

# Walshes

Community Partnership News

Edition 1  
Spring 2011

## A note from the Chair, Reverend Mark Turner

Hello, I am Rev. Mark Turner Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church and Chair of the Walshes Community Partnership. Welcome to the first of 4 newsletters especially for the Walshes.

Since the work of the partnership began last year we have been involved in a number of things including the Wacky Walshes Fun Day on Barnfield Park last October and Run Rabbit Run on 15th April. Most importantly we have been able provide funding for the Youth Club which meets in the Community Centre. This has secured the Youth Club for a year and in the year we will be working to provide further funding in the future for this great facility for young people on the Estate. We are also working to find a way of keeping the Walshes Community Centre open, ensuring that a polling station is kept for the Walshes, as well as enabling all kinds of people to communicate about this estate. There are all kinds of things happening on the estate, and in this newsletter you can find out about some of these things. There is plenty going on and lots to be proud of.

Over 100 people attended 'Run Rabbit Run' on 15th April organised by the Walshes Community Partnership. The event, based on a treasure hunt over 6 stages, took family teams to different venues in the Walshes where they earned points for completing tasks. At the same time, families learnt about the different services working in the area.

The stages included a lesson in fire safety with the smoke house from Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service, getting to grips with nature with the Rangers Service, Nintendo Wii competitions at the Walshes Youth Club and brain teasing games with the local Police Team and Londis Shop.

The day was supported by Community Housing Neighbourhood Wardens, Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service, Local Policing Team, St. Bartholomew's School, Half Crown Wood Children's Centre, Wyre Forest District Council, Londis Store & YMCA.

*M. Turner*



The Walshes Community Partnership is supported by:



[www.thewalshes.weebly.com](http://www.thewalshes.weebly.com)

Contact us on 01562 732345 or email [Julia.whale@vestia.org.uk](mailto:Julia.whale@vestia.org.uk)

## What is the Walshes Community Partnership?

The Walshes Partnership was first established in July 2010 where local organisations and residents met to discuss the priorities for the Walshes area. The Walshes Partnership was officially launched at the Wacky Walshes event on 29th October 2010.

The local partners include; Wyre Forest Community Housing, Wyre Forest District Council, Half Crown Wood Children's Centre, St. Bartholomew's Primary School, Walshes Tenant Consultative Committee, Local Police, YMCA, Local Churches, Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service and Worcestershire County Council. A partnership meeting takes place 4 times per year.

The Walshes Community Partnership is managed by Vestia Community Trust. Vestia, set up in 2009, is working with local people, community leaders and partners to improve the lives of families and communities living in Wyre Forest and surrounding areas.

To find out more information about Vestia, please visit the website, [www.vestia.org.uk](http://www.vestia.org.uk)

## St. Bartholomew's Primary School

There is always so much going on at St Bartholomew's C.E. Primary School and Nursery but the recent 'Trinity' Curriculum Week has been particularly memorable. St Bartholomew's staff and pupils joined with their colleagues and peers at Wilden and Hartlebury Primary Schools for a week of visits and curriculum activities.

Each year group from nursery to year 6 focused on a particular topic and subjects from across the whole curriculum. The topics ranged from a study of circus skills, flight, chocolate, pirates and gypsies, with trips to Cadbury's World and Cosford. The highlights were when the different schools worked together in the three different schools sharing resources, facilities and expertise.



The project with the 'Trinity' working together will continue into the summer term when the oldest children in year 6 working together to put on a production of Joseph's Technicolour Dreamcoat. The performance will be the culmination of an enormous amount of work with the added bonus of the children having the opportunity of making new friends in readiness for their move to Stourport High School.

## Messy Church

Volunteers, from local Stourport Churches and St Bartholomew's Primary School, arrived at the School on Wednesday 9th February to prepare for Messy Church. They were amazed and delighted when 55 children and 38 adults came to register in the Hall at 3.30 pm. The families were welcomed with a drink and then went to the Crafty Space. Here they found various Crafts to make - all on the theme of Noah's Ark: animal masks, paper doves, wooden boats, origami boats, rainbow bottles, water fun and a big ark jigsaw.

After 40 minutes of crafty fun the families gathered in the Hall for the Worship Space. We sang an action song and Jack, the puppet, helped Rev. Linda tell the story of Noah. We said a prayer and then moved into the Meal Space where the wonderful Cook, Jill, fed us with enormous Fish Fingers, Potato wedges, Peas and Beans.

### Dates For Your Diary



**Walshes Resident Support Group**  
7th June, 6-7:30pm  
at The Walshes Community Centre

**Walshes Youth Club**  
Every Wednesday 7:00-8:30pm  
at The Walshes Community Centre

**Coffee Morning and lunch**  
every Thursday 10-1pm  
at The Walshes Community Centre

## My Learning Walk at St Bartholomew's Primary by Councillor Jamie Shaw

The purpose of my "learning walk" was to visit six classes, from Year One to Year Six, to learn how pupils learned.

