

## SPEEDING

A speed check system is still being operated but at a reduced rate due to cutbacks. We would of course like more checks. Many of the speeders are residents and other locals. We appeal to them to observe speed limits before a fatality occurs. BEWARE!!

## GENERAL

### Environment Agency

It is now 20 years since the last major works were carried out along the riverside path and steps. The Environment Agency intend to refurbish the steps during 2017 on the flood bank and put an anti-slip surface on the flagged path prior to handing over future responsibility to the Parish Council.

### BT Public Phone Box

As the pay phone box on Teesway has allegedly not been used for over two years, BT intend to remove it and reinstate the verge sometime in the new year. It would be nice to see the old red box.

### Guided Walks

The Heritage Lottery Fund have funded the Tees Rediscovered project at Ground Works North East. As part of this project, it is intended that two or three guided walks will take place in the summer of 2017, focusing on Neasham and its history. News on this later in the year.

## MAILING LIST

If you would like to be kept up to date with news and events from both the Parish Council and the Reading Room, then drop us an email to be included in the mailing list at:

[neashamPC@gmail.com](mailto:neashamPC@gmail.com) or

[neashamreadingroom@btinternet.com](mailto:neashamreadingroom@btinternet.com) or

alternatively, visit the website and go to the Contact and Mailing List Page.

The same page on the website can be used for local information and events in the parish that you would like circulated to the mailing list.

## PARISH CLERK VACANCY

Our Clerk, Bob Heward retired from office due to pressure of business leaving a paid job vacancy that needs to be filled. Applicants must have effective IT skills, some experience in financial accounting and budgeting and the preparation of agenda for, and the accurate recording of minutes of meetings. An average of 84 hours per year with some evening work is involved. An Application Pack can be obtained from [john.weighell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.weighell@btinternet.com) or ask any Councillor. Due to the resignation of Councillor John Alderson, a vacancy has also arisen for a Parish Councillor. Anyone interested should give their name to any Councillor. We thank John for all his years of work and continuing support.

## PARISH MEETING

In spring or early summer we are proposing to hold a Parish Meeting for all residents to come and meet with Councillors to ask questions, and to give your ideas and suggestions on how you would like to see Neasham go forward into the future. This will take the form of a social evening in the Reading Room, so please come along.

### Your Parish Councillors are:

John Weighell Chairman. Tel: 07729 726182

[John.weighell@btinternet.com](mailto:John.weighell@btinternet.com)

Geoffrey Crute Tel: 01325 722318

[geoffrey.crute@newbusgrange.co.uk](mailto:geoffrey.crute@newbusgrange.co.uk)

Derek Dodwell Vice Chairman Tel: 07711 178599

Pam Dunn Tel: 07809 410298

[pamdunns@icloud.com](mailto:pamdunns@icloud.com)

Eric Miller Tel: 07706 447169

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Keith Sandick Tel: 07757 166759

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### Clerk to the Council:

Vacant

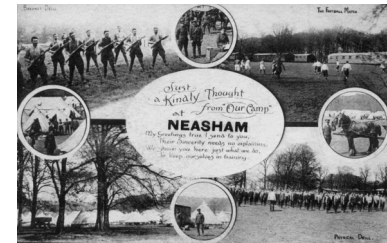
### Ward Councillors:

Joe Kelley: [joe.kelley@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:joe.kelley@darlington.gov.uk)

Lorraine Tostevin:

[lorraine.tostevin@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.tostevin@darlington.gov.uk)

# NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Spring 2017



Remember the start of WWI 100 years ago.  
This is Neasham WWI Training Camp 1914



We care for our Village

# WELCOME ALL

## Neasham Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2017

The last year saw the continued contribution of the Parish Council to the Village. The Parish Council continues to work on a "shoestring" budget and we thank all those volunteers who have provided help on various projects. The Parish Council continues to keep the Council Tax Precept to an absolute minimum for the benefit of the villagers and it is the lowest charge per household in the area. Please remember that all villagers are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings which are held at 7:00pm on the first Monday of the month in the Reading Rooms. We welcome your views and ideas.

