

# BITS & PIECES

AUTUMN 2019

THE **BITMO** NEWSLETTER FOR BELLE ISLE TENANTS & RESIDENTS



*Vote* **BITMO**  
TO CONTINUE!

**BITMO Needs You!**

Tenant Ballot September 2019  
(page 7)

## FUN, MUSIC, DANCING AND SMILES ALL ROUND AT THE BELLE ISLE COMMUNITY GALA



Major Stan Hardy,  
Deputy Lieutenant  
opens the Gala



Local dance groups showcased  
their talents and entertained  
the crowds

**Hundreds of people from across Belle Isle and beyond enjoyed the sun and the fun at the tenth annual Gala organised by BITMO and hosted by Windmill Primary School, with support from the Inner South Community Committee and Councillor Judith Blake, Councillor Kim Groves and Councillor Paul Truswell.**

We were treated to visits by the Queen's representative, Major Stan Hardy the Deputy Lieutenant who opened the Gala and the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Eileen Taylor. The Right Honourable Hilary Benn MP,

who is no stranger to Belle Isle, was mixing quietly with the stall holders, wishing them well and taking a keen interest in BITMO's work and role in the community.

We've got ambitious plans for next year's celebration of all things Belle Isle, we are on the lookout for local bands and choirs to add to the entertainment, as well as offering a more varied and exciting choice in a food court that will have you licking your lips and trying out new recipes at home.

If you are interested in learning how to run events, or have something you can teach us, we'd love you to get involved. Or if you want to pitch up to the Gala and have a stall of your own to showcase something, please contact **BITMO's GATE** on **0113 378 2190**.

## OUR COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Cooking together and eating together are at the heart of BITMO's community café. Through it we are able to provide training and opportunities to socialise. We are conscious that we want to provide good quality food, that is locally sourced and minimise waste as part of the whole idea.

Thanks to the work of our volunteers, we've recently switched up our food choices to include homemade vegetable soup on Tuesdays and locally sourced high quality butchers' bacon and sausage for our full English breakfast.

Come in and join us, meet up with friends and neighbours to enjoy a hearty low cost meal. Every Tuesday and Friday at BITMO's GATE. We are looking at two new ideas - a curry club where the curries are cooked from scratch and eaten together and an afterschool session once a week to include a basic meal. Come in to one of the existing sessions to find out more.

**Tasty Tuesdays – soup and a toastie every Tuesday from 11.00am – 12.30pm**

**Happy Fridays Breakfast Club – Full English breakfast or a hot sandwich every Friday 9am – 10.30am.**

BITMO's GATE is the community centre next to the housing office. GATE stands for "Getting Advice Training and Employment"

**All our activities come under three strands:**

✓ **Healthy** ✓ **Workwise** ✓ **Money wise**

We have weekly sessions from Citizens Advice, to help you stop smoking and to manage your weight. There is a walking group lead by trained leaders, sessions on painting, arts & crafts and researching your family tree. If you need help with accessing online services we will try to help you at any time, but we guarantee we will have someone to help you on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4pm. If you want to improve your computer skills we can help you use the Learn My Way online course, there are regular courses run by Leeds City College and a Beginners Computer club on Tuesday where you can practice using laptops with other new users.

You can use the computers at any time, or bring your own device in to use the Wi-Fi. If we have time we will help you with your CV or job searching, but we may need to book you an appointment if we are busy. Come to our Job Club on Thursdays from 2-4pm for support, and you can check out the jobs board and folder for regularly updated local job vacancies.

## OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

As a tenant-led organisation we wouldn't be anywhere without the help of our volunteers. Volunteers lead sessions like the walking group, looking up your family tree and arts & crafts. We spoke to John Shaw, our artist in residence and music teacher about how he came to be a volunteer at BITMO's GATE.

Currently I teach Art on Monday's at The BITMO's GATE 1.00pm to 3.00pm and The Guitar on Wednesday's 6.30pm to 7.30pm for beginners and 7.30pm to 8.30pm for improvers.

Art is innate and to some extent cannot be taught, although guidance and use of materials can.

I have been involved with art and music most of my life and now have the opportunity to impart my knowledge to anyone who is interested.

