

Newsletter

## Wadsworth Community Association Newsletter

February 2025

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>

To book the Centre, contact  
Lucy Ellis on booking @  
[wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk](mailto:wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk)

Sadly, our Facebook page is  
out of action but we do post  
information on the Old  
Town Wadsworth Facebook



Welcome to our Spring 2025 newsletter. We have got lots of interesting events coming up at which we hope you will join us. (see details below). If you haven't visited the centre or not been for a while, come and have a look as we are slowly making improvements to the building. Currently, Michael Chavrimootoo, is busy upgrading the electrics at the centre, with motion sensitive lights in the car park soon to be fitted, making it safer for all of us using the centre after dark. So thank you to him. ([mrmikesparks@gmail.com](mailto:mrmikesparks@gmail.com)) Anyway, we hope you'll join us for a varied programme over the coming month or two. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the coming Spring.

## Food for Thought: Friday 28th March

### Some Calderdale Murders 1858 - 1957



From the Wadsworth Moor murder of 1858, through to the tragic killing of Emily Pye in Gibbet Street, Halifax, in 1957; looking at six different tragedies, and how they were investigated. Who was Bethel Parkinson? Why was the vicar of Todmorden attacked? Who was found dead at Shroggs Tip? Which Southowram choirmaster was killed by a burglar? Join us on Friday 28/03/25 to hear some true but spine-chilling dark tales from our local area narrated by David Glover.

A Londoner by birth, who always loved national history, David is now a well-established Yorkshireman, and is one of the best-known interpreters of Halifax's past. David currently holds the presidency of Halifax Antiquarian Society (Calderdale's oldest local history group); he is also vice-chair of Halifax Civic Trust, and Chair of The Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax. He is also a guide for Calderdale Heritage Walks.

**Free entry. Delicious two course supper for only £3.50.**  
**Come and enjoy our well-stocked bar, good company and fascinating talk**



## Our next Greening Wadsworth meeting: Wednesday 5th March -7.15 p.m.

Our next meeting is a game of two parts.

First of all, we are lucky to be able to welcome back Alan Gardner, local Old Town resident but also National Trust special adviser who will speak in a private capacity about the good ways (and bad!!) to retrofit old houses.

This will be followed by a talk by Nick Dent and members of Wadsworth Guerilla Gardeners on "Getting your growing year started", what to plant and when, using what you already have and tips to produce some of your own food, whatever the space. Come and find out what are the best fruit, veg and herbs to start with if you are beginner.

To round off the evening, as it's only missing Shrove Tuesday by a day, we will be serving pancakes, some the traditional way made from wheat flour and some with more unusual flour mixes.



**Please join us—fascinating discussion, good company and a tasty snack to share.**

Meanwhile the Greening Wadsworth team continue their programme (free service) to offer every household in Wadsworth the opportunity to see exactly where heat is being lost from your homes by taking thermal images of your rooms or just outside if you prefer.

For more information contact John Butterworth or Jack at [greeningwadsworthjack@gmail.com](mailto:greeningwadsworthjack@gmail.com)

The Guerilla Gardeners have also been busy clearing land for the Community Food Forest at the bottom of Walker Lane. They have planted some willow and gooseberry bushes so far but as the weather warms, they hope to plant nut and fruit trees and fruit bushes for all to share.

Contact [nickpdent@hotmail.com](mailto:nickpdent@hotmail.com) for information about joining their group.



## Help save the Old Town Post Office

Those of you who are regular visitors to our Post Office will know that Sarah and Alex have decided to move on from running the business but so far have had no luck in finding a buyer. To avoid losing the Post Office, shop and wonderful café as a precious local amenity, a group of local residents have formed Wadsworth Area Community Assets Limited which is a co-operative formed with the aim of ensuring the Post Office can continue to serve the community into the future.

Wadsworth Area Community Assets Limited is working closely with Sarah, Alex and family to ensure its smooth transition into community ownership. The co-operative is Not for Profit so any money earned is reinvested back into the business. It is currently managed by a small board of local volunteers, who offered to work on the initial phases. However the group hopes to attract more volunteers on working groups to take their aims for the Post Office forward in an open and transparent way by engaging as many people as possible.

First things first! The Community Assets company needs to raise funds to get the project of the ground and then to buy out the business. So help them please by supporting a fantastic gig on **Friday 28th February** at the community centre—doors open 6.45 p.m. Pie and peas and great bar. The wonderful **Steve Tilston and Hugh Bradley** have kindly offered to do a benefit for the project. You can buy tickets from Jane Summers on 07491676408.

To find out more about the project, email [OTPostOffice@gmail.com](mailto:OTPostOffice@gmail.com), or visit their soon to be launched website at [www.wacacoop.org.uk](http://www.wacacoop.org.uk).

# Calderdale WomenCentre Benefit Saturday 1st March

Calderdale WomenCentre provides counselling, well-being, support and safe space for women across the Borough with a drop in service which includes a dedicated domestic abuse service from Monday to Friday weekly at 23 Silver Street, Halifax HX1 1JN Contact 01422 386 500. This year marks 40 years of WomenCentre. That's 40 years of supporting women and their children in our local area. Local Wadsworth volunteers have organised a benefit event for all, not to be missed, on the 1st March at the Community Centre.

