



Issue 5 May 2024

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

New beginnings and fond farewells

We may have been a little presumptuous in our last issue when we welcomed in the warmer months of Spring! It certainly has been a little rainy and cold during April, but that hasn't stopped us getting out and about, and Carl has been 'popping up' all over the city with the Seed Library.

The Seed Library celebrates growing produce from scratch with the intention of community sharing of produce and re-growing from cultivated seeds. So far the seed library has 155 members across the city, with four community centres and five libraries helping to spread the word plus pop up events at Natwest, Mathsworks and Barnwell, Akeman Street and Mill Road Community Centres. We're looking forward to seeing how this project develops as members let us know about their growing, and harvesting adventures!



As well as celebrating starting things anew, we also celebrated an ending last month as we said goodbye to Cathy, who has been such a valued member of our team. It was a full house at Meadows Community Centre with colleagues past and present joining us to celebrate Cathy's amazing 40 year run at Cambridge City Council.

Our team and so many others across the council will miss her brilliance and energy, but we're super proud and excited for her as she embraces life outside of work!

Get in touch!

2024 is flying by, and we continue to listen 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 always love to hear from you! 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 and Growth Lead
- Caroline Gill – Children, Young People and Families Lead
- Ariadne Henry – Equalities Lead
- Suzanne Goff – Preventative Health Programmes Officer
- Dora Suberlak – Project Support Officer
- Andrea Butler – Community Development Officer North
- Kelly Smith – Community Development Officer South
- Carl Higgs – Community Development Officer East / Armed Forces and Veterans Lead
- Suzanne Jackson – Community Development Officer West / New Communities
- 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

Good Food Neighbourhood

Luthfa, Andrea and Carl had a fantastic time at Akeman Community Centre at another fantastic Good Food Neighbourhood event! Working in partnership with Cambridge Sustainable Food they and the centre team hosted an all day event packed full of fun activities.



The morning involved sharing recipes and drawing fruit and vegetables with local artist Hillary that will contribute to the design of the community recipe book.

This was followed by a delicious curry lunch and an afternoon of gardening advice and planting plus a cooking demonstration from Luthfa!

Discovery visit

In March Caroline, Andrea, Kelly and Sue visited the inspirational Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust to learn about their 10 year journey – from a group of local residents wanting to make a difference, to a well established charity that has communities and residents in the lead. A big thank you to Val, Alison and the rest of the team there, for sharing their experiences and showing us around!

Power Up! Festival



The Power Up! festival at Netherhall School, with the i3 Parent Hub, saw around 130 children, young people and families come through the door to enjoy activities and find out information all around wellbeing.

Adie spoke with families and young people about their hopes for the future and what a great Cambridge would look like for them. Caroline, along with our County Council Communities colleagues, enabled young people to suggest themes for a citywide survey for their peers.



The craft and sewing stations were super popular with Sew Positive providing space for attendees to sit and spend time creating, in what was a busy environment. Over 30 providers came along to share information and support for the event and it was so impressive to see everyone come together in one space for the benefit of children and young people in our city.

Holiday Lunches

Throughout the Easter break Holiday Lunches were hosted in community settings. These events are aimed at those who might be struggling with finances over the holidays, but everyone is welcome and they are a great way of getting the family out of the house and enjoying some delicious food and fun activities together!



Partners supporting with food and activities included Cambridge Sustainable Food, , volunteers from Selwyn College and the Judge Business School, and the University of Cambridge Museums providing activities.. A big thank you also to the centre staff at each of the community settings – the Clay Farm Centre, Browns Field Community Centre, The Meadows Community Centre and Storeys Field Centre – for hosting and creating such a warm welcome.



Head over to Cambridge Sustainable Food's web page for the recipes served at the holiday lunches and you can try them at home!

<https://cambridgesustainablefood.org/holidaylunchrecipes>

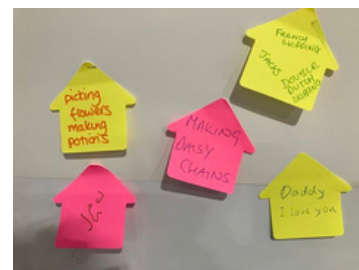
Play Streets Discovery Sessions

Andrea and Sue held two Street Play Discovery sessions at the end of March which were an opportunity for anyone to come along and find out how they can create a safe and inviting play space event right on their doorstep! It was great to meet residents excited about opening up their streets safely for fun and games with their neighbours, and it was really lovely to hear memories of playing out from their childhoods too!



We also had colleagues from the County Councils' Communities team and Highways team attending who were able to provide valuable insight into the process of getting a Play Street set up.

We're looking forward to hearing more from residents who are working hard towards getting their friends and neighbours out playing!



For more information about setting up your own neighbour led Play Street you can visit [CLICK HERE](#) or scan this QR code



Women in Sport

Women in Sport have recently been commissioned to run a research project to gain a better understanding of teenage girls experience and perception of parks and open spaces in the city. The research has a particular focus on how being outside supports young women's mental and physical well-being and increases their opportunity to be active.

