

Autumn -
Winter
2020

Dinnington Parish Newsletter

Serving the Community

northumbria in bloom
Communities Growing Together

**2018 SILVER AWARD
(LARGE VILLAGE)**

On behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, we hope you are safe and well and would like to wish everyone who lives and works in the village a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Like everybody else we have had a very difficult period over the Covid-19 National Lockdown. We held our last Parish Council meeting back in February, just before the lockdown began and only recommenced having virtual meetings in July. We could not get our normal Spring Newsletter printed and delivered, so we are pleased to have managed to get this one out.

Recently Cllrs Sylvia Hood, Danielle Dowd and Keith Oliver left the Parish Council and we would like to thank them most sincerely for all their efforts during their time with us. It would be remiss of us not to give a special mention to Sylvia Hood who has been a stalwart of the Parish Council for over 25 years and we wish her well in her retirement.

At the moment we have a number of vacancies for new Parish Cllrs and if anyone is interested in joining please contact the Parish Clerk. Parish Councils are a key part of the English local government family. Formal elections are held every four years and membership is open to residents or those with a close connection to the Parish Council's area, new members can be co-opted between elections if required. Parish Councils are not supervised by the City Council and they can, and do, work on a large range of matters with direct benefit to their Community areas.

New Defibrillator in the village adjacent to the Post Office



After being approached by our Local Ward Councillors advising us of a scheme they were promoting to supply Defibrillators around the area we agreed to make a contribution and take one in the village. It has been located on the wall adjacent to the Post Office in the centre of the village. It had to be in this type of location as it needs to be able to be accessed 24/7 and requires a permanent power supply, both for charging and overnight illumination, so it can also be easily seen and accessed during the hours of darkness. Our thanks go to the owners of the Post Office for agreeing to the location and also for supplying the permanent power.

In future if you need to dial 999 in an emergency you will be advised of its location and be given the pass code to open the box and retrieve the defibrillator for immediate use on the casualty, until the emergency services arrive to assist.

Delivering food parcels to the Community

During the recent National Covid-19 lockdown over the Spring and into the Summer we were given a grant of £1000 from Banks Community Fund to assist with supporting the Community at this difficult time. We were able to use this money together with other free food bank supplies to make up food parcels in the Village Hall to distribute around households in the village. We must give our thanks to Cllrs Dowd, Phelps and Oliver for their work in organising, collecting, taking deliveries and finally delivering the food parcels, ably assisted by members of our community Craig Dowd, Bob Sephton and Revd Mark Edwards.

Xmas lights Competition

Just to add a bit of interest to the Xmas festivities and in an effort to encourage people to brighten up the village we have again decided to judge the Xmas lights on properties and to award a prize for what we consider the best display. £100 for winner, 2 runners up of £50.

Banks Mining - Brenkley Lane Surface Mine Update

The operations are substantially complete with all of the works South of Brenkley Road having been restored apart from a small area around the bridge. Banks are just finishing off the overburden mound on the northside, which is the only area left to be topsoiled and this will hopefully be finalised shortly if they get a good run of weather. This only leaves the removal of the bridge under the highway and this is due to be completed in March 2021.

Whilst Banks were working on site the area has benefitted from them awarding a number of grants throughout the Parish, more recently awarding Dinnington Village Football Team a grant of £2000 to purchase new strips and associated team clothing.

Persimmon Homes (Augusta Park)

They now have 87 dwellings occupied on site, 20 plots are reserved and 29 are currently released for sale. They are continuing to progress further plots eventually totaling 206.

New Tree planting in the village

We have been liaising with Newcastle City Council over a number of dead trees in various locations around the village which needed replacing. We have subsequently ordered 10 replacement trees for damaged locations with 5 on Dinnington Green in the first instance and 5 in a new location on the west side of the main road coming into the village from Kingston Park. We are planning to purchase more trees in the future.

