

SPEEDING

A speed check system is still being operated. This has proved to be very successful with many warnings and convictions being issued. Pursuant to the PACT meetings (see under Police Matters), the police have introduced a new hand held radar speed gun which is now being used in the villages on a regular basis and which is being proved to be very effective . BEWARE!!

FLOWER TUBS & MILLENIUM GARDEN

The flower tubs in the Village have again been a fantastic success with wonderful displays and our thanks go out to all those who have sponsored and assisted with planting and watering. Anyone wishing to replace plants outside their property should feel free to do so. The Millennium Garden does need constant attention with cutting back and weeding. Any additional volunteers would be welcome.



Northumbria in Bloom Gold Medal Village:

Last year we were awarded a Silver Gilt Medal in the competition but with a concentrated effort by all this year we won Gold!! Many thanks to all who put in so much hard work and effort to achieve this and also to those residents who made generous donations to fund the displays. To beat fourteen similar size villages to win Gold was a real achievement.

FLOOD DEFENCES

At the time of the last newsletter the latest flood prevention work was under preparation. The work is now complete. The work was carried out at Kent Beck and on the flood walls and bank to the north of the village. The work included a new bridge at the west end of the village.

We commend the Environment Agency and their contractors for their tremendous efforts in difficult and adverse climatic conditions to protect our village. Many thanks go out to the villagers for their patience with the inconvenience of the village being closed off for almost a year with a small footbridge over Kent Beck to an outside car park. Four ornamental trees planted during the works have not survived and will be replaced soon. The brickwork at Kent Bridge has panels of Caithness stone engraved with oak leaves as a feature.

FOOTPATH—NEASHAM TO HURWORTH

The new footpath link to Hurworth is now, can you believe, 9 years old and well used by walkers and cyclists alike. This footpath has clearly reduced the risk of accident and injury to pedestrians on this stretch of road. The Parish council fought hard for this path and the effort was well worthwhile. There is a problem with litter on the footpath and it's disgraceful. Most conscientious people do pick up the litter and place it in the bin opposite to the road to Newbus Grange. Unfortunately it's the only bin on the whole pathway. Hedge and trees are maturing well.

FOX & HOUNDS

This is now under new ownership. Welcome to Malcolm, Alex and family and we wish them well in their new venture. It was hoped to carry out major development and refurbishment in time for Christmas but timescale proved to be prohibitive and work will now be carried out in the new year. However, it's business as usual so please support your local.

Your Parish Councillors are:

John Weighell—Chairman (Tel: 07729 726182)

John Alderson

John Day

Derek Dodwell—Vice Chairman

Pam Dunn

Eric Miller

Keith Sandick

Clerk to the Council:

Bob Heward (Tel: 07718 428443)

Ward Councillors:

Martin Swainston & Joe Kelley



NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Autumn 2014



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



We care for our Village

WELCOME

Neasham Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2014

It has been some time since the last newsletter but it is back by popular request.

It's time to bring everyone up to date with a brief report on events in the Village..

Best wishes in advance for Christmas 2014 and New Year 2015 from your Parish Councillors.

This year marked the end of an era when after four generations of the Wood family serving Neasham Parish Council. Daphne Taylor retired from the Council to concentrate on setting up a new business in Humberside. We thank Daphne for all her efforts over the years and wish her and husband Lewis every success in their new venture. Daphne's vacancy was filled by Pam Dunn who we wish well.

Since the last newsletter we also sadly saw the passing of Bernard and Greta Sanderson, the Sanderson family also being long time residents of Neasham and great contributors to the Parish Council and the community.

This year again saw the continued valuable contribution of the Parish Council to the village. The Parish Council continues to work on a "shoestring" budget and we thank all those who have provided help on projects on a volunteer basis for which we are grateful. The Parish Council continues to keep the Council Tax Precept to an absolute minimum for the benefit of the villagers and 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.

BUS SERVICE

After much discussion and support, a new bus service was introduced by Scarlet Band for an initial period of two years from March this year. (hopefully to be extended). This service runs 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday). 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

The Reading Rooms have had a successful year of fundraising thanks to the generosity and support of the villagers. These events have included the Duck Derby, Christmas Dance, an Italian Evening and various talks and coffee mornings. Groups using the Reading Rooms regularly include a Whist Club on Mondays and Fridays, Keep Fit on Wednesday Evening and Thursday Morning. Dance Club on Saturday and monthly meetings of the Reading Group and Craft Group. Contact names etc. are available on the Reading Rooms notice board. A new addition next year (2015) is a village pantomime. Please watch notice boards for details.

An induction loop system has been installed to assist the hard of hearing.

Tribute to the Fallen: Two of the ceramic poppies from the Blood Swept Land and Seas of Red display at the Tower of London have been purchased by the Parish Council as a tribute to those lost from our village and all others. When they arrive an event will be arranged in the Reading Rooms to mount them on the Memorial Plaque.

The Reading Rooms are for the use of the parish members and are available for any private special occasion and events at a reasonable charge. Please contact Keith or Gillian on **721653** for contact details.

Please continue your support for this valuable part of our community.

We give many thanks to the Wrightson family for its continued support to the Reading Rooms and the Village.

The Duck Derby was again held on the river and was a huge success yet again.

The Christmas dance is being held again in December this year. If interested, contact the Reading Rooms Committee for tickets.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Veteran stalwarts (of much combined age) who have consistently put lights on the tree have continued longer than anticipated. Younger volunteers are needed. Let us keep this tradition.



POLICE MATTERS

We have monthly meetings of PACT (Police and Communities Together) held in three venues, Hurworth, Middleton St George and Neasham, where we can air our problems and concerns directly to police officers.

We continue to have an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and more recently a Rural Watch Scheme. Rural Watch is manned by volunteers to target night time theft and issues such as poaching and trespass. Thanks go to the co-ordinator and volunteers who spend hours in darkness on patrol.

Crime continues to be at a low level but we ask everyone to be vigilant and report anything suspicious on 101. Winter is nearly here so keep safe.

NEW VILLAGERS

A warm welcome to all newcomers to the village and we invite them to attend all events in the village. Your help and assistance in our efforts to maintain one of the best villages in the County would be greatly appreciated.