



Walton Parish Council

Grass Cutting 2024

There have been no concerns raised about the areas of “wilding” this year and the smaller area being cut has also helped us remain within budget. Tenders are being sought for grass cutting (Village Green) for a potential 3 year contract from 2024. Councillors have agreed to exclude the same areas as we did in 2023.

Solar Farm Development at Leaps Rigg

Cumberland County Council gave formal approval for this development in September 2023 and you can find full details of the application and the approval conditions on their website.

The developers have 3 years in which to start the development and the installation is expected to run for 40 years.

The Parish Council will continue to maintain contact with the developer through the construction period. Once the construction is completed, the developer has told us they will liaise directly with the Parish Council over their community funding initiative for Walton parish.

Parking alongside the Play Area

The road here can be very busy at certain times of the year with farm vehicles. As well as regular local users of the Play area and Village Hall, we also get a high number of summer visitors and, increasingly, cars and campervans left there for the day (or longer!) during the walking season. The big concern is that children should be seen and safe.

The Parish Council has sought advice from the Highways Authority but seemingly they rarely become involved until or unless there is a serious incident. Older residents may recall the erection of a safety barrier opposite the Village Hall that resulted from an accident to a child some thirty years ago.

Notices have been placed with the new planters alongside the play area to encourage people not to park there but to park the other side of the Reading Room.

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Walton PC clerk is Alan Dawes, email: clerk@waltonparish.co.uk

Councillors are:

Graham Shaw (Chairman), email: graham@waltonparish.co.uk

Alan Armstrong, Rodney Hodgson, Brian Hogg, Steve Matthews, William Weaver and William Wilkinson.

Further information about Walton Parish Council can be found on the website: www.waltonparish.co.uk/

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St Mary's Church Services

Church services are usually held twice a month at St. Mary's Church Walton at 11am. The first Sunday of the month is a Holy Communion service. The third Sunday is a morning worship service.

The Christmas Eve Carol Service starts at 3:00pm and will be followed by refreshments in the Old Vicarage Brewery.

The Christmas Day service starts at 11:00am.

Walton WI

We are coming to the end of our 2023 programme, where we used the WI motto 'Inspiring Women' to plan our year's activities. We viewed artwork by an artist from Ukraine, were entertained by a group of belly dancers, had ideas from a garden designer, held millipedes, hedgehogs & giant snails during a visit from Claire with her cool creatures and were gripped by the insider info from a Crime Scene Investigator, as well our members Sue and Maureen leading two of our meetings this year. Our next meeting takes place on Wednesday 6 December in the Village Hall, where we are making Christmas crafts with Little Tickles & Co.

So if you enjoy meeting up with friends, learning new skills & ideas, broadening your horizons, oh and the odd meal out and glass of wine! then come along to Walton WI. Contact Emma Brocklebank or Natalie Sisson for more details.

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Walton Young Farmers

Walton YFC is a local young farmers group for ages 10-28yrs. We meet alternate Mondays usually at Walton & Lees Hill Primary School or at other activities such as visiting Walby, informative talks and local business tours. Recent meetings we have had are: a club quiz, our annual pool, darts & dominoes competition, curling with Longtown YFC and a First Responders talk. Our upcoming meetings consist of: Farming network talk, Christmas games night, wreath making, club Christmas meal and our yearly carol singing, with plenty more planned for after the new year!

If you are interested in joining Walton young farmers or would like any more information please contact Amy Nicholson or Abigail Graham via Facebook or email - amynicholson604@googlemail.com or grahamabigail@aol.com.

Young farmers is for everyone, not just farmers! So even if you aren't from a farming background please also get in touch.



Walton & Lees Hill CE Primary School

After a restful summer holiday, we all came back into school excited and full of energy for the academic year ahead. The start of the school year came with a few changes: our newly named classrooms, Oak and Acorn Class, welcoming Mrs Rooney as our new Head Teacher and of course, welcoming our fantastic Reception and Nursery new starters into the school family.

Our school topic for the start of term has been *Amazing Africa*. All pupils have enjoyed learning so many fascinating facts and developing their knowledge on Africa, its countries, animals and culture. This topic was backed up by a whole school visit to The Lake District Wildlife Park, where we listened to very informative talks about African animals, delivered by the experienced animal handlers, and pupils spotted African animals all around the Park.



We also enjoyed hosting our Harvest Festival and Community Lunch on October 10th. Parents, carers and family members were welcomed into school to share a delicious lunch with us. Pupils prepared a very tasty crumble for the dessert, so there were clean bowls all round! Pupils then shared readings and prayers that they had developed for the Harvest Festival, as well as singing songs they had been practising. For our Harvest Festival, we collected food and toiletries for the Brampton Foodbank. Everybody was so generous with their donations, and they were very gratefully received.

