

CROSS TREE CHRONICLE

Walton-in-Gordano Village Magazine

June 2019



Village oak tree planted in 1979 at the Cross Tree

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A Note from the Editors

This month many are busy behind the scenes preparing for the largest event of the year, the village fete. It is never too late to get involved, and it's a great way of meeting your neighbours, catching up on news and doing your bit for your community. Please contact Andrew Francis, he would love to hear from you.

This month's cover picture shows a time when you could stand outside the old shop and have your photo taken! How things have changed. This oak tree replaced an elm tree which was diseased. Unlike the other villages in the Gordano Valley, Walton never had a pub so the Cross Tree was the meeting point for the village which is why the shop was placed there.

We would like to congratulate Mike Ralston who has now been elected as the local Parish Council Chairman – we wish him well. We also send our best wishes to Sheri Russell who takes over the role of Churchwarden from Brodie Lyon.

Tick alert! Avon wildlife confirm again this year Walton Common is alive with ticks, please be tick aware.



Community Speedwatch (Kevin Edwards)

We have two approved locations for Speedwatch in the village both on the B3124 - one outside the Village Hall and the other on the east side of the village by Plum Tree Cottage (where the path goes up to the common). We normally prefer the second site since more motorists are caught exceeding the speed limit travelling down the hill in to the village

We did just two sessions last month reporting a total of 25 vehicles travelling at 36mph or above (fastest was 46mph) out of 826 vehicles counted in the 2 sessions.

Whilst I act as the coordinator, I do not live in the village and as we only have two active group members they are only able to go out infrequently when available. I would like to have more volunteers to be able to carry on with Speedwatch. If you can help, please let me know otherwise Speedwatch will stop. This will be a shame since having the team out there does make drivers slow down and think.



Our June meeting in the Village Hall is on Thursday 20th at 2:30pm. Rosemary Caldicott is telling us of “The life and times of Hannah Wiltshire”. There is a village connection with Hannah, so visitors are welcome as always. It should be very interesting.

The competition is for a floral buttonhole made by a member.

Social Club (Andrew Francis)

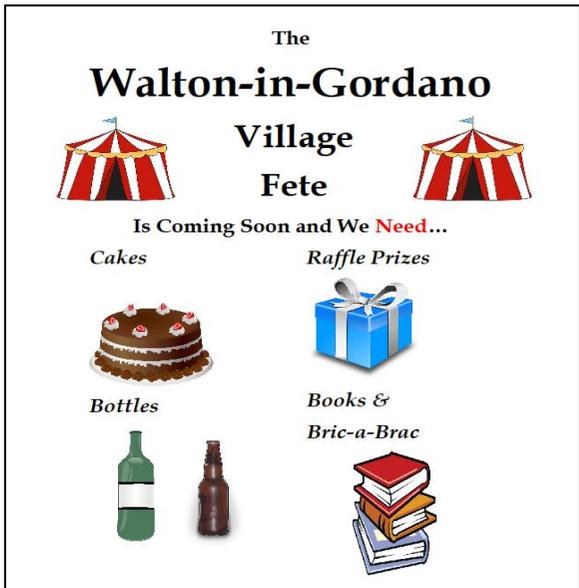
The annual Village Fete takes place on Saturday 13th July and it should come as no surprise whatsoever that we need your support to help make the event this year as successful as last year.

The fete takes a huge amount of organisation, these things simply don't happen by chance and the planning for the fete starts almost to the day that the previous event finishes. We absolutely

rely upon people in the village volunteering to run stalls, serve teas, host events, undertake the mundane tasks such as taking entry money and marshalling cars and people. Every year, despite the difficulties in getting volunteers, we manage to hold an enjoyable event.

You will see that we are appealing for cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle prizes and bottles for the bottle stall, please give generously and if you can then please do volunteer to help.

You can contact me on 01275 316970 to let me know of a donation or to offer to help us to keep this significant annual event in our community going!



