

## Welcome

My name is **'Wyrley McBear Face'** and I'm the newest member of the local community.

I've been asked to introduce this edition of your newsletter and even more pleased that it features me. You may have seen me standing outside the church in Erdington - where I will be until 17th September. I just hope the weather stays dry!

What a bear-illient place to move to. There's lots of events and exciting plans coming up offering lots of help and advice. Open the pages and have a look.

I'm enjoying my holiday in Erdington and looking forward to moving to my new home at Witton Lakes in October!



## Say Hello to Wyrley McBear Face



'Wyrley' has been holidaying in Erdington throughout the summer, before he moves to his permanent home at the Velvet Community Orchard at Witton Lakes.

Witton Lodge Community Association has purchased Wyrley McBear Face, so that everyone locally can enjoy him for years to come, as with Perry - the big owl outside Perry Common Community Hall.

The money raised from the sale of the Bears will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

You can find him outside St Barnabas Church, in Erdington High Street and why not follow the full trail (until Sunday 17th September). Collect a leaflet from Perry Common Community Hall, the Orchard Tearoom at Witton Lakes, Perry Common Library or Kingstanding Library.

This summer we welcomed our newest local resident - and he's already been making a big impact.

'Wyrley McBear Face' named by local people after Wyrley Birch near Witton Lakes, is getting lots of attention outside St Barnabas Church in Erdington High Street.

He is a mixture of designs by local people from Perry Common, Kingstanding and Wyrley Birch - and is one of 100 bears forming a trail around the city, as part of the Big Sleuth Project.

## In This Issue



**Lots Coming Up at The Busy Orchard Tearoom**  
Page 3



**A Bear-illient Time at Witton Lakes**  
Page 4-5



**The Fantastic Re-Launch of Kingstanding Library**  
Page 6



Produced by Witton Lodge Community Association  
If you have any suggestions or articles for the next edition, please call James Carless on 0121 382 1930 or email James.Carless@wittonlodge.org.uk.

: WittonLodgeCommunityAssociation  
 : wittonlodge  
 : WittonLodgeCommunityAssociation



# The Rebuilding of Perry Common Continues...

Here are a few of the latest photos of the building work taking place. This is the last phase of the redevelopment, seeing 146 new homes being built and re-landscaping of the Recreation Ground. Work has also started on the building of 20 new homes near to Enderby Park, the very last of the sites to be developed.

Keep checking   Witton Lodge's Facebook and Twitter pages for regular updates.



A Super **£753** Raised By Slimming World

There really is no stopping Slimming World and their fundraising this year. The generous group, who meet at Perry Common Community Hall three times a week, have raised a whopping £753 for local homeless people.

The money had been collected at a big fundraising party held at New Oscott Social Club and is being donated to a local charity 'Have A Hart'.

Shirley Hart, founder of Have A Hart says: "Our charity was set-up 2 years ago. We walk around the city every evening handing out food, toiletries, sleeping bags and other useful items to homeless people. We feed about 70-100 people every week - and rely on donations to do this. What Slimming World have done is amazing and I can't thank everyone enough."

Well done again Slimming World!

## Wilson Stuart School Crowned as 2017 National Table Cricket Champions

Congratulations to Wilson Stuart School for winning the prestigious Lord's Taverner's National Table Cricket Competition at Lords Cricket Ground on Friday 9th June. They completed a remarkable quadruple without losing a match during the 2016/17 Table Cricket Season. They were 1 of only 9 teams nationally in the final, after winning regional heats. In total, the team played 22 matches during the season and finished up winning every single one of them, taking the following titles along the way.

- CP Sport – National Table Cricket Winner December 2016
- Warwickshire Table Cricket Winners March 2017
- West Midlands Table Cricket Winners May 2017
- Lord's Taverners National Table Cricket Champions June 2017

The competition, which was developed for people with physical disabilities and now in its 19th year, saw more than 300 schools take part.

**Congratulations to all those involved!**

## The Big Summer Clean-Up at Witton Lakes

We went one step further than a spring clean this year! 37 'Community Champion' volunteers who work for Severn Trent Water got their hands dirty and collected 55 bags of rubbish and other interesting items. The volunteers are doing voluntary work with different projects around the West Midlands.

