Walton Parish Council
Parish News

In Touch With... Walton



A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE

Life and news in Walton Village

February 2024 Issue 79

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

From the Parish Council

By *John Harvey*
Chairman.

This year has been marked by the transition in Somerset Council from four separate districts to a single 'Unitary' authority. Following that, it has become clear that the finances of Somerset council will be stretched this year and some services may be reduced to minimum. This does not effect the Parish council, however it may mean that we will need to take on board some additional work.

So I started wondering whether the council advertises what we do well enough. As well as our usual responsibilities: reviewing and commenting on planning applications, maintaining the play area, monitoring and reporting footpath and highways issues, supporting local groups and events, minor works around the village, maintaining the speed indicators and so on, we have also started projects to improve the village environment.

Four of these are outlined below.

- East Mead Community Area is a space overlooking the valley. We have installed benches and planted trees, and have posted plans to make it even more enjoyable for the village. It is a short walk up East Mead Lane (there is no parking at the field).
- Increasing resident involvement and council transparency. We have a council FB page and are working on changing the newsletter.
- We are also creating a Village Plan outlining our vision for many aspects of the village, including housing, environmental, employment, transport and others. When complete, this will be shared and available for the residents to comment on.
- The old disused telephone box near the church will be revamped and we hope to convert it into a free library.

Lastly, an appeal against the refusal of planning for 37 homes in South Street has been made by the company concerned - documents about this can be seen on the Somerset Planning portal [search for South Street Walton] https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/

INVITATION

to the Annual Parish Meeting, an evening of entertainment and information

FRIDAY 19th APRIL starting with entertainment by the village primary school at 5:30pm

Free Refreshments and Displays

Come and meet up with friends, enjoy a chat, and take the opportunity to raise any of your concerns about issues in and around Walton with your local Councillors.

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!

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

New village logo

The Parish Council recently adopted a logo for the village. The designs were considered and discussed at recent Parish Council meetings and were provided at no cost to the Council by a creative Parish Councillor.



This design was chosen partly because of what it can be seen to represent, and partly because it is a clear, modern and simple design.

The tree is a symbol of the Tree of Life, which is a common symbol of growth, strength, and connection. The tree represents every member of our community, growing and connecting together, branching out towards the sky, representing the future.

The leaves of the tree are green, blue and orange. Green is the colour of nature and new life. Green is often a symbol of growth and new beginnings, as well as representing our passion for making Walton a greener and more sustainable village. Blue represents open space, inspiration and creativity, as well as stability. The orange represents our commitment to mental and physical health. It represents warmth, optimism, pride and agreeableness.

The human figure in the centre of the tree represents the people of the village. It is a reminder that we are all part of something larger than ourselves, and that we are all connected and stronger together.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



Last year was a lovely, but exhausting year for us with our fundraising efforts. Every year it is a struggle to pay our way and there is never anything left over fur special items, so we were totally overwhelmed to receive not one but two very special items. The Church of England has liturgical colours for different seasons of the year and we have never owned a purple altar cloth and pulpit drop which should be used in Lent and Advent. Jacky and Philip Daniels sourced the materials, measured and made them up and delighted and surprised the congregation in the Advent season. The frontal was blessed by Rev David Hatrey. What a wonderful way to start our Christmas celebrations.

Our second gift was an amazing oak notice board to stand behind the wall near the church path. I am sure many of you would have noticed our existing board so badly rotted that we were unable to open it for well over a year. This was incredibly made by Adrian Hugett and the workmanship is absolutely superb. We are in the process of arranging for a strong post to be put up so a photo will follow.



On behalf of us all we say a huge thank you for your beautiful and generous gifts which were beyond our wildest hopes and prayers.

Our 1st fundraising event this year will be in Church on Friday 23rd February at 7.00 in the Church. This will be a quiz evening and we are delighted to welcome back Liz Brown as our quiz master after her difficult year of bereavement and illness. We are charging £5 per head which includes nibbles on each table, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits in the interval. You are very welcome to bring alternative drinks if you like.

We are holding our Open Churchyard event on the 15th June when we will be trying our hand again at worm charming along with dwile funking which is an old event but new to us. The usual games will be there including welly wanging, hook a duck and many other fete games that will keep us all entertained. The whole event will cost families £5 and £2 for individuals. A BBQ will be there at an extra cost.

Pop 20th July in your diaries for a village garage sale which we had to cancel last year due to clashing events. Anyone who would like to book their address to go onto our map please let me know.

