

A Message from Town Mayor Cllr Fraser Tinsley & the members of the Greater Willington Town Council



I welcome you to the latest Greater Willington Town Council Newsletter. It goes without saying that the past seven months have been unprecedented and a challenge for all of us. At GWTC we have changed the way we work while keeping a focus on delivering for residents in our area.

In March we closed the office on the Main Street and moved to provide support to vulnerable people in the area. The GWTC Community COVID 19 Response Project launched in April and we converted the office into a delivery hub.

Over the next 16 weeks we provided 738 food parcels and 922 hot meals to residents in the area. This was a huge effort which could not have been achieved without the goodwill of volunteers, our staff and local business.

It is often difficult times that brings out the best in people. This has to be said of our local businesses. Many rose to the challenge to get food, medicine and other supplies to those in the community who needed it most. They went the extra mile to support our vulnerable. This was a huge effort and we all should all thank them for it. They know who they are and we should do what we can to support them. Please shop local when you can.

Many individuals in our community have gone the extra mile to help friends and neighbours, whether with shopping errands or simply a friendly face to talk to. Isolation for many, particularly in our older community, is a real problem. To everybody helping, no matter in how small a way, on behalf of the town, I say thank you. For those in need, please reach out for support if you need it.

We understand that at the moment many are struggling financially. We have continued to support the Open Door Church who do an amazing job with the Foodbank

and other increasingly important initiatives. We cancelled allotments rents in 2020 and I will be asking the Town Council not to increase the Town Council element of Council Tax in 2021/22.

Many of the events and initiatives and programs that run for the town have either been cancelled or will change significantly because of COVID 19. In May we commemorated VE Day 75. Remembrance Sunday will be different this year but we will ensure this very important event is commemorated. Also we are unable to gather to turn on the Christmas lights. We are working on something different. More details later in the newsletter.

We have launched our Facebook Page as a great way to get information out to people quickly. Please search for us and Like us on facebook.

Finally, in every Newsletter I ask people to stay safe. At the moment this is more important than ever. From everybody at Greater Willington Town Council we send you our best wishes.

Best wishes
Cllr Fraser Tinsley
Greater Willington Town Mayor
and County Councillor
for Willington and Hunwick



Serving Our Community

Community Newsletter Issue 14

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Willington War Memorial



Remembrance Sunday

As we're sure you're already aware, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has meant that it's now vital to limit social contact and avoid any gatherings. For that reason, we've had to restrict how we conduct this year's Remembrance Day Commemoration.

Greater Willington Town Council will hold a socially distanced Remembrance Day Service at Willington War Memorial on Sunday 8th November 2020 with a maximum of 6 people in attendance. Unfortunately, due to the new rules currently in place, **no members of the public are able to attend this service.**

For the Wreath Laying, we have invited organisations to attend the War Memorial at different times of the day prior to the Service at 3pm.

There will be no Parade or Church Service this year therefore and no road closure will be in place.

While we know this is disappointing, we hope you can understand the steps we're taking to help keep our staff and attendees safe, as well as the general public.

We will produce a short film in conjunction with Lonely Tower Film and Media of this Event. This will be uploaded to the Town Council Website and Facebook page before the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

A Field of Remembrance for a commemoration of Royal British Legion wooden crosses is also being arranged on the Town Green for residents who are unable to visit the War Memorial to place their own personal tributes.

AFOS

(Armed Forces Outreach Service)

Have you or a close family member ever served in the Armed Forces?

Do you need advice and support on housing, employment or other welfare needs?

The Armed Forces Outreach Service can help you.

Tel: Housing Solutions
03000 268000

Email: armedforcesoutreachworker@durham.gov.uk

Willington War Memorial was sculptured by William Allison of Bishop Auckland from Creetown granite. It was loosely based on the Cross of St Cuthbert and measures 22 feet high.

It was dedicated by Rector J Duncan OBE and unveiled by Lord Lambton, Earl of Durham; on the 8th November 1924 at a service attended by more than 3000 people.

It commemorates men from Willington, Oakenshaw and Page Bank who lost their lives in the First World War (1914-1918) and the Second World War (1939-1945).

The Grade II Memorial Cross is protected and listed on the National Heritage List for England.

It falls within the remit of the Planning (Listed buildings and Conservation areas) Act 1990 for its special architectural and historic interest.

As one of the most significant built features in the parish; GWTC wanted to contribute towards its preservation. Plans to refurbish the War Memorial are now complete. Abbey Memorials were selected to carry out the refurbishment work.

The memorial has been cleaned and repointed. The lettering and railings have been repainted and a new wreath holder has been provided to the right side facing the monument to accommodate the large number of tributes.

Willington Covid Community Response Project

The Willington Community Covid Response Force started working, week commencing 4 May 2020 initially for 12 weeks.

As we were careful with the funding allocation, we were able to run the project for an additional 4 weeks therefore ending week commencing 17 August 2020.

GWTC working in partnership with The Bait Room, Willington, provided hot food during weeks 3 -12.

Food Parcels were provided for the full 16 weeks.

Shopping errands and prescription collection was provided during the initial 12 weeks.

Throughout the full 16 weeks, the Council, volunteers and business partners delivered;

- 738 Food Parcels
- 106 Fresh Food Packs (weeks 11 + 12)
- 110 Cleaning Packs (weeks 15 + 16)
- 922 Hot Food
- 50 Shopping Errands/Prescription Collection

The Council secured £13,000 funding for the Covid Community Response Project.

£10,000 from the COVID 19 Assistance Fund 3 Towns AAP.

Also £3,000 from County Councillor Fraser Tinsley and County Councillor Olwyn Gunn

Of this allocation, there was a total spend of £13,042.31 exclusive of VAT.

Additionally £400 was donated to the Open Door Church who worked with GWTC as part of the Covid community network. This was to meet the costs of food and food bags.

The Town Council agreed up to £5,000 match funding to cover any additional costs over the £13,000 project allocation.

We have received positive feedback from the residents who have received help and support during this challenging time. Everyone has been so appreciative of the services provided.

