



WALSALL FOR ALL

Newsletter
Connecting across Communities



Welcome to the fourth issue of the Walsall for All newsletter focused on “**Connecting across Communities**” – one of the priorities in our strategy. We hope that you are inspired by the incredible work that is taking place in our communities. May we continue to build on this good work in bringing people together, to celebrate diversity, share what we have in common and to create a greater sense of belonging.

Overview of Connecting across Communities

Connecting across communities is focused on bringing different communities together around what we have in common in different ways – community events and activities, hobbies, sports, creative arts, sharing food, dialogue or interfaith. This helps to break down barriers and allows friendships to form.

Initiatives are already taking place to bring people together, such as:

- Twinning Places of Worship (such as Churches and Mosque and Churches and Gurdwaras).
- Coffee mornings and Empowering Women Workshops to support women in Walsall develop their skills and confidence.
- English language classes for residents to develop English skills in the community.
- Community events (such as Taste the Cultures of Walsall, organised by Caldmore Village Festival).

This year, we have supported several organisations to deliver exciting projects in Walsall. Take a look at some of the projects that are closely linked to connecting across communities.

Community Dialogue

The Faith & Belief Forum are encouraging local people to engage in conversations about the things that are important to them. The programme aims to bring together the voices of local people to discuss identity, diversity and living together. The programme also seeks to give opportunities for local people to have their voices heard about local issues and connect them to services that can support to make a difference. Community Dialogue will take place across Walsall and individuals and groups are encouraged to get involved by emailing rich@faithbeliefforum.org.

Pledge and Training

brap are delivering the Pledge and Training project, which enables organisations to put integration at the heart of their practices. Individuals and organisations will sign up to a pledge, which involves connecting and working with others, challenging inequality and encouraging others to sign the pledge.

Additional activities will be on offer to help people commit to integration work.

Places of Welcome aims to bring people together across different backgrounds in local community venues. Around 19 Places of Welcome are currently running in Walsall, which include churches, church centres and community hubs. We are looking to expand, so if you run a community venue and you would like to become a Place of Welcome, email Su Parker (Places of Welcome Facilitator) at su.parker@tctogether.org.uk.

Walsall Community Transport's commission is to give opportunities for communities to break down barriers by facilitating transport. Groups and organisations can enquire about booking transport as part of the Walsall for All programme by calling 01922 685 555.

Hate Crime

Black Country Innovate CIC are working with several organisations to deliver the **Walsall Hate Crime Reduction Initiative**. The project involves training individuals, supporting those affected by hate crime, raising awareness, exploring ways of reducing incidents and analysing hate crime data. If you would like to find out more or volunteer for this project, email hatecrimeenquiries@bc-innovate.co.uk.

Gypsy, Traveller and Roma

The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups empowers Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities to have a voice responding to their challenges and needs. This will strengthen services and increase understanding of these communities in Walsall.

Welcome Packs

Nash Dom CIC are leading on the Walsall for All Welcome Pack and are actively consulting with residents and partners. This project will support the integration of those who are new to Walsall.

Innovation Grant Projects

Young People



Black Country Innovate CIC – “In Their Shoes” in partnership with Saltmine Theatre Company

The Prince’s Trust – Get Set... To Live, Learn and Earn

Walsall FC Community Programme – One Goal

Youth Connect – Together Stronger

Arts & Creativity



St. Paul’s Church – Walsall Cinema for All

Walsall Creative Factory – Creative Factory Workshop Inclusion Programme

Urban Hax - The Walsall Creative Communities Project

Communities & Culture



Accord Age Matters - CECILs (Community Engagement Centre’s Ideal Lunches)

Caldmore Village Festival – Cultures of Walsall 2020

The Faith and Belief Forum – Walsall Community Recognition Awards

Walsall BME Advice Centre - Our World Women Intergenerational Support Network and Community Kitchen Homeless Outreach

Sports



Nash Dom CIC – Cohesion through Football

Manor Farm Community Association – Walsall Sports for All

At Walsall for All, we welcome anyone to get involved in the programme or the projects on offer. If you would like further details or to be linked up to any of the projects, please email walsallforall@walsall.gov.uk or call **01922 655 797**.

Walsall FC Community Programme (WFCCP)

One Goal



Young people taking part in a football session and a workshop as part of the One Goal programme.



Walsall FC Community Programme were pleased to launch their 'One Goal' project in September, with participants that were identified from across their core programmes. The project focuses on building community cohesion and bringing young people together using the power of sport, and in particular football. Young people from many diverse backgrounds are taking part in the activities led by Walsall FCCP coaches.

