

THE WITTON WORD

ISSUE 132, OCTOBER 2026

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Cricket Report

The newsletter of Witton le Wear Parish Council

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
Friday 27 November

SCHEDULED DATE FOR DELIVERY:
Friday 4 December

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

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Welcome to the latest issue of The Witton Word

Hannah Murray-Leslie
Parish Council Chair

Welcome to the Autumn *Witton Word*. Please read on for news and useful information about the village.

Over the summer, alongside our usual business, the Parish Council has been working to identify a contractor to replace the fence on the green.

We have also been offered a small grant from Cllr Roddiss to plant bulbs alongside it so you should see things start to happen in the next few months.

We now have the results from our village survey so we can use the feedback we received to help us make decisions going forwards.

We have also been in contact with Durham County Council about the proposed maintenance to the A68 bridge.

At present, DCC can confirm that their initial investigations relate to both piers, but they are in the early stages, and the scope of works may increase or decrease dependent on their findings. They have promised to provide updates as the investigations progress.

There's plenty happening in the village in the run-up to Christmas, please continue to support your community by getting involved!

Best wishes,
Hannah

Cover Photo: Brad Powell



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 RAILWAY

SANTA EXPRESS

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Your Parish Councillors & Officers

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Parish Clerk
t. 07976 400604
clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com



Hannah Murray-Leslie
Chair
t. 07920 557324



Caroline Cook
Councillor
t. 07760 193417



Mel Campbell
Councillor
t. via Parish Clerk



Lynn Docherty
Councillor
t. 07765 807589



Laura Langstaff-Wood
Councillor
t. 07765 142350



Lynda Bentley
Councillor
t. via Parish Clerk

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 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. 10.30 - 12.00 in Witton le Wear Community Centre.

Tuesdays 6 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec

At the monthly coffee mornings, we have a tin where donations can be made for Woodhouse Close Foodbank. Thanks to your generosity, we have recently donated £40.

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 Christmas lunch will be Friday 11 December

Our Christmas lunch is special as children from years 5 and 6 from Witton le Wear Primary School will be singing for our entertainment. They might even be bringing their ukeleles if we ask nicely!



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 midday 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.
Anne (01388 488376) or Pippa (01388 488099).

Community Centre

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



As we head into the autumn and winter months, there is plenty happening at Witton-Le-Wear Community Centre, and we would love for local residents to come along, get involved and support their community centre.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Trustees

We are delighted to welcome three new trustees to the board of Witton-le-Wear Community Centre: Rachel Atkinson, Sue Corder, and Tony Corder

We are pleased to have them join the board and look forward to working together to continue supporting and developing the Community Centre for everyone in Witton-le-Wear.

A Thank You to John

We would like to say a huge thank you to John for all his hard work, time, and commitment as a trustee of Witton-le-Wear Community Centre over the past three and a half years.

John has given his time and energy to help support the centre and the events we run, and we are extremely grateful for everything he has done. We wish him all the best for the future and thank him once again for his valuable contribution to our community.

Volunteers Wanted!

Our community centre relies on the support of local people, and we are always looking for volunteers to come forward and lend a hand.

Whether you can spare a few hours at an event, help with setting up or clearing away, or simply have an idea you would like to bring to the centre, we would love to hear from you.

Everyone is welcome, and even a small amount of your time can make a significant difference.

Rear Gates

For additional security, the gates at the rear of the Community Centre have now been locked.

There is still access to the tennis court via the front entrance for anyone wishing to use it.

If you require wheelchair access, please contact Cheryl on 07714 583799, who will be happy to assist.

Safety Around the Centre

We have recently had children climbing onto the roof of the shed. The roof is fragile and is not safe to climb on, and children have been asked not to climb on it.

We would kindly ask all parents and carers to have a conversation with their children about the importance of not climbing the walls or shed roof.

We want everyone to be able to enjoy the Community Centre safely, and your support in helping us keep the area safe and secure is greatly appreciated.

Hall Hire Available

Looking for somewhere to hold a party, family celebration, meeting, fundraiser, event, or other gatherings?

