

Standup Luton

One Town One Community One Voice

Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of Standup Luton's newspaper.

Our newspaper is entirely free, we are able to make it a free read because the articles have been freely provided; the skills required to produce the paper have been freely donated; volunteers help distribute it; and the funds required to produce it have been secured from donations and businesses who are proud to live and work in Luton.

Stand Up Luton is also our voice. The newspaper is independent of sponsorship and project funding. This means we can promote our unique perspective that stands for justice, non-violence and Luton. It means we can raise our voice against poverty, injustice and extremism without the need to please shareholders, a particular political party or any funder.

So if you are fed up with being told that you have to hate others because they are different than you. If, like us, you don't believe that the only news to be told is bad news; and, if you want to read a newspaper full of conscious stories and positive news about Luton then read on.

What you can expect are conscious stories about issues affecting the people of our town; stories about the good things Luton people are doing for others; profiles of successful people in Luton; and explanations of local initiatives and campaigns.

LUTON THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION

IF YOU KNOW PEOPLE IN LUTON WHO LIKE YOU WANT TO STAND UP FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY AND AGAINST EXTREMISM AND VIOLENCE INVITE THEM TO JOIN.

CALLS TO ACT IN SUPPORT OF A MINUTES SILENCE ON 1ST MAY WILL BE POSTED OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS

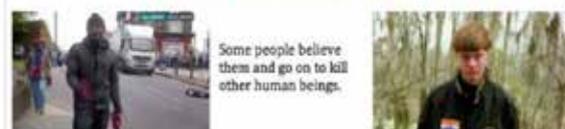


WE ALL PLACE OURSELVES IN DANGER TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER WHEN WE STAND UP, BUT WE PLACE OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN IN EVEN GREATER DANGER WHEN WE DON'T.

These people tell us that our way of life is being threatened by an evil that has to be stopped



They teach us to hate people they describe as being different than they are



Some people believe them and go on to kill other human beings.

YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH STANDUP LUTON BY EMAILING : standupluton@gmail.com

Inside this edition:

Page 2 - Stand Up Says and Your Letters.

Page 3 - A Profile of Stand Up People and Why I Love Luton.

Centre Pages - Am I British? I Am Luton? Feature article exploring the question -what it means to be British and can being British unite us? Or, is there another magic ingredient that can unite us all.

Page 6 - Campaign News: We ask The Justice for Leon campaign; who was Leon Briggs? And consider why justice should concern us all?

Page 7 - Stand Up Issues - We profile examples of activity that are doing something about the things care about.

Back Page - Stand Up Sports - space for you to profile your club and the sport you love.

Next Edition's feature article: *What is wrong with Prevent..ing extremism? We look at why some organisations in Luton are so anti- prevent; explore how extremist take advantage of people's fears and discuss what we should be doing in Luton.*

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Standup Voices

Stand Up Says

We are not journalists. We are a group of active Lutonians who are fed up listening to myths about our Town and its people.

We are fed up with illusions being created by a handful of hate-sayers, disconnected "community leaders"; and a mass media driven by a belief that bad news and negative stories sells - as if misery is the only truth.

Such people drown out the voice of the majority, sow seeds of division and contribute to too many people believing that we are a town full of extremists and gunslingers - that violence is the only way out of this Town Called Malice.

Our vision is simple:

- To create an alternative story based on the lives of positive people.
- To promote a simple message - we can fight injustice, hatred and extremism without violence.
- To start a movement of people who act together in order to support others - not for money but for humanity.
- Lets stop apologising for the things we never done.
- Lets start by putting some joy back in this Town of ours;
- Lets start believing that it is up to us to change this Town.
- And lets stand up together because sitting on the fence is no longer an option.

Editorial Policy:

To have your say
email: standupluton@gmail.com.
Title your email "Letters."

Standup will try to answer all emails. We will only publish letters and comments that reflect, or allows us in our answer to reflect, a positive image of Luton and /or its people. We only publish materials that reflect the principles we stand for. We prefer talking about things that you, we or other people are doing rather than moan about what others are not doing. We will never publish your email address and will only acknowledge you by your initials and where you are from.

You Say

Dear Standup,

I recently attended one of your meetings and listened to a speaker talk about how he created a project to feed the homeless. I thought the meeting was going to be all about how we could fight racists but nevertheless really loved listening to what the guy had to say. I wanted to thank you for organising this

M.I. Bury Park

Dear M.I.

