

Neighbourhoods in Warrington

- delivering action with our communities

Neighbourhood Bulletin

Feature!

TOY APPEAL



Neighbourhoods colleagues alongside toys from the appeal

Thank you ...

Thanks to council colleagues, residents and local businesses for their contributions to the toy appeal.

Christmas toy Appeal Success

Warrington Borough Council's Neighbourhood team were inundated with donations prior to the festive season ready to help families suffering from financial difficulties.

Residents and businesses dropped off new toys, gift vouchers, sweets, non-perishable foods, toiletries, books and new nightwear to make sure children aged 0 to 16 had a present to open on Christmas day. Others donated money totaling around £2,000 so that presents could be purchased.

Over 200 children received gifts, books, sweets and night clothes with each child also being sent a special letter from Santa.

The appeal was supported by many local organisations including Sellafield Ltd, Cheshire Police, the Quakers, Amazon, Fairfield Resident's Association, Lymm Round Table, Winwick Parish Council and Warrington's Tesco stores as well as local residents.

Cllr Tony Higgins, executive board member for culture, leisure and community, said: *"This year we have been overwhelmed with the amount of donations we have received which has been truly amazing. It's a sad fact that during a time of joy, festivity and celebration, some children have little or nothing to look forward to at Christmas. We would like to thank everyone who donated as, for many families, these gifts are the only ones they receive."*

"We are delighted that, due to the generosity of our staff, residents and local businesses, we have been able to bring some Christmas cheer to so many children."

Congratulations to the Neighbourhoods team for arranging another successful appeal which will support some of Warrington's most vulnerable families



Central Neighbourhood Area

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News from Neighbourhoods

Central Area

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Community Centres

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Christmas Lunch for users of the Hapi Fridge



Hapi- Hub was delighted to host its first Christmas meal in 2017. The idea came from wanting to do something positive for all the service users of the Community Fridge Scheme and people from the Y project. Lots of people came together to support the day and the spirit of community and celebration really showed itself.

Combining funds raised by contributions and working alongside Asda, Tesco, Co-op and local butchers, enough food was donated to be able to feed nearly 30 people. It also meant that every guest was given a food hamper to take home with them. A lot of thought was put into these hampers and some even had everything needed to make a Christmas dinner - including a 7kg turkey!

The event itself was managed by local volunteer Ames Pilkington who also used her culinary skills and expertise to create a three course meal from scratch. Ames was supported on the day by a number of volunteers without whom the event wouldn't have been such a success.

Hapi-Hub hopes that 2018 will bring even more people together at Christmas and can't wait to invite more people to enjoy the festive season together.





Santa arrives in Howley

More than 100 children met Santa on an annual visit to St Elphin's Park on Saturday. Crowds gathered from 6pm at the park in Howley along with the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Les Morgan, for the event.

Santa arrived in a 2CV which took him from the special sleigh port at a secret location to the park where he spent three hours in his kitchen chatting with the children. Craft activities included making table decorations using logs and cones from Risley Moss Nature Reserve and recycled Christmas decorations while ceramic artist, Debbie Podmore helped children make Christmas trees, gingerbread men, stars and angels. Warrington Rotary again supported the Friends of St Elphin's team throughout the day, creating the Christmas village and staffing the games to keep the children entertained.

The evening was rounded off with a traditional fairground organ and the ever popular Ian Zippy Lees. Cllr Jean Flaherty, from the Friends group, said: *"Many thanks to all who supported our event, our volunteers, Warrington Borough Council, Warrington Rotary, and of course all our lovely community who came along making all the hard work worthwhile."* Meanwhile store manager Dave Appleton, from Padgate Lane Co-op, arranged for selection boxes for all the children visiting Santa. Cllr Jean Flaherty said: *"This support is vital to the continued success of Community events, helping keep costs down and enabling the activities to carry on. Big thanks to Dave and all the co-op team for their fabulous*

St Margaret's Older People's Lunch

Workers and volunteers at St Margaret's Community Hub in Latchford held a lunch for older people in the area on 5th December. The day was a resounding success with entertainment from Children from St Augustine's school singing Christmas carols, Latchford Music Makers and presents for all from Father Christmas. Michelle Hayes from the hub said *"Thanks to all the volunteers and to our funders Community Initiatives fund, Latch Ford Big Local and St Margaret's Community Partnership and donations to support from ASDA and Londis Latchford. Special Thanks to Fr Christmas for coming along and it was great to see the Latch Ford Big Local mascot 'Latchy' too!"*



