

## B&Q 'you can do it' awards

DIY retailer B&Q is inviting community groups to apply for £5,000 to pay for renovations work at sports venues, community halls and similar neighbourhood centres. The company, which has two sites in Coventry, is offering £100,000 in products to 20 organisations across the UK. Sports Clubs whose facilities are worse for wear or any community who want to pool their resources to give a local project a facelift can apply to the scheme. Details and an application form are available on [www.diy.com/awards](http://www.diy.com/awards) or by calling 0845 300 1001. The closing date for applications is Friday, March 17.

## Dawn does the business for Cov

**DAWN** Grinham, founder of Coventry's Quadrant Business Centre has fought off stiff competition from more than 650 candidates to win the National Business Centre of the Year Award. The annual Business Centre Association (BCA) awards recognise excellence in customer service. Dawn said: "This is the biggest business achievement of my life - but I couldn't have pulled it off alone, this is a team award. It's wonderful that our shared passion for excellence has been highlighted in this way."

The Quadrant Business Centre in Warwick Row opened eight years ago. "Our services even extend to passing business people, who - despite not being tenants - can drop in and send a fax or e-mail via our reception." added Dawn.

## Free for you!

ORGANISING school events is a difficult enough task, and so is the work involved in getting the publicity you need to make your event a success. The Council has now got a new page on its website listing all schools events, and putting information on it is absolutely free. Your event will also be sent to all the local newspapers and radio as part of its weekly 'What's on' listing service. Send your school event details to: [cultureandleisure@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:cultureandleisure@coventry.gov.uk).

# Branching out in Swanspool makeover

**QUESTION** - When is a tree not a tree?

**ANSWER** - When it's an iron tree supporting six beautiful hanging baskets.

**NEW** iron trees and hanging baskets are part of a bigger plan to improve and extend the Swanswell pool area and which build on improvements that helped the city to win a Silver Gilt Medal in the Britain in Bloom Competition.

Faye Cockayne, Swanswell Community Engagement Officer, took a closer look at the trees and said: "The Swanswell Pool is an urban oasis in the heart of the city and it is much loved by local people, many of whom enjoy a stroll through it."

Faye is a new member of a team of council officers working to improve the long-term future of the Swanswell area. Faye added: "I'll be making sure that local people have a chance to have their say about the proposals for Swanswell and have a real chance to get involved and help improve the area."

Dorothy Senior, who lives locally, is enthusiastic about the changes to the Pool. She added: "Seeing

● Faye Cockayne shows off the new hanging baskets 'tree' at Swanswell pool.

the beautiful hanging baskets really cheers me up. They look lovely and they have certainly made a difference to the area.

"I have noticed that the whole pool area has been gradually getting better and better and it's nice to see so many families enjoying it."



The trees and hanging baskets have been paid for with money from the Liveability Fund. The year park railings and benches were repainted and the large area back to improve safety. Improvements could include creating a new wetland area for wildlife and improving the island in the middle of



## City workers top West Mids pay league

**COVENTRY** workers are top of the West Midlands pay league.

Coventry's average hourly wage rate is £13.55 per hour. It's £2 more than the West Midlands as a whole and £1.54 higher than in Birmingham.

The Office of National Statistics, survey reported that the average pay rate per hour for the whole country is £12.75

and the highest is in the City of London is £28.20.

The report placed Coventry in the top 10 per cent of areas.

Councillor Dave Arrowsmith is Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration and Regional planning.

He said: "This is good news for the city and the people who work here and it shows that the

city is well regarded by investors who are looking for skilled people and who are prepared to pay top wages."

"The city is on a firm economic footing and this helps us to continue to attract the right sort of companies."