

NEW

CULTURAL COMPACT FOR NORTH EAST WORCESTERSHIRE



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



EZINE

So we promised to get started with our weekly ezine (however brief and basic in terms of presentation) and here it is. We promise to cheer it up and increase the number of pictures especially now we have the funding starting to come through (see news flash)

News Flash !

This week Jane Earl (Chair) and Jonathan Cochrane (Compact Lead) have agreed the use of funding from Arts Council England to proceed with recruiting extra staffing capacity to support the objectives of the Cultural Compact. We hope by the end of next week to have recruited to this role and very soon afterwards we'll be able to start increasing our ability to engage effectively with you all. In addition to that, as explained last week, we are delighted to announce Amelia Matthews has started in post within the Council's Leisure and Culture team and she will also be in regular contact and be supporting us all to work together.

Catch Up

“Catch Up” will be a regular item in the ezine for the foreseeable future until we feel everyone is up to speed with whats been going on to date. It focuses upon how partners from within the Compact have decided to work together to get our communities more active, creative and connected to open space. So we'll get started with the first of a two part catch up about how NEW got involved with the Commonwealth Games.

The Councils in both Redditch and Bromsgrove were proud to present the Queens Baton Relay as part of Birmingham 2022 in the summer this year. One of the 2022 Commonwealth Games baton bearers was Compact partner, author, overland motorcycle traveller and Royal Enfield historian, Gordon May.

Gordon was riding Project Origin, a fully working replica of the long lost, first Royal Enfield's motor bicycle produced in Redditch in 1901. Redditch was the location of the first Royal Enfield's factory dating back to 1891 and the brand has gone on to become the longest motorcycle company In continuous production in the world.

Gordon was passed the baton by Steve Rooke (founder and now a director of Redditch Skate Park) for young people in the town, again a [historically significant space](#) in the



Pictured (Steve Rooke and Gordon May)

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WHAT HAPPENED
ACROSS THE AREAS
NEXT WEEK**

town. Perhaps you grasp the theme here! Gordon carried the baton on a two mile stretch of cycle path in Arrow Valley Park and was cheered along by crowds of locals and motorcycle enthusiasts.

"Carrying the Queen's baton was a huge privilege, one of the most memorable experiences of my life. It was also amazing to continue Royal Enfields historic association with the town of Redditch in such a unique way," he said.

The Baton reached its final destination at Arrow Valley Park carried by Reimagine Redditch community champion Lauren Mernagh. [Find out more](#) . For those that don't know Lauren was an inspiration not only to over 8000 local residents who followed her lead to get creative during the pandemic but also the consortium of partners who cited her "Positivity Rocks" case study as part of their interview application to Arts Council England.

Spotlight

Spotlight invites partners to submit a more in depth project update and for us to schedule these for the ezine over the coming weeks so let us know if you have a project you've been involved with you'd like to bring to our attention!

This will also take a slightly closer look at whats been happening on the ground as a result of Compact partners getting stuck in with our local communities. This week we want to get started with the Friends of St Johns in Bromsgrove. Jo Slade reports.....

The Bromsgrove Christmas Markets were organised for a seventh year by the Friends of St John's in partnership with Bromsgrove District Council during November 2022.

The two day Christmas Markets are held on the High Street in the event space (outside the Slug & Lettuce) to complement the Christmas Light Switch On event.

The 2022 Christmas Markets were successful in achieving the aims and purpose of the event, these being:

- * Providing an additional offer in the High Street alongside the Council organised Switch On
- * Raising awareness and funds for the Friends of St John's
- * Supporting local artisan designers and craftmakers, giving them an organised and well attended space to sell their goods
- * Giving a platform to local charities to promote their work and raise funds - this year the Markets supported Fundraisers from St John's Church, Friends of Millfields School, St Basils and Chadsgrove Special School
- * Giving the students from Chadsgrove Special School a safe environment to assist in the selling of decorations and gifts which they have helped to make, and a safe space to perform in the community.
- * Enhancing a free, community event. Creating an atmosphere which welcomes all and encourages community engagement.

Quotes from this year's stall holders and attendees include:

Paul Walton "Brilliant set up well organised. Great day."

Dragonfly Gifts & Crystals "Thank you for having us Jo. Here's to next year! Xx"

Kathleen Raybould "Fabulous day, the market and entertainment was really great 👍"

Trader "Just a big thank you for organising, without these outlets to sell I couldn't run my business. Happy Christmas and see you next year."

Trader "Thank you for all you do for Bromsgrove and your encouragement for me and my small local business."

The Bromsgrove Christmas Markets are made possible, and achieve their aims, because of the excellent partnerships which have been developed over many years, between the various organisations involved in the event. Additional Compact partners including local press and organisations such as the Bromsgrove Society and Bromsgrove Arts Alive help to spread the word and boost the effectiveness of the event. To see how these partnerships work in pictures, visit www.facebook.com/FriendsStJohnsBromsgrove

Call to Action

So remember what we're all about ?

To increase the active and creative behaviours and connectivity with open space of the residents of North East Worcestershire. This way residents will succeed, feel better, and live longer.

- 1 Unlocking potential by sharing resources and supporting one another
- 2 Developing new cross sector and cross area partnerships
- 3 Building on the aspirations of our communities to encourage participation

If you have any ideas about how you can help please let us know

