



ISSUE 31 - Autumn 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



Regeneration
Celebration
SPECIAL

LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME!...

S4B was born in 2014 and the PFI regeneration programme began. Since then, the Brunswick area has seen many changes and transformation.

Over 200 new homes have been built for rent, and by the end of next year 300 new homes for sale will have been created.

Some homes have been converted and some refurbished, including the reversal of others.

A new housing office has been constructed with 18 apartments for rent situated above.

There is also the recently completed Brunswick Village, an all-new extra care development for older people.

Gartside Gardens Park has been renovated with the addition of a multi-use games area for sports such as five-a-side, tennis and basketball for customers of all ages.

We are committed to continued improvements in the park, such as grass and tree maintenance, garden furniture and signage.

Two new play areas have also been installed especially for the little ones under the age of eight to enjoy.

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Hartfield Close Allotments



New homeowners Sineesh Divya and their family



New Housing Office and apartments at Polygon



New Homes for sale



New housing office opening



New home at Buttercup Street



Winners of the Inside Housing Top Sixty award and regeneration scheme of the year



All-new Glenharry Play area



Sylvia Pankhurst Way and new homes

Here are a few pics showcasing the transformation of Brunswick and highlighting our achievements so far to show just how far we have come since 2014.

COMAS (Chorlton on Medlock Allotment Society) now have a permanent base at the new allotments along with our very own orchard just across the way.

Both are adjacent to the new boulevard running through the heart of the neighbourhood, Sylvia Pankhurst Way, named in honour of the Pankhurst movement. The name for the new boulevard was chosen in recognition of the daughter of the famous suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.

We're sure you'll agree, it looks amazing and a fabulous place to live.



Sylvia Pankhurst Way naming event



New Homes for Rent



Consultation and birthday celebration event



Martin Tool- Chairman of COMAS



High rise refurbishments



Gartside Gardens annual fun day



New home for May, Dunphy at Stattham Close



PROGRAMMED WORKS

As demolition and construction is coming to an end, the next phase in the regeneration programme in Brunswick will be planned improvement works as part of our ongoing commitment.

This includes the modernisation of heating systems in multiple occupancy buildings such as maisonettes and high rise properties, with new Switch2 meters being installed by the end of this year.

Decoration works are also being carried out at Litcham Close, Mancroft Walk, Merrow Walk, Lockton Close and Helmshore Walk.

For more information and to see if your property is part of the improvement works programme, please get in touch.

BT Broadband Home Essentials



New or existing BT customers can apply for BT Broadband Home Essentials

You'll need to be receiving one of these benefits to qualify:

- Universal Credit (all claimants)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Eligibility rules apply)
- Jobseeker's Allowance (Eligibility rules apply)
- Income Support

Don't forget you'll need your National Insurance number when you order, so BT can check you're eligible.

Contact **www.BT.com** for more information or to place an order.

Alternatively contact S4B **0300 555 0128** if you need help doing this.



The Pension Top Up

Are you 66 or over and:

- Single with a weekly income below £177.10 (including state pension and any private pensions)?
- A couple with a weekly pension below £270.30 (not including any disability benefits)?

If so, you may be entitled to a top-up also known as Pension Credit.

For more information or to see if you qualify, please get in touch.

Email: **info@s4bmanchester.co.uk**
or tel: **0300 555 0128**

The SMART Homes Project

is run in partnership with the Citizens Advice Manchester and Republic of Things.

They are looking for volunteers to help test out how they can use data from people's homes to help our local health and care organisations keep Manchester residents comfortable, safe, well and independent in their own homes.

A sensor would be fitted in your home which sends data back for analysis. You don't have to do anything more and it will be at no cost to you.

If you'd like to take part or would like more information telephone

0161 277 1858 or email **communityalarm@manchester.gov.uk**



Republic Of Things

With the colder months fast approaching, now is a good time to check your central heating is in good working order.



If you have any problems, you can report the repair online **www.s4bmanchester.co.uk** give us a call or send an email to **repairs@s4bmanchester.co.uk** and we will arrange for an engineer to visit.

Don't forget - we need to stay COVID safe, so you must let us know if you or anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19 or is self-isolating, so we can make the appropriate and necessary arrangements.

GETTING ACTIVE...



Lockdown has taken its toll, restricting some of us from taking part in our usual daily exercise and activities. Now is time to make the most of the last of the great weather and get back out there and up-the-ante on our exercise.

There's so much to do right on our doorstep, from a daily walk, cycling, dance classes, swimming and sports - quite literally something for all ages.

