth of Balsall Heath

Gloria Dillion - The Benmore Estate

Raja Ishtiaq - The business community

Riyaz Ladak - K.S.I.M.C. and the wider community

John Mallard - The congregation of Edward Rd Baptist Church

David Mason - The involvement of Business in the Community

Babu Patel - The development of Apna Ghar

Tapshum Pattni - Apna Ghar

Bridget Pearce - The policing of the neighbourhood

May Pearson - The Seven Streets Residents Association

Habib Rahman - The residents and agencies of Balsall Heath

Sir Neville Simms - The big business involvement in Balsall Heath

Keith Tatton - The children of Balsall Heath

Andy Thomas - Making people feel safer

Rev. John Ward - Inter-faith understanding

Mohammed Yafai - The Yemeni Community and Students at Joseph Chamberlain Colle

May Pearson - The Seven Streets Residents Association

Habib Rahman - The residents and agencies of Balsall Heath

Sir Neville Simms - The big business involvement in Balsall Heath

Keith Tatton - The children of Balsall Heath

Andy Thomas - Making people feel safer

Rev. John Ward - Inter-faith understanding

Mohammed Yafai - The Yemeni Community and Students at Joseph Chamberlain College

Royal Recognition for Recovery

Prince Charles re-visited Balsall Heath to see for himself the changes made by residents and local businesses in the last 20 years since his first "Seeing is Believing tour" in 1980. He then had witnessed scenes of severe blight and decay, and had been introduced to a weak and dispirited neighbourhood.

This time, he met dozens of delighted people outside Clifton mosque on his way in, talked with hundreds of people inside and, what seemed like, thousands of confident people on his way out.

In just one and a half hours he listened to what everyone had to say. He sat at 5 tables, each with a dozen people, for an in-depth exchange of views.

Prince Charles was shown the photographs of Balsall Heath in its bleakest days. He asked Gloria and Naseem what life had been like and how recovery had begun "Was there a special leader?" he wanted to know. "We did it together," they answered. "We became a team of varied talents."

At table one, Mohammed Mahboob stressed that residents hadn't waited for outside help. "We just got on with it. If we hadn't done so, we'd still have been waiting." They explained that residents had led from the front and that in unity great strength had been found. Habib Rahman stressed the need for support for the Rover workforce at this current time, many of whom live in Balsall Heath.

Table two discussed how attractive old buildings like the Piano Factory and the old St Paul's Church Hall had been saved, renovated and re-opened as a Mosque, Training Centre and Nursery respectively. Later, the Prince said that continuity in buildings, people and faith are a necessary balance to rapid change.

Table three emphasised the need to transform the delivery of top-down services, not with extra or new money but by managing existing resources more effectively. It was necessary for different services to work together.

The Prince was impressed by the commitment of the Police in seconding Chief Inspector Rodger Patrick to trial the new idea of Neighbourhood Management.

Those at table four were quizzed by Prince Charles : "Is business better?" Sirfraz reported that it was. Raja Ishtiaq pointed out that insurance premiums had come down and that PC World and Lidl were building on sites which had been derelict for two decades. They explained that the new image of the 'New Balsall Heath' is being marketed.

Table five was the faith table. Around it sat leaders from most of the world's religions. "But can you bridge the gap between you all?" Prince Charles asked. "We are bridging it" said Sammi Ibrahem a Palestinian Christian. "Ah, said the Prince, but will the bridge stand and will it reach to the other side?" "Come back in a year, said Sammi, "and we will walk you across it."

Young and old then gathered around a giant map of Balsall Heath prepared by Ian Edwards and friends. They highlighted for the Prince many of the once dilapidated sites from the four corners of Balsall Heath which now bore the signs of recovery.

A buzz of excitement followed the Prince. "He kissed me," said one young woman who, if the truth be known, had actually kissed him. "If he were a politician, I'd vote for him," said Sarah Webster, who said that she had never voted in her long life. "Terrific," exclaimed young Jasminda. "He shook my hand and asked me if I liked Balsall Heath. I told him it was fantastic, just like the banner says."

The crowd cheered when the Prince said that he would be back. In a way, however, it was as if they were cheering themselves. Here was the highest in the land, royalty, recognising those who had once felt they were the lowest. Yet, over many years, they had achieved the impossible and had recovered their neighbourhood from despair and returned it to a place of respect and pride.

