

THE WITTON WORD

ISSUE 131, AUGUST 2026

In this edition

A Swift Village?

A68 – Can You Help?

Youth Football Say Thank You

Cricket Report

The newsletter of Witton le Wear Parish Council

CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Directory	4
Witton le Wear - A Swift Village?	5
A68 - Can You Help?	5
NETOA Update	6
Community Centre	7
Pew News	8
Kind Hearts Local Home Support	10
Regular Bus Service Campaign	11
Parish Council News	12-14
Youth Football Club Says Thanks	15
Cricket Report	16

NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
Friday 25 September

SCHEDULED DATE FOR DELIVERY:
Friday 2 October

*If you would like to receive the Word Witton electronically,
please let the Clerk have your email address.*

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 any third-party content in this publication.





Welcome to the latest issue of The Witton Word

Hannah Murray-Leslie
Parish Council Chair

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

As ever, your Councillors have been busy with projects which you can read about in this edition.

The latest is the renovation of the cemetery gates, which are looking great.

Seemingly simple things like this take quite a lot of work and I'd like to take the opportunity in this edition to thank our Clerk for all the support he provides in making them happen.

It's been a while since I've mentioned that we are still

short of two councillors – if you'd like us to do more or you've ever considered contributing, please get in touch.

We meet every two months, on the second Monday at 6.15pm.

In between, councillors work on projects in their own time depending on their skills and interests, so it's a great way to make a difference to the things you care about.

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact our parish clerk, Michael, by phone at 07976 400604 or by email at clerk@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk

Cover: Cemetery Gates, renovated by the Parish Council. Photo: Lewis Langstaff-Wood (cropped).



Directory

Useful telephone numbers and information

Police, non-emergency	101
NHS, non-emergency	111
HOSPITALS	
Bishop Auckland	01388 455 000
North Durham	0191 333 2333
Darlington Memorial	01325 380 100
SURGERIES	
North House, Crook	01388 762 945
Repeat Prescriptions	01388 762 718
Auckland Medical, Toft Hill	01388 433 060
Auckland Medical, St Helen Auck	01388 604 163
Auckland Medical, Bishop Auck	01388 602 728
SCHOOL	
Witton le Wear Primary	01388 488 350
UTILITIES EMERGENCIES	
Northern Powergrid	0800 668 877
Northumbrian Water	
Leaks	0800 393 084
Sewerage	0800 328 7648
National Gas	0800 111999

Mobile Post Office
Parks on High Street outside
St Phillip and St James Church

- Every Wednesday 14.15 – 14.45
- Cash Withdrawals
 - Cash Deposits
 - Cheque Deposits
 - Parcel Force Express Service
 - Vehicle Tax

Scan the QR Code, above, for more information.

Mobile Library
Parks on High Street outside
St Phillip and St James Church

Tue 17 Jun: 14.55-15.10
Tue 08 Jul: 14.55-15.10

Scan the QR Code for more.



Weardale – Heritage & Scenery

Size: A5 (210 x 148mm) – landscape
Binding: Paperback 300gsm cover, 130gsm silk throughout
Extent: 112pp including 108 full colour illustrations
Price: £10.99
ISBN: 978 0 9932527 6 1

Includes 10 pages on Witton le Wear
Offered to readers of Witton Word at £8-99 incl p&p
Contact Glen at albionpress@gmail.com



Overview

An informative guidebook to the towns, villages and heritage of Weardale from Witton Castle in the east, to Killhope Lead Mining Museum in the west.

