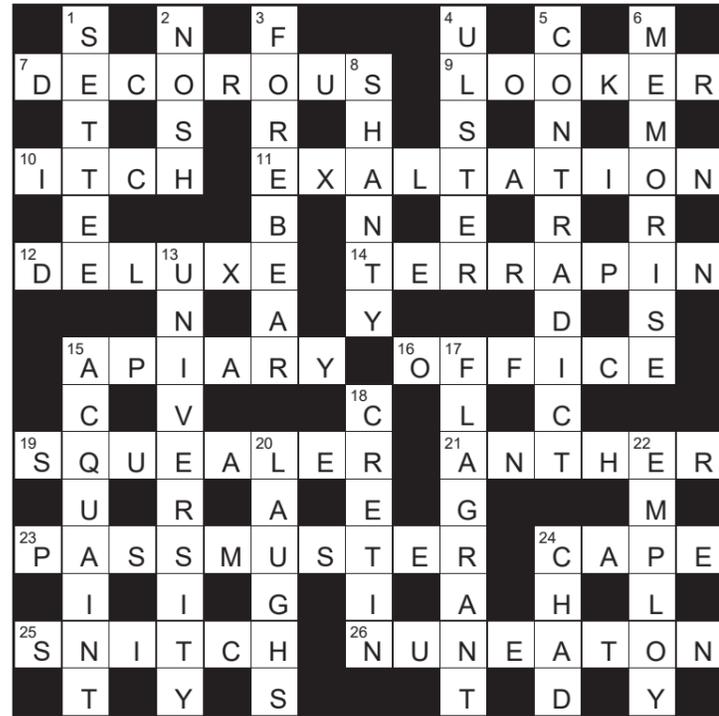


CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS - 7 decorous. 9 looker. 10 itch. 11 exaltation. 12 de luxe. 14 terrapin. 15 apiary. 16 office. 19 squealer. 21 anther. 23 pass muster. 24 cape. 25 snitch. 26 Nuneaton.

DOWN - 1 settee. 2 nosh. 3 forebear. 4 ulster. 5 contradict. 6 memorise. 8 shanty. 13 university. 15 acquaint. 17 flagrant. 18 cretin. 20 laughs. 22 employ. 24 chad.



Witton Word

THE NEWSLETTER OF WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

www.wittonlewear.org.uk

WINTER/SPRING EDITION 2020

ISSUE 95



THE TOWERS – WITTON LE WEAR

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dphelps123@btinternet.com

INDEX

Page 2: Useful & Trade Telephone Numbers, Mobile Library & Mobile Post Office
Page 3: Village Fair & Heritage Group
Page 4: News from the Pews & Wurlitzer Organ
Page 5: Collections Exhibition, VE Day, Thank You & Church Services
Page 6: Parish Council Minutes
Page 7: Parish Council Minutes *continued* & Parish Councillors

Page 8: Parish Council Minutes *continued*
Page 9: Parish Council Minutes *continued*
Page 10: Village Show
Page 11: How Healthy Are Your 5-A-Day
Page 12: WI News & Coffee Mornings
Page 13: Carpet Bowls, Obituary & Victoria Inn Food Bank
Page 14: Crossword
Page 15: Village Events & Community Centre Events
Page 16: Crossword Solution

TRADE DIRECTORY

<p>ELECTRICIAN J G DAVIES 01388 528783 – 07802 898263 Email: j.davies6@homecall.co.uk</p>	<p>FUNERAL SERVICES GIBSON'S 01388 603665 – 01388 762582 Email: gibsons@email.com</p>
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DCC MOBILE LIBRARY

Parks beside the Green

DATES & TIMES OF VISITS 2020

Tuesday 24th March
Tuesday 14th April
Tuesday 12th May

Between 14.55pm and 15.10pm

MOBILE POST OFFICE

Parks Outside the Parish Church

Every Thursday
Between
1.45pm - 2.30pm

Disclaimer

The Editor of this publication does not accept any responsibility for any of the articles, excluding the Editor's letter, and the Parish Council accepts no responsibility for any of the articles, excluding those generated by the Parish Council or the Parish Councillors. The Editor and the Parish Council will not accept liability or responsibility for third party content in this publication.

VILLAGE EVENTS

EVENT	VENUE	FEE	DATE	TIME	INFORMATION	CONTACT
Allotments AGM	Dun Cow Inn	N/A	Sunday March 29th	4.00pm	You are welcome, particularly if you are looking for an allotment	Sarah Brabban 07824 564606
Plant Sale	Community Centre	N/A	Sunday May 31st	10.00am	Looking to spruce up your garden, or grow some vegetables. Here you can buy your needs	Ed Short 01388 488685
Open Gardens			Sunday June 14th		Details to follow	TBA
Friendship Lunch	Community Centre		Tuesday June 16th	12.00 Noon	Come and join the others and make new friends over a lunch which you will enjoy for as little as £5	Anne Yuill 01388 488376
Village Fair	Village Green	N/A	Saturday August 8th	TBA	The regular Village Fair with something for everyone	Cheryl Barker 07714 583799
Village Show	Community Centre & Victoria Inn		Saturday September 12th	TBA	The show goes from strength to strength, and is one of the largest in the area.	Ed Short 01388 488685
Friendship Lunch	Community Centre		Tuesday September 22nd	12.00 Noon	Come and join the others and make new friends over a lunch which you will enjoy for as little as £5	Anne Yuill 01388 488376
Friendship Lunch	Community Centre		Tuesday December 15th	12.00 Noon	Come and join the others and make new friends over a lunch which you will enjoy for as little as £5	Anne Yuill 01388 488376

YOUTH CLUB

With the current climate and the requirement to meet the Government's requirements, we have decided to suspend the youth club at Witton le Wear until further notice.