The New Balsall Heath

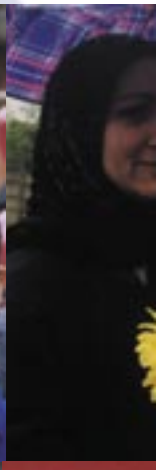
On March 27th, hundreds of local people gathered on the red gras pitch on Balsall Heath Road, for a celebration. The Lord Mayor declared the New Balsall Heath to be well and truly open, and he honoured 24 people who had been nominated for services to Balsall Heath

They were judged to have made a difference and to be role models for others to emulate.

"These people do you proud. Any community would give a great deal to have such talent and commitment. Honouring them in this way is a wonderful idea.

Once the Mayor had finished his address, the signal was given to set off the biggest and brightest display of fireworks ever set off in the neighbourhood. 2000 fireworks declared that the New Balsall Heath was alive and kicking.

Seeing
is believing



"The area is unrecognisable compared to 20 years ago. It was a pity that he did not have time to walk or drive around to see how much the area has changed. Great credit to th Forum for all their hard work in making the area look attractive. Well Done"

May Pearson
Seven Streets
Residents Association

"Unfortunately people still have a bad image of Balsall Heath, but I think Prince Charles went away with a very positive image. Everyone was represented by at least one person in the Mosque and the day captured the whole of the community spirit perfectly"

Naseem Akhtar
Saheli Women's Group

"The da
Prince C
to listen
togethe
job."

ay went very well.
Charles was willing
n to us. We worked
er and did a good

Gloria Dillon
Benmore Residents
Association

Talking about
how it is possible

to make it
even better

New Strategy for Renewal

The Balsall Heath Renaissance Conference

On April 3rd the Government issued a document which is now to be discussed. By the summer this discussion will form a new national strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal.

At the heart of this strategy is the more effective co-ordination of the funds and services delivered to each neighbourhood. It is recognised that these are often so poor that they contribute to decay. The document asks how improvements can be made in:

Health. Education. Safety. Jobs. The management of neighbourhoods.

The Balsall Heath Forum has called a conference in St. Paul's and Clifton School buildings on May 9th to consider how these big questions can be answered. It has attracted wide interest. Professionals and residents are coming from all over the country to join in the chat, and policymakers and advisers from Whitehallare attending.

Secretary of State for Education and Employment, David Blunkett, is due to give one of two keynote speeches. The other is to be given by John Bright, head of the Government's New Deal Community initiative.

To cover the cost of the conference residents are being charged £20, professionals £150. All are urged to attend.

Demand for tickets is very high and readers are urged to book their tickets now if they wish to attend. For your ticket please contact : Carrie at The Balsall Heath Forum on 446 6183 or write to her at The Forum, c/o The Tree Nursery, St.Paul's Rd., B12.

Come and see!

The Digbeth Centre for Arts & Digital Media is holding an open day on Thursday 18th May from 10am-6pm. The day will include live bands, exhibitions of students work and the unveiling of a lifesize carousel made only from wire! The sculpture is being made by past and present 'Women Print' students and has so far taken the women 2,000 hours to build, 84,000 metres of wire and is estimated to have a circumference of 165 feet!

For further information please contact the Digbeth Centre on 0121 694 5060.

Information, please!

Judy Stubley is currently organising a directory for people aged 50 and over within the area . If you would like to be included in this directory please contact Judy on 0121 303 7875 or 07977951564

The jungle grows

Balsall Heath Jungle was set up in September 1999. Since then they have gone from strength to strength and now have 40 members, 40 apple trees, and 40 trees and bushes.

They have a number of projects including a Sponsor a Tree Scheme, working with staff and children at local schools and collecting stories and memories for the Balsall Heath Jungle Book (watch this space!).

Since Balsall Heath is such a multicultural area a universal name seemed apt, so the name 'jungle' was chosen because the word jungle comes from the Urdu word for Forest.

If you are interested in joining Balsall Heath Jungle contact project worker Chris Duggan on 0121 446 4798.

Memories

On Thursday 6th April people from various walks of life came together to celebrate the launch of the book entitled, 'Memories Grow: Needs Arise'. The book was part of an initiative called 'Contacting Women', organised and managed by the Sparkbrook, Sparkhill and Tyseley Regeneration Unit (SSTARI), Women's Consultative Forum in partnership with the Department of Leisure and Community Services and Birmingham City Council. Their aim was to give women and young girls within the SSTARI regeneration area a chance to express their views, realise their potential and take a step towards making positive changes in their lives.

