



The Newsletter of The Walsall Tenants
& Residents Federation



ISSUE 1 ■ YEAR 2014



Network

Federation gets a Facelift

WTRF has successfully secured a grant from the National Lotteries Awards for All fund, which will be the catalyst for some big changes at WTRF over the next few months.

The grant will enable the purchase of some much needed equipment for Federation House, that will include upgrading our old dated laptops with the most upto date touch screen windows 8 laptops, so I'm sure there will be training needed for all of us.

In addition to this we will also be upgrading our kitchen/café area making it more user friendly and accessible as well as adding large plasma screens which will make the many training sessions we put on more interactive and fun.

Most of you will also note the new look and feel to the Newsletter, which is one of the many changes being implemented by the Staff Team and Board at WTRF.

The normal format for General Meetings of the Federation will be changing too, bringing in some much needed changes that will make the meetings more informative, these include:

- Question & answer sessions with whg Heads of Service
- Regular Guest Speakers (chosen by YOU!)
- Quarterly cheque
- Reports of Federations activities and actions
- Grant advice
- Networking



What's Inside:

COMMUNITY FIRST GRANT
NEWS

WTRF LONG SERVICE AWARD

WALSALL GAY PRIDE 2014

DARLASTON PARTY IN THE
PARK

WTRF TRAINING PLAN 2014-15

WHG'S ROCCS EVENT

Whg Community Rooms.....The future!

Whg have an extensive network of Community Rooms across the borough that have been used and continue to be used by a large number of our member Tenant & Resident groups. Our members are responsible for looking after these rooms on a daily basis and in many cases are key holders.

Since the transfer of the housing stock from Walsall Council over 10 years ago, investment in these Community Rooms has been rather patchy and has been based more around Health & Safety, rather than making the rooms 'fit for purpose'

Whg commissioned an independent assessment of these facilities last year and the findings have now triggered an initial investment of around £100k to start the process of refurbishing their Community Rooms. There were many key recommendations contained within the somewhat classified Community Rooms Report, which will need a great deal of work and time to implement.

WTRF has a number of member organisations that operate from the extensive network of whg's Community Rooms from across the borough. The membership of WTRF took the decision at the last quarterly 'Tenant Network Meeting' to elect a panel of service users from across the borough (2 from each trust area) to meet with whg to assist them in the Regeneration of their Community Rooms.

The panel will need to develop its vision in partnership with whg and work towards 'Real Community Involvement' at the core of our neighbourhoods and Communities.

Regular updates will be included in our newsletter, to keep you all in the loop as to what exciting developments are coming up in and around whg's Community Rooms.

If you would like more information on this, please feel free to ring the office on

0121 568 8261 or email on Stuartwtrf@btconnect.com

Darlaston Party in the Park 2014

11 to 13 July 10am-4pm

King Street and Victoria Park

Organised by Darlaston Town Centre Partnership and Darlaston Events Committee

Activities – ON ALL DAYS:

Darlaston By The Sea – all free for the kids

Giant sand pit, boating pool with rowing boats, giant slide

Activities – SATURDAY ONLY:

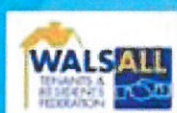
- Children's roundabout
- Refreshment stalls
- Professional photo studio
- Stilt walker and fire eater
- Entertainment over two stages (Victoria Park and King Street) with local acts
- Charity stalls
- Face painting
- Balloon modeller
- Animal mania
- Reach Up and Move truck
- X-Factor style photo booth
- Roller skating rink
- Wrestling ring with demonstrations from 2pm

... and much, much more!

Find us on Twitter
@Darlastontown



Find us on Facebook
Darlaston Town Centre Partnership



Walsall Council



Darlaston
Town Centre Partnership

WTRF Training Programme 2014-15 (PART 1)

Emergency First Aid @ Work

Friday 20th June 2014 1000hrs - 1600hrs

Basic Food Hygiene

Thursday 17th July 2014 1000hrs - 1400hrs

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow (Dementia Awareness)

Tuesday 9th September 2014 1000hrs - 1600hrs

Health & Safety, Fire Awareness

Wednesday 22nd October 2014 1200hrs - 1600hrs

Risk Assessment

Tuesday 25th November 2014 1600hrs - 2000hrs

Personal Safety

Thursday 15th January 2015 1000hrs - 1600hrs

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

Tuesday 10th February 2015 1100hrs - 1500hrs

**For more information on the above courses or the range of
Committee Skills Training that WTRF provide, please feel free to
call the office on**

0121 568 8261



Come along to our Walsall Dementia Cafés

Join us at our Dementia Café support groups, where people with dementia and carers can meet in a safe and welcoming environment. The cafés are a great opportunity to meet others and share experiences.