Regards, Derek Bradley

COMMUNITY CENTRE EVENTS:

Mondays:	7.30pm – 10.00pm	CARPET BOWLS – <i>Kate Atkins 488626</i>
Tuesday:	7.00pm – 8.30pm	YOGA – <i>Mark Aspinall 710658</i>
Wednesdays:	1.30pm – 3.00pm	BADMINTON – <i>Ursula Jones 488568</i>
	6.30pm – 8.30pm	YOUTH CLUB
Thursdays:	5.00pm – 6.00pm	RAINBOWS – <i>Fiona Smith 07856 856714</i>
	6.00pm – 7.15pm	BROWNIES – <i>Mary Smith 488200</i>

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police – Non Emergency - 101

HOSPITALS

NHS None Emergency - 111

Bishop Auckland Hospital
01388 455000

University Hospital North Durham
0191 3332333

Darlington Memorial Hospital
01325 380100

DOCTORS SURGERIES

North House Surgery, Hope Street, Crook
01388 762945

Repeat Prescriptions 01388762718
Auckland Medical Group, 51 Toft Hill
01388 834843

Auckland Medical Group, St Helen Auckland
01388 604163

Auckland Medical Group, Bishop Auckland
01388 602728

PHARMACIES

Clemitsons, 25a Hope Street, Crook
01388 764939

Boots Chemists, 8 North Terrace, Crook
01388 762726

Well Pharmacy, 50 Hope Street, Crook
01388 766718

Britton & Robson, 45 High Street Crook
01388 746269

SCHOOLS

Witton Le Wear Primary School
01388 488350

CHURCHES

St Philip and St James Parish Church
01388 768898

Methodist Chapel
01388 205319

ORGANISATIONS

Community Centre

Clarice Smith 01388 488200

ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY

Northern Powergrid 0800 668877

WATER EMERGENCY

Northumbrian Water
Leaks 0800 393084

Sewerage 0800 3287648

GAS EMERGENCY

National Gas Emergency
Smell Gas 0800 111999

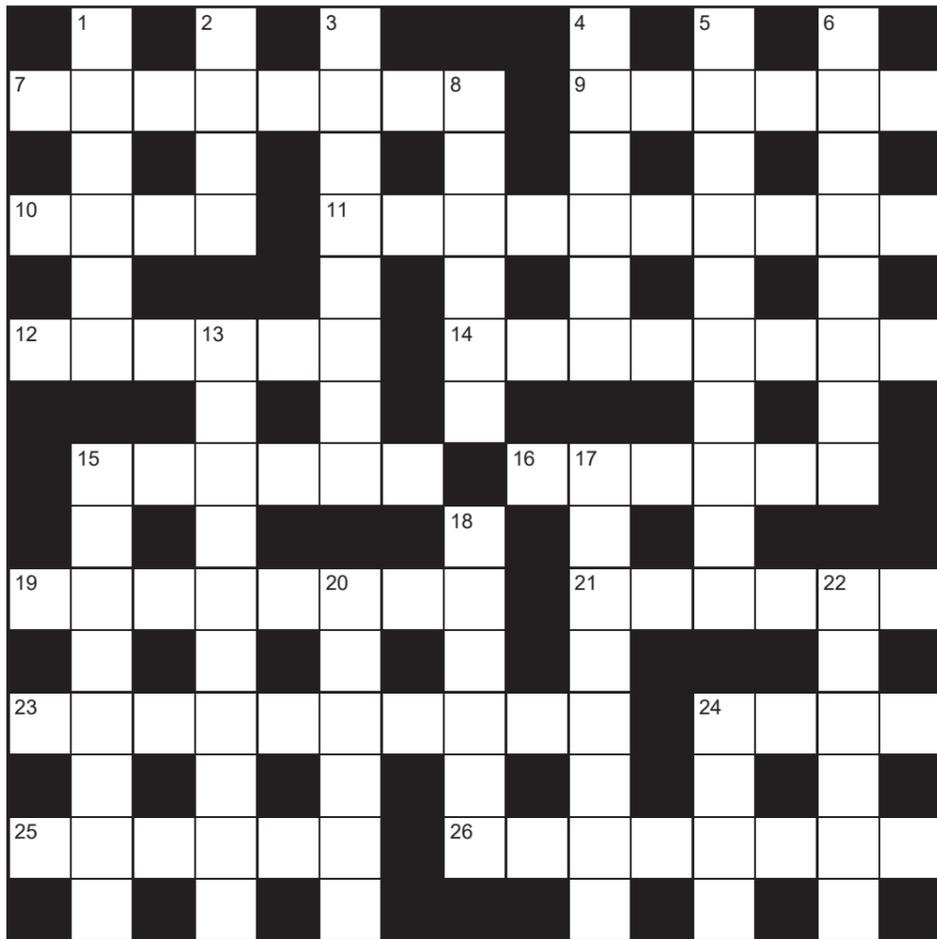
MARCH CROSSWORD *Answers on back page*

ACROSS

- 7 Suitable colour scheme given to interior of house (8)
- 9 One having a peep at attractive woman (6)
- 10 Some admit Chris is an irritation (4)
- 11 Some larks give rise to great delight (10)
- 12 Havng superior quality, exude largess initially when working (2,4)
- 14 Eccentric partner keeps one marine reptile (8)
- 15 I pay a rent, originally designed to get place for workers (6)
- 16 Old fellows given one church duty (6)
- 19 Orwell's pig is a 25 Across (8)
- 21 Earth is scattered around new part of plant (6)
- 23 Spurs team's struggling to appear adequate (4,6)
- 24 Headgear to go with oriental garment (4)
- 25 Informer finds tin with 10 Across (6)
- 26 Sounds like meal's untouched in Warwickshire town (8)

DOWN

- 1 Item of furniture needs fixed support (6)
- 2 Boy rejected hot food (4)
- 3 Refrain from taking Ecstasy with older family member (8)
- 4 Changing rules takes time in Irish province (6)
- 5 Deny Diana is involved in agreement (10)
- 6 Note pay increase and learn it by heart (8)
- 8 It may be sung in humble dwelling (6)
- 13 Almost the whole of creation goes to city, we hear – Oxford perhaps (10)
- 15 Familiarise Bill with unusual antique out East (8)
- 17 Outrageous tirade about the Union Jack? (8)
- 18 Idiot caught with mixture of nitre (6)
- 20 Shows amusement when lass endlessly conceals disgusted expression (6)
- 22 Use stratagem to pursue half of them (6)
- 24 Bit of paper from African country (4)



WITTON LE WEAR VILLAGE FAIR 2020

We are pleased to announce the ever popular Witton le Wear Village Fair will be held on Saturday 8th August 2020. We are hoping that you will join us, and the rest of the village for a wide range of activities, stalls, competitions, music and much, much more! The event has always been a success in the past and we're aiming to build on this great, village tradition with a combination of the traditional and the new, for all ages!

If you would like to be involved in some way, to help make this a successful and enjoyable day for all please contact Cheryl Barker on 07714583799 or Doug Hill on 07422520216