From October 9th to 13th, we held our R.E week in school. Throughout this week, as well as hosting our Harvest Festival and Community Lunch, we developed our understanding of stories from the Bible and acted out the Godly Play story of Sara and Hagar. Acorn pupils learnt the story of The Little Red Hen and practised songs around this, whilst Oak pupils tied in their knowledge of *Amazing Africa* by learning about Harvest across Africa. We tied up the week by visiting St. John's Church in Houghton, where we met with other local schools to share our plays and stories.

During R.E week, we also had our SIAMS inspection. These inspections are a statutory requirement for all Church of England Schools. Our inspection went fantastically, and we are all so proud of the outcome. The full report can be read on our website.

Just before half term, we welcomed children's author Molly Arbuthnott into school for the day. She shared her brilliant stories with pupils and delivered fantastic workshops. Molly commented on how all pupils were 'lovely' and that our school was 'so inviting'. We had a great day with Molly and thank her for spending the day with us!

Looking forwards to the next half term, leading up to Christmas, we already have so much in the calendar! On November 19th, we will be hosting our Christmas Craft Fair, from 12pm to 3pm. The fair is set to be a fantastic event, with lots of unique and interesting stalls booked!



Walton and Lees Hill CE Primary School Nursery Provision



Caring, sharing and always learning

If you would like your child to have...

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- Spacious classrooms
- Access to extensive grounds
- Excellent staff to pupil ratios



...Then we could be the Nursery for you!

- Sessions available for children aged 2 plus
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Walton Reading Group

The group meets on the second Thursday of the month, in the Old Vicarage Brewery at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come along (reading the book is entirely optional!) so if your New Year's Resolution is to read more, then come and join us.

On Thursday 14 December we are discussing our favourite childhood book. On Thursday 11 January 2024 we are discussing *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi.

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Learning to Value Nature in St Mary's Churchyard, Walton

Even in the countryside any open space that can provide a wildlife habitat is important. We don't have enough areas where wildflowers can grow undisturbed to support our insect, bird and wild animal populations. People have come to realize that churchyards can provide ideal spaces for wildflowers and wildlife to flourish. Managing these areas for wildlife can also give the added bonus of reducing the amount of effort and cost required to maintain them.

It has been decided to try to make the churchyard in Walton a better environment for wildlife and we are sure that some of you have noticed the changes going on in the churchyard.

These things don't happen by accident so it is necessary to have a strategy to improve the churchyard for wildlife. After consultation with the PPC and Cumbria Wildlife Trust it was decided that a plan would be developed for making the churchyard in Walton a wildlife friendly area. This year the plan is to leave some areas of the churchyard uncut so that we can see what wild plants appear among the grass and this should allow us to develop a strategy for improving the numbers of insect friendly plants, either by encouraging the ones that are already there or by adding to them by judicious sowing or planting.

We have also started tidy up the churchyard by pruning or removing some of the shrubs and trees, keeping the path clear of weeds and removing the ivy from the churchyard wall.

We are already seeing evidence of an increase in the insect population in the churchyard, we were particularly excited by sightings of Speckled Wood Butterflies. A range of wildflowers have appeared including a beautiful display of bluebells in the spring, red campion, cow parsley, dandelions and many more. Other local churches are adopting similar strategies, driven both by the desire to encourage wildlife and the need to save money on maintaining them.



OLD VICARAGE BAR – OPENING TIMES

For the rest of 2023, the Old Vicarage Bar will be open:

November – Fridays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th: 6pm – 10pm

December – Fridays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd: 6pm – 10pm

AND

Sunday 24th December 4pm – 6pm (after the St Mary's Church carol service)

Sunday 31st December, New Years Eve, 8pm – 12.30am

January 2024 – CLOSED

February 2024 – CLOSED

Re-opening Friday 15th March 2024, 6pm.

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A seasonal recipe from Walton Tearoom

Baileys fudge

397g condensed milk (1 can)

600g milk chocolate

125ml of baileys

Method

1. Line square tin with baking paper.
2. Melt condensed milk, chocolate in a bowl.
Watch so it doesn't burn - just short bursts in the microwave.
3. Mix well then mix in baileys and give it a good whisk by hand.
4. Place in tray and spread out evenly.
5. Leave in fridge for 5-6 hours or overnight then cut into squares and serve.

Walton Tearoom will be closed for the Christmas break from 18th December and will reopen on Wednesday 3rd January.

**Walton Tearoom is applying for a premises alcohol licence.
Please see the notice in the Tearoom window.**

BINGO

EVERY THURSDAY 4-6PM

WALTON TEA ROOM

ALL PROCEEDS TO HOSPICE AT HOME AND
PENNY JONES ANIMAL CHARITY

£6 PER BOOK OR £1 PER STRIP



Come to Walton's

Christmas

Table Top & Craft Sale



FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER FROM 2PM
IN WALTON READING ROOM

THERE WILL BE:

- CHRISTMAS GIFTS
- PRESENTS FOR PETS
- HANDMADE CRAFTS
- MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

ADMISSION FREE

FOLLOWED AT 4PM BY THE

Christmas Tree Light Up



*ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TO
ST MARY'S CHURCH, WALTON*

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