

# A Message from Town Mayor Cllr Fraser Tinsley

## & the members of the Greater Willington Town Council

Finally the weather is getting warmer and we can look forward to summer and another year where we have a lot going on in Greater Willington.

We are concentrating on issues that we know matter to you including improving the Main Street, addressing anti-social behaviour, improving road safety, litter and doing

what we can to improve this area as a place to live. We are also embarking on a number of initiatives to build our profile and develop a sense of pride in an area that has an amazing heritage and with work, has potential for a bright future.

The installation of the Capt. George Burdon McKean VC MM MC memorial stone on 28

April will be a huge day for the Town and we are working on other big events in the town later this year. More details to follow...

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which gives you a flavour of what is going on in our community. If you want any further information please contact the Town Council office on the High Street or me direct.



**Best wishes**

**Cllr Fraser Tinsley**

Greater Willington  
Town Mayor and  
County Councillor for  
Willington and Hunwick



## Installation of Capt. George Burdon McKean VC MM MC Victoria Cross Memorial Stone in Willington

28 April 2018

10.40 am	Gather at the War Memorial
10.45 am	Road Closure
11.00 am	Civic Service
11.15 am	Parade to the Library
11.30 am	Commemoration for the VC Stone
12.15 pm	WW1 Experience at The Open Door Church

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## Community Newsletter Issue 12

Serving Our Community

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**Work is nearing completion to provide a memorial to Capt. George Burdon McKean VC MM MC. George was born in Willington and went on to become one of the most decorated men in British / Empire forces history.**

We have been awarded a commemorative stone by the government to mark 100 years since the action in France took place for which George was awarded his Victoria Cross. The Town Council has been working with County Councillors, other groups and individuals on a project to provide a truly fitting memorial for George, a son of Willington who went on to fight in the Canadian Army, and which we should be truly proud.

George Burdon McKean is a hero in Canada. He has a mountain named after him in Alberta and the main square in the town in France where the action took place is named in his honour. We are working with local artist Graham Hopper and children from Parkside Academy to provide a landmark that will

last for another 100 years. We have been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding and this together with Councillor Neighbourhood Budgets and Town Council funding will make this happen.

The memorial includes the Victoria Cross commemorative stone, a plaque about his story and a major new art work. It includes a maple leaf to represent Canada, poppies to remember fallen British and Empire forces and blue cornflowers (the French flower of remembrance). There will also be new flag poles to display British, Canadian and French flags at the service.

The main ceremony to install the memorial will take place on 28th April 2018. We hope you will join us at 10.40 am at the War Memorial to pay tribute to local WW1 soldiers and then follow the parade from the War Memorial to the Library.

We are delighted to host Lieutenant Colonel John Shone, Commanding Officer of the Royal

Montreal Regiment (RMR) who has accepted our invitation to attend the event and is traveling from Canada. Everybody is welcome - so please do come out and make this a very special day in the history of our town.

**About Capt. George Burdon McKean VC MM MC**

George Burdon McKean was born in Willington, England on 4 July 1888. Son of James McKean, who was a furniture broker, and Jane Ann (nee Henderson). Orphaned at a young age, he lived with his sister in Bishop Auckland where he became an apprentice cabinetmaker with Messrs T Thompson, Newgate Street.

He emigrated to Canada in 1902, settling in Edmonton working on a cattle ranch and later on his brothers farm. When the First World War broke out, he was 5' 6" tall and weighed only nine stone. He was rejected three times but on 23 January 1915 he enlisted as a private soldier in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

After completing his training, Private McKean arrived back in Britain in April 1916 and joined the 14th Infantry Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment) on the Western front in June 1916.

In the course of his military service, he received the Military Medal, and, after he was commissioned as an officer, the Military Cross.

Lieutenant McKean earned the Victoria Cross while serving with the 14th Infantry Battalion near Gavrelle in France on 27

and 28 April 1918. McKean was leading a party of scouts against a German trench that was being staunchly defended by troops using rifles and hand grenades. When his men hesitated, he ran forward alone and threw himself head first into the trench, killing two of the enemy with his revolver. Inspired by Lieutenant McKean's action, his men advanced and swept the German defenders aside, capturing both the trench and its remaining occupants.