WITTON LE WEAR HERITAGE GROUP

What a busy and successful few months for the Heritage Group spending the grant from Northern Heartlands? The school children in Primary 5 and 6 have been learning about wool and sheep including visiting a local flock of sheep, learning how wool is manufactured, weaving and needle felting with wool from local sheep and learning shepherding songs. Thanks to the school and Doug Hill and his trusty band who delivered such a great and memorable experience for the children and their teachers.

Work is ongoing to place Information boards in the village and it is hoped the first one funded from the grant will be in place on the village green within the next month or so. Paul Parsons has been leading this work and work is underway to try to produce a further three information boards for different parts of the parish, if funding can be found.

The village banner has been a great success and over 19 groups of people have produced individual sections for this. The wool work from the school children will also be included in the final banner. This will be completed and unveiled once the current emergency is over.

Village Voices are planning a singing workshop funded from the grant and are currently purchasing colour co-ordinated outfits for their performances.

More information from Anne Yuill (email: kanda98@sky.com or phone 01388488376)

HERITAGE GROUP IS GOING IT ALONE

The Heritage has been affiliated to the Parish Church since it started at the end of 2018, but it is now time for it to stand alone with its own constitution and management committee. This will make it easier to apply for grants for future projects. In the last two years the group has brought almost £5000 into Witton le Wear. We had planned for this to happen in May but it will happen once the current restrictions have ceased.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

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Like all the other organisations in the village, the church too has suspended all social events and we wait to hear from the Bishop what will happen to services in the future. By the time you read this it is probable that a decision has already been made. In the meanwhile every effort is being made to keep the church clean and sanitised for use. We have to assume services in the present form will be suspended. If you are over 70 and about to self isolate as directed by the Government, and would like to be contacted on a regular basis during this time – either to be able to talk to someone or updated on anything please contact Kate and Tim Atkins on 01388 488 626 or email on kandtatk@gmail.com we are sure other organisations will offer the same kind of contact.

It means that Crafternoons in a school holiday will be suspended and Early Birds All Age Worship will be prepared and left, with the related activities and text in the porch to be collected by parents who will help their children to complete this at home. If anyone else would like to use them and there seems to be none left, please get in touch with us at the above contact numbers and we will get one to you. (All these are all subject to the PCC's approval)

Meanwhile we as a church and part of the Escomb Group of Churches are preparing the parish profile of our 5 parishes so that they together with local information etc. can be ready for the time the vacancy can be advertised. Again we are not sure if this process which was to begin in June/July will now have to be suspended too. It is very interesting to look at ourselves through the eyes that somebody who might be interested, will see us.

