

In Touch With...

Walton

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE

Life and news in Walton Village

May 2023 Issue 76

This newsletter and some previous editions can also be viewed at the community website: www.waltonpc.org

From the chairman...



With the official handover from the district councils to the new Unitary Authority in April, Mendip Council, which used to provide most of the services to our parish, is no more.

However, so far, the handover of service provision to Unitary has not been disrupted and many of the staff and processes remain the same. There may be changes in the pipeline, but so far so good.

To many of you who may not be familiar with the workings of local government, the above paragraph may be puzzling or seem irrelevant. I know that, before I joined the council, I had little knowledge of where my council tax went and how it was used. Walton Parish Council meetings are open to the general public and, if you want to witness your council working and perhaps understand more about your local government, you are welcome to attend. Look out for the dates and agendas on the notice boards around the village.

We have had two new members join the council since the last newsletter: Lewis Collins and Rachel Ashman. They are both very welcome additions, bringing new skills and life experiences to our deliberations. I look forward to their contributions our deliberations and to the activities that the parish council undertakes.

John Harvey

Walton Under 5s Preschool

is now officially rated as Outstanding by Ofsted.
Read about the preschool on page five

Walton's Last Fingerpost sign,

A work in progress...

The fingerpost signposts used to be a common sight around the country but have become increasingly rare. As far as we know



there is only one remaining within the parish of Walton and it is in a pretty bad condition, [Council are still trying to locate the missing 'fingersign'].

One of the Councillors, Matt Vowles, went on a training course about fingerpost restoration run by the Highways Department and along with Matt Hawkins, the new village 'ranger' the restoration of the sign is now a work in progress.

Walton WI

At our February and April meetings we have had an interesting history of a family during the Second World War and have learnt about the Museum of Bath. Our March meeting did not go ahead as there was a heating problem in the village hall, but three members did hold a Live Stream to members to keep them abreast of upcoming events. The demonstration planned for that evening has been rebooked for the July meeting.

Our monthly 'Explore Your Local Area' feature has taken us to The Grange in Street with guided tours



led by three Alfred Gillet Trustees; to the Museum of Taunton by bus for a talk and guided tour of the new 'Fashion Through the Ages' exhibition; and another guided tour this time around Castle Cary Museum. With the expected improvement in weather, we will be able to have more outside visits.

Socially, Group W.I. activities have included a social skittles evening in Ashcott attended by ten Walton members who were joined by representatives from Ashcott, Woolavington, Compton Dundon, Puriton and Westonzoyland; and the Group Spring Meeting hosted by Puriton W.I. which in addition included Shapwick W.I. Furthermore, on the skittles evening other Walton members took part in the Easter Quiz held in Walton Church with one of their teams winning the contest. Recently, twenty-six members have also enjoyed an additional Social



Skittles evening held this time in the Royal Oak. Walton W.I.'s Skittles Team have had a semi-final win by 56 pins against Rodney Stoke W.I. in a W.I. County Cup match played at the 37 Club and are now waiting to hear where and when they will be playing in the final against Wellington. County W.I. has also provided two Speakers' Previews by zoom to assist us when booking speakers. Our new monthly feature, 'Ladies who Brunch', held on Mondays in the Mullions, began in February, and has proved very successful with an average of twelve members attending each time. The Mullions was also the venue for the craft group who celebrated the eightieth birthday of one of their members there. Fortnightly Indoor games

have now been replaced by the ever-popular croquet sessions; weekly table tennis and craft have continued as usual; and Walton walks have been enjoyed when possible.

Two away Kurling gigs organised by Walton have taken place in Curry Rivel and Westonzoyland for their W.I.s. and have proved very successful.

Our next monthly evening meeting after publication will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th June 2023 in Walton

Village Hall when we will have as speaker Emma Britten with her talk, 'From Radio to Funerals and Weddings' and the competition will be a 'Wedding Souvenir'. New members and visitors are very welcome to join us.

Jo Haydon




£2
Single Bus Fares

To be extended to June 2023



To find out how the Government can help you
Search 'Help for Households'

The £2 Bus Fare Extended Until The End Of June

The Somerset Bus Partnership has welcomed the Government's decision to provide an additional £75 million. This will enable bus operators to continue to cap their single adult bus fares at £2.

The £2 flat fare introduced in January is now set to continue through to the end of June. Bus users in Somerset will be able to continue to travel on most bus routes in the county and beyond for just £2.

It's worth remembering that this initiative applies to cross-boundary services, which means you can travel for example from Street to Bristol or Wells to Bath or Frome to Bath for just £2. It's hoped this will persuade even more people to use the buses



SQUAREONE
PILATES

Pilates Classes
@ Walton Village Hall

Tuesday 6:00 pm & Wednesday 3:30 pm

Mixed ability classes suitable for both Men & Women.

