

Walford Parish Newsletter

Spring
2015

Issue
NO 10



Morning mist over Coughton - Walford Parish

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

Website: www.walford-pc.org.uk

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Introduction

Welcome to this, the last newsletter before the elections in May. Sadly any end of term feeling has been overshadowed by the sad death of our colleague Councillor John Daniels. Our sympathies go out to his wife Janine and to his family.

It seems appropriate at this time to look at our end of term report. What has your Parish Council been doing on your behalf for the past four years?

In terms of financial stewardship, we have kept the precept (the amount you pay for the services we deliver) under strict control and we have continued with consistent performance in the Lengthsman's duties. We have engaged with the new Lengthsman scheme which, in the future, will enable us to fix some potholes more quickly whilst continuing to keep the place tidy and in good repair.

We have taken a very active interest in alleviating the flooding problems around Daycroft Lane and this activity is continuing towards a solution.

We have diligently maintained the byways and footpaths by both direct intervention and encouragement of landowners to deliver on their obligations.

When the public toilets at Kerne Bridge were closed we stepped in and re-opened them. We have been able to keep them clean without additional expense as a result of the generous sponsorship of one of our Councillors.

We have scrutinised many planning applications endeavouring to strike a balance between economic growth and prosperity whilst protecting the features of this beautiful place.

We have continued to pursue our ambitions towards the cycle route from Kerne Bridge to Ross... a complicated project which graphically illustrates the challenges of developing the Parish in a sympathetic way whilst attempting to satisfy conflicting points of view.

We have engaged actively with the asset transfer of the Kerne Bridge canoe launch from Herefordshire Council to the Parish. We hope to be able to develop this as a visitor attraction in the future, thus enhancing tourism, which is extremely important to our local economy. By being in control, we also hope to achieve a more sympathetic interface with Bishopswood Village Hall, which occasionally experiences difficulty with the conflict caused by car parking at the site.

With 'care closer to home' becoming a key element of how we care in future for the elderly and vulnerable, we have actively pursued the introduction of a Village Warden scheme. This will put in place a coordinator and a team of volunteers who will 'look out' for those in need, providing a link to all of the support services and connections which are known to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of our Parish. We have reserved some of our finances in order to be able to pump prime this scheme and we are now awaiting the proceeds of a grant application which will be submitted shortly.

Our thanks go to all who have served as Councillors during the past four years.

The Parish Precept – 2015/16

Each year the Parish Council reviews its expenditure over the past year, and sets a budget for the following year. Our principle income is derived from the precept, however we also receive important contributions via Herefordshire Council for maintenance of the rights of way and the Lengthsman Scheme. Despite rumours to the contrary, each of these schemes has continued to be adequately funded this coming year.

While our initial budget estimates would have necessitated an above inflation rise in the precept, we have worked hard to identify savings and to keep the rise in our precept to 1.9%, which is in line with the general rise in Council Tax. Our total budget for 2015 has been set at £21,900, of which the precept will be £16,813.

Within this budget we are confident that we can continue to ensure the appropriate level of engagement and communication with parishioners, along with the provision of the locally directed services under our control. We endeavour to always keep our expenditure down, and much work is done by the councillors themselves, who are all unpaid volunteers.

Any unspent budget for the year will be put into reserves and taken into account when setting the subsequent precept. Supporting specific Parish Projects arising out of the Parish Plan has also been a key aim of the Council, and we have ensured we maintain adequate provision within our reserves to respond in a timely fashion to such initiatives, such as management of the canoe launch site at Kerne Bridge, the Village Agent scheme, or the Walford Links project.

Walford Parish Council goes live on social media!

As part of our continuing drive to improve communication with our parishioners, Walford Parish Council is delighted to announce the launch of its own Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WalfordParishCouncil>



The intention is to feature council information and village events - whilst showcasing local businesses - coupled with providing news updates and alerts from in and around our parish. Additionally, we will regularly feature County announcements from Herefordshire County Council.

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.

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

We look forward to hearing from you!!



