

Walford Parish Newsletter

Spring
2016

Issue
NO 12



A walker's view from Chase Hill

Chairman: Frank Myers MBE
Vice Chairman: Shane Carlson
Clerk: Catherine Murray

Website: www.walford-pc.org.uk

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Index to articles

- Chairman's introduction
- Ward Councillor's Report
- Police & Crime Commissioner Elections
- Parish Precept
- Community Support Scheme
- Rights of Way
- Lengthsman
- Lengthsman Grant
- Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch Site
- Daycroft Lane Flood Alleviation
- Walford Links Cycle Way
- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- AONB – Wye River Festival
- AONB & National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative
- Fibre Broadband in Walford Parish
- Walford Primary School and Playgroup
- Walford and Bishopswood Village Halls
- Parish Churches
- BT Phone Box – Ideas for use
- River Festival BBQ Breakfast
- War Memorials
- Defibrillator
- Meetings schedule for 2016

Chairman's Introduction

Frank Myers - Chairman

WELCOME TO THIS FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2016:

As you will see your Councillors have been very busy on your behalf and a number of projects have come to fruition.

We are delighted to have secured a grant for the newly named Community Support Scheme, which we have been planning under the title Village Warden Scheme. This grant will be supplemented from our reserves...a sum of money which we raised two or three years ago, from the Parish precept in order that we could get this scheme off the ground. We now have assured funding for the first twelve months and the scheme will be carefully monitored with a view to continuing it beyond twelve months, if there is the expected demand.

It is well documented that 'care closer to home' is a way of looking after the wellbeing of all sectors of our community, we hope that this scheme will provide the most basic support and the early warning system which will help head off problems.

The Kerne Bridge canoe launch acquisition has also been given the go-ahead by The Council, following negotiations with Herefordshire Council about the transfer contract.



This represents a significant opportunity for us to manage and develop this important asset...each step which we might take will be carefully analysed by the steering group and scrutinised by The Council. Tourism is an important factor in the prosperity of the Parish and it is hoped that prudent development of the site will enhance what is arguably the best canoe launch site in the Country.

As you will see, there are also a number of events coming up in the next few months. Please give these your support and help us to continue to develop the exciting community spirit which we have in these parts.

Frank Myers - Chairman

The life of a ward councillor is enormously varied, and on occasion provides opportunities to be part of community events which are truly unique.



Photo courtesy of the Ross Gazette

A recent example of this was the “Night at the Oscars” which took place at Walford Primary School on Thursday, March 17th. The organisation of the event by Head teacher Louise George and her staff was flawless, and the truly outstanding feature of the evening was the wonderful children, who in their behaviour, skills and presentation were absolutely fantastic and a great credit to all their parents and carers.

I was honoured to be able to present the award for the best overall movie, which featured the importance of learning your times tables, and to say a few words of thanks and praise. Well done everyone!

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections – 5th May

Walford Village Hall 07.00 – 10.00 – Remember to cast your vote!

Candidate name	Address of candidate*	Description of candidate
CAMPION John-Paul	Flat 1, 18 Load Street, Bewdley, DY12 2AE	The Conservative Party Candidate
JEWELL Peter Anthony Edmund	Tudor Court, Saleway, WR9 7JY	UKIP
RAINE John Watson	Newsholme, Brockhill Road, WR14 4DL	Green Party
ROWLEY Margaret	Old Park, Plough Road, Tibberton, WR9 7NN	Liberal Democrats
SHELDON Barrie	(Address in Wrekin Constituency)	Independent
WALTON Daniel	1 Brickyard Cottages, Castle Hill, Wichenford, WR6 6Y	Labour Party

Cast your vote at Walford Village Hall on Thursday 5th May between 07.00 - 10.00. You should have received your voting slips in the post if you are on the electoral register. Please exercise your democratic right to vote for our Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Parish Precept - Explanation of figures 2016/17

At their meeting on November 25th 2015, the Parish Council resolved to increase their precept request to Herefordshire Council for 2016-17 by only 1.9%.

You may have noticed that on your latest Council Tax bill, the amount of the increase to be paid by Council Tax payers is greater than the 1.9% agreed at the Parish Council meeting; the reason for this is explained below.

Although the Precept request has been increased by the 1.9% requested,

Herefordshire Council have chosen, this year, to withdraw the Council Tax Support Grant*. This means that the total Precept needed by the Parish Council will have to be paid exclusively by Council Tax payers.

*** National legislation changed a couple of years ago**, meaning that County Councils were no longer obliged to pay the Council Tax Support Grant. Herefordshire Council has continued to pay the grant for the last couple of years, but they will no longer be doing so from 2016-17, due to further budget cuts.

