

# VILLAGE NEWS

## Newsletter of the Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association

### Reflections on the Walbottle Festival 2022 by Wendy

I can't believe that it's almost 2 months since we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the Village. What a fabulous few days.

The Walbottle Festival 2022 Committee curated 3 days of fun and celebrations for the village and the village turned out in force to take part and enjoy the events spread over 3 days. The village looked stunning thanks to the Gardening Group and volunteers who spruced up the Green for us. Even the weather played its part.

Events commenced with the Village Crier announcing the Jubilee Celebrations on the Village Green followed by the Dedication of the Jubilee Flowerbed. In the evening, the Beacon Lighting Ceremony with lighting of the Jubilee Beacon in the gloaming of the evening followed special renditions of nationally composed music. We all enjoyed Jubilee Tart and Summer punch made by Festival Committee members. A light smattering of rain failed to dampen spirits, what a start!

Friday saw the very successful Teddy Bears Picnic in Walbottle Orchard. With lots of activities and a trail through the orchard, Teddies, owners and parents spent a lovely morning in the orchard learning about the flora and fauna of the woodland and spending some time having a picnic in the dappled sunlight.

Back on the Village Green, Saturday saw the pinnacle of the Celebrations with Walbottle Fete. Preparations made, the sun shone and the community came to support and participate in the festivities. A rousing start by the drumming group The Bangshees, called us to the Green where various entertainments for children and adults filled the afternoon with fun. Photography, cake decorating, crown decorating and dressing to meet the Queen competitions had lots of participants and many medal winners. It was lovely to see the community picnicking together in the sunshine, making new friends and future memories. As Chair of the Walbottle Festival 2022 Committee I would like to thank all of the Committee members and volunteers who worked very hard over the past 8 months to pull together the Jubilee events, the local businesses who supported us with donations and raffle prizes and most of all, you, Residents of Walbottle who came out in large numbers to support the festivities. Hopefully this will be the first of many successful Walbottle Village Events, please let us know what village activities you would like to see and any suggestions you may have.

### Many thanks to the following for their help and support

Susan Tait - Photography

GMR Construction – Raffle Prizes

Profile Nails and Beauty – Raffle Prizes

Nisa Local – Raffle Prizes

The Percy Arms – Raffle Prizes

Walbottle health and Fitness – Raffle Prizes

Head 2 Toe – Raffle Prizes

Hattons Traffic Management – Road closed signs and traffic cones

## Newsletter Highlights

Reflections on the Walbottle Festival 2022

Food Bank

Electronic Newsletter

Walbottle Choir

New Chairperson

"Gannin Alang the Wall"

Neighbourhood Watch

Gardening Group

Defibrillator

The Walbottle Hoard

Operation Source - an update

Calendar Dates



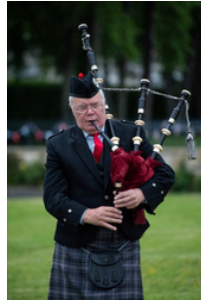
Premier K+A Superstore, Southway – Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Sweets

Plastic Furniture Company – Waste Bins – Special thanks to Jeff Brydon

Blaydon Communications Ltd – For donation of the Loud Speaker

And thanks to all the volunteers for helping and to everyone who turned up and made the weekend a success. If you would like to help at a future event please complete the contact-us form on the website or drop us an email. Address at the bottom of the page.

Photographs of the beacon lighting ceremony and the Saturday street party/fete can be found on the website page Walbottle Festival 2022. The website address can be found in the information box at the bottom of the page.



### Food Bank by Kelly

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the foodbank collection. Look out for the final direct foodbank collection of the year in Early October. A poster will be put up at the Walbottle Village and an update will be added to the Facebook page.

### Electronic Newsletter by Roger

**Did you know** that you can read this and all other newsletters on the website under News/Newsletters? Alternatively we can email you a copy of the newsletter if you don't have access to the website. Receiving the newsletter in electronic form reduces printing costs and is environmentally friendly. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email or are happy to read it on the website drop us an email or complete the form on the website on the same page as the newsletters.

### Walbottle Choir by Kelly

'Following the fun had creating the Walbottle Village Choir for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we are keeping the choir running. We are focusing on the songs people in the group, know and love. We are small intimate group who are always looking for new members. We run every 2 weeks on a Monday at the WVI - the next session is the 8th August. All new members are welcome, as are new song ideas. It's £2 a session with all funds going back to the WVI. #JustForFun #SingYourStressAway'.

### New Chairperson by Lorraine

Hello, my name is Lorraine and I have lived in Walbottle village since 1989 moving into my grandparents family home, Bank Top House. This house and small holding has family history going back to 1890 when the house was built by the Duke of Northumberland to replace a cottage on the site.

As a child I spent most weekends staying with my grandparents Stella and Bob Mitchison helping out with the pigs on the small holding as well as visiting my Aunt Elsie Graham who lived on Percy Way. She worked for many years in the village post office both before and after the redevelopment of the village in the 1960s.

My Husband Nick and I really enjoy living in the village and I hope I can continue the great work previously done by Kim Rosie and Shirley.

walbottlera@gmail.com



Tel: 07572 739292

Website: [www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](http://www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk)

Find us on facebook: Walbottle Village Residents Association

## Walbottle Village Filming for Hadrian's Wall

### 1900 - "Gannin Alang the Wall" by Roger

The film "Gannin Alang the Wall" is now finished and is available to view on the St James' Heritage and Environmental group's website. Go to the St James' website and look under Publications and Resources and down to films and audio recordings. Alternatively go to the Walbottle Residents website (address below) where there is a link in the history section. It is hoped to have a public viewing of the film possibly in September in the Village Institute.



