



# WEOLEY HILL VILLAGE NEWS

PART OF THE BOURNVILLE GROUP OF ESTATES



Volume 29

Number 1

Spring 2024



*In this edition:*

*Bonfire Night & Quiz Night*

*The Weoley Hill Close*

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*Your Stories*

*Club, Society & Activities dates*



If you are new to this amazing part of Birmingham, please do get in touch. Write to us, email us and tell us about your experiences of living in this area.

We want to hear from you, and we want you to be a part of this newsletter. Please get involved as there's lots of different events and activities going on for people of all ages.

Contact: Pav at [newsletter@weoleyhill.uk](mailto:newsletter@weoleyhill.uk)



**All the information that is included is believed to be correct at the time of going to press. You will need to check if there are any restrictions with individual activities and venues before attending.**



# WEOLEY HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chair - Spencer Webb, Street Association Rep,  
WHVNews Delivery Team 07973 636197

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WHVNews Delivery Team 475 6967

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WHVNews delivery team 258 2256

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Pavan Deep, Gwyneth Magrath, Anthea Owen and  
Tessa Mitchell

The team acknowledges the invaluable help given by  
proof readers and all the contributors

### COPY DATE FOR THE SPRING EDITION: 2nd September 2024

Please send articles for the next edition by email to  
[newsletter@weoleyhill.uk](mailto:newsletter@weoleyhill.uk)

Weoley Hill Village News is put together by local  
volunteers and it's also delivered to your door by  
volunteers. Weoley Hill Village Council's list of  
those people who deliver is getting shorter.  
Weoley Hill is a very special place to live and our  
volunteers help to ensure that this continues into  
the future. If you can help by volunteering to deliver  
a few copies please get in touch with Tom Magrath,  
WHVNews Co-ordinator 07903 028033

The team takes this opportunity to send a  
warm welcome to all the new residents of  
Weoley Hill

### Reporting issues with TV & phone distribution boxes, such as open doors and graffiti:

BT/Open Reach: 0800 023 2023, Virgin Media: 033 0333 0444 or <https://community.virginmedia.com/t5/Managing-Your-Account-Cable/How-do-I-report-an-open-or-damaged-box-cabinet/m-p/4931390#M175938>

Or use this form: <https://www.virginmedia.com/help/reportingdamage>

### WEOLEY VILLAGE HALL HIRE



For parties, activities or events the hall is  
available to hire. All information on how to  
do this can be found on the web site:

<https://weoleyhill.uk/village-hall/booking-the-hall/>



A big THANK YOU to all residents that helped with the  
newsletter. Write to us, email us and tell us about your expe-  
riences of the area. We want to hear from you, and we want  
you to be a part of this newsletter. Please get involved as  
there's lots of different events and activities going on for  
people of all ages.

**Attention needed to trees, roads, pavements, verges, potholes etc.? Report to the City**  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20110/report\\_road\\_and\\_pavement\\_issues](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20110/report_road_and_pavement_issues)

All the information is included by the editor in good faith and is believed to be correct at the time  
of going to press. Weoley Hill Village Council accepts no responsibility  
for error and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Council.





## BONFIRE NIGHT



On a cold and dark evening on Saturday 4th November we held our biggest event of the year - the bonfire and fireworks night. As in previous years this event was hugely successful and well attended, bringing together people from the area and . We sold all the tickets, but there were still long queues to get on to the site and to enjoy the fun.

The event is an important fundraiser for local community events and over the years we have come to rely on it, so we are overjoyed that it's very popular. It can't happen without the valuable time,

support and dedication of all the volunteers and organisers. We thank our local residents, those that attended and joined in the fun. We that the Scouts, Beavers, and the cricket club were as ever meticulous.

Without everyone's hard work and commitment we couldn't have put on such a spectacular event and best thing of all is that everyone had lots of fun. Look out for dates for the next bonfire event is pencilled in for Saturday 11th November - look out the date!



## THE QUIZ NIGHT



The quiz took place last year at Weoley Village Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, there were teams of 6 people.

The quiz was well attended and is becoming a popular regular annual event. It was a great night, especially for the cross generational teams.

Like last year there wasn't enough room for everyone who wanted to join in, as several teams were

desperately trying to book at the last minute, but sadly some had to be turned away. Look out for or quiz in this November and be sure to book in advance.

Many thanks to all who helped beforehand and on the night, including the young runners who were excellent , collecting answers from the teams, serving tea, coffee and cold drinks, they were the adder-up, checker and general dogsbody!



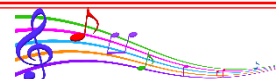
### *Bournville Clarinet Choir*

The Clarinet Choir is dedicated to creating and presenting new music for clarinet ensembles. The choir is an exciting opportunity for committed and enthusiastic clarinetists to rehearse and perform to a high standard and support local community events.

