



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

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Mid Durham AAP

Beat the Scammers.....AAPs and the Police Commissioner have recognised the concerns expressed by local residents regarding the increase in fraud and scams, whether it's via the telephone, internet or cold calling. This is of particular concern to older people. The project submitted by Age UK County Durham has been supported by several AAPs across the County and is seen as an example of good practice. Therefore the project is being rolled out in the Mid Durham AAP area. The project will prevent older people becoming victims of crime by working in partnership with local agencies to build sustainable resilience across the community and help people 'Hang up on fraud'. They will recruit and train a minimum of 3 local volunteers aged 18+ to give presentations to older people across the community about how to deal with cold telephone calls (both recorded and live). They will liaise with community safety workers and health and social care professionals to ensure they reach older people who need the support of this project. Referral processes will be simple. The project will use some of the funding to purchase 40 call blockers which will be installed free to older people who have the most need (in receipt of means tested benefits, carers and those who are most vulnerable identified through our work and that of our stated partners). All participants will also receive a 'Beat the Scammers Information Pack' with the key messages and useful contact details. The project would support a minimum of 3 community groups, the development of 3 volunteers and see a minimum of 250 residents made more aware of how to deal with cold callers and scammers.

Dementia Friendly Communities Mid Durham AAP in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society are holding an Information, awareness and development Forum event on Friday 1st December at the Miners Institute in Langley Park from 12.30p.m to 2.30p.m. If you would like to attend you must register your attendance by contacting the AAP on 07814969392. The AAP Board Members are all registered as Dementia Friends as well as many of the Parish Council Members. The Council will be

looking to explore the process involved whereby some of our villages can become Dementia Friendly Communities. A Co-ordinator will be put in place to help with the development of the project which is expected to commence in the first few months of 2018. Areas in Langley Moor are already being looked at to be made more Dementia Friendly. Representatives from the Alzheimer's Society were present at the launch of the County Council's Operation Spruce Up which was launched on 16th October (see page 9) to raise awareness of issues faced by those suffering with Dementia. The AAP continues to provide some helpful projects in the area including:

Supportive –help with transport to health appointments or the chemist tel: 0300 330 9424 or help to attend a social activity tel:01740 658 881

Silver Talk– feeling lonely, have a chat with a friendly volunteer tel:0800 093 0092.

Brandon Carrside Youth Project

The Youth Project has provided a range of excellent youth services this year due to funding from the Parish Council following Durham County Council's withdrawal of open access youth provision across County Durham. A new Management Committee has been formed and a new Business and Service Plan produced. The Club has seen a huge increase in support from parents and a surge in participation from families due to the Celebrate Lottery funding that enabled a joined up approach to delivery in partnership with the Royal British Legion and St Johns Community Hall. Below is a selection of past and future events:

- ◆ A successful Summer Programme of activities
- ◆ Summer fun days held across the local villages
- ◆ Sessions from September to December covering key health issues such as sexual health week, alcohol

awareness, Macmillan Cancer, bonfire and road safety. Fun activities included National Chocolate Week, Halloween and Christmas activities.

- ◆ The older girls from Brandon are working on a Keyfund to provide Christmas presents to local families in need and will be working in partnership with the food bank.
- ◆ Halloween parties have been held in Brandon, Esh Winning, New Brancepeth and Ushaw Moor. Feedback from those attending was excellent.
- ◆ Off site activities will include a visit to the pantomime at the Gala Theatre, and trips to Alnwick Gardens for ice skating
- ◆ The young people will be holding Christmas Parties for the older members of their villages in their regular sessions: Ushaw Moor 1st December, Brandon & Esh Winning 9th December and New Brancepeth on 10th December. Tickets are £1.

Dying to Work Campaign

The 'Dying to Work' campaign, run by the TUC, is calling for terminal illness to be made a protected characteristic of employment. This would mean that all employees battling terminal illness would enter a protected period within which they could not be dismissed as a result of their condition. Many terminally ill employees may decide that they wish to leave work but for those wishing to remain in work for their remaining months they may find themselves in a vulnerable position with their family's financial security at stake. The Parish Council at its meeting on 20th October agreed to sign the Charter which means the Council will pledge to do all that it can, in a reasonable and safe way to ensure that its employees are supported for as long as possible in order to reduce additional stress on the employee at a critical time. The Charter will be signed on 5th December by the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Labour Group and representatives of the TUC and GMB unions. The Council will be the first Parish Council in the country to sign the Charter.

