



Birmingham
Community
Matters

newsletter

Hello friend

We're probably pushing at the limits of when it's still appropriate to say 'Happy New Year'! But this late wish is every bit as heartfelt:

Happy 2022.



We know the pandemic continues to challenge everyone, and we hope you're faring as well as can be.

We believe Covid-safe community activities will be vital to everyone's wellbeing through the remainder of winter. If you want to talk through your ideas or worries with someone who has experience of doing similar, the Birmingham Community Matters team is here with peer-to-peer support. It's what we do.

We know it changes often, so here's the current government advice on **[how to stay safe and prevent the spread of coronavirus](#)**.

We also recommend catching up with the Omicron briefing led last week by Dr Justin Varney – Birmingham's Director for Public Health – which was especially for the voluntary and community sector. You can **[watch 'Getting the sector prepared' here](#)**. In around 50 minutes, Justin helpfully covers the info we need right now to keep people safe, as well as considering the medium- and long-term future.

Read on for more ways we can help ...

Changing the way we send newsletters

We'll be moving to a new mailing platform soon. In the meantime, please forgive the PDF format to this newsletter. We haven't decided which platform to use yet, so if you have found one that works well for your organisation, we'd love to hear about it.



If you have trouble accessing the information below, do tell us. We'll find a way to reach you that is more suitable for you.

info@birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk

Remembering Carlene McKenzie

We are so sad about the loss of Carlene McKenzie, who died suddenly on 2 January.

We had worked with Carlene to support locally based community groups as part of her role of Coordinator and Support Worker for Ladywood NNS. Carlene held vast knowledge and insight into the benefit that community activity could bring to the lives of older people and the whole community.

Carlene was always tightly organised and professional, but with warmth and a great sense of humour. We feel lucky to have worked with and known her and will feel her absence sorely, like so many others.

We send love and strength to Carlene's, friends, family, work colleagues and those in the community who valued her so highly.

Celebrating Communities update

If you discovered BCM after attending a Celebrating Communities session – welcome.

As you will be aware, the deadline has passed for submitting Celebrating Communities grant applications. You will hear from Birmingham City Council about the status of your application in due course.

If the staff appraising the applications think your proposal shows promise but needs strengthening, you may be referred to us for further support. If that is the case, we look forward to working with you soon.

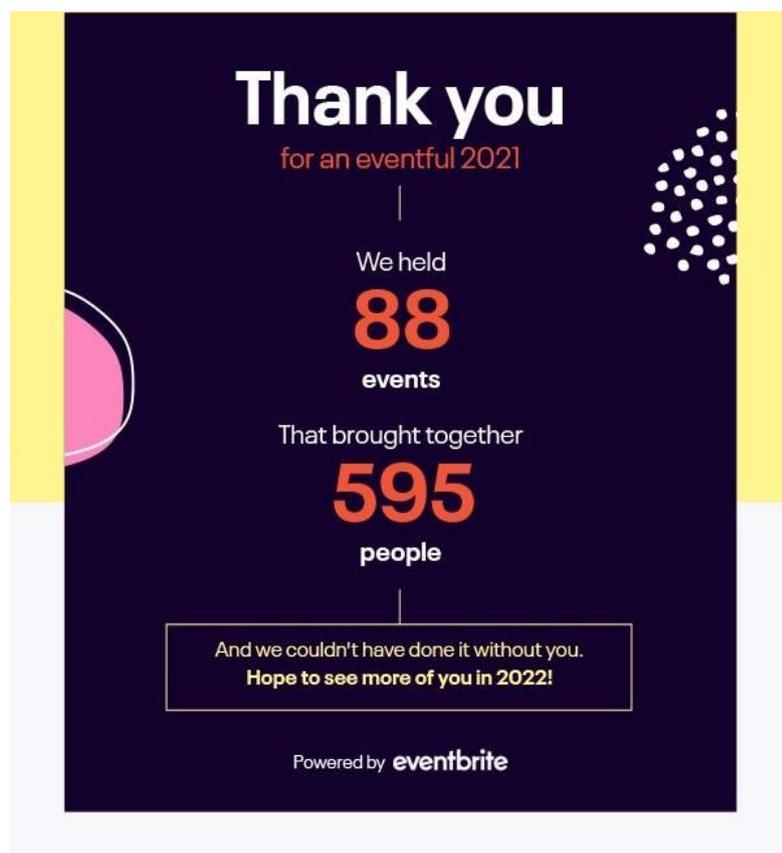
While we're on the subject of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, **find out how to nominate a baton bearer in the Queen's Baton Relay.**



Celebrating 2021

Last year was by no means 'normal' and we missed seeing people in person. However, holding events online meant we could expand our reach further across the city.

