



Operating from Belmont Community Centre and Belmont Community School

Charity No 1177041

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

### ROYAL VISIT

On Tuesday 27 April, our resident group, Cheesy Waffles welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Belmont Community Centre. The excited young people exchanged elbow bumps with Prince William and Kate and invited them to take part in outdoor activities, including golf and natural artwork.



Here is what Cheesy Waffles Project Members said about the visit.....:

*"It was very special and they were so nice" Rob*

*"They were really friendly and nice, they wanted to find out everything we have been doing" Lee*

*"It made me so happy, I loved it: David*

*"They are such a lovely couple, it was amazing that they came to see us at the centre"*

*Project Manager, Erika - "It makes me really proud to know that Cheesy Waffles and Belmont Community Centre were chosen to represent the County of Durham for the Royal visit, it has given the opportunity to show what our members with additional needs can do and the support we have had from BCA to ensure that our Project has been able to continue to develop".*



Cheesy Waffles is a resident group at Belmont Community Centre, offering a range of clubs and activities to young people and adults with additional needs, from across County Durham.

### THANKS TO BANKS

BCA is grateful to Banks Community Fund for grant funding re-decoration of Caldecote hall, installation of a new fire door and equipping the newly partitioned space with chairs, tables and a whiteboard. The Community Centre now has greater flexibility to offer rooms for hire.



Peter Corbett, Mick Bennett and Erika Denholm from BCA with Lewis Stokes from Banks Community Fund

## SCHOOL

Durham County Council has announced that it will build a new £34 million state-of-the-art campus to replace Belmont Community School and Belmont Church of England Primary School. BCA will be looking to work with the Head Teacher and Governors to secure continuation of community use of sports facilities.



## COVID-19 STEPS TO FREEDOM

In step 1 from 29 March we were able to welcome back outdoor sport at the School site for under 18's and in Step 2, from 12 April, the Community Centre re-opened for a limited number of children's activities, such as dancing classes, martial arts and parent and child groups. Support groups were also permitted to meet.



In Step 3 from 17 May, most adult activities can resume indoors, including Belmont Parish Council meetings. If you are in any doubt about whether you are allowed to return, please call Lisa on 07966963564 (Community Centre) or Jacque 07858027736 (School site).

We await further guidance for Step 4 on 21 June, but hope to see a relaxation of social distancing.

## RETURNING GROUPS

**Centre** – In Step 2, Little Movers, Sticky Fingers, Al-Anon and Sarah Miller Dance and from Step 3, Metafit, Wing Chun, Tai-Chi, Aikido, Vikings, Table tennis, Badminton and under the rule of 6, Scan and Cut, Chat and craft and Flower Arranging.

**School** – In Step 2, Outdoors - DCFC, Shincliffe Blues and Reds, Durham United, Sherburn United, St Giles Archery, Phillips Football, Colts OAPs. Indoors (children) - Junsui Shotokan Karate, Belmont Karate Club, Dragonfly Gymnastics. PQA, DiddyKicks and from Step 3, Durham Swifts Badminton Club, Junsui Shotokan Karate (Adults)

## SADLY MISSED COLLEAGUES

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our Chair of Trustees, Dave Drinkwater, earlier this year. Dave had overseen modernisation of the Community Centre in recent years and steered our Association through a challenging period at the start of the pandemic. Dave was also an important link between BCA, Belmont Parish Hall and Belmont War Memorial group when our work overlapped.



Dave was a modest and genuine person whose contributions will not be forgotten. At our AGM, colleagues held a minute's silence in memory of Dave and former Trustee, Ken Holroyd, who used his influence as a County Councillor to secure funding for the Astroturf at Belmont Community School.

## TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS

At its AGM in April, Trustees made the following officer appointments:

Chair – Erika Denholm

Vice Chair – Phil Jackson

Secretary – Peter Corbett

Treasurer – Mick Bennett



Long standing Trustee, Barbara Howarth, has stepped down from her role. Barbara represented the Parish Council on our board of trustees and ensured good relations between our two organisations. A respected colleague, Barbara's contributions at our meetings will be very much missed.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, we now have a vacancy. The duties of a Trustee are set by the Charity Commission (follow link below) If you wish to be considered, please contact [belmontca@live.co.uk](mailto:belmontca@live.co.uk) , for the attention of the Chair of Trustees, or leave a message on 0191 3866659. We are particularly interested in anyone who is familiar with IT / social media.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## NO INCREASE IN HIRING CHARGES



It has been agreed that hiring charges will not be increased in 2021. Furthermore, the registration fee to qualify for the regular user rate will be waived this year for existing groups.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

Covid-19 may have restricted bookings over the past 12 months, but it hasn't stopped us from improving facilities at Belmont Community Centre. Caldecote Hall and the reception area has been decorated, the porch roof replaced, automatic entrance doors fitted with a rain cover, for greater efficiency, and the accessible washroom has a new floor.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

An area of our community garden, where changing rooms were recently demolished, has now been turfed. We are grateful to the Durham Association of Boys and Girls Clubs for arranging this work in preparation for the Royal Visit in April.



The Royal Horticultural Society will be visiting to give advice on the type of plants best suited for this space. The community garden is for the enjoyment of any BCA users.

## OUR WEBSITE

Our website has a range of information about Belmont Community Association, including our 2020 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, which can be found under “About Us”.

<http://www.belmontcommunityassociation.org.uk/about-us>

