May 2024 | issue 80

WALTON Magazine



OUR FIRST STAR VILLAGERS

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

FIRSTLY, MY THANKS TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH (AMOTP) ON THE 19TH APRIL,

It was great to see so many people there, and to have a chance to talk with you all. My thanks also to the school, all the children and staff, who used the occasion to let us know about their activities. The meeting was also a chance for the council and other groups to let everyone know who they are and what they do. I have been chair of the Parish Council for nearly five years now and, although this was only my second AMotP due to Covid, it made me proud of Walton as a community to see you all there. I hope that it inspired some of you to volunteer to assist in the Village Hall activities, such as helping set up, run and take down the Fun Day, hall maintenance, litter-picking, etc. It is an important asset to the village and needs your support. I look forward to next year's AMotP and would welcome suggestions for that.

Over the past year, the council has taken on a few new projects which will come to fruition in the coming year. Among these are more additions to the East Mead field, the Book Exchange should be opening in the summer and the much-promissed Neighbourhood Plan. My thanks to those of you who answered some of the questionnaires at the AMotP. One project that has now launched is the new-look newsletter. Following the rebranding exercise, we decided to look at how the council communicates and what is in the newsletter. You will find useful numbers, more articles about what is happening in the village and even interviews with villagers. To part-fund this expansion, we have opened it to limited opportunities for Walton-relevent advertising. I hope you enjoy the content, and please let us know any suggestions for future articles – or contribute something yourself!

John Harvey

Chairman, Walton Parish Council





OUR COUNCILLORS



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John Harvey



Vice Chairman
Bob Collins

Parish Clerk
Helen Moore

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Rachel Ashman



Jaimi Bartlett



Lewis Collins



Richard Crossman



Lian Hardware



Simon Loader



Richard Vowles



John & Jo were met by Chairman John Harvey on a beautiful spring evening to accept their award

MEET JOHN & JO

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF & HOW LONG YOU HAVE LIVED IN WALTON

We're John & Jo Haydon & we moved into the village quite some time ago, 19 years ago to be exact. We used to live just outside of London & when we retired, we wanted to live in the country. We've always loved Somerset & when driving through the village, spotted a beautiful little cottage in Walton which we fell in love with immediately.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE WALTON TRUST, W.I., PARISH COUNCIL, THE CHURCH AND BOWLS?

We were both retired & felt we had valuable time we could give to the village

CAN YOU DESCRIBE A PARTICULARLY REWARDING EXPERIENCE WHILST BEING INVOLVED IN ALL THESE GROUPS?

(John) I remember getting the bus stop installed at the western end of the village, as well as installing benches and the notice board at Badger's Green. (Jo) There were lots of clubs that were struggling to recruit members, and given the free time I had, I wanted to get involved as an active member of them all. It was so rewarding to see the engagement increase in the multiple groups & committees, at some points, we almost lost a few of the groups! We've worked really hard to build up the multiple memberships once again.

HAVE THERE BEEN MANY CHALLENGES DURING THIS TIME?

Getting things done & getting people motivated has always been a challenge. It's always hard to get people who want to actually help.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST STRENGTH OF THE WALTON COMMUNITY?

The people! Our members of the various clubs rally the community to get things done, they're an absolute asset.

WHERE DO YOU FEEL THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN WALTON?

The one thing we need to get better at is working together to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling through the village.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEWCOMER, LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

Make time to experience the many clubs throughout the community, you'll fall in love with one or two of them as everyone is so friendly! Then join up as a member and give it a go, you're guaranteed to make friends for life.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT BUSY AROUND THE VILLAGE, HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

John is a very keen golfer & plays regularly. We both also love to walk in the countryside, as well as regularly exercising & attending the local pilates class in the village hall.

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR SUPPORT?

We have made many lasting friends, especially in the W.I., the list is too long! But two people in particular deserve a special mention; Terry Francis for his help generally and especially with the construction of the ever-famous crockery smash stall at the fun day. Also, John Hanrahan for his help when we first moved to the village.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, DO YOU HAVE ANY HOPES OR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE?

Get the village bypass sorted! That would make us and many villagers very happy.

