

Spring 2017

Issue
NO 14

Walford Neighbourhood Development Plan Meeting : 10/05/17 (pages 4-5)

Chairman's Introduction : Facebook : Ward Councillor : Broadband : Neighbourhood Development Plan : Annual Parish Meeting : Community Support Scheme : Budgeting & Precept : Rights of Way : Lengthsman : Wye Valley AONB : Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch : Bishopswood Public WCs : Walford Primary School : Walford War Memorial : Bishopswood Village Hall : Bishopswood WI : Daycroft Lane : Walford Village Hall : Parish Churches : Walford Playgroup : Dog Fouling : 2017 PC Meetings Schedule :

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

Website: www.walford-pc.org.uk

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Chairman's Introduction

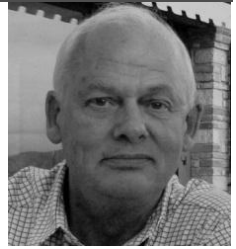
Frank Myers MBE- Chairman

As we approach a new budget year many of you will be concerned about our decision to raise the precept and I draw your particular attention to the excellent explanation given by Councillor Carlson in his article. This basically summarises the whole idea of localism. Herefordshire Council have decided what they can afford which has meant the potential cessation of activities and they have passed the baton to us to decide whether we should attempt to fund these activities at the most local level possible. That is what we are elected to do and we do our best to deliver these responsibilities from an informed standpoint which is sympathetic to the area.

Recognising this local dimension, you are urged to take a keen ongoing interest in our deliberations in order to continue to provide us with local opinion so that our decisions are indeed 'informed'.

I would like to take this opportunity to

Thank Cllr Shane Carlson as he retires from his work as Chairman of the Finance Committee. I welcome Cllr Karen Chinn, who has



stepped into the position. Thanks should also go to Cllr Dave Berry who has beavered away behind the scenes, crunching the numbers which underpin our decisions.

I also draw your attention to the early success of the Community Support scheme.

A lot of effort has gone into this and it is going from strength to strength. I must thank Sarah, our coordinator, for the energy and drive she has brought to the project. Our thanks also go to Councillor Hurley who has worked tirelessly to get it up and running.

Fracking

Cllr Frank Myers

You will find in this publication an article from Ward Councillor Newman on fracking. We give a platform to him as he is our representative on Herefordshire Council and it is important that we do not interfere with his judgement of what he wants to say.

However, in this context, it is important to stress that his strongly held views are not

necessarily the formal views of the Parish Council.

We have not debated the issue of fracking and I know that there are people in the Parish who hold equally strong views in favour of it.

At the appropriate time we will hold a public meeting with experts available to explain ***both sides of the argument.***

Facebook

We would very much welcome your comments and input – so please do keep in touch! Feel free to "Like" our page now to stay connected.

<https://www.facebook.com/WalfordParishCouncil/>

If you have any interesting articles or photographs that would be appropriate to share - please send them directly to Councillor Shane Carlson at vice.chairman@walford-pc.org.uk

Dear Residents of Walford,

Thinking of topics which might be of strong local interest, I'd like to focus here on the subject of Fracking.

In August 2015, the Government issued a licence to Frack in this exact area, within Herefordshire's Wye Valley AONB. The river is itself a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the locality is a European Special Area of Conservation. I personally am not anti-Fracking, but in the spring of 2015 I'd called on every residence in this Parish to ask about local priorities. What came through loud and clear on the doorsteps was that while not being anti-development, we should certainly seek to protect the beautiful environment we are fortunate enough to live in.

On that basis, I spent last year lobbying the Council in Hereford and at the Hereford Council meeting of Friday December 16th, I won the full support of Councillors of all parties in passing my motion to Council, to ask the Government

to consider withholding any licence which would allow Fracking in, or under Herefordshire's vitally important AONBs.



Since then I have written to Herefordshire's MPs and also to the Prime Minister to press the point. In my view, the Government needs to take more care in considering special circumstances before issuing Fracking permissions, in our case our special and nationally important landscape assets and our precious tourism income, jobs and livelihoods.

Please feel free to write to me if you feel as strongly as I do about this issue.

With all best wishes,
Paul Newman

Faster Broadband – Phase 2

To keep up to date, visit:
<http://www.fastershire.com>

Phase 2 of the Fastershire rollout of faster broadband across Herefordshire and Gloucestershire will be based around four areas (area 1, 2, 3(A-E) and 4) and will comprise of premises that were not covered by Phase 1 or commercial rollout. **Each area will go through its own consultation and procurement process to secure a supplier to carry out the deployment.**

Area 3(A-E) and 4: The procurement process to select a supplier to deliver area 3 and 4 launched on Monday 19 September. **The deadline for this was Friday 25th Nov**

and it is anticipated that we will sign a contract for these areas by March 2017.

