



## About Walsall for All

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## David Primrose

Chair of the Walsall for All Board

Our town is full of wonderful people, with stories to tell and gifts to share. With so much change going on around us, it's really important that we stay together and support each other. That means reaching out, beyond the friends we already have, to meet different people and discover more about the rich diversity of this place. This newsletter is full of encouragement and of challenge. As you read about what's happening in our town, share this good news with others; then tell us your examples of people helping people live together in harmony, and let us celebrate your experience of Walsall for All.

## Upcoming Events

### Community Researcher Programme

9th May (09:30 - 12:00)

Walsall College The Hub, Wisemore Campus,  
Walsall, WS2 8ES (Room 101)

### Young People's Art Competition

26th June (10:00 - 14:00)

Forest Arts Centre, Hawbush Rd,  
Walsall, WS3 1AG

## About Walsall for All

In 2018, the government published their Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, which recognised that tailored local plans are needed to tackle integration issues that are specific to each area. Walsall was selected as one of five key pilot areas to work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to trial this new approach.

This marked the beginning of our journey to a more cohesive and integrated Walsall. Subsequent months were used to consult local partners and residents to help shape the strategy and delivery plan. **“Walsall for All”** is our long-term strategy for creating strong and integrated communities in Walsall. It recognises our strengths as well as our challenges and sets out the steps we will take to break down barriers to integration. The programme was officially launched on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at Forest Arts Centre.

Our vision is to create integrated, empowered and inclusive communities where people from all backgrounds come together to celebrate what they have in common. A place where our



Caldmore Green Mosaic opening

residents are safe and valued, and everyone has fair opportunities to fulfil their potential and contribute to the growth of Walsall.

The work around the 4 priorities will be delivered in partnership with local agencies, community groups, organisations and our Walsall for All Board. Working in partnership is essential for the success of this programme.

Walsall for All is an exciting opportunity for Walsall communities and organisations to harness their expertise and work in a collaborative manner to develop a shared vision to achieve common goals.

Connecting across communities

#ConnectingCommunities

Young People Learning & Growing Together

#YoungPeopleTogether

Working & Contributing Together

#WorkingTogether

Living Together

#LivingTogether

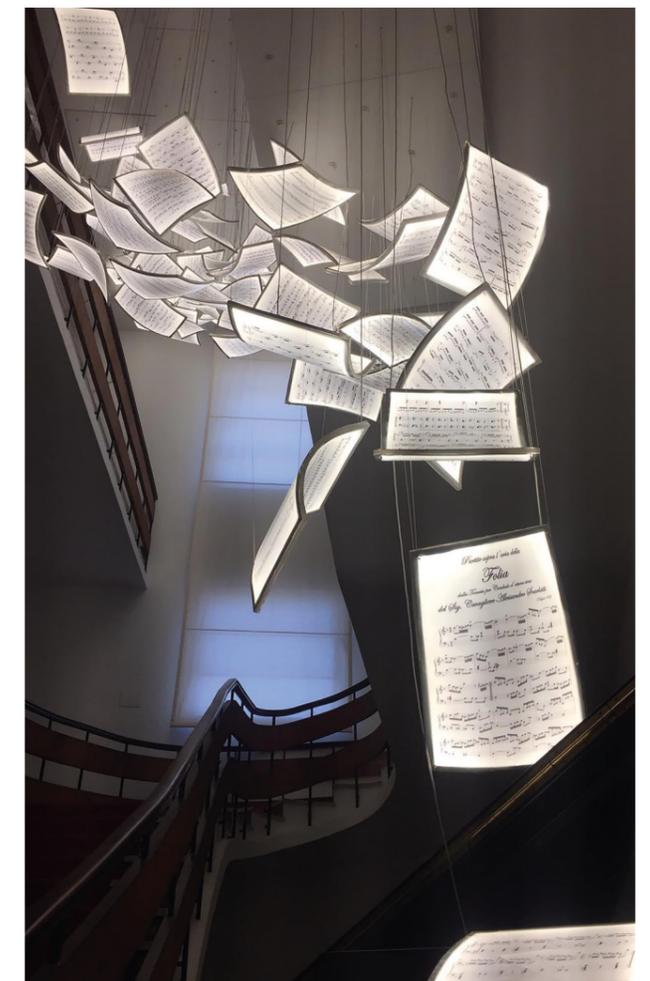
## Walsall for All exchange visit to Sicily, Italy

In the beginning of March, Walsall for All partners took part in a joint learning exchange visit to Sicily to share best practice about integration. They visited Moltivolti (Many Voices) project, the Palermo Mayor's Office, Conservatorio di Musica Centro Astalli and attended a roundtable at Palazzo della Cultura.



