

The

# Birchfield Bugle

Autumn 2013

newsletter for Birchfield Residents

Issue 10

## On the Move

### Popular Parish Priest

Father Simon Hall has been given a new parish in Nuneaton. He moved in September after nearly 10 years serving the community of St Teresa's in Birchfield, where there is now a large International congregation. He came as the youngest parish priest in the diocese and leaves unexpectedly as the Archbishop had not long made him chaplain to the Migrant Communities.

Read full story on page 3



What are these 2 doing in the Brag Allotment Project shed? See page 9



**Our elderly folk are not so quick to move out of danger from cyclists on the footpath.**

Bugle's publishers, Aston Vision Association, have received funding to run a **BEWARE CYCLISTS** campaign to address the problem of the dangers of Cycling on Pavements in our area. This is especially dangerous to older people and mothers with small children. Many of our local residents think nothing of using the pavements to ride cycles with others

**BEWARE CYCLISTS**



*This young Italian asks "why don't you have proper lines on path for us like we do?"*

**ON YOUR FOOTPATH**

Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum  
<http://www.facebook.com/birchfieldneighbourhoodforum>

on the crossbar or with shopping hanging from both handlebars. it is out of place here on our narrow pavements that lead to the Shopping Centre. The condition of the bikes, as far as brakes are concerned, is also worrying, as often they do not have any. At night you will never see lights being used. Rarely will they wear a cycling helmet or clothing with reflective surfaces.

So we plan a campaign in the Birchfield area to make both pedestrians and cyclists aware of the dangers to each other. We have put up notices on local lamp posts, but need to engage local school children as well in this exercise. Local schools were invited to hold workshops, but only **Westminster Primary** has responded. They were shown a video of examples filmed on our footpaths and roads of the Good and Bad cyclists, to show the dangers of careless cycling. Some local schools, like **St Clares**, hold Cycle Proficiency Workshops to give our youngsters safer riding skills.

The City Council Transportation Department, who look after our roads and pavements, have promised their support as well as the local Community Police.

Inspector Karen Geddes, based at Walsall Road police station has said in a Neighbourhood Police meeting that **"Cycling on pavements is still illegal and that cyclists who do will be prosecuted if caught by my officers"**.

We know that many cyclists find the local roads difficult to use safely and therefore come onto the pavements and risk hitting pedestrians. Some have been filmed riding at speed from the road onto the pavement at the Crown and Cushion (Wellington Road) weaving in and out of shoppers and mothers with young children. These cyclists can be of any age, usually teenagers and young men.

It is our intention to make our footpaths safer for pedestrians. Certain London Boroughs have clearly marked cycle and pedestrian paths, we hope that Birchfield might become the first inner city area to have these separations on our pavements that lead to the main shopping areas. So if you are willing to help with this campaign we would be glad to hear from you; at one local school a cycling parent has come forward to say he would be glad to help.

**We need to get to grips with this city wide problem before someone gets seriously hurt.**

more pictures on pages 6 & 7