- Reduced Back Pain
- Improved Posture
- Improved Balance
- Improved Mobility
- Improved Flexibility
- Core Strength

Pilates has many benefits and is an exercise suitable for everyone. Call Julie on 07803332245
www.squareonepilates.co.uk




Walton Parish Council PRECEPT GRANTS

Every year the Parish Council gives grants to groups and organisations that are of benefit to the village.

The process starts in the Autumn of every year when the Precept Grants are advertised on the website and village notice boards, and groups are able to apply. In the past recipients have included the men's shed, the netball group, brownies groups, scouts, cadets and many others.

The grant applications are discussed at the normal parish council meetings in order that anyone can comment, and any grants that are agreed are paid in April at the start of the financial year.

This year grants were awarded to:

- The Walton Under 5's pre-school, £648 for new play equipment & chairs.
- The Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, £500 for a replacement piece of life saving equipment.
- The Holy Trinity Church, £774 toward the upkeep of the Church yard and floodlighting the village clock.
- St Margaret's Hospice, £500 contributing toward the cost of caring for people with life-limiting illnesses in their own homes.
- Citizen's Advice Mendip, £100 for training and equipping their volunteers in order that they can continue to provide essential advice, aiding people in accessing the services they need.
- Walton Speed watch group, £150 to promote road safety.

Walton Coronation Celebration Tea at the village hall



The Reverend Anna Lawrence thanked everyone who had participated, coming together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, spending time with friends and family, and having a delicious tea. A big thank you was also given to all the volunteers who made the event possible, both behind the scenes and serving the teas with a warm welcome.

Walton Under 5's preschool

We've had an incredibly busy Spring term here at Walton Under 5s Preschool. The children have been exploring mini-beasts along with activities connected to the brilliant books *The Hungry Caterpillar* and *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. They've also learnt about the importance of E-safety with some brilliant help from pupils at Walton Primary School.

On March 31st we had a special visitor at preschool...Ofsted! The inspector spent the day with us talking to parents and children about the preschool and observing our experienced staff delivering exciting play activities and interacting with our children. We were holding our Easter picnic for the children and their families that day, so it was a great opportunity for the inspector to see first-hand the close links we have with our families. We think it was also the first time the inspector had seen a manager dress up as the bunny for the children's egg hunt!

Following the inspection, the new preschool committee along with our new manager, Cassie Needle, and all the preschool staff, are delighted to inform you that we achieved outstanding across all the four areas of inspection and that

Walton Under 5s Preschool is now officially rated as Outstanding by Ofsted.

The four areas assessed were quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. The inspector noted that our staff are "ambitious and passionate" and that parents feel "valued by staff". But above all, we were incredibly proud to read her observations of our wonderful children, commenting that "children's behaviour is superb" showing "exceptional care and concern to their friends,



the resources and the environment".

The following day we held our first Easter Family Fun Day. This proved to be a tremendously successful event and we were overwhelmed by the turnout. Children enjoyed an Easter scavenger



hunt and a range of art and craft activities, whilst there was a quiz for the adults. A range of stalls, enormous jumble sale and delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all. The chocolate tombola, however, was a definite hit with all who attended!



We managed to raise over £800 from the event which will go towards purchasing some exciting new resources for the children. We'd like to thank everyone who kindly donated jumble or chocolate prizes, along the following local businesses for their kind donations and support: Glastonbury Abbey, Burns the Bread, Crystal Clear, Earthfare, Pets at Home, Tesco and Lidl.

If you're interested in enrolling your child at the preschool then please do get in touch on

07970 443157 or email: waltonunderfives@yahoo.co.uk

Please be aware that we currently have limited availability for places.

Dates for your Diary!

**Saturday
10th June
Open Church
funday**

family event with games,
refreshments and a BBQ £5 per
family or £2 per person

**Thursday 8th June
Next WI meeting**

7.30pm in Walton Village Hall
with speaker Emma Britten

No Mow May Comment from a resident...

When I moved here almost 40 years ago I vowed never to mow the tiny traditional lawn, facing north in the shadow of the house.

Now native ground cover flowers early for the bees and I don't contribute to the weekend whine of mowers that blight the whole summer. Last years' record heat led to advice to keep windows shut; I was able to open mine to let in the cool, fresh air wafting down from my trees.

Damage to the garden by the garages was justified by the litter it caught. Why not just teach your kids not to drop litter. It's depressing how often my oxygen producing-greenery comes under attack from local car-people, happy to spread the poison from the road right around our homes.

It may take another 40 years but I hope Walton realises we are part of nature, growth or poison lays ahead for us all.

P B

Walton Community Area



The 'walk to' community orchard and green space at East Mead lane is showing good progress with the hedge that was planted by volunteers



leafing up. The apple trees are in bloom along with a growing range of wild flowers and plants. The area is being lightly managed by the Parish Council to encourage the growth of native plants

and provide a space for both wildlife and the community.

Meet & Greet, Knit & Natter!

