Wonderful Winter Wanderland lights up Bearwood

The festive lights started early this year in Bearwood as dozens of households took part in the We Are Bearwood Winter Wanderland.

Between 7-10th November people were invited to transform their front windows with artwork and when they were backlit in the evening they helped to transform Bearwood into a giant outdoor art gallery.

Pictured here are just some of the fantastic displays and we could have included many, many more as people imaginatively created their displays.

Hopefully this will become an annual event and following on from this success we will see even more people giving it a go next year.

Santa back in Warley Woods

Santa will be riding through the Woods in a special carriage on the 8th December. He leaves the fountain at 4pm and travels to The Pavilion where there are food and craft stalls, including mulled wine and mince pies.

Santa will be available from around 4.30 for anyone who wishes to queue to see him in his Grotto. £3 per child. There are a limited number of prebooked spaces available before he rides through the Woods (between 1.50pm and 3.45pm) or you can book to see him at Simply Santa the day before (8th December) (between10am - 3.30pm).

You can book by phone 429 2440, or in person at the Shop at the Pavilion. Or you can send your booking enquiry through this form and a member of shop staff will call you back to make arrangements.
Have you got a business idea?  
Need some help and advice?

Come and join us over coffee and hear about support available for your business or business idea through the Black Country Growth Hub. Whynot Coffee on Bearwood Road in Bearwood (near the junction with Hagley Road) is kindly hosting us. Just come in, grab yourself a hot drink and something to eat on Saturday 1st December from 9am, and then join us for networking.

There'll be a short presentation about the various types of support available, such as finance, training, innovation and more.

From 10am, you'll be able to speak one-to-one with staff from the Growth Hub to talk in more depth about your challenges or opportunities, and the relevant support.

A Merry Christmas to all our readers
Bob, Steve & Ann
Sandwell Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Dave Hossell has committed to press ahead with a number of measures designed to increase road safety in the borough.

Plans are already in hand to extend 20mph speed limits on predominantly residential roads. There are already 20 mph zones near our schools, but these plans will roll out in a phased programme across the borough.

Whilst everyone acknowledges that with the current lack of policing there is nothing like the enforcement we would like to see, anyone who becomes involved in an accident when they are exceeding the speed limit is liable to prosecution, and it is possible for forensic engineers to reliably estimate a car’s speed on impact. That can lead to very serious consequences, as research has shown that if you are hit by a car travelling at 30 mph you are 8 times more likely to be killed than by a car driving at 20 mph.

The council is also in discussions with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the office of the Combined Authority to introduce more trials for ‘Average Speed Cameras’ on some of the more dangerous stretches of our main roads. The Hagley Road in to Birmingham has seen dramatic reductions in speed levels since its introduction in August 2016, although we don’t know yet which roads are expected to be included in the next round of trials.

Over 850 speeding fines were issued in the first 12 months after the introduction of the Hagley Road average speed cameras in 2016, and since then the impact has demonstrated there are dramatically reduced speed levels. Abbey Ward Councillors have consistently argued for speed cameras to be installed on the most dangerous roads, although one of the first acts of the coalition Government in 2010 was to withdraw funding for speed cameras. In May 2014 young Rebecca McManus from Bearwood was killed whilst waiting for a bus on Hagley Road by maniacs road racing at speeds over 100 mph.

Amongst other planned changes will be the introduction of a Pelican pedestrian crossing on the Wolverhampton Road near the junction with Castle Road East, and traffic calming measures on another dangerous stretch of road on Lightwoods Hill.

...if you are hit by a car travelling at 30 mph you are 8 times more likely to be killed than by a car driving at 20mph.

Bearwood Lights Switch-on
By the clock, Adkins Lane, Bearwood
Thursday 6 December
Switch-on at 6.00pm
Carols and mince pies around the Christmas tree from 5.45pm

COLOURING BOOK COLLECTION
Christmas collection of colouring books and crayons/pens/pencils for refugee children in transit.
Collection point Thimblemill Library.
Final day for donations 8th December.
**Simon’s special calendars**

Bearwood photographer extraordinaire, Simon Lea, has produced not one, but two 2019 calendars containing his spectacular prize winning photography.

