



Welcome to our summer newsletter of 2021. As these difficult times are easing, I hope everyone is managing to keep safe and well. Working within the Government social distancing rules and a safe Covid-19 working environment, BLT has still managed to deliver a number of projects this year.

Both our grants schemes, 'Thurnscoe Enterprise Fund' and 'Thurnscoe Relief Fund' have now closed. Over the last 18 months, BLT has given out grants and extensive support to new and emerging businesses in the village and supported local groups to help them through these difficult times.

The raised flower beds on Houghton Road have had more plants added and are looking really spectacular now, and we hope will do for years to come. The planters and hanging baskets have all now been done and bring a lovely splash of colour to the village. During the half-term we gave out 'Feed the Birds' activity packs from outside Thurnscoe Library. Look out for BLT stand at the Churches Together Fun Day event on Phoenix Park on Wednesday July 28th.

BLT is now in its eighth year and we only have two more years to run; with this in mind, we have already set-up our legacy organisation, Thurnscoe Regeneration CIO, to carry on the work and take on the responsibility for some of our ongoing projects such as the Plaza and the Christmas lights.

BLT's main legacy project 'Thurnscoe Community Plaza' is well underway. Myself and Pauline, two of

the trustees of the CIO have signed all the documents for the lease of the land on the Sports Ground, this is now completed and granted for a 25-year lease. The planning of the Plaza has been approved by BMBC Cabinet and all the legal costs have been paid by BLT.

Just to remind everyone, the Community Plaza will be a multi-use community space for all ages to enjoy. It will have a community café, amphitheatre seating for events, a community garden with sculpture, an area for teenagers to hang out and enjoy informal leisure activities such as parkour, skateboarding and cycling.

We also hope to obtain funding to employ two part-time workers to help support young people in Thurnscoe to engage constructively of how to have fun and keep fit in a way to make Thurnscoe 'a better place to live'. This will only happen with the help of the whole community to move this project forward. Please come and get involved with BLT and TR, we need younger members of the community to engage with activities and make Thurnscoe a place to be proud of in the future.

**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](mailto:alisonvint@biglocalthurnscoe.org.uk). Check our website and Facebook site for all the latest news and information: [www.biglocalthurnscoe.org.uk](http://www.biglocalthurnscoe.org.uk)

Derek Bramham | Chair, Big Local Thurnscoe

# THURNSCOE ENTERPRISE FUND

Our very successful Thurnscoe Enterprise Fund and Thurnscoe Relief Fund have now closed. They were part of a range of emergency support measures introduced to support the wider community in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We now feel that the time is right to close these and return our attention to the wider community plan. We have funded over 50 community groups and new businesses over this period, and worked with Barnsley MBC Launchpad team to provide extra guidance and support for residents.



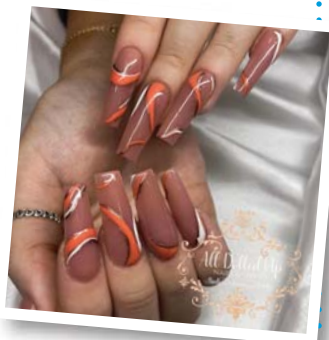
Paul Tinsley from Launchpad had this to say in support of the scheme; 'The Launchpad Team have been delighted to work with Big Local Thurnscoe on the Enterprise Fund. It has been encouraging to see the level of enterprise shown by the residents in the area, and also encouraging to see Big Local Thurnscoe supporting people who want to take that step into self-employment and starting a business. I believe this project and collaboration has been a huge success. Just to remind everyone that Launchpad is still around and anyone considering starting a business should contact us via the Enterprising Barnsley web site. On behalf of the team I'd like to wish Big Local Thurnscoe continued success in everything they do'.



