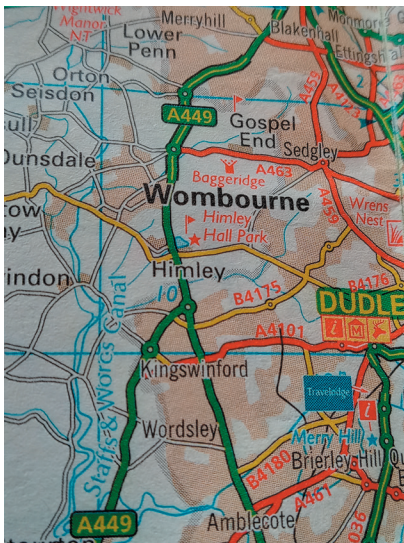


Wall Heath Community Association

Registered Charity No. 522810

Newsletter - Winter 2023

Edition 21



Were you aware that Wall Heath does not appear on many maps, including some published by the AA? Even the Postal authorities classify us as being Kingswinford. However unsuspecting visitors soon realise that we are certainly not a forgotten village.

In October more than one thousand people, young and young at heart, converged on the village to join in the Halloween celebrations. This was followed in November by a well attended Craft Fair organised by the Community Association and at the end of the month the Community Centre was made available to welcome the budding Thespians of the Wall Heath Pantomime Group who performed to “House Full” notices for their interpretation of “Snow White”, with three performances over two days. Previously untapped talent came to the fore and, be warned, next year’s production is already being planned!

Our village is missing

Congratulations are due to all the willing volunteers who gave freely of their time to ensure the success of these events and gratitude must be expressed to the local individuals and businesses who so generously gave a financial input.

Thank you all.

Rather than being an “unlisted” village we are very much alive and well.

This Newsletter is produced, edited and delivered to your door by
Volunteers from Wall Heath Community Association

Village Picture Page



Halloween Hunt



Craft Fair



Snow White



Car Park

For many years the car park at the rear of the Community Centre has proved to be inadequate due to the spaces required not only by those people who use the Community Centre but also those who attend the Scout Hut as well as Tennis Club members and also football teams. This equates with the extensive use of facilities but does little to placate motorists who are endeavouring to find a parking space.

It is good to be successful although it does come with its own problems!

Although it is a long way from being executed it is pleasing to note that Dudley Council has submitted a planning application to extend the car park. An additional ten spaces are planned to help ease the pressure. Part of the grassy area next to the car park would be used to create the additional spaces.

Margaret is 104



Margaret Butcher, who for over sixty years lived in Forge Lane, recently celebrated her 104th birthday. Born in Belfast in 1918 Margaret has survived the 1918 flu epidemic, civil war in Ireland, the deaths of her mother and three year old brother from TB by the time that she was seven and even Covid-19. Her daughter, Peggy Paterson said "She's very bright and happy which is special when you know about her early life which was very sad. She's always just got on with things. She's very caring about people". Well done Margaret!

Sgt. Pepper's Friendship Club

Every Tuesday morning at 10.30 Sgt. Pepper's Friendship Club opens its doors at Wall Heath Community Centre for two hours of fun and friendship.

Sgt. Pepper's is a club full of lovely people in a friendly environment. We welcome anyone and everyone. The only criteria being that your life will be a little bit better with a few more friends in it. We love welcoming new members. We have a packed weekly entertainment programme with plenty of tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes, as well as the occasional hot treat. Each week we play host to guest entertainers, musicians, speakers and anything else that takes our fancy. Walking through the door for the first time can be a little daunting but we promise everyone a warm welcome and an enjoyable time with good company. If you would like to know a bit more, take a look at our website. Alternatively, if you fancy a quick chat for more information call Roger on 07976 202605. That's what friends are for!

**It starts with a smile
Come along and be part of it**

Wall Heath Community Association

50 Plus Club

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2pm.

11th January **“All Roads Lead to Rome”** **Adrian Barrett**

The Roman Empire was one of the greatest the world has ever seen. One of the reasons for its success was what it built, from roads, to amphitheatres, to great temples.

25th January **“Bring Me Sunshine”** **Andrew French**

The Rise and Rise of the UK's favourite double act, Morecambe and Wise.

