



Greater Willington Town Council Newsletter

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Resident

Welcome to the November edition of the Greater Willington Town Council Newsletter. I am pleased to say that the last edition was well received and readers have commented that the Newsletter was a good way of updating residents on what the Town Council has been doing on behalf of our area.

At the start of the council's fourth year in May, I was elected for a second term of office as Chairman; this edition will tell you about the projects, initiatives and services that myself, fellow members and the Town Clerk have been developing and delivering .

Before writing further I must pay tribute to Councillor James Robinson Smith whom we sadly lost in May 2010. Jim was a founder member of the Town Council and a past Chairman .He was a driving force behind local politics and cared passionately about the wellbeing of the Town and resident's issues. He is greatly missed. Our thoughts and sympathy are extended to his family and many friends who I am sure have many happy and fond memories of Jim.

I must also welcome our two new councillors, Councillor Ann Scott and Councillor Joe Buckham who have recently joined us. We all wish them every success. Congratulations also goes to Emma Mennouni, who is the council's new Community Services Officer. Emma will be your first point of contact for council office enquiries.

If I may highlight just a few work areas in this section;

The Town Council has continued its commitment to invest in our community through the Community Fund and Civic Fund Grant schemes. A number of community groups have benefitted from a grant award. This year has also seen the introduction of a Shop Front Improvement Grant scheme which is aimed at improving the commercial image of the High Street and surrounding village businesses. The grant scheme attempts to enhance town centre management at a time when access to resources is complex in the current economic climate.

The Council, through working with the Three Towns Partnership (A.A.P), has agreed to introduce a new Participatory Budget Scheme that will ask you to take part in an electronic voting exercise to identify your favourite project to go forward . More details will be available soon.

Community safety was identified as a resident concern in the last Town Plan and a response has been developed through the monthly Police and Community Together (P.A.C.T) meetings, where we plan to agree monthly priorities for policing with Durham Constabulary. This work is supported by the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who do an excellent job responding to residents enquiries.

Although it is now the end of the main growing season for allotments, allotment management and maintenance continues. This year has seen an increase in the renting of allotments and the council has now invested in all council managed sites and we are pleased to see the beginning of real improvements.

Much more information can be found later in the Newsletter which I hope you enjoy reading and find useful.

If you have any comments on how it can be improved or would like to get involved in the next edition please contact Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk.

Best Wishes

**Councillor Graham Sewell
G.W.T.C Chairman**



A TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

Jim Smith - A man of the people

A appreciation of his life by Brian Myers MBE, JP

I am honoured to have been asked to pen this tribute to a dear friend and colleague who passed away in May.

As many of you may know, despite his smile for every occasion, his private life was tinged with sadness. He lost his daughter, Nicola (aged 9), from an undiagnosed condition, his son Jonathan (aged 23) to cancer, and within a couple of months of his son's death his wife, Jan, died of a heart attack. One of his closest friends said at the time of his death "A lot of people would give up if they lost their whole family but Jim didn't. Instead he devoted his whole life to the community, he never switched off and, devastating as it is to lose him, at least he is no longer suffering and he has been reunited with his family."

Jim had a great deal of experience across the political spectrum. He was a Wear Valley District Councillor for 17 years and in 1977 was the first Independent member to hold the office of Chairman. In 2004, as the need for a Town Council in Willington was becoming apparent, Jim volunteered to serve on the Steering Group that was formed to do the spadework to turn a vision into a reality. He was the obvious choice to be the first Chairman in 2007. Jim's easy going manner made him very approachable and people went to him with a wide variety of problems, council, marital, financial, health, you name it – Jim dealt with it. He will be remembered as a man of integrity, honesty and considerable substance, a practical joker and a peculiar sense of humour. I remember once falling off a ladder and Jim asking me, "What were you doing – painting the skirting boards?"

Jim was no saint – he had a scant regard for authority at times and very little patience for those who thought more highly of themselves than was merited.

Yes, Willington will miss him. His sense of humour. His compassion. His love of life. His peculiar ways.

Robert Burns wrote an epitaph that I feel would be appropriate for Jim.

"An honest man lies here at rest,
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, the guide of youth,
Few hearts like his, with virtue warmed,
Few hearts like his with knowledge so informed,
If there is another world, he lives is bliss,
If there is none, he made the best of this."



WELCOME TO THE NEW COUNCILLORS

Councillor Ann Scott

I have lived in Willington all my life and joined the Town Council in April of this year. I have spent the last few months getting to know my colleagues and how they work on the different committees, with partners in the wider Greater Willington community and with local people to improve the area in which we all live. I have been impressed with the level of commitment my colleagues have shown and the evidence of their work can be seen, for example, on the Town Green and in the development of our local allotments.



Since becoming a town councillor, I have been talking with colleagues from Durham County Council about improving the play area on Armoury Playing Fields, which is situated opposite Watling Terrace in the north end of the Town. The field is very popular with people who live in and around Willington but especially with local families with young children who use the play equipment.

I am a member of the Communication and Marketing Steering Group and our aim is to promote our town and let you know what is happening in and around Willington. I am looking forward to being part of this team and in the overall work of the council and should you need to contact me on any issue or concern, then please do not hesitate.

