

Hilton Hall Community Association ~ HHCA & CDF Funded Community Cycle Initiative: BMX Open Day & Family Fun Day ~ 22nd March 2015

Our BMX Open Day event started at 8am with Spring Vale Ward Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett (& Helper) putting-up the Inflatable Slide and Bouncy Castle whilst Lin (from Fryer Tuck Catering) set-up shop with the Hot Food Van. Craig (our local Neighbourhood Warden) and I swept the BMX Track in readiness for today's BMX activities & Family Fun Day.



Lesley from BikeRight and Lee from CycleActifit (also known as Dr. Bike) set up their Stalls & Gazebo, complete with Cycle Stands, Cycle Tools (and the very unique Smoothie Bike) in readiness for the day's activities. The Plan was for Dr. Bike to be available to fix young visitors Bikes whilst they watched and learnt how to do future repairs. Later Dr.Bike (Lee) introduced the fabulous 'Smoothie-bike' experience. Visitors Pedal-Powered the 'Smoothie Maker' and enjoyed the fruits of their labours ('scuse the pun).



Our Spring Vale Neighbourhood Police Team (below) came along to support our event and brought their Community Police Information Trailer with them. Inside the Trailer they had Video Games Consoles for youngsters to play on, and advice & guidance leaflets and Freebies to give-out to Visitors (such as; Security Markers for bikes & home).

In the photos below are: PC 20915 Hopkins and PCSO's 30451 Chetwood, 30232 Ball, and 31263 Price. We are extremely lucky to have Dan, Jude, Steve & co (Led by Sergeant Bott), looking after our safety and wellbeing and as always, they have been very supportive of our community activities (today & in the past). Why not come along and meet our Spring Vale Ward Police Team at the next PACT Meeting to be held at Hilton Hall on 18th May 2015 (from 6:30pm – 8pm).



The Judo Display was presented by the Coaches; Debbie, Dee, Heather & Keith and Junior Judo Members of the Wolverhampton Youth judo Centre. WYJC has been based at Hilton Hall since 1976. Amongst the audience was The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Mike Heap and his wife Frances. The members of our junior display team were: Greg, Brandon, Joe (1), Cole, Ben, Samantha, Channel, Ellie, Jessie, Dan, Kasper, Joe (2) & Mathew. Helen (Greg's Mom) and Jackie (Brandon's Mom) provided refreshments all day for our guests & visitors. Craig (Cole's Dad) provided the photographs. Also in the audience was Maz & Dave, representing the Spring Vale Community First Panel. The feedback from spectators was most positive and encouraging and our Junior Judo Display Team did an excellent presentation. Well Done Everyone. On behalf of Hilton Hall Community Association I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Mayor, Councillor Mike Heap and Frances for their time and presence today.



Keith, Debbie & Heather welcomed Pat McFadden MEP to Hilton Hall (1st photo below). After watching various displays, Pat walked around the site and talked to volunteers, visitors and service providers. The Zumba Display (next four photos below) was led by Aneka with the members of Matteka Zumba. Aneka runs classes every Monday evening at Hilton Hall Community Centre. Well Being & Healthy Lifestyle products were presented by Sarah & Lindsey from Forever Freedom. The Next Dance Display was presented by Emma (and her two assistants) who also run the Inspire-2-DanceFit classes at Hilton Hall on Thursday nights. The young Dancers (in Purple Tee Shirts) are pupils from Lanesfield Primary School and they did their Teachers and School 'Proud' with a superb dance performance directed by Emma & Co. "Many Thanks" to ALL of our Volunteers for Today.



The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Mike Heap (& his wife Frances) Officially Opened Hilton BMX Track today on Sunday 22nd March 2015. The others standing with the Mayor are; (left to right in white Tee-shirts) Heather Manser, Keith Jones, Debbie Cox & Dee Cox representing Hilton Hall Community Association.



A REALLY BIG THANK YOU to the Professional & Semi-Pro BMX Riders who came down on Sunday and provided us all with spectacular, breathtaking BMX Riding (& aerial acrobatics) ALL Day Long (WOW & Major Respect – They didn't stop and were Riding the Track ALL DAY LONG). I will ask Andy Hodson who is one of most regular visitors to Hilton BMX Track (& Jason, another regular visitor to the Track) to thank everyone on our behalf. The youngest Track Rider on the day (photo above right) is only three years old and the oldest Rider on the Track today was sixty-five years old. How 'Inclusive' is That ! We had quite a few 'Families' (Moms, Dads & their Kids) come along today and use the Track and lots of local youngsters came along too. We saw the Pro-Bikers giving tips, guidance and encouragement to these relative Novices and even after such a short time of this coaching there was definite and obvious improvements in the youngsters skills and abilities.

The Hilton Hall Team distributed tools; front & rear Lights, Puncture Repair Kits, etc as 'Project FREEBIES' throughout the day.







This 'Year Long Project' was funded by a Community Development Foundation Grant (CDF funding received via the Spring Vale Community First Panel) which helped us purchase Bicycle Repair Tools and Equipment (which was put to good use during 2014 / early 2015 & leading up to today). Our Volunteers have been helping youngsters with free bicycle repairs & safety training & guidance (under the heading of our Community Cycle Safety Initiative). This has enabled us to engage with local youth and provide 'Positive Encouragement & Feedback' using 'Cycling & BMX' as a medium for deliver and interaction with the community. We worked all through the summer months helping to repair punctures (over twenty punctures fixed to-date) and showed youngsters how to fit brake blocks and tighten-up all the essential 'Important' bits of their bikes, such as Wheels, Seat-post, Handlebars / Risers etc. This would not have been possible without the funding from CDF and the untiring voluntary work provided by the HHCA Management Team.

The final part of this project was to put on an end of project BMX Open Day / Launch Day (TODAY'S EVENT) and What a Fabulous and well attended BMX Launch Open Day & Family Fun Day it was too. This was yet another major success for the Hilton Hall Volunteers and for the Lanesfield Community as a 'Whole'. The weather was fabulous - warm sunny blue sky all day long - and the support, help and most positive feedback we received from everyone was truly gratifying and 'Our Local Community' paid us the compliment of their attendance, without which 'these type of community events' would simply not work.

There are so many people to 'Thank'. Firstly, our main Sponsor whose funding helped us as a 'Whole Year Long Project' (culminating in this end of project Community Open Day) as already stated was the Community Development Foundation via our very own Spring Vale Community First Panel. Hilton Hall Community Association 'Match Funded' this funding grant and along the way we picked up a few more sponsors and support that has been crucial to the overall success of this project. "Many Thanks" to Councillor Malcolm Gwinnett for his kind donation of both cash and services, and providing the Inflatable Bouncy Castle, Childrens Slide & Hot Food Van. Thanks also to Lesley from BikeRight, Lee from CycleActiFit, West Midlands Police Team (Bilston & Spring Vale Branch), Wolverhampton Recycling Team / Amey Ltd. Many Thanks to ALL of the Members of the Community Groups (listed above) for their 'Displays' and to BIG THANK YOU to Denis & Michelle (DTYFC) for running the Football skills training sessions on the Football Pitch and for Denis who came down on Saturday, on his day off and 'Mowed' the whole of Playing Fields area in preparation for this event. Denis You are a Star. Our gratitude to The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Mike Heap and Frances for their auspicious visit and for Officially 'Opening' Hilton BMX Track.