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November 2021

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Belper Town Council
St John's Chapel
The Butts
Belper
DE561HX

01773822116

clerk@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

Belper Town Council

Community E Newsletter



The latest news from Belper Town Council



Autumn in Belper ; picture courtesy of Transition Belper

In this edition of the newsletter we report back on some of the events which have taken place over the summer and provide an update on the work of some of Belper's Community Groups and organisations.

We are also providing some information about the work the Council has been doing to make Belper more Accessible for people with disabling conditions and efforts to deal with Flooding in the Town.

There is also a focus on Young People with an update from the Youth Council and an exciting new project being developed by Boom magazine to hold a Children's Literacy Festival in 2022.

Finally, a reminder to everyone in Belper that COVID-19 still presents a threat to Community Health with several spikes in cases over recent months. Although restrictions have been lifted we would urge everyone in Belper to be sensible and to take precautions to help keep the number of cases down. Whether this be checking in on vulnerable people, taking a test if you feel unwell or wearing a face mask in certain situations, we can all do our bit.

We always welcome any feedback on ways to improve this newsletter
<https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/contact-us.html>



Sunday Strolling

Using funding from the Government's "Welcome Back" scheme we have organised 2 Sunday Stroll events where roads in the town have been closed to vehicles to help make for a more safe and pleasant experience for people accessing the town centre. Unfortunately, due to safety reasons caused by bad weather we were forced to cancel the Sunday Stroll planned for October 31st. We hope to hold more Sunday Stroll events in the New Year

Belper Community Conversation

Transition Belper recently held the Belper Community Conversation event at Strutts Community Centre. The event gave local people the opportunity to have their say on the priorities for Belper particularly in relation to issues such as Climate Change. The Council helped with some of the preparations for the event and is looking forward to receiving details of the main conclusions in order to assist with its forward planning.

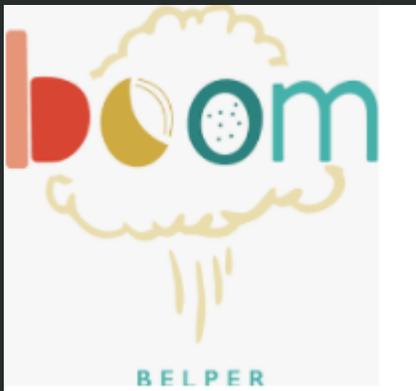
Youth Council News

This year's Belper Town Youth Council met for the first time on the 4th of October 2021.

The youth council consists of 16 members from every Belper school, a home-schooled student, Blend students, a guide and a scout. At our meeting we discussed our views on Belper and things we hope to improve. A few different topics came up such as sports clubs, behaviour in the community and litter, but the one topic that seemed to dominate our conversation was climate change.

Climate change is a pressing issue that affects us all, especially the youth because we will be the ones living with the issues caused by unresolved climate change. At the Youth Council came up with ideas on how we in Belper could help battle it. Some of the suggestions were more bins, events to help raise awareness about the environment, sources of renewable energy and many other interesting proposals. We hope to make Belper an even better place and that we can make a difference, it is our future.

Article submitted by Poppy Wilson (picture opposite)



Taking Action on Flooding

We are keenly aware that the last 2 winters saw flooding in Belper and Milford. We want to take this opportunity to reassure residents that we are busy preparing and developing our Belper Flood Watch Scheme. We have several flood wardens, but we are always happy to welcome more. Please email Lead Flood Warden, Councillor Emma Monkman, Clremma.monkman@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk if you would like to join us.

We have affiliated our Scheme with [Communities Prepared – A Groundwork South Project](#) and have recently attended 2 excellent training opportunities and look forward to many more. We are also developing our Flood Plan for Belper and Milford, which will include a Position Statement which is being created in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council and the Environment Agency. We are in the process of acquiring equipment for use during a flood and are connecting with the emergency services to better support those affected.

The next stage is to connect with other Councils and Flood schemes, along the River Derwent, because flooding doesn't just affect us here in Belper and Milford.

If flooding happens in Belper and Milford this winter, we are more prepared than we have ever been, and we will be there for those affected, throughout

Boom Childrens Literacy Festival

Boom Magazine have recently announced that they will be holding a Childrens Literacy Festival on 2nd April 2022, the first of its kind in Belper.

The event will be held at the Belper Library in the outdoor space and will offer an opportunity for people to meet outdoors and connect with the lively and growing children's literature culture in the Town. Local authors Fliss Goldsmith, Sophie Cartmel and Bernard Mensah all write books which focus on inclusion, acceptance and a broad minded approach to parenting and life.

