

West Life

West Auckland Parish Council Newsletter

Merry Christmas to all from West Auckland Parish Council!

Special thanks to Graham's Logs for transporting and siting the village Christmas tree, bought by the Parish Council, free of charge. Christmas in West Auckland this year promises to be a great one! With a warm welcome awaiting all at any of our local church services over the festive period.

West Auckland Community Church

- 6.30pm 17th December** - Carols around the Christmas tree with Salvation Army Band followed by homemade soup at the Well
- 6pm 15th December** - Village Carol Service at Manor House Hotel with homemade mince pies and mulled wine
- 10am 25th December** - Christmas Celebration at Memorial Hall

St. Mary's

- 5.30pm 24th December** - Christmas Eve Service
- 11am 25th December** - Christmas Day Service

St. Wilfrid's

- 7.30pm 24th December** - Christmas Eve Service
- 9.30am 25th December** - Christmas Day Service

Auckland St. Helen Church

- 6pm 20th December** - Scout and Guide Carol Service, followed by a party in the parish centre
- 6pm 22nd December** - The Parish Carol Service with Ferryhill Town Band and choirs from local schools
- 4pm 24th December** - Christmas Eve Christingle & Family Service - a short family service for Christmas
- 11.30pm 24th December** - Midnight Mass in candlelight with all your favourite carols
- 9.30am 25th December** - Parish Mass of Christmas



Give a gift that counts

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, bringing families and friends together, exchanging gifts and parties. However, sometimes due to the commercialisation and hype surrounding the festive period we may lose sight of the true message of Christmas. Please spare a thought this year for those less fortunate.

Actions so simple as checking on elderly neighbours over the cold winter months, offering to fetch shopping or clearing their paths when the snow comes are all it takes to make a difference. Charities in our community include The Well, which operates a food bank in West Auckland for those needing a little extra help. An ever-increasing demand for the service they provide means The Well is always extremely grateful to receive any financial or non-perishable food donations. For further information please contact The Well on 01388 834005.



All council seats now filled

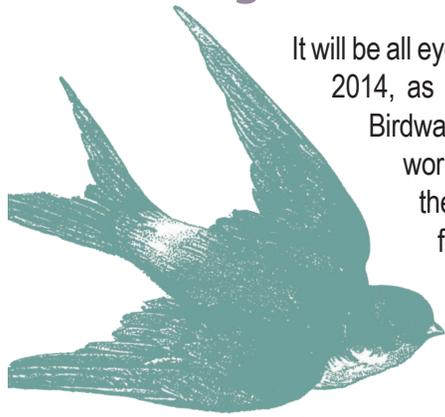
The council quota of 12 seats is now full following the co-option of Cllr. Neil Thomas.

Remembrance Service

West Auckland joined millions of people across Britain who fell silent for two minutes on Sunday 10th November in remembrance of members of the Armed Forces who have died in the country's conflicts. The service began with a march from the Post Office, through the village to the Pant where a large crowd gathered to pay their respects. Ex-Warrant Officer Class 2 (Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Technical) Joe Lee REME said "Having served 22 years in the Army, leaving July 2010, I have not missed a Remembrance Sunday in 25 years and have attended the West Auckland service for the last 3 years. Each year it seems to grow in attendance and it is good to see young and old stood side-by-side remembering those who gave everything for their country." He continued, "I always find it emotional when they read out the long list of names of the fallen from the local area and every year I wish that list did not exist. We should not only remember the dead but also the physically and mentally scarred men and women that walk amongst us today."



Counting the birds that are counting on you



It will be all eyes to the skies on Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th January 2014, as the nation takes part in the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch. The activity is the biggest garden wildlife survey in the world and last year almost 600,000 people counted the birds in their garden. Big Garden Birdwatch, which has been running for 35 years, provides the RSPB with masses of information about changes in numbers of garden birds in winter, and helps to alert conservationists to significant declines in UK garden species such as house sparrows and starlings. And this year, for the first time, we need you to log some of the other wildlife you see in your garden too. We want to know

whether you ever see deer, squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs, frogs and toads in your gardens, to help build an overall picture of how important our gardens are for giving all types of wildlife a home. Doing the Big Garden Birdwatch is fun and easy, and you don't even need to leave the comfort of your own home. To take part, spend just one hour at any time over the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend noting the highest number of each species seen in your garden or local outside space at any one time. You then simply submit your results to the RSPB, either online at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or in the post.

Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dog



If we don't take pride in our village no one else will

Statue Unveiling



On Saturday 12th October a statue dedicated to West Auckland FC winning the Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy was officially unveiled on the village green after years of planning.

Actor Tim Healy, Sir John Hall, and ex-England international David Ticer Thomas, whose grandfather captained West Auckland in the 1909 final, were invited to make the grand unveiling to the delight of a hundred strong crowd of residents and officials.

County councillors Rob Yorke and Andy Turner, who led the project, said the statue was worth the wait. With John Wotherspoon, commercial director of Lipton Teas, saying the story of West Auckland FC and their "folk heroes" should never be forgotten.

Drive safe this winter

Get set for safe driving this winter with a vehicle health check at all council service depots. Winter vehicle health checks are priced at £26 and will check:

- tyres
- anti-freeze
- lights
- battery
- wipers
- engine
- heating and ventilation
- washers
- starter and charging system

Available for all makes and model cars and carried out 'while you wait' at all depots. Open from 7am until 5pm weekdays. Book at any Durham County Council vehicle servicing centre:

Winter vehicle health check

ONLY £26 including VAT.

Prepare your car for winter

Durham County Council

Service Direct Newco Limited

- **Anfield Plain** – 03000 265 638
Morrison Busty Depot, Anfield Plain, DH9 7RX
- **Chilton** – 03000 266 247
Chilton Industrial Estate, DL17 0SD
- **Meadowfield** – 03000 269 342
Direct Services Depot, St John's Road, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, DH7 8XQ
- **Peterlee** – 03000 264 100
Hackworth Road Depot, North West Industrial Estate SR8 2JQ

We also offer *MOT testing at council depots, priced from £42. *Council MOTs are recommended on moneysavingexpert.com. For further details and to book either an MOT or winter vehicle health check visit www.durham.gov.uk/MOT or telephone your nearest service depot direct.

Please contact one of the Parish Councillors if you have any concerns of suggestions about any issue within the village.

Parish Councillor Contact Numbers:

Jack Bell	834839
Hazel Charlton (C)	832464
Ed Farrer	832810
John Ferguson	832019
Colin Mairs (VC)	833616
Valerie Raine	833534
Lynn Rielly	833032
Martin Roberts	833214
Andy Turner	606021
Billy Robinson	833663
George Smith	388381
Neil Thomas	832267

The Parish Clerk, Sharon Wootton can also be contacted on 834360 or sharon.home@btinternet.com