PRECEPT 2016/17	2015-16	2016-17
Gross amount required by the Parish	£16814	£17133
Increase year on year	1.9%	1.9%
Council Tax Support Grant paid by Herefordshire Council	*£745	*NIL
Net Parish Precept (Payable by Council Tax Payers)	£16069	£17133
Number of equivalent Band D properties in the parish	631.43	640.62
Band D Council Tax	£25.45	£26.74

You may recall that in the previous newsletter, we drew your attention to the likely withdrawal of grants for the Lengthsman and P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) schemes.

There is good news in the short term, in that Herefordshire Council has confirmed that these grants will remain at their present levels in 2016/17. However, the Lengthsman grant will definitely be reduced to 25% of the existing level in 2017/18 and will be withdrawn entirely in 2018/19.

The P3 grant will remain at 100% of the existing level in 2017/18 and 2018/19, but in 2019/20 this grant will also be withdrawn entirely.

Before the end of this year, The Parish Council will have to consider whether to increase the precept to cover the reduction of the Lengthsman grant in 2017/18; further consideration will also have to be given to the eventual withdrawal of this grant in 2018/19 and the P3 grant in 2019/20.

Community Support Scheme (Village Warden)

Great progress has been made with the Community Support (Village Agent) scheme. This scheme, which the council pursued for some time, was set up to combat loneliness and help anyone who is vulnerable or in need of help.

A grant application was made to Herefordshire Council's Wellbeing and Innovation Fund and we are excited to announce that a grant of £9,250 has been awarded to Walford Parish Council.

Following confirmation of the grant, the PC recruited a candidate to fill the position

of part-time Community Support Co-ordinator. Louise Jarvis has experience which makes her ideally suited to the post and has already started the marketing of the project to raise awareness.

Louise will be co-ordinating a group of volunteers, who she will match to members of our community. All the relevant DBS checks will be carried out on the volunteers, as they will be working with vulnerable people. These checks will be provided free of charge by the Diocese of Hereford. We welcome Louise and look forward to working with her.

Introduction from our Community Support Co-ordinator Appeal for Volunteers – please get involved

I am very pleased to introduce myself as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Community Support Scheme (Village Warden Scheme).

We have a group of local volunteers who have offered their time to give a helping hand and support anyone in need living in the Walford parish. We have all at some point experienced a time when we are in need of some extra support, this may be during ill health, a bereavement or as we grow older. The scheme is there to provide that extra support to face these challenges and help people maintain their independence and well-being in their own home. We also hope to help those people who are facing loneliness.

The Scheme is for anyone in need, of any age, and any circumstance, who live within Walford parish. This includes: Bishopswood, Walford, Hom Green, Coughton and Deep Dean.

Some of the things we can help with include, visiting and befriending, transport to appointments, collecting prescriptions,

going shopping and help with paperwork. Whatever the need is, do give a call to see if we can help.

We are appealing for more volunteers to help deliver this valuable service to the Walford Community. If you are interested in joining us, no matter how occasionally, do get in touch for an informal chat and to find out more.

Please e-mail me:
community-support-coordinator@walford-pc.org.uk
Louise Jarvis



Rights Of Way

Please send any local reports to:
rightsofway.officer@walford-pc.org.uk

In general, our many miles of Rights of Way in Walford are in reasonably good shape and many people enjoy many walks and rides along them. The Wye Valley Walk route is well used, and has spectacular views over our area.

Your Parish Council tries to keep the paths open & useable, with monies from Hereford Council under the Parish Paths Partnership (3 Ps). Funding for this remains in place from now until 2019/20, but after this, not so.

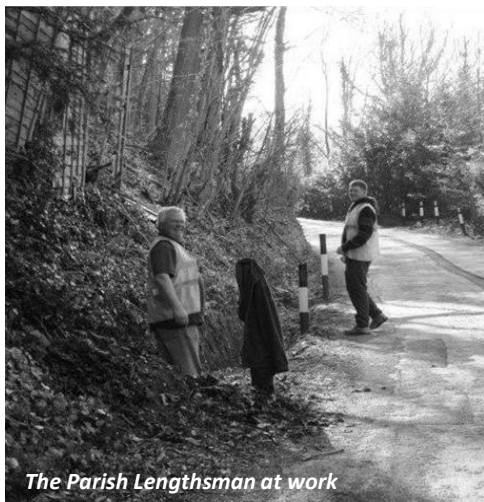
This is sad news, & we shall work towards a way of preserving this valuable resource into the future.



