



Member Bulletin

March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM JAIMINI BNCHA'S CHAIR

Hello everyone – I do hope that you and your families are keeping well as we start to get some occasional glimmers of spring around the corner!

You will have received notification of your rent increase for this year. It's always painful for us to have to raise the rent, but with contractor and other costs continually going up, it's a financial necessity.



Pupils from Rushey Mead at the Food Hub

But hopefully our tenant members are aware of the Food Hub we have set up at the Loughborough Road offices – there to help people in the

community get healthy and affordable food.

More than 100 families have signed up as Food Hub members since we opened on 1st December 2023. There's an exciting buzz at food hub sessions (now **10am to 1pm** on **Wednesdays**) no more so than when pupils from Rushey Mead Academy joined us as volunteers recently.

Speaking of volunteering ...

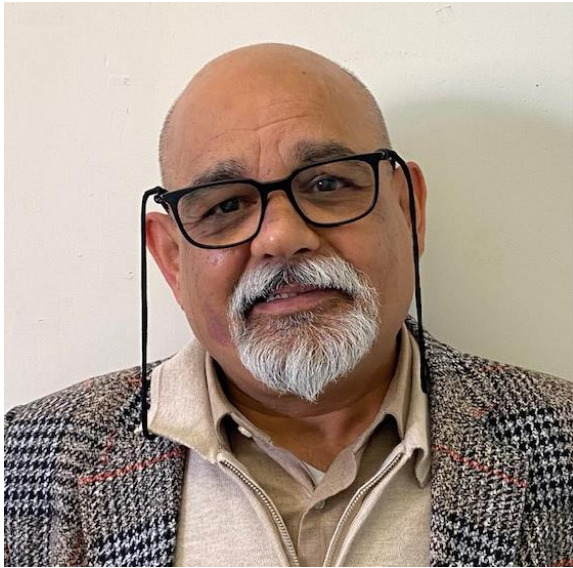
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
BELGRAVE FOOD HUB
Help us provide this essential service to our community at the Belgrave Food Hub.

Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Assisting with Operations
- Shopping Trips
- Sorting and Organising
- Providing Support to Visitors

How to Volunteer:
Contact us at:
0116 50 20 888.
Let's make a difference together!

Kirit joins the team



The team has a new officer dealing with rents. Kirit, based at our Loughborough Road offices, has lots of knowledge about how to help tenants with their rents.

He can talk in Gujarati, Hindi and English and can offer appointments (although they need to be booked in advance).

Kirit is the man to contact to chat about your rent account and if you have changes to your financial circumstances. If you are having problems paying your rent, please make contact. Kirit is particularly good for tenant members who aren't confident with emails or calls.

Contacting the

benefit people

You will have noticed that you have had a rent increase letter. If you receive housing benefit or universal credit, it's really important that you contact the relevant department to tell them in advance about your rent increase to prevent delays.

It is in fact the responsibility of tenant members to let the benefit people know about your rent increase. This will prevent you getting rent arrears which you might find yourself liable for.

If you need assistance with this, please get in touch.

A date for your diary

BNCHA members meeting – an opportunity for you to hear about your co-op and to meet committee & staff

Thursday 16th May
6pm to 8pm
Jalaram Sadavrat Centre
14 Glen Street

Food and refreshments provided

It's rubbish!

Over the last few weeks, people have been leaving rubbish and waste in some of the co-op's communal areas.

This is not good, because it means that the co-op has to waste money getting contractors to clear it up.

You can find out how to get rid of your rubbish correctly at

www.leicester.gov.uk/your-environment/recycling-and-waste/



In the meantime, we will be doing what we can to keep communal areas tidy, but if anyone fly tips or leaves

rubbish, we may charge you for its removal.

Knowing me Knowing you!!!

Many thanks to our tenant members who have completed their "member profiling forms".

These forms may seem a little intrusive, but it's really important that we hold up to date information about you – particularly for dealing with repairs and emergencies.

We have now contacted everyone asking them to complete the forms and most of you have. But can we ask everyone else to complete and return their forms. Otherwise our staff will need to call round to get the information if you don't send the form back in ...

Which means they can't be doing something else to provide our tenant members with a great service!!!

**So please send the
completed form in!!!
Pretty please!
How does your
garden grow?**

Our great **Ekta** Sessions continue on Monday afternoons – now registered with **Warm Welcome UK** and with **Places of Welcome**.

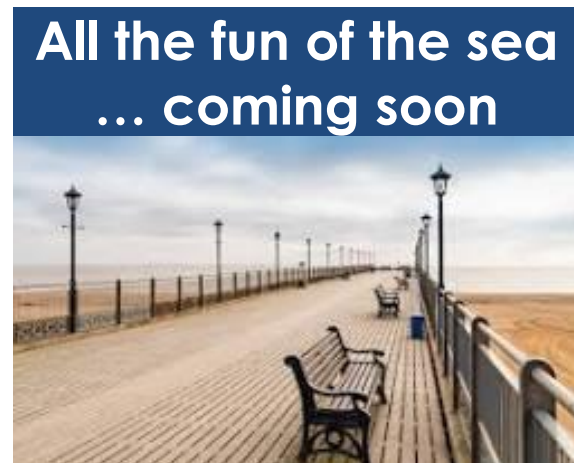
Many thanks to **Rushey Mead Ward, Pinnacle, Leicester Museums service** and **Near Neighbours** for funding for the EKTA sessions (and for the Community Garden below).

Watch this space for timetables, follow us on social media and keep an eye on your texts/WhatsApp's.

Come along to our fabulous **Community Garden** - bringing a little bit of nature & wildlife to the back of our offices at Loughborough Road - a space for everyone to enjoy.

Many thanks to **Fee Worton** from **Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust** for the community garden sessions which run from **11am to 1pm** every **Wednesday**.

We hosted the **GRoW Community** for working age mums to support you getting back into work , CV writing and starting your own business. The two-day course was a roaring success. Watch this space for further opportunities.



Back by popular demand, the next BNCHA fun trip will be to Skegness. Thank you so much to Pinnacle – they are busily organising this event.

We don't yet have the exact date but we think July sounds good. Of course, we will mail out to all tenant members ...

A few fun catch-up photos

