

November 2022 Newsletter

AIR POLLUTION THEME OF THE MONTH: AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE



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Air Quality Conference – Interfaith Week



Interfaith Week this year ran from the 13th to 20th November.

This annual celebration of all faiths provided the perfect backdrop for our annual Air Quality Conference on Saturday 19th November. As we mark the closing of the first year of Sandwell's Faith Communities for Clean Air project, we asked all the centres taking part in the project to share lessons learned and provide feedback. We

would like to say a huge thank you to those who gave up their Saturday morning, and to Deepak Naik, Temple Manager and his trustees at the Balaji Temple for generously hosting the event.



For those who were unable to attend here are just a few of the highlights from the event.



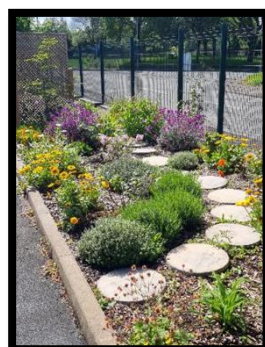
Tom Richards, Food and Nutrition Officer at Sandwell Council, shared his work on Community Orchards in Sandwell and opportunities to create an orchard whether that's with only one or two fruit trees or many more. To find out more just email tom_richards@sandwell.gov.uk

Stephen Brown, from British Cycling talked about the impact that cycling has had on his own health and wellbeing. He is available to support faith centres who would be interested in setting up some bicycle sessions, this can include any of the following; learn to ride, confidence building and/or led rides. To find out more email StephenBrown@britishcycling.org.uk



We also enjoyed hearing from four of our participating faith centres who shared their experiences, including photos from being part of the project this year, we would like to say a huge thank you to:

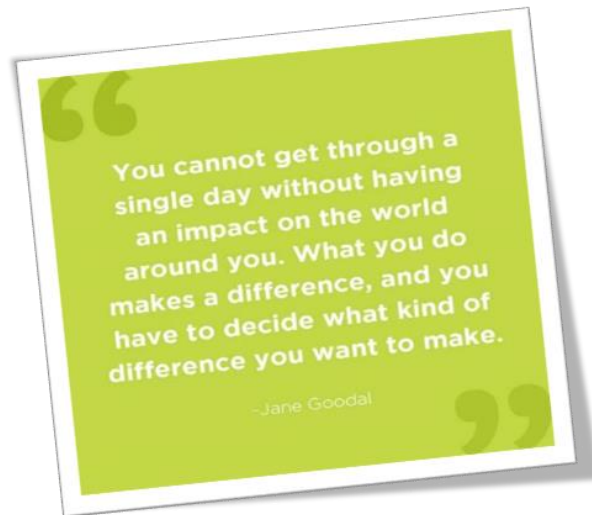
- **Ali AIOsaimi**, Yemini Community Association, West Bromwich
- **Khem Basel**, Shri Pashupatinath Temple of the UK, Rowley Regis
- **John Steventon**, The Wesley Centre, Wednesbury
- **Deepak Naik**, The Balaji Temple, Oldbury



Please email Sophie_morris@sandwell.gov.uk if you would like a copy of the slides from the air quality conference and also includes more details on Litter Watch, the Eco Bus, Smoke Control Areas and Community Grants.

Next Year of the Project

We are so pleased that six faith centres have already kindly agreed to be part of the Faith Centres for Clean Air Project next year and we are really looking forward to meeting you all. We are, however, still seeking faith centres in Tipton and in Oldbury. If you know of any centres who might be interested in joining up, then please contact elizabeth_stephens@sandwell.gov.uk.



- **Cradley Heath Community Link** – High Street Cradley Heath
- **Holy Trinity Church** – South Road, Smethwick
- **Oldbury Mosque** – Oldbury Road, Smethwick
- **Sikh Helpline** – High Street, West Bromwich
- **The Oneness Centre** – Great Western Street, Wednesbury
- **The Salvation Army** – Meredith Street, Cradley Heath

Sandwell's Orchard Network

Following industrialisation and urbanisation Sandwell has lost most of its orchards, so Sandwell is on a mission create a new Orchard network but how?

- The aim is to turn Sandwell back into a food environment where people can see real food growing
- Ultimately seeking one 'hub' orchard per town that can act as a knowledge base and focal point for fruit growing activity in the surrounding area
- Funding for mini-orchards – or even as little as one tree – available for satellite locations
- Create a supportive and knowledgeable local network



To find out more please contact Tom_richards@sandwell.gov.uk

Gardening and Food Growing Skills

Litter Watch are running a gardening and food growing skills project. If this is something that you think your centre members might be interested in the please pass the information on. It's free to anyone who is currently unemployed aged 18 to 60, but places are limited.



Learn to Garden and Grow Your Own Food



This is a mental health project Litter Watch are delivering at their allotment in West Bromwich. It's a great space for people to learn about how to grow their own produce.

It is now being extended to include both men and women who are unemployed and aged 18 to 60.

Sessions run every **Tuesday 10am to 2pm.**

If this is something you want to find out more about then call 0121 557 6970
Email tiptonlitter@aol.com

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please contact a member of the Air Quality team via pollution_control@sandwell.gov.uk. The content of this email is correct at time of circulation.