

# Walton News

Welcome to the April 2015 Edition of the Newsletter brought to you by Walton Parish Council.

## WE ARE GOING TO THE POLLS!

For the first time in many years, we have had more people stand for Parish Council than we have number of seats. Eleven parishioners have stood for the eight positions so this means that on Thursday 7 May you will get the chance to democratically elect your councillors to serve a four year term. Please do take this opportunity to choose who you wish to serve for you.



Full details are available on the noticeboards and guidance will also be available at the polling station on the 7th May (at the Village Hall).

The results of the election will be posted on the noticeboard, website and Facebook as soon as the Clerk receives them. The first meeting for those newly elected councillors will be **Monday 18th May** following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.15pm. If you have any queries at all about the above please don't hesitate to contact Sarah who will give you any information you need. Please note the change of date from that previously advertised.

## CLERK'S NEW PHONE NUMBER

Please note the Clerk has a new telephone number — it is **01228 231124**. All calls should be made on this number with immediate effect. Office hours are generally Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm but please do bear in mind that the Clerk **only works just over four hours each week** for us so there may be a delay in responding to you. Councillors can also be contacted in the case of any urgent queries — their updated contact details will be put on the noticeboards once we know who is elected.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Just before the new councillors take up post on **Monday 18th May**, we will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council but is instead a meeting for all electors of the parish to discuss any matters relevant and important to you. If you would like anything on the agenda please contact Sarah or there will be an open discussion item for you to raise items on the night. Please note this meeting will begin at 7.15pm and will be immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (as above).

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2015

Another year has passed by since the last report I wrote and another term in office for the councillors draws to an end. I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work over the year and in particular those who are standing down after years of service to the council and parish. I would also like to thank City Councillor Syd Bowman for regular attendance and help and advice and Fiona Ritson and Mel Warwick for their work with the Play Area Group which was dissolved this year. Finally I would like to thank our Clerk, Sarah Kyle, who keeps us straight and without whom we would find it harder to function effectively as a Parish Council.

Overall it has been a year not without issues which we have and will continue to address;

- Grass cutting was a problem and a new tender process was undertaken with new terms and conditions put in place.
- Speeding within Walton village has been raised on a number of occasions and we have been working with the Police to look into this. We need three volunteers to be trained to use the speed radar gun.
- We have received complaints about the bins not being used correctly at the recycling facilities and new signage will be installed in the near future.
- We have supported the installation of a new signage to highlight the steep hill at Solmain – this will be in place shortly.
- We have had a formal assessment of the trees the parish council are responsible for within Walton village and have had the 'high risk' trees pruned.
- The upkeep of the railings on green by the church. This is ongoing

and is a complicated issue due to the legislation surrounding Village Greens.

On a more positive note we have been working to and supporting others to improve the facilities, communication and our own working practices.

- Three Play Days were held in the Summer with support for funding from the Play Area Group and Cumbria County Council.
- An oil buying co-operative is being developed – thanks go to Austen Davies.
- We are involved in the multi-parish Hadrian wall footpath group - thanks to Simon Wood.
- The Parish Council website has been updated and maintained- many thanks to Ivan Whetton for his continued hard work.
- New financial regulations have been adopted by the Parish Council which includes a new transparency code and all accounts information will be on the website.
- We have completed the asset transfer from the County Council so we now own two additional pieces of land within Walton Village.
- With the local bus service being removed we have been involved in initial talks for a replacement volunteer service – this is ongoing.
- We have supported local groups with donations: Lees Hill School, Walton Church, Great North Air Ambulance and Walton Village Hall

Finally I would like to say that the role of a councillor is voluntary and each one of us give up our own time to try to give something back to the community.

***John Evans***

## **GRASS CUTTING**

The Parish Council have decided through a fair tender process to re-appoint the existing grass cutters, Colville Grounds Maintenance, as the chosen contractor until October 2017. We hope you will be happy with this decision.

