



Hall Green Community Update



August 2020 Edition 2

Welcome to the Hall Green Community Update

Welcome you to the latest edition of the Hall Green Community Newsletter. We hope our readers are keeping safe and well! August is coming to an end and the weather is certainly bracing us for Autumn! However there is a lot of exciting things to look forward to coming up in Hall Green!

In this edition of our Hall Green Community Newsletter our 'Spotlight On...' features a chat with Zahida Khan, Community Development Worker with Birmingham Mind, you can read about the experiences of Fiona a volunteer with the Moseley Exchange and Moseley Together, and as usual find up to date information on some great local and city-wide projects.

Contents

- Hall Green Community News
- Spotlight On... Birmingham MIND
- Covid-19 News and Information
- City-wide Support
- Get Involved



Who We Are

Accord is the lead partner for NNS and Early Help for families in the Hall Green Constituency. Our community teams are working across **Moseley, Kings Heath & Brandwood Sparkhill, Sparkbrook, Balsall Heath and Hall Green** to support people of all ages in diverse communities. More details about this citywide partnership can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

- [Neighbourhood Network Scheme](#) (NNS)
- [Children & Families Early Help](#) Network



Hall Green Families

07570 953519

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Hall Green Community Update



Hall Green Community News

Training Opportunities for Community Assets

As part of our work on their work on the NNS project the Hall Green NNS team have a small pot of funding to commission training for community groups in Hall Green constituency. We want to know if any people within our constituency can be commissioned to provide this training. We have extended the deadline date for returns of our Expression of Interest Form to ensure that as many groups as possible who are interested get a chance to apply.

The areas of training we are looking at commissioning are:

- Digital inclusion, culture and capability
- Volunteering
- Safeguarding
- Funding
- Community organisation business and governance support
- Marketing and Promoting
- Health and Wellbeing (specific topics).



Please download the Expression of Interest Form found [HERE](#) that gives specific details of the areas of training we are looking to commission local organisations to deliver. Our initial focus will be to provide training on bid writing and mental health. However, if there are others areas you can support with please indicate so on the form.

We aim to commission training providers from community assets who have the necessary experience and expertise. Where possible we would like to commission organisations who are based within the constituency, however we may have to extend our reach if the need arises.

The maximum amount of funding a provider can receive is £5,000 for delivering a training activity for up to three months and an organisation can only receive one amount of funding in a 12 month period. We will be looking to obtain three quotes for each area of training.

If you would like to express an interest please complete and return the form to

HallGreenNNSTeam@accordgroup.org.uk by the 11th September 2020.



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Fiona's Volunteer Story

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic we have been hearing stories of the innovative ways that communities across the country have been supporting each other through adversity. Whilst it is important to recognise that this has been and remains an incredibly difficult time for many, these stories of community coming together have provided a light in what has been a very dark time. Fiona Adams, a Volunteer Coordinator with Moseley Together has kindly shared her experiences of how a small community in Moseley have come together and supported each other through the pandemic.



“Many have noted the silver lining of lockdown – stronger community spirit. Moseley Together is a great example of this. Locally in our small area we have been getting to know each other better and using our front gardens and the road as social spaces. We have been swapping plants, selling home made masks and ice cream for charity, doing the gardens of elderly neighbours, shopping for others, posting letters and so on.

But sometimes it is the simplest things that make the biggest difference...

Helen, my fellow coordinator, and I were pleased to have some B13 magazines to distribute. We drew up a list of those who live alone, those who appeared a bit isolated and those who we thought would not be able to access the online version. We divided the list and then knocked on their doors. The offer of a magazine was a good way to start a conversation to check if we could offer more help, have a chat about local news and generally see how this particular group of our neighbours were.