Our community centre is available for hall hire and offers a great local venue for a variety of occasions. Please get in touch for more information about availability and bookings.

To book the Community Centre, call Cheryl on 07714 583799

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Time</u>
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

Community Centre

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



Forthcoming Events

Halloween Drop-In: Saturday 31st October 4pm – 6pm. There will be refreshments on sale, and a special treat for adults and children who come along in fancy dress. So, get your costumes ready and come along for some Halloween fun!

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 8th November 11am – 1pm. Don't fancy cooking lunch after the Remembrance service? Why not pop along to the Community Centre, where we will be serving a selection of hot food and refreshments. Come along, warm up and enjoy some food with friends, family, and members of the local community.

Small Business Fair: Sunday 22nd November 12pm – 4pm. There will be a variety of stalls offering wonderful products, gifts, and treats. It is the perfect opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done. Find a unique gift or simply treat yourself to something special.

Christmas Baking Competition & Christmas Lights Turn-On: Sunday 6th December 2pm – 6pm.

Get your Christmas aprons ready! Come along and enter our Christmas Baking Competition. Entry is just £2 per bake. There will also be: Christmas carols; A small selection of stalls; Our Christmas baking competition; An auction of all competition entries at 4.30pm; Christmas lights turned on at 5.30pm. It is sure to be a lovely afternoon and a wonderful way to start the Christmas celebrations in Witton-le-Wear.

Come Along and Support Your Community Centre

Whether you are attending an event, volunteering your time, hiring the hall or simply popping in for a chat, your support helps keep Witton-le-Wear Community Centre at the heart of our village. We look forward to welcoming you all over the coming months. Bring your family, bring your friends, and come along and support your local community!



Community Centre

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



Free tablet, digital skills course and broadband access available. Limited places.



Digital Durham and DurhamLearn are working together to help local residents build confidence online.

Being online can make everyday life easier, from keeping in touch with family and friends to accessing NHS services, banking, shopping and council information. Digital skills are increasingly important for accessing services, staying informed and reducing isolation.

However, people living in rural areas can face additional barriers such as poor connectivity, limited access to training and support, or not having the right device to get started. This programme aims to ensure that residents in rural communities have the confidence, skills and equipment they need to participate fully in today's digital world.

This free programme is designed for people who are currently offline or lack the skills, equipment or internet access needed to make the most of digital technology.

What's included?

Eligible residents who complete the programme will receive:

- A Samsung Galaxy 12+ tablet, protective case and charger;
- A pre-loaded SIM card, (donated by Good Things Foundation);
- 6 hours of informal learning.

What will you learn

The course is delivered in a relaxed, friendly and informal environment over two 3-hour face-to-face sessions in your community. Learners will be supported and topics covered include:

- Getting started and using a tablet with confidence;

- Accessing online services, including NHS, council and banking services;
- Staying safe and secure online;
- Finding information and support on the internet.

Please note that both sessions must be attended to qualify for a tablet.

Why Being Online Matters

Access to digital technology and the skills to use it can make a real difference, particularly in rural communities where services may be harder to reach.

Being online helps people stay connected, access essential services, manage daily tasks, save time and money, and find information, learning and support.

As more services move online, digital skills are increasingly important for staying independent, informed and connected.

For rural residents, greater digital confidence can help overcome barriers of distance and access more opportunities.

Who can take part

Places are limited and subject to eligibility. To take part, learners must be aged 18 or over and be a resident of County Durham.

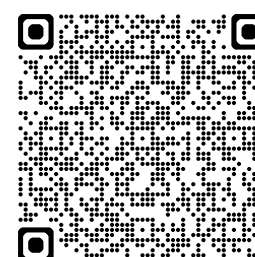
How to register

If you know a family member, friend or neighbour who could benefit from getting online, please encourage them to take part.

To register and sign up, complete the online form by scanning the QR code below. Alternatively, contact DurhamLearn on 03000 266 115.

For any other information or queries about the sessions contact Digital Durham by email at: digital.durham@durham.gov.uk or call them on: 03000 261 160.