Area 3 has been subdivided into five smaller areas: **Area 3A:** Cheltenham and Gloucester. **Area 3B:** Hereford. **Area 3C:** South Herefordshire and Gloucestershire (west of the Severn). **Area 3D:** North Gloucestershire. **Area 3E:** South Gloucestershire. **Area 4:** North Herefordshire

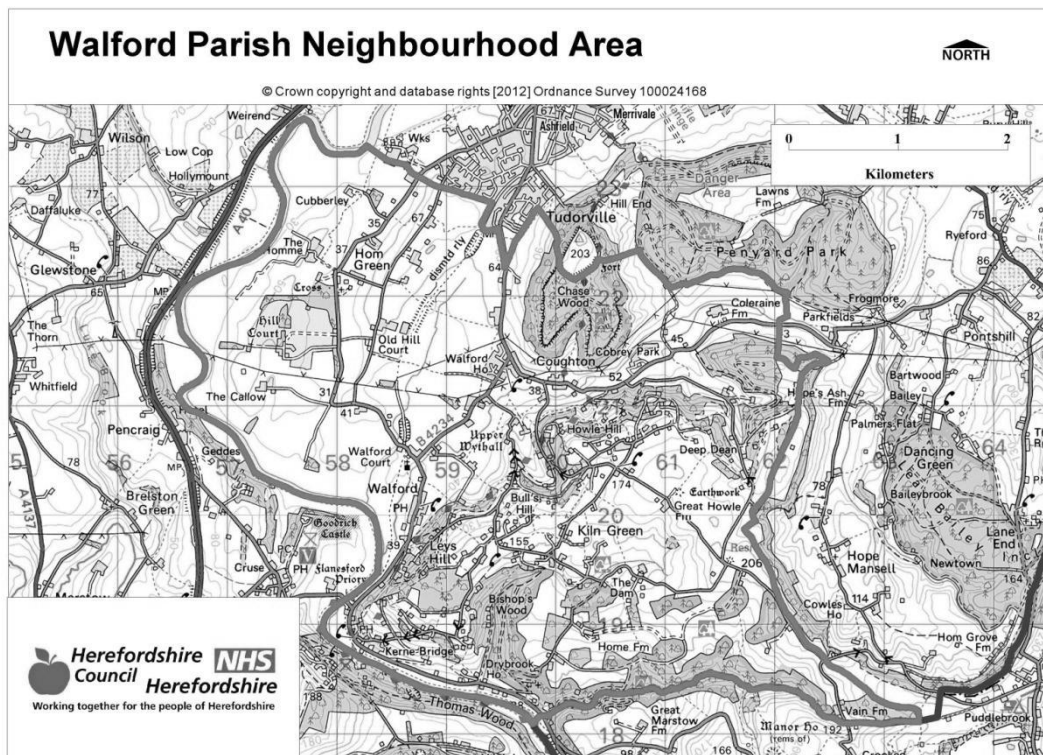
HOW WE ARE DOING:

96,516 Fast homes and businesses
702 Kilometres of fibre laid
99 exchange areas now live
407 cabinets now live

The previous articles about the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) explained why one was needed, how Walford Parish Council was going about producing an NDP, the stages involved, and how the Steering Group is working to

gather the key information needed.

To provide a focus, the Group has now written a draft set of vision and objectives as a basis for the detailed policies to follow in the plan.



VISION AND OBJECTIVES:

To uphold an active, vibrant, thriving and caring parish where an excellent quality of life is available to all, where people are respected and valued and where there are homes, businesses and facilities to meet the needs of a sustainable rural community.

In furthering this Plan, Walford Parish Council will work with interested parties and stakeholders to ensure wherever possible that any work or development activity within the parish will:

- **Protect the general, natural and historic environment, habitats and open spaces** and, in particular, the parish's primary asset of being within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – thus continuing to strive towards being an area free of chemical, airborne, noise or light pollution.
- **Support sufficient, sensitive, balanced and proportionate housing** to meet the needs of local people, which is of sustainable mixed types, in keeping with our local character, suitably located and

built in manageable numbers and density; thereby ensuring a consistency of design that respects, enhances and retains the rural character of our parish.

