



Brunswick

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



ISSUE 41 - Spring 2024



Winning photo entry for January
Ms Asma.

Celebrating Ten Years of S4B

S4B is now ten years old. To mark this momentous milestone we have produced a film showcasing the results of how far we have come through partnership working. [View the film here or visit the website.](#)

To kickstart the festivities, resident Callie Kerins was awarded a £10 shopping voucher for being first customer over the S4B housing office threshold on the actual birthday.

Callie said: "It was a lovely surprise to receive the shopping voucher, especially first thing on a Monday morning! I've lived in Brunswick all my life and thrilled with the changes that have taken place."

To continue our year of celebration, there will be a series of events and activities held throughout 2024 and we'd love you to get involved. We have

now started our monthly photography competition and the results are in for January and February.

View the results so far on pages six and seven with details of how you too can get involved. The winning photos will be made into a fabulous 2025 calendar so get snapping and get your entries in!



More details on pages 6 & 7 ▶



Lunar New Year Celebrations 2024

On Saturday, 10th February the Brunswick Lunar New Year Fair & Celebration, organised by Lighttime CIC working in partnership with S4B, Brunswick Tenants & Residents Association and Manchester City Council, took place at Brunswick Parish Church.

There were three craft sessions during the afternoon, Faichun, an age-old tradition of writing lucky words in gold paint on red paper, red pocket making, another ancient tradition to share good luck and wealth, and Dragon puppet making.

Other activities included, arts and craft stalls, traditional food, drinks and Karaoke. There were also games stalls plus Dragon hat making and not forgetting the star of the show, the Balloon Dragon! View a selection of the photographs from the event [here](#).

The Wai Yin Society Chinese New Year Celebration held a community lunch at Sheung Lok Well-being Centre to which S4B Social Investment Specialist, Sharon Thomas was invited along.

Everyone enjoyed a 'Poin Choi' lunch, which means basin food, and consists of a large basin filled with 14 ingredients such as pork, beef,

lamb, chicken, duck, abalone, shark fin, fish maw, prawn, crab, dried mushrooms, fish balls, squid, dried eel, shrimp, pigskin, bean-curd, daikon, bamboo shoots, which are assembled into a casserole.

After lunch the afternoon included a Lion Dance performance and a lucky draw.

When is Lunar New Year?

The date of Lunar New Year differs every year. In 2024 it occurs on 10 February and is the year of the Dragon. In many cultures, each year is also associated with an animal from the zodiac.

This system for naming years has been in use for about the last 2000 years, but traditionally dates back to 2637 BCE when the calendar was supposed to have been invented.



International Women's Day



Friday, 8th March, was International Women's Day 2024. To celebrate the occasion, an event was held at Brunswick Church.

Activities on the day included an information marketplace with S4B, Mears, Pankhurst House, Royal Northern College of Music, four guest speakers, and a performances from Joyful Noise, along with a raffle, refreshments and a gift bag to take away. More details in this flyer.

The first International Women's Day was held in March 1911 and since then has been an annual celebration of Women around the world. The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2024 is Inspire Inclusion when women themselves are inspired to be included with a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment.

This event was organised by Brunswick Church Women's Footprints Group working in partnership with S4B and Manchester City Council.



Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week and Reporting centre



Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week took place from the 5th to the 9th of February and is recognised each year by the ten boroughs that make up the Greater Manchester and promoting the message 'Too Great for Hate'.

S4B Social Investment Specialist, Sharon Thomas, attended various events and workshops supporting the campaign and said: "The S4B housing office remains a 3rd Party reporting centre. If you, or anyone you know, is suffering any form of hate crime, it can be reported at the S4B housing office, 15 Brunswick Street, in private and in total confidence".

Hate crime is any crime targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards their:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Alternative subculture
- Trans and gender reassignment

No hate crime is acceptable. We all have a right to live without fear, hostility and intimidation from others because of who we are. We all have a responsibility to stand against hatred and discrimination.

#WeStandTogether



Mike and his Manchester Young Community Champions (MYCC)

became #LitterHeroes and teamed up on Monday, 18th March to litter pick around Gartside Gardens and the Brunswick neighbourhood. Well done guys! You did a splendid job.



Bin your butts!

If you smoke please rethink how you dispose of your cigarette butts. Research shows that almost half of smokers are unaware that any cigarette they toss into the street could actually end up in the ocean through drains and take years to decompose so harm the immediate environment.

Bin The Butt | Keep Britain Tidy



KEEP BRITAIN AND BRUNSWICK TIDY.

Now in its ninth year, the Great British Spring Clean (15-31 March) is the nation's biggest environmental campaign - here's how some of you got involved. The Great British Spring Clean is a great chance to show the environment belongs to everyone and we should look after it all year round not just for the campaign.

The S4B team organised skip and clean up days. S4B Environmental Services & Commercial Team Leader, Ashraf Choudhury advises:

Please dispose of unwanted items responsibly. Your nearest recycling centre is Sandfold Lane, Manchester, M19 3BJ. More info: Sandfold Lane Recycling Centre | Recycle for Greater Manchester

And please consider if you have any items that can be used or upcycled by another person rather than throwing it away. One company who may consider taking unwanted furniture items is Mustard Tree, St Anns Hospice in Grove Village. Mustard Tree tel: **0161 228 7331** or Email: **information@mustardtree.org.uk**.



The Keep Britain Tidy campaign celebrates its landmark 70th year of protecting the environment.

Visit **Great British Spring Clean | Keep Britain Tidy** for more information.

You can also get advice and equipment from **Keep Manchester Tidy** and become a member to keep the litter busting going all year round.



Thanks to all our #LitterHeroes who help to keep Britain and Brunswick tidy!

How did you get involved?

You can post your litter picking pictures and videos on social media using the hashtag #McrSpringClean24 and we can show the nation how much pride we take in our city.



Celebrating 10 Years of S4B

S4B turned ten years old in January and to mark this momentous occasion, we will be holding a series of events and activities throughout 2024.

One of the celebrations is our monthly photo competition. Customers are asked to send in a photo each month for a chance win a prize in shopping vouchers. At the end of the year the twelve winning entries will be made into a 2025 calendar.

The competition is open to all residents in Brunswick, including Leaseholders and there is no age limit but under 16's must have parental or guardian consent.

Enter as many times as you like, just one or two month or all months. The monthly prize is a £10 shopping voucher with overall winner's prizes at the end of the year.

More information on the website, T's and C's apply.

The winning entries so far are:



Jan - Ms Asma



Feb - Mr Shaw



NEW ENTRY for March from Mr Bailey!

Entries for March closes on 31st March, so if you miss this month please get snapping for April and the year ahead.



This month we are launching our new community fund to add to the 2024 celebrations. Ten community groups can apply for £100 for an event or activity of your choice to mark the 10th anniversary of S4B.

The celebration can be anything you like such as a street or garden party and we will contribute £100 to help with any costs. All we ask is you display our ten year bunting (must be returned to us afterwards) and send us some pictures so we can tell others all about it on the website and in the newsletter.

Complete this application form or call into the S4B housing office for a paper copy. T's and C's apply.

The winning entry for the Autumn 2023 quiz is Mr Holbrook, who wins a shopping voucher. We will not be running any more competitions in the newsletter this year due to the 2024 events and activities already being held but we will reconvene next year.



In June 2024, Brunswick Church will be celebrating their Jubilee year.

Officially opened in June 1974, they are planning a weekend of 50th Birthday celebrations and you're all invited!

Come along between the 29th and and we're planning a weekend of celebrations on June 29-30.

There will be a guided walk, soup lunch along with fun, arts and games. activities.

Come and join in the festivities and help make this an extra special weekend.

More details in this newsletter here.

Our Councillors



Cllr Tina Hewitson
0161 234 3235 Members Support
cllr.tina.hewitson@manchester.gov.uk



Cllr Amna Saad Omar Abdullatif
07971 384 539
cllr.amna.abdullatif@manchester.gov.uk



Cllr Abdigafar Mohamed Muse
07795 446 897
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2024/25 RENT CHARGES



2024/25 rent (and heating if applicable) charges have now been approved by Manchester City Council (MCC). The rent increase is set by MCC with CPI +1%, based on September 2023 rate. This means the rent increase will be 7.7% effective from Monday, 1st April 2024.

Brunswick Village Service Charge has also been agreed with a reduction, but their heating charge will increase. Letters have now been sent to all tenants confirming the changes.

The rent-free weeks this year will be week 1 commencing 1st April and week 39 commencing 23rd December 2024.

If you're having trouble paying your rent or have any other financial worries, don't ignore the issue.

Please contact the S4B Financial Inclusion Team straight away so we can see what we can do to help: Send a WhatsApp message to **07500 065 270**, email **info@s4bmanchester.co.uk**, or telephone **0300 555 0128**.

There are also the weekly drop-in sessions at the S4B housing office every Monday afternoon. Just come in and ask to speak to a member of the team. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

Or visit the Money Matters section of the S4B website. In this section you will find advice to support and help you with the cost-of-living situation:

- Managing energy costs
- Living costs support
- Help with Transport costs
- Health matters

There's also the Manchester City Council's Helping Hands website and their Cost of Living Support Line - just complete the short form and someone will be in touch. Or telephone free on **0800 023 2692**, open Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 4.30pm.

Here is a booklet developed by the NHS and MCC, Keeping you warm and well to help support you.



S4B treats reports of Anti-Social Behaviour very seriously.

This includes:

- damage to your home
- fly-tipping
- individuals/groups causing annoyance
- threats of violence
- physical attacks
- noise nuisance

You can report neighbourhood nuisance and ASB to us 24-hours a day, 365 days a year on **0300 555 0128** or via email **info@s4bmanchester.co.uk**.

We work with local communities and agencies to help tackle and prevent issues related to nuisance and anti-social behaviour. As stated in your tenancy agreement, you are responsible for the behaviour of those living at, or visiting your property (this includes visitors, children and animals).

