

OUR WILLINGTON

A message from Northern Heartlands



**A Message from
Town Mayor**

Cllr Fraser Tinsley

**& the members of the Greater
Willington Town Council**

Welcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter.

Over the past year we have been driving a number of projects to help improve our area. We have undertaken environmental improvements in and around North Dene and Armoury Field play area. Our War Memorial at Park Top is undergoing refurbishment ahead of this year's Remembrance Sunday commemoration. Speed calming has been introduced in Hall Lane and Sunnybrow and we have started renewing our flower planters.

We continue to support many organisations and groups in Willington ranging from our sports clubs, playgroups, churches, charities, schools, social clubs and associations. We provide funding through our Community and Civic funds that is increasingly important in these difficult financial times.

There is important work underway preparing the new County Durham Plan which will provide a blueprint for the future development of area. The Town Council are supporting the proposed Durham City Western Relief Road. This new road will dramatically reduce travel times into Durham at peak times and improve access for people from this area to work, education and the University Hospital.

We are also helping Oakenshaw prepare a new Neighbourhood Plan for their area.

We know we have an issue with anti-social behaviour, particularly focused on the Main Street. We are working closely with the police on this matter and are upgrading the CCTV system. There is an increased police presence in the area and we can all help the police by reporting any incident on the police non-emergency number 101 (call 999 in an emergency).

We are also starting a project with Durham County Council to improve the appearance of the Main Street.

The Town Council is supporting and jointly funding the Our Willington event on 5th October. This free event builds on the success of last year's Man Engine event and is a celebration of our past and looks to our future. All schools in the area are taking part in the event and everybody is invited to the Town Green at 6pm.

I thank everybody for their help and support over the past year and ask for this again in the future.

Finally, on behalf of the Town Council, can I wish you all the best and hope you have a happy and safe autumn and winter.

**Best wishes
Cllr Fraser Tinsley**

Greater Willington
Town Mayor and County Councillor for
Willington and Hunwick

**OUR
WILLINGTON**

**THIS AUTUMN THE VOICES OF
WILLINGTON
WILL SHOUT OUT LOUD**

CULTURE, HISTORY, HERITAGE AND FUTURE

Join us... as together we create a unique multimedia sound, light and performance event



Where? Willington Town Green

When? Saturday 5th October from 6pm

What? Film Premier of **Our Willington**

Including: **Choir and Community Parade**
featuring: **Runaway Samba**



Following on from the success of the Man Engine last Summer, Northern Heartlands is excited to revisit Willington Town Green this Autumn with a unique multimedia event and community parade.

On Saturday 5th October 2019 from 6pm, start gathering on the Town Green to get ready for the premier of OUR WILLINGTON, an exciting event we've been working on with Lonely Tower Film and Media. Using the voices of people who call Willington home, we will explore history, heritage, hopes and dreams through a unique outdoor sound and light installation.

That's not all...there will also be a community choir performing original, locally written songs about County Durham, and a magical community lantern parade involving children from all five local primary schools. The fantastic, high-energy drummers, Runaway Samba,

will lead the community procession across the green.

So, get your coat on and come along to help us make this another memorable event for the people of Willington!

A big thanks to Greater Willington Town Council and the 3 Towns Partnership, whose support has helped make Our Willington a reality.

Please contact info@northernheartlands.org for more information and don't forget to follow us on social media @NHeartlands @LonelyTower, #OurWillington,

We look forward to seeing you there!

Northern Heartlands is funded by National Lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England.

Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk said the event is being sponsored by the Town Council.

The parade will be made up of children from all five local primary schools and the wider Willington community.

Lantern making workshops for the community have been held in all schools and at Willington Open Door Church on Saturday 21st September 2019, led by experienced artists from Jack Drum Arts.

However if you would like to join in;

- **Make your own Miners Lantern using an LED light then join the community Lantern Parade, led by Runaway Samba Drummers.**
- **Antique old miners lamps can also be carried.**
- **Children must be accompanied by an adult.**



Community Newsletter Issue 13

67 High Street, Willington, Co Durham. DL15 0PF

Serving Our Community

t: 01388 417725 e: gwtc@live.co.uk

w: www.gwtc.co.uk



The Man Engine

The Man Engine created by Will Coleman, Golden Tree Productions, Cornwall came to Willington on 30th June 2018 as part of the companies Resurrection Tour.

The massive man is one of the largest industrial scale puppets ever created in the UK. This engineering miracle represents the county's rich mining heritage.

The event intended to strengthen the connection between Cornish Tin and North East mining communities.

Families living in Willington now can trace their ancestry back to relatives who walked from Cornwall to Willington to find work. So the natural amphitheatre on the Town Green was thought to be the perfect place to stage the Man Engine performance.