The majority of our members are amateurs (aged 18+) they include music students, teachers and retired professionals. At present there are about twenty members mostly playing the standard Bb clarinet as well as Eb, Alto, Bass, Contra Alto and Contra Bass.

We rehearse roughly fortnightly on Wednesdays in term time at Weoley Hill United Reformed Church, Selly Oak. Please contact us if you would like to come to a free taster session to try us out.

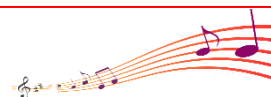
Call Sue 0121 459 8060 or contact us by email: [ournvilleclarinetchoir@gmail.com](mailto:ournvilleclarinetchoir@gmail.com)



### *Weoley Hill Community Choir*

We meet at 6.45-8pm each Friday during school term times in the large hall at Weoley Hill Church, Green Meadow Rd.

New voices are always welcome. No previous experience needed. [www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk](http://www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk)



**All the photographs published in this newsletter have been sent in by volunteers and local residents.**

# THE BVT DESIGN GUIDE

Remember apply to the Bournville Village Trust applications for any alterations

<https://www.bvt.org.uk/news-and-events/new-bournville-estate-design-guide-out-now/>

## TREE REMOVAL

**Prior consent from the BVT is required before any tree is removed from the front or rear of a property.**



### The Bournville Garden Awards

These will include a number of categories to be more inclusive for all.

**Contact: Community Development Worker**

**The Bournville National Garden Scheme Bournville Village Trust**



## ADVERTISEMENTS

**CAN YOU FEEL SPRING IN THE AIR?**  
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## WEOLEY HILL CLOSE

### Local Residents Group seeks to save beautiful Arts and Crafts Houses by applying to Historic England for Grade 2 Listing



seven 'furlough houses', beautiful Arts and Craft cottage-style homes. It is situated on the old Selly Oak Colleges site.

In 1907, The Close came into the possession of Westhill College, a noted Quaker-based teacher and community work training institution. All these houses were built as a memorial to the life and work of Henry Stanley Newman (1837 - 1912), a Quaker Minister, and his wife Mary Anna Newman (née Pumphrey), on behalf of the Foreign and Home Mission Work of the Society of Friends. In 2001, Westhill College was absorbed by The University of Birmingham who now own the site.

All seven houses today are sadly in a poor state of repair, uninhabited, boarded up, unheated and damp. Whilst chimney repairs have recently been carried out, which is welcome, there are still missing gutters and drainpipes, damaged and missing roof tiles and evidence of water ingress.\* Although the interest group have been working constructively with the University, we feel that securing Grade 2 Listed status for all the houses would encourage the University to take their heritage responsibilities more seriously, maintaining the fabric of the buildings and the site and ultimately bringing them back into occupation.

Five of the houses - known now as Nos. 1 to 5 The Close - were awarded Grade 2 Listed status by Historic England in 1982, and in July 2023 the local interest group made an application to Historic England to add the last two houses - now named Nos. 10 and 11 - to this Listing. This application was rejected by Historic England in August 2023 on the grounds that "more historical source information" was required to date these two properties to the same era as Nos 1 - 5. The challenge to find this

source information was accepted by Sue and Quentin Smye, residents of Weoley Hill!

Their research took them to Birmingham Archives and Collections in Birmingham Central Library with the aim of establishing when the houses were built. Kelly's Directory of Birmingham Streets was the starting point, to find out when the property addresses first came into existence. Starting in 1931, they worked back year-by-year to 1917 which was the first mention of "Furlough Houses in Kingsmead Close". They then looked in the Planning Registers

for each year around 1917 to find the actual planning permissions for the buildings. In turn, they requested sight of the related original architects

planning drawings from the Archives which revealed that Nos. 10 and 11 The Close were granted planning approval in 1914, thereby dating them to within two years of Nos. 1 - 5. The final step was to check the Register of Electors for Kings Norton Division to establish when the two houses were actually inhabited. No Registers were compiled during the First World War, but, lo and behold, the 1918 Register showed that Nos. 10 and 11 The Close were occupied respectively by Margaret Ann Backhouse and Elizabeth Knox Taylor!

Details of all this information, including copies of all the original source documents, were submitted to Historic England in September 2023 and the application is progressing positively.

\*The poor state of repair of the cottages has recently been acknowledged by the university and they have assured us that

maintenance work will be done very soon.

