

West Life

*The Newsletter of West Auckland Parish Council
No 48 – July 2019*

WEST AUCKLAND IN BLOOM



You should have seen by now that the first stage of the project has taken place with planters around the village green and the old rose bed near the football statue replaced with a bed of shrubs. Admittedly the poor weather during most of June might have made you keep your head down and not really notice them but when the sun comes out you can have a better look and really appreciate them.

Many thanks to Audrey Beck and Jean Pattison for having the vision to brighten up the village in the first place and then to co-ordinate fund raising and action to make it all happen; thanks also to everybody who has contributed in any way to this community effort with donations or offers of help and particularly the staff from Smurfitt Kappa who helped to put the planters in position.

Funds have been raised from grants, donations, an afternoon tea supported by Highcroft School in Cockfield and a coffee morning which took place at the Parish Rooms in February; a second coffee morning was held at The Well on Saturday, June 22nd raising a further £370

This is not the end of the story! Fund raising will continue....and so will the work. The aim is to have some more planters in the village and introduce some other features; the plants themselves should flower throughout the Summer and then be replaced in the Autumn; the Parish Council will also continue its Spring bulb planting programme to extend the current displays still further. This is all contributing towards the aim of making West Auckland an attractive place for its residents and encouraging visitors to spend a little time enjoying the village.

Northumbria in Bloom will be visiting the village in late July to inspect the progress made so far and offer advice; it is essential that the village can be made – and kept – tidy in many other ways as well as the introduction of the plants and planters to enhance the overall appearance of the village.

PLAY AREA



The Parish Council are hoping to make improvements to the New Street Play Area next to Oakley Cross School in the near future. At the moment this is only at the discussion stage but it should move on to making firm plans quite soon.

The enclosed area for younger children is quite well used but does need some repairs to the gates, at least one of the play items and parts of the soft base. On the large grass area, two defunct items (one of which has been badly damaged by vandalism) need to be removed and the intention is to replace them with new equipment for use by the slightly older age group. The remaining large goalpost should also be removed and a new area created for small-sided games with more appropriate goalposts

VILLAGE LEAFLETS

Do look out for these leaflets available in various outlets around the village and elsewhere. Essentially intended for visitors, many residents may also like to read and make use of them. A set of four, leaflets two and three are already available featuring a history of the village and some points of interest to look for around the village green; leaflets one and four are nearing completion: one features the village as it is now with its amenities whilst number four includes three short walks from the village into the surrounding countryside.



LITTER PICK



Many thanks to everybody who turned out for the Village Litter Pick on Saturday April 6th. It was an excellent effort which saw about 45 bags of litter and rubbish collected as well as a clock and a scooter!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

An early reminder that the annual Remembrance Day service will take place on Sunday November 10th this year. Last year's service commemorated in particular the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings during the Second World War. Full details will appear in the next edition of WestLife



CHAPEL STREET

Credit to Councillor Neil Simpson who has taken on the task of tidying up a small grass area which had become something of an eyesore: the piece of land at the end of Chapel Street, next to the entrance to Oakley Manor and the path leading to Oakley Cross School now looks so much better; the path itself, upgraded a few years ago, now has plants along the side but may need some more attention as the recent heavy rain caused puddles to form.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

This recently-formed group meets at 6.00pm on the second Tuesday of every month at *The Ark at St Helens Church* and offers a warm welcome to new members



DEFIBRILLATORS

Just a reminder that there are now 3 defibrillators in the village, set up ready to use and registered with the local Ambulance Service. They are housed in distinctive, locked yellow cabinets: one next to the bus stop near the football statue opposite The Club, one on the outside wall of the Memorial Hall on Darlington Road and one on the outside wall of the Community Parish Room in Monteith Close.

It is not important to remember where they are: in a medical emergency you would first call 999 for help and if it is appropriate, the Ambulance Service will tell you where the nearest defibrillator is and give you a code number to unlock the cabinet.

You do not have to use a defibrillator but it might increase someone's chances of survival until help arrives. Don't worry, you cannot make a casualty's condition worse: the defibrillator issues instructions and won't let you proceed incorrectly.

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
Ann Palfreyman.....	07876754813
Billy Robinson.....	833663
Chris Smith.....	07711 423746
Ed Farrer.....	832810
George Smith, Vice-Chairman.....	662659
Jean Curl.....	833610
Karen Bolton.....	07789 813703
Lynn Rielly	833032
Martin Roberts.....	833214
Neil Simpson.....	07725979714
Rachel Gargett-Gillens.....	07949 959564

Parish Clerk: Sharon Proud . 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/>

WestLife is produced by West Auckland Parish Council, printed by Cre8tive Graphics and delivered by St Helens Scout Group. If you live in West Auckland and don't receive a copy at your home, please contact the Parish Clerk.