In the lounge at the village hall on
the
1st and 3rd Wednesday
of every month,
2pm to 4pm

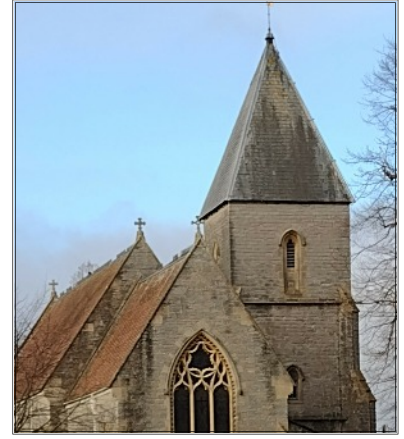
A chance to meet up and have a chat



There can be everything from knitting and card making at the Knit & Natter, to board games and chatter at the Meet & Greet. Everyone is welcome!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

First of all we would like to say a big thank you to those of you that came out for the hedge planting on the 4th March. The planting was done so quickly and efficiently that it only took a few hours. Well done to you all. The hedges are sprouting strong healthy leaves already and the churchyard looks really lovely.



By the time you read this newsletter we would have celebrated the coronation of King Charles and our afternoon tea will be over but thank you to those of you that joined us on the Sunday and thank you to the village hall committee for letting us use the hall and kitchen. It is such a wonderful resource and we love to be a part of it when we can. The churchyard fun day will be in the 10th June and will have the same format as last year. 10.30 - 2.30 and

the cost is £5 per family or £2 single. All games and challenges will be free. We hope to have a bbq outside but we could do with help to cook. If you think you can land a hand, please let us know. There will also be refreshments inside the Church.

Our next messy Church will be in the 20th June at 3.30. For those of you who are unaware of messy Church, it is an after school club for 4-11 year olds with a bible theme, crafts, games, singing and, of course, food. Parents, grandparents and child minders are all welcome to bring your children along. We would love to meet new families.

The garage sale has had to be cancelled, our apologies for that but we hope to be able to arrange one for next year.

We do appreciate all the help and encouragement we receive from the village and it is lovely to see new people joining us for our coffee mornings every Thursday, our events and at church services.

Sandra Gristock

Walton Churchyard

The churchyard at Holy Trinity Church, Walton is a special place for many village residents. Many people come to visit the graves of loved ones and perhaps to sit awhile in quiet contemplation. To be near loved ones interred in the churchyard, we are aware that a number of people have also reserved grave plots over the years and we are undertaking checks to ensure that our records are accurate. Where we hold names and addresses, residents should have received a letter and other grave spaces have been marked with a simple notice. Please contact our church office 01458 442671 if you think you have reserved a space so that we can ensure we have all the right information. New reservations are possible and please telephone the number above for more information on the process to be followed.

All are welcome in our churchyard and why not also pop into the church, the spiritual heart of our community, which is open every day.

Reverend Ana Lawrence

WALTON VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.waltonpc.org

Pay a visit to the website to find out about local news, events and village information You can leave comments, raise issues, ask questions, and find out more about your local community.

If you have an event you would like to promote or have a local group that you would like to have listed then please contact the parish clerk - clerk@waltonpc.org



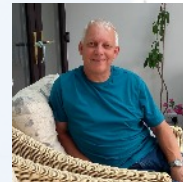
Your Parish Councillors...



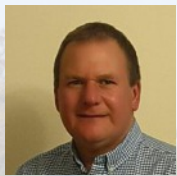
John Harvey
[Chairman]



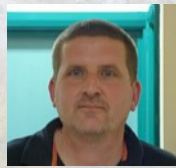
Lian Hardware



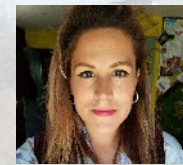
Richard Vowles
[no relation of Matt Vowles!]



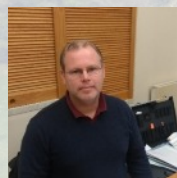
Bob Collins



Simon Loader



Rachel Ashman



Richard Crossman



Matt Vowles
[no relation of Richard Vowles!]
[resigning due to other commitments]



Lewis Collins

Dates of Parish Council Monthly Meetings in 2023

All Meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend.

The monthly meetings are held on Fridays at 7pm in the village hall and generally the second Friday of every month unless otherwise stated - **check dates below** - interim meetings may also occur. The agendas for all meetings will be advertised on the website [www.waltonpc.org] and notice boards.

June 9th, July 14th, August 11th
September 15th
one week late to avoid funday weekend
October 13th, November 10th,
December 8th

Somerset Councillors:

Ros.wyke@somerset.gov.uk
Heather.shearer@somerset.gov.uk

YOUR PCSO

PCSO 8919 Timothy Richards
Timothy.Richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk

07802 874904

Somerset Unitary Council

0300 123 2224
www.somerset.gov.uk

The Parish Clerk

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Designed & compiled by H.Moore Edited by H.Moore & J.Harvey
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