

## Tommy's Arrive in Walbottle

We're proud to announce the arrival of two Tommy's which are situated beside the Village Institute, many thanks to those who helped with the installation.

The Tommy's were paid for from funds raised by the association.



## Update from the Association Chair

**I hope everyone is well and keeping warm and we hope to see you at our Christmas Event on Saturday, 14 December. The Association Officers wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.**

We held our AGM in September which was well attended, as was our November meeting which is amazing. 24 people attended the November meeting which I think is a record. Thank you to everybody who took the time to attend and give us their views on the village and priorities. In particular I would like to thank Helen Dawson for tireless work as Association Secretary. Helen stood down at the AGM and Nick Strong has kindly taken on this role.

Just after the AGM it was pointed out that the association had not been following the published constitution. This was discussed in detail at the November meeting. Fortunately we have been offered assistance by a member who is familiar with these matters to ensure the constitution is fit for purpose.

There has also been some debate about the role of the WVTRA Facebook page and its ownership. This was discussed at the AGM where

it was agreed we should consult widely on a name change. But due to a misunderstanding the name was changed, without further consultation, to "Walbottle Matters". As chair I apologise for this error.

It transpired that we could not change the page name back for 20 days, due to Meta's rules. This matter has been further compounded as the site now has no administrators. We hope to resolve this as soon as possible.

After much debate it was decided at November's meeting that the WVTRA should set up a 'closed' Facebook page which would be used to communicate only the 'official' association business. We will update everyone when this is up and running.

Nevertheless it was agreed that the Walbottle Matters page does have great value and we have a volunteer who has offered to moderate this page when we can claim back administrator rights from Meta.

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## WVT&RA Open Meeting Update

**An open meeting of the Walbottle Village Tenants & Residents Association was held on Wednesday, 7th November.**

Items discussed included Christmas Celebrations, Committee constitution, voting on potential future projects and the creation of a Childrens Safe Space behind Dene Terrace.

The meeting was well attended, many thanks to all who came. If you have any ideas and suggestions the next meeting will be held at the Village Institute at 6:30pm on Wednesday, 5 March 2025.

# Committee Member Update

Several Committee Officers of the WVT&RA have stood down in the past few months, including Roger Parnell (Association Treasurer), Helen Dawson (Association Secretary), Peter Smith (Association IT Support) and Chris Jones (Communications Officer). We wish them well and thanks for their help and support.

The Committee have appointed two new Officers, introduced below:

## Nick Strong: Association Secretary

Hello, I am Nick and I moved to Walbottle 20 years ago to join Lorraine. As a small child I lived in Newcastle but my family moved to Wiltshire in 1963.

I came back to take up a consultant eye surgeon post in 1992 where I worked both at the RVI and also in Carlisle. I retired in 2022.

I am a trustee and the treasurer for the Walbottle Village Institute and a member of the village's gardening group.

I now spend much of my time maintaining a large garden - some would say too large! - at the southern edge of the village.

## Rosie Gregory: Association Treasurer

My now good friend and neighbour Kim kicked off the WVTRA during COVID / maternity leave with the goal of bringing the community closer together and feeling like a safer and more beautiful place to live. Originally from the Midlands I relocated to the Walbottle almost 15 years ago after I met my husband. I work as a commercial manager in the rail industry. You may have seen me gardening and litter picking around the village trying to keep my two children entertained.

The most rewarding aspects of being involved in the WVTRA and volunteering have been the new friendships I've built, collaborating with different personality types, gaining new gardening skills and the feeling that I have made a difference, if only a small one.

# Home Insurance Increase

Residents might be interested to know that when I set about renewing my house insurance recently I discovered that the premium had gone up considerably. When I questioned this with the broker it was because my address was now considered a "significant flood risk".

As most residents are aware the dene flooded about 10 years ago due to the collapse of a culvert under Millfield Road. However Walbottle is uphill from the dene and we all know that water does not flow uphill.

The flood component was 25% of the total quote. Given the near impossibility of Walbottle flooding I had this element removed, a considerable saving.

# House History Request



**We've had a request from Helen for any historical information about Walbottle House situated at the top of the village green.**

"Hoping for interesting, information or stories of a very old house in our lovely village of Walbottle, we are currently the latest custodians of Walbottle House, which we are led to believe started life in the late 1700's.

My family and I have moved back to the beautiful North East of England after 25 years living in the Midlands for work and school commitments, it has been a pleasure to return to where we have always called home.

I attended Walbottle High School in the 1980's and have lived in Chapel House, Chapel Park and Westerhope before moving away in 1999.

We are trying to build up a story of the house from before the 1990's and would love to know if anyone has any information or memories of the house."

If you can help, please contact us via the WT&RVA email address: [walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance.

**Can You Help?** Looking ahead to Spring 2025, we'd like to invite you to join our next gardening session as we strive to further beautify our village.



Follow the Facebook group and Walbottle Residents on WhatsApp for updates.



**IF YOU EXPERIENCE A POWER CUT CALL: 105**

Our electricity provider Northern Powergrid offer help and support during power cuts as part of their 'Powergrid Care' service. To find out more, register on their website at: [www.northernpowergrid.com/care](http://www.northernpowergrid.com/care) or call 0800 169 2996.