We visited our friends at the Skatepark recently.

Situated at the bottom of Brunswick, under the Mancunian Way, it's attended by young people from all around the region. It's a fantastic way to meet your mates and make new friends AND it's so much fun...

To find out more, why not pop in a take a look **97 London Road M1 2PG**, send an email info@projektsmcr.com visit their website www.projektsmcr.com or give them a call **0161 532 4290**.

We also spoke to Mike Edwards and his team at Youth Community Champions (YCC) to find out how they've been getting on.

Mike said: "It's been a great summer of activity and the turnout from local kids has been fantastic. It's great to see them getting out in the fresh air, getting active and making new friends.

There's been lots on offer including football and dodgeball and we even took a trip to Blackpool. We're now planning to offer some October half-term sessions too".

To find out more, or register an interest in the October half-term fun for your children, contact Mike Edwards on **07447 918 371** or send him an email info@youngchamps.co.uk.

There's also lots of great hints and tips from Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) for getting out and about and getting active.

There's something for everyone, cycling, walking and great ideas of places to explore right on our doorstep.

Visit www.activetravel.tfgm.com



After all that exertion you must take time out to recuperate.

How about a little bit of Hygge, the Danish word "hygge" (pronounced "hoo-gah") translates roughly to "cosiness," but it means so much more than that.

In essence, hygge means creating a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people. Cosying up with a loved one for a movie - that's hygge, too.

And there's nothing more hygge than sitting around with friends and family, discussing the big and small things in life. Perhaps hygge explains why the Danes are some of the happiest people in the world.

Hygge is something that happens all year round. Picnics in the park, barbeques with friends, outdoor concerts, street festivals and bike rides can all be very hygge, especially when done the Danish way. So why not give it a go and find your own happy hygge place.



Taking control of your finances



The government plans to remove several financial support schemes put in place to help people struggling during the COVID-19 crisis and we know the next few months are going to be hard on your finances.

Here is some information on how we can offer our support so you don't fall into rent arrears or financial difficulty.

Universal credit

From September 2021, the existing £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit is due to end and customers could see a drop of up to £86.67 per month. Let us know if this affects you and you need our help.

Furlough support

As the country moves towards getting back to normal with the roll-out of the vaccine programme and business starting to reopen, the government's furlough scheme is set to end on September 30, 2021.

Get in touch if this means a change in your circumstances and you need some support.

Fuel bills on the rise

Did you know that from 1st October the energy price cap will rise again?

This means fuel bills can increase by up to £153 a year.

Be prepared for rising energy costs. You can use a comparison site to check the best deals for you - for example, Simply Switch (**0800 011 1395**), Uswitch or Helpline (**0800 074 0745**).

Help is at hand!

We know these changes will impact a number of our customers, which is why our Financial Inclusion team is on hand to offer advice, support and guidance on what to do next.

If you're worried about the changes, or have money worries including debt, please reach out to our Financial Inclusion Specialist, Yvette Brown. Email info@s4bmanchester.co.uk or call **0300 555 0128** and ask to speak to Yvette.

Don't forget, if you're struggling to pay your rent, please get in touch straight away. It's better to act now, sooner rather than later.



The safety of our residents and colleagues is our number one priority. We are continuing to follow safe ways of working guidelines and all our operatives will continue to use personal protective equipment (PPE).

Need to book a repair?

You must tell us if you or anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID, is self-isolating or awaiting the results of a COVID test, BEFORE booking any repairs.

We will let you know at that point if we can complete your repair request or not and if we are able to arrange a safe visit with COVID protection for staff and residents in place.

If we can carry out the repair with safe measures in place, remember to always keep two meters away from all persons not in your household, and try to wait in another room when the operative is attending your property.

The operative will be up to date with the latest guidance on how to work safely.

If you have any routine repairs (those that are not an emergency), please report them preferably by email at repairs@s4bmanchester.co.uk or if you don't have access to email, please telephone **0300 555 0128**.

All emergency repairs can be reported to us on **0300 555 0128** (24-hours).



Award winning pie bags Silver & Bronze at National Pie contest.

Craig Hammond - Bistro Supervisor at Brunswick Village transported his creation down to Melton Mowbray for judging last week.

His "Cheese and Brunswick pie" was entered in two categories, Best Hot

Savoury Pie, scooping silver and Best Vegetarian Pie taking Bronze.

This is a huge achievement as there were literally hundreds of entries.

Well done Craig!



