



Award winners and panel members at Grosvenor Road Studios

Birchfield Enterprise Awards

Birchfield Big Local with our partners UnLtd are offering awards and support for social entrepreneurs with great ideas in the Birchfield Big Local area. We are looking for individuals with new solutions and innovative approaches to improving the quality of life for local residents. These ventures will make some money and generate social benefit for the area. To qualify applicants have to live, work or volunteer in the Birchfield Big Local area or their venture has to bring significant social benefits to local residents.

The first round of the awards was announced in December 2014 and the applicants invited to pitch their ideas to a panel on 5th February at Grosvenor Road Studios. The panel included Justice Williams MBE (Birmingham City Council), Paul Squires (UnLtd) and Dorrette Hanson (BBL Partnership). The panel were very impressed with all three ventures and awarded two Do It awards and one Try It award. This doubles the number of Star People Award winners in the Birchfield Big Local area. There will be a second round of awards in late spring 2015. If you would like to find out more about the awards and the support available through UnLtd and the Birchfield Venture Hub, **please contact 0121 448 5594 / 07429 838 699 or email: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org**



BBL is one of 12 Big Local areas across England selected to receive additional support from UnLtd.

UnLtd is the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK and offers the largest such network in the world. UnLtd resources hundreds of individuals each year through its core Awards programme.

UnLtd operates a unique model by investing directly in individuals and offering a complete package of resources; from Awards of funding, to ongoing advice, networking and practical support.

Thanks to our new volunteers!

Birchfield Big Local would like to thank our volunteers who have given up their time to help and support us. Mehnaz, Salema, Aysha, Aretha and Tazevinder have all joined us as volunteers in various roles and have made a real difference to Birchfield Big Local with their enthusiasm, commitment and ideas. We hope that this is just the start and more keen volunteers will get on board to help us develop Birchfield Big Local in the future!

Building Birchfield

Birchfield Big Local would like to create a collection of photographs and stories about the area that can be shared through the website and newsletter. Do you have any photographs or stories that you would like to share? For example do you have any photographs of the tower blocks that used to be on the Birchfield Road?

Birchfield has a fascinating history. Here are just a few of Birchfield's claims to fame.

Romans marched past Birchfield on Icknield or Ryknild Street between the forts at Metchley and Wall near Lichfield. A first century Roman pottery kiln was discovered in the garden at 224 Wellington Road.

Birchfield was home to George Frederick Muntz, leading industrialist, political reformer and one of Birmingham's first MPs

Birchfield was the original home of Aston Villa Football Club, formed in 1874 and a founder member of the Football League in 1888.

Gave its name to Birchfield Harriers – founded in 1877 and the UK's premier athletics club in the Midlands.

The location of Grosvenor Road Studios, which after 'Abbey Road' in London (1931) is one of the UK's oldest operational recording studios. Formerly the Hollick and Taylor Studios created in 1945, it is now home to the leading A Cappella group, Black Voices.



Birmingham City Council

Welfare Benefits Advice & Job Club at Grosvenor Road

Play Streets Pilot

Young People's Event on Social Action & Leadership

Boat House Café Events

Volunteers Week—1st to 7th June

Please see pages 3 & 4 for details

For more information: Please contact Andrew or Suki at Birchfield Big Local on 0121 448 5594 or email: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org



Dr Rhonda Lee—BBL Chair

A Warm Welcome to You and all our BBL residents! We are pleased to say that BBL has entered its second year and are thrilled about the achievements that have made in its first year. We've started to deliver a range of projects including services for children with disabilities and their families/ carers, a community acupuncture clinic, improving the BBL environment, an allotment project for locals and those experiencing isolation or mental health issues, employment and other training, and a social enterprise hub to promote business and entrepreneurship. We also held a Family Fun Day and a Youth event in the spring and summer of 2014. Both were very well attended and greatly welcomed.

Like many other Big Local areas, there have been small set-backs where some projects were delayed or faced difficulties, but we are committed to changing this in 2015.

Amongst the many targets for 2015, we would like to expand the BBL partnership to become even more representative of the area. In particular I would like to invite local residents and representatives of local groups to join the partnership, so that we have an opportunity to learn from your expe-

riences and with your help shape our decisions and plans for 2015 and the future. In this way we can collectively ensure that the BBL continues to work towards the benefit of the area and its residents. **To join the partnership please see the website: www.birchfieldbiglocal.org or contact 0121 448 5594 / 07429 838 699.**

We look forward to meeting and working with you in 2015.

Looking for local unsung heroes

Are you a volunteer? Do you know someone who gives up their time to volunteer in the community? Does someone give their time to help you/ a neighbour/ a friend? We would like to hear from you! We want to celebrate all local volunteers during Volunteers Week and want to invite people to nominate someone (or themselves). We will be having an awards ceremony to recognise the achievements and contribution of people who volunteer in the Birchfield Big Local area. **Call Suki or Andrew on 0121 448 5594 for more details or email: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org**

Launch of Birchfield in Bloom
Saturday 18th April, 1- 4pm, at the
Allotment Pavilion, Livingstone
Road Community Allotments.