We do hope to see you at the fete on **Saturday 13TH July**.



St. Paul's Church (Sue Betts)

Please see "Dates for Your Diary" on page 8 for all event details this month.

Rogation Sunday: A celebration of all that make it great to part of the Walton-in-Gordano community, not just our beautiful surroundings but all the wonderful people too. We are going to attempt to hold the service and the following picnic outdoors – let's hope the weather is kind to us! You don't have to join us for the service to come and enjoy the picnic. Please bring along your picnic, drinks will be provided.

Footy and Sweep: It's the women's football World Cup this summer and we are selling the teams for just £3. The holder of the winning team will receive a prize of £30 with the rest of the money raised going to Christian Aid who work all over the world. It all kicks off in June so call me to get your team.

Favourite Hymns (Sunday 7th July): Voting slips will be available all through June with a ballot box in place for your vote. We will be singing our top ten hymns so there is plenty of chance your favourite will be in the top of the pops.

Flower Festival (25th to 27th August): Now is the time to sign up for our Flower Festival. This year's theme is 'Our Glorious Gordano Valley'. There are all kinds of ideas you could use from the green valley to the traffic going through. You don't need to have any previous experience just come and have a go, that how we all started out. There is always someone to help you out and there is nothing stopping you working as a team if that would help. Come on, have a go!

Parish Council (Don Hill)

The Parish Council Meeting on May 13th 2019:

The Elections: We are entitled to have 5 Parish Councillors. As only the 4 sitting Councillors presented themselves for election on May 2nd, their election was deemed uncontested. Cllr. Cannell has been Chair of the Council since May 2004; he was concerned that 15 years in that post might hint at a wisdom-based change. There were pre-meeting discussions, necessitated because one member could not attend the May meeting. It

was unanimously agreed that Mike Ralston be elected as Chair, and Brian Cannell as Vice-Chair of the Council.

Village Gateway Preparation: NSC require the relocation of 30mph signs to current national guidelines before we can install a village gateway. This issue has cropped up several times since it emerged in 2017. The Council is firmly opposed to a repositioning of the speed limit signs. Along the B3124 and Moor Lane it would mean motorists were in the thick of the village before they had to slow down - It would also cripple any opportunity to continue Speedwatch at the Portishead end of the village, where it is showing signs of success and seems directly at odds with the installation of a 20mph speed limit along the same stretch of road in our neighbouring village. This means the village gateway scheme is on hold for now.

The Annual Parish Meeting on May 13th 2019 - Some Discussion Topics:

Parish Council Finances: After the delivery of the Chair's Report, questions were asked about the criteria against which the annual budget was put together. (*Note: Council Tax is made up of the Local Authority (North Somerset Council) budget - the one that receives the publicity - and add-ons submitted by other bodies to cover their funding needs (precepts): e.g. services such as fire, police, internal drainage authorities and parish councils*). Brian Cannell explained the changes that have been emerging over recent years against two inter-related realities. Firstly, the implicit threat of a 2% cap, that has been in place for Local Authority budgets over recent years (*it was actually 3% for the current year*), might be imposed upon Parish Councils if they 'overstepped' their annual precept increases. Secondly, the fact, because of their own financial squeezes from Central Government, that Local Authorities, either by agreement or default, are ceasing to provide many parish-based services that must consequently be provided by the individual parishes - or be forgone. Traditionally, Walton-in-Gordano has kept its reserves to a minimum and, year-by-year, budgeted on a needs basis - adding the cost of a notice board or election to a specific year's budget and adjusting the following year's budget in relation to the uptake of the previous year's provision. The consequence is that, whilst historically requesting one of the lowest precepts in the North Somerset, we have no base of reserves from which to provide the services being 'put down' to parishes, and no significant level of precept from which to 'grow' at around a rate of 2-3% per year. Everything we want to do for our future will have to await the accumulation of funds from a relatively low base.

