

# VILLAGE NEWS

Newsletter of the Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association

## Christmas - Carols Round the Tree



Now that we are well into the new year it seems so long ago since we had our Christmas celebration - carols round the tree. The event was well attended and we hoped everyone had a good time meeting Santa and singing along with the Walbottle choir. The tree, kindly paid for by

Newcastle City Council and seasonally lit with lights, added the perfect touch. Regretfully the lights were vandalised a few days later but we think they are repairable and will be ready for this Christmas. Thank you to all who turned up to make the occasion very special, we raised over £350 which after expenses will go towards our next event - the King's Coronation.

## The Coronation of King Charles III

Following the success of the Platinum Jubilee Celebration events last year, Walbottle Tenants and Residents Association and Walbottle Village Institute Trustees are hosting a Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday the 7 of May between 12:30pm and 3:30pm on the village green. In keeping with the King's wishes the event will be a local celebration focusing on having fun with neighbours in our community. Light refreshments will be provided but please bring your own picnic, chairs, blankets etc. The event will include lighting the beacon as our contribution to "Lighting up the Nation" and there will be community singing of the National Anthem. As last year we will be having a children's fancy dress competition with the theme "Lords and Ladies" with a certificate issued to all those who take part. Come along to Walbottle Village Green for friendship, fun and food.

**Save the Date**

**Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of  
May 12:30pm to  
3:30pm**



## Newsletter Highlights

Christmas -carols round the tree

Coronation of King Charles III

Update from Chairperson

Gardening Group

Walbottle Village Litter Pickers

Neighbourhood Watch

Walbottle Wardrobe

Past and Present Residents

Six Degrees of Separation

Exploring Hadrian's Wall Through Newcastle

Calendar Dates



## Update from WVT&RA Chairperson

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who helped and attended our Christmas event on the 11th December. As usual we had a great turnout even with the cold weather and great to see Santa Claus and his sleigh in the village institute. It is so lovely to now have a real Christmas Tree planted on the green and so much fun when the lights were turned on by Councilor Linda Wright The amazing Walbottle Choir lead the singing of carols and songs on the village green, I do hope everyone enjoyed the evening I certainly did. Unfortunately we did struggle to get enough volunteers to allow this event to take place. So for future events it would be great if any of you could offer support and help with things such as tea and coffee making, manning road closures and general tidying up. We would be most grateful, so if you are interested please e-mail [walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com) if we don't have people to volunteer we cannot safely run such events in future.

As of 2023 we will now provide 3 newsletters a year rather than 4. This is to help reduce running costs for the association. If you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter please let us know by email to [walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com) with your email address and first line of address. Again this will help us reduce paper and printing costs.

Our next Association Meeting is at 7.00pm on Tuesday the 16th May. We will have City Fibre attending to update us with plans for improved village Broadband. A number of new village initiatives are planned for 2023. Please keep a look out for Walbottle Wardrobe, a new initiative to provide sustainable clothing for all the family. And of course there will be the Coronation festivities.

I hope that all Walbottle tenants and residents are keeping well and managing to keep warm in these unprecedented times. We are always looking for new committee members to help make decisions and support our existing and new initiatives. We are not asking for huge commitments just attending 3 meetings a year and helping out at events.

Lorraine

## Gardening group

We have had a quiet Autumn and Winter however the gardening group continue to manage and maintain the existing flower beds and tubs. A big thank you to everyone who have helped especially, Steve, Samantha, Sylvia, Kelly, Kim, Rosie, Wendy, Nick and Sacha.

The shady triangle has changed significantly since the last newsletter now that the Council have cut down a very large tree. So we may need to re-name the shady triangle. We still need to take advice on the best plants and shrubs for the rock bed in that area. This will be easier when as we can now identify where the daffodils are. The raised bed in front of Head to Toe has been emptied and plants saved for replanting elsewhere. We plan to plant this bed up in late March to early April. The Percy Way Rose Beds have been pruned, weeded and topped up with soil improver. Bulbs in these beds are coming through for some spring colour. As reported in our last newsletter the 2 sets of 3 planters by the entrance to Walbottle Farm have not been very successful, possibly due to the overhanging trees and difficulty of access for watering. Our plan is to move these and we hope to do so over the next month. The Jubilee bed will be given a re-vamp to replace the annuals with perennials and possibly small shrubs to minimise maintenance and management of the bed.

We are always looking for volunteers for one off projects or general weeding and planting. We do try to have group sessions to do this which is much more fun than doing it solo and a good opportunity to get to know everyone. Drop us an email if you are interested in joining us or have any ideas or advice to offer.



## Walbottle Community Litter Pickers

Many thanks to all those people who voluntarily collect litter in our beautiful village, you haven't gone unnoticed and we would love to recognise you in a future newsletter. So, if you would like your name and maybe a photo printed then please send your details to the email below or use the contact form in the website, details also below.

[walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com)



Tel: 07572 739292

Website: [www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk](http://www.walbottlevillagetra.co.uk)

Find us on facebook: Walbottle Village Residents Association



## Neighbourhood Watch

Our new organiser is Nick Strong who has kindly agreed to lead on this important group for the village. We received funding for this initiative in 2022 and have now taken delivery of window stickers (see below) and a number of road signs which will be displayed at the outskirts and around the village.

This scheme is even more important at this time given the rise in thefts and continued anti social behaviour in the area. It is also important to note that there is a question on all home insurance policy questionnaires so this can save you money on insurance policies but only if you have joined the scheme. The link to find the local scheme is: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/find-my-local-scheme>. Simply key in your postcode and you will be directed to the Walbottle Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (WVNWS) page where you can join and receive regular updates. If you require any help to set this up please email [walbottlera@gmail.com](mailto:walbottlera@gmail.com) or call 07495 767374 we are happy to help.

We are also investigating how we can set Walbottle up as a 'No Cold Calling Zone' and awaiting advice from Newcastle Trading

Standards. You may receive a consultation letter on the proposal for a No Cold Calling Zone. If so, we urge you to respond so that the council are able to gauge the individual support (or otherwise) for the scheme.

You will find a 'No Cold Calling' window sticker purchased by the Neighbourhood Watch with this Newsletter. Peel off the backing strip and place it on a window where it can be seen by anyone approaching your house. Also included with this Newsletter is a Neighbourhood Watch leaflet containing more information and the link details above.



Police Contact Details: Emergency 999, Non-emergency 101 Community Policing Officer Ashley Palmer - [Ashley.palmer@northumbria.police.uk](mailto:Ashley.palmer@northumbria.police.uk)

## Walbottle Wardrobe - Clothing Exchange



### What is it?

Walbottle Village Tenants and Residents Association would like to invite you to our first **Walbottle Wardrobe Community Event**. This is a clothing exchange with tea/coffee and biscuits on offer on Saturday and Sunday in the **Village Institute**.

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of April between 2:30pm and 4pm

Drop off clean, quality clothing or accessories for children or adults. Children's clothing especially welcome.

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of April between 2pm and 5pm

Return to select some items\* for your new wardrobe!

Even if you have nothing to donate you are welcome to join us for a tea/coffee and biscuits on Saturday and Sunday and if you see anything that takes your fancy clothing tokens are available for a donation. Clothing not exchanged during the weekend will be donated to local charities.

This is part of the Walbottle Village **Building Communities** activity through recycling, reusing and saving money

\*Up to 5 tokens will be allocated as a result of any swap. Conditions apply - please check out the posters and the WVT&RA website from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April for more details and exclusions.

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Old Row with the Engine Inn in the background

## Past and Present Residents

It's always great to hear from past and present residents from Walbottle and memories they have of our lovely village. We recently received an email from the great grandson of a local resident who used to live in Old Row (which was called New Row when first built). Old Row is long demolished but used to stand where Grove road is today and comprised 21 back to back cottages with one room downstairs and one up accessed via a ladder. The cottages were cleared under Newburn Urban District Council's slum clearance programme with three new terraces replacing them.

## Six Degrees of Separation by David Armstrong

Researching my family tree I found my Grandfather's birth certificate; dated 9/12/1890, New Row, Walbottle. His Father, Joseph Armstrong, was a haulier and accomplished cyclist. Some of his prizes can be seen in the 1st photograph. The second a plaque, (used on a display featuring his Whitworth racer) shows his results over a short period in the late 1800's. In 1975 my apprenticeship began at a factory in Coventry, originally Rudge Whitworth where Great Grandad's racer was built. Years later my wife introduced me to her friends who live in Walbottle, 6-degree theory proven!



Joseph Armstrong with trophies



Joseph Armstrong and Charabanc outside the White Swan Inn

## Exploring Hadrian's Wall through Newcastle

Following on from the film "Gannin along the wall" showing the real route of Hadrian's Wall through Newcastle, Judith Green has asked the WVT&RA if they could host a walk around Walbottle to include a talk and refreshments in the Village Institute for a group of up to 20 people. Judith is passionate about highlighting the route of the wall between Heddon and Wallsend as the 'Official' route follows the riverside from Heddon missing many places of interest, including Walbottle! There are five walks in all with Walbottle being the first on the 29 of June followed by Denton Burn 6 July, Central Newcastle 13 July, Ouseburn 20 July and Segadunum 27 July. Places are limited but if anyone would like to join then please contact the WVT&RA before April, details at the bottom of the page. Priority will be given to those who sign up to all five visits.

### Calendar Dates:

April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> - Clothing Exchange

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of May - Coronation Big Picnic Lunch

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm - WVT&RA full committee meeting in the Village Institute

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of June 11am - Talk and guided tour of Walbottle - Part of exploring Hadrian's wall through Newcastle

Food Bank Collection in the Village Institute 10:30am to 11:30am on Sun April 16<sup>th</sup>, Sun July 16<sup>th</sup> and Sun October 15<sup>th</sup>

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