They were joined by Keep Britain Tidy 'Waterside Care' who helped clear the whole area and planted 1000 Yellow Rattle Wildflowers with the Friends Of Witton Lakes, all helping to improve the area for wildlife but also bring even more colour to the park – enhancing the array of existing wildflowers on show.

Not even the bottom of the lakes were left untouched! Keen canoeist, Dave Billingham, spent the day on the water.

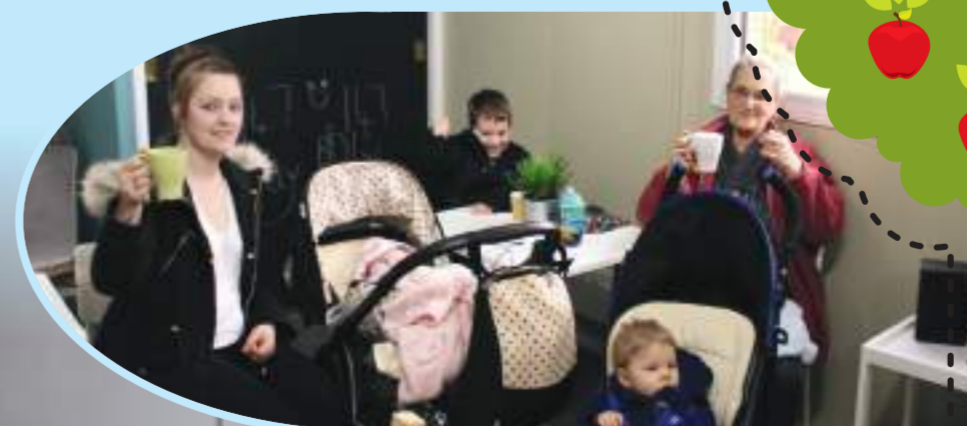
Dave's fantastic voluntary project 'Birmingham Lakes; Litter Picks and Trips' is seeing him travel across the city, to clean up lakes and waterways, removing all manner of rubbish using his trusty canoe.

As a reward for their hard work, the volunteers partied the evening away on-site in a giant marquee. They were all very careful not to drop any litter!



Lots Coming Up at The Busy

## Orchard Tearoom



It's been fantastic seeing so many local people down at the Orchard Tearoom.

We have had a busy few months, since the formal opening in October last year.

If you're in Witton Lakes and fancy a sit down, cup of tea, slice of cake or slice of toast; then this is the place to come.

The Tearoom sits in the Velvet Community Orchard; so it's a great chance to have a look around this impressive real-life orchard and there's also a natural play area for the children to enjoy.



**It's open on**  
Monday's: 12 - 4pm  
Friday's: 9am - 12 midday

What's more, there's lots more coming up and exciting plans to transform the site into a brand new Environmentally Friendly Community Facility.

**Keep checking** our notice boards, social media and [www.wittonlodge.org.uk](http://www.wittonlodge.org.uk) for details, including wonderful Afternoon Tea's and Seasonal Specials.



# A Summer of Interesting Events



## SPRING INTO SPRING

The Ring at Perry Common was buzzing with activity on Saturday 13th May, at this year's big Spring Into Spring Festival.

There was something for everyone, with a Bouncy Castle, Live Music, Stalls, Vintage Birmingham Mail Van, Fruit and Herb Planting (encouraging everyone locally to get active and eat healthily), lots to eat, Fun Games (including Sack and Egg-and-Spoon Racing) – and The Owl Man (with his wonderful birds of prey) was a huge success.

There were activities at Enderby Park, with the Birmingham Play Care Network and St Martin's Church Hall was also buzzing, with Dance Exhibitions and a great opportunity to see the plans for the new housing and park development in Perry Common. Perry Common Community Hall was also busy with people buying freshly baked jacket potatoes, straight from the potato oven.

It's always a popular event – and we're looking to make it even bigger next year.



## A Bear-illiant Time At Witton Lakes

Bears were the theme of the day, with everything from having a picnic (with your teddy bear of course), designing your own teddy, prize raffles to win a teddy bear; and if this was not enough, there were also real life teddy bears roaming around – keep an eye on those picnic baskets!

To add to all this fun, the park was given over to a wide variety of activities – with a bouncy castle, hook a duck, an events field full of activities, ice cream, fun eco crafts and lots more.

