

Birchfield Big Local News

Spring/Summer 2024

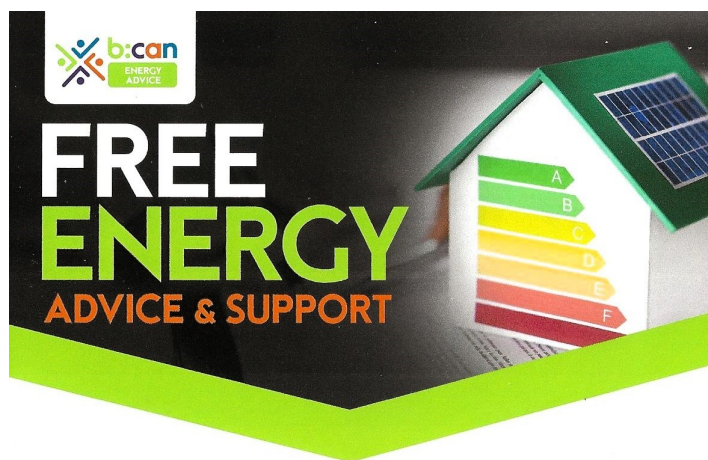
Bringing together the gifts, passions, aspirations, skills and energy of local people to make Birchfield an even better place to live and work

From Birchfield Big Local to Birchfield Community Association

As the Big Local programme in Birchfield comes to an end this June, a new charity – Birchfield Community Association – is “picking up the baton” with the aim of creating a legacy. The charity will continue to be based at Wilton Road United Reformed Church and will continue some of the Big Local activities and develop new ones over time in response to local priorities and needs. A priority will be the running of a community hub at Wilton Road offering a range of activities (See next page for details).

Together with other local organisations the charity is providing advice and support on energy saving

in the home to help residents keep warm and well at home and reduce household costs. An energy adviser – Sajda Currah – has just started as part of the B:CAN – Energy partnership and is available to provide in-depth advice on Wednesdays and Fridays – see article below.



Free Energy Advice

Hello, I am Sajda the new Energy Adviser and I'm here to help.



How?

- Do you need help with understanding your gas and electric bills?
- Do you want ideas on how to keep your home warmer?
- Are you thinking about changing your electricity or gas supplier?
- Are you in debt because of increased bills?
- Ideas on how to save energy and reduce fuel consumption
- Looking at grants and your eligibility

When?

Drop-in on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 and 3.30 for general advice. If a home visit or more in-depth support is needed, you can make an appointment with me.

As part of the B:CAN—Energy partnership we have joined together with other local organisations, Witton Lodge, Nishkam, New Hope Global and Age Concern, to provide support and advice to help you save energy and money.

I look forward to meeting you and seeing how we can make your home and family warmer; find ways of saving you money; and make a difference for future generations by doing our bit to save the planet.

Where?

At the United Reformed Church,
13 Wilton Road, Handsworth
B20 3RX

Birchfield Community Hub

The community hub aims to be a warm and welcoming space that is open and accessible to all in the community; run and managed by local people for the benefit of local people. The Birchfield Hub is based at Wilton Road United Reformed Church and is open 10am to 4pm on Monday to Friday. There is a timetable of regular activities which at present include:

Monday – Adult disability creative session with ATHAC CIC (10am—1pm). Autism and Disability Drop-in Advice and Guidance (monthly) with the Disability Resource Centre (10am—12noon)

Tuesday – Basic IT skills class with Birmingham Adult Education Services 12.30—2.30pm

Wednesday – Warm Hub with Benefits advice provided by BCC Adult Social Care (every fortnight 10am—12noon) & Seniors' Dominoes Group 1.30—4.00pm

Friday – Warm Hub with Job Club provided by Marvet @ New Beginnings CIC 10am—4.00pm

The hub is registered as a Warm Welcome space, one of a network of spaces across the city where people can come to take part in activities, access services and get practical advice and support, as well as meet members of their community.

We are always looking for volunteers to help run activities as well as start new ones that help meet the needs and priorities of Birchfield residents. Please contact us to find out more about the volunteering opportunities with the new charity.



Job Shop

The Job Shop runs **every Friday from 10am to 4pm**. Provided by New Beginnings Creative CIC in partnership with Birchfield Big Local, this service offers guidance and support for those wishing to improve their confidence and self-belief within their job searching and career aspirations.

It includes help with creating and updating your CV; job search activities; completing applications and access to education, employment, training, and enterprise opportunities.

