

An extended arm of generosity

Toddler group saved from the brink of closure

A HARD-UP toddlers' group in Cox Green on the brink of closure has been thrown a lifeline.

Cox Green Baby and Toddler Group has been awarded £500 by the Royal Borough's extended schools services from funds designated to the Cox Green area.

The group has been suffering from funding problems, due to spiralling costs, with its funds down to the bare bones, so the cash injection will keep the group afloat.

The extra money will enable the group to pay for running costs and also start arts and crafts again and buy new toys.

The club is the only one of its kind in the community and seen by parents as a vital part of their children's development.

Group organiser Lisa Richards was delighted.

She said: "It is absolutely brilliant news. We can now have art and crafts again and buy some toys."

"The group would face closure if we did not receive it."

She added the group costs around £20 a week to run, with costs increasing all the time due to rising centre costs and session material costs.

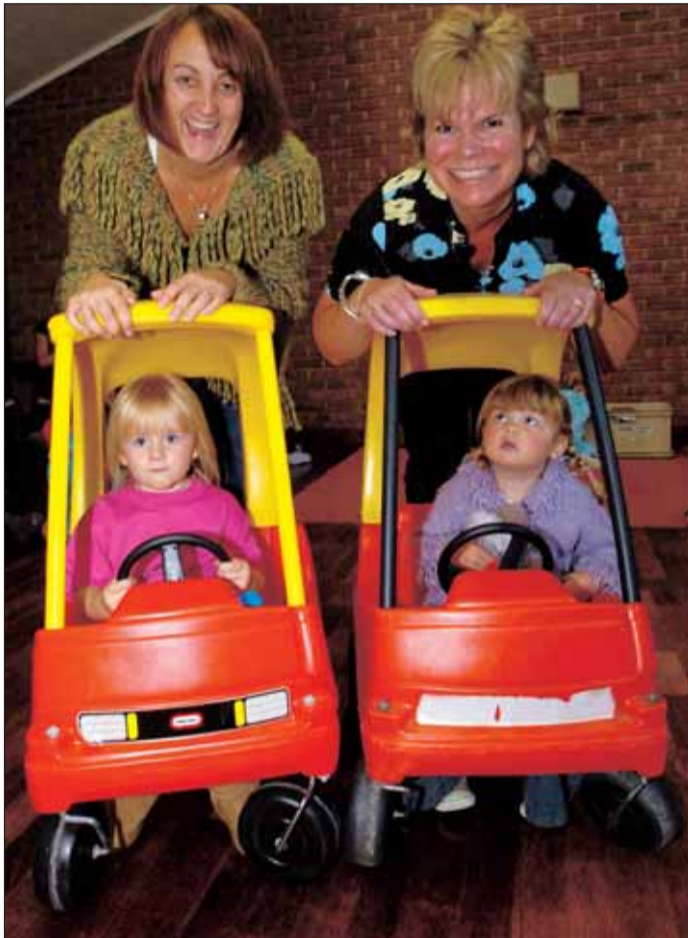
Mother Danielle Gazur, 25, of Cox Green, who takes her two-year-old daughter to the group, was ecstatic when she heard of the news.

She said: "My daughter loves the group and it is good for her to mix with other toddlers."

Mother-of-three Siobhan Perry, 27, of Cox Green, has been taking her children for the past eight years.

She said: "It is a great place for parents and our children to socialise and we all really enjoy the group."

"My two-year-old daughter



HOURS OF FUN: Daisy Master, two, and Dolly Reed, three, enjoy the Baby and Toddler Group, watched by group leader Lisa Richards and Sue London of Cox Green's extended services. Ref: 100257-7

Daisy loves it and I have been coming here for years, so am very happy it will stay."

The group meets every Wednesday from 1.30pm at Cox Green Community Centre in

Highfield Lane.

The Royal Borough's extended schools services provides services and activities to families, pupils and members of communities.

Out to make an impression

A NEW headteacher at a primary school in Cox Green is on a crusade to improve the standards of his pupils' uniforms.

Nick Stevens, headteacher of Wessex Primary School in St Adrian's Close, says the school is 'let down by how some children look'.

The school is also working on other initiatives to raise the bar across the board at the primary school, from the pupils' manners to showing respect to others.

Mr Stevens, who has only been at the helm for two weeks, said: "It is important how the children look."