Glad you enjoyed the meeting. Our speaker was from a project started by a group of four friends who just wanted to do something. His message was really simple and boiled down to this "if you want to do something you have to stop thinking about doing something and just do something". They started by going out late at night with a flask of coffee and some cake. They now provide hot cooked meals for over 4,000 homeless people per day - funded entirely from donations. As for fighting racists - we believe you can do that by working to bring people together through creating the opportunity for people to do good things in their community for and with others. Since that meeting three of our group leaders have been going out with their own flasks and biscuits. One of our members, who runs his own food outlet, ends each day by boxing up food and feeding homeless individuals. Small steps that mean a lot to the people we reach.

SUL

Dear Standup

Why are you against violence?

T.R. Hockwell Ring

Dear T.R

It doesn't work. Violence in the end just creates more violence; it spreads more hate and in the end you who are fighting hatred get filled with hatred. Fighting extremism without violence requires people who are against these things to stand together in numbers - it requires a few people to show there is another way. Promoting the art of fighting without fighting by getting people to stand together works because if we all do it; and if we all say it loud enough; - there will not be enough space for the extremists to stand and their small voices will be drowned out. It also works because deep down we all know right from wrong.

SUL

Dear SUL

Who are you?

PR Town Centre

Me

SUL

PS : SUL started with some friends who came together because Britain First were coming to Luton. We were surprised about how few people were prepared to stand up against them on the streets. We then started asking questions like why are extremists allowed to spread a message of hate in Bury Park? How come families are struggling to feed their children? Why are young people prepared to kill other young people who look just like they do? Why are there homeless families sleeping in our local parks? How come people see Luton as a town full of extremist? We then started to ask ourselves why aren't we doing anything? So we decided this is our town and we want to make it a town we are proud of. But we also did not want to start yet another organisation - so we started a movement - we are not one person, we are not one organisation; we are a group of people who believe we can make a difference not for money but for humanity - we are one town, one community and one voice; so hopefully we are also you and you are also us.

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Standup People

Page 3

Hi readers my name is Jackie Neufville I'm 49 years old. I've lived in Luton for 45 years, During that time I've seen the community flourish and grow immensely. There have been so many cultures bought together through positive interaction from community groups. However the community spirit has dampened within the last five years.



Through positive promotion and interactive meetings we aim re ignite the fire to help all communities' live positive prosperous and fulfilled lives.

I own my own business and that's largely been due to the support and initial funding from the Marsh Farm Trust. 11 years on my business continues to flourish.

I help people lead active healthy positive lives. My job means that I work and interact with all community groups and the town has such a diverse population that no two days are ever the same - Variety is the spice of life.

I do voluntary work on local radio Diverse FM on Tuesday nights 8:30 to 10pm My show is the community talk show where I interact and interview various charitable organisations, volunteers and people who bring positive meaningful things to the community.

I strongly believe that if you are fortunate in

life and you are able to, you should always give something back to the community that supports and protects you. It's with that belief that I organise charity events with all proceeds going to local Luton charities.

For example on Saturday the 8th October 2016 I organised a fitville UK Charity Spinathon at Lea Manor recreation centre from 2pm to 2am supported by some of the best known local djs and spin instructors. This event raises funds for FoodBank, Signpost and Dementia

Over the years I've seen the community grow and work strongly together and with the continued support from the positive influences in the town the town will unite and grow from strength to strength

I love Luton because it's a diverse multi cultural town and diversity brings Prosperity

Till next time

Jackie Neufville

WHY I LOVE LUTON

I have been closely attached with Luton town over the last 40 years of my life; from my days of catching the train from, my then home town, St.Albans city to come clothes shopping at the famous (outside Luton!) Sali Salim shop, based in the lively High Town area plus several other shops and hairdressers at the time.

It has always stayed with me the attachment I have had with this town and making several friends at a young age with like minded club goers, travelling to all the places in London etc; and always meeting up with the -"Luton Crew"- to shake a leg to the beats of the time. Still friends with most, but always making new friends all the time in this town!

As an adopted Lutonian I feel very passionate and proud of the town which has guided me in raising 4 children, creating a good life through work and socially with the opportunity to dj all around town; radio presenting on the legendary Jive FM and presently on the fantastic Diverse FM; and djing around the UK always promoting



Luton town as a good place with good people.