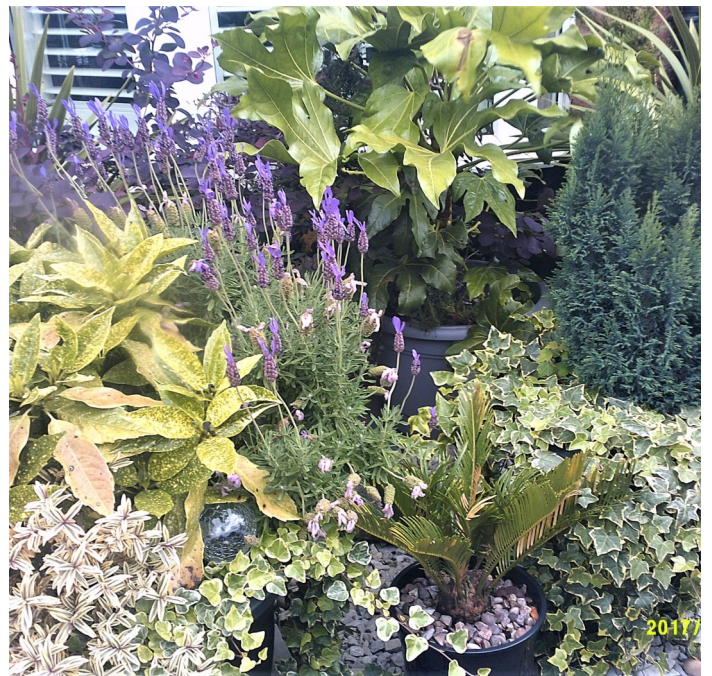
If you have any queries or would like to book an appointment, **please call Marvet at New Beginnings Creative CIC on 07566 826346 or contact Birchfield Big Local on 07421 994752**



Front Garden Competition

Could your front garden help Birchfield bloom? This summer Birchfield Residents Action Group (BRAG) will once again hold its Bloom in Birchfield front garden competition. Winners will receive a £20 voucher and rosette. Whether it's pots and hanging baskets, wildflowers, veg and herbs or attractive foliage, your garden can help make Birchfield a place residents can be proud of.

To nominate your own or a neighbour's garden please email andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org or call/text 07421 994 752 by 31st May. Gardens will be visited during June and the results announced soon afterwards.



Community Network Support Team

Part of Birmingham City Council's Adult Social Care Services, the team supports citizens aged 18 and above, of all backgrounds, who may be facing a variety of challenging life situations.

Elizabeth Lynam is the Community Network Support Officer (CNSO) for Perry Barr constituency and has a drop-in surgery every other Wednesday from 10am till midday at Wilton Road United Reformed Church, 13 Wilton Road B20 3RX.

The next surgery will be on Wednesday 1st May. Elizabeth can provide advice, information, support, and signposting to residents who do not know where to turn in relation to an issue or situation they may have. The service is free and totally confidential. The aim is to link people to the best service that can help. For example, this may be for a benefit assessment or query, help with form filling, a housing issue or help for those experiencing isolation.

If you are unable to attend the surgery, Elizabeth can be contacted on 07597 012 598 or via email at – Elizabeth.lynam@birmingham.gov.uk

How to contact Birchfield Big Local

Andrew Simons, Community Development Worker– Mobile: 07421 994752 Email: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Sajda Currah, Energy Adviser—Mobile: 07864 924582 Email: sajda@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Office: c/o United Reformed Church, 13 Wilton Road, Birchfield, Birmingham B20 3RX

Website: www.birchfieldbiglocal.org Twitter: @BirchfieldBigL Facebook: www.facebook.com/birchfieldbiglocal

'ATHAC Creative Artists' Exhibition

An exhibition featuring the work of five Handsworth based young people Mehar Khan, Renée Parkes, Ryan Choon, Safina Hector and Arjan Singh is on show at Wilton Road URC. The group is part of 'ATHAC Creative Artists' who have been meeting every week and with the support of artist facilitators and mentors have been developing their creative skills. The exhibition includes work in a variety of media such as Painting, Drawing, Digital Work, Photography and Sculpture. The work of the group has been exhibited at a variety of venues across the city including The Gap Gallery and Symphony Hall. **Do come and view their Art exhibition.**



Councillor Hussain—Advice surgeries

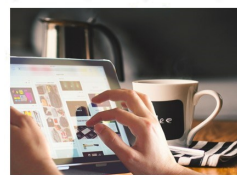
1st Wednesday of the month (except August),
6.00—7.00pm

4th Wednesday of the month (except August),
6.00—7.00pm

United Reformed Church, 13 Wilton Road, Birchfield
B20 3RX

No appointment necessary.

Big Local Community Learning 2024



Survival Digital Learning
Understand and Learn
Basic iPad/Tablet/
Laptop Skills



Every Tuesday starting:
16th April 2024



United Reformed Church
13 Wilton Rd,
Handsworth B20 3RX



12.30 - 2.30pm

FREE sessions in partnership with Birmingham Adult Education Service that aim to equip adults with basic knowledge and skills on how to use iPads/Tablets/Laptops safely, together with helping to improve English speaking skills.

iPads/Laptops will be provided to use and share during the sessions. Places are limited – To book your place and find out more please contact Andrew on 07421 994752 or email andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org