



January 2010

Dear Member,

HAPPY FREEZING NEW YEAR!

As this is written, the snow started falling yet again! It just has to get better – how long have we been saying that?

But it's not all doom and gloom here in Wirksworth. The scenery is as pretty as a Christmas card! People have shown lots of care for each other. And local trade is doing well! It is brilliant that people are beginning to use the local facilities. Hopefully they will realise that we have a complete range and fabulous produce on our doorstep. Also it is not expensive. The supermarkets mark down about 10 basic products to convince people they're cheaper but everything else is often more expensive. You also don't throw as much away because you don't get lured into BOGOFFs.

This weather has also prompted people to use the local cafes and there's been a real community spirit as a result.

We've also heard that some of our supporters are attributing the wealth of new shops opening in the town to the efforts of NOW. We'd like to think that. Certainly, the Farmers' Markets have had a lot of promotion and introduced people to Wirksworth for the first time. What's more, the visitors are returning to shop which is what NOW has always believed could happen.

February Farmers' Market will be held on Saturday 6 February from 9.0 am until goods sell out. There will be the usual favourite stalls and possibly a couple of new ones. The February market will again have buskers and we were delighted that Wirksworth Community Choir approached us for a slot. We welcome this opportunity to involve a local group.



The picture on the left (kindly taken by NOW Director, Bill Lansdowne) shows the stalls setting up for the Christmas festive market before the crowds arrived.

WIRKSWORTH FILM

The organisers didn't expect many people to turn up at the Town Hall to the January film night because of the weather, but wow weren't they surprised and delighted. There was

a full house! This was a prime example of how a local cinema wins support from people preferring not to have to take out their cars to see a film and enjoy a social environment. The film was Darjeeling Limited and applauded by the audience at the end. Next month's film on **Friday 12 February** will be Woody Allen's latest **Vicky Christina Barcelona**. Screening at 7.30, bar opens at 7.0. Everyone welcome!

Stoneywood events for your diary

Sun 17th Jan 7pm - wassailing in the Community Orchard - those who came last year can vouch for the fact that it is fairly short, good fun and involves Cider! Vital to ensure the trees will grow and fruit in 2010!

Sat 23rd Jan - Work-day to plant more trees in the wood, 1-3.30pm. Meet at the Community Orchard site just off Green Hill. This will be followed by a social nearby. Come for the whole thing or just an hour.

Weds 10th Feb. AGM at the Council Chamber Wirksworth town hall. Short and interesting. Refreshments. You can stand to join the committee.

Please let Chris Bristow know if you intend to come to any or all of these events - 01629 824258.

Wirksworth Festival news...

The Festival Office is to be transferred from the Memorial Hall to what was the Cats Protection League in North End. This change is useful in a number of ways: the Festival will also rent space in the garage underneath so all the banners and rammel can be safely stored.

It is planned to move there in March-April, certainly by the time the new Festival manager (see advert below) is in post. This person will need to get stuck in right away and it is better he/she doesn't have to spend time moving furniture.

The space downstairs in the shop gives the Festival a much more visible presence in the town. There will be photographs and the current newsletter pasted up there and it will provide a valuable area for posters and news as activities grow through the year.

Meetings have already been held and this too provides a valuable showcase. It is important that the Festival has a visible presence. As well as meetings the downstairs space will be used by volunteers, for artists to work, maybe even a mini-residency etc,

Wirksworth Festival seeks Manager £27k pro rata 22.5 hours/wk, initially 12 month contract £27k pro rata. The Festival Manager will co-ordinate the planning and delivery of the festival, helping to shape the artistic programme and developing a strong volunteer base. They will manage all operational aspects of the festival including finances, HR and office management. We are looking for 3 years of experience in arts/events management and a proven track record in working with volunteers. Closing date: **3 February 2010** Date of Interviews: **10 February 2010**. Application packs can be downloaded from www.wirksworthfestival.co.uk. E-mail: info@wirksworthfestival.co.uk Tel: 01629824003

Note: the date of Festival 2010 is 10th to 26th September. Sign up on the website home page to be sent news and updates as they happen
www.wirksworthfestival.co.uk

Youth matters

Announcing a new Network Rail programme – entitled NO MESSIN!

It's not always easy to find somewhere safe to play or hang out. This is an opportunity for a youth group to get something going. It's simple. The group identifies the problem (could be that they get bored and end up playing in dangerous places, or get pushed around by an older group) then the leaders come up with a project that solves it! This could include the chance to play a sport or other things to do locally.

Then NO MESSIN'! could assist leaders to turn an idea into reality by attending a three-day residential training course with other teams from Scotland, Wales and England. The training will help make their project a success as the group leaders learn skills in teamwork, problem-solving and communication.

Interested? HERE'S WHAT TO DO...

1. Request your free NO MESSIN'! Planning Pack and Project Proposal form from Sara Kirk at sara.k@ukyouth.org or 01425 675107.
2. Get your group together - anywhere between 4 and 8 of you, aged from 10-14.
3. Agree on a local problem or issue to be tackled.
4. Come up with a great idea! (It's important for the group to think about how they will involve other young people and adults in the community).
5. Return the Project Proposal Form before Friday 12th February 2010.

Remember: Applications can be made more than once if you have multiple good ideas.

For further information contact Yvonne Richards, Tel 0845 8620428, Email yvonne@ukyouth.org

Stay & Play at the new Children's Centre

Stay & Play Baby & Toddler Group has now finally moved to the new Wirksworth Surestart Children's Centre after months of planning.

The group for babies and pre-school children was originally set up by three mums three years ago and was based at the Creche Room at Wirksworth Adult Community Education Centre. The new Surestart Centre has finally opened up for business at the Memorial Hall and Stay & Play is the first children's group to move in!

Visit Stay & Play every **Thursday afternoon** during term-time from 1.30-3pm. Costs £1 per family.

Blooming Middleton

Middleton by Wirksworth will be entering the **East Midlands in Bloom** again this year, after the great success of last year winning a silver award at the first time of entering.

So you want to dance?

If you are over 50 this is your chance! At Wirksworth Town Hall, 30 January from 12-1.30pm. Contact Tricia Durdey on 01629 825029. Fee - £6

Try and keep warm!

SF.14/01.10