

VILLAGE NEWS

Newsletter of the Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association

Wildfire in Walbottle



This summer saw a wildfire in fields on the east side of the village which nearly engulfed some houses in Percy way. Only the skill and hard work of the emergency services prevented a disaster. Even so, fences, hedges and a conservatory were damaged, not to mention the farmer's crop which was completely destroyed across six fields. Police suspect the fire may have been started deliberately and fire lighting equipment found in the field where the fire was thought to have started are in the hands of the police. With global warming driving hotter drier summers the potential for wildfires is more acute and we must all remain vigilant to try and ensure this does not happen again. Anyone seeing someone acting suspiciously especially if they appear to be lighting fires should report it immediately to the police.

WVI Open in an emergency

During the wild fire the WVI was opened for anyone wishing to have a rest, get a drink or use the lavatory. On this occasion it was unnecessary as the Percy Arms kindly hosted those affected and acted as a focal point for the emergency services to communicate with local residents. The WVI Trustees have stated that in any similar emergency the WVI will be opened to allow local residents displaced from their homes to gain some relief until other arrangements can be made.

WVI and Warm Space Initiative

The Board of Trustees of Walbottle Village Institute are considering opening the Institute as a Warm Space for use by the village residents. This may be combined with offering a light lunch served free of charge to those who are finding it difficult to cope with the increase in heating and other living costs. However, to be able to offer this service they are in need of volunteers. If you can offer a morning once a week to help your neighbours it would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch through the WVI Website (<https://walbottlevi.com/contact/>) or drop a note through the Institute door with your name and telephone number.

Newsletter Highlights

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The WVT&RA has a new secretary

Hello everyone. My name is Helen, and I've lived in Walbottle since 2014. I'm originally from Kendal, in the South Lakes, but came up to Newcastle for university in 2010 and never left! As a family we love the outdoors; tramping through the Dene, walking in the hills, and digging on our allotment. I am also the secretary for Newburn Parish PCC, their Eco-Champion and I have an active role in the Parish Events Group. As the new secretary for the WVTRA I hope to bring my organisational skills to the table, while also thinking with my Eco Hat on to ensure everything we do protects and enhances our beautiful



Remembrance Day poppy display

This year in recognition of Remembrance Day a Poppy Display will be placed outside the Walbottle Village Institute (WVI) between the 11th – 13th November. The display will be hand made using the bottom of bottles provide by members of the community. If you would like one of the poppies to dedicated to someone who has played their part within the armed services – access the WVTRA webpage and leave a message with the person's name. This will then be handwritten on their very own poppy.



Watch out for Roman Soldier Scarecrows

Following on from the Halloween scarecrow trail we will be redressing the scarecrows as Roman soldiers and placing them around the village as part of Hadrian's Wall 1900 celebrations. We hope to get the scarecrows dressed and placed by the 14th of November and plan to keep them in place for a couple of weeks.

Shirley's Walbottle Winter Warmers

Yes, she is up to it again! Knitting bobble hats and headbands to keep us warm this winter. Hats come in two sizes Children and Adults with or without bobbles and this year she is knitting something different, Mummy and me headbands. Prices are £6 for hats and £8 for a set of headbands with all proceeds going to the WVT&RA funds. To order send an email to WVRATreasurer@gmail.com or phone/text 07361724677 or complete the form on the WVT&RA website or message via Facebook



Looking Forward to Christmas celebrations

Christmas is coming and the Walbottle Village Choir practice for Carols Around the Tree is in full swing, but it's not too late to join. If you would like to get involved join us on Monday every fortnight. The next session is the 7th November at 7:30pm in the Walbottle Village Institute and it's free. For the Carol Around the Tree night, songs will be available on the village website so you can sing along from your phone on the night

Gardening Group

After a busy and productive Summer the gardening group continue to manage and maintain the existing flower beds and tubs to brighten up the village. A big thank you to everyone who have helped keep everything watered and weeded, especially, Steve, Samantha, Sylvia and Kelly. Also thanks to Wendy and Fiona who have adopted a bed just outside of Walbottle Hall which is lovely. We still have lots of new and ongoing projects to keep us busy through the Autumn and Winter months.

The shady triangle has been tidied, weeded and planted up (by Steve) with a number of small shrubs and perennial plants over the summer. We are taking advice on the best plants and shrubs for the rock bed in that area. This worked very well for the bed at the south point of the green which has been low maintenance and looked lovely all summer. Let's hope we can make the shady triangle bed as successful.

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The raised bed in front of Head to Toe will have all plants removed in the next couple of months as a number are too big for that area. We will pot up and use all these plants in other areas of the village. This bed will be replanted with lower growing perennial's and hopefully some low growing spring bulbs.

The Percy Way Rose Beds will be topped up with soil improver and roses pruned. Most of dahlias we planted in 2021 actually survived the winter and gave us a lovely show of colour this year.

