

WestLife

Newsletter December 2022



The Parish Council wish West Auckland residents a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023.

Devonshire House and Roslyn House residential care homes each receive a hamper annually as a gesture from the Parish Council on behalf of the people of West Auckland; this has now become tradition with the hampers always being well received by each home.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Queen Elizabeth's II Platinum Jubilee was held in 2022 prior to her passing later in the year. Queen Elizabeth II was our longest reigning monarch and, in commemoration of her 70 years reign, the Parish Council have planted an Old English Oak tree in her memory on the small triangular area of the village green.

I've done my duties
Paddington, please
take me to my
husband



Remembrance Sunday



There was an impressive turn out again at this year's annual Remembrance Service with various groups and organisations attending to lay wreaths. The support of Village in Bloom volunteers to assist with refreshments at Monteith Parish Room afterwards was much appreciated.

Christmas Illuminations

Thanks to partnership working between the Parish Council and local Cllr George Smith and Cllr Rob Yorke the first phase of the new Christmas illuminations has been installed around the village green.



Future phases will require fund raising and residents' suggestions for ways to contribute would be welcome.

Bypass In Limbo



There's no need to explain to West Auckland residents why a by-pass is so needed; this is just one example of countless accidents that occur on local narrow roads carrying too many vehicles.

Following protests to the Levelling Up proposal for a bypass of Toft Hill only, the Parish Council and local County Councillors pressed for the initial meeting with MP, Dehenna Davison early 2022. Miss Davison promised to investigate possible options to consider the inclusion of the original plan for a bypass to include Toft Hill, West Auckland and Spring Gardens.

Since then Miss Davison has cancelled every arranged follow up meeting, with no evidence of any action taken, and West Auckland is still hanging in limbo; the Parish Council and local County Councillors will continue to lobby for the long awaited West Auckland bypass.

Absolute NO To Abattoir !

The Parish Council, local County Councillors and residents have strongly objected to a proposal for the meat packing company on APTEC Enterprise Park to expand their business to include an abattoir.

The application will be considered in full by Durham County Council in coming months and the Parish Council will continue to object to any proposal for an abattoir at every step of the process.

West Auckland In Bloom



A huge thank you to the volunteers of West Auckland in Bloom for all their hard and creative work over the past year whilst maintaining and developing the planters and flower displays around the village; the volunteers achieved a Northumbria in Bloom Silver Guild Award. Also, on their very first entry, Oakley Cross school also achieved the Silver Guild Award. The Village in Bloom volunteers have raised funds throughout the year with various well supported events. A huge well done to all.

Bumpy Route To School

The uneven path between Chapel Street and Oakley Cross school/New Street residential area has been improved with much needed resurfacing. This was done by volunteers supporting Parish Councillors to resurface using donated materials. The path, which is unadopted so classed as nobody's



responsibility, is well used and the now even surface will benefit pedestrians as well as those with pushchairs/wheelchairs who will find the route much more accessible.

Under 14s Football Team

The Parish Council recently supported local, Lee Curtis in his efforts with a donation towards the newly created under 14s football team.

The team of local children are wished every success.



Tree Planting Programme

The Parish Council strive to continue with a long-term tree planting programme and has this year seen additional trees planted in the Fleece Nursery and Cemetery.

At the Fleece Nursery village green there were a number of various trees planted by volunteers. An avenue of Austrian Pine trees was planted in the cemetery by volunteers, including a team from Smurfit Kappa, assisting Parish Councillors.

Invaluable Life Savers

The fourth village defibrillator was recently sited at the Copeland Road/Windermere Drive junction. The four village devices have proved to be very worthwhile and have been used on several occasions by ambulance services. The other three devices are sited at the bus stop opposite the Workingmen's Club, Memorial Hall and Monteith Close Parish Room.

Simply Social Events

The Parish Council recently supported the Simply Social event which takes places in the afternoon on the first Monday of each month at the Memorial Hall. The donation was a contribution towards the sustainability of the event which brings village residents together.

New Street Play Area

With joint funding and partnership working between the Parish Council and local County Councillors, funds have been secured and allocated for additional play equipment. The two new items are expected to be installed at New Street play area early 2023.

Play Area Protection

Volunteers from the Parish Council have replaced twenty-nine rotting bollards along the edge of the play area and nearby Raby Terrace for the cost of materials only.

The bollards prevent unwanted vehicular access to the children's play area.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)



The MUGA was a previous community project attached to Oakley Cross school. Due to funding cuts the facility has been closed for a number of years.

Thanks to agreement with the Headteacher, partnership working between the Parish Council and Towns & Villages has commenced to provide match funds for a dedicated public access gate, fencing and improved lighting.

This initiative will allow the area to be used as an outside sports facility by the school and also to make it available for public use outside school hours. The project is expected to be complete by September 2023.

Christmas Church Event & Services

St Helens Church

Messy Christmas on Saturday, 17 December at 11.30 am. Crafts and activities for all the family with lunch.

Parish Carol Service with Ferryhill Town Band on Sunday, 18 December at 6.00 pm

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 24 December
Family Service and Christingle at 4.00 pm
Midnight Mass with Carols at 11.30 pm

Family Christmas Mass with Carols on Sunday, 25 December at 9.30 am

West Auckland Vineyard Church

Family Carol Service on Sunday, 18 December at 5.00 pm

Family Christmas Celebration on Christmas Day, Sunday 25 December at 10 am

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

Visit our website:

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

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