Bob Collins

OUR STAR VILLAGERS

HUNGER FOR A YOUTH COUNCIL?

Hey there, Walton! Ever feel like the grown-ups are making decisions that affect you, but you don't get a say? Yeah, me too (and guess what, I'm on the Parish Council!).

Here's the thing: Walton is brimming with young talent, from future Picassos to coding whizzes. Wouldn't it be awesome to have a Walton Youth Council where YOU get to brainstorm ideas, represent your peers, and make a real difference in our village?

Imagine this:

- Planning epic activity days or movie nights in the village hall.
- Designing a youth community area that would make David Attenborough proud!
- Deciding how to spend a budget to make Walton even more youth-friendly.
- Having your voice heard on everything from the environment to after-school activities.

Sound cool? We think so too!

So, Waltonians under 18, here's the challenge:

- Are you up for making Walton even more awesome?
- Do you have ideas that would make a difference?
- Do you want to be part of something exciting and new?

If you answered YES to any (or all!) of these questions, then we want to hear from YOU!

Here's how you can get involved:

- Spread the word! Tell your mates, siblings, and anyone else under 18 who might be interested.
- If you're interested, please drop me an email on jaimi.bartlett@waltonsomerset-pc.gov.uk
- Have your say! We want to hear YOUR ideas for the Walton Youth Council, so DM Walton Parish Council on Facebook.

This is YOUR chance to make a mark on Walton. Let's get this youth council rolling!

P.S. Parents and guardians! We need your support too. Spread the word, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with your local Parish Councillor.

Jaimi Bartlett & Lewis Collins

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Our Community SpeedWatch team needs your help. We are a small group of individuals who are committed to helping our community by monitoring speed on the A39 through the village. Our presence raises awareness of speed and also helps to slow traffic through the village.

The Speed Enforcement Unit and our PCSO, Tim Richards, support us when they can but we desperately need others to join our team – there is only so much a small team of volunteers can do.

So we are asking you to give 30 minutes of your time a couple of times a month. By making Walton a safer place to drive, cycle and walk, you will be helping everyone in our Walton community.

Please come and join us now. Please contact us at waltonspeedwatch@gmail.com



WALTON W.I.

In the last three months, we have been entertained by one of our members who is a published author, learnt more about the girl guiding movement and picked up some handy photographic tips, all during our monthly evening meetings.

The 'Explore Your Local Area' sessions held each month have taken us to the Wells Museum for a guided tour around the displays of artefacts found when their extension there was built; to the Quaker House to support a member with her book launch; and to Blackmore Farm Manor House in Cannington to see the antiques and armoury there. As with these visits refreshments were also consumed.



Our activities have continued to be well supported: these are table tennis held in Walton Village Hall and craft sessions now taking place in the Street Community Centre, both of which are held weekly; fortnightly indoor games now replaced by croquet when weather permits; and monthly 'Ladies who Brunch' in the Mullions. We have even squeezed in two Walton walks between the showers.
In April we also ran a friendly kurling session for Ashcott W.I. in their village hall and seventeen attendees enjoyed a Garden Visit to Stoberry in Wells with a tour and cream tea included.

Eleven members had a pleasant weekend leisure break in Oakhampton, organised by County, where they were free to participate in craft and sports activities as well as socialising with other Somerset W.I. members. Another County event, this time at the Taunton Races, was also supported.

This year it was Walton W.I.'s turn to host the Spring Group Meeting. Sixty ladies representing Walton, Ashcott & Pedwell, Puriton, Shapwick, Westonzoyland and Woolavington W.I.s, gathered in Walton Village Hall for a very amiable evening. Our speaker and her assistants brought along seven owls for us to see close-up, learn more about, and even have them perched on our arms.

As our AGM falls early in May, our next meeting after publication will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th June 2024 in Walton Village Hall when our speaker will be Rachael Harding with her talk, 'Rhinestones & Sequins' and the competition will be 'Something Sparkly'. New members and visitors are very welcome to join us.