Facts about Disability

53% of UK households have a connection to someone with a Disability

19% of the UK population have a Disability

80% of Disabled people have hidden impairments

8 out of 10 people were not born with their Disability

16% of the Working Age population have a Disability

45% of people over 65 years have a Disability



Cllr Jamie Walls

Making Belper more Accessible

Over the last 12 months the Council has been working closely with Accessible Belper to make improvements to the support provided to people with Disabling Conditions. Some of the areas the Council has been working on include :

- Ensuring that Grant applications to the Council cater for people with Disabling conditions
- Developing a new Toolkit for businesses to help them be more accessible
- Examining the Council's own access arrangements to identify where improvements are needed
- Awareness raising at a number of the Belper Market days
- Making representations for better provision of services such as Accessible Taxis
- Examining the scope for better Community Transport provision which is more easily accessible.
- Liaison with the Sports Centre to explore how to deliver new activities for people with Disabling conditions

We invite anyone with a Disabling Condition to contact us to share your experiences and make suggestions as to how the town can improve its access arrangements; the Council's Accessibility Action Plan can be viewed here

<https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/accessible-belper.html>

Staff and Councillors

Following recent elections we are pleased to welcome a new Councillor for the Belper South Ward. Councillor Jamie Walls has taken up his new duties and his contact details can be found here <https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/councillor-jamie-walls.html>

The Council would like to express its thanks to our recently departed Town Clerk, Emma Smith who has taken up a new post in another Council to be closer to her home and family.

At the same time we are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Town Clerk, Debra Townsend, who comes to us with many years of experience working in Town and Parish Councils.

Debra started her duties on October 26th



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The whole of the UK have been invited to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Government have moved the May Bank Holiday date to June 2nd and added an additional Bank Holiday day on June 3rd.

The Town Council would like to invite local people to share their ideas on how the Town should be celebrating this occasion. Please contact the Town Clerk at clerk@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

Belper Food and Community Hub and Citizens Advice Bureau Services

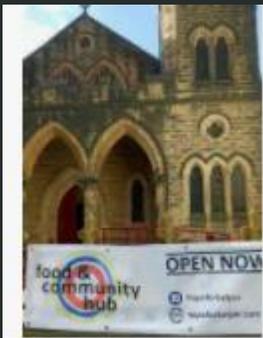
Belper Town Council have provided grant funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau for a number of years. This service has been delivered from a small rented premises on Bridge Street. Having introduced changes to working practices in order to contend with the Covid-19 pandemic over the past year, it became apparent that the service could be more accessible and effective.

In order to deliver these improvements CAB has been in discussion with Hope for Belper and have now moved to the Baptist Chapel, also on Bridge Street, as part of a shared arrangement with the Food and Community Hub. This change is already delivering significant increase in uptake of their services.

If you think that the Citizens Advice Bureau could help you with a problem, please feel free to visit them at the Baptist Church, Bridge Street, DE56 1BA on Tuesdays or Fridays between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. or telephone them on 0808 278 7954 during office hours to make an appointment.

Blue Box Community Fund Raising Calendars

The Blue Box Community project continues to fundraise for a new Community Centre on the Parks Estate. They have recently launched a Community Fundraising Calendar copies of which are available to purchase at participating shops and other outlets in the Town. For more information about Blue Box their website address is www.blueboxbelper.co.uk



Events

Listed in the table opposite are some of the events being held in Belper over the next few months.

It is impossible to list all that is happening in one place as event organisers decide how to publicise their events and there are a range of listings and sites they can use.

A good comprehensive local listing of events can be found at

<https://www.belpercelebration.co.uk/>

Forthcoming Events

Event	Date
Armistice Day Belper Memorial Gardens	11 November at 11.00am
Remembrance Sunday Belper Memorial Gardens	14 November at 11.00am
Arts Fair, Number 28 Belper Market Place www.facebook.com/twentyeightbelper	14 November 10.00am
Diwali Experience, Number 28 Belper Market Place www.surtalarts.co.uk	19 November
Christmas Lights Switch on 26 th November www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk	26 November at 5.45pm
St Peters Church Winter Market	27 November at 2.00pm
Margaret Keys Concert www.belperfringe.org.uk	4 December
Belper Town Council Winter Food Festival www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk	5 December
Arts Fair with Vegan Revelation Café Number 28 Belper Market Place www.facebook.com/twentyeightbelper	11 December 9.00am
Rudolph's Christmas Cracker presented by Belper Fringe at Strutt Community Centre www.belperfringe.org.uk	20/21/22 December
Belper Town Council Open Air Carol Service www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk	24 December
<p>Please note : Events can be subject to change and Cancellation so please ensure you check with The event organizer before attending</p>	