The Velvet Community Orchard was open for everyone to have a look around and the Tearoom did a roaring trade – refreshing all those thirsty children and parents. And for those who wanted a drink of a different kind, we had our very own stocks – where you could throw wet sponges at brave volunteers – including our Homes and Property Manager, Gareth – who was a good sport on the day!

**A big Thank You to the enthusiastic team of volunteers from The Challenge Network (and Birmingham South and City College), the Friends of Witton Lakes and all who helped on the day.**



## £580 Raised At Macmillan Afternoon Tea Party

Witton Lodge is delighted to say that we raised a whopping £580 for Macmillan Cancer Support, during an Afternoon Tea with a slight difference.

There was a big crowd outside Perry Common Community Hall on Friday 23rd June, for the afternoon 'street party'.

With china teacups and teapots, cakes and scones, jam, boxes of strawberries and lashings of clotted cream – it was an afternoon to enjoy.

Margaret, who has organised the event for the third year running says: "A great big Thank You goes to everyone who attended and who supported us in raising this wonderful amount of £580.

Also a massive Thank You goes to my wonderful team of volunteers who worked very hard alongside myself all day and supported me in this fabulous event, for such a worthy cause.

Last but not least, a great big Thank You goes to the supermarkets who supported. M&S Princess Alice Drive donated Beautiful Butter & Sultana Scones and Sweet Juicy Strawberries, and of course, Cornish Clotted Cream. Tesco at New Oscott donated lovely Cherry & Sultana Scones, Sweet Juicy Strawberries and Thank You to Farmfoods Kingstanding for donating Jars of Jam and Cherry Maderia Cakes."



## Next Stop: The Story Bus

In case you were wondering, the big bus parked permanently in the playground at Story Wood School is a brand new classroom space and library.

And here at Witton Lodge Community Association, we are delighted to have given a £500 grant to stock the bus full of books.

Executive Head Teacher Mrs Jones says: "I want this space to be available to parents before and after school. The books donated by Witton Lodge Community Association form the basis of a new library, where the children can come in, scan the books and take them out."



"Thank you one and all and we all hope we have made a difference to people's lives."



# HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY DORIS



Spirited 100 year old, **Doris Giblin**, celebrated her birthday in style, surrounded by family and friends at her home in Sycamore Court. She was delighted to receive her birthday card from the Queen and be surrounded by her loved ones on her special day – enjoying a drink and slice of cake.

This special centenarian has lived at Sycamore Court, Witton Lodge's Extra Care Scheme from when it opened in 2000. Doris has 9 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 16 great-great grandchildren – with another on the way. Asked what tips she has for reaching 100, Doris replied "Having good family, good food and an occasional Bitter Shandy."



## A Wonderful New Nursery Right On Our Doorstep

From September, there will be a brand new nursery, right on our doorstep. The 'Blue Sky Nursery' is due to open at Wilson Stuart School, Perry Common Road. This beautiful, brand new venue, will cater for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, offering up to 30 hours per week of free childcare!

The nursery will open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Contact Gisela Costa (Nursery Manager) on: 0121 373 4475 or visit [www.blueskynursery.co.uk](http://www.blueskynursery.co.uk) to find out more.





# Perry Common Library Open For Business

Witton Lodge Community Association is delighted to say that, thanks to the support of local Councillors and partnership working with Birmingham City Council Library Services; we have been able to open Perry Common Library an extra day each week.

With help from Witton Lodge staff and an enthusiastic team of volunteers, the library is open for everyone to use and enjoy, on Friday's.

This 1930s art-deco library really is a magnificent building and offers a great selection of books, computers (please pre-book) and other services and activities throughout the week.

We are also running a wide range of services from here too - so please come in and say hello.

## ...And The Fantastic Re-Launch of Kingstanding Library

Tuesday 1st August, saw the re-launch of Kingstanding Library.

The partnership between Witton Lodge Community Association and Birmingham City Council's Libraries Team, which has also helped Perry Common Library; has enabled our other local library to receive a facelift, with re-painting to the outside of the building and entrance area - and a new notice board, so you can see everything that's going on! This complements the extensive internal refurbishment to the children's area and a general freshening-up of this wonderful local facility.

It was a fantastic afternoon, with crowds of people coming through the doors all afternoon, to enjoy cakes and biscuits, free children's arts and crafts, balloon modelling, learning about local projects and the new services at the library - as well as having a look at the excellent collection of books, archives and computers available to use.