Sandra Gristock

Somerset Wildlife Trust needs your help spotting frog & toad spawn

People across Somerset are being asked to help spot frog and toad spawn in their local area and share their sightings. **The Frog & Toad Spawn Count runs until the end of March**, and anyone in Somerset can get involved using a computer or a mobile device. The Trust is encouraging Somerset residents to keep their eyes peeled for any frog and toad spawn they find while out and about, whether it's from their garden pond or spotted during an adventure in the countryside. Once they find the spawn, they're encouraged to snap a picture and upload it to the popular citizen science website, iNaturalist.

To take part, download your free spotter guide via the Somerset Wildlife Trust website:
www.somersetwildlife.org/wildlife/great-somerset-wildlife-count/frog-toad-count



Dates for your diary

As well as the regular clubs and meetings these are a few upcoming events that you might be interested in:

February

23rd February at 7.00 pm
Quiz evening with Liz Brown as quiz master. £5 per head at the Church.

March

14th March at 7:30 pm
WI meeting with speaker Bev Osborne talking about 'Girl Guiding in Somerset' at the village hall.

April

19th April
Annual Parish meeting at the village hall.

June

15th June - times to be confirmed.
Open Churchyard, with family friendly Church Fete games and stalls.
£5 for families or £2 for individuals

July

20th July
village garage sale - stalls all around the village - more details to follow.

Walton Community Area.

After gathering comments from users of this area the Parish Council agreed two things to hopefully make it more friendly for everyone using it.

- Dogs should be on leads at all times
- A dog waste bin has been installed just outside the area



Changes within the Community area should start to happen as the weather improves, and we are looking at planting a few more fruit trees soon.



keep your eyes open and see what else you can spot over the coming months - your comments and ideas about this project are always welcome.



Please respect that this is a

WALK TO

community area as there is no parking on East Mead Lane. It may be reached by many of the local footpaths or via a walk up East Mead Lane itself.

Somerset Sight
Working with people who lack sight, not vision

Volunteer Visitors Needed

Somerset Sight is recruiting volunteers to befriend visually impaired people on a regular basis Would you like to help someone in your local area? Join our team of volunteers, who help people to remain independent and overcome loneliness and isolation. Training is provided and reasonable and out of pocket expenses are paid. If you would like to know more about our friendly team

please contact Somerset Sight 01823 333818 or email admin@somersetsight.org.uk

www.somersetsight.org.uk

Somerset Sight Limited is a charity and a company limited by guarantee

Registered Charity Number 1154472
Company Number 8432686

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Parish Ranger,

Have you spotted the Parish Ranger out and about ?
He has been doing lots of small jobs around the village, everything from installing bins,
minor maintenance in the play area, clearing weeds from some of the small alleys, to litter picking and tidying up the bus shelters. Helping to keep the village cleaner, safer and tidier.



South Street Planning application - Appeal

The company that had their planning application for 37 homes in South Street turned down by Somerset Council, has submitted an appeal to have that decision overturned. Walton Parish Council have reiterated their concerns about the application to the planning inspectorate.



The deadline for submissions to the planning inspectorate was 7th February - it is unclear how long it will take them to make a decision.

Walton WI

In the last three months, we have supported the Autumn Group Meeting hosted by Shapwick, where 7 local W.I.s got together for a talk on homemade soap; the County Creative Craft Day at the 37 Club to decorate wreaths, make Christmas decorations or create with MDF; the County Speakers' Preview Day at Monkton Elm Village Hall and members visited headquarters in Bridgwater to parcel the December W.I. post for Somerset. In addition, we joined the congregation for the Remembrance Sunday wreath laying and service at Walton Church.

During our evening meetings, we have learnt more about the work of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance as well as the origins and materials used in the making of chosen examples taken from a very large collection of nutcrackers, plus a fun, extended meeting playing games with refreshments served at our Christmas Party.

Monthly 'Explore Your Local Area' visits have taken us both to the Mosaic Studio in Wells to learn more about the intricate Central Wells Mosaic project due to be completed by 2025, and, on a very wet day, to the Avalon Marshes Archaeology Site in Westhay where our knowledgeable guide led us around the Iron Age Roundhouse, the Roman Villa, The Saxon Hall and the Viking Long Boat.

In respect of our regular activities, weekly table tennis has now resumed in the village hall, fortnightly croquet has been replaced by indoor games and we managed a Walton walk before the weather became too wet.

The monthly 'Ladies who Brunch' continues to be very popular with meals in the Mullions. Our garden visits will resume in the spring, but in December there was a tasty Sunday lunch in the Monkton Elm Garden Centre.

The County Carol Festival held in Wells Cathedral continued to prove popular with our members, including four in the choir.