At the APCM (AGM) of the church last Sunday, the 100 Club draw took place. This being the first of a new year. The winning numbers were **1st No. 85 winning £311, 2nd No 74 winning £187 and 3rd No 21 winning £124.** We would like to thank all of you who support this draw especially as it means we have money to help with the upkeep of the church fabric and has already made a difference through the new LED lighting, and apron renewal at the church entrance. We have a wish list of new work which needs doing like decorating etc. Your help and support is very much appreciated. We still have some spare numbers if you would like to join this venture.

The Ministry Development Group are looking at intercessions with the intention of producing a list of those people who would like prayer, or situations which also need prayer whether it be local or national or indeed global. Intercession prayer is where the pray-er stands between Father God and the situation or person being prayed for, lifting it up to Him.(One might say as a go between) It is a very powerful thing to be involved in. There will be a public intercession list used in services and a 'private' one which people will take on in their personal prayers which will not be public. Use the above contact numbers if you would like to be included or join this prayer group. It is a specially moving thing to do whether able bodied or housebound and a very important part of the churches life – all the more important during this troubled time.

A very special blessing to all who read this publication, for strength of resolve and safe keeping.

WURLITZER ORGAN

2019 was another busy year for the Wurlitzer Organ at Howden le Wear. We were supported by many very good organists each bringing their own selection and styles of music.

One of our local organists Bob Chilton did a concert for the MacMillan nurses during which time he managed to raise over £1500.

We were pleased to support ROAD, Reach out across Durham, an initiative to help local mature people and across Durham back into the workforce.

Traditionally January and February is a time when both the Wurlitzer organ and the New Victoria building are shut down for maintenance.

We open again 15th March with the return of a very popular organist, Andrew Nix, and hope to see you there.

Mike McLaren

The 2019/20 Co. Durham Carpet Bowls Winter League finished for the Club with a win at home to Bishop Middleham, the previous two being defeats against Sedgefield and Hamsteels. This meant the team failed to match last seasons total points tally of 35. Of the fourteen matches played only four were won resulting in 25 points out of a possible 84. However, four of the defeats were by very small margins of three or four points.

The team then entered the knock-out tournament made up of two mini-leagues of four teams. The team were drawn in a tough league against Tudhoe, Sedgefield and Landsdowne on a home and away basis. After the first three games, two against Tudhoe and one against Landsdowne, which ended in defeats the tournament was discontinued as a result of national restrictions based on gatherings as a result of COVID-19

Final Results

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Points	Total	
Oct 9	Bowburn	Home	Lost	20 - 22	0	0
Oct 15	Hamsterley	Away	Lost	13 - 25	0	0
Oct 23	Tudhoe	Home	Won	28 - 17	6	6
Nov 7	Lansdowne	Away	Lost	7 - 43	0	6
Nov 13	Sedgefield	Home	Lost	19 - 22	2	8
Nov 19	Hamsteels	Away	Lost	14 - 24	1	9
Dec 6	Bishop Middleham	Away	Lost	7 - 35	0	9
Dec 11	Bowburn	Away	Won	26 - 20	4	13
Dec 18	Hamsterley	Home	Lost	10 - 24	0	13
Jan 8	Tudhoe	Away	Won	24 - 21	4	17
Jan 15	Lansdowne	Home	Lost	20 - 23	2	19
Jan 30	Sedgefield	Away	Lost	15 - 36	0	19
Feb 5	Hamsteels	Home	Lost	18 - 22	2	21
Feb 12	Bishop Middleham	Home	Won	19 - 14	4	25

There is no carpet bowls league during the Summer months. It is unlikely that there will be the usually friendly matches Sedgefield and Snods Edge.

Our club nights have been discontinued for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus.

COLIN WOODCOCK OBITUARY

Colin passed away on the 20th January 2020. For the passed few years he had been living in a residential home in Solihull where his daughter Sue lives.

Colin and Marion lived in Witton-le-Wear for over 30 years and were involved in many aspects of village life. Colin was treasurer for St. Philip & St. James Church for many years and Marion was member of the W.I. and one of the sewing groups. They took part or attended almost all of the activities in the village. Colin was by profession a Chartered Surveyor and had a profound knowledge of the surrounding area and especially property values. He and Marion are sadly missed.

Jack Collins

FOOD BANK AT THE VICTORIA INN

For those supplying donations please leave them in the smoking shelter at the rear of the pub. These will be regularly collected and taken in to the pub.

There is a food bank now available by contacting

George at the Victoria Inn
who will open up the pub so you can collect essential supplies.

Telephone 07712603917

WOMENS INSTITUTE NEWS

February - Our meeting began with the singing of Jerusalem and with Mrs Haworth welcoming a new member and thanking Mrs Whalley for the gift of a gavel, which she will put to good use to keep us in order! We then celebrated one of our member's 90th birthday with our best wishes and flowers. There was also a beautifully decorated cake, which we all had a piece of with our tea. We were told that her 90th had proved to be the best birthday she had ever had!

Members were reminded about the Fun Quiz later this month, where we have two teams and were asked if they would like to participate in the County quiz in May.

We are planning a trip to Alnwick Gardens in June and to hold another coffee morning on 11th July, to which all are invited.

Our speaker was Janet Mortimer, a dementia nurse. She explained how decline in different parts of the brain leads to different types of dementia and described ways of helping people who are suffering from this terrible disease. She also told us what signs to look out for in people in the early stages. It was a very interesting and informative talk.