Ok it might need a newish train station and a lick of paint here or there, and more WINEBARS and a big nightclub for all ages,-BUT its got a great

airport, great and getting bigger university, fairly good shops in most areas of town, good roads in and out of town, fairly good community spirit in town, some decent places to eat and drink in, a decent footy town and all-in-all a decent place to live and prosper!

I love Luton, the people and the vibe of the place. Look around its getting better and bigger so hopefully exciting times ahead.

Encourage your kids and their friends to be proud where they come from so they can make the town better and safer for years to come.

DJ. STUMPI (diverse fm)

If you know about someone in Luton who you think should be acknowledged as a stand up Luton person email their picture, contact details and a short article to standupluton@gmail.com title your email Standup Person. These articles will only be published if we get the expressed permission of the person being profiled. Or if you just want to see your self in the paper send a photo and tell us why you love Luton to standupluotn@gmail.com with the title "I Love Luton because"

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AM I BRITISH?

When Nadiya Hussain won The Great British Bake-Off in 2015 the media had rather by accident discovered a mother who seemed to be entirely British. It did not matter that she was also Bangladeshi, it did not matter that she was Muslim and, at that moment, irrelevant that she wore a headscarf.

Her humor, her disbelief in victory, her focus on her family, and her tears, became the things that defined her rather than any other part of her identity the public could have focused on.

More than anything else it was her words, broadcast at the end of the show, that captured our attention. Perhaps they reminded us of our own lives. Perhaps they were in sharp contrast to our expectations of what we anticipated she would have said. Whatever the reason her words came to define her as someone who was quintessentially British.

"I'm never going to put boundaries on myself ever again. I'm never going to say I can't do it. I'm never going to say 'maybe'. I'm never going to say 'I don't think I can'. I can and I will."

The media has loved this aspect of Nadiya. Perhaps they saw in her a vision of what Britishness was all about. A complex layer of identities that in the end did not matter because simply living in this country made you British.

Since that show Nadiya has continued to echo this idea of her. For example, speaking on the radio show Desert Island Discs, Nadiya told listeners

"I love being British and I love living here and this is my home and it always will be."

"Regardless of all the other things that define me, this is my home. And I want my kids to be proud of that."

Her Desert Island Disc choices ranged from Janet Jackson and Luther Vandross to Pachelbel's Canon In D Major. And, get this, her chosen luxury item was Marmite – how British is that?

And yet Nadiya is a Muslim., and since events of 9/11 that is all some people see in her. Again speaking on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs she says:

"I've had things thrown at me and [been] pushed and shoved,"

"I feel like that's just become a part of my life now. I expect it. Absolutely I expect it."

"I expect to be shoved or pushed or verbally abused because that happens. It's been happening

KNOW THE LEDGE

Written by
Captain J.E.W. U.S. and Dr. Martin Syme.
Contributions by
Malik Malik, Samer Pevachal, Jahan Eshik,
Louisa Menden, Opilawata and Kinan.

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for years."

And it is when we hear this type of experience that we begin to get a sense that being British somehow is never enough – unless we are “English” – many of us in Luton somehow aren't ever going to be British enough.

This question: Am I British? was the subject of a Stand Up Luton event in March 2016 called Know The Ledge. The event was organised at a time when Britain First were focusing its attention on Luton with an idea of Britishness steeped in an “us and them” mentality. Their version of Britishness would see Nadiya as exclusively Muslim; and a threat. Not as a mother, a baker or even a Lutonian.

When we asked the question What does the word British mean to you? We were not surprised to hear a range of answers. For some, being British simply meant living in Britain and having a British passport or nationality.

“I will be British when I get my British passport.”

“ I never really think about it until I go abroad, then I wave my passport”

Others talked in terms of the feelings they had for Britain, which gave a sense that perhaps the idea of being British itself could unite us even given our differences:

“It's the coming together of England, Wales and

I AM LUTONIAN

Scotland. ..but also anybody who has come from another country. I don't think of them as not being British. I just think of Britain as a melting pot of lots of different culture."

"It's a land of decent people I see Britain as a small land of opportunity where you can strive to be successful."

"Part of being British is being a decent upstanding human being"

"We are a tolerant, decent people all by and by educated. Britain has a value system and a great sense of right and wrong"

But there were also voices that sort of echoed the words of UB40's song Burden of Shame: which included the line: "I'm a British subject not proud of it whilst I carry this burden of shame."