## Neighbourhood Watch by Richie

Northumbria Connected is Northumbria Police new tool to ensure that the force are delivering on the issues that affect communities across the North East. Northumbria Police want to understand the issues that most impact you so that they can shape their Neighbourhood Policing to tackle the issues where you live. Northumbria Police want to tell you about the issues that you want to hear about and in a way that you choose. On sign up you can decide on the updates you will receive in either text or email. They can then send you a short survey to better understand what is impacting you and our community. After all no one will know better what is happening in our community than you! Visit the website and subscribe using the link below and start to help shape policing in our area.

<https://www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk/>

## Gardening Group by Lorraine

The Gardening Group have continued to maintain and improve the flower beds and tubs around the village. Steve has, as ever, done amazing work maintaining the beds at the top of Dene Terrace and Walbottle Road by the bungalows, as well as making a huge effort to improve the previously neglected area known as the "shady triangle" just above Walbottle House. Steve has also painted benches on The Green and the planter outside the Walbottle Coffee House. He has done all this in addition to doing lots of general weeding and watering of tubs and beds. Samantha has kindly adopted the beds and tubs by the bus stop on the chapel side of Walbottle Road and is keeping these weed free and watered. The Coffee shop have agreed to water the planter up there once it has been planted up. The rose beds on Percy Way are also doing well. Recently a group including Vitalii planted out more dahlias around the roses in the upper two beds to match the lower one.

The bed outside St Cuthberts school is looking lovely and the plants are now well established. The bed at the bottom of the green has proven very successful. In good part this is thanks to the help and advice from Cowells, namely to choose well matched perennial plants rather than using higher maintenance annuals.

The Jubilee bed courtesy of Nick and Sacha looked amazing for our jubilee celebrations. We have a few perennial plants in this bed but it is mainly annuals. This was necessitated by the brief - red white and blue by Jubilee day! But we will endeavour to plant more perennials in the autumn to make the maintenance of this bed easier.

We are looking for people to adopt all the beds mentioned above to look after weeding, watering and planting. Please let us know if you can help?

Next we hope to make more progress in the shady triangle by planting shade loving perennials and updating the central rockery to be similar to that outside St Cuthberts school. Work has commenced to eliminate the weeds but this project could do with a "crash team" to get together, dig it over and prepare it for planting.

walbottlera@gmail.com



Tel: 07572 739292

Website: [www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](http://www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk)

Find us on facebook: Walbottle Village Residents Association

## Defibrillator by Shirley

In late 2021 a number of Residents asked about the possibility of us acquiring a defibrillator to be housed in a prominent position in the Village. At that time we tried various ways and means to gain funding to provide what we saw as an important piece of lifesaving equipment. After lots of refusals from different philanthropists we sent an application to the Newcastle Community Fund who forwarded it to The Willan Fund. It took a good few months to process the application as we had just missed the deadline for the previous quarter. But then the phone call came to say they had accepted our application and not only would supply the defibrillator but pay for the cabinet and installation. Therefore to the present..... I am positive that no one can miss the very brightly coloured yellow and green cabinet sitting on the external wall of the porch at the Walbottle Village Institute. I am glad to say the Village now owns a state of the Art Fully Automated Defibrillator. It was purchased from the North East Ambulance Service who helped us decide which one would be best for everyone. It was decided that we would have a fully automated device that actually talks you through the whole procedure so it is very straightforward. Our first training session is planned for the 17th of August in the Institute when we hope to train up to 25 local residents in its use. There are still a few places left so if you like to take part contact us using the details below.

## The Walbottle Hoard by Roger

**Did you know**, that in 1879 a workman digging under Hexham road during construction of the water storage tanks and filter beds in west Throckley found an earthenware pot filled with Roman coins? The pot had been buried alongside Hadrian's wall probably no later than 274AD by a Roman soldier who never returned to collect his treasure. The contents of the pot numbered over 5000 radiate (silvered-bronze or "billion") coins and may have had a value of half a year's salary.



Why the soldier didn't return is a mystery but at the time the Roman empire was in turmoil with several provincial governors vying for the position of Emperor. The hoard may have belonged to a soldier in the army of Tetricus 1 that was defeated by Aurelian at Chalons-Sur-Marne in 274AD. But what happened to the Walbottle Hoard? The workman attempted to sell the coins privately but when word reached John Clayton he purchased the pot and remaining coins. Over the years the coins have been separated but the Clayton Collection trustees saved 1977 coins which are now in Chesters museum while another 932 coins are in the safe keeping of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle Upon Tyne (SANT). It is interesting to speculate what else is waiting to be discovered under Hexham Road!

## Operation Source - An Update by Roger

In the last newsletter we printed an article about Tom John Nelson from Walbottle who crewed the midget submarine X5 which attacked the Tirpitz moored in Kafjord fjord. The X5 was destroyed during the attack and Tom never came home. We recently received an email from Tom's nephew who provided more information about Tom and his only sibling Ruby. Ruby Nelson married Robert Simpson and had a son Ralph. Ralph told us that his mother and father died in 2018 within four days of each other and had their ashes scattered on Kafjord fjord close to where the X5 is believed to have sunk. Tom's uniform was also donated to the Kafjord Tirpitz museum. The following address will take you to the museum <http://www.tirpitz-museum.no>



## Calendar Dates:

- Wednesday 3rd August at 19:00 (7pm) AGM in the Village Institute
- September (DTBC) Public showing of "Gannin Alang the Wall" in the Village Institute

walbottlera@gmail.com



Tel: 07572 739292

Website: [www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](http://www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk)

Find us on facebook: Walbottle Village Residents Association