He was one of only a handful of people who received all three medals.

In July 1919 McKean retired from the Canadian Army with rank of Captain and he settled in Brighton where he married Constance Hilton. He had one daughter.

McKean was a published author. He wrote Scouting Thrills, The Memoirs of a Scout Officer in the Great War.

In memory of McKean his Victoria Cross is stored at the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The Church Square of Cagnicourt, France was renamed 'La Place Du George Burdon McKean'.

A mountain in the Victoria Cross Ranges, Canada, is named in his honour.

His name is also present on the memorial wall located in Convocation Hall at the University of Alberta, where he had enrolled on an arts course which was interrupted by the outbreak of WW1.

He survived the war but was fatally wounded and killed in a horrific accident at a saw mill on 28 November 1926.

## Victoria Cross citation for Lieutenant George Burdon McKean, London Gazette, 28 June 1918

*“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during a raid on the enemy’s trenches.*

*Lt. McKean’s party, which was operating on the right flank, was held up at a block in the communication trench by most intense fire from hand grenades and machine guns. This block, which was too close to our trenches to have been engaged by the preliminary bombardment, was well protected by wire and covered by a well protected machine gun 30 yards behind it. Realising that if this block were not destroyed, the success of the whole operation might be marred, he ran into the open to the right flank of the block, and with utter disregard of danger, leaper over the block head first on top of the enemy. Whilst lying on the ground on top of one of the enemy, another rushed at him with fixed bayonet; Lt. McKean shot him through the body and then shot the enemy*

*underneath him, who was struggling violently. This very gallant action enabled the position to be captured. Lt. McKean’s supply of bombs ran out at this time, and he sent back to our front line for a fresh supply. Whilst waiting for them he engaged the enemy single-handed.*

*When the bombs arrived, he fearlessly rushed the second block, killing two of the enemy, capturing four others and drove the remaining garrison, including a hostile machine-gun section, into a dug-out. The dug-out, with its occupants and machine gun, was destroyed.*

*This officer’s splendid bravery and dash undoubtedly saved many lives, for had not this position been captured, the whole of the raiding party would have been exposed to dangerous enfilading fire during the withdrawal. His leadership at all times has been beyond praise.”*



## Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is an important day for many residents and one of the few occasions where we have the opportunity to gather together as a town.

On Sunday 12th November 2017 the Town Council hosted the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial and the Parade to St Stephens Church.

The Service was led by Father David Spokes and our grateful thanks are extended to Amy Radley from the Army Cadets who performed the Master of Ceremonies Role and Councillor Danby who announced the wreath layers.

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band once again provided the poignant musical accompaniment.

The Council supported the Royal British Legion Wreath distribution and collection from the office. Our thanks are extended to Brian Pyle, Honorary Poppy Organiser and Lillian Bennett who gave the poppy boxes to local collection points and schools.

We are delighted that The Royal British Legion have recognised Mrs Lillian Bennett’s dedication towards helping with the Poppy Appeal fundraising over the last twenty four years, by presenting her with a long service award.

Well done Lillian.

## The Battles Over - A Nations Tribute

On the 3rd August 1914, Britain’s Foreign Minister, Sir Edwin Grey, was looking out of his office window. It was dusk and gas lights were being lit along London’s Mall, leading to Buckingham Palace when he remarked to his friend, ‘The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime’ Our country was about to be plunged into the darkness of the First World War and it would be four long years before Britain and Europe would again experience the light of peace.

As part of the 100 years Anniversary of the end of WW1 a chain of over a 1000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on the 11th November 2018 – a century after the guns fell silent.

The Willington Beacon on the Dante Heap above the town will be lit to symbolise the ‘light of hope’ that emerged from the dreadful four year’s darkness of war.

## Ringling out for Peace

In memory of the millions that either died on the battlefield during dreadful conditions or returned home terribly wounded. The churches in our parish will be taking part in the Ringing for Peace tribute.

St Stephens and Our Lady and St Thomas Church will

ring their bells on the 11th November 2018 at 7.05 pm joining the hundreds of other Churches who have agreed to recognise the bravery of people from their own communities, either at home or in the armed forces; as part of the WW1 Anniversary across the region.

