

Autumn -
Winter
2023

Dinnington Parish Newsletter

Serving the Community



On behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, we would like to wish everyone who lives and works in the parish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Audrey Dellow has recently retired from the Parish Council and we would like to thank her most sincerely for all her efforts during the last 12 years and wish her well for the future. Cllr Raymond Thompson decided to stand down from the role of chairman at the AGM after 20 years' service for which we sincerely thank him and Cllr Mike Wood was voted in to replace him.

We still have a number of vacancies for new Parish Councillors and if anyone is interested in joining please contact the Parish Clerk.

Xmas lights Competition

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. These will be judged during week commencing 18 Dec.

Falcons Pharmacy

We are pleased to welcome Falcons Pharmacy to the village. They are presently situated in the old library at the existing doctors, but will move in due course to the new doctors' building, when it is built and opened.



They offer free & fast prescription collection and delivery, free weekly dosette/pill packs, free Flu & Covid vaccination, free blood Pressure checkups, free NHS minor ailments/pharmacy first, CPCS - Emergency supply of medications, Travel health advice and New medicine service. They are open Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm and we would encourage you to use them and help build their business in the parish for the future use of the community.

Community Coffee Morning

The weekly coffee morning and social get together has been a great success, so much so that the regulars have decided to carry on and continue to meet throughout the year. They would encourage anyone who fancies a bit of company and a chat, with free tea and coffee, to come and join them in the Memorial Institute (next to the Village Hall) from 10.30 until 12.30 on a Wednesday morning. Everyone welcome.

Dinnington Community Library



Dinnington Community Library celebrated their tenth anniversary on the evening of Saturday 23 September in the Memorial Institute. The event was very well attended and the volunteers, members and guests had a thoroughly good evening. They could still do with more support from the community in the form of more members though. Visit the library and see what they have to offer. The library is located in the Memorial Institute (next to the Village Hall). Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Recreation Ground Improvements

The new children's play area has now been largely installed and opened, complete with a perimeter enclosing fence, along with other improvements to the Activity Track. At the time of going to press, the slide and toddler unit still requires grass mat surfacing, but due to the recent extremely poor weather conditions the area needs to dry off, before this can be completed, so they are temporarily fenced off. Likewise the activity trail equipment is installed, but the grass matting has not established, again due to being waterlogged. They will be fenced off for a couple more weeks to allow the ground to recover. The new equipment can be enjoyed now and hopefully by future generations for many years to come.

Development of the field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments

The proposals have now been sufficiently advanced to be submitted for planning permission, the consultation period finishing on 7 November. NCC Highways have come back with comments as they require more internal areas of hard standing to allow lorries to turn on site, the car parking layout revamped, the visibility splay at the entrance improved, the entrance tarmacked to avoid mud being tracked onto the highway and cycle parking provided.

All of the above will realistically take until mid-Jan to resolve. However at that stage construction work can be tendered, planned and hopefully work proceed in the spring.

Driver Feedback Signs

The 2 additional Driver feedback signs on Front Street near the east end of Rede Place have now been installed. One facing west and the other east towards the village centre. The one facing east has been funded by the Parish Council.

Further Projects we are pursuing, utilising S106 and CiL money.

Turn the area of the Old School Field remaining after construction of the Doctors into a small simple park for the enjoyment of the public, constructing traffic calming measures on Main Road and reducing the speed limit to 20mph (subject to the recent consultation), a new village map beside the Post Office to replace the out of date existing one, additional litterbins and possible additional grass cuts, if the need arises.

Tree Planting in the Village

We have again been working with Newcastle City Council to obtain new trees in various locations around the village where they had died or new locations were identified. We have advised them of a further 20 locations round the village for planting next year, once they have approved our suggested positions for underground services, sight lines etc.

New Doctors Surgery

Following on from the public consultation by the doctors for their proposed new surgery earlier in the year, the Developers have been having detailed planning discussions with NCC. This has taken some time to move forward and has resulted in the site having to be made slightly larger to accommodate everything required.

The plan is still to construct the new Doctors surgery immediately behind the current building and when complete decant from the current building into the new and then demolish the old building, level the area and construct a car park and entrance at the front. The programme is to progress to obtain full planning permission in the next few months and hopefully complete the works during 2025.

Neighbourhood Plan

The final "Submission" version of the NP was submitted to NCC on 1 Jan 23 and is being subjected to a final round of consultation led this time by Newcastle City Council. This will be followed in time by an independent Examination to ensure the Plan meets statutory requirements. Due to the Doctors now requiring a slightly larger area in the Old School field than they did when the Neighbourhood Plan was finalised, the plan has had to be temporarily paused, as in its present form it could compromise the new GP surgery land requirement. It will proceed again, as soon as the Doctors land requirements are finalised and any clashes corrected.

The final step of the Neighbourhood Plan process is for the Plan to proceed to a referendum, organised by Newcastle City Council and open to all residents of Dinnington Parish. If this results in a majority support for the Plan, it will then be adopted and be used by Newcastle City Council as a statutory document in the determination of future planning applications in the Parish.