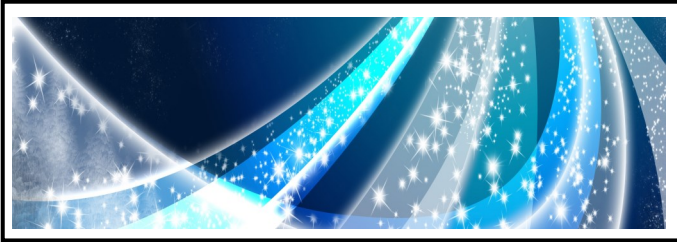
By Sue Smye Local Resident



**Spring is here with some warm days approaching, it's time to do some gardening and to spend outside, whether we're walking, picnicking or just appreciating our lovely parks. We all need to take care and be safe.**



## INFORMATION



For girls aged 10 to 14

**Guides.**

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Bryony

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Find out more about Guides at [girlguiding.org.uk/guides](http://girlguiding.org.uk/guides). Register your daughter at [girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://girlguiding.org.uk/joinus) or call 0800 169 5901.



Your local Guide Group meets at Weoley Hill United Reform Church between 19:30-21:00 every Monday evening. For more information then please contact Natalie on 07974310629.

## Bournville Radio Sailing & Model Boat Club



### YACHT RADIO SAILING TIMES

TUESDAY 10 - 1pm  
THURSDAY 10 - 1pm  
SUNDAY 1 - 4pm



### MODEL BOAT SAILING TIMES

WEDNESDAY 10 - 1pm  
SUNDAY 10 - 1pm



## JOIN BOURNVILLE FREEHOLDERS AND LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION

### Chairman:

Jack Hynds,  
55 Green Meadow Road, B29 4DD; 476 5248  
[chairman@bfla.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bfla.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Ray Harper, 18 Green Meadow Road; [treasurer@bfla.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bfla.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Lucy Farrow, [secretary@bfla.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bfla.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.bfla.org.uk](http://www.bfla.org.uk)

To advertise in the newsletter, please contact

Tom Magrath



[tom.tmag48@gmail.com](mailto:tom.tmag48@gmail.com)

We have two editions a year, one in spring and one in autumn

## USEFUL INFORMATION

If you see fly tipping it is easily reported to the Council via [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20140/environmental\\_concerns\\_and\\_requests/89/report\\_fly-tipping](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20140/environmental_concerns_and_requests/89/report_fly-tipping) Don't assume other people will report it and the more reports they get the better! For bulky items go to [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/86/bulky\\_waste\\_collections](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/86/bulky_waste_collections)

**PLEASE MENTION WEOLEY HILL VILLAGE NEWS WHEN CONTACTING OUR ADVERTISERS**



## Protecting our Parks and Green Spaces

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the first residents meeting on Wednesday 21 February 2024 following the publication of plans by the Environment Agency (EA) they spoke about flood storage reservoirs in a number of local parks. The hall was full and we apologise to all those who were unable to get into the meeting. Fire regulations dictate the number of people allowed in at any time and maximum capacity cannot be exceeded. However, the number of people who turned out demonstrates the strength of feeling locally in response to these proposals.



This meeting, chaired by local residents and members of Weoley Hill Village Council, aimed to ensure local residents were aware of the proposals and to gather resident questions for a future meeting with the EA.

The EA had an initial information event at Weoley Hill Village Hall on the 18th January and full details of the scheme can be found on their website at:

[Bourn and Lower Rea Flood Risk Management Scheme - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

[www.saveourparks.co.uk](http://www.saveourparks.co.uk) has also been set up by local residents to provide updates and to enable the different groups involved to link together.

BVTs initial response to these proposals can be found at [Bournville Flood Risk Management : Bournville Village Trust \(bvt.org.uk\)](https://www.bournville.org.uk)

More details and updates on this matter will be available soon.

## Flood Defences

We've have had many emails from local residents after hearing about the Environmental agencies proposals for flood defences.

One thing we can be certain of is that there's always change, but this brings a lot of uncertainty. In the last few months locals have been puzzled and confused with the mixed signals about potential changes to our open spaces. What does it all mean? As yet we are all in the dark and don't know what will happen.



## Residents



There is a growing young population in the area and we want everyone to be part of this newsletter.

Please do get in touch write to us, email us and tell us about your experiences . Send us your thoughts. Send us your photographs.

We want to hear from you, and we want you to be a part of this newsletter. Please get involved as there's lots of different events and activities going on for people of all ages.

