



**Sedgley's**

**Diamond 60**

*Sixty years, sixty people,  
sixty stories about village life  
since 1952.*

## Working at Beacon Court

**By Suki Virk**

I'm a support worker working with visually impaired residents at the Beacon Centre for the Blind. I started at the old centre eight years ago. Then my work involved home visiting, but since the centre was rebuilt two years ago it's mainly been residential care on site. In a typical day I might escort residents to doctors' appointments, do shopping or post their letters - literally anything they may need help with. Most of my clients are in their 70s and 80s, and some in their 90s; together with two colleagues I look after 30 clients. In total there are 71 residential apartments.

Beacon Court is run in partnership with Bromford Housing, and has a restaurant, cafe-bar, hairdressers, kiosk shop and a sensory garden. Beacon Centre itself has lots of activities, as well as services such as the 'talking newspaper'. As well as the centre in Sedgley, we operate a community outreach service and run a chain of charity shops.

On 2nd June 2010 we had a very exciting event- the official opening of our new centre by HRH the Princess Royal. Her Royal Highness visited every department and chatted with many of our residents and service users- in fact she spent so much time with us that she overstayed her allotted time!

We're particularly pleased that our newer services and facilities are now fully established and delivering positive results for our service users. The gym and recreation room are improving the health and fitness of our residents and service users; the IT training suite is giving people opportunities to use computers for vocational and non-vocational purposes and Beacon4Work is significantly improving clients' opportunities to gain employment. Our Extracare and Supporting People services are enabling residents to live independent and comfortable lives.



**HRH Princess Anne opens the newly rebuilt Beacon Centre for the Blind in 2010.**



**Exterior of the Beacon Centre.**



**Beacon Court residential housing.**