Greater Willington Town Council were delighted to agree to host the event after being approached by Northern Heartlands who are based in Teesdale.

Durham County Council and Town Council staff were involved in organising the other activities with County Councillors Fraser Tinsley and Olwyn Gunn who supported

Northern Heartlands great places programme.

The event was sponsored by Northern Heartlands, The National Lottery, Greater Willington Town Council and Councillor Gunn and Tinsleys Neighbourhood Budget.

It was the resident contributions and involvement that made the day so special. As part of the activities surrounding the Man Engine show, Northern Heartlands worked with schools to do Banner Making. The Banners were then carried by the pupils taking part in the parade with the Colliery Brass Bands to welcome the massive miner.

Lonely Tower Film and Media did an amazing job after agreeing to film the event which can be viewed on.

Willington - What the Man Engine visit means...
<https://www.facebook.com/LonelyTower/videos/170879279156913/>

This went out in advance of the MAN ENGINE event

THE MAN ENGINE – WILLINGTON...
<https://www.facebook.com/LonelyTower/videos/1711911505512157/>

The news report released on the evening of the event

THE MAN ENGINE IN 60 SECONDS - Willington's grand day out...
<https://www.facebook.com/LonelyTower/videos/1714470705256237/>

As it says on the tin – the whole day in 60 seconds

Willington - A County Durham Mining Story ...
<https://www.facebook.com/LonelyTower/videos/1771019476268026/>

The full documentary film



In response to Fraser Tinsley's Facebook post on 30 June at 17:55:

Willington Take a bow!!
 #manengine

Stuart Smith: This was a great day thank you

Jacky McMahon: Was a brilliant day! Very well organised well done!

Janet Lakin-Jones: It's was a wonderful & emotional tribute to our North Eastern Miners, thank you for making this fab event happen & in our town of Willington

Tracey Harrison: Thank you! It's been a great day

THE PEOPLES RESPONSE TO THE MAN ENGINE

Rhianne Dixon: We loved it! Thank you for organising such a fab event

Denise Armstrong: Thank you for a great day, it was something for everyone to enjoy. Well done to everyone involved.

Philip Shaw: Amazing day

Jo Freeland: Amazing day. So glad we could witness The Man Engine in all it's glory

Angela Gemski: We loved it and our daughter loved wearing her great grandas flat cap in the parade. She said it was one of the best history lessons she'd ever had

Carol Reed: Brilliant day

Gina Stephenson: Thank you and well done to everyone involved, it was a lovely family day!

Donna Gilloway: Thank you, it was a brilliant day

Michelle Lee: I was quite emotional the history the memories and everyone standing in awe best day I've had for a long time thanks to

everyone involved today brilliant cxxxxx

Lisa Bates: Loved everything from start to finish i didnt want it to end was very emotional and i had a few tears the story teller the performance the guys who work in the back ground all did fantastic round of applause for each and everyone of u xx

Andrea Robinson: Fantastic day and so proud that my son was part of parade with Our Lady and St Thomas school. Well done all absolutely amazingxxx

Anne Anderson: A fantastic event, so proud to be a miners daughter. My dad and all of the the miners would have been so proud and amazed today so thank you

Alison Danby: Fantastic day all round, must say the man engine crew were absolutely brilliant the way they guided that huge structure and that high ladder with those pick forks and ropes I was

watching them signalling to each other when and where to move making that huge structure come to life... Outstanding Thank you all xxx

Claire Craft: What an absolutely brilliant day for Willington. Never have I seen such an amazing event taking place here before. Northern Heartlands you should be so proud as should all of the primary schools and groups who came together to put on such a wonderful show. We had an amazing afternoon and loved seeing all of the local community come together

Joanne Allison: Amazing day, well done to all who took part x

Christine Brown: Wish it had been advertised more, only live in Bishop & didn't know about it until on the day, same day as Forces Day in Bishop.

Lou Mitchell: It was an amazing day, thanks for all the effort that went into organising.

Joan Foster: Wonderful piece of art

Jason Bone : Lump in my throat when the boys and men from brancepeth pit disaster names read out huge respect.

Our little village has a huge mining heritage which hopefully a lot of the younger generation (under 40's) will now hopefully understand.

Great show well done all.

Anne Bond: Great show lovely family day .

Lesley Greener: Fantastic day seeing so many people at Willington was amazing. Thoroughly enjoyed the experience of been part a such a fantastic day. Man Engine puppet was awe-inspiring WELL DONE everyone x

Keith Foster: Awesome.