- **Maintain, support and sustain the limited local facilities** including: village halls, school, public houses, sport and leisure spaces.
- **Provide opportunities for informal outdoor recreation and tourism** by enhancing its outstanding natural environment and green infrastructure assets for the benefit of local residents and visitors from further afield.
- **Safeguard and promote the development of environmentally focused agriculture** as a business and ensure that the quality and quantity of agricultural land provision is given due weight, when development is considered, in order to preserve the distinctive rural landscape of Walford parish.
- **Underpin local businesses and employment** suitable and appropriate for a rural area within an AONB.
- **Co-ordinate with the relevant external parties** to continue the active rollout of high-quality super-fast broadband network services and mobile telephone coverage for those parishioners and local businesses wishing to use it.
- **Maintain roads, footpaths, rights of way, cycle-ways, pavements, and other parts of the parish infrastructure** in order to meet the needs of the community and ensure that they remain safe and in good condition.
- **Control the future development of our parish;** in particular, ensuring that the boundaries are fully respected and any future amendments will have been made with due care, consideration and consultation..
- **Welcome new residents of all ages to our Parish** so that people feel safe and where community involvement and spirit is actively encouraged.

Your Views - Annual Parish Meeting May 10th 2017

As the above shows, we have plenty of ideas about the needs of our community. Our understanding comes from the original questionnaire, our knowledge and many other comments we have received. But are we right?

- Do you agree with our vision?
- Have we left anything out?
- What about the challenges in meeting the needs of business, particularly intensive agriculture and tourism, maintaining the asset that is the AONB, and residents' quality of life?
- Where do we expect housing development to take place?

We need to hear your views, whether you are a resident or someone with an interest in Walford. We would like you to come to the Annual Parish Meeting at Walford Village Hall on Wednesday 10th May at 7.30. We will give a short presentation and then open the floor for your questions and comments.

Please join us at 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall

Message from our Community Support Co-ordinator

Please get involved...

Sarah Hayes

The Community Support Scheme was in its infancy in the last Newsletter, in the Autumn, when I introduced myself. I have had a busy few months since then and have enjoyed meeting many of you and getting to know my way around the beautiful Parish of Walford.

The first few weeks were spent getting myself involved in any activities throughout the community in order to let parishioners know the help that we can make available to them via our fabulous Scheme. From the WI at Bishopswood, to the Keep Fit at Walford Village Hall, all have made me very welcome and have been invaluable in helping get the message throughout our Community that we are here in times of need.

We had no Clients when I first started working on the Scheme in late October 2016, but word seemed to get around and by Christmas we had 8 members of our Community registered to the Scheme.

A meeting with Reverend Laurence in November led to him showing me around the fantastic space at the back of St Michaels and All Angels Church. He agreed to allow us to base a Christmas themed Coffee Morning there for our Clients & Volunteers to get together. The event proved so popular that we decided to make it a regular activity. And so our Coffee Morning was born, held every second Tuesday of the month, 10.00 to 12.30. A great way to get our Clients together – often they know each other, but are unable to get around to see each other any longer.

It's also been a great opportunity for our volunteers to become acquainted.

Some of them volunteered in order to meet new people in the Community and we've seen firm friendships developing amongst them too.

The Christmas period was understandably quiet for a week or two, but then January brought a new wave of client referrals from one avenue or another. By the third week of January, we'd had 5 new clients, bringing our total number of Service Users to 13.

Social Services were involved in one instance and we've worked, and still are working with them to bring a number of different agencies together to carry out necessary tasks to ensure a positive outcome for that particular Client. It often takes time to get systems in place and our scheme was available to plug the gaps whilst a suitable plan was arranged and actioned.

At the beginning of March, we were up to 16 clients. Our records up to then, show that from the beginning of January 2017, our wonderful volunteers have provided 102 hours of assistance – including shopping trips, transport to appointments, social visits, assistance with paperwork and PC use – on 62 separate occasions across all our Clients.





Coffee morning at Walford Church

We have been told by carers and relatives, as well as by NHS professionals, Social Workers and Charity Workers that our Scheme is playing an important part in the lives of the people we're helping, and to their nearest and dearest too. The Scheme is often providing a valuable link in a chain of a course of actions that may have otherwise broken down. We are provided with proof on almost a daily basis that this scheme is needed. The evidence of what detrimental effect isolation and loneliness can have on an individual's health is compelling.

Then there are the other benefits of just having an additional pair of eyes to spot a potential hazard in the home, or to encourage that medical check-up that's been outstanding, or whether appropriate nutrition is still being prepared and consumed.

Whilst most of our work to date has involved the older members of our Community (and they are the obvious recipients) let's not forget that this service is open to anyone who is in need of assistance. Could be a Mother with a young family, requiring shopping assistance, or someone to watch other young children whilst she bathes Baby. Maybe you've just had an operation and are temporarily unable to drive for a few weeks.