Aldridge Café

Old Rectory Gardens, The Green,
Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8UP

Fourth Tuesday of each month

From 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Pelsall Café

Old Vicarage, Old vicarage Close,
Pelsall, WS3 4AZ

Third Thursday of each month

From 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Blakenall Café

Blakenall Community Centre, Blakenall
Row, Blakenall, Walsall, WS3 1LW

First Friday of each month

From 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Brownhills Café

Brownhills Community Association,
Community Activity Centre,
Chester Road North,
Brownhills, WS8 7JW

Third Wednesday of each month

From 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Willenhall Café

Willenhall Chart, 19 Gomer Street,
Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 2NS

Second Wednesday of each month

From 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Walsall Café

Apna Ghar, Ford Street, Walsall,
WS2 9BW

Third Friday of each month

From 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Bloxwich Café

Furlong House, Lanton Close,
off Kempthorne Gardens, Bloxwich,
WS3 2LJ

First Wednesday of each month

From 2.00pm to 4.00pm

For more information, email the
Dementia Café Co-ordinator on:

walsalldementiacafes@accordgroup.org.uk
or call 07793 699 141 or 0300 111 7000

Community First funding



What is Community First Funding?

Community First Neighbourhood Matched Fund is an initiative that provides local communities with the means to address their own priorities.

Panels have been set up for 10 local areas which will look at projects within the area and then decide which ones to submit to the Community Development Foundation for approval. To view the panel members, please click on your relevant local area below.

It is a matched fund programme, which means that every £1 provided in funding by the Community Development Foundation must be matched by a similar amount of in-kind donations from elsewhere. These can be donations of cash, services, free products or volunteer time. Funding is allocated to have an impact on the local priorities as agreed by the Panel

What funding is available?

Funding has been allocated at ward level across every local authority in England. Eligible wards were selected on the basis of high levels of deprivation and significant increases in benefits claimants.

Groups can apply for between £250 and £2,500 for a one year period; you can reapply each year.

Who can apply?

To apply for funding you must:

- be a not-for-profit, third sector voluntary or community group (this funding is not available for individuals)
- be connected with and/or meeting the needs of the local community
- have a bank account with two signatories OR nominate an organisation which has a bank account with two signatories to hold funds on your behalf
- provide adequate and relevant insurance documents for your project
- show how the project is in line with the priorities identified for the ward

have a governing document that has as a minimum the name, aim/purpose, objects, a dissolution clause for the organisation, a list of trustees/committee members and signatures. New groups are required to be working towards this.

Areas

The 10 areas are:

[Bentley and Darlaston North](#)

[Birchills and Leamore](#)

[Blakenall](#)

[Bloxwich East](#)

[Bloxwich West](#)

[Darlaston South](#)

[Palfrey](#)

[Pleck](#)

[St Matthews](#)

[Willenhall South](#)

Making an application

If you would like more information regarding Community First Funding, please feel free to give whg's Regeneration Team on

0300 555 6666 Or contact the Federation for support in submitting your application on 0121 568 8261

Semi-finalist on...

BRITAIN'S GOT

TALENT

LA VOIX

Takes to the stage at the...

Walsall

Pride

Mandis Gras

Party

With the wonderful
DJ & Hostess

Kamryn and
EGO
Dance

at
Arbor Lights
BAR & RESTAURANT

TICKETS £15

Raising money for your **FREE** Pride

**FANCY DRESS - £50 PRIZE DRINK PROMOTIONS BUFFET
SPECIAL COCKTAILS DOUBLES FROM £3 LATE LICENSE!**

Arbor Lights, Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1SY / Doors Open 8pm - 3am
Tickets available from: The Red Lion - Walsall, Arbor Lights, or Call: 01922 613361 / www.walsallpride.org

Whg's ROCCS Event

Over 120 people attended Walsall Housing Group's (whg) Recognising Our Customers and Communities event (whg ROCCs) at Banks's Stadium

Recipients included people who regularly give up their spare time to help to bring their community together in a range of ways such as supporting older people, helping to create community gardens and working with young people to learn new skills.

The Federations Chair Mr Cliff Anderson was asked to co-present during this years event and it has to be said he did a fantastic job.

Looking forward to next years event and the possibility of having a role in the design and delivery of next years event....