They had a chance to share the Walsall for All strategy and explained the approach, particularly in terms of more difficult areas, such as hate crime, segregation and social mixing. They agreed that in order for the towns and cities to become inclusive and socially mixed, projects need to involve both incoming and existing population. They have really enjoyed this informative 3-day visit organised by the British Embassy in Rome in partnership with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Embassy representative Rebecca White was a great multilingual host who ensured that no one missed out on conversations and the chance to exchange ideas. A special thanks also goes to the International Organisation for Migration representative

Eleanora Vola, who provided the team with a much needed and independent insight into general migration issues from both a national and international basis.



# Places of Worship Twinning

London & Walsall

In March, representatives of Walsall's Muslim and Christian communities and our team members, Haroon and Lutfur, went to Lambeth Palace to celebrate the successful Church and Mosque twinning programme. The aim of the programme is to promote integration between people from different faith communities. It was great to see our communities and officers being recognised for their efforts to build a Walsall for All. Congratulations go to our Church and Mosque community members from Brownhills and Willenhall Methodist Circuit, Minhaj-ul-Quran International and Walsall Methodist Circuit for winning a Silver Award Certificate for their Church and Mosque Twinning programme.

In the same month, All Saints Parish Church, Streetly met attendees at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Caldmore, Walsall to learn more about the local Sikh community. Walsall Council's Community, Equality and Cohesion team joined as part of the tour to visit places of worship. The visit included elements on prayer, basic beliefs, cultural practices and much more. We were also



Lambeth Palace, London

invited to their *Langar*, which is a community kitchen where free meals are served to all visitors, regardless of religion, caste, gender, economic status or ethnicity.

We look forward to developing future twinning initiatives and we hope to build on our current success in Walsall.



Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Walsall

# School Linking in Walsall

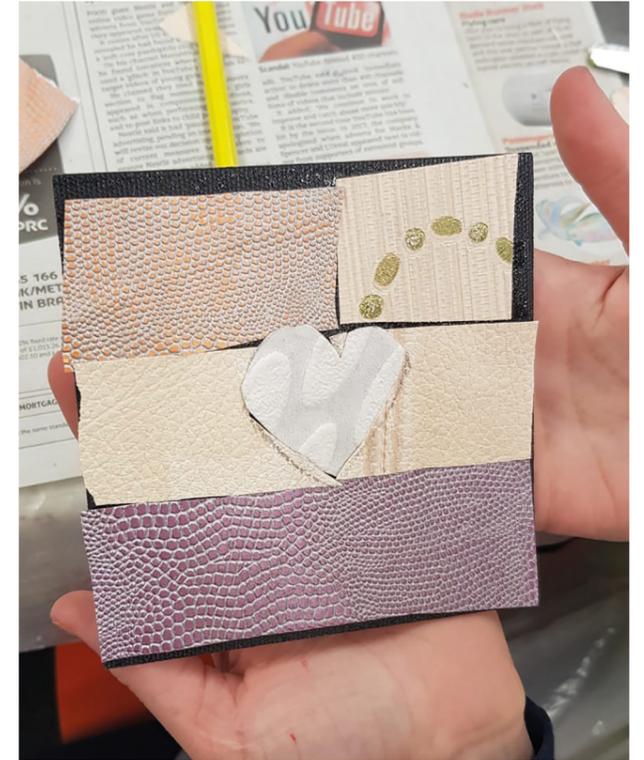
The New Art Gallery

Walsall Council's Community, Equality and Cohesion team are leading the School Linking project in Walsall, funded by The Linking Network. The Schools Linking programme is a national initiative, which has been running successfully in schools for 16 years across different local authorities. The programme has been developed by The Linking Network who are based in Bradford and is now being rolled out in Walsall.

School linking is about creating meaningful contact between pupils from different backgrounds to reduce prejudice, increase trust and understanding. The aim is to create between them a sense of togetherness. The project explores issues of identity and belonging:

- 1 Who am I? – creating opportunities to explore the multiple aspect of identity
- 2 Who are we? – celebrating diversity, including similarity and differences
- 3 Where do we live? – promoting community, understanding locality and developing a sense of belonging for all locally, nationally, globally
- 4 How do we live together? – championing equality, challenging prejudice in all its forms and promoting active citizenship.