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Edgewater Park Community Christmas Carols

The community at Edgewater Park united to spread Christmas cheer. Friends and family gathered to take part in the Christmas carol singalong. Jenny Sullivan, who helped to organise the event, said: *"It was a really good turnout and we are hoping to turn it into an annual event."* The residents organised the event through their Facebook group **Edgewater Park Community** after the Halloween event was such a success. *"It was a really nice and festive way of bringing the community together."* The group received support for the event from WBC's Community Initiative Fund



Funding support from the Neighbourhood Team

The community enablement officers are part of the Neighbourhood Team and are available to offer support to community groups who require funding to further the aims and objectives of their organisation. This can be in a number of ways including a one-to-one appointment to discuss their particular needs and the most suitable funding stream for their project or through funding workshops which are held a number of times a year. These workshops usually focus on WBC's Community Initiative Fund and offer practical support and advice on completing the application forms. These usually cater for up to 10 people at a time and coincide with funding deadlines. If anybody would like support for funding for their community group please contact Anne Barton on abarton@warrington.gov.uk

Community Initiative Grants are available for £50 to £3,000 to organisations belonging to the voluntary, community and faith sectors.. If you would like to find out more about the fund please click [here](#) or contact Lyn Mullen on 01925/241360

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Lyn Mullen
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Budget Boosting Club

Client numbers have increased at the Budget boosting clubs with many referrals now coming through adult social care with many complex cases around benefit application and entitlement.

Several of our clients have found full time seasonal work with a view of being kept on in the New Year.

December we held a festive get-together for active clients with many old faces returning to share their experiences and stories; a wonderful buffet was prepared by volunteer clients.

During the past year clients have attended and passed courses in First Aid Health and Safety, Food Hygiene, Basic English, Basic Maths, IT studies

Budget boosting clubs at Whitecross & Orford now have a careers advisor in attendance that can help with CV writing and cover letters, or referrals into training.



As a show of appreciation for the support Sarah Preston, CEO has given to Trans Warrington she was presented with an Award by the group at the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). *Sarah said, "I was so proud to be nominated for this Award and was truly humbled that they think so much of the support I have given to them".*

WHAT'S COMING UP

St Margaret's "Hapi Hub" St Margaret's community hub are following in the footsteps of Orford Community Hub and providing fresh food for anyone in need donated for our community through donations from local supermarkets. It is called the 'Hapi Hub' and people are invited to call in and take what they might find useful.

Acoustic Guitar for Beginners First session Monday 29th January @ The Old School, Fairfield Street – 7pm-9pm, £2 per session.

Barn Dance Music & Dance with Fairfield Fling – Friday 9th February, 7.30pm at Warrington Irish Club, Orford Lane, Warrington ... Tickets £5 (ticket hotline 01925/418633. All proceeds to Mayor's Charities.

WHAT'S ON AT LATCHFORD'S COMMUNITY HUB?

MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
CAFE 9am-1pm	CAFE 9am-1pm	CAFE 9am-noon	CAFE 9am-1pm	CAFE 9am-1pm	CAFE CLOSED
Drop-in Computers 10am-noon Adult (Free)	Latchford Computer Club 7-9pm Adult (Free)	Luncheon Club noon-2pm (All welcome!)	Computer Crafts 1-3pm Adult (Free)	Little Lotties Tots' Group 9.15-11.30am	Little Strikers Football 9.30- 12.30am
Credit Union 9.30-11.30am	Sequence Dance Class 7.30-10pm Adult		Bingo 7-9pm Bring your own legs !!	Credit Union 9.30- 11.30am	12.30am Preschool (18+months) Mixed
St. Margaret's Over 60s Group 1-3pm 4Young@Heart			Beginners' Dance Class 8-9.30pm Adult	Shooting Stars Dance 4-7pm 3+ Mixed	Local Councillors' Surgery First Sat Each Month 12.30- 1.30pm Karen Mundry Hans Mundry
Latchford Music Makers Adult Acoustic Music Group 6.30-8.30pm Beginners Welcome!				Rooms also available to hire for parties, special functions community groups, etc.	Sewing Group 2-4pm 2nd&4th Saturdays (Adult)

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Supported by Latchford

Families & Wellbeing
Directorate
Central Area Team
Orford Community Hub
Festival Avenue
Warrington
WA2 9EP

Phone 01925 241360

Health Inequalities Team News

Health Inequalities Team

Jo Norton
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Anne Livings
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This Warrington Girl Can



The Health Inequalities have been working on a joint project, in partnership with the Active LiveWire team in Orford & Poplars & Hulme wards.