From humble beginnings and chance meetings, learn how Eric Bartholomew and Ernest Wiseman became the iconic double act and one of the best loved comedy acts of the 20th Century.

8th February **Live Music JDR**

Come and join us for an afternoon of real live music from the golden years.

22nd February **“Haunted Black Country”** **Ian Bott**

From roadside to graveside, from a council house to a castle, a look at the dark region.

8th March **“An Afternoon with local Artist Keith Turley”**

Join us for an afternoon with local professional artist, Keith, who currently has work on display at Himley Hall and the Red House Glass Cone. We'll get an insight into the life of a professional artist.

22nd March **“The Sweet Life in Bournville”** **Bob Booth**

Pictures from personal collections will be used and aspects of the Cadbury legacy, the village architecture, the community and some lesser-known facts about Bournville will be revealed.

26th April **Quiz & Cakes**

An afternoon of quizzing with tea and cakes to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

10th May **“Watching with Mother”** **Kath Reynolds**

A trip down memory lane recalling children's TV favourites from the 1950s to the 1970s. Remember Muffin the Mule and Andy Pandy and listen to theme tunes from programmes of the time.

24th May **Sentenced to “Beyond the Seas”** **David Clark**

The true and fascinating tale of eight Worcestershire women sentenced to death or transportation in the 1780s to 'The Land Beyond the Seas'. A land that became Australia.

14th June **“Miss Ellen Nee”** **Penny Wheat**

On her third visit to us Penny returns with 'A liquorice allsorts of an afternoon of fun and facts, with something for everyone'

28th June **“The Magic of Glass”** **Kate Round**

In ancient times glass-making was viewed as mysterious and magical, it was alchemy, and referred to as 'The Art Feat and Mystery of Glass'. This fascinating talk looks at the colourful world of glass, how it is made and how we can change it physically and chemically to suit its use.

12th July **“Strawberry Tea”** **Singer Holly Reynolds**

Join us for an afternoon of song and refreshments, featuring a return visit by the talented Holly Reynolds, singing popular favourites.

Wall Heath Community Association

Thursday at 2 Club

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 2pm.

As the Group Leader, **David Jones**, reflects “the first year of the new Thursday at2 Club has been a great success (“wouldn’t you agree!”).....entertaining talks, demonstrations, magic, a quiz and special events, St George’s sing along, hot cross buns, strawberry tea, marmalade sandwiches, musicians and a Christmas party.

A special “thank you” to the volunteers who have committed their time to help run the club”.

2nd February

John Homer

‘Black Country Reminiscence’

Enjoy a cornucopia of songs, poems, jokes, and stories that celebrate ‘What made the Black Country great’, presented by one of the Black Country’s most established speakers.

16th February

Ned Williams

Boys and their toys’

A look at the history of constructional toys, their design, use and ability to become collectors items. “Maybe you have some of these in your cupboard or loft!”

2nd March

Geoff Harrison

‘Creative Wood Art’

Audiences have been amazed by the eclectic creations of Geoff’s hand crafted unique contemporary work. He has been published many times in the Wood Turning Magazine.

16th March

‘Royal British Legion Riders

’Fund raising’

An insight into the events of the motor cycle riders who travel 1000’s of miles and attend many events to raise funds to support the Royal British Legion ex-service personnel.

6th April

Chrissy and Dave

‘Music and song’

Enjoy a lovely mixed genre of easy listening harmony and up-beat music performed by the talented guitar/keyboard couple from Birmingham.

20th April

David Bartley

‘Black Country Humour’

David has spoken at many clubs during his career, this talk will be very funny and enjoyable featuring Black Country poetry, tales and jokes.

18th May

Bernard Mills

‘The Battle of Worcester’

Bernard dresses for the occasion to capture the period of a 17th Century gentleman (Captain of Infantry) to deliver an account of the ‘Battle of Worcester’.

1st June

John Sparry

‘Along the A449’

An interesting and intriguing talk by our own local author and historian about Kings, chariots, bikes and the occasional ghost on the A449.

15th June

Ron Popple

‘Black Country Comedy Hour’

Enjoy laughing away the afternoon with some great Black Country humour and magic. (Comedy at it’s very best with some audience participation).

6th July

Andrew French

“What a carry on”

An amusing talk about the history of the hilarious and much loved unforgettable British Institution ‘Carry on films’ and enlightening stories about the cast.

