

# VILLAGE NEWS

Newsletter of the Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association

## Walbottle Festival 2022



### Walbottle Festival 2022

There is some really exciting news regarding Walbottle Festival 2022. Since our public meeting on the 23rd of February the National Lottery has awarded our project £2738 and the City council have given approval to use the Green for our Street Party/Fete. So its full steam ahead for the celebrations on the bank holiday weekend of the 2nd to the 4th of June!

This will not be the first time a Jubilee has been celebrated on the village green. In 1935 the Village had a party for King George V Silver Jubilee. Children re-enacted the special occasion with a procession while older members of the village participated in games.



### What are we Planning this Jubilee?

Starting with a beacon lighting ceremony on the green on Thursday the 2nd followed by an activity in the village orchard on Friday and a street party/fete on Saturday afternoon. We aren't planning anything for Sunday but if local residents wish to use the green for a Big Jubilee Picnic Lunch and to meet their neighbours they are very welcome.

### How Can you Help?

Could you spare an hour or two to help out with the festival? We need help to run the stalls, games, to set up and close down, to act as safety marshals and a myriad of other tasks. A list of volunteer taskings can be found on the new website under Walbottle Festival 2022. If you can't make it on the day how about taking part in one of the other pre-festival activities listed below or come to one of our fund raising events.

### Big Bunting Sewing Bee

Big Bunting Sewing Bee Sunday 10th April from roughly 12:00 noon for 2-3 hours Any experienced/novice sewers out there with their own machine and a couple of hours to spare? Come join us at the Village Institute for the Big Bunting Sewing Bee. We're looking for volunteers and oddments of fabric (ideally red, white, blue, silver) to make as much bunting as possible to brighten up the village for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Non-sewing volunteers needed to cut fabric too, so all are welcome. If you'd like to take part leave your contact details in the contact form on the website. The sewing group meets straight after the Foodbank Collection and Coffee Morning, so why not do both! Hope to see you there.

## Newsletter Highlights

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## Photography Competition

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations we are organising a Photo & Film competition with winning entries displayed on the 4th June at the Walbottle street party/fete. Check out our Photography Group page on the Walbottle Village website [www.walbottlevillage.co.uk/about-us/photography-group/](http://www.walbottlevillage.co.uk/about-us/photography-group/) from the 30th March for more details. Open to non professional Walbottle resident photographers and film makers only.

## Cake Decorating Competition

How about decorating a cake for HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? There are three age groups, up to 12 years, 13 to 17 years and over 18/adults. Cakes can be shop bought but the decoration must be all your own work. The judging will be based solely on the design and quality of the decoration, including a design sketch. All cake entries should be displayed on an appropriate board or plate. If you think you could give Mary Berry a run for her money, or just fancy a bit of soggy bottom fun then you will find the entry form on the website - [walbottlevillage.co.uk](http://walbottlevillage.co.uk) - Walbottle Festival 2022 page. Entry forms to be submitted by the 4th of May. Good luck!

## Craft Stalls

On the 4th June as well as entertainment stalls, we are also offering the opportunity for local people to run their own craft and produce stalls. To apply for a stall, complete the form available on the website - [walbottlevillage.co.uk](http://walbottlevillage.co.uk) - Walbottle festival 2022 page or contact one of the team with your contact details, who will email the form to you. Stalls will be charged at £10 for 2 metre slot. Please check out the rules detailed in the application before applying.

## Walbottle Choir

**Calling all Voices:** The Walbottle Village Choir was formed on the 7th of March and held its first session in the Village Institute. the choir will meet every 2 weeks for an hour on a Monday at 7.30 in the Village Institute. This is a new group and open to anyone who likes to sing, no experience is needed. Co-ordinator Kelly StevensBell advised "*this is about having a bit of fun and singing is a great stress reliever. We saw how much 'Carols around the tree' at Christmas brought people together in a positive way; So we thought why not try and start a choir?*". Initially for 3 months, we are hoping that choir members will consider joining us for the Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting ceremony on the 2nd June. Check out our page on the [www.walbottlevillage.co.uk/news/walbottle-choristers](http://www.walbottlevillage.co.uk/news/walbottle-choristers) for the latest information about this group.

## Pie and Pea Supper

We hoped you enjoyed our first fund raising pie and pea supper in the Walbottle Village Institute on Saturday the 19th of March. The film "*Roman Holiday*" was chosen by the attendees and a good time was had by all. We sold 30 tickets and over £200 was raised which will go towards the Walbottle Festival 2022. A big thank you to Tesco for donating the Pie and Peas, to Morrisons for donating the cakes and raffle prizes, to Blaydon Communications for donating the projector and screen, to the volunteers who worked so hard in the kitchen and to all who attended and supported the event.



## Walbottle Village Filming for Hadrian's Wall 1900

Talking of Films, on Tuesday the 25th of January children from year 3 Walbottle Primary school took part in filming a scene about Hadrian's Wall through Newcastle. The children were dressed as ancient Britons and asked to throw bird seed on the Village Green as though they were sowing crops. There were also a few shots taken of the Longhorn cattle in the top field with the farmer and Roger dressed as "Barbarians". They were also filmed entering the Engine Inn (with Peter Drummond's permission) but didn't have a drink - honest! The film should be released in May and it is hoped to have a public showing in the Village Institute possibly combined with a Pie and Pea supper. All proceeds to the Walbottle Festival 2022 fund. #Celebrate 2022.

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Find us on facebook: Walbottle Village Residents Association

## What's New in the Village Institute

There is a new gentle movement to music class which is mainly chair based on a Thursday afternoon as well as the regular over 60s on a Tuesday. We are working with 'SEARCH' to add a line dancing class for the over 50's. Details of all classes are on the the Village Institute Facebook page and website. If you want to know anything about any of the groups and classes you can post your contact details through the Institute door and we will get in touch.