Albion Press

Publishers of Local History



Your Parish Councillors & Officers

Delivering quality services and information to Witton le Wear and surrounding areas



Michael McLaren
Parish Clerk

t. 07976 400604
clerk@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk



Hannah Murray-Leslie
Chair

t. 07920 557324
Cllr.Murray-Leslie@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk



Caroline Cook
Councillor

t. 07760 193417
Cllr.Cook@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk



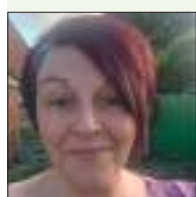
Mel Campbell
Councillor

t. via Parish Clerk
Cllr.Campbell@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk



Lynn Docherty
Councillor

t. 07765 807589
Cllr.Docherty@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk



Laura Langstaff-Wood
Councillor

t. 07765 142350
Cllr.Langstaff-Wood@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk



Lynda Bentley
Councillor

t. via Parish Clerk
Cllr.Bentley@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk

Witton le Wear – a swift village?

Swifts occupy the sky above our village from May to August, if you haven't seen their scimitar shapes darting between the houses then you may well have heard their calls – fabulously called 'screaming parties'. By the time this edition goes out they will have left their nests, with their numbers bolstered by a successful breeding season, and be heading back to Africa.

Despite the strong association between Witton le Wear and swifts, their numbers have declined. This is in part due to us all improving our homes and inadvertently blocking up theirs.

Nationally swifts are doing worse, they are on the red list when it comes to conservation. However, we have an opportunity to act locally and give swifts a boost in our village. By working with Durham Wildlife Trust's project 'Swift City' we can look to raise awareness, install swift boxes and record and monitor nesting sites.

Look out for a date for a Swift Village meeting in the autumn, and in the meantime if you would like to express an interest or share swift nesting news please email Lynda via the parish council.

A68 – Can you help?

Cllr Robbie Rodiss attended the Parish Council on Monday 13th July. Residents and councillors shared with him worries and frustrations surrounding the dangers and speed of traffic on A68. We hope to have further meetings arranged with both DCC and the Police and will share details once these are known.

In the meanwhile we need your help!

Our anecdotal evidence of near misses is very powerful. Some residents living adjacent to the A68 already record incidents of dangerous driving they experience when using the road.

The more evidence we have, the better. We would like to gather as much data as possible and we are asking all residents to let us know if you experience or spot dangerous driving whilst walking, cycling or driving along the A68 in our village. We will share the details of what happened, where and when with DCC and the Police, and all information will be anonymised.

Please email brief details (date, time, location) of any incidents to cllr.campbell@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk or clerk@wittonlewear-pc.gov.uk

NETOA

North East Theatre Organ Association



It was a privilege to once again to be part of Durham Brass Festival. A marvellous concert featuring Stanhope Silver Band and Howard Beaumont (long standing organist at Scarborough Spa) on the Mighty Wurlitzer thrilled the sellout audience.

We have a short break before our "All Stars" awards concert on Sunday 6th September, details of events are on the posters (pre-booking essential for food).

Saturday the 19th September we have our Heritage Open Day. This is a free event with tours behind the scenes to see how the Mighty Wurlitzer produces its vast array of sounds.

Our show on Sunday 25th October brings a welcome return of the ever popular Jean Martyn.

Jean is an exceptional musician playing everything from the Blues to Rock and Roll, the great American song book and the light classics all mixed with her bubbly personality and fun sense of humour.

Jean was a finalist of *Britain's Got Talent* and is a first rate act. Booking is recommended.

Our quiz for two free tickets for either of the chargeable shows:

In what year was Jean Martyn a finalist on Britain's Got Talent?

Answers to david.wright@NETOA.org.uk

Closing date 5pm Friday 21st August, winners will be notified via email the following day. Multiple correct entries will be drawn from a hat to decide the winner.

North East Theatre Organ Association
Registered Charity No. 1169463

New Victoria Centre 40th Anniversary Season
Enjoy the sound of the mighty
WURLITZER with the Friends of the NETOA

'ALL STARS'
Annual Awards Concert
as they play for your entertainment
with 'FOOD' Glorious FOOD

Sunday 6th September at 2.30

New Victoria Centre
High Street
Howden le Wear
Crook
DL15 8EZ

£10 with food (pre-booking essential) or
£5.00 (at the door) with Tea / Coffee & Biscuits

Book at 0333 666 3366 or
Online at: www.netoa.org.uk
(Booking Fee Applies)

North East Theatre Organ Association
Registered Charity No. 1169463

New Victoria Centre 40th Anniversary Season
MIGHTY WURLITZER
HERITAGE OPEN DAY
Part of National Heritage Open Days festival

FREE TO EXPLORE

- * See the Wurlitzer up close and find out how it works
- * Hear the Wurlitzer & the Gavioli Fairground Organ
- * Displays and Demonstrations
- * Refreshments

Saturday 19th September 10.00 - 5.00
Drop in any time

New Victoria Centre
High Street
Howden le Wear
Crook, DL15 8EZ

ADMISSION FREE
More Details at: www.netoa.org.uk



Witton Le Wear
**Community
Centre**

Community Centre

At the Heart of the Village: Witton Le Wear Community Centre

Your Community Centre – The Perfect Venue for Every Occasion

Looking for the ideal venue to celebrate a special occasion or host a memorable event? Your local Community Centre offers a welcoming, affordable, and versatile space that is perfect for a wide range of gatherings.

Whether you're planning a birthday party, anniversary celebration, baby shower, engagement party, family reunion, charity fundraiser, meeting, workshop, or a community event, our centre provides a comfortable and spacious setting to suit your needs.

Our facilities are designed to accommodate both small and large groups, with flexible room layouts, ample seating, kitchen facilities and accessible amenities.

The hall can be arranged to match your style of your event, giving you the freedom to create a celebration that reflects your personality and vision.

Hiring the Community Centre is not only cost-effective but also supports local activities and

services. Every booking help to maintain this valuable community space, allowing it to continue serving residents of all ages throughout the year.

Our friendly team is committed to making your event a success. From your initial enquiry through to the day of your booking, we're here to answer questions and help ensure everything run smoothly.

If you're searching for a clean, convenient, and welcoming venue with a true community spirit, look no further than your local Community Centre.

To find out more about availability, pricing, or to arrange a viewing, please get in touch. We would be delighted to help you plan your next celebration or event.

Make your next occasion one to remember – book your local Community Centre and celebrate in the heart of your community!

Trustees are Cheryl Barker, Joanne Stokoe, John Preston and Philip Cowan.



To book, call Cheryl on 07714 583799

Activity	Details	Time
Mondays		
Carpet Bowls	Contact Kate Atkins: 01388 488626	6.45pm – 9.45pm
Tuesdays		
Coffee Morning	Every 1 st Tuesday of the month. Christina: 07714 200254	10.15am – 11.45am
Sewing Group	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday of the month. Anne Yuill: 01388 488376	1pm – 4pm
Yoga	Mark Aspinall: 01388 710658	7pm – 8pm
Wednesdays		
Badminton	Ursula Jones: 01388 488697 or 07717 707934	1.30pm – 3pm
Youth Club	Derek Bradley: 07808 480029	6.30pm – 8.30pm

Pew News

St Philip and St James Parish Church: 01388 768898



Firstly, you may have been surprised to see the east wall of the church yard bereft of the blackberry plants, writes *Kate Atkins*.

They had gone mad this summer and promised a good crop of blackberries, but unfortunately the nettles in amongst them were very vicious and what made the decision to cut them back was both 'whippy' new growth of branches and the discovery of a plant from the same family as Deadly Nightshade and just as poisonous growing in the midst of the blackberries.

There were already red to purple berries on the plant – very tempting to children and adults alike – fatal if touched or eaten. They had to be removed with gloves on and disposed of safely. Hopefully next year's will see new growth and good harvesting.

A piece of guttering fell off the porch and has necessitated getting expert advice on how to restore the whole run of the south facing guttering and down pipes – all of which leak down the church fabric. We await the cost!

The advice to date is to take each section down and strip it, repaint and rejoin to form a leak-proof gutter.