Neighbourhood Plan

We are continuing to work with our consultant to finalise our draft plan. We completed Chapter 5, with Policies DNP1 - Local Green Spaces and DNP2 - Valued Village Assets in August, which completes the bulk of the Draft information for the plan. These are currently with Newcastle City Council for initial review and producing the required maps for the final document.

Dinnington Community Library

Having carefully considered the risks to their members and their own volunteers the library is currently temporarily closed due to the Covid pandemic. The volunteers will look again at the situation early next year and we will advise you again in due course.

Adopt-a-Planter and Northumbria in Bloom 2020

Like a lot of similar competitions the organisers have cancelled this year's competition due to the Covid pandemic and are taking stock before they decide whether to go ahead again next year. We have had considerable success in the past, winning a Silver Award in the large village category, Gold in the residential Communities category, Silver Gilt in the Private Gardens category and the Allotments won a Silver Award at the first attempt. We believe entering the competition lifts the floral displays around the village and improves it considerably. We would really like to express our gratitude to our volunteers who have carried on maintaining the floral beds and planters throughout the village this year.

Crime

From our monthly discussions with the police we know that Dinnington continues to have very low reported incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour. However, can residents when parking please leave enough room on pavements for users of wheelchairs and buggies and to ensure you do not cause an obstruction. Could we also appeal to properties with hedging to keep them trimmed to avoid them overhanging and in some cases partially blocking the adjacent footpaths, again making it difficult to pass safely on the pavement.

Dog Fouling

We are still receiving complaints about the amount of dog fouling around the village. The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dogs and there is no excuse for not picking up. If you have any information on those responsible for allowing dogs to foul without picking up you can contact the dog warden on 0191 211 6102 or online: <https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/dog-fouling/form>

Dinnington Village Hall Update

Since our last report in December 2019 we have all experienced the strangest of years!

2020 started in the usual way with our January committee meeting, finalising arrangements for the Northumberland Theatre Co. production and planning for more update work on the Main Hall – new PVC

roofline eaves, new kitchen floor, window and cooker and new boiler room door, for which we had received funding from Banks Community Fund. Upgrading the Playgroup outdoor area is also planned.

The Northumberland Theatre Co. production of the Snow Queen was much enjoyed by around 100 adults and children and we thank Dinnington based businesses Dixon & Thompson, James Anthony Workwear and Challenge Northumberland for their generous sponsorship, and Terry Borley of the Masons Arms for kindly donating the wine.

We welcomed the opening of our new Playgroup, Jellytots, and a new weekly Ashtanga Yoga Group.

The exterior work was completed and the kitchen floor prepared. Then along came Covid 19 and both our buildings had to be closed until further notice!

During the lockdown we were allowed to check the buildings and regular scheduled inspections and services were carried out on the Fire Alarms, Boilers etc. and PAT testing done. We applied for and received the Government Small Business (Leisure) Covid 19 grant which will help with loss of income.

In August the committee was able to meet to plan for possible reopening in September, firstly making our building Covid 19 secure. This included (having ploughed through the 29 pages of Government guidelines) completing Risk Assessments, installing hand sanitising wall dispensers, guidance posters and floor and path markings and extra Covid 19 hire rules for our usergroups. Each building now has its own QR code for Track and Trace.

We reopened on 7 September and at the time of writing 3 regular Groups are operating – Jellytots, Leanne School of Dance and Zumba. The other regular Groups – Library, Crafts, Bowls Club, Rainbows and Brownies, Yoga, WI, NE Begonia Society, Spiritual Development remain closed, but do plan to return, some possibly in the New Year.

The Northumberland Theatre Co. has postponed its Christmas production, 'Alice in Wonderland' until January 2022.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to George Forster who resigned from the committee for health reasons. We will miss his cheerful presence at our meetings. We thank him for all he has done and wish him well.

