

Newsletter

Wadsworth Community Association Newsletter

September 2023

Contact us at:  
Wadsworth  
Community Centre,  
Billy Lane,  
Old Town,  
Hebden Bridge  
HX7 8RY

or phone  
07979452053

or look at our website link:  
<http://www.wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk>  
Also find us on



## Join us at our AGM

We hope you will join us for our Annual General Meeting on **Friday 15th September**. Doors open at 6.00 p.m. with our usual, excellent bar featuring local ales. Our AGM will start at 6.45 p.m.

We are always keen to attract new volunteers to the Centre and if you are interested in either joining the Board or one of our working groups, please tell us on the night. These groups include: Social media, website and I.T., Centre development, gardening and greening the centre, Bar management and operation, Centre activities and Youth activities (to be developed). We will be serving a delicious 2 course meal for only £3.00 a head at about 7.15 p.m.

This will be followed by a very special Guest Speaker—**John Butterworth**, whose talk signals the formal launch of a brand new initiative in which we hope every household in Wadsworth will join us. We want to “**GREEN WADSWORTH!**”

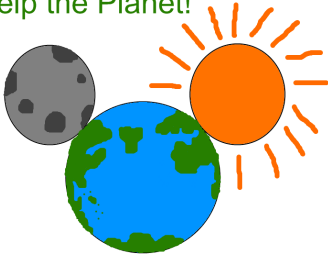


The idea is to work together and raise our knowledge of what steps we can take to tackle climate change, reduce the damage we may be doing to the planet and save money in the process. **John Butterworth** is a life-long resident of Pecket Well and a smallholder who has written over 100 articles for smallholding magazines, the first one published being about putting solar panels on your hen hut! He has been a campaigner for green energy and sustainability for years, so much so that Bernard Ingham called him the “Pecket Well Mafia!!” There’s a claim for fame! In his professional life, he was a Product Manager and expert witness for BT before retiring.

He will be talking about “**Greener Energy? What works, what doesn’t?**” John’s talk aims to address these two issues in some detail. You can find out more about our Greening Wadsworth plans overleaf. Meanwhile we hope to see you on Friday 15th for an enjoyable and thought provoking evening at the centre.

# Greening Wadsworth

Help the Planet!



Do you ever get fed up with fretting about climate change and the damage us humans are doing to our planet? Apparently scientists say that this year, it's been the hottest in 120,000 years!! It certainly feels like it. Well, a group of us, so far the Community Centre, Wainsgate Chapel, members of the Environment Group, Old Town School and a small number of interested people who have heard about our initial thoughts on the grapevine, have come together with a very ambitious aim: To make Wadsworth the greenest Parish in Britain! None of us are experts

(yet!) so we all plan to learn together and to encourage all 700+ households in Wadsworth to join us on our journey to live more sustainably. We realise this is a long term project but we have started by setting six priorities for us to find out about and change if we can. These are:

**Priority 1: Energy** - This might include the installation of solar panels in the parish which might not save money for individuals though it would increase the supply of green energy in general. A possibility to be considered in future is the use of large agricultural buildings for solar panel placement. We also want to explore buying into a community energy supplier so save energy costs.



**Priority 2: Insulation** - We have applied for a grant from Northern Powergrid Net Zero Community Energy Fund 2023 to buy two Thermal Imaging camera apps so we can offer a service to all households to see where heat is being lost as a base line for better insulation and draught proofing. Fingers crossed we get the funds; if not, there will be some fund raising to do. We also plan to find out where money can be sourced to help people with any insulation costs and talk to the Housing Association about their position on insulation.

**Priority 3: Food growing and eating** - Jenny Slaughter, local Old Town resident, has been telling us about the Pennine Cropshare project she is involved in which provides weekly organic veg bags, delivered to the community centre as well as a new initiative to develop land behind Dodnaze for organic veg growing. We would like to raise awareness of the delights of growing your own veg, offer the small allotment at the centre to development and link home growers for food and tip swaps.

**Priority 4: Transport** - While there is a pretty good bus service up to Pecket Well and Old Town it is dramatically under-used for most of the day. They withdrew the bike rack buses so it's hard to cycle both ways—that Keighley Road is a killer! We want to talk to the bus company TLC to see what we can do with them to improve use of the buses. We are also thinking public electric car and bike charging points (community sharing?) might be a way forward.

**Priority 5: Tree planting** - Tree planting is the simplest form of carbon capture and if we can identify suitable pieces of land for this, there may be grants available for the land owners and hopefully a team of community volunteers to plant them. Slow the Flow might be helpful too.

**Priority 6—Education** - First we all need educating both about the damage to the planet we are contributing to and how we can live more sustainably. Second, we want to help Old Town School with their work to raise awareness of these issues and to tackle their hugely rising costs for energy and the challenges they face to insulate the school.

We hope you'll get involved. We want to do a questionnaire for everyone in the Parish so we can get a baseline of where we are now and where we get to in the future. We hope you'll complete one. Please join us at our next meeting of Greening Wadsworth on **Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.15pm** at the Community Centre. We will be delighted to see you.



# Upgrading our community centre

If you have visited the community centre recently, you may have noticed a few changes. After many years of fundraising, we have managed to accumulate enough money to replace what was a rather tatty ceiling in the Main Hall for a new one with good insulation. Our thanks to Quality Ceilings, Elland for their hard work. We have also insulated under the seats in the Lounge so it should be cosier this winter.



Most exciting of all is the long planned upgrade of our toilets. We have been trying to find a builder/plumber who would take on the work since pre-Covid but we have now successfully found the perfect one, Paul Burke, and he and his team started work this week to tidy up the entrance area and build a new cupboard and fully upgrade all three toilets. They will do this in a staged way so that use of the centre won't be disrupted. We expect the work to take about 8 weeks and hopefully you will enjoy the improved facilities. Next task—new sink area in the bar!!!

## Visit our new website

We have a new website. It's still work in progress - an on-going project—but it's already got lots of useful information on it including how to make a booking/enquiry for hiring the centre. You can find it at: [www.wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk](http://www.wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk)

You may find yourself directed to the Wadsworth Community website and if you do, there's a link there to ours. Happy surfing.

## Winter activities ideas and volunteers

Hard to believe in this baking weather but winter is on its way. We would like to offer a range of activities for local people to enjoy and save on heating bills so please let us know if you would either like to attend or volunteer to run an event. Last winter we offered Warm Wednesdays from 1.00—4.00 with soup and good company. If there's interest, we can do it again or anything you like. Just get in touch. (See cover for details).

## Why not try the Access Bus

Did you know, you can register with the Access Bus: tel: 0113 3481902 and once you've done that, you can book a door to door lift into Halifax to do your shopping and even get helped to your front door with your bags!

At the moment, there's a bus in the Hebden Bridge area—Pecket Well, Old Town that goes every Wednesday at about 9.00 a.m. and comes back at 11.00 a.m. to Tesco at Kings Cross. They sometimes offer Sainsbury's as well.

If you have a current bus pass it's free. If not, it's £3.00 each way. You normally have to book up each week in advance (not same day booking) but if you want to go every week then you don't have to re-book each time. Sounds brilliant.

## Textile Tuesdays is back!

Are you a knitter, needleperson, quilter or anything else in between or do you fancy learning in a relaxed and supportive space? If so, Textile Tuesdays at the centre is for you. It runs on Tuesday afternoons. For further details contact Helen on 7875683185.



## What's On at Wadsworth Community Centre

**Yoga class:** Weekly class on Monday evenings from 5.45—6.45 p.m.  
For details and to book a place, contact Abbie on 07498 478451



### Wadsworth Working Wednesdays:

Are you working from home and feeling a bit isolated? Come along to the community centre on Wednesday mornings 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. (more often subject to demand) and share the space with others like you. £3.00 entrance fee which includes great quality wifi, use of kettle, heating, friendly faces and plenty of space to spread out if needed. Contact Isla on 07787 573715.



**Book Club:** First Tuesday of the month from 9.30—11.00 a.m.  
Contact Catherine on 07710 712705



### Ideas wanted!

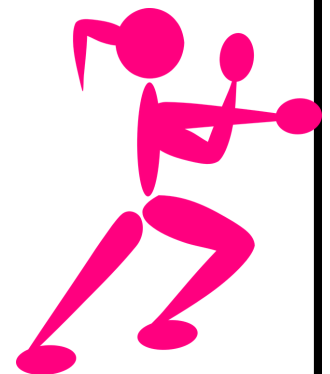
Please get in touch and tell us what you would like to see at the Centre—it is yours after all!!  
Classes, fun events, music, whatever you fancy, we will try to make it happen.

### Thursday Fitness:

**Pilates:** Weekly class on Thursday mornings from 9.15 - 10.15 a.m. during term times.  
Contact Rachel by text to book a place: 07944 360594

### Boxercise:

Weekly class every Thursday evening from 6.00—7.00 p.m.  
Contact Emma on 07764 486296



Don't miss our fabulous music events with some of the top folk acts in the country in partnership with BGR promotions.

### Saturday 30th September '23—Sam Kelly and Jamie Francis + support £14.00

"Sam has such a beautiful voice and sings with so much soul. I've seen him perform live a few times and he's amazing" Cara Dillon.

### Saturday 21st October—Jack Rutter £14.00 + Special Guest Chris Brain

(Jack is) "among Britain's finest traditional singers" Folk Radio UK

"An outstanding performer" - The Independent

Chris Brain: "an acoustic gem" Tom Robinson BBC Radio 6

### Saturday 11th November—Steve Tilston with Hugh Bradley and Pete Dilley £13.00

"The more you listen, the more there is to discover" Bob Harris

"Quite simply Peter Dilley is one of the best players—songwriters from this new generation"

Steve Tilston

Tickets: 01422 344458, 07731661053 and WeGOTTickets and from us: Jane Summers 07491676408