



PLAYTIME: Youngsters Mollie Waddington and Bethany Thorpe get a helping hand from Frances Hamer at the Captains Clough playgroup

Room for improvement as community group grows

A GROUP trying to build a community centre in a part of Bolton they claim gets forgotten urgently wants a cash helping hand.

The Captains Clough Community Club was formed to provide much-needed activities and facilities for children, families and the elderly in the area sandwiched between Halliwell and Johnson Fold.

The group have applied for help to the Make It Happen community awards — a joint initiative between the Bolton Evening News and specialist accident health insurance experts Combined Insurance to give away £10,000 to local voluntary groups.

Bolton Council gave the group a room in a dilapidated building for a peppercorn rent, but the

MAKE IT HAPPEN
with the
Bolton Evening News
£10,000
giveaway



building needed complete refurbishment including new toilets, fitted kitchen, office area, play space and much more before they could use it.

After applying for grants, asking for donations and

arranging fund-raising events, a community room emerged. Now, organisers are trying to improve facilities to help local residents of all ages.

Chairman Frances Hamer said: "We are concerned that local children do not have any play opportunities, no organised activities, no youth clubs, no holiday play schemes and nowhere to meet up with their friends and interact with their peers.

"As a result, they are bored and getting into trouble. We hope to get the children involved in the community, organise sports and play activities, clean-ups, environmental work in the Captains Club Nature area, and encourage them to help local elderly people with things like gardening and shopping."

Frances has qualified in playwork to enable her to work with the children, and many of the group's volunteers are to be trained as well.

"The many elderly people who live locally need a warm, welcoming place where they can go for a cuppa and a chat, maybe ask for help or advice on issues like housing, health and benefits."

Applications for the Make It Happen awards close next Friday, with a presentation night for the lucky winners next month. To apply, write with details of your group and how you would use an award to: **MAKE IT HAPPEN** Community Awards, Angela Kelly, Features Dept, Bolton Evening News, Churchgate, Bolton BL1 1DE, or email akelly@boltoneveningnews.co.uk