



Issue 3 January 2024

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Happy New Year!

We hope that however you chose to spend the festive season you were able to celebrate in the ways most meaningful to you, your family and friends. We know that the winter months can be challenging for many but we've been lucky enough to see the power of communities coming together to support each other over the past few months. We're also looking ahead to a busy 2024 and are excited to continue our work, listening to what's happening for residents in the city, what people tell us is important to them and what we hear there's a need for. We are wishing the best for everyone in 2024 and looking forward to working alongside you all!



On our first day back of the year, our team met with our Community Facilities colleagues to discuss strategies for the upcoming year. We aim to continue working more closely with the Community Centres teams to ensure our offerings across neighbourhoods are innovative, interesting and tailored to local needs. To learn more about community centres in the city and the new facilities that will be available this year, be sure to visit the webpage [here](#). You can also search them out on Facebook to find out what's happening in each centre.

Get in touch!

As always, if you'd like to get in touch with us about anything in the newsletter, anything you'd like to collaborate on, or if you have an idea to kick start something new that brings your community together and would like some support from the team... get in touch! You can email us at communitydevelopment@cambridge.gov.uk or alternatively you can follow us on Facebook by clicking [here](#) or by searching Cambridge Community Development and messaging us.

Meet the team...

- Vicky Haywood - Community Development Manager
- Binnie Pickard - Tackling Poverty Lead
- Jo Hunt - New Communities Lead
- Caroline Gill - Children, Young People and Families Lead
- Ariadne Henry - Equalities Lead
- Suzanne Goff - Preventative Health Programmes Officer
- Andrea Butler - Community Development Officer North
- Kelly Smith - Community Development Officer South
- Suzanne Jackson - Community Development Officer West / New Communities
- Carl Higgs - Community Development Officer East / Armed Forces and Veterans Lead
- Adie Hawkshaw - Children and Young People Engagement Lead
- Patrick Brown - Community Development Assistant
- Jolene Chisolm - Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Engagement Lead
- Luthfa Khatun - Community Cohesion Lead
- Dora Suberlak - Project Support Officer
- Cathy Heath - Community Funding and Support Officer



Akeman Art Project

Back in November Andrea marked the end of the art project at Akeman Community Centre by taking the children who participated to Kettle's Yard, where they were able to see the exhibition that they had helped inspire. Over six weeks, artist Anna Brownsted collaborated with the children to develop a drawing machine. The children's boundless imagination and creativity served as inspiration for Anna's work, which was showcased in the exhibition titled "Making New Worlds: Li Yuan-chia and Friends."



Veterans Shed

In November, as part of the city's Remembrance activities, we had the honor of welcoming the Mayor to the Veterans Shed located at Browns Field Community Centre. The shed is a lively and inclusive space where people can gather to collaborate on projects and share their skills. During the visit, Carl introduced the Mayor to the Armed Forces veterans community and they had the opportunity to share their experiences of being a part of the Veterans Shed. Representatives from Barratts, who recently donated a lathe for the workshop and generously contribute offcuts of wood for creative projects, were also in attendance.



Dragons Den

Caroline, Jo H, and a local community member appeared as friendly 'dragons', helping to judge Kelly's Dragons Den event in Trumpington. They were impressed by the excellent presentations from various local groups who applied for Community Chest funding. These funds will add exciting new elements to their ongoing projects. The presenters, who included the Trumpington Meadows Community Hub, Trumpington Drama Club, 1st Trumpington Scout Group, Trumpington Community Orchard, and The Trumpington Allotment Society, all impressed with their passion for the community.



Recognition Award

Winning the Annual Cambridge City Council Recognition Award for Partnerships and Communities was a tremendous achievement for us in November. Carl, Andrea and Dora represented the entire team at the Guildhall ceremony and we were honored to receive the award and proud of our team's hard work and dedication.

Cost of Living

Working alongside Cambridge City Foodbank, the Church of the Good Shepherd and St Georges Church, the team facilitated two pop-up events to support local people coping with winter's challenges. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with various organisations, such as Grow Kids, Citizens Advice, PECT, Wood Green Animal Shelter, and Healthy You. The events were held in spaces that the attendees were already familiar with and had meaningful connections to, which meant that people felt comfortable in accessing the advice and support that they needed. A resident who attended one of the events and spoke to the Universal Credit Inclusion Officer found that they could bring their debts down substantially and told us

"I am so glad I came to speak to you. I wasn't too sure if anyone could help me but it's taken a big weight off – I just didn't know that I could of done that on my own."