These are all valid examples of where we can help.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing team of Volunteers. The difference they are making to the lives of our friends, families and neighbours in the Parish is a pleasure to behold. They really are such a special bunch of people and we feel privileged to work with them. The Parish of Walford is indeed very fortunate to have so many kind-hearted people amongst them. This Scheme would not operate without them.

If you would like more information about the Scheme, or you think we can help you or someone you are concerned about, please do call or email me using the details below. Calls are always treated with the strictest of confidence.

We are also always looking to build upon our list of volunteers. There are no required number of hours expected from any volunteer, we appreciate any time you can spare, however infrequent. Please do call for a no obligation chat or join us at one of the coffee mornings.



Coffee morning at Walford Church

Sarah Hayes
Community Support Coordinator
07493 171 430
Com-sup-coord@walford-pc.org.uk

As you are no doubt aware, local government budgets are currently under significant pressure again this year as further savings are required to be made versus the ongoing challenge of providing a broad range of services to our communities.

Against this backdrop, Walford Parish Council evaluated what services it currently provides, what monies (including grants) are and will be available this fiscal year and then, as a consequence, what services it wishes to continue and/or cease to provide going forward. In addition, the Walford Parish Council Finance Committee considered what reserves could be appropriately drawn upon to cushion any resulting impact to local residents.

We believe that, in common with resident opinion received and ongoing demand, Walford Parish Council should continue to provide (at the very least) the following core services to the same level as they have been this year – namely;

- All maintenance to footpaths, rights of way etc.
- All maintenance of culverts, ditches etc.
- The provision of the Community Support Programme

Unless locked into the 2017/18 budget as planned and scheduled funded activity – no other out-of-cycle expenditure would be included in our budget for this year in order to keep the precept impact to an absolute minimum. Anything new would have to wait until included within the next budget year 2018/19.

The net impact of this review meant that (after expected remaining reserves were taken into consideration)



there was an approximate £9,000 shortfall that required to be covered. This therefore meant an increase to £40.40 per typical Band D household in 2017/18 as opposed to £26.74 in 2016/17. This increase was presented to full council by the Finance Committee and was (in addition to the entire FY17/18 budget) accepted unanimously.

As you appreciate, we face another challenging year ahead and need to ensure that we continue to provide positive value for money for all Walford residents by focusing our time, effort, attention and your money in the right areas.

In closing, I wanted to inform you that I have regrettably stepped down as Chair of the Finance Committee due to work commitments – but will leave you in the very capable hands of my colleague Councillor Karen Chinn, the new Chair lead.

Thank you for your continued support – it's much appreciated.

*Councillor Shane Carlson – Vice Chairman
Walford Parish Council*

Recently, while pottering our parish paths, I met two Wye Valley Walkers who had been on an anti-clockwise circular route from Ross and were on the homeward stretch through our patch, along a bridleway on Howle Hill. I asked them how well they had found their route. They had passed through several parishes and found ours to be well marked. They had, however, lost about an hour in badly marked and blocked diversions due to the closed bridge over the river in Lydbrook, but it wasn't raining and they looked fit and prepared for their long walk.

In June this year - 17th - 25th - Herefordshire Walking Festival will take place throughout our county. Ramblers will be passing through our parish on Day 1. If you are a local walker, please keep a special eye out for blockages on our



Rights of Way, & let me know if there are any difficulties, especially in the run up to this nine day festival. Maybe even join in & walk through some other Herefordshire parishes.

<http://www.walkingfestival.com/text/5001.html>

As always - enjoy your paths, & feel free to carry your secateurs & trim back overhang as you go!

Heather Evans – Parish Paths Officer

The Lengthsman Scheme

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

Our Parish Lengthsman, Gerald Green has stepped down from his position as Lengthsman, due to work commitments. Walford Parish Council wishes to thank Gerald for all his hard work and dedication over the years; he was our Parish Lengthsman for a long period of time and has become a familiar face around the Parish of Walford. Gerald has always been a cheerful and hard working man and did a very good job of keeping our Parish tidy and responding to requests at short notice. He will be missed.

The Parish Council is pleased to say that a new Lengthsman has been appointed to replace Gerald; Terry Griffiths is an experienced Lengthsman, who carries out

work, with his team, for several other Parishes in Herefordshire and comes with excellent references from both Whitchurch PC and Ross Town Council.

Terry will also look after our Rights of Way, alongside his Lengthsman's duties, which should make both operations more efficient.

Walford PC welcomes Terry to Walford and hopes to enjoy a long and happy working relationship with him in his role as Lengthsman.

If you see Terry and his team at work, please say hello and report any defects to him, or to the clerk, for attention.