Councillor Joe Buckham

I am the new starter on the Council. I was elected on 30th September in an election where the high turn out, almost 20%, showed that the people of the area really do have an interest in what the Council does.

I have already gained quite a bit of experience at councilloring, (excuse me if I have just invented a new word) having been a District Councillor in the last two years that we had a District Council. This experience has taught me that if the Town Council works together with all the other organisations that provide services as well as local business and local residents, we can make a difference to the area.



My interests at the Council are many and varied;

- Planning
 - Environment
 - Local services
 - Local groups
 - Looking at ways to protect the area's services and amenities from the imminent cuts
- Anything else you can think of for me to do.....

So, as this is my first newsletter, I don't want to take up too much space. I'll sign off by saying I'm looking forward to working on your behalf – so don't be afraid to ring or email me if you think I can help.

LATEST COUNCILLOR NEWS

Councillor Alan Townsend
The Planning Committee



The Committee, chaired by Alan Townsend (former Chair at Wear Valley) comprises the whole Council and meets like clockwork at every Council meeting, i.e. on the first Tuesday of the month (straight after the Council on months when that meets and before the other Committees at 5.30 p.m. in the other months). This is because the role of the Committee is to see whether we wish to comment to the County Council about live Planning applications, for which there is a time limit. You can comment about applications to us, or direct to the Council, when you see a notice on a lamp post or receive a letter about a development near your house.

One application, for a landscaper's depot on a green field attracted about 40 people from Oakenshaw. The applicant spoke for 5 minutes followed by an objector and a number of comments, and the Council voted to object to the development. We queried the track diagram for the new BMX track on the former ski slope at the Spectrum Leisure Centre, and approved longer-term plans for rebuilding of the present Methodist church on the playground/car park.

The Chair represents the Town when larger cases come up at the County Planning Committee, which rotates between Crook, Barnard Castle and Spennymoor. It is notable that repeated proposals for the Kensington Hall site and a large Care Home at Springfield have not been proceeded with so far..

In June and November, we gave our comments on the County's draft plans with respect to proposals for Willington, chiefly for 170 more new houses comprising the finishing off of the Manor Road sites including that of the ex-carpet factory itself, and the rebuild of the demolished sites of Bourne Way. We commented on the lack of mention of Willington otherwise, and of the Industrial Estate which is slowly developing at Low Willington.

Councillor Arthur Graham
Member For Allotments



Now we are in our fourth year of a six year term I can see many improvements in our area. As well as supporting all previous and current projects and objectives, I have been involved directly in improving our three allotment sites; Park Top, Springfield and Oakenshaw.

In Willington we have now completed the fitting of new security gates at Park Top, drained and recovered waterlogged gardens at Springfield.

In Oakenshaw we have cleared neglected areas, creating a further eleven plots and gated and fenced the whole area.

This year's Allomenteer Growing Awards was won by Mr R Fairhurst from Oakenshaw. With Mr and Mrs N Anderson from Willington receiving a Highly Commended. Both competition winners had transformed their plots and will receive a seed voucher for next year's crops. Many Congratulations.

I will endeavour to support the people and fellow councillors of Willington in all future projects to improve the town and area.

LATEST COUNCILLOR NEWS

Councillor Becky Brunskill Member For Youth Involvement

Can you imagine Willington as the gateway to the Durham dales, a place where people start their holiday or day trip?

Visitors through tourism would boost our businesses, services and community activities.

As just one step towards this vision I'm working with Willington born artist Matt Sewell on developing an art trail around the town next year.

With the support of Greater Willington Town Council, this project will create attractive features of interest such as images and objects to be found as people explore what Willington has to offer.

Each piece of art will help interpret our community and the community will shape the art. I'm appealing to any artists, residents, groups or business owners to get involved. Is this you?

Email me with your ideas on becky.brunskill@durham.gov.uk or phone 0191 372 5921

Art isn't just for artists, it belongs to everyone and good community art acts as a catalyst for regeneration. What do you think?



Councillor Margaret Pinkney Resource Committee Deputy Chairman

We are halfway through our term of office on Greater Willington Town Council. Preceding this I was a councillor on Wear Valley District Council for 13 years, until the Unitary Authority (Durham County Council) came into force. We provide a link to this main Council. As a Town Councillor, I sometimes receive queries on housing or social problems, or to step in when a resident has failed to obtain support from the relevant services. I do whatever I can to help. I am 100% behind the people in our district and would expect Willington and our villages to be a better, cleaner and happier place to live in the future.

Organizations in the area can apply for small grants to enable these groups to improve or carry on their activities. Our town clerk is Helen Cogdon who provides the help and support that we need as councillors. The Town Council is here to provide a service to the residents. We welcome everyone and need the input of people and ideas for a better future. I am taking the opportunity to thank Margaret and Lisa, who work in the Resource Centre, to promote and support the work of the Town Council. Also to our PCSOs who are based at the Resource Centre too.



