

Thurcroft Big Local

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2016



## Welcome to the Thurcroft Big Local Newsletter.

In 2011 Thurcroft was selected by the Local Trust to be part of their Big Local initiative and was awarded £1 million. The aim of the money is for the local community to get involved in making their community a better place to live, now and in the future. Where and how this money is spent is entirely up to the local community and is guided by a Partnership Board, which is comprised entirely of local residents and people who are passionate about Thurcroft.

Since receiving the money lots of new exciting things have already taken place in the village and there is much more to come, as the excitement is building towards the opening of The Thurcroft Hub, our new community sports and social venue.

Thurcroft Big Local is for every resident in Thurcroft and we would love for you to get involved.



## The Thurcroft Hub

The Big Local Partnership and the Thurcroft Institute and Recreation Ground (TIRG) have been working hard over the last few years to secure funding that will see the build of a completely new sports and social venue for our community. This new facility will be called **The Thurcroft Hub**.

The new Thurcroft Hub will be accessible to all members of the local community and surrounding areas and will offer professionally maintained outdoor pitches and indoor sports and social activities for all ages. Sports will include football, cricket, netball, basketball, tennis, badminton and fitness classes. The venue will also be equipped with secure changing rooms for men, women and children.

Community activities will include health and wellbeing classes, baby, toddler and children's events, youth clubs, fundraising, training and skills development, private parties, social occasions and corporate events.

As you may have already seen the new building is really starting to take shape and we're pleased to confirm is on schedule to open in January 2017. The official opening date will be Friday 27th January 2017 at 4pm, keep an eye on our website for more information.



**PAGE 2** JOIN OUR CRICKET TEAM



**PAGE 3** LIGHT SWITCH ON!



**PAGE 4 & 5** THE YEAR SO FAR!

## Play Cricket

A new community building, Thurcroft Hub, is currently being built on the cricket field. We are looking for new players to join our current Saturday cricket team.

In the past we have had two Saturday and two Sunday teams, as well as a children's team who played mid-week. We are looking to reinstate these teams.

No experience is required, as full training and support will be given. The season starts in April and runs through to the end of August/beginning of September. We will be looking to begin indoor netting sessions and practice from February 2017.

We have a fantastic group of lads that already play in the team and would welcome anybody interested with open arms. If you are interested in volunteering, starting a new hobby or you wish to play again, please contact Liam Weston on 07468 481420 or email [thurcroftcricketclub@gmail.com](mailto:thurcroftcricketclub@gmail.com)

## Play Football

Thurcroft Miners Institute welcomes Saturday Football back to the community. We are training now for the season 2017/2018.

We are also looking to add an addition senior Sunday team to add to the 2 current senior teams playing for Thurcroft.

- Soccer School
- Mini Soccer
- Senior Teams
- Soccer School Ages 6 - 9 Girls & Boys
- Mini Soccer Ages 6 -9 Girls and Boys
- Senior Teams – Players Required 16- Open Age Group

Our aim for the near future is to expand on other age groups. All training is under taken by qualified coaches.

All enquiries contact: Dean on 07415 364446 or Caroline on 07715 644478.



### Tribute to Alan Bucknall - Big Local Chair

Alan Bucknall was a near perfect Chair of Thurcroft Big Local and an inspiration to us all. He understood the success of Thurcroft Big Local was in the hands of residents themselves and that it was all about community led action, supporting initiatives that Thurcroft residents themselves wanted to take forward he did everything he could to make sure that happened.

Alan had all the best qualities of a good Chair - he was a diplomat, a real team player and knew and could sensitively deal with difficult situations when they arose. He supported and facilitated the Big Local Partnership and community activity with a positive and helpful attitude supporting us to work together helping make Thurcroft a better place to live in.

A gentle, thoughtful and considerate man, Alan will be missed by all of us at Thurcroft Big Local. All our condolences go to Muriel and his family.



## Christmas Lights Switch On Friday 2nd December from 2pm

The Thurcroft Christmas Lights Switch On will be in partnership with St Simon and St Jude's Church, Thurcroft Parish Council, Thurcroft Big Local and Thurcroft Miner institute (Bottom Club).

From 2.00pm there will be stalls in the Gordon Bennett. To book a stall please contact Rose Young on 01709 544967. Cost per stall is £6.00

From 3.00pm there will be Fairground Rides outside the Gordon Bennett.

The Christmas Lights will be switched on at 5.30pm by Jack Pitchford from Thurcroft Junior School as his prize for winning the Thurcroft Big Local Halloween event and Thurcroft Brass Band. This will be followed by a Magic Show in the bottom club at 6.30pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult and must leave the club by 8.45pm prompt.

### Through the eye of a Big Local Volunteer

- Attending the first meeting nervously wondering what it's all about. Listening to people and understanding what Big Local is.
- Growing in confidence as you express your options and realise we all have a part to play in our community.
- Attending training courses to improve skills and confidence enough that when being asked to speak at conference and share your experience you knowing you CAN do it.
- The hard work involved organising play schemes, gala, carnivals and the sleepless night wondering if it's going to rain will people attend and then the feeling of satisfaction when the sun comes out and an event is so successful, that children/adults stop you in the street and ask "what's next"?

