



ISSUE 44 - Winter 2024

Brunswick

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



## Christmas has landed in Brunswick!

**On Friday 6th December, residents of the Brunswick Community flocked to Gartside Gardens for the tree light switch on organised by Brunswick Tenants and Residents Association (BTARA).**

The event was another huge success, lots of smiling faces and even the man in red made a very special appearance to surprise the little ones.

It's been a year of celebration and activity reflecting on the achievements of our ten years. Turn to pages two and three for more details on what we achieved in 2024 with a link to our very special film in honour of our customers.

On pages six and seven, there is lots of useful information and phone numbers to see you through the holidays and beyond.

And early next year we will be asking customers about their use of social media and their preferences, so please have a think for when we carry out the review.

From all of us here at S4B, we wish all of our customers and partners a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year.







# Celebrating Brunswick

## Customer Film and Showcase *Free Event*

On Thursday, 24th October, residents of Brunswick and other members of the community, were invited to a showcase event to mark 10-years of regeneration of the neighbourhood, which included the launch of a film produced in their honour.

The film includes interviews with customers who talk about their experiences of living or working throughout the works during the past decade and is a mixture of people born in Brunswick and also those new to the area.

Thank you to everyone who came along to help us celebrate on the day, but in case you missed it you can see our Ten-Year Celebration Film [here](#) or on the S4B website. We've also shared the video on Facebook and LinkedIn.

The event got off to a flying start with visitors welcomed with afternoon tea and scones plus snacks for the little ones in the Brunswick Village Bistro.

There's also a selection of images from the event which you can also [view on the S4B website](#).



The countdown is on...

This year, 2024, has been a year of activities and events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Brunswick regeneration project and end of the phase of major development work.

As we approach the end of the year, we thought it would be good opportunity to reflect on the celebrations so far.

Since January we have, marked the birthday occasion with cupcakes, installed a doodle mural in Brunswick Village, launched a Community Fund, supported community group events.

There was also the corporate event held for key partners, along with the recent community event as a thank you to customers.

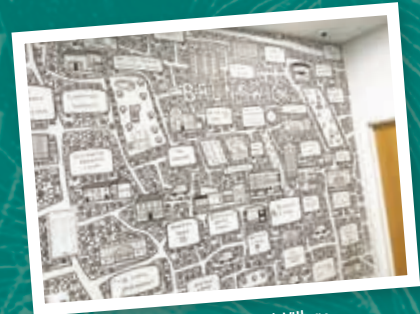
Not forgetting the monthly customer photography competition. Once we have the winning entry decided for December, we will be finalising a calendar for 2025.

For more information, or to reserve a copy of the 2025 calendar, please get in touch.

Send a WhatsApp message to **07500 065 270** or email **info@s4bmanchesterco.uk**.



Jan 24 Cup Cake Day



Dave Draws Doodle in Brunswick Village



Mrs Mason turned 100!



Photo Competition entry



# Halloween Coin Hunt

**On Thursday, 31st October, twelve gold coins were buried in Gartside Gardens and the Halloween Witch needed help to find them!**

Donned in spooky costumes, young people and families of Brunswick were invited down for a Halloween treasure hunt. There were prizes for the best costume and each child that found a coin were awarded their own special coin to take home and keep forever.

This fun-filled, family event was an exciting adventure for little witches, wizards, and ghosts and the perfect way to celebrate Halloween, with the thrill of a spooky story and the excitement of a treasure hunt!

There's a fabulous gallery of pics from the event [here](#) or visit the S4B website.



Brunswick Community Hub is situated in Brunswick Church and host a range of activities throughout the week.

There's everything from Zumba, guitar, singing and language lessons, to mother & toddler groups, women's sessions and advice drop-ins. There really is something for everyone. There's also a café serving free hot drinks, snacks and WiFi, plus a £1 meal on a Tuesday.

More information in this leaflet here or contact Mo on **07938 959 284**, or email [mo@brunswickchurch.org.uk](mailto:mo@brunswickchurch.org.uk).

# THANK YOU...

**MEARS**

Brunswick Village now has its very own Christmas tree standing proudly in the garden area.

**Thank you to Mears who helped install it.**

Residents and visitors can see the tree from homes at the rear of the building and also enjoy the colourful sight from the Bistro.

A beautiful festive addition to brighten any winters day.



## Santa AND Christmas Crafts EVENT

**On Friday, 20th December, BTARA will be hosting a Santa and Holiday Crafts event.**

This festive activity will take place in Brunswick Community Space, 50 Brunswick Street M13 OPE from 3.45-5.15pm.

There will be Christmas stories by Santa, free refreshments and much more.

**It's a free event, just come along.**





# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2025.