National and local elections - May 7th 2015

Most people will be aware that the General Election is to be held on Thursday 7 May 2015. However, in Herefordshire there will also be elections for the 53 seats on Herefordshire Council and approximately 1200 seats on the 137 Town/Parish Councils. All existing councillors must seek re-election if they wish to remain as a Councillor.



With regard to Town/Parish Councils anyone can stand as a Councillor if they are at least 18 years old, they are a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union. In addition candidates must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

- **You are, and will continue to be,** registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand
- **You have occupied as owner or tenant** any land or other premises in the parish/community during the whole 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election

- **Your main or only place of work** during the 12 months prior to the day of nomination and the day of election has been in the parish / community
- **You have lived in the** parish / community or within 3 miles of it during the whole 12 months before the day of nomination and the day of election.

In addition to the qualifications to stand for election there are also a few reasons that would disqualify someone seeking election and that is if you are employed by the Council, you are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order, you have been imprisoned for 3 months (including suspended sentence) and finally you have been found guilty of corrupt or illegal election practices.

So, subject to the above qualifications / disqualification anyone with an interest in their local community can seek election to their local Town/Parish Council.

If you are interested and would be comfortable in speaking at Council meetings that are open to the public and have the time to attend meetings and support the work of your local Town / Parish Council then why not put yourself forward. You only need 2 local people to support your nomination. It really is as simple as that.

If there are more candidates than vacancies, then an election will be held on the same day as the General Election and the Herefordshire Council Election. If there are less candidates than there are vacancies you would be elected unopposed.

You will find guidance about becoming a councillor on the Electoral Commission website and the Clerk to your local Town / Parish Council can provide you with the appropriate nomination paper.

Alternatively you can contact the Elections Office at Herefordshire Council on 01432 260107.

You do not need to belong to a political party to become a councillor.

Your vote matters, make sure you're in...

The way you register to vote has changed. Up until now, the head of a household has been responsible for registering everyone who lives at an address. However, since June 2014 people in England and Wales have needed to register as individuals.

In August 2014 we were able to move 86% of those registered voters in Herefordshire onto the new register automatically after checking their details with the Department for Work and Pensions.

But for various reasons the remaining 14% of electors on the register did not match and all now have to re-register to vote ahead of the General Election on May 7th 2015.

If you are one of those whose details did not match the information help by the Department for Work and Pensions then you would have received a letter from the Elections Office at Herefordshire Council asking you to register individually.

If you have received a letter asking you to register individually this means that you will need to re-register in order to be able to vote by post in the May election.

If you have recently moved, you **must** register to vote at your new address. You are not registered at a new property automatically, even if you pay council tax.

The simplest way to register is online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or call 01432 260107.

Annual Parish Meeting - 8th April 2015 - 6.30pm

There can be, and often is, confusion between the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which must take place between 1st March and the 1st June (inclusive). Meetings should not commence before 6.00 pm.

Although the event is NOT a formal Parish Council meeting it is facilitated by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community.

The purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish.

AT THIS MEETING THERE WILL ALSO BE A TALK FROM HEREFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST.

Please come along, enjoy the talk and have your say... 6.30pm at Bishopswood Village Hall.

A visit from National Grid has left youngsters buzzing last week at Walford Primary School, Ross-on-Wye. Representatives from the company dropped by to give a lesson about electricity and talk about the work they are doing to reinstate the areas they dug up to replace an underground electricity cable around Walford, Goodrich and Marstow.

As part of the visit, children learned more about what electricity is; how it is generated and how it gets to their homes. Then, using a shoe box, crocodile clips, battery, buzzer and wire, they built a Steady Eddie game and attempted to beat the buzzer by moving a metal hoop along a piece of twisted wire without touching it.

National Grid was also there to talk about how it protects the environment during its work.

Environmental Advisor, Owain Waters, said: "As well as being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the River Wye itself is designated by the UK as being a Site of Special Scientific Interest and by Europe as a Special Area of Conservation. We wanted to explain how we protect the environment during our work, as well as talking to children about the special wildlife you can find in the area."

Year six teacher, Hayley Griffith, said: "The children really enjoyed National Grid's visit learning about how electricity



is generated and how it gets to their homes. They really loved doing the experiment, which required them having steady hands so they didn't set the buzzer off."