## New Town Councillors



**We were pleased to welcome three new Councillors to the Town Council following the election on 4 May 2017.**

Councillor Owen Woods, Councillor Alison Danby and Councillor Dean Maynard registered to stand and subsequently joined the existing team following the retirement of Councillor Etherington, Councillor Townsend and Councillor Todd.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of our community.

County Councillor Olwyn Gunn has also recently joined the

Town Council. All members of the 2017/2021 Town Council were elected unopposed. All Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers and we look forward to the challenges facing the new incoming Town Council and Greater Willington as a whole.

The new Council continues to be advised by our dedicated staff, Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk and Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer whose help has been invaluable throughout the year

# Greater Willington Town Council @ The Market

The Town Council meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6.30 pm. There is a recess each August.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the conduct of Council business. Residents who wish to address the meeting may do so during the Public Participation Agenda Item. Please contact the Town Clerk no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting so that you can be added to the Agenda to speak.

Dog Bags are still on sale to canines living in our parish at a discounted rate of 50 pence a pack. Please continue to support us in our efforts to keep our parish clean and combat irresponsible dog owners.

Photocopying services are also available at 15 pence per side for black and white copies.

Unfortunately due to security considerations we do not have public access to Fax or IT equipment and would encourage the use of the Library facilities.

Public meetings are organised when necessary to listen to residents views.

Laura Pidcock M.P held an open surgery at the office on the 10th November 2017 and 24th February 2018.

## Save Time Do It on line

Report a bin not emptied or fly-tipping in your area..... etc.The best way to deal with it is by contacting Durham County Council on-line via their web site <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk>

Its quick and easy and you can follow up issues using the reference number as they are addressed.



**Save time do it online**

Report Apply Book Pay Comment

# Citizens Advice Outreach at Greater Willington Town Council

In 2017/18 the Town Council invested £7000 to provide a Citizens Advice Service from the council office on the High Street.

Further Town Council funding has been agreed to continue the service in 2018/19. Additional funding for the new introduction of the Universal Credit provision has been secured from the Area Action Partnership.

Citizens Advice can help with many issues including, benefits, debt, relationships, consumer rights and housing.

From December 2017 following the introduction of Universal Credit there will be one session of



## County Durham

Universal Credit Drop in (Mondays 10am – 1pm)

One session of generalist advice Drop In (Tuesday 10am – 1pm)

One morning of assisted support for people making Universal Credit Claims this will be a pre booked group sessions for up to

five people using wifi enabled tablets (Wednesday 10am – 1pm)

If you can't get to the Town Council office you can telephone The Advice Line on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am until 4pm.

Debt advice is available on 03000 32302000

## Willington Foodbank

**The foodbank operates from the Open Door Methodists Church, Lydia Street, Willington.**

It is open on a Wednesday from 2.15pm to 4pm. Clients using the foodbank require a referral note to get food. These are available from doctors, schools, Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice County Durham etc. To find out more about the agencies

who hold the vouchers, please contact them on 0191 303 7559.

It's a sign of the times in which we live, but many of those using the foodbank are working and are dealing with issues related to zero-hours contracts and delays in benefit payments etc.

Donations of food and toiletries are always

needed and appreciated. These can be left at The Open Door Church.

**Please help if you can.**



## Council Tax Charges 2018/19

**Following the freeze in the Town Councils tax charge last year and this year's drop in the local council tax reduction scheme.**

The council proposed at its January meeting that there would be a increase in this year's Town Council element of Council Tax.

The increase will mean that the Band D charge is £57.20 per year, 2018/19. This is £4.91 more than last year for Band D properties.

Most people in the parish live in a Band A home. There are 2,274 properties in Band A and 359 in Band D

The Town Council charge per year is listed below.

Band A	£38.13
Band B	£44.49
Band C	£50.84
Band D	£57.20
Band E	£69.91
Band F	£82.62
Band G	£95.33
Band H	£114.40

Band D charges for neighbouring parishes for comparison, are;

Tow Law	£72.00
Bishop Auckland	£46.28
Spennymoor	£213.91
Shildon	£265.15
Chilton	£213.91



# Keeping our Schools & Communities Safe from Speeding

Finishing touches are being put in place for two new 20mph Zones in Willington. Working with Durham County Council two 20mph Zones will be introduced south of Commercial St and at Our Lady and St Thomas R.C Primary School.

