

Happy new year and welcome to the Winter edition of the Sidcup Partners (Sidcup BID) newsletter, with a roundup of our activities over the previous quarter.

We have organised, supported and enjoyed a multitude of seasonal and festive events throughout Sidcup, with incredible involvement and support from our local businesses, schools and communities. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all who took time to join in and make Sidcup's Halloween and Christmas events such a success. (Pictures and more information about these events are in the newsletter).

The BID continues to work in partnership with organisations, businesses and individuals throughout the community, to help maintain Sidcup as a wonderful place to live, work and visit, and make meaningful improvements where we can, for everyone.

- Three nurseries have now had help from the BID: we cleared an allotment for one to grow their own vegetables; we helped link another up with the library to organise reading sessions; and the third we assisted with achieving their food hygiene certificate.

- Dominic Price (BID Chair) and Sue Petty (BID Exec. Director) met with the History Society to discuss re-installing the 'famous people banners' to the high street.

- A community defibrillator has now been installed at the Storyteller Cinema.



- A new decoratively carved bench has been positioned in Sidcup Place.



- The BID is working closely with our brilliant Storyteller Cinema on a variety of screenings for people across the community – for example 'dementia friendly' showings and use of the hearing loop for those with auditory problems. A special screening was arranged for Olivia and her friends to mark the end of her current treatment. Many thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress for attending and for Craig and the team at The Storyteller for their wonderful efforts.



- There have been many meetings at Christ the King Sixth Form College after the awful stabbing incident in October, and we continue to work very positively with them in various matters and events.

- We have been successful in arranging the much-needed extra lighting on Nisbett Walk.

- Rats...! We are now working with local pest control services to reduce the issues.

- Weeding of the High Street and Station Road produced 10 bags of plant waste. Doesn't it look great!



- Our Executive Director, Sue Petty has accepted a request to be Governor at Orchard Primary School. Sue is delighted to take this role up and strengthen her networks within the communities across Sidcup.

- Sidcup BID is working with the Mizen Foundation to make rugby available as a sport for girls.

- Mat, Ronnie and Frank from The Alma continued to do the honour laying the annual wreath for Remembrance Sunday in November.

- The BID has worked hard to engage with the schools across Sidcup, inviting them to join in with community events.

- We sadly lost Prezzo from the High Street in 2023, but have now gained Soul Street London. Since opening in November they have hit the ground running and are a huge success, and a real bonus to the town.

- An Estate Agency networking and discussion group has been set up, in order that specific issues and concerns in the local housing market can be addressed.

- We are continuing to engage with businesses and landlords regarding empty shops in Sidcup. We now only have one unit without current interest from potential buyers or tenants. All the others have either exchanged or are in the discussion process.

- Issues regarding the proper disposal of confidential waste have been addressed, and a 6-month trial contract (at reduced rates) with a specialist

company is currently going very well.

- We spoke with NatWest Bank regarding the Fallen Heros WWII Plaque to ensure it wasn't lost after the branch closure. The plaque has now been relocated to the Eltham branch and is safely on the wall.

- The BID is in discussion with local IT companies to offer courses to people who'd like to brush up on their tech skills.

- A new networking event at Hoppers Hut has successfully encouraged local businesses to collaborate and many are now working together.



- More than 20 businesses put up Christmas window displays, organised in conjunction with Bexley Council.



- A new space to provide marketing opportunities for businesses has been positioned in the grounds of the recreation club on Church Road.

- The BID has been speaking to potential 'youth leaders' and several landlords about available premises to set up an official 'hang-out / youth club' for local teens, due to anti-social behaviour in the high street.



- First Aid Training was provided for 6 businesses, who all passed with flying colours.

CHARITY NEWS:

- The BID was happy to help St John's Church with a grant application.

- Jointly with USC we ran another McMillan morning, which proved a huge success once again. Thanks to those who helped with cakes, hot food and donations.



- We met with the Alzheimer's Society to discuss a joint event. This turned into the brilliant Elf Day – part of the range of Christmas events.

- A big welcome to St Vincent's Charity Shop! Clothing from the British Heart Foundation & St Vincent's has been donated for students.

- 300 pairs of gloves have been donated and given out to local schools to keep little fingers warm this winter.

- The BID helped to set up Pancake Saturday at St John's, and Sue has volunteered to help make and serve pancakes.



- In the run-up to Remembrance Sunday, Sue helped to sell poppies at the train station, raising over £1500.00 for the Royal British Legion over 2 days. The station is not normally covered by the poppy selling volunteers, so this was a huge bonus.



- We arranged for porridge oats to be donated to schools from St John's Ladder to enable students to have a hot breakfast.

