



# Belgrave Unity Bulletin

## July 2023

### Update – developing the programme!



Hearing brilliant ideas for building Belgrave Unity from the wonderful Rushey Mead Academy Student Council

In our last Belgrave Unity Bulletin, we reported on the fantastic March Belgrave Unity event which brought together over 120 local Belgrave community members at the Jalaram Sadavrat Centre.

Since then, BNCHA and its Chair Jaimini Bharakhada have been busy developing the Belgrave Unity programme. We have met with lots of wonderful community people who want to work with us to achieve the Belgrave Unity aims to bring the community together.

Our aim continues to be to work with a range of partner organisations on a National Lottery funding application to build Belgrave Unity.

A draft application is about to be submitted, which, if successful will lead to a more detailed second stage application which will be submitted in January 2024.

And if that goes according to plan, the three-year Belgrave Unity programme will kick in in Spring 2024.

## Meeting with inspirational people

What we have been finding out is that there are some great people living and working in Belgrave and across Leicester!!

Our work to develop Belgrave Unity has led to communications with people from many community organisations, the Documentary Media Centre, Leicester Community Links, Leicestershire Cares, New Horizons, the Racial Equality Centre, South Asian Action Health, with the local Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, with local Councillors, with the two local Secondary Schools (Rushey Mead Academy and Soar Valley College), and with representatives from De Montfort University and the University of Leicester.

What has been exciting is that all of those we have spoken to so far are fully behind the Belgrave Unity aims. Everyone wants to work together on the programme. We will keep everyone in touch as the programme develops.

Perhaps most importantly our meeting with the Rushey Mead Academy Student Council demonstrated clearly to us that we were right to highlight young leadership programmes. We are particularly working on ideas about how young people can play leading roles in all the Belgrave Unity projects.

## Summer celebration



Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July brought together some 300 people from the Belgrave community and beyond at our third annual summer community celebration at Canterbury House.

Happily, forecasts of torrential downpours (we did have one brief shower) did not deter the many adults and children who attended who enjoyed all the stalls, activities and food on offer. A vibrant community day which brought together a wide range of people, it clearly identified a need for more of these types of community events for the people of Belgrave.

## EKTA sessions

As well as our community celebration day, our Monday EKTA sessions – aimed at being fun and informative sessions held at BNCHA's offices – are attracting more and more Belgrave people.

**“It feels like a real family coming to these sessions – I feel like I belong”**