The Zones are intended to improve safety for children, parents and neighbouring residents.

The first covers the area south of Commercial St as far as Sunnybrow. It means that Parkside Academy, Willington Primary School and St Stephens Primary School will all benefit from 20mph Zones outside of their premises, not to mention over 600 houses in Hall Lane and the Armstrong Drive areas.

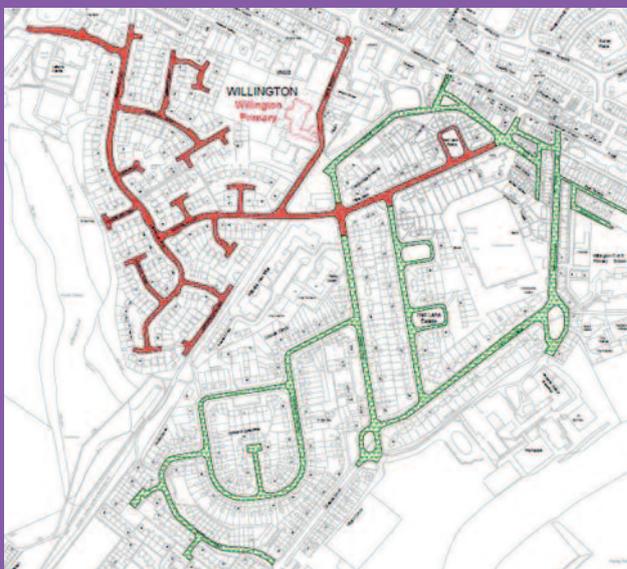
The second is located on the High Street in the vicinity of Our Lady and St Thomas R.C Primary School.

These measures are proven to improve safety for children which is our top priority.

Part of the project will be traffic calming measures on Chester Drive which are being funded by the Town Council and County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley.

We are working with County Councillors to provide an additional 20mph Zone on Hunwick Lane next to Sunnybrow Primary.

The works are programmed to be in place by the end of 2018.



## The Sunnybrow Heart Defibrillator

The Friends of Sunnybrow have worked extremely hard to raise £1200 to buy a defibrillator and cabinet. They approached the Town Council to purchase the equipment and provide the additional funds.

As the council was happy to provide the additional funds, the equipment is now outside Sunnybrow School and available for emergency first aid. The town council will own and insure the equipment and restock the products as required. The School will maintain and carry out the safety inspections on behalf of the council.

In the hopefully unlikely event that you will be called on to use it telephone 999 and you will be given the code to open the cabinet.

The equipment has clear diagrams on how to use it and once switched on will tell you what to do. The machine is very safe and will not shock a patient who is still conscious.

Please make yourself familiar with where the defibrillator is located on the outside of Sunnybrow School.

Other defibrillators are available on the front of the Town Council office in the High Street and in Oakenshaw.

## Playground Improvement

We know how important play is to our children.

Following on the major improvements to playgrounds on the Town Green and at Sunnybrow that have been

undertaken in recent years.

Working with County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley we will be making improvements to the playground at

Armoury Fields (behind the Burn Pub and Kitchen).

The main climbing frame and slides need replacing. This will be happening shortly.

## Charity Shop 4U

Operating from next to the Post Office, this is a locally run charity shop supporting local good causes focusing on children in the Willington Area.

It is staffed by volunteers who are doing a great job for children in the area.

They always welcome donations from you the public.



# PACT Meetings

The Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are held in the Town Council Office on the last Thursday of the month at 6pm.

The meeting venue alternates with St Catherines Community Centre, Crook.

The Willington meetings are planned for;  
26th April 2018

28th June 2018

30th August 2018

25th October 2018

This is your opportunity to talk to local Police Officers and County Councillors about issues that concern you.

The meetings help set police priorities and inform the Altogether Better Policing approach.