EVENTS

- Children enjoyed face painting, entertainment and stalls on two Saturdays at the library, helping to increase footfall.
- During Halloween, 15 shops got involved in the trail by decorating their windows. Pumpkin crafts and face painting was great fun at St John's Church. The Storyteller Cinema put on some Halloween themed screenings at a reduced rate and provided snack boxes.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



December was an incredibly busy month, absolutely filled with festive fun in Sidcup! It was our biggest and best Christmas success yet. Here's a reminder of all the activities our community enjoyed:

- A wreath-making workshop was great fun! This was run by the very talented Portia and her team at Sweet P.



- Christmas events were held at St John's Church and The Library.



- The ticketed Military Wives concert at the church was a sell-out! We were honoured that the Military Wives also sang with the choir from Merton Court School.



The Library hosted visits from Father Christmas, Christmas Arts and Crafts, and The Jolly Good Timers - with 1363 through the door, Santa nearly ran out of gifts!



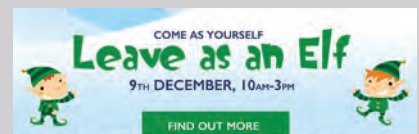
- Some of our businesses made donations for us to buy gifts for children. We purchased stickers, so people knew who had donated each gift. This was a huge success.



- Elf Day with the Alzheimer's society was great fun
- The Civic Society Carol service was lovely.



- 'Come as Yourself, Leave as an Elf' was so successful we had to do it again the week after!



- Father Christmas came to St John's Church as a special visit for children in our community affected by the war in Ukraine, and the church also hosted a festive 'Singing for the Brain' event enjoyed by many.



METROPOLITAN POLICE

- Sue has been heavily involved with the Safer Neighbourhood Team Meetings, and the local Ward Panel, as Vice Chair of both organisations. Local crime and community safety issues have been discussed, with representatives from The Met Police and other community groups also involved in these meetings.
- A meeting at Finally Framed regarding shop lifting in Sidcup attracted a great attendance by both our local police and businesses.
- The BID attended a meeting at Marlowe House regarding current issues surrounding Motor Vehicle Crime in the area.

● Violence against women is a huge issue that we have been addressing in meetings with the council.

● Along with Trevor (Joint Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Team) we organised a meeting for businesses, the local community and ward panels to highlight and educate about current online cyber tactics and scams, and how to avoid falling victim to them.

● Local concerns linked to Travelodge have been addressed in a series of meetings with police and the council to encourage Travelodge to paint and improve the exterior of the building.



● We also wrote to the local MP regarding Travelodge and the relevant issues surrounding temporary housing needs.

● We aim to continue to focus on resolving issues with antisocial behaviour in our community; provide relevant and necessary training and information to businesses and residents; support fantastic, inclusive, fun events; and help businesses in the BID area utilise

all the online and web resources available to them to communicate with potential customers to help them thrive through challenging economic times.



WORKING WITH ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE

Sidcup Partners and Rose Bruford College continue to work closely together:

- We set up a recruitment day at Rose Bruford for the new Soul Street London restaurant. 17 students have now been employed and they will also have an opportunity to showcase their performance skills by singing at the restaurant.
- A networking event at Rose Bruford College was a huge success for students and local businesses.
- September saw meetings with Professor Randall Whittaker, Principal and CEO of Rose Bruford, regarding future events and collaborations.



**Rose
Bruford
College**



UP AND COMING EVENTS IN 2024 SO FAR...

(Some dates are still TBC, so please check our website and social media for further information: sidcuppartners.co.uk)

JANUARY

18th - Winnie the Pooh Day: Draw us a Winnie the Pooh to have a chance to win a hamper.
19th January to 12th Feb - Visit any of 15 selected shops (TBC) to win prizes from local businesses and venues.

FEBRUARY

15th - Networking Event at Cedrus Restaurant
DATE TBC - Cyber Advice First Meeting
DATE TBC - Self Defence Classes

MARCH

2nd - Litter Pick Day
12th - Plant a Flower Day
30th - Easter Egg Hunt at Rose Bruford College

MAY

6th - Beverage Day
27th - Sunscreen Day
28th - Hamburger Day

JUNE

27th - Sunglasses Day
29th - Armed Forces Day, 60 Years Since National Service Ended, D-Day 80th Anniversary.

LOTS more to add into the calendar over the coming weeks, so please do keep checking online for what's happening when and where.

Thank you!

A massive thank you to all the people – residents, business owners, volunteers and service providers, who all work together so enthusiastically to make Sidcup such a fantastic community to be part of!



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