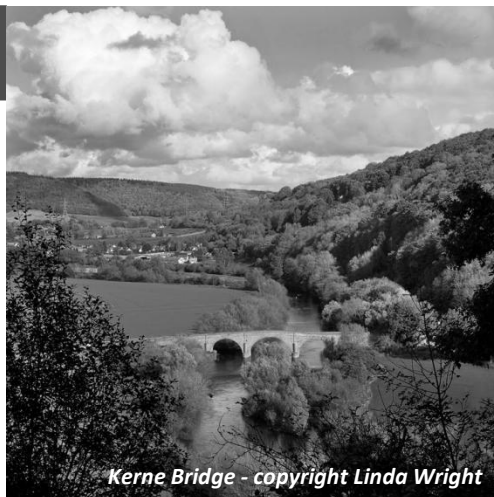
Wye Valley AONB

Walford sits close to the geographical centre of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and many of the features which make the AONB so special can be found here. The

Wye Valley is one of a family of 46 AONBs in the UK. The sister designation to National Parks, AONBs represent some of the finest landscapes in the country. The main purpose of AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty, which is done through the delivery of the AONB Management Plan. For more information about the Wye Valley AONB visit www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk including the charter for visitors and residence which can be found at the end of the Management Plan and includes actions people can take to help deliver the plan.

The Wye Valley AONB stretches from Mordiford, just south of Hereford, to Chepstow, covering 128sq miles and including 58 miles of the lower reaches of the River Wye. Two thirds in England and one third in Wales, it is unique in being the only protected landscape to cross a national boundary. Many of the features and special qualities identified in the AONB Management Plan can be found in Walford. These include woodlands, the River Wye and its tributaries, boundary habitat diversity particularly hedgerows, sandstone geology, riverine geomorphology, middle distance views, ancient trees, other features of the historic environment such as railway heritage, orchards and the Wye Valley Walk.

The River Wye is recognised as one of the country's finest and most popular rivers and the 5th longest river in the UK.



It was the first major river to be designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its entire length, in recognition of its important geology, topography, flora, mammals, invertebrates, fish and birdlife. It is enjoyed today by a wide variety of users from walkers and fishermen, to canoeists and kayakers.

Woodland is a dominant feature of the landscape. The AONB is about 26% woodland covered, in comparison to about 13% across the UK. This woodland, much of it ancient, is not only a great ecological resource, but also has other benefits through its use for timber, fuel, recreation, health and well-being. Ancient trees are also an important and much loved feature of the landscape, which are of high conservation and cultural value. Over 100 veteran trees were recorded in Walford as part of an AONB survey carried out around 2005.

The AONB is overseen by a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) which guides and advises the statutory authorities with regard to issues within the AONB. Walford is represented on the JAC through the Herefordshire Association of

Local Councils (HALC), in addition to four Herefordshire Councillors. The AONB Unit are a small dedicated team who work on behalf of the JAC, with a wide variety of organisations and individuals on projects which help deliver the Management Plan, from farmers and community groups to local authorities and Wildlife Trusts. Projects and initiatives the AONB Unit are involved in are varied, from the biannual Wye Valley River Festival to annual Farming Awards.

In Walford they include the accessible canoe launch at Kerne Bridge and the Mills, Hills and Manors walk leaflet. The AONB Unit is currently negotiating with National Grid over potential mitigation projects relating to the pylons.

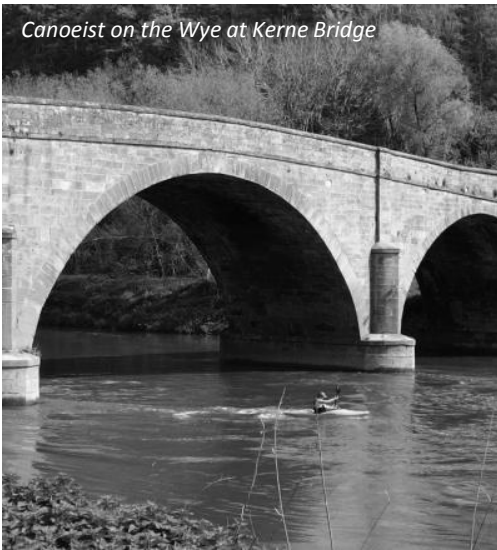
The Wye Valley has been an outstanding landscape for generations. We're sure the people of Walford will continue to help conserve and enhance it for future generations.

Nick Critchley – Wye Valley AONB

Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch

Cllr Frank Myers

Canoeist on the Wye at Kerne Bridge



Our work on the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch project continues and we have progressed towards the selection of a partner to help us develop the site in order to optimise its appeal to the tourist and to enhance the recreational activities

By having a development partner we hope to achieve badly needed supervision of the site and investment in its improvement without financial risk to the council.