Yvonne Williams: Amazing day - the technology, the artistry, the links in with Durham mining . However, I only knew of this because a Facebook friend posted it

Claire Thirkell: Absolutely fantastic day, was very humbling listening to the story behind the man engine and also listening to all those names read out was a heart felt gesture the man engine it's self was a very impressive piece of engineering well done to all involved I had a amazing day a day we'll talk about for a long time to come

Brenda Smith: It was fantastic I even felt a little emotional listening to the story well done everyone involved to make this great event happen the atmosphere was astonishing thankyou for bringing it to willington.

Christine Underwood: Amazing thank all of you that made it possible a truly wonderful day, very emotional , i to am proud to be a miners daughter .

Julie Hanlon: Spectacular show. We all loved it. Than you so much for bringing the Man Engine to Willington. Very emotional. X

Julie Hanlon So proud my daughter Katie, niece Hannah and their friends were in the parade. They absolutely loved it. XManage

Wayne Fenwick: Class day to remember forever m8 well done for erverything

Delphine Brown: Well done to everyone x was a fantastic community day x

Claire Thirkell: It was brilliant from start to finish,a day we will all talk

about for years to come total respect to all involved

Daz Joiner: Big well done 2 all involved ...well-done Willington

Delphine Brown: It was awesome xx

Margaret Elgie: it was exelent today

Barbara Williams: Was Reed It was excellent and also great to see so many people in Willington x

Lee McConville: Credit where it's due Fraser Tinsley was a hell of a turn out... . Credit to everyone involved

Susan Wragg: Was fantastic, well done xx

Arthur Burnham: It was lovely to see the people support the engine goes to show we still have some decent people in Willington hope we can organise some more events like this in the future it's great for moral in the village in these hard times

Fraser Tinsley: Spot on Arthur Burnham!

Gilly Rawlings: Well said n well done all

Chrissy Burnham: Well done Fraser just brilliant

Caroline Spirit: totally agree with you Arthur would be lovely to see more events in willington

Elizabeth Welsh: we loved it xx

Barbara Atkinson: Well done Fraser Tinsley great day xx

Mark Sewell: Brilliant

Leighan Hetherington: Fantastic day I am proud to be part of willington x

Philip Blyth: fantastic achievement lets have it every year please it brings our community together

Anne Anderson: Proud to be a miners daughter who worked in Brancepeth colliery in his hay days. Fantastic from start to finish. Hope it's the start of more community events in willington. Great to see everyone taking part. Amazing, here's to many more, hopefully

Angie Dinsdale: We had the most amazing day , and I agree with all the other comments , the green is huge so would be fantastic if it was used like this more often x

Emma Jayne Louise Blackett: I must add the children from all the schools were so inspirational! seeing them all get involved and learning about there heritage made me very emotional !



George Burdon McKean

Intensive work was undertaken last year to prepare for the George Burdon McKean Victoria Cross Centenary Commemoration on 28th April 2018. The event was part of the national WW1 Centenary activities and a big moment in history of our town.

Willington received one of seven Victoria Cross Commemorative Stones presented to communities in County Durham by central government. The Willington stone recognises George Burdon McKean who was born in Willington and commemorates 100 years since events on the night of 27-28 April 1918, when he was awarded his Victoria Cross.

During a raid on German trenches at Gavrelle, near Arras, a patrol led by Lieutenant George Burdon McKean was pinned down by intense machine gun fire and hand grenades thrown from a strongly-defended German position. George McKean rushed the barbed wire barricade and, armed only with his revolver, leapt over the top and fought with two German defenders before killing them both. The remainder of the Canadian patrol then joined McKean as he cleared the trench and dug-outs with Mills bombs, killing or taking prisoner several German soldiers.

McKean's bravery throughout his career was such that he has a Mountain range in the Canadian Rockies named after him and a Market Square in Caigincourt, France.

The Town Council invested their own funds and secured Heritage Lottery Funding, Area Action Partnership Funding and Neighbourhood Funding from County Councillors Fraser Tinsley and Olwyn Gunn. The funds were used to share George's story across the parish and create a lasting public commemorative space where his Victoria Cross Stone can be displayed next to Willington Library.

Staff from the Durham Light Infantry Collection and Durham Records Office worked in Schools to explain to children about George's extraordinary life and give young people the opportunity to examine objects from the 1914-18 war years.

Volunteers with an interest in local history were invited to join in sessions and share memorabilia with the Town Council and Durham Record Office to explore Willington during WW1.

The Lieutenant George Burdon McKean commemorative V.C. service was held on the 28th April 2018 at 11am.

Residents met at the War memorial to pay tribute to local soldiers who lost their lives during World War 1 and then joined the parade to Willington Library for the civic unveiling service of the V.C stone by the H.M The Queens representative, The Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Sue Snowden.

Major Timothy Button, Canada Defence Liaison attended and laid a wreath to represent the Montreal Regiment. All uniformed public services were represented and the flags were raised by the Royal Air Force Cadets and the Army Cadets.