I saw pupils engaged in English and Maths. Some were learning through the use of interactive whiteboards, some by computers, while others used good old-fashioned pencil and paper.

I was pleased to see, without exception, well-behaved, well-motivated pupils enjoying their learning. What was most noteworthy was the ability of those I talked to, without exception, to tell me what the purpose of their lesson was. They were learning and knew why they were learning : most impressive.

## Walshes Youth Club

The Walshes Youth Club takes place every Wednesday from 7-8.30 at the Walshes Community Centre. The club is accessible to 8-16 year olds and it is free for them to attend. At the club there are two pool tables, a Wii, an Xbox, table tennis table, art equipment and games. Competitions on the Wii, pool tables and table tennis are a regular occurrence along with bingo and the 'impossible puzzle', solve this and you get the fiver. Only one person in the history of the club has solved it and we hope to be able to publish in this very newsletter.

The club is regularly well attended with an average of 18 people, aged 8-16 come down and have a look. The Walshes Youth Club is funded by Walshes Community Partnership, Vestia Community Trust and West Mercia Police and is managed by YMCA.



## Walshes Resident Support Group & Cleaner, Safer, Greener Kite Mark



A new Residents Group open to anyone who lives in the Walshes area has now been established so that residents can look at their priorities for the area, these issues will then be fed back to the main Walshes Partnership Board.

Currently the group are focusing on Cleaner, Safer, Greener (CSG) which is part of the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign. It's main aim is to bring long term improvements in the local area. The local priorities will consider areas around maintenance of communal areas, fly tipping, refuse collection and graffiti. The project is being led by The Community Housing Group and will bring together key partners including residents, police, Wyre Forest District Council, School and elected members to drive the project forward.

If you would like to become involved with the Walshes Resident Support Group why not pop along to our next meeting and see what its all about or even join us on our next walkabout.

This is your chance to have your say and make a difference.

Future meeting dates:

Tuesday 7th June  
Tuesday 5th July  
Tuesday 2nd August  
Tuesday 6th September  
Tuesday 4th October  
Tuesday 1st November  
Tuesday 6th December

All meetings will take place at Walshes Community Centre, Hermitage Way, 6:00-7:30pm.

Please contact Julia Whale on 01562 732345 for more information.

# AT YOUR LEISURE

You Decide!

PTO →



# A bright new Centre right here on The Walshes

Half Crown Wood Children's Centre is situated at the top of Princess Way .  
It is run by Barnardo's and provides a one stop shop for everything a parent with an Under 5 needs.

There are a range of stay and play groups, health clinics, adult learning and confidential support with any concern or difficulty a parent may have – everything to ensure happy, healthy children who can achieve their full potential.

All parents/grandparents/ carers of Under 5's are very welcome to all of our activities which operate from the Centre and other community venues in Stourport. Just call the Centre and ask for a programme

## MEN BEHAVING DADLY

We recognize the important role that Dad's play in their children's lives and provide specific activities just for them. Recently a group of Dads and their children had loads of fun at the Wyre Forest and also learned how it helped with their child's learning and development. If you would like to know more about Dad's activities please ring the Centre and ask for Dave or Sam

## NEW BABY??? NEW GROUP

We are starting a new group for Parents To Be to find out more about preparing for the birth and those first days at home. The group will operate on Wednesday mornings and is open to all mums to be and partners.

As a special bonus parents will also receive a free goody bag. Ring the Centre to find out when the next group starts.

## SATURDAY FUN TIMES

A chance for Under 5's and their families (including siblings under 11 years) to share in a range of exciting activities. Just come along on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month between 10am and 12.00 noon

The Centre is open from 8.30 -4.30 Monday to Friday – just call in for our programme or ring 01299 877920



## 'Come for coffee... Stay for lunch...'

This is the invitation offered by the Coffee Club at the Walshes Community Centre, every Thursday morning. We are open for coffee and a chat from 10am, with ploughman's lunches being served from 12 noon until 1pm.

Coffee club offers a warm welcome to all ages, not just adults. We have toys for toddlers and, during school holidays, we always have bowls of cereal available for our younger visitors, plus plenty to colour and the opportunity to play snakes and ladders and other games.

A recent card making event hosted by Julia Whale of the Walshes Community Partnership proved a great success with our regulars, and we hope to work together to provide other events in the future.

The Coffee Club is run by members of St Bartholomew's Church, Areley Kings and we are always grateful for more volunteers.

If you would like to give us a hand, why not pop in one Thursday morning to see us.

DC Leisure have been awarded funding through West Mercia Police to provide sport activities for adults living in the Walshes We need your ideas! Simply complete this form and send it to Julia Whale, Walshes Community Partnership, 3 Foley Grove, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY11 7PT and we will be in touch.

What?	e.g. Zumba, swimming, aerobics etc
Where?	e.g. Walshes, Stourport
How Much?	e.g. £1, £2 etc
When?	e.g. day and time

Your Details

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