

Walshes

Community Partnership News

Edition 3
Winter 2011/12

Welcome to our Christmas Issue of the Newsletter. The Walshes Community Partnership is still working to help make the Community Hall sustainable and we are having a Christmas Fair on 10th December, please do come and support us and in doing so help keep the Hall for this community for many years to come. Behind the scenes you can be assured that the Partnership continues to help with the process of securing the future. If you are interested in helping with the Community Hall, please contact Vestia on 01562 732345.

At a recent meeting of the Partnership there was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for a Walshes Community History Project. Many families have lived on the Walshes Estate since it was first built and we are hoping to collect together stories and photos so the life of the Estate can be celebrated. From the early days of the first houses being built, through to the building of the Tenants Hall and the Schools right up to the present day. This place has been home for many people and quite a few still remember opening the door on a newly built house and how special that was. We would also like to be able to put together some photos as part of a permanent display in the Walshes Community Centre so we can say that this has been a good place to live, and still is a good place to live. So let's get our stories together, they can be factual or funny, they can tell about special events or just what it was like to grow up here, or have a family here. With History of the Walshes on display in our Community Centre we can begin to put the Centre and what happens there back into the heart of the Community; looking back yes, but looking forward too.

I do wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy 2012!



M. Turner

Wacky Walshes Fun Day



Over 70 local people enjoyed Wacky Walshes Fun Day on 27th October 2011. The rain continued all day but this didn't stop everyone having a good time and enjoying the activities. The newly painted wall looks great - thanks to all who took part in the workshop.

A big thank you to all the stall holders and partner representatives; Half Crown Wood Children's Centre, Family Information Service, Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership, Walshes Resident Support Group, Neighbourhood Wardens, Ranger Service & Vestia Community Trust.

Walshes Community Hall Open Day

Many local residents supported the recent open day on 11th October, they found out all about the activities that currently take place at the hall and how they can get involved in running the hall for the next 12 months by joining a new action group. Residents were also able to highlight what they liked about the centre and give their ideas about how it could be improved.

If you would like to know more about how to get involved & would like to volunteer with The Walshes Community Hall Action Group, please contact Vestia on 01562 732345 or come to our next meeting on Thursday 5th January 2012, 7pm at The Walshes Community Hall.



Don't forget, the Hall can be booked by calling Tina on 07925 572050

www.thewalshes.weebly.com

Contact us on 01562 732345 or email Julia.whale@vestia.org.uk



16 Days of Action against Domestic Abuse

Please pledge your support by wearing a white ribbon from the 25th November - 10th December.

It is a fact that every 1 in 4 Women and every 1 in 6 Men are affected by Domestic Abuse, with 2 Women a week being murdered in the UK as a result of Domestic Violence. Please help us to break this trend!!

If you feel you may be a victim or know of someone who may be a victim then there are a number of support agencies available who can help you to make informed decisions about stopping Domestic Abuse/Violence, saving relationships or helping with breaking off relationships.



For confidential advice call the Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0800 980 3331**

Or in an emergency call: **999**



Half Crown Wood Children's Centre

The regular timetable for activities at the Centre will be finishing on Friday 16th December and our new programme will start Monday 9th January 2012 . If you have an under 5 and haven't received a copy of the new timetable please call in to the Centre or call 01299 877 920 .

New Year-New Start

The Children's Centre will be working with other agencies during January and February to provide a range of activities to help you fulfill those New Years Resolutions - Lose weight, Stop smoking, Take up a new hobby ,Get a job, Go to college, clear the debts - we can try to help you with them all . WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS or call in at the Children's Centre for more information.

Please Note You don't need to have an under 5 to take part in New Year -New Start

Ofsted Inspection, St. Bartholomew's Primary School, October 2011

This inspection awarded a majority of "good" judgements in it's detailed assessments of the school. Moreover, the team that had brought about these significant improvements, under Headteacher Sue Helps, is rated as capable of maintaining "sustained improvement" in standards in the next few years.

The inspectors found a school with "a very welcoming ethos", in which pupils "behave well". "Relationships in lessons are good" and the children "enjoy their learning". A particularly strong Early Years Foundation Stage gives children "a good start to their formal education". The extent and the speed of progress of older pupils is "improving", with particular mention by the inspectors of this progress in English and Maths.

To assist with further improvement, the inspectors recommended greater differentiation in classroom tasks at Key Stage 2 and the encouragement of longer oral contributions from pupils when answering questions in class.

Overall, I believe a fair summary of Ofsted's report is "good progress, with the prospect of even better progress".

By Councillor Jamie Shaw

New powers to tackle littering hot spots

In a joint working partnership with Wyre Forest District Council, Neighbourhood Wardens from The Community Housing Group are now qualified to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling and litter dropping as do the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers. Wyre Forest District Council coordinated the training designed to make a positive difference in the community.

Anthony Woodyatt, Neighbourhood Warden said, "These new powers make a big difference to our role. We can now take action when we see someone letting their dog foul the pavement or anyone dropping litter.



These issues are a particularly big problem in the areas we patrol. Feedback since we introduced the new powers in October has been very positive. Residents say they are pleased we are taking 'on the spot' action.

On the Spot Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued for:

Dog Fouling - £50
Littering - £75

Failure to pay in 14 days means you may go to Court with costs of up to £2000.