# Hedgehog Care & Recent Misinformation

ARTICLE BY 'HOPE FOR HEDGEHOGS'

Hedgehogs are nocturnal, they sleep during the day. Some hibernate throughout winter (but not all). This is usually November to mid-March but depends on temperatures. They can sometimes be seen out during the winter, which is why support feeding all year round is so important.

Hogs which weigh under the recommended amount (currently 450g, but constantly under review) simply do not have the fat reserves to survive the cold weather and will quite literally starve to death during their hibernation. Please contact your nearest rescue to arrange for it to be overwintered (do not attempt this at home).

Also, any sized hedgehog out during the day, is not okay - it is already dying (with exception of a feeding mother). Please pick it up and contact your nearest rescue as soon as possible as time is of the essence and can be a matter of life or death.

Wearing gloves, gently scoop up the hedgehog. Place in a high sided cardboard box with a sheet of kitchen roll on the bottom and lay a towel over the top of the hedgehog so it feels safe and can hide. Place somewhere warm, safe and quiet and call **Hope for Hedgehogs in Ryton** on **07443 369 602** to arrange getting it to us asap.

You can help these vulnerable to extinction creatures by support feeding all year round, providing a shelter



like a sturdy, well-made, waterproof hedgehog house, and providing a hedgehog highway so they can roam freely by cutting a small hole in your fence (if there are no gaps), removing a brick from the bottom of a wall, or digging a channel underneath your wall, fence or gate.

Please encourage family, friends and neighbours to do the same.

## What to feed hedgehogs:

- ✓ **Kitten biscuits:** particularly chicken kitten biscuits.
- ✓ **Wet food:** cat/dog meat (no fish or gravy).
- ✓ **Mushrooms:** as a treat.
- ✓ **Roast chicken:** as a treat.
- ✓ **Bowl of fresh water.**

## Don't feed hedgehogs:

- ✗ **Milk/milk-based products:** Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant after weaning, the resulting diarrhea can kill them.
- ✗ **Bread/cake/biscuits:** no nutritional content and hog can fill up on them and so stop seeking nutritional food.
- ✗ **Mealworms/peanuts/sunflower seeds:** high in phosphorus and low in calcium. Their body will try to balance out both and take calcium from the teeth and bones causing metabolic bone disease.

## Hedgehog Misinformation On Social Media

There has been a recent post on social media about hedgehogs lying down in open areas to hibernate. There was also a lot of misinformation in that post.

It has since been edited but had already been shared tens of thousands of times and is still being shared.

Hedgehogs **do not** hibernate visibly outside. If you see a hedgehog lying in the open this hedgehog needs help. Please do not leave small hogs expecting the mother to return, she won't.

**Hope for Hedgehogs** is a charity based in Ryton. They do not allow public viewings of these beautiful wild animals, but we are open daily for admissions (by appointment) and donations.

Tel: 07443 369 602 | Web: [hopeforhedgehogs.co.uk](http://hopeforhedgehogs.co.uk)



# Christmas 2024

Plans are underway to celebrate Christmas at the Village Institute and on the village green this year on the evening of Saturday, 14 December from 4:00pm - 6:30pm.

**4:00pm:** Walbottle Institute will be open serving a variety of hot beverages and festive treats, there will be a number of seasonal stalls, face painting and a Christmas raffle.

**5:00pm:** The Christmas tree lights will be turned on with singing led by the Village Choir on the village green.

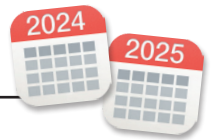
**6:00pm:** Christmas raffle will be drawn.

Any updates will be posted on the website, the Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

## Christmas Raffle Prizes & Volunteers

If you can donate prizes for the raffle (deadline Tuesday, 10 December) or volunteer to help on Saturday, 14 December please contact us via our Facebook or WhatsApp group or by email at: [walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com)

# Calendar Dates



**Tuesday, 10 December**

Deadline for Christmas Fayre raffle prize donations. Please contact us via Facebook, WhatsApp or email to arrange delivery or collection.

**Saturday, 14 December • 4pm - 6:30pm**

Christmas Fayre, raffle, tree lights and carols on the green.

**Sunday, 5 January, Sunday, 6 April • 10am - 12 noon**

Food Bank collection at the Village institute. Feel free to use the library, free tea, coffee and biscuits available.

**Wednesday, 5 March • 6:30pm • Starts at 7pm - 9pm**

WVT&RA open meeting at the Village Institute. Free tea and coffee served at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

## Comments, Feedback & Suggestions

We'd like to encourage residents to contact us with their stories, articles or news about Walbottle Village life, past and present, to share with the community in our newsletter and on the website.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, provide feedback or advertise, please contact us by email at: [newsletter@walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@walbottlevillagetra.co.uk)



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
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WALBOTL  
COFFEE  
HOUSE

- Dine-in & Take-out
- Dog Friendly



### OPENING HOURS:

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  
SUNDAY: 10:00 - 15:00

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## CLOCKWORK DESIGN & NEW MEDIA

Logo, stationery, brochure design and artwork for print

Website design and development

Video editing, animation for presentations and social media

Isometric and technical illustration

Chris Jones: 07980 157373 | [clockwork-design.co.uk](http://clockwork-design.co.uk) | [clockwork.design](http://clockwork.design)  
[facebook.com/clockwork.design.new.media](https://www.facebook.com/clockwork.design.new.media)

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