The book is a result of these discussions and workshops and is a delightful record of their memories, thoughts and skills.

If you would like more information, please contact Judy Stubley on 0121 303 7875.

Balsall Heath Gets Its Colours

After much debate, often lively, Balsall Heathans have chosen the colours which will bedeck local street furniture. Dark green and gold won over other colours by a margin of 8 to 2 as hundreds voted.

The first street furniture - lampposts, benches, bins and signposts will appear around the former Cannon Hill Pub, soon to be the Cannon Hill Centre.

They will also be placed in Ladypool Road. The Forum has then been given the task of raising the money to festoon the Moseley Road and the rest of Edward Road.

Balsall Heath Park's brand new play area is the first of many alterations to be made to the park. Negotiations are still ongoing between the City and local residents to make sure that the work meets the needs of the local community. If you would like to get involved and have your say, please contact The Friends of Balsall Heath Park at Rohan.green@cableinet.co.uk.

Highgate Youth Build Scheme

Would you like to build your own home? Have you been on Jobseekers Allowance? Are you aged 18-24?

If yes
Ring Monica Lee on 446 5389
or visit her at Stanhope Hall

Cannon Hill

The former Cannon Hill Pub on the corner of Court Road and Edward Road is in the process of being converted by South Birmingham College with the use of URBAN funds.

For years it has lain unused, now it is being converted into an integrated vocational advice and guidance centre where local employed and unemployed people will be able to access advice on training and employment opportunities.

Building work is still well underway, but the college expects the centre to be operational by September 2000.

Balsall Heath Forum

Environmental Works

Currently all of our general environmental work is free at the point of delivery to all residents. Naturally these services incur costs which are presently subsidised by the Forum.

Therefore we have introduced charges for these works to ensure a healthy & realistic future for this work.

Charges

Rubbish removal/garden clearance (no rubble/concrete etc.) - £25 per truck load (1.2 tonnes) **plus** a wage charge of £5 per hour per Forum staff member involved (not including trainees).

Security work - £25 per light for supply and fitting (exceptions for the elderly and disabled).

Charges for tree surgery & cutting etc. will be calculated on an individual basis.

For Full Details please contact:
The Balsall Heath Forum on 446 6183

Filling empty homes

The Empty Homes Project was established in 1996. Funded by the SRB and Birmingham City Council, the Project seeks to identify empty properties within the local community.

Beverly Edmead (Empty Homes Officer for the Director of Housing), has been leading the Project since 1998, and has just recently taken part in Empty Homes Awareness Week, a campaign to raise awareness and offer help and advice about this growing problem.

She said, " We only work with the private sector. If we find a property, the first thing we do is make sure that it is not owned by the Council or any Housing Associations. We then try to trace the owner(s) through a number of different methods and if successful, give them the option to either sell or renovate. If the property owner is unable to renovate for whatever reasons we will even offer help in the form of DIY training if needed. Unfortunately we cannot offer monetary help".

All enquiries should be made to
Beverly Edmead on 0800 056 2403

Catch The Envirobus

The Regional Director of the Environment Agency, Dr David King (pictured left), recently visited Nelson Mandela School to launch the Environment Agency's new 'Envirobus 2000'. The Envirobus is fuelled by liquid petroleum gas (LPG) and houses an eco-classroom, along with a range of of interactive displays and learning resources. Nelson Mandela School has already begun working on activities regarding the enviroment, one of the main reasons that the Environment Agency decided to launch the bus at the School. Speaking about the project David said: 'The launch of the Envirobus represents the start of an exciting and innovative programme which we hope will leave a lasting legacy throughout the Midlands".

Dr King (centre) joins Nelson Mandela pupils onboard the futuristic Envirobus 2000

New Look Gardens

Bring them Sunshine! - *Residents have united to rid themselves of their useless overgrown gardens and are now looking forward to barbecues and summer*

Residents on Cheddar Road have joined together to solve a thorny problem. For years their gardens had been degenerating into weedy jungles and rubbish tips. Everyone despaired; how can we afford to tidy this up? Finally, they decided that enough was enough and with a little help from the Balsall Heath Forum, four neighbours removed what was left of their fences and created one big lawned area to share. Resident Abdul Bassit Ali said: "The change is unbelievable. For years we have not been able to use our gardens, now we cannot wait for the summer to come!"