There are lots of **FREE** services now being delivered directly from the library including:

- Housing Advice (1st Tuesday of the month: 2 - 4:30pm)
- Job Club (every Tuesday: 2 - 5pm)
- Living Well Advice (every Tuesday: 2 - 5pm)

And lots more planned in the weeks ahead!

We're looking for passionate volunteers to help us at the library. If you want to get involved in a really fun project, gain lots of practical experience and make a real difference locally, please contact Lauren on 0121 382 1930 or email [Lauren.Fridlington@wittonlodge.org.uk](mailto:Lauren.Fridlington@wittonlodge.org.uk).

## Helping You To Live Well



It's not only Jobs & Skills that Witton Lodge can help you with; our Living Well Team can offer advice and support in many areas that can make a big difference to your life - and if we can't help, we can point you in the direction of someone who can.

We can offer non-medical ways of improving your health in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Call our Team on 0121 384 2702

or email [Sarah.Blackstock@wittonlodge.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Blackstock@wittonlodge.org.uk).

You can also ask about the service at your local GP surgery.



# Help With Jobs & Skills

## Health Works

- We start with a 1-2-1 session to discuss your needs.
- Group sessions to meet with other people and develop employability skills.
- Work experience and volunteering opportunities.
- Access to local employment and development opportunities.
- Employment focused activities to help you search and apply for suitable jobs.

**"I'm very happy to get back into work again and making new friends. The employment advice from Health Works has been brilliant. The sessions are relaxed; there's no pressure like there is at the Job Centre and you get to learn about the different ways of learning things. I would recommend this to everyone."**

Andrew, age 49.  
Now a Forklift Truck Driver at Jaguar Land Rover

## Youth Promise Plus

Are you aged 16-29? Not in work, education or training and Living in Birmingham or Solihull? Want to get a job? Gain new skills and do this in a friendly environment? If yes, then we can help.

- Meet with our experienced advisors in a 1-2-1 session to discuss your support needs.
- Opportunities to take part in a wide variety of activities to boost your confidence, skills and gain practical experience.
- Work experience opportunities.
- Employment focused sessions to help you search and apply for suitable vacancies.

But don't take our word for it, here are a couple of the young people who have already taken part.



**"Ifrah** "It has been really good. I have come out of my comfort zone. I have gained confidence and learnt how to communicate with new people."



**"Peter** "Before I came, I was really nervous. By coming to these sessions, I really feel I boosted my confidence. It's been good to meet new people and I've learnt a lot of job skills."

For more information about these sessions, please contact Job & Skills Team on 0121 382 1930, email [employment@wittonlodge.org.uk](mailto:employment@wittonlodge.org.uk) or come into our office at Perry Common Community Hall, 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.



**Witton Lodge really does have something for everyone. Our Health Works is a great way of getting back into employment if you have additional health needs or want to get back into employment after a career break.**

## Bringing Our Job Club To A Venue Near You



Witton Lodge Community Association's Job Club is always popular, being a great **FREE** opportunity to discuss anything Jobs and Skills related - in a relaxed environment and with no appointment needed.

With the popularity of our Job Club, we have decided to expand the service to different venues. So no matter where you live in the Kingstanding area, you're not far away.

**Job Club takes place at the following locations:**

### Tuesday's

2-5pm at Kingstanding Library, Kingstanding Circle, Kingstanding, B44 9ST

### Wednesday's

10am - 1pm at Lakeside Children's Centre, Lakes Road, Wyrley Birch, B23 7UH

### Thursday's

1-4pm at Perry Common Community Hall, 87 Witton Lodge Road, Perry Common, B23 5JD.

## And We're Bringing Our Housing Advice To A Venue Near You

As with Job Club, Witton Lodge's **FREE** Housing Advice sessions have been really popular. The 1-2-1 sessions are an excellent opportunity to speak with a housing specialist about any questions and issues you have relating to housing: the bidding process, application forms and much more.

The sessions take place at the following times:

### 1st Tuesday of the month

2-4:30pm at Kingstanding Library, Kingstanding Road, (at The Circle), B44 9ST. (Drop In Session - no appointment needed)

### Last Friday of the month

2-4:30pm at Perry Common Library, College Road (at The Crossways), B44 0HH. (Drop In Session - no appointment needed)

### Friday's

1-3pm at Perry Common Community Hall, 87 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5JD. (By Appointment Only)

To book an appointment, please call Alisha (Homes and Property Officer) on 0121 382 1930, email [Alisha.Vale@wittonlodge.org.uk](mailto:Alisha.Vale@wittonlodge.org.uk) or come into our office at Perry Common Community Hall, between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.