## Whats On at The Open Door Church

Wesley Street, Willington. DL15 0AG

Enquiries 01388 745460

**Willington Disabled Club** meet every Tuesday evening at 6.00 pm for Bingo, a cuppa and a chat. New members are always welcome and if you would like to find out more contact Jean Graham.

**Mother and Toddlers Club** meets every Wednesday 9.00 -11.00 am

For more information contact Katrina Stephenson

**Willington Luncheon Club** meet every Thursday at 12.00 – 1.30 pm to enjoy a freshly cooked meal. The food service provided by dedicated volunteers is much appreciated by those who attend together with the opportunity to meet old and new friends.

Transport is available via Age Concern.

**Messy Church** meets the last Friday of the month, 3.30- 5.00pm

Organised by Hope Ecumenical. New volunteers to help out would be welcome.

**Homemakers Programme** meets monthly on Tuesdays at 2.15pm in the lounge.Refreshments are available and outings and activities are planned.

**The Confident Community Programme** runs on Wednesdays in association with County Durham Housing Group and the Foodbank.

Contact Katrina Stephenson for details.

## Whats On at Willington Library

**Willington Walkers** meet every Friday at 10.00am

**The Knit and Knatter** meet at the Library every Friday and also at the Cornerstone Office on the Industrial Estate on a Tuesday

You can use all the library facilities online. Simply log into the Durham County Council library system and register your library ticket number and surname. This will give you access to books, cds, dvds, magazines and research materials.

# Willington Cricket Club



## Willington Cricket Club & Academy

Established 1904

### Willington Cricket Club play at the Manor Road Cricket Ground (MRCG) in the North East Premier League.

There are 3 senior men's teams, juniors at under 18, under 15s, under 13s, under 11s and under 9s and a ladies team. Following last year's success, this year All Stars Cricket will be returning which is a great fun introduction to cricket for children under 11s and parents.

Call Darren on 0781 592 676.

Senior games take place during the season on Saturdays and Sundays.

There is a Friday night 20Twenty competition during June and July which is great fun and a good opportunity for a pint and crash bang cricket.

Take in a game if you get the chance and support your local club.

Check out the local press and [www.nepremierleague.pitchero.com](http://www.nepremierleague.pitchero.com) for fixtures.

# Willington A.F.C.

### Willington AFC currently sits in Division Two of the Northern League.

They are having one of their best seasons for many years under the guidance of Anth Lee & Rob Lee and there is a feel-good vibe around the club.

Groundsmen Shaun and Paul Cooper are working miracles on the pitch and Chairman Richard Trewman is helping get the team back on the map.

In November they famously beat Shildon 1-0 in the league cup with a goal from Connor Winter.

Willo as they are nicknamed, deserve your support, so please pop round to Hall Lane and cheer the lads on.

Dean Maynard,  
Marketing Officer  
Tel:07806556660

Watching a match at the Hall Lane ground is grassroots football at its finest and won't break the bank.

AGE GROUP	TRAINING TIME	LOCATION
UNDER 12S	6.00-7.00	WHITE S
UNDER 10S	6.30-7.30	JUNIORS
UNDER 9S	7.30-8.30	JUNIORS
UNDER 8S	8.30-9.30	JUNIORS
UNDER 7S	9.30-10.30	WHITE S
UNDER 6S	10.00-11.00	JUNIORS
UNDER 5S	11.00-12.00	JUNIORS

AT PARKSIDE ACADEMY  
HALL LANE, WILLINGTON, CROOK, COUNTY DURHAM DL15 0QG

ON THE 3G PITCH

CONTACT US: 07907083479

Take in a game if you get the chance. Check out the local press, Bishop FM and [www.northernleague.org](http://www.northernleague.org) for fixtures.

# Allotments

If you love your wellies then an Allotment Garden could be just the thing for you.



## Allotment Gardening Competition Winners

Following another successful inspection on Thursday 20th July 2017, the allotment competition winners were;

### Oakenshaw

1st Prize	Plot 48	Mr & Mrs Hales
Highly Commended	Plots 45 & 46	Mr & Mrs Berry
	Plots 43 & 44	Ms Y Golding

### Park Top

1st Prize	Plots 2 & 3	Mr J Beard
Highly Commended	Plot 4	Mr J Fleming
Best New Plot	Plot 11	Mr K Dobinson

### Inspection Date

Allotment Inspections will take place on Thursday 19th July 2018. Commencing at 9.45am at Oakenshaw, 10.45am at Park Top and 11.30 at Springfield.