Based on the national campaign, 'This Warrington Girl Can' builds on two previous successful projects held in different parts of the town. The project offers 10 weeks of activities to encourage women to try something new and be a bit more active.

Open to women aged 18 and over, 'This Warrington Girl Can' is designed to provide a taster of different activities, giving them the chance to take part in a range of fun sessions such as belly dancing, golf, tennis, archery, Pilates, yoga and much more.

An integral part of the project is asking the women to think about an activity they've always had a burning desire to try, but never had the courage or opportunity to do so, and give it a go! Previous projects have included kayaking, golf, archery and rock climbing and some of the suggestions from the current cohort include roller-skating,

Women will be supported through the 10 weeks by mentors who will help them believe 'they can' by maintaining their self-belief, confidence and motivation. This includes a Self-esteem and confidence building course delivered by Warrington and Vale Royal College, positive body image sessions supported by our 0-19 team and Change 4 Life sessions with our Neighbourhoods team.

Three recruitment sessions were held during the first weeks of January and as a result an amazing 117 women have signed up! The first session through the project (a Monday evening hour of Tai Chi) attracted 39 women.

Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive, the women have enjoyed the sessions, meeting new people, trying new things and proving they can beat their challenges!!

Volunteers within Neighbourhoods

Our Volunteer Co-coordinator is continuing all her hard work to recruit and support volunteers within the Neighbourhood Team.

We currently have a number of volunteers who help us to deliver our services. Our volunteers help out in a range of roles and each brings a unique and individual skill.

Our Befriending Service offers companionship and company to someone who may benefit from a regular visit and chat. Our befrienders can make home visits, or meet out and about in the community. The aim of the befriending scheme is to support positive wellbeing through social interaction. We have had some very successful befriending matches that have lasted for well over a year.

We currently have 16 befrienders who are supporting a number of clients referred to the service. We provide a full induction and ongoing support for our befrienders, and are always on the lookout for more!

If you have an hour or two to spare each week, and are interesting in making a positive change to someone's life, please contact Anne Livings for more information.

We also are lucky enough to be supported in our Orford Community Hub reception by a team of volunteers, who provide the first point of contact for many of our centre users. As well as meeting and greeting, our volunteers are also developing their admin skills and have recently supported the recording of the Neighbourhoods surveys, the Men's'; Mental Health surveys and the Winter Warm contacts.

Volunteers also provide support for other projects within Neighbourhoods, this has included Clothes Bank, Hapi-Hub and Christmas toy appeal, as well as helping out at some of the community Christmas grottos.

These are just a snapshot of some of the successful volunteering the Neighbourhoods Team supports, and we are constantly developing new ideas and supporting new volunteers.

If you would like to know more about any of the projects, please contact Anne Livings, our Volunteer Co-coordinator on 241360 or Anne.Livings@warrington.gov.uk

1 in 4 people have high blood pressure but many do not know it

High blood pressure often has no obvious symptoms and puts you at a much higher risk of heart attack, stroke, kidney disease and dementia.

Warrington Borough Council's public health team is working with partners to pilot the use of a digital health kiosk to identify, manage and support people to help lower their blood pressure.

Want to know more?

Come along to find out more about the project and get your free blood pressure check using the kiosk. It's easy to use and only takes five minutes!