**S4B continues to provide neighbourhood services and repairs over the festive period.**

**OPEN - 9:00am - 5:00pm**  
Tuesday, 24th Dec - Christmas Eve

**CLOSED**  
Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day  
Thursday 26th December - Boxing Day

**OPEN - 9:00am - 5:00pm**  
Friday 27 December  
Monday 30 December  
Tuesday 31 December - New Year's Eve

**CLOSED**  
Wednesday 1st January - New Year's Day

**Business as usual from**  
Tuesday 2nd January 2025 - open 9.00am-5.00pm

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



## Repairs

For any **emergency repairs** during this time, please call **0300 555 0128** (24-hours) Choose option 2.



## Emergencies

For any ASB or Domestic Violence Emergencies, please call **999/101** in the first instance or you can call us at S4B on **0300 555 0128** (24-hours).

## Recycle, Recycle, Recycle!

Don't forget to recycle! All paper, cardboard and gift wrap can go into your blue bin.

## RECYCLE YOUR TREE



### Did you know your real Christmas trees can be recycled?

Manchester City Council will collect your old tree along with your green bin, so please leave them together outside by your bins and they will be collected in January 2024.

More information on the MCC website here:

[Bins and recycling at Christmas.](#)



## Useful numbers:

For any security issues during the holidays at any of the high-rise blocks or maisonettes, please call Bridgewater Security on **07921 215 361**, or telephone **999** in the first instance in an emergency.

Emergency repairs - please continue to use the 24-hour contact number: Tel: **0300 555 0128** (select option 2).

If you smell gas or think there may be a gas leak (anytime). Contact Cadent immediately on **0800 111 999**.

If you see anyone fly-tipping, report it and help to put a STOP to it. Tel **0300 555 0128** or email **info@s4bmanchester.co.uk**

## It cost the council £1.3m to clear up 14,000 fly-tipping incidents in Manchester last year.

This money could have been spent on vital services.

**Get rid of items correctly**



## KEEP BRUNSWICK TIDY.

**No fly Tipping.  
Recycle when possible.  
Make sure all litter goes in your bins.**

Arrange for up to three bulky items to be collected for free by Manchester City Council. Visit their [website](#) for more info.

## CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTION DATES

Brunswick's Friday collections days will move to

**Sunday 29th December  
Saturday 4th January**

For more information visit the MCC website here:

[Bins and recycling at Christmas.](#)

**Having a Power Cut?**







## Keeping warm and well over winter is a worry for everyone, especially our tenants who will not receive the Winter Fuel Payment this year, due to changes in entitlement.

Manchester City Council are helping, with the Household Support Fund (HSF) to support Older People in Manchester who are missing out on the Winter Fuel Payment.

This is welcome news for those just above the threshold for Pension Credit and others in potential hardship.

Many people will get automatic payments into their bank accounts but other older

people in hardship can call the Manchester Cost of Living Helpline on **(0800 023 2692)** for support.

It is important to still carry out a benefits/entitlements check and we encourage people to register for Pension Credit if you are eligible.

**Help is at hand in Manchester | Manchester City Council**



### A new fund has been introduced by Manchester City Council for residents who have missed out on winter fuel payments.



#### To be eligible you must:

- be aged 66 or over on 23 September 2024 and will not receive a winter fuel payment from the department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- not be in receipt of Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit from the Council. If you receive either and are aged 66 or over on 23 September 2024, you will be sent a payment automatically by the Council and do not need to complete this form.

Some residents may be sent funding automatically from council tax and housing benefit data. You can check your eligibility here: [Apply for the winter fuel hardship fund | Instructions.](#)

## Staying WARM and WELL this winter

#### Wrap up warm

Dress in layers, clothes made from wool, cotton or fleecy fabrics are warmest.

#### Keep the cold out

Close doors and block draughts and consider buying thermal linings for curtains to keep the heat in.

#### Don't use alcohol to keep warm

It makes you feel warm because blood vessels in the skin expand, but this draws heat away from your vital organs.

#### Check your heating

Have your heating system serviced regularly to make sure it works well.

#### Maintain the temperature

If you can't heat all the rooms you use, heat the living room during the day and the bedroom just before you go to sleep. In bed, use either a hot water bottle or an electric blanket.

#### Having warming food and drinks

Have regular hot drinks and food such as

porridge, soups and stews. Try to batch cook and consider investing in a slow cooker and air fryer to keep running costs down.

#### Stay active

Keep as active as possible to boost your circulation. Move around at least once an hour and avoid sitting still for long periods. When you do sit down, put your feet up as it's coldest nearest the ground.

