

# In Touch With...

# Walton

Supporting each other through the Corona Virus pandemic November 2020  
Issue 66



Somerset Councils declared a Climate Emergency some months ago. The word Emergency implies action, and there are many ways that individuals or groups can help reduce our impact on the environment. Some are

obvious: reducing our single-use plastic consumption cuts out the energy used to make it as well as pollution caused disposing of it; closing windows and doors; turning off lights; and walking or cycling more all help. The Parish Council is planning to hold a remote meeting in the New Year for everyone interested, where facts about the environmental situation and ways we can all help are discussed. We hope to get presenters from Mendip Council, Somerset Climate Action Network and Somerset Wildlife Trust amongst others. More information will be on the notice boards in the coming months.

2020 has been a challenging few year in many ways. Information about the virus and measures to tackle it dominated the media, keeping it at the top of people's minds. At this time of year, gloomy, darker, and wetter days can be depressing. The run-up to Christmas is usually a time for meeting colleagues and friends but social distancing rules can make this difficult. Both these factors can lead to greater feelings of isolation and loneliness at this time of year, so it is important to do all we can to ensure everyone in our community feels that others care for and support them.

Christmas is a time for hope and promise of a better times ahead and 2021 promises to be the year when we put the virus behind us and make real progress on bettering the environment for everyone.

*John Harvey*

Here to help:

**Walton Community Help lines:**

07342 115108

07342 115100

**Somerset County Council.**

All help and information from Somerset County Council is now available in a single place on their website

[www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/)

The annual Remembrance Day wreath laying happened earlier this year to avoid the COVID19 lock down. Representatives from Holy Trinity Church, The WI, The British Legion and the Parish Council attended and a full two minutes silence was held. This event was filmed by a representative of the church and it is hoped that this may be shown at a later date.



## WALTON VILLAGE AGENT

The Village agent for the Walton area is Jackie Hayes 07494 883570

Village Agents [organised via the Community Council for Somerset] are in local communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with.

Village agents provide confidential and practical community-based solutions You can contact the village agent directly or there is a lot of information on our web site [www.ccslovesomerset.org](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org)

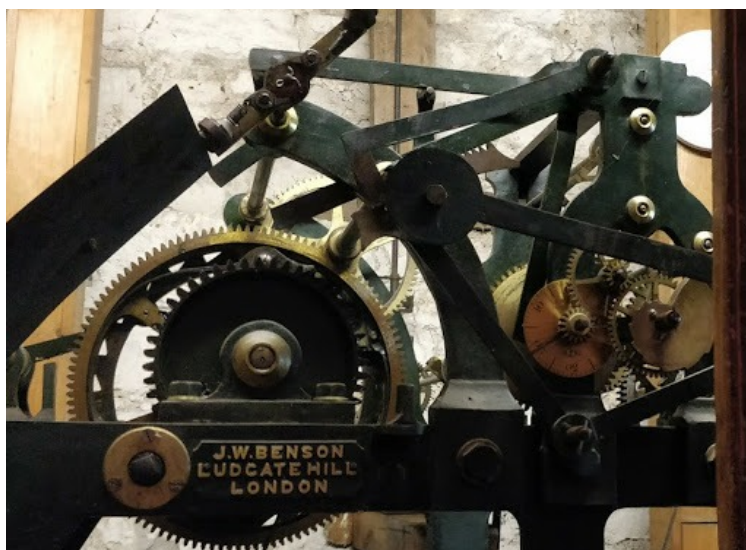
Carers: You may not even recognise yourself as a Carer as you may look after someone infrequently, or informally, but we are here to help you whether you care for your spouse, child, friend or relative. To have a chat about how we can support you in your caring role, call 0800 31 68 600, text 'Carer' to 78070 or visit the dedicated Carers website [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org)

## Holy Trinity Church

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK WITH ORGANISERS BEFORE ATTENDING ANY EVENTS AS COVID19 RESTRICTIONS ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING -**

We managed to open our Church on the 6th September after almost 6 months, roping off pews and removing books, cushions etc and of course doing our risk assessment. We have only been able to have our Sunday service with track and trace, loads of hand gel, social distancing and of course our masks. Our coffee mornings have been put on hold for the time being which is sad as this is such a sociable time. Things of course look and feel very different but it is the same for us all, all around the country and indeed, the world. We are surprisingly adaptable and we soon get used to the new 'normal'.