Andy Cook, National Grid Project Engineer, said: "It has been a pleasure for myself and the project team to work in and around the local community for the past few years. Whilst we are nearing the completion of the network upgrade works, this engagement with Walford Primary School has been a great opportunity for National Grid to offer something back, as well as to promote the function of the electricity transmission network and National Grid's commitment to the environment. I hope that this event has had the desired effect of inspiring the engineers and environmentalists of the future."

If anyone in the area has questions about the work, they should call National Grid's community relations line 0800 073 1047. The line is open 7am – 7pm, seven days a week.

Walford Links Cycle Way

The leader of the Walford Links Project left the Parish Council at the end of 2014, because he and his family were relocating. However, a hand-over to

another member of the Steering Group has taken place and it is hoped that further progress with this significant project will follow soon.

Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch

Since our last newsletter negotiations have continued with Herefordshire Council (HC), about the structure of the agreement which will transfer ownership to Walford Parish Council (WPC), for £1.

The sticking point has been the wording of an ‘overage’ clause which covers the need for HC to protect its interests in the event that WPC makes the site so successful in the future and, by way of a development requiring planning consent, increases the site’s value. Such consent could be needed, for example, if enhanced visitor facilities were proposed in the future.

As originally proposed by Herefordshire Council this would create a financial liability for WPC once a planning consent had been given.

WPC would be required to pay to HC 50% of the increased value of the site, even if no funds had been received by WPC. Your Councillors have considered that this approach is too onerous on WPC and have resisted the concept and the clauses as worded.

Negotiations continue and a mutually acceptable solution is anticipated in the near future.

Once the agreement is completed Walford PC will flesh out their plans to make the site more manageable by way of canoe launch licences and car parking controls, with the overall aim of attracting more tourism into the area, for the benefit of all who live and work here.

Neighbourhood Plan

There have been no further developments with the Neighbourhood Plan, other than the latest Core Strategy

timetable showing receipt of the Inspector’s report and adoption of the Plan in Summer 2015.

Daycroft Lane Flood Alleviation

Following the Parish Council’s efforts to find a solution to the flooding problems at Daycroft lane, we are pleased that there has been some progress at Herefordshire Council.

Joel Hockenhill, Lead Drainage Engineer at Balfour Beatty said:

“We have been focussing on highway drainage schemes in this current year’s annual plan. You will be pleased to hear that the Daycroft Lane scheme has sufficient potential benefits to promote a feasibility study into the 2015/16 annual plan. This will be progressed in the spring.”

Parish World War One Memorials - Restoration

Having gathered the necessary information and quotations, the Parish Council has agreed to contribute to the War Memorials Trust grant pot and a

formal grant application has been submitted for Howle Hill Memorial. The application for Walford Memorial will be sent off in the near future.

Reduced Bus Services – Information and appeal

Several months ago it was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that some bus services within the Parish had been discontinued; it became clear that some parishioners without access to alternative means of transport, relied on these bus services to get them into Ross to do their weekly shop, for doctor's appointments and social visits.

The Parish Council has looked into alternative transport facilities for those affected by the discontinuation of these bus services and after meeting with more than one service provider, has the following information for parishioners:

Every parish in Herefordshire is served by a community transport scheme, based in the voluntary sector and supported by the County Council. These schemes can provide pre-booked transport for those unable to use public transport or where such transport is unavailable. Passengers pay a contribution toward the cost of the journey, which is also subsidised by the Herefordshire Council. Schemes are able to provide transport services for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility.

Ross Area Transport provides a local service offering a solution to this problem and Debbie Griffiths the Services Manager at Ross Area Transport has supplied the following information:

'Our booking line is open 5 mornings a week, 9.30 to 12.30. We ask for at least 48 hours notice for trips so that we can contact 1 of our 40 volunteers most of whom drive their own vehicles. Our service has 3 accessible MPVs; 2 of them can carry 1 wheelchair user , plus

passengers and the other 2 wheelchair users plus passengers. 2 of these vehicles are available to share so that family members can be taken out or home from residential homes or hospices. Training is given but a volunteer driver can be available. The 7 seater MPV is available for trips out.