The secure garden can only be accessed by the residents and friends who can pay a deposit for access to a key.

Carnival 2000

This year's Balsall Heath Carnival will take place on Saturday 1st July. If you would like to help organise the carnival or have any ideas for the carnival, please contact Connie Perris on 440 1349 as soon as possible.

Useful Numbers

Council Services

Housing Department

Repairs, Transfers and Applications	303 4211
Emergency Repairs (outside office hours only)	643 4800
Council House purchase	303 7926
Private Tenancy Officer	303 4155 / 4747

Environmental Services

Environmental Services/Public Health	303 9800
Pest Control (Rats)	303 9800
Refuse Collection	303 6789
Pothole Reports	303 6644
Street Lighting	303 6000

Social Services

Social Services Department	303 7070
Social Security (Poplar Rd. & Coventry Rd.)	722 7000
Social Security (Moseley Rd. & Northfield)	766 4300
Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit	303 8821/8822
Council Tax (Billing & Account enquiries)	233 9000

Education and Employment

Education Department (General enquiries)	303 2590 / 2872
Student Grants	303 3648 / 3647
Sparkhill Job Centre (Stoney Lane)	480 3500
T.U.C. Centre for the Unemployed	771 0871

Gas, Water, Electricity

British Gas (Transco)	705 6811
Gas Escapes	0800 111 999
Gas Repairs (Council Tenants only)	333 7433
MEB Emergency Calls	373 8131
Severn Trent Water	0800 783 4444

Police

Main Switchboard	626 5000
Edward Road	440 1111
Acocks Green	626 4455

Community Helplines for NON-EMERGENCY POLICE CALLS

English	01426 951 380
Bengali	01426 951 381
Gujerati	01426 951 655
Urdu	01426 951 383
Punjabi	01426 951 382

Health

Balsall Heath Health Centre, Edward Road 446 2300

Community and Advice Services

Access for All Disability Resource Centre, Bierton Rd, Yardley	789 7365
Apna Ghar Asian Elders Centre, 21 Clevedon Rd.	440 2266
Balsall Heath Church Centre Elderly Care	446 1138
Balsall Heath Credit Union	248 1448
Balsall Heath Forum	446 6183
Birmingham Asian Business Association, 249 Ladypool Rd.	693 3101
Birmingham Ethnic Education and Advisory Service	359 3339
Birmingham Independent Living Project, 249 Ladypool Rd.	693 9050
Calthorpe Park Playcentre, Edward Rd./Cheddar Rd.	446 4047
Friends Institute, 220 Moseley Rd.	440 4873
Empty Homes Project (to report empty houses) 0800 056 2403	
Good Neighbour Centre, George St.	440 7548
Highgate Family Support Centre, Conybere St.	440 6788
Islamic Resource Centre	440 3500
Jericho Community Project, Edward Road	446 4258
Moseley Road Youth Project, Moseley Road Methodist Church	446 5455
Practical Care Worker - For Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath	440 6644
Sparkhill Centre, 447 Stratford Road	772 1893
St. Paul's Venture & Malvern Street City Farm	440 1113
Yemeni Advice & Cultural Centre, Joseph Chamberlain College	446 6621
Yemeni Welfare Centre, 172 St. Paul's Road	440 3369

Neighbourhood Offices

Sparkbrook, Greencoat House, 261 Stratford Road,	303 9110
Sparkhill ,641 Stratford Road,	303 0722
Highgate, 288 Gooch Street,	303 0430

Sports & Leisure

Asian Arts & Cultural Society	440 6995
Birmingham Sports Centre, Balsall Heath Road	440 1021
Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park	440 4221
Tickets	440 3838

Please send your letters to: *The Editor, The Balsall Heathan, c/o St. Paul's Community Project, Hertford Street, Balsall Heath, B12 8NJ*

Dear Editor,

The decision by the Forum to rename the area 'The New Balsall Heath' is great. For years I felt ashamed to let my friends and relatives visit. Now they say that they don't recognise the place as it looks and feels so good. Well done.

Please pass on my thanks to all those who picked up the litter after the opening and firework display. The red gra pitch has never looked so good.

Yours
Mr Chouhan,
Balsall Heath Road.

