

Spring -
Summer
2016

Dinnington Parish Newsletter

Serving the Community



CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME to our Summer newsletter. Throughout the past year the Parish Council has been continuing to work hard to keep our village vibrant. The Parish Council is currently supporting amenity improvements and Members are keen to improve or provide new facilities to keep the village active. The Parish Council has again arranged a lovely summer display of planters and entered the village in the Northumbria in Bloom competition. On behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, I hope you are having a good summer.

Thanks to our Castle Ward Councillors who regularly attend our meetings and report on matters of interest. They often liaise with Newcastle City Council and Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) on behalf of the Parish Council and make a difference to the quality of life for residents. During our monthly discussions with the local police over the year we have established that Dinnington has very low reported incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour, but we continue to receive complaints about inconsiderate parking adjacent to the school, and people obstructing the road and pavements with their cars and vehicles.

The Council does not take any planning decisions but monitors all planning applications and comments where appropriate. The Planning Authority must take the Council's views into account (but not necessarily accept them) when making their planning decisions. Our location has made Dinnington very attractive to developers for controversial developments on land surrounding the village. We have objected in the strongest terms regarding the proposed housing development by Bellway, and have expressed grave doubts regarding additional traffic and the adequacies of highways and infrastructure to cope with the significant numbers of all of the new dwellings being proposed for the village in general, and we believe this will be further exacerbated by this development.

The Council is still facing a period of austerity and it is essential that we continue to watch expenditure and ensure that we provide a cost effective service. This year the 'precept' has been raised by £500 to £10,000 per annum to take into account the estimated budget for the financial year. The last increase was in April 2010. We regularly receive requests from charities and other organisations for grants or donations. The Council's resources are wholly derived from public funds and we have granted money towards activities which we consider "will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants".

There are many other aspects of work of the Parish Council which are too numerous to discuss in a short report. The Council's new notice board and the website are regularly updated and continue to be useful information sources for residents and others seeking information about Dinnington and give a great deal of news on the Parish Council's activities. I conclude by thanking all parish councillors for donating their time and expertise freely to contribute to the well-being of our village, and our part-time parish clerk for his help and support both in and out of meetings. Being a parish councillor can be challenging and frustrating at times, but it can also be a rewarding way to contribute to the well-being of our village. We cannot win them all but we continue to nag away at problems.

The Council has recently considered the services of Ponteland Medical Group at Dinnington surgery and received representations from residents who are concerned about the way parishioners can currently access GP's services, which will worsen with the expansion of the village. The Council encourages residents of all age groups to write to their doctor asking for improvements at Dinnington surgery.

Councillor Raymond Thompson
Chairman of the Parish Council

Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign

We know that dog fouling is of concern to residents so we have decided to enter into a dog control partnership with Newcastle City Council. The aim of the partnership is to build close links between their dog wardens and the Parish Council, to provide a better service in responding to fouling, and to deter it from happening in the first place. The Street Enforcement Team will provide parish councillors with the knowledge and appreciation of how to provide the evidence needed to prove an offence under the dog control orders. As residents of Dinnington, councillors will now be keeping an eye out for fouling problems and talking to dog walkers in our village. We will be carrying out joint patrols with the council's dog wardens to learn first-hand how they deal with the problem, particularly looking at the 'hot spot' areas. The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dog and get really annoyed with the few who don't as they don't want to be "tarred with the same brush." 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> If someone in control of a dog fails to clear up the mess immediately after the dog has defecated, that person commits an offence and enforcement action is taken against persons seen to contravene the Order either by prosecution or by means of a fixed penalty notice. The maximum penalty is a fine of £1,000 and the current fixed penalty is £75.

Neighbourhood Plan

We are currently developing our plan and have commenced drafting parts of it under the guidance of the consultant we engaged with the grant we obtained from The Community Rights Programme, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We have re-evaluated our results from our original "drop in" session in 2014 and will be consulting further with residents later in the year. The Elders' Council of Newcastle recently held an event in the Village Hall and we will be utilising their findings.

Donkey Field

Representatives of Keepmoat Homes have attended a meeting of the Parish Council. Keepmoat have commenced construction of phase 1 of their development and we are advised that the whole of the construction could take up to 4 years to complete.

Northumbria in Bloom 2016

The Chairman and Members of Dinnington Parish Council would like to express their sincere thanks to the local businesses, including The Last Days of the Raj; E. Dixon - J Thompson Ltd; and Dinnington First School for responding exceptionally well to the Northumbria in Bloom competition and for showcasing the village last year. A total of 61 villages, towns and cities entered the competition and the trophies were strongly contested. Dinnington won Bronze in the Large Village category and parish councillors were delighted to note that The White Swan Inn received a special award (Gold) in the Pubs and Hotels category recognising the outstanding efforts of the owner. The Parish Council values the significant support from various partners and organisations, which demonstrates the high level of pride people take in their local community and environment. The Northumbria in Bloom judging dates are: **Friday 29th April** and **Friday 15th July 2016** and we would like to encourage everyone to keep our village and gardens tidy.

Dinnington Village Hall

Memorial Institute Refurbishment: Tender packs were sent out to prospective contractors to submit quotes for work to include an upgrade of the toilets to full Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance, installation of central heating, new storage facilities and decoration. Quotes from contractors have been received and are being considered. Work will be scheduled to cause as little disruption as possible to the user groups. Those meeting in the Memorial Institute (MI) will be relocated for the duration. To find out more or make a donation please contact the Secretary Joyce Porter 01661 821041.