If we are successful then there will be an income stream which will underpin our financial position at the same time as improving the locality.

Public toilets at Bishopswood Village Hall

These are an important amenity contained within the building lease of the village hall but were operated by Herefordshire Council until they closed them. Walford PC has been negotiating with Herefordshire Council, to formally take over the internal operating lease, but has not been able to cut through the inevitable red-tape and so for the time being has stepped back from involvement; Therefore the WCs remain closed .

However, with the Canoe Launch project gathering pace and the imminent appointment of a partner to manage the site in conjunction with the Parish Council, it is hoped that this issue may soon be resolved.

We continue to engage with the committee of the Village Hall in a spirit of joint cooperation so that we can combine our efforts into securing this important facility, in a mutually beneficial way.

Didn't They Do Well!

At school, children are told many things and are given lots of instructions on a daily basis but this term, the pupils of Walford Primary School have been calling the shots for once!

The school works very hard to develop leadership skills and teach children what they need to be successful in all of their ventures. Through our recently introduced 'Grow A Fiver' challenge, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 have launched themselves into entrepreneurship by experimenting with starting a new business venture.



At the beginning of this project, staff were careful to point out that setting up a new business is very tricky. Pupils learned that successful entrepreneurs demonstrate great courage and determination.

Life is full of setbacks and developing the resilience to keep going, even when we suffer a disappointment, is crucial, as exemplified in the words of Richard Branson, "You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing and falling over!"



Whilst taking part in this innovative project, the children have developed the practical skills of organisation and money management, as well as undertaking complex topics like calculating expenditure, income and profit margins. They also know that the entrepreneurial mindset treats life's hurdles as challenges to overcome, and fostering these skills early on will pay dividends in the years to come.

We are incredibly proud of the children's business ventures, based on their Fairground topic, which were a huge success! Between the two classes, the children raised an incredible £212.43 which has been spent on new playground equipment for all of the children to use.

This part of the project is equally important as the children have experienced and now understand the importance of 'giving something back'. True visionaries want to make the world a better place for everyone, not just themselves

Contact details: Tel: 01989 562209

Email: admin@walford.hereford.sch.uk

Walford War Memorial

Some time ago, when Walford War Memorial was cleaned, it became apparent that the inscription on the main face of the memorial was badly delaminated and discussions were held about the best way to approach preserving the inscription for the benefit of future generations.

War Memorials Trust were of the opinion that to try to re-cut the existing inscription would not be in keeping with the natural deterioration of the Memorial itself and so other options were discussed.

Ursells of Ross, who cleaned the Memorial, have offered to make a copy of the inscription, as a goodwill gesture, to

KING & COUNTRY
✚
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN THE MEMORY OF
THE MEN OF WALFORD
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

fix to the base of the Memorial, in the same typeface, to match the existing lettering. The Conservation Officer at Herefordshire Council and War Memorials Trust have both approved the most recent proposal.

Bishopswood Village Hall

Cathie Hatherall

The first quarter of the year has been a relatively quiet one for social events at Bishopswood Village Hall, however the regular groups, classes and dances have been running and the Village Hall Committee have been continuing with improvements and planning for the rest of the year.

The month of May sees the return of our indoor **TABLE SALES** and now we are combining with this, an outdoor **CAR BOOT SALE!** Book yourself a place at the first of our sales on Saturday May 13th from 11am - 2pm. Tables cost £5 outdoor / £6 indoor

To book please ring Cathie on 07501 530408 or email info@bvhonline.co.uk

Get searching now for all those unwanted items that you could turn into money to buy the things you *do* want! There will also be further monthly sales held from June through to October.

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday May 22nd 7.30pm - BISHOPSWOOD'S GOT TALENT!

Brush up on your performance and book yourself in to be part of this much loved **fun** event! We welcome anyone from joke tellers, singers, musicians, dancers, poets - if you have talent then Bishopswood wants to see it!!

Sunday June 16th June – COMMUNITY LUNCH

The very popular 2 course lunch for just £7.50 – booking for this is essential and can be done via Monica on 01594 861076

7th July – Escape from Colditz

One of the local residents will be giving a talk on his travels so come along to what will be an interesting and informative evening.

Daycroft Lane

Following the meeting held between representatives of Balfour Beatty and the Parish Council, our Ward Councillor and local residents, to discuss a way of alleviating the flooding at Daycroft Lane, an additional culvert, which might be of use in addressing the flooding problems,

has been located and representatives from Balfour Beatty have visited the site to inspect the culvert.

Over the last winter there have thankfully been no further flooding incidents at Daycroft Lane.