The City Council has a dedicated webpage where you can find help with Cost Of Living related challenges - visit it [here](#)

www.cambridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help



December Highlights

Our team had a very busy December as we donned our Christmas jumpers and took part in various community events and initiatives.

Hamper Appeal

Binnie and other team members, in partnership with Cambridge City Foodbank, Cambridge Sustainable Food, and several local businesses, worked together on the city-wide hamper appeal. The goal was to provide fresh food, treats, and games to families in Cambridge that would benefit from additional support during the holiday season. We're proud to say that we were able to donate and distribute 920 hampers through a network of organisations that work with families, as well as food hubs and Fairbite shops. Generous donations from both individuals and businesses, including Microsoft, Illumina, TSG, Central Co-op, AJW distribution, Yellow Door and NatWest, helped us reach our target.

Colleagues at the City Council working with newly settled refugee families in Cambridge were also thrilled to receive some of the donated toys. They expressed their gratitude, saying,

"We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible Christmas gifts you provided for the refugee children. Your generosity has made a significant impact on the lives of these children, bringing joy and warmth to their holiday season. The smiles and excitement on the faces of the children as they received their gifts were truly heart-warming".

Care Homes Hamper Project

Kelly and Andrea, together with Amber and Scott from TLC Cherry Hinton and Manor Care Homes, came up with a wonderful initiative that led to some amazing moments spent with residents at the homes. The residents helped put together beautiful festive hampers for local families who attend food hubs in the South of the City. Scott expressed his enthusiasm for this fantastic project, saying

"We are thrilled to be a part of this wonderful initiative that brings our residents, staff, and the wider community together."



The hampers were gratefully received and added a bit of extra sparkle to many families this Christmas. We also extend our gratitude to St Andrews Church in Cherry Hinton and St James Church in Queen Ediths for helping to make this happen.



Community Centres

Our community development officers helped bring some additional holiday cheer to Christmas parties and community events with our colleagues at the City Council's community centres, helping out with party games and refreshments at these busy celebrations!

Celebrations in New Communities

Sue, Patrick, and Jo H supported some great Christmas events in new neighborhoods, bringing people together to share joy and friendship in these emerging communities. New Life Church organised for the brilliant Whole Notes Gospel Choir to visit the new Darwin Green Community Rooms, where residents were also treated to Sue's craft activities and volunteers provided delicious non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies. At The Ironworks development on Mill Road, children and families enjoyed music, crafts and face painting, while at Storeys Field Centre in Eddington similar festivities were on offer. And of course, Father Christmas made a special appearance at each event, spending time with all the children, taking selfies, and handing out special gifts!



Community led events

We had the pleasure of attending some enchanting outdoor Christmas events hosted by various community groups and voluntary sector organisations throughout the city. Some of these events included community Christmas trees, and we would like to extend our gratitude to Rectory Farm for supplying them, as well as Gaskin Brothers and our City Services team for ensuring their safe installation and removal.

Volunteer Cambs

Volunteering lies at the heart of the non-profit sector, and Support Cambridgeshire have launched a new online platform that will enable Cambridgeshire community organisations to promote their volunteering opportunities and much more! [Volunteer Cambs](https://www.volunteercambs.org.uk/) is a resource designed to cater to all volunteer recruitment requirements and is an all-encompassing platform that functions as a website, database and portal. It bridges the gap between community groups seeking dedicated volunteers and individuals searching for meaningful ways to impact their community positively.



Visit <https://www.volunteercambs.org.uk/> where you can set up an individual profile to register a voluntary organisation to then put requests for support up on the site and start looking for volunteers. It's that easy!

