



Update From The Association Chair

Firstly I would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to **Roger Parnell** who recently resigned as the **Treasurer of the Association**. **Roger has done an amazing job taking on this role when the Association was first set up.**

I am also delighted to announce that **Rosie Gregory** has agreed to take on the Treasurer's role.

Our secretary **Helen Dawson** is also standing down and again we thank Helen for her work over the last two years. She has been amazing, especially by managing to support the Association when pregnant and after the birth of the gorgeous Hannah. Fourth daughter!

If anyone out there is interested in taking on the role of Secretary we would love to hear from you. Committee officers try to meet up informally once a month to catch up on finances, priorities and new matters with four formal meetings to minute a year.

If you are interested please email **walbottlera@gmail.com** or call **Lorraine** on **07495 767 374**.

ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT

As an organisation we have always had a bit of a struggle to get volunteers or to get engagement from as wide a group of tenants and residents of Walbottle as we would wish. I am not sure if this is because we have made things too complicated or if

we haven't got the message across as to the benefits that a local association can bring.

Unfortunately very few people attended our quarterly meetings. To date these have been held on Tuesday evenings in the Village Institute from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The best attendance at a meeting was when we invited Virgin Media to provide an update on the local broadband service which we know was and remains a concern for residents.

As an Association we have previously been questioned by residents as to who makes decisions about things that happen in the village such as putting flower beds on the village green.

To clarify these initiatives have been promoted by the people who kindly gave up time to attend our meetings or responded to questions or via surveys on the association website, the village facebook page and the WhatsApp groups that we have set up. If anyone would like to join any or all of these groups please let me know by emailing your name, telephone number and or email address so we can get you joined up **walbottlera@gmail.com** or telephone **Lorraine** on **07495 767 374**.

Nevertheless we understand that not everyone uses these technologies. So we continue to pay for this newsletter to be printed three times a year which is distributed to over 400 houses.

We really want to engage as many people as we can in the village association and its events and in

promoting what is important for local residents. To this end we would be very happy to change the day of week, time or venue of meetings so we can get a wider view from you all.

I have spoken to a number of people whilst gardening in the village or chatting when I am out and about asking about what they think about or do they know about the Association. To date everyone has said we are doing a great job and the planters and flowers are lovely. However we believe we have a lot more important things to take forward as well as making decisions on how we spend funds.

We are not asking for anyone to allocate a lot of time but we would like you to let us know what your priorities are so we can continue to keep Walbottle a beautiful village. However if we cannot get more people involved it is unlikely that this aim of the Association will be realized. So please consider joining us.

I apologise for finishing on a low note but this is where we are. Our next meeting is the AGM and will be held in September date and time to be arranged in August when we hopefully have had some responses to my questions above.

Here's hoping for some sunshine.



Association Funding & Priorities

On a very positive note the Association bank balance continues to thrive.

We have been very fortunate and have had **£3,000** donated to the community funds from the employers of a couple of village residents which is amazing. Further money has been raised by the events held on the Green and **£800** from the council, in all there is a total of over **£5,000**.

So what we need to agree on as a community is what our priorities are for the village and to spend the funds wisely.

The Association has identified a number of priorities and proposals listed that I set out in a recent email to our councillors. I have asked for a meeting with them and also for their attendance at our local meetings so they can have the conversation and debate with us.

Our Labour Councillor, Adam Walker has already replied and agreed to meet to discuss our points. We will keep you updated regarding the meeting date which will probably be held at the Village Institute for all those who wish to attend.

The Play Park

The state of the play park at the top of Forge Walk. There are many issues in respect to it's current location with regard to accessibility.

Rubbish Bins

The continuous problems with rubbish and the lack of public rubbish bins in the village.

Dene Terrace Field

The possibility of the Association renting the field behind Dene Terrace as a community space and a children's play area.

School Traffic

Ongoing issues with parking and traffic management for the two primary schools.

The Village Green

The general state and poor maintenance of the village green and other grassed areas. We're constantly told that Walbottle has the only village green in Newcastle.