Great Big GREEN Weekender

Sharon Thomas represented S4B at the Great Big Green Weekender hosted by Brunswick Church.

Even though it rained it didn't stop the families coming out to enjoy the packed weekend of activities which included a litter pick, planting, planning, family eco fair and creating a Wave of Hope Banner which is now displayed at the side of the church.



BUZZ Manchester Health and Wellbeing service have many activities on offer.

Everything from moving more, such as Tai Chi, table tennis and Bollyfit classes, to cookery and craft sessions along with the health and wellbeing, mental health care and age friendly services. There really is something for everyone.

For more information visit their website www.buzzmanchester.co.uk or email buzz@gmmh.nhs.uk or call 0161 271 0505 to discuss what's going on.

Help is born to support well-being and mental health



It's difficult to imagine anything positive coming out of lockdown but remarkably something did when a group of likeminded women joined together on Zoom to start a new group called Dynamic Engagement Project.

During their lively discussions they quickly realised that they had a lot of skills, knowledge and expertise between them. Many of the women are from local communities and felt well-placed, confident and passionate enough to pass on their skills to others.

Their aim is to create an environment to support well-being and mental health for all ages with the delivery of many different activities and project.

If you more information or want to get in touch with the group you can email: dynamicengagementproject@hotmail.com



Compliments and complaints

S4B has updated and simplified the complaints process in line with Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code.

This simplified process will enable S4B to resolve complaints raised by their residents quickly and use the learning from complaints to drive service improvements.

For more information visit the **S4B website** or send an email to info@s4bmanchester.co.uk.



SUMMER ROADSHOW

S4B worked in partnership with the Forever Manchester Community Building Team at their summer roadshow to host the event held at Hartfield Allotments.

The aim of the day was to engage with as many members of the community as possible to find out what they're most passionate about and their hopes for the future.



Buzz health and well-being were invited to join us along with the members of the Brunswick Church toddler group, Women's Footprints & Dynamic Women's Project.

Brunswick Bistro from Brunswick Village provided a delicious vegetarian lunch which was enjoyed by over 40 residents.



Jobs and Training Opportunities

We work closely with the Standguide Group who offer many training and employment opportunities for customers., with courses such as Administration, Autism and Working in Adult Social Care coming up in October.

For more information and details of how to apply, contact their referral team on 0161 881 4826 or visit their website www.standguide.co.uk

Ardwick Councillors

If you are a resident in Ardwick our Councillors are here to help you all year round with any issues you may have, just get in touch via phone or email - or come along to one of our advice surgeries.



Tina Hewitson - Tel: 0161 273 1805.
cldr.t.hewitson@manchester.gov.uk



Bernard Priest - Tel: 0161 740 8407.
cldr.b.priest@manchester.gov.uk



Amna Abdullatif - Tel: 07971 384 539.
cldr.amna.abdullatif@manchester.gov.uk



Brunswick Church will soon be celebrating it's reopening following refurbishment.

Keep an eye on their website and social media pages for the latest updates and news of the events.

Visit www.brunswickchurch.org.uk or @brunswickmcr on Twitter.

The Satisfaction Survey is back and Coming Soon!

We didn't carry out our annual customer satisfaction survey last year due to the pandemic, but we are now ready to produce it again.

It will be issued the first week in January 2022, so look out for it landing on your doormat or direct to your email inbox.

Your views matter to us so please take a few minutes to complete and return it to us.



**DON'T FORGET! -
KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE
LATEST INFORMATION BY
FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Every Friday...
Don't forget to
BRING IN
YOUR BINS!**

Arabic	للحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغتك الرجاء الاتصال برقم الهاتف 0300 555 0128
Bangla	এই তথ্যটি আপনার ভাষায় পেতে চাইলে দয়া করে টেলিফোন করুন 0300 555 0128 এই নম্বরে।
Chinese	如欲索取這資訊以閣下語言編制的副本請致電 0300 555 0128
French	Pour recevoir ces informations dans votre langue prière d'appeler le 0300 555 0128
Somali	Si aad u hesho macluumaadkaani oo luqaddaada ku qoran fadlan wax 0300 555 0128
Turkish	Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almak için lütfen 0300 555 0128 numarayı arayınız.
Urdu	یہ معلومات اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی 0300 555 0128 پر فون کیجئے۔

S4B Housing Office (by appointment only)
15 Brunswick Street Manchester M13 9SU
T: 0300 555 0128 E: Info@s4bmanchester.co.uk
W: s4bmanchester.co.uk

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