## **TEAROOM**

We are very pleased to report that Paula has opened up the Reading Room café — opening hours are 10am — 4.30pm daily asides from Tuesdays.

## **RECYCLING BINS**

Signage has recently been placed near the recycling bins to try and remind

some users of the basic rules, namely, please wash and squash your items; and please do only place the correct waste in the appropriate bins. We also would remind you that if the bins are full then waste cannot be left adjacent to them— you risk being prosecuted for fly-tipping if you do.

### RAILINGS NEAR TO CHURCH

The decision to either remove, repair or replace the railings outside of the church has proven to be much more complicated than originally envisaged. The cost of repair is too expensive and the replacement of them contravenes village green legislation. We are therefore investigating volunteer methods of fixing them before we progress.



### BORDER RAMBLER BUS SERVICE

We are looking for volunteers to join us in running a community bus around the following villages to Brampton and Carlisle. Passengers on the service will be able to use their bus passes.

Lanercost-Walton-Hethersgill-Scaleby-Newtown-Irthington-Laversdale-Crosby-Brunstock-Linstock

Talkin-Castle Carrock-Cumrew-Hornsby-Cumwhitton-Heads Nook-Faugh  
-Fenton-Broadwath-Great Corby-Rockliffe-Cargo

We need up to 30 Drivers, with classification D1, to drive a mini bus, the size of a long wheel base, high roofed Transit . We need administrators to help with the following: cashing up, keeping accounts, organising driver rotas, writing to organisations for donations, applying for grant aid, sorting routes and timetables . I'm sure a few more things too. **We have the vehicles all we need now are the volunteers.** If you are interested please contact the following for more information:

Keith Meller at [keimel@live.co.uk](mailto:keimel@live.co.uk)  
or Bob Rose at [bobbyrose@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyrose@gmail.com)

***YOUR ADVERT COULD APPEAR HERE!***

If you would like to advertise in the Walton News please contact Sarah on 01228 231124 for further information. We deliver directly to every household in the parish of Walton so could make the perfect advertising medium to promote your business or event.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The dates for our Parish Council meetings in 2015 are set to take place as follows:

**Monday 18 May - Monday 13 July**  
**Monday 14 September - Monday 9 November**

Please remember we sometimes need to change the date but we always post the official notice of the meeting date on the noticeboard and website three clear working days in advance (the Tuesday before the Monday meeting). Additional meetings are also called when necessary for urgent business.

## AGAINST BREAST CANCER

“Against Breast Cancer Charity” funds pioneering research by expert clinical scientists at the University of Westminster in London, to produce a vaccine against this cancer.

They have created a simple scheme to raise these vital funds. It is to deposit unwanted or unloved bras in a bra bank in the local community.

The charity has teamed up with BCR Global Textiles who help small businesses in Africa. Through their textile project they are preventing valuable textiles going to landfill giving them a new lease of life in developing countries across Africa where bras remain too expensive to produce. BCR are donating **£1,000 to the research for every tonne of bras collected, that's only 9,000 bras!**

When a deposit is made at the Bra Bank and it is full the contents will be whisked away to start a new life on the other side of the world. This is an ongoing collection.

A location for a Bra Bank within the area is currently being discussed and more information will be provided on the Notice Boards or in the Newsletter. For more information please contact Isobel Newing on 016977 3097.

**Sid Bowman** represents our Parish at Carlisle City Council.

**01228 561185 or SydB@carlisle.gov.uk**

**John Mallinson** is your local County Councillor.

**01228 533746 or john.mallinson@cumbria.gov.uk**

## **POST OFFICE AND COMPUTER CLASSES**

Just a reminder that the Post Office is open in the Village Hall every Monday and Wednesday 9.30am—12noon. Computer classes also run both Monday morning and afternoon and a new class is due to begin on a Wednesday 10am—12pm. Please ring 07788584557 for more information and to book a place. Everyone is welcome. Internet access is available at the village hall.