## All Dolled Up

'The Big Local Thurnscoe grant was a massive help to the growth of my business, All Dolled Up. It opened up so many opportunities for me. The extra help with the

grant allowed me to participate and complete an eyebrow and eyelash bar services course and can now confidently offer eyebrow waxing & tinting with a makeup finish along with eyelash tinting. I've seen a massive improvement in my sets of nails due to the products that I've had the chance to purchase. The latest trend in the nail industry is 'swirls' and hand drawn nail art which I now offer having purchased the correct tools. The grant allowed me to make the very exciting move to working in a salon and I'm now based at Wicks Salon & Training in Goldthorpe, working alongside the most amazing nail technicians in the industry. This is somewhere I've dreamt of working since it opened but thought I'd never get the chance.' Kyra Latham



## KiddyWinx Learn & Play Cafe

'The grant we received from Big Local Thurnscoe was fantastic, it supported us as a local business, the staff who are local employees and the visitors to the centre. Since opening 6 years ago, Kiddy Winx has always had the strong belief that any child, no matter what their social background, should have access to play and have fun. The grant enabled us to support and train our staff. We have extended our weekly breastfeeding group to include that much needed



drink and a chat (and the odd slice of cake) to mummies who may be struggling and feeling isolated. One lady recently said; 'Coming to Kiddy Winx is the only time of the week I think to myself... I can relax, the other ladies know what I'm going through with my baby and enjoying a warm drink is something you can't put a price on.' We can't thank the Relief Fund enough, it really has made a huge difference in supporting local people and their families.' Liz Barran

## Decoris Vintage Designs

'The Enterprise Fund has helped me to get organised with my business and buy a laptop. Before I got my laptop I was trying to do everything on my phone, which is not easy! I use my laptop for editing YouTube vids, book keeping, website editing, blogs and much more! Recently I have been made a Brand Ambassador for a worldwide paint



Decoris  
Vintage Designs  
Home Decor & Art

company Dixie Belle, which requires me to be on top of this kind of stuff and so without it, I wouldn't have had this amazing opportunity and so I am incredibly grateful to Big Local for their support.' Jodie Flavell.  
[www.decorisvintagedesigns.com](http://www.decorisvintagedesigns.com)

# Dearne Churches Together: Spreading the Love

Dearne Churches Together have been busy in local communities, leaving over 1000 hearts in care homes and around the villages of Thurnscoe, Goldthorpe and Bolton-on-Deerne at Easter time and then leaving over 300 doves (and Dove toiletries!) for local residents to celebrate Pentecost. 'It's a little bit like a treasure hunt where people have been able to find these expressions of care and concern left in public places,' commented Julie Turner from Dearne Churches Together. 'We've found people have been really creative, using different skills including painting, knitting,



cross-stitching and decoupage, and what's been so exciting is how people of all ages worked throughout lockdown to make things to give to others. We were especially pleased to be able to give these things to people in local care homes to show that they have not been forgotten, even when visitors have not been able to go into these places.' Look out for craft candles in October and stars to celebrate Christmas! If you want to take part in these projects, please contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 or email [julie@gpcchurch.co.uk](mailto:julie@gpcchurch.co.uk)

## Pentecost Trail

Dearne Churches Together organised their first in-person event since the start of lockdown at the Railway Embankment site in Goldthorpe to celebrate Pentecost. The event combined a dove trail with different craft activities looking at fruit and birds and 115 people came along to enjoy the beautiful outdoor space created on the old mining railway site. Plum trees were planted, thanks to a donation from Countryside Properties, and a plaque with trees and

birds was left to be installed on the site so that others can enjoy this outdoor area in future. Our thanks to the Dearne Area Team and Michael Bunting, caretaker, for their help in organising the event.



Play has always been at the centre of what we do at Station House, so it's a huge privilege to be awarded a dual grant to install some amazing outside play equipment for all of our children. The generosity of Park Spring Wind Farm (via South Yorkshire Community Foundation) combined with Key Fund - Investment for growth, has enabled us to install a shelter to protect us from the sun and the rain, (nicknamed The Pavilion :)) and 4 fixed pieces of equipment. Each piece was carefully chosen to promote imaginative play, build strength, encourage physical development but most important HAVE FUN! Already the children have created their own fitness trails linking all the equipment,



used them to help build dens and are really useful for tiggly off ground! There are not enough ways to thank our funders, projects like this cost many thousand pounds and we could never have afforded this without their support. If you have a child who would like to have this much fun, we have a waiting list for this September Playgroup (from 2 years old) and our New Year intake. Afterschool club (full time school age) picks up from The Hill, Gooseacre and Highgate schools, perfect for working parents who need quality reliable childcare. To register, visit [www.shouse.org.uk](http://www.shouse.org.uk) or call Charlotte Williams on 01709 880682.