Contact: Pav at [newsletter@weoleyhill.uk](mailto:newsletter@weoleyhill.uk)

### **PARKING MATTERS – PLEASE PROTECT OUR VERGES**

**Cars are a huge convenience but parking can be a nuisance and dangerous. We must not park cars on the grass verges and pavements or block driveways. Warning: fines are issued. When possible residents should make an effort to park on their driveways keeping roads clear and encourage visitors to park considerately. Remember when you park sensibly you are making a difference!**

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT WEOLEY HILL CHURCH

<b>Sunday</b>	10:30am Morning Worship
<b>Worship</b>	Holy Communion 1st Sunday each month
<b>Monday</b>	2:00pm Birmingham Korean Church 5:45pm-7:00pm Beavers 7:30-9:00 pm Guides
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am Art Club 6:00pm Cubs 7:30pm Scouts
<b>Thursday</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	6:30 for 6:45 Community Choir
<b>Saturday</b>	9.00-1pm Korean School 10:30 Community Garden Project (1st Saturday of month) 2.30pm Walking Group. Easy local walks, subject to weather. (Last Saturday of month) 5:00pm Arabic-speaking Church (2nd & 4th weeks of month)

Minister: The Revd Leonora Jagessar

Website: [www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk](http://www.weoleyhillchurch.org.uk)

Church Secretary: Ann Evans 628 4558

Room Hire Secretary: Christine Marlow 475 4028

All are welcome to our services. If you would like further details about our services or any of our other activities, please contact the Church Secretary or the Minister. An up-to-date diary is published each month on our website.

### Special services

Harvest festival 10.30am Sunday 15th October

Carols by candlelight service 5pm Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December (tbc)

Crib service 4pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December (tbc)

Christmas worship on Christmas morning

Please see the church website, Facebook page or the notice board at the junction of Green Meadow and Bryony roads for up-to-date information.

## OUR LADY & ST ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gregory Avenue, Weoley Castle B29 5DY

Contact the Parish Priest Fr. Gary Buckby

0121 475 1634

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.15pm—Sunday 11.00 am

Confessions Saturday 4.30 – 5.00 pm

Baptisms by arrangement



## ST MARY'S CHURCH, SELLY OAK

### Regular Services

#### Sunday:

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Parish Communion

(with Junior Church during term time)

6:30 pm Evening Worship

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month:

6:30 pm Choral Evensong

#### Wednesday:

10am Holy Communion

6-7 pm Junior Club for children aged 5-11 years

6:15-7:15 pm Vestry Hour for baptisms & wedding bookings

#### Contact us:

email: vicar@stmarysellyoak.org.uk

tel: 0121 471 3517

see: [www.stmarysellyoak.org](http://www.stmarysellyoak.org)

## ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, SHENLEY GREEN

We welcome you to our Services:

Sundays - 10.00am Holy Communion

We are a place of worship, open on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10.00 am until 12.00noon.

For a full list of activities held at the church and Hall please see our website

[www.stdavidsshenleygreen.org](http://www.stdavidsshenleygreen.org)

Or call

Revd Paul Cho on  
01214770003



All the information is included is believed to be correct at the time of going to press. You will need to check current restrictions with individual venues before attending.



## BRSK Telegraph Poles



In December a meeting took place at the Village Hall where BRSK discussed their plans with local residents about putting telegraph poles in the area to facilitate full fibre-to-home broadband. They said we would have more details in the new year, but as yet we've not really heard anything.

A number of residents expressed concern that a proliferation of new poles in an area that has very few visible poles and the associated trailing wires will not exactly improve the look of the area.

BRSK, BT and others including Virgin Media offer High Speed internet in this area and are in competition with each other. If you are not interested, you can simply bin the flyer.

Juliet Davies has said that we can formally object to the poles by completing an online form: <https://bit.ly/weoley-pole>

Some residents may have no objection to the poles and hanging cables, but if you would like to press for an underground system instead, then use the form to express your concern.



## Community

Did you know that the Weoley Hill Village Newsletter is one of the oldest community newsletters in the country!

Starting in the middle of the last century, it has always been filled with relevant, comprehensive and detailed information about local events and activities.

All the photographs and articles are written by residents and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds reflecting the diversity of the area, these are meticulously put together by the WHVN editorial team.

To see the rich history of the newsletter archives please contact us at the Village Hall.

### Litter Pickers



A word of thanks for the band of litter pickers who keep our neighbourhood so tidy.

If you want to join just order a 'picker' on line and take it out on your walks with a supermarket bag.

Dump your rubbish in your own bin! Weoley Hill between Middle *Park Road*, Witherford Way and by the Hall are good places to start contributing to this effort.



**Remember that all artwork and photographs published in this newsletter have been sent in by volunteers specifically for the newsletter. Anyone can write in and send original photographs of activities, events and buildings and environment concerns in the area.**



**For artwork, local photographs and articles to be featured in the newsletter please send here; [newsletter@weoleyhill.uk](mailto:newsletter@weoleyhill.uk)**



## *Residential & Respite Care Home*

*Independent Registered Charity (Not for profit)*



*a home within a home*



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[www.bryonyhouse.co.uk](http://www.bryonyhouse.co.uk)

### *Welcome to Bryony House*

Bryony House was established in 1955 with one very clear objective; to create a home within a home for every resident.