Support to Community Groups

The Council has continued to support many community groups and organisations so far this year with donations to assist the groups with their projects. These include the following:

Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Session

Poppy Appeal

Brandon School

Brandon & Meadowfield Royal British Legion

Pantomime

Brandon United F.C.

St. Patrick's Social Committee

Meadowfield & Langley Moor Over 60's

Durham Stroke Club

New Brancepeth F.C.

Ushaw Moor Action Group

Esh Winning F.C.

Around the Wards

Brandon

Brandon Sports Hub- Parish and County Councillors recently met with representatives from the Boxing Club who gave an update on how well the Club was performing, providing healthy activities for all age groups, abilities and genders as well as training some very successful boxers. Work on the new building for the Club at Brandon Cricket Club was going well. However the Club had come up against a problem with the roof of the building which did not meet building regulations and a new roof had to be purchased to make the building watertight. This has meant that the club did not have the funds to continue the completion of the gym, there now being a shortfall of around £22,000. Club members and local businesses had already worked extremely hard to get this far with skilled trades' people offering their services free of charge. Therefore

further funding sources were explored and the Club has now successfully been awarded a £5,000 grant from the AAP and £1,000 from the Parish Council. An application will also be made for the remaining £16,000 from Section 106 monies available from the housing development at Browney Lane. This project will be an excellent facility for the area and the Council would like to congratulate all who have been involved in the project so far.

The Boxing Club held an event on 11th November at Meadowfield Sports Centre which was a fantastic success with over 500 people in attendance. The BBC took clubs



from all over the UK and the Club finished with a class return of 6 winners from 9 bouts. The show also featured the first Tyne Tees and Wear USL sponsored Title fight with two top

featherweights battling it out! Before the show a parade was held with the traditional 10 bells followed by the national anthem to honour Remembrance weekend. A charity auction was held to raise funds for Trinity School and also to help a young girl from Ushaw Moor to make a trip to America for spinal surgery.

The Annual Remembrance Service took place at Brandon Village War Memorial on Sunday 12th

November and was attended by local council members, the British Legion, Police, young people from Carrside Youth Club and members of the local community. The Council once again arranged for Durham University Band to play at St. John's Church and at Brandon Memorial. Wreaths were laid to commemorate the many servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives in the two world wars and conflicts since.



The Alzheimer's Society now provides a free and confidential Dementia Adviser service in County Durham. Dementia Advisors aim to provide the right information at the right time, to support those living with memory problems or a diagnosis of dementia and those caring for them. This can be delivered face-to-face, over the phone and backed up with printed information if needed. Meetings can take place wherever you feel comfortable at a time that suits you during office hours, Monday to Friday. Judith Bentham, Dementia Adviser for Chester Le Street & Durham is also available at Brandon Library from 10am until 12noon on a Thursday once a month on 21st December, 18th January, 15th February and 22nd March. You can contact Judith on durhamandchester@alzheimers.org.uk or 0191 389 0400.

Congratulations to The Orchards on receiving Special Commendations in the Best Sheltered accommodation and Best Floral Containers category in this year's Beautiful Durham Competition. Broompark, Langley Moor and Waterhouses Village Hall also won certificates. Two residents in Ushaw Moor won merits in Best House and Patio Garden categories and a resident of Waterhouses received special commendation in Best Allotment Garden.

Langley Moor and Meadowfield

St. John's Church Hall in Meadowfield— on Sunday 3rd December St Johns Hall are holding a table top sale to raise funds for the rebuild of the new hall. The event will be held at the British Legion Club from 11.30 a.m -1.30 pm. There will be clothes, bric a brac, tombola stalls, refreshments and an on the door raffle. Entry is free but donations will be very welcome. Tenders for the new hall will be going out shortly. Currently the fund stands at £519,000.

Local County and Parish Councillors are working in partnership with the Friends of Addison Park to make significant improvements to the Park. The County Council

is drawing up a masterplan for the Park, the first phase of which will include a new ornate entrance feature, fenced off infants play area with a pathway leading to the area, two outdoor table tennis tables on hard standing, new seating throughout the park, flowerbeds, hanging baskets, floral tubs ,a school garden/raised flowerbeds which will be looked after by Browney Academy and telephone/Broadband in the pavilion.