Date - 31 January
Time - 10 - 11 am
Location - Orford Jubilee Neighbourhood Hub

WARRINGTON KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE YOU

East Neighbourhood Area

East Area Manager

Ruth Whitworth
07827 232 563

Neighbourhood Mentor

James Macdonald
07824 087 392

Community Support Worker

Nicola Attwood
07583 029 724

Butterflies tea room – Christmas Party and new volunteer Butterflies tea room meets on a Wednesday from 10am at Woolston Hub, and provides a place for people to meet together. Regulars celebrated Christmas with their first outing. They enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Hope and Anchor, and there were laughs and smiles all round and some wild Christmas jumpers. The tea room will re - open the 10th Jan



Clean up days Neighbourhood Natter

Padgate South were very keen to carry on meeting a few times a year and developed Neighbourhood Natters. At their last meeting in October they asked Nikki if it was possible to organise a litter pick in the local area. When this was put to the residents they all agreed the ideal day would be the day before the Remembrance parade. 8 volunteers turned out as well as a gorgeous 4 legged fluffy volunteer. The area was well cleared and so was the footpath from the main round to the park. A job well done by all involved



Families & Wellbeing
Directorate
East Area Team
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Festival Avenue
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Ageing Well Padgate

On 22 January 2018 10:00am- 12pm at Padgate Community Centre Station Road WA2-0QS, the Neighbourhood Team are running Age Well Feeling Great Course for 5 weeks for over 50's. The course brings in different partners to provide information on what their services are about, as well as offering health checks, an introduction to exercise, general health information and much more. To book on the course you can call the Neighbourhood team on 01925-241360, or email eastneighbourhoods@warrington.gov.uk

Oakwood Community Association Carol Event

On 8 December 2017, the Oakwood Community Association with the Church of the Transfiguration held a Carol Singing event for the local area. It was well attended by 30 residents and children, who all braved the weather to sing carols outside, and continued inside with drinks and mince pies provided by Asda who were on hand to serve the refreshments. The night finished with a Raffle and prizes with donation going back into the community. The association were pleased with their first Christmas event.

Birchwood Eat well course

One of the projects coming from the Birchwood group is to start a weekly lunch club at Birchwood Church of England Primary School, for which funding from the Community Initiative Fund has been received. As preparation for this lunch club starting in January, the East Neighbourhoods team and the Church of Transfiguration have hosted a 3 week Eat well course. The course was well attended by 10 people, potentially looking to volunteer for the lunch.

The course covered the Eat well plate, which looks at a balanced diet, as well as looking at sugar and fat in your diets, and doing a couple of cooking sessions. Participants were particularly surprised to find out how much sugar is in commonly drunk drinks such as coke, and were going home to relook at what they and their children consume.

Padgate Community Garden Sing Along and Light switch on 11/12/2017

The Friends of Padgate Community Garden held an event at the garden to celebrate the approach of Christmas. There was a good turn-out, despite the freezing conditions. The mayor switched on the Christmas tree lights, Father Christmas was there with sweets for the children, and the community enjoyed music from members of Warrington Brass Band, with mince pies and a hot drink. John Stubbings, Chair of Padgate Community Garden, spoke to the community and asked everyone to have a moment to think about people who have less this Christmas on Christmas morning.

Culcheth Christmas Market

Nikki and Jenny attended the Culcheth Christmas markets with a volunteer. This was to do a consultation with the residents and young people to see what it is they do in the area and what is missing for the children/youths. The consultation was done due to there being an increase in ASB at the moment, and the people feeling that there is nothing for young people to do in the area. There is a group of people who are meeting regularly to make change in the area for the youths. The results of the consultation will be presented at the next meeting.

Dementia Support Group

The Dementia drop in is held at Asda café in Birchwood on the last Monday of every month 11am - 12.30. This is proving to be a good support network for those who attend. The drop is open for all, and is a place where people with dementia, and their carers can come along for a coffee, chat and support.

Community Initiative Grants are available for £50 to £3,000 to organisations belonging to the voluntary, community and faith sectors.. If you would like to find out more about the fund please click [here](#) or contact Ruth Whitworth on 07827232563 or Elaine Marsden on 01928/442565

WHAT'S COMING UP

Oakwood ICT drop in

Nikki, East Community Project support worker, will be starting a new ICT drop in starting Wednesday 7 February 0915-1115 at Oakwood Hub. This will be a great opportunity for those who need to use a computer / internet in the local area. Nikki will also be offering support and basic training over the weeks for those who want it. She will also be looking for volunteer IT Digital Champions to support her in the drop in, and people who are happy to run the drop in, in the future. If you would be interested in coming along, or volunteer, please contact the East team on 01925 241360, or email eastneighbourhoods@warrington.gov.uk

South Neighbourhood Area

South Area Manager

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Nicola O'Rourke
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Community Support Worker

Jan Tudor
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Team Support Worker

Elaine Marsden
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Lymm Dickensian Day

Local historian Joe Griffiths, Dickensian organiser Steve Harper and Town Crier Peter Powell



LAUNCHED more than thirty years ago Lymm Dickensian Christmas Festival took place on Saturday, December 9. Started in 1985, the festival continues to grow, attracting new stalls and entertainment each year.