## St Helen's Thurnscoe

St. Helen's Thurnscoe has a new Children and Family Worker, Diane Webb. Diane works 10 hours per week for St Helen's and 10 hours for Christ Church Ardsley. You may have seen the trails she has been putting up at St. Helen's. She has also been involved in craft bags given away during the school holiday. Diane says, 'Even though it has been hard not meeting in person it has been great doing online assemblies for The Hill and Gooseacre Primary School produced some lovely posters around Thankfulness. I am looking forward to being able to do events later this year and I am

passionate about engaging with the local community.' On Sunday 22nd August a picnic is taking place for families who had children christened over the last 3 years, invites will be sent out early August. St. Helen's are looking forward to welcoming families who wish to have their child christened. Find out more on the St. Helen's Thurnscoe children and Family page on Facebook.



# Vacancy on the Dearne North Ward Alliance

We need some more community volunteers to represent our fantastic Dearne North Ward Alliance covering Goldthorpe, and Thurnscoe - could this be you? The Dearne North Ward Alliance would particularly like to hear from members of the community, local groups, volunteers and businesses, who would like to contribute to making a difference in their local community. We need more community activists, businesses, workers and local people to help us make changes and set new priorities - Pride, Information - Training and Support, Health and

Wellbeing and Youth Provision. If you would like to be a representative and sit on the Dearne North

Ward Alliance, please request an expression of interest form and role description from your local Dearne Area Team - email [mariesinclair@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:mariesinclair@barnsley.gov.uk) or visit our Facebook & Twitter page @dearneareateam



## Summer Fun in Phoenix Park

A range of organisations will be working together this summer to provide a great event for all the family at Phoenix Park on Wednesday 28th July between 11am and 2pm. Dearne Churches Together, Big Local Thurnscoe, Barnsley Museums, Barnsley Libraries, Active Dearne, the local family centres and the Snap Tin Community Hub will all be contributing to an outdoor event packed with different activities, ranging from nature trails, bug-hunting and forest skills to craft activities involving sheep, dinosaurs and rock painting. You can learn about local history with Barnsley Museums or get fit with fun activities as well as finding out what's happening in your local area and exploring nature through feed-the-bird activities. It's an opportunity to get out and about in this lovely park managed by TCV and owned by the Land Trust.

## Dearne Community Arts' Festival

After being online last year, the Dearne Community Arts' Festival is set to return in person at Astrea Academy Dearne in Goldthorpe Saturday

25th September between 11am and 4pm. Residents will once again be taking part in exhibitions, workshops and performances championing creativity and celebrating community, and this is a great opportunity for local people to demonstrate their versatility and

"There's no limit on what can be offered at the festival - we expect music, art, crafts, drama and dance to all feature - and we are so glad that the festival gives people the chance to have a go at something different." said Julie Turner, secretary to the festival.

skills - and even earn money as they do so! Prior to the festival, residents and school children will be involved in painting an art mural designed by artist Lydia Caprani on the brick wall that forms part of the Railway Embankment site during July, and in

September, the festival will be advertised using yarn bombing, with local people knitting and crocheting squares and triangles to form blankets that will be draped over benches and bunting that will be attached to railings. Contact Julie Turner on 07729 421405 to get involved.



B:friend are looking for volunteer befrienders to help tackle loneliness and social isolation in The Dearne. Anyone interested in joining our team of amazing volunteers can sign up via our website [www.letsbfriend.org.uk](http://www.letsbfriend.org.uk) or call

Jenny on 07895725377. Volunteers must be aged 18 or older and able to commit to visiting a neighbour in their area once a week, every week. B:friend are currently introducing volunteers and neighbours over the phone and ask that visits begin 2 weeks after their introduction.