Your tenancy agreement can be enforced through court action. We recently had to take action on a resident who had been causing ASB related crimes which resulted in eviction.

We do take these matters extremely seriously and although this is an isolated incident, ASB does happen and will not be tolerated.

The safety and wellbeing of our customers and colleagues is our number one priority, so if you experience any form of ASB, please get in touch to report any problems straight away, so that we can help you. Your enquiry will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

Any acts of violence or threats of violence must be reported to the police immediately.



STOP! Think Fraud

Fraud accounts for almost 40% of all crime. Fraud is rife and it can happen to anyone, individuals and business, young and old. Fraudsters can use highly manipulative methods to get us when our defences are down. Nobody is immune from fraud. We can all be more alert to the risks, and we can all do more to protect ourselves.

Four steps to reduce your risks of falling foul to a Fraudster

1. Is this phone call genuine? Be sure your caller is who they say they are
2. Is this offer real? Don't automatically click on links
3. Don't use the same password for all accounts or one that's easy to guess
4. Use two-step verification where possible

For more information visit, please visit:

<https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>





FIRE SAFETY IN COMMUNAL AREAS

It is essential that Communal Areas and all Access Routes are kept clear of any items that could prevent people from safely evacuating the building.

Never leave any items in communal areas of your building.

Do not interfere with any fire doors, equipment or signage in the building. Keep corridors, landings, foyers and stairways completely clear at all times. Keep all meter and alarm panels accessible at all times. Any items or obstructions found in communal areas of your building will be removed.

If there is no immediate risk, or the item(s) might have value, we will give notice of our intention to remove the item(s).

Any item not claimed within 7 days of this notice will be disposed of permanently. S4B will not be liable for any damage to the item during disposal.

If you have any questions or concerns about fire safety, please call us immediately on **0300 555 0128**.



Reporting Damp, Mould and Condensation

If you notice any damp or mould in your home, please get in touch with us straightaway. Our team is on hand to help and we will respond as quickly as possible to your queries.

Damp and mould gets worse if it is left untreated, so if you spot this in your home please let us know as soon as possible.

For help or information, or to report issues you can:

Send us a message on WhatsApp

Email us at info@s4bmanchester.co.uk

Call us on **0300 555 0128** Option 2 (24-hours)

For more information visit the S4B website.

Work is due to start later this year to install sprinkler systems to the four high rise blocks. Two will be fitted this year and two next.

All residents, including leaseholders, will be kept informed on the next steps, and those directly affected by the works will also receive more bespoke communications in addition to the general updates.

Updates will be provided via the website, letters, text, social media, e-bulletins along with a Q&A document. We are also planning a series of open days.

Details will be included on what to do if you have any further questions.



Property Alterations

Please request permission from S4B before commencing any property alteration works.

Tenants must request permission to carry out alterations to their home such as:

- Laminate flooring
- Kitchens and bathrooms
- Windows and doors
- Wi-fi controlled heating such as Nest or Hive
- External decorations or structures in garden

Leaseholders need permission for anything which is more than cosmetic.

Newbuild homeowners should ask for permission for changes as permitted development rights do not apply in Brunswick.

Please email your request to:

info@s4bmanchester.co.uk giving full details of any alterations you wish to make.

Any consent will be provided in writing.

For more information please get in touch.

Send a WhatsApp message to **07500 065 270**, email info@s4bmanchester.co.uk, or telephone **0300 555 0128**.



The 422 Community Hub is a project of Manchester Vineyard. It's a local church, and took on 422 through a community asset transfer with Manchester City Council. Formally known as the Longsight Youth Centre which closed over a decade ago, 422 has held significance in our community for many years.

After three years of renovations, the building work is now complete. 422 offers programmes and activities, group sessions and spaces for hire to make up this thriving community hub.

There's a café, stay and play area, food pantry, after school clubs and much more.

For more information, take a look at their website [About - 422 Community Hub \(422manchester.org\)](https://www.422manchester.org) and project booklet [here](#) or send them an email hello@422manchester.org

EASTER AND BANK HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

Good Friday	29 March	CLOSED
Easter Monday	1st April	CLOSED
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May	CLOSED
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday, 27 May	CLOSED



For any emergencies during this time, please continue to telephone 0300 555 0128 (24-hours).

More religious dates for the diary

MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
25 Holi - Hindu holy day	9-12 Eid al-Fitr - Marking the end of Ramadan	1 Beltane - marking the beginning of summer	7 Feast of the Sacred Heart - Roman Catholic
29 Good Friday	21* Ridvan	9 Ascension Day	12-13* Shavuot - Jewish festival
31 Easter Sunday	22*-30 Passover - Jewish holiday		14-19* The Hajj - annual pilgrimage to Mecca

Don't forget! Clocks
go forward by one
hour this weekend.



It is now a legal requirement from the Regulator of Social Housing, for all Registered Providers to collect and maintain information known as the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs) in connection with their tenants. The results are currently being compiled and will be made available shortly, via web, email and in the next newsletter.

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۔

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