Spruce Up comes to Langley Moor— the launch of the County Council’s Spruce Up initiative took place in Langley Moor on Tuesday 16th October. County Councillors and staff, representatives from Mid Durham AAP, the Parish Council and Friends of Langley Moor met at Boyne Place for the launch. The village has seen a general tidy up and daffodil bulbs have been planted along the grass verge near the main road which hopefully will produce a lovely display next spring.

The Christmas tree lights switch on will be held on Sunday 3rd December in Langley Moor. Local school children will sing carols from 4.30pm and M.P. Roberta Blackman Woods will perform the switch on at 5p.m. Everyone is welcome to go back to the Salvation Army Hall for refreshments.

New Brancepeth

Pig Farm at Biggin and Hill House farms— the Council has reiterated its objections to the proposed Pig Farm following receipt of amended plans. The Council has stressed that the proposed development will adversely affect the villages in the Deerness Valley particularly in terms of highway safety and has no economic or environmental benefits to the community.

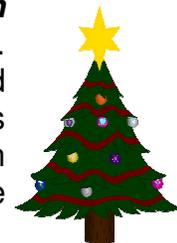
Elderly residents Christmas Party2nd December in the village hall

St Catherine's Christmas Fayre2nd December 1p.m.

Village Carol ServiceSt. Catherine’s Sunday 17th December 3p.m.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Esh Winning Christmas Tree Lights Switch On will be held on Friday 1st December at 5.00pm. Children from Esh Winning Primary School and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs will be singing carols and seasonal refreshments will be served in Woodland Road Communal Hall following the switch on.



Esh Winning Mining Memorial has now been gifted to the Parish Council since the fund raising group has disbanded. The Council will now be responsible for the future of the Memorial under a 25 year lease with County Durham Housing Group.

Winter planting has been carried out throughout Esh Winning & Waterhouses to the existing floral beds and planters. All other displays throughout the wards of the Council have also been replanted. Hopefully this will brighten up our villages during the winter months.

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

Village Firework display goes with a bang— the local community enjoyed a fantastic firework display on 11th November which was funded by the Parish Council in partnership with Ushaw Moor Cricket Club. Thank you to the Cricket Club and all those involved in arranging the event .



Broompark Play Area—the Parish Council are currently considering further improvements to the play area at Broompark which will be phased over a few years. The Council is pleased that the area is being well used and are hoping to provide equipment to cater for older children which would be located outside of the fenced play area.

Speed Visors have now been installed at Broompark & Ushaw Moor thanks to funding from local Unitary Councillors AAP budgets. The Parish Council has agreed to pay for the maintenance of the speed visors over their eight year life.

Christmas Lights Switch on event will take place on Friday 1st December at 3.30p.m. Father David Coxon will be performing the switch on and all 3 local schools will be singing carols. The Baptist Church has kindly agreed to provide hot food around the tree. All are welcome to join in this festive community event..



Carol Services

Friday 15th December ...Silver Trees School 10-11a.m at St Luke's Church

Monday 18th December...Community Carol Service at the Baptist Church 6.30p.m.

Friday 22 December St Joseph's School at St.Joseph's Church at 2pm

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

The Council was once again delighted to assist the local Salvation Army with their annual Christmas Toy Appeal. All six wards of the Council contributed a total of £800 to help to purchase toys for children from disadvantaged families in our communities at Christmas. Every child deserves to enjoy the excitement of opening presents on Christmas morning and receiving something new, so if you would like to help in any way you can donate new toys and gifts to the Salvation Army at Langley Moor or contact Lorna White on email lorna.white@salvationarmy.org.uk or 0191 3783813/9298.

The Chairman, Cllr. David Bell, Members and staff would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Sessions **Brandon Community Hall**

11 am-12noon- second Thursday of month

11 am-12noon- fourth Thursday

Esh Winning Library

2-3pm-first Thursday

New Brancepeth Village Hall

11am-12noon-first Thursday

Silver Trees Centre, Ushaw Moor

11am-12noon-third Thursday

Credit Unions

Every Wednesday 10a.m.-11a.m in Silver Trees Centre
Every Wednesday 9.30a.m-10.30am. St. Andrew's Church, Brandon

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

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

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Chairman: Councillor David Bell

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