Jo Haydon

WALTON UNDER 5'S PRE-SCHOOL

ON SATURDAY 23RD MARCH WE HELD OUR SECOND COMMUNITY EASTER FAIR

It was wonderful to see so many people from the local community come and support the Preschool. Many visitors found a bargain in our Mega Jumble Sale or a unique gift from one of the stalls selling an array of goodies. Children had fun taking part in an Easter themed hunt around the Village Hall whilst many visitors enjoyed the delicious refreshments on offer. This year we displayed an Art Gallery which consisted of the entries from our Design an Easter Egg art competition. This was kindly judged by Mrs Woodruff from Walton Primary School and our 3 winners received a toy and tickets for a day out. The chocolate tombola was an enormous hit with all who attended and there was also a chance to win one of our Easter hampers or a delicious chocolate cake, kindly made and donated by Lian Hardware, in our raffle.





We'd like to thank everyone who donated jumble or chocolate prizes, along with the following local businesses for their kind donations and support: Morrisons, Tesco, Aldi, Lidl, The Square, Ocean Adventurers and Hestercombe House and Gardens.

The funds raised from our fair will go towards a makeover for our preschool garden. We plan to extend the garden size, erect a new fence and shade sail and zone play areas for the children. This will encourage learning about the environment that surrounds us and nature, whilst also encouraging physical activity, which is fundamental in the development of movement skills.
We are looking for volunteers to help us with our garden makeover. If you would be interested then please get in touch using the details below.

Finally, 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.



WHAT'S ON IN THE VILLAGE HALL?

- Walton textile group 1.30–4pm 2nd and 4th week of the month – Mondays
- Doryokuru 5–8.15pm Mondays – (may change in school holidays)
- WI table tennis 3.45–5.15pm – Tuesdays
- Parkinsons group 2–4pm last Tuesday of the month
- Badminton – 7.30–9.30pm – Tuesdays
- Pilates 3.30–4pm – Wednesdays
- Meet and greet 2pm–4pm 1st and 3rd week of the month – Wednesdays
- Somerset kick boxing 5.30 to 630pm – Wednesdays
- Latin in Line 7–9pm – Wednesdays
- Latin in Line 1.45–4.30pm – Thursdays
- Step in Time 7–9.30pm – Thursdays
- WI 7–10pm second Thursday of the month
- Wyrral Park Bowls 7–9pm – Fridays September to march

WALTON IN BLOOM

The annual Walton in Bloom competition is back, and we're looking for the village's most stunning garden!

Gardens: If your beautiful blooms are visible from the road, you're automatically entered! Simply keep them looking their best for the judging around 31st July.

Allotments: Want to showcase your veggie patch prowess? Allotments will be judged separately around 30th June.

Picture: Annie with some of the boys



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

AS A CHURCH, WE SUPPORT SEVERAL CHARITIES EVERY YEAR AND FOR MANY YEARS ONE OF OUR CHARITIES HAS BEEN ONE HOPE IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

Annie Makoni who has an uncle living in Street, went to Harare many years ago and wanted to do something to help the numerous young people that flock to the city to try to earn money. Some because they have been orphaned and need to survive and others because they have been made homeless.

Life gets impossible and many retreat to substance and drug abuse. Police round them up and either lock them up or beat them and drop them out of town. Annie and her husband Malvern invite 4 young people into their home for a year to train them in farming or carpentry. They also run a drop in centre with the help of others, which provides meals, showers and help for many people.

Easter garden made by some of the children at Messy Church





We are having an open afternoon May 19th from 2–5 where you can browse the plans and ask questions of the architect and the team whilst enjoying tea and cake. We encourage you to come and tell us what you think. There will be comment forms for your responses anonymous or not. This is your church and we value your input.

We are holding a fun day on the 15th June which will be a whole family event. Indoors and outdoors there will be lots of activities for everyone and BBQ available as well as refreshments inside. This is a chance to explore the whole churchyard and the wonderful views up to Walton hill.

Another date to put in your diaries is the Garage and table top sale on the 20th July. This is an opportunity to have a table in your own driveway but we do have room in the Church inside or out, for a table if you don't have room at home or you live to far out. Let any church member know you want to book a place to go on our village map or ring me at home and I will make sure you have a spot.

Just a reminder that we host a coffee morning every Thursday morning in church and this is a lovely chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Everyone is welcome. 10.30 –11.30.