Volunteers who gave up their time in order to assist the elderly and vulnerable included, Town Mayor



Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Councillor Angela Smith, Sean Pardew, Mark and Shelly Butcher - M & M Taxis, Keith Nicholson and Emma Wilks-Jordan to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

Also the Council project staff Emma Mennouni, Caroline Spirit and Helen Cogdon.

Some of the residents who received help and support through this project also got involved with the project activities including knitting the longest scarf.

A big thank you and well done to Nora Dixon, Sylvia Tulip, Maureen Hirst and Eileen Rainbow for their tremendous efforts.

Welfare Assistance Scheme Extended in County Durham

More funding is being made available to help people across County Durham who have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and who need additional financial support and assistance.

£500,00 has been invested into the Welfare Assistance Scheme to help people in crisis. The Scheme has been enhanced to further support the most vulnerable who are struggling financially to meet their immediate short term needs or to enable them to maintain their

independence in the community. This includes help with daily living expenses and support when they are rehomed due to a change in circumstances.

Free and impartial advice and support for anyone having trouble managing their money, or dealing with rent arrears or debt, can be found online at Durham County Council's Debt advice and financial help page or via the customer services team 03000 260000



BETTER FOR EVERYONE

Virtual Events 2020

Durham County Council's Area Action Partnerships are inviting people across County Durham to have your say on the future of your local area at a series of virtual events, where residents will also be thanked for their good work during the pandemic.

Between 20 October and 12 November we are hosting virtual meetings through the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAP) to gather your views on a wide range of issues.

By attending you will also find out more about how groups and individuals in your area have been supporting your community during the pandemic.

Find out from Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of the Council, about the priorities and goals for the next 15 years set as part of the vision for the county. These aims are based on feedback gathered from the public during a consultation carried out last year.

You will have further opportunities to shape the county's future activities including £20 million of work to make towns and villages around the county more vibrant - one of the key priorities of the Vision.

There will also be an update from Amanda Healy, County Durham's

Director of Public Health, on the coronavirus pandemic and details on how residents can play their part in reducing the spread of the virus by becoming community champions.

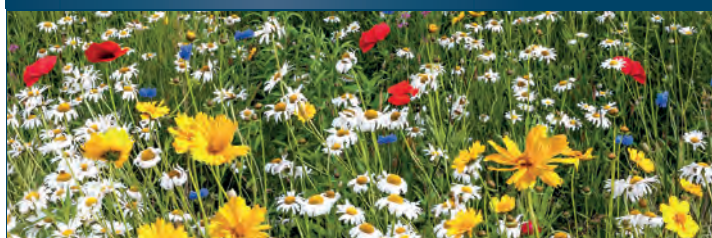
Since the pandemic began, the AAPs have provided more than £1.1 million to almost 300 community groups and organisations working to support the county's most vulnerable residents, this is alongside the support given to groups through agencies such as Durham Community Action and the County Durham Community Foundation.

Everyone attending the events will have the opportunity to show their appreciation for this joint effort and raise awareness of all those who have given their time to help others.

To find out which AAP area you live in visit My Durham and enter your house number or name and postcode.

The 3 Towns Partnership event will take place on Tuesday 27 October at 6.00pm to 7.15pm. Please note that this is an online event.

To register, please go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/better-for-everyone-in-3-towns-tickets-123645726697



Willington Woods and Wildflower Willington

GWTC has secured a Woodland Trust Grant to provide 420 saplings to be planted with the Countryside ranger volunteers in the field to the left of the pit heap behind Kensington Terrace.

It is intended to introduce Wildflower planting to the verges around the green and the path on the pit heap when it is Covid safe to do this.

Willington Open Door Methodist Church

Willington Open Door Church wish to offer our continued thanks to an amazing community who have supported us through Covid. Our thanks also go to the funders and shops that have enabled the service we provide to the community to continue.

As of the end of September we have provided over 6000 hot meals and over 7000 food packages since the beginning of lockdown.

The whole service has been possible as the result of grants from the Area Action Partnership, Believe Housing, Coop Community Cause Fund, County Durham Community Foundation, Government Covid Lottery Fund, Tesco Bags of Help and Willington Town Council. In that period of time we were funded for 4000 meals but have stretched the budget thanks to donations through fareshare and neighbourly and other platforms that supermarkets operate to reduce waste. We express our thanks to Aldi, Asda, Coop, Greggs, Lidl, Morrisons and Tesco who have all provided food that would otherwise go to waste. None of their money could have been used without a group of very special volunteers who have committed their time and energy to collect, sort, distribute and deliver the food. All of the work has been supported by the Church Family. Colleagues in Education, Health, Police and Social Care have all been so supportive.

However what is far less visible are some of the very generous but usually anonymous individual donors from within our community who have turned up throughout with donations of food, money, clothes, home grown fruit and vegetables, and have been so encouraging and kind. It has made us realise what an amazing community we are part of. Thank you to you all.

During the summer we had great fun as we ran six weeks of holiday activities and 71 households took part, trying out a range of recipes and activities for a healthy life. Meanwhile some of our older members were busy knitting items for the premature baby unit where we have now knitted over 200 items.

We have made new friends, shared in laughter and tears, said goodbye to several dear friends who have died and continue to respond to requests as the changing nature of Covid affects more people in differing ways.

Now we continue to respond with half term and Christmas approaching. We will get through this by continuing to work together but we want to say thank you to everyone who has helped and made us realise what an amazing folk the people of Willington and surrounding villages are.

With our thanks and prayers to one and all.

Planning Issues

Planning issues are considered at Town Council meetings.

All significant planning applications in the areas are reviewed by the Town Council who have the power to call planning applications in for consideration by Durham County Council Planning committees.

If you have a planning issue, please contact us so that we can help. We have recently looked at a significant planning application to build 41 houses west of Willington Cricket Club.

This application will be heard by a planning committee in due course where residents will be able to make their views known to Councillors.

We will continue to support residents through this process.





Victory in Europe

Our Lady and St Thomas Church celebrated the 75th Anniversary of V.E Day. Along with many other Churches across the County on Friday 8th May 2020.

The Church bells rang at 7pm to celebrate Peace in Europe. On Sunday 10th May 2020 there was also a mass at 10.30am.

The Mayor Fraser Tinsley read "A Tribute to the Millions" and the bugle played The Last Post and Reveille.

