

# NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Spring 2018



Welcome to All

## Parish Council News

During 2017, NPC made available on its website lots of information about the role of the Parish Council, its policies and procedures, agendas, minutes and accounts to be fully compliant with the government's Transparency Code. You are now able to report via the website a defect affecting any public space or structure in the Parish that requires maintenance or repair.

John Alderson retired as a councillor and Janette Rumney was co-opted in his place. In April 2017, we welcomed our new Clerk, John Walker, a resident of Neasham, who is already taking an active role in the day to day running of the Parish. In May 2017, Cllr Eric Miller attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party after being successfully nominated by NPC for the ballot by National Associations of Local Councils.

In May 2017, Councillors presented Cllr John Weighell with an engraved crystal plaque to mark 30 years service to the Parish.

In May 2017, the Annual Parish Assembly was re-established, open to all residents and a chance to meet Parish and Ward Councillors. The date for this year's Assembly will be posted on noticeboards during March.

In January 2018, we welcomed back Cllr Tina Murray after a long illness.

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June

Applause Theatre with their performance of 'night, Mother' by award winning playwright Marsha Norman. Doors open at 7.00pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm and lasts for 90 minutes without an interval.

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July Duck Derby

Scarecrow Competition and Village Show - this coming September

## Christmas Dance – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December

From 7.00pm

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Coffee Morning 10.30am till 12noon

## Parish Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month commencing at 6:30pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

## Your Parish Councillors are:

John Weighell Chairman. Tel: 07729 726182

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Geoffrey Crute Tel: 07841 997071

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Derek Dodwell Vice Chairman Tel: 07711 178599

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Pam Dunn Tel: 07809 410298

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Tina Murray Tel: 07907 469065

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Janette Rumney Tel: 07508 483841

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Keith Sandick Tel: 07757 166759

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## Clerk to the Council:

John Walker Tel:07915 611456

Neasham PC@gmail.com

## Ward Councillors:

Joe Kelley: joe.kelley@darlington.gov.uk

Lorraine Tostevin: lorraine.tostevin@darlington.gov.uk

## Neasham Websites

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

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

The Reading Room elects its officers, trustees and committee members on an annual basis at its Annual General Meeting, which this year will be held on Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm. This is an open meeting and we would very much welcome new members and your attendance at the AGM to listen to your ideas/thoughts and views about the Reading Room. If you are interested in being a Committee Member there will be a nomination sheet on the Reading Room Notice Board from the end of March.

## Planned Events for 2018

Details of events planned for 2018 are included in our newly redesigned newsletter which was issued to our mailing list on 18<sup>th</sup> February. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive our newsletter please email [NeashamRR@gmail.com](mailto:NeashamRR@gmail.com). Full information is also posted on the parish website.

Here are some of the highlights:-

## 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018

Green Woodworking Workshops with Chris Helliwell At Clervaux Trust, Jolby Lane, Croft on Tees, DL2 2TF. These workshops have been made possible by a grant from the Radcliffe Trust which will also fund further heritage craft workshops in 2018, to follow on from the workshops currently funded by the River Tees Rediscovered project.

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Spring Coffee Morning 10.30 till 12.00 noon

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Snake Davis – Burden of Paradise

Burden of Paradise with renowned saxophonist Snake Davis play an eclectic mix of soul, pop, folk and jazz. Fun, accessible and highly musical. No drums. Just voice, saxophone and a pulsing double bass (and a bit of ukulele). Doors Open 7.00pm Performance starts at 7.30pm .

## Planning

Permission was granted in outline for ten new houses on the former Wood Nursery Site in Neasham and full permission granted for a detached dwelling at 4 Dibdale Road. An application is due to be submitted in the near future to Darlington Borough Council for a residential chalet park on the old brickworks site at Skipbridge and is covered by Hurworth Parish Council.

## Environment Agency

The riverside steps and walkway on the flood bank have been in place for over twenty years and the EA have recently completed refurbishment of all steps prior to handing over future responsibility for their upkeep to NPC. The EA will retain responsibility for the maintenance of the flagged path. At NPC's request, they removed an unused set of steps at the eastern end of the green and a set in the garden of the Fox and Hounds.

## Trees

Cllr Geoffrey Crute has completed the photography and number tagging of all village trees for which NPC has responsibility, to compile a Tree Register. A pollarding and pruning plan is now in place with six trees attended to in 2017 and more to follow this year. A diseased tree outside No 5 Teesway was removed and a new cherry tree put in its place.

## Fly Tipping & Litter Picking

We, like other areas, are seeing an increase in fly tipping. Please report instances on dedicated phone number 01325 405111 or report it to a Councillor. We wish to record our thanks to residents who regularly pick litter in the Parish. Collection bags are available from Cllr John Weighell.

## Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

The British Heart Foundation has awarded NPC a subsidised AED. A generous grant from the Agnes Spencer Charitable Trust via Tees Valley Community Foundation funded the balance of the cost and a cabinet to house it. Alex McKee of The Fox and Hounds has very generously agreed for the AED to be located on its front wall. This will be lifesaving in the event that someone in the village suffers a cardiac arrest. Although the AED is designed for use by someone with no training, NPC will be arranging AED and CPR training sessions in the near future to which all residents will be invited.

## Christmas Tree & Floral Displays

In December 2017, the lights affixed to the tree were found to be badly damaged and so NPC replaced them. NPC has agreed to light the Millennium garden and the new Christmas tree behind it next year rather than the tree that has been previously used.

The flower tubs and flowerbed displays in 2017 were once again well praised by residents and visitors. Our thanks to Cllr Pam Dunn and all volunteers who plant and maintain them.

The community vegetable planter was re-sited on the village green. Please feel free to plant vegetables in it and most importantly harvest the tasty veg. If you would like to be involved in obtaining compost and veg plants from the Hi Grow Darlo allotment to put into the community planter, please contact Cllr Tina Murray.

## Local Walks

NPC has produced a series of eight local walks utilising the public footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. Routes and descriptions can be found in the new Local Walks section of the website.

## Police Matters

Due to staff cutbacks, we see very little police presence in our Parish. Occasional speed checks by Special Constables are undertaken but no high profile appearances. NPC has identified the models, cost and location sites for two pole mounted Vehicle Activated LED Slow Down signs. Views will be sought from residents on this matter at the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly. We do have a very successful Rural Watch operational in this area with cross border night time surveillances.

## Reading Room

### Neasham Reading Room continues to thrive...

In 2017 the Reading Room offered a range of successful, well supported events including hosting local drama and courtesy of Rural Arts, nationally acclaimed theatre. A wide variety of groups and classes continued to meet on a regular basis and a Craft Group was re-established with the support of professional tutors, funded by the River Tees Rediscovered project.

In 2018 we are looking forward to more refurbishment work with planned improvements to the male toilets, decoration of the rear lobby and building of additional storage. The external painting started last year will also be completed. This together with the work carried out to the kitchen and main hall in 2016, has made a major improvement to the Reading Room, helping to keep our village hall Fit for the Community and in good shape as an attractive, welcoming place to host local events for many years to come.

The purchase of our own portable stage has now become a reality with grant funding from the **Foyle Foundation** and **Darlington For Culture**. This is great news and will be a real asset for us in the professional staging of events. The stage has been ordered and will be with us soon.