LATEST COUNCILLOR NEWS

Councillor David Kingston
Planning Committee Deputy Chairman



Willington, Oakenshaw and Sunnybrow are great places to live. Being a Councillor has been a major part of my life for almost two decades, initially serving on Wear Valley District Council and now, of course, with our town council. I fit my duties around my work as a teacher. One of the roles that I perform is that of contributing to the development of new ideas for Willington. I bring my experience of the working of local government. Another aspect of my work is as Deputy Chair of our planning committee. Again, I bring my experience to bear in helping the council form opinions on local planning issues which are then forwarded to Durham County Council for final decision.

Being a councillor is just part of being an active member of our community. Like many others I am involved in other community activities. In my case, I am keen on educational issues and my most obvious commitment is as a school governor at three of our schools, Our Lady and St Thomas, Sunnybrow and Parkside. I support our schools as they strive to achieve excellence for our children. I am lucky enough to be chair of governors at Parkside Sports College where the staff and pupils are achieving astonishing results that make us the envy of schools across the north of England.

There is much going on in Willington, Oakenshaw and Sunnybrow that is excellent and much more that can be achieved.

Councillor Ann Scott
Communication & Marketing Steering Group Member



ARMOURY PLAYING FIELDS

The current play equipment is more than 15 years old and whilst Durham County Council carry out regular safety checks on the equipment, the play area is in need of an upgrade and painting as there has been none carried out since it was first installed.

I have been assured that the work needed to be carried out is part of a larger ongoing programme and that the work will take place within the next few weeks.

I shall keep everyone informed of the progress of this situation.

*Councillor Ann Scott on site at
Armoury Playing Fields*

Is there an area near you that you are concerned about? If so, please let your local councillors know and we will do our best to help.

SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

The following community groups applied to the Community Fund and were awarded a Community Fund Grant award from the Town Council. The Community Fund is in two categories and can provide from £500 to £2000. Whichever you may apply for, the Council may help with up to 75% of the total project costs. An application form can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Council office.

Our Lady and St Thomas Roman Catholic Church. Structural repairs to Cemetery Wall	£2000
Willington Cricket Club Refurbishment of Old Pavilion	£2000
Oakenshaw Community Association Towards a marquee for community events	£1363
Willington Angling Club For fishing rights and stock replenishment	£2000
Willington Football Club Replacement of Dug Outs	£900.00
Willington Youth Football To compete in Holland	£1810
Willington Youth Theatre To deliver the Arts Award programme and buy a new printer	£525.00



Councillor Sewell presenting a cheque to one of the successful community fund applications

CIVIC FUND

Civic Fund £50.00 donations are available from the Town Council throughout the year. If you are involved in an event or activity that represents the Greater Willington Town Council area send written details to Helen Cogdon.

Your request will then be considered at the next available committee meeting.

SUCCESSFUL SHOP FRONTS APPLICATIONS

SHOW US YOUR SHOP FRONT

This year has seen the introduction of the Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme. Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk said "the Council hopes that this scheme will produce an immediate visual impact. The initiative aims to work with local businesses to improve the exterior shop fronts, signage and gable ends and there raise the amenity value of the High Street, making it a more attractive place to shop and travel to".

The Council is currently working with nine businesses and has awarded four grants so far. If you are interested in applying for a small grant, application forms are still available from the Town Council.

SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The following businesses have been successful;

John Stevenson	GA Photography	94 High Street
Malcolm Campbell	Commercial To Let	91 High Street
Steve Vasey	Corner Stone	86 High Street
P.F. Gilbert	Dentist	60 High Street
Ali Eldessouky	Pizza Time	50-51 High Street
Duncan Riley	Britton & Robson	46 High Street
David & Lynne Fowler	Pets 4U / DIY	21 Commercial Street
Ruth Nevins	Visions	102 Commercial Street
Sandra Welch	Newsmarket	Coleridge Close

Please find below examples of work between the Town Council and local businesses;

Steve Vasey (86 High Street)

This previously dilapidated run down shop has had renewed windows, doors, fascias and downpipes transforming the look of the business.

P.F. Gilbert Dentist (60 High Street)

The grant has helped to replace damaged front wood work and repair and paint the property.

Britton & Robson (46 High Street)

The building has benefitted from external repair to brickwork, new rendering and guttering and signage. It has produced an amazing result, significantly raising the look of the whole area.



Before work was carried out



After work was completed

Pets 4U / DIY (21 Commercial Street)

The business has fitted new doors, windows and increased security. Also they have painted the shop front and gable end.

Newsmarket (Coleridge Street)

Windows and doors were renewed on this store.

The Town Council looks forward to continuing its working relationship with "Be Enterprising" and local businesses.

LOCAL INTEREST

PCSOs In Action

The PCSOs have run 2 litter picks over the year where they have worked with other agencies. Councillor Becky Brunskill and PCSO Helen Robson have worked together on the operation to clean up the Willington area. The first litter pick was held over in Sunnybrow. There were volunteers from Parkside School and local residents, Street wardens and Durham County Council Street Scene. The PCSOs were also able to find out who was responsible for dumping rubbish and an £80 fixed penalty notice was issued. The volunteers collected more than 50 bags of rubbish and found an assortment of waste including a video recorder, bike, wood and an assortment of broken bottles. Due to this being a great success they then ran another litter pick on the old railway line behind Railway Terrace, again having volunteers from our local primary school, along with other agencies. The tidy up had gone a long way to lifting local residents spirits. The areas had been crying out for this to be cleared and give people a feeling of pride in where they live.