The cost will be used from the 100 Club monies which are raised for the fabric of the church although this may not cover the total cost. So a big thank you to all of you who support the 100 Club. There are spare numbers available if you would like to join it. Ask Mike Whalley our treasurer for details.

As if that were not enough the organ is in need of some TLC. So having now got a great access to the organ loft we need to ensure the organ remains in working order. We think it was last tuned before Covid and an overhaul of the pipes etc. was at that time £44,000. The manual stops are mostly working but the stops on the right hand side (bourdon stops?) are not at all well.

So we have some charities who support organ restoration which we intend to write to and if anyone out there loves writing begging letters, we desperately need help, once the damage is assessed, and we can show we are trying to raise monies ourselves.

We need ideas on how to raise the money for both projects and the fabric of the building is vitally important. I am sure you have ideas of how to generate monies – so we need your help. At present two out of four services use the organ and a gentleman comes in each week to play the

organ for two hours. He thinks the extra use has improved some of the problems but it still needs tuning etc.

In early July the Crook and Weardale Singers came to give a concert in the church. It was wonderful to hear the church (with its brilliant acoustic atmosphere) filled with their singing.

A raffle and donations instead of tickets made £280 which we had agreed to share with the singers 50/50 as they do not charge a fee for giving their concert.

Thanks to Morgan and Lynda Price for their gardening skill around the church and if anyone would like to cut down the ivy on the sycamore tree at the west end of the church please do so.

The council did cut it down and it has died off on the upper part of the tree but new growth at the tree's base means it is trying to regrow up it. It really need cutting back at the base of the tree and discouraged from growing around it.

We are delighted that we can have some Holy Communion services – at present 3rd Sunday in August, 1st Sunday in September and 1st Sunday in October.

Between times, Cafe Church on 2nd Sunday of the month at 10.30am (come and try it!) and All Age Sunday Family Service on the 4th Sunday – Early Birds when we have 10+ children and their families coming along.

If you have had your child baptised either here or somewhere else and want to keep the promises you made at baptism as parents and Godparents, this is a way of introducing the child to a faith in our loving Father God.

Village Green – Fence

Just a heads up that we hope to be renewing the white fencing on the lower slope of the green this autumn on a like-for-like basis.

At the same time we would like to get some willing helpers to plant spring bulbs (tulips and native bluebells) under the line of the new fence.

Watch out for updates for a bulb planting Saturday, or take on a section to plant at your convenience.

For more details please contact Lynda (via the parish council) or Val (at the Dun Cow).



Become a Family Member this Summer!

Photo: Tom Marshall



Charity number: 501038

To Explore
our natural spaces and
Learn lots about local wildlife,

treat your little ones to family membership from just £4
a month or £48 for annual membership.



Until the 1st of September, we
are including a free gift in each
family membership pack.

This summer, we're celebrating our incredible
invertebrates! Choose from either a free "creepy
crawlies" or "in the garden" book, along with a bag of
Durham Wildlife Trust bee-bombs when you
become a family member this summer holiday.

Scan the code above or visit
www.durhamwt.com to find out more!



Kind Hearts local home support

Making a real difference across Witton le Wear



A local home support service is making a real difference to people across Witton-le-Wear and surrounding communities by helping individuals remain comfortable, independent, and cared for in their own homes.

Kind Hearts Home Support, founded by Cheryl, provides compassionate and reliable support tailored to each client's personal needs and routine. With 19 years of NHS experience, Cheryl brings professional standards of care together with a warm, personal approach that families can trust.

Fully insured and DBS checked, Kind Hearts Home Support gives clients and families extra piece of mind knowing they are receiving safe, professional, and dependable support.

"Our aim is simple," says Cheryl. "We want people to feel safe, respected, and supported while continuing to live independently at home. Every client is treated like family."

Kind Hearts Home Support offers a range of services including personal care, companionship, meal preparation, help around the home, shopping assistance, and support attending appointments.

