



**SOUTH BRENT
OLD SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

A Happy New Year to all South Brent residents and groups! The Old School Community Centre sits at the heart of the village and is owned by the community and run for the community – it's there to support everyone.

This newsletter will update you on what goes on at the Centre and what's coming up in 2019, but first an invite for you to ...

Hear what's happening and have your say

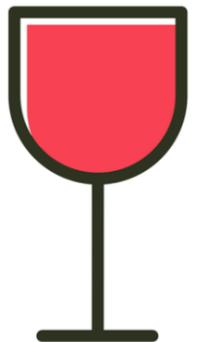
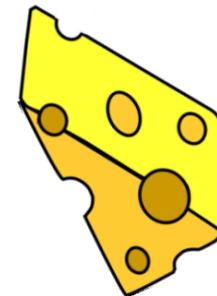
During the early part of 2019 we'll be making a number of improvements to how we promote and encourage use of the Old School Centre – with the aim of making it available and useful to every individual and group in the Parish.

To do this successfully we need to know what you think. Whether you are a member, a local resident or a local group please join us for cheese, wine and a chat at **7.00 pm on Wednesday 16th January at the Old School Community Centre.**

Hear about what we have planned – and come and give us your ideas.

Followed by the Annual General Meeting where we will consider:

- The annual report
- The accounts
- Appointment of Trustees



What's On

Post Office	Wednesday	9.00 – 13.00
	Friday	9.00 – 12.00
	Saturday	9.00 – 12.00
Lloyds Bank	Monday	9.45 – 11.15
	Thursday	14.00 – 15.30
Caring Coffee Morning	Alternate Mondays	10.30 – 12.00
Caring Lunch Club	Alternate Mondays	12.00 – 13.30
Caring Memory Café	Alternate Tuesdays	14.00 – 16.00
Breakfast Club	Monday – Friday	7.45 – 9.00
After-School Club	Monday – Friday	15.15 – 18.00
Library	Monday – Saturday	10.00 – 12.00
	Term-time Weekdays	14.00 – 16.00

For all of the information about the centre, visit our website:

theoldschool.org.uk

Find rooms for hire and booking information in the 'Timetable' tab

Massive thanks to the Co-op – and how you can help in 2019

Those of you who shop at the Co-op will have seen that the Old School Centre was a nominated local good cause during 2018. This raised a massive £2,900 for our work – which is down to all of you who made us your local good cause (along with funding from the levy paid for plastic bags).

The good news is that we are selected again for 2019 and you can see the figure building up already as you wait at the checkout. Do sign up as a member and donate at www.coop.co.uk/membership.

And if you fancy a dance . .

Cuckoo Collective will be live at the Village Hall for a fundraising gig on April 27th. Get it in the diary now!

News from the Old School

The Old School Community Centre supports the local community through its events, activities, hired rooms and support to other groups.

We continue to have an amazing range of activities going on at the Centre. In particular, South Brent & District Caring provide a foundation for much of the activity, including the regular lunch club, and support services to so many in the local community.

Our other facilities are also flourishing: the library continues to bring in visitors, demonstrating the continued popularity of reading in the village; there's plenty of competition for space in our art corridor; and our IT, printing and laminating resources come in very handy.

A significant change last year was the introduction of the Post Office to the centre, with the generous support of Feoffees and the Parish Council. This is now a long-term arrangement, with the Post Office open three mornings a week. We also continue to host the mobile Lloyds Bank.

On the building itself, we've had a quieter year after the improvements to access and introduction of the gym, but were successful in getting over £6,000 from National Grid, Devon County Council and South Hams District Council towards a refurbishment of the electrics in the centre.

Looking ahead, we're keen to take our activities beyond the school gate and out into the wider community. We want to grow our membership and volunteers, foster new activities, invite everyone in, provide a home for other groups and organisations, rejuvenate the Centre and develop our communications.