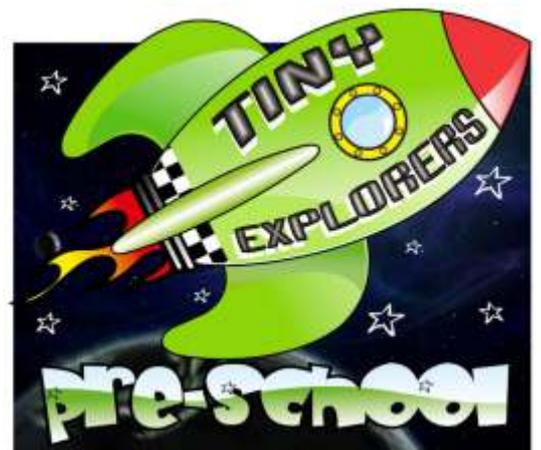
### What can be achieved?

- Negotiated with the Parish Council to arrange for two notice boards to be erected in prominent areas to display our events.
- Looking back on the Carnival Procession at all the community walking with pride and the emotion I felt knowing I helped this happen.
- Knowing how someone feels when they came to deliver leaflets and they told us how low she had felt but getting out and meeting people had given her a boost. Coming out on dark nights for meeting when all I want to do is stop in under a blanket.
- Winning an Easter Bonnet competition.
- Being the Queen for a Day.
- Being a leading part the new Thurcroft Hub.
- Working full time and fitting all this in.

## Tiny Explorers Pre-School

A need that has been highlighted in the village is that of Early Years Support. Thurcroft Big Local has supported Tiny Explorers Pre-School by giving them some funding to purchase a canopy and make an office space. The office has been built enabling the staff to have a staff room, along with a room for parents or professionals to speak to them confidentially, it also has the potential to be used as a room to take children to do more intensive work with or Senco work with.

The Canopy was installed in the half term, it is absolutely brilliant and is being used a lot especially as the weather is getting colder and wetter. They are awaiting the side walls to arrive which will be around another 6-8 weeks, these will make an even greater difference to them, as they will be able to use this space in all weathers and will give them the much needed space they need for the children. The Canopy will give them another room all year round. It will, all in all make a massive difference for them as a setting and a massive difference for the children who attend now and in the future.



# THE YEAR SO FAR....



## Easter Event

This year's event held at the Bottom Club included an Easter bonnet and a fancy dress competition. This was followed by a disco and games for the children.



## Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

In celebration of the Queen's birthday a tea dance was held at Thurcroft Miners Institute.



## Summer Play Scheme

As part of the Summer play scheme we took a group of children to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park in Doncaster. It was a brilliant day and despite the rain everyone had a great time. We also held three additional play days at the youth club.

## Summer Gala

After first launching in 2012 this Summer's 4th gala funded by Thurcroft Big local was held on 30th July and was a huge success.

Hundreds of people from the Village and surrounding areas attended the event.

There were fairground rides, stalls, African drumming, archery, medieval re-enactment, food and refreshments.



## Trip to Southport

Following on from last year's successful Cleethorpes trip a visit to Southport was organised on 1st September.

An eventful day was had by all.



# Carnival to Celebrate 100 years of Thurcroft Miners Institute

(bottom club)

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Thurcroft Miners Institute a Carnival and family sports day took place on Sunday 31st July. The event which was funded by the Club and Thurcroft Big Local had a brilliant atmosphere with everyone celebrating together.

The Carnival procession which was led by The Thurcroft Colliery Brass Band walked from the Thurcroft Hub to the Gordon Bennett for a free family fun day. The 1st Thurcroft Cubs and Beavers also took part in the parade. Family fun included fairground rides, stalls, crafts and traditional games including welly throwing, egg and spoon race, sack race and a three-legged race.

Workshops were held throughout the village prior to the carnival.



The Carnival Procession



The Youth Club made banners and hats



Thurcroft Infant School's Tiny explorers made space theme costumes and a space shuttle



Thurcroft Infant School's Infants made under the sea outfits and hats



Willows Special Needs School made bunting and banners



John Street Care Home made 'Respect Dignity' banners and took part in the parade

## New Playground

After consultation with over 400 residents the new playground was chosen and is in the process of being installed, near the Gordon Bennett. Due to unforeseen technical problems it was unable to open on the planned date but hopefully this will be rectified shortly. The playground is a joint venture with Rotherham Borough Council, Thurcroft Parish Council and Thurcroft Big Local.

An infra-red security camera has been installed so any vandalism or anti-social behaviour will be monitored and appropriate action will be taken against anyone caught causing damage.



## Halloween Event

Over 100 children attended this year's Halloween event held at the Gordon Bennett.

The children were entertained with pumpkin carving, crafts and bun decorating.

