

Birchfield Big Local News

Winter 2017 / Number 10

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



Listening to the choir from Wilton Road United Reformed Church

Christmas Choir Event

For the second year Birchfield Big Local held a seasonal choir event at Grosvenor Road Studios. Hosted by local resident and partnership member, Dorrette Hanson, the event included carols sung by the choir from the Wilton Road United Reformed Church, a performance by the Birchfield Big Local Writers Group, and songs from the Big Local Community Choir. We also had a performance of 'Silent Night' in Polish and 'Ave Maria' in Spanish from members of the English Conversation Class. Certificates were given out to members of the English and Basic IT Classes for completing their courses.

Well done Suki and all the volunteers for organising this annual event. We look forward to hosting an even bigger event next year. A video, filmed by Lee Martin, is available on YouTube - https://youtu.be/OofM86TQ4_A



Volunteer tutors and students from the Conversational English Class with their certificates

Seniors Christmas Meal

This year's Christmas meal was held at Grosvenor Road Studios on 21st December. Before the meal we played 'Family Fortunes' in the main studio organised by Nicola; dominoes in the green room; and entertainment provided by Milton Godfrey (technical support: Mikey Godfrey) in the main studio.

The Christmas meal was provided by Mehnaz (starters) and Noreen and Aretha (main course) and served in the foyer - with lots of furniture moving to create a suitable space.

Huge thanks to Suki and Dorrette for making sure everything happened when it should and to all the volunteers including: Mehnaz, Nasreen, Nicola, Seph, Mychial, Sharon and Sarah. Thanks also to Milton Godfrey for entertaining us so brilliantly once again and Mikey for providing the technical support. Thanks also to Claudette for taking photos and Mark, Tesco Community Champion, for providing gifts and a gift card. Above all, thanks to all the guests who came and made it such an enjoyable occasion.



Above: Waiting for the guests to arrive.

Right: Playing Family Fortunes before the Christmas meal.



Birchfield Big Local Youth Worker Post

Are you interested in working with young people in the Birchfield Big Local area – facilitating their personal, social and educational development and enabling them to develop their voice and make a difference in their local community? Then you may be interested in the part-time post of youth worker being offered by Birchfield Big Local. For further details please contact: Andrew Simons, Community Development Worker on 0121 448 5594 or 07421 994752; email: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org.

Big Local
Birchfield

How to contact Birchfield Big Local

Tel: 0121 448 5594 or Mobile: 07421 994752 (Andrew) - 07421 994753 (Suki)

Email (General enquiries): info@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Community Development Worker: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Volunteer Co-ordinator: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org

Website: www.birchfieldbiglocal.org

Twitter: @BirchfieldBigL

Address: Grosvenor Road Studios, 16 Grosvenor Road B20 3NP



Big Local Plan

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the survey about the priorities for Birchfield Big Local in the next two years. The results and comments helped inform the revised community plan for 2017 – 2018. The plan has been approved by Local Trust and a copy is available on the Birchfield Big Local website.

Birchfield Big Local Plan – Years 4 and 5



Big Local
Birchfield

Dorrette Hanson—Editor

Well what a grand end to such a prosperous year—Oh! I'm so excited for events and changes that will be happening in 2017. I do hope the festive season had treated you all well.

I think last year went out with such a big bang! The Christmas concert was so diverse and the elders meal was so well supported. Thanks again to the volunteers for putting in such hard work.

We currently have a vacancy for a Youth Worker and what a difference this should make to the future engagement and support to the youth in our area. Their contribution will be invaluable in delivering the plan to meet their needs.

So far this year I've attended Perry Barr District Disability Sub-group meeting run by Carol Reid addressing the under representation of disabled people in employment and trying to find new pathways to break barriers down. Please see Carol's article in this newsletter.

Dorrette

Joining the Big Local partnership

Birchfield Big Local is looking for people who could spare a few hours each month, to join the partnership.

The partnership guides the overall direction of Big Local, oversees the delivery of the Big Local plan, and reviews the plan and partnership to make sure they are working in the best way possible. A key role is to help build and strengthen relationships between individuals, groups and organisations in the Birchfield Big Local area. The partnership meets on average every six weeks for a couple of hours.

If that sounds like you, why not complete the online form – <http://birchfieldbiglocal.org/information-on-joining-the-partnership/> and we look forward to welcoming you to the partnership.

What you will get in return is the opportunity to attend training, gain skills and make new friends.

All of the priorities listed in the survey received significant support. The top three were:

- Support for activities promoting people's health and well-being;
- Encouraging more pride in the environment;
- Increasing access to outdoor play and quality play spaces.