The Town Council held a small service at the George Burdon McKean memorial where a new VE flag was displayed. Tina Mortimer kindly played the bugle to accompany the readings. The Council building and Noticeboards were also decorated.

CCTV

The Town Council has been investing in improvements to the CCTV system.

The old Market pub sign has been removed to improve visibility up and down the High Street.

A new line and equipment has been installed to improve the quality, connectivity and speed of the imaging.

CCTV is also operational and recording inside the Council Office. Please be aware that threatening or intimidating behaviour towards staff will not be tolerated.

Citizens Advice at Greater Willington Town Council

Citizens Advice help is available funded by the Town Council in partnership with the Area Action Partnership, who have also funded the drop-ins at Crook and Town Law.

Citizens Advice can help with many issues including benefits, debt, employment problems, relationship issues, consumer rights, housing, immigration and other problems. Philip, the adviser, was available every Tuesday between 10am and 12.30pm at the Town Council office. Due to Covid 19, advice is now available via telephone on 0191 3726721.

Currently, benefits are a major issue because of the roll-out of Universal Credit and issues around medical assessments for benefits. Citizens advice can help with these all the way through to appeals if needed. They can also do benefit checks to make sure you aren't missing out on anything, so if you're unsure, please ask.

Citizens Advice County Durham is a charity, and also has offices around the county – and if you think you could help us as a volunteer, please have a look at <https://www.citizensadvicecd.org.uk/volunteer/> or speak to our adviser. We are reliant on volunteers to be able to help as many people as possible. Volunteers get lots of good training, paid expenses and gain experience and plenty of skills that can be useful in future.

The service is free, confidential and independent.

Community Fund

Applications can be made to the Community Fund from community groups once every twelve months. 75% of the total project cost is available or £500 whichever is the lesser.

You can find the form on the www.gwtc.co.uk website.

- Chyrelle Adams Cancer Trust secured £500 towards refurbishing their holiday caravan.
- Our Lady and St Thomas Church collected £466 for a new sound system.
- Spectrum Spartans Rink Hockey Club used £450 for a summer fitness programme.
- Willington Happy Feet were awarded

£150 towards their Run Leader trainer costs.

- The Open Door Church received £500 to provided outdoor tables and chairs. With planters to allow people to grow their own food.
- Willington Youth Football had £480 approved to support their Annual Tournament costs.
- Willington AFC were awarded £450 for repair costs.
- Willington Cricket Club secured £500 to help towards Cricket wicket maintenance

Civic Fund

This fund is a £50 award to support community or group activities.

- Willington Luncheon Club
- The North of England Brass Band Championship
- The Great North Air Ambulance

- Willington Open Door Church
 - The School Benevolent Fund
 - Dovedale Bingo Group
 - Colliery Road Neighbourhood Watch
 - St John School
- were all successful.

Allotment Garden Awards



The 2020 Allotment Garden Awards were deferred and all tenants were given a rent free year.

The 2019 Winners were:

Oakenshaw

- First Prize, Mr and Mrs D Berry, Plots 45 & 46
- Highly Commended, Mr and Mrs R Kitching, Plots 5 & 6
- Highly Commended, Mr J Zand, Plots 13 & 14
- Highly Commended, Mr and Mrs C Hales, Plots 47 & 48

Park Top

- First Prize, Mr J Beard, Plots 2 & 3
- Highly Commended, Mr S Fieldhouse, Plot 11

Springfield

- First Prize, Mr G.W. Sharp & Mr D Hagar, Plot 22
- Highly Commended, Mr J Blakey, Plot 4
- Highly Commended, Mr B Smith, Plot 14

Congratulations to all the prize winners there were some exceptional gardens, showing hours of work and dedication.

1st Prize winners received £25.00 and Highly Commended £20.00

Burning Garden Waste

With the onset of autumn, the burning of garden waste was permitted on all GWTC allotment sites from the 28th September 2020.

Please note the following;

- Incinerator bins are encouraged.
- Show consideration to neighbouring tenants and

households properties when burning.

- Fires must not be left unattended.
- Garden waste only – no commercial waste.
- Please respect the social distancing restrictions that are currently in place.





Christmas Activities

Christmas will be a little different this year. However the Town Council will still provide the High Street Christmas Illuminations and Christmas Tree. We are really proud of the light display and many towns across the County would like to put up Christmas lights like we do.

We as a community will not be able to join together to switch the lights on, but the event will be filmed and added to social media for everyone to watch.

The Council has had to cancel this years Christmas Pantomime that is usually organised with the Working Mens Club but we have booked again for next year so fingers crossed we still have that to look forward to.

The local primary schools are working with the Town Council to design Christmas Baubles. There will be first, second and third prize for each school and the entries will be on display.

The Council are running a Christmas Photography Competition. The winning entry showing an image from Willington will feature on the GWTC Christmas Card.

We are looking at a new project to do something very different this year. It is at planning stage but we are hoping to organise a very special visit to the Town in the run up to Christmas. Everything as ever will depend on the situation with Covid 19.

Keep an eye on our social media for more details to follow.

The Church of Our Lady and Saint Thomas

The beginnings of Our Lady and St Thomas Church began through the expansion of the counties Coal Industry. This led to a great rise in the Willington population and amongst those were a large number of Irish Catholics looking for work and escaping the 1840 potato famine. Therefore, by the mid 19th century the district needed the ministrations of a priest. A Mission Station was set up in Taffy Lane (later named Cumberland Terrace) and is of course the address of our present grade 2 listed Church.

In 1877 Father Hosten arrived from Belgium to become our first parish priest. He served the parish for 46 years and is buried in the Parish Cemetery.

The Church foundation stone was laid in 1903 and the build was completed within 2 years. The Church is semi-gothic in design and in the shape of a cross with an imposing dome which covers the sanctuary now decorated with a series of beautiful murals depicting biblical scenes.

Priests have continued to faithfully serve our parish providing daily Mass, working with our fellow Christians and looking to the needs of the less fortunate in our community. The Church supports the foodbank, the charity shop 4 u, refugees and asylum seekers.

Community Policing

DURHAM CONSTABULARY

Protecting Neighbourhoods, Tackling Criminals, Solving Problems...Around the Clock

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Use your postcode to get access to local news and events from your Neighbourhood Policing Team, at <https://www.durham.police.uk>

Remember to ring 101 to report incidents as they occur.