" To be British means you are part of someone who has colonized, raped and pillaged the world weather you are aware of this or not by accepting the label British you are part of this concept."

"When I was growing up I was made to feel that I wasn't British. That you had to be white to be British."

"Unfortunately, I don't think that people of different ethnic backgrounds are always allowed to feel British."

So what did we discover? The key thing is that like any other idea, Britishness is a political term. It is not neutral. Politically it can mean a lot of different things:

"When I was growing up, Britain meant The British National Party. My family were fire bombed by racists and during this time the British flag was for me a racist flag and to be British you had to be white.."

"Britain at one level can mean colonialism, a racists system and a class. But at another level it can also mean a very welcoming people, where people are



great neighbours and it is a great place to live.."

Why are questions like this important to think about? Well we live in a world where hatred and extremism is given a platform to be communicated to us whether we like it or not.

We also live in a world where the question of who am I is increasingly being opened for scrutiny – am I more Scottish than British; more English than European; more Muslim than Pakistani; and so on and so on. And we have competing ideas that are seeking to answer this question for us.

Ideas are never simply good or bad. They exist not only in the meaning of who thought of them, but also in how we choose to live them. Just as religion can be used to support and nurture humanity so it can be used to incite violence; just as being British can be used to define non-white people as different so it can be used to say we are one melting pot of decent people.

This brings us back to Nadiya who when asked by Kristy Young [the presenter of Desert Island Discs] if she ever felt like she needed to get even with the people who pushed and shoved her said:

"I don't need to even that out because if somebody's being negative, I need to be the better person."

"If I continue to be a good role model for my kids, that's what's really important because I feel like that's what will resonate with everyone"

"So I live as positively as I can and all those things that do happen to me, hey, it happens but it happens to other people too and we deal with it."

Now I guess some of you are thinking, Standup Luton - are you British? Well truth is I am a lot of things but you can be sure that I am Luton.



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Campaign News

Page 6

Page 6 of Stand Up News is dedicated to exploring local campaigns and issues that communities or groups are pursuing in Luton. One campaign that began in November 4th 2013 and is still on going is The Justice for Leon Campaign. Stand Up Luton went into Town and ask random people if they knew who Leon Briggs – very few people had an idea. We then surveyed a random sample of people on our face book page and although there was more folk who had heard about the campaign there remained a high number who were not aware of who Leon was. Is this because no one cares or that they don't know? – Or is it because as time passes even though the campaign is still alive we just forget?

In this first edition we ask The Justice for Leon campaign :who was Leon Briggs? This is their words

Leon Briggs

Leon Briggs a 39-year-old father of two daughters from the Luton Community tragically died in police custody on November 4th 2013.

Leon was a warm, intelligent man with a talent for fixing things. He loved his daughters and his family and was well liked in our community.

Leon was detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Although not specifically referring to Leon's case, in general, Section 136 is a power to detain someone who appears to be suffering from a mental illness at that time, and allows for them to be taken to a place of safety to be assessed as to whether they are suffering from a mental illness or not. They can then be provided with the appropriate help. The use of this power does not imply that the person has a mental health illness, but allows experts to subsequently assess and work with the individual.

Whilst in police custody Leon died, he did not become ill or unwell neither did he die at the hospital, despite press releases in the early stages of the investigation reporting this.

The tragedy left his family and the community with many questions, most still remain unanswered today.. 3 years on..



The Independent Police Complaints Commission [IPCC] arrived at the scene and in these cases the incident is treated as a crime scene.

Former classmates and friends, who knew Leon, formed a campaign to demand answers as to what had happened to Leon whilst in the duty of care at Luton Police station. They demanded the suspension of officers involved. The campaign became J4L..Justice 4 Leon.

5 officers and two custody duty staff were then suspended and the IPCC investigation began.

The campaign had researched many other deaths in custody at this point, and we were determined that this case would not be just another death in custody, where no one who was involved is not held accountable.

J4L became engaged with other campaigns nationally, and we are forever grateful for the support of all that gave us the knowledge and experience of the obstacles and challenges we faced.

The aim of the campaign was simple...Justice for Leon.

The campaign held vigils to ensure Leon was never forgotten, we wanted people to care what had happened to a life so young; a life that would never see his daughters leave school, graduate, marry or have his grandchildren...something most of us take for granted.

We remembered what would have been his 40th birthday - a turning of age - that Leon never got to turn or celebrate. So in a way we celebrated for him, with his family & friends. We cared. The community cared..