There was a festival parade to entertain visitors where floats from local schools, vintage cars and horse drawn carriages could be seen and of course Santa and his elves. Throughout the village there were stalls selling local goods and spreading Christmas cheer. Punch and Judy also took a turn to entertain along with jugglers, street performers, musicians and Morris Dancers. All of the profits raised by the Lymm Dickensian Charity Committee each year are donated to a chosen charity.



Christmas “Afternoon Tea” Party – Sandy Lane

On Saturday the 2nd of December the South Area Neighbourhood Team held an ‘afternoon tea’ style Christmas party for local residents & volunteers. The Mayor, Cllr Les Morgan opened the event which was attended by over 30 people. Afternoon tea was served followed by line dancing and a sing-a-long led by the Mayor. The event gave local residents an opportunity to find out what was taking place in their community.



Christmas Lunch - Lymm

In December, the senior social event held at Lymm Youth & Community Centre became festive, with Christmas hotpot, entertainment and of course carol singing! The event was well attended and everyone had lots of festive fun



Lantern Walk - Appleton



'it was nice to have an event that brought everyone together and would like to see more events like this that she could bring her family to'.

On 14th December 2017 Cobbs Estate in Appleton held their first ever lantern walk. Families came along to St Mary Magdalene's church hall to make lanterns, enjoy festive refreshments before setting off for a walk down Bridge Lane and a spot of carol singing.

Along the way the carolers stopped to entertain residents at Broomfield's sheltered housing & the bungalows along Bridge Lane, before arriving outside the shops where the Mayor and Mayoress joined us for more singing, mince pies & mulled wine.

Despite the cold and rain over 70 people came along to join in the fun, many saying how much they enjoyed it. One resident said *'it was nice to have an event that brought everyone together and would like to see more events like this that she could bring her family to'.*

The event was organised by the South Are Neighbourhood team with the support of Appleton Parish Council, St Mary Magdalene's Church and Bizzie Beans Coffee House. As a follow on from this event and the feedback that residents would like more family activity in the area, there will be an Easter event planned for the Easter Half term holidays.



Grappenhall Library - Orchard Planting in memory of John Ashby

John Ashby, as Chair of the Library was instrumental in the library obtaining an asset transfer and he worked tirelessly to make sure it succeeded. All were saddened at his death and were determined that the Library should continue as John had wished. The Friends of Grappenhall Library felt a memorial at the Library would be appropriate to the way John worked, and decided on a small orchard with a quiet area and bench. This was chosen as it was felt it would be good for the building, educational for the children and adults and also would give the opportunity for future community events. It also aimed to provide a quiet area for anyone who would feel the benefit. The planting ceremony took place in November and the Orchard was designed by a local charity called 'Patch of the Planet'.



Walton Christmas tree Switch on

Barbara Parratt attended the switching on of the Walton Parish Council Christmas tree in Walton on Sunday 3 December. She joined a crowd of over a hundred residents who were treated to free mince pies and a special appearance by Santa organised by the Parish Council.

Grappenhall Christmas Fayre 9th December

The Friends of Grappenhall Library held their annual Christmas Fayre on 9th December. Craft stalls, homemade cakes, tombola and Santa in his grotto were the order of the day. The group raised £1032.00 which will go towards refurbishment in the library. The Group also held a Christmas Quiz on 15th December in aid of the John Ashby Community Orchard which raised £350.00



Funding approved for renovation project Appleton Parish Hall on Dudlow Green Road Appleton

Appleton Parish Council in Appleton Warrington are set to get a much-improved Parish Hall facility thanks to a £50,000 grant from funding body WREN. The money, awarded by WREN's FCC Community Action Fund, will be used to improve and renovate Appleton Parish Hall on Dudlow Green Road in Appleton.

Councillor Sandra Benger, Chairman of Appleton Parish Council believes that renovation will make a huge difference to the lives of people living in the area. Councillor Sandra Benger stated, *"This project will provide a real boost to the people of Appleton and surrounding villages. It's fantastic that WREN has awarded us the money and we're really looking forward to improving the hall for community use."*

Appleton Parish Hall is used by many Community Groups and Clubs serving local people of all ages and interests. There is a Toddlers group on Friday mornings, a coffee morning run by Aim Christian Fellowship and a library on a Tuesday morning, several WI groups meet at the Parish Hall along with two flower clubs and a Keep Fit session on Thursday mornings.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. Richard Smith, WREN's grant manager for Warrington, says: *"We're delighted to be supporting the improvements at Appleton Parish Hall and pleased our funding will make such a difference to so many community groups in Appleton. WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that benefit local communities and we're looking forward to this one having a positive impact very soon."*

Appleton Parish Council has provided funds for the renovation project and the Parish Council was also successful in being awarded £1,500 from the Community Initiative Fund from Warrington Borough Council.

The picture below shows, Councillor Sandra Benger, Chairman of Appleton Parish Council receiving a cheque of £1,500 from Councillor Tony Higgins and Diane White from Families and Wellbeing Directorate of Warrington Borough Council.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Cobbs Easter Egg Event, Appleton..... will take place on 24th March from 10am with a treasure hunt and

Light Lunch & Film Club A new light lunch and film club will commence the first Thursday of every month at St Mary Magdalene's Church Hall, from 11.30am-3pm from 1st February 2018



FILM CLUBS



South Neighbourhood **Film Clubs** are still offering great entertainment for all:

- ✚ **Hatton Film Club** takes place in the Hatton Arms Pub on the first Monday of every month at 7.30 pm.
- ✚ **Lymm Film Club** takes place 1.30 – 3.30 every fourth Wednesday of each month Free Admission
- ✚ **Grappenhall Film Club** takes place at Grappenhall Youth and Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month following soup and a sandwich between 12.30pm and 4.30pm

Community Initiative Grants are available for £50 to £3,000 to organisations belonging to the voluntary, community and faith sectors.. If you would like to find out more about the fund please click [here](#) or contact Barbara Parratt on 01925/443187 or Elaine Marsden on 01928/442565

For information about these or any other activities in South Warrington, please contact: Barbara Parratt, Area Manager, on 01925 443187 or 07827 232562 or by emailing bparratt@warrington.gov.uk

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Wellbeing Worker

Chris Ball
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Pauline Wilkinson
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Chapelford community clean-up day 21 February

The west neighbourhoods team is working with local partners and Clean up My Community group to do a community clean-up day in Chapelford during the February half term. The day comes from work to support young people and tackle ASB, and is aiming to bring different parts of the community together.

Burtonwood and Winwick Community Bus Scheme has now got its own minibus, and is so busy that it is thinking of fundraising for another minibus. The not for profit scheme provides affordable transport for all members of the community, and can be used for: Shopping, Work, Recreation, Education, Religion, Social welfare, Hospital appointments, Community groups. The bus has been used to get people to work when the public bus service did not run the route. It is mainly be used to combat social isolation, for example there is one man in his eighties, whose wife died last year, and is partially blind. The bus takes him shopping, and to visit Leigh, the local town he came from. He says the bus is a lifeline to him, he loves to chat to our volunteers and said he never thought he would be able to go out like this again. It also enables one of the local primary schools to take their children to football tournaments. To continue to make this work the **bus needs volunteers**, you would be given full training. For further information email bus@neighbourfavour.co.uk

Eat and Meet Christmas Lunch

On Friday 8 December the residents of Burtonwood were treated to a lovely Christmas lunch. The Eat and meet group served up a 3 course Christmas dinner and the residents had the chance to purchase some raffle tickets for the chance to win themselves an early Christmas present. After all that the residents were treated to some live entertainment and the chance to have a sing along. The West Neighbourhoods team went along to support the volunteers to serve the lunch. The Eat and Meet group will be serving lunches again in the New Year so if you fancy getting involved in volunteering with the group our just coming along for a warm lunch then email Chris Ball on cball1@warrington.gov.uk or call 07824087395 for more information

Chapelford Christmas Market

On 25 November the West neighbourhoods had a stall on the Chapelford Christmas Market. The aim for the day was to engage with the community and ask them where their favourite places in Chapelford are. Instead of asking what they didn't like we tried to put a positive slant on it. We asked the community if they would be interested in getting involved in future community events i.e., cycling event, the community clean-up day, and 59 people signed up. Also we took the opportunity to invite people to Chapelford Community Group meeting on 18 January. The Neighbourhoods team also supported the organisation of the day, which attracted around 800 people and a grey and cold day.