The service is designed for elderly residents, vulnerable adults, or anyone needing a little extra support day-to-day.

Unlike larger agencies, clients benefit from seeing a familiar face every time, helping to build trust, confidence, and genuine companionship.

The business is built on the value of dignity, compassion, and reliability – something that local families increasingly value when choosing support for loved ones.

Based in Witton-le-Wear, Kind Hearts Home Support is proud to serve the local community with flexible care tailored to individual needs.

For more information or to discuss support options, contact Cheryl on 07714 583 799.

STORMIN' THE CASTLE 2026

Public Notice for Sound Levels

This event will be held at
Witton Castle Country Park on

Friday 4th and Saturday 5th of September

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities (all in 24hr format) are

Live Music Indoors and Outdoors

Fri 4th September 12:00– Sat 01:00

Sat 5th September 10:00– Sun 01:00

Sound levels are monitored throughout the event. Levels will comply with local authority guidelines.

Contact details: James Coxon Event Manager
jim@storminthecastle.co.uk 07901 558031



Regular Bus Service Campaign

Update on the campaign for a regular bus service in Witton le Wear



What a long way we have come since December 2025 when the WI project group held our first meeting, writes *Anne Yuill*.

All our hard work culminated in the public meeting on the 18th June in the Community Centre. Over 50 people contributed and gave their commitment to getting a bus service back to Witton le Wear.

The ROUTES project funded through the North East Mayoral Authority are working alongside Weardale Community Transport Group and they are looking for projects to help to find solutions to transport issues in rural areas.

There is a strong indication that Witton le Wear could be the County Durham based project along with two others from northern counties. The final decision hopefully will be made in the near future and then we can move forward.

If this comes to fruition, Witton le Wear will have their own electric vehicle based in the village, which will have disabled access and 8 seats.

At the public meeting, 11 residents made it known that they may be interested in becoming volunteer drivers and another three people said they might be interested in helping with any administration.

ROUTES project group are currently making changes to their online booking system which is again another step in the right direction. As soon as this is up and running, a few of us will visit and try to understand how it could work in our community.

As you are aware summer holiday season often frustratingly slows down progress and we are hoping there will be another public meeting in September when we can move forward with practicalities.

This will be advertised on social media, posters around the village and by word of mouth.

Message from the ROUTES team

The ROUTES project team are working closely with local communities to understand existing transport challenges and identify gaps in provision.

By combining local knowledge with detailed transport data, the project will help develop practical solutions that meet the needs of rural residents.

These could include community transport services, shared vehicles, accessible transport options, and demand-responsive services that complement existing public transport networks.

To ensure the project is shaped by those who use transport services, we are asking residents, groups, and organisations to complete our survey and share their views.

There will be a link to the online survey made available on the Witton le Wear Residents Facebook page. If you wish an emailed copy, please email Anne and she will send it through to you.

Message from the North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness's Office

The public consultation on the proposed Bus Franchising Scheme has now opened and there will be a number of public meetings held in the North East.

There is also an online survey which residents are invited to complete. The closing date is the 28th September 2026. Details can be found online at:

www.northeast-ca.co.uk/consultations/haveyoursay

Thank you all for your continued support

Contacts

Anne: 07717 707934, email: kanda98@sky.com; Linda: 07555 688488, Rosie Biddlecombe, Edith Whalley: email: edithwhalley@live.co.uk; Judy Blair, Mel Campbell, Peter Topping, Angela Heaton.

Parish Council News

Delivering quality services and information to Witton le Wear and surrounding areas



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 11th May 2026** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-30.

Present: Cllrs Murray-Leslie (Chair), C Cook, M Campbell, L Docherty, L Langstaff-Wood, M Cambell

Residents: Mr P Parsons

26/41/1 Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26/42/2 Apologies received from Cllr L Bentley.

26/43/3 There were no declarations of interest.

26/44/4 The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 9th March were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie. There were no amendments.