PCSO's, agencies and volunteers on one of the litter picks

Just a few initiatives:

- St Stephens Close has had on going problems over the last year. The PCSOs have now just had the go ahead for extra plants to prevent local youths cutting through the square and for extra street lighting to be erected.
- There has been a number of complaints about people cycling along the old railway line from Sunnybrow to Hunwick and not giving warning to dog walkers and pedestrians. Due to this, there has been signs erected on the entrance of each bridleway warning cyclists of pedestrians ahead.
- The PCSOs would like to remind parents when picking up and dropping off their children at the C of E school not to park in the grass verge due to the weather changing. This is an offence and people will be dealt with accordingly.
- There is some graffiti at the rear of the garages on Ripon Drive but Councillor Becky Brunskill has ordered some paint so that they can be cleaned up. If you want to help, please get in touch.
- Smart Water is still being provided and is free to anyone wanting a pack. You can get these from the PCSOs in Willington Community Resource Centre.
- The Speed matrix has been deployed on 10 separate occasions; on 4 of these occasions community volunteers were used. In excess of 40 warning letters were sent out.
- PCSOs have attended 2 community events in the area (Willington Resource Centre Open Day and Oakenshaw Fun Day). These were to promote the speed matrix and to make community contacts. In company with the street wardens, they have selecta marked 17 bikes.
- They have patrolled the hotspot areas on over 40 occasions over the school holidays to deter youths from causing annoyance. They are working with the probation service to tidy up the area of the bridge across the lines at Sunnybrow.
- They have attended Parkside School to deliver a drugs talk to over 5 classes and warned 3 youths who are known to be riding motorbikes in the area.
- Also 2 neighbourhood watch schemes have been set up (one for Hall Lane Estate, the other at Armstrong Drive) and an allotment watch (the first of it's kind in South Durham) at Rosedale Allotments.



PCSO Helen Robson



PCSO Nicola Furby



PCSO Sherry Kenyon

LOCAL INTEREST

Be Enterprising Are You Tough Enough?



Be Enterprising Coach Michael Smith with George Massingham, one of the first people to benefit from the scheme

The Town Council is delighted to support the new Market Traders' Programme.

Budding market-traders are being invited to take the fast track to success by taking part in a ground-breaking new market retail scheme being piloted in County Durham.

The "Be Enterprising are you tough enough" markets programme was officially launched in August with full backing and support from the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).

"Be Enterprising" is Durham County Councils Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, supported by government funding and by £4.1m additional investment from the European Regional Development Fund. It was created to inspire enterprise and bring about positive and measurable changes to unemployment.

The "are you tough enough" scheme offers specialist start-up support to people interested in setting up and running their own market stall in County Durham. The programme can help potential traders with: funding, one-to-one mentoring, business planning, vehicles, stall and stock, insurances and marketing and product sourcing and pricing.

The programme is the first of its kind nationally to offer this type of intensive support direct to residents and traditional markets, and hopes to stimulate and encourage entrepreneurship while reinvigorating local markets and high streets.

"New traders are important, they are the lifeblood of the industry. This scheme will help those new businesses during the critical early days to enable them to get established."

"Be Enterprising" coach and the markets programme leader, Michael Smith, said: "Being a market trader is one of the most viable and cost effective ways of starting out in self-employment.

"It's a great way to build a business from scratch, with lower start-up costs and fewer overheads. You can try your hand at running a retail business without the risks involved in renting and fitting out a shop."

Civic Service

The annual Civic Service was held on the 17th October 2010 at St Stephens Church. The service was kindly presided by the Reverend Neville Griffiths, with prayers led by Reverend Pullen and Father Murphy.

A new Consorts' Chain of Office was blessed and dedicated in remembrance of former Councillor Jim Smith.

Personal tributes to Jim were made by Mr Kevin Close, Councillor Brian Myers and the current Chairman of Durham County Council, Councillor Mac Williams who also spoke about aspects of Jims' life.

Grateful thanks are extended to Helen Pryce who sang The Old Rugged Cross, to Francis Hall who helped the Town Clerk organise the service.

Also to the St Stephens Church ladies who helped to serve tea and biscuits.

LOCAL INTEREST

The Aspire Youth Project

Aspire Youth Project is now almost a year old. The Town Council has been a strong supporter of the project with a grant for youth friendly equipment last year and our councillor for youth involvement Becky Brunskill leads the project with Willington resident Debbie MacWilliams.

Aspire Youth Project had a fantastic summer. Youths completed the 146 mile coast to coast cycle trip without leaving their hometown this week. One of our most exciting activities was the 'all-nighter', a sponsored stay-awake in Clare's Cafe over night. There was a beauty bar, films, games and not forgetting the challenge of a life time: a 146mile coast to coast cycle- without touching the pavement! The young people took part in the overnight fundraiser by cycling the equivalent of Blackpool to Seaham on an exercise bike.