20th July

Quiz and Cakes

Time to put your thinking caps on for an end of season social get together quiz, plus lovely cakes and a raffle. Please organise your teams of four.

Wall Heath Community Association

Wall Heath Horticultural Guild

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

February 7th	A Shady Garden – Diane Clement
March 7th	AGM
April 4th	Native Owls - Gillian Hayles
May 2nd	Plant Sale. Talk / Slides - Richard Spiers. Fish and Chip Supper
June 6th	Winemaking - from grape to bottle - Helen Farquharson
July 4th	Hydrangeas - Rachel Kendall

Wall Heath Flower Club

Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm

January 24th	Music of Flowers - Gill Mills
February 28th	AGM and Pot Luck Summer
March 28th	A Touch of Spring – Beverley Short

Return to normal

As with many organisations throughout the country the activities of the Community Association had to be put “on hold” as the arrival of Covid-19 caused a rethink of our priorities. Happily 2022 saw a return of our “User Groups” offering opportunities to join in the various activities available. A full list of activities appears on page 8 but no apologies are made for listing them here and you can then check the time and day of the week. You can enjoy Short Mat Bowls, Kurling (two groups), Crafty Chatters, Musicians Club, Line Dancing and in addition we have afternoons of Talks and entertainment with our 50 Plus Club and Thursdayat2 Club. From Monday to Friday there is an activity on offer. All of these groups are organised by volunteers and to all of them we express our appreciation. Volunteers are always welcome and not only does the Community Association benefit but there is also a spin-off for the individual. In the Winter Wellbeing booklet recently issued by Dudley MBC the following advice is given:-

Volunteering

Volunteering can be a rewarding experience for you as well as the people or organisations you help. It can help you gain new skills, make new friends and improve your mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Interested? Why not call in to the Community Centre and speak with **Karen Page** or turn up at a Group that interests you.

Wall Heath Community Association

HELPING HANDS

Difficult to believe but in 2023 the Helping Hands Charity Shop celebrates ten years as an outlet in High Street. During that time it has helped several local organisations having made significant grants to Wall Heath Scouts, Wall Heath Tennis Club, Kewford Eagles and Wall Heath Community Association. Looking further afield, when COVID struck they donated to The Black Country food bank in Brierley Hill on a number of occasions. As well as The Saleem Foundation funds have also been appropriated to support Living Springs which is a women and family refuge in Stourton.

The shop window is always impressively and artistically decorated and the stock is of an excellent quality having been carefully inspected and then displayed by a team of enthusiastic volunteers coordinated by Shop Manager, **Julie Collins**. As well as donations the shop needs customers – pop in and browse between 10am and 4pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Support your Community by supporting Helping Hands

Recipe Corner

Tuna Pasta Bake (Serves 6)

Ingredients

600g rigatoni - or any other pasta
50g butter
50g plain flour
600ml milk
250g strong cheddar, grated
2 x 160g cans tuna steak in spring water, drained
330g can sweetcorn, drained
large handful chopped parsley

Method

Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/ gas4

Boil 600g rigatoni for 2 minutes less time than stated on the pack

To make the sauce, melt 50g butter in a saucepan and stir in 50g plain flour

Cook for 1 minute, then gradually stir in 600ml milk to make a thick white saucepan

Remove from the heat and stir in all but a handful of the 250g grated cheddar

Drain the pasta, mix with the white sauce, 2 160g drained cans of tuna, 1 330g drained can sweetcorn and a large handful of chopped parsley, then season

Transfer to a baking dish and top with the rest of the grated cheddar

Bake for 15-20 minutes until the cheese on top is golden and starting to brown

Wall Heath Community Association

Registered Charity No. 522810

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

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Monday	10.00am	Kurling (Fortnightly)
	2.00pm	Short Mat Bowls Club
	5.00pm	Taekwon-do
	9.00pm	Beginners 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 (2 nd Tuesday)
	7.30pm	Flower Club (4 th Tuesday)
Wednesday	11.00am	Tai Chi - Active Seniors
	2.00pm	50 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 at 2 Club (1 st & 3 rd Thursday)
Friday	10.30am	Crafty Chatters
	5.00pm	Taekwon-do
	7.30pm	Line Dancing

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