26/45/5 The Clerk presented the WLWPC financial report 01/03/26 thru 30/04/26 . There were no issues or irregularities. Signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie (Resolved)

26/46/6 The Clerk presented a copy of the current electronic decisions. The Parish Council has registered an interest with Durham energy Association Ltd whose core business is to cut energy costs in community spaces. (accepted by emails) (Resolved)

26/47/7 Mr Parsons gave a progress update on the Parish Plan. (Ref to 26/61/21)

26/48/8 The WLWPC Financial Regulations have been updated from a standard NALC template. It was agreed these would be reviewed prior to the next meeting. (Action Cllr Cook)

26/49/9 The WLWPC Standing Orders have been updated from a standard NALC template. It was agreed these would be reviewed prior to the next meeting. (Action Cllr Campbell)

26/50/10 The WLWPC Code of Conduct has been updated from a standard NALC template. It was agreed this would be reviewed prior to the next meeting. (Action Cllr Murray-Leslie)

26/51/11 The WLWPC Data Protection Policy has been updated from standard NALC document. The policy was accepted (Resolved)

26/52/12 The WLWPC asset register has been updated. A further addition was identified, to include the public information board now installed to the road adjacent the church. (action - Clerk)

26/53/13 The WLWPC risk assessment has been updated to include the risks associated with assertion 10. Revision accepted without change (Resolved)

26/54/14 The WLWPC unaudited accounts were presented for consideration. associated with assertion 10. Revision accepted without change (Resolved)

26/55/15 The WLWPC AGAR was presented for approval. Approved without change (Resolved)

26/56/16 Cllr Langstaff-Wood responded to a report from a resident who had found several giant hogweed plants against a wall to the west end of the High Street. The matter has been reported to DCC, the plants have been removed / destroyed. (Resolved)

Parish Council News

Delivering quality services and information to Witton le Wear and surrounding areas



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2026

- 26/57/17** Actions from previous minutes
- 26/57/17/1 Clerk to contact Mr Slack of the Auckland Trust regarding change of ownership of Witton le Wear Station platform. Contact made. (action 26/29/10 is complete) (Resolved)
- 26/57/17/2 Cllr Murray-Walker, Mr Tim Cole and the Clerk have completed the works to secure the Witton le Wear PC domain together with the .gov email addresses and 8 x Office 365 accounts. (Resolved)
- 26/57/17/3 Stiles and paths. Works ongoing. (action Cllr Bentley and Cook)
- 26/58/18** Village assets
- 26/58/18/1 The SJOG Green Team workmen have completed the first phase of the gardening works (Resolved)
- 26/58/18/2 £300 allocated to refurbish the existing Village Green hanging baskets and planters. Proposed by Cllr Murray-Leslie, seconded by Cllr Cook. (Action – Cllr Murray-Leslie)
- 26/57/18/3 £75 allocated to provide plants to be placed local to the A68 Bench. Proposed by Cllr M Campbell and seconded by Cllr Murray-Leslie (Action – Cllr Cook)
- 26/57/18/4 Village paths – report deferred until next meeting. (Action Cllr L Bentley)
- 26/58/19** Transport
- 26/58/19/1 A68 Traffic. Historic email information to be gathered prior to next meeting. (Action – Clerk)
- 26/58/19/2 Bus Campaign. Historic email info to be gathered prior to next meeting. (Action – Clerk)
- 26/59/19/3 Clerk to contact Cllr Rodiss with agenda and information for July PC meeting. (Action – Clerk)
- 26/60/20** Samples were provided of the digital and litho versions of the Witton Word. Cllrs agreed savings could be made by reverting to the litho printing with little effect to quality of the end product. MT Printers to be advised. (Action Clerk)
- 26/61/21** Mr Parsons gave a progress update on the Parish Plan. We need more feedback from the residents. The Cllrs suggested the QR code be added to cover of the next Witton Word and that they would help where the residents had IT issues. (Ongoing)
- 26/62/22/1 Mr Rowland of Entwine Computers has resolved issues whereby we were locked out of the Parish Council website. (Resolved)
- 26/62/22/3 All assertion 10 actions are now complete. Parish Councillors have each been supplied with login details and their new .gov email address. (Ref 26/57/17/2) (Resolved)
- 26/63/23** Copies of all planning applications have been sent to the Cllrs. (No actions)
- 26/64/24** **Members Reports**
- 26/64/24/1 Following a request from a resident Cllr Cook has made contact with Durham County Council to supply and fix a handrail to the cemetery steps. Works complete. (Resolved)
- 26/64/24/2 Cllr Cook at obtain prices to shot blast and paint the cemetery gates. Initial contact to be made with Durham County Council. (Action Cllr Cook)