"I think we have some fantastic children and it puts us in a better light if everyone dresses nicely. We are also working on a number of initiatives such as mutual respect and it all seems to be permeating throughout the school."

Mr Stevens is keen for pupils to be aware, that the minute they step outside their front doors on their way to school, they become a living advert for the school.

He also added that the school is currently work-



SCHOOL RULES: new headteacher Nick Stevens is ringing in the changes. Ref:100023-3

ing on ways to secure funding for a link between two sections of the site.

He explained: "We are looking at funding options with the local authority to bring our plans to fruition."

Diary

Today (Thursday): Woodlands Park Village Centre, Pilates for Beginners, 9.30-10.30am. SMILE, 1-2.30pm.

Cox Green Community Centre, F.L.A.P after school club, 3-6pm. Weight Watchers, Lowbrook Primary School, The Fairway, Cox Green, 7pm.

Tomorrow (Friday): Woodlands Park Village Centre, SMILE, 10am; Aikido, 8-10pm.

Cox Green Community Centre, Jo Jingles, 10-11am. Judo, 6.30-7.30pm.

Saturday: Woodlands Park Village Centre, Weight Watchers, 8.45-9.45am.

Waltham Place Farm, Seasonal walk, 2-4pm.

Sunday: Cox Green Community Centre, Family church service 10-11am. Maidenhead Deaf Church, 3pm.

Church of the Good Shepherd,

Harvest Supper and Skittles Evening, 7pm.

Woodlands Park Village Centre, Karate, 10.30am-12.30pm. Kick Boxing, 3-4pm.

Monday: Woodlands Park Village Centre, Mobile Library, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm. SMILE, 1-3pm.

Tuesday: Cox Green Community Centre, Luncheon Club, 1-2.30pm. Get Together Club, 2.30-4.30pm.

The Art and Practice of Pinhole Photography by Derek Reay, 7.45pm.

Woodlands Park Village Centre, Louise's Aerobics, 9.30-10.30am. Cookery & Crafts, 10-11.30am.

Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council meeting, Neville Hall, 7.30pm.

Wednesday: Cox Green Community Centre, Baby and Toddler group, 1.30-3pm. Line dancing, 2-3pm.

Woodlands Park Village Centre, Cox Green Girl Guides, 7-9pm.



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Work in progress

THE relocation of Holyport Manor School to Cox Green is gathering pace with work on the new school set to start in early 2009.

The development has made progress in the past few months since it's approval by councillors at a Royal Borough development control panel meeting on June 5.

An access road is being built and improvements have been made to the intended site off Cannon Lane. Road improvements include pruning of the nearby trees, and drainage and utility work has been carried out in the last month by contractors.

A Royal Borough spokesman said the project is on schedule.

Sowing the seeds to a good future harvest in church

CHURCH-GOERS in Cox Green will be in full voice on Sunday as the church holds a harvest celebration.

The Church of the Good Shepherd at Cox Green Community Centre is encouraging old and new members to come along to the popular event.

This Sunday sees 'Back to Church Sunday' taking place across the Thames Valley, which the church is heavily involved in.

Those attending will be able to enjoy homemade cakes, tea, coffee and socialise with other parishioners after the celebratory service.

Vicar of The Church of the Good Shepherd, the Reverend Joan Hicks, said: "Back to Church Sunday is a great way of saying, 'We miss you.' So even if you don't receive an invitation, please feel free to come along and join our Harvest celebrations."

She added: "We look forward to welcoming people back and all newcomers on the day."

The harvest celebration will start at 10am in Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane and will be followed at 6pm by a Harvest Songs of Praise.

Breaking news

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Divided opinion over homes plan

AN APPLICATION to build five detached houses in Waltham St Lawrence has been thrown out by the Royal Borough.

The council's development control panel made the decision on September 17 at a meeting in the town hall.

Housing developer Millgate Homes was proposing to build five homes with five bedrooms

and garages at the site in Woods Yard, West End.

However, parish councillors were supportive of the plan and said it would have reduced the traffic in the village and made the area quieter.

Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council planning leader Clive Scott-Hopkins said: "The view is that it would be better to have a modest

residential estate."

And he added: "The general agreement in the village is that it would have been a positive development because of the traffic considerations."

Woods Yard currently consists of business units offering household items and a range of other things, which the home developer would have demolished.