All children received a hot dog, drink and a bun.



## Chatsworth Christmas Market and Bakewell

The planned trip to the Christmas Market at Chatsworth and Bakewell will take place on Friday 18th November.

There will be two coaches leaving from Thurcroft.

Please note this trip is now fully booked.

# THE YOUTH CLUB...



Over the past year the youth club has gone from strength to strength with new members joining regularly.

We offer a range of activities including sports, arts and crafts, baking, music, pool, table tennis and X Box gaming.

The young people have been involved in community activities providing support at the local gala, Thurcroft carnival, local litter picks, skip days and Rotherham carnival representing Thurcroft.

They also took part in the fair trade football tournament in Rotherham and won several medals.



## Crowden Weekend

We recently took a group of young people to Crowden Outdoor Pursuits Centre for a weekend residential.

Everyone had a fantastic time and enjoyed stream scrambling, archery, crate stacking and zip wiring.



Our youth volunteers have also started attending Big Local meetings so that the youth of Thurcroft can share what they have been doing whilst at the club. They have also been involved in the planning and marketing of the New Thurcroft Hub.

Activities have included choosing the logo and discussing the interior of the hub.

The young people raised £30.00 towards Thurcroft school sensory garden.



Thanks to Big Local funding and the young people fundraising we have been able to invite dance coaches to attend our sessions. We have also been able to arrange visits from specialist youth workers to come into senior sessions looking at sexual health, good relationships and staying safe. The young people have also worked with a graffiti artist from Rotherham United to create fantastic graffiti boards.

We believe training is key to success and have recently arranged for four volunteers to have a day's training on working behind the Tuck shop. We also have two volunteers who we have been supporting through their Level 2 in Youth Work training and are now employees of the youth club. If you would like to find out more about the Youth Club please contact Shaz Biggin on 07969 977294.

# FREE

## BENEFITS, DEBT, HOUSING, COURT AND TRIBUNAL REPRESENTATION

# ADVICE

HOUSING BENEFITS  
INSOLVENCY

CALL OR TEXT: 07880713340 / 07568106004  
EMAIL US @: ADVICETEAM.OSAS@YAHOO.COM

EVERY TUESDAY  
10AM – 12PM AT ST SIMON AND ST JUDES CHURCH  
1.30PM – 3.30PM AT THURCROFT LIBRARY

PROVIDED BY ONE STOP ADVICE SERVICE  
FUNDED BY THURCROFT BIG LOCAL



## Litter Picks and Skips

Thurcroft residents have said they would like to see a cleaner and tidier Thurcroft. We therefore hold monthly Litter Picks on the last Saturday of every month, we meet at 10am at the Gordon Bennett. The next Litter Pick will be on Saturday 28 January, please come along and join us.

We also continue to provide 40 tonne skips for the community, free of charge. The next skip day is coming up in December and will take place near Thurcroft Hub.

## Small Grants

The Small Grants are now into their fifth round with a total of £5850.00 having been given away to local people/groups. The next round of grants will start in the New Year. Application forms will be available on the website [www.thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk](http://www.thurcroftbiglocal.org.uk).



## New Members and Volunteers Welcome

We are always looking for new volunteers to join the Big Local Team.

There are lots of new exciting things planned for Thurcroft so come along and be part of them.

We are also very keen to work with any existing groups and businesses in Thurcroft.

If you are interested please contact Cath on 07983 521336 .

## Big Local Partnership Meetings – Everyone Welcome

These meetings to discuss ways in which the local community can be improved are open to all.

Why not come along and share your ideas with us.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm.

December and January's meetings will be held at St Simon and St Jude's Church. From February onwards meetings will be held at the Thurcroft Hub.



# THE QUIZ...

For your chance to win £25 of Love to Shop vouchers answer these questions. Answers should be returned via the post box in the Thurcroft Cancer Fund Shop or alternatively e-mailed to [info@thurcroftbiglocal.co.uk](mailto:info@thurcroftbiglocal.co.uk). Please ensure your name, address and contact number are included on your entry.



1. In what year was Thurcroft awarded £1 million?
2. What date was the 2016 Gala held on?
3. What day are the Partnership Meetings held on?
4. When do our litter picks take place?
5. Where did our young people go on their residential?
6. One Stop Advice offers advice on Tuesdays, in the morning at the Church but where are they based on an afternoon?
7. This year's Christmas market will be going where?
8. The new building will be called what?
9. When will the next round of Small Grants start?
10. What sort of show will be held in the bottom club after the Light Switch On?

The closing date for entries is Friday 16th December 2016. The winner will be selected at random and will be announced on the Big Local Facebook page.



## We Value Your Feedback

Thurcroft Big Local welcomes your comments and feedback – tell us what you think about what's happening in your village or what you would like to see in the future. Completed slips can be returned via the post box in the Thurcroft Cancer Fund Shop or alternatively e-mailed to [info@thurcroftbiglocal.co.uk](mailto:info@thurcroftbiglocal.co.uk).

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