To this end, we've received a £10,000 grant from the Lottery-funded Awards for All, which will be going towards our "Connecting to the Community" project. We'll be:

- Improving signs and information inside and around the Centre
- Refreshing our website and social media
- Providing digital information boards within the centre
- Promoting activities through newsletters, leaflets and other sources

In the long term we still have an eye on the roof – where we are aware of its poor condition and know that at some point we'll need to undertake substantial repairs in the region of £100,000. A wide range of activities and events took place during the year as we started to fundraise towards this target under the project title, *Raising the Roof*. Many thanks to all the individuals and groups who have helped run, and attend, these activities.

We continue to be a strong member-based organisation with a key role for volunteers at the heart of all we do. As a Charitable Company we have two levels of membership – 101 formal members of the Charity who have the right to vote at our AGM and 312 in the broader "Friends" membership level.

You can help by . . .

Becoming a Member: find details on the 'About Us' page on our website (see back page) or pick up a leaflet in the centre. Individual Membership or Friend is £5, Family is £10 and life membership is £100.

Becoming a Trustee: The Old School Community Centre is supported by a group of trustees who take responsibility for the Charity. We have 9 trustees and if you would like to help support and grow what we do at the Centre, do get in touch with the Chair of Trustees, Ross Kennerley, at ross@twentyseven.me.uk. We are particularly keen to recruit a Treasurer to assist and support the financial side of the Trust, so let us know if you're interested and we can give you some more information.

Activities at the Centre

There's loads going on – classes, events and activities. Just look on the website or call in. Here's some highlights:

Breakfast and After-School Club

It's been another busy year for the South Brent Breakfast and After-School Club and with numbers on the rise and it's looking like 2019 will be another good year.

Earlier this year the clubs received community funding from the Co-op and, after a vote by the children, had a bespoke outdoor Mud Kitchen made by local company Earth Wrights.

Alongside Claire Bitner, the club manager, there are five trustees who run the club. This is a relaxed group who, as working parents, value the provision hugely. They are always looking for new members. Please email chair@sbbac.co.uk if you are interested in joining.

Arts at the Centre: the Corridor Gallery

After many years of looking after the administration of the Corridor Gallery, Jilly Elford has decided to hand over to Sue Ifould. A huge thanks to Jilly for building up such a variety of exhibitors who undertake to display their work for a month at a time.

Sue will carry on with the tradition of showcasing the work of local groups and artists and would like to encourage potential new exhibitors to get in touch and 'book a slot'. Displays in the corridor provide a lively welcome to the centre and all 2D media are welcome: paintings, drawings, collage and photos.

The gallery is booked until July 2019 but we welcome applications for after that date. It only costs £10 for the whole month and 10% of any sales and all money raised supports the work of the Old School Centre. Please don't hesitate to get in touch: sue@ifould.co.uk or call 01364 388471.

South Brent Community Library

After many years at the helm we say many thanks to Lyn Dent as she hands over the co-ordination to Gillian Knight.

Gillian moved to Devon, a 2 ½ years ago. She has been in education specialising in Special Educational Needs and was a coordinator for two schools for many years. Gillian is also a qualified dyslexic teacher and assessor and is currently supporting learners on a weekly basis.

Soon after her arrival, Gillian joined the library and was amazed to learn how it functioned and how the librarians were all volunteers giving their time to keep it open to all users of the local area. Gillian soon became a volunteer and has been grateful to Lyn's support during the 'transition' period.

The library would not function without its volunteers and if you are interested in supporting the work of the library, contact Gillian at gillswon@yahoo.co.uk. Gillian would also be grateful to hear suggestions about the library from the community and current users.

Ashmoor Fitness Centre: The Village Gym

The gym remains popular – with membership for this fantastic facility pegged at only £10 month for the third year running. Go on – it will make January fly by! Details of membership can be found at the gym entrance or by contacting the manager of the gym, Marcus Iles, on 01364 654303 or by email (ashmoor@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk). The gym is also on Facebook as "Ashmoor South Brent Fitness Centre".