

# VILLAGE NEWS

Newsletter of the Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association

## Coronation Celebration



Sunday the 7th of May 2023 saw the Village Green hosting the village's celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla the previous day. Walbottle Village Tenants & Residents Association and the Trustees of Walbottle

Village Institute enabled a fun filled event promoting community and companionship. We were blessed with fabulous weather and many lingered after the event enjoying the sunshine.

Walbottle Choir heralded in and out the proceedings leading community singing of the National Anthem and a national favourite while the beacon was lit. All enjoyed a festive picnic lunch with refreshments and cakes provided by WVT&RA and WVI Trustees.



Many thanks are due to the raft of volunteers who gave their time erecting the marquee, cutting grass, manning the road closure etc, we couldn't have done it without you!



Last December we received an email from Bruno Peek the King's pageantmaster thanking us for taking part in the Queens Jubilee celebration last year and providing advice on the King's coronation celebration in May this year. He also stated that as it was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings next June beacons will be lit across the country to mark this historic

occasion and he hopes that we will take part as well. So, for those of you who were asking about an event next year, watch out for news about the celebrations planned for **The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day to be held in early June 2024!** If you have any memories of the war which you would like to share then please get in touch. Also, if you have any militaria to put on display during the celebration then let us know.

The full email from Bruno Peek can be found on the website under News.

## Newsletter Highlights

Coronation Celebration

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

Update from WVT&RA Committee

Gardening Group

Walbottle Community Litter Pickers

Neighbourhood Watch

Business Community Engagement

Guided Walk Around Walbottle

Past and Present Residents

Willie of the Woods

Calendar Dates



## Update from WVT&RA Committee

Since the last newsletter there have been two open meetings in the Village Institute. The first was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May when the West Denton Fire Station manger Mr Ian Stewart provided a very detailed debrief on last Summer's wildfire. The debrief included a question and answer session where notes were taken and uploaded onto Facebook and onto the website under News.



The second meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June in the village Institute and was both an open meeting for all residents followed by a closed WVT&RA committee meeting. The meeting was well attended and a briefing by Virgin Media's community lead officer Ms Jane Proctor was well received. Ms Proctor took questions from the floor and these were recorded by the secretary and included in the minutes of the meeting. The minutes are on Facebook and on the website under News.

This was the first time the WVT&RA have held both an open and closed meeting consecutively and its success will be a model for future meetings. The next planned meeting of the WVT&RA is the AGM on Tuesday the 15 of August 2023 at 7pm in the Village Institute. All Walbottle Village

residents are encouraged to attend to vote in existing and new committee officers. This newsletter includes a separate sheet detailing job descriptions for two new officer roles; IT support and Communications. If you think one of these roles could be for you then please get in touch.

## Gardening group

We continue to try and keep the village looking jolly with our plantings. We have updated the raised bed in front of Head to Toe. The bed has been planted up with perennial alpiners and low growing plants that we hope will establish themselves over the next year. The bed has been top dressed with alpine grit to suppress weeds. We will add some small bulbs in the Autumn to hopefully add a splash of colour all year round. Thank you Head to Toe for adopting this bed and looking after watering.

As reported in our last newsletter the 2 sets of 3 planters by the entrance to Walbottle Farm have been removed. 3 planters have been reinstated next to the village institute and planted up with herbs and lavender. Once the herbs are established villagers are welcome to pick herbs for cooking.

The Percy Way Rose Beds are now well established and have been maintained by Kelly and Samantha. The Coronation and Jubilee beds are now established and add a pop of colour to the village green. The 'Shady Triangle' remains a challenge although some plants are now established and flowering on the north wall. More work is required however with the extremely dry spell we did not think it was a good idea to try and establish new plants. The tubs at the village green bus stops have been replanted as well as a tidy up of perennials around the bus shelter. We hope to re-plant and tidy the area by the coal truck by the entrance to the paddock as well as establish a crocus lawn for next spring. We are always looking for volunteers for one off projects or general weeding and planting. We do try to have group sessions to do this which is much more fun than doing it solo and a good opportunity to get to know everyone. Drop us an email if you are interested in joining us or have any ideas or advice to offer at [walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com)

## Walbottle Community Litter Pickers



This newsletter we are highlighting the great work Connor and Julie are doing in the village by collecting litter. It seems a never ending task but one which is so important in making the village a lovely place to live. So well done to them both. We know Connor and Julie are not the only people in the village who collect litter so why not drop us a message and photo and we will include you in a future newsletter.

**DYK:** That Newcastle City Council (NCC) spends more than £2m a year collecting over 7000 tonnes of litter dropped on streets and public spaces? NCC supports local communities by providing equipment and bag collection. Contact [hello@yourcityyourhome.co.uk](mailto:hello@yourcityyourhome.co.uk)



## Neighbourhood Watch

There have been reports of burglary or attempted burglary in the village over the last few weeks. On one occasion a shed was broken into on Dene Terrace and there has been a report of two masked men attempting to break into houses on Walbottle Road. Make sure your house, outbuildings and vehicles are secure. If you see anything suspicious then report it immediately to the police on:- Emergency 999, Non-emergency 101 Community Policing Officer Ashley Palmer - Ashley.palmer@northumbria.police.uk

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is even more important at this time given the rise in thefts, attempted break-ins and anti social behaviour in the area. It is also important to note that there is a question on all home insurance policy questionnaires so this can save you money on insurance policies. The link to find the local scheme is: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/find-my-local-scheme>. Simply key in your postcode and you will be directed to the Walbottle Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (WVNWS) page where you can join and receive regular updates. If you require any help to set this up please email walbottlera@gmail.com or call 07495 767374 we are happy to help.