Leon's case highlighted the real need for change..where citizens have equal rights to those in power - our argument, based on a bias that has forever existed; if it were a policeman or anyone from the establishment who died that day, not only would the culprits be instantly detained but it would not take 3 years to investigate. The fact that no officers involved in death in custody cases have ever been charged, gave rise to a very real need for justice and accountability to be established for communities, where people die whilst in supposed places of safety.

Whilst we understood the need for a thorough investigation, we also knew the fact that justice delayed is justice denied, with most IPCC conclusions finding the victim at fault in some way for their own death.



In a practical sense we aimed to change police practices with the introduction of Leons Law, the wearing of body worn cameras by all officers attending an incident.

This law was motioned with cross party support by all Luton councilors.

The IPCC have since concluded that there maybe cause for criminal charges against all officers. All officers and two sergeants were given misconduct notices relating to colluding at the outset of the investigation.

The case now rests with the Crown Prosecution Service as to whether the officers involved will be criminally charged...the wait continues; the questions are still not answered; and the battle for justice will continue if we do not see justice granted

In memory of Leon Briggs, a community member who died before his time..we ask the community to never forget what happened in November 2013..one of us died..and its only together we can bring change..

J4L would like to thank all those who have contributed, attended vigils, artists, photographers, musicians, the Non Violence Alliance, Luton 4 Justice, and all campaigns for exemplifying what communities should stand for

**UNITY STRENGTH
COMPASSION
AND ULTIMATELY PEACE.**

If you would like more information about The Justice for Leon Campaign please email standupluton@gmail.com with the title "Campaign News"

If you run a campaign and want to bring it to the attention of people in Luton please email standupluton@gmail.com with the title "Campaign Info".

Standup in Action

Continued On Page 7

Standup are concerned with activism. We believe that we all have the capacity to make a difference we just need to realise this capacity.

We believe in the principle of self-help. For us this means not waiting for others to do something to create the change we want to see in our neighbourhoods. It also means focusing on doing things rather than focusing on criticising what others are not doing.

We are particularly concerned with issues that divide our communities – particularly extremism, hatred of others and community based violence.

We are also concerned with bringing people together to enable them take small steps towards creating bigger change in their communities; and with highlighting Luton campaigns and groups who are actively trying to challenge injustice, violence, extremism and poverty.

We use community dialogue as a tool to inspire others to get involved; or debate issues that are stopping people from getting involved.

Our first debate concerned community based violence. We had a conversation with the founder of 1 Mile Away, an organisation of individuals who were involved in

gun crime and who were active "gang members". From opposing "gangs" individuals came together to break the mental barriers in young people's consciousness that made them see other young people, who were just like them, as their enemy.

Since this meeting we have been supporting a group create their own response to the issue of youth violence. Their first campaign is due to hit the streets soon.

Our second meeting looked at the issue of homelessness and hunger in Luton. We invited a guest speaker to tell his story of how he got involved in feeding the

homeless. He spoke about the question he asked himself as a Muslim – why am I seeing hunger on my doorstep and not doing something about it? He described the difficulties in the early days and the mistakes they made. He explained that the homeless do not belong to anyone, and every additional offer of help, if it's needed, will be taken even if there are lots of existing charities providing support. He spoke about the need to provide company through giving support and not just the act of providing food.

A number of people were inspired by this talk and SUL now support four teams who go out in the evening to provide company and a hot drink and cakes to people living on the streets; one of our local food outlets now regularly provides food for homeless people sleeping not far from his shop; and SUL are working to establish a branch of the homeless charity that our speaker started.

Our last meeting explored attitudes to immigration and British Identity. This was our best-attended meeting with over 50 participants from a range of Luton neighbourhoods and with a diversity of backgrounds. It was also our most controversial as some existing community groups started rumours suggesting that SUL were insulting “The Muslim Community” by showing a film that included an interview with a former leader of the EDL.

Members of some established faith organisations

decided to boycott the meeting. To be honest we were shocked as our intention has always been to seek to bring people together; and many of the people we considered as allies did stay away.

It tested our principle of not moaning about others. We decided to stay quiet whilst we explored what was happening in Luton; we attended several meetings of other organisations, whilst holding our own small focus groups to learn more about the issues of extremism, terrorism, and community based violence; and community politics!!

