

BITS & PIECES

THE BITMO NEWSLETTER FOR BELLE ISLE TENANTS & RESIDENTS



December 2022

Cost of living crisis — how BITMO can help

BITMO is run by a Board led by Belle Isle tenants. Our Board understand the very real cost of living crisis facing most tenants in Belle Isle and have asked staff to do everything they can to provide extra support to people this winter. We are trying to help by:

- setting up the **BITMO Community Fund** with £70,000 that tenants can apply to. More details on page 2 and application form on the back page.
- working with volunteers from Belle Isle Community Kitchen to provide **free hot meals** twice a week with extra food and activities during the school holidays. More details on the programme this Christmas on page 3.
- providing **good quality second hand clothes** – school uniforms during the summer; winter coats right now.
- opening **BITMOs GATE until 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. You are welcome to come in to this warm space, get hot drinks, charge your phone and use the computers or the Wi-Fi.

We have weekly sessions with **Citizens Advice** (call 0808 278 7878 to book) and can provide basic advice or referrals to experts to help deal with debts. We can provide **foodbank vouchers**.

BITMO Chair Shaf Ghafiri said “The cost of living is impacting us all in different ways. That’s why BITMO is here to support you though the Community Fund and maintaining great quality housing. If you want to help shape your communities, please volunteer or join the Board”.



BITMO put on 20 free food and activity events for families this summer

BITMO Christmas opening times

The **BITMO housing counter** will be open as usual until 4pm on Friday 23 December and will then be closed until Tuesday 3 January.

The out of hours repairs service will operate from 5pm on 23 December until 8am on 28 December on 0113 376 0499.

BITMO will be operating a telephone only service on 28, 29 and 30 December from 10am until 4pm on 0113 378 2188.

BITMOs GATE community centre will

* close at 1pm on Friday 23 December

* **be open 10am-4pm on Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 December**

* reopen after Christmas with normal opening hours on Wednesday 4 January.

Regular BITMOs GATE opening times are now Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1pm Tuesday and Thursday 1pm—7pm.

COMMUNITY FUND NOW OPEN

BITMO's Board has made five funding opportunities available for individuals, groups, and the Belle Isle community to benefit from:

Estate Enhancement and the Green Agenda; is there an area of the estate that you think needs a makeover? You can apply for money to pay for fencing, seating, planting or green energy solutions where the land or building is managed by BITMO and there is local support for the improvements.

Training, development and qualifications for tenants and their families; is there a training course or qualification that you want to access but can't pay all the fees for? You can apply for 50% of your fees, up to a maximum of £500.

Contribution to decorating costs for vulnerable people in hardship; are you vulnerable, in hardship and in need of help towards redecorating your home? You can apply for half the costs of redecorating one room every three years, up to a maximum of £600.

Household goods to improve the living conditions of vulnerable tenants; are you (or do you support) a vulnerable tenant who needs funds to improve their living conditions? You or your support worker can

apply for up to £300 for household goods to help sustain a tenancy.

Community group or activity; is there a community group or activity that you want to set up and need some money to get it going? You can apply for up to £500 a year.

There's an application form on the back of this newsletter or you can collect one from our office. If you would like to discuss our grants and application process further, please contact our Community Development Team on 0113 378 2190 or email gate@belleislebitmo.co.uk



Belle Isle Community Heroes

A huge thank you to the volunteers—like Gerry and Tracy from Belle Isle Community Kitchen in the photo—but also to the rest of the kitchen volunteers Mandy, Faye, Penny and Pat, along with Julie who runs the Ancestry group, Pat, Andrea and all the volunteers at the 58 Centre, Tony and Harry for all their help setting up the tables at BITMOs GATE, the new volunteers involved with the community garden— Emma, Joy, Howard, Peter, Shaf and Kevin so far. Thanks also to Albert and Rose who support the tutors at our English and Maths lessons.

Of course the BITMO Board are all volunteers who give up their time to make decisions to benefit the community.

Let's remember the amazing volunteer John Shaw who passed away this year who ran free painting and guitar classes for many years.

Thanks to Lisa who started volunteering with us providing computer support, which gave her the experience to

get a job providing computer support to older resident with Belle Isle Senior Action.

And thanks to all the other unsung heroes in Belle Isle who look out for their neighbours, litter pick, support the schools, run Belle Isle Senior Action and the sport and dance clubs or contribute in the way you can to make Belle Isle a safer and stronger community. You help make Belle Isle what it is and we salute you!

To find out more about volunteering in Belle Isle call 0113 378 2190 or call in to BITMOs GATE.



Who are your community heroes? We know we will have missed some people out. Let us know who we should feature in the next edition of Bits & Pieces.

Free food and activities at BITMOs GATE this Christmas



Monday 19th December

9.30 – 11.30am **FREE** * Mini Monday breakfast & festive crafts (under 5's)

Tuesday 20th December

1 – 3pm Family-friendly Christmas film (*booking required*)

3 – 5pm **FREE*** Children & families buffet (*booking required*)

Thursday 22nd December

2 – 3.30pm Festive Arts and Craft Session 1 (*booking required*)

4.30 – 6pm Festive Arts and Craft Session 2 (*TBC*)

Friday 23rd December

9.30am – 12.00pm **FREE*** Friday Breakfast Club with a surprise guest!



BITMOs GATE is open 10am-4pm on 28, 29 and 30 December. You are welcome to come in and keep warm, have free hot drinks and use the Wi-Fi or PCs.

Wednesday 28th December

12 – 2pm **FREE*** hot meal served in the GATE

Thursday 29th December

10.30 – 12pm Family friendly film (*booking required*)

12.30 – 2pm Soup and a roll

Friday 30th December

10am – 12pm **FREE*** Friday Breakfast Club

* Free to BITMO and Leeds Federated tenants.

Where booking is required phone 0113 378 2190 or come to BITMOs GATE

BITMOs GATE is the old library near Kasa on Belle Isle Road. BITMO is run by Belle Isle tenants and funds the GATE as a resource for the Belle Isle community. Many of the activities are run by tenants as volunteers. Could you help? Call 0113 378 2190 or ask in the GATE.



Community Fund application form. Please complete and return to gate@belleisletmo.co.uk or drop in to BITMOs GATE or the BITMO housing counter.

Application Form

Please ensure all sections are complete. Please use one application per submission. If you need help filling in this form, please contact BITMO's Community Development Team.

Contact Information

Name:	
Address (incl. postcode):	
Mobile number:	
Email:	

If you are applying on someone else's behalf, please give your name, contact information, and state your connection with that person:

Which budget are you applying to? (please tick one)

- Estate enhancement and the Green Agenda
- Training, development and qualifications for tenants and their families
- Contribution to decorating costs for older tenants
- Household goods to improve the living conditions of vulnerable tenants
- Community group or activity

How much money are you requesting?

What will the money pay for?

Why do you need this?



Important phone numbers

Report a repair call **0113 378 2188** or **0800 389 5503**
Make a rent payment call **0113 378 2187**
Report anti-social behaviour **0113 378 2188**
Report issues with bins and bin collections to Leeds City Council on **0113 222 4406** or download the **Leeds Bins** app

You can find out all the information you need about BITMO on our website:

- ⇒ Repairs
- ⇒ Rent
- ⇒ Help & Support
- ⇒ News from Belle Isle
- ⇒ Information on BITMO's performance



Go to www.belleisletmo.co.uk or scan the QR code

This newsletter is available in large print on request by phoning 0113 378 2188.