I called on an elderly gentleman who I knew had lost his wife just before lockdown. He tentatively opened the door and I think hearing I had a B13 magazine for him was reassuring. We chatted for nearly an hour and I was able to admire the photo albums with pictures of his wife and listen to his memories with fresh ears. There were some tears and a recognition that, although he was lonely, he had strong family support nearby. I was able to link him in with our local residents email



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and say I would visit again. As I left he said my visit had made his day. That comment made mine!”

– Fiona Adams, Volunteer Coordinator, Moseley Together

We would like to thank Fiona Adams and Rhiannon Simpson for sharing Fiona’s story.

Spotlight On... Zahida Khan from Birmingham MIND

The Hall Green Communities team are always wanting to hear about the fantastic work happening on a local and city-wide level to support vulnerable people and those in need. For this edition of our ‘Spotlight On...’ we spoke to Zahida Khan, Community Development Worker from Birmingham Mind.

Zahida who leads on Supporting Families, works in a team of 7 Community Development Workers who support BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic), vulnerable and disconnected communities across Birmingham who are facing barriers to accessing mental health services. The team is currently made up of 7 different strands: Criminal Justice, Newly Arrived Communities, Women’s Health, African & Caribbean Communities, Men’s Health, and will soon be connecting with LGBTQ communities.

Zahida has been working for Birmingham Mind since 2002, initially starting out as a Support Worker providing recovery-based support to those living with mental health difficulties. Her current role as a Community Development Worker is a departure from her earlier work with the charity: “I tend to work less with service



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users and more with organisations and health care providers. My role is to help them work better with BAME communities who have historically struggled to access mental health care.” and other vulnerable communities.

Like many organisations Birmingham Mind also had to change their service delivery and their Helpline became their primary service, offering telephone support to the citizens of Birmingham and Solihull during lockdown. Zahida has had to develop new ways of working to adapt to the pandemic, with Zahida herself shielding throughout lockdown: “my colleagues and I have been working from home, getting familiar to using Zoom and other technologies that help us stay engaged with communities across the city.” The pandemic has also demonstrated why the work of Zahida and her colleagues is so important, “I think that the disproportionate deaths that we have seen within BAME communities has highlighted that there is a lot of work that we need to do in terms of bridging health inequalities.”

Zahida has always had an interest in mental health from an early age and she is very passionate and enthusiastic about her work “I love what I do; I love talking to people, engaging with them and making a difference. It’s great to link people in with support and ensuring they get the help they need.” Outside of her role with Birmingham Mind Zahida enjoys spending time with her two children, “we like to go for lots of walks and days out” she told us. Zahida is also a big fan of Netflix and like many of us has used the free time lockdown has given us to binge watch TV shows and films. She is also an avid reader and describes herself as “a sponge” when it comes to reading new books.

In terms of what comes next for Zahida and her colleagues at Birmingham Mind they are very much focusing on what the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic may bring: “I think we haven’t seen the full impact that COVID-19 has had on adults and children and going forward there will be a lot of people struggling with their mental health. Because of this we will be raising a lot of awareness around mental health and what support is available across the City.”

If you are in need of any support, signposting or information about Birmingham Mind, please contact their 24hr Helpline on 0121 262 3555 or email help@birminghammind.org

We would like to thank Zahida for spending time chatting with us. Would you like to be featured in our next Hall Green Communities Newsletter? Get in touch with Natalie Tichareva via Natalie.tichareva@accrodgroup.org.uk.



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COVID-19 Information

We continue to work with our partners in the community, voluntary and faith sectors, health, family support, social work, police, education, social care, early year's providers and GPs to provide local help. Birmingham City Council and BVSC are leading efforts to make it easier for people to get the support they need in the neighbourhoods where they live.

Back to School Travel Advice

As Summer comes to an end many families with children will be preparing for their return to school. A lot of families rely on public transport such as buses, trains and trams to get their children to and from. This is why it is important to follow travel advice and guidance from reputable sources. West Midlands Network have lots of great, easy read travel information and advice for their public transport users. You can find this information [HERE](#)

Trusted Information

It is so important to only follow trusted guidance around the COVID-19 pandemic from legitimate sources. If you are struggling to get the right help or advice you can contact a member of the Hall Green Communities team who will link you in with trusted support on your doorstep.