## **BRAMPTON AND DISTRICT CHOIR**

Brampton and District Choir are holding a summer concert on Friday 19th June at William Howard School. Further information is available by emailing [secretary@bramptonanddistrictchoir.com](mailto:secretary@bramptonanddistrictchoir.com)

## **PARISH COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY**

The Parish Council keep up to date with various law changes. One of these is some changes made to the way we are audited and accountable and in the way we support you as local electors in your right to our accounts. Some of these changes include that by 1st July each year we will need to publish on our website:

- All items of expenditure over £100
- End of year accounts, annual governance statement and internal audit report—these will be accompanied by:
- A copy of our bank reconciliation
- An explanation of significant variances in the accounts between the current year and previous year
- A list of councillor member responsibilities
- Details of public land and building assets owned.

We will also continue to publish:

- ◆ Draft minutes from all formal meetings—these will be online within one month of the meeting
- ◆ Meeting agendas and associated meeting papers—these are online not later than three clear days before the meeting.

Although we already publish all of our minutes and agendas, we hope this will make our accounts more transparent for you. A summary of our accounts for the past year is provided in this newsletter for you too. Do get in touch if you have any queries on any aspect of them.

## **OIL BUYING SYNDICATE**

Some of you may remember that the Parish Council tried to set up an oil buying syndicate last year without success. We are pleased to say that we

have now been given the opportunity for any parishioners to join the nearby successful Irthington scheme. If you are interested or would like further information please send your name, address, phone & email details (plus any info the supplier might need, i.e. difficult access arrangements) to the Clerk.

## VILLAGE HALL AGM

The Village Hall AGM will take place on Friday 8th May 2015 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to view or receive a copy of last years AGM minutes then please contact the secretary Tracy on 41295 who will happily provide you with access to a copy. Similarly if you wish to view the annual accounts please contact Emma on 45409.

## RECENT EVENTS

Thanks to all who came and helped make February's Race Night in the Village Hall a great success. Special thanks to Carole and Mike for hosting and the local businesses who sponsored the races (Little Acorns Child-minding Service, Ian Blain Undertakers, The Warm Welly Company, Serenity Beauty Spa, CarSpeed Autoparts, Andy Hibbert Plumbing, Building and Heating Services, Solway Daf and Tommy Mark Painter & Decorator).

Thanks to those who attended the children's Easter Fun Day in March which was a great success. Thanks goes to the Parish Council for their donation of £50 towards the day. Also a new floor and kitchen has been fitted in the Hall recently and has made a really positive difference to how the hall looks.

**A quiz night was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th April. Please do keep an eye on the village notice boards to ensure you don't miss any exciting nights out in our parish!**

Please note that we have not printed Councillors contact details in this edition since we are going to the Polls so we cannot predict who will be on the Council following the elections. Up until then please feel free to contact the councillors on the previously published contact numbers as required (they are still available on our website too).

The newly elected councillors will not take up their seats until they have signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the PC meeting on 18th May so if you do have any problems before then, the existing councillors are still in office to serve you.

2013/14	Walton PC Accounts Summary	2014/15
<b>£</b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>£</b>
4,952	Precept and CTRS Grant	5,051
6,804	Donations, Projects & Grants	4,678
100	Wayleave	101
220	Recycling	0
280	Training, Sales & Advertising	698
677	VAT Reclaimed	455
1,355	Play Area Group pre-payments	524
1,395	Defibrillator Income	25
4	Bank Interest	4
<b>£</b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	<b>£</b>
841	Administration	1,160
1,737	Employee Salary & Expenses	1,956
1,155	Maintenance	3,211
235	Audit & Legal Costs	804
234	Newsletter	287
657	VAT Paid	466
153	Play Area Expenditure	210
772	Donations/Grants	650
1,033	Defibrillator Expenditure	406
5,470	Projects	5,480
7,917	Balance Brought Forward	11,417
15,787	Add Receipts	11,536
12,287	Less Payments	14,630
11,417	Balance 31st March 2014	8,323
11,417	Represented by Cash at Bank	8,323*
£1,769 ring- fenced money only for play area works		