The participants enjoyed workshops around teamwork and resilience at the Banks's Stadium, followed by a football festival on the stadium astro turf, before finally watching the Walsall FC first-team in their League Two match against Scunthorpe with friends and family.

The 'One Goal' project will continue at future Walsall FC home fixtures this season. Groups from Green Rivers Community Association and whg will be attending to join in the sessions and the experience.

To get involved with the One Goal programme, please email martin.manley@walsallfc.co.uk.

Manor Farm Community Association & Nash Dom CIC

Community Sports Festival

Manor Farm Community Association and Nash Dom CIC came together to organise the Community Sports Festival in September 2019; bringing communities together through sport, food and activities. There was a rich tapestry of culture, education and experiences to explore, funded by Walsall for All's Innovation Grant.

Robert Bolonyi from Nash Dom CIC said: *"We knew that this funding could bridge the gap between communities and act as a catalyst to better understanding between communities. We had over 15 different nationalities playing in the 16+ tournament. Some people had never even said hello to someone from a different ethnic background, and now they are planning on meeting up for weekly football sessions. We were able to remove barriers to integration and cohesion through this great sports festival."*

A number of weekly sports activities are now happening following the event. If you would like to find out more, please email info@manorfarmca.com or info@nashdomcic.org.



Football was one of the activities on offer at the festival.

Cultural hand art: Henna.



Walsall Creative Factory (WCF)

Creative Factory Workshop Inclusion Programme



Friends of Creative Factory on a day out in Weston-super-Mare.

Walsall Creative Factory is a group of community arts professionals, who opened a venue in an unused hairdressers in The Butts. They have been funded by Walsall for All's Innovation Grant to deliver sessions in the community, as well as "Let's Talk About It" (funded by Controlling Migration Fund) to help local people improve their English skills. They knew that local ladies who craft, and local artists may use the cosy and creative space, but the real challenge was to make the space truly inclusive.

As a result of recruiting volunteers and through links with schools and a local mosque, the weekly sessions aimed at a variety of audiences, including non-English speaking residents, women and elders have been successful.

Walsall Creative Factory has also organised a Geeks Youth Arts Club, aimed at young people on the autism spectrum and vulnerable sessions for adults with disabilities and mental health concerns. This required outreach work to hostels, services and networks in the neighbourhood.

There have been over 400 attendances per month in the WCF programme.



Local residents taking part in a workshop hosted by Creative Factory.

Henry, a young adult with autism who has participated in the sessions said: ***"It's a great place to try art when you haven't done anything since school, it's a cool place to meet others in the community, it's become a community hub, gets you out of the house and doing something positive"***.

In between these sessions, they opened their doors to local creatives and developed some classes and community events. In turn, the creatives became befrienders by being around and having conversations with whoever came through the door.

Seven months down the line, they could not have anticipated how integrated and inclusive the space has become. The community events and trips have enabled people to meet together and develop new partnerships with Autism Sings and The Bridge Project. This has extended their inclusive network.

As Walsall Creative Factory are open six days a week, they have found that people have come to more sessions throughout the week. They have experienced the most amazing connections, while supporting each other to be creative.

Their next challenge is to keep the workshop open by expanding their fundraising activities. Through the hard work of staff and volunteers, Walsall Creative Factory will continue changing lives and improving community cohesion and integration outcomes for the people of Walsall.

To find out more, search Walsall Creative Factory on Facebook.

St. Paul's Church

Walsall Cinema for All

The first film in the Walsall Cinema for All project was held on 12th October at The Crossing at St Paul's, Walsall. Paddington tells the story of a young bear who came to settle in London from "deepest, darkest Peru". It shows the difficulties faced by a person who has recently moved to a strange land. Many who attended on the night were from different parts of the world and were able to empathise with how the bear felt when he arrived into London. Children who came to watch the film with their families connected with the story through emotion.

Paddington was the first screening at St. Pauls Church.



He Named Me Malala was the second film to be screened on the 18th October. This documentary told the story of Malala Yousafzai, an activist for female education and the youngest recipient of the Nobel Prize. In retaliation for her activism, Malala was shot by the Taliban. This film provided an opportunity to explore the impact of hate crime and how injustice and prejudice can be overcome by peaceful activism. The audience were inspired by the courage of Malala and her family following the life-changing event.