Bishopswood Women's Institute

Jenny Winchester

This month is our opening meeting is the 7th April when our speaker will be Mary Johns

(Writer and TV Presenter) "Five dogs, two cats and a couple of mugs". So bring along family and friends .

There will be a small charge for non members.

Don't forget craft club next meeting at Bishopswood Hall 21st April 1.30 pm in the committee room.

JUNE 16TH Summers Blooms Tea Party

At Bishopswood Village Hall
3pm to 5pm
£5 per person

Everyone Welcome

Walford Village Hall

Terry Snow and Dave Berry

There are stirrings at Walford Village Hall. Last year there was a Saturday afternoon event labelled "A FUN DAY". It comprised a showcase for Hall Regulars to demonstrate their particular skills and activities around sections of the Hall and the outside area.

The result was a testament to what Village Halls are all about: the coming together of the locals working together, having fun, showing skills and helping to raise money for the new Play Area which should be open soon.

Laughter and a feeling of bonhomie was very evident. Accordingly there has been a call for a repeat of the Fun Day on Saturday afternoon 23rd September and anyone who wishes to put on a show or have a sales stand and be part of the showcase should

get in touch with Committee Member Anthea Parker: 01989 763278 email antheaparker77@yahoo.co.uk who will explain the set up and timings available.

The Mayor of Ross and the Chairman of the Parish Council came last year along with a number of ex committee members who also put in an appearance to demonstrate what Walford is all about. Fun was plentiful and will be again come September 23rd.

WALFORD VILLAGE HALL PLAY AREA

It has been a long time coming, but the funding is in place thanks to local donations both private and from local businesses and a £1,000 donation from Walford Parish Council. The contract has been placed for the equipment and we are anticipating installation by May.

It's exciting times at **Walford Pre-school Playgroup** and as we move towards Easter (and the sunnier weather) our children can spend more and more time playing in our beautiful garden. It must be hard to choose between the mud kitchen, willow tunnel and sand-pit or exploring all the games on the decking! And when the "Spring Showers" do come, there is always the weekly themed role-play area, writing table, messy room activities and much more indoors.

Walford Pre-school Playgroup is a charity, providing childcare for children between 2 – 5years old. All the children who attend our fun and vibrant Pre-school spend their days learning through play; exploring the world around them in a safe and friendly environment.

We offer **FOUR FULL DAYS** (Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri; 9-3pm) and 9-12pm on Thursdays (or 12:30pm if you come to our lunch club). Wednesday afternoon sessions target our older "Rising 5" children; helping them to get ready for school.



If you have Pre-school aged children and would like to see us in action you can always come to our weekly STAY & PLAY



sessions on Tuesday mornings (9:30 – 1:30am); £2.50 per family and £1 per additional child .

Or you can come to our **OPEN MORNING** on Saturday 1st July (10-12pm) Or just pop in anytime to see our children and staff at work.

You can contact our Play Leader (Sara) on 07765 005871 (out of hours - 01989 566 979) or find us on the web www.walfordpreschoolplaygroup.co.uk or via Facebook (Walford Pre-school).

Finally, we would also like to invite you to our **MAY FAIR on Saturday 13th May 2017 (12-3pm)** at Walford Village Hall. We have traditional stalls and games, Bouncy Castle, Mo The Donkey, refreshments, tombola, raffle and silent auction to keep you busy and a dog show (check our website for more information).

We know that this will be a fabulous fun-filled day for all those that attend, so please put **SATURDAY 13th May** in your diary and come along and support your local Pre-school.

Look forward to seeing you there!

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE:

1st Sunday :

11.15am Sunday Praise at Bishopswood Village Hall following the 'Big Breakfast'.

2nd Sunday :

9.30 am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday :

No service at the moment but please check Border News for details.

4th Sunday :

11am Holy Communion

5th Sunday:

Services vary around the Wye Reaches benefice – see Border News information

'BREAKFAST IN BISHOPSWOOD'

Served 9.30 - 10.45 am

At Bishopswood Village Hall

Sundays 2nd April / 7th May / Not June / 2nd July.

Full English *plus* cereals, fruit juice, toast pancakes & maple syrup! Tea and Coffee, Home cooked and a beautiful view of the riverside whilst you eat - you can't beat that! All this for £5.50 (£3 under 12's)

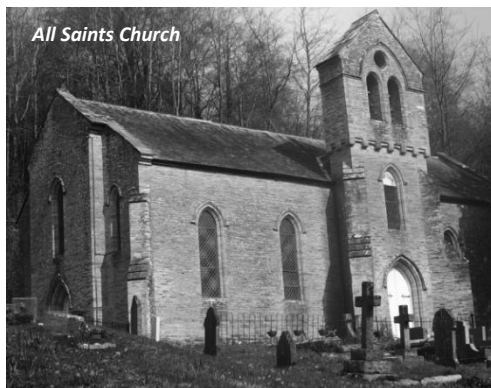
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FLOWER FESTIVAL – MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Friday 26th – Monday 29th May – The theme this year is 'ANNIVERSARIES'

The church will be open daily from 11am – 4pm.

