

BS3 Community - the south Bristol charity and community development organisation

Social enterprise award delight

BS3 Community has been named Social Enterprise of the Year 2020 in an awards scheme for small and medium sized organisations.

The awarding body, SME News online, recognised the 'passion for community-driven change that is still present in the group today, and which now manifests through their charity work'.

The group was founded in 1991 with the purpose of improving the lives of people living in the BS3 postcode and surrounding area. The company is a registered charity and have meaningfully bettered the community. It started when a group of residents approached Bristol City Council to discuss the future of a former school which was now lying empty and redundant. The residents were

concerned about the site and wanted to ensure that it was used for the benefit of the community. Following that meeting, BS3 Community was born.

The vast majority of the company's income is generated by their nursery provision. Every penny earned is reinvested into the community. It means that local parents can financially and reliably support their community development by choosing one of BS3 Community's sites as their early education provider.

The company runs two community venues, the Southville Centre and the Chessel Centre. As a social business, all surplus generated from profitable services is reinvested into education, artistic, environmental, health and wellbeing projects.

Dawn Lockhart, Head

of Communications at BS3 Community said: "Bristolians' natural state is to think radically. Why do things the way they have always been done if that method is no longer fit for purpose? We embrace uncertainty. It can be uncomfortable, but it is an opportunity to reassess and shake up the status quo for the benefit of the whole."

Simon Hankins, CEO of the charity said: "This award has come at exactly the right time. My team have pulled out all the stops to continue supporting our community at a very challenging time, they have all made personal sacrifices and I am extremely proud of them. Being awarded Social Enterprise of the Year reflects their dedication and has raised morale in this our 30th of operation as a local charity."

• BS3 Community has been

chosen by Bristol actor Joe Simms to receive £500 as part of his 500 Reasons project.

500 Reasons is a "fundraising concept devoted to making the world a better place, started by an initial group of 500 people each donating £1/week. Each week, anyone from the group can nominate a good cause to be the beneficiary of £500. It might be a local library that's in danger of closing, a lady living near you who's raising money for blankets for the homeless or a family raising funds for their child to have a life or death operation."

This time BS3 Community was chosen as the worthy cause and the charity is grateful for the donation. The money will be used to continue its community development work in Ashton, Bedminster and Southville.

www.bs3community.org.uk

Christmas in South Bristol

Help spread Christmas cheer throughout BS3

Community groups have joined forces to organise the biggest gift donation drive BS3 has seen to date.

BS3 Community Covid-19 Response group, BS3 Community Development and BS3 Community Larder have launched Pass the Parcel, which will see local schools, shelters and tenants of Help Bristol's Homeless accommodation

receive gifts donated online by the public.

"This year has been so hard on so many," organisers say. "BS3 is a fantastic place to live, filled with kind people who are willing to help others.

"We have co-ordinated with other organisations to ensure that we reach as many of those in need as we can so they get a little something special this Christmas."

A gift list can be found by visiting the BS3 Community Covid-19 Response website (www.bs3communityresponse.co.uk) and clicking the 'Pass the Parcel wishlist' button, or by visiting its Facebook page.

The gift list will link you to a wide range of items, sold by local BS3 shops - meaning that any money spent goes back into the community.

In order for the project to quarantine, wrap and deliver the gifts, organisers urge those

wishing to give to start shopping and donating sooner rather than later.

Monetary donations can also be made, which will then be used by the project to


purchase the gifts. Please visit the BS3 Covid-19 Community Response website (www.bs3communityresponse.co.uk) for more details or look out for posters in local shops.



Give your Christmas presents a lift this year by buying a balloon flight over our iconic city flying in our iconic balloon..

Deposit vouchers available

Find us on

Website address to book: www.bristolballoons.co.uk