Parish Council News

www.wittonlewear.org.uk | clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2026

- 26/64/24/3 Numerous complaints have been received about cars being dangerously parked on the yellow zig zag lines adjacent the school. (Action – Cllr Cook to investigate with council)
- 26/64/24/4 Numerous complaints have been received about the quality and type of dog poo bin located at various locations around the village. Cllr Langstaff-Wood to make enquiries about more suitable bins. (Action Cllr Langstaff-wood)

Meeting closed at 20-00.

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 13th July 2026, 18-15 at WLW Community Centre.

Cllr C Cook

13/7/26

Signed by the Chair Date.....

Monthly Coffee Mornings

Everyone is welcome to come along to the monthly coffee mornings on the first Tuesday of the Month.

The cakes and refreshments are donated by the organising team which means every penny goes to the Community Centre funds.

Well done to everyone involved.

This can only happen with your support.

Please continue to support us by coming along on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.30am until 12 noon in Witton le Wear Community Centre.

Tuesday 1st Sep, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov.

At the monthly coffee mornings, we have a tin where donations can be made for Woodhouse Close Foodbank. Thank you for your previous generosity.

If transport is a problem, we can arrange for a car to come and collect you and take you home again.

Please contact

Anne (07717 707934) or Edith (01388 488136)

Friendship Lunch *Don't be a stranger*

Our autumn lunch will be Friday 2nd October

The lunches are organised for anyone in our community who wants some companionship and



who would enjoy meeting friends, neighbours or strangers who will soon become friends for a light lunch.

We offer a choice of 3 soups and 3 puddings. We ask for a donation of £5 towards the costs of the day. There may be a glass or two of wine. It starts at 12 noon in the Community Centre, and usually finishes around 1.30pm.

Transport can be arranged and if you have attended before, we will automatically send you information. **Everyone is welcome.**

If you have not been before or would like to come along, please make contact with Anne (01388 488376) or Pippa (01388 488099).

Youth Football Club says thanks

Fundraisers help Witton le Wear Youth Football Club ahead of June launch



Witton-le-Wear Youth Football Club would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported their fundraiser night at The Dun Cow earlier in the summer as well as the Race Night at The Victoria.

"The evening at The Dun Cow was a fantastic success," said a club spokesperson, "bringing together families, local residents, supporters and businesses from across the community to help support the club as it continues to grow."

"As a brand-new and ambitious youth football club, the support shown means a great deal to everyone involved."

"Funds raised will help provide equipment, training resources, and opportunities for young players of all ages and skill levels."

"We are overwhelmed by the support from the local community. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, bought raffle tickets, bought food, joined in the auction and helped make the night such a success."

"A special thanks also go to The Dun Cow for hosting is and supporting grassroots football in Witton-le-Wear."

"We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Race Night at The Victoria."

"Whether you attended, sponsored a race or horse, donated prizes, bought raffle tickets, or helped behind the scenes, your generosity and support made the evening a fantastic success."

"Your support helps us continue to provide opportunities for our young players, ensuring they have the equipment, facilities, and experiences they need to enjoy and develop through football."

"A special thank you to The Victoria for hosting us, George and Andy for their part in organising the races and to everyone who gave their time and effort to make the event such an enjoyable night."

"We are incredibly grateful for the continuing support from our local community and look forward to seeing you at our future fundraising events."

"Thank you for helping make a real difference to Witton-le-Wear Youth Football Club!"

Witton-le-Wear Youth Football Club officially launched with an open day on Saturday 6th June with training sessions now taking place every Tuesday and Thursday.

The club welcomes children and young people of all abilities and aims to help players build confidence, improve skills, and enjoy football in a positive environment.

With coaching support from an ex-professional footballer, the club is focused on developing young talent while creating a fun and inclusive atmosphere for everyone involved.

The club is still welcoming new players and supporters as it continues building for the future.

For more information, contact Cheryl on 07714 583799 or email wlwyfc@outlook.com

WITTON-LE-WEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

PLAY BELONG GROW

BE PART OF SOMETHING NEW. BE PART OF THE TEAM.

BRAND NEW CLUB
Building the future together.

PLAYERS WANTED
All ages. All abilities. Everyone welcome.

DEVELOP, HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS
A positive environment for every player.

BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME!

TRAIN TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

TURN UP, GET INVOLVED, LOVE THE GAME.

CONTACT CHERYL 07714583799

YOUR JOURNEY. OUR FUTURE.
CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE!



Cricket Report

Witton Le Wear Cricket Club season update

Hello sports fans! I'm not 100% sure where our junior sports writer left you with our last update but, from memory, I think he left us hanging on a massive high with league winning form being talked about!

However, after a truly awful June, Witton have upped their game a bit during July.

Currently the W's are sitting in 8th position (out of 11) in the Darlington & District A Division, 24 points clear of 9th place and only 7 points behind 7th.

With the bottom 3 teams due to be relegated this season, our recent up turn in form has come along at just the right time.

In terms of results, all of our cup campaigns have come to a shuddering halt, with an absolute thrashing at the hands of Haughton the high-water mark in our poor run of form!

We have however been very competitive in all of our league fixtures, picking up wins against Aldbrough St John, Spennymoor and Cockerton, taking us to six wins for the season with six fixtures remaining.

For a bit of context on that, we haven't been able to find anyone who can dispute that this has been the W's most "successful" season in the A division, with the potential of power to add.

Batting form in the main has been decent. Adam Nelson has picked up the team's first century of the season in a high scoring loss away at Cliffe. He also has four half centuries to go with his hundred, and at the time of writing is only 26 runs off the leagues top run getter.

He is not the only Adam doing the business with the bat. New signing, Adam "Spud" Tait, has passed 50 four times, while Tim Smaller has two half centuries to his name. Mr Humberstone picked up his maiden 50 for the W's in the win over ASJ, while AJ Wild picked up his top score of the season with 74 in the win against Spennymoor. Very near misses on the 50 mark for Matty Phelps (49) and Dan Johnson who made a well composed 48 last weekend against Cockerton.

Adam N is also leading the way with wickets, having claimed 28, closely followed by Mr Humberstone on 26.

Highlight of the bowling this season has been provided by the long-awaited debut for Holly Higginson. Not only is her prodigious swing and cut off the pitch causing issues for opposing batters, but her slightly longer than usual run up (for Witton players) is giving Adam N a much welcomed longer than normal rest between overs than he's used to!

So, as we go into our final six games of the season, things aren't looking as rosy as they were five weeks into the season, when we were top of the league (nearly), and had a slot on Boogaloo Radio's Sunday afternoon show! But all in all we've had a good season up to now, we just need to finish as strongly as we can and hold on to that A Division status at the end of the year.

Anyone wanting to get involved in any capacity with the club please get in touch. Skipper George in the Vic is probably a good first port of call on that. To keep up to date on all club news, please take a look at our Facebook page.



The players prepare for the final stretch of the season