



Charity No 1177041

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020/21

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

The last year has been a difficult one for us all. BCA facilities were forced to close for five months after the first lockdown was imposed in March. Shortly after re-opening on 1 September, the North East entered Tier 2 restrictions, followed by a second lockdown. Many of our groups were not legally permitted to continue with their activity. The governing bodies of some other organisations prohibited them from operating in the existing climate and a few groups decided not to expose their members to the risk of Covid, through mixing socially. Current Tier 3 restrictions mean that we can only open the School site for outdoor sport and a limited number of under 18's groups. The Community Centre remains closed for the vast majority of groups.



Rest assured, BCA facilities at our Community Centre and on the School site are Covid-Secure, through a process of risk assessment and implementation of measures, such as one way systems and an enhanced cleaning regime. We look forward to welcoming you all back again, when Government guidelines are relaxed, and you feel comfortable to do so.

## CHEESY WAFFLES AND WIDER WORLD PROJECT

The 'Remote Rainbow' Project was started at the beginning of Lockdown 1 as a demand for need from our project members and their parents/carers to help support individual needs.

Due to the diverse range of needs and abilities our members have, we had to communicate in a multitude of ways to ensure that they received contact, engagement and support.

Communication included, personal telephone check in, positive postal service, WhatsApp, Zoom, Private Members Only Facebook Group, Website Weekly Update, Weekly Newsletter, Weekly Timetable, General Facebook Page Updates.

As the Project developed, staff started to do doorstep visits taking activity packs, wellbeing resources and cookery bags to help with boredom and positive mental health.



All members have engaged in a wide variety of Activities including; Social Interaction, Health & Wellbeing, Learning & Development, Cookery, Fun Tasks, Accreditation and Skills for Life/Transition Work.

We were able to return to centre based sessions in July under targeted youth work and education to work with our different age groups in small focused sessions. Erika says "We want to thank Belmont Community Association for their support through this difficult time and the adaptations that have been put in place to enable our projects to continue to deliver in a safe and welcoming environment."

## SHOWCASE YOU ACTIVITY

If you would like us to advertise your group activity in a future newsletter, please send us some copy and a photo. We would love to share your successes.



## TRUSTEES

Trustees have continued to assess each different set of circumstances and are guided by Government's "Covid-19: Guidance for the Safe Use of Community Facilities." We are currently unable to invite group representatives to Trustee meetings, as Kepier Room is restricted to 12 people. However, if you have any issue regarding BCA, please contact [belmontca@live.co.uk](mailto:belmontca@live.co.uk) and this will be passed onto the Secretary.



Trustees pay tribute to our staff, who enthusiastically prepared for re-opening and continue to ensure that our facilities are well maintained and operated efficiently.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

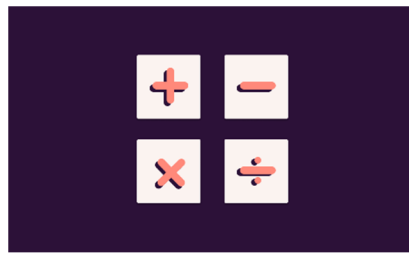
Groups operating as a business are reminded that you must hold public liability insurance. This protects you if clients or members of the public suffer personal injury or property damage because of your business activities. Anyone working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults should be DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checked and such groups should have a safeguarding policy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>



## HIRING CHARGES

Hiring charges remain unchanged since 1 January 2019, even though the National Minimum wage has risen by 6.5%. A review will need to be undertaken next year.



## COMMUNITY CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

BCA is continuing with improvements to the Community Centre. The Hall has now been partitioned to allow two spaces to be used simultaneously. This greater flexibility provides an additional meeting area, at a time when there is a restriction on the number of participants in each room. Grant funding was secured from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, under its National Emergencies Trust programme.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

New fencing has been installed to the rear of our Community Centre, following a spate of vandalism to the community garden last year. We are grateful to Durham County Council's Area Action Partnership and Belmont Parish Council for helping to fund this project.



Durham County Council has now removed the redundant Changing Rooms shown in the photo on the left. This will afford an opportunity to expand our outdoor space now that demolition has taken place, as seen in the photo on the right.

### LIGHTING THE WAY

As a way to achieve social distancing, some groups are using the rear entrance of the Community Centre. To improve safety on the pathway, during dark winter nights, our County Councillors kindly funded external lighting around the building.



### OUR WEBSITE

Our website provides relevant information for users and anyone wishing to make bookings. You will also find standard and Covid conditions of hire and contact details.



<http://www.belmontcommunityassociation.org.uk/>

FROM US ALL AT BELMONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Best wishes, stay safe and let's look forward to a more positive 2021.

