



WALSORTH FESTIVAL

The festival has been an event for over 50 years

We know that Major E Pedley organized a festival in 1950, with Walsworth Residents' Community Association at St Faith's Church. There was a procession from the church through the streets to Walsworth Common. The river was dammed opposite High Dane, causing it to rise, to permit boating. This did not go down well with the Council, as houses in Woolgrove Road were flooded.

The current Festival had its origins in 1973, on the initiative of the Rev. Colin Gay, with the first festival in 1974. It included a Festival Queen with two attendants, and was held on a Saturday. There was a fancy-dress procession through Walsworth, ending on the Common. There were a few stalls, sideshows and competitions. There was a thanksgiving service held on the following day (Sunday) at St Faith's Church. By 1977 the Festival was being described as the Spectacular! In the years 1977- 85 the activities last a whole week, culminating with the main event on the Common, now changed from Saturday to Sunday.

By the 1990s the Festival had reverted to a one day event on the Common, and visitor numbers reached the thousands. This annual event attracts people from far and wide. It is an opportunity for ex-Walsworthites to meet up and reminisce, and to welcome new residents to the area. On only one occasion has the Festival been postponed: in 1997 days of rain flooded the Common, and the event was deferred from 29 June until 13 July.

Due to lack of volunteers there was no Festival in 2000 and 2001, but a new group took up the challenge, and (those two years excepted) we are now in our 43rd year. We acknowledge the hard work of all those people over the years who have given their time so freely to keep this popular event running.



WALSWORTH FESTIVAL

ARENA

11am Purwell Panthers

12pm Vikings (Wryngwyrn Dark Age War Band)

12:30pm Lesnick Ballet · 1pm Samba

**1:30pm Vikings (Wryngwyrn Dark Age War Band) · 2pm TBC · 2:30pm Lesnick Ballet
3pm Samba · 3:30pm Vikings (Wryngwyrn Dark Age War Band) - TBC**

FOOD & DRINK

**Hitchin Street Food · The Hermitage
Cantina Carnitas · Pull My Cheri · Cafe 77 · Yom Vegan
Abna Punjab · Crepe françlais · Ice Cream Van · Amani Kitchen**

ATTRACTIONS

H-Town Car Show · Gumble Fairground

St Faiths Church · Walsworth Community Center

Hitchin Hackspace · Magic Show · Hertfordshire Fire Engine

16th Hitchin Scouts · Hitchin and District RNLi Branch · Phase - hitchin

Wrayfield Dog Agility · Frenchi & Friends · Beauty Treats By BEX (Body Shop by home)

Young Carers Crew · Space2Play · Kay Rozé Music · Swing 42

Hitchin and District RNLi Branch · The Alternative Pharmacy

Hitchin Hedgehog Care (charity) · Food Rescue Hub CIC · The Signing Company

North Herts Beekeepers Association · Making Life Beautiful CIC

National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society · Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire

Highover school association · Crumb De La Creme · Hitchin and District RNLi Branch · Haven First

The Queen Mother Theatre · Walsworth Community Centre · Qi Kwan Do · Bingo @ HTFC

Treats, Sweets & More · North Herts Amnesty International · North Hertfordshire College

Jigsaw Arts Hitchin · Jphillipsphotography

INFO

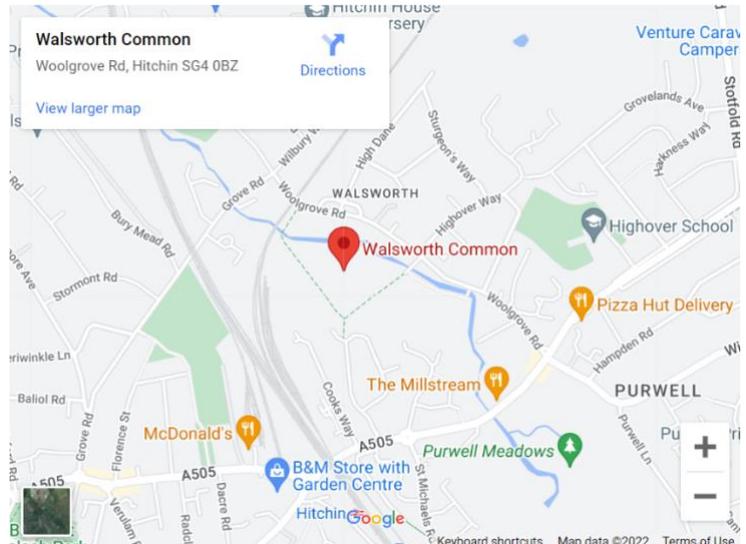
Getting There On The Day

Parking

There will be parking on the day for £2 and will be manned by [Hitchin Rotary Club](#). Please use this car park or walk to the event so we can avoid congestion through cars parking on the road.

Bus

There is a circular bus, number 81 run by [Centrebus](#) which has a stop on Woolgrove road.



Station/Walking

From Hitchin Station, follow Cambridge road towards Letchworth going under the railway and following the road round past the Millstream pub, turning left at the traffic lights. (there are several cut throughs to the park via Meadowbank, Millstream pub but we advise following the road round to avoid the archery area).

Want to be part of the festival?

If you want to be part of the festival this year, we are looking for local charities, community groups and societies to make it a fantastic day for the local community. You can find out more information on this [page](#), including a sign up form.

Most of our food offering is through Hitchin Street Food monthly who help us curate the food for the day.

More information: info@walsworthfestival.co.uk
Also, you can find us on Facebook and Twitter

VOLUNTEERS

The festival is run by volunteers who invest their own time in making the festival a success each year. It has been going for nearly 50 years and is all about the local Hitchin & Walsworth community. We are in need of a number of people who can join our fantastic committee and help ensure that success. If you are interested in helping with setting up the festival or supporting as a marshal on the day then please complete this form below and we will be in touch.

Key people we are looking for

- People who can lend support for a couple of hours on the day to help marshal the event, providing information on the day, litter pick at the end of the day.
- The festival costs about £4000 a year to put on which relies on council support, money raised from stalls, car parking and also advertising revenue. We want to be able to turn a profit and use that profit to invest in the local community and also sustain the festival without council funds. Can you help with sponsorship or help us gain funds through advertising.
- We have an Arena each year which requires management and booking of events for the day.
- Designers and magazine publishers who can help us put a programme together for the day and also help create a logo's, posters etc...

You can also help by donating. Just click the button below!