Next month's meeting is our birthday party night, where we are having a 'glamour' theme so everyone was asked to dress up in their finest.

March - Everyone was welcomed to our 104th birthday party, a great achievement. Our theme for the evening was 'the Oscars' and everyone had dressed up in their red carpet finery. The room was sparkling with red and gold decorations and lights, which gave a suitable atmosphere. We were welcomed with a glass of prosecco.

Business was kept to a minimum, with just a few dates of future events:

- Summer outing to Alnwick on 26th June
- Tyne river trip on 10th Sept, 12.00—15.00pm
- Wynyard Hall rose garden on 10th June
- Meal at a local pub on 22nd April being arranged by Mrs Cooper.
- Car Treasure Hunt 29th June

We were entertained by Marina, a very talented singer who sang a range of songs and many of us got up to dance. In the interval we enjoyed a delicious and extensive supper, provided by members and made a good effort towards finishing off the prosecco! The Oscar was presented to Mrs Cooper in recognition of her participation in the Boxing Day Dip in the North Sea, from which she raised money for charity. She gave an acceptance speech, thanking all those who had supported her.

Marilyn Gordon, Secretary.

QUILTS AND COLLECTIONS EXHIBITION IN PARISH CHURCH 13TH AND 14TH JUNE

This event has been postponed until further notice. It is hoped that once the crisis is over, the exhibition and the open gardens event will happen in the autumn.

For more information contact

Anne Yuill

email: kanda98@sky.com or phone 01388 488376)

VE DAY 75 COMMEMORATION

We were planning to hold a village street party and a concert by Village Voices on Friday 8th May to mark the 75 years from the end of WWII.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, we have decided to postpone this event until later in the year. We thought it was better to be safe than sorry.

The planning and the rehearsing will not be in vain as it will be held once this emergency is over.

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

THANK YOU

Ursula Jones would like to say a huge Thank You to all the generous villagers who supported her Pop Up Coffee Shop on Tuesday February 18th.

The grand total raised was £657, which will go a long way to accommodate, feed and educate the children in our orphanage in Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Ursula Jones

CHURCH SERVICES

St Philip & St James Parish Church & Methodist Chapel

Sunday March 29th - 5th Sunday in Lent – Holy Communion in Church.

Sunday April 5th Palm Sunday – Holy Communion in Church. Church with the Palm Crosses being distributed. Parish Lunch at 12.00, please feel free to join us. Sundays Cool for Kids during the service.

Thursday April 9th Maundy Thursday – 5 Parishes service (venue tbc).

Friday April 10th Good Friday – 2-3pm Meditations before the Cross. Between 6-7.30pm Stations of the Cross - a personal journey taken at your own pace and time.

Sunday April 12th Easter Sunday – Holy Communion in Church. Sundays Cool for Kids during the service. This service takes the place of Café Church.

Wednesday April 15th – Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Sunday April 19th Sunday of Easter – Holy Communion in Church with visiting Vicar.

Sunday April 26th – Morning Worship in Methodist Chapel. Early Birds All Age Worship Service at 9.15am in Church.

Sunday May 3rd - 5th Sunday of Easter – Holy Communion followed by Parish Lunch, please feel free to join us for lunch at 12.00. Sundays Cool for Kids during the service.

Sunday May 10th - 5th Sunday of Easter – Café Church.

Sunday May 17th - 6th Sunday of Easter – Holy Communion in Church with visiting vicar. Sundays Cool for Kids during the service.

Wednesday May 20th – 5 Parishes Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Thursday May 21st - Ascension Day – Evening service at 7pm (tbc).

Sunday May 24th - 7th Sunday of Easter – Morning Worship in Methodist Chapel. Early Birds All Age Worship Service at 9.15am.

Sunday May 31st - Pentecost – Holy Communion in Church. Sundays Cool for Kids during the service.

**All Parish Church/Methodist Chapel
Main Services start at 10.30am
unless otherwise stated**

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

We have taken the decision to cancel the coffee mornings until further notice in line with Government advice.

We are sorry about this but if anyone requires any help with shopping, prescriptions etc, please do not hesitate to contact Anne 01388 488376 or Edith 01388 488136.

Keep well everyone.



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WITTON - LE - WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 13th January 2020 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm.

Present: Councillors O. Wilson (Chair), M. Henderson, B. Henderson, P. Cowan, E. Todd, E. Swift

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk), Mrs A. Yuill, Mr J. Kirton, Mr M. McLaren

Apologies: K. Quigley

Declaration of interest: None

1/20 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 11th November 2019 - Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

2/20 Matters arising from the previous minutes -

1. Speeding traffic - Nothing to report at this time.

2. Gate on public footpath near Little Marshall Green Farm - The stile has now been removed and the new gate has been rehung. **It was resolved:**

Councillor Todd agreed to lubricate the hinge on the gate.

3. It's Your Neighbourhood grant - Bulbs have been planted by 16 volunteers along the church path, around the notice boards, at the railway platform and at West End

4. Lights for the Village Green - Nothing further to report at this time.

5. Witton Park Bridge - Nothing further to report at this time.

6. Problems reported to Durham County Council and Environment Agency - Clerk updated Councillors about 1 problem reported to the Parish Council by residents.