### New Chairperson

Hello to Everyone. My name is Shirley Parnell and I have taken over the Chairperson's duties from Kim on an interim basis. I am a retired Theatre Nurse with two grown children and the proud grandparent of three beautiful small people. I have been a resident in the Village since 1991...so a long time. My children have grown up here and now my Grandkids enjoy coming here to visit. I am really keen to promote and to help in any way I can to improve and maintain the Community spirit within the Village. This year, hopefully, will be a return to some sort of normality and we have some exciting events lined up in conjunction with the Village Institute. I look forward to seeing both new and familiar faces and to meeting and working together with you.

### New Website

We have a new website which became live in February this year. The website has lots of information about the village including walks, photographs and hopefully in the future local residents memories. There is even a section for the kids with quizzes and things to do. Hope you like it and if anyone wishes to send ideas, photographs or memories to include on the site then please feel free to do so. The new website can be found at this web address

[www.Walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](http://www.Walbottlevillagetra.co.uk)

### Christmas Tree on the Green

Newcastle City Council (NCC) have awarded Walbottle Village £1800 to plant a Christmas Tree on the Village Green and provide an electrical output from a lamppost to power the Christmas lights. NCC will acquire the tree and plant it for us. The tree will be situated at the top of the Green near one of the lampposts. Many thanks to Rosie for her hard work lobbying the NCC for the tree which is planted as part of HM The Queen's Green Canopy.

### Neighbourhood Watch

We have some good news here as well. We applied for an £800 grant from the Police and Crime Commissioners "Operation Payback" fund. This is a pot of money recovered from criminals in the North East and put back into the community to enhance crime prevention. We suggested buying some lamppost signs and window stickers. Ours was one of the 'standout projects' which should really help to repair the harm caused by anti-social behaviour. If you want to know more about the neighbourhood watch then get in touch. Use the contact details below.

### Broadband

Cityfibre the company rolling out fibre broadband network in Newcastle are advising that fibre is coming to Walbottle. Let them know you're interested at [Cityfibre.com](http://Cityfibre.com) - access their postcode checker and enter your details to get the latest updates. By registering it will also show how much we are interested in receiving a better service.

### Needing Help?

We recognise that there are a number of people in our area that are struggling financially, mentally etc. There is a new local government website set up to signpost you to areas of support - check out - [www.informationnow.org.uk/](http://www.informationnow.org.uk/) and see what support may be available.

### Newsletter - Going Green

Feedback from residents is that most enjoy their quarterly newsletter and we want to continue to keep it coming. However, we are also aware that we need to be greener and we want to reduce printing costs. So we are offering you the opportunity to receive a virtual newsletter. If you would prefer to receive a Newsletter by email go to the website [www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](http://www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk) select newsletter from the menu and complete the on-line form.

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## Defibrillator

Not so good news with our attempts to secure funding for a village defibrillator. Our second application has also been turned down. We haven't given up though but think funding may have to be generated within the village itself. If anyone would like to volunteer to raise funds please get in touch.

## Interpretation Panels

There has been suggestions from local residents to erect an interpretation panel on the village green to provide some historical context for both residents and visitors. Walbottle Village has a long and proud history and it is believed we should celebrate and share this history with others. As a first step we are applying to the National Lottery Heritage fund for finances to buy and erect the panel. We need your help though as the National Lottery requires evidence of endorsement from local residents. If you agree (or indeed disagree) to an interpretation panel on the green let us know and we will be able to use your comments as evidence.

## Operation Source

Did you know, that on the 22nd of September 1943 the German Battleship Tirpitz, sister ship to Bismark, was attacked and damaged by midget submarines called X craft. Six X craft were towed across the North Sea by 'mother' submarines to attack Tirpitz, Lutzow and Scharnhorst in an operation code named Operation Source. Only two X craft actually managed to plant charges under Tirpitz, the other four having sunk, broken down or the target ship had already sailed. One of the X craft, X5 unofficially named Platypus, was commanded by Lt Henty-Creer and second in command was Sub Lt Tom John Nelson who came from Walbottle. Tom, who was 22 at the time of the attack, was the son of Ralph and Frances Nelson who lived next door to the Village Institute. Sadly, Tom did not come home X5 having been destroyed by either a mine or shelling from Tirpitz, the exact cause of her loss will probably never be known. Out of the 24 men who took part in Operation Source, two Victoria crosses, three Distinguishes Service Orders, one Conspicuous Gallantry Medal and one Member of the order of the British Empire (MBE) were awarded. Tirpitz was disabled for 6 months by the attack and was eventually sunk by RAF bombing. The film '*Above us the Waves*' pays tribute to those brave men.



Tirpitz



Tom John Nelson



X5

## Calendar Dates:

- 30th March - Walbottle Festival - Photo & Film Competition rules announced;
- 4th April Choir Practice;
- **5th April 8pm WVT&RA full committee meeting in the WVI; Changes to constitution - ALL committee members are requested to attend.**
- 9th April - Last opportunity to order Easter Bunnies and crafts from Shirley;
- 10th April - 10-11 am Coffee morning & Food bank followed by Bunting making. See above and Website;
- 24th April - Photo Session - all proceeds to Walbottle Festival 2022;
- 2nd May - Walbottle Festival - Last day for Stall Submissions;
- 4th May - Last Day for submission of cake decorating competition forms;
- 22nd May - Walbottle Festival - Photo & Film Competition - Last day for Competition Submissions;
- 2nd-5th June Walbottle Festival 2022 weekend #celebrate 2022.

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