Chapelford Community Group has now formed from Chapelford Community Centre group and Chapelford Residents Association. They will be having their annual general meeting on **Thursday 18 January at 7pm at Chapelford Sainsburys**. The group aims to bring the local community together for the benefit of the community, and will continue to run Chapelford Fun Day and Chapelford Christmas Market. They want as many people as possible involved, and look forward to new ideas of activities for the community, so please come along on 18 January.

The Oaks Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 13 December Bernie, the West community project support worker, went along to the Oaks in Penketh to lend a hand to serve Christmas lunches to the different groups who attend the Oaks. 32 people attended the event and Bernie introduced herself and gave details about the Neighbourhoods team and what services we may be able to offer.

Community Initiative Grants are available for £50 to £3,000 to organisations belonging to the voluntary, community and faith sectors.. If you would like to find out more about the fund please click [here](#) or contact Ruth Whitworth on 07827232563 or Elaine Marsden on 01928/442565

WHAT'S COMING UP

Old Hall Fun Day

The West neighbourhood's team are looking to work with local groups to hold a Fun Day on Saturday 28 April in Old Hall. All the community groups that use the Bewsey Barns Community Centre have been contacted and invited to join in at the fun day. The aim of the fun day are to showcase the groups in Old Hall and encourage more people to get involved. If you would like to get involved please contact me bernadette.roche@warrington.gov.uk

Community Centres



Spotlight on Whitecross

Community Centre Marketing Manager

Barbara Parratt
07827 232 562

Operations Manager

Kenny Greenough
07730 075 916

Community Centre Admin Team

01925/638836

Whitecross Ladies Group meet weekly at the centre. They plan events throughout the year to engage with the local community & encourage them to visit the centre. They have held a number of Hot Pot lunches & afternoon tea dances targeting older, isolated people in particular. Their annual Christmas grotto event has proved extremely popular and is well attended.

Whitecross Ladies Group are also represented on the 'Friends of Whitecross' group. This group meet monthly at the centre and again have made such a difference for the short time they have been in existence. They organized the family fun day last year and have a number of similar events planned for the coming year. This encouraged many local residents to attend and find out what is going on at the centre. They have also been responsible for doing a substantial amount of gardening and tidying up of the green space and area around the centre making it much more inviting to visitors.

Community Centres Administration Team
Orford Community Hub,
Festival Ave,
Warrington.
WA2 9EP.

Tel: 01925/638836



Friends of Whitecross

The Friends of Whitecross was set up in 2017 in response to requests from the local community who were interested in not only improving the area in which they live but wanted to encourage other residents to get involved and make a difference. They have achieved so much in the short time they have been established including tidying up the whole area around Whitecross community centre and repairing the benches, to holding community litter picks and even a really successful well attended fun day. They meet on a monthly basis to discuss their aims and objectives and already have a plan of action for 2018. They are a brilliant example of community involvement and also have representatives on the committee of the user groups of Whitecross community centres.

FRIENDS OF WHITECROSS PROJECTS

We're all about getting together to improve our area, as well as having fun and building community spirit at the same time. Our projects range from arranging fun activities at the Centre to gardening and sprucing up local spaces.

This is a residents group, so if you have an idea, bring it along to a meeting!

Community Centre Garden

We've started work on transforming the garden from a tangled mess of weeds into something that can be enjoyed by all. This is an ongoing project which we maintain every first Sunday of the month at 12.30pm. If you have a flare for flowers, come along and lend a hand.

BEFORE
A
paradise
for
weeds!



AFTER
Nice and
clean,
ready for
planting!

Litter Picking in the local area

People throw away all kinds of rubbish. Like the 5mph roadsign found in a bush near the Centre. We transformed it into a sign for our group as well as removing many bags of rubbish from our streets.



Future Projects

- 2 x Fun Days, Spring and Summer 2018
- clean up of the area under the railway arches at the end of Wellfield Street
- repainting local street signs
- anything else you want to add? Let us know.