Sandra Gristock

We were thrilled to have Annie and her children Promise and Ephraim with us for the first time, to tell us their stories, show us photos and to share supper with us. They also brought some crafts made from recycled drink cans and wire that young people make.

Our next Messy Church is Tuesday 14th May straight after school when we will go wild in the churchyard. Weather permitting we will be toasting marshmallows, cloud spotting, making and flying birds and many other things. Please bring your young people along to join the fun.

We have known about the issues with our church building for many, many years but we have reached a point where we can't ignore it anymore. The roof is leaking in several areas and that is our priority but we hope to use the opportunity to make the building a better usable space for all our activities.

25 YEARS YOUNG: WALTON VILLAGE HALL



New community centre will be open this autumn

Eileen Zoers, of Somerset Community Council, cuts the turf to begin work on the new village hall at Walton

Work starts on hall

Nearly 100 Walton residents and dignitaries turned out on Friday to watch Eileen Zoers of Somerset County Council cut the first sod on the new village hall site.

The Rector, the Rev John Greed, invited to say a prayer before the actual cutting, gave thanks for the strength given that had helped the various committees arrive at this point.

He added that he prayed that the building would be completed safely and speedily now that construction is beginning.

By Rachel Humphries

Chairman of Walton Trust Jenny Ponsillo said: "This is a very exciting and historic day for Walton. After seven years of hard work we have finally reached the starting line."

Agreeing with Mrs Ponsillo, Mrs Zoers praised all the efforts of the trustees, fundraisers and everyone else involved with the scheme.

She said: "I'm delighted to have been asked here today to officially start Walton's h[illegible] everyone in the village will benefit and the hall will be used to its full capacity."

Representatives of the appointed builders, designers and project managers, were joined at the ceremony by county councillor Alan Cotton and district councillor Les Bennett, whose respective councils have both financially supported the project.

Speaking after the ceremony, Mrs Ponsillo said that the hall should be completed by late September.

"I look forward to seeing it full of people for the opening ceremony," she said.





The photo printed here is the Turning of the Sod for the village hall. This took place on 26th March 1999 and started the exciting process of building the Village Hall. It was a momentous occasion which took place after approx. 7 years of hard work and constant fund raising by many people, either organizing it or partaking.

As you will see the date of 1999 means that this year is the halls 25 anniversary, which I can hardly believe. It officially opened in time for the millennium December 1999. The school held their Nativity play there a couple of weeks after it opened, did you play a part? Many great occasions have taken place over the years.

We are hoping that this significant milestone can be celebrated with you all on 7th December 2024.

Do you have any special memories, were you there at the beginning? did you help with the fund raising or on the committee, do you have any photograph or anything? that could be made into a display Maybe you have an interesting story, maybe a wedding reception, special birthday or anniversary All photographs etc will be returned after the 7/12/24 if specified, but please mark clearly who they are to be returned too.

Please contact Jenny Ponsillo on Jenny.ponsillo@btinternet.com with an interesting story or?

In the meantime please put the 7th December 2024 in your diaries so that we can all celebrate in style.

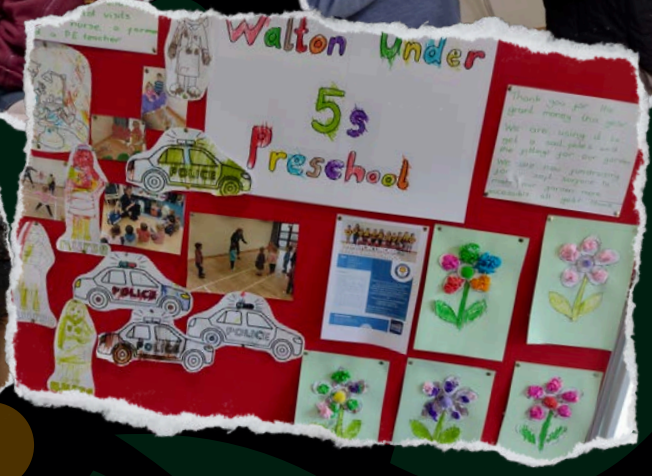
I will update you all in the next newsletter.

