

## Sandwell Befriending service

I first visited Sandwell voluntary centre 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 where Jean Taylor referred me to three voluntary organisations two of which due to the weather did not take place. The third was Sandwell Befriending service after being interviewed and CRB checked I was able to work one to one with a ex- Irish guard who is suffering with post traumatic stress.

## Olympic Torch.

When I received a phone call from Jean Taylor at the end of April 2012 saying that she had just received a request from Sandwell Council looking for volunteers to steward for the Oldbury leg of the Olympic Torch on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and could she referred me, I eagerly said yes as I had already arranged to see the Olympic Torch on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in Saltash Cornwall. On the day all the volunteers met at Sandwell council house and were then assigned posts along the torch route. Along with two other volunteers I was positioned at the junction of Bromford road and Cornwallis road. This was the last kissing point for the Olympic Torch within Oldbury before going on to West Bromwich. As there were not many spectators I was able to watch the Olympic Torch being carried by Fencing hopeful Elisabeth Powell number 143 and past to fundraiser Jan Malatesta number 144. Also I was able to get some fantastic photographs.

I would like to thank Jean Taylor and all the staff at Sandwell voluntary centre also Sandwell Council for a day that will stay with me for many years