Dorrette Hanson—Editor

What have I been up to lately...

I've enjoyed sitting yet again on the other side of the table - this time on the panel listening to the applicants to the Birchfield Enterprise Awards making their pitches for funding for their projects. There really are some inspiring ideas coming forward and I hope this will encourage others to take full advantage of the opportunities Birchfield Big Local is bringing to the community. Once again this has been a blessed privilege.

I was surprised— having not come along Wellington Rd for some 6 months or more—to see the progress on the building of the new homes. Along the Birchfield Road, the houses there too are almost complete. It's good to see solar panels being used to generate electricity. Eco friendly homes are a must to enable progress to keep going.

Please don't forget to send in articles you would like to see featured in the next newsletters, after all it is a resident-led newsletter.

Regards
Dorrette

Make a difference in 2015 to you and your community!

Volunteering Opportunities at Birchfield Big Local

Walk Leader Volunteer

To organise walks in local green spaces for the community in Birchfield. Get people out into the great outdoors to stay active and healthy. The walks are also a great way to meet people and socialise. Full training and support will be given to the volunteer.

Newsletter/ Publicity Design Volunteer

Enjoy reading our newsletter? Would you like to help collate information, design the layout and write articles? Can you design posters/ flyers? Then contact us – we will provide volunteers with appropriate training and support in this exciting and varied role.

Newsletter/ Publicity Delivery Volunteers

Get out and about in your community, get fit and provide the local community a service at the same time by delivering our newsletter. You can deliver in your street only; you can be a group of friends who volunteer together. Times are flexible and can fit around you.

Administrative/ Secretarial Volunteer

BRAG is a friendly, small, environmental, community organisation that promotes the benefits of green living. BRAG want a volunteer to carry out various secretarial /administrative tasks for them. Ideal for anyone looking to gain office/ administrative experience.

Volunteer Benefits Advisor x 2

To provide advice on welfare benefits, great opportunity for anyone who wants to gain experience in advice and casework.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities contact Andrew or Suki at Birchfield Big Local on 0121 448 5594 or email suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org

If you want to sign up to email updates of volunteer opportunities/ community events/ training or other information about the local area send an email titled 'email update list' to info@birchfieldbiglocal.org



Birchfield Children's Centre

School Readiness

Have you heard of early education entitlement (EEE) funding? Is your child accessing free early play and learning? Why not pop into Birchfield Children's Centre where staff can help you to understand the importance of getting your child ready for school and give advice on EEE funding.

The Children Centre staff support parents in helping their children to get ready for school by encouraging the development of their social, emotional, physical and behavioural skills. Some children may have individual needs and need that extra support and they too will be supported through an early help package to address anything that may arise.

We will be running transition workshops from April 2015. For more information and to add your name to the list please contact the Early Years Outreach Team at Birchfield Children's Centre (0121 675 0967).

We also provide a range of activities including stay & plays, crèches and workshops that encourage children to interact, share and play with their peers and adults. Children also become more confident and improve their vocabulary and language to express their needs and feelings.

Advice and Advocacy at Birchfield Children's Centre

Advice and Advocacy is provided by Freshwinds at Birchfield Children's Centre. We help to improve families' financial situation and combat poverty. Our services include checking welfare benefit and tax credit entitlements for families and helping them claim those benefits and tax credits. We also assist families with low income or no income to apply for Local Welfare Provision and Discretionary Housing Payments to address immediate and short term needs. In addition to welfare benefits we address issues involving debt which can include dealing with bailiff and debt recovery agents.

If you have a child under 5yrs or have a child with additional needs, **please contact Birchfield Children's Centre (0121 675 0967) to book an appointment.**

Welfare Benefits Advice at Grosvenor Road Studios

Thanks to support from Birmingham Community Advice Service, we are able to offer welfare benefits advice sessions at Grosvenor Road Studios. From 3rd March the sessions will be on Tuesday mornings. Birmingham Community Advice Service offers a free, impartial and confidential advice and advocacy service to people seeking support on employment, welfare benefits, housing, and debt issues. The advice service also offers the opportunity for volunteers to gain valuable training and experience in providing information, advice and guidance alongside experienced case workers.

If you would like advice on welfare benefits, tax or pension credits and whether you are receiving all that you are entitled to, please come along on Tuesdays (from 3rd March) between 9.30am and 12.30pm. If you prefer, you can ring to book a time on 0121 448 5594.

If you are interested in gaining volunteer experience in providing information, advice and guidance please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Suki Sohi, on the same number.

Big Local Job Club

A new job club is to be launched starting Tuesday 10th March at Grosvenor Road Studios. The job club will run every Tuesday 9.30am till 12.30pm and will offer a range of advice and support including job search, CV writing, interview skills and being your best in the work place. To find out more please come along any time between 9.30am —12.30pm on Tuesday 10th March.

