

Wall Heath Community Association

Registered Charity No. 522810

Newsletter - Winter 2022

Edition 19

Heritage Day

Originally planned for March 2020 but, by necessity, cancelled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic Wall Heath Community Association's "Heritage Day" was held on Saturday 13 November.

Ever mindful of social distance recommendations it was decided to limit to seventy the number of people in the building at any one time. This decision also allowed for visitors to move more freely around the display.

A wonderful day ensued with almost six hundred visitors being "clicked in" by the Association Chairman, **Colin Smith** and "clicked out" by volunteer, **Trevor Page**. Photographs of people and places as well as news items, all having a connection with the village, were shown with the "oldest" item on display being from 1883 whilst the "newest" item was from as recent as 2020.

Village organisations were invited to exhibit details of their activities which meant a welcome to Wall Heath Church of Ascension, St Andrew's United Reformed Church and Wall Heath Horticultural Guild. In addition **John Murdock**, a long time resident of the village, displayed part of his collection of village memorabilia and **Gail Smith** of *Village Voice* also came along.



Alderman Dave Tyler with 97 years old Les Stephens

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Volunteers from Wall Heath Community Association

The Exhibition was open from 11am until 4pm with the opening ceremony being performed by **Alderman Dave Tyler**, President of the Community Association. The event had been well publicised and such was the interest generated that queues for admittance, which was free, began forming at 11.30am and continued for the next four hours. Some people arrived and on seeing the queue, turned round, went home and returned at what they anticipated would be a quieter time only to be confronted by the same scenario when they returned.

Councillors **Phil Atkins**, **Ed Lawrence** and **Shaz Saleem**, the three elected representatives of the Kingswinford North and Wall Heath Ward of Dudley Council, also visited the Exhibition at some point during the day.

Over thirty businesses within the village were very supportive by agreeing to sponsor the event.

The oldest person attending was 97 years old Les Stephens who had a wealth of stories of life in the village to impart.

Seven “young” people but all approaching their 80th year and who were classmates at Wall Heath Church of the Ascension School between 1949 and 1953 came along. Happy to share their enthusiasm for the village, **Chris Bateson**, **Alan Beaman**, **Terry Church**, **Paula Durrant (nee Gee)**, **Roy Jones**, **Brian Tetsill** and **David Wood** all turned up. Six of those have lived in the village for the whole of their life and, as they all agreed, are proud to have done so.

During the day copies of *“Bygone Days in Wall Heath, Moss Grove and Kingswinford”*, written and published by **Terry Church**, were on sale. Demand exceeded supply with all copies being sold. A further quantity of books are now available and can be obtained by emailing terrychurch6@gmail.com, with the books also being available at Ashwood Nurseries and John Sparry’s bookshop.

Wall Heath Pumpkin Trail

Held on Saturday 30 October this was another successful event which was the brainchild of **Michelle Preston** (Horse & Jockey) and **Andy Vaughan** (Decormar). Over thirty village businesses decorated their windows with a Halloween theme, the focal point being a pumpkin which had been named by the proprietor. Search sheets were provided and it was so rewarding to see the village engulfed by so many young people enthusiastically attempting to complete the list of names. There were certainly many innovative displays by all the businesses including the one shown in the photograph of COCO Cha-HELL which was displayed by **Lisa Rollason** in the window of Love it Clothing. Congratulations to all who helped to make it another “Special Day” in the life of our village.



Coco Cha-Hell in window of Love it Clothing

Banksy appears in Wall Heath

It would appear that we have our own “Banksy” residing in Wall Heath. The recent flurry of snow prompted our unknown village artist to decorate the post box in Beachcroft Road with a winter scene. One can only presume that the same talented person paid tribute to the fallen of our nation by decorating the same post box with a collection of poppies on Remembrance Day. Whoever the artist is thank you for bringing a smile to the face of villagers as they posted their letters and also in the case of the poppies may have caused them to pause for a moment of reflection.



Hazel Walker RIP

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing, after a long illness, of **Hazel Walker**. Hazel had served as Chairman of the Community Association for many years before ill health caused her to stand down from the post. We extend our sincere condolences to her husband, David, and her family.

Chairman of the Association

Pam Horwill who succeeded **Hazel Walker** as Chairman of the Association in 2007 had planned to stand down in 2020. As with many organisations the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic put paid to many well laid plans. Pam agreed to stay in situ “for the time being” which ultimately meant staying in charge for a further twelve months. Pam was a hard working and innovative leader and we express our appreciation for her immense contribution to the Community Association. Twelve months later than planned we welcomed **Colin Smith** as our new “leader”. Colin initially joined the Association as a member of the Bowls Section, also joining the Kurling Group and has been organising the latter Group for the past six years. Colin has already made a significant impact as he approaches the anniversary of his first year in office.