Course dates and venue			
Date	Time	Venue	Address
4 & 11 November 2026 (Wednesdays)	9am to 12pm	Witton-le-Wear Community Centre	School Street Witton-le-Wear DL14 0AS



NETOA

North East Theatre Organ Association

On Saturday 19 September, the North East Theatre Organ Association in conjunction with Heritage Open Days held a very successful event.

Visitors from near and far got to explore the workings of the Mighty Wurlitzer and also hear short demonstrations played by our volunteer organists (*pictured below*), enjoy refreshments in the tearoom and listen to two mobile organs in the carpark, one being an almost brand new Decap organ and a lot older Gavioli.

Many thanks to Harry Thompson and Stuart Wright respectively for bringing them along.

Our next event features *Britain's got Talent* finalist Jean Martyn playing the Mighty Wurlitzer and also being a brilliant pianist I'm sure will play the grand piano too.

Jean plays a variety of styles from the Blues to Rock and Roll and from Swing to the Classics all with her bubbly sense of humour. Certainly not to be missed and we're expecting a full house, so book early.



To win two tickets for the Jean Martyn concert answer the following question:

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

Answers via email to david.wright@netoa.org.uk by noon Friday 16th October 2027 winners will be notified via email on Saturday 17th October via email. If more than one correct entry, the winner will be drawn from a hat.

North East Theatre Organ Association
Registered Charity No. 1149463

New Victoria Centre 10th Anniversary Season
Glittering star of Britain's Got Talent
JEAN MARTYN
plays the mighty WURLITZER Theatre Pipe Organ

Sunday 25th October at 2.30

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

Tickets: £13.00
Buy From 0333 666 3366 OR
Order online at: www.netoa.org.uk
(Booking Fee Applies)

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity Number 1149463
President Nigel Ogden

Preserving the sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe-organ in North East England

Village Show

Images from this year's Village Show on Saturday 12 September



Village Show

Images from this year's Village Show on Saturday 12 September



Women's Institute News

Inspiring the women of Witton le Wear



Bus Campaign Update

Our Witton le Wear WI project group has been overwhelmed by the support of the residents to the work we have been doing to get buses back to Witton le Wear, writes *Anne Yuill*.

We are very appreciative of your support. Back in 1927, the then village Women's Institute campaigned successfully to bring the very first regular bus service to the village and we are inspired by their work and are not of the opinion to take no for an answer.

We now have two campaigns going on simultaneously. Residents still tell us they want to have a regular bus service resumed. Earlier this year we had negative feedback from Durham County Council and the North East Strategic Mayor's Office, and were informed this was because of lack of funds. However, Newton Aycliffe, Sedgefield and Henknowle have just had new bus services started recently.

We are asking why not us and have had great support from our Crook County Councillor, Robbie Rodiss. This work continues.

Happily, the community transport bus for the village is now going to happen.

The Community Centre Trustees have agreed that the community bus can be parked at the back of the centre and a specific charging point will be installed. Meetings will be held with possible volunteer drivers to organise training, licence and DBS checks.

The Weardale Community Transport team are working on adapting their booking system to accommodate our needs. We will be training on how the system works and this information will be distributed as soon as we have it.

There are some volunteer drivers already in the system from Weardale who are willing to help us establish our project. This means exciting days ahead.

We know that not all our residents will use the community bus but for those who feel it will be a valuable asset for the community, we thank you for your continued support. We are all in this together.

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 and Angela Heaton.

Trauma Teddies donation



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25 September. £287 was collected and sent to the charity. Well done to all concerned.

Some WI members have been busy over the summer knitting Trauma Teddies for the children of prisoners in HMP Durham.

Over 50 teddies have been made and these will go to the prison where prisoners can give them to their children as a special keepsake.

The teddies are such a jolly lot and will bring a great deal of happiness to help through dark times.





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OUR SERVICES



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Support with washing, dressing, grooming and more.



Companionship

Friendly company and meaningful conversation.



Help Around the Home

Light housekeeping, laundry and keeping your home comfortable.