Malala's story created empowerment and the audience felt there was a need to help her.

More films will be showcased in November and December at The Crossing at St. Paul's. Booking is not required:

- **Saturday 9th November at 5.00pm**
Squadron 303
- **Friday 22nd November at 6.30pm**
In the Land of Blood and Honey
- **Friday 29th November at 6.30pm**
The Bridge (supported by Walsall Samaritans).
- **Friday 6th December at 6.30pm**
Murderball (supported by the University of Wolverhampton).

Follow St. Paul's Church, Walsall on Facebook and @StPaulWalsall on Twitter to keep up to date with their project.

Members of the Roma community at the screening of 'An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker' on Friday 25th October, in partnership with Nash Dom CIC.



Faith in Action Showcase

Walsall Town Hall

The Faith in Action Showcase on Wednesday 23rd October brought together faith partners and local organisations to demonstrate the work they are doing to promote integration in Walsall.



There were speeches and performances from Professor Gatrad (World Against Single Use Plastic), Colin Townsend (Signs for Worship), Soneh Di Chirri (Golden Sparrow), Councillor Aftab Nawaz, Second Chance Cancer Choir, Patishahi 6 Academy (Sikh Martial Arts) and poet Lala Qadeer.

Children and young people from local schools also joined us to take part in workshops about different faiths and the Lollipop Ladies from Black Country Touring kept the audience entertained throughout the day.

Local organisations were also present to showcase their work and network with attendees:

- Ablewell Advice Service
- All Saints Darlaston and Moxley Churches
- ArtSikh
- As-Suffa
- Bentley, Daw End and Pleck Methodist Church
- Black Country Impact
- Black Country Innovate
- Canal and River Trust
- Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara Willenhall
- Midland Langar Seva Society
- Near Neighbours
- Places of Welcome
- Signs for Worship
- St. Matthew's Church
- Street Teams
- Strengthening Faith Institutions
- The Crossing at St Paul's
- Transforming Communities Together
- Victim Support
- YMCA Black Country

Lollipop Ladies from Black Country Touring.



Michael, who attended the Faith in Action Showcase said, *"I really enjoyed the conversations with young people and professionals and it opened up some doors for future work. Thank you for the opportunity."*

Colin Townsend from Signs for Worship said: *"It was good to be with other like-minded people who know that together, in unity, celebrating our diversity as a community, we are all the stronger. It's a reflection of our country: different backgrounds, different languages, one people."*

Faith leaders showcasing their work at the event.



Caldmore Village Festival

Cultures of Walsall



Daholl Kurdish Band



RSVP Bhangra

Cultures of Walsall is a project part funded by the Walsall for All Innovation Grant, Near Neighbours, Walsall Housing Group (whg) and The National Lottery. It is a project which aims to celebrate the borough's amazing diversity of communities. It builds on Caldmore Village Festival - the borough's first regular multicultural festival which was founded in 2011. The idea of the project is a simple one, and comes from the fact that although there is a rich diversity of cultures in Walsall, the spaces and opportunities to meet, understand and celebrate each other's background and culture are very limited. Their project aims to build towards a major festival in Palfrey Park on May 30th 2020, involving food, music, art and carnival.

The project was launched with an event in Caldmore Community Garden in September 2019 called Taste the Cultures of Walsall. Attended by over 500 people from all walks of life and from across the borough, the event brought together no fewer than 14 of the cultural communities and gave them the opportunity to showcase what is amazing from their culture. There was a chance to try on different national clothing, taste foods from all over the world and to meet and talk with people from diverse backgrounds. They had amazing music from two talented bands: the Birmingham-based Kurdish group Daholl Kurdish Band and Bristol-based Bhangra group RSVP. It all took place in the amazing green oasis of Caldmore Community Garden, supported by garden volunteers and wonderful food from the garden café.



Taste the Cultures of Walsall at Caldmore Community Garden.

The project continues with a number of interactive arts workshops and cultural meetings and gatherings. It will bring diverse groups together and aim to give people experience of cultures that may be new to them, but which make up part of the rich cultural fabric of Walsall. The project will culminate with The Cultures of Walsall Festival in Palfrey Park on May 30th 2020.

Don't forget to follow us on social media or get in touch to find out more about Walsall for All.

Tel: 01922 655 797 **Email:** walsallforall@walsall.gov.uk **Website:** www.walsallforall.co.uk

Facebook: Walsall for All **Instagram/Twitter:** @walsallforall **LinkedIn:** Walsall for All

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