There is one with images of Warley Woods at different times of the year, and another containing some stunning pictures of Lightwoods Park and the restored Lightwoods House.

They make fantastic Christmas gifts, particularly for friends and relatives who no longer live in Bearwood but have fond memories of the two parks.

The calendars are £10 each from the Warley Woods Pavilion or Webbs Walled Garden whilst stocks last!

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**Emma Archer**

**Botanical Works**

**Lightwoods House**

**December 9th - 22nd**

Artist Emma Archer left her native Birmingham nearly a decade ago to immerse herself in a new life in the Italian countryside. By that time she’d spent a decade on the front lines of the British art scene and was ready for something else entirely.

Her lifelong passion for Italy led Emma and her partner to acquire a derelict farmhouse, which they lovingly and painstakingly restored using traditional methods and materials. Emma took a break from her artwork to start a family and cultivate the land attached to the farm.

Finally, Emma developed a beautiful studio overlooking her olive grove, where she returned to drawing and painting.

It's as idyllic as it sounds and the beauty of Emma's surroundings inspired her new work. Gone are the urban cityscapes of her post art-school Birmingham days, replaced with the languid-cool, lazily-listless, vibrantly-vivid watercolours and acrylics of the Botanical Collection Emma will have on display at Lightwoods House in December. Just looking at Emma's paintings on my computer monitor mesmerises me. I can't wait to see them in Lightwoods House, it seems like the perfect place to enjoy them.
When everyone in the house is tucked up in bed, a magical creature lifts its head.

With little green fingers and little green toes, pointy ears and sharp pointed nose, the house elves awaken and look around with glee. What they will make, create or decorate, you will have to wait and see!

Join Above Bounds for a retelling of a well-loved Christmas classic with puppetry, music and a few crafty ideas to help you make it through the festive season.

The Elves and the Shoemaker
Thimblemill Library
9th December – 2pm & 4pm
Family Ticket £8.00, £3.00 Adult/ Child/Concession £2.00

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Make It Click Christmas Concerts

Showcasing the talents of the Make It Click groups at Thimblemill

Adult Choir
Saturday 15 December
Starts 1.30pm

Ukulele Class
Thursday 20 December
Starts 12.30pm

Join us for a good old sing song!
Lego Club
Lego Club, Love Lego? Like to create new design and get creative?
Every Saturday
10.30-12pm

CHI KENPO KARATE
Phil 07887711738
Monday 4-5pm & 5-6pm
Wednesday 4-5pm & 5-6pm
Friday 6pm-7pm
Saturday 3-4pm
£12 for four weeks

SANTA’S FAMILY DISCO
WITH DJ MURPHY
THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER
3.45PM-5.45PM
PARTY FOOD, PARTY GAMES AND PRIZES FOR THE BEST SANTA

Safi
Christmas Crafts
Saturday 1 December 2018
12pm-2pm
Have fun with your children doing a range of FREE Christmas themed craft activities!
Adults please bring identification to enrol

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

Gaming Sessions
PS4 PS:VR XBOXONE
4pm-5.30pm
For over 12’s

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

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

Activities for Children

Lego Club
Lego Club, Love Lego? Like to create new design and get creative?
Every Saturday
10.30-12pm

Musical Connections Fundraiser
Friday
14th December
7.30pm
Music and dancing in aid of Musical connections music Project, tackling social isolation.
The project supports adults with experience of isolation due to mental illness and disability

Festive Folk
Saturday 8 December
Starts 7.30pm
Charity Concert organized by Bearwood in Action for Refugees
Featuring Bearwood Bandits & Andy Wickett (original member of DuranDuran) plus more
£3.50 bring your own booze

The Elves & the Shoemaker
Sunday 9th December
2pm or 4pm
When everyone in the house is tucked up in bed, a magical creature lifts its head. With little green fingers and little green toes, pointy ears and a sharp pointed nose, the house elves awaken and look around with glee.
With theatre company Above Bonds
Suitable for children 3-6
Family ticket £8.00
Child/concession £2.00
Adult £3.00

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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