Meal Preparation

Nutritious meals prepared with care.



Assistance with Appointments

Help with getting to and from medical or other appointments.



Assistance with Shopping

Support with grocery shopping and errands.

Helping you live independently with dignity, compassion and peace of mind.



KIND HEARTS

We care with compassion.



TRUSTED CARE

Reliable, respectful and dependable.



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Helping you live life your way, at home.



*Experienced.
Trusted. Dedicated.*



19 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
working for the
NHS

Bringing the same high standards of care, compassion and professionalism to your home.



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CONTACT

Cheryl
07714 583799
Based in Witton-le-Wear



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Weardale Railway

The Weardale Railway Trust, Stanhope Station, Station Road, Stanhope DL13 2YS



Santa Express returns to Weardale Railway

Weardale Railway's Santa Express will return this Christmas, running from 28 November to 24 December.

The seasonal train rides depart from Stanhope Station, which will be decorated for Christmas, with music, seasonal refreshments and opportunities for photographs before passengers board a heritage train for a journey through Weardale.

During the journey, families will be entertained by elves with songs and games, and Santa will visit each family, with a gift provided for every child.

Golden Tickets start at £33, while VIP Tickets start at £43 and offer additional space and comfort.

Claire Gibbons, General Manager at Weardale Railway, said the Santa Express had become a family tradition for many visitors and that the railway was looking forward to welcoming families again this year.

Weardale Railway is operated by The Auckland Project and runs heritage railway experiences and events throughout the year.

For tickets and further information about the Santa Express, visit santaexpress.co.uk.

Details of other Weardale Railway events can be found at weardale-railway.org.uk/events





Weardale Wordfest

Authors, Books, Workshops

Literary festival hosting events throughout October

Weardale WordFest was established in 2018 in association with NorthPens Writers.

This year will see an extended programme throughout the month of October visiting a range of different venues in Weardale.

It aims to give regional writers a voice and to provide a forum to celebrate the great wealth of local talent. While its focus is community involvement and participation it is always delighted to welcome visitors to this special corner of the world.

The festival strives to improve its programme year on year, to be accessible and to reach out to isolated rural areas and groups in the community.

Most festival events are free, and are supported by the Weardale Area Action Partnership, the County Durham Community Arts Team and the Lakes and Dales Co-op.

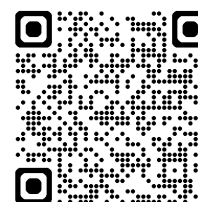
The festival invites all lovers of books and reading to enjoy its friendly and informal events, to meet regional authors, to experience the joys of reading and to explore the world of writing for yourself.

The festival promises a fantastic programme of talks, poetry, prose and performance, coffee, cake and conversation.

This year, organisers are also involved in an exciting and innovative research project with Weardale Together, all about community spaces, which you can read about in their blog.

The main *WordFest Weekend* will be held at the Upper Weardale Town Hall in St. John's Chapel and the Garden Room at Frosterley Village Hall from 25-27 October.

Click on the QR code to find out more or visit weardalewordfest.com





What's Happening at

THE DUN COW

Middleton Fish & Chips Friday 9th October 	Piggy Blinders Friday 16th October 
Live Music from Fire in the Wire Sunday 18th October 	Fired & Sliced Friday 23rd October 
1st Birthday Celebration Weekend 30th October – 1st November 	Crepe Expectations Friday 6th November 

Looking forward to seeing you all !!

Pew News

St Philip awnd St James Parish Church: 01388 768898



Well here we are coming into the wonderful month of October writes *Kate Atkins*.

A time of so many colours that define Autumn, children collecting the conkers after a high wind, scuffling through piles of fallen leaves (and that is just the adults!) and fruitfulness in the hedgerows and gardens.

That evocative smell of bonfires, absolutely my favourite season except it gets dark too early and is still dark when we awaken in the morning!

In October we think of Harvest and we again set out to bring gifts for the Food Bank down in Woodhouse Close church.