About 240 children from 8 schools came to Walsall Art Gallery in early April to engage in creative projects together. One of the most popular activities were workshops where the children learned how to do polyprints and supported each other in creating beautiful bunting which will proudly be displayed in their classrooms.



Pupils created pictures using different materials at the New Art Gallery.

One of the children from Millfield Primary School said that **"It was the best day of my life!"** Teachers observed that the children were bonding with each other and the activities were simple enough to get young people engaged. Children were also seen hugging each other when leaving.

If you would like to find out about the School Linking programme, please contact Lutfur Rahman at [Lutfur.Rahman@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Lutfur.Rahman@walsall.gov.uk) or call 01922 653 044.

# Case Study

## Learning and Teaching English

### By Sara, Tutor and Administrator at Aaina Community Hub

I was born and brought up in Pakistan and completed my Masters in Information Technology. I did some work in a Software House as a User Interface Developer and then I started teaching to graduates in a university. After some time, I got married and moved to UK to live with my husband. Whilst I could understand and speak English, I often struggled because of different accents. My English improved drastically as I had to communicate in English with my husband because his first language is English.

I have always been ambitious and wanted to start a career in the UK so I started volunteering at Aaina Community Hub as a Teaching Assistant. Volunteering as a Teaching Assistant helped me to boost my confidence and further helped me in all aspects of English.

I now work for Aaina as an ESOL Tutor and Administrator and have been doing so for nearly three years. I like to think that I am very confident and approachable person who deliver classes in a professional manner. My learners have always said they enjoy learning with me.

I love my role and wish to develop this and encourage other to learn English.

I have learnt a lot from Aaina and it will always have a special place in my heart. Every learner is different and it's interesting how we use different methods to boost their confidence and explore new things to make sure they learn.

In particular, when I see my

learners so happy and excited to apply what they have learnt. When they come and tell me those stories; how they communicated in English on their own and did not let their confidence go down. That moment is really a proud moment for me as my hard work has gone successful. These learners feel better about them and are more independent.

English is an international language and it is very important for everyone to know at least the basics. I want everyone to learn English so they do not have low self-esteem or they are not capable of doing anything good.

My father is my inspiration. In my childhood, he used to sit with me and help me in English lessons. He used to make sure that my vocabulary is good and I have enough knowledge to communicate on my own.

We are constantly in the process of learning. Be confident and never think that you cannot learn English. English is not hard, just needs a little bit of practice and more you add it into your life, more you will learn.

If I can do it, so can you...



# Upcoming Events

Over the coming months, we will be planning some exciting events and activities for individuals and groups to get involved in. We have two key events coming up in May and June, which you may be interested in.

Keep an eye out on our social media channels for future events events we will be delivering in your area, likewise if you have any upcoming events promoting integration, we would love to hear from you.



## Community Researcher Programme

9<sup>th</sup> May (09:30 - 12:00)

Walsall College The Hub, Wisemore Campus, Walsall, WS2 8ES (Room 101)

An opportunity open to those who are interested in their local community, enjoy speaking and listening to people and would like to find out more about the role of Community Researcher.



## Young People's Art Competition

26<sup>th</sup> June (10:00 - 14:00)

Forest Arts Centre, Hawbush Rd, Walsall, WS3 1AG

Young People's Art Competition, inviting School Councils to present their schools voice on integration through the creation of unique pieces of art.

# Partnership Board Update



In Walsall, we have our Partnership Board who are responsible for driving forward the plan of the Walsall for All programme. The board is made up of voluntary and community organisations, faiths, the public and private sectors and universities.

The board members bring their experience to the meetings, as well as a good understanding of our diverse communities' needs. At our recent board meeting at Frank F Harrison Community Association, we visited and learned about the North Locality and focused on the following topics: the Sicily experience on integration, our work with Department for Work and Pensions, risk management, programme update and next steps of the board activity.

There will be single topic focused meetings over the next few months to boost areas of work linked to the delivery plan and open to both board members and relevant partners.

## Upcoming Commissions



As part of delivering the Walsall for All programme, we are commissioning providers and organisations to run exciting integration projects in Walsall. We are now accepting applications for the following commissions: Hate Crime, Community Dialogue, Young People & Welcome Packs.

Interested groups will need to register on Walsall Council's Intend Portal online in order to obtain the necessary details for each one. The deadline to apply is 14th May 2019.

We will be working with the appointed providers to start the delivery of the projects and prepare the ground. We also hope to run a series of information giving events about the projects in Walsall.

## Get in touch!

### Community, Equality and Cohesion

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