Birchfield Big Local has made a start with all three. We recently gave a presentation at a national Big Local Learning Event on some of the health related projects that have been supported. BBL is planning to take a more strategic approach to health and wellbeing—pulling together the different strands and promoting them in a more coherent way. Perry Barr District has recently set up a Health and Well Being Board and BBL is represented on this.

Environment has consistently been raised as a priority, so it is no surprise that this is ranked number two. Some progress has been made through the Bloom in Birchfield campaign and the setting up of the Birchfield Environment Group in partnership with BRAG, Birmingham City Council, Midland Heart and others.

The provision of better outdoor play facilities for children has also been high on the agenda for Birchfield residents for some time. Previous attempts to find a suitable location failed. The refurbishment of the Secret Garden will help meet this need and the Community Assets survey we commissioned has also helped to identify other potential sites in the area. Local schools are also critical, and efforts will continue to be made to work with schools to unlock the full potential of school sites and buildings for wider community use.

Two other areas where the partnership is keen to make progress is in the development of a community hub or centre, and to have greater engagement with young people – to enable them to have more of a voice and make a difference to the issues that concern them in the neighbourhood. For this reason the partnership has decided to create the new post of part-time Youth Worker.

Perry Barr Disability Skills and Jobs Sub-group

Here Carol Reid (ATHAC CIC Director) describes the work of the sub-group in addressing the barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

The Perry Barr District Job and Skills Project Board was set up in 2015 to examine and put in place a series of short and long term action plans to address barriers to employment including: communication, engagement and co-ordination between education, jobs, skills, training and volunteering providers. I highlighted the unmet needs of those with disability and it was agreed that I would lead a task and finish group to explore the current provision within the locality for those who have barriers to employment.

The first meeting of the Disability Jobs and Skills Sub-Group was held in March 2016. The membership of the group continues to expand with over 15 organisations now attending the bi-monthly meetings. Many of the organisations are delivering local support services to those furthest from work. The work of the group is very action focused with a clear remit on making a difference through increased understanding of those with barriers to employment and what we need to improve support pathways.

The emerging findings of Sub group are:

- Some organisations were unaware of other organisations providing employment support services
- Job coaches felt training and a local directory of employment support services would be helpful
- Knowing which organisations can support people with mental health or learning disabilities
- Signposting people to the right service
- Time limited service to those seen in the job centre - what can we do provide better wraparound support?
- People with learning disability want to work and they need the right opportunities and support
- Poor information sharing
- The importance of Job clubs in providing personalised support

 <p>Spring to Life is a community interest company that promotes personal and community well-being in the West Midlands. They run a range of group activities and therapies to help with stress, anxiety and depression. They are currently offering a free service (subject to qualifying conditions) through the IAPT initiative—Improving Access to Psychological Therapies.</p> <p>For more information or to register please contact: 07856277028 or email: info@springtolife.org</p>	<h3>Sub-group Members</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance • Athac CIC • Bitá pathways • Disability Resource Centre • Care First • Department for Work and Pension • Prince's Trust • Midland Heart • Birchfield Big Local • Adult Education • National Careers Service • Birmingham Settlement • Platinum • Wilson Stuart Special School • Spring to Life • Prospects • South and City College Birmingham • Talent Match
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 <p>The Prince's Trust helps disadvantaged young people to get their lives on track. It supports 11 to 30 year-olds who are unemployed and those struggling at school and at</p>	<p>risk of exclusion. Many of the young people helped by The Trust are in or leaving care, facing issues such as homelessness or mental health problems, or have been in trouble with the law. The Trust's programmes give vulnerable young people the practical and financial support needed to stabilise their lives, helping develop self-esteem and skills for work.</p> <p>Website: www.princes-trust.org.uk</p>
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Public Speaking Competition 2016

Starting in 2013, Westminster Primary School has run an annual public speaking competition for junior and senior students. This year the grand final was on Tuesday 13th December and was well attended by parents. The children are encouraged to speak up and make eye contact with the audience as they deliver their speeches and stories. As in previous years the adjudicator was David Campbell, publisher of Everyman books, assisted by Bill Gurney, a former teacher from King Edward Boys School in Aston, who also tutors the students in public speaking in the weeks leading up to the competition. The standard of the entrants was excellent and David spent some time deliberating on the final outcome. The winner of the junior prize was Saiyedah Botule with runners up: Humaira Hussain, David Zlate, Daniyal Khan and Taalib Mahmood. The winner of the senior prize was Princess Small with runners up: Ammara Abideen, Haneen Dafalla, Tania Khan, Shahib Suleman and Sanaa Azhar.