Banks Group

The Parish Council acknowledges Banks Mining's support through the Brenkley Lane Community Benefit Fund in providing funding for Dinnington Scout Group; Dinnington Social Club; Dinnington First School; and Dinnington Village Social Welfare Centre over the years. Miss Jeannie Kielty from the Banks Group is promoting the fund within the community as the fund balance is currently £36,839 for any projects in the Parish.

1st Dinnington Scout Group

Firstly, many thanks once again to all the kind folk who collected and gave us tokens for the annual Chronicle Wish Appeal. We received £210.25. This year marks the Cub section centenary and the Pack will be doing lots of special things. The Scout Troop has several camps arranged and the older members of the Cub Pack will be joining them on one in May. The Group is always grateful for offers of adult help. If you have experience and would like to be involved or just find out more about Scouting in general please contact Joyce Porter, Cub Scout Leader, Tel: 01661 821041 or Geoff Hayes, Scout Leader, Tel: 01661 860860.

St Matthew's Church

Two upcoming events for your diary:

There will be a concert in church on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 7.00pm featuring the LEMINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR. Tickets are only £5 which includes a glass of wine or fruit juice and are available from either Ruth Morris (Telephone 01661 825362) or Joyce Porter (Telephone 01661 821041). STRAWBERRY FAIR - Celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday. This year the fair will be held on Saturday 11th June to coincide with the official weekend of birthday celebrations and other village groups, youth organisations, playgroup etc. will be joining in with us on the day. Held in the Village Hall and Memorial Institute from 2.00pm onwards with children's games and the usual stalls including, cakes, tombola and raffle as well as strawberries and cream and afternoon tea. Please come and join us to celebrate this very special anniversary.

Dinnington Women's Institute

Our new WI continues to go from strength-to-strength. Our last meeting featured a Zumba Gold class which was so successful it has resulted in a new class starting in the Village Hall. The class starts at 9.30am for 45 minutes. The cost is £4.00 per session. Everyone is welcome. The programme of speakers for the next 6 months is as follows:

Thursday May 12th - Demonstration from the Cheese Farm

Thursday June 9th - Quilting around the World

Thursday July 14th - Talk from Brian Burnie - War Baby to Daft as a Brush

Thursday August 11th - Talk and demonstrations from No2Stress

Thursday September 8th - Ladies Who Laugh - An evening of fun and laughter

Thursday October 13th - Talk on duties of the Blood Bikes

Please come along and join our fabulous WI. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.00 pm and finish at 9.00pm. The cost per year is £37.00 and you can come along for 3 consecutive sessions as a visitor to see if you would like to join us for a payment of £3.00 per session.

Parish Council Meetings

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Institute Hall next to the Village Hall. The general public are welcome to attend and to bring forward any concerns or comments. The number of parish councillors for Dinnington is 11, but the Council currently has only 10. Following the local elections in May 2015, there were insufficient people nominated to fill all the available seats. If there is any interest, there is no reason why the Parish Council should not now declare the vacancy with a view to filling it by co-option.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Memorial Institute Hall next to the Village Hall commencing at **7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th May, 2016**. The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of all the local government electors for the village. It is *not* a meeting of the Parish Council. The Chairman of the Parish Council will chair the meeting. No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the Parish Council although it should consider them at the next meeting of the Parish Council. Only members on the electoral role can vote on an issue. Other members of the public can attend and express their opinions but not vote. Local clubs, societies and other voluntary and statutory organisations are invited to give a report about the work of their group.

Crime prevention and community safety

Neighbourhood Beat Manager: PC Taryn Campbell (2121), Etal Lane, Westerhope, Newcastle, NE5 4AW. Tel: **101** to contact your local police when it is less urgent than a 999 call and ask for extension 69191.

City Councillors' Surgery

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

City Councillors' Surgery (cont)

15 minutes before Parish Council
meetings (at 6:45pm)
Monthly - 3rd Wed (except August)
Memorial Institute

Co-op Women's Guild

Mondays
7.00pm-9.00pm (summer)
1.30pm-3.30pm (winter)
Memorial Institute

Dinnington Community Library

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

Junior Karate

Mondays
6.00pm-8.00pm
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

Fridays
6.30pm-8.00pm
Scout HQ

Rainbows

Wednesdays
6.00pm-7.00pm
Memorial Institute

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

Parish Council

third Wednesday of each month
(except August) at 7.00 p.m.
Memorial Institute Hall

St Matthew's Church

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

Bible Study Group

1st Wednesday of each month
11.15am venue varies ring 01661 823886 for details

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
Tue - No doctor. Nurse in
attendance 9.00am-12.15pm

Woodlands Park Health Centre

Mon/Wed/Fri 1.30pm-3.00pm

Parish Councillors

Cllrs Raymond Thompson (Chairman) Tel: 0191 236 3379; Mike Wood (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Dr J Alan Biggins Tel: 01661 823135; Audrey Dellow; Sylvia Hood Tel: 01661 823382; Tom Laidler 01661 872057; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Brenda Scott Tel: 07593 889728; Gill Smith Tel: 01661 825927. For more information telephone the Parish Clerk: 07788 111729 or visit the website at: www.dinningtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Future Issues

We publish newsletters biannually in the following months: May (Spring/Summer) and December (Autumn/Winter). If there are any particular articles you would like to see in future editions or if you would like to write one yourself then please e-mail it to: dinningtonparishcouncil@hotmail.com