Finally, as Banks Mining winds up its operations at Brenkley, its Community Fund having already closed, we would like to place on record our sincere thanks for the financial help the Village Hall has received over the last 11 years – totalling over £100k! Without them we would not have been able to do all the refurbishment work on our buildings, making them comfortable and attractive spaces for our users. We have especially appreciated the professionalism, efficiency and friendliness all their staff have shown in our dealings with them.

To find out more about the Village Hall or make a donation please contact Treasurer Mike Wood 01661 825358 or Secretary Joyce Porter 01661 821041

St Matthew's Church

Oh how we wish we could say "A warm welcome awaits you at St. Matthews Church, please come and join us for our Special Christmas Services" but sadly this year due to the guidance and regulations relating to the corona virus pandemic we are not able or allowed to hold services where there are likely to be large congregations.

It is with sadness and regret therefore that we have to inform you that the traditional Carol Service, normally held on the afternoon of the second Sunday in December and the very popular Christingle service held on the afternoon of Christmas Eve will **NOT** be taking place this year.

At present we are still planning to hold **MIDNIGHT MASS** (The first service of Christmas) which will start at 11.30pm on **CHRISTMAS EVE**, Thursday 24th December.

The traditional **CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE** is also planned to take place at 9.30am on **CHRISTMAS DAY**, Friday 25th December. (These of course will be subject to change if there are national or local lockdowns in place).

CLOSURE OF THE WEST GATE. Please note that to preserve the integrity of the path the gate at the west end of the church will be locked for a 24 hour period from 6.00pm on Thursday 31st December until 6.00pm on Friday 1st January. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Warning notices will be posted on the notice boards and the main gate during the closure period.

Normally in December we deliver a card from the church to every home in Dinnington. But again sadly due to Covid 19 we are unable to do this. We do however wish you Peace and Joy this Christmas from all at St Matthews Church. Our thanks for your support of our village church at the heart of the Community.

City Councillors' Surgery

Monthly – 2nd Saturday
(except August)
10.30am-11.30am
Dinnington Social Club

Jellytots Playgroup

Mon, Tues & Wed,
09.00 until 15.00

Village Hall

Dinnington *

Community Library

Wed & Sat 10.30am-12.30pm
Fri 2.00pm-4.00pm

Zumba Gold

Fridays
9.30 – 11.30am
Village Hall

Leanne Dance Class

Thursday
5.00pm – 6.00pm
Village Hall

Old Peoples' Treat Fund

Bingo
8.30pm Thursdays
Dinnington Social Club

Beaver Scouts *

Mondays
5.45pm-7.00pm
Scout HQ

Cub Scouts *

Tuesdays
6.30pm-8.00pm
Scout HQ

Scouts *

Mondays
7.30pm-9.00pm
Scout HQ

Rainbows *

Tuesdays
5.00pm-6.00pm
Village Hall

Brownies *

Tuesdays
6.00pm – 7.30pm
Village Hall

Handicrafts *

Thursdays
7.00pm
Memorial Institute

Indoor Carpet Bowls *

Wed 7.00pm-9.00pm
Village Hall

Dinnington Village WI *

2nd Thursday of every month
7.00pm-9.00pm
Village Hall

* Temporarily closed due to
Covid-19 pandemic

St Matthew's Church

Sundays 9.30am - Service and Holy Communion
Junior Church members meet during service
Wednesdays 10.15am - Holy Communion BCP

Bible Study Group

1st Wednesday of each month

Coffee morning

10.30am-11.30am Second Saturday of the month in Memorial Institute

Rev'd Mark Edwards, MBE

Tel: 01661 872320

Doctors at the Clinic, Main Road, Dinnington

Ponteland Medical Group

Mon – Fri 8.15am-12.15pm

Tues – No Doctor. Nurse in
attendance 9.00am-12.15

Parish Councillors: Cllrs Raymond Thompson (Chairman) Tel: 0191 2363379; Mike Wood (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Audrey Dellow; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Paul Hitchenes Tel: 07590 533525

For more information visit the website at: www.spanglefish.com/dinnington

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