As always - a plea - anyone with a Right of Way across or beside their land, please keep hedges clipped back to allow others to pass. Anyone enjoying our paths, please feel free to trim back anything that gets in your way! **Enjoy.**

The Lengthsman Scheme

Please send any local reports to:
lengthsman.coordinator@walford-pc.org.uk



The Parish Lengthsman at work

The Lengthsman has been busy keeping the parish tidy over the winter; carrying out the following work:

Clearing of rubbish at the roadside
Cleaning grips around the parish
Clearing out bus shelters
Strimming verges alongside footways
Cutting back hedge overgrowth
Scraping soil and debris off footways
Cleaning up and sweeping footways
We were lucky to have a mild winter, which meant that although the salt bins were topped up, snow and ice maintenance work was not necessary.

****Withdrawal of Lengthsman grant funding****

As a result of cuts that Herefordshire Council must make to balance its budget, it has now been confirmed that for 2016/17 the Lengthsman grant funds will remain the same, but in 2017/18 the grant will reduce to 25% of existing levels.

The Parish Council will have to consider whether to increase the precept, in order to maintain this valuable service in Walford Parish, after the grant from Herefordshire Council is reduced and then entirely withdrawn in 2018/19.

Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch

Cllr
Frank Myers

At the meeting on 13th April the Parish Council voted to accept the most recent version of the contract proposed by Herefordshire Council for the asset transfer of the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site, including the overage clause previously discussed. This decision was based on feedback from Okells Francis Law, the solicitors acting on behalf of WPC, who advised that there was no chance of any further amendment to the overage clause; and on the advice of the Steering Group, who, having met prior to the meeting had concluded that the existing overage clause will not adversely affect the immediate plans that the Parish Council has for the site.

The initial plan is to take over this valuable community asset and do no more than maintain it, as Herefordshire Council has done during its ownership.

An outline proposal to create a revenue stream by issuing canoe launch licenses to major operators, was put to the Parish Council, who accepted it as an appropriate first step towards managing the site and improve it in the future.

Each opportunity for improvement in the future will be considered on its merits and an appropriate business case will be considered by the steering group and put to the Council for approval.

Daycroft Lane Flood Alleviation

At the end of January, our Ward Councillor kindly arranged a meeting between representatives of Balfour Beatty, the Parish Council and local residents, in order to discuss a way forward with proposals for alleviating the flooding at Daycroft Lane.

The meeting proved extremely successful, in that it opened an avenue whereby the proposals tabled when the

problem was first discussed, could progress, without the significant costs originally envisaged.

The next step involves locating a hidden culvert, which is known to exist and could provide a suitable outlet for the for the water which will be diverted away from the houses which currently experience flooding .

Walford Links Cycle Way

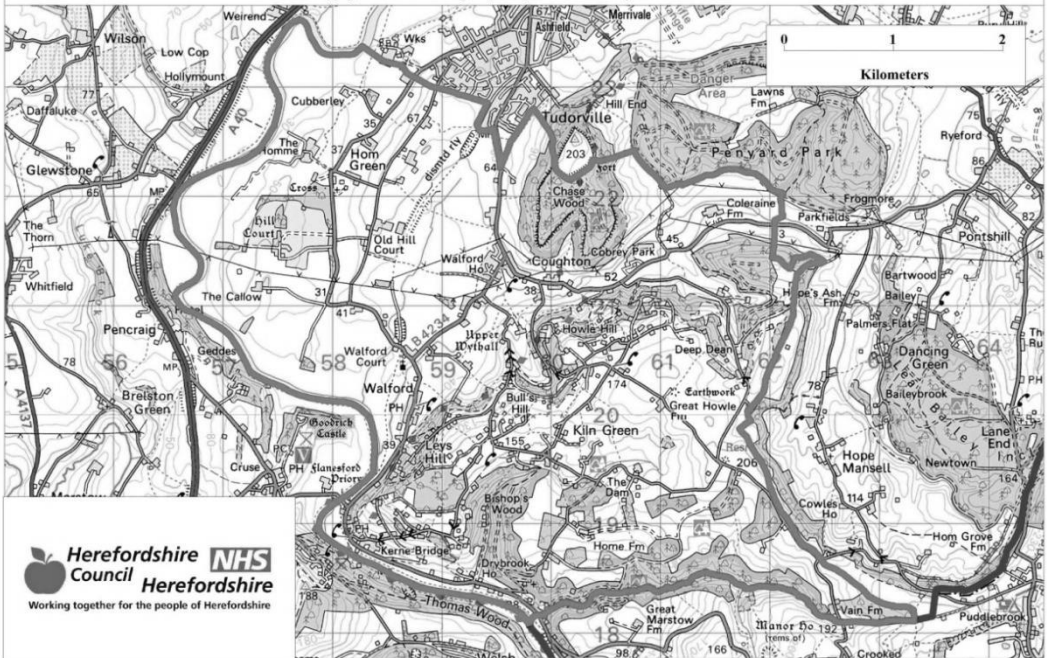
Following a meeting of the Walford Links Steering Group, to assess the status of the Walford Links Project, the recommendation below was put forward, to be voted on by the Parish Council on Wednesday 24th February:

'In light of other ongoing and active projects being undertaken by Walford Parish Council and in consideration of the significant amount of input necessary to

pursue and realise the aims of Walford Links, the Steering Group has concluded that The Parish Council does not currently have the background resources / support required to bring this project to a conclusion. It is therefore proposed that the Walford Links project should be postponed for the time being.'