The 2 sets of 3 planters by the entrance to Walbottle Farm unfortunately have not been very successful, possibly due to the overhanging trees and difficulty of access for watering. The plan is to move these planters to other areas of the village with some to be re-sited close to the Village Institute. We intend to plant a number of herbs which once established can be picked and used by residents. We have also thought about a few vegetable raised beds and would be interested to know if you think this would be worthwhile?

Walbottle Coffee House kindly planted up the tub outside their shop which looks lovely. I apologise that we did not manage to get any annuals planted up there this year but will make sure we do next year.

The Jubilee bed will be given a re-vamp in the next 6 months to replace the annuals with perennials and possibly small shrubs to minimise maintenance and management of the bed.

We are always looking for volunteers for one off projects or weeding and planting drop us an email if you are interested in joining us or have any ideas or advice to offer at walbottlera@gmail.com

Why Walbottle is Wonderful!

By Imogen Parr (Year 6 Pupil at Walbottle Village Primary School)

Here in Walbottle, we are surrounded by a variety of different primary schools but why will Walbottle Village Primary School work for you and your kids? Here are some amazing aspects about our school which we love.

First of all, our school is single-form-entry with currently 140 pupils on roll. This means that we are a small, family-like school where we all take care of each other. In our latest OFSTED report we were awarded OUTSTANDING for 'personal development, behaviour and welfare.' One student commented that, 'I think if I had to rate this school out of 10, it would be 10 because the children and teachers are very kind.'

Moving on from that, every year with the help of our school council group, we pick charities and do fundraisers to raise money as we love supporting people in need. We have raised money for The National Autistic Society and The British Heart Foundation.

Finally, we have lots of clubs on offer: breakfast club (starting at 8.15am), boosters and after school activities running until 4pm. Furthermore, our link with St Cuthbert's after school club provides additional childcare. As for trips, we go to exciting places to further our education and additionally for good behaviour.

This school is amazing. It brings lots of opportunities. I don't think my school life would be the same if I didn't come to this wonderful school. There you have it!

Thank you very much for reading and we really hope you consider joining our school. Our next open day is the 17th November. Drop in from 3.30 – 5pm to see it for yourself!



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Did you know:

That Walbottle Primary school has an unusual symbol on the wall? The symbol is in the shape of a crescent moon, the family crest of the Duke of Northumberland. But why does the school carry the Duke's crest and why do the Dukes of Northumberland have a crescent moon on their family crest? The first question is easy to answer. Walbottle village was owned by the Duke of Northumberland until 1958 and the Primary School was commissioned by Henry George Percy the 7th Duke of Northumberland in 1907/8. Prior to the new school being built the primitive Wesleyan chapel (now demolished) and Village Institute were used as schoolhouses.

The crescent moon symbol on the Percy family crest may originate from William de Percy who came to Britain in 1067 just after the Norman conquest. He took part in the first crusade but died within sight of Jerusalem in 1096. His body was buried at Antioch but his heart was returned to Britain and interred in Whitby Abbey where his son (also William de Percy) was abbot. The crusaders brought back the crescent moon icon (the badge of Islam) and incorporated it in the language of heraldry having the meaning enlightened and honoured or hope of greater glory. So quite an apt symbol to place on a school.



Film Night "Gannin Alang the Wall"

40 people attended the showing of the film "Gannin alang the Wall" on the 10th of September which plots the real route of Hadrian's Wall from Wallsend to Heddon on the Wall. John Sadler and Judith Green gave excellent talks on why Romans found it necessary to build a Wall and why it was necessary to make the film. The evening concluded with a wonderful supper prepared by the volunteers of both the WVI and WVT&RA. Congratulations to Roger for being awarded an 'Oscar' for the best actor with bovine animals (don't ask).



Visit to Heddon on the Wall

On Sunday the 2nd of October an intrepid group of Walbottle residents visited Heddon on the Wall for a talk by local historian Andrew Curtis. Andrew explained the history of Hadrian's Wall at Heddon and reasons why some of it had survived while much of the wall in the area was demolished to build the military road. After a tour around Heddon and a visit to Hadrian's Wall the group returned to Walbottle Village Institute for refreshments kindly provided by Anna Smith.



Walbottle Voices

The History Group are starting a new project called 'Walbottle Voices' to record memories of people who live in Walbottle and wish to share their story. Could this be you? Register via the WVT&RA website or contact us via the details on this newsletter and someone will get back to you. This is planned to start the beginning of 2023 with memories uploaded onto the website by the end of the year.

Calendar Dates:

7th November 7:30pm in the WVI - Choir Practice for Carols round the tree - All welcome;

11th to 13th of November - Poppy display outside Village Institute;

From the 14th of November - Roman Soldier Scarecrows;

17th of November 3.30pm to 5.30pm - Walbottle Primary school open day;

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