PC McCabe



PC Mulligan



PC Phillips



PC Smith

Charity Shop 4 U

It's 4 U!

The name of Willington's Charity Shop underlines its purpose – to be of benefit to the people of the Willington area. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the support of customers and the commitment of volunteers, Charity Shop 4 U is able to achieve its aim of raising money for the benefit of young people under the age of 18 years and resident in Willington, Page Bank, Oakenshaw, Sunnybrow or Hunwick. Last October over £5000 was awarded to local young people and organisations working with them.

The shop is able to raise money by selling a wide range of items kindly donated by local people. This provides a route for unwanted items to be recycled rather than thrown away. Clothes, bedding and other small items that are in good condition, are gratefully received – no electrical items please.

Come and visit us at 86 High Street, Willington (next to The Post Office) and find some bargains.

Opening Hours

Monday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00 noon
Thursday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm

Closed Bank Holidays
Charityshop4u@gmail.com
Chair of Volunteers

Willington Open Door Methodist Church

The Feeding from the Church initiative FareShare is still available.

The scheme intends to save money and the environment. All the food is free and there are different items each week. The major supermarkets and Greggs are all donating

to the Willington branch. The Church had fed over a thousand people.

Everyone is welcome to use this valuable resource. Contact the Church and volunteers will explain how to use Fareshare.

Oakenshaw Community Association

The OCA has carried out numerous projects to improve the environment, provide play areas, improve flood protection and road safety.

We have a very active social programme including sports coaching Sundays in the summer, the annual family fun day, events for Easter and Halloween and two annual coach trips. We also have ambitious plans for the future, including building a community hub. All of this involves the need for members within the current situation to be up to date and aware of current need and issues within the village and therefore we are always on the look out for new people to join us. We are keen to expand our committee and attract new and on trend ideas and views to inform the future.

One recent recruit to the committee commented: "Having recently joined Oakenshaw Community Association I have quickly learned the value of such a group and the benefits it's existence has on the village. I am simply blown away by the commitment of each member of the committee and all the hard work they have undertaken to date. I look forward to the future as a member of this Association."

It can be very rewarding to feel that you can make a positive difference to your local community. We can offer training through Durham Community Action to help people carry out their roles on the committee and we are happy to pay for first training or DBS certification. This also helps volunteers add to their personal profile. Making a difference can often feel like a long and winding road, but finally achieving your goals for the community can feel so empowering.

O.C.A Committee Member

Oakenshaw Neighbourhood Plan

The submission consultation for Oakenshaw Neighbourhood Plan was run by Durham County Council, who publicised the Plan and its supporting documents for comment from 9 March to 20 April 2020.

The Plan and supporting documents were available to view online at

www.durham.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans and on Greater Willington Town Council website: gwtc.co.uk

An Examination of the new Oakenshaw Neighbourhood Plan has taken place and the inspector found it to be a 'sound' strategy for the development of the village and surrounding area. The finishing touches are being made to the document which will shape development for the next 15 years. A final referendum on the plan will take place next May. This gives residents the opportunity to give the Plan their final blessing.



Willington AFC

Willington AFC started the season with a bang with 3 wins from their first 4 games. There have been some excellent games at Hall Lane with plenty of goals, endeavour and commitment from the players.

An opening day 4-3 victory over Durham City was quickly followed with a 3-2 win over Heaton



Stannington where Willo snatched a dramatic 89th minute winner after being 2-0 down.

However, since being knocked out of the FA Vase by first division Whickham, Willo have struggled and slipped down the league following 5 successive defeats. Manager, Ibbly Hassan and the players are working hard to turn this form around and we'd love you to show your support over the next few weeks at Hall Lane where we have 4 successive home games to get back on track.

The Football Club are producing a monthly behind the scenes, raw and earthy documentary called "Down The Lane". Visit; https://youtu.be/N22oGqVK_ao

Willington Youth Football

Willington Youth have 9 team's all playing in the Russell Foster league on a Saturday, all team's train at Parkside Academy from Under 8's up to under 16's .

The are playing regularly and some recent fixtures include;

- Under 9's White's v Jarrow at New Bottle
- Under 11's v Bishop Jnrs Away
- Under 12's v Felling Magpies White's Away
- Under 13's v Newton Aycliffe Home
- Under 14's White's v Stocksfield Hornet's Away



- Under 14's Blue's v Rutherford Away
- Under 16's White's v Chester Le Street Terrier's Home

Willington Youth also has Rob Lee one of the founders of the club running a Little Footballer's on a Thursday night at Parkside 5pm – 6pm bringing through the future players.

They to hope to start an under 7's in the New Year this is all down to the brilliant work of Rob.

We are always looking for New player's at all age groups if any interest contact Richard Manuel on 07907083479

Willington Cricket Club

Willington Cricket Club play at the highest level of club cricket in England in the North East Premier League (NEPL).

This years season was severely curtailed by Covid 19. When they did get onto the field the first XI had a solid season finishing mid-table. The second XI narrowly missed out on winning the Banks Bowl. They were beaten in the final at Willington by a very strong Tynemouth side. The club also operate a Third XI (who play on Sunday afternoons), full youth set up and women's teams.

If you are interested in playing cricket at any level or age please get in touch via GWTC or directly down at the Club.

All being well next season there will be games on every Saturday during the season and a 'Big Bash' style Twenty20 competition on Friday evenings in June and July.

The bar will be open and the club will be more than happy to see you.



Forest Schools

Over the summer Miss Wild, the Forest School Leader, worked really hard to transform an area of school grounds in to a fantastic Forest School environment.

Since we have all returned to school, every class has been having a weekly Forest School sessions where they have been learning lots of new skills and learning about the natural environment. The children are having a great time in these sessions and are learning a lot. Marshmallows and hot chocolate around the camp fire is a firm favourite with all of the classes!

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Sunnybrow School Spring Clean

Once again the juniors from Sunnybrow Primary School lead the way to keep the village tidy. G.W.T.C helped Katie Murphy to organise a litter pick.

We thank you for your efforts.