Out of this came the resolve to issue our own newspaper so we can avoid rumours and represent ourselves. We agreed to organise a series of debates on issues that appear to separate like-minded people from working together to resolve issues they all agree need to be changed. The first one asks, what is wrong with Prevent..ing Extremism? This debate will feature in our next edition.

SUL are about all the communities in Luton. We Standup in order to challenge those who preach or practice hate; as well as question those who inadvertently maintain divisions by perpetuating conditions that keep communities apart.

We will continue to work to bring people together to support and challenge the things that impact on

Luton – precisely because ultimately an issue that appears to be for the Asian community; or the Muslim Community; or the Polish community; or The Black community; or the white working class community, or any other description you want to use to separate us, needs to be recalculated in our minds as an issue for all of us as Lutonians.



If you want to find out more about the issues highlighted, or get involved in trying to change Luton for the better, email standupluton@gmail.com with the title: “get involved” or “more info”



without Violence

Supporting Standup Luton

One Town One Community One Voice

Standup Organisations

SUL is not an organisation but an idea – an idea that wants to link not only individuals together but also existing organisations that, like us, are seeking to make a difference.

Starting something new is a great way to start to make a difference; equally we can make a difference by supporting something that already exists. On this page we explore organisations who could always do with extra support and who are working to make a difference to the lives of those who need our support. In this edition we listen to the story of “Kids can cook”

At a conference in Watford over 3 years ago, I learned something that broke my heart. Why had I not realised this before!

1.2 million pupils in school in the UK, who receive free school dinners, often go without a hot meal in the 13 weeks of school holidays a year...because their families find it hard to provide the extra meals that are needed during that time. Especially in larger families, finding the extra money needed for the hot dinners is almost impossible.



We hadn't long moved into our area in Farley Hill, where my husband is the vicar of St Johns, but we soon learned that child poverty on the estate was up to 41%. School family workers encouraged us to do something, as they knew the need better than us. There wasn't



much to do for children on the estate during holidays, either, so we knew we had to do something. But what? We had a kitchen that was barely usable, a hall, no money and only a small handful of people who could help. The lady who had been speaking at the conference in Watford was a local, passionate and very inspiring lady called Rachel Warwick, who started the now nationwide charity 'Make Lunch', who now have over 40 kitchens nationwide providing free hot meals to children in the holidays. She encouraged us to 'Do what you can with what you've got'. So we joined with her charity and gave our local club the name 'Kids Can Cook'. We wanted it to be about more than simply providing a hot meal – we wanted to teach children how to cook simple, nutritious food themselves, while at the same time have some holiday fun with games and crafts.

We suddenly grew our team of helpers by word of mouth, and asked local shops to donate the food. Someone gave us craft materials, and our club was born!

Over the past 3 years, we now regularly get 35-45 children attending, we have a team of 15 volunteers

and we get funding from local company Veris, as well as more craft donations from school and shops. We run 2 hour themed sessions once a week, usually on a Wednesday and would love to be able to offer more days in future. Entrance is, of course, free!

Whether those children come from the 41% mentioned above or just want something to do in the holidays is not a criteria for entrance- everyone is welcome.

This summer, our themes included Heroes and Villains, Alice in Wonderland, and Jungle book, with all the crafts and food matching the theme. We made Vulture's nests and Baloo's fruit kebabs for Jungle book, Queen of hearts tomato tarts for the Alice theme and Daleks space ships (egg and vegetable filled muffins in a tortilla base!).

We have DBS checked team leaders, food hygiene certificates, and team leaders are safeguarding trained. But we always need more volunteers! If anyone wants to come along and see what it's about, and help us, feel free to get in touch with us.

If you would like to support this project please email Standupluton@gamil.com with the title kids can cook.

The Chefs Hot Plate

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Standup Luton Sports

The sports page is committed to profiling local sporting clubs and fitness i being delivered in Luton. In this edition we profile Luton Tigers

www.clubwebsite.co.uk/lutontigers

Luton Tigers is a youth football club that was started in 2015 as a satellite club for London Tigers F.C, a semi pro club based in West London A committee of local volunteers who all share a passion for enhancing the community runs the club; and aspire to become a positive outlet for local children to enjoy sports; and whilst football is our main vehicle our passion is developing the children of Luton not only find themselves but also learn about others through a range of ball sports.