Current Doctors Surgery

After picking up a number of complaints from the community about the doctor's current level of services and difficulties in obtaining appointments, we invited them to attend our November meeting to discuss the issues. Northumbria Primary Care (NPC) attended, who are the organisation that runs Ponteland Medical Group, and our Dinnington surgery. They accepted that the service was not as good as they would have liked, due to a lack of staff on occasions. Services currently offered from Dinnington surgery include a GP session on a Monday and Wednesday and a nurse clinic is again planned for a Tuesday

from next month and they are hopeful that other clinics will be put in place on the other two weekdays. NPC will confirm the details with us as soon as they can.

Facebook

For all the Facebook users out there we'd like to reassure you that although we don't have a Facebook presence, we do monitor the posts particularly relevant to the Parish and take appropriate action as required. We did pick up the comments about the mess after the recent grass cutting and got NCC back the next day to clear up the mess.

1st Dinnington Scout Group



The Group has had a busy 90th Anniversary year including a Drop-in Day at our HQ in June, and the Anniversary Camp in July at Broadwood, Morpeth, which was a great success in spite of the torrential rain, which tried to spoil things all weekend. We said goodbye to Joyce Porter who has retired from Scouting after 59 years' service having held many appointments in the movement in District and in Northumberland County as well as in Dinnington. She is succeeded by George Appleby (see contact details below)

1st Dinnington Scout Group welcomes boys and girls from 6 – 14 years in 3 sections – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. If your child is interested in joining please contact Group Scout Leader George Appleby Mobile 07713 090005, email george@1stdinnington.org.uk

Dinnington Village Hall



Our Centenary Event on Saturday 11 November was enjoyed by over 100 people. With our photographic displays, expertly put together by Alan Proudlock, and memorabilia, we celebrated the achievements of many village folk who, over the last 100 years have worked hard to make sure our buildings are well used and maintained. It was appropriate that the event was held on Armistice Day as the two halls were built in memory of those village men who fell in the Great War 1914 -1918. We observed the Two Minutes Silence at 11am.

Sadly the Northumberland Theatre Company will not be coming to the Village Hall with a Christmas Pantomime in January as they were unsuccessful in their bid for Arts Council funding. We hope to welcome them some time later in 2024 with one of their other productions. Our next project is to install new, more efficient, radiators in the former Women's Institute Room at the rear of the Main

Hall. We continue to monitor the situation with the price of Gas and Electricity, and are pleased to report that our hire charges will continue to remain the same as they were in 2012.

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

St Matthew's Church

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT St. MATTHEWS - Please come and join us for our special services at Christmas.

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 3.00PM – TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE BY CANDLE LIGHT, WITH TEA, COFFEE AND MINCE PIES AFTERWARDS.

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

No morning Service at 9.30 am

THE EVER POPULAR CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT 4.30PM

MIDNIGHT MASS AT 11.30PM – THE FIRST SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS.

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY.

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE AT 9.30AM.

CLOSURE OF THE WEST GATE. Please note that as usual the west gate will be locked for 24 hours to preserve the integrity of the path through the churchyard. The west gate will therefore be closed and locked for a **24 hour period from 6.00pm on Sunday 31th December until 6.00pm on Monday 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.

Wishing 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.

Community Coffee Morning

Wednesdays
10.30 – 12.30pm
Memorial Institute
Everyone Welcome

Jellytots Playgroup

Mon, Tues & Wed,
9.00 - 3.00pm
Village Hall

**Dinnington
Community Library**

Wed & Sat 10.30am - 12.30pm
Memorial Institute

Zumba Gold

Fridays
9.30 – 11.30am
Village Hall

Leanne Dance Class

Thursdays
5.00pm – 6.00pm
Village Hall

Old Peoples' Treat Fund

Bingo
8.30pm Thursdays
Dinnington Social Club

Beaver Scouts

Mondays
6.00pm – 7.15pm
Scout HQ

Cub Scouts

Tuesdays
6.30pm-8.00pm
Scout HQ

Scouts

Thursdays
7.30pm-9.00pm
Scout HQ

Legs, Bums & Tums

Mondays
6.00 – 7.00pm
Village Hall

Brownies

Tuesdays
6.15pm – 7.45pm
Village Hall

Handicrafts

Thursdays
1.30 – 3.30pm
Memorial Institute

Indoor Carpet Bowls

Wednesday
7.00pm - 9.00pm
Village Hall

Dinnington Village WI

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

Ballroom Dancing Class

Mondays
7.30 - 9.00pm
Village Hall

St Matthew's Church

Sundays 9.30am – Family Holy
Communion Service
Wednesdays 10.15am - Holy Communion
BCP

Yoga

Thursdays 6.15pm – 7.15pm
Fridays 10.00 – 11.00am
Memorial Institute

Pilates

Tuesdays
9.15 – 10.15am
Memorial Institute

Coffee morning

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

Revd Mark Edwards, MBE

Tel: 01661 872320

Royal British Legion

3rd Saturday of every month
12.00 – 2.00pm
Dinnington Social Club

Dinnington Parish Council

3rd Wednesday of the month
6.30 – 8.30pm
In the Memorial Institute

Parish Councillors: Cllrs Mike Wood (Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Paul Hitchenes (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 07590 533525; Raymond Thompson Tel: 0191 2363379; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Jo-Anne Toward-Wright Tel: 07506810646; Graham McKenna Tel: 07939 289289

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

Clerk to the Parish Council – Karon Hadfield

Tel - 07841650640

Email: dinningtonparishcouncil@hotmail.com

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