Members of George's family were present including George's great grand daughter and they were delighted by people of the parish paying tribute to George. A World War 1 Experience event was held at The Open Door Church with an exhibition, a presentation on war time food, War time music and images of Willington at war.

The event was a tremendous success. Being one of the best V.C commemorations in the country. Helen Cogdon and Emma Mennouni were invited to London to attend The National Service of Thanksgiving. This was to remember the centenary of the first World War Armistice. The service held in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family on the 11th November 2018 in London.

The invitation to attend the WW1 Centenary Service at Westminster Abbey, was extended in recognition of the quality of the work delivered around The George Burdon McKean V.C project. It was an honour to have our town selected on a national level from all the Heritage Lottery Funded projects throughout the Country. A big thankyou to the National Lottery for their support.

THE MAN ENGINE WILLINGTON WINS NORTH EAST CULTURE AWARDS

Congratulations to Northern Heartlands and especially the people of Willington who got behind the project.

The Man Engine won Best Event Durham at the North East Culture Awards. This is a huge achievement for our little town. When you consider we reached the final beside northern icons like The Tall Ships and Durham Cathedral.

Well done everyone and thank you for a truly memorable day.



Citizens Advice Outreach at Greater Willington Town Council

Town Council funding was agreed to continue the Citizens Advice service in 2018/19. Additional funding for the provision of the service in Willington, Crook and Tow Law was secured from the Area Action Partnership.

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

We offer one session of generalist advice Drop In (Tuesday 10am – 12.30pm) from the Council Office.

INVESTING IN CCTV

The Town Council has invested more resources into the CCTV cameras around the town and agreed other measures that will improve visibility.

This will provide clearer images and better quality recordings around the High Street.

We would like to protect staff and residents from public abuse and improve security. Please be aware that CCTV cameras have been installed in the Council Office. Your image will be recorded when you visit the Council building.

Please note if you would like to access CCTV records contact Durham Constabulary on the 101 number.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting are held the last Thursday of the month in the Council office.

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

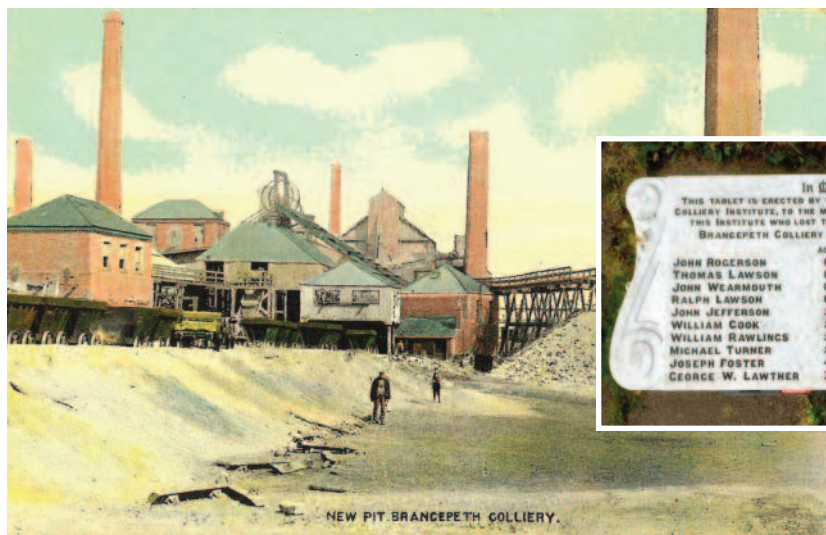
The meetings are attended by the County Councillors and Police Officers.

26th September 2019 GWTC

24th October 2019 St Catherines Community Centre

26th November 2019 GWTC

Brancepeth Colliery Pit Disaster



In Memoriam
THIS TABLE IS ERECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BRANCEPETH COLLIERY INSTITUTE, IN THE MEMORY OF THE TWENTY MEMBERS OF THIS INSTITUTE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES BY AN EXPLOSION AT BRANCEPETH COLLIERY "A PIT", APRIL 13TH 1896.

NAME	AGE	AGE	
JOHN ROBERTSON	68	CHARLES LINTERN	34
THOMAS LAWSON	65	TRISTRAM SPENCE	31
JOHN WEARMOUTH	64	HENRY HODGSON	23
RALPH LAWSON	60	JOSEPH BRIGHAM	22
JOHN JEFFERSON	58	WILLIAM LAWS	21
WILLIAM COOK	52	THOMAS M. NICHOLSON	20
WILLIAM RAWLINGS	50	JOHN R. DOWSON	20
MICHAEL TURNER	50	RICHARD RANSON	15
JOSEPH FOSTER	40	BARTHOLOMEW NEWELL	15
GEORGE W. LAWTHORP	39	THOMAS CARLING	14

A commemorative service in memory of the mining members of our community who lost their lives in the Brancepeth Pit Disaster was held in the Council Office on the 9th April 2019.