• **Narrow bridge on road just off A68** - A "road narrows" sign has been installed by DCC.

7. Parking on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve - There have been complaints from motorists coming out of the Nature Reserve being unable to see oncoming traffic because of vehicles parked in the layby. **It was resolved:** Councillors agreed to send photographic evidence to be sent to Lee Mowbray at Durham County Council with a request that the Highways Department investigate this problem.

8. Website - Clerk informed Councillors that Derek Bradley has said he will ask children going to the Youth Club to take photographs of the village, the best ones to be put on the website.

3/20 Representation by Residents -

Mr McLaren asked why the cost of installing the electricity feeder box had risen so much from the initial estimate of £2500. He was informed that the Parish Council were initially told that the feeder box would be placed on the Village Green but then later found out from Durham County Council that this was no longer possible. There have also been further costs relating to traffic management to enable the feeder box to be installed. Councillors felt that the long-term benefits such as an electricity supply for village events, Christmas lights and for a possible traffic speed sign meant the project was still worth going ahead with.

Mr Kirton also asked about the black path and who is responsible for maintaining it. Clerk informed Mr Kirton that this path is a public right of way and it has been reported to the Public Right of Way department at Durham County Council.

It was resolved: Clerk informed Councillors that there is approximately £780 left of the P3 grant which the Parish Council uses to maintain Public Rights of Way. Clerk to contact DCC to find out if this money can be used to tidy up footpaths within the village. Clerk to get quotes to maintain the worst footpaths and gutters within the village.

Mr M McLaren asked Councillors about the path around the back of the church. He felt that the path was unsafe. Parish Council were previously informed that the path was safe by Rev.T Atkins. **It was resolved:** Chairman to speak to T Atkins about the path and find out if anything more can be done to make the path less hazardous.

Mr McLaren offered to look after the defibrillator and the books within the telephone box. He also informed Councillors that the Parish Council notice board near the school needs updating to state that the nearest defibrillator is outside the School. **It was resolved:** Councillors agreed to accept Mr McLaren's offer to look after the books and be responsible for carrying out and reporting on the required checks to the North East Ambulance Service. The acceptance of this offer to be reported in the Witton Word. Defibrillator notice to be updated.

Mrs A Yuill informed Councillors of the Heritage Groups progress in their aim to complete the four projects

HOW HEALTHY ARE YOUR 5-A-DAY?

In January I travelled down to Oxford to my third Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC). It's a long way to go, but so worthwhile for two days of fact filled talks and meeting like minded people from all walks of life - including Smallholders, large commercial farmers, policy wonks, and environmental groups. The first ORFC took place 11 years ago to run in parallel to the longstanding Oxford Farming Conference, (which first met in 1936). What we have in common at ORFC is a desire for agriculture and horticulture to become environmentally and socially 'sustainable' and to move away from practices that may have served us well in many ways, but are now known to be the cause of many environmental problems such as loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, and pollution.

One topic of interest to Andrew and myself here at Railway Paddock Smallholding is the nutritional value of vegetables – what you buy now is generally less nutritious than it used to be. This is thought to be due to a combination of soil degradation, heavier cropping and the development, over the past 60 years or so, of new varieties bred for growth, keeping quality and appearance etc (but not for nutritional value). Evidence from several studies points to this as a problem. For example a study of British nutrient data from 1930 to 1980, published in the British Food Journal, found that in 20 different types of vegetables the average calcium content had declined by 19 percent; the iron content by 22 percent; and the potassium content by 14 percent. Another study concluded that one would have to eat eight oranges today to derive the same amount of Vitamin A as our grandparents would have gotten from one.

(<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/soil-depletion-and-nutrition-loss/>).

This loss of nutritional value has also been accompanied by a loss of flavour.

A new attendee at the ORFC this year was Matthew Adams from Growing Real Food for Nutrition (GRFFN). He was offering to do a 'Brix Test' on any samples of vegetables brought in. The Brix Test is widely used as a quick analysis of the nutrient content (ie density) of the plant. It involves looking at a plant's 'juice' through a refractometer and measures the dissolved solids in this juice, which includes the sucrose and fructose, vitamins and minerals, protein and amino acids, and other elements that contribute to the nutritional value and flavour of the plant.

We were very interested to find out how our produce from Railway Paddock Smallholding compared with the national standards. Our land has been in pasture for many years, and has been given the 'compost/no dig' treatment since we took over. So we arrived at Matthew's stall with our samples. Some plants hadn't survived the journey well enough (ie they had dried out too much) but of the others the test results were pleasing. Our Kale had a top score of 14 ('excellent') and was the highest scoring vegetable he had ever tested, a sign of both excellent nutrition and flavour – (hence my new title of 'Queen of Kale'!) Our cabbage scored 10 ('good' category) and our salad leaves from the polytunnel a more normal 3 ('poor'). It will be interesting to see if the salad improves during the summer when light levels are higher. I have the results of the Brix tests Matthew has done so far (mainly done on veg grown on organic or no-dig sites) and for the items we were able to have tested we scored better than all of them! So good old Witton le Wear soil!