Our service is for hospital, doctors and other medical appointments, hairdressers, shopping, social and public transport connections. Our pick-up area is HR9 but our users may have to go as far afield as Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Abergavenny, Hereford, Oswestry or wherever an appointment may be given. Volunteers are available mostly 5 days a week but sometimes at weekends and they help from early in the morning into the evening. The charges are approximately 46p per mile at the moment. We do like service users to bring a carer or companion but they may travel free of charge.

Getting people out, for whatever reason, is vital in maintaining a physical, mental and emotional balance and we see wonderful results for people who have reached rock bottom and as soon as they start "coming out" they bounce back. Our service has been helping the HR9 area for over 25 years and has wonderful volunteers and staff. Funding has always been an issue but we always seem to keep our heads above water.

Anyone who meets the criteria can contact Ross Area Transport, to book their volunteer drivers on an individual or group basis.

'As you might expect we are always asking for volunteers and can never have enough of them. They do not need their own car as our vehicles are available.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME?

Volunteer drivers are the lifeblood of Herefordshire's community transport schemes which offer an affordable door-to-door solution for anyone who is unable to use public transport. The schemes provide transport for those who are without transport or access to public transport, enabling them to get to essential services like doctors and hospitals as well as social and learning events.

WHAT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT VOLUNTEERS DO:

Some volunteer drivers use their own cars, and are paid a mileage rate to cover the petrol and running costs of their

vehicle. Others drive scheme-owned minibuses and wheelchair-accessible vehicles, for which full training is given. If you can't drive, we need volunteers to help out in our busy booking offices.'

The Parish Council has also identified a local charity which might be able to help provide funds to subsidise this service, making it available to as many in need of transport into town as possible.

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME FORWARD TO THE CLERK IF A REGULAR MINI-BUS SERVICE WOULD BE OF USE TO YOU; OR CONTACT ROSS AREA TRANSPORT, TO VOLUNTEER AS A DRIVER.

Ross Area Transport: 01989 765595 (09.30 - 12.30 Monday to Friday)

Parish Clerk: 01989 562476 (During working hours)

Or: clerk@walford-pc.org.uk

Village Warden Scheme

With the well publicised pressures on the NHS it is widely recognised that 'Care Closer to Home' is a necessary way of developing how we look after people. The simple theory is that by 'looking out' for the frail, the elderly and the vulnerable we can prevent or delay deterioration in their condition and thus limit the need for help at hospital or elsewhere. There is also much evidence that loneliness can be the first step to deteriorating health and it will be a principle objective of the scheme to spot the early signs of loneliness and attempt to head it off.

Your Council has been pursuing the possibility of establishing a Village Warden Scheme for some time and some of you will remember that a couple of years ago we increased our precept in

order to have the funds to pay towards the costs of establishing this scheme. These funds are still held in our reserves and we have been exploring how to secure external support for the remainder of the costs.

We have recently had encouraging signs of financial help from Herefordshire Council and will shortly be applying for a grant. From this we will support the employment of a part time Village Warden who will be backed up by a team of volunteers, some of whom have already been identified.

If you would like to be considered for appointment to the Village Warden post or would like to join the group of volunteers, please contact The Parish Clerk.

Walford Playgroup

Time flies when children are having fun!!

Walford Pre-school Playgroup celebrates a very special birthday this year as 2015 marks its 40th year and plans are afoot to commemorate in style.

The annual Pre-school May Fair will take place on Saturday 9th May (12-3pm)

and promises to be their biggest and best event yet. Ross-on-Wye Town Band will be performing and with entertainment from Mo the Donkey, the bouncy castle, tombola, raffle, silent auction and lots of games to keep both young and old happy; it will be a fabulous fun-filled day out for all the family.

Come along and join our local craftspeople selling their wares, or support the Pre-school plant sale and cafe! (Some stall spaces are still available, if you would like to book a table please contact elaine.sandford@yahoo.co.uk).