Each miner was recognised individually and our thanks are extended to Mr Andrew Nicholson who attended as a family representative. We would also like to express our appreciation to the fire service who provided Fire Officer Daniel to light the Beacon Brazier on the 13th April 2019.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was a very special public tribute in 2018 to commemorate the centenary of The Great War.

On Sunday the 11th November 2018 the Town Council organised and hosted the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial.

Many people attended and wreath layers walked up to the memorial in groups to show their solidarity.

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

Thank you also to the Royal British Legion for supplying the wreaths and the Poppy Boxes, particularly Brian Pyle and Lillian Bennett.

The service was followed by lighting the Beacon.

WAR MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT

In recognition of the WWII Victory in England 75 commemorative year the Town Council will be refurbishing the War Memorial.

We plan to clean, repoint joints, repaint lettering and railings. A new Wreath Holder will be provided.



ROYAL AIR FORCE CADETS

Cross Forth, Humber and Severn for one great adventure



On Friday 30th and Saturday 31st August, six cadets and two staff from 2505 (Bishop Auckland) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets took on a challenge to hike across the Forth, Humber and Severn bridges, as three of the longest suspension bridges in Scotland, England and Wales.

Taking 30 hours and 51 minutes from stepping on to the Forth bridge early morning in Scotland, crossing the Humber bridge on the Friday evening to stepping off of the final bridge crossing the River Severn on Saturday, the adventure was a great achievement and, as far as is known, a first for the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

Hiking across the bridges, the team were exposed to a mix of glorious sunshine, light rain and strong winds, spurred on by the occasional cheer and lots of interest from passers by, the team covered 15 kms of hiking and over 1200 kms of driving. The sponsored event raised over £300 and meets some of the aims of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, including encouraging the spirit of adventure, developing qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

The Squadron Commander, Flt Lt Ian Pepper said, "This was a fantastic and unique venture of which the squadron should rightly be proud to complete, this demonstrates the cadets determination to achieve success as a great team".



Cadet Lee Peacock (14) said, "despite sore feet and the windy weather it was amazing to take part, this will stay with me as a great adventure".

Cadet Flt Sgt Ellis Rowley (17) said, "I have just completed my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award expedition, but this hike was so totally different with the engineering of the bridges construction fascinating".

If you are interested in joining 2505 (Bishop Auckland) Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets the squadron meets on a Mon and Thurs from 7pm to 9.30pm in the Army Reserve Centre, St Andrews Road, Bishop Auckland. For more information about 2505 Squadron Royal Air Force Air Cadets follow us on Facebook @2505aircadets or email 2505@aircadets.org

Photographs show:

Photograph 1:

Left to right: Cadets Peacock L, Dowson J, Cadet Flt Sgt Rowley E, Cadet Dowson E, Cadet Corporal Coyne J and Cadet Foster A, on the Humber Bridge

Photograph 2:

Left to right: Cadet Flt Sgt Rowley E, Cadet Dowson E, Dowson J, Corporal Coyne J, Cadet Cadets Peacock L and Cadet Foster A, on the Humber Bridge

Author and photographer: Flt Lt I. Pepper,

ARMOURY FIELDS

Fencing has been provided around the perimeter of Armoury Fields. This is intended to provide a more secure grassed area for sports and play. Also the fencing will improve the road safety aspect for people crossing the highway.

TOWN PLANTERS

The Town Council will sponsor the Willington planters around the parish and be supporting Willington Environment Group to replace four worn planters. The planting box is to be moved from the entrance to the Black Path to underneath the Barton Townley site Willington sign.

Thank you to the Environment Group for the work they do on restocking the planters. They are always looking for volunteers to help with the planting and small environmental parish improvements. If you would enjoy this, please let us know.

WILDFLOWER WILLINGTON

Many of you will have seen the growth in Wildflower planting across Durham. Initial meetings with D.C.C Countryside Rangers, Ecologists, the Environment Group and the Town Council has agreed to introduce verges at the fence line between the Pit Heap and the Town Green and improve the wildflower area leading alongside Colliery Row, Willington.

A Grant application will be made to The Woodland Trust to secure native mixed shrubs that will be used in planting pockets over the lower sections of the Pit Heap.

The intention is to gradually introduce wildflower pathways up the Pit Heap to combat the lack of colour that you can see currently.

We hope to involve schools and young people and as many volunteers as possible in the planting.

Whats On

at Willington Library

Toddler Time

the first Thursday of the month

10am - 10.45 (Term time only) for under 5's.