All allotment winners will be notified in writing and invited to have their photograph taken receiving the award.

Please note 50% of plots must be cultivated and maintained as stated in the Rules. Failure to do so, will result in additional rent being charged following the inspections.

### Keep Yourself Up To Date

If there are any changes to your contact details, please could you inform us so that we can keep our records up to date.

You can do this either by calling into the Town Council office at 67 High Street, Willington, via email to [emma.mennouni@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emma.mennouni@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephone 01388 417725.

**National Allotment Week 2018 will run from 13th – 19th August 2018.**

### Springfield

1st Prize	Plot 18	Mr I Joyner
Highly Commended	Plot 4	Mr J Blakey
Best New Plot	Plot 13	Ms R Musgrove

**1st Prize winners received a cheque for £25.**

**Highly Commended and Best New Plot winners received a cheque for £20.**

### Allotment Rents

All tenants should have received their invoices for the allotment season 2018-2019. Rents are due on or before the 1st April 2018. Failure to pay by this date could result in your tenancy agreement being revoked and the plot being offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Allotment rents were frozen last year 2017-2018. This new season 2018-2019 includes an increase of 3% to cover increased utilities and maintenance costs. An increase for 2019-20 is not planned.

### Allotment Policy

Further to the revised Lettings Policy that was circulated last year for your comments these have now been incorporated into the 2018-19 Policy. This mirrors that used by Durham County Council to provide consistency in allotment management.

- Please note that we no longer accept joint tenancies within our parish but we can offer co-worker agreements.

- By law we are only obliged to offer one garden per household ie enough to feed one household.
- We still let the plot via a twelve month unsecured tenancy.
- Applications from residents who have been previously been instructed to vacate the garden for whatever reason will not be accepted.
- We have provided more robust guidelines on the keeping of poultry following recent bird health scares.
- We still operate a no cockerle rule.
- We still operate an over 50% cultivation rule for you to keep a 50% rent discount
- Sub letting will not be tolerated

### Respect Your Allotment Boundaries

Please keep your fence line in a neat and tidy condition.

Under no circumstances can you throw rubbish over the fence into the adjoining plots or surrounding fields. This causes complaints to the council from private land owners and is dangerous to the landowners domestic pets and livestock.

This years Halloween celebrations were bigger and better than ever.

# HALLOWEEN IN WILLINGTON



**Pumpkin Carving and Crafts were held on the afternoon of Thursday 26th October 2017 this was then followed at 6pm by a Halloween Party.**

With pumpkin judging, fancy dress and a Magic show. Not forgetting the Spooky Soup, Horror Hotdogs and Scary Story.

The winners were:

### Carved Pumpkins

First Prize	Morgan Lowes	age 8
Second Prize	Matthew Evans	age 11
Third Prize	Poppy Robinson	age 12
Highly Commended	Scarlet Joyce	age 10
	Cayden Cairnes	age 5
	Ewan McDonough	age 6
	Tony Smith	age 12
	Holly Blenkiron	age 12

### Fancy Dress

First Prize	Logan Scott (Clown)	age 4
Second Prize	Indie May (Jigsaw)	age 10
Third Prize	John Bolton (Pirate)	age 2
Highly Commended	Daisy Mulholland (Malificent)	age 7

### The winning Shop Front

First Prize	House of Beauty
Highly Commended	Fosters Opticians

A big thank you to Arthur Burnham who delivered the G.W.T.C Pumpkins to Parkside Academy, Our Lady and St Thomas, Willington Primary and Sunnybrow Schools for the children to enjoy and take home.

# Oakenshaw Community Orchard Garden



The Community Orchard Garden was created for the benefit of both the community and local wildlife. It is managed and maintained by a small group of villagers under control of the Oakenshaw Community Association with help from village volunteers.

Greater Willington Town Council provided the allotment to transform into an orchard garden. It has been designed to be wheelchair friendly and easily accessible to all, offering a place of recreation and contemplation, and providing opportunities for involvement in gardening and other group activities.