Based at the village hall in Walford and run as a charity, the play leader Sara and her team do a fantastic job of providing childcare for children aged between 2 years 9 months and 5 years old. All the children who attend the vibrant and fun Pre-school learn and explore through play, in a friendly and safe environment.

Did you attend the preschool as a child?

If so, Walford Preschool staff would like to invite you to come and join the party and take a walk down memory lane.

Bring your friends and family and help us celebrate our special day on Sat 9th May 2015. You can find us on Facebook (Walford Pre-School) for updates or contact Walford Pre-school Playgroup directly

www.walfordpreschoolplaygroup.co.uk.

Broadband Update

*Information from
Fastershire Broadband*

Ross on Wye (Area 1) - We are aiming to complete engineering work in a number of areas towards the end of March, adding to the already strong presence of fibre broadband technology. The rollout of fibre has taken longer than we anticipated in Area 1 for a variety of reasons, including:

Our team have found significant number of blockages and damage in the underground duct in some locations in this area. Rather than clearing the blockages, our engineers are having to replace sections of the underground duct before they can lay the fibre cable.

Alongside this, our teams have had to undertake extensive tree cutting activities and rock drilling to erect poles in the area for further 'Fibre to the Premise' delivery. Whilst we expect to have the majority of engineering work complete in March, we do expect some engineering work to carry on throughout Spring.

Further work to ensure all premises have access to faster broadband with a minimum of 2Mbps is expected to be completed by December 2016.

For more information visit the website on:
<http://www.fastershire.com/>



In the last twelve months we have done path clearance work without being prompted, & have had very few complaints. I have noticed, with gratitude, that enthusiastic parishioners (I am assuming) have been really helpful in keeping their local paths useable, & hedges generally cut back.

Moving forward in to next year's budget, Balfour Beatty, on behalf of Herefordshire Council, are allowing us to take even more responsibility for our network of Rights of Way, & increasing the budget for us to do so. I will therefore need even more feedback to ensure we spend wisely.

Many Thanks

The Lengthsman Scheme

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

When the County Councils came into being in the late 1880's, they were charged with maintaining main roads, roughly 25% of the highway network. For day to day maintenance a roadman ("lengthsman") was given lengths of highway to maintain and were expected to do everything necessary to typically keep 'their' sections of road up to scratch.

Lengthsmen generally worked alone, using hand tools. They tended to live in or near the parishes in which they worked and took great pride in their area. They would often have a close relationship with the parish authority and be very aware of local needs. Mechanisation and reducing budgets sent the service into decline and proved the downfall of the labour intensive lengthsman.

In 2000, the Council launched a local highway maintenance initiative (parish lengthsman scheme), providing small delegated budgets to Parish Councils for minor works on local roads. Parishes are able to use the delegated budgets to employ a local contractor familiar with the area.

Delegation takes place under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. The P3 scheme enables Parish Councils to take responsibility for maintaining public rights of way in their parish and to promote greater use of the local paths* network by both local people and visitors.

The initiative has proved very successful and following a full review in 2014 the Lengthsman scheme was expanded to allow increased participation and scope

of works to reflect the delivery of public realm services. The Parish Paths partnership (P3) funding will continue to be available for eligible parishes for works on public rights of way paths but will be managed within the Lengthsman scheme processes.



The full review of the Lengthsman scheme was to develop the existing Lengthsman and P3 schemes to align with Herefordshire Council's objectives and the Locality Strategy to:

Strengthen community leadership by allowing Parish Councils to take ownership of the delegated budgets and management of works under the guidance of Balfour Beatty Living Places.

Enabling communities to have a higher degree of self-reliance through the personalisation of the Lengthsman Scheme and P3 in each parish.

Ensuring **value for money** by working with the Lengthsman and Parish Councils to integrate works maximising productivity.

Improvement in the public realm by allowing Parish Councils to invest in and prioritise works that meet the needs of their communities to improve the local economy, health & leisure opportunities.

Information supplied by Balfour Beatty & Herefordshire Council

Hedges - Can I trim, cut, lay or coppice a hedge at any time of year?