Activities include a story time and a craft activity.

Willington Walkers

start at the Library on a Friday morning

9.45 – 11.15 am

Knit and Knatter

meet on a Friday morning and also at Cornerstone on the Industrial Estate on a Tuesday.

The Reading Group

meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm.

Contact details

03000 269532

Willington.lib@durham.gov.uk

Library opening hours are

Monday 1pm – 5pm

Thursday 9.30am – 7pm

Friday 9.30 – 1pm

Saturday 9.30 – 12.30pm

THE OPEN DOOR METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday

Worship (including Sunday School) 10.30am

Monday

Active4Life Keep Fit Session (gentle exercise) 1.00 – 2.00pm

Taekwondo 6.00 – 8.00pm

2nd Monday each month. Homemakers Ladies Group meet 2.00pm

Tuesday

Prayer Meeting 10.00 – 10.30am

Disabled Club 6.00 – 8.30pm

Wednesday

Carers and Toddlers 9.00 – 11.00am

Bible Study Group 1.00 – 2.00pm

Foodbank 2.15 – 4.00pm

Our confident community. Advice, Debt Counsellor, Computer Access

Friends Group 7.00pm

1st Wednesday of each month; Holy Communion: 7.00pm

Thursday

Senior Citizens Luncheon Club 12.00 noon

Active4Life Keep Fit Session (gentle exercise) 2.00 – 3.00pm

1st Thursday of each month. Support Group for carers and parents of children with eating disorders.

Friday

Mens Health and Friendship Group 10.30 – 12.00pm

Messy Church the last Friday of the month 3.30 – 5.00pm

Taekwondo 6.30pm

1st Saturday of each month 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning.

Sue Hine said Willington Open Door Methodist Church has had a busy summer listening and responding to local needs We love it when the community works together to make our town a better place to live. We value the differing community groups who run a variety of activities from our building.

One new initiative the Church is running - suggested by a local Mum is Fareshare, a national charity established to reduce waste from supermarkets.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday we open between 4-4.30 for anyone to come and receive the fresh food that would otherwise be thrown away from some local supermarkets - it is recycling at its best!

We never know until the afternoon what we will receive but we try to always put a photo on the Willington Open Door Methodist Church Facebook page so people can look and see what is available.

This scheme is open to anyone as long as they accept the food is to be eaten within the following 24hours. All are welcome.

We continue to offer a Carer and Toddler Group on Wednesday Mornings 9-11, a Luncheon Club on Thursdays 11-2 and on Wednesday afternoons Our Confident Community provides access to computers and the Food Bank supports professional debt advice sessions - all between 2-4. Our Confident Community responds to suggestions of people wherever possible. Do come and be part of positive change.

These outreach events for the benefit of all are part of our Christian living modelled by Jesus and the church offers Sunday and weekday worship, Bible Study and the GIG club for children. All are open to anyone who would like to find out more. Look on our Facebook page to find more contact details.

ST STEPHENS CHURCH

Father David said, "The 3rd Annual Craft Fayre will be held in St Stephen's Parish Church from 10am on Friday 15th November and will be open until 4pm. On Saturday 16th the doors open at 10am and close at 4pm and

on Sunday 17th Sunday morning Service will be at 10.30am as usual and the final session of the Craft fayre runs from 1pm until 4pm.

Visitors can expect a range of local crafters selling their crafts

including cards, knitted toys and Christmas decorations as well as a variety of foodstuff. Refreshments will be available throughout the event.

Admission is once again, Free!"

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 18th July 2019, the allotment competition winners were;

Oakenshaw

1st Prize	Plots 48	Mr & Mrs D Berry
Highly Commended	Plots 5 & 6	Mr & Mrs R Kitching
Highly Commended	Plots 47 & 48	Mr & Mrs C Hales
Highly Commended	Plot 13 & 14	Mr J Zand & Mr M Ajdary

Park Top

1st Prize	Plots 2 & 3	Mr J Beard
Highly Commended	Plot 11	Mr S Fieldhouse

Springfield

1st Prize	Plot 22	Mr G Sharp and Mr D Hagar
Highly Commended	Plot 4	Mr J Blakey
Highly Commended	Plot 14	Mr B Smith

1st Prize winners received a cheque for £25.

Highly Commended received a cheque for £20.

BONFIRES BE CONSIDERATE. WE GET COMPLAINTS.

Allotment Gardens can be great fun, healthy for you and a sociable experience. The downside of this is that you must invest a lot of your time and effort to keep your plot to a reasonable standard.

Many plot holders have the occasional bonfire to dispose of garden waste. They are usually an accepted and tolerated part of a garden or allotment especially in the autumn.

However, the smoke and smell from bonfires can become a nuisance to neighbours on adjacent plots and in nearby houses.

Unfortunately the Council does receive complaints from residents when there are fires.

In order to keep everyone happy please consider the following;

- **Please use Burning Bins.**
- **Adopt a little and often approach, so you can burn quickly and stay with your bin**
- **NEVER leave a fire unattended and make sure it is extinguished before you leave.**
- **Be aware of the wind conditions.**

If you know you will be burning for longer periods because of other commitments get in touch with us and we will liaise with residents who may be offended by your smoke. So that you can agree together the best times to burn your garden waste.



County Councillors Report

Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley represent the Willington and Hunwick area at Durham County Council.

They run a surgery at GWTC Office on the Last Thursday of every month at 6pm where we address issues raised by residents. They are joined by the police to hold a Police and Community Together (PACT) meeting every other month where they address policing priorities for the area. Everybody is welcome.



UNIQUE' NEW COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH VAN FOR OUR AREA

Responding to residents' concerns about speeding, a new Community Speedwatch Van which has been funded from your Councillors Neighbourhood Budgets in the Willington, Crook and Tow Law area has been introduced.

It is a unique first and provides a speed detection vehicle that volunteers can use to monitor speed and encourage compliance with speed limits.

Those caught exceeding the speed limit will be recorded and contacted by the police. Persistent offenders may face further sanctions. Also all number plates are inputted to the police computer so people driving illegally without tax / insurance etc and those of interest to the police will be caught out.

We are constantly contacted by residents complaining about speeding in their areas. Working with the police, we have responded with a world first in this area that addresses residents legitimate concerns.



The van will now be operating in the Willington and Hunwick area helping to make our roads safer. Police Speed Enforcement Vans will continue to operate in tandem with our new Speedwatch van.

The aim is that one day speeding will become socially unacceptable, in the same way that drink driving and driving without a seatbelt was once common place and are now against the law.

This is a big step towards making that happen.

If you would like more information or would consider becoming a speedwatch volunteer to help your community - please get in touch.

SOUTH DENE BRIDGE BACK IN USE

It has taken time and money to get it rebuild following last years wash-out, but the bridge at the north end of the South Dene is back in use, restoring the circular route around the South Dene.

The bridge has been strengthened so hopefully this should not happen again.



NEW WILLINGTON 20MPH ZONES GO LIVE

A permanent 'Super' 20mph Zone covering Willington Primary, St Stephens Primary and Parkside Academy has been introduced. It includes new signage and physical speed calming measures and cover all of Hall Lane Estate, Aged Miners Homes, Dovedale and Armstrong Drive.

A new school time 20mph zone in Willington has been introduced on the High St between Hunwick Lane Ends and the Town Green.

This has all been made possible by the County Council, Greater Willington Town Council and County Councillors pooling funding to provide one of the most comprehensive projects to reduce speeding in County Durham.

Protecting our children and young people is our number one priority and this will go along way to achieving it. We will be asking Durham Constabulary to undertake enforcement checks as part of the scheme.

We are continuing to work on extending the project to Sunnybrow and Hunwick when funds are available.





The winners of the Decorated Scary Street Shop Front Competition were.
First. Fosters Optican
Highly Commended
Mad Hatters
The Cutting Company

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to decorate their shops. A special mention also to Sheldons newsagents.

The 2019 Scary Street Shop Front Competition will be judged on 30th October 2019. We hope that as many businesses as possible join in to create a trail of terror.



More medals for Spectrum Spartans

Six Spectrum Roller Skaters competed in a national competition held in Kejering last April. Four skaters teamed together with a performance titled - Remembering Titanic the unsinkable ship of dreams and came home with second place.

The youngest skater in the squad Ella Newson, 7, achieved 8th in Figures and 11th in free with her routine to music from Miss Saigon.

Jazzmyn Loring, recently selected to skate internationally, gained 6th in figures and 7th in free, skating for the first time in Minis event.

The Club has been supporting Jazzmyn to compete in her first international competition in Paris. After this Jazzmyn will be entering the British Championship.

Skating in elementary category also for the first time our 4 skaters had superb results

- Elementary Hannah Godwin - Figures 6th, Free 11th
- Elementary Lucy Richardson - Figures 13th, Free 9th
- Elementary Niamh Dawson - Figures 11th, Free 13th
- Elementary Nicola Stevens - Figures 4th, Free 14th





September
 Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
 6:00pm - 7:00pm
 Come along to learn basic skating skills
 Skates must be booked in advance
 Trial period - £1.50 Open to all ages

Saturdays
 12:00pm - 1:00pm
 Come along to learn basic skating skills and basic roller hockey stick handling

£2.00 per skater (first session free) Open to all ages

WILLINGTON YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Monday 6.00 – 7.00pm Under 14's (Whites)
 Tuesday 6.00 – 7.00pm Under 8's 10's & 11's
 Tuesday 7.00 – 8.00pm Under 12's (Whites & Blues)
 Wednesday 6.00 – 7.00pm Under 14,s (Whites)
 Thursday 5.00 – 6.00pm Little Footballers (4 – 7 years)
 Thursday 6.00 – 7.00pm Under 8's & 11's
 Friday 5.30 – 6.30pm Under 14's (Youth)
 Friday 6.30 – 7.30pm Under 10's
 Training sessions are held at Willington Football Club.