It was a happy surprise to receive this annual round-up from the online event platform Eventbrite last week, showing that in 2021 we held 88 events which brought 595 people together. If you were one of the 595: thank you!



In case you missed it, here's our latest annual report: **Making the most of a difficult year: our pandemic story.**

Recruiting student volunteers

Student volunteers can be a great asset to any community organisation. Join us and Birmingham City University on Tuesday 18 January (3-4pm, online) to explore ways to recruit and support student volunteers.

[Learn more and sign up for free.](#)

NNS sessions

Please note that we've been commissioned to hold the following events for NNS* groups in certain constituencies of Brum. If you're interested in the topics, and would like to network with NNS-funded groups in the area, please feel free to join us.

Building lunch club connections - Selly Oak NNS

Monday 7 February, 12 noon to 1pm

Wednesday 9 February, 12 noon to 1pm

Monday 14 March, 3 to 4pm

Managing community buildings - Selly Oak NNS

Wednesday 16 March, 3 to 4pm

Keeping your project Covid-safe - Selly Oak NNS

Friday 14 January, 9 to 10am

Friday 11 February, 12 noon to 1pm

Friday 18 March, 3 to 4pm

Creating a volunteer role description - Selly Oak NNS

Tuesday 25 January, 4 to 5pm

*'NNS' refers to Neighbourhood Network Schemes - a programme across Birmingham which seeks to reduce loneliness and social isolation in people aged over 50. **[This video tells you more.](#)**

Book a one-to-one support session for 2022

Have you got a question or challenge relating to your Birmingham community group, project or idea?

Ask us about [booking a one-to-one support session](#) to talk it through with a Community Matters Helper.

This process is most effective when you tackle one issue at a time and identify 'next steps' alongside your Helper. When you've achieved those, you're welcome to return for another session.

Thanks to the National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund, a session will cost you nothing except your time.



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Read on for more events and opportunities from our colleagues and partners ...



New year, new job?

We've got details of some interesting opportunities in Brum for anyone seeking a new role in 2022.

Paid placements on the CREDiBLE project

 Paid placements are available at the University of Birmingham, working on CREDiBLE - a project which looks at different forms of public engagement in health research. These are fixed term, part-time contracts of 20 hours a week for sixteen weeks. Experience is not essential. The closing date for applications is Monday 17 January.

Find out how to apply.

Family support post

 GreenSquareAccord is looking for a colleague to help coordinate early help for families and young people across the Hall Green constituency. This is a full-time role based on a 35-hour week initially until 31 March, with a view to a 12- to 24-month extension. The closing date is Tuesday 18 January.

To find out more contact Kirsty.Arrowsmith@greensquareaccord.co.uk.

Full-time roles with Get Grants

 Bid-writing consultancy Get Grants, based in Moseley, is looking for a marketing and events officer and an administration assistant to join its friendly team.

The deadline for applications is Monday 24 January and you can **find out more at the Get Grants website.**

Commissioning Manager - Refugees and Migration

 The commissioning division of Birmingham City Council's Adult Social Care department has an exciting opportunity for a new Commissioning Manager to lead the Refugees & Migration team as maternity cover.

The application deadline is Thursday 20 January. **Find out more at WM Jobs.**



Help a student with their career – and get help with your project!

The University of Birmingham has bright and motivated students from the College of Arts and Law who are looking for work placements in charities, social enterprises and start-up and small businesses.

This could be a great way to get extra support with a project, and in return give a student a valuable boost to their experience and skills.

Find out more on the [Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium blog](#).