BESS Storage, Walbottle Road

The recent planning applications for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) storage at Lemington with another application for premises at the bottom of Walbottle Road. We are aware of the rumours / hearsay about a possible solar farm in the immediate vicinity of the village.

Tree Management

There has been a failure to notify tenants and residents about recent maintenance and tree felling. Conversely several residents have concerns about trees adjacent to their properties that are not being managed. We also need to confirm the replacement of trees that have recently been felled.

Waste Management Depot

Ongoing issues with traffic management for the Waste Management Depot on Walbottle Road. There have been a number of near misses reported when residents are trying to overtake the long queues.



We would also welcome any further suggestions from the community. Please let us know by email at walbottlera@gmail.com or via our social media groups on **WhatsApp** and **Facebook**.

Gardening Group

The weather has not been very kind to us so far this year. However our small cohort of our gardeners have continued to maintain and manage beds and planters as best we can.

The bed on front of the hairdressers is now planted with alpine plants and is much easier to manage and maintain. Although we do need to re-home the campanula in the bed which is threatening to take over!

The trio of stacked planters by the Village Institute (by the defibrillator) have been planted up with herbs and with some annual plants supplied by the WVTRA. The rest of the planters and wall baskets are looked after by the Village Institute charity and are looking very colourful.



A new wooden planter has been built on the entrance to the Paddock. This has been built, planted up and is still being managed and maintained by Alastair and Rosie Gregory.



We have a number of beds and planters around the village. A number have been adopted by individuals which is working really well.

We still have a number of beds that could do with some continued TLC and re-planting. If anyone in the community would like to help out please email us or contact Lorraine.

The Association will pay for new plants and we are happy to look at providing planters and plants to other parts of the village so long as someone is willing to maintain the plants.

If you are interested in helping out with new or existing planters please email walbottlera@gmail.com or call **Lorraine** on **07495 767 374**.

Walbottle Village In The 1970's

We have received some lovely photographs from Christine Grant of Walbottle Village in the 1970's, including a shot of the General Store and Post Office which is now Head To Toe. Thanks for contributing.



'No Cold Callers' Stickers

Rosie has begun delivering 'No Cold Callers' window stickers door-to-door and you should receive yours soon.

Please get in touch with tradingstandards@newcastle.gov.uk if you haven't received yours and would like one delivered.



Signs Of The Times

There have been several suggestions for signs around the village, including hedgehog warning signs and signs to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their pets. If you think this is a good idea and you're interested in receiving such signs please let us know via WhatsApp or the Facebook group.



Calendar Dates



Saturday, 3 August • 12 noon - 3pm

Open Garden at Banktop House. Donations in aid of WVTRA funds.

Saturday, 17 August • 11am - 3pm

Art Group exhibition at the Village Institute.

September • Annual General Meeting


Date and time to be confirmed on the website and social media.

Sunday, 6 October • 10:30am - 12 noon

Food Bank collection at the Village institute.

Check the website news page, the residents WhatsApp and Facebook groups for the AGM date and any other updates.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, with articles, community updates or suggestions please contact us by email at: newsletter@walbottlevillageetra.co.uk

 Follow us on Facebook.



Riverside Falconry

Contact John:
07803 821487
[facebook.com/riversidefalconryNE](https://www.facebook.com/riversidefalconryNE)

- Providing a wide range of Bird of Prey experiences from Handling, Hawk Walks and photography
- We also run bushcraft and outdoor sessions including kids after school and holiday groups
- Private and small group sessions and educational bookings available

WALBOTL COFFEE HOUSE

- Dine-in & Take-out
- Dog Friendly



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 MONDAY: CLOSED
 TUESDAY: 09:00 - 15:00
 WEDNESDAY: 09:00 - 15:30
 THURSDAY: 09:00 - 15:30
 FRIDAY: 09:00 - 15:30
 SATURDAY: 09:00 - 16:00
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Chris Jones: 07980 157373 | clockwork-design.co.uk | clockwork.design
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