All wild birds are protected. This includes their nests (whilst in use or being built) as well as any eggs the nest may contain. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to:

- 1) Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- 2) Intentionally damage, destroy or take the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built (nests of golden eagle, white tailed eagle and osprey are protected all year round);
- 3) Intentionally destroy an egg of any wild bird;
- 4) Intentionally or recklessly disturb certain wild birds or their dependent young while they are nesting (including disturbance of nesting young);

Although within the Wildlife & Countryside Act no dates are legally stated between which hedges cannot be trimmed, cut, laid or coppiced, the main bird breeding season is recognised as being between 1 March and 31 July.

Therefore the risk of committing any of the above offences is increased between these dates. It is recommended that if you undertake any work within these dates you should check the hedge for any signs of breeding activity first (such as observation from a distance using binoculars and direct searching of the hedge for nests).

Information from Natural England

Bishopswood Women's Institute

We meet on Friday evenings at 6-30pm. once a month on the following dates:

APRIL 10th: The speaker will be Cameron Addicot. The title of his talk is "A Life Undercover" describing life as an undercover agent. This meeting is an OPEN meeting when anyone can come to enjoy the talk. This part of the meeting starts at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served. We will also have our archives from 1919 to the present day on display so do come and learn about bygone Bishopswood.

MAY 8th: This is our Quiz Night when we pit our wits against quiz masters Julia and Malcolm Brain.

JUNE 12th. This is a "Charity Evening" when we have a talk about the Haven, a respite centre In Hereford for women with breast cancer. We will also have Kari

and George from Harts of Monmouth describing "How to fit a Bra".

JULY 10th: There will be a Pimms evening and Summer Social when we have time to chat and relax.

Bishopswood W.I. runs a Luncheon Club once a month in conjunction with the W.R.V.S. We serve a two course roast lunch with tea or coffee. This friendly group enjoys a hot meal and chat in a relaxed atmosphere for £5.00 per person.

Why not come and join us?

The meal is served at 12 noon on the following dates: Wednesday April 15th, Wednesday May 18th, Wednesday June 17th & Wednesday July 15th.

TO BOOK ring Ann on 01989563068 by the Monday preceding each Wednesday.

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Walford Village Hall

There is a new Committee committed to keeping the Hall in good shape with a newly polished floor ready for regular and occasional users to ply their hobbies and trade opportunities.

The Committee comprises:

Chair Julie Church Treasurer Dave Berry
Secretary Bonnie Hitchins

Leader of Play Area Project Dave Berry
Bookings Secretary Chris Berry

Members Virginia Morgan Mike
Eastwood Sara Jones Wendy Horton

Non voting President Terry Snow

A chief focus for the committee is to bring the playground project to a satisfactory conclusion.

Dave Berry & Virginia Morgan will research & apply for available funding and Julie Church will project manage from the Spring.

The day to day facilities of the Hall will continue to be maintained by Bonnie Hitchins & Dave Berry.

Finally I must remind everyone that Walford Village Hall will act as the Polling Station for the coming National and local elections on May 7th when we are all urged to use our votes to select who we think will make good use of their time serving our country and community for the next few years.

Bishopswood Village Hall

A fantastic Valentine's evening was enjoyed on the 14th February, dancing to the sounds of the local band 'Red River Blues'. A really well supported evening, many thanks go to the Band themselves, those who came to listen, dance and enjoy and the volunteers to set everything up that made this truly fantastic evening.

COMING UP:

Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm Bishopswood's Got Talent – it doesn't matter where you are from or what your talent – come along and share with us. Contact Christine on 07890 661094, to book your place.

Monday 6th April – Louisa's Vintage Craft Fair – a fun and funky way to sell or purchase antique vintage, retro, collectables and curiosities, including handmade goods and recycled, up-cycled and second-hand items and memorabilia.

Saturday 9th May 7.30pm - Blackheart -

Blackheart was born in Manchester, in 2007 when Chrissy Mostyn and Rick Pilkington met by chance at a rehearsal room. Blackheart's music and unique sound shun categorisation, combining acoustic instruments and the voice of Chrissy Mostyn with ancient synthesisers, effects, atmospherics and electronica to create a new brand of avant-garde ethereal folk.

The Friends of Bishopswood Village Hall is a newly formed group who have a special interest in helping the hall meet it's aims. Friends do whatever they can to promote the usage of the hall, organise or help out at events. Or simply attend events. Friends receive a regular email of what's being organised and any help required.

Bishopswood Village Hall AGM will be held at 7pm on Thursday 9th April – all welcome.

Saint Michael and All Angels Church - Walford

WINTER / SPRING HIGHLIGHTS:

We had a wonderful festive season at St Michael and All Angels church with a number of very well attended services, including the ever-popular Candlelit service held on Christmas Eve with many excited young faces filling the pews and enjoying the wonders of the Christmas story. All this though feels like a very long time ago, now that the frost is finally thawing and the snowdrops and daffodils are lining every corner of our pretty parish it seems. In a more spring-like tradition, many families of Walford also enjoyed the Mothering Sunday service held on 15th March.

Upcoming Events

Sunday March 29th 9.30am Palm Sunday - a "Special Service" for all to take part in

Sunday April 5th 9.30am Easter Day - Family Communion Service - Easter refreshments afterwards

Sunday 26th April Family service with Baptism (Refreshments served 10.45am and service at 11.15am)

Sunday 10th May Beating the Bounds – 9.30am service to finish by 10.15am followed by a walk along part of the boundaries of the Walford Parish in the ancient tradition of checking the parish boundaries.

This will be followed by a BARBEQUE.

You are welcome to join in for all or any part of this great day together.

REGULAR EVENTS:

Our monthly Paddle and Praise, kindly hosted by Wendy Alston, is an ever-growing 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 Revd. Laurence Mathew

(laurence.mathew@rawchurch.org.uk) for more details.

All Saints Church - Bishopswood

SUNDAY SERVICES:

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

*Except Easter Sunday 5th April 11am Holy Communion

2nd 11am Holy Communion

3rd Services vary - please see below

4th 11am Holy Communion

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

3rd Sunday Services April/May 6pm Evensong in church

June 3pm Hazelhurst Nursing Home / July No Service

'BREAKFAST IN BISHOPSWOOD' - Served 9.30 - 10.45 am Sundays 3rd May / 7th June / 5th July

Full English *plus* cereals, fruit juice, toast pancakes & maple syrup!

All this for £5.50 (£3 under 12's)

APRIL EVENTS:

Thursday 16th at The Village Hall 7.30pm

TRULY SCRUMPCIOUS PUDDING NIGHT!

Come and feast on some of the best **home made** desserts and puddings in Bishopswood. Sparkling and pudding wines available to purchase by the glass to accompany your choice of dessert, or try out a Port with savoury cheese and biscuits!

Ticket entry £7.50 including tea or coffee.

For further details, please ring Monica 01594 860303 or Carol 01989 565533.

For catering purposes, it would help greatly if you could let us know you are able to join us!

MAY EVENTS:

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND FRI 22nd - MON 25th May

This years theme will be 'SHOW STOPPERS!' Open Fri 2-4pm Sat/Sun/ Mon 11-4pm. Friday Evening - 8pm Cheese and Wine Social

Sunday 6pm Songs of Praise with Rob and Joanne Lucas followed by Buffet Refreshments

Monday 3pm Grand Prize Draw

The weekends events will include Strawberries and Cream, Cream Teas, Cakes and Craft stall and Refreshments for sale.

JULY EVENTS:

Sunday July 19th

Our 6th Annual GALLOPING GOURMET EVENT!

4 courses at 4 different venues around Bishopswood / Walford - Always a fun day for all involved!

See local notices in July for more details.

Wardens Monica Edmunds 01594 860303 & Carol Pimblett 01989 565533

Please ring for further information on any of the above services or events

Parish Council meetings schedule 2015

6.30pm Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Full Council	08/04/15	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Annual Council Meeting	13/05/15	Bishopswood Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	24/06/15	Walford Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	02/09/15	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	14/10/15	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	25/11/15	Bishopswood Village Hall
No meeting in August or December		

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

Tel: 01989 562476 **E mail:** clerk@walford-pc.org.uk 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm