

WALFORD PARISH NEWSLETTER

Issue 18 - Spring 2020



WALFORD VILLAGE HALL

by Jenny Long

The committee of Walford Village Hall would like to invite all Walford community members to come along to a meeting on **March 5th at 7pm** to meet their fellow villagers and help plan an event for the village.

With regular bookings and one off events, the village hall runs as a successful community centre, but at its heart it is a facility for the village and we would love to see more village events bringing Walford together. With a well equipped kitchen, main hall and separate meeting room and extensive grassy area and children's playground we have excellent facilities for many types of events.

Maybe you fancy a pub night or a quiz night? Or how about a May Fayre as our previous playgroup used to run? In the summer, perhaps a family rounders match and BBQ on Friday nights would appeal? Or what about a monthly Produce Market on a Saturday morning with bacon butties, coffee and chance to catch up? Or a quarterly community lunch as some other local village halls have done?

Whatever the event, let's have some fun together as a community!

This meeting is open to anyone who wants to be involved in helping set up or run events. Bring a bottle, nibbles will be provided.

For any queries please contact Jenny Long at
mrandsrslong@yahoo.co.uk

IN THIS ISSUE

NDP Update

Public consultation meetings
to be held in February - P3

The Wye Valley AONB

Just what is an AONB? - P2

Dark Skies

Four simple steps to help
keep our skies visible at
night - P4

This is the newsletter of the Parish Council of Walford, Herefordshire. It is published quarterly with the aim of informing and sharing items of interest from around the parish. Its views are those of the editors and writers only, unless where specifically indicated to be that of the Parish Council. Responses to articles are very welcome – please send to the Parish Clerk at clerk@walford-pc.org.uk Full information about the Parish Council, its councillors and activities is available through the website at www.walford-pc.org.uk.

THE WYE VALLEY AONB

by Sian Newbert & Chris Barron

We may all know that AONB stands for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but what does this mean? In short it is land protected by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. Such land is not necessarily of high nature conservation value, but often includes areas which are. In the 2014 survey of parish residents the vast majority identified the AONB as highly important for "rural tranquillity", "easy access to the countryside" or just "being within it".

Unlike a National Park, an AONB is administered by local authorities and does not have its own administrative body. Together the 46 British AONBs receive just 10% of the funding allocated to National Parks. Our own AONB is unique in straddling three counties (approx 46% in Herefordshire 36% in Monmouthshire & 18% in Gloucestershire) and two countries. Special features include dramatic limestone gorges, native woodlands, the first Cistercian Abbey in Wales, and wildlife (including 25% of Britain's population of lesser horseshoe bats). So many things affect the landscape that the AONB remit covers a wide array of topics: from planning to tourism, farming to wildlife protection, and dark skies to pollution and land management.



Five Year Plans provide guidance on managing the AONB to enhance the landscape, and a 20-25 Management Plan is currently in consultation. Although such plans are not statutory planning documents, local authorities must consider the AONB designation when making decisions within them.

As an ever changing living landscape where people also have to live and work, there are challenges in enabling communities to thrive while also protecting the landscape. These challenges recently triggered the Government to review National Parks & AONBs, and now changes are planned, currently out for consultation,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-calls-for-radical-plan-for-englands-national-parks>

Clearly we all value the look and feel of where we live, and want to see that conserved, so you may wish to contribute to the consultation. Or for more information on our AONB go to www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk or call 01600 713977

ROADS

by Sian Newbert

PROGRESS UPDATE

Residents in Walford village have expressed concerns regarding speeding motorists on the stretch of road between the saw mills and Walford village hall.

The Parish Council have therefore requested a Community Speed check from the police.

This entails members of the community collecting data with the support and training from the police.

These speed checks are in high demand and the police assess the situation before deciding to allocate resources. Walford is on the waiting list.

STOP PRESS!

by Bob Puzey

VACANCY ALERT.

Walford Parish Council will be recruiting for the position of part time co-ordinator of the Walford Community Support Scheme.

Details of the role and how to apply will be published soon on the Parish website.

www.walford-pc.org.uk

Stay up to date at: WWW.WALFORD-PC.ORG.UK

THE EDITOR

by David Emerson CBE



'Above and around us'

It's hardly a surprise that the immediate world round about us - our environment if you like - is one of the most important aspect of our daily lives. So I hope you'll be engaged by this Newsletter which ranges across the beautiful countryside in which we live; the night skies above us; how we can (and really should) ensure our views are considered in future plans for the parish; and how a few use other parts of the parish. Within the articles more advice is offered, along with ways to ensure your own views are put across in person and 'online'. So, stretching a popular phrase, there's an opportunity within to 'Use it or Lose it' for our immediate environment. With thanks as ever to our contributors, I hope this first issue of 2020 also marks a happy and positive year ahead for yourself.

