

Walbottle Poppy Memorial To Our Heros



Village resident Alan and the Poppy memorial at the Village Institute and the Remembrance Cross on Walbottle Road

By the time you read this the Village residents will have shown their respect to both the dead and the survivors of both World Wars and wars over the generations.

In the United Kingdom the scale of the loss of those serving with the military during the World Wars resulted in the fact that there are very few towns or villages which do not have some sort of public memorial to commemorate their men and women who died in the wars over generations and in some cases, the memorials also commemorate those people who served and returned from the war.

Here in Walbottle, we aren't fortunate enough to have a war memorial, but last year, the daughter of one of our residents had the idea to make the Village's own memorial to these brave people. So, together with two more residents and for the very first time, a waterfall of poppies cascaded down the side of the Walbottle

Village Institute. Although it consisted of homemade poppies fashioned out of the simplest materials, it represents the thanks of the people of our village to the fallen in every war and thanks for the people who fought for their country and returned to tell the story.

This year, the poppy waterfall was arranged again and residents were asked to dedicate a poppy to family members. Together with the stunning waterfall of red there were two more crosses consisting of greenery and knitted poppies. One situated in the Shady Triangle and the other erected in what is fondly called Steve's Square, both on Walbottle Road.

We hope to make this an annual event so any ideas would be most welcome.

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WVT&RA Open Meeting Update

An open meeting of the Walbottle Village Tenants & Residents Association was held on Tuesday, 7th November.

Items discussed on the agenda included the Christmas Fayre, carols around the Christmas tree and the 80th Anniversary D-Day Commemorations and Celebrations.

Many thanks to those who attended. If you have any ideas and suggestions and would like to take part the next meeting is at the Village Institute at 7pm on Tuesday, 23 January 2024. We look forward to seeing you there.

Walbottle's Fallen Heros

Edward Leslie Graham Rowell

This newsletter we are remembering another of Walbottle's fallen heroes.

Lieutenant Edward Leslie Graham Rowell was born in Walbottle House on the 8th of June 1892 to Robert and Helena Rowell. Although Robert had emigrated to Australia where he married Helena in March 1891 they returned to Walbottle for the birth of Edward. After Edward was born the family returned to Australia and lived on Victoria Street, Warwick, Queensland.

Edward was a bank clerk before he enlisted in the army in March 1915. He left for Europe as a member of the 25th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces and was initially posted to Gallipoli where he spent four months in the winter campaign before moving to the Western Front. Serving with the first Australian Divisions fighting in France he won his commission in the field.

He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when on the 20th of September 1917 at Westhoek Ridge he single handedly charged an enemy pillbox. Although his pistol was shot out of his hand he engaged the pillbox with bombs killing four and taking 20 prisoners.

Later when his Company Commander was wounded he took charge of the Company and brought his men to safety under heavy shell fire. His courage and coolness were a fine example to all ranks.

Sadly, just two weeks later Edward was shot and wounded in the head and shoulder an injury from which he did not recover, passing away at



Lieutenant Edward Leslie Graham Rowell M. C. of the 25th Battalion Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force

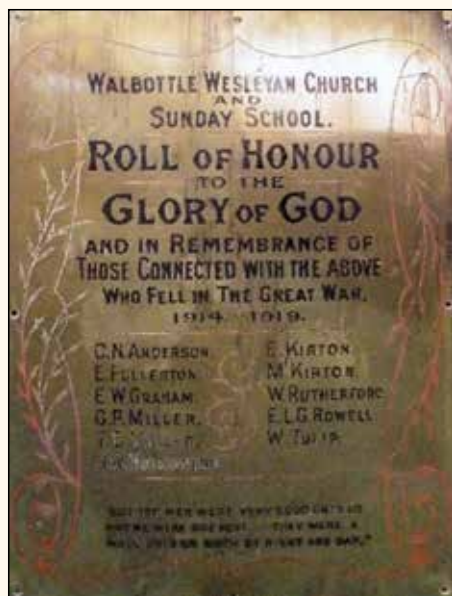


07:20 on the 15th of November 1917 in No 7 General Hospital, St Omer.

His father Robert and brother Athol were with him when he died and both attended the funeral. Edward is buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France, plot iv.F.3.

The plaque opposite recording Edwards name (E.L.G. Rowell) was unveiled by his uncle, Major Thomas Rowell on 21 November, 1920 and was mounted in the Methodist church, Walbottle. The Plaque is now at Beamish museum.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.



Walbottle D-DAY Anniversary

Thursday, 6 June 2024 will see the Commemoration & Celebrations of the D-Day Landings.

As with previous national events the Trustees of Walbottle Village Institute and Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association will be arranging events and festivities to commemorate and celebrate the largest Naval, Air and Land operation this country has seen, the heroism and bravery of those fighting for our country and of those here at home supporting the war effort in so many different ways.



Images courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

We will be arranging a variety of events on Thursday, 6 June 2024 and the following weekend so please add these dates to your diary and keep them free to enjoy further community and companionship in the village.

More information to follow...

A Spooky Walbottle Halloween

SPECIAL REPORT BY: ELODIE DAWSON, AGE 7

On Halloween night we put our pumpkins outside. My pumpkin was a bat. We also had a cat, spider and scary faces.

Then we got ready to go trick or treating. We got face paints done, got dressed up and mummy took our photos. I was a vampire. Flo was a spider and Otilie was a scary witch. Baby Hannah was a pumpkin.