There has been a particular focus on three parks in the city – Jesus Green, Nuns Way and Trumpington Rec – and over a weekend in April local young women took a walk around the spaces and talked about what they like and how they feel each park could be improved. The Women in Sport team were impressed by the young women's very thoughtful input which will feed into their research, and will play a part in creating more inclusive parks for all users



International Womens Day events

In March we were involved in 3 incredible events marking International Women's Day. Sue was at Darwin Green Community Rooms which hosted a community led event with residents sharing stories, experiences, and food! Luthfa and Kelly were at Ross Street Community Centre with a delicious meal, dancing and a fashion show. And Ari, Kelly, Jo and Dora were at Clay Farm Centre creating amazing artwork alongside drumming workshops and a play and dance performance.



It was great to see so many women and girls of all ages enjoying space, time and inspiring activities together and we're sure that the connections and memories made will exist far beyond the events themselves.

Community Centres

Our friends in the Community Centres teams are really pleased to let you know that they have recently fully opened two new community facilities which are now open for bookings! For information on all of the City Council Community Centres visit www.cambridge.gov.uk/community-centres



Darwin Green Community Rooms opened on Monday 15 April and will be staffed Monday to Friday 9am–1pm. The rooms will be available to book both during and outside of these hours, have two main large rooms with kitchen facilities in each, and are suitable for a variety of activities. The team are also running an open coffee morning every Wednesday 9am to 12.30pm. Give them a follow at [Darwin Green Community Rooms](#) on Facebook and for booking enquiries email them at info.dgrooms@cambridge.gov.uk



Campkin Road Community Centre opened on Monday 29 April and is available to book 8.30am to 8pm every day including Bank Holidays. There is a large main hall with access to an enclosed garden area, and two smaller meeting rooms. A separate kitchen space is available for anyone who books a room, or can be hired for sole use. The centre will soon have a facebook page and you can contact the team for booking enquiries by emailing campkin@cambridge.gov.uk

Bra Banks at Community Centres



Having a clear out? If you have any bras that you no longer wear, you can now recycle them at [Meadows Community Centre](#) and [Brown's Field Community Centre](#) to help raise funds for breast cancer research with [Against Breast Cancer](#) charity!

For more information visit <https://www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk/recycling/bra-recycling>

Activities for over 65's

The City Council's Independent Living Service has lots of activities on offer for older adults – if you're over 65 or support those who are, you are welcome along to any of the 9 schemes across the city to give an activity a go. The groups are very friendly and all activities are free or as low cost as possible.

You can find out more about activities on offer by visiting the Facebook page www.facebook.com/cambridgeoph or by emailing Activity Coordinator, Olivia on olivia.james-watts@cambridge.gov.uk. You can also call the office on 01223 457199.

The Independent Living Service also runs the Visiting Support Service which is available for all Cambridge residents aged over 65. The aim is to connect older people with services that help them remain independent and socially active, while making sure they have access to the care and support they need. For more information on the service visit www.cambridge.gov.uk/visiting-support-service



Engage! Save the Date – Monday 3 June

Suzanne from our team is working alongside Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service to run a mini conference around Community Engagement on Monday 3rd of June at the Meadows Community Centre.

There will be lots of opportunities to get involved as an organisation or group – hosting workshops, giving lightening talks, volunteering to welcome people and introduce them to others, having a market stall on any aspect of community engagement, running practical and creative activities around ideas for engagement and getting stuck in filling in our super large calendar for events planned in Cambridge over the summer.

If you want to get involved, brush up your skill set, have specialist knowledge you could share or take part behind the scenes – this could be a great opportunity. For more information or to discuss just email suzanne.goff@cambridge.gov.uk or to book your place visit just visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engage-summer-2024-tickets-895181169977

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

The next sessions are all 12noon to 2pm on the following dates;

- Ross Street Community Centre – 14 May, 11 June, 16 July
- Brown's Field Community Centre – 16 May, 13 June, 18 July
- Akeman Community Centre – 23 May, 27 June, 25 July
- NEW VENUE! Trumpington Pavilion – 21 May, 18 June, 23 July

Midsummer Fair

Midsummer Fair is in it's 811th year and is the second largest travelling communities fair in the UK after Appleby. This year Jo C, who is our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Engagement Officer, has been working behind the scenes in collaboration with the Showmans Guild to bring something extra special to the Fair! From Thursday 20 to Saturday 23 June there will be extra support, activities and advice in a large marquee featuring topics such as health, education and advocacy for the Travelling Communities. If you're from an organisation or group that would like to have an information stall at the Fair you can contact jolene.chisholm@cambridge.gov.uk

And don't forget, the usual Gypsy, Roma and Traveller support and advice drop ins still run every Friday 10am to 12 noon at Browns Field Community Centre.



Look out for events and activities in neighbourhoods over the coming months including May Half Term on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cambcommdev

The Hello Summer brochure will also be out soon! This will contain lots of low and no cost things to do for families throughout the summer holidays from friends and partners accorss the city! Information will also be available here www.cambridge.gov.uk/children-and-young-people