



Welcome
to our
Spring
Newsletter!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021. Hope you are all keeping safe and well in these difficult times we are living in. May I start by giving a brief review of what Big Local Thurnscoe has been up to over the last year.

In March 2020 as soon as the first lockdown came in, BLT delivered to every house in the village an emergency newsletter with useful information and contact details of groups that could provide assistance.

BLT developed the raised flower beds on Houghton road and made sure we had a splash of colour with the Floral Displays around the village. We helped a number of community groups with grants from the Thurnscoe Relief Fund to provide or adapt services for residents following the pandemic, and assist groups to keep going as many were left with no income. We worked with our colleagues from Evolution to deliver emergency food boxes for many weeks to people who were vulnerable or shielding at home and couldn't go out to shop. During the summer we got together with Station House, the Dearne Area Team and The Hill Primary Academy to make Holiday Hampers to support families in the summer holidays. In addition to this, we devised a new 'Thurnscoe Enterprise Fund' to encourage Thurnscoe residents to set up or develop new business ventures- look out for the case studies over the page to see what impact these have had.

With the donation of a large Christmas tree from Mr and Mrs Andrews and with assistance as always from Twiggs Grounds Maintenance, we had a great display outside Thurnscoe Library. The switch on of the tree lights was done by their grandchildren and we had the usual festive display on posts along the

main road. After many delays due to the weather, Father Christmas gave BLT's Season's Greetings to Thurnscoe in a flypast which was something a bit different for the village instead of our usual Christmas event. Finally, with toys given by 'BMBC Christmas Toy Appeal' BLT, Station House and our Library Staff were able to wrap and deliver toys to around 40 families around the village. All these events were done in accordance with Government social distancing rules and in a COVID-19 safe environment.

2021 starts with our new initiative 'Let it Shine' to give a little extra support to families who may be finding it hard at the start of the year. BLT will also be working with community partners to once again make-up Holiday Hampers to support families for half term and during the summer holidays. You will see more details about these initiatives as they are rolled out. We are very, very close to obtaining the lease for the land on the Sports Ground along Houghton Road for the 'Thurnscoe Community Plaza'. The plans have been completed and after being checked by BMBC will go to Cabinet for approval. Our thanks go to all involved, especially Cllr Alan Gardiner and Cllr Pauline Phillips for both their assistance in the development and promotion of our project.

Get involved! BLT is here to help Thurnscoe become a 'Better Place to Live' if you want to help, contact our Development Worker Alison Vint on 07557 740330 or alisonvint@biglocalthurnscoe.org.uk. Check our website for all the latest news and information: www.biglocalthurnscoe.org.uk

Derek Bramham | Chair, Big Local Thurnscoe

THURNSCOE ENTERPRISE FUND Grants up to £500

Big Local
Thurnscoe



LAUNCHPAD
Barnsley

Big Local Thurnscoe is continuing to support new and emerging businesses in Thurnscoe in partnership with Enterprise in Barnsley's Launchpad team. If you are a Thurnscoe resident thinking about setting up a new business or if your small business in Thurnscoe is in need of a boost, we may be able to help!

Discretionary grants of up to £500 are still available for start-ups and small businesses wanting to try something new or adapt their business following the pandemic. For further details, check out our website www.biglocalthurnscoe.org.uk and send in the application form to launchpad@barnsley.gov.uk

Here are some of the fantastic new businesses we have supported with the Enterprise Fund:

Fretbuzz Guitars

Thanks to BLT and their Enterprise Fund, my new business 'Fretbuzz Guitar Services' has been able to



rapidly expand throughout South Yorkshire helping me to gain many new customers since opening in June 2020. I was able to buy the correct tools needed to provide a professional guitar service.

Services I offer include, guitar setups (to get your instruments playing correctly) through to full restoration, woodwork repairs, paint jobs and wiring modifications. You can book your guitars in on Facebook @fretbuzzguitars.

Chloe's Bakes

Since getting the Enterprise Grant from BLT in September 2020, I have been busy with orders mainly from people who live in Thurnscoe and I have about 12 regular customers. I am currently advertising Mothers' Day Specials and I am also thinking about Easter treats.



I am still on furlough and have no idea when my full-time job as a chef might start again. Keeping busy building my business has given me the confidence to know that if my full-time job starts part time or does not start at all I have a business that I can grow even more if needed.

Danny Gas

The Enterprise Fund came about at the perfect time for me. I was due to finish my Gas Safe exams to become a fully qualified gas engineer. The grant gave me the boost and confidence I needed to take those first steps in developing my own business.

I am now a registered Gas Safe engineer undertaking all aspects of plumbing and heating work including gas boiler installation and servicing.



In the six months since we got the grant we have had orders for canvas prints, signage and produced some flags for local businesses. I have a basic website up and running and with the grant money I got a new printer that can print business cards at 100 at a time. I also got a hat press to print baseball caps and a CNC machine to try make door plaques. Thank you.



York Street Bakery

The Big Local Thurnscoe grant helped me massively. It gave me the boost I needed to get to grips with starting and also funds to buy my starter packaging and insurance and get me on the right track to being a success.