Match My Project

Would the support of a local business help you get your community project off the ground in 2022? Perhaps you could use some corporate volunteers, or the loan of equipment, or the skills of someone in a different sector from you?

Birmingham City Council has launched a 'Match My Project' portal where community organisations can post details of support they need, and local businesses can come forward with support.

[Read about Match My Project.](#)



The Bike Project seeks donations of bikes



The Bike Project takes secondhand bikes, fixes them up and donates them to refugees and asylum seekers in London and Birmingham. Having a bike can help people access food banks, legal advice, healthcare, education and employment while they establish themselves.

With hundreds of refugees waiting for a bike, the Bike Project is holding a bike donation drive until Tuesday 18 January, with drop-off points across Birmingham and the West Midlands. A great place to take your unwanted bike!

To find your nearest drop off point, [visit the website](#) and enter your postcode.



Care for nature: Severn Trent Community Fund is open for applications

Having partnered with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games as its official 'Nature and Carbon Neutral Supporter', Severn Trent is refocusing its Community Fund for spring 2022 to support projects that help communities to care for nature.

Non-profit organisations and community groups with an average annual income of less than £500,000 (over the last three years) are invited to apply for grants of £5,000, £10,000 or £20,000 to support new community projects linked to one or more of the following themes:

- Green spaces
- Recycling and making the most of resources
- Water saving heroes.

The application window closes on Sunday 20 February. For more information, [visit the website](#).

Severn Trent is also holding [online workshops](#) where you can learn more about the application process.



West Midlands Mental Health Star Awards

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is hosting the Mental Health Star Awards 2022 to celebrate groundbreaking work being carried out across our region to improve mental health and wellbeing. Nominations are invited for Mental Health Stars in various categories - either individuals or teams.

[Nominate your star by Sunday 23 January.](#)



Interesting events

We've rounded up these events in Birmingham and beyond to keep you inspired and energised through the winter months.

If you have a February or March event you'd like us to consider sharing in our next newsletter (coming out in early February), please email [**info@birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk**](mailto:info@birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk) as soon as you can.

January

Menopause Cafe - hosted by Women's Network at University of Birmingham

Friday 14 January

Online Coffee Morning with Arthritis Action Group

Friday 14 January (and other dates - with evening sessions too)

Tree Warden training

Saturday 15 January

Death Cafe @Moseley Hive

Tuesday 18 January

Black mixed-race Birmingham in perspective: 'Making Mixed Race'

Wednesday 19 January

Possible2Achieve. Employability and skills in East Birmingham

Wednesday 19 January

Birmingham Open Spaces Forum coffee morning social

Thursday 20 January

Birmingham Cathedral Guided Tour

Monday 24 January (and other dates)

Onsite Chair Massages: Innovation Bham

Tuesday 25 January

Choosing the right Microsoft 365 subscription for your charity: what you need to know

Tuesday 25 January (and other topics on other dates)

Fundraisers Networking (Virtual Event)

Wednesday 26 January

Transgender Awareness Training

Monday 31 January

Climate Jobs: What Are They & How to Get Them

Monday 31 January

February

Milk Mates Infant Feeding Support - Cotteridge

Tuesday 1 February (and other dates)

FREE Virtual Meet the Expert Event: National Funding Scheme

Wednesday 2 February

Birmingham Gaymers February meet-up

Thursday 3 February

Birmingham Mediation: Learn, practice, relax and grow!

Sunday 6 February (and other dates)

Festival of Apprenticeships - Careers Roadshow

Wednesday 9 February

SEND Parent Carer Engagement Event

Tuesday 15 February

Brandwood End Cemetery Memorial Recording - adding records to the map

Wednesday 16 February

From Page to Stage

Tuesday 22 February

Radio Lollipop Barn Dance-A-Thon

Thursday 24 February



Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter and continuing to help Birmingham Community Matters grow.

Love from the BCM team

www.birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk

www.twitter.com/brummatters

www.facebook.com/birminghamcommunitymatters

You are subscribed to our mailing list either after attending one of our sessions or from signing up via our website. You can of course unsubscribe at any time – just email **info@birminghamcommunitymatters.org.uk**.

**Everyone has something to learn and
everyone has something to teach**