Last year we started with a target of 350 items and well and truly smashed that by garnering 508 items and even then for example we would count four wrapped bars of soap as one item, so really it was beyond even that 508.

We will set the total again this year as 350 items knowing with your help we can beat it.

We collect household cleaning items, personal hygiene and sanitary items, toilet rolls and food. The Food Bank always say buy supermarkets own brand as you get more for your money.

Harvest weekend will be 17th October with a Harvest Supper and quiz – one of Dave's brain rattling quizzes, a menu of soup, bread and butter, and apple crumble with custard. The tickets will be £7.50 as we are having to raise all our event prices (they have been at £5 since 'Adam were a lad'). These places usually go quite quickly.

The church will be decorated on the Saturday morning so flowers and foliage will be gratefully received.

Hopefully a clergy person will be found to take the Communion on the Sunday 18th October at 11 am, but otherwise we will have Morning Worship.

Parish Share

Every year an algorithm is used to define what the Diocese expect us to pay it.

This year on top of what we paid last year they have added on £136 per month, leading

our Treasurer, Mike and the PCC to have to say that after years of paying the full amount we are not able to pay the increase and may even have to drop below last year's amount. Hence the increase in ticket prices for social occasions and raising more funds by social events.

Social Group

We hope to have more social events as we did a couple of years ago and to look for sponsored events to raise the monies needed for the guttering upgrade and the organ overhaul, and the Parish Share.

We have talked about 'climbing' Scafell Pike in the Lake District – well not literally you understand! We would ask folk to sponsor us – for teams of people to walk a 1-2 mile trek around the village and get into the spirit by being roped together and wearing boots and using walking poles. They would thus be of interest to folk wondering what is going on!

AND on Sunday a member of the congregation offered to climb Scafell Pike and be sponsored for it and would hope some of you fit and able folk might also like to do it for a worthy cause. Contact Kate on 01388 488626 if you would like to do it. I believe on advice from the instigator, late Spring is best.

We are also wondered about a sponsored jigsaw bonanza setting a target of a number to be completed in a set time.

Again these are ideas apart from the usual culprits of three-course meals which we have had three of in past years, beetle drives, quizzes and anything else you would like to do. We really do need your fevered imaginations.

Late Update

We have the permission to start the work on the guttering using money from the 100 club which, as you are aware, is for the church fabric.

The Faculty came through on Friday afternoon and Dave Phelps had only completed it early Friday afternoon.

(One idea was to ask folk to sponsor a given piece of guttering of a certain length. Maybe we should do the same with the organ pipes again?)

Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 13th July 2026** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-30.

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

Residents: Ms E Meins, Mr C Fernyhaugh

Invited Guest: Cllr R Rodiss – Chair of DCC and Crook Ward Cllr.

- 26/65/1** Cllr Cook welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 26/66/2** Apologies received from Cllr Murray-Leslie.
- 26/67/3** There were no declarations of interest.
- 26/68/4/1** The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 11th May were accepted and signed by Cllr Cook. There were no amendments. (Resolved)
- 26/69/4/2** The minutes of the AGM on Monday 11th May were accepted and signed by Cllr Cook. There were no amendments. (Resolved)
- 26/70/5** The Clerk presented the WLWPC financial report 01/05/26 thru 30/06/26 . There were no issues or irregularities. Signed by Cllr Cook (Resolved)
- 26/71/6** The Clerk presented a copy of the current electronic decisions.
Cllrs agreed to support the quote for the shot blasting and painting of WLW cemetery gates (accepted by emails) (Resolved)
- 26/72/7** Action 26/48/8 to review and agree WLW updated financial Regulations . Review completed by Cllr Cook and accepted. (Resolved)
- 26/73/8** Action 26/49/9 to review and agree WLW updated standing orders. Work in progress. (Ongoing action Cllr Campbell)
- 26/74/9** Action 26/50/10 to review and agree WLW updated Code of Conduct. Review completed by Cllr Murray-Leslie and accepted. (Resolved)
- 26/75/10** The WLWPC Data Protection Policy has been updated from standard NALC document. The policy was accepted (Resolved)
- 26/76/11** The WLWPC asset register has been updated with the missing history board. (Resolved)
- 26/77/12/1** Communications from DCC re training and CDALC meetings. All distributed to Cllrs. (Resolved)
- 26/77/12/2** Email from Beech Grove resident concerned about power cables being fouled by new growth on trees. Npower have been contacted. (Resolved)
- 26/77/12/3** Cllr received telephone call from former resident who wished to remain anonymous claiming a listed building in the village was being altered without consent. The caller told the Cllr DCC planning had been informed. No action by PC. (Resolved)
- 26/78/13/1** Action 26/57/17/2 Stiles and paths – Update by Cllr Bentley (Works in progress)
- 26/78/13/2** Action 26/58/18/2 Village Green Hanging Baskets – works complete. (Resolved)
- 26/78/13/3** Action 26/57/18/3 Plants adjacent A68 Bench – works complete (Resolved)

Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 2026

- 26/79/14/1** Paths and rights of way. Ongoing works by Cllr Bentley (ongoing)
- 26/79/14/2** Hanging baskets and planters complete. (Resolved)
- 26/79/14/3** Cemetery Gates – Cllr Cook reported the gates have now been shot blasted and painted with electrostatic powder coat paint. Ready for return 15/7/26. Gates need to be collected and re-hung. (Action – Cllr Cook)
- 26/79/14/4** Several of the dog waste bins in the village are in a poor state of repair and are to be replaced. The waste bin at the River is now emptied twice a week but is clearly no longer fit for purpose. A further bin is to be placed in the location. (Action – Cllr Cook)
- 26/80/15/1** Cllr Cook asked Cllr Rodiss to lead a discussion on the issues around the existing A68 speed limit of 60mph and the general feeling that as it passes the houses at West End this limit is far too fast. Historical information on that section of the A68 was presented and in particular commented on by the residents who were present and more directly affected. DCC Engineers reports were considered but it was felt many incidents on that section of road appear to be going unreported. Cllr Rodiss offered to work with WLWPC to approach the Highways Commissioner and Police Commissioner asking them to reconsider the situation.
(Ongoing actions – Cllrs Cook, Campbell and Docherty)
- 26/80/15/2** Cllr Cook asked Cllr Rodiss to lead a discussion on the proposed bus service for Witton le Wear. In the first instance Cllr Rodiss was asked to read out a missive from Mrs A Yuill regarding the proposed bus service.

In a public village meeting it was agreed a community bus service was desirable and has now been ordered through Weardale Community Transport Group. The first aim is to establish a regular bus service linking WLW to Crook and Bishop Auckland. Practical solutions are being worked on and it is hoped by the September PC meeting to give more firm information.

Cllr Rodiss offered his assistance with DCC and the Weardale Transport Group.
- 26/81/16** Witton Word. Contributors to be advised of next cutoff date. (Action – Clerk)
- 26/82/17** Mr P Parsons reported to the Clerk that the Village Survey was now closed and actions being considered. Only 15% of the Village responded by Cllr Rodiss suggested this was a good result for a survey of this kind. (Ongoing – Cllr Murray-Leslie and Mr P Parsons)
- 26/83/18** Planning applications received since last PC meeting – none (Resolved)
- 26/84/19** Members Reports
- 26/84/19/1** Cllr Cook – quotations have been received for St James Gardens planter, notice board planned for West End, update on cemetery gates. Cllr Cook reported that the handrails in the cemetery have now been replaced
- 26/84/19/2** Cllr Bentley – Update on village map with highlighted walks.

The new maps will also be placed onto the WLW Parish website.

Investigation into map adjacent Community Centre that aligns with ordinance survey guidelines as regards the orientation of the compass points in reality is proving confusing

Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JULY 2026

because it is pointing people in the wrong direction. Enquiries are being made as to the cost of replacing the picket

- 26/84/19/3 Cllr Docherty – working with Cllr Rodiss to access Etherley Playing fields and possible funding for trips to the coast as has happened at Tow Law.
- 26/84/19/4 Cllr Campbell is working with Cllr Rodiss to explore possible funding for bulbs for the village.