This recommendation was unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

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Starting in 2012, as part of the Localism Act of 2011, the government introduced the power for parish councils to produce their own development plans. These would stand alongside local authority development plans and central government strategy to give a local voice to the planning process.

The government's description is: A neighbourhood development plan (NDP) establishes general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, such as where new homes and offices should be built and what they should look like.

The plan can be detailed or general, depending what local people want. Neighbourhood plans allow local people to get the right type of development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area. In most cases, this means that

neighbourhood plans will have to take into account the local authority's assessment of housing and other development needs in the area.

In real terms, this means that the local NDP has to fit in with both the government's National Planning Policy Framework and Herefordshire Council's Local Plan, of which the Core Strategy is the underlying document. The NDP then adds its own layer of detail reflecting the local community, particularly including allocation of possible development sites.

In Walford the Parish Council started the process by applying for the parish to be designated as a neighbourhood planning area, which was accepted by Herefordshire Council. (See above map)

A Steering Group was formed, and started to bring together what was needed and decide on the steps required to produce the plan.

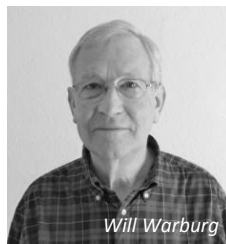
The main outcome of the process in 2013/14 was the issuing of a questionnaire to provide the evidence of what the residents of Walford think are the needs and aspirations that have to be met by the plan. The results were analysed, collated, and published.

However, as mentioned above, the NDP has to fit in with the planning policies in Herefordshire's Core Strategy, which had not been approved at the time. Therefore, the Parish Council decided to suspend work on the plan until such time as the Core Strategy was adopted. This happened in October 2015, and the Parish Council then decided to restart the process of producing the plan. The group was reconvened, and after some changes to the membership local resident Will Warburg was invited to become the Steering group leader.

Will is retired and moved to the area last summer, having lived in the Lake District for over 13 years. He was a parish councillor for 12 of these, and took a particular interest in assessing planning applications for the parish council. He has experience of working with planning officers and understands the criteria used to assess planning applications; including issues particular to a National Park, also relevant to an AONB. He was involved in the production of an older style Parish Plan, which had less emphasis on planning but giving experience of the use of questionnaires and consultation with members of the community.

There is now a significant amount of work to do to produce the plan and have it adopted. This includes identifying the key factors such as the requirements of the Local Plan, sustainability, the effect being largely in an AONB, and flood risk zones, ensuring we have all the evidence we need, and arranging for adequate

grant funding, before writing the plan itself. We will then consult with the community about the draft plan, and make any final amendments.



The plan is then submitted to Herefordshire Council where it will be checked by the Neighbourhood Planning (NP) team before being sent for independent examination.

The group will be able to draw on a number of resources for help, including Herefordshire Council's documentation and Neighbourhood Planning team, the experience of other parish councils, as well as the experience and expertise of the group members themselves.

The production of NDPs in Herefordshire is starting to gather momentum, with a few now reaching the referendum stage and several more with at least a draft plan prepared. Our neighbours at Weston-under-Penyard are at the front of the field having held a successful referendum in February, with final adoption due in May. We need to keep up, as the alternative is for Herefordshire Council to add its own Development Plan Document (DPD) to its Local Plan, which means that residents do not have the same say in the planning process.

If you would like to know more about the process, please look at the Herefordshire Council website and follow the links to the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning.

If you would like to ask, or tell us something, or would like to be involved, please get in touch. The group will be publishing regular updates in the newsletter, as well as producing reports for the Parish Council.