Taste and nutritional value have always been the top characteristics I look for when growing veg and fruit. GRFFN are hoping to run a citizen's science research project to develop an easier way to measure nutrient content and we have signed up to take part. All this has given us the incentive to purchase a Brix meter of our own! So we will keep testing through the year as a baseline for future years. Also if all goes to plan we should be able to get more detailed information on specific nutrients and learn how to maintain and improve the quality of our food.

If you would be interested to discuss this more, or test your own garden produce please get in touch.

Liz Charles

Railway Paddock Smallholding/ lzbth.charles@gmail.com

WITTON LE WEAR VILLAGE SHOW NEWS

PLANT SALE - SUNDAY 31st MAY 2020 in the Community Centre from 10.30am - 12 noon.

A wide range of plants, including those linked to the Flower and Vegetable Classes at this year's Show, will be available for sale.

Additionally, hot drinks, bacon and sausage buns will also be available.

Come along, show your support and enjoy growing your own flowers and vegetables.

Clearly the above is what we are presently planning, however Government advice and guidance will no doubt impact on whether, when or how this event takes place.

VILLAGE SHOW - SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2020.

The 2020 Village Show Schedule of Sections and Classes has now been finalised.

The full Schedule, once printed, will be available on the Witton le Wear website, additionally a copy will be distributed to all households in mid May 2020.

It has been agreed that this year's Show will be free to enter, for all exhibits, in all Classes and both Championships plus a minor change to Class prize money: 1st £5, 2nd £3 and 3rd £1.

We are again most grateful to the Dun Cow Inn and the Victoria Inn for their continuing sponsorship of the 2020 Sunflower and Pumpkin Championships.

Ed Short



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1st WITTON LE WEAR RAINBOWS

Rainbows is the first level of the girl guides movement for young girls between the ages of 5 and 7 years. At 7 years of age the girls automatically move up to Brownies.

Here at Witton Le Wear we meet every Thursday from 5pm – 6pm, at the Community Centre for lots of fun, games and creative activities.

Unlike larger Rainbows groups we have no waiting list, so if your daughter would like to come along, join in the fun, and meet some new friends. It is only £3 per week.

Contact:
Fiona Smith 07856 856714

by the end of March. These projects are being funded by a Northern Heartlands Grant.

Mrs A Yuill also asked about arrangements for VE Day celebrations within the village. There will be a bank holiday on Friday 8th May to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. She hoped that there could be a street party. The main problem would be the cost of the road closure.

It was resolved: Clerk to find out who to contact to get permission to site story boards on the Village Green. Parish Council to consider giving a grant to the Heritage Group to cover the VAT on the purchase of the story boards.

4/20 Financial Statement and Report - Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £7,124.85 as at 31st December 2019. Clerk has prepared a budget to show how the 2020/21 will be spent which includes earmarked funds for ongoing projects.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 285 - 287 as follows:

285 -	Mr A. Dixon (Clerk Salary December)	£172.40
286 -	HMRC PAYE	£ 38.60
287 -	CDALC	£ 54.00
	Total	£265.00

It was resolved: All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors agreed to keep the annual Precept request at £6,600.

Councillors agreed to get a quote to tidy the village and the area around the railway platform. This work would need to be done two or three times per year. Councillor Swift suggested spending some of the Precept on looking after the trees on the Village Green as the County Council do not seem to be doing this work. Councillor Brabban suggested trying to encourage wildlife by installing bee hotels or bird boxes on the trees.

5/20 Planning Matters - None

6/20 Clerks Correspondence -

Dog fouling - Clerk informed Councillors that a resident had complained the Parish Council were not proactive enough as regards dog fouling. **It was resolved:** Councillors believe that nothing further can be done as regards dog fouling. Dogs bins and bags are already provided.

7/20 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan - Nothing further to report at this time.

8/20 Members Reports - Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters:

Public Rights of Way near Cricket Field - John and Ian Simon have offered to do work to open up the path down to the Cricket Field by installing a gate and installing handrails next to the steps. The Public Rights of Way Officer has offered to fund 50% of this work.

Van parked in the layby near the railway platform - This vehicle has been reported as parked in the layby for over a month. It has not been taxed for over 3 months and has been registered as SORN. **It was resolved:** Councillors agreed to contact Durham Police to ask if this vehicle can be removed.

Planning Training Session - Councillors Todd and Cowan summarised what they learned after attending the Planning Training Session.

Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th April - Councillors agreed to move the meeting date to Monday 20th April as the previous Monday is Easter Monday.

9/20 Chairman's Report - Christmas light bowls provided by the Youth Club - Councillors agreed to put an article in the Witton Word to thank them for providing these lights.

10/20 Any other business - None

11/20 Date and Time of the next Meeting - The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 10th February 2020 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Name	Telephone Number
HENDERSON. Brewis	Tel: 01388 488551
HENDERSON. Mary	Tel: 01388 488551
BRABBAN. Sarah	Tel: 07824 564606
WILSON. Olive	Tel: 01388 488294
QUIGLEY. Keith	Tel: 01388 488914
TODD. Edward	Tel: 01388 488688
COWAN. Philip	Tel: 07884 452710
SWIFT. Elizabeth	Tel: 01388 488671
DIXON. Alan (CLERK)	Tel: 01388 609045

WITTON - LE - WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 2020 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6.15pm

Present: Councillors P. Cowan (Chair), M. Henderson, B. Henderson, E. Swift, S. Brabban

Also Present: A. Dixon (Parish Council Clerk),

Apologies: O. Wilson, K. Quigley, E. Todd

Declaration of interest: None

12/20 Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held 13th January 2020 - Minutes agreed as being accurate and correct.