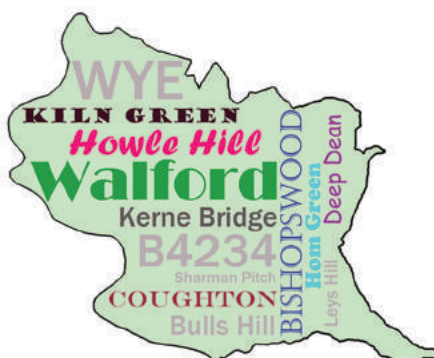
NEW FACEBOOK GROUP

by Bob Puzey

Are you a local horse rider? If so visit our new Facebook Group: "Walford and Bishopswood Horse Riders Noticeboard". This group has been set up to share information on our bridleways and byways, to receive and collect information for our Public Rights of Way Officer, Heather Evans.

NDP PUBLIC CONSULTATION

by Bob Puzey



Approving new houses and other buildings has been controlled through district and county councils since 1948, but in 2011 the Government introduced **Neighbourhood Development Plans** (NDPs) to give communities more power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and on policies that would influence growth there.

Having our own NDP will enable the communities of our parish to play a much stronger role in saying where new developments are sited, and shaping the neighbourhood in which we live and work. Once adopted, the NDP will be used alongside national and county policies by the planning authority when making decisions. These policies have already set out the increase in housing the Government believes is necessary, with Walford Parish required to provide 91 new dwellings between 2011 and 2031. Without an NDP, that requirement will be implemented without any local input.

Our NDP project is gathering impetus, and we are holding two 'drop in' sessions for all residents to give us your opinions on:

1. The proposed **vision** and **objectives** for our NDP.
2. The **criteria for selecting sites** for future development.
3. **Specific items that you think are special** to our Parish and deserve protecting, such as a piece of woodland, a view, or a building.

The two 'drop-in' sessions will be held on Saturdays **22nd February** at Walford Village Hall & **29th February** at Bishopswood Village Hall, both open between **10:00am** and **2:00pm**. It will take 30-45 minutes to input to all the questions, but members of the NDP steering group will be on hand to assist.

As your own input is **vital**, if you can't make either date please email clerk@walford-pc.org.uk so we can find a way for you to provide your opinion.

"YOUR
OPPORTUNITY
TO HAVE A
SAY"

DARK SKIES

by Sian Newbert

Light pollution is an increasing problem, impeding our view of the stars and of magical night time displays such as meteor showers, as well as having a detrimental effect on wildlife. Here are some ways you can help improve the situation, use less energy and save money on wasted energy which generates both air pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases.

1. Reduce wattage of outside bulbs and use energy efficient bulbs where possible.
2. Point lights downwards to illuminate only where needed.
3. Check motion sensor lights aren't being triggered needlessly by passing cars or neighbours' activities.
4. Automatically shut down lights at 11pm; the recommended curfew time.

If you wish to learn more: download a free app such as 'skymap' which allows you direct your phone at the night sky and discover what you are looking at. You can experience how amazing a truly dark sky is during the Dark Skies Festival 14 Feb-1 March www.darks skiesnationalparks.org.uk

PARISH DIARY REGULAR DATES

All Saints:

1st Sunday: No service
2nd: 9.30am Holy Communion.
3rd: No Service.
4th: 11:00am Holy Communion.
5th: Services vary around the Wye Reaches Benefice.

St Michael & All Angels:

1st Sunday: 9:30am Morning Prayer
2nd: 9:30am Family Service with refreshments after.
3rd: 9:30am Parish Communion.
4th: 11:15am Family Service. Arrive 10.45am for refreshments before service.

Bishopswood Village Hall:

Sunday:
9:30am Big Breakfast (1st Sun of Month)
2:00pm Sequence Dancing.
7:00pm Modern Jive Class.

Monday:
10:00am Yoga.

Bishopswood Village Hall (cont):

Monday (Continued):
2:00pm Indoor Bowls (14th Jan – 25th Apr, excl 22nd Apr).
7:00pm Swing Jive Class.

Tuesday:
9:30am Zumba.
5:00pm Rainbows.
7:30pm Bridge Club.

Wednesday:
Noon Lunch Club (2nd Wed of Month).
2:00pm Sequence Dancing.
5:30pm Brownies.
7:30pm Ross Jive & Swing.

Thursday:
9.30am WyePlay.
2:00pm Indoor Bowls (14th Jan – 25th Apr, excl 22nd Apr).

Friday:
9:30am Pilates Mat Work.
2:00pm Bishopswood WI - 2nd Friday of month (except January - No meeting).

Walford Village Hall:

Tuesday:
6:30pm Sequence Dance Club.

Wednesday:
7:30pm Ross Camera Club.

Thursday:
9:30am Sunnyside Quilters.
2:00pm Keep Moving.
6:30pm Sequence Dance Club.

Friday:
7:30pm Best Dancers Ever.

Saturday:
South Herefordshire Gardening Club (see website for details).

Stop the closure of Ross ambulance service!

Read more and sign the petition here:

<http://chnng.it/XRm8zXjcRz>