



**WINTER NEWSLETTER**  
**2023/2024**

# BELTA NEWS

WINTER 2023/2024 NEWSLETTER



## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*Hey there, lovely people! How's the new year treating you so far? Here at Belta, we've been up to our ears in projects! Back in 2022, I pledged to turn the Community Centre into a one-stop-shop for everyone, jam-packed with activities and facilities. And guess what? We're making great strides in that direction!*

*This year, we've already knocked a few major goals out of the park, thanks to funding from some awesome sources. We jazzed up the place with a fresh lick of paint, installed a bunch of entertainment features, and even gave the kitchen a complete revamp, with the support of the Brighton & Hove Estate Development Budget. We recently received a generous grant from the Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund, courtesy of The National Lottery Community Fund. I am humbled by these generous funds, and will ensure they are used towards expanding and fortifying the array of services we offer at the Community Centre.*

*I've also been to a variety of meetings, worked with a variety of council officers, and our ever hard working Ward Cllr. Williams to tackle loads of challenges on the Estate, including waste management, antisocial behaviour, and was successful at stopping the tripling of car parking costs...needless to say, I don't get too many days off, but for you lot - it's worth it.*

*My personal goals for Belta this year include hosting a load of fun social events for everyone, and getting more people to take part, so this community space can continue to develop in a resident-lead direction. Everyone is always welcome here at Belta, and if you see me around, do stop and say hi, I love a chat!*

*Together, let's make 2024 a year of hope and continue to show our community spirit!*

*Benjamin D'Montigny, Chairman of Belta*

## Newsletter Highlights

Meet the Trustees of Belta

TDC Youth Team Hosts Afterschool Clubs at the Community Centre

Sussex Surplus Serving Up Delicious Dishes Weekly

New Entertainment Suite at the Community Centre Caters for All



# COMMUNITY KITCHEN

PAY WHAT YOU CAN COMMUNITY CAFE, BY SUSSEX SURPLUS



The dynamic Sussex Surplus Team, featuring the culinary prowess of Abi, Ingrid, Josh, Phil, Sol, and Sophie, is back in action! Warm soups to kick off your Tuesday Public Living Room sessions and a delectable three-course feast every Thursday lunchtime at the Belta Community Hub kitchen. But that's not all – groceries are up for grabs from the Community Fridge.



Wondering how you can join this gastronomic extravaganza? Simple! Swing by on Tuesdays during the Public Living Spaces or Thursday Lunchtimes. Oh, and did we mention it's all on the house? Yep, that's right – donations are welcome but never expected. The Sussex Surplus Team is all about spreading the love, one meal at a time.

And here's a little insider tip: keep those peepers glued to their social media handle ([@SussexSurplus](https://www.instagram.com/SussexSurplus)) for the inside scoop on fantastic one-off events. Think Ingrid and Josh's legendary One Pot Supper Club. Trust us; you won't want to miss it!



# MEET THE TRUSTEES

MEET THE TRUSTEES OF BELTA...



*Role: Chairman*

## BENJAMIN

*Hello! I'm Benjamin, a paramedic by profession and dedicated volunteer with Belta for several years now. The transformation of the Community Centre from a defunct space into the hub of activity has been a rewarding experience, and I'm grateful to have contributed to its development. I have no intention of slowing down; there's still much more we can do to make Belta even better in making a lasting impact in our community.*

## JACKIE

*Hi! I'm Jackie, an artist studio tenant on the Bristol Estate. My interest and focus is on organising access to creative activities for the community. Working with fellow artists and Trustees, we will introduce an annual programme of activities and create a platform to showcase resident art through an open studio at the community hub as part of Brighton Festival, using the knowledge and skills from my experience as co-founder of a gallery in London, DFA Arts Exchange and as a former Senior Manager at Brighton SU .*



*Role: Artist Studios*



*Role: Finance*

## LOUISA

*Hi! I am Louisa, a local artist and art teacher. I have been volunteering as a BELTA trustee for a few years, where I work as part of the finance team. I am excited to be working with the other trustees to continue to develop arts opportunities on the estate.*



# MEET THE TRUSTEES

MEET THE TRUSTEES OF BELTA...