For details of [Covid-19 Support Services in](#)

[Sparkbrook, Balsall Heath, Sparkhill, Hall Green, Moseley, Kings Heath & Brandwood](#) please visit our [WEBSITE](#) or see our **directory attached**



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Local & City-wide Help and Support

ReCOM

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted how important digital skills and digital inclusion are to ensure we stay connected. We also know that the pandemic will be impacting employment, with many people facing redundancy as a consequence of the virus.

Which is why we are excited to announce that Digital skills charity ReCOM will be providing remote IT for Employment support open to residents of Hall Green. Support will be provided over the telephone and online and will support people to learn basic IT skills and to apply for jobs online.

For an appointment contact ReCOM on 0121 663 0335

Phoenix Fund

Birmingham based Equality and Human Rights charity BRAP have announced the Phonenix Fund, emergency funding for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community groups across England. The funding has arisen as the result of research undertaken by the Ubele Initiative which is a social enterprise supporting the African Diaspora in the UK. The funding is delivered in partnership between Global Fund for Children and the National Lottery Community Fund.

The funding is intended to help grassroots BME groups cover the costs of core funding, with an aim to work with organisations and community groups who have historically been unable to access funding.

To apply for a grant visit the Phoenix Fund website [HERE](#)



ACCESS IT FOR EMPLOYMENT

NEED SUPPORT TO FIND A JOB?

ReCOM provides telephone and on-line support for those who need help to find employment.

We can you help you to

- Learn basic IT skills
- Find and apply for a job online
- Create your own CV & cover letter
- Learn how to setup and use email

Phone ReCOM for an appointment:

0121 663 0335

Open to all Hall Green residents

Funded by:

WESLEYAN

we are all about you



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The Muath Trust
in partnership with
Hall Green Neighbourhood Network Scheme
Covid-19 Community Hub



Community Walking Club

The Muath Trust will be hosting a Community Hub Walking Club on Friday mornings.

The Walking Club will meet 10:30am at Farm Park, which is located near Sparkbrook Health and Community Centre on Grantham Road.

The Muath Trust are also looking for volunteers to support a number of their wonderful community initiatives, including their hot meals delivery service.

To find out more about the community walking club or getting involved with any volunteering opportunities contact support@muathtrust.org or call 07547249659,



Community Hub Walking Club
Fancy a weekly gentle walk around Farm Park? (Weather permitting).

Meet at 10:30am, by Main entrance near Sparkbrook Health & Community Centre, 34 Grantham Road, B11 1JU.

*please wear appropriate clothing, footwear and bring a bottle of water

Every Friday starting from 28th August 2020



Call: 07547249659 or Email: support@muathtrust.org
Volunteers also required - please get in touch

The Muath Trust is a Registered Charity No. 1100481
The Bordesley Centre, Stratford Road, Camp Hill, Birmingham, B11 1AR

Birmingham Black Carers Support Group

The Birmingham Black Carers Support Group will be hosting their next virtual meeting on Friday 18th September. The group supports Black Carers from across the city, to take part in the next meeting please contact info@birminghamblackcarers.org.uk or call 07846222913.



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Get Involved

We want the many unique voices who make Hall Green great to be involved in our Hall Green Communities newsletter. Do you know of a brilliant community project we should be featuring? Or do you want to shine a spotlight on a neighbour who has been supporting people through the pandemic? Perhaps you have an idea for how the Newsletter should look or what we should feature? Regardless of what your suggestion might be we want to hear from you!

Please contact Natalie Tichareva at Natalie.Tichareva@accordgroup.org.uk to make a suggestion or find out more ways you can get involved with the newsletter.

**Thank you for reading our Hall Green Communities Newsletter
Please stay safe, share this information and encourage others to join our
mailing [list](#).**



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