For more information contact Richard on 07907 083479



Willington & Hunwick Division

(Inc. Sunnybrow, Brancepeth, Oakenshaw & Page Bank)

Your County Councillors:



We are your local elected representatives working for you in this community.

Please contact us if we can help.

Olwyn & Fraser

Cllr Olwyn Gunn

03000 26 87 14

olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk

Cllr Fraser Tinsley

03000 26 86 91

fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

SPONSORSHIP



Willington Leek Club had £400 approved for equipment needed to run this year's Leek Show.

Willington Working Mens Club is one of the few associations left to continue to hold an annual Leek Show.

The Town Council was keen to help keep this valued local tradition alive.



Community Fund Awards

Greater Willington Town Council were delighted to award the following community activities a grant.

Willington and District Angling Club were awarded £500 towards their operational costs, including the fishing lease and stock.

Willington Happy Feet were given £150 towards training more Run Leaders.

Oakenshaw Community Association achieved £500 towards introducing

new speed reduction measures into the village.

Our Lady and St Thomas Church requested £466 to install a new Sound System in the Church.

Spectrum Spartans used their £450 to run their Summertime Fitness Programme that aimed at getting more young people involved.

Willington Youth Football benefited from £480 to pay for the Clubs Annual Tournament costs.

The Council encourages applications from local groups throughout the year. Applications are considered on a monthly basis. You can apply for 75% of the total net project cost or £500 whichever is the lesser.

A Community Fund Application can be completed on the Council website gwtc.co.uk.

Civic Fund Awards

In 2018 / 2019 the following were awarded £50.00

Citizens Advice County Durham for running costs.

School Benevolent Fund to provide shoes and winter coats

Durham Cathedral for running costs and maintenance.

Chyrelle Adams Cancer Support Trust for the Byker Bear Fundraiser.

Parkside Academy for the Diversity between the north and south divide outing to London.

St John's School Sixth Form College for Project Peru.

Oakenshaw Community Association for a portable P.A system

Colliery Road Neighbourhood Watch for transport to a Christmas meal.

Great North Air Ambulance for operational costs.

Parkside Academy for the Older Persons Lunch.

Spectrum Roller Hockey Club for a Coaching Course.

Dovedale Community Hub for a Christmas Meal and Raffle prizes.

The Children's Foundation for running costs.

Willington Luncheon Club for activities.



Christmas Pantomime

The Town Council in partnership with Willington Working Men's Club were delighted to provide the Dick Whittington Pantomime for our younger residents on 1st December 2018. 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 Men's Club and an eight hundred and sixty nine pound contribution from the Town Council.

Our thanks are extended to the Working Men's 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 2019.

We are looking forward to another exciting and fun packed afternoon with Snow White.

Tickets are £3.00 each and will be on sale from 28th October 2019 from the Town Council Office and The Working Men's Club.

The Towns Christmas Tree and Illuminations

We were privileged once again to provide the Town's Christmas Tree in 2018 which was truly spectacular this Christmas.

This year saw the introduction of lots more Christmas spheres to decorate the deciduous trees on the Town Green. Four more large column motifs were also purchased to update the display.

Refreshments were provided at the Council Office.

The Christmas Illuminations were switched on by Brian Pyle from the Royal British Legion, as a mark of respect for the WW1 Centenary Year.

Local businesses were also asked if they would like to buy Christmas trees to fix to the front of their premises. Five businesses joined in and we hope more will follow.

A NEW CHRISTMAS GROTTO COMPETITION

It has come to our attention that more and more residents are decorating their homes as part of the Christmas Festivities. This is great fun especially for the children and helps to brighten up the neighbourhood.

We recognise that this involves a great deal of work and would like to recognise your efforts.

So if you would like to enter our Best Christmas Grotto Competition please email your name, address and any photographs that you would be willing to have published to the office email by 8th December 2019.

Christmas Carol Service



The Councils Carol service 2018 was held at The Open Door Church.

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band provided a suitable festive flavour to the musical accompaniment.

A number of Civic guest attended including the Queens representative.

Our thanks are extended to the Reverend Chris Humble and to all the readers who told the Christmas Story.

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.