



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011



Your Ward Councillors

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Mid Durham AAP

The Mid Durham AAP is currently working on a number of projects throughout the parish area. In partnership with the Parish councils and local residents including the following: Road Safety Schemes are ongoing in Castleside, Maiden Law, Lanchester, Cornsay Colliery, Ushaw Moor and Broompark with further schemes to follow in Esh Winning, New Brancepeth, Burnhope, Satley and Holmeside. If you are concerned about any speeding issues please report them to your local PACT meetings and the use of the community speedwatch scheme and police enforcement can be implemented if necessary. For details of your local PACT meetings see durham.police.uk/local/index.php The AAP Board, forum members and partner organisations are working on a number of projects which will benefit older people in our communities. Consultation is taking place to seek older peoples views and the focus is on the potential to create a befriending Service, intergenerational work and the promotion of relevant service information.

Durham County Council provides a range of services for older people to help them to retain their independence. A booklet called 'Services for Older People-What you need to know' is available at durham.gov.uk or you can request a copy by contacting Social Care Direct on 0845 850 5010. Another useful tool is the Durham Information Guide which includes information on health and wellbeing, care and support choices, keeping safe and legal and financial advice. You can access the guide at www.durham.gov.uk/dig or your local library can help you access the internet to view the guide.

Don't forget small grants fund forms are available from the Parish Council offices or from Julie Taylor on 0191 3844801. The fund has already helped 73 different community and voluntary groups with various projects ranging from purchasing new equipment to environmental improvements and much more. With Christmas coming up why not apply for funds towards your Christmas parties or outings .

Registered Trader Scheme

Do you want to help stamp out bogus workmen and cold callers, then why not use the

Registered Trader Scheme which is operated by Durham County Council. The scheme was set up in an attempt to reduce incidents of bogus traders who often target vulnerable members of our



Operated by Durham County Council

communities. Durham County Council's Trading Standards Service has over 100 local businesses, including plumbers, decorators, gardeners and personal care services, signing up to the scheme. The Registered Trader Scheme is an excellent way to help protect people from unscrupulous traders, and will promote confidence when choosing a trader to employ as all of the traders have been vetted and follow a strict code of practice. For more information on the scheme or to find traders details please visit www.durham.gov.uk/registeredtraders or call 03000 261 016, alternatively e-mail rts@durham.gov.uk.

Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

The Boundary Commission is currently consulting on proposals for changes to the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in the north east. One of the proposals is to transfer the Deerness Valley ward from Durham to the Bishop Auckland constituency. The villages in the Deerness Valley which are part of the Brandon & Byshottles Parish area have always enjoyed close community, schooling, public transport and other service links with Durham. The Parish Council has submitted a response to the Boundary Commission urging them to retain Deerness Valley within the Durham constituency. Anyone wishing to submit comments to the Boundary Commission can do so in writing to the Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ, email northeast@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. Full details of the review can be viewed at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

Around the Wards

Brandon

The Annual Remembrance Service was held at Brandon Village War Memorial on Sunday 13th November and was attended by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Brian Nelson. Cllr Nelson, local council members, the British Legion and community groups laid wreaths to commemorate the brave servicemen and women who lost their lives serving their country. Durham University Band played at the service at St John's Church and at the Memorial where they played the Last Post. The Members of the Council would like to convey their thanks to Brandon Village Residents Association who provided refreshments in the Community Garden following the service.



Brandon Community Hall will be holding their children's Christmas party on Saturday 10th December between 2pm and 4pm. Entry is free and children will be entertained with games and Santa will be there to give out presents.

Brandon Ward Members would like to pass on their congratulations to Carrside Youth and Community Project for winning an award for their initiative Race 4 Life as part of National Youth Week. An awards ceremony was held on 3rd November where projects and individuals were rewarded for their achievements.