Councillor Brunskill with the youths with the donated exercise bike

The volunteers and young people raised over £200 for the youth project which provides a twice weekly youth cafe.

Youth Cafe Volunteer Debbie MacWilliams said: "I'd like to say a huge congratulations to the young people for completing the challenge and thanks to the volunteers for spending their Saturday night making the event such a success. Thanks also to Connexion Fitness for donating the exercise bike and offering to support our young people with job interview practice and work experience. Aspire is about more than getting young people off the street, it's about building relationships and working with our young people to build their confidence and go on to get the best out of life."

Aspire organized activities for the young people to have the opportunity to attend trips to Flamingo Land, Hartlepool's Walk on Water, Wet and Wild, the Metro Centre and South Shields thanks to fundraising from the Three Towns Partnership activities fund. For more information on Aspire please contact Councillor Brunskill at becky.brunskill@durham.gov.uk or by text or calling 07971706756.

Christmas Lights

'IN THE PINK' ALL SWITCHED ON FOR CHRISTMAS

This year's Christmas Lights Switch On will be opened by Patricia Greensmith on behalf of the Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Charity.

Greater Willington Town Council will provide the Street Decorations Willington Community Action, as they kindly do every year; will use some of their charity funds to buy the real Christmas Tree and lights.

Brancepeth and Aycliffe Brass Band will once again bring conviviality to proceedings by playing Christmas Carols round the Christmas Tree.

The Switch On will start at the Town Green followed by a Traditional Carol Service with Reverend Neville Griffiths at St Stephens Church, Low Willington.

Helen Cogdon said 'The event is planned for the 1st December 2010 at 6.15 pm. We hope that as many residents and local representatives as possible will meet on the Town Green to celebrate the event. Confirmation of the Switch On will be advertised through posters as usual.

The council has extended the number of street decorations to include the lighting columns from the Zebra Crossing to Bridge End.

Next year we hope to be even bigger and better to show other towns how through working together we can promote our area and spread the spirit of goodwill at Christmas.'



People of Willington enjoying the celebrations last year

If you wish to enter your business in the Christmas Window Display please telephone Mrs Joyce Platten on 01388 746597.

LOCAL INTEREST

Willington Community Resource Centre



Opening Times:- Mon,Tues, Thurs (9:00am – 5:00pm) Wed, Friday (9:00am – 3:00pm)

Willington Community Resource Centre is a friendly environment in which members of the community and other organisations can call in and be greeted by the staff, volunteers and placements. In the past 6 months the staff and some of the volunteers have been able to gain NVQ's in Community Learning Champions Support Programme. This enables us to liaise with a wider network of Community Resource Centres and gain new ideas on what communities may want to see happening in their own Community Resource Centre.

The main aim of a Community Learning Champion is to engage with hard to reach adult learners and support them in their learning journeys. We would like to use this opportunity and urge anyone who would like to take the first steps into learning to come along and have a chat in a safe, friendly environment to explore what the centre can offer.

The centre would welcome any ideas from the community and, for example, could offer courses in Accounts, Wages, Sign Language, Beginners Spanish and Flower Arranging. We just need enough names to be able to get a tutor in place so please contact us if you are interested. Currently we offer free internet and signposting and for a small charge photocopying, laminating, scanning and faxes.

Weekly Activities include

- Monday:** **9:30am-12pm: Information Advice and Guidance** (Jobs, Volunteering, Courses)
10am-12pm: Willington Card Craft
10am-12pm: Citizens Advice Debt Advice (appointments only must be made via Bishop Auckland CAB office 01388 606661)
- Tuesday:** **9:30am-11:00am: Citizens Advice** (appointments only must be made with Resource Centre 01388 742000)
2pm-4pm: 5 Lamps (Providing solutions to many problems including debts to doorstep lenders etc)
4pm-5:30pm: Kids Club (free of charge for age group 5yrs – 13yrs)
- Wednesday:** **9:30am-11:30am: Credit Union** (Safe secure savings with affordable loans)
9:30am-11:30am: Adult Basic English (Free from Entry Level 3 up to Level 2 qualifications)
9:30am-12pm: Information Advice and Guidance (Jobs, Volunteering, Courses)
1pm-3pm: Adult Basic Maths (Free from Entry Level 3 up to Level 2 qualification)
- Thursday:** **10am-12pm: The Chyrelle Addams Cancer Support Group/ Coffee Morning**
10am-12pm: NHS Health Trainer (Free Support on Lifestyle, Healthy Eating etc)
1pm-3pm: Computer Drop In with staff available to assist (Free friendly class for adults learn what u need to learn no qualification from very Basic upwards)
- Friday:** **11am-2pm: with Andy's CV Building**, Job Search, Interview Techniques etc
(appointments can be made in Resource Centre)
- Commencing Saturday 6th November 10.30am-12pm Children's Polish School**
please apply within the Centre or phone 01388 742000
- Second Tuesday of each month: Age Concern**

BLOOMING LOVELY

Willington Community Action, local groups and Schools are joining forces with the Town Council to get the G.W.T.C area in bloom. The Willington in Bloom Steering Group have joined the Durham County Councils bulb planting scheme which plans to plant crocuses around the villages. Helen Cogdon said 'The idea is that Durham County Council provides a starter pack of bulbs and each organisation who applies matches the same number with their own. Durham County Council is also offering its own £150 tree grant to local organisations which we hope to take advantage of.'