En Garde

Pupils from Our Lady and St Thomas have been trying out a new sport.

They were given a taster session in Fencing. It was a brilliant experience and the children enjoyed learning about the history of this sport. During the training, they were taught about the language used, the footwork and how to use the foil. The pupils thought that fencing was fantastic!

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St Stephen's C.E. Primary School

Nursery Places for January 2021

Do you have a child who will turn 3 years old between 1st September and 31st December 2020?

We are able to offer 15 hour and 30 hour nursery places starting in January 2021. For further information and an application form please email us at: ststephenseparents@durhamlearning.net or telephone the office on 01388 746426.

We are unfortunately unable to book any visits to our Nursery at the current time however on our Early Years Facebook page there is a wonderful video created by our Nursery staff and lots of photographs to give prospective parents an idea of what we have to offer.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Stephens-CE-Primary-Early-Years-109686607104843>

Willington Primary School

Prison Me! No Way! a national educational charity visited our year 6 children to raise awareness about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime.

The 'Your Choice' day focused on why we have laws and justice and included workshops on drugs, alcohol, young victims, domestic violence, tagging, exploitation, staying safe on and off line and in the home, first aid, street life and a visit to a prison cell!

The team had a great day with the children and even had their lunch with them. They said all the children are an absolute credit to our school and commented on our warm and welcoming atmosphere!

Mr Cornforth received this message from the team!

"Sir, we attended your school to deliver a 'Your Choice Day' on behalf of Prison Me! No Way! recently, can I just say your year 6 students were outstanding throughout the whole day. They were

enthusiastic and receptive from the word go to the end of the day. They joined in every aspect of the day and made delivering workshops extremely easy and a pleasure. A fantastic bunch of bright, sharp, polite youngsters who were a credit to both themselves and your school.

The school had a really good, happy feel to it and all the youngsters who we saw in corridors and lunch hall were very polite and always engaged with us. The staff from start to finish made us feel very welcome and were chatty throughout the day. The students of year 6 should be massively proud of themselves and we have no doubt they will grow to be wonderful young people and do whatever they want in the future.

Overall a fantastic day, it was a total pleasure (we don't say this to many schools!)"

It is always a pleasure to hear such wonderful, positive comments about our school and our children.

Mud, Mud Glorious Mud

Pupils at Our Lady and St Thomas R.C Primary School regularly enjoy running in PE and as part of the Daily Mile, but it was taken to another level when 33 of our pupils took part in the District Cross Country Event on Friday 28th February 2020.

The pupils travelled to Bishop Auckland College where they competed against other schools from the Wear Valley and Teesdale area.

Over 500 children took part in the event. It was cold, it was muddy and there was the occasional flake of snow! These conditions did not deter our athletes at all. Every one of our 33 children ran brilliantly; all pupils completed the challenging course and we even had gold and silver finishers in the Year 3/4 girls' event!!!

Well done to all of our pupils!

Parkside Recognised for Providing an Exceptional Education

The SSAT framework for exceptional education is very much built on the philosophy that 'school improvement is an ongoing process that is centred on self-evaluation and celebration of strengths' (SSAT).

Very recently, we decided to focus on gaining accreditation from SSAT for two main strands of school improvement; Professional Learning and Varied Teaching Approaches. In order to gain this accreditation, we were partnered with Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School in Reading who undertook our peer review meeting and evaluated the strength of our evidence for the aforementioned strands.

The partnership with Blessed Hugh was extremely successful and it became clear to our partner school that the Advance Learning Partnership's programme of professional learning is inspiring, motivating and provides countless opportunities for

career development and progression for all staff across the Trust.

As well as this, the review and evaluation of Parkside Academy's approach to Teaching & Learning was identified as high quality, progressive and innovative for both staff, who have been afforded many leadership opportunities as part of our approach to T&L but also for pupils who are receiving consistently high quality teaching across all subject areas.

As a result of our review we have been identified by our partner school as 'transforming practice' in both key areas which is the highest accolade the SSAT award; this is something we are very proud of. We continue to work hard to ensure that we remain at the forefront of educational change and progression and that we remain a World Class School offering a world class education for all of our students.

Durham Alliance for Community Care DACC

Contact 01388 748431

Day Care

A warm welcome awaits you at your DACC centre on Rosedale, DL15 0AJ, Willington.

The Keiper Clinic provides specialist day care for those fifty and over. There is a breakfast snack when you arrive Lots of activities, games and talking. Company from old and new friends. A three course meal served at lunch.

Afternoon Tea with cakes & treats for birthdays and events.

Every Monday to Friday for people who wish to remain independent. Living in their own home and community.

Private arrangements and referrals are accepted.

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Durham Community Action

About Us: Durham Community Action is recognised as the leading infrastructure organisation for County Durham; providing advice, support and assistance to frontline groups operating in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and to various communities of interest. We enjoy national influence and presence along with 37 similar rural community councils, through our membership of ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

Amongst the services we offer:

Community Development Support:

a specialist information, advice and guidance service for individuals looking to set up a VCS organisation, and to volunteers and committee members of established VCS organisations or community buildings. Our bespoke approach allows us to enable our clients to get the information, advice and guidance they need on a wide range of topics including governance and funding. We support voluntary led organisations to build their practice and facilitate a regular programme of events and training, including our Community Hubs Development Programme.

Training: we offer a wide range of skills development and practical guidance on a range of topics including good trusteeship, financial management, managing risk and attracting new business.

Supporting Volunteering: Fancy trying something new? Meeting new people? Learning new skills?

Then volunteering could be for you.

With so many fun ways to help other people or improve your neighbourhood, volunteering is incredibly rewarding. Durham Community Action is a one-stop shop for volunteering.

We offer support to people who want to volunteer and organisations who need volunteers.

Further information about us can be found on our website:
www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk



Local Business

Running your own business is hard at the best of times and it important that we do use local shops around the parish if you want to keep local services.

So what is the reality of operating from the Willington High Street. We spoke to business owners and this is what they had to say.

In one of our busiest shops, Willington Card Shop. Paul Coleman commented that "trading footfall is probably not what it should be as people don't walk through the street like they used to. However if a place is worth coming to they will use the shop for genuine reasons. Turnover also has a lot to do with the time of year and good business sense but this applies to all businesses everywhere."

Helen Bainbridge has been working at The Co operative Supermarket for 18 years she said "the shop layout and staff pay conditions have improved over the years. It's a friendly shop to work in."

Burnhams Fruit and Vegetable Shop is well know and provides the added bonus of deliveries straight to your door this has been a lifeline for many during this difficult time. Arthur feels that "his trade has been exceptionally busy throughout the last few months and he is now offering a broader range of goods, including household products and pet supplies. He looks forward to seeing you"

Fosters Opticians believes 'its important to support the local community and to promote the High Street.'

Graham and Joanne Clark started their new adventure together by taking on The Commercial lease in October 2019. A year on they can reflect on the amount of hours worked. Its" non stop."

Graham feels that marketing, getting to know the locals and experimenting with new ideas has helped their success; giving customers a reason to come in.

They have tried different activities like a karaoke and a happy hour on a Wednesday.

Graham feels its important to use the services of other local business so that local businesses create local business.

Andy Shore, Bags O Craft, said his wife Gill was a keen hobby crafter and card maker so the business idea started from home. They have now been in business for eleven years, seven of which has been spent in Willington. They are now on their third shop move on the High Street. They can help you with balloons and party supplies, event decorating, bespoke sashes, chair cover and sash hire, Tee shirt printing, cards and gifts.

Andy commented that the people of Willington have been brilliant and that he hopes to see lots more visitors through his shop door.'

Willington's latest new café restaurant is The Bait Room they too are a hive of activity. Proprietor Emma Wilks-Jordan said when she opened her new business it was thriving. She is keen to welcome old and new customers who follow the Covid safety guidelines and tries to keep things interesting with special offers and meal deals.

Emma and her team offer breakfasts, hot and cold sandwiches, burgers, jacket potatoes, kids meals and tasty daily specials.

Emma is keen to work alongside other local businesses and add to the services they offer. The Bait Room have been invaluable in providing hot meals working with the Town Council on the Covid Response Project.

Caitlin Casson has launched Sweet Treats and Cakes. Caitlin started baking with her Grandma as a child and showed a natural flair for cake decorating. So much so that friends started asking her to make birthday cakes. She started advertising on Facebook and that has led to her taking on her first shop.

Caitlin said 'I still use my Grandmas cake recipes my grandparents sadly passed away within six months of each other from cancer two years ago. Without them none of this would have been possible'.

How can Businesses Durham help your business thrive

Business Durham is the economic development arm of Durham County Council.

If your business is based in County Durham, we are your first point of contact for business support and connect you with the funding, the information, and the networks you need to grow and thrive. If you are looking for property, talk to us about the portfolio of commercial office space, modern laboratories, industrial property, virtual and the physical incubator space we manage.

Contact us today if you are looking for:

- Access to County Council services
- Commercial office and industrial property
- Funding
- Information and support
- Relocation opportunities
- Apprenticeships and skills
- Exporting
- Information about starting or growing a business
- Innovation and product development
- Networking opportunities

To find out more about business Durham and opportunities for business growth and investment, please visit the website www.businessdurham.co.uk or Email enquiries@businessdurham.co.uk Tel no: 03000 261261

Business Directory

Barton and Townley

Used car dealer
Burnington Drive, Hunwick
Lane. DL15 0HY
01388 746666

Fosters Opticians

Ophthalmic services and eye
examinations
92 High Street, DL15 0PE
01388 746800

Barlow Barbers

Barbers
91 High Street, DL15 0PE
07801 459001

D & G Meats

Butchers: Meat packs, pies,
frozen section, groceries.
88 High Street. DL15 0PE
01388 745374

Charity Shop 4 U

Volunteer community
enterprise for donated goods
86 High Street. DL15 0PE
Charityshop4u@gmail.com

Willington Post Office

Sub Post Office Newsagent,
General Retail
Londis, 84 High Street. DL15
0PE
01388 746233

Turton Books

Antiquarian Seller
83 High Street DL15 0PE
01388 745770

Caitlins

Sweet Treats & Cakes
Celebration Cakes
82 High Street, DL15 0PE

Durham Vacuums

Vacuum repairs, Hardware
store
80a High Street DL15 0PE
01388 748155

Hong Ying

Chinese Takeaway
80 High Street DL15 0PE
01388 745694

Blue Star Treats

Speciality Sweet Shop.
Candy store
79 High Street DL15 0PE
01388 249834

The Best Chippy

Fish & Chip Takeaway
78 High Street DL15 0PE
01388 213260

Discount Motor Spares

Car servicing and repairs
Car store
77 High Street DL15 0PE
01388 745533

Annes

Furniture store
73 High Street DL15 0PE
07429464386

Gold N Tan

Tanning Salon
72 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 747474

Heavenly Bliss Beauty Salon

Beauty Treatments
70 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 748306

Get Smart Hair Salon

Hair Salon
69 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 746436

Greater Willington Town Council

Parish Council
67 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 417725

Willington Dental Centre

Dental Clinic
60 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 745499

New Shanghai

Chinese Takeaway
56 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 748777

The Bait Room

Café and Takeaway
54 High Street DL15 0PF
07379467524

Burnhams Greengrocers

Fruit & Veg, Household
& Pet Supplies
53 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 747920

Queens Head

Public House
52 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 745360

Pizza Time

Take Away
50-51 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 747666

Willington Cards

Card Shop
48 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 748512

William Hill

Betting Shop
47 High Street DL15 0PF
087051817715

Britton and Robson Chemist

Chemist
46 High Street DL15 0PG
01388 746269

Willington Library

Library Services and Computer
access
46a High Street DL15 0PG
03000 269532

Nursery Time

Day Nursery
115 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 747043

Hardys Funeral Services

116 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 747747

Little China

Chinese Takeaway
8 Bridge End DL15 0PN
01388 746318

The Commercial

Public House
115 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
07958111193

Pizza Narenos

Takeaway
113 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 746746

Pre Loved

Cash 4 Clothes, Furniture,
Toys, Plates
108 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD

My Dentist

Dental Services
109 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 746146

Top Wock

Chinese Takeaway
107 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 748943

Premier

General Dealer
105-106 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 745460

Rose of India

Tandoori & Balti Take Away
97 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388748003

Willington Working Mens Club

1A Hall Lane Estate
DL15 0QG
01388 746757

Maan Brothers

Off Licence
89 Commercial Street
DL15 0AA
01388 746 437

The Pound Shop

Headrush Vapours
79 Commercial Street
DL15 0AB

The Black Horse

42 Low Willington
DL15 0BD
01388 746340

Sheldons Newsagents

Newspapers, Magazines, Retail
23 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 7463920

Cottles

Public House
30 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
07812632960

Vanity Hair & Make Up

Hairdressing and Make up
services
27 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 748153

Golden Fish Inn

Fish & Chip Shop
6 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 745666

William Waltons Butchers

Traditional Butcher. Freshly
made sandwiches, cakes, pies,
jams and pickles.
5 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 746214

The Kebab House

Italian, Pizza, Halal
4 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 746777

Newfitt Brewery Services

Brewery Equipment Installation,
Temporary Mobile Bars.
3 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 745598

The Cooperative Store

1 Commercial Street
DL15 0AD
01388 747859

The Cutting Company

Hair Salon - Ladies and Gents
16 Albion Place DL15 0EH
01388 746816

Hair 2000

Hair Salon
13 Albion Place DL15 0EH
01388 746387

Aesthetica Skin

Beauty, Cosmetic & Personal
Care
11 Albion Place DL15 0EH
07944371289

Adams Pizzeria

Pizza Takeaway
10 Albion Place DL15 0EZ
013880747766

QVS Window Systems Ltd

Double Glazing, Windows &
Conservatories
45 High Street DL15 0PF
01388 747722

Bags-O-Craft

Balloons & Party Supplies,
Event Decoration Services,
Bespoke Sashes, Chair Covers,
Tee Shirt Printing, Cards & Gifts
17 High Street DL15 0PD
07542 705754

The Burn Pub & Kitchen

Public House with food
West End Terrace DL15 OHW
01388 327368

Little Legs Flowers

Flowers for all occasions
Joanne McCorquodale
Jeejtnj1@hotmail.com
Facebook – littlelegsflowers
07851542336



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

County Councillors Report

We are living in challenging and changing times and we know how difficult it has been and continues to be for people in our community.

So many have stepped up and supported the most vulnerable in our area. From family members to neighbours. From individuals to the many supportive informal groups and voluntary organisations. From our churches to our schools. From our retailers to our pubs and clubs. From our frontline workers, and there are many of them in many different jobs to those working from home. And, as ever, we've been happy to talk to people whether they were residents themselves or their worried relatives from local and distant parts.

We know it's been hard but the most amazing resilience, care and compassion has been shown by the people working and living in our area. You all have our thanks and gratitude. During this crisis Durham County Council (DCC) has allocated £1.4m extra funding to our 14 Area Action Partnerships to

share out amongst projects that have been helping those in need. Voluntary organisations in our Willington and Hunwick Ward have received some of this funding as well as allocations from our Neighbourhood Budgets. Most importantly, the Council acted quickly to keep people safe and well and to keep important services like bin collections going. We know how much everyone appreciated our refuse collectors, leaving them notes of thanks and gifts.

As well as help for individuals a range of schemes was put in place by the Council to support businesses and job seekers with £2.44m going to businesses across the County and £99.79m awarded to organisations through small business and retail and hospitality and leisure grant funds. Once again we were pleased that people felt able to contact us to help to move forward with applications and provide information.

As always we've been working closely with the Town Council to maximise the funding

available for projects and to support initiatives current and future. Other projects are in the pipeline to help a wide range of organisations in our community.

This has been a tough year so far and our children have had it tough. Along with the Town Council we want to try and provide something to lighten up their lives and widen their eyes before Christmas. Of course, we're restricted by COVID19 but we intend to try. We hope we can do it so watch out for further information. And no we're not dressing up as elves or sugar plum fairies....not a bad idea though if all else fails!!

Finally, it's a pleasure and a privilege to represent the Willington and Hunwick Ward. We don't have magic wands but we will always try to help and support. You can contact us by phone or email and we'll get back to you.

Stay safe and stay well.

Olwyn and Fraser

Cllr Olwyn Gunn

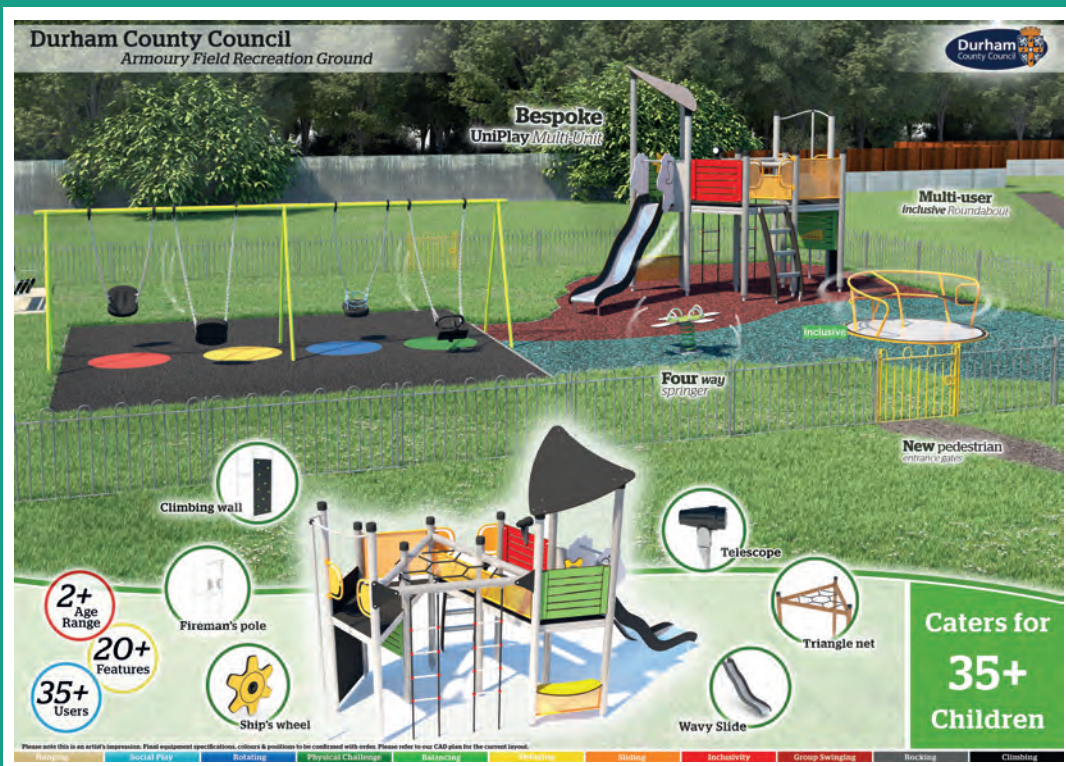
03000 26 87 14

olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk

Cllr Fraser Tinsley

03000 26 86 91

fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk



Armory Field Play Area

We have secured funding from our Neighbourhood Budgets and DCC to provide an improved play area at Armory Fields next to Willington North Dene. This means that all play areas in Willington and Hunwick will have been refurbished in the last 4 years.

Work will be starting soon but is weather dependent over the winter.

Investing £500,000 in 11 new neighbourhood wardens

Durham County Council has invested £500,000 in the recruitment of 11 new Neighbourhood Wardens as part of its efforts to ensure previous reductions in activities like fly-tipping and anti social behaviour are built on.

In 2020 the council agreed to invest £31million in frontline services over the next two years. In doing so the authority is seeking to enhance the services it knows residents value and which are important in maintaining communities as nice places to live; in which people feel safe and protected. The new warden posts represent the first such investment.

The employment of 11 people to the roles – the vast majority of whom are County Durham residents - represents the council's biggest ever recruitment drive for wardens.

Neighbourhood wardens work to improve the quality of life for residents by reducing levels of anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. They carry out regular patrols across the county and have continued to for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic, dealing with issues they encounter, or which are reported to them.

Wardens have the power to issue fixed penalty notices for environmental crimes such as littering, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, and allowing a dog to foul or stray.

The new wardens will work across County Durham.

As residents tell us that tackling enviro crime is a priority. Four wardens will focus solely on fly-tipping and continue existing campaigns like Operation Stop It.

The new wardens have undertaken extensive training.

A short film on the new wardens can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/s62m350P-W4>

ONE GIGABIT Broadband coming to Willington (Over 10x faster than Superfast)



Building on the Durham County Council led Digital Durham project, Openreach recently announced the further delivery of gigabit-capable, Fibre to the Premise (FTTP)

broadband to more than three million homes and businesses in the UK.

We can report that their rollout plan includes the Willington area. Work is underway in some areas of the town.

Useful things to know

- FTTP provides a full fibre connection (from the main Openreach exchange building to the home or business property) which is the most reliable broadband technology available - only 16% of the UK currently has access to FTTP.

- One gigabit is equal to 1,000 Megabits per second (Mbps) - for comparison, the definition of superfast broadband is 30Mbps
- As technology develops, residents will have sufficient broadband speeds available to support it – they won't need to take up a 1,000 Mbps package, they can go with a superfast package should they choose to.

Openreach have told us they will try to rollout FTTP to as many properties in these area as possible, but they may not be able to get to them all.

Year 6 Hoodies

As our Year 6 school leavers didn't have their usual send offs this year we funded hoodies as a memento of their time at primary school.

Thank you primary schools for helping us do that.



Do it online

If you need to report issues such as fly tipping, residential bins not being emptied, street lights that are out, and empty salt bins for example, you can do this by visiting Durham County Council's website at <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk>

You can also apply on Do It Yourself for Waste Removal, Pest Control and Waste Permits.

Salt Bins

Durham County Council provides 2,000 salt grit bins. There are specific criteria which must be met before a Salt Bin can be placed in a new location.

You can request a refill on Durham County Councils Website under Do It Online. <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk>

Salt bins are filled and re-filled in line with Durham County Council's winter policies and prioritised according to need and weather severity. During the winter months high volumes of requests are received, which they aim to respond to as they work through their programme. Please be patient.

Road Gritting Service

Pre-salting (gritting) is the laying of rock salt before frosty conditions. It stops ice forming on the road surface. The road network is split into priority 1 and priority 2 routes.

Priority 1 routes: These routes typically include all of the A roads and the majority of the B roads, most bus routes and other busy areas.

Priority 2 routes: In times of prolonged severe weather D.C.C will also treat some minor and C roads, as resources become available.

In times of severe weather please be neighbourly and help each other.

Happy Taps For Schools

Durham County Council has made 800 portable hand washing stations available to schools that can be set up in classrooms or outdoor areas to allow pupils to wash their hands regularly.

To mitigate the transmission of coronavirus within schools, classes and year groups are currently on staggered break times and social-distancing measures have been put in place to keep pupils safe. Even with these measures, the use of toilet blocks is restricted for safety making the opportunity for pupils to wash their hands regularly with soap throughout the day difficult.

Many head teachers have also reported that the use of hand sanitisers is not always safe or easy to manage, and overuse is causing adverse skin reactions for some children. As a result of this, Durham County Council has been working closely with head teachers to come up with a solution and enable safer hand washing practices for its pupils.

The council has bought hand washing stations in bulk from the company Happy Tap, a social enterprise based in Cambodia and recognised by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF, which creates fun and brightly coloured portable hand washing stations to encourage children to wash their hands regularly in an accessible way.



Barking Mad



Barking Mad has some fantastic dog loving host families, retirees, self employed folk who are at home most of the time but don't feel able to commit to looking after a dog of their

own full time and we are looking to grow our host community group with like minded people.

Our hosts look after lovely friendly dogs in their own home (at no cost to themselves) whilst their owners are away, these dogs are carefully matched to what the host likes and feel able to look after, many of our hosts are retired, even a couple of active 80 + years old and they love the companionship, the incentive to stay active and the social aspect of caring for a dog.

All are dog lovers but they have the peace of mind of knowing I am there to support them 24 hours a day if there are any issues.

Barking Mad Durham is licensed with Durham County Council.

Joanne Hewitt

0191 580 511

www.barkingmad.uk.com



Barking Mad

Happy Dog. Happy Holiday.
Happy You.