Gallery Square, Walsall 11am - 5pm

Walsall

Pride

Saturday 23rd August

Main Stage

Cabaret Marquee

Dance Arena

Market Stalls

Health & Wellbeing

Family Area



THE WHARF BAR

THE RED LION

Headline Acts

Jo Omeara from *Scrub 7*
X Factors Diva Fever
Luke Upton

Walsall's 3rd
FREE event!!



Over 15 Confirmed Acts

Follow us on Twitter

WWW.WALSALLPRIDE.ORG

Find us on Facebook



Money Advice Service from whg!

Customers can get free, confidential, expert advice on managing their money from our Money Advice Service, which includes:

- ◆ Advice on money management and budgeting
- ◆ Explain Universal Credit and its impact of you
- ◆ Help you sort out debts and speak to creditors on your behalf
- ◆ Make sure you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to
 - ◆ Help you set up Direct Debits to pay your bills

Were here to help, so don't struggle with you financial worries alone.

The service is free and available in your own home or one of our offices. Simply call us on 0300 555 6666 for more information or to arrange and appointment.

Basic computer skills training



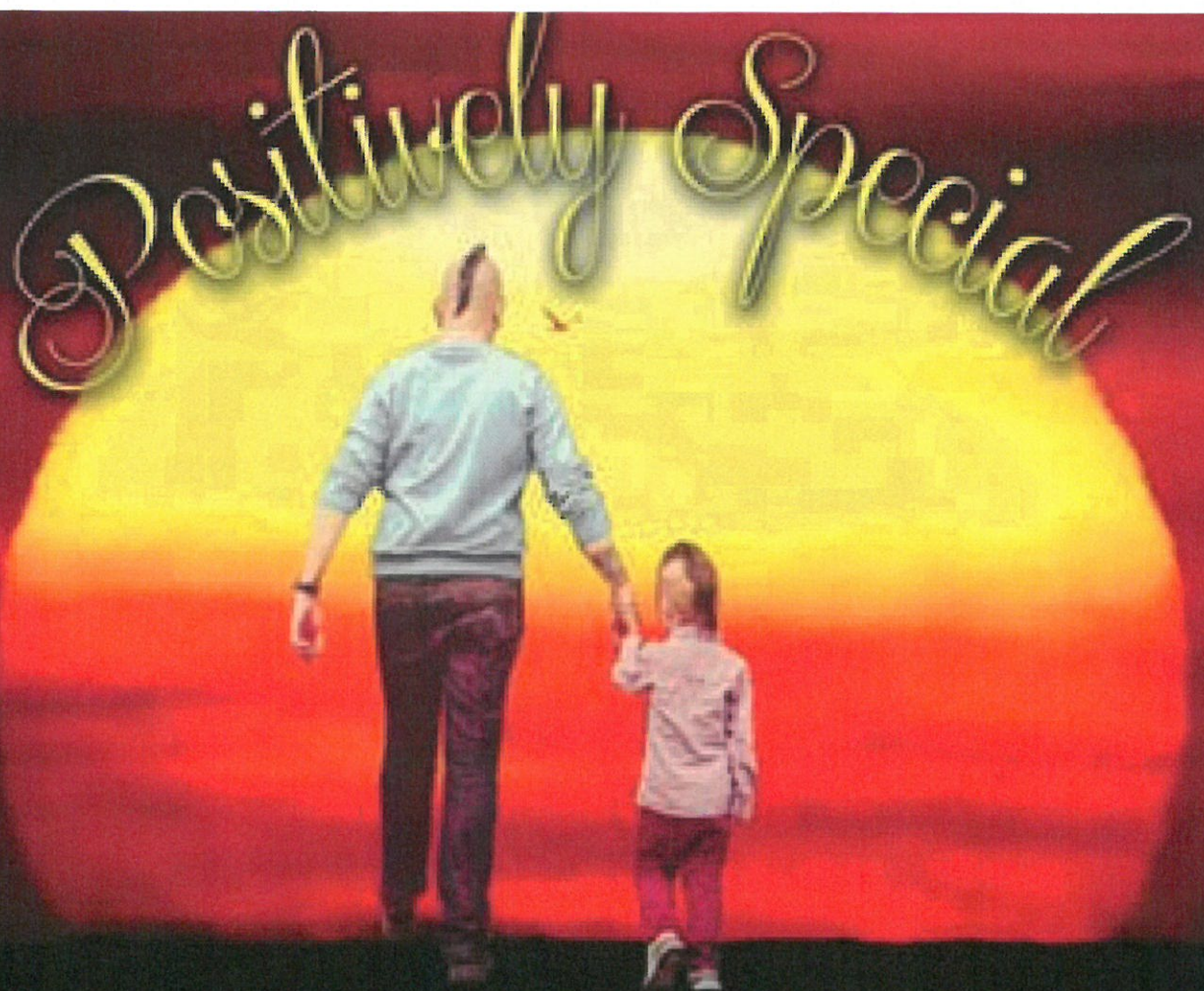
WTRF hosts Friday morning computer and internet training, in a relaxed setting.