**Best wishes to all for the New Year 2017 from your Parish Councillors.**

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

2016 saw several changes to the Parish. Due to the dissolution of low Dinsdale PC and Sockburn Parish Meetings, Neasham Parish almost trebled in size as it took over responsibility for these areas. The old Neasham Parish Council ceased to exist on March 31st and, following an election, in which all original councillors were returned unopposed, a New Parish Council was formed on May 1st which included a new councillor, Tina Murray. The increased Parish size resulted in an additional councillor being required and we co-opted Geoffrey Crute. A map of the new parish can be found on the village green noticeboard and on the website.

Tina Murray has set up a village website on behalf of the Parish Council and Reading Room which is a great platform for village news & information.

<http://www.parish-council.com/neasham>

### BUS SERVICE

Unfortunately the bus service that we previously fought for has still been reduced to one day a week on a Monday only. Times from Neasham are 10:30am, 12:10pm and 2:30pm with return times from Darlington (Tubwell Row Stand I) at 10:10am 11:50am, and 2:10pm. Please support this service as we need to keep it!!

### READING ROOMS NEWS

It has been a busy year in the Reading Room. Courtesy of grant funding from the Banks Community Fund via County Durham Community Foundation, the Big Lottery Fund and the Garfield Weston Foundation, a fabulous new kitchen has been installed together with new flooring, lighting and serving hatch, the work undertaken by Neasham based contractor, Brindle Construction. The old kitchen served us well but was over 30 years old and now we are sleek, integrated and very smart! At the same time, the walls and ceilings in the main hall have had a lick of paint and the ugly meters have been neatly boxed in and new curtains hung making it a lovely modern village hall.

Regular activities continue to be the Whist Club on Monday and Friday evenings, Keep Fit on a Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, a monthly Reading Group on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday and new for this year a monthly Ukelele Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. If you have any ideas for new activities, don't hesitate to contact us.

In 2014, some attempts to start a monthly craft group were made but with no one prepared to be organiser, it fizzled out despite there being lots of enthusiasm from the many members. As there is clearly a desire for some sort of craft activity, there is on-going work to secure funding to provide for a professional textiles artist to facilitate a group – watch this space.

Other events during the year were the popular Coffee Mornings, talks on Kilimanjaro and Paton and Baldwins, a Christmas wreath making workshop, Christmas dance and in a new venture in conjunction with Rural Arts, we hosted our first professional performing arts show, with Louise Jordan in 'No Petticoats Here'.

Dates for your diary already are:

21 February	Ukelele Group
23 February	Reading Group
6 March	Parish Council meeting
11 March	The Pretend Men in 'Police Cops' - another Rural Arts performance
11 April	Reading Room AGM - Come along and get involved
15 April	Easter Coffee morning
24 June	Duck Derby
9 September	Coffee morning
9 December	Christmas dance
16 December	Christmas coffee morning

Remember, the newly refurbished hall is available for hire, subject to availability, at very reasonable rates for meetings, children's parties, sports and hobby activities, small functions and social events, special birthdays and lectures.

### VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Don't forget we are trying to maintain a historical archive of life in Neasham. Old photos, maps and history notes can be viewed on Dropbox. You don't need a Dropbox account to view, just visit the website and click the link, it's the first item on the Local Business and Links page.

### POLICE MATTERS

Due to the shortage of police manpower, we still seem to be fighting a losing battle against speeding and we will continue to work on this perennial issue. We do have a successful cross border Rural Watch in operation where volunteers assist Police with patrols after dark in village and rural areas. A successful year with vehicles seized and arrests made for poaching, illegal vehicles, trespass etc. Further volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Farmwatch co-ordinator, Sue Proudfoot on 07939 268178. Residents can keep up to date with police issues on [www.keepintheknow.co.uk](http://www.keepintheknow.co.uk).