Barton's Lorraine Field Development: Site access issues have led to significant erosion of Coast Road verges in the region of Lorraine Field. Whilst this is to a degree understandable, it will be expected that North Somerset Council will demand reparations from the developers after the completion of works.

Speed Limit Along the Coast Road: Might this be reduced? Hopefully, but pressure over (a long) time will be needed to bring it about. It is being kept on the Parish Council agenda, and possible signage to highlight a community along the Coast Road is being reviewed.

The

Walton-in-Gordano

Village

Fete



from 1pm Saturday 13th July

Walton-in-Gordano Village Hall & Field

Fun Dog Show

HOG ROAST

Brass Band

Teas & Cakes

Vintage Vehicles

Children's Entertainer

CIDER TENT

Children's Races

Birds of Prey

Donkey Rides

Traditional & Vintage Stalls

Adults £2.50, Children (Under 16) Free

Village Directory	
Parish Councillors (http://www.waltoningordanopc.org.uk/)	
Don Hill (Clerk)	clerk@waltoningordanopc.org.uk 01934 835578 / 07774 125578
Mike Ralston (Chairman)	mike.ralston@waltoningordanopc.org.uk 01275 872741
Brain Cannell (Vice-chair)	brian.cannell@waltoningordanopc.org.uk 01275 874291
Rachel Dickinson	rachel.dickinson@waltoningordanopc.org.uk 07813 853921
Nigel Wilyman	nigel.wilyman@waltoningordanopc.org.uk 01275 873652
Village Hall Chairman	
Deb Tovey	deb.tovey8@gmail.com / 01275 879983
St Paul's Church Churchwardens	
Sue Betts	roybetts7@btinternet.com / 01275 848645
Sheri Russell	
W.I. Vice President	
Rosemary Brace	rosemarytucker444@btinternet.com 07795 510001
Community Speedwatch Coordinator	
Kevin Edwards	kevinedwards@talktalk.net / 07909 577255
Village Agent	
Sarah Friend	sarah.friend@curo-group.co.uk 07422 078548 / 01275 888 803 (office)
Social Club Chair	
Andrew Francis	ralf.789@sky.com / 01275 316970
Village Hall Bookings, Caretaker & Gardening	
Bob Baldwin	rjbbwig@gmail.com / 01275 879268
Parish Notice Board Key Holders	
Graham Matthews	01275 873408 (Walton Bay)
Bob Baldwin	As above (Walton Village)
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators	
Elaine Kent	evkent@talktalk.net / 01275 872494 (Walton Street)
Bob Baldwin	As above (Clevedon Road)

Dates for Your Diary		
Date	Event	Time
Saturday 1 st	Welcome In Community Café, St. Paul's Church	10:30am onwards
Sunday 2 nd	Rogation Sunday followed by Village Picnic, St. Paul's Church *	11:15am
Sunday 9 th	Holy Communion, St. Paul's Church	11:15am
Monday 10 th	Parish Council, Village Hall	7:30pm
Sunday 16 th	Morning Prayer, St. Paul's Church	11:15am
Thursday 20 th	W.I. Village Hall *	2:30pm
Sunday 23 rd	Holy Communion, St. Paul's Church	11:15am
Sunday 30 th	Morning Prayer, St. Paul's Church	11:15am

* More details in the information sheet under the relevant section

Recycling Calendar

June:	Rubbish	Recycling & Food Waste	Garden Waste
Tuesday 4 th	✓	✓	✗
Tuesday 11 th	✗	✓	✓
Tuesday 18 th	✓	✓	✗
Tuesday 25 th	✗	✓	✓
July:			
Tuesday 2 nd	✓	✓	✗
Tuesday 9 th	✗	✓	✓

... for all those little jobs

handyman

local • reliable • affordable

services include: general D.I.Y., minor repairs, garden works, home maintenance, flat pack assembly

contact andy francis

on 07909 704263 / handyandyfrancis@gmail.com

Copy for the July issue to be submitted by Friday 21st June