

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!!

FLOWER TUBS & MILLENNIUM GARDEN ETC

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. The Millennium Garden does need constant attention and any additional volunteers would be welcome. Much of the cost of plants, compost etc. has been met by Neasham Parish Council but due to increasing costs any additional donations are welcome.

Coun Pam Dunn and husband Paul, together with help from Benjamin Riddle planted four sacks of daffodils and crocuses along the riverside footpath edge. These were bought with the remaining money from donations from villagers and the collecting box in the Fox & Hounds. The kitty is now empty so donations next year will be most welcome.

We did not enter Northumbria in Bloom this year due to uncertainty with grass cutting by DBC.

FLOOD DEFENCES

The flood defences are working well.

During the very high river on 5 December, our new flood defences were well tested and performed well. The level of water that we had would certainly have overtopped the old bridge. Once again, and on behalf of residents, our thanks to the Environment Agency for all the work and effort.

FOX & HOUNDS

Since the last newsletter the Fox & Hounds closed for several weeks and underwent a major redevelopment. In view of the fact that many village pubs are closing we are lucky to still have our village pub and we hope that you support it.

THE POPPIES & WWI

Neasham Parish Council bought two of the ceramic poppies from the Tower of London display together with two display cabinets. A talk on 14th November was presented by Chris Lloyd of the D&S Times and the Northern Echo for which we give many thanks. Coun John Weighell introduced Sir Mark Wrightson who gave a speech dedicating the poppies.



The event was very well attended with approximately 60 people. Many thanks to John Day for mounting the display and Martin for the electrical work. Many thanks to Tina Murray, Pam Dunn and Lesley Blundell for organising the event.

Neasham Parish Council Task List

It is proposed that each councillor will have a designated task for which they are responsible.

John Weighell & Jon Alderson: All roadside trees & hedges.
John Day: Paved walkway along flood bank and seats and street furniture.

Derek Dodwell: Attend presentations and various meetings on the council's behalf and reporting to authorities on footpath concerns etc.

Pam Dunn: Village flower tubs and beds.

Eric Miller: Removing tree prunings and maintain ford crossing.

Keith Sandick: Footpath at rear of Court field and behind the north of Teesway and also dog fouling signs at strategic points.

Your Parish Councillors are:

John Weighell Chairman. Tel: 07729 726182

John.weighell@btinternet.com

John Alderson Tel: 07885 852561

johnralderson7@gmail.com

John Day Tel: 07912 676018

dayjohn@hotmail.co.uk

Derek Dodwell Vice Chairman Tel: 07711 178599

Pam Dunn Tel: 07809 410298

pamdunns@icloud.com

Eric Miller Tel: 07706 447169

ericmiller7714@gmail.com

Keith Sandick Tel: 07757 166759

ksandick@gmail.com

Clerk to the Council:

Bob Heward Tel: 07718 428443

bobheward@ntlworld.com

Ward Councillors:

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

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

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER December 2015



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

December 2015

It is a year since the last newsletter so it's time to bring everyone up to date with a brief report on events in the village and parish

Best wishes in advance for Christmas 2015 and New Year 2016 from your Parish Councillors.

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.

Community Governance Review:

In the Spring of 2016, Neasham Parish will be extended. As a consequence of the Review, Low Dinsdale Parish Council is being disbanded. The northern section is to become part of Middleton St George Parish Council and the southern section, along with the former Sockburn Parish Meeting will become part of a new Neasham Parish Council. At that time elections will be held. This new arrangement will double the area covered by Neasham Parish Council.



BUS SERVICE

Unfortunately the bus service that we previously fought for has now 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

2015 has been another successful year with March seeing the hosting of its first ever pantomime. It was a sell out. Hopefully there will be similar events.

Christmas & Easter coffee mornings have been a great success as was the Afternoon Tea in June. The Christmas Dance is as popular as ever and there was a very successful music night with a live band. Our annual Christmas Coffee Morning is on Saturday 19 December this year at 10:30am.

At 7:30pm on Thursday 21 January 2016, Andy Macnaughton-Jones will give a thank you talk and presentation about his climbing of Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise funds for CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer charity.

Groups using the Reading Rooms include a Whist Club on Mondays and Fridays, Keep Fit on Wednesday Evenings and Thursday Mornings, and Dance Club on Saturday.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of our community events. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. In April each year a new committee is elected and if you are interested in being involved, look out for notifications.

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 01325 721653 for details.

Many thanks again to the Wrightson Family for its good support for the Reading Rooms and Village.

For details of the Reading Rooms events and Newsletter and to receive details by email please contact:

Tina Murray: 01325 721704

Email: tmurray478@btinternet.com

Lesley Blundell: 01325 720366

Email: lesleyblundell13@gmail.com

Pam Dunn: 01325 722798

Email: pamdunns@icloud.com

CHRISTMAS TREE

Veteran stalwarts (of much combined age) who have consistently put lights on the tree and have again done the business.

Many thanks to tem. Further volunteers would be very welcome



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.