Walshes Christmas Fair

Saturday 10th December 2011
at Walshes Community Centre 3pm-5pm

Santa's Grotto - 50p per child

Tombola - prize every time

Fair Trade

Table Top Sale - Donations welcome

Homemade cakes

Refreshments

All proceeds go to The Walshes Community Hall

Community Safety



The Christmas period should be a happy time for everyone, but unfortunately criminals view the holiday season as an ideal opportunity to steal gifts of small electronics, computers, jewellery and other easily sold valuables. As part of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership's Christmas Campaign 'Freeze Out Crime this Christmas', you will be able to hear a Christmas related message on 107.2 The Wyre radio station, reminding listeners to keep houses, vehicles and possessions safe over the Christmas period.

Please don't make it easy for the thieves - we would ask residents to always lock doors and windows; remember not to leave shopping on view in the car and look after purses when out shopping. Wyre Forest is a low crime area and we hope these tips will help everyone have a wonderful and safe festive season.

Walshes Community Action Days

Partner agencies report that the Community Action Days they ran in The Walshes recently were a great success.

The two events, which were run from Half Crown Wood Children's Centre on 23rd & 24th September, were jointly organised by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (H&WFRS), West Mercia Police, Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership, Vestia Community Trust, Wyre Forest Community Housing and Act on Energy.

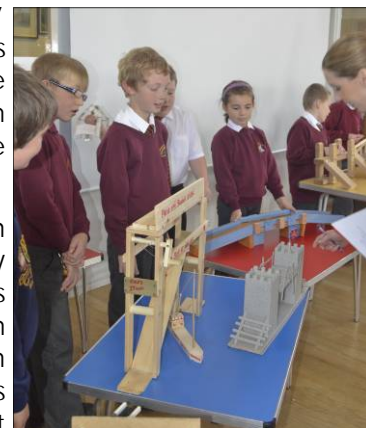
The aim was to highlight to residents which services each agency offers and how these services can be accessed, and with 283 properties visited and 199 referrals received over the two days, the Community Action Days were considered a great success.

Caroline Webster, Community Safety Advisor with H&WFRS, said: "From a Fire Service perspective, we wanted to make people more aware of fire safety in the home and we received more than 80 referrals for Home Fire Safety Checks as a result of the two day campaign".

St. Bartholomew's Primary School & Nursery

Since returning to school in September there have been many highlights and 'our' school goes from strength to strength. Week by week something amazing happens within the school and whether it is a visit to our nursery by a very elderly tortoise or the children taking part in Bike ability training St Bartholomew's is a great place to be! I am very proud of the children and the staff and I am glad to have this opportunity to share an insight into our work.

A highlight the children have really enjoyed has involved a three way partnership with two other schools in the town. Along with teachers at Hartlebury and Wilden primary schools, St Bartholomew's staff work to plan Trinity Week. Working together teachers from all three schools planned a week's activities linking maths, science and design and technology around the theme of 'Bridges'. Different year groups focused on different kinds of bridges and completed a week of experiments culminating in various bridge building activities. At the end of the project the school hall was full of the most amazing model bridges many of them built with the support of parents and even grandparents.



The children in all three schools worked together and the children from Wilden and Hartlebury spent time during the week visiting St Bartholomew's making the most of 'our' space and facilities. The highlight of the week was when children from year 4 visited the new Tesco construction site to learn about the new bridge scheduled to span the River Stour. The project manager for the new Tesco store set the children an important challenge. This was to design a logo to be incorporated into the new bridge, a very exciting prospect and we really hope the St Bartholomew's design will be chosen. Susan Helps, Head teacher

Zumba comes to Walshes Community Hall

Sessions cost just 50p and are open to adults living in Areley Kings and The Walshes. Those attending 6 or more sessions will receive a **FREE** 1 month gym membership at Stourport Leisure Centre.

Just turn up on: Friday 9th December, 6th January, 13th January, 20th January, 27th January, 3rd February, 10th February, 17th February
All sessions run from 12:30pm-1:30pm

Contact Julia for more information on 01562 732345

Build Your Skills—No Limits

Are you aged 18-24? Come and see how we can help you, at Walshes Community Centre on Thursday 15th December 2:30-4:30, free refreshments.

- Identify your strengths
- Job searching
- Interview Skills
- Problem solving
- Managing your money

Contact Vestia
for more details
On 01562 733133

I Remember When...

My son was one of the first pupils to join the new Windmill Infant School in September 1964. The Headmistress was called Mrs Pennington.



Windmill School class 1973



Mark Harrison pictured outside 16 Yarranton Close in 1991

"I remember moving into our brand new house on Wesley Avenue in June 1964.



Did you know that the famous singer/songwriter Clifford T Ward grew up on The Walshes, he lived in Erneley Close

"I remember going to Windmill School and being chosen to plant one of the trees in Half Crown Wood"

We moved to our brand new house on Linden Avenue in 1952



Notice how the design of the 1940's camps on Burlish are similar to the Walshes Community Centre

The houses on Wesley Avenue were known as the Yenton Pound Down Houses

I remember the pub called The Old Farm Inn, it was run by the Hugh's it has now been knocked down and houses have been built

Do you want to be involved in a new Walshes History Project?

Then why not take part in workshops at Walshes Community Centre to create a piece of community artwork made up of your own memories & photographs.

For more information, please contact Julia Whale on 01562 732345

Dates for workshops to be confirmed