Walbottle Village is now officially a **NO COLD CALLING** zone and any unsolicited traders who knock at your door may be committing a criminal offence and should be reported to [tradingstandards@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@newcastle.gov.uk) or the police if they are intimidating. Expect to receive a consultation letter with notification when the zone was implemented along with a window sticker in the near future.



## Business Community Engagement

Does your employer / business support Community Engagement? More and more companies are now thinking about social value and may pay you to volunteer in your community or for a local charity, within your normal working hours, usually for a day or few each year. Alternatively they may have funds to donate to community groups or charities for the work you already support. If your company implements any of these schemes and you would like to support Walbottle Village, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the email address on the bottom of page 4.



## Guided Walk Around Walbottle

On Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June twenty intrepid volunteers met in the Walbottle Institute for refreshments and a talk on the history of Walbottle followed by a guided walk around the village. This was arranged by Judith Green from the St James's Heritage and Environmental Group as part of the 'Real Route of Hadrian's Wall Through Newcastle'. Refreshments were served by Shirley and Wendy and talks presented by Roger and Mike. There may be a further walk later in the year and if you are interested then send a message via the website or email [wvratreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:wvratreasurer@gmail.com). Alternatively if you would like to do the walk yourself then the guide can be found on the website under Home/Walbottle Walks and is called Walbottle guided walk 2023.

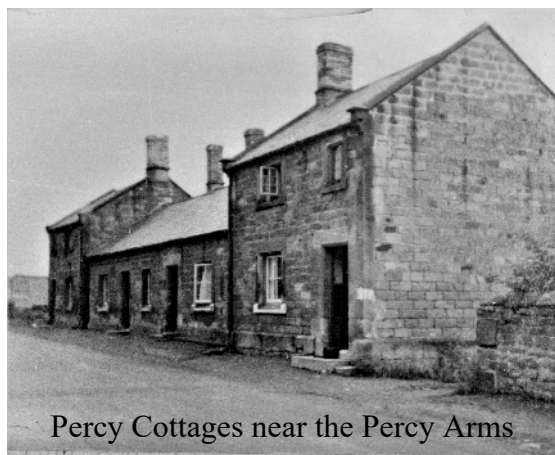


## Past and Present Residents



We received a very nice email from Mr Brian Bennett who used to live in the village. Brian went to Walbottle Primary school in the mid sixties and sent the photograph. Brian is second from the right on the back row. He remembers others in the photograph such as Eric Stead, Thomas Liddle, Brian Mercel, John Nixon, Phillip Crook, Keith Tulip, David Carter, Sandra Black, Richard Storey, Linda Carter, Janice Yoxall and of course the wonderful Mrs Lambert. Brian lived in Percy Cottages before redevelopment which used to be near the Percy Arms, but moved with his Grandparents into No 9 Percy Way when they were completed. (Continued on page 4)

## Past and Present Residents (continued from page 3)



Percy Cottages near the Percy Arms

It sounds like Brian had a very interesting life. He left Walbottle at the age of 18 and joined the Army. After leaving the Army he lived in France, Kuwait, Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda and Romania then went to Florida where he trained dogs for the police department. He now lives in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire and has only returned to Walbottle about 4 times. His aunt Doreen lived at number 11 Percy Way then moved to one of the bungalows until her recent death.

If you remember Brian or anyone in the photograph or have any memories of the village you would like to share then why not drop an email to [wvratreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:wvratreasurer@gmail.com) or send a message via the website and we will try and include your memories in a future newsletter.

## Willie of the Woods - A Local Legend

**Did you know** that in the 1750's a Scotsman by the name of William Pettigrew came to Walbottle looking for work and got a job as a coal waggon driver in Walbottle colliery. Unfortunately he couldn't find anywhere to live so he built his own house from sods of earth and brushwood in Walbottle and Throckley Dene not far from the Military road (Hexham road). Four stakes were driven into the ground and a couple of planks served as a table while old coal buckets or 'corves' filled with straw formed a bed. He married and raised children in this humble abode but when word got out that there was a family living in the Dene people flocked to see him naming him 'Willie of the Woods'. In fact he became such a celebrity that the number of visitors became troublesome but being an enterprising sort of chap he bought cheese, ale and bread which he sold to the visitors at a profit. In this way he was able to provide a better standard of living than would have been possible on a mere waggon driver's wage. From humble beginnings two of his children did quite well. One became a lieutenant in the army while another acquired some celebrity as a Methodist preacher!

### Calendar Dates:

Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> August - WVT&RA AGM Walbottle Village Institute 7pm all welcome.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August - Art exhibition 10:30 - 7pm Village Institute all welcome

Food Bank Collection in the Village Institute 10:30am to 11:30am Sun October 15<sup>th</sup>

### Garden Maintenance

Do you need your grass cutting, hedges trimming or general garden tidy with green waste removed? If so then contact Sasha on 07393027249

**WALBOTL  
COFFEE  
HOUSE**



OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY: CLOSED  
TUESDAY: 09:00 - 15:00  
WEDNESDAY: 09:00 - 15:30  
THURSDAY: 09:00 - 15:30  
FRIDAY: 09:00 - 15:30  
SATURDAY: 09:00 - 16:00  
SUNDAY: 10:00 - 15:00

The Old Co-Op Building Buildings, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 9SR

Dine in/Take out available  
Dog friendly

0191 2672025

**KD Care  
Services**

Providing bespoke care services within your own home.

We are looking to recruit caring, committed and passionate individuals to join our team.

Please phone us on 0191 3726944 for a chat.

[walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com)



Tel: 07495767374

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

Find us on facebook: Walbottle Village Residents Association