We need experienced and creative people to identify practical cost effective planting ideas to improve the look of our area and help deliver this fun project.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Willington in Bloom initiative please contact Councillor Joe Buckham.

WALKING BACK IN TIME

Recent collaboration between the Willington Walking for Health Group and the Town Council produced the Willington Circular Walk Leaflet which can be downloaded from the Councils website www.gwtc.co.uk.

The Second phase of the project is to produce four descriptive Interpretation Boards for people to read along the way. The Town Clerk was successful with two grant applications to the P3 Parish Paths Partnership and the A.A.P Three Towns Partnership. Consequently, the Town Council has been able to employ Bruce Ferguson from Countryside Management Services to manage the project.

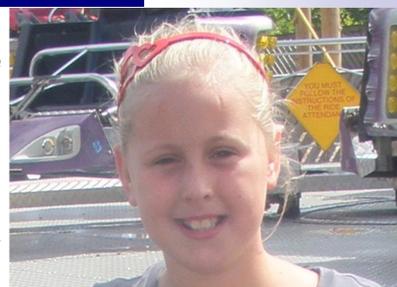
One will be sited at the Cenotaph as a viewing platform across the river basin and another at Jubilee Meadows with family activities for visitors to enjoy from the picnic area.

The third Interpretation Board will take us far back in time to the Roman occupation with a board on the Roman Road behind the former Pit Heap. The final board will be at the Rocking Tub, Sunnybrow and will talk about Willington's mining history.

YOUNG JOURNALIST COMPETITION

As part of this competition **Dion Hannah Ross, aged 10** wrote this about her home town;-

Why people visit Willington? They visit Willington because of all the help you can get off different places like the resource centre and the doctors if you were ill but the resource centre helps you with anything. They also come because of our fantastic shops if you need anything. Our food shops and cafes and a few restaurants around town also helps us and all of these have health and hygiene checks. The churches also help some people fore on a Sunday and people could come to see the churches. Our photography man also may have people who are not from around here. The spectrum also may have people who do not come from round here to play football and to get fit and shape. We all know that Willington is not a big place like Durham or Newcastle but the people who live here should be proud because of were they live because we have no were as near many shops as that city but the shops we have keeps us alive and healthy.



GARLANDS ON THE GREEN SUMMER FETE

The Town Council joined forces with Willington Community Action in this years Garlands On The Green Summer Fete which took place on 12th June. The event, with the councils support, was bigger than ever with more stalls, competitions, childrens inflatables, a rodeo bull, fairground rides and Punch and Judy.

The circus performing stilt walker kept Councillor Myers, who officially opened the event, entertained.

Competition winners are listed below:

Flower Classes (fresh flowers)

A Table Decoration

- 1st Newton Sproates Tebble
2nd Christina Jackson

My Favourite Colour

- 1st Newton Sproates Tebble
2nd Christina Jackson

An arrangement in a Wine Glass

- 1st Nadia Jackson
2nd Joshua Jackson
3rd Charlotte Sheppard

BEST OVERALL IN FRESH FLOWERS

Newton Sproates Tebble

Preserve Classes

Marmalade

June Wilson

Any Jam

- 1st Monica McCann
2nd A Smith
3rd Newton Sproates Tebble

Chutney

Elizabeth Wilde

3 Hen Eggs

Barbara Steele

BEST OVERALL IN PRESERVES

Monica McCann

Photography

The Chairman's Favourite

- 1st Ian Mudd
2nd A Smith
3rd Newton Sproates Tebble

BEST OVERALL IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Ian Mudd

Dog Competition

Best Puppy

Beth Liddle

Best Child and Dog Combination

- 1st Chantelle Greathead
2nd Paige Gibson
3rd Niamh Liddle

Best Dog Expression and Waggy Tail

- 1st Paige Gibson
2nd Anya Liddle
3rd Chantelle Greathead

BEST OVERALL IN DOG COMPETITION

Paige Gibson

Produce Home Baking Classes

(baked by exhibitor)

4 Fruit Scones

- 1st A Smith
2nd Barbara Steele
3rd Monica McCann

Victoria Sandwich Cake

A Smith

BEST OVERALL IN HOME BAKING

A Smith

Industrial

Hand Knitted Article

A Smith

Any Cross Stitch Article

- 1st Clara Troman
2nd L Perkins
3rd Laura Wilson

A Hand Made Birthday Card

- 1st L Shields
2nd Newton Sproates Tebble
3rd Daphne Scarr

BEST OVERALL IN INDUSTRIAL

Clara Troman



*The little and large of it
Councillor Myers with stilt
man*

CONSULTATION

Beavering behind the scenes

Helen Cogdon said, "A part of the council's work, that is often unseen, is that of a consultee on strategic and policy documents that affect our area. The new Durham County Council Unitary Authority (D.C.C) has inevitably meant changes in how D.C.C departments deliver their services. All aspects of D.C.C operations have been reviewed, assimilated and consulted with stakeholders like ourselves on your behalf. The, often weighty, documents have been considered by the council to ensure that the G.W.T.C area is included and gets its fair share of services and resources".