We had emergency repairs done to the lead flashing on the road side of Church as I am sure the scaffolding was noticed for a while. The wall inside has some damage due to the leak. As soon as that was completed a tile slid off the south side of the roof so scaffolding will have to be returned before long.



We have also started the process of having the clock automated. We have relied on volunteers to wind the clock weekly, and the Beaty boys have done us proud these past years. John Gardener left us a bequest in his will some years ago and it was decided it would be fitting to have something tangible and long lasting in his memory. We have had some help from our Parish Council towards this too and are hoping the rest of the costs won't be too great as we know the clock is appreciated by us all, not least by those waiting for the bus.

We are really looking forward to celebrating the Christmas season. Covid restrictions, which are ever changing, mean we cannot be absolutely sure what form those celebrations will take. As it stands, we intend to have a midnight Communion service on Christmas eve,

More information will appear on the Church website

<https://swcd-churches.org.uk>

or on the Church and Walton community Facebook pages. These will also contain details of what is now happening with the changes in the current restrictions.

*Sandra Gristock*

# WALTON UNDER FIVES PRE SCHOOL

Celebrating 25 years of Walton Under 5's Pre-School



This academic year is the 25th anniversary of the pre-school, which still calls the Walton Village Hall its home. Many of the younger residents of the village have started their academic career at the pre-school before moving on to the primary school of their choice. As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations the children are doing a sponsored event where they are doing things with the theme of 25, one example of which is doing a different exercise for 25 seconds for 25 days. Because of the restrictions



from Covid-19 the pre-school will have to do fundraising a bit different this year as we would normally hold a disco and various other events which unfortunately will not be able to go ahead due to the rule of 6. As a result we will be looking to other ways to raise money such as making a mini

cookbook to sell with recipes and activity ideas from the families and staff of the preschool. Walton Under 5's Pre-School is a registered charity (Charity No. 1048513) and because of this relies on fundraising organised by the committee to make up the difference and to improve the facilities we can offer the children.

The preschool still has spaces available for children aged 2-5yrs Monday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-3pm. If you would like more information either contact us via telephone 07970443157, e-mail [waltonunderfives@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:waltonunderfives@yahoo.co.uk), or visit the website [www.waltonunderfives.co.uk](http://www.waltonunderfives.co.uk).

**PLEASE CONTACT THE PRE SCHOOL FOR ALL THE CURRENT INFORMATION**

**07970 443 157**



# WALTON IN BLOOM 2020

In this very strange year, the Walton in Bloom competition went ahead as all gardens are judged from the roadside. This year's selection came with comments of 'very well maintained' 'neat and tidy' 'a beautiful display' and, 'absolutely lovely' for the gardens.



**BEST GARDEN**



**BEST HANGING BASKET**



**ALLOTMENT CORNUCOPIA AWARD**



**MOST UNUSUAL**



**BEST CONTAINERS**



**ALLOTMENT SPECIAL AWARD**

There were comments about productive and well maintained allotment plots and congratulations for a first year success. The overall tidiness and good maintenance of the entire allotment field was also noted by this year's judge - seen here relaxing in the Allotment Society's Communal plot.

## Neighbourhood Watch

There is an increase in the activities of 'scammers' who are constantly finding different ways of tricking us into disclosing our personal security information so that they can then steal our money. One of these relate to the abolition of a free TV Licence and scammers are sending fake e mails which appear to be have come from TV Licencing.

However, here are a few common signs that you shouldn't trust an email:

The sender has an unusual email address

The TV Licensing organisation will use donotreply@tvlicensing.co.uk (or donotreply@spp.tvlicensing.co.uk) to email you. The scammers cannot send emails using these addresses. Instead, they may come from a personal email account or one which looks unusual.

The email doesn't use your name or has an incorrect account number

TV Licensing will usually include your name in their emails unless you told them you don't need a licence and didn't provide a name. The scammers may insert an incorrect customer ID in the hope that you will not check that it's wrong.

It contains spelling and grammatical errors and inconsistent styles

Although all writers can make mistakes, it's common to find grammatical and spelling errors on phishing emails. They may also seem too casual or unusually formal or use colours and styles that are inconsistent with the organisation's style.