Next we walked up to Walbotl Coffee House to get our map so we knew where to go. We walked to the pub, there was a fancy dress competition at the pub and we got sweets.

We walked past the school and saw some Halloween houses. We went to see them and there were lots of sweets. There were skeletons, spiders, ghosts and lots of pumpkins. They were very creepy. Some people knocked on our door and we gave them sweeties.

We had a good Halloween.



NEWS UPDATE

Congratulations to Elodie who went on to win the Best Halloween Costume competition at The Engine Inn, Walbottle.



Gardening News



Thank you to all who joined us on the 11th and 12th November for our bulb planting initiative.

We successfully planted over 600 bulbs in two days, which will enhance The Green and Walbottle Road with vibrant colours come spring. These visually appealing blooms not only contribute to our health and well-being by encouraging outdoor activity but also support early pollinators.

Can You Help?

Looking ahead, we'd love you to join our next gardening session as we strive to further beautify our village.



Please follow the Facebook group for updates.

Walbottle Guided Walk

On the 7th of November there was another guided walk around Walbottle attended by thirteen members from St James' Heritage and Environmental group.

Starting at the Village Institute the circular walk visited the highlights of the village including the 18th century waggonway, the site of Duke Pit, the Wesleyan chapel, Walbottle Hall, the quarry and milecastle 10.



The weather was kind that day and all seemed to enjoy the hour and a half walk. If you are interested in a guided walk around Walbottle send a message via the WVT&RA website or email stjamesbenwell@gmail.com

Committee Members

We would like to welcome two new appointments to the Residents Association committee.



Peter Smith: I.T. Support

I'm Peter, originally from Newcastle and moved to Walbottle at the age of two. First moving to village farm, I soon learned that steps and wheelchairs don't mix! This prompted a move to a more wheelchair-friendly house on The Paddock and I have recently moved into Forge Walk.

I'm never too far from a computer and often spend hours tinkering with code. In addition to this, I wear the hat of a Facebook group admin. Despite the role, I don't delete posts left and right – I'm all about approachability.

If you're blaming someone when the village website breaks, don't point fingers at me (although you probably should)! Oh, and let's not forget my odd sense of humour. I'm that guy who finds laughter in the weirdest places. So, whether it's a chat about tech or a quick laugh, I'm your guy!

Chris Jones: Communications Officer

Chris has lived in the village for over twenty years and has recently volunteered for the role of Communications Officer. Chris works as a freelance graphic designer producing design and artwork for print and developing websites and digital projects for a wide variety of local and national clients. He has been working with Peter to help redesign and develop the WVT&RA website and has recently been involved with promoting the Halloween Trail event and producing the design and artwork for this edition of the newsletter with a view to maintaining consistency across printed and digital WVT&RA content.

Comments, Feedback & Suggestions

We welcome any comments, feedback or suggestions regarding the website and newsletter and would love to hear from you. We would also like to encourage residents to contact us with their stories, articles or news about Walbottle Village life, past and present, which we can share with the community in our newsletter and on the website.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, provide feedback or advertise, please contact us by email at: newsletter@walbottlevillagetra.co.uk



Our electricity provider Northern Powergrid offer help and support during power cuts as part of their 'Powergrid Care' service. To find out more, register on their website at: www.northernpowergrid.com/care or call 0800 169 2996.

EXPERIENCING A POWER CUT? CALL: **105**

D-Day Volunteers

The 6th of June 2024 sees the Commemoration and Celebration of the D-Day Landings.

The WWI trustees and WVT&RA are looking for volunteers to help organise events so that we can come together as a community to mark the occasion and to have some fun and to remember the village as it was then and celebrate the community that we have here now.

The first meeting to plan events will be on **Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at 7pm** in the Village Institute. We would love to see you at the meeting and welcome your ideas for our D-Day commemoration and celebrations.

We also need volunteers to help with the logistics of the events, both in the run up and on the days themselves.

Christmas 2023

Plans are underway for celebrating Christmas in the village which will take place at the Village Institute and on the green on **Sunday, 10 December**.

3:45pm: Santa and his sleigh will be driving around the village, arriving at the Village Institute at 4:00pm.

4:00pm: Santa will join us for the Christmas Fayre at the Institute with a variety of stalls, including Walbottle Coffee House, teas and coffees and the Christmas raffle.

5:00pm: Lighting the Beacon, switching on the Christmas tree lights and carols around the tree.

6:00pm: Christmas raffle draw.

Any updates will be posted on the website, the Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

Christmas Raffle Prizes & Volunteers

If you can donate prizes for the raffle or volunteer to help on the evening of 10 December please contact us via our Facebook group, the contact form on the website or by email at: walbottlera@gmail.com

Calendar Dates



Sunday, 3 December • 10:30am - 12:00 noon

Deadline for Christmas Fayre raffle prize donations.

Sunday, 10 December • 4:00pm - 6:00pm

The Christmas Fayre, Santa, tree lights and carols on the green.

Sunday, 7 January • 10:30am - 12:00 noon

Food Bank collection at the Village institute.

Wednesday, 10 January • 7pm

WVT&RA open meeting at the Village Institute. All welcome.

Tuesday, 23 January • 7pm

D-Day Commemoration event and volunteer planning meeting at the Village Institute. All welcome.

Please check the residents WhatsApp group, our Facebook group and the website for updates.