It’s back!

The Bearwood Street Festival returns in June

Yes, the Bearwood Street Festival will happen again this year on 9th June!

What a great new way to start this new year after the overwhelming success of the 2017 event.

Community organisation We Are Bearwood have agreed the date with Sandwell Council, and all the indications are that this year’s festival will be even bigger and better.

A spokesperson for We Are Bearwood said, “Funders have been generous too. Arts Council England, Creative Black Country and the Big Lottery Fund have all agreed to contribute to the cost of the Festival.”

“Venues and traders have been very supportive too. TC Hayes are allowing their car park to be turned into a food court, The Haven green space will become a family picnic area, Bearwood Primary School will provide the children’s area, Bearwood Baptist Church will stage arts activities for families with children who have additional needs, At the Hagley Road end of Bearwood Road near the clock will provide a space for our second stage, and of course many thanks to the traders and residents who are supportive of the neighbourhood taking over a little bit of Bearwood Road again.”

“And wow, have we got an arts and local heritage programme for you. Music, spoken word devised by local young people, an afternoon disco tea party, mysterious games, scavenger hunt and portals into ‘Otherwood’ past and present, inclusive arts programme for children, inclusive multi artform performances by neurodiverse artists and - as if all that’s not enough - a huge community picnic blanket created by us all, if you’re up for it, and celebrating our diverse histories and identities.”

All of this involves a lot of work by volunteers, and We Are Bearwood are calling for residents to come along to their planning meetings and see what they can contribute.

Anyone who wants to get involved should message the organisers via: wearebearwood@gmail.com

Photo: Ken Harrison
Please consider others when you park

On our recent councillors’ street surgery we were asked if we could remind people to be considerate of pedestrians and not to block the pavements when parking.

Whilst it is understandable in an area like Bearwood that on some roads people will park with a couple of tyres on the kerb, but we are having to deal with increasing problems with people completely blocking the pavement with cars and vans.

For anyone in a wheel chair or with a buggy or with small children this then forces them in to the road and is potentially very dangerous.

Abbey Councillor Steve Eling said, “Unfortunately, outside of London, there is currently no legislation which enables local authorities to issue fixed penalties for pavement parking. Sandwell is one of a number of local authorities that are putting pressure on the government to extend the option of fixed penalty tickets for pavement parking outside of the capital.

“However, where a vehicle blocks the pavement or there is a dropped kerb crossing, our wardens or the police can issue a fixed penalty ticket for obstruction. So, our message to residents is that if they send us details of persistent offenders, (including photographs wherever possible), we will ensure the wardens keep an eye on that particular area - day or night.”

Abbey Ward Councillors’ Advice Surgery

You don’t need e-mail, the internet or Facebook to talk to us…

Every Thursday
7pm-8pm
Smethwick Swimming Centre
Thimblemill Road
Well done…

to whoever took the initiative to stencil these signs on the pavement in the approach roads to Abbey junior and infants schools.

These roads are used by many dog walkers who exercise their dogs in Warley Woods, and although most owners respectfully remove their dog mess, there are those who just don’t seem to care. For some, nothing will work (although if anyone snaps a pic of offenders on their mobile phone, we can issue fines) but hopefully some will be shamed by these stencils.

---

Birmingham Astronomical Association will be returning to Warley Woods in February to enthuse all stargazers and potential star gazers over the wonders in the night sky. No need to book in advance, come along any time during the two hours to use the equipment, listen to the speakers and ask any questions.

£3 donation from adults - Children free
Hot drinks available

15th February 7pm - 9pm
New Abbey Labour banner unveiled

At our recent street stall and food bank collection on Bearwood Road Abbey Branch Labour Party unveiled their new branch banner.

The banner has been painstakingly hand embroidered by a London-based banner maker and depicting various landmarks in the Ward including the bandstand, the clock, the library, Warley Woods, the Bear Hotel, it is easy to spot on our campaign days and proved very popular last month with people passing-by.

Jazz at The Windsor
Saturday, 2nd January
From 7.30pm

Some of Britain’s finest jazz musicians will be appearing at The Windsor Theatre Bar on Saturday night.

Bryan Corbett (trumpet) brings his Blue Note Session Band to Bearwood to play music from some of the jazz classics such as Art Blakey, Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Horace Silver.