The Town Clerk and members have responded to the following consultation areas:

- Sports and Leisure Strategy
- Housing Allocations – Choice Based Letting
- Housing Core Strategy
- County Durham Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
- 106 Agreements
- The County Durham Core Plan, Strategy ,Issues and Options
- Can a Big Society be a Fair Society
- Making Local Food Work Programme
- Governance and Accountability for Local Councils
- Access to Licensing for Parish Councils
- County Durham Residents Survey
- Durham County Councils Service Improvement Plan
- Durham County Councils Equality Scheme
- Anti Bullying at work survey
- Renewable Energy Survey
- The County Durham Compact
- County Durham Charter
- Parish Council Standards, Code of Conduct, Quality Status
- D.C.C New Parliamentary Constituency Areas
- Area Action The Three Town Partnership
- Library Strategy
- Taxi Licensing
- Equality and Excellence : Liberating the NHS
- The Local Transport Plan

Meet Emma Community Services Officer

I have recently been employed by the Town Council as a Community Services Officer and I am looking forward to working and learning about the roles and responsibilities of the Town Councillors and what is expected of a Town Council. My family originate from Willington and I have spent a large proportion of my life here. Willington is close to my heart and, being a parent of a young child, any developments to improve the area would be a positive future investment.

My role as a Community Service Officer is to support the Town Clerk and Councillors and deal with enquiries from the general public. You can contact me via telephone on 01388 742005 or in person at the Town Council within the Resource Centre.



MEETING DATES FOR 2010-2011

All Meetings Held At Willington Community Resource Centre



Willington Community Action on the following dates at 6pm

November 9th

Directors (Closed)

December 14th

WCA/GWTC (Open to all)

2011

11th January

Public (Open to all)

8th February

Directors (Closed)

8th March

WCA/GWTC (Open to all)

12th April

Public (Open to all)

10th May

Directors (Closed)

14th June

WCA/GWTC (Open to all)

12th July

Public (Open to all)

9th August

Directors (Closed)

13th September

WCA/GWTC (Open to all)

11th October

Public (Open to all)

8th November

Directors (Closed)

13th December

WCA/GWTC (Open to all)

**Greater Willington Town Council on the following dates
Open to everyone**

November 2nd

Committees (5.30pm)

December 7th

Town Council (6.30pm)

2011

4th January

Committees (5.30pm)

1st February

Town Council (6.30pm)

1st March

Committees (5.30pm)

5th April

Town Council (6.30pm)

3rd May

Committees (5.30pm)

7th June

Town Council (6.30pm)

5th July

Committees (5.30pm)

2nd August

Town Council (6.30pm)

6th September

Committees (5.30pm)

4th October

Town Council (6.30pm)

1st November

Committees (5.30pm)

6th December

Town Council (6.30pm)



Police and Community Together (PACT)

Details of dates, times and venue will be on display in Willington Community Resource Centre.

COUNCILLOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

Councillor Graham Sewell
Greater Willington Town Council Chairman
Community & Environment Chairman
Burn Mill, 10 Mill Street,
Willington, Co. Durham, DL15 0DW
H: 01388 747802 M: 07732625286

Councillor Brian Myers M.B.E, J.P
Resource Committee Chairman
Penlan, 85 Low Willington,
Co. Durham, DL15 0BB
T: 0191 3725922
blmyers@durham.gov.uk

Councillor Becky Brunskill
Member for Youth Involvement
Community & Environment Deputy Chairman
44 Cedar Crescent, Willington,
Co. Durham, DL15 0DA
W: 0191 3725921 M: 07971706756
becky.brunskill@durham.gov.uk

Councillor Margaret Pinkney
Resource Committee Deputy Chairman
22 Belle Vue, Willington
Co. Durham, DL15 0DR
H: 01388 747039
margaretpinkney99@btinternet.com

Councillor Alan Townsend
MA, M.R.T.P.I.,
Greater Willington Town Council Deputy Chairman
Planning Committee Chairman
62a Low Willington, Crook
Co. Durham, DL15 0BG
H: 01388 746479
alan.townsend@durham.ac.uk

Councillor David Kingston
B.Sc, A.R.C.S, P.G.C.E
Planning Committee Deputy Chairman
24 Park Street, Willington, Co. Durham,
DL15 0ER
H: 01388 745895 M: 07774654036
dkingston@live.co.uk

Councillor Arthur Graham
Member for Allotments
Community & Environment Committee
Deputy Chairman
Lyncrest, North Lane, Willington
Co. Durham, DL15 0HJ
H: 01388 745969

Councillor Ann Scott
Communication & Marketing
Steering Group Member
20 Watling Terrace, Willington
Co. Durham, DL15 0HL
T: 01388 746014
ann@scottann.orangehome.co.uk