Contact Will and the Steering Group on:
ndp@handwell.co.uk

The Wye Valley River Festival is an artistic outpouring of story and spectacle celebrating our wonderful River Wye and its connections to rivers and people around the world, flowing through the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) from Hereford to Chepstow between 29th April to 15th May. The full programme can be viewed on www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk, but below is an outline of what is going on in the environs of Walford:

Sunday 1st May, 11am to 5pm; Ross-on-Wye: The Wye Serai* will be encamped on Rope Walk, between the Craft Fair at the Hope and Anchor and the Beer & Cider Festival at Ross Rowing Club – visit the Caravans and be entertained by The Water Ones celebrating water, life, rivers, seas, washing up, teas and tears - with spillages, songs and silliness while The Samovar brews tea.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2, 10am to 1pm; Bishopswood Village Hall Fete

A ceremonial launch of River Festival flags are sent downstream on canoes

Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd May 2, 12noon to 5pm; Lydbrook Tump Fayre

The Wye Valley River Festival's A&E River Health Check Laboratory tests the river's health; the Caravan of Fact and Wonder explores the mysteries and subtleties of H2O, streams, ponds and drains; the Samovar brews new potions distilled from the waters of the Wye and the Water Ones provide water antics and liquid ceremonies.

Wednesday 4th May, Ashfield Park Primary School, Ross: Caravan of Myths and Legends – storytelling.

Thursday 5th May, Walford Primary School: Caravan of Myths and Legends - storytelling

Thursday 5th May, Goodrich & Whitchurch Primary Schools: A&E River Health Check Lab

Friday 6th & Saturday 7th May, Monmouth town centre & Vauxhall Fields: Wye Serai

Sunday 8th May: The Slaughters, Symonds Yat East: 'Listen to the Sap Rising and Hear the Earth Move'

** The Wye Serai: the main performance and activity space for the Wye Valley River Festival created around three intriguing caravans of Myths and Legends; Curiosities and Hydrosities and Fact and Wonder as well as an A&E River Health Check Laboratory and a Samovar, fired up to brew ritual tea. Add the Water Ones wrangling in a comic chaos of pouring and spilling, singing and dancing, as the river characters share their watery dreams.*

In March and April schools were visited by environmentalists, investigating water & water-life, followed by artists making Festival Flags from the children's drawings of water creatures.

For further information on the Wye Valley River Festival programme and where the Caravans and the Wye Serai will be between the launch of Wye Valley River Festival in Hereford Friday 29th April to the grand finale at Chepstow Racecourse on Sunday 15th May, visit www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk; follow on Twitter: @wybeauty #wyvalleyriverfestival; like the Festival on facebook: www.facebook.com/

The Wye Valley River Festival 2016 is a Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership initiative with funding from the Sustainable Development Fund, a Welsh Government Initiative in the Wye Valley AONB, The Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, supported by the Welsh Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery, Environment Agency,

Ernest Cook Trust, Forestry Commission England, New Grove Trust, Ross Town Council and in-kind support from Hereford River Carnival, The Shire Hall, Monmouth, Mon Teas, Chepstow Racecourse, National Museum of Wales and numerous volunteers & local communities; main business sponsor Eat Sleep Live Herefordshire and media sponsors Sunshine Radio and Live 24-Seven. For a full list of sponsors see www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

National Grid & AONB Landscape Enhancement Initiative

Walford has a double whammy of pylons. National Grid own the high voltage power lines on the really big pylons that then go underground (and were recently refurbished and re-buried) under the river. Western Power Distribution own power cables on the smaller pylons that go over the river.

National Grid are working in 4 other National Parks & AONBs with dominant powerlines on pylons and are proposing to underground them, as part of a Visual Impact Provision (VIP). National Grid are also about to launch a new scheme for other National Parks and AONBs with high voltage powerlines on pylons, “to mitigate the visual impact of National Grid’s infrastructure and enhance the quality of the affected landscapes”. This does include the ones in Walford. Called the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI), National Grid state that, *“Where visual impacts cannot be directly screened or otherwise mitigated it may be possible to shift emphasis away from the powerline by enhancing the landscape in other ways.”* Grants of up to £200,000 may be available over 5 years for suitable schemes that can raise 25% match funding and are

co-ordinated through the AONB Partnership.

This is a potentially fantastic opportunity for Walford. The Wye Valley AONB Unit will co-ordinate proposals over the coming months with the intention of negotiating the match funding and submitting applications for the agreed projects. **Examples of the type of projects that may be eligible include:**

- Localised tree planting and / or woodland creation
- Management, re-planting and / or planting of new hedgerows
- Changes to trails, footpaths, cycleway and riding routes
- Projects that enhance the special qualities of landscape and may also benefit biodiversity
- Projects that enhance the special qualities of landscape and may also benefit cultural heritage

Details of the LEI should be available on National Grid’s website from 3rd May. Nick Critchley, Wye Valley AONB Development Officer, will lead on drawing the project proposals together and preparing the application(s) to National Grid. Please contact Nick if you have a suitable project, or ideas: Tel: 01600 710841

development@wevalleyaonb.org.uk,

Although there has been no "official" announcement in respect of the availability of FTTP in Walford, orders are now being placed by Parish residents (where FTTP is available) - with installation being scheduled for June/July. However, having said that - it appears too that, at this stage, the list of current suppliers (ISP's) is very limited.