Meadowfield and Langley Moor

Over a hundred people attended the launch event for the first phase of the refurbishment of Addison Park in Meadowfield on Saturday 1st October which saw the Deputy Mayor of Durham, Cllr John Wilkinson and his wife, Cynthia, cut the red ribbon. Local residents enjoyed free face painting, craft activities and entertainment from Bearpark & Esh Colliery band and refreshments were kindly provided by Tesco, Langley Moor.

The project has seen the installation of a series of new footpaths and the creation of a range of new habitats in the nature area within the park which include a coppiced woodland area, a seasonal wetland and a wildflower meadow. Artistic sculptures and seating designed by artist Graeme Hopper, inspired by children from Browney Primary School, have also been installed. As part of the project, two interpretation panels will be installed within the nature area, one focussing on wildlife and one on the history of the Park. The Friends of the Park are working with Heritage Interpretation Services to delve into the history of the Park and would be grateful for local residents' help with this. Anyone with information or photographs about the history of the Park please contact Neil Diment on 01833 638263 or the Parish Council.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Esh Winning

The new two bed bungalows are now complete. Being in the middle of the village will be a great advantage for the people using local amenities. These dwellings are the most energy efficient to be erected in the village with solar panels on the roof and the highest level of insulation. The residents living in these homes are also delighted with the superior quality of the fixtures and fittings. The bungalows behind West View will be known as Westlea Court and those by the Staggs head as Pavilion Court.

Esh Winning ward were pleased to assist Esh Winning Playgroup recently with a donation towards the redecoration of their room in the Methodist Church. The room has not been painted for nearly thirty years so was in much need of attention.

An invitation is extended to the community to attend the switch on of the Christmas Lights at the new Christmas tree near the Doctor's Surgery on Friday 2nd December at 4pm.

Our ward will be providing a further six planters, three in Esh Winning and three in Waterhouses. Hopefully they will provide a little extra colour as we approach the winter season.



Waterhouses

Everyone is welcome to attend the following events in the village hall;

Thursdays 4.30pm-6.30pm Distinctive Dance

Thursdays 7.30p– 8.30pm Zumba for the more energetic

Fridays 10am-11am Zumba for those who prefer things a bit gentler .

A date for your diary in 2012– Quiz Night with pie & peas 20th January at 7.30pm

New Brancepeth

Christmas activities at the Village Hall include the Residents Group's Christmas Party on 1st December at 4pm with the Village Carol Service taking place on 18th December at 4p.m. Why not go along and get into the festive spirit.

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

Funding to refurbish a playsite next to Deerness Gymnastics Academy is now being sought. Following an initial meeting with parents and young people who were concerned at the quality of play provision in Ushaw Moor, a working group was set up consisting of Durham County Council's Outdoor Sport & Leisure team, the AAP, Ushaw Moor Together, local County Councillors and the Parish Council. The group consulted with over 200 residents, both young and old on what they would like to see on the site. The group have worked out a design for around £50,000 and are now in the process of trying to access funding. We will bring you an update in our next newsletter.

The Christmas Tree lights will be switched on in Ushaw Moor on Friday 2nd December at 3.30p.m.

A community carol service will be held on Monday 12th December at 7pm in St.Luke's Church.

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Brian Nelson, the Members and staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Sessions

Brandon Community Hall

11 am-12noon- second Thursday of month

11 am-12noon- fourth Thursday

Esh Winning Community Centre

2-3pm-first & third Tuesdays

New Brancepeth Village Hall

10-11am-first Wednesday

Sure Start, Ushaw Moor

11am-12noon-third Thursday

Credit Unions

Every Tuesday 3p.m.-4p.m. in Esh Winning Community Centre

Every Wednesday 10a.m.-11a.m in Ushaw Moor Sure Start Children's Centre

Every Wednesday 9.30a.m-10.30a.m. St. Andrew's Church, Brandon

'Dog Pooh ' bags available from the Parish Council offices and various locations in the Parish

**Clerk to the Council: Mrs Susan Carmedy
Administrative Assistant : Mrs Susan Howe**

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Chairman: Councillor Brian Nelson

This newsletter is also available to view on the council's website.