Thursday Afternoon Club

Although not officially one of our Association Groups the Thursday Afternoon Club has always met at “the Centre”. Details of its early history are sketchy although we think that the club was formed during the 1940s as a Social Services initiative and was referred to as a “make do and mend club” with the accent on handicrafts. Over a period of virtually eighty years the club has made a significant contribution to the life and times of the Community Association. During the eight decades many ladies have worked extremely hard to ensure the Club’s success. Unfortunately the time has been reached when the officers and committee of the club were unable to continue and the vacant positions could not be filled and sadly the difficult decision was made to disband the Club.

Wall Heath Community Association

Wall Heath Horticultural Guild

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

February 1	Crazy Daisies - Robin Pearce
March 1	Annual General Meeting
April 5	Native Owls - Gillian Hayles
May 3	Plant Sale: Fish and Chip Supper: Gardening Quiz
June 7	Malvern's Memories and Marvels - Ray Sturdy
July 5	Plants with a Story - Samantha Hopes
August	No Meeting
September 6	Speaker TBA

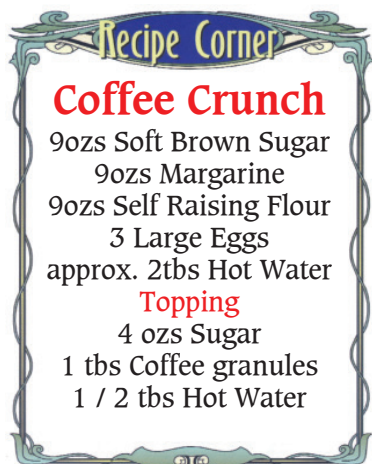
Saturday September 10 - Annual Show at the Community Centre

Wall Heath Flower Club

Meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

January 25	Woodstock - Alison Suffolk
February 22	AGM
March 22	A Taste of India - Yolande Campbell
April 26	Shake and not Stirred - Nigel Wyles
May 24	Remember When - Lee Berrill
June 28	Women who changed the World - Jo Davies
July 26	Any Old Iron - Yvonne Berry

Visitors are always welcome at £6 to include refreshments.



Method

Cream fat and sugar. Add beaten eggs a little at a time. Fold in flour, adding hot water to make a soft consistency. Bake in 9" x 9" x 2" deep tin at Gas 4 / 180C for 40 minutes

Mix topping ingredients and pour over cake. Leave in tin to cool then cut into squares.

Supplied by **Pam Horwill**

Have you got a favourite recipe you would like to share? Please give it to Karen Page at the Community Centre or email it to wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com

Wall Heath Community Association

50 Plus Club

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2pm.

12th January	A 1,000km Stroll - Alan Peace
26th January	Radio & TV in the 50's and 60's - Terry Church
9th February	Never a Dull Moment - Cliff Kirby-Tibbits
23rd February	Hitting the Headlines as a Newspaper Editor - John Butterworth
9th March	The Perils of a Public Speaker - Penny Wheat
23rd March	Drainpipe Trousers to Rock'n'Roll - Graham Sutherland
13th April	NO MEETING EASTER
27th April	Black By Day Red By Night - John Homer
11th May	Real 'Allo 'Allo - John N. Pittwood
25th May	Just Us "The Recycled Teenagers" - Jack and Carol
8th June	A Lifetime Spent Watching Paint Dry - Geoff Tristram
22nd June	We Can't Let You Broadcast THAT! - David Clark
13th July	Strawberry Tea with Musical Entertainment - Beryl Briscoe

Thursday at2 Club

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 2pm.

3rd February	A Magical Afternoon in Wall Heath - Miss Sylvia
17th February	A Lifetime Watching Paint Dry - Geoff Tristram <i>A hilarious afternoon, bring your other half.</i>
3rd March	A Poets Afternoon - Sue Wood
17th March	Wild Life in the Garden - Emma Thompson
7th April	My Colourful Career in Tourism - J Keith Cheetham
21st April	Songs of England - St George <i>Dress up in your red and white</i>
5th May	The Red Helicopter - Kay Starkey
19th May	Victorian Pharmacy - Kevin Goodman
2nd June	Quiz, Queen and Cake - David Christopher
16th June	The Fact in Fiction - Michael Taylor
7th July	Life in Comedy - Kenneth Rock
21st July	Strawberry Tea Party - "Kast in Stone" <i>Put on your best frocks</i>



Exercise classes for reasonably active older adults at the Community Centre.

