



**BLACKSTAFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Established 1978

177 Tates Avenue
Belfast BT12 6NA

8th March 2017

Rose Crozier
Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Dear Rose

Re: Proposal to name the planned new Olympia Drive entrance to the leisure centre after John Stewart Bell.

The Blackstaff Community Development Association (Blackstaff Residents' Association) passed a proposal on 1st February 2017 to write to Belfast City Council requesting to name the planned new Olympia Drive entrance to Olympia Leisure Centre, the John Stewart Bell Entrance.

Some scientists rank John Stewart Bell alongside Newton, Maxwell and Einstein and yet few people are aware that John Stewart Bell's family home was 245 Tates Avenue; only a short distance from the planned new Olympia Drive entrance. John Bell was a pupil at Ulsterville Junior Primary School, Edinburgh Street and Fane Street Public Elementary School, which is now a primary school.

A street in Belfast is named in his honour, 'Bell's Theorem Crescent' and the old *Belfast College of Technology building* which was recently refurbished for student accommodation has been renamed the 'John Bell Building'. With such public recognition, it is surprising that within the Olympia community from which he came, there is no recognition.

John Stewart Bell is related to the former Lord Mayor of Belfast and Mayor of Lisburn, Billy Bell. He is the only person to be Mayor of two different cities in the United Kingdom. He was also a pupil at Fane Street.

The BBC News reported on 4th November 2014 that fifty years ago, Belfast scientist John Stewart Bell proved Albert Einstein wrong.

Bell is regarded as one of the 20th Century's greatest physicists, and was widely believed to have been in line for a Nobel Prize in Physics when he died in 1990 from a stroke.

Bell's Theorem demonstrated that Einstein's views on quantum mechanics - the behaviour of very small things like atoms and subatomic particles - were incorrect.

First published on 4 November 1964, the anniversary has been celebrated with a series of tributes in his home city.

His theory continues to have a lasting impact on modern physics, and is said to have laid the foundation for quantum information technology.

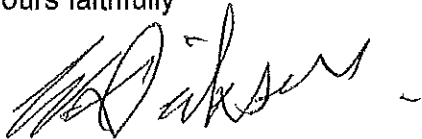
The Blackstaff Residents' Association contacted family members about the proposal and expressed their delight and have no objection to the Bell name being used, however, they said that we would need to get consent from John Stewart Bell's widow, Mary Bell who lived in Geneva, Switzerland.

We received consent for the use of the Bell name from Mary Bell on 18/2/2017. The letter is enclosed and we have taken a few copies for our own records.

We have also enclosed a few photographs of John Stewart Bell, the family home on Tates Avenue and a brick with his initials which can still be seen to the left of the front door.

We do hope the Belfast City Council will agree to our proposal and honour this great scientist within the community of which he was a part.

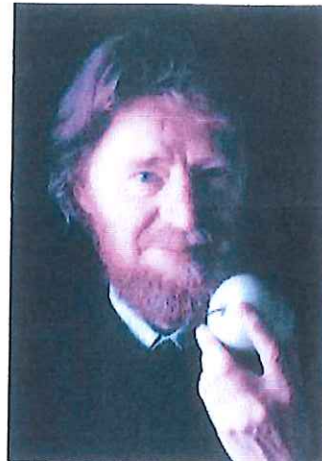
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Billy Dickson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

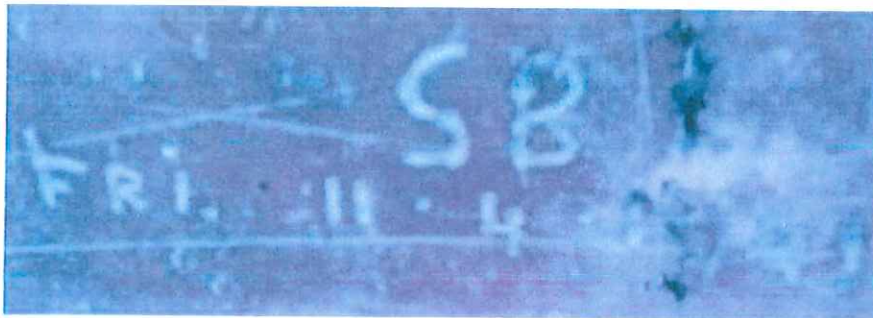
Billy Dickson BEM
Chair: Blackstaff Community Development Association

ENC:

JOHN STEWART BELL



245 Tates Avenue.
Former family home



House brick with SB initials and date etched on it.



FANE STREET SCHOOL.



FANE STREET PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—NEW SCHOOL ON TWO-ACRE SITE TO ACCOMMODATE 200 PUPILS IN TWENTY CLASSROOMS, WITH LARGE ASSEMBLY HALL, SCIENCE LABORATORY, ART, COOKERY, AND WOODWORK ROOMS. BUILDING IS OF THE SINGLE-STORY TYPE, WITH CLASSROOMS ROUND TWO QUADRANGLES, WHICH ARE DIVIDED BY THE ASSEMBLY HALL. MESSRS. H. & J. MARTIN ARE CONTRACTORS FOR THE WORK, WHICH IS AT PRESENT WELL IN HAND. MR. F. S. WILSHIRE, A.R.T.A., F.R.S.E., THE EDUCATION ARCHITECT, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS UNDER THE RELEASED EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

