



Spring is finally here, along with the hope of Covid freedom. The daffodils and tulips are out in force and looking fabulous.

After a protracted delay with the bank due to Covid, we finally have an account, and we have now received the funding from the council for our insurance, planting and planters as well as other start up costs. Now we are all set up, we plan to get stuck in to improve the village for everyone. We welcome involvement from anyone in the community having time to spare and if you have any ideas for community projects you would like to manage please get in touch as we may be able to apply for grant funding.

COMMUNITY GARDENING

The growing team of Village gardeners are going to be busy getting beds planted and sprucing things up. Many of you will have seen Steve out cutting verges and tidying up near Dene Terrace. Other lovely residents have been tidying existing planters and have positioned new barrel planters near the bus stop and top right corner of the green ready for planting. The rose beds in Percy Way already look wonderful. All of the planting is done by volunteers, and plants paid for with your kind donations and a small grant. We are aiming to add some planting areas in tubs on the green with further projects planned. Our hands have been somewhat tied by COVID. As things improve we hope to expand our planting and tidying up. If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer gardening team, please get in touch. We welcome suggestions, advice, donations and assistance always. If anyone has any spare plants or bulbs please get in touch, we will find a home for them.

LITTERING

We will be planning to start litter picking around the village with volunteers and have spotted a number of lovely residents out and about with their litter pickers. If you register online with Urban Green they can provide litter picking packs for families. Until Covid is more settled we wont be able to arrange community litter picking but as soon as we can this is something we want to get started with. In the mean time, thank you to all who are doing this important job.

KNITTING PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH WALBOTTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We completed a knitting project for Walbottle Primary School, providing each child with a knitted heart or rainbow. The school were delighted with the efforts, so thank you to all who were involved. We can certainly look into more projects of this type if people are interested in crafting. There are knitting charities who are always looking for handmade blankets. Just get in touch if you would like to be involved in future projects of this type. Or if you have ideas for other such projects.





VILLAGE NEWS



ACCESSIBILITY

We have raised issues with the councillors regarding accessibility in the village. The limited paths with dropped kerbs make it difficult for wheelchair users and pushchairs to navigate safely. We have highlighted the bus stop on the green having no dropped kerb, the paths through from The Paddock. We are also aware of the poor state of repair of the path in Forge Walk, but there are probably areas, of which we are not aware. please get in touch if anyone has a concern regarding accessibility so that we can draw it to the attention of the council.

PARKING

Please take care when parking to ensure that paths are kept clear with ample space for wheelchairs to pass safely on the pavement. We know that road parking is limited and finding a safe space to park can be challenging but paths are meant for pedestrians. It is imperative that emergency and assistance vehicles are able to move freely, and that our more vulnerable community members can be safe on the pavement.

CONGESTION

We are also aware of congestion difficulties, particularly at school time that has resulted in disruption to all residents, but also has effected assistance vehicles. The school is aware and have addressed this issue in their newsletter with parents. We have also asked the council if there are other traffic measures that they could deploy such as a 1 way system, which had been suggested by a concerned resident. We will update you once we have any further information from the council.



As a village we are all supportive of our neighbours, and Covid had certainly brought out the best in our community spirit. We are aware that there are more vulnerable members of our Village who may sometimes need a little extra help with some jobs such as shopping or putting the bins out. Please drop us a line if you need some assistance. If we can't help we will put you in touch with someone who can. Did you know you can get help putting your bins out? You can ring envirocall on 0191 2787878 to register for the assisted lift and they will put them out and bring them back in.





VILLAGE NEWS



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE WE LIVE IN

You probably know that Walbottle Village is bisected by the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall, that the heart of the village is now designated a conservation zone and that one of the last surviving examples of an 18th century wagonway in Newcastle passes through the village, but did you know that Newcastle Council have given the area several other green credentials under the Development and Allocation Plan (DAP)?

The DAP is a policy document mandated by the Government's National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF). In it Newcastle council has assigned categories for different areas such as employment, housing and leisure. Newcastle council has allocated a large swathe of land from the Tyne at Ouseburn around the Northern outskirts and back down to the Tyne via Walbottle and Throckley Dene and the Winnings as a Strategic Green Infrastructure Network. The Dene/Winnings has also been allocated as a green open space, a Local Geological Site and an enhanced Wildlife corridor. In Fact the Dene/Winnings has the most concentrated and diverse green credentials of anywhere else in the City. Walbottle and Throckley Dene is also a Wildlife Reserve managed by Urban Green and within an easy walk of Walbottle are the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Ryton Willows and Hallow Hill. What a wonderful green place we live in.

RAMADAN

The month of Ramadan has comenced. It is a time in which the Muslim community partake in fasting, prayer and reflection. The fast begins at dawn and is broken at sunset each day, and throughout this month Muslims devote their time to strengthen their faith, pray, practice self discipline, empathy and gratitude as they think of those less fortunate around the world.

Furthermore, Ramadan is also a month of giving and generosity, especially charity to help others Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is where Muslims come together with family and friends to celebrate this special time. In preparation for Eid, lights and decorations are displayed in and outside the home. So to help our friends and neighbours in the Muslim community celebrate this special time we invite you to put some lights up outside your homes. The lights usually go up a week before Eid al-Fitr, around the 5th May and stay up for about a week.





VILLAGE NEWS



UPCOMING EVENTS

5th - 14th May - Eid. We would like to invite the whole village to light up for Eid. Pop up some outside lights and lets all unite to celebrate.

6th May - Local Governement Elections - one of our ward seats are up election, don't forget to vote!

21st June (possibly)- Covid restrictions lifted hopefully. With any luck we will be released from restrictions. As soon as it is allowed and safe to do so we will try to arrange some events. Keep an eye on facebook for any updates and get that bunting ready folks!

July - Walbottle Residents Association Annual General Meeting- Date TBC. If you are interested in getting involved please let us know so we can get your name on the list. We will announce the date in the next newsletter.

As ever, if there is anything that people want to see from your Residents Association please get in touch via email or telephone. We are closely tied with the Village Institute so, if you would rather, pop a note through the village institute post box and we will get back to you.

Hopefully not much longer folks until we can all get together to meet properly!