I've been given some great advice through the process. Since starting in October, it's been great to see the business grow with support from amazing local people. I've been able to expand my product range and equipment which means that I can bring bigger and better offerings to my customers! Kira

Thurnscoe Community Plaza

Just look how much our plans for a Community Plaza have changed over the last few years! Originally our focus was to create an amazing space for young people to hang out in and enjoy informal leisure activity such as parkour, skateboarding and cycling. Since the pandemic we have developed the community part so that whatever might happen in the future, there will be a beautiful multi-purpose space in the centre of the village for everyone to enjoy.

You can see from this picture that we have included a community garden that will also feature our bespoke sculpture in the centre, and a container building that we will use for storage for events and leisure equipment.

We hope that there will be a café facility included in this also that will be independently run. The larger area has amphitheatre seating so that there is a



ready-made events space in the village, and we are planning to have a new pedestrian entrance from Houghton Road and lots of great planting.

We are hopeful that building will commence once we have Cabinet approval and planning permission and encourage any interested residents to contact us if you would like to get involved in this exciting new initiative.



Hello, my name is Kelly Burton. I am the new Community Champion for Active Dearne, working in Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton upon Dearne. Active Dearne is working with the community to help people to become more active, and at the same time help to achieve community outcomes such as improving mental health, family dynamics etc.

I will be running walking groups face to face when we are allowed, and working with community groups to set up new activity too. For further information on what we do, please like our facebook page; www.facebook.com/activedearnecommunitychampiongoldthorpethurnscoe/

During lockdown we are also working with Project 14 to provide mental health support, and running some online activity. Please like the facebook page; www.facebook.com/groups/1654447198036955/

The Dearne Community Arts' Festival continues to work on its community art project at the Railway Embankment site in Goldthorpe, with this design by artist Lydia Caprani set to be painted on the wall leading down to the site.

Dearne Community
Arts'
Festival



We hope to run the arts' festival on Saturday 25th September, at sites both indoors and outdoors to allow for social distancing and interactive workshops and are keen to hear from any local residents who would like to take part, either in exhibiting art and craft work or demonstrating creative skills or leading workshops.

Contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or by email on julie@gpcchurch.co.uk for further information or check out the [DearneCommunityArtsFestival](https://www.facebook.com/DearneCommunityArtsFestival) Facebook page.

Let it Shine

Working with our fantastic community partners, Big Local Thurnscoe coordinated a brand new project to give a little boost to identified families in our area. They each received a large laundry hamper full of cleaning products and household essentials to help them 'Let it Shine' in 2021!

This project is in partnership with Station House, the Dearne Area Team, The Hill Primary Academy and supported by a grant from Keepmoat Homes.



Let it
Shine

Dearne Churches Together

Dearne Churches Together are still working in the community, providing free gift bags for local families.

The next bags with craft activities, reading materials and snacks, will be available to collect from St Helen's in Thurnscoe, the Salvation Army in Goldthorpe and Furlong Road Methodist Church in Bolton-on-Dearne on Wednesday 31st March. Contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or email julie@gpcchurch.co.uk to collect your free gift bag. Collection is by appointment only to avoid mixing of households and to ensure social distancing can be maintained.

In addition, we have produced 16-page 'Activity Booklets' which are available to any local family, incorporating contact information, arts & crafts



activities, ideas for keeping the children entertained indoors and outdoors as well as Easter recipes, quizzes and word-search. Suitable especially for primary-school children, this booklet is available free of charge from the Salvation Army in Goldthorpe or by contacting Julie Turner.

Our 'Whispers of Love' Easter project aims to distribute knitted and decorated wooden hearts throughout Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe & Bolton-on-Dearne as a visible reminder at Easter time of God's love. If anyone would like to make a heart to donate to the project, they're very welcome to join in as we try to flood the area with positive symbols of hope and love. Contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or email julie@gpcchurch.co.uk for more information or to arrange pick-up of hearts. The hearts will be distributed on Easter Saturday (3rd April).

Dearne Churches Together is also holding meetings on Facebook live each month (next meeting is Wednesday 17th March at 10.45 am on the Dearne Churches Together Facebook page) where craft ideas and prayer activities will be shared. Local churches are still meeting, some in person and all offering online services, so please check out the DCT Facebook page for more information.



b:friend are still befriending older neighbours with a volunteer who will be phoning them until it's safe to visit. Neighbours can be referred by anybody, including themselves.

They must be over 65, living alone and have no diagnosis of dementia. You can access the service online or contact Jenny Pitman on 07895 725377, or email jenny.pitman@letsbfriend.org.uk



If you need the support of The Salvation Army Goldthorpe during this current situation, please contact them through Facebook: search for Salvation Army Goldthorpe.

DECV

For local employment support, contact Rory Garforth at info@decv.co.uk or 07813022087

Thurnscoe Amateur Dramatic Society

We are looking forward to putting a production on as soon as it is permitted. The group are learning lines and meeting by zoom to rehearse at the moment. Thank you to everyone for continuing to support us.

Saint Helen's Church

There are currently no services in church but there is a twice daily service on Thurnscoe Saint Helen's Facebook page plus a service every Sunday at 10.30am. We are looking forward to having services back in church.

We have a children's worker that does craft ideas and work on line for folks to access. Children's activities during half term are on the church Facebook page - check them out.