I try to broaden horizons taking people out of their comfort zone to expand on what they would do if left to their own devices, similar to an art college, most people being amazed at what they can accomplish with a little guidance and encouragement.

In my early youth I played in various rock groups followed by a long period studying and playing the classical guitar.

My intention is to teach everyone how to read music and not just play a few chords as some guitar teachers do, to enable students to play duet's, trio's etc. and create a group identity.

All styles are taught with an emphasis on providing what the students want although this must include learning the language of music.

Guitar and Art lessons are free to all, children are welcome but in order to progress, practice is necessary, as with most things in life.



**John C Shaw**  
Volunteer at BITMO's GATE

## BELLEAF



Belleaf volunteers weed the BITMO Memorial Garden

**BELLEAF** is a new community group that wants to help you get growing food and vegetables locally. They have already got an allotment plot on the site on East Grange Drive and have weeded the Memorial Garden at the BITMO offices. They will be growing tomatoes for the Happy Friday Breakfast Club and vegetables for soup for Tasty Tuesdays.

### Their aims are to:

- ✓ Increase food growing which can be made available to the community.
- ✓ Provide a space for residents of the community to work together, socialise and engage.
- ✓ Provide a practical and interactive non-formal education to young people in the community on gardening concepts and practices in line with the Sustainable development goals.

If you would like to join BELLEAF, you can contact them via their Facebook page @Belleaves or ringing 07395 388179.

# FAMILY EVENTS

Because we are located in the community, led by the community and working for the community, we are perfectly placed to run family events that get people together for a sprinkling of fun and entertainment. Every year we run:

- ✓ **The Belle Isle Community Gala, in partnership with Windmill Primary School and local councillors**

- ✓ **A summer coach trip to Bridlington, with three coaches and subsidised tickets**
- ✓ **A summer fun day in the middle of the summer holidays at BITMO**
- ✓ **A coach trip to the Blackpool illuminations**
- ✓ **A children's Christmas party, complete with Santa and presents**
- ✓ **A Christmas Market in BITMO's GATE**



## THEATRE IN BELLE ISLE

Every year we are privileged to host community theatre events. Freedom Studios, a group of professional actors and directors attend BITMO to rehearse and develop their production, while Belle Isle tenants look on and take part in the discussion about the show. It is a fascinating process and so enjoyable, our CEO Deborah says it is the best thing she has done in years!

The final performance tours community facilities in West Yorkshire and BITMO hosts one of them. Tickets are £3 each – an amazing bargain for such high quality thought provoking theatre.



The next performance will be "A Parting Glass" is on 18th September at 7.30 at BITMO's GATE. Contact BITMO to buy tickets.

## OUR GREEN AGENDA

We are really getting into developing our Green agenda, we're giving up plastic, reducing paper use, moving to electric vehicles, where it is cost efficient to do so, and making better use of green space to grow fruit vegetables and nuts, and investing in fuel efficient heating systems as part of a wider sustainability strategy.

We are putting 100s of new trees and shrubs into the area to reduce our carbon footprint, we using less fossil fuel in the office ourselves.



## TACKLING LONELINESS AND ISOLATION HEAD ON

A large number of BITMO tenants are aged 70 and over and live alone.

What our tenants tell us about what we do.

“I don't think the service could be any better, the wardens really cheer me up, every time they call in”

“I've not been able to get out since having major surgery, but BITMO arranged a trip to Bridlington and really looked after me all the way there and back”

“I don't know what I'd do with my warden”

“I lost my sight and lost my confidence, but the wardens help me to maintain my independence”

We work with our older tenants to help people stay connected with family and friends and to meet new friends in three key ways, we provide transport and help with accessing technology.

We encourage older tenants to run social groups and events, and to attend groups at The GATE, we are all about supporting our community.

## HELPING YOU REACH YOUR GOALS

Over the next year we will be making it our goal to help you reach your goals! Whether you want to build your confidence, work on becoming debt free, or improve your work skills we can work out a programme around you.

We are setting up a team of mentors who can work with you to keep you on track.