Publisher David Campbell, re-launched the Everyman Library in 1991 with a mission to make great books available to all—that are high quality hardbacks at a price similar to a modern paperback. In the late 1990's David persuaded the Millennium Commission to support the idea of providing every state Secondary school in the UK with a library of 300 Everyman books. This was partly funded by private donations.



Above: David and Bill with the Junior entrants.

Right: David with Princess Small—winner in the Seniors category.

Below: David with Saiyedah Botule—winner in the Juniors category



David Campbell and Bill Gurney with the Senior entrants.



Volunteer Opportunities at Birchfield Big Local

Why Volunteer? Gain experience and skills; get references and training; give something back to your local community; work as part of a team; build your confidence and help others!

Stepping Forward Support Volunteers

We need volunteers to help run "Stepping Forward" on Tuesdays—12pm to 3pm. The session is aimed at people looking for employment, training, education and enterprise opportunities or people who want to build their confidence. Volunteers will provide one-to-one support for each person throughout the sessions and help them to work through a short program to complete an up-to-date CV and gain a certificate upon completion. Volunteers would gain hands on experience and knowledge of how to support people from different community backgrounds. Volunteers should like talking to people and building positive relationships to help people develop their skills and knowledge.

Seniors Club Volunteers

We run a Seniors Club every Wednesday, 12.30pm to 2.30pm at Grosvenor Road Studios. We need friendly enthusiastic volunteers to help run the club and engage with the seniors that attend. You can be any age, any background – just enjoy socialising with seniors and be patient and caring. We start with a light lunch, followed by games and other activities. If you have any ideas and skills that you can share with us that's great. You will be working as part of a team with other volunteers.

Women's Group Co-ordinator Volunteer

We need an enthusiastic and friendly volunteer to help organise our monthly Women's Group sessions. The sessions are for local women to get together and meet other local women, have some food and relax in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The sessions are also about women sharing information and knowledge with other women—providing networking and learning opportunities. We are looking for someone to develop new opportunities for women.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact Suki on 07421 994753 or email: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org

SPECIAL CLOTHES SALE

All items: £1 or less

Sunday, 30th April 2017

11.00am – 4.00pm

Venue:

Handsworth SDA Church Hall

98 Hutton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 3RD

All proceeds go to the following charity: www.adra.org.uk



Healthy food on sale



For a car boot or table space contact Lorraine on 07736 804299

NEWSTART HEALTH EXPO

4th Year

FREE

Health Screening

How would you know you are still as healthy as before?

Annual Event

Sunday, 30th April 2017

11.00am – 4.00pm

(Latest time to start health circuit: 3.15pm)

Venue: Handsworth SDA Church Hall

98 Hutton Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 3RD

HEALTH MOT – WHAT TO EXPECT

- * Blood glucose * Blood pressure
 - * Body percentage fat * Lung capacity
 - * Cardiovascular fitness * Neck massage
 - * Podiatrist * Food demos & samples
- "Come and discover your computer health age!"
- FREE Admission FREE Healthy Living Studies
FREE Books Food on sale ...and much more!

In preparation for National Vegetarian Week (15th–21st May)
FREE COOKERY DEMONSTRATIONS will be held on
Sunday 7th & 14th May 2017, 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Environment Group – Update

The group hosted an Environment Summit on Wednesday 16th November. The summit brought together residents, Birchfield Residents Action Group (BRAG), Midland Heart, Birmingham City Council and other local groups and organisations to look at how we can encourage people to take more pride in the environment and reduce waste, litter and fly tipping. Cabinet Member, Lisa Trickett, gave a key note address and this was followed by presentations and workshops. The day ended with a Question and

Answer session. An action plan is now being developed to bring people together and take forward some of the ideas from the summit.

Great British Spring Clean

Please come and join us on Sunday 19th March, 2 – 4pm, for a clean-up of Hutton Road and Church Vale. We will be meeting outside the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 98 Hutton Road, at 2pm. For further information please contact Andrew at Birchfield Big Local.



Events Calendar

If you are planning an event in the Birchfield area and would like to publicise it in the Events Calendar please contact us on 0121 448 5594 or email: info@birchfieldbiglocal.org. The newsletter is produced four times a year. Events can also be submitted at any time to the Events page on the Birchfield Big Local website: www.birchfieldbiglocal.org.