Nevertheless, you can now see if your landline/ISP can connect to FTTP. In doing so, it is suggested that you use your residential telephone number only (STD code and number - no spaces) to search availability (rather than your postcode) as this will usually deliver a more accurate search result.

As a reminder, you can search FTTP availability

at <http://www.fastershire.com> where (after entering your full telephone number with STD code in the search box) you will see a pop-up window confirming the FTTP status for your individual telephone number. If FTTP is available for you, a pop-up window contains a link to the FTTP provider page where you will see the current list of ISP's coupled with ISP links to order your service.

As and when more information is received, I will endeavour to keep you updated via the Walford Parish Council official Facebook page.

Walford Primary School – Walford Oscars

EXCITED, and very well-dressed pupils, waited with bated breath to hear if their films were Oscar winners at a special celebration at Walford School on Thursday, March 17th. The pupils in Key Stage 2 had created short films on a variety of subjects. Although each film was different they were all charming and thoughtful and a pleasure to watch .

The evening began with performances by the winners of Walford's Got Talent, which included some very impressive singers and dancers.

As well as awards in a variety of categories Yolande Watson, representing the Hedgehog Festival, presented a special award to the best film featuring hedgehogs and their care.

This group were delighted with their large cuddly hedgehogs and everyone who took part in making a hedgehog film was given a small hedgehog as a reminder that these special creatures are the symbol of Ross-on-Wye.

The Best Overall Movie featured the importance of learning your times tables and this award was presented by Councillor Newman.

Paul Deneen, Chair of Governors of Walford School presented the Apple Ambassador Outstanding Leadership Awards.

The pupils were all given an interval picnic box, while the adult guests enjoyed a delicious salad meal prepared by members of the PTFA."

It's exciting times at Walford Pre-school Playgroup as we move into the Summer Term. With the weather warming, our children will be spending more time in our beautiful garden, playing in the willow tunnel, mud-kitchen and sand-pit, exploring the world around us and learning through play! And during those "April Shower Days" there is always the inside weekly themed role-play area, writing tables, messy room activities and much, much more!



If you have Pre-school aged children and would like to see us in action, please come along to our new **STAY & PLAY** sessions **EVERY Tuesday** between 9:30 - 11:30am at Walford Village Hall (£2.50 per family, £1 per additional child).

Or, check out our [new and improved website](http://www.walfordpreschoolplaygroup.co.uk)
www.walfordpreschoolplaygroup.co.uk
for all our details.

Also NEW for Walford Pre-school Playgroup is the hours we can offer; during term time we now offer **THREE FULL DAY** sessions (9am – 3pm; Mon, Wed and Fridays). We also offer Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions (9am – 12pm or till 12:30pm if you wish your child to join our daily lunch club.) **And from September 2016 we will have even more sessions available**, so please check out our website for further information. Best of all we can include children from 2 years old!!!

We would also like to invite you along to our annual MAY FAIR, which this year will be held on **SATURDAY 14th MAY 2016 (12-3pm)** at Walford Village Hall. We will have all the traditional games and stalls, Bouncy Castle and refreshments as well as the marvellous Mo the Donkey, Sarah's Performance Academy, Silent Auction, and great Raffle prizes.

So please come along support your local Pre-school, bring your friends and family and help us enjoy this wonderful event on Sat 14th May 2016.

You can find us on Facebook (Walford Pre-School)

For updates, contact our Play Leader Sara Jones on 01989 566979 or during sessions on 07765 005871 or the website, as above.

Children's Table and Car Boot Sale!

Sat 2nd July

Pre-school committee have decided to hold a Children's Table Sale & Car Boot at the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd July 2016 (10am - 12pm). Please come along. For stall information, please contact elaine.sandford@yahoo.co.uk

The village hall, over the last few years has been working hard to make a play ground next to the village hall possible. Planning permission is in place, some of the funding has been pledged and the design of the play area is nearing completion.

What we now need is people of Walford to volunteer to help make this project come to fruition. I am sure you will agree that having a lovely new play area for local children will be a great asset for the village.

At the moment this is a call for expressions of interest to help out, once the project gets going, hopefully starting over the summer, we are going to need all sorts of help, so any time you can give would be greatly appreciated. For now if you are interested, please email me (address below) and I can send out the survey that shows you what the play area could look like and we can go from there.

The VHC is planning a Walford fun day on Saturday the 17th September, to raise awareness and funds for the play area and also to have a much needed local social event for the Village. We will have lots of fun activities for the children, hog roast, bar and lots more. Watch out for more details in the coming months!

