



A taste of Village life... in Stepney

The Learning Village project is due for completion in 2009. It includes a sports hall, library and Village Club as part of an extended school provision for the community.

WWW.BISHOP.TOWERHAMLETS.SCH.UK

Youth services

“Out-of-hours Village Club activities are accessible to the borough’s youth service.”

STEVE NUGENT, SEE BELOW

Sport

Sports, theatre, dance for everyone

BY JEAN HINDRY

A STEPNEY school celebrated the latest phase of its £40 million scheme to turn the campus into a Learning Village for its pupils and the community.

Local residents joined pupils, parents and staff to launch the sports hall, theatre and dance spaces at Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate School last Monday, January 21.

The new facilities form part of the secondary school’s out-of-hours Village Club and Youth Services.

The Village Club gives youngsters aged five to 19 an opportunity to take part in a wide range of sports and performing arts.

At the opening, visitors saw displays of badminton, Indian, Irish and street dancing, disability sports,



Table tennis is one of the many activities on offer in the new facilities

drama, gymnastics, film making, taekwondo, volleyball and football

The latest phase also saw the development of a youth

facility on the nearby Martineau Estate.

As well as facilities for the young, it is hoped that the Village Club will become a

family attraction to parents and carers, other adults and community groups.

Steve Nugent, assistant director with responsibility for community education, said: “Essentially, we are putting on out-of-hours Village Club activities which are accessible to the borough’s youth service.”

The development, due to be finished in 2009, is a joint venture between Tower Hamlets Council, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Catholic Church’s Westminster Diocese.



Tower Hamlets Schools and Gymnastics Dance Display team



Parent Jean O’Neill tries her hand at table tennis



Shujahat Fraz in action last week



Rocco’s Raiders Basketball Club tried out the new sports facilities at Bishop Challoner