



# A Message from Town Mayor Cllr Fraser Tinsley

& the members of the  
Greater Willington Town Council

I am now into my second year as Town Mayor and following a challenging period where we have moved office and reduced our budget.

I feel we are now in a stronger and financially sustainable position to move forward and continue the good work we have been involved in and helped to facilitate in the community.

**A**s a council we are working to increase the communities involvement in decisions which impact on our area. Our role is to help develop Greater Willington, mainly through community based, grassroots, bottom-up initiatives.

These are often small scale but together start to make a difference in terms of helping local groups improving the environment, increasing economic activity and drawing the community together.

We have been involved in a number of issues where we have done just this. These include recent high profile planning proposals for housing and commercial development, consultations on play areas, street lighting and waste management in the Town.

I am also working with Oakenshaw Community Association, who are starting down the road of producing a Neighbourhood Plan which will shape the development of Oakenshaw for the next 15-20 years.

We have started a project around the 100 year anniversary of the First World War and we are planning further work based on our mining heritage.

Last year I identified three key challenges for us and we are working on these.

- **Develop the environment to improve the quality of life for all of us and increase the appeal of Greater Willington.**

We have led on improvements to footpaths in the North Dene and have worked with the Environment Group and Oakenshaw Community Association to

provide additional flower planters and other environmental improvements.

An increasing role is to work with Neighbourhood Wardens and act as a focal point for reporting fly tipping, which is a continuing problem that harms our environment. Vigilance on all of our parts and a willingness to report it is key to addressing this issue. So I ask everybody for their help with this.

We are also embarking on a project to make significant improvements to the South Dene and if anybody would like to get involved in this, please let us know?

Finally, we have had a project to encourage responsible dog ownership and address dog fouling. You may have seen 'Scoop the Dog' earlier in the year.

He visited schools and other locations in the town to help get the responsible dog ownership message across.

- **Address issues related to the Main Street and develop commercial activity and investment in the Town.**

Improving the Main Street is going to be dependent on investment and developing commercial activity in the Town. In this regard we are in active discussion with a number of owners of empty properties on the main street about bringing these back into active use.

In this regard I am happy to say that there are likely to be several new businesses opening in key premises shortly.

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# Community Newsletter Issue 8

Serving Our Community

91 High Street, Willington, Co Durham. DL15 0PE  
t: 01388 417725 e: gwtc@live.co.uk w: www.gwtc.co.uk

## COMMUNITY FUND

A Community Fund Grant is available up to a maximum award of £500. Grants will not exceed 75% of the total project costs. Applications can be submitted by each community group in the Greater Willington area, once every twelve months.

Community Fund application forms are available to collect from the Town Council office or can be downloaded from the website at [www.gwtc.co.uk](http://www.gwtc.co.uk)

Financial year 2013-2014 the Town Council awarded £5,247 from the Community Fund to thirteen Community Groups.

Recently Willington Methodist Church and Willington Cricket Club received £500.

## CIVIC FUND

The Civic Fund is an award of up to £50 towards small activities and events. Resident groups in the area are welcome to apply. It is unlikely that the Council will fund individuals as they prefer to support a number of beneficiaries.

To apply, simply write to Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk telling us about your group and how it is managed and what you want us to fund.

Financial year 2013-2014 the Town Council paid out £500 in donations to eleven groups.

Recently Dovedale Social Club received £50.

## NEW OFFICE 1 YEAR ON

In April 2014 Greater Willington Town Council celebrated one year in their new office.

The office is open Monday to Thursday from 9.00 am until 4.00 pm. Appointments can be made with Councillors or staff on 01388 417725.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

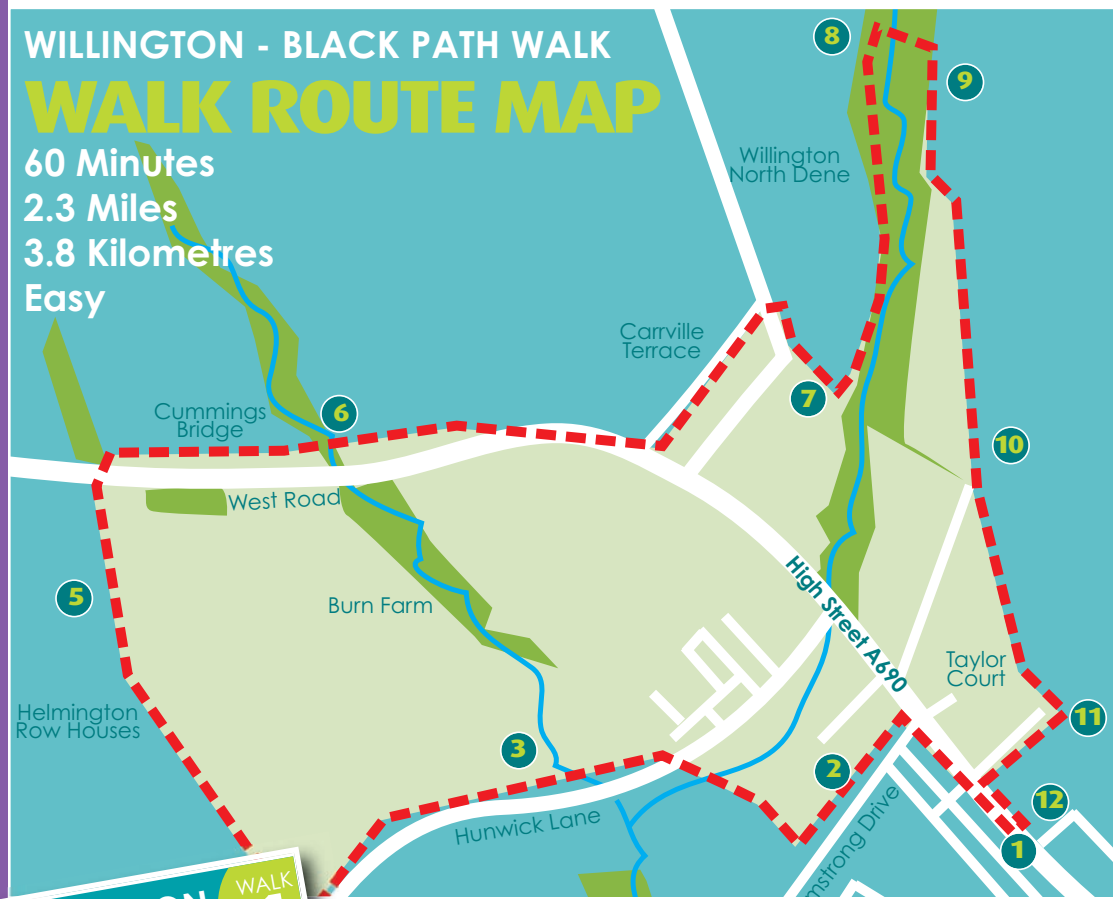
A new noticeboard has been provided by Walton Windows Ltd to improve the look of the High Street and to provide additional space for Community Information.

Please keep checking the board to keep yourself up to date with news that affects the GWTC area.

## WILLINGTON - BLACK PATH WALK

# WALK ROUTE MAP

60 Minutes  
2.3 Miles  
3.8 Kilometres  
Easy



## First in a series of Willington Walks Leaflets

A new walk leaflet has been produced. Route mapping and design of the walk leaflets has involved three volunteers who worked closely with the Town Council.

Our thanks are extended to John Simpson for his superb photographs and Caroline Lee for getting her boots on.

## Willington Wildlife Group

Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Janet & Peter Sloomweg (Residents), Olwyn Gunn (County Councillor), Darren Hunt (DCC) and Kath Marshall-Ivens (Groundwork)

Mrs Janet Sloomweg asked,

**Did you know?** That Willington has an old wood which is aptly named the Bluebell Wood.

Sadly, it has fallen into neglect and urgently needs work done to restore it.



**Interested in forming a Wildlife Group to help give it a future?**

Please leave your name and contact details at the GWTC office and we will tell you more.

# Environment Group



**Update provided by Farrer Johnson, Chairman of Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group**

**W**ell, we paid for the big stone planters to be sorted. DCC (Dave Gillett and his merry men) did the work - we paid for the heathers and they have just finished covering with bark.

About a month ago we filled the usual nine planters with summer flowers which seem to have taken well.

Thanks go to our volunteer waterers!

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

### Footpath Works

Towards the end of October, beginning of November, Cambridge Avenue had the footpath resurfaced to make it safe for pedestrians.

### Potholes

DCC have carried out maintenance patching in various locations in Willington, these are:-

- Dovedale Avenue
- Norwich Gardens
- Canterbury Crescent
- Kensington Terrace
- High Street
- Cambridge Avenue
- York Terrace
- Clarence Terrace

All actionable repairs are carried out in accordance with the authority's inspection regime. Patching works are carried out on a priority basis within the individual Inspector's area.

Recommendations are made to Strategic Highways to have resurfacing works carried out which are assessed countywide and scheduled on a priority basis.

In respect of highway defects including pot holes we advise that these are all reported to DCC Highway Action Line (HAL):  
Email: [hal@durham.gov.uk](mailto:hal@durham.gov.uk)  
Tel: 03000 261000

### Street Lighting

If you see a street light that is out of action, you can report this to DCC on 03000 261000.

When notifying DCC of the fault, please try to have the column number available as it helps for a speedier repair.

## Play Park Extension Toddlers Play Equipment arrives

**T**he new toddlers play park, which was an extension to the existing play area on the Town Green, was completed in December 2013.

The project was funded by the Members Initiative Fund and Greater Willington Town Council. It was one of our biggest projects to date.

The toddlers area now offers a better variety of equipment for our younger residents including items such as a Cantilever Swing, Spinner, Octopus Seesaw, Carousel, Small Ship Multi Unit and Pine Swing with two cradle seats.

Maintaining and replacing play equipment is costly. We would ask you to talk to your family members and ask them to help look after their play space.

Councillors are now discussing phase two of the improvements and are looking to update the old equipment.



## Household Waste Recycling Centres

**Y**ou require a waste permit if you are driving a van, pick up, minibus or towing a trailer. To apply for a permit, please contact Durham County Council on 03000 261000 or online at [www.durham.gov.uk/householdpermit](http://www.durham.gov.uk/householdpermit).

Residents visiting the sites in cars do not require a permit.

If you have hazardous chemicals or asbestos, you will need a permit and an appointment to dispose of this waste at a specially licensed Household Waste Recycling Centre.

The closest HWRC to the Greater Willington area are;

- Romanway Industrial Estate, Tindale Crescent, Bishop Auckland
- Tudhoe Industrial Estate, Spennymoor

Opening hours for both sites are;

Summer: 9am - 6pm  
Winter: 9.am - 3.30pm

### Garden Waste Collections

Your collection day is a Wednesday

- 24 September 2014
- 8 October 2014
- 22 October 2014
- 5 November 2014

There is no charge for garden waste collections for 2014.

# Always longed to have a patch of green to call your own?

Wish you could grow your own vegetables, fruit or flowers? Well an allotment could be just what you need.

## Allotment News

We have four allotment sites with a provision of one hundred and eighty nine allotment gardens. If you are interested in an allotment, please contact the Council on 01388 417725 to register.



Greater Wellington Town Councils first allotment newsletter was sent to all allotment tenants in March 2014. Allotment holders were happy with the

content and the helpful tips, advice and notices.

Allotment inspections took place on Tuesday 15th July 2014 and this years competition winners are:

### Oakenshaw

#### 1st Prize

Plots 45 & 46 - Mr & Mrs D Berry

#### Highly commended

Plots 5 & 6 - Mr & Mrs R Kitching  
Plots 41 & 42 - Mr P Maddison

### Springfield

#### 1st Prize

Plot 12 - Mr S Barker

#### Highly commended

Plot 4 - Mr J Blakey  
Plot 31 - Mr P Atkinson

### Park Top

1st Prize Mr N Lee



Mr & Mrs Berry receiving 1st Prize from Cllr Graham

At the start of April all allotment tenants are charged 50% of their annual rent.

Plot holders who do not keep their gardens maintained and cultivate at least 50% of the ground will be charged the additional 50% rent following the annual inspection. Some discretion is given to tenants who accept a garden towards the end of the growing season.

## Oakenshaw

Tenants have been applying for funds and working together to create a new Community Orchard.

## Park Top

We are extending our best wishes to Mr E Taylor who is one of our longest serving allotment tenants as he has recently been suffering with ill health.

Our priority for Park Top is to tidy up the site in relation to untidy buildings, land and non-gardening equipment.

## Springfield

Work has started to look at establishing Springfield Allotment Association. Ten volunteers have offered to work with the Town Council in order to set up a Committee to raise funds to invest in site improvements.

## Rosedale

Following discussions with Rosedale & Victoria Allotment Association, which is self-managed, the lease for the site has now been renewed until 2017.

## Did You Know?

The Allotment Act 1922 defines the term 'allotment garden' as: "an allotment not exceeding forty poles in extent which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetables or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family".



Mrs Kitching receiving her Prize from Cllr Graham

## Allotment rules

- Plots are offered to the person at the top of the waiting list as they become available.
- Allotment waiting lists are closed to non-residents of the area. Such applicants will be encouraged to apply to their own parishes.
- Tenants cannot wait for specific plot numbers on a chosen site.
- Do not sub-let your plot.

- Report any water leaks to the Allotment Association or the Town Council
- For people who have more than one garden it is unlikely that the Council will allocate further plots unless the applicant can show that their existing plots are used wholly for cultivation. The applicant must provide evidence that extra land is needed to grow crops to feed their household.
- If you have any changes to your contact details please inform the Council as soon as possible.





Scoop pops in for a Scooby snack at Fins & Fur

# Campaign to encourage responsible Dog Ownership a success

As part of the Responsible Dog Ownership Scheme, Greater Willington Town Council teamed up with Durham County Council, Stray Aid and local schools to promote the Green Dog Walkers Initiative.

Assemblies and Education sessions were held in all four primary schools by Durham County Council's civic pride officers. The four schools were also involved in taking Scoop the dog mascot for a walk to raise awareness about dog fouling and gave leaflets to local businesses.

The walk was followed by a free dog micro chipping event on Saturday, May 31, between 10am and 2pm at The Phoenix Christian Centre.



The day was successful and well attended. Each recording of information and implant takes approximately 15-20 minutes. Eleven people also signed the Green Dog Walkers pledge and agreed to encourage other people to clean up

after their dogs by offering them free dog bags.

Greater Willington Town Council, who has funded the initiative, identified dog fouling hotspots and neighbourhood wardens are now carrying out extra patrols. They have been issuing fixed penalty notices to people seen failing to pick up after their dog.

Golden tickets, which enable recipients to enter a prize draw, were issued to responsible dog owners.

Following on from the event extra dog bins have been installed around the town. However, it is not possible to have a dog bin exactly where your dog will foul. So please be aware that dog bags can be disposed of in the next available multi use bin or taken home with you.

Councillor Joe Cogdon said: "We want to encourage responsible dog ownership and to value dog walkers who respect where they live by keeping paths and green areas clean for us all to enjoy.

"We are delighted with the support of the local primary schools who have worked with us on this project, the pupils have done a great job promoting the campaign and giving out information.

"Unfortunately in recent months there have been some instances of dog theft in Weardale and Teesdale and we hope that by offering free micro chipping we can go some way towards keeping dogs safe and identifying those that have gone missing."

The only way we can stop dog fouling is to catch the people who don't pick up after their pets. We need your help to find out who these people are.

Please contact DCC with any information you have about those who don't pick up after their dog.

You can do this by reporting any problems with dog fouling to Durham County Council at [durham.gov.uk/dogfouling](http://durham.gov.uk/dogfouling) or on 03000 261000.

It is an offence if you do not clean up after your dog and you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80. If taken to court you could face a maximum fine of £1,000.

Dog fouling spoils the environment, upsets local residents and can cause serious health risks particularly for children.

It takes very little time and effort to clean up after your dog, so please make sure that you carry a dog bag with you whenever you are walking your canine companion.

Greater Willington Town Council sold 10,000 dog bags in 2013-2014. The dog bags sold out before the end of the financial year so we increased the order to 16,000 for 2014-2015.



Scoop has a quick trim at Get Smart

## Councillor back and raring to go



Just to let people know that Cllr Joe Buckham has returned to work after over a year. Joe has been suffering from an undiagnosed abscess on his jaw which has led to further complications with his health.

Following surgery earlier in the year and the discovery

that he had very low levels of vitamin D, he is now beginning to pick up where he left off last year.

"It's such a relief to be back at work, trying to help those who most need help and making sure that the local residents receive the Council services they are entitled to" said Joe.

If you need to speak to Joe about any aspect of life in the Willington and Hunwick areas, you can contact him on 03000 268 691 or email him at [joe.buckham@durham.gov.uk](mailto:joe.buckham@durham.gov.uk).



# Children & Young Peoples Awards

The 3 Towns Children and Young People's Awards took place in early April 2014 and was organised by the 3 Towns Youth Forum in partnership with 3 Towns Partnership.

The event was a celebration of local children and young people and their achievements and a chance to say a big 'Well Done' to some amazing children and young people from 9 to 18yrs who live in

Crook, Willington, Tow Law or the surrounding villages.

The standard of nominations this year was extremely high, and 23 awards were given out to some amazing young people.

The categories for nominations were:

- Help in the Community Award
- Silver Lining Award
- Hero Award
- Young Carers
- Young Person's Choice
- Young Role Model
- Youth Project of the Year
- Wild Card

The winners and runners up from the Willington area were

- Young Carer's Award**  
Mollie Pedelty - Winner (Willington)
- Hero Award**  
Brendan Hoar - Winner (Hunwick)
- Youth Project Group of the Year**  
Parkside PAL - Years 10 and 11 Runner Up (Willington)
- Wildcard**  
Megan Kerr - Runner up (Willington)

**The 3 Towns Youth Forum is open to any young people aged 10 - 18 who live, work, study or volunteer within the Crook, Willington and Tow Law areas. To find out more please contact 3 Towns Partnership on 03000 267539 or threetownsap@durham.gov.uk**

## St Thomas Close Community Garden

G.W.T.C were approached by St Thomas Close residents who were concerned about a patch of land that had become overgrown and neglected.

In response Town Council staff conducted a house to house survey and residents agreed that they would like to see the area reinstated into a community garden.

Securing agreement as to land ownership has been problematic however this has now been returned to D.C.C.

The private garden is for the use of St Thomas Close residents and guests and is intended to add amenity value to what is a largely older population housing scheme.

It is hoped that the garden will provide a quiet area for residents of The Close to relax and socialise. Additional security is to be provided through a coded entry system.

There will be a low maintenance design with gravel pathways in the form of a French Parterre and

residents are encouraged to help look after the garden. Traditional bench seating has also been provided.

GWTC secured funding to pay for the work from Councillor Buckhams Members Initiative Fund and also match funding from D.C.C Neighbourhood Services.

The old flagstones were donated to Victoria and Rosedale Allotment Association.

A Garden Party is planned to celebrate the opening of the garden.



# Civic Events across the Region

The Town Mayor receives invitations to attend numerous events with other Councils across the region. This year we have attended functions at Spennymoor Town Council, Bishop Auckland Town Council, Darlington Borough Council and Shildon Town Council.

Attendance at civic functions provides the opportunity to promote needs and interests of the parish.

Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor Kenneth Henfrey  
and Margaret meet  
Civic representatives from  
South Tyneside Council



## 3 Towns Area Action Partnership

The 3 Towns Area Action Partnership (AAP) (Willington, Crook and Tow Law) focuses on priorities decided by local people at forum events.

It is managed through a board of public and community representatives.

Councillor Fraser Tinsley represents the GWTC and Tow Law Parish Council area this year.

Applications for AAP funding can be submitted by community groups.

Project delivery and monitoring is managed through Task and Finish Group meetings.

At the 3 Towns Partnership Forum on 7 December 2013, the attendees voted for the priorities for work in 2014/15.

On 23 January 2014 the 3 Towns Partnership Board discussed the votes that were received and the board agreed that the priorities for 2014/15 should be focused on three key priorities:

- **Children and Young People**
- **Job Prospects and Employment**
- **Health and Wellbeing**

**Recently the AAP made available £25,000 to be distributed via a public vote. The winning applicants were;**

Organisation	Project Name	Amount	Total Votes	Funding Awarded
Roddy Moor Allotments Society	Disabled Buggy Park	£2,400	121	£2,400
Crook & District Athletics Club	Crook Athletics for Kids	£1,956	106	£1,956
Hunwick Cricket Club	A Line for the Future	£1,062	97	£1,062
Willington Community Action	Surf Shack	£5,000	96	£5,000
Crook Town Cricket Club	Supply of Mains Electric Crook CC	£3,050	94	£3,050
Greater Willington Environment Improvement Group	Improving the Greater Willington Environment 2013/14	£3,739	84	£3,739
Oakenshaw Community Association	Nature Reserve for All	£1,152	76	£1,152
St Cuthbert's Centre, Crook	Cuthbert's Community Garden	£4,500	75	£4,500
Signpost	Signpost Advice and Information	£5,000	72	£3,291

Applications were also made by other community groups in the Greater Willington area, unfortunately on this occasion they were unable to obtain funding due to marginally less votes;

Willington AFC	Making existing services available to a wider	£1,150	69	0
Natural High	Natural High- Strings	£2,492	67	0
Willington Ladies Netball	Willington Ladies Netball	£1,700	36	0

## Planning

Greater Willington Town Council has considered 41 planning applications since April 2013.

Advice and guidance has been provided by appointment. Public meetings have been held on contentious planning issues in response to requests from residents.

Submissions have been made as and when necessary or due to public demand. Planning meetings have also informed residents about neighbourhood planning and the draft local plan.

The County Durham Plan will be finalised in the Autumn of 2014 and this will form the basis for future development in our area.

Planning Committee also considers Licensing and has commented on licensed premises issues over the last 12 months.

## Neighbourhood Plan - Oakenshaw

Oakenshaw Community Association will soon be sharing information with residents on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

If agreed the Plan will map improvements and priorities that are decided on by the people who live in the village.

The introduction of any associated work will involve co-ordination with partner and statutory agencies.



Photo : Courtesy of Sue Wilkins

## Remembrance Sunday 2013

The service took place at Willington Cenotaph, Low Willington on 10 November 2013. It was coordinated by the Town Council, Royal British Legion, Honorary Poppy Organisers and St Stephens Church.

Parishioners congregated at the War Memorial at 3pm for the service and the laying of the wreaths. Town Mayor, Councillor Fraser Tinsley made a respectful tribute to the men and women who lost their lives protecting others. He laid the wreath on behalf of

Greater Willington Town Council, alongside the wreaths provided by local businesses, schools and community groups.

The procession was led by Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band with representatives from St John Ambulance, Army Cadets, Scouts, local & county representatives and community members.

We extend our thanks to Reverend Griffiths at St Stephens Church for leading the service and to Francis Hall, Church Warden who made everyone feel welcome.

## WWI Centenary

Greater Willington Town Council invite residents to join them in commemorating The Great War at the Remembrance Day Service, Sunday 9 November 2014 at 2.45pm.

A Commemorative Planetree and Plaque will be planted as a lasting tribute to the fallen, with our gratitude to those who sacrificed themselves for us.

During this important time we are collecting information about the Great War soldiers listed on the Willington War Memorial.

If you have family members that would like

to be remembered please provide details of their local address, military service, a memory about them and a photograph that we can publish.

GWTC plans to provide every primary school pupil with a 'Lest We Forget' coin as part of a series of WW1 commemorative activities. These include the planting of a commemorative Planetree which many soldiers will have seen along the roads and canals in Belgium and France and working with residents to produce a War Memorial Heritage Database.

## Civic Service

The Civic Service held on 13 October 2013 at the Phoenix Christian Centre, Watling Terrace was the first council civic service following the formation of the new Council after the May Elections.

The service was led by Reverend David Parry assisted by Yvonne Etherington and Hill Benson. It included live music, a puppet show and a life story by Ben Johnson who had moved from Burnley to Willington to follow his Christian calling.

Amongst the guests to attend were the Mayors of Shildon and Spennymoor, the Chairman of Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council and the then vice Chairman of Durham County Council, John Robson. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, Andrew Martell also attended as the Queens representative.

Members of the congregation joined Council members in the Church Hall afterwards for light refreshments catered for by J & A Storey, Meadowfield.

Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Town Mayor extended his thanks to everyone who has been involved in organising the service and attending.

• GWTC extends a warm welcome to Father David Spokes of St Stephens Church, Willington, who is the new Priest in Charge of the Parishes of Willington, Sunbrow, Hunwick and Howden.

GWTC is please to announce that he has accepted our invitation to lead the Civic Service at St Stephens Church on 5 October 2014 as an opportunity to meet with this and neighbouring parishes.

The service will start at 3pm. Please be seated by 2.45pm. Everyone is welcome.



## Civic Carol Service



The Civic Carol Service was held on 13 December 2013 at Our Lady & St Thomas Roman Catholic Church. Cumberland Terrace and led by Father Brian Murphy.

The service was followed by the switching on of the Christmas Tree and street lighting.

A donation was made from the Town Council to Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band for the Christmas hymns and music they played throughout the event.

Residents joined Council members at the Masonic Hall for light refreshments. Council extends its grateful thanks to Lodge members for the use of their facilities and particularly Mr Ian Mavin who worked with Council staff to organise the event. It was an enjoyable evening and well attended by residents.

This years Carol Service will be held on the 12 December at 6pm in the Phoenix Christian Centre, Watling Terrace, followed by the switching on of the Christmas Tree and High Street Festive Lights.



# Willington Care Village

Update provided by Julie Summers,  
Activities Co-ordinator at Willington Care Village

At Willington Care Village we strive to make the community very welcome and involve them in all the activities, open days and events that we hold.

We held our Annual Open Day on Friday 20th June 2014 and welcomed many of our community including our own Town Mayor, Fraser Tinsley as well as many family members for a fun filled

afternoon. This is what it's all about, our residents still feeling like they belong and are a part of the community.

Our residents really enjoy meeting everyone and many have commented on how having these events are such a good idea.

We are also very excited to have held our first dog show, Scruffs and Beauties on Saturday 26th July 2014.

We had several classes from best pedigree dog, best crossbreed dog, waggiest tail and best in show.

There were many wonderful prizes for the winners that had been kindly donated by local businesses. Town Mayor Fraser Tinsley, County Councillor Olwyn Gunn



were among the judges.

We also had the support of Wilson's Vets throughout the day, who had an advice drop in clinic as well as being a judge for us.

## Ofsted success for Willington Primary



Year 4 taking part in a Birds of Prey presentation

**Willington Primary School had a visit from the Ofsted school inspection and advisory service on the 29th and 30th May.**

During the inspection every aspect of the school was scrutinised with no stone left unturned. The school was very pleased to be graded as a 'Good School' in all of the four key areas - 'Achievement of Pupils', 'Quality of Teaching', 'Behaviour and Safety of Pupils' and 'Leadership and Management'.

Inspectors dropped into classes randomly for 25 - 30 minute lesson observations, all of which they graded as good or outstanding.

Ofsted commented that, "Teaching is good over time in reading, writing and mathematics in all classes and for all groups of pupils.

The work set helps pupils to learn well whatever their ability."

Mr Cornforth added: "Our staff put a huge amount of work into ensuring our pupils develop the skills and attributes to become well rounded individuals as well as confident and self-assured learners.

Ofsted could not fault the positive and welcoming ethos within the school and found the behaviour and attitude of the children to be exemplary.

This ethos is created by the hard work and dedication of all school staff and I would like to thank them all for their continued effort in striving to make our school the best it can be."

## Parkside Academy

Parkside Academy is first out of 3,500 schools in England for adding value to pupils' exam results.

Government Performance Tables for schools show Parkside Academy will add more value to pupils' exam results than any other secondary school in England.

## Meet the Mini Vinnies

Within Our Lady and St Thomas Primary School we have a special group called the Mini Vinnies.

This group of children reflect on the messages of Jesus and try to see where they can act in our world to spread this message. They are supported by Mrs Wilkinson.

Recently, they explored the need for food bank and found out there was one within our own community here in Willington.

The children shared this information with the rest of the school and it was

agreed that we would hold a collection week. The whole school became involved and we soon had a very large collection of food.

The Mini Vinnies would like to thank all of the people who contributed and hope that all of this food will be well used.

Keep listening for their next project and if you have any suggestions the Mini Vinnies would love to hear them.

• This update was provided by Lesley Frame, Secretary at Our Lady & St Thomas RC School



# New Housing Proposals – have your say

**A**vant Homes are seeking outline planning permission to build 150 houses on land between Cherry Tree Drive and Bridge Street, Sunnybrow (Reg Ref: DM/14/02574/OUT) and 70 houses on land opposite West Road, Willington (Reg Ref: DM/14/02575/OUT).

We are working with the community to increase awareness of the proposals and help people respond to Durham County Council, who will be responsible for deciding whether planning permission is granted.

Members of the public can view and comment on the proposals at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk).

The introduction of any associated work will involve co-ordination with partner and statutory agencies.

# Police and Communities Together

PACT meetings are an opportunity for the Community to have their say on what matters the most to them in their area.

The meetings identify and discuss local problems, agree actions to tackle these problems and individual neighbourhood priorities.

The next available dates are;

- 25 September 2014
- 30 October 2014
- 27 November 2014
- 18 December 2014

Meetings are held at Willington Community Action Centre, 65 High Street, Willington at 6 pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

# Willington Ladies FC

**Willington Ladies have now completed their second season in the Durham F.A. Women's League Division 1.**



**A**lthough up against older and more established teams the relatively young squad achieved some amazing results to eventually finish 3rd in the league.

Sue Mudd, secretary for the Ladies said, "Although coaches, players and other helpers give their time free of charge we still need to

find funds for the likes of pitch hire, referee fees, strips and equipment.

We would like to thank Willington Town Council and The Black Horse Inn as our main sponsors for last season."

This season Willington Ladies F.C. will again attempt to run an U18 development team alongside the full ladies team and would be very happy to hear from any girls or ladies who wish to play football.

Contact Sue on 07713322667 for more information.

GWTC have also supported Willington AFC through sponsorship to be invested in the new spectator stand.

# Tree planting



**F**ollowing a successful tree grant application, the Town Council celebrated National Tree Week with a tree planting event at Willington Woods on Sunday 8th December 2013.

Sweet Chestnut, Horse Chestnut and Green Oak Trees were planted.

The event was attended by members of Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group, Town Councillors and staff and County Councillor Olwyn Gunn.

# Willington Cricket Club

**W**illington Cricket Club are playing in the North East Premier League – the highest standard of club cricket in the North East. The club run Under 11's, U13's, U15's and U18's and 3 senior teams.

The pavilion bar is open on match days and is available for functions. Please come along and support the club.

New playing and social members are always welcome.

GWTC are proud sponsors of the Willington Cricket Club Academy Coaching.

# Remember, November



**M**ovember is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, and associated charities.

By encouraging men to get involved, Movember aims to increase early cancer detection, diagnosis and effective treatments, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths.

Councillor Joe Cogdon took part in the month long Movember 2013 challenge and raised £230 in sponsorship. He would like to thank members of the Council and friends for their generous donations.

## Continued from front page

We will also be upgrading the Christmas lighting this year. This will improve the appearance of the main street at this important time of the year.

Shortly I will be starting Greater Willington Business Forum and all stakeholders are invited to get involved so that we can get to know each other and work together to address the issues that are impacting on this key area for the Town.

### • Seek to draw the community together.

Our sports clubs, social clubs and churches continue to go from strength to

strength - largely thanks to the dedication of volunteers who are the unsung heroes of our Town.

We have supported many financially through the Civic and Community Funds and have provided other help and assistance when requested. Please do get in contact if we may be able to help.

Our events including the Carol and Civic Services are all important for drawing us together and everybody is invited and welcome. This year Remembrance Sunday will be particularly poignant as this year marks one hundred since the start of

the First World War. Please come along so that we as a community can commemorate this important historic event together.

A mention must also be made of the continuing success of our schools which go from strength to strength and are a real asset and something for us all to be proud of.

The Low Willington Industrial Estate is continuing to develop and is building on our proximity to Durham, which I have identified as a key strength of Greater Willington to be developed.

Several new tenants have located there in the past year.

Related to this, we are supporting the proposed 'Stonebridge to Sniperley - Neville's Cross Bypass' in order to ease traffic congestion on the A690 that can turn what should be a 20 minute drive to Durham into a daily nightmare for many.

Can I finally take this opportunity on behalf of the Town Council, our staff and myself to thank you for all of your help over the last year.

## Councillor contact details

### Councillor Fraser Tinsley Town Mayor

4 Raby Terrace, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0HR  
H: 01388 746431 M:  
07412712169  
frasertinsleylabour@gmail.com

### Councillor Ken Henfrey Deputy Town Mayor

14 York Terrace, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0HT  
H: 01388 747216

### Councillor Joe Cogdon

Ennerdale, Cumberland Terrace,  
Willington, Crook, Co. Durham,  
DL15 0PB  
M: 07881631106  
joecogdon@talktalk.net

### Councillor Arthur Graham

Lyncrest, North Lane, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0HJ  
H: 01388 745969

### Councillor Lilian Bennett

10 Kensington Terrace, Willington  
Co. Durham, DL15 0PJ  
H: 01388 746865  
lilianbennett@btinternet.com

### Councillor Matthew Todd

33 Greenways, Sunnybrow,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0LX  
M: 07851682049  
matthewtodd14@hotmail.com

### Councillor Patricia Greensmith

62 Armstrong Drive, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0GB  
H: 01388 746835 M:  
07425139223  
cactrish07@outlook.com

### Councillor Colin Carr

40 Abbots Green, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0QZ  
H: 01388 745226 M:  
07946082683  
colintcarr@hotmail.com

### Councillor Joe Buckham

5 Brancepeth Terrace, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0ES  
H: 01388 745531 W:  
03000268691  
joe.buckham@durham.gov.uk

### Councillor Angela Smith

1 Kensington Terrace, Willington,  
Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0PJ  
H: 01388 746297  
o.smith154@btinternet.com

### Councillor Mark Etherington

4 Rosedale, Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham, DL16 6SB  
M: 07515360271  
markadam@hotmail.com

## GWTC Meetings

Greater Willington Town Council meet on the first Wednesday of the month.

**Resource Committee 6.00pm**

**Planning Committee 6.30pm**

**Town Council 7.00pm**

Please note members of the public are welcome to attend to observe the council meetings. Every Meeting Agenda has a public participation item. If you wish to address the Council please contact the Town Clerk no later than 12 noon prior to the meeting, so that time can be allocated to accommodate your request to speak.



Coming to a school near you

Last year over 5,000 pupils got active on MEGA Fridays. Make sure you don't miss out this year.

[www.megamotion.co.uk](http://www.megamotion.co.uk)

Funded by the Department of Transport  
Supported by Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council

LOCAL MOTION  
Initiative to change the way we travel

## Mega Motion Heroes & Villains

The campaign Mega Motion (Move Everybody Get Active) is spread across 30 Fridays, starting from the 10th October with the first MEGA Friday encouraging families to leave the car at home and walk, cycle or scoot to school.

Even if the family needed they could park a five minute walk from the school and walk the rest of the way. It all counts and makes a difference.

This year's theme is Heroes and Villains with a character for each month ranging from 'Mega Monsters' in October to 'Walking with Warriors' in April.

We are launching the campaign this year on Friday 19th September along with our MEGA competition where the children can enter to win a themed walk and assembly for their school.

Gemma Dobson, DCC Sustainable Transport said; "It's a brilliant campaign that pupils from our Local Motion Schools have really engaged with. They are making the effort to walk to school with their families and enjoy getting motivated and joining in."

• GWTC supports the Local Motion initiative which will invest £840,000, 2015-16, in Willington, Crook and Spennymoor. The project aims to help people without a car and the unemployed.



# Competition Winners

In 2013 we brought Halloween to the High Street for the first time in Willington.

## Spooky Street

The standard of shop front decorations for 2013 Halloween Spooky Street Competition was extremely high.

**1st Prize : Hair 2000**

GWTC would like to thank everyone for taking part and helping to promote local business.

**Highly Commended :**  
**Get Smart**  
**Gold 'n' Tan**  
**Fosters Opticians**  
**Fowlers Hardware**



## Spooky stories and drawings

GWTC promoted Halloween with local schools and pupils were asked to use their imagination to scare us all. The winners were;

**Briony Rowland**  
**Sunnybrow Primary School,**  
**"Pumpkins Invade"**

**Bailey Metcalf**  
**Our Lady & St Thomas RC**  
**School, drawing**

**Keira Blenkiron**  
**Willington Primary School,**  
**drawing**

**Ruby Lucy Brunskill**  
**Willington Primary School**  
**"The Cottage"**

**Mathew Paley,**  
**Parkside Academy,**  
**"Nightmare"**

**Hannah Blakemore**  
**Parkside Academy,**  
**"Mary Strikes Again"**

The students work will be compiled and published in a spooky story book for this Halloween. Thanks to everyone who took part.

## Halloween 2014

This years Spooky Challenge is to carve the scariest Pumpkin.

There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes up for grabs in each category and a special prize for the Town Mayor's favourite Pumpkin.

- 8 years and under
- 9 - 15 years
- 16 years and over

**1st Prize - £20**  
**2nd Prize - £15**  
**3rd Prize - £10**

To enter, please send your contact details and 2 photographs of you holding the pumpkin, during daylight and darkness.

**Closing date for entries is the 24th October 2014.**



## Christmas Tree and Lights

Following a request from community representatives, Greater Willington Town Council agreed to buy last years tree for the town as well as providing the normal light display in the High Street.

Members were pleased to pay for the tree to keep up the tradition to celebrate Christmas in Willington.

Christmas light motifs were placed on columns on the High Street and Commercial Street.

This year will see the Council extend the Christmas Lights display after purchasing several new motifs.

Planning work has started to dress two further deciduous trees on the Town Green to provide a permanent dressed tree display every year.

We aim to bring a real sparkle to Christmas, brighten up the area, share good will and festive cheer.

## Christmas 2013 Competition Winners

for the best homemade Christmas Tree decoration.

**1st Prize: Isabelle Jung**  
**2nd Prize: Evie Bailey**  
**3rd Prize: Sophie Collins**

Each winner received a trophy and a gift voucher.



## Christmas 2014 Competition

- 10 years and under : A Festive Christingle**
- 11 to 16 years : A Christmas Verse**
- 17 years and above : A Christmas Wreath**

**1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize in each category**  
**(1st Prize - £20, 2nd Prize - £15, 3rd Prize - £10)**

**Please bring your entries to the Town Council office no later than the 4th December 2014.**

**A Special Prize for the Town Mayor's Favourite Snowman. (You don't have to use real Snow!)**