The Newsletter of
Wythenshawe Good Neighbours

If you would like us to collect your Membership Form and annual fee, please let us know

Thank you to everyone who has joined or re-joined our WGN Membership Scheme. **If you would like to join but you're struggling to post your completed WGN Membership Form and/or to pay your annual Membership Fee, we can collect it from you.** If this would be of help, please ring us at our office on **Tel: 0161 905 3898** and we can make arrangements with you. Membership is: £10 per person per annum (£15 for two people living in the same household).

Don't forget, WGN Members can use our Volunteer Drivers Scheme. If you haven't tried it yet, why not give us a ring to book a trip (using the telephone number given above). Tuesdays are our busiest days, but it's always worth checking our availability, in advance of your trip.

Creating a new version of WGN's 'My resilience matters' folder

The resource folder for Members will be full of information on a variety of topics - from our own WGN Member Services, to advice on avoiding scams, contact details for useful support organisations, local life and community venues, and personal wellbeing.

If there is a class, group or support session that you find, or have found, to be enjoyable or useful, and you'd like to recommend it to other WGN Members, we'd love to hear from you. It may be suitable to include in the resilience folder.

WGN Newsletters - 'Creativity Shared' series

We know from analysing the completed Members Satisfaction Survey forms that a lot of our Members enjoy the 'Creativity Shared' series in our Newsletters. Have you written a short poem, created artwork, taken a photograph, crocheted, knitted, cooked or made something you're particularly pleased with? If you'd like it to be a **'Creativity Shared'** feature in a WGN Newsletter, do get in touch and chat it through with us!

In this Newsletter, we have the first of a new **'Meet a WGN Member'** series (meet Thomas overleaf). If you'd like to be the subject of a similar feature, do let us know!

Meet a WGN Member...

Thomas recounts his life as a young boy

Thomas, a retired secondary school history teacher, was born in Bradford and now lives in Northenden. He has been a WGN Member for about two years and is a regular at our Tuesday Community Lunch at Northenden Social Club. He enjoys chatting to people and says: "It's a welcoming association, and the volunteers should be complemented."

He will be presenting his ‘Kings and Queens’ quiz at our Community Lunch on 10 June (we have prizes)!

Thomas’s experiences as a boy make for a poignant snapshot of family tragedy and resilience. Our thanks to him for sharing it here.

Before the war, Thomas's father, Leonard, had his own, very successful, tiling business. During the war, he joined the Lothian and Border Scottish Regiment and learned to drive a Matilda tank. At the time, Thomas was one year old. The only memory he has of his father is of a man coming to say 'goodnight' and leaving his rifle propped against the wall.

Whilst on an exercise on the North Yorks Moors, in preparation for 'Operation Torch' (the invasion of North Africa), his tank caught fire. Tragically, he died in hospital, as a result of his injuries.

Thomas (aged three at the time of his father's accident) then lived with his mother and her sister, and two grandmas.

Aged five years old, Thomas went to Dudley Hill school in Bradford. His mother worked as a weaver (which she had done from the age of twelve). She started work at 5am in the morning. At her place of work a buzzer would sound at 7am for breakfast; then it was back to work until lunchtime; and finishing at 6pm. A hard life!

She and her sister then bought a small sweet shop at Dudley Hill. It was on the road to Greenfield Stadium (a dog racing track), and it turned out to be a little gold mine! His mother continued to run the shop after her sister sadly passed away.

The decision was made to send Thomas to a boarding school near Leeds in 1950, when he was ten years old. He describes being "...in shock to find myself suddenly away from home. The first night was the worst. I slept in the Junior Dormitory of about forty boys - aged between six and twelve.

We were put to bed by a matron who supervised our washing, and inspected our neck, ears, legs and arms. We were allowed to read for half an hour before lights out."

Community noticeboard

Dandelion Hub: Oatlands Road M22 1AH

Northenden Social Club presents:

President's Family Fun Day

In aid of Prostate Cancer UK

Sunday 8 June, 12 - 5pm

Activities for all ages

Funfair, tombola, raffle, outdoor games, craft stalls, food.

Free entry

Images above from **Pixabay**: Flower stall by: **MJ Jin** / Bunting by: **Ilona S**.

Wythenshawe Good Neighbours: Tel 0161 905 3898

WGN Members can book Volunteer Drivers Scheme trips using the number above. Also use this number for **general enquiries about our services.** In addition, we will always do our best to '**sign-post'** you to local support organisations.

Wythenshawe Good Neighbours is funded by: MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL