



# Newsletter



Christmas is coming round quickly and with it colder weather. Seasonal Greetings from all of us at Walton Charity, for a warm Christmas and healthy New Year.

The last few months have been so busy with events and news, we decided to make Winter 2011's newsletter a bumper edition so we could fit it all in.

## 800 Years of Giving Exhibition

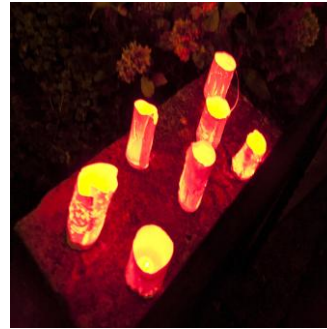
The Riverhouse Barn hosted the Walton Charity's fantastic exhibition in October and November, and it proved to be a real crowd pleaser. The exhibition was filled with fascinating artifacts from the 800 year-long history of Walton Charity. It included a stitch work project and historical documents. If you missed it, you can still see the exhibition which is now on display at the Elmbridge Museum and is definitely worth a visit!



Allotment holder and Chairman of Rydens Road Allotment site committee - Faris Bakose examines the stitch work project at the opening night.

Are you worried about being alone this Christmas? Walton Charity is inviting isolated older people to have Christmas Day lunch at our care home Sherwood House. Please call 0203 3280250 to book a place. Places are limited.

## Lantern making at Mayfield



The ceramic lanterns were made by the residents of our sheltered housing and children from local schools. They were lit and displayed

in the graveyard at St. Mary's Church on All Soul's Day which remembered the 'faithful departed'. The first of Walton Charity's bequests was for bread and ale to be distributed on All Souls Day, a tradition that endured for 700 years.

## Thanksgiving Church Service

St Mary's church hosted another key event in the Walton Charity calendar this year. On 12<sup>th</sup> November a church service was held to give thanks for the Charity's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 120 people attended the service and drinks party afterwards. The service was led by trustee Canon Charles Stewart, and the sermon was by the Bishop of Guildford. There was a host of VIPs in attendance, including the High Sheriff, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, the Chairman of the Almshouse Association and the Vice Chairman of Surrey County Council.

A film about the work of the Charity was debuted at the party afterwards.





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## **A Town by the River**

A play about Walton from decades past was performed by Walton Oak school children at the Riverhouse Barn on 1<sup>st</sup> December. This was the finale to a long running oral history project. This involved interviewing older people from Walton and Hersham, to gather their memories of Walton over the years.

Walton Oak school children and volunteers interviewed older residents of Walton about their memories. The material was then used to create a play by oral historian Rib Davis. Months of hard work culminated in a fantastic play held at the Riverhouse by year 5 pupils at Walton Oak, playing out scenarios from Walton from the 1930s onwards.



## **Royston Pike Lecture**

Trustee David Nash gave a lecture at the Riverhouse Barn on 18<sup>th</sup> October on the history of the Walton Charity. The lecture was hugely popular with people eager to learn about the beginnings of the Charity 800 years ago.

## **Debate: “What role do charities play in today’s Big Society?”**

The Riverhouse was also host to another event to mark the 800 years of Walton Charity. This was a debate on the role of charities in today’s modern world. The four panellists were the Chief Executive of Princess Alice Hospice Nicki Shaw, Professor of Voluntary Sector Management Paul Palmer, local MP Dominic Raab, and Elmbridge Borough Council Chief Executive Robert Moran.

## **Burhill Project continues**

The project to transform disused land at the rear of the Burhill allotment site has continued apace. We have had teams of corporate volunteers from Royal Bank of Scotland, Sony and Transform Housing. The volunteers have carried out various work, clearing rubbish and preparing the ground for further work. Professional tree surgeons and landscapers have undertaken the heavier work and the transformation is amazing. The Charity is working with the Burhill allotment site committee on plans for future use to benefit the community.





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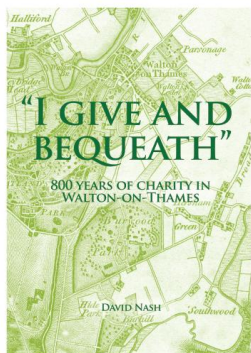
## MP visits Sherwood House

Sherwood House was pleased to welcome local MP Dominic Raab who visited the home in October. Dominic was given a tour of Sherwood House by Yan the manager and joined in the sing-a-long session that the residents were enjoying. Dominic Raab talked about us on his online blog, saying "The staff are dedicated and work hard to ensure a vibrant and happy atmosphere."



## "I give and bequeath"

Walton Charity's book by David Nash, which documents the 800 year history of the Charity, was published this year as part of the anniversary celebrations. If you would like to purchase a copy please contact the Charity offices on 01932 220242.



Books cost £10 each and all proceeds go towards the work of the Charity

## Walton and Hershham Food Bank is launched

Walton Charity is delighted to announce a new partnership project with St Mary's Church in Walton and St Peter's in Hershham.



St Mary's Church Walton has successfully been running a food bank project for almost a year. The aim is to build on their great work and expand the service.

The Walton and Hershham Food bank provides parcels of food to last three days to people in crisis or financial difficulty. We particularly hope to help those who have had a crisis; recently had a long stay in hospital; or have restricted access to the benefits they are entitled to.

The delivery of food parcels will mostly be by volunteers and we are looking to recruit more to join the team. If you are interested in volunteering with us please contact our offices. We are also collecting donations of non-perishable items to add to our food bank and a list of these is available on our website [www.waltoncharity.org.uk](http://www.waltoncharity.org.uk)



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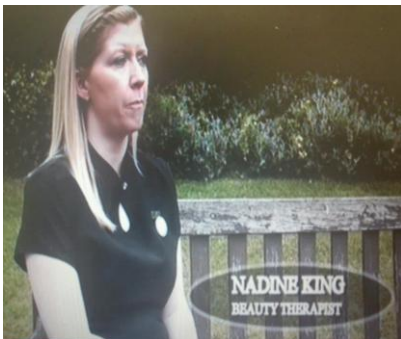
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## Walton Charity film debut

We have been working hard over the last few months to make a film about the range of work the Charity does. We interviewed beneficiaries about how the Charity has helped them, and talked to volunteers about why they choose to work with us.

Marios Loizou filmed and edited the film for the Charity, which was debuted at the Thanksgiving service at St Mary's Church on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

The film included sheltered housing residents, grants beneficiaries, staff and volunteers. It will hopefully be played on the Community Channel soon.



Nadine King, one of our beneficiaries talked about how the Charity had helped her through a difficult time.

## Sherwood House Giant Scrabble Board

Residents of Walton Charity's Care Home, Sherwood House have taken delivery of a new activity aid in the form of a giant Scrabble board.



The Scrabble board stands nearly 2 metres high making it easy for residents to see and play. The residents and staff at Sherwood House raised the funds to buy it by holding a raffle, taking part in the Big Lunch and entering and winning a scarecrow competition!

Thank you to all of you for helping and supporting Walton Charity during our special 800<sup>th</sup> year. More in the New Year about our plans for the future!

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