There have been some changes on the village hall committee following the AGM. James Byron-Daniel was voted in as chair, Anthea Parker volunteered to sit on the committee as an ordinary member and Phil Newman agreed to sit on the committee representing hall users. Dave Berry continues on as treasurer and Virginia Morgan as secretary. The new committee are planning new projects and events for the hall, more on those in the newsletter and via advertisement soon

Many thanks

James (Byron-Daniel), WVH Committee chair (email: jameszbd@icloud.com)

Bishopswood Village Hall

Cathie Hatherall

The four performances of Dick Whittington pantomime in February were hugely popular as ever. It was a great success with lots of positive comments and feedback. The cast and crew were determined the show must go on following the sudden death of co-director and stage manager, Heather Osley, which were also the wishes of her family.

In March another successful Community Lunch took place and bookings are already being taken for the next quarterly lunch on 19th June, which will be a tribute to the Queen's 90th birthday. Bookings for this are essential by contacting Monica on 01594 860303.

April has seen the return of the Colours Fashion Show, although not as popular as previous event an enjoyable time was had by all those who attended.

9th July will see a Strawberry Fayre and Barn Dance at Bishopswood Village Hall – further details nearer the time.

BBQ TIME AT THE RIVER FESTIVAL

Join our Parish celebrations on Monday 2nd May 10am - 1pm for BBQ breakfast at Bishopswood Village Hall and riverside field - free bouncy castle, skittles, apple bobbing and much more, maybe even a roaming pirate or two!! The fun then continues at Lydbrook Tump from 1 - 5pm.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

1st Sunday 11.15am Sunday Praise at Bishopswood Village Hall following 'Big Breakfast' * Except Sunday 1st May*

2nd 11am Holy Communion

3rd Services vary - please see notices on Church Notice Board and Border News

4th 11am Holy Communion

5th Services vary around the Wye Reaches benefice - see Border News information

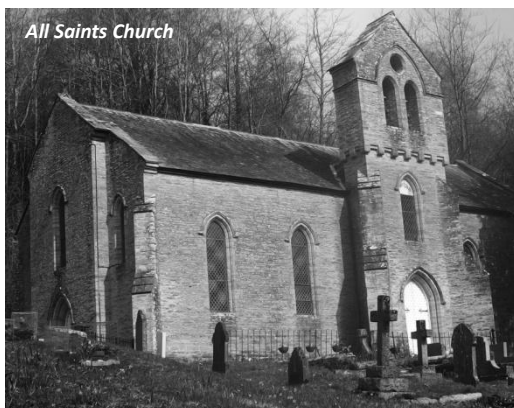
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

'BREAKFAST IN BISHOPSWOOD' - Served 9.30 - 10.45 am at Bishopswood Village Hall

Sundays 5th June/3rd July/7th Aug Please note: No Breakfast served in May.

Full English *plus* cereals, fruit juice, toast pancakes & maple syrup! Tea and Coffee, oh, and a beautiful view of the riverside whilst you eat - you cant beat that!

All this for £5.50 (£3 under 12's)



GALLOPING GOURMET EVENT

Sunday July 17th - from 12noon

4 courses served at 4 different venues around Bishopswood

Always a very popular event - watch out for more details in June.

A warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join us at any of our events and services.

Church Wardens - Monica Edmunds 01594 860303 Carol Pimblett 01989 565533

BT phone box uses - Please send in your ideas

Walford Parish Council adopted the red BT phone box, sited opposite the Mill Race Pub, for the cost of £1, with a view to using the box as the location for a defibrillator unit; however, since the agreement to site the defibrillator on the External wall of the Mill Race Pub, alternative uses are being considered.

There have been suggestions that the phone box could prove a useful location for a parish 'hub' providing local information, such as a public footpaths map, a library and promotional material for local businesses.

Any feedback will be welcome!



St Michael and All Angels' Church, Walford welcomes you to our Spring Flower Festival from 20th to 22nd May. Over the course of the weekend we invite you to our picturesque country church to view around 20 beautiful floral displays on the theme of parables.

The event opens with a drinks and nibbles reception on Friday evening, entry for which costs £5 and includes a glass of award-winning locally produced sparkling wine from the Castle Brook vineyard.

The church will be open for visitors to enjoy the eye-catching arrangements between 10am and 4pm on the Saturday and Sunday, entry costing £2 including a programme (under 16s go free). Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend.



This event provides us with the perfect opportunity to celebrate and showcase our brand new church facilities, which include improved disabled access, a refreshments area and disabled toilet with baby change facilities.

We look forward to welcoming you, whether you're local or from further afield. Please contact Karen Chinn (chinnkaren@gmail.com) for more information and tickets. Also find us on www.facebook.com/walfordchurch.

River Festival BBQ Breakfast – Monday 2nd May

The River Festival is a biannual event coordinated by the Wye Valley AONB celebrating our river with two weeks' of festivities starting in Hereford on Friday 29th April and concluding in Chepstow on Sunday 15th May.

This year the Parish of Walford is taking part by hosting a "BBQ Breakfast" on Monday 2nd May at Bishopswood Village Hall and riverside field. The event will run between 10am and 1pm, when we will pass the baton down-stream to Lydbrook where festivities will continue for the afternoon. We will be serving food and refreshments but picnics are also welcome. There will be many

exciting activities for all the family including a pirate-themed puppet show, colouring completion, ice creams, apple bobbing, skittles and free bouncy castles and face painting!!

We will also be holding our very own Bishopswood Bake Off, so please feel free to bring your entries before 11:45am (judging and prize-giving will be held at 12 noon).

Please contact Cathie on monsterbon@btinternet.com for more information or catch up with latest news on www.facebook.com/wyevalleyriverfestival and twitter using #weyvalleyriverfestival.

Parish War Memorials

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that a full grant application has been submitted to War Memorials Trust for cleaning and repairs to the Bishopswood War Memorial. The grant application is being assessed by War Memorials Trust, who will advise the Parish Council of the outcome.

A representative from WMT came to Walford and made a site visit, when he approved the works to be carried out on the memorial. The retaining wall and paving stones surrounding the memorial are in need of repointing and the base of the monument, bearing the names of the fallen needs careful cleaning, to remove a build up of dirt and lichen .

You may recall that in the previous issue, the PC explained that the conifers surrounding the memorial had been removed, because they were undermining the retaining wall. This revealed the dilapidated estate fencing, which had previously been hidden by the conifers and discussions are ongoing about whether to re-plant another hedge, further back from the retaining wall and/or replace/remove the fencing.



As part of these discussions, we are trying to gather evidence of whether this fencing was installed at the time that the memorial was built. If you have any historical photographs of the memorial from its inauguration, or from other periods since it was installed, which would help to clarify this, please let the Parish Council know.

Hopefully we will have received a positive response from WMT by the time of the next meeting, when The Parish Council will discuss the matter of the fencing again and make a decision about how to move forward. Once this has been established, the area around the memorial can be re-landscaped / planted.

Defibrillator for Walford Parish

You may recall that in the last edition of the newsletter, we announced that Cllr Luke Freeman, owner of the Mill Race Pub had kindly offered to provide an iPad1 defibrillator unit FOC for parish use.

The Parish Council agreed to purchase the external box needed to house the unit, which will be located on the outside of the Mill Race pub. The PC decided that a heated external box was the best model to house

the unit, because the batteries do not function at temperatures under 0%.

At the Annual Parish meeting, Diane Pearson from West Midlands Ambulance Service came to give a short demonstration of the iPad1 defibrillator unit, giving councillors and members of the public an insight into how to operate it safely. The PC will be organising a full-length training session in the near future.

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Look forward to meeting you!

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DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

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out to 650 households
in Walford Parish**

It is published approximately every
4 months, depending on how much
information we have to share

If you have a business or service
you wish to promote, please
contact the Parish Clerk

Tel: 01989 562476

E mail: clerk@walford-pc.org.uk

The Parish Council reserves the right to
assess the suitability of advertisements

Dog Fouling on Parish Footpaths - Appeal to dog owners

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that there have been fewer reports of regular dog-fouling on some of the Parish footpaths.

Thanks are extended to those dog owners who have made efforts to pick up what their pets have left behind! It has been noticed.

It is however, worth reminding you that all that our footpaths are used by parish residents and visitors alike, who all deserve to be able to walk our rights of way without having to dodge piles of dog faeces. It is also worth considering that some of our footpaths border fields which grow crops destined for human consumption. (Hold that thought.....)

Most dog owners are responsible, respect their environment and clean up after their pets, but the Parish Council appeals to those who don't, to please collect and dispose of their dog faeces appropriately. We all want to preserve the natural beauty of this lovely AONB – **TAKE A BAG WITH YOU AND BIN IT!**



Parish Council meetings schedule 2016

7.30pm Annual Council Meeting	18/05/16	Bishopswood Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	29/06/16	Walford Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	31/08/16	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	12/10/16	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	23/11/16	Bishopswood Village Hall
No meeting in August or December Except on 31/08/16		

Clerk: Rose Cottage, Coughton Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.

Tel: 01989 562476 **E mail:** clerk@walford-pc.org.uk