13/20 Matters arising from the previous minutes -

1. Speeding traffic - Nothing to report at this time.

2. Lights for the Village Green - Electricity feeder box is due to be installed during the first week of March.

3. Parking on the road outside Low Barns Nature Reserve - This is a difficult problem to resolve as the gates to the Nature Reserve are locked at 4:30 pm and there have been reports of cars being locked in. Photographic evidence to be sent to Durham County Council showing cars parked in the layby.

4. Website - Nothing to report at this time.

5. Witton Park Bridge - Nothing to report at this time.

6. Church Path - Chair asked Tim Atkins whether anything can be done to make the Church path safer to walk on and was told that he had been informed by the contractors that installed it, it was fine. **It was resolved:** Clerk to contact Durham County Council to ask for advice as the path is on common land.

7. Untaxed van - Durham County Council have written to the owner of the van requesting that the van be removed from the layby within 7 days or it will be removed by the Council.

8. Trees, bird boxes and bee hotels - Awaiting feedback from Durham Wildlife Trust.

9. Registering land as Village Green - A resident has written to the Parish Council asking whether the cricket field, the row of trees next to the railway line and the path along the river can in some way be protected for use by residents. Councillor Cowan informed members that the land needs to have been used freely, without consent by residents for 20 years before village green rights could be applied for. **It was resolved:** Parish Council to try and get evidence as to how long the cricket field has been used freely by residents.

14/20 Representation by Residents - None

15/20 Financial Statement and Report - Balance of Current Account, Deposit Account and Cash £5,426.35 as at 31st January 2020.

A Receipt and Payments Account can be found on the Parish Council website. Councillors agreed payment of invoice 288 - 291 as follows:

288	Mr A Dixon (Clerk Salary February 2020)	£172.60
289	HMRC	£ 38.40
290	ELI Press	£133.20
291	ICO	£ 40.00
	Total	£384.20

It was resolved: All financial matters agreed as being correct. Councillors agreed to transfer £1000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account. Clerk to send a letter to Yorkshire Bank requesting this transfer.

16/20 Planning Matters - Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

DM/19/03141/FPA - 9 West End - Comments have previously been submitted for this application and no further comments need to be submitted.

DM/19/03901/OUT - Pennywell - Planning application has not changed significantly.

DM/19/02407/FPA - Land to the east of Spru-Scot, Cemetery Road - November minutes previously stated that this application had been rejected but it was withdrawn.

17/20 Clerks Correspondence -

Clerk asked Councillors to consider having a separate email address for Parish Council purposes. He also asked Councillors to consider the possible purchase of a cheap tablet that could be used solely for the Parish Council to store emails and view minutes and agenda. This could reduce the amount of paper that is wasted. He also informed Councillors that he needs to complete his CiLCA qualification within a year.

Clerk and Councillor Wilson to attend the Planning Training at County Hall on 24th February.

It was resolved: Clerk to contact Steve Ragg to get advice and report back at the next meeting regarding the need for separate email addresses. Councillors agreed the purchase of a cheap tablet would be a good idea especially if each Councillor made a contribution toward the cost. Purchasing 8 tablets is currently not financially feasible for the Parish Council. These changes are necessary in order for the Parish Council to be more GDPR compliant although some Councillors do have reservations.

18/20 Neighbourhood and Parish Plan - There is a significant amount of work required to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. There is a grant available of £9000 but councils tend to spend more than that as a Neighbourhood Plan is planning focused. It would require a large number of volunteers. **It was resolved:** Councillors felt it was a good idea not to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan as Witton le Wear does not have a lot of development sites, it could incur costs above the £9000 grant and would not have a result that residents could see. There has also been no pressure to undertake a Parish Plan. An Action / Development plan to be added to the Annual Report to show residents the village services and facilities the council will seek to develop, improve and maintain. The decision about whether to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan to be made at next month's meeting when more Councillors are present.

19/20 Members Reports - Councillors have been asked by residents to report on the following matters:

Residents have given good feedback on the work carried out by SE Landscaping. Residents are happy to see the footpaths and drains cleared of leaves.

Someone has put notices up in the village advertising Hamsterley Fayre without getting permission.

VE Day Celebration - Councillor M Henderson informed Councillors that plans are underway for VE Day celebrations.

20/20 Chairman's Report - Chairman said she would prepare a notice about the annual meeting of the Parish Council, which will take place on Monday 11th May at 7pm, for insertion in the next Witton Word.

The Community Association are looking for new committee members.

21/20 Any other business - None

22/20 Date and Time of the next Meeting

- The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 9th March 2020 in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at 6:15pm.

CORRECTION OF INCORRECT DETAIL IN THE JANUARY 2020 WITTON WORD

The article is the Parish Council November 2019 minutes Planning Matters.

The applicant, Mr Ian Simon.

The planning application was not rejected by DCC, the application was withdrawn by Mr Ian Simon.

The Parish Council apologises for this error.

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