We hope you will join us for an evening of great music, food and drink to celebrate the work of this amazing organization.

Traditional folk music, The Muthers, bar, pie and peas and a raffle.

Tickets available from 07909791774 or <https://wegottickets/event/647206>



## Regular activities at the community centre

**Yoga class:** Weekly class on Monday evenings from 5.30—6.30 p.m. For details and to book a place, contact Abbie on 07498 478451

**Dog Training Classes:** Monday evenings 7.30—8.30 p.m. Contact Gemma on 07875 683185

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

**Textile Tuesdays:** Weekly sessions from 1.30—4.30 p.m. in the Lounge. Bring along your knitting, patchwork, sewing or whatever you are working on and enjoy good company, a warm space and help if you need it. Contact Helen on 07875 683185 or just come along.

**Pilates:** Weekly class on Thursday mornings from 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. during term times. Contact Rachel by text to book a place: 07944 360594

**Boxercise:** Thursday evenings from 6.00—7.00 pm Contact Emma on 07764 486296

**Community Kitchen:** Monthly pop-up restaurant weekends lunch and/or evening meal. Fantastic food. Next events: Sunday 16th March & Saturday 12th April.

## Hiring the centre for parties, wedding celebrations and wakes

Did you know you can hire the community centre and garden for any family events? The rates below include full access to the kitchen, the gardens\* and use of the small car park next to the centre.

- Main Hall – £15 per hour with a maximum charge of £75 per event
- Lounge – £10 per hour with a maximum charge of £50 per event
- Whole Centre – £20 per hour with a maximum charge of £100 per event
- Note that for parties with a bar an additional charge is made for cleaning (£25) and for a late license (currently £21) and you will be asked to pay a bond of £50 to cover any damage. This will be fully refunded after the event.

To hire the venue email [booking@wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk](mailto:booking@wadsworthcommunityassociation.org.uk)

\* Note access to the gardens does not include the bowling green which must not be walked on at any time.

# Benefit for POD Car Sharing Scheme

Why not join us on **Saturday 10th May** Bridge car sharing scheme which area and which can be rented by the alternative to private car ownership in limited public transport.

By reducing car ownership and use, travel, decrease pollution, and alleviate they plan to replace their hybrid cars e-bike rentals as they become part of

Hubs, and expand the service into other areas including Old Town and Heptonstall. It is a Community Benefit Society.

To support their work, the amazing **Owterzeds** will be at the community centre on the **10th May**. Having recently celebrated their 40th anniversary but are still rocking so come and party, enjoy our great bar and pie and peas.

To find out more about their work and how to get a ticket, contact [jamie@pod-caldervalley.co.uk](mailto:jamie@pod-caldervalley.co.uk)



to support POD, a Hebden operates five hybrid cars in the hour, day or more as a a vital this semi-rural area with fairly

they aim to encourage active congestion. In the longer term, with electric vehicles, extend into Calderdale Shared Mobility

## Brilliant BGR events coming soon

Don't miss our brilliant folk music season in partnership with BGR promoters. Coming soon are:

**Johnny Campbell supported by Lucy and Hazel:** Sunday 23rd March from 5.00—8.00 p.m. Pennine Way Tour Stop Off at Old Town Community Centre on his 60th Anniversary Tour and Walk: Gritty Folk Doors open 4.00 p.m.

**Gigspanner:** Monday 31st March 8.00 p.m. Announcing a return visit of the talented and nationally popular Gigspanner, led by Peter Knight of Steeleye Span fame. Superb show on their last visit - we guarantee a similarly enjoyable evening Doors open 6.45 p.m.

**Granny's Attic:** Friday 23rd May 8.00 p.m. With exceptional musicianship and boundless energy, Granny's Attic are going from strength to strength. Were delighted to rebook G A after they were prevented from appearing at Wadsworth last year due to illness.

Expect a high octane take on English Folk from this superb trio . Doors open 6.45 p.m.

**Blair Dunlop:** Saturday 14th June 8.00 p.m. Blair Dunlop is an award-winning British singer-songwriter and guitarist, who has released 5 albums, 2 EPs and toured around the globe. He's also the winner of a BBC Folk award. Doors open 6.45 p.m.

**Tickets from <https://wegottickets.com/event/>** Usual excellent bar and pie and peas supper

## Your Community Centre needs you

As you probably know, our community centre is run entirely by volunteers so this is a shout out for more help please? Richard Jones, who has kept our centre grounds looking fantastic for several years now as well as being a key member of our cellar team, ordering beer, sorting out the barrels and generally being wonderful, has decided to resign and do other things. Our huge thanks to him. So if you fancy a bit of gardening or working with our volunteer cellar team, or even volunteering on the bar itself, please get in touch. Lucy Ellis, who has also done a brilliant job as Booking Secretary for the past few years has also decided she needs to focus on her work and home life so again, we are looking to replace her (though a hard act to follow!) The job has two parts: taking bookings from the website and logging them for the centre volunteers to plan bar cover etc but also liaising with the people looking to book the centre, show them round etc. Though we think maybe the job could be split into two?? If those roles don't interest you but you would be willing to help develop the centre for your community, there's always work to be done so again, please get in touch if you think you could help. Thank you.