Our skittles had a win against Hardington and Pendover W.I. in a match played in the Globe in Somerton and in January, twenty-one members gathered in the Royal Oak for a Social Skittles evening where the games were played in a light-hearted fashion.

The event of the year, our Annual Meal, was also held in the Royal Oak where members gathered for delicious meals in a very convivial atmosphere.

Our next meeting after publication will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th March 2024 when our speaker will be Bev Osborne with 'Girl Guiding in Somerset' and the competition will be 'A Badge'. New members and visitors are very welcome.

Jo Haydon

Walton Under 5's Preschool

Happy New Year to you all ! We wanted to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who supported the preschool through buying raffles tickets for our Christmas Raffle.
Our Christmas fundraising came in at a brilliant £601.31!!!
This has enabled us to buy some much needed equipment for the children and help with the day-to-day running costs of the preschool.

We'd also like to thank the following local businesses and individuals who generously donated prizes for our raffle:

Fusion, Cooper and Tanner, Pete's Treats, 25a Old Market, Double Gate Farm, Burns the Bread, The Square, Cathy Wellington, Millfield Enterprises, Blackdown Motor Company, Mundys of Street, Peggy's Diner, Honeywell Aerospace, Crystal Clear, B&Q, Bath and West, Rural Life Museum, Mendip Activity Centre, Yeovil Town FC, Jadlam, Tropiquaria, HJC, Especially Me Hairdresser, Morrisons, East Somerset Railway, Tranquility Hair, Heck's Cider, Sweet Delights, Walton Hall Trust, Grinters Pet Shop, Haynes Motor Museum, Hestercombe Gardens, Tesco, Court Farm Country Park, Thatchers, Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, The Volt Soft Play, Brean Soft Play and Splash, Ocean Adventures, Little City Somerset, Strode cinema, Meg's Hair @ Home, Kirsty Salter, Nest Homely Interiors, Scotts Cinema, Laura Wolfers, Bodyshop, Somerset Bakehouse, Rob the Builder and Amour Natural Aromatherapy.

The children have had an exciting start to the Spring Term with visits from 'People That Help Us' and are looking forward to their Valentines disco on Friday 9th February. The Preschool Committee are busy planning some events for Easter so watch this space!



In touch with Walton - Your Newsletter, your ideas.

The village newsletter is delivered to every home in the village by a team of volunteers as one way to give you information about what is happening in and around the village.

We know that a physical newsletter is of interest to people who do not have access to the Internet or are unable to use it, or just prefer written media.

Council is currently looking at revamping the newsletter, including accepting more advertising and this is your opportunity to let us know what you think about the content:

- What type of articles would you like to see?
- Would you like to contribute?
- What information would you like to have at your fingertips?
- Stories, other ideas, your ideas?

Your comments are welcomed and can be sent by hand or by post to the village hall:

Walton Parish Council
Walton Village Hall, Meadow Lane BA16 9LA

or via email **clerk@waltonpc.org**

or via the **website or facebook page.**

Alternatively you can chat with one of your Parish Councillors [see back page] or the Parish Clerk.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Finally, **Thank you to those of you who have already submitted your opinions!**

Your Parish Councillors


John Harvey [Chairman]


Bob Collins [Vice Chairman]


Rachel Ashman


Jaimi Bartlett


Lewis Collins


Richard Crossman


Lian Hardware


Simon Loader


Richard Vowles

General information

Your PCSO

PCSO 8919 Timothy Richards

Timothy.Richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk
Please remember, use 999 for emergencies

Your Somerset Councillors

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

Somerset Unitary Council

0300 123 2224
www.somerset.gov.uk

Village website:

www.waltonpc.org

We also have a Facebook page.

INVITATION

You are all invited to the annual parish meeting, a free evening event

At

Walton Village Hall

On FRIDAY April 19th

Starting at 5:30pm with Entertainment by Walton Primary School

See the front page for further information

Dates of Parish Council Monthly Meetings in 2024

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

March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 19th, August 9th, September 20th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th.

The monthly meetings are held on Fridays at 7pm in the village hall, interim meetings may also occur. The agendas for all meetings will be advertised on the website [www.waltonpc.org] and the village notice boards.

The Parish Clerk:

Walton Parish Council
Walton Village Hall,
Meadow Lane,
Walton
BA16 9LA

Clerk@waltonpc.org

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Designed & compiled by H.Moore Edited by H.Moore & J.Harvey
Articles 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 & public sources & contributors. The information & views are accepted as factual & honest.

Information or views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor or the parish council