#### Check what support you can get

Depending on your circumstances you may get the Winter Fuel or Cold Weather Payments automatically. If you don't, visit **[gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)** or call **0800 731 0160** to see if you're eligible.

You may also be entitled to claim an Affordable Warmth Grant, which could help with heating and insulation improvements.

For more information, call the Energy Saving Advice Service or visit **[gov.uk/energy-company-obligation](https://www.gov.uk/energy-company-obligation)**.

## Do you need some support with unexpected costs?



There is up to £150 per tenant/family available and can be applied for once. The Grant can be used for:

- Financial assistance to maintain a basic standard of living e.g. food, fuel, toiletries, nappies, however this list is not exhaustive.
- A payment to support you to clear or reduce debts in exceptional circumstances to avoid further debt accruing. This might include household bills where failure to pay will result in further charges being added to the debt.
- School uniforms if unable to source directly from the school or other provision.
- Transport costs to enable you to maintain employment.
- Where severe benefit sanctions have resulted in financial difficulties.
- Where you are unable to work due to a serious/terminal illness which has resulted in financial difficulties.
- A contribution towards sourcing white goods like a cooker, fridge or washing machine.

Contact S4B via email to **[info@s4bmanchester.co.uk](mailto:info@s4bmanchester.co.uk)** to apply.

# FIRE SAFETY AT CHRISTMAS.

Let's remember the festive period for the right reasons.

## Heating your home safely



- Don't heat your home with any portable device that uses a gas canister or has an open flame, as these pose a serious fire risk.
- If using oil-filled or electric radiators, always make space around them and never use them to dry clothing or other items.
- Never tamper with any gas or electrical meters in your home.
- Never leave any heat sources unattended and turn them off before bed.

## Kitchen safety



- Never leave pans cooking unattended.
- Keep the area around your cooker clear of fabric.
- Turn all appliances off before you go to bed.



## Rubbish and recycling

- There may be fewer rubbish collections over the Christmas bank holiday.
- Take wrapping paper and packaging to bin stores and never leave any rubbish in the communal areas.

## Fairy lights and electrics



- Check cables and power sockets for damage.
- Never overload electrical sockets or extension cables.
- Don't overcharge battery-powered devices, such as e-cigarettes or e-scooters, and never leave items charging unattended.

## General safety advice



- Shut all internal doors in your home at night to prevent any fire or smoke from spreading.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows your escape plan and that window and door keys are left on your escape route when you go to bed.
- Test your fire alarm at least once a week.
- Keep candles away from decorations, children and pets. Don't leave them unattended and extinguish them before you go to bed.

If you are concerned about fire safety in your home, contact us on 0300 555 0128.

See [here](#) for more information.



## Tenant Satisfaction Measures Survey



Thankyou to all those who took part in the Tenant Satisfaction Measure Survey 2024.



Results will be collated in the next few months and the resident feedback information used to develop an action plan to review areas for improvement, as well as celebrate where things are well received.

Winners of the prize draw and results will be announced in the Spring 2025. All results will be published on the S4B website and submitted to Manchester City Council as part of the TSM return.

If you would like to get involved in a resident panel to review the information from TSM and how S4B can develop communications please contact Sharon Thomas via [info@s4bmanchester.co.uk](mailto:info@s4bmanchester.co.uk).

## Brunswick Bonanza

S4B in partnership with Positive Steps & Brunswick Church combined the Tabletop Sale with Brunswick Bonanza to give a great day!



Attendees had the chance to purchase affordable items for the festive season, gather information, make a festive wreath from materials and enjoy a free lunch from Feed My City.



Information stands on the day were from S4B, Arawak Walton, Biffa, Women's Footprints, Manchester Communities and the Windrush Engagement making attendees aware that the Windrush Scheme is available to people of all ages and nationalities including those from African, Asian and Caribbean backgrounds.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS From Your Councillors



Cllr Tina Hewitson

0161 234 3235 Members Support  
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Cllr Amna Saad Omar Abdullatif

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# S4B 2025 CALENDAR

**Happy New Year to all our customers!**

Look out for our calendar being issued in January with winning entries from the S4B 2024 photography competition.

Full details will be published soon, so keep an eye on the S4B website, social media and your inbox!

For more information, or to reserve a copy of the 2025 calendar, please get in touch.



## **DON'T FORGET**

if you've changed your email address or mobile number, please get in touch to update our records

**Don't forget to  
BRING IN  
YOUR BINS!  
After Collection.**

**THANK YOU!**

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**  
15 Brunswick Street Manchester M13 9SU  
T: 0300 555 0128 E: [Info@s4bmanchester.co.uk](mailto:Info@s4bmanchester.co.uk)  
W: [s4bmanchester.co.uk](http://s4bmanchester.co.uk)

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