If you need any help you can try

- Exploring help articles, which can be found [here](#)
- Attending a [webinar](#), hosted monthly from January 2024 and designed to help groups get the most out of the website
- Contacting the Volunteer Cambs team with a question via info@volunteercambs.org.uk



Mens Health Event

A Men's Health Event was held on the 11th November, hosted by Cambridge United Football Club Foundation and organised by Cambridgeshire's Integrated Neighbourhood City team. Working in collaboration with NHS Primary Care Networks and a variety of other partner agencies such as Healthy You, Cancer Research UK (Cambridge Centre), Living Sport, Cambridge City Councils Active Lifestyles Team, HealthWatch, Diabetes UK, Change Grow Live, Cambridge Online, Lifecraft, Cambridge Men's Shed, Reach Boxing and Fitness Rush, this free event promoted men's health and wellbeing in the local community.

Damas Bridge provided the delicious, healthy catering, while people mingled, connected and learned what support was available. Approximately 150 men attended with many completing a survey on their experience of healthcare during their visit. A report from the event, with key findings and areas for moving forward can be accessed by emailing adam.chiesal@nhs.net.

Active Lifestyles

If you are looking to kickstart the new year with some healthier habits, then look no further than the FREE Healthy You virtual festival with our friends in the Active Lifestyles and Recreation Team at Cambridge City Council, alongside Living Sport and district councils across Cambridgeshire. This free festival provides a wide range of physical activity sessions, healthy eating and healthy lifestyle workshops for you to participate in, all from the comfort of your own home. Still to come this month – Postnatal pilates, tai chi, family dance and workshops on goal setting & well-being through the menopause plus much, much more! Simply register for the festival here: [Healthy You Virtual Festival - Living Sport](#) and browse the variety of activities that are on offer.



Want to be the first to hear about all of the new and exciting physical activity opportunities that are available in the City? Then subscribe to the free, Active Lifestyles team monthly e-newsletter: [Lead an Active Lifestyle \(mailchi.mp\)](#).



Lutfhas **Womens Health and Wellbeing sessions** continue in 2024, providing a welcoming space for women to come together, meet new people, enjoy delicious food and hear lots of useful information.

All sessions are 12noon - 2pm on the following dates;

- Brown's Field Community Centre
15th February and 14th March
- Ross Street Community Centre
13th February and 12th March
- Akeman Community Centre
22nd February and 28th March

Jo C and other members of the team continue to provide a **drop in space for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities** at Browns Field Community Centre **every Friday 10am to 12 noon**. Support is available on a wide range of topics including physical and mental health, education, the cost of living, disability and carers support, housing and accommodation and community safety. Pop along and say hello, there will always be refreshments available too!

Our events equipment hiring facility - the Community Cupboard - at Browns Field Community Centre is where city based groups and organisations can hire equipment, reducing the impact on the environment of buying 'new' things that may only be used for limited periods. Membership is free to local groups and organisations and charges are minimal. Find out more by visiting www.communitycupboard.cambridge.gov.uk or email communitycupboard@cambridge.gov.uk

The Health Discovery Project continues at pace and you may have spotted on the first page of this newsletter that we have a new member of the team joining us in January to lead on this work! Following mapping exercises and workshops at the end of last year, we're now in a position to start co-designing, refining and delivering on the concepts that were generated across partner organisations and sectors.



Frailty



Children and young people's mental health



High impact service users

These will be innovative projects that are tangible local solutions tackling the challenges around frailty, young people's mental health and frequent/high impact service users and we're looking forward to working alongside all the stakeholders that have been involved and dedicated their valuable time and energy to these projects so far.

Look out for events and activities in neighbourhoods over the coming months and into the February half term holidays on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cambcommdev



The Youth Advisory Board is still looking for new members to be involved in advocating for their peers, influencing decision making across the council and more! If you are or know a young person aged 11-18 who would like to be involved email communitydevelopment@cambridge.gov.uk with 'YAB' as the subject title.

Work continues on a strategy for youth to ensure we are working collaboratively and consistently across the council and with partners to ensure we support young people to thrive. For more information email communitydevelopment@cambridge.gov.uk with 'Youth Strategy' as the subject title.



Last year many 'Warm Spaces' were created, either from existing groups or brand new settings, providing friendship and opportunities to keep warm in welcoming community spaces. Many of the warm spaces have continued throughout the year and have adapted as their communities have told them what works for them! To find out more visit www.cambridge.gov.uk/warm-and-welcoming-spaces