Jenny Ponsillo









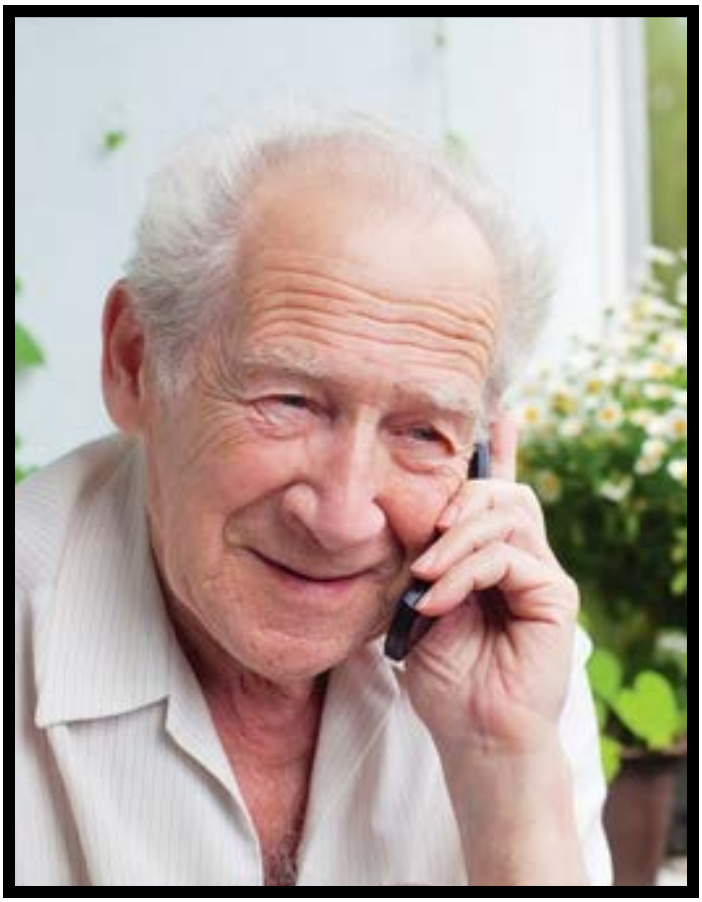
IN PICTURES: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH













AGE UK SOMERSET IS LOOKING FOR FRIENDLY PEOPLE IN OUR AREA WHO WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED WITH MAKING LIFE HAPPIER FOR LOCAL OLDER PEOPLE.

As we get older those that live alone, perhaps through losing a partner, can lose the confidence or mobility to get out of the house, and find themselves feeling low and very lonely and isolated. To make life better in this area the charity provides two popular and free services which matches local volunteers with older people to share companionship.

The Walk and Talk service involves spending time together each week having a gentle walk and chat together, and the Wellbeing Friends service provides a volunteer home visitor each week to offer some friendly company and a window to the outside world. Both services have been shown to improve quality of life and general wellbeing and visits can bring joy, laughter and a renewed sense of belonging and purpose for both the older person and their volunteer.

However, they are desperate for volunteers to lend a hand and be matched with the older people they have on their waiting lists for both services.

If you can spare an hour a week (flexible) and would like to feel like you are making a difference in your community they would be delighted to hear from you!

Please contact them – volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk or 01823 345627.

Somerset age UK



USEFUL CONTACTS

The Royal Oak – 01458 899883
Walton Primary School – 01458 443675
Walton Holy Trinity Church – 01458 442671

PSCO 8919 Tim Richard – timothy.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Police, Fire & Ambulance – 999
Police (non-emergency) – 101
NHS (non-emergency) – 111
SANEline mental health helpline – 0300 304 7000
Childline – 0800 1111
Samaritans – 116 123 (freephone)
Gas (Transco) – 0800 111999
Western Power Distribution – 0800 365 900
National Grid (for power cuts) – 105
Wessex Water – 0845 6004600
Environment Agency – 0800 807060
Floodline – 0845 9881188
Met Office – 0870 9000100

Your Somerset councillors
heather.shearer@somerset.gov.uk
ros.wyke@somerset.gov.uk

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A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE

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Designed, compiled & edited by H.Moore & L.Collins
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