Another common scam being circulated at the moment relates to fake Penalty Charges.

Although these can look official, they are designed to panic recipients into making a quick payment with the threat of the "fine" being quadrupled in a few days.

There are some simple checks you can make to ensure that you are getting genuine emails:

1. Is the email from an official email address? The latest common one originates in Morocco and has a personal email address. geomedia.ma
2. Is the email written with good grammar and spelling?
3. Is it correctly spaced?
4. Does it state exactly where the "offence" took place?
5. Are you able to contact them? Is the number they give, temporarily unavailable?

**and NEVER click on any links in the email Attachments.**

*By Bob Musgrave*

## Walton W.I.

As lockdown restrictions eased in the summer, we had continued to hold weekly croquet sessions, by appointment, in a local member's garden, and craft sessions in Street where there were indoor and outdoor facilities. On a hot day in August we enjoyed a picnic in the grounds of the village hall where eighteen members plus three from County, including our County Chair, were in attendance. Bringing along our own food, drink and chairs, we sat in the very welcome shade at the back of the building. It was a very pleasant get together after such a long break.

Unfortunately, our other planned picnic in September, this time to celebrate 105 years of the National W.I., had to be cancelled due to the newly imposed 'Rule of six' the week before. This has also reduced our numbers for croquet and craft.



The use of Zoom has been necessary not only for committee and members meetings but also informative talks.

Our Facebook page, including walks, gardens, quizzes and daily jokes, along with emails, phone calls, visits and Zoom ensure that we continue to keep in touch with all our members.

*By Jo Haydon*

## **Street & Walton Men's Shed.**

**THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE CURRENT LOCK DOWN WAS ANNOUNCED -**

**PLEASE CONTACT BRIAN FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION on 01458 443940**

The Street & Walton Men's Shed currently opening 4 days a week with two sessions of 3.5 hours each day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and one session on Monday and Wednesday mornings. At the time of writing we are still restricting numbers to 6 members a session for social distancing requirements. (Places for these sessions must be booked in advance). The Tuesday afternoon session is solely for ladies, who do everything from crocheting to wood carving and upholstery. As with the men's sessions there is room to do almost any type craft work, turning or woodwork, we also hope to be able to do metal lathe work in our well-equipped workshops.

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions we have been unable to take part in several annual fetes and fairs such as the Walton and Merriman Park Fun Days and the Street Christmas Cracker event this year, all of which were great places to recruit new members and raise funds. This has had an effect on what we make to sell and we have had to build a storage shed to keep it all in ready for the next time we can have a stall at an event.

We did however manage to hold our much-delayed AGM, just two days before the 'rule of six' came into force. It was held in Walton Village Hall and 20 members attended and we managed to get through the agenda in quick time to reduce any exposure to a minimum. I am sure that the members appreciated that as my usual 'chairman's' report was the shortest I have ever made!

As we have said before the aim of the Men's Shed is to provide a place where older men and women can come to socialise, work on projects in a safe welcoming atmosphere, this is even more important at this time where we are again facing restrictions in what we can do or people we can meet. Even with the six sessions a week,



we cannot provide the level of social interaction that we did before the lock down in March, but there is still plenty of tea & coffee on hand during the sessions in the kitchen are and even more chance to talk and if you get caught short, we have a fully accessible disabled toilet.

We are still looking for new members, both Ladies and Gents, and information on Street Shed, our new opening times, please find our contact details on our web site at [www.streenmensshed.btck.co.uk](http://www.streenmensshed.btck.co.uk), look us up on our Facebook page or ring Brian Bastable on 01458 443940. I am also available to talk about opening new Sheds in Somerset as part of my work as a UK Men's Shed Ambassador, my Email address for that is [brian.bastable@ukmsa.org.uk](mailto:brian.bastable@ukmsa.org.uk)  
Brian Bastable  
Street & Walton Men's Shed  
Chair & UK Men's Shed Association  
Ambassador for Somerset.



## WALTON VILLAGE HALL

The Walton Trust have been making good use of this year to create some changes. These have included relocating the defibrillator to outside, carrying out maintenance work to the footpath linking the school to Asney road, and works to create an extension to the main car park. Plans are also in the



making to improve the multi use games area [MUGA]

During the year the Village hall has been complying to all the COVID19 restrictions.