## PERRY COMMON COMMUNITY HALL

87 Witton Lodge Road  
Perry Common  
B23 5JD  
Tel: 0121 382 1930  
www.wittonlodge.org.uk



### MONDAY

Red Hot Chilli Steppers Walking Group  
11:00am

### TUESDAY

Slimming World  
7:00pm

### WEDNESDAY

Aikido  
7:30pm

Councillor Surgery (Labour Councillor Des Hughes)  
7:00 - 8:00pm  
2nd Wednesday of month

### THURSDAY

Pain Clinic  
9:30am - 1:00pm  
(by GP appointment only)

Job Club  
1:00 - 4:00pm

Slimming World  
5:00pm (1st Session)  
7:00pm (2nd Session)

### FRIDAY

Slimming World  
10:00am

Councillor Surgery (Conservative Councillors Gary Sambrook / Ron Storer)  
6:30 - 7:30pm  
2nd Friday of the month

Quiz Night  
7:00pm on the following dates:  
• Friday 15th September  
• Friday 20th October  
• Friday 17th November  
• Friday 15th December (The Big Christmas Quiz)

## THE NET

159 Witton Lodge Road  
Perry Common  
B23 7AR  
Tel: 0121 373 7406  
www.thenet-church.co.uk



### MONDAY

The Net Chat Club  
12:00 - 2:00pm

### TUESDAY

The Net Lunch Club  
12:00 - 2:00pm

## PERRY TREE CENTRE

College Road  
(at the junction with Dovedale Road)  
Perry Common  
B23 5BX  
Tel: 0121 675 5571



### TUESDAY

Extend Exercise Class  
10:00 - 11:00am

## SYCAMORE COURT

46 Buxton Road  
Perry Common  
B23 5GA  
Tel: 0121 386 4724  
www.wittonlodge.org.uk



\* Please pre-book all sessions that take place at Sycamore Court. Call the Sycamore Court Office for more information.

### MONDAY

Monday Wellbeing  
2:00 - 4:00pm

### TUESDAY

Age Concern Day Centre  
10:00am - 2:00pm

Bingo  
6:00 - 8:00pm

Ring Of Sound Choir  
7:00 - 8:00pm  
For more information please call Linda on 07960 386252 or email Linda.Hines@wittonlodge.org.uk.

### WEDNESDAY

Knitting Group  
10:30am - 12:00 midday

Film Club  
1:30 - 3:30pm

### THURSDAY

Extend Exercise Class  
10:00 - 11:00am

Men's Club  
10:00am - 1:00pm

Fifty Shades Of Green Gardening Club  
1:30 - 3:00pm

### FRIDAY

Age Concern Day Centre  
10:00am - 2:00pm

Avon Bingo  
6:00 - 8:00pm (every two weeks)

## PERRY COMMON LIBRARY

College Road (at The Crossways)  
Perry Common  
B44 0HH  
Tel: 0121 464 0481  
Email: Perry.Common.Library@birmingham.gov.uk  
www.libraryofbirmingham.com



**Opening Times:**  
Monday: 9:00am - 1pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm  
Thursday: 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00pm - 6:00pm  
Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm  
\*Limited Library Service Available  
Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm

### MONDAY

Knit 'n' Natter  
1:00 - 3:00pm

### THURSDAY

Ancestry Group  
11:00am - 12:00 midday

Reading Group  
3:30 - 4:30pm (3rd Thursday of the month)

### FRIDAY

Jobs & Skills Support  
9:00am - 1:00pm

Living Well Support  
2:00 - 5:00pm

Housing Advice Surgery  
2:00 - 4:30pm (last Friday of the month)