If you are thinking of starting some exercise in the New Year but not sure where to start then give **Angela** a call on **07512 546480**. Angela has years of experience and can help you get underway. Classes are friendly and varied and a warm welcome awaits you.

Thursday morning strength and balance classes - two classes 9.45 and 11.15 limited places available. Wednesday morning Tai chi and Qigong - 11 am - A great way to improve balance and strength, improve co-ordination and focus on your health. Relaxing and great for your well-being.

New Yang 10 form starting mid-January 2022 so a good time to start.

All classes £6 per session payable in short terms of around 6 weeks. All participants pre-booked and spaced, all equipment cleaned and centre ventilated.

For more details call Angela on 07512 546480

Thursday at2 Club

The Thursday afternoon club for ladies is being relaunched as the Thursday at2 Club and will be run as a Community Association group. The club will be hosting entertainers, speakers and other events. The first schedule of speakers certainly looks appealing.

The meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.00 pm until 4.00 p.m. Our first meeting will be on Thursday February 3rd.

If you would like to join us just come along or email; Thursdayat2club@gmail.com or you can phone the Community Centre on 01384 273744.

Our thanks to **David Jones** who has volunteered to launch the Thursday at2 Club.

Ballroom/Latin Dance Class in festive mood.



Why not come along and give it a whirl? The group meets on Mondays at 8pm.

Wall Heath Musicians Club

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00 pm till 10.00 pm (Performances start at 7.30 pm).

We are a friendly and welcoming group of novice and accomplished musicians and singers who enjoy sharing live music either as a solo artist or in collaboration with others. We also have members who just like to enjoy listening to the performers.

If you would like to join us just come along and see what we do. You can contact us on; wh.mc@yahoo.com or phone the Community Centre on 01384 273744 for more information.

Board Games

Another new venture, which will be organised by **Jean Bates**. (thank you Jean) The Club will meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday in the month starting on Friday February 4th.

Time: 2-4pm

Cost £3 including tea/coffee & biscuits.

The board games we are hoping to play/ or teach you to play are RUMMIKUB, SCRABBLE, UPWORDS, BOGGLE, CHESS AND BACKGAMMON. Also we will teach anyone wanting to play Cribbage and Dominoes. So that we have a good selection of games if anyone has any of these games gathering dust in the loft we would be grateful for them.

In order to keep us all safe it would be an idea if participants took a LFT that day then we can all feel more comfortable, however this is not obligatory.

Lest we Forget

Our Crafty Chatters Group were busy producing hand made poppies for Remembrance Day and we are pleased to say that we were able to forward a cheque for £100 as a donation to Kingswinford Royal British Legion for their 2021/2022 Poppy Appeal.

Membership Subscriptions

Annual membership subscription of the Community Association remains at £2 per annum, due on January 1. The one-off-fee enables members to participate in all of the Community Association groups – Board Games, Bowls, Crafty Chatters, Kurling, Line Dancing, Musicians Club, Thursday at2 and 50Plus. Please see page 8 for meeting days and times of all of our Groups which certainly cover a diverse range of activities.

Office Hours

The office at The Community Centre will now be open on Monday and Tuesday between 10.30am and 12 noon. Contact can also be made by email -wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com or by Telephone – 01384 273744 (there is an answerphone facility).

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What's happening in your Community Centre, at a glance!

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Monday	10.00am	Monday Morning Kurling (Fortnightly)
	2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls Club
	5.00pm	Taekwon-do
	8.00pm	Ballroom/Latin Dance Classes (Adult)
Tuesday	10.30am	Sgt. Pepper's Friendship Club
	2.00pm	Kurling
	7.30pm	Horticultural Guild (1 st Tuesday)
	7.30pm	Musicians Club (2nd Tuesday) Flower Club (4 th Tuesday)
Wednesday	10.15am	Tai Chi - Active Seniors
	2.00pm	Fifty Plus Club (2 nd & 4 th Wednesday)
	5.00pm	Contemporary Dance (Ages 3-16 yrs)
Thursday	9.45am & 11.15am	Active Seniors
	2.00pm	Thursday at2 Club (1 st & 3 rd Thursday)
	7.30pm	Flower Arranging
Friday	10.30am	Crafty Chatters
	2.00pm	Board Games Club
	5.00pm	Taekwon-do
	7.30pm	Line Dancing
Saturday	10.00am - 12 noon	Councillors Surgery (Last Saturday each month)

To enquire about booking the hall or for further information regarding any of the groups please contact:
Karen Page Tel: **01384 273744** E-mail: **wallheathcommunityassoc@gmail.com**

Wall Heath Community Centre, Enville Road, Wall Heath DY6 0JT.

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10.30am until 12noon

www.wallheathcommunitycentre.co.uk