Dear Sir,

I saw your photographers taking pictures of the visit of Prince Charles. Will you be printing all of them in the Heathan?

Yours
Mrs Webster,
Alexandra Road.

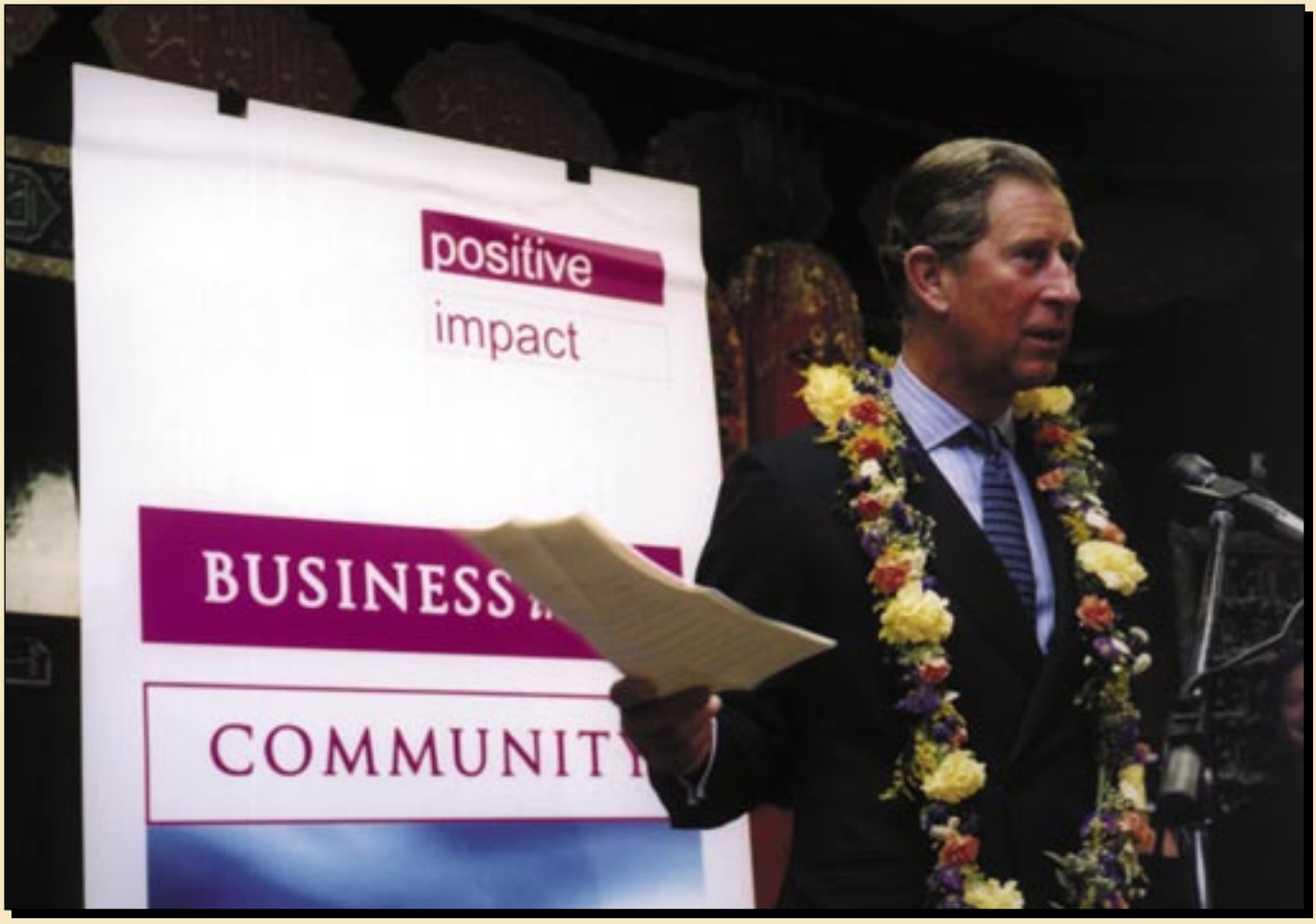
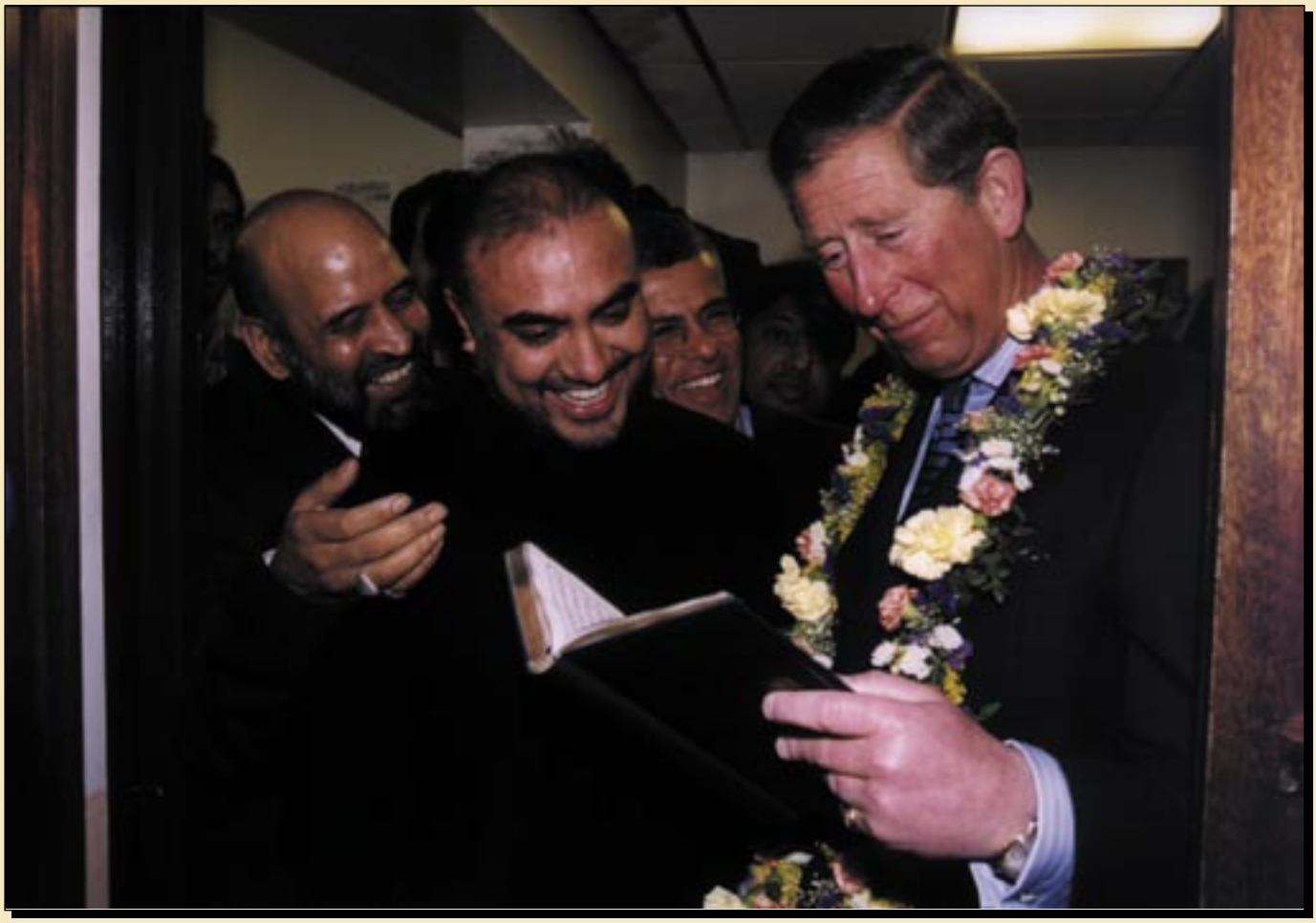
Heathan - We wish we had the space! But the Forum will be putting on a large display of photographs of the visit for residents to see and buy copies. We hope to be able to tell you next month where and when you can see them.

Dear Editor,

Please can I thank everyone for giving me a Balsall Heath Honour at the recent Awards ceremony. I was really delighted - especially to meet not only the Lord Mayor, but also Prince Charles. I would like to say how much the support of fellow officers at Edward Road helped. I could not have done it without them. So thanks to all of them too.

Yours
Andy Thomas (PC)

The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the publishers. Letters may be edited for publication. Letters will only be considered for publication if accompanied by a name and address. These can be withheld if requested.



Making a big difference - together