The garden has progressed over the past few years from an empty plot. The main design with a series of areas for different planting schemes has now been

established. Fruit trees and bushes have been planted, and as they develop their harvest can be shared by the village. All-weather paths have been created together with a shelter and seating, and a raised bed has been built to encourage the involvement of less mobile gardeners. The orchard garden has easy access from the road. Landscaping and building work was undertaken by Treetops Garden and Fencing Construction.

In 2017, following an initial Open Day to introduce the Orchard Garden to the community, it successfully hosted two further village events, a Halloween gathering and a Christmas Tree lights and decoration event. All events were very well attended and it is hoped to add more in the future.

## Town Planters

**A big thank you to the Environment group volunteers who continue to restock the planters around the parish.**

They are amongst the best in the County. G.W.T.C are pleased to meet the project costs for this work.

The group also plan to carry out a North Dene spring clean. The dates will be advertised and members would be grateful if you can volunteer some of your time to help.

# Northern Heartlands



**Northern Heartland's mission is to deliver cultural activities that transform people's understanding of the heritage, landscapes and places they live in, building their confidence and ability to influence policy and decision-making.**

Northern Heartlands is one of sixteen Great Place Schemes in the UK funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England. They are using a 'cultural landscape' approach, recognising that landscape and places are shaped by what has happened in the past, what is happening now and what may happen in the future. Our landscapes tell an ever-changing story.

Our Great Place is in County Durham and includes the catchment of two rivers – the Tees and the Wear – extending from their sources in the North Pennines to the lowland arc through which they flow. The area includes the market towns of Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland, Shildon, Crook, Tow Law and Willington and the communities of part of the former Durham coalfield, together with the isolated hill farms and villages of the rural upper Dales.

The Town Council will be working with Northern Heartlands in coming months on a number of projects. More details to follow.



**Spectrum offer a wide range of sports, leisure and other wellbeing activities aimed at all ages at their centre on Hunwick Lane, Willington, where they recently celebrated 10 years trading.**

They have recently updated cardio and resistance equipment in their gym rooms as well as spinning and other activities.

**Call 01388 747000 or check out their website for details ([www.spectrumleisurecentre.com](http://www.spectrumleisurecentre.com)).**

## North Dene and South Dene

We are working with the County Council to address the problems in both the North and South Denes where the paths have subsided and a bridge has washed out due to the intense rainfall over the winter.

There will likely require significant expenditure but we know how much people enjoy these areas and how important they are for the town so we are determined to sort them out.

# County Councillor Surgeries (Willington & Hunwick)

with Cllr Olwyn Gunn and Cllr Fraser Tinsley



**Cllr Olwyn Gunn**

Tel: 03000 26 87 14

[olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk](mailto:olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk)



**Cllr Fraser Tinsley**

Tel: 03000 26 86 91

[fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk)

Your County Councillors for the Willington & Hunwick Division (including Sunnybrow, Oakenshaw, Brancepeth and Page Bank) will be holding surgeries at Greater Willington Town Council Offices (67 High St, Willington) on the following dates:

**31st May**

**27th September**

**26th July**

**29th November**

Surgery time - 6pm (on the final Thursday of the month - alternating with the Police & Community Together (PACT) meeting in Willington).

Drop-in or contact Olwyn / Fraser to make an appointment.

[www.facebook.com/willingtonandhunwicklabour](http://www.facebook.com/willingtonandhunwicklabour)

[willingtonandhunwicklabour](http://www.facebook.com/willingtonandhunwicklabour)

## Councillor Contact Details

### **Councillor Fraser Tinsley Town Mayor**

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### **Councillor Kenneth Henfrey Deputy Town Mayor**

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### **Councillor Angela Smith**

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# Community Fund Awards

**The Council continues to encourage applications from Local Groups.**

You can apply for up to 75% of the total project costs or £500 whichever is the lesser.

Unfortunately we cannot accept applications from individuals, businesses or statutory organisations.