Standing in attractive gardens in the Bournville Village Trust, Bryony House is an independent registered charity providing a safe, secure environment and high standards of accommodation and support for elderly residents.

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or email:

**[info@bryonyhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@bryonyhouse.co.uk)**

## *Looking for Respite Care?*

We are able to offer short term respite care as one of our accommodation options. If you are interested in booking a respite room why not contact us for more details?



## Parking Problem in Weoley Hill - Update

In general, the excessive use of local roads for parking by the staff, parents and pupils of the University of Birmingham School remains the same. However, there is some better news: that the school's car parking charge remains at £1 a day and has not been increased to £2.50 as in other Birmingham University run car parks. Although this does not change anything it does mean the situation will not be made worse.

Trevor Payne, Director of Estates at The University of Birmingham had also agreed to contact Anthea Owen to have further discussions about the school parking problem as he felt more could be done. He has emailed the school requesting a meeting between the three parties.

Our two local councillors, Miranda Perks and Jamie Tennant, have been contacted about the inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking at the bus stops on Weoley Park Road. Miranda has replied that they have spoken to the local Highways Engineer, and it has been added to the list of works to be done in the Ward. Transport for the West Midlands, who manage the bus stops, have also been contacted and have replied. They say the Bus Stop Clearway markings are the City Council's responsibility not theirs. They are sympathetic to our problem but say we must take it up with the City Council, which we have done.

We will give you an update in the next edition of The Weoley Hill Village News.

## The Weoley Hill Cricket Club



As usual with the game of cricket, the weather experienced both before and during the season indicates how matches could be played. A wet spring means no work can be done on the square to properly prepare it for the first few matches and then a very dry summer means that again preparation depends on how much moisture can be put into the surface to play consistently and safely.

The Saturday 2nd team had a mixed season with slow start, but picked up to finish in the top half of the table and the 3rd team had a similar season. For the first time in club history a 4th team was put out on the park. The team finished mid table and this was an excellent start and credit must go to a couple of older players who held the team together and ensured that everyone took part in a match and learned how to be a team player. An exciting match saw a Hill player become the youngest person to score a senior century for the club. The two Sunday teams fared well with the 1st team finishing third and the 2nd team winning their league.

This season has shown that the Junior section is an outstanding success with a lot of players now playing senior cricket. There are 4 under age teams competing in local mid-week leagues and a

softball team is being formed for the U10 group. In all, 96 players represented the club in matches this year. Indeed on some Saturdays there were too many players available for the four teams. The writer of this report started the Junior section off in the early 1980s with no resources and just a dozen local boys who were quickly picked for the Sunday teams. To see so many players who have gone through the junior ranks now playing in weekend teams, is very satisfying and a testament to all the hard work various coaches have put in over the years. It would be positive if more girls could come and have a try at nets as there is a good pathway to the county set up.

At Valley Parkway the crowd funding appeal was excellent and has allowed the refurbishment of both the dressing room showers and the outdoor nets system to begin. At the Oval there is a lot of work to be done on a planned basis, mainly to improve the drainage and surface of the outfield which hadn't been done very well by the contractors who developed the field. Unsurprisingly, they don't want to have any further involvement.

The very important social side of the club is going very well. Good attendance at the various events and regular hires both for pitches and clubhouses, has ensured that income has been at a healthy level. The Weoley Hill bonfire night was also a success for the club who not only supply volunteers on the day but arrange for all the catering on the night. The club actively ensures that all ECB accreditation is up to date and that welfare and general developmental recommendations are adhered to. This makes the club a good environment to come and play or support cricket in the Weoley Hill area.

Indoor nets started in February and outdoor nets will begin in April. Weoley Hill CC (@weoleyhillcricket) Howard Clay

## ACTIVITIES



We have been imagine! Each month we all read and then very pleased to discuss, a book chosen by every member in welcome new turn, (we discuss one a month), and we also members this read a poem at the start of the meeting. year, which We meet on the 4th Monday of every month means we have except August and December, at 7.30pm. We are currently at capacity, but if anyone is included in our number. This interested in joining us when we have space, do let me know, on;

widens the book choices and the nature of the conversations which follow, as one may

antheaowen47@gmail.com

## Castle Arts Society

Castle Art Society is a thriving group that has been running for over forty years - the last twenty years or more at Weoley Hill Village Hall. We meet weekly, every Friday morning, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. We are not a class and offer no tuition.

Members bring in their own art projects and work independently but experienced artists are on hand to offer advice and guidance if needed. Our membership is currently at its maximum but we operate a waiting list that prospective members can join.