Play Streets comes to Birchfield

Remember when you were growing up and used to play in the street? Play Streets is a national campaign to reclaim the streets for children's play. Bristol was one of the first cities to promote the idea. A group of parents organised a playing out session in Greville Road, Bristol on International Children's Day—June 1st 2009—with the aim of enabling free independent outdoor play. The idea has since spread to other towns and cities and the Bristol parents have since formed Playing Out to help support such initiatives. In 2013 three streets in Kings Heath, Birmingham, took part on National Play Day—7th August.

We are looking to run a Play Streets pilot on Saturday 13th June on Haughton Road, Birchfield. The road was suggested to us by several residents as it is a cul-de-sac and is where Birchfield Children's Centre is located. We have a volunteer Play Streets Coordinator, Salema Bibi and would like to invite interested residents to a meeting at the Children's Centre at 10.00am on Wednesday 11th March. If successful we would like to repeat the event on National Play Day 2015 and would welcome suggestions for other streets in the Big Local area that might be suitable locations. **For more details please contact Salema—Tel: 0121 448 5594 email: salema@birchfieldbiglocal.org**

Play Streets Kings Heath 2014



Wheellie Bin Roadshows

Find out about the new ways of collecting rubbish and recycling coming soon to Birchfield. See the new wheellie bins and ask any questions.

Thursday 12th March
10am – 2pm
at Asda, Perry Barr
Saturday 14th March
10am – 2pm
at One Stop Shopping Centre,
Perry Barr
Monday 23rd March
10am – 2pm
at Asda, Perry Barr

Events Calendar

Welfare Benefits Advice

Every Tuesday (from 3rd March), 9:30am till 12:30pm, at Grosvenor Road Studios with qualified welfare rights adviser from Birmingham Community Advice Service.

Job Club

Tuesday 10th March, 9.30am – 12:30pm, new job club starting at Grosvenor Road Studios, 16 Grosvenor Road B20 3NP. If you are looking for help in finding work, please drop in.

Play Streets

Wednesday 11th March, 10.00 – 11.00am – Meeting at Birchfield Children's Centre for local residents to discuss plans for Play Streets pilot on Haughton Road.

Youth Event with UpRising – Social Action & Leadership

Saturday 14th March, 10.00 – 4.00pm, at Grosvenor Road Studios, 16 Grosvenor Road, Birchfield B20 3NP
Age 15–24 years and interested in making a difference within your community, then please come along.

Boat House Cafe Opening

Saturday 4th April – Event to celebrate the spring re-opening of the Boat House café in Handsworth Park. Further events to follow!

Hope Community Acupuncture Health Clinic

A low-cost, multi-bed clinic set up with the aim of supporting local residents with chronic illness.

Every Thursday 9.30am till 1.30pm at the United Reform Church, 13 Wilton Road B20 3RX. Contact Dr Rhonda Lee on 07810024687

Talk on 'Enjoying Health' & Introductory Yoga Session

Tuesday 14th April, 4–6pm, at United Reform Church, 13 Wilton Rd B20 3RX. Dr Sukhdev Singh & Dr Rhonda Lee will be exploring how we can maximise our health, both physical and mental. This will be followed by an introductory taster session to yoga and breathing techniques to aid health promotion. To register for this free event please contact Dr Rhonda Lee on 07810024687.

Spring Launch of Bloom in Birchfield 2015

This year's Bloom in Birchfield campaign will be launched on Saturday 18th April, 1–4pm, at the Allotment Pavilion, Livingstone Road Allotments (off Livingstone Road).

BRAG Allotment Project

Meets every Wednesday morning at Livingstone Community Allotments, Livingstone Road. Please contact Rob Hewitt for further details on 07528575344 or email: bragallotment@gmail.com

Volunteers' Week - 1st to 7th June 2015

Monday 1st June 2015

Birchfield Big Local will have an information stand at ASDA, One Stop Shopping Centre, Perry Barr. Come along, chat and find out what we are doing locally.

Tuesday 2nd June 2015

Open Volunteer Session at BRAG to 'clean up and green up' the streets around Livingstone Road Community Allotments, come and help us make a difference!

Wednesday 3rd June 2015

Volunteer Matchmaking Event introducing people wanting to volunteer to organisations that recruit volunteers from the local area, find your match!

Thursday 4th June 2015

Birchfield Heritage Trail, starting at Handsworth Park Boat House Cafe; join us on this fact filled walk and learn about Birchfield's famous and rich history.

Friday 5th June 2015

Volunteers Awards Ceremony: an event to recognise and reward the contribution of local volunteers who have made a real difference to the community.

For more information or to take part in any of the events, please contact: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org

How to contact Birchfield Big Local

Tel: 0121 448 5594 or Mobile: 07429 838 699

Email (General enquiries) : info@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Community Development Worker:

andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Volunteer Co-ordinator: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Website: www.birchfieldbiglocal.org

Twitter: [@BirchfieldBigL](https://twitter.com/BirchfieldBigL)