*Role: Food Provision*

## INGRID

*Hello, my name is Ingrid and I am Head Chef at Sussex Surplus and am thrilled to have been made a Trustee of our lovely community centre. I have lived, worked, and raised my children in East Brighton and am keen to highlight the accomplishments and diversity of our community whilst supporting our most vulnerable. I believe we can create long lasting improvements by working and eating together, one delicious community meal at a time.*

## SOPHIE

*Hi, I'm Sophie! As a trustee, I am looking to provide green-fingered activities on the estate next year, and my goal is that these activities can assist in improving residents wellbeing and biodiversity on the estate. I also advocate and raise awareness of the challenges that come with being neurodiverse and having disabilities as a young person. You'll usually find me cooking for the community meal on Thursday at BELTA, as I'm also a part of the Sussex Surplus team. Feel free to come say hi!*



*Role: Green Development*



*Role: Centre Development*

## TYLER

*Hi, my name's Tyler. I have just moved to the area from Kent. I am a paramedic and work for both South East Coast Ambulance Service, and look after events such as Motocross. Working for the ambulance service, I see a lot of people at their worst, especially struggling with mental health at the time. Being able to work with a project, such as BELTA, allows me to see some of the great work that goes on in my new local community and allows me to help in other ways outside of the ambulance service.*

# Volunteer at BELTA!



**We need  
you!**

Ready to step into the role of a Trustee and contribute to shaping the future of Bristol Estate? Excited about hosting or backing a vibrant social group, or perhaps you have a fantastic idea that you envision in our Community Room?

Eager to join our community cooking and gardening sessions, where you not only contribute to the well-being of others but also gain new skills and build lasting friendships?

At BELTA, we have a plethora of volunteering opportunities waiting for enthusiastic individuals like you. Reach out to us, or better yet, drop by for a friendly chat about how you can dive into the heart of our community initiatives!

email [Office@belta-brighton.co.uk](mailto:Office@belta-brighton.co.uk)



# Community Composting

Volunteer with us



## Your community needs you!

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- You'll get full training & equipment
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Brighton & Hove



Tel: 01234 567 890

Email: [compost@bhfood.org.uk](mailto:compost@bhfood.org.uk)

[www.bhfood.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.bhfood.org.uk/volunteer)





# Youth Club Sessions with TDC



BY CAROLINE, TDC  
YOUTH WORKER

Back in January, the Trust for Developing Communities started an afterschool youth session at the Bristol Estate Community Rooms. They ran on Mondays afterschool and were aimed at young people of secondary school age (11-16 years).

*Standing upon the victory podium after a day of indoor Go-Karting at TeamSport*

We were delighted by how well it took off. Young people came in with many ideas about what they wanted to do and we had a programme of cooking, arts, pool, karaoke, table tennis and games each week. We also had good chats about all sorts of things. In the summer holidays, young people from the sessions participated in activities such as graffiti art, go-karting and volleyball. As much as possible, we aim to offer what young people say they want for activities, as well as giving them the space to simply hang out with their friends.

**“We were really grateful to the BELTA Trustees for their support of the youth session and for providing lots of great resources that the young people could use too.”**



After the summer holidays the youth sessions became a little quiet though, so we decided to pause them. However, we are looking forward to restarting them in the new year and are looking for support and ideas from the Bristol Estate community to let us know what young people want from a youth session, what time we should run and what is the best way to get word out to the community. We know already that we might need to make the youth sessions start a little later to give young people the chance to get home from school.

*Demonstrating their artistic skills, you can find this hung up at the Community Centre!*

**You can also follow the TDC Youth Team on Facebook (@TDC Youth) or on Instagram (@tdcyouthteam) to keep up-to-date**

# ENTERTAINMENT SUITE AT BELTA



Introducing the latest additions to the BELTA Community Room – prepare to be amazed! Dive into entertainment with our brand-new pool dining table, seamlessly blending with the room's modular design. Challenge your friends to a game or two, and let the good times roll!

But that's not all – our classic arcade machine boasts over 100 games, promising a nostalgia trip like no other. Whether you're into retro gems or the latest releases, we've got your gaming cravings covered.



For movie nights or presentations, we've got you covered with a Smart TV, ensuring crystal-clear visuals and endless entertainment possibilities. And let's not forget the beats – our Bluetooth sound system is here to create the perfect ambiance for every occasion.

Feel like getting lost in the world of words? Explore our book exchange library, a haven for literary enthusiasts seeking their next great read. And for the tech-savvy minds, we've got high-quality computer units that'll make your digital experiences top-notch.





# Kitchen Renovation at the Community Centre



*The new kitchen features more storage, new units, improved safety, and a professional layout.*

One of the parts of the Community Centre we wanted to improve upon this year was the kitchen area. The kitchen had been well loved for almost 35 years. Many of the units were reaching the end of their lifespan - some missing drawers, worn surfaces, and overall it was in dire need of some TLC. This, combined with increasing numbers using the kitchen space, meant that we, as Trustees, felt this was an important area to improve.

So, the Belta Trustees went about working out how we could fund and design such an endeavour. Ingrid, as a professional chef, provided a lot of expert knowledge on how the space would be best utilised, highlighting the importance of culinary workflow, and pointing out spaces that could be optimised.



*Ever wondered what a kitchen looks like without the kitchen?*

We wanted to make sure we created a space that was functional that also had a nice aesthetic to it. Being at the back of the Centre with no natural light, we also wanted to make sure we used more light colours and some effective lighting.

Funding for this project came from two sources. Firstly, we started to save money aside from the rent from our studios and hall bookings over the course of about twelve months. This contributed about 60% of what we needed.

Secondly, we applied to the Estate Development Bid. This is a £320,000 pot of money set aside by Brighton & Hove City Council for ideas that can make a positive difference to your neighbourhood. This can be very broad and can be used for improvements to community assets, hosting social events, planting trees and green development as just a few examples. Over the years we have successfully used this budget to make lots of improvements around Bristol Estate and to the Community Centre. The various projects are then presented at the EDB panel, and we are given an opportunity to answer questions and explain why our proposal is a good idea. It is then voted on by the residents' groups.



# Kitchen Renovation at the Community Centre

For us, the importance of the kitchen was an easy argument to make. With the cost of living crisis, uncontrolled inflation, and the upcoming winter pressures at the time, we needed to ensure the Community Centre was ready to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

Gratefully, the members of the EDB panel agreed and voted to provide Belta with the maximum amount of £10,000 grant towards the kitchen. This, combined with what we had saved, meant that we were ready to turn our plan into action!

We knew that we'd have to close the centre for 2-3 weeks whilst we did the upgrade. We knew we wanted to be ready before November, but wanted to do the work at the least disruptive point of the year. We decided on September. As children were heading back to school, and the weather was still pretty nice, it was an ideal time to get the kitchen ready.



*The west wall was really underutilised and could host plenty more space.*

**“With the cost of living crisis, uncontrolled inflation, and the upcoming winter pressures at the time, we needed to ensure the Community Centre was ready to support the most vulnerable members of our community.”**



*The arrival of the new kitchen. Some assembly required!*

The first week was all about removing the old units and preparing the walls, wiring, and plumbing for the new setup. We discovered there was more work to do than we originally thought, but we had planned a good buffer in terms of our timescales.

Then we installed the new units and appliances. The expert kitchen fitter team were professional throughout and did a really great job in communicating how the work was progressing and accommodating changes as we tackled challenges. Within no time, the kitchen was good to go, and we were still in September!

The fun part was getting to show off the new kitchen to everyone. It never fails to impress! This was just one part of the many plans we have for the Belta Community Centre. We still have a few more sections to improve upon, including our patio in time for summer, so there's no time to rest! We hope you come visit us soon and see what we've done so far!



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# PUBLIC LIVING SPACES



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- ✓ Different Activities Every Week
- ✓ Free Refreshments
- ✓ Community Fridge
- ✓ Free Internet Access
- ✓ Free Printing Services
- ✓ Free Pool Table & Arcade Machine

 EVERY TUESDAY  
11:30 - 3:30 PM



## Contact Us



Email Us

[Office@belta-brighton.co.uk](mailto:Office@belta-brighton.co.uk)



Visit Our Website

<https://www.belta.org.uk/>





# COMMUNITY HALL ROOM HIRE

HIRE THE COMMUNITY ROOM, WITH FULLY  
EQUIPPED KITCHEN, ENTERTAINMENT SUITE,  
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RESIDENTS\*



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Bristol Estate Community Centre

Book Now!



Contact [Office@belta-brighton.co.uk](mailto:Office@belta-brighton.co.uk) for availability.

\*Groups and non-residents of Bristol Estate are charged at £15 per hour, terms and conditions apply.

# Our Mission

There are currently 1000 Bristol Estate residents living across 33 low-rise blocks. We are a strong neighbourhood and pull together to look after each other.

Things are not always perfect but we have the people and the capacity here to make life better, more fulfilled, we can create opportunities for each other – whether that’s access to low-cost nutritious food, green spaces around our estate that we can use and enjoy, a strong neighbourhood support team, a low cost café/restaurant that everyone can enjoy, community sport teams using the Manor Gym, a year-round programme of free or low-cost courses, activities, events that any of us can participate in for fun, social reasons or to help develop some new career skills or build on skills we have.

BELTA trustees support the community and we work to generate community funds, ensuring our resources are used wisely, looking after and maintaining our shared community assets including buildings like the community room, the community kitchen/café, storage rooms, artists studios, our allotment and green spaces our shared equipment and facilities. It is through consultation with residents that we move forward.

Please read more if you’re interested in taking up a volunteer role. All volunteer roles are supported, we offer training and you’ll join a friendly team where you can develop new skills. Most of all you’ll be in a position to really bring benefit to your block and our community.

We like to share our work, new structures and plans that are taking place behind the scenes with you – so you have time to think how you might like to get involved!



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