

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service

Monthly Column – for Friday 21 October edition of the Worksop Guardian

Column author – Becky Law

Photo: Kilton Forest Gold Club, managed by Barnsley Premier Leisure, is opening up as a warm space 7 days a week from 10am – 3pm.



Local community groups open up their venues as Warm Spaces this winter.

With the Cost of Living about to hit local residents hard as the temperature drops for winter, local community groups and voluntary organisations are extending their opening hours, creating new activities, and opening up their venues as “warm spaces”.

From board games to hot meals and bingo, there are lots of different themes and activities taking place to ensure that local people never feel like they have nowhere to go to keep warm.

The majority of the groups and venues on offer are already places of welcome and have been for years – so if you are feeling lonely or just want some difference in scenery, maybe now is the perfect opportunity to explore what some of these groups have to offer and meet new people.

The Bassetlaw Financial Insecurity Forum is encouraging any venue or community space to offer a warm space if they are able to. If your venue is going to be open anyway, we urge you to consider advertising as a warm space. It doesn't have to be completely free – you can still charge for your usual food and drinks, but adding a couple of extra incentives such as a few board games or craft activities could encourage someone to visit that would really benefit from that warm and friendly space as well as the opportunity to learn a new game, or make a gift for a friend or relative.

At BCVS, we have collated all the warm spaces currently open in Bassetlaw and also have an online form for you to fill in to submit your own, if you are also able to.

You can access the page and form here – www.bcvs.org.uk/warmspaces

Some of these community groups and spaces will also need volunteers to help them keep up with the demand, so if this is something you could offer – for example, making cups of tea or facilitating a craft activity – then please do get in touch with the venues directly.

Alternatively, you can also contact the BCVS Volunteer Coordinator, Annie Parry, via email at involve@bcvs.org.uk and she will be able to point you in the right direction of a group that needs some support.

It's not going to be an easy winter, but together, in Bassetlaw, we can make the best of it and pull together as a community once again to ensure we support one another.