- ✓ Confidence ✓ Weight loss
- ✓ Developing community projects
- ✓ Becoming a volunteer ✓ Getting debt free
- ✓ Brushing up your numeracy literacy and IT skills
- ✓ Writing a great CV and landing the job you want

## HAVE YOUR SAY

You can let us know what you think through Facebook, Twitter, or by attending your local community meeting. We aim to meet with all residents at least twice a year, and work with you to develop plans for where you live. Because we are tenant led, we rely on you telling us about the highs and lows of living in Belle Isle and what you want us to do to improve your local neighbourhood.



Search Belle Isle TMO on Facebook

## MEETINGS DATES AND VENUES

**Wednesday 28th August** Fun Day at BITMO offices

**Saturday 31st August** Vote BITMO party 11am Belle Isle Working Men's Club

**Thursday 12th September** Brooms and Nesfields Community Meeting 6pm BITMO GATE

**Thursday 19th September** Rosedales Community Meeting 6pm West Grange Church (behind the sorting office)

**Monday 30th September** East and Low Granges Community Meeting 6pm 58 Belle Isle Circus

**Wednesday 2nd October** Winroses Community Meeting 6pm 58 Belle Isle Circus

**Saturday 30 November** Belle Isle Children's Christmas Party, 12,30pm Belle Isle Working Men's Club 12.30 – 3pm

# ✓ote BITMO

## TO CONTINUE!

In September 2019 you will be asked if you want **BITMO** to continue for another five years.

## WHY VOTE FOR BITMO?

Very simply because if you don't we will cease to exist. Your home and tenancy will be managed by the council. Now there's nothing wrong with that but...

**BITMO** are accountable directly to you

**BITMO** is run by tenants just like you

**BITMO** is focused on the needs of the people who live in Belle Isle and take on board the issues that are important to you.

**BITMO** spend more money on repairs and home improvements

**BITMO** provide the best repairs service in the city

**BITMO** provide a local service in a dedicated office

**BITMO** supports the local community

**BITMO** supports you to achieve your goals, whatever they are



**TRACY MORRIS**

BITMO is great for the community. I'm voting YES!



**JOHN ODDY**

BITMO engages very well with the community because it is local and independent.



**PENNY VIRDEE**

I'm voting for BITMO to continue because it has a great repairs service



**JOANNE JEWKES**

I find it easy to report repairs. If there's a problem it's easy to come in and sort it out.



**GRAHAM GRIFFITHS**

BITMO's GATE is a great social meeting space for everybody.



**MAUREEN TEMPERLEY**

BITMO keeps the community together.

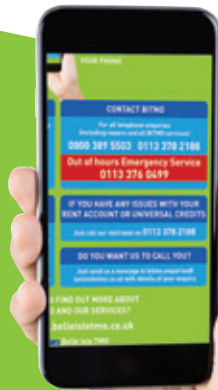


**DAVE POLWARTH**

Because BITMO is local you can get to know the staff. The staff know what is happening on the estate. I have become a volunteer and work closely with staff now.

# BITMO

## OPENING TIMES AND CONTACT DETAILS



WHY NOT TAKE  
A PICTURE OF  
THIS PAGE ON  
YOUR PHONE

### OPENING TIMES

**Monday, Tuesday Thursday**  
9.00 am – 5.00 pm

**Wednesday**  
9.00 am – 1.00 pm

**Friday**  
9.00 am – 4.00 pm

### CONTACT BITNO

For all telephone enquiries  
(including repairs and all BITMO services)

**0800 389 5503 0113 378 2188**

**Out of hours Emergency Service**  
**0113 376 0499**

### HAVE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGED?

If we don't have your up to date  
contact details we can't get in touch  
with you to offer the right services.

If your details have changed just  
call us on 0113 378 2188 or email  
[bitmo.enquiries@belleisletmo.co.uk](mailto:bitmo.enquiries@belleisletmo.co.uk)

### IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH YOUR RENT ACCOUNT OR UNIVERSAL CREDITS

Just call our rent team on **0113 378 2188**

### DO YOU WANT US TO CALL YOU?

Just send us a message to [bitmo.enquiries@belleisletmo.co.uk](mailto:bitmo.enquiries@belleisletmo.co.uk) with details of your enquiry

NEED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
BITMO AND OUR SERVICES?

[www.belleisletmo.co.uk](http://www.belleisletmo.co.uk)



Belle Isle TMO



@BITMO\_LS10

Aberfield Gate, Belle Isle, Leeds LS10 3QH