Other than art sessions we have four demonstrations each year from professional artists. This year's remaining demo is : November 3rd, Wendy Simmons - 'Autumn in Pastels'. These sessions are also open to non-members who pay £5 on each attendance.

We also run an annual coach trip with an art theme, a summer exhibition in early September, and social activities for members and their invited guests.

Further details can be obtained from its Chairman, Ray Brookes on 0121 679 8926



## FILM SOCIETY



With so much happening in the area it is surprising that we've never had a photography or movie club or society. A number of people have expressed a keen interest in starting a local Film Club at the village hall to showcase all kinds of films and to talk about them.

It will be an informal group which will watch and discuss mainstream and independent films from across the globe. The response has been huge. We are still at the early stages are looking at what kind of Film Society it should be.

It's great to be involved, to be a part of the club and provide us with ideas please do get in touch with Pav at [newsletter@weoleyhill.uk](mailto:newsletter@weoleyhill.uk)



We all have something to say! Why don't you write for the newsletter. If you want to write news, send photographs or write creative articles for this newsletter get in touch!

Contact Pav: [newsletter@weoleyhill.uk](mailto:newsletter@weoleyhill.uk)





## Your Stories

A few years ago some people who live and/or work in Weoley Castle got together to think about how we could celebrate our community by telling and creating positive stories. We regularly get together to highlight what's great in our neighbourhood, to discuss ideas and see what we can make happen.

One of our favourite annual activities has been to write and deliver personalised Santa letters to over 200 hundred local children for the past four Christmases. One of us had the idea during the Covid pandemic as it had been such a difficult time for so many families. This proved so popular that we had requests from Newcastle!

Another annual event has been the planting of daffodil bulbs each Autumn in some of our green spaces. During Spring you'll notice these as you drive and walk around the estate. We've also brightened up the Square with flowers planted in old car tyres and have some planters painted by children ready to put in this year.

Virtually every month we run free community events at different venues. Last year we held Weoley Earth Day for the first time. Twenty different organisations, running activities with an environmental theme, came to the Square and Castle Ruins, with hundreds of people participating.



At St Gabriel's Centre's summer event we had the pleasure of having Lets Enable brought two Shetland ponies for children to groom and walk with.



At other events we've been able to showcase 'R' community choir and Birmingham Community Boxing Project, both of which use St Gabriel's Centre.

You may have seen us at the 'duck pond'- particularly in summer months. One year we even had a mile climbing wall that young people in our community still talk about. We continue to play football and other sports there and are hoping to offer more activities during the school holidays

Our Weoley Warm Welcome Spaces are another example of how we support one another. We made sure that they were open on as many different days as possible. These range from Foodcycle at St Gabriel's Centre serving vegetarian meals, to Castle Elim offering soup, games and chat, to Incredible Surplus/ Clothes Swop Shop at Weoley Castle Community Church.



It's great to have this opportunity to let you know what's happening over the road. If you want to find out more please contact me on;

paultucker73@hotmail.co.uk

If you would like to advertise in the Weoley Hill Village News please contact Tom Magrath at

[tom.tmag48@gmail.com](mailto:tom.tmag48@gmail.com)

BVT Tenants Newsletter: <https://www.bvt.org.uk/publications/newsletters/>

BVT Homeowners Newsletter registration: <https://www.bvt.org.uk/news-and-events/register-for-home-owner-newsletter-now/>

Weoley Hill Village News in full colour and large print is available at:  
[www.bvt.org.uk/news-and-events/weoley-hill-village-news](http://www.bvt.org.uk/news-and-events/weoley-hill-village-news)







THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY

Local history group

### St Fagans Welsh National Museum of History

Calling at Gloucester Services for coffee

Saturday 1st June 2024



£25 per person includes entrance, coach and gratuities but not lunch and refreshments  
Leaves Bournville Green at 8.45am opposite shops. Returns 6.00pm

Non-members are welcome

Contact Bob Booth 0121 474 6814 to book seats

### 2024 Programme

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024:** John Stewart, Chairman of the Cadbury Barn Trust, will talk to us about Manor Farm Park, from its origins as farmland, its years as part of George and Elizabeth Cadbury's estate along with the well-known Cadbury barn which saw countless parties for hundreds of inner city children, to its 1950s bequest to the City as a public park and future plans for the Park and its buildings.

**Wednesday 1st May 2024:** Quintin Watt, who told us the story of The Bromsgrove Guild in March last year, will return to give us a visual gazetteer of surviving examples of their artistry in the West Midlands - in wrought iron, bronze, wood, plaster and stained glass.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024:** Coach outing to St Fagans National Museum of History in Cardiff.



THE BOURNVILLE SOCIETY

sponsored by  

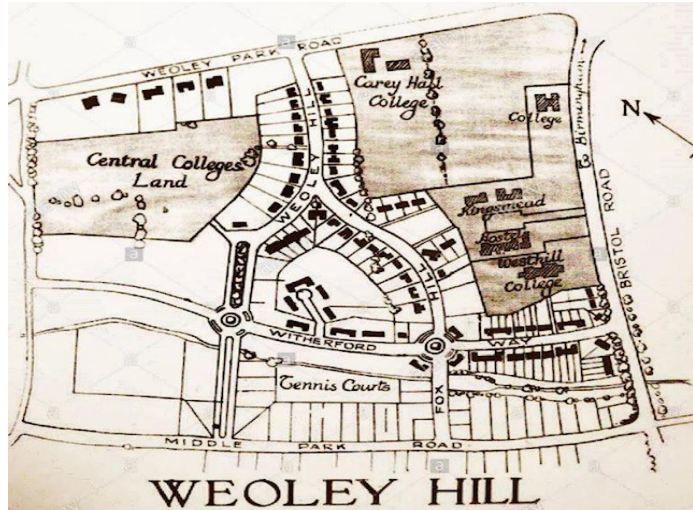
**Bournville Clarinet Choir**  
**SUMMER CONCERT**  
 Saturday 20th July 2024  
 7.00pm  
 Music Director - Malcolm Pollock  
 Featuring Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Bohemian Rhapsody and music by Piazzola, Sullivan and Mozart.  
 Bournville Parish Church  
 St Francis of Assisi  
 Sycamore Road  
 Birmingham, B30 2AA  
 Tickets £15, under 16s free, available online via [www.bournvilleclarinetchoir.uk](http://www.bournvilleclarinetchoir.uk)  
 (Limited availability on the door)

Weoley Hill Park  
 Fox Hill, B29 4BQ  
  
**Play Bowls**  
 at  
**Weoley Hill Bowling Club**  
 We are an active mixed Crown Green Bowling Club with an emphasis on social bowling.  
**We have vacancies for 2024 season !**  
**Come To Our April Taster Sessions !**  
 Saturday 13th April 10am-4pm      Sunday 14th April 10am-4pm  
**Ladies and Gents \* Beginners and Bowlers**  
**No experience necessary**  
**Equipment Provided \* Qualified Coaches**  
**Join our friendly community !**  
 Call: Neil 07562 724867      Email: info@whbc.org.uk  
 Eileen 07860 374700      Visit: www.whbc.org.uk  
 Like us on Facebook !



## Your Stories

### 50 years of living on Weoley Hill



Some memories from the older residents amongst us.

The Cadbury family planned well for families on the estate, and on this side of Bristol Road there was a small open air swimming pool near where the squash court still stands, with parents responsible for keeping it clean. These were as well as all the facilities which we still use in Weoley Hill Park today. "When we first came to Fox Hill in 1973, our house cost £9,350; no central heating or shower, and with one or two gas points still remaining for the lights, although the lights themselves had long since been replaced."

The Post Office on the roundabout at Witherford Way was a real village shop, run then by David and Margaret Smith, providing local gossip as well as groceries, fresh bread, pensions etc. Just opposite was the local phone box, always well used. The local public areas, including the spinneys, were maintained by Mr Clarke and his son. BVT cannot afford such luxuries nowadays!

Young families were well served, with playgroup and toddler groups every week in the village hall, run by local mums. A token system for babysitting meant that it was free, and with about 20 families on the list, there was always someone who could come in and sit for you, even if you didn't know them well, and they didn't know your children! "You soon learned which parent thought it was ok to put her child to bed with a tube of Smarties, and the one who was likely to have no tokens left when it came to pay" Generally it worked extremely well, though.

As fewer young mothers went straight back to work full time, household incomes were lower, but expen-

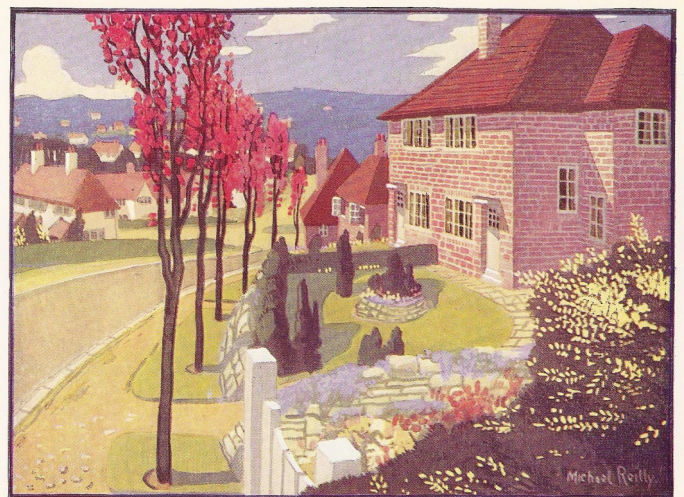
sive childcare was not needed and there was much time for coffee with friends and their toddlers. There was a very successful summer playscheme too, during the school holidays, again organised by parents: "My garage wall still has evidence of wall painting!" "I remember the ginger beer plant drinks at the end of each one, probably slightly alcoholic but enjoyed by everyone"