All classes and activities will take place at Grosvenor Road Studios, 16 Grosvenor Road B20 3NP unless otherwise stated. For further details about these events please phone or message Suki Sohi on 0121 448 5594 (Mobile: 07421 994753) or email: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org

MONDAY

- **Practical volunteer session** (10am—1pm) every week at the Secret Garden behind Grosvenor Avenue, Westminster Road and Hutton Road. Please come and help us develop and maintain this community garden and play area. Meet 10am at the Grosvenor Avenue entrance—off Grosvenor Road. The sessions are supported by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). For further details please contact Andrew on 0121 448 5594 (Mobile: 07421 994752) or email: andrew@birchfieldbiglocal.org
- **Basic IT Class**—Every Monday 10am—12noon. Place available call Suki on 07421 994753
- **Creative Community Clubs**—Writers Club for people who want to develop their writing skills, 1pm to 3pm Monday on 13th March, 10th April, 15th May, 12th June, 10th July. New members welcome.
- Do you have an interest (e.g. sewing, knitting, drawing etc.) you would like to share with other local people? Would you like to set up and run a Creative Community Club once a month? For more details call Suki on 07421 994753

TUESDAY

- **English Conversation Class**—Every Tuesday 10am—12noon. Places available call Suki on 07421 994753
- **Stepping Forward**—Every Tuesday 12noon—3pm. We have a team of friendly and supportive volunteers who can support you and help you develop your skills, knowledge and confidence. One to one support and help with CV's, Job searches and six week personal development plan. To book a place please call Suki on 07421 994753.
- **Easter Family Play Sessions**—Tuesday 11th April and 18th April 2017 1pm to 3pm for all local families with children 5 to 11 yrs old, variety of activities for parents and children. To register your interest please text 'Easter' to Suki on 07421 994753.

WEDNESDAY

- **English Conversation Class**—Every Wednesday 10am—12noon. Places available call Suki on 07421 994753
- **Basic IT Class**—Every Wednesday 10am—12noon. Place available call Suki on 07421 994753
- **Senior Citizens Club**—Every Wednesday 12.30—2.30pm. Aged 55+ please come along and socialise in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome. For more information call Suki on 07421 994753
- **BRAG Community Allotment Project**—Meets every Wednesday morning 10—12noon at Livingstone Community Allotment, off Livingstone Road, Birchfield.
- **Creative Outdoor Sessions for children age 4—12years**. Inclusive sessions held at the Secret Garden, entrance off Grosvenor Ave & Hutton Rd, Handsworth B20 3RB. Wednesday 1—3.30pm: 12th April & 19th April. Contact Carol Reid, ATHAC CIC, for further details on 07977 880132

THURSDAY

- **Women's Group Eat, Greet and Meet**—Every month on a Thursday 12—2.30pm. Next meetings: 9th March | 6th April | 4th May | 8th June | 6th July. Lunch, information and networking session for local women. For more details phone / message Suki on 07421 994753 or email: suki@birchfieldbiglocal.org
If you are a local woman who would like to share your skills and knowledge with the group by running a workshop please contact Suki on 07421 994753 to discuss.
- **Hope Community Acupuncture Clinic**—A low cost, multi-bed clinic set up with the aim of supporting local residents with chronic illness. Every Thursday at the United Reformed Church, 13 Wilton Road B20 3RX. Contact Dr Rhonda Lee on 07810 024687

SATURDAY

- **Creative sessions indoors and outdoors for children age 4—12 years**. Inclusive creative sessions aimed at children with disabilities or any child interested in art. Opportunities for youth volunteering. Saturday 1—3pm, 11th March | 8th April | 13th May | 10th June | 8th July | 5th August. Venue: Victoria Jubilee Allotments, Nursery Drive, Handsworth B20 2SW.
- **Creative Outdoor Sessions for children age 4—12 years**. Inclusive sessions held at Secret Garden, entrances off Grosvenor Avenue & Hutton Road, Handsworth. Saturday 1—3.30pm: 25th March | 15th April | 22nd April | 27th May | 24th June. Contact Carol Reid, ATHAC CIC for further details on 07977 880132.

Dancercise for Health and Fitness

Jacqueline James will be re-launching the Dancercise for health and fitness sessions starting Sunday 19th March, 3.30 – 4.30pm, at The Doug Ellis Sports Centre, 150 Wellhead Lane, Perry Barr. This will be the start of a six week programme alternating between a Sunday and a Saturday afternoon.

For more information, please contact Jacqueline on: 07969556427; email:

unikalegacy@outlook.com; or visit the website: www.unikalegacy.com



Birchfield Children's Centre

Monday
Stay & Play—9.30am - 11.00am
Tuesday
ESOL—9.15am - 11.15am
Stay & Play at Birchfield Library 10.30am - 11.30am
Baby Group (under 1) 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Wednesday
Bump & Me—10.00am - 11.30am
Stay & Play—9.30am - 11.00am
Thursday
Stay & Play at Westminster School (term time) 9.15am - 10.45am
Stay & Play at Sacred Heart School (term time) 9.30am - 11.00am

Stay & Play—1.00pm - 2.30pm
Friday
ESOL—9.30am - 11.30am

