

West Life

*The Newsletter of West Auckland Parish Council
No 43 December 2017*



Merry Christmas

The Parish Council wish the residents of West Auckland a Merry Christmas and peaceful, prosperous New Year. As you will see the Christmas lights have been updated this year with thanks to G Smith Electrics for kindly hanging the replacements and donating lights for one of the trees.

New Parish Councillors

The Parish Council are pleased to welcome two newly co-opted members. Jean Curl and Rachel Gargett-Gillens were recently appointed; both appear keen to make the best of our lovely village and their contact details can be found in the contacts column on page 4.

Carols Around The Christmas Tree

Please come and join us to sing some traditional carols around the Village Christmas Tree led by the Salvation Army Band on Tuesday December 19th at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be provided at The Well afterwards



Bus Shelters

Following residents' complaints, the Parish Council has made arrangements for the bus shelters in the village to be cleaned on a regular basis. This will be good news for residents who use them but sometimes find that it can be a less than pleasant experience.

Remembrance Day Service

It was wonderful to see another excellent turnout for the service held at the Village Memorial on Sunday November 12th. Led by Revd. Canon Robert McTeer, the service included the reading of the names of those commemorated and the laying of wreaths representing The Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, The Royal British Legion, Bishop Auckland Air Cadets, Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, West Auckland Parish Council, St Helen's Scout Group, St Helen's Guide Group, St Helen's Rainbows and Brownies, West Auckland Women's Institute and West Auckland Working Men's Club.

The procession through the village was led by the Ferryhill Town Band

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the organisation of the event



Air cadets from 2505(Bishop Auckland) Squadron participated in several Remembrance Sunday parades including West Auckland, Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor. Impeccably turned out in their smart uniforms, they marched to the Pant and laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal Air Force and Air Cadets. The Squadron parades on Monday and Thursday evenings, 1830 to 2130, at the Reserve Forces Centre, St Andrews Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6RT. Further details for 12 to 18 years of age male and female young persons can be obtained by emailing '2505@aircadets.org

WestLife Delivery

The Parish Council would like to record their thanks to the members of St Helen's Scout Group who have taken on the task of delivering WestLife starting with the last edition. They did an excellent job. However, if you have found a copy but didn't receive one via their delivery service when you should have done, please notify the Parish Clerk so that you don't miss out!

Spring Bulbs

As promised in the last edition of WestLife, a large number of bulbs have been planted around the village to complement the existing flowers. We look forward to seeing the results next Spring but this is an ongoing project and the plan is to plant more bulbs next Autumn. Some of the bulbs planted this year were donated by residents: if anybody wishes to do this for next year's planting they would be more than welcome. It would also be good to know if any local businesses would be interested in contributing and maintaining flower tubs outside their properties.



The 'big plant' was led by Councillors Chris Smith and Neil Simpson, ably assisted by Councillor Martin Roberts, resident Audrey Beck and former Parish Council Chair Hazel Charlton who provided encouragement and coffee! Two local police officers were also spotted lending a hand.

Many thanks to everybody – and special thanks to **tool-time Ltd** from South Church Enterprise Park who provided a turf cutter to make the job easier.

Where would you access a defibrillator if needed?



Another reminder that there is a defibrillator in the village which is kept at Devonshire House: this is essentially so that it can be accessed 24 hours a day should the need arise. There is no expectation that the staff will use it for an emergency outside the building, rather that they can make it available if required.

You don't need to be trained to use it but there are training sessions available for anybody who would be interested. Please contact the Parish Clerk.

The most important thing is that everybody knows the defibrillator exists, where it is and that it is readily available for anybody who is prepared to use it if they are present when such an emergency occurs.

As seen on TV.....

If you have access to BBC iPlayer, you might like to catch up with a BBC2 programme which aired at 7.00pm on Monday November 13th. **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip**, featuring 'Wild at Heart' co-stars Stephen Tompkinson and Hayley Mills, dotted about various North East locations, not only looking for items to buy but also calling in at places of interest.

One of the stopping-off points was West Auckland and a view of the World Cup statue (with the trees in the background swaying about in the wind of course); Stephen Tompkinson was fascinated by the tale of the amateur village team winning and then retaining the Thomas Lipton Trophy in the early 1900s as explained to him at the Football Club by Chairman Jim Palfreyman. He seemed quite excited to hold a real winner's medal alongside the replica trophy. *It all helps to put West Auckland on the map.*



Shoebox Appeal

This year's appeal on behalf of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project was a great success. A total of 332 shoeboxes were collected at The Well and £222.00 received in donations.



A wonderful effort! Many thanks to everybody involved.



Festive Season Church Services

West Auckland Vineyard Church

Saturday 23rd

6.00pm Carols at the Manor House Hotel

Sunday 24th, Christmas Eve

10.00am Family Service

Monday 25th Christmas Day

10.00 am Celebration Praise

St Helen's Parish Church

Saturday 16th

11.30am Messy Christmas

Sunday 17th

10.00am Parish Mass

6.00pm Carol Service

(with local school choirs)

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

10.00am Parish Mass

4.00pm Family Service with Christingle

11.30pm Midnight Mass by candlelight

Monday 25th Christmas Day

9.30am Parish Family Mass

St Mary's and St Wilfred's Catholic Churches

Sunday 24th, Christmas Eve

5.30 pm St Mary's

7.30 pm St Wilfrid's

Monday, 25th, Christmas Day

9.30 am St Wilfred's

11.00 am St Mary's

It's Your Village – Have Your Say

Come along to a meeting and let the Parish Council know what improvements you would like to see in your village.

West Auckland Parish Council Contacts

Colin Mairs , Chairman.....833616
Andy Turner606021
Ann Palfreyman.....07876754813
Billy Robinson.....833663
Chris Smith.....07711 423746
Ed Farrer..... 832810
George Smith,Vice-Chairman..... 662659
Jean Curl.....833610
Lynn Rielly 833032
Martin Roberts.....833214
Neil Simpson.....07725979714
Rachel Gargett-Gillens.....07949 959564

Parish Clerk: Sharon Wootton . 834360

Email: sharon.home@btinternet.com

Meetings held at Monteith Close Community Parish Room at 7.00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except August).

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.westaucklandparishcouncil.org.uk/>