



Wallasey Village Library

community centre

Introduction

Following the closure of Wallasey Village Library in October 2022, a group of people got together to see if we could take it over from the council and reopen it as a library and community centre.

This newsletter updates you, and the wider community, on our work since then and our plans to bring this fantastic building back into use.

We are now registered with the Charity Commission and the Information Commissioners' Office. We have one aim: **to bring this library back.**

Timeline

- **January 2022:** Wirral Council considers whether to close nine branch libraries, including Wallasey Village. Petition set up by a local resident attracts 1,600 signatures.
- **May 2022:** Supporters meet and agree to seek 'asset transfer' to retain the library. 'Expression of Interest' submitted to Council, outlining our proposals to take over the building and run it as a library, community centre and café.
- **March 2023:** Council agrees to transfer Wallasey Village Library to us on a 25 year lease.
- **August 2023:** Hill Dickinson LLP agrees to act for us, at no charge, in the lease negotiations.

Application to register as a charity agreed by the Charity Commission.
- **September 2023:** Trustees formally agree to partner with Baked to run the cafe.





Baked



Originally opening in 2019, Baked moved to Larton Livery in Frankby in 2021 and is a popular family run cafe/bistro. Offering a varied menu of freshly cooked fare using locally sourced ingredients, Baked is a welcoming venue that is dog friendly, contemporary and community focused. Anna, Ian, Neil and the rest of Team Baked are very much looking forward to opening at the Wallasey Village Library and Community Centre and look forward to adding to an already vibrant and progressive community and helping to establish a brilliant village hub where people can meet, engage, learn and most importantly, read (or borrow) a book!



Did you know?

The library was opened in 1938 by Alderman Pennington.

The cost of running Wallasey Village Library (excluding salaries) was £27,517 in 2020.

In 2020, the Council estimated that 26,741 people visited and 17,284 books were borrowed, even though it was only open 18 hours a week.



Our plans

- Prior to closure, the library was open for just 18 hours a week. Our plan is to have the library open at least five days a week, remaining free to use.
- The inside of the building will be remodelled with dedicated spaces for the library, a community area available for hire and a café operated by Baked.
- We want the building to be a 'hub' for the local community – welcoming to anyone who wants to use it, whether it's to read a book or newspaper, work on their laptop away from home or to bring the children somewhere interesting and 'new'.
- Maybe you'd like to grab a coffee and catch up with friends or join one of the groups we'll be hosting or attend the events we'll be running.

We're still working on the full range of activities – if you have any suggestions or offers, please let us know!



Who we are

The group includes representatives from Wallasey Village Library Friends and St George's Primary School.

Our four founding trustees are:

Sarah Jones: School business manager, St George's Primary School

Ray Lyons: Local resident, educator and broadcaster whose family accessed facilities at the library for 40 years

Ian Lewis: local councillor for Wallasey

Nadina McShane: previously Head of Information & Communications at the National Oceanographic Laboratory Liverpool, holding a 1st class honours degree in Information & Library Management. Former Chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.



Thanks...

We know this library is loved and valued by many people in our community and we're working to bring it back into use.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Wallasey Village Library Friends for their work and commitment to the library while it was run by the Council and for joining the team as we secure its future for years to come.

Thank you to the volunteers at Wallasey Village in Bloom who kindly maintain the gardens to the front of the library.



Get involved

At this stage, there are several ways supporters can get involved:

- ✓ Register for email updates
- ✓ Pass this newsletter to a friend, neighbour or relative
- ✓ Join us as a trustee
- ✓ Volunteer in the library
- ✓ Like and share our posts on Facebook
- ✓ If you run a local community group or activity and need space, let us know
- ✓ Make a donation

As soon as we have the lease signed and sealed, we'd love to welcome you into the library to talk about our plans.

In the meantime, we'd like to hear your views and ideas
www.wallaseyvillagelibrarycommunitycentre.co.uk



Keep in touch

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wallaseyvillagelibrary

Website: www.wallaseyvillagelibrarycommunitycentre.co.uk

Email: info@wallaseyvillagelibrarycommunitycentre.co.uk

Or look out for updates in the noticeboards outside the library!

Wallasey Village Library & Community Centre Registered Charity Number 1204436