- Willington Cricket Club was awarded £450 to help refurbish the pavilion.
- Willington Youth Football were awarded £500 for Pitch and Coaching fees.
- Willington Football Club were successful in drawing down £500 for facilities and pitch maintenance
- Rosedale and Victoria Allotments were granted £500 to improve the access road and buy materials for planters around the site.
- Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group were awarded £500 to plant and restock the twelve parish planters.
- Willington Disabled Club received £500 for room hire.

# Civic Fund Awards

**The Civic Fund is a small donation to help towards community activities or services that are used to benefit our community.**

If your community group is working in this way to help others. Simply write to the Town Clerk outlining how you would like to spend the £50.00 that may be available to you.

- Willington Luncheon Club used their donation to help with running costs.
- Durham Cathedral received help towards conservation of the central tower and The Treasures of St Cuthbert exhibition.
- The Civic Fund was used to help host The North Of England Brass Band Championship at the Gala Theatre.
- We supported the Great North Air Ambulance as we do every year with running costs.
- Dovedale Community Centre used their donation to provide a Christmas meal that was much appreciated.
- The Older Person's Christmas Lunch with Parkside Academy was supported. This is now an annual event.
- Willington Disabled Club members received a donation towards a Christmas meal and Christmas activities.
- St Stephens Church parishioners joined forces to write a Traditional Foods Recipe Book.
- Fifty pounds was approved to help organise the Dale and Valley Homes, Queens Birthday Street Party for the Customer Panel.
- A donation was made to the School Benevolent Fund to help provide families in need with their Children's school coats and shoes.
- Willington Youth Football are looking to start a girls team.



## G A & J M Foster Opticians

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### Opening Times

Monday to Friday 8.30 - 5.00  
Saturday 9.00 - 12.00

# Christmas Pantomime 2017

The Town Council in partnership with Willington Working Mens Club were delighted to provide the Cinderella Pantomime for our younger residents on 2 December 2017.

This was followed by a surprise visit from Santa who talked to 180 children and gave them each a Christmas present.

The costs of the event were met by a three hundred pound donation each from County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley, a one hundred and fifty pound donation from Willington Working Mens Club and an eight hundred and sixty nine pound contribution from the Town Council.

Our thanks are extended to the Working Mans Club's representative, Shirley Liddle who helped sell tickets and the Committee who provided the venue



from which to host the Pantomime.

Due to popular demand there will be another Pantomime the first

Saturday in December 2018. We are looking forward to another exciting and fun packed afternoon with Dick Whittington.



## The Towns Christmas Tree and Illuminations

We were privileged once again to provide the Town's Christmas Tree in 2017 which was topped with a new shining star.

This year saw the introduction of Christmas spheres to decorate the deciduous trees on the Town Green. Six more large column motifs were also purchased. This resulted in quite a colourful display and received many compliments including one from the Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowdon who urged people to drive through Willington to see the lights.

Unfortunately the light switch on was hampered by very bad snow. We had planned to have Oli Patto (an up and coming local celebrity and former X factor contestant) to switch on the Tree lights however he was delayed and the task was admirably performed by Byker Bear from the Chyrelle Addams Cancer Trust.

Refreshments were provided at the council office and as Ollie arrived later he still managed to perform a few songs.

We had planned to extend the illuminations to include the columns around St Stephens Church. However much to our disappointment, on investigation we learnt that we are not permitted to fix motifs to old Northern Power Grid columns. This rule also applies to most of the columns on the High Street at the lower end of Willington.

## Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Civic Service at Our Lady and St Thomas Roman Catholic Church was very well attended considering the snowy weather. The service was led by Father Brian Murphy with music provided by Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band.

Our appreciation is extended to the readers and St Thomas School children who sang Away in a Manger.

Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Town Mayor welcomed everyone and spoke about the meaning of Christmas and looking after the more vulnerable neighbours who may need a little extra support during the winter months.

He then extended an invitation to watch the lighting of the Town's Christmas Tree, followed by refreshments @ The Market.



Catering was provided by Party Platters and music by Oli Patto.

## Civic Duties

The town council receives invitations throughout the year from neighbouring parishes to attend Civic functions and fundraising events.

Networking gives the opportunity to share good practice and promote the activities we have organised in our parish. We would like to thank Deputy Mayor Ken Henfrey and his wife Margaret for giving up their time to attend these events on behalf of G.W.T.C.