Lightwoods Park Friends Group aiming for a Summer relaunch

The Friends of Lightwoods Park are planning a fresh relaunch over the Summer. It has been about six years since the Friends Group initially emerged out of the consultation around the restoration of the Park and House.

There was initially a lot of volunteer activities taking place, largely run by the Friends Group, which proved very popular. Events such as the two Bearwood on Ice winter festivals, the Drive-in Movies, and the two massive May Day festivals where please estimated nearly 20,000 came along. However, over the last few years when the House was closed, and much of the area around it was also fenced off, the scope for activities within the park was limited.

Now, with the House open and a whole host of daytime and evening activity taking place both inside and out, there is a need to look at relaunching the Friends Group.

The current Vice Chair of the Friends Group, Sophie Tobin, said, “Some of that initial drive has inevitably drained away as the restoration work dragged on and we couldn’t do many of the activities. But now we need to look at ways of trying to recapture that initial wave of enthusiasm and consider opportunities for people to get involved.

“Sophie added, “There are already a number of groups who use the park regularly for skateboarding and playing organised games. We should be looking to involve them with the Friends Group as well as attracting people who put on events in the park. An active Friends Group will also help to co-ordinate events so that people don’t arrange things which clash, and to ensure we are not putting on events in the park when there are activities taking place in other parts of Bearwood.”

Over the last two open days members of the Friends Group have been collecting details from people who would like to volunteer, and Julia will be contacting people on the old database to see if they still want to be involved.

Anyone wanting more information or who would like to consider getting involved, should mail Sophie via S.Tobin@talktalk.net
You are invited to a fun-packed day for all ages on 3rd June: it’s Bearwood’s Build, Make and Mend day at the Dorothy Parkes Centre. Imagine, play, be inspired and share ideas to explore the potential of a community hub with co-working space and creche on Bearwood's high street.

The detailed programme is at https://www.bearwood.cc/build-make-mend/, it includes:

- Awesome play for the children (playtopia!)
- Ideas forum - register to share your idea!
- Inclusive arts activities for all ages to take part in, delivered by Bearwood-based Mothership.
- Speakers about different forms of community-delivered play activities, and a discussion panel about Community Hubs.
- Toy mend - bring toys or faulty household items for mending with @buildakiondo

An inspiring exhibition of fantastic projects from around the UK and internationally that we could build on here.

Food on sale, provided by and raising funds for Bearwood Action for Refugees.

Booking is essential, have a look at the programme and register your free place at https://www.bearwood.cc/build-make-mend/ And if you’d like to know more about the idea, this blog post explains the thinking.

Community hub?
What are we talking about?

We’ll be asking you to imagine a workspace and creche which is also a drop-in centre where shoppers, visitors and residents can pop in and find out about what’s going on locally and how they can get involved. Imagine a big calendar with info about the fantastic activities at Lightwoods House, Thimblemill Library, Dorothy Parkes Centre, Warley Woods, Warley Baptist, St Hilda’s and others - all in one place for people to access, whether or not they’ve been connected with any of these places before.

Imagine a debt, employment or benefits advice surgery for people in our immediate neighbourhood who are struggling. Imagine a place where local people can come together to get community ideas going. The possibilities are endless, what else should we all be thinking about?

This community day is part of wider programme by Bearwood residents Amy Martin and Sally Taylor, the #RadicalChildcare programme based at Impact Hub Birmingham, and informed by research undertaken by We Are Bearwood.

Other activities include a trial residential street closure to enable neighbours’ children to play together on Saturday 2nd June. The programme is co-invested by Impact Hub Birmingham, Big Lottery Fund, and UnLtd.
Vivian Leva and Riley Calcagno will be bringing their own style of America country/folk music to Thimblemill Library on 8th June. Tapping into the deepest parts of American music, they take seldom heard old songs and present them next to their own timeless originals.

Leva, of Lexington, Virginia grew up playing and performing with her parents, learning traditional songs from their sources and honing her rhythmic guitar style. Last year she recorded her debut album *Time is Everything* in close collaboration with Calcagno during an inspired session. She released the album in March, on Free Dirt Records.

Riley, of Seattle, WA spent his earlier years playing with the widely recognised band The Onlies, described as “masterful” and “deliciously well-crafted” (Kithfolk) and developing his own distinct authenticity on the fiddle and banjo.

Together, Vivian and Riley have toured across the country. As individuals, they have shared the stages with and played, both nationally and internationally, in the bands of Elvis Costello, Rhiannon Giddens, The Lost Tribe Of Country Music, and Bruce Molsky to name just a few. To this collaboration they bring both the steady hands of experience and a refined taste for American music.

Tickets: £8, concessions £5, £10 on the night
Doors open at 8.00pm, music starts at 8.15pm.
**Notice Board**

**Thimblemill Library WHAT’S ON**

Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 5RJ
Telephone 0121 429 2039, Email: thimblemill_library@sandwell.gov.uk

**June 2018**

**Activities for Children**

**Monday**
- **Born to Move**
  Fun exercise for 2-3 year olds
  9.45am - 10.15am

- **Sling Library**
  Social group for parents
  11.30am - 1.30pm
  1st Monday of the month

- **Sing and Sign**
  Using Makaton
  2pm-3pm

**Tuesday**
- **Rhythm and Rhyme**
  Music and fun for little ones
  10am – 11am

**Wednesday**
- **Story Hour**
  For 0-3 year olds
  9.30am - 10.30am

- **Chess Club**
  For all ages and levels
  4pm - 5.30pm

**Friday**
- **Messy Play**
  Creative session for Children under 5 years
  9.30am - 11am

- **Semi Quavers**
  Children’s Choir
  Ages 5 - 11 years
  £2 per week
  5pm - 6pm

**Opening Hours**

- **Monday**
  9am-1pm 2pm - 6pm

- **Tuesday**
  9am-1pm 2pm - 6pm

- **Wednesday**
  9am-1pm 2pm-6pm

- **Thursday**
  9am-1pm

- **Friday**
  9am-1pm 2pm- 6pm

- **Saturday**
  10am–4pm

**Activities for Children**

**Friday 1st June**
- **Superhero’s come and meet Spiderman, Iron Man, Wonder Woman and the Pink Power Ranger**
  2.30-4pm

**Saturday 2nd June**
- **Family Film Club**
  Enjoy a movie with us
  Starts 4.30pm

**Theatre & Music**

**Vivian Leva & Riley Calcagno**
A night of Appalachian & country music from two rising young stars of the USA traditional & old-time music scene
Friday 8th June
Doors 7.30pm for 8pm start
£8.00 or £5.00 Concessions

**Birmingham Rep**
Free theatre skills workshop for adults
by one of the resident directors, looking at theatre making, directing and/or performing
4th and 25th June
Workshops 6pm – 8pm
Places are limited, please reserve by contacting 0121 429 2039 or Thimblemill_library@sandwell.gov.uk

**Empathy Coffee Morning**
10am-1pm
Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter

**Empathy Storytime and make an Empathy Promise**
Tuesday
12th June
4pm-5pm

**Film Club**
Enjoy a movie with us
Saturday 8th June
Starts 7pm
vdubois@blueyonder.co.uk