Bryan will be joined by the brilliant virtuoso sax player Chris Boden and by Tom Hill who's bass playing has been the feature of so many classic jazz bands in the midlands for the last couple of decades.

Entry will be free on the night, with people asked to make a contribution towards the cost of bringing this fantastic line up to Bearwood.
Monday 18th February
Born to Move
9.45-10.15
Storyteller Caz...(and the Jigs dolls come too)
- stories cross cultures and generations.
- Meet characters from far and wide...from then and now...and beyond.
10.30-11.30
Craft Club
- making a new craft every day
2.30-3.30
Film Club
3.30-5.30pm

Tuesday 19th February
Make it Click
Music group
Family Ukulele
- sing a long
£5.00 per adult kids free
10.00-11.00
Craft Club
- making a new craft every day
11.00-12.00
Ron Popple
Children’s entertainer
2.30-3.30pm
Arts and Crafts
With
The Albion Foundation
3.30-5.30

Wednesday 20th February
Craft Club
- Making a new craft every day
10.00-11.00
Family Yoga
10.30-11.00
Explore Learning Maths
Superhero Shapes (ages 4-6) Reception-Year 2
A Piece of Cake (ages 9-11) Year 4-Year 6
11.30-12.30pm
Magic Russ
Children’s entertainer
2.30pm-3.30pm
Film Club
4pm-5.30pm

Thursday 21st February
Steve the Juggler
Juggling Show with Circus Skills
10.30 - 11.30am
Craft Club
- making a new craft every day
11.30am-12.30pm
Theatre Tots
12.30-1.30pm

Friday 22nd February
Craft Club
- making a new craft every day
10.00-11.00am
Sammy Taypot
11.30-12.30pm
Children’s entertainer
Lego Club
2.30-4pm
Film Club
3pm-5pm
Notice Board

Thimblemill Library
WHAT’S ON

February 2019

Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 5RJ
Telephone 0121 569 4943, Email: thimblemill_library@sandwell.gov.uk

Notice Board

Learning

Monday
Sewing Class
6pm-8.30pm

Tuesday
Computer Taster Sessions
Informal taster session for beginners
2pm – 3pm

Wednesday
French Classes
Advanced
10am-12pm
Intermediate
1pm - 2.30pm

Thursday
Adult Ukulele Lessons
Scott: 07795176840
10.30am – 12.30pm

ESOL
Basic and intermediate level.
Free course with SAFL
1-3pm

Friday
French Conversation Class
Brush up your French with this new conversation class
2pm - 3.30pm

Saturday
Music Lessons
Ukulele, Guitar and Choir
Lessons for adults and children
10am – 12.30pm
Call Scott for further information
07795 176840

Employment Support

Monday & Wednesday
Job Club
9.30-11.30am
A free drop-in session to help with your job searches and job application forms

Monday
Steps to Work
10am - 12pm
One-to-one computer support for job seekers
To book an appointment, please ring
07900 903526

Social, Health and Wellbeing

Monday
Coffee Morning
Free coffee morning
10am-12pm

Tuesday
Book Club
Sit back and listen as we read a chapter or two each week
2pm – 4pm

Wednesday
Gentle Exercise Class
11.15am - 12.15pm
Gentle exercise for over 60’s or less able of all ages

Adult Reading Group
7.30pm – 9pm
1st Wednesday of the month
New

Any Book Bookclub
8th January
7.30-8.30pm

Yoga with Paul
Yoga for all levels and ages
£3.00 a session
Wednesday 6pm - 7pm

Thursday
Yoga with Paul
Gentle classes for beginners
9.15-10.15

Friday
Knit and Natter Club
10am - 12pm
Get creative make a friend
All are welcome

Friday Coffee Morning
Come and join us for a cuppa and a bite to eat or just a chat, everyone welcome
10am - 1pm

Trace Your Family Tree
Free ancestry course
With Chris Gregory who will be on hand to assist with family history searches
Every Friday
10am – 12pm

Birmingham Rep

Play Reading Group
21 February
12 Angry Men
By Reginald Rose
7pm-9pm

On a hot summer day in New York City, twelve men are called to sit on the jury of a murder trial. The defendant, an eighteen-year-old boy, is on trial for killing his abusive father. He’s being tried for first-degree murder, which means that if convicted he’ll receive a death sentence.