A WARM WELCOME FROM

**FRIENDS OF
WHITECROSS**



A group dedicated to bringing out the best in your community

ALL WELCOME

Whitecross Community Centre
Lexden Street
WA5 1PT





Whitecross Grotto 9th December 2017

The Whitecross ladies group put on their grotto for the 3rd year and again it is growing from strength to strength. Over 70 families came through the door to see Santa and have a chance to win amazing raffle prizes. The residents were feeling very festive with the covering of snow that had fallen the previous night giving the area a real Christmas look. The children received a selection box from Santa (donated by the friends of Whitecross community group). The Whitecross ladies group donated all remaining selection boxes to the children's ward at Warrington hospital and donated proceeds from the raffle to Warrington MS and the Air ambulance charity. If you would like to get involved with the Lads group please contact Carol Dandy on 07986664415

Whitecross walking group

The Whitecross walkers are a community run group and supported by WBC Neighbourhood team. The walk was set up to help the residents of Warrington get healthy, make new friends and experience the beautiful green space Warrington has. All the walks last no more than 2 hours with the group leaving the centre at 09.00 and returning at 11.00 every other Saturday. The walk is no more than 5 miles and in the last few months has been adapted to cater for all abilities. Anyone who would like to join the group, please contact Chris Ball 07824087395.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Friends of Whitecross - In 2018 the group are planning Two fun days - the first is on 7th April and the second one on 1st September. The group intend to do more improvements to the community garden and are hoping to take charge of some of the "grot spots" in the area. If you would like to get involved & be part of something wonderful & rewarding or you have skills that you could bring to the group then please contact [Chris Ball 07824087395](tel:07824087395)



COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

The community centres were the “venue of choice” for lots of Neighbourhood activities over the Christmas period.

Orford Community Hub

Orford community centre was the headquarters for this year’s successful Toy Appeal. With more children helped than ever before and more fabulous gifts donated.



Barbara Parratt, Community Centres Marketing Manager said *“I can’t believe the generosity of the Town. We have been overwhelmed by the gifts from local businesses, Charities and members of the public. This has led to the Neighbourhood team being able to provide each child in need this Christmas: a new toy, book and a pair of pyjamas”.*

In addition, Orford Community Hub and Whitecross community centre hosted the Christmas Toy Appeal events where parents could come and collect gifts whilst receiving information and support from the team to improve the wellbeing and economic outlook for the family in the New Year.

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

NEWS ROUND-UP

Christmas Grotto Radley Common

A huge surprise was waiting for the children in the Poplars and Hulme in the shape of a winter wonderland Christmas Grotto. The centre was transformed through hours and hours of sewing, construction and an insight into the spirit of Christmas by Maureen Higham and her dedicated team. Local children were thrilled at the size and visual impact of the Grotto and each was rewarded with a lovely Christmas gift.



In addition to the daily activities delivered by Maureen Higham at the centre, there was a fun-filled Christmas Afternoon Tea. The festive fun included a sumptuous plate of sandwiches and cakes, great conversation and a seasonal "Mr and Mrs" competition with all attendees having a great time.

What's coming up at Radley?

Afternoon tea, valentines theme, 15th Feb, 2pm -4pm

Easter Faye Saturday 31st March, 11am -2pm tombola, cakes, raffles, hat making etc.

Fearnhead Cross Community and Youth Centre

In time to capitalise on the New Year resolutions of many, Ceri Davies of Slimming World has launched a new weekly session at Fearnhead. Her first session was attended by 50 locals looking to shed some pounds after Christmas.

Sessions run every Saturday from 9am to 1pm

For Community Centre Bookings please contact the
Community Centre Admin Team on 01925 638836 or email
communitycentres@warrington.gov.uk

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Rebecca Rowley

Rachael Hands

Wellbeing Project Support Worker

Clair Wright
01925 248460

Jenny Pirks
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Warrington Wellbeing

Advice and support for
a better quality of life

Warrington Wellbeing opened its doors at the Gateway on the 10th April. This is a service which gives one to one advice and support for a better quality of life for anyone over the age of 18 in Warrington.

Wellbeing is about having a good quality of life; it can be described as feeling healthy, happy or being able to cope with the problems that can happen in life.

The team can help you get the information and support you need to start feeling back on track. They understand that each person is an individual who needs tailored support, so you will get an individual plan to help you manage your situation.

To contact the team, you can call us on 01925 248460, email us on warringtonwellbeing@warrington.gov.uk or call in to the office at the Gateway opposite the Town Hall and one of the team will be delighted to tell you more about the service and you can decide if it's for you!