### SATURDAY

Young People's Tuition  
2:45 - 4:45pm

## ST MARTINS CHURCH CENTRE

140 Witton Lodge Road  
Perry Common  
B23 5AP  
Tel: 0121 382 755  
www.ctheking.co.uk



### MONDAY

St Martin's Parent & Toddler Group  
9:30 - 11:30am

Solo Ballroom Dancing  
12:30 - 1:30pm

### TUESDAY

Brew's Up Coffee Morning  
10:00am - 12:00 midday

Perry Common Work Shed  
10:00am - 2:00pm

St Martin's Lunch Club  
11:30am - 2:30pm

Kick Boxing (under age 16)  
6:00 - 7:00pm

Kick Boxing (age 16 and over)  
7:00 - 8:00pm

Boxercise  
8:00 - 9:00pm

### WEDNESDAY

St Martin's Parent & Toddler Group  
9:30 - 11:30am

Creative Moments Craft Group  
12:00 - 2:00pm

Modern Line Dancing  
2:30 - 3:30pm

### THURSDAY

Film Afternoon  
1:00 - 4:00pm (Bi Monthly)  
The next Film Afternoon takes place on:  
• Thursday 12th October

Tea Dances  
1:00 - 4:00pm (Bi Monthly)  
The next Tea Dance takes place on:  
• Thursday 28th September

### FRIDAY

Extend Exercise Class  
11:00am - 12:00 midday

St Martin's Lunch Club  
11:30 - 2:30pm

### SATURDAY

Little Stars Dance Studio  
10:00am - 5:00pm

## KINGSTANDING LIBRARY

Kingstanding Road (at The Circle)  
Kingstanding  
B44 9ST  
Tel: 0121 464 5193  
Email: Kingstanding.Library@birmingham.gov.uk  
www.libraryofbirmingham.com



**Opening Times:**  
Tuesday: 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 6:00pm  
Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm

### TUESDAY

Housing Advice  
2:00 - 4:30pm (1st Tuesday of the month)

Job Club  
2:00 - 5:00pm

Living Well Support  
2:00 - 5:00pm

## URBAN DEVOTION BIRMINGHAM

148 Witton Lodge Road  
Perry Common  
B23 5AP  
Tel: 0121 350 9370  
Email: office@urbandevotion.org  
www.urbandevotion.org



### MONDAY

The Underground - School Years 4-6  
3:30 - 4:45pm (at The Underground, St Martin's Church Centre, 140 Perry Common Road, B23 5AP)

The Underground - School Years 7-11  
5:00 - 6:15pm (at The Underground, St Martin's Church Centre, 140 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5AP)

UDB Café - ages 16-19  
6:30 - 7:30pm (at Hope House, 148 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5AP)

### TUESDAY

Girls Group - School Years 4-6  
4:30 - 5:30pm (at the Velvet Community Orchard, Witton Lakes, B23 7XX)

Girls Group - School Years 7-9  
6:00 - 7:00pm (at the Velvet Community Orchard, Witton Lakes, B23 7XX)

### WEDNESDAY

Junior Club - School Years 4-6  
4:00 - 4:45pm (at Lakeside Children's Centre, Lakes Road, Wyrley Birch, B23 7UH)

Senior Club - School Years 7-8  
5:00 - 5:45pm

HOPE Kids  
5:15 - 6:30pm  
(every month at The Net, 159 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5AR)  
For children in Reception to Year 6

- 6th September
- 4th October
- 1st November
- 6th December

### THURSDAY

67 Boys - Boys In School Year 6  
4:00 - 5:00pm (at The Underground, St Martin's Church Centre, 140 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5AP)

Football - School Year's 7-11  
5:30 - 6:30 (at Witton Lakes, by Perry Common Road, B23 7AS)

## ORCHARD TEA ROOM

At The Velvet Community Orchard  
(through the green gates by the dividing path  
between the two lakes)  
Witton Lakes  
B23 7XX  
Tel: 0121 382 1930  
www.wittonlodge.org.uk



The Orchard Tearoom is open  
Monday's 12:00 - 4:00pm  
Friday's 9:00am - 12:00 midday

\*Times and dates of these listings are subject to change. Please check with the individual venue to confirm

## Become A Resident Director And Make A Difference To Your Area

What's in this newsletter is just a flavour of what's going on locally. If you like what you have seen and want to make a real difference to our local area - then why not become a 'Resident Director' with Witton Lodge Community Association.

You could make your ideas a reality and at the same time learn new skills, meet new people and have a really positive impact on your local community.

For more info please contact: Chief Officer, Afzal Hussain on 0121 382 1930 or Afzal.Hussain@wittonlodge.org.uk.