The ability of groups and organisations being able to make use of the hall and playing field has been dramatically reduced but some restriction compliant events and training sessions were able to happen.

With the ever changing situation please contact your group or event organiser for up to date information.

[www.waltonvillagehall.org](http://www.waltonvillagehall.org)



### Health Connections Somerset

Patients of GP practices in Mendip can book free sessions with a Health Connector, who will listen to your story and what's important to you. They can give you information about everything from counselling, carers' support and home help, to social groups and financial assistance. **To book a free one to one session call 01373 468368** or email [mendip.healthconnections@nhs.net](mailto:mendip.healthconnections@nhs.net) **Appointments are currently taking place over the phone.** Another element of HCM's work is providing 'Let's Connect' training sessions to empower local people to share information and ideas with friends, family, colleagues and neighbours. You'll learn how to signpost people in your community to services and support, promote health and wellbeing messages, and help to tackle issues such as digital exclusion and fuel poverty. If you are interested in doing the Let's Connect trainings, please contact HCM <https://healthconnectionsomerset.org/>

### Somerset Sight

is a local charity which has been supporting sight impaired people across Somerset for over a hundred years. One of our services is the Volunteer Visiting Service whereby volunteers are matched locally with a sight impaired person for regular visits for company and support, and also helps alleviate their loneliness and isolation.

Volunteers help with a variety of tasks such as reading, correspondence, or making appointments, going out for a drive or just a cup of tea and a chat. Many volunteers get great satisfaction and enjoyment from their voluntary work, many friendships are formed and the people they support very much look forward to their visits. If someone is sight impaired and would like to know more about our services or if anyone would like to volunteer for the Visiting Service, please contact us on 01823 333818 for further information

## Here to help:

**Walton Community Help lines: 07342 115108 & 07342 115100**

Although the COVID19 Pandemic restrictions have changed the above numbers are still operational for people who need to self isolate and need support / assistance

### Your Parish Councillors:



Cllr. John Harvey -  
Chairman



Cllr. Naomi Johnson -  
Vice  
Chairman



Cllr. Bob  
Collins



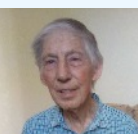
Cllr. Richard  
Crossman



Cllr. Simon  
Loader



Cllr. Richard  
Vowles



Cllr. Bob  
Musgrave



Cllr. Lisa  
Whitty

- Cllr. Angie Greuter

**All councillors can  
be contacted via the  
parish clerk**

### Dates of future parish council meetings:

Friday December 11th 2020

All at 7pm in the Village Hall Lounge or online via Zoom depending on current government restrictions - this will be shown on the top of the agenda of each meeting

Walton Parish Clerk - Helen Moore

[clerk@waltonpc.org](mailto:clerk@waltonpc.org)  
07399 040 667

Walton Parish Council c/o  
21 Bere Lane Glastonbury BA6 8BD  
Please note that the Clerk works part time and you may not receive an immediate reply

Walton Village Website:  
[www.waltonpc.org](http://www.waltonpc.org)

### Speed Watch!



There is now a Community Speed Watch group in Walton. The group has

received their initial training and in the future will be seen around the village in their Hi Viz jackets. This initiative is thanks to local residents acting on their concerns about speeding traffic through the village.

**To join the group or find out more contact:**  
[timothy.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:timothy.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

### Village Footpaths

The footpaths around the village and wider parish continue to be very well used. Please remember to keep your dog under control at all times and on a lead if you are in a field [ or next to a field] with livestock. As ever, please clean up after your dog and dispose of the waste responsibly.

If you notice any problems with the footpaths then these can be reported directly to Somerset County Council via their web site: [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)

You can also contact Councillor Simon Loader [parish paths liaison officer] and Councillor Angie Greuter directly or via the parish Clerk.



### POT HOLES

Potholes or other road faults can be reported directly to the County Council at :  
[WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK](http://WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK)

Walton Parish Council parish news - talking about Walton copyright 2004-2020

designed and compiled by H Moore  
Edited by H Moore and J Harvey

Articles are for information or consideration for inclusion in future editions can be sent to the parish clerk. Articles in this newsletter are gathered from the parish council, village and public sources & contributors. The information and views are accepted as factual & honest. Information or views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editors or the parish council.

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