Councillor Joe Buckham
5 Brancepeth Terrace
Willington, Crook
Co. Durham, DL15 0ES
H: 01388 745531
M: 07739382478
cllrjoebuckham-gwtc@yahoo.co.uk

Mrs Helen Cogdon
BA, I.P.D, B.I.I dip
Town Clerk GWTC
64/66 High Street, Willington
Co. Durham, DL15 0PF
W: 01388742007/742000
gwtc@live.co.uk

LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION

LITTLE CHINA

Chinese & English Cuisine (Available to Take Away and Home Delivery)
8 Railway Cottages, Willington, Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0PN
www.little-china.net
Telephone: 01388 746318

Open 6 Days A Week (Open All Bank Holidays)
Sun-Sat 4.30pm – 11pm
Tuesday Closed All Day

£1.00 Delivery Charge to: Willington, Low Willington, Sunnybrow & Oakenshaw

£2.00 Delivery Charge to: Hunwick, Crook, Billy Row, Stanley Crook, Roddymoor, Howden-Le-Wear, North Bitchburn, Newfield & Byers Green

£2.50 Delivery Charge to: Sunnyside, Toronto, Brancepeth, Brandon, New Brancepeth & Meadowfield

£3.00 Delivery Charge to: Ushaw Moor, Bearpark, Langley Moor & Tow Law

Other places please ask
(Sorry we do not accept cheques or credit cards)

Special Offers

FREE Fortune Cookie with Orders Over £6.00

FREE Peking Pancake Rolls & Prawn Crackers with Orders Over £10.00

Special Offers (Terms and conditions apply. For limited period only - offers end February 2011)

1. **FREE** Mixed Appetisers (*spare ribs, prawn toast, seaweed, spring roll, crispy won ton, satay chicken*) on purchases over £28.00
2. For any orders from the **MAIN MENU** over **£10.00** receive **any other meal for half price**
3. **MEGA DEAL** available on **ALL DAY LUNCH MENU ONLY** (served in a large container)
Select 4 items for only £10.00 (not in conjunction with any other offers)

PETER McGOUGH CAR SALES LIMITED

Mini market open 7.30am - 6pm Monday to Saturday
 10am - 5pm Sunday

Offering a good range of reasonably priced products such as; fresh sandwiches daily, hot drinks, household products, car care products, fuel, e-top ups and cash back facility.

LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION

IAN MUDD A.D.I

A local driving instructor with prices starting at £15.00 an hour.

Christmas vouchers available 12 hours for £150.00

HARDY'S FUNERAL SERVICE

Funeral Directors & Suppliers of Monumental Masonry
116 Commercial Street, Willington.

Tel: 01388 747 747

Out of hours: 01388 742 412

Mobile: 07793 206 244

Proud to have been of service to the people of Willington and surrounding areas for the past
25 years.

A business built on mutual respect and trust.

Christopher Hardy
Funeral Director
www.hardysfunerals.co.uk



Shop Front



Fleet of cars with hearse

COMPETITION PAGE

There are at least 6 differences between the 2 pictures. How many can you spot?



Christmas Word Search Level 3



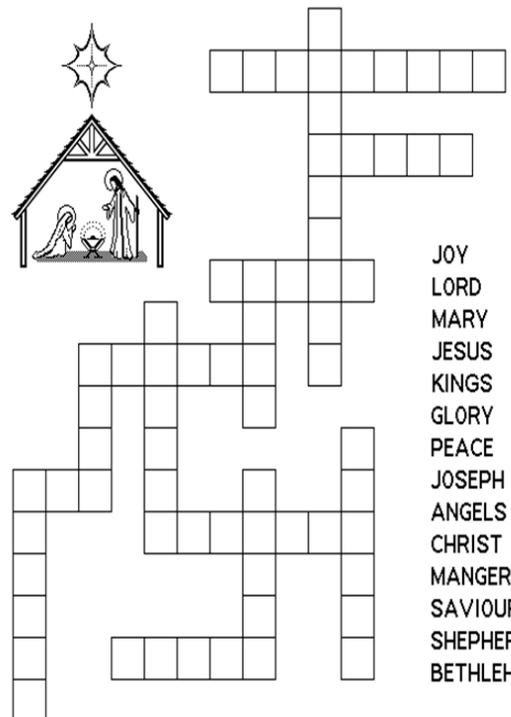
R N A M W O N S Y Q I D
 E C Y J N E F L U N E S
 E H B E T H L E H E M T
 D R A S Z O K V O M G O
 N I L U H R C G E E I C
 I S Y S E V A T Y S F K
 E T E G H A N B R I T I
 R M N B T T D A K W S N
 M A H O M N Y S C L T G
 M S Y W C A R O L S A O
 A S O S U S X E E E R T
 H G I E L S B I J W P O



- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bells | 11. Manger |
| 2. Bethlehem | 12. Reindeer |
| 3. Bows | 13. Santa |
| 4. Candy | 14. Sleigh |
| 5. Carols | 15. Snowman |
| 6. Christmas | 16. Star |
| 7. Elves | 17. Stocking |
| 8. Gifts | 18. Toys |
| 9. Holly | 19. Tree |
| 10. Jesus | 20. Wisemen |

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
 Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM