

West Life

*The Newsletter of West Auckland Parish Council
No 42 Autumn 2017*

The Pant

Most residents will be aware of this stone structure which now forms part of the Village War Memorial but may not be aware of its history. The Pant was erected in 1848 and originally supplied water to the village but it was made redundant in 1888 by the opening of Waskerley Reservoir. In 1897 it was rededicated in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Pant is a listed structure but it is hoped that permission will be granted to re-attach the original cast-iron drinking fountain which has been kept in safe storage and add a metal information plate explaining its existence.



The **Annual Remembrance Day Service** will be held at the Pant, opposite the Manor House Hotel, at 3.00pm on Sunday, November 12th. A procession through the village will leave the car park outside The Well at 2.45pm; anybody wishing to take part in that should be in the car park by 2.30pm. Refreshments will be available at Monteith Community Parish Room afterwards

The work on the Pant is part of a long-running plan to increase visitor information about the village. Leaflets highlighting points of interest in and around the village are being designed and will be made available; a notice board displaying visitor information is being considered; there already is an information board sited close to the World Cup statue explaining that piece of unique village history. Visitors do pass through the village: it would be good to encourage them to stop, use local businesses, make them welcome and provide interesting information about the village.

Air cadets from 2505 (Bishop Auckland) Squadron were recently in Arnhem, Holland to participate in the annual Airborne March which commemorates Operation MARKET GARDEN in September 1944. They also remembered British and Polish forces who were killed fighting to capture the 'Bridge Too Far' at Arnhem with a service at the military cemetery. This Remembrance Sunday, the cadets will commemorate all 'The Fallen' at services in Bishop Auckland and West Auckland. The Squadron parades on Monday and Thursday evenings, 1830 to 2130, at the Reserve Forces Centre, St Andrew's Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6RT. Further details for male and female young persons interested in joining can be obtained by emailing '2505@aircadets.org'.





Cllr Valerie Raine

Cllr Valerie Raine has regrettably decided to retire from the Parish Council. Valerie will be a big miss and the Parish Council thanks her for the contributions she has made over recent years. The vacancy created due to Valerie retiring will be advertised in due course. Please contact any Parish Councillor, or the Clerk, if you wish to express an interest in joining the Parish Council and have any queries about the role.

Litter

Durham County Council are doing their best to discourage littering and they do have an employee litter picking in the village on a regular basis but it is often not enough when people are so careless and unthinking with their litter these days.



Resident Audrey Beck has for some time been on a mission to keep the village and its approaches tidy. Armed with a bag and a grabber, she regularly collects litter as she walks around the village and surrounding areas. She will also inform the Parish Council of unsightly areas or other things which need

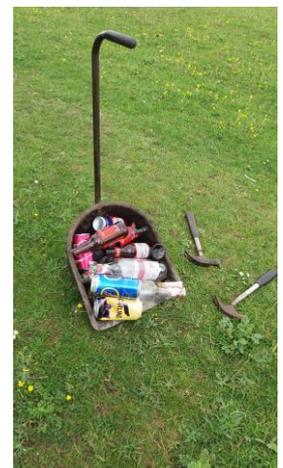
attention.

Other residents have also taken to doing a spot of litter picking from time to time. If you would like to do some voluntary litter picking, there are bags and grabbers available; if you spot something which you think needs attention or if you think there is something which the Parish Council could do to help improve the village, please contact a Councillor or the Parish Clerk; alternatively, you can raise concerns or make your point at a Parish Council meeting.

Local land owner, Brian Rennolds makes a plea for youths to stop breaking empty alcohol bottles in the river and leaving their empty bottles and rubbish along the riverside where children, horses and dogs paddle.



This is a typical daily amount of rubbish Brian collects from his fields.



Spring Bulbs



The Parish Council has ordered a large quantity of spring bulbs. At present there are daffodils around the trees on the Devonshire House side of the village and a row along one side of the Green; they do look good and brighten up the village but are rather limited. The intention is to develop a much wider coverage along the Green and planting has been arranged for mid-October

In addition to bulb planting, plans to remove the two rose beds near the World Cup statue are progressing. The roses have not been particularly productive for some time. One bed is very much under the shadow of the surrounding trees and will be returned to grass by Durham County Council. The other bed will be landscaped to make a more attractive focal point.

To further enhance the look of the village, there has been a suggestion that local businesses might like to contribute and maintain flower tubs; the Parish Council will look into this in due course



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

Flood Warning Service Alert

You can find out if you are in a flood warning area and sign up to Flood Warning Service either:

Online at

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

By telephone on 0345 988 1188

Dog Fouling



It has proved difficult to make much progress in our aim to tackle the continuing problem of dog fouling and other related nuisances but the Parish Council are determined to keep

trying. Many residents have voiced their concerns (including one who wrote to the Northern Echo in despair at the amount of dog mess on the bypass) but almost as many continue to cause problems. From June 1st 2017, in accordance with the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Order, IT IS AN OFFENCE in County Durham to:

- allow a dog to foul without picking it up
- allow a dog to stray (roam loose without a responsible owner present)
- fail to put a dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer
- allow dogs in designated fenced-off play sites

Enforced by a FIXED PENALTY NOTICE of £100 (£60 if paid within 10 days)

FollowOurLead

Be a responsible dog owner. Contact www.durham.gov.uk/dogcontrol

The **Citizens Advice Bureau** holds a West Auckland Outreach from 10.00am to 1.00pm on alternate MONDAYS at Monteith Close Community Parish Rooms.

citizens
advice

Please note that this service will be **discontinued** at the end of the year. The remaining sessions until then are scheduled for October 2nd, 16th and 30th; November 13th and 27th and December 11th.

The nearest CAB Office is at the Four Clocks Centre, 154A Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland and is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Telephone Advice is available Monday to Friday 10.00am-4.00pm on 03444 111 444

Debt advice is available from Monday to Friday 9.00am-1.00pm on 0300 323 2000

Shoe Box Appeal



You may have heard of Operation Christmas Child, which is an annual project run by Samaritan's Purse Internal Relief; many schools, organisations and workplaces take part every year.

Perhaps better known as the Shoebox Appeal, it involves packing a shoebox-sized parcel with items such as small toys, puzzles, ball, colour pens, toothpaste, toothbrush, hat and gloves which can be handed in at a collection point. Boxes are then taken out to needy children around the world. You can find your own shoebox and wrap it in decorative paper or you can collect a pre-printed shoebox ready for packing. If you would like to take part, leaflets which explain what to do (and pre-printed shoeboxes) are available at The Well, on East Green, which is also a collection point. Shoeboxes should be dropped off at a collection point between 1st and 18th November.

The Well is open Tuesday to Friday from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm and on Saturdays from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. More information is available at Samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

Film footage of children receiving these gifts in previous years and the joy their faces is really very moving.

West Auckland Football

Club made a good start to the 2017/18 season in the Ebac Northern League Division One: top of the League and unbeaten after 8 games at the end of August

With financial support from the Parish Council, a new tractor has been purchased; it will not only improve the playing surface for the team but will hopefully help to extend the use of the ground to include other groups, activities and junior training sessions for the community



It's Your Village – Have Your Say

Come along to a meeting and let the Parish Council know what improvements you would like to see in your village.

West Auckland Parish Council Contacts

Colin Mairs , Chairman.....	833616
Andy Turner	606021
Ann Palfreyman.....	07876754813
Billy Robinson.....	833663
Chris Smith.....	07711 423746
Ed Farrer.....	832810
George Smith, Vice-Chairman.....	662659
Lynn Rielly	833032
Martin Roberts.....	833214
Neil Simpson.....	07725979714
Vivienne Elliott.....	.834893

Parish Clerk: Sharon Wootton . 834360

Email: sharon.home@btinternet.com

Meetings held at Monteith Close Community Parish Room at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August).

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.westaucklandparishcouncil.org.uk/>