Our club has worked closely with the Bedfordshire F.A and quickly built built our foundations within the F.A guidelines resulting in our club gaining the Charter Standard status, which we were awarded this year. The next level that the F.A can recognise is the "Charter standard development club". We now have met the criteria for this and will apply for this status next season.

This season we have had 6 teams of various ages playing for Luton Tigers.. As a new club, we are very fortunate that some of our coaches have been around the local football scene for many years. Due to this and the positive vibes that the club is creating in local football, we have been approached by many other teams wishing to join Luton Tigers for the 2016/2017 season.

Our coaches and teams are selected and developed to ensure they enhance the ethos of the club. As we approach the new season we anticipate having a minimum of 12 teams playing for Luton Tigers.

At present we have a real mixture of players and parents at the club. It is part of the club ethos to actively seek players from all backgrounds, and offer them the opportunity to play sport. We also aim to break down cultural and religious barriers that may exist, using football as the common tool to do that. We understand that this is a long and sometimes difficult process, but with the right approach, and support, we feel that our club can make a difference to the community of Luton and the surrounding area's.

We also believe, very strongly, that our club should provide an outlet for all ability players. We want to be a club that offers ALL children the chance to belong to a sports club. While we understand this is the banner that the F.A is currently flying the highest, it simply isn't effective unless you actually provide the outlets for all children to be involved.

Like Standup Luton we believe that an idea has to be delivered, not just spoken about, and so as a club we have worked very closely with the Beds F.A Disability Officer to start a disability section within the club.

Luton Tigers are the only club in Bedfordshire that has managed to achieve that this season. That is now up and running with significant initial support from the Beds FA and is now run by us on a weekly basis.

The hope is to be a local outlet for the disability community who wish to belong to a local club. With enough support, we may be able to get a team running from the players that we are attracting. This is our ultimate objective for these players over the next year.

The club at present has one mixed team of boys and girls. However, we are currently working with the Beds FA to set in place a girls section. We already have 2 female coaches, and are focused now on finding the Players – despite the recent publicity and success of women's football this will prove challenging. However, we know we will succeed in providing a female section because the entire club is prepared to focus in setting this up. In that we are a Standup Sports club.

The club wishes to also provide the 4/7 year old's the opportunity to get involved. Due to this, we have set in place a nursery. This will serve two purposes, 1, to offer a greater spread of ages that our club is available too. 2, to take a team out of each year so that our club is self-feeding.

It is very important to the club that we get these roots set correctly. We do not wish to just be a club that gets as many children playing football as possible. While we can see the benefit of this, there are many other clubs who work under this ethos, thus providing enough opportunity to the mainstream players. It is our belief that we should be looking to work closely with the Inclusion Committee at the Beds FA (which one of our committee members sits on as an invited member) to make a difference where it has been identified as needed by the relevant bodies.

In recognition of the work that our club is doing, plus the considerable effort that we are putting in to the foundation of the club, the main F.A has awarded us a FA Coach mentor who specializes in black and ethnic minority coaching and inclusion into football.

We have been awarded 50 hours of his time, fully funded by the F.A, to help us set the coaching side up to a very high standard. We are the only club who has been awarded this midway through the season in recognition of their efforts.

There is also a second side to the club that involves us visiting schools, delivering educational courses about subjects like obesity and drug awareness. Luton Tigers more than just a football club

If you would like more information about Luton Tigers or have children who want to get involved visit the website below or email standupluton@gmail.com titled Luton Tigers.

www.clubwebsite.co.uk/lutontigers



The Bedfordshire FA supported a local taster evening for Disability Football, run by Luton Tigers.



offering steer Ful5al session 16yrs-20yrs arrive and play(any level)
[1st session free]
£2 per session after
From 8th September,2016
every Thursday 8pm -9pm
school term time
@ Chalney High school Girls Luton Lu4 9lf
Qualified licence ful5al & Uefa B licenced coaches
please wear shin pads and only Astro trainers allowed
on pitch
contact:
fcLutonTigers@gmail.com
www.Clubwebsite.co.uk/lutontigers



Pan- disability Ball sports free session 7yrs - 18yrs
limited spaces contact club to reserve a place.
offering all types of fun ball sports Any level welcome
8th September,2016
every Thursday 6pm -7pm
school term time
@ Chalney High school Girls Luton Lu4 9lf
Qualified licenced ability coaches
please wear shin pads and Astro trainers
contact:
Ray 0798458242
fcLutonTigers@gmail.com



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