Training is one to one and you will quickly be surfing the internet and exploring the possibilities that await.

Never used a computer and wouldn't have a clue how to use one? Well this class is for you.

For more information call the office on **0121 568 8261**

Positively Special



TRAINING COURSES - SPEAKERS - FUN ACTIVITIES - SOCIAL EVENTS - DAY TRIPS

A NEW

SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP

FOR PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

MEETING EVERY 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 10am-12 noon

SURESTART ALUMWELL AND PLECK
BRINETON ROAD, WALSALL. WS2 9EP

info@positivelyspecial.com



Major £50 million plans to regenerate estate in Walsall with new 412-home development revealed

Major £50 million plans to regenerate an area of Walsall have been revealed to the public for the first time.

Housing provider whg showcased the plans for a 412-home scheme in the Goscote area of Blakenall at an engagement event attended by more than 250 people.

The housing provider is partnering with national housing and regeneration company Keepmoat on what will be the most significant development project it has ever undertaken. It would see a total of 412 homes built with 177 for affordable rent and 235 for sale in the Goscote area, which includes Shakespeare Crescent, Keats Road and Chaucer Road.

The plans are subject to planning permission and a funding bid to the Homes and Communities Agency. Should both be successful work would begin at the site in October 2014 with completion of the entire scheme due in 2018.

Carole Wildman, Director of Regeneration and Development at whg said: “We are delighted to showcase our detailed plans to transform this area of Blakenall.

“The completed scheme would see a total regeneration of the area with a mix new homes for both rent and sale. Our vision goes way beyond simply building homes, this will be a holistic regeneration with a focus on community engagement. We want to invest in and transform this area to create a cohesive community.

“We are delighted to be partnering with Keepmoat on this scheme, which will create jobs and apprenticeships alongside much-needed housing supply for local people.”

Martyn Johnson, Partnerships Project Manager at Keepmoat in the Midlands, said: “Building hundreds of high-quality new homes will help breathe new life into Goscote and regenerate this part of Walsall. The plan for Goscote is to build highly aspirational affordable homes for private sale and rent, helping families onto the housing ladder, creating an exciting, mixed-tenure community.

“We are pleased to be partnering with whg on such a major project and it is testament to the great work we have been doing building more than 1,000 high-quality new homes in the Midlands over the past three years.”

Clinic at the Lion Bar & Club

Free & Confidential
Sexual Health Screening

May 31st

June 28th

July 26th

last Saturday of the month

9pm ~ 11:30pm

- Hep B vaccinations & Boosters
 - Syphilis/Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea screening
 - HIV tests
- & more

you do not have to be Gay, Male or live in Walsall to take advantage of this service

Walsall HIV Team 07736 124 445

morriscolin@walsall.gov.uk

Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41



NHS
Walsall



Ballroom-themed event for older residents in Walsall spreads neighbourly love



Older residents in Walsall came together for a ballroom-themed event encouraging people to love thy neighbour.

The Strictly Tea with whg event was held by the housing provider at the Goldmine Centre in the town for older residents living in its properties. It coincided with European Neighbours' Day.

More than 80 people attended the event, which had a 40s theme and featured everything from ballroom-dancing and singing to armchair exercising and information stands on services for older people.

Darlaston-based Jean Wright, who attended the event said: "This was a fantastic event with some wonderful entertainment.

"It was a great chance for older residents to come together and spend time with one another which is extremely important to maintain a sense of community and to reduce social isolation."

There was also a Good Neighbour Award ceremony for those who have gone the extra mile throughout the year.

Connie Jennings, regeneration programme manager at whg, said: "This was a fantastic event and it was great to see so many people come along.

"The day was about involving our older customers and recognising European Neighbours' Day by showing that getting to know your neighbours and spending time with them can help everyone, particularly older residents.

"We want to ensure communities in Walsall are sustainable so it is very important to us that we help bring people together and reduce problems like social isolation."