Meeting closed at 19-40.

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 14th September 2026, 18-15 at WLW Community Centre.

H Murray-Leslie 14-9-26

Signed by the Chair Date.....

Remembrance Sunday

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

8TH NOVEMBER 2026

11AM UNTIL 1PM

Don't fancy cooking lunch after the Remembrance service?

Pop along to the community centre where we will be serving a selection of hot food and refreshments.

Everyone Welcome!

Witton-le-Wear Community Centre

Calling All Local Small Businesses!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES TO TAKE PART IN OUR

SMALL BUSINESS FAIR

Witton-le-Wear Community Centre

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to showcase your business, meet new customers, and connect with other local entrepreneurs.

Showcase your products or services

Reach new customers

Network with other local businesses

Support and strengthen our local community

Sunday 22nd November 2026

12pm until 4pm

Get Involved!

If you're a local small business and would like a stall at our Small Business Fair, please get in touch.

For more information or to register your interest, please contact: Cheryl 07714 583799 (contact details here)

Let's celebrate local business together!



Cricket Report

Witton le Wear Cricket Club season review

Hello sports fans, and welcome to the final catch up for the 2026 season from your village cricket team, the sometimes mighty W's writes *Simon Raine*.

I left you last time with six games remaining of the Darlington & District A Division campaign. Those six games produced a mixed bag of results, from nail biting wins to humiliating defeats!

August saw us pick up two wins and two losses, with Middleton St George and Haughton proving too strong.

We had a massive win away to Barton, with Adam Spud Tait picking up his fifth half century of the season, eventually scoring 85.

The batting was followed up by Holly Higginson and Adam Nelson running through the opposition. Holly took 3 wickets and Adam 4 to secure an 81 run win, sealing our (Shed) seventh victory of the season and inspiring a match report with over 30 Shed Seven song titles. Niche, but at least three people who read it got it!

August's final fixture was the game of the season, as Eryholme made the trip to the Witton Riverside for a match in which every single ball of the 80 overs was bowled, with all results possible right down to the last delivery!

Witton, batting first, posted 198 for 7 thanks to a second ton of the season from leading run scorer Adam Nelson. Eryholme closed their innings on 196 for 9 after their 40 overs. Matty Phelps picked up four crucial wickets, and Man of Kent, Andy Corcoran showed some northern potential by delivering a tight last over that saw Witton over the line.

Sadly, that was our last win of the season, as September saw defeats away at Raby and in our final game away to Aldbrough St John.

However, in our last game it was fantastic to see what must be our youngest 11 in a very long time take the field. With Holly Higginson, Lucy Hanlon, Eddie and Lucas Hall bringing the average squad age plummeting down. They acquitted themselves very well, doing their bit with bat, ball and in the field. Lucas Hall – what an arm!

So, a successful season, a solid 8th place with a club best of eight A Division wins for the season.

The Adams, Tait and Nelson led from the front with the numbers; Nelson with 762 runs including 4 fifties and 2 hundreds, to go with his 35 wickets. Spud amassed 585 runs, notching 6 fifties, and took 29 wickets across the season.

Contributions across the whole squad have been great to see. John Humberstone had a very solid season in between injuries with both bat and ball. Holly Higginson has been a fantastic addition and has certainly kept the opposing team (as well as her own teammates) on their toes. There's loads of others that probably deserve a mention, but we'd be here all day so I'll keep it brief, but thanks George for getting a team out every week (the toughest job for any cricket team), and to Simon and his mentor Mick for keeping the Riverside in great shape (if only we could do something about those rabbits!).

Finally, thanks to our sponsors The Victoria, Can Am North East, Weardale Railway and SG Petch. Your support goes a long way to help keeping our club going.

Anyone interested in helping out with the club in any way, be it sponsorship, playing, maintaining the list goes on, please let us know. Either talk to the Skipper in the Vic or drop our Facebook page a message.

See you all in the spring for the 2027 season!