The scouts were very important in the neighbourhood. Their regular jumble sales were a joy! Recycling all the children's outgrown clothes, as well as toys, books, adult clothes, furniture, etc. Parents turned up to help sort stuff out beforehand and to serve on the day. "My children grew up in jumble sale clothes" Excellent early recycling! "Do you remember the parent who played the piano to us while we sorted?"

Another recycling venture was the scout's monthly paper collection, where locals bundled up their old newspapers, as most households had papers delivered daily and there was a free daily Metro too. The youngsters loved leaping in and out of parents' cars to collect the bundles and off-load them to a large lorry in the URC carpark. (No council recycling was done then.) Cub football was the focus for many boys on Saturday mornings, but with no follow on for older boys. The tennis courts, then mostly shale, were run by and for a small exclusive club of adults only. No families or children allowed.

The thriving local gardening club held an annual show, with prizes for all categories including a children's section. Summer and Christmas parties entertained whole families every year too. Do you have any memories to add to these?

Please contact the WHVN editorial team if you have a story to tell!



ON THE WEOLEY HILL ESTATE, BOURNVILLE.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Village Hall Activities

Up to date listings are at <https://weoleyhill.uk/village-hall/>

MONDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moo Music</li> <li>Move It Or Lose It</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tai Chi</li> </ul>
TUESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baby Glowbugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belly Dancing Classes (every 2 weeks)</li> </ul>
WEDNESDAY		
THURSDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boscott Dance School</li> </ul>	
FRIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Castle Art Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SBMCA</li> </ul>
SATURDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self Defence Classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wine Circle (every 2 months)</li> </ul>
SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boscott Dance School</li> </ul>	

**The Weoley Hill Village News in full colour and large print is available at:**



**[www.bvt.org.uk/news-and-events/weoley-hill-village-news](http://www.bvt.org.uk/news-and-events/weoley-hill-village-news)**



### Weoley Hill Village Council Update Spring 2024

Despite its name, the Weoley Hill Village Council is not a political entity, we are a group of residents an association made up of volunteers who run the Village Hall, helping develop community networks. We meet roughly 11 times per year to discuss opportunities to publicise/escalate local issues. We are currently on the lookout for new members so if you are interested then please get in touch via our website (see the QR Code below)

One of those meetings is our AGM where invite residents to the hall to discuss issues and give updates on what we've been doing over the previous 12 months. The 2023 AGM gave residents an opportunity to discuss local issues in person with representatives from BVT, Birmingham City Council and

BRSK. We had a really great turnout and many joined us at the end for some light refreshments. It was a very enjoyable evening.

One critical point of discussion regards the operation of the Village Council, was the agreement for us to proceed with our application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). We'll be working towards this throughout 2024 and if successful this would open up many opportunities especially funding. It would also give us a legal status and reduce our direct liabilities which are critical in the modern world.

Finally, if you have any ideas for events, enhancements to our facilities or other ideas then please get in touch through the Contact Page on our website [weoleyhill.uk](http://weoleyhill.uk) or scan the QR Code on left;



## Blog

The Weoley Hill Village News is an online blog on Wordpress, it has approximately 230 members and has been running for a few years. In

that time 178 posts have been made. The great thing about the blog is its immediacy - we can get information out to members very quickly. If you would like to contribute to WHVN Online please contact [weoleyhillvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:weoleyhillvillagenews@gmail.com)

Please provide brief succinct text preferably with photographs or graphics. If you would like to be-

come a member of the blog please email Richard Trengrouse using the address here, he will then send you an invite or put [weoleyhillvillagenews.wordpress.com](http://weoleyhillvillagenews.wordpress.com) into your favourite search engine and follow instructions.

All contributions must:

- i) Be of local interest i.e. Relating directly to Weoley Hill, Bournville and the surrounding area
- ii) Not be party political or directly religious
- iii) Not to be commercial advertising, except for classes, concerts etc.

Remember your **Garden Green Waste** collections



They will start in the first week of March and will come to an end in the fortnight on 6th December 2024. If you have any issues or concerns relating to the provision of wheelie bins, please contact Birmingham City Council direct by calling 0121 303 1112 or visit the Council's website:

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20009/waste\\_and\\_recycling/106/contact\\_us\\_about\\_your\\_bin](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20009/waste_and_recycling/106/contact_us_about_your_bin)