Alongside the beautiful floral arrangements you will find refreshments served throughout the day, organ recitals, fresh homemade produce and crafts for sale - as well as an Historic Display of local photos.



PLUS:

Saturday 27th – Brunch Baps served until 1.30 then Strawberries & Cream

Sunday 28th - Songs of Praise Service at 6pm followed by refreshments

Monday 29th - Cream Teas in the afternoon – Prize Draw winners at 3pm

GALLOPING GOURMET EVENT:

SUNDAY 16TH JULY 2017 from 12noon
Limited spaces - reservations now being taken – ring church wardens to book your place!

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

Wye Reaches web site
<http://wyereaches.org> for information on
all the churches within our benefice

Winter - Spring Update

With the arrival of the daffodils it's easy to feel like Christmas was a long time ago, but we celebrated in our usual style at Walford with some wonderful Christmas services, the epitome of which was our Christingle attended by around 350 parishioners!

Now our spring season is in full flow with an array of special services upcoming, the most important of which is of course Easter. This family-oriented service will take place on Sunday 16th April at 9:30am and will conclude with a fun Easter egg hunt for the children in the churchyard. We've also been working hard on a snazzy new website so please visit us at <https://rawchurch.org.uk/st-michael-all-angels-walford/> and find us on Facebook @walfordchurch.

At the end of February we bid a sad farewell to Rev Laurence Mathew and his wife Susan who have been with us at St Michael's for the last five years and who have made a huge contribution to our church and community over that time.

They have now retired to Wiltshire and we wish them the very best of luck for the future. Rev Mathew's replacement, Rev Chris Blanchard and his wife Sarah, arrive at the end of April and we look forward to extending them the warmest of welcomes.

SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **1st Sunday of the month – 9:30am Morning Prayer**
- **2nd Sunday of the month – 9:30am Family Service with refreshments after**
- **3rd Sunday of the month – 9:30am Parish Communion**



4th Sunday of the month – 11:15am Family Service.
Arrive from 10.45am for refreshments before the service.

Upcoming Events

Easter – Sunday 16th April at 9:30am
Licensing of our new house for duty priest – Thursday 27th April at 7:30pm

Regular Events

Our monthly Paddle and Praise, kindly hosted by Wendy Alston, is an ever-growing and very popular event. The usual format is for parents and kids to have a swim and a sing in Wendy's pool followed by snacks, a bible story and a craft activity.

Please contact Wendy Alston for more details about upcoming Paddle and Praise activities (wendy_alston@btinternet.com).

Coffee on a Tuesday (COAT) is held monthly and welcomes everyone in the community.

Please contact:

Tel: 01989 562175

Email: administration@rawchurch.org.uk
For more details.

WYE VALLEY FOOTCARE

I offer a professional and courteous service for general foot care, including corns, calluses, in-growing and problem nails and verrucae in the privacy of your own home.

I am happy to visit in the evenings or weekends, at a mutually convenient time.

**Please call me on
01989 770201**

**Rosemary Prince BA (Hons)
MAFHP, MCFHP.**

Look forward to meeting you!

DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

**This newsletter goes
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

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JUNE 16TH

Summers Blooms

Tea Party

At Bishopswood Village Hall

3pm to 5pm

£5 per person

Everyone Welcome



Dog Fouling on Parish Footpaths – PLEASE STOP IT!!

Unfortunately more reports are coming in of dog faeces being left behind by irresponsible owners on our footpaths in this lovely AONB.

Thanks to dog owners who pick up what their pets have left behind, but some are still not doing the decent thing... So if you spot anyone, take a photo of them and we'll post it on our Facebook page.

It is worth reminding you AGAIN 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 or bags of poo hanging from trees. If you own a dog, you also own it's poo, so take it away with you, **PLEASE**.

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 your dog's 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 2017

7.30pm Full Council	05/04/17	Walford Village Hall
7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting (Meeting of the Electorate) To showcase the Neighbourhood Development Plan	10/05/17	Walford Village Hall Presentation and Refreshments
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Annual Council Meeting	17/05/17	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	28/06/17	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	30/08/17	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	11/10/17	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	22/11/17	Bishopswood Village Hall
No meeting in December		

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

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