

West Life

*The Newsletter of West Auckland Parish Council
No 47 – March 2019*



SPRING BULBS

Following some unusually warm conditions in February, many of the crocus and daffodil bulbs newly planted last Autumn came out early – before many of the original flowers – and have survived the colder weather

The spring bulb planting project will continue towards the end of the year to increase the display around the village and the volunteers behind West Auckland in Bloom have now set about the task of brightening up the village in the Summer months

WEST AUCKLAND IN BLOOM

We would like to thank the residents and their friends who supported us by attending our coffee morning on Saturday February 16th which raised £800 towards the planters for the village. A special thank you to the Spar Store who supplied the refreshments, the ladies who made the cakes and the Parish Council for letting us use the Community Parish Room. We felt that it was a fantastic morning, bringing our community together. This has been the first part of our fundraising towards being able to buy 11 planters for the village and put them in place by the end of May as a start to West Auckland in Bloom; it is a continuing project to enhance the village and encourage people who visit to spend time enjoying the surroundings which you as residents will be proud of,

There is still time if you wish to offer your help in any way to support this project

Jean Pattison 07921 824821

Audrey Beck 01388 834911



VILLAGE LITTER PICK

As part of a national campaign, there will be the chance to join friends and other residents in a village litter pick on Saturday, April 6th. You will have the chance to help tidy up the village – and unfortunately see how much litter does gather in certain places. If you are interested, you don't have to register but just meet outside the Old Hall near the picnic tables on the village green at 10.00am. Equipment is provided and there will be refreshments available from The Well at the end. We intend to finish at 12.00 but even if you can't spare a full two hours do please still come and spend a shorter time helping to make the village look nice

JOHN HOPKINSON (JACK) BELL



For the second edition in a row, there is sad news to report following the death of Jack Bell in January. Well known to many for his tireless work at West Auckland Memorial Hall, Jack also served on the Parish Council from its formation until he stepped down in 2017. He will be remembered with much affection.

DEFIBRILLATORS

There are now 3 defibrillators in the village, set up ready to use and registered with the local Ambulance Service. They are housed in locked yellow cabinets. There is one next to the bus stop near the football statue opposite The Club, one on the outside wall of the Memorial Hall on Darlington Road and one on the outside wall of the Community Parish Room in Monteith Close.



You don't have to remember where they are in order to use one: if a medical emergency occurs in the village and you want to help, the first thing to do is call 999; the Ambulance Service will tell you where the nearest defibrillator is if that is appropriate and give you a code number to unlock the cabinet; you do not have to use a defibrillator but it might make a difference to the chances of someone surviving; don't worry....you cannot make a casualty's condition worse but you can provide help until a paramedic arrives; the defibrillator issues verbal instructions on how to use it and won't proceed unless you follow the instructions correctly; you do not have to be trained but there are sessions available which demonstrate the procedure and help to put you more at ease should you ever need to use one; this might make you more comfortable than going into the unknown in an emergency.

West Auckland is not a compact village but quite spread out which is why the Parish Council decided to install more than one cabinet; it's quite difficult to adequately cover all parts of the village when time is an important factor and it may be that another defibrillator cabinet is installed in the future. As part of the requirements for registering the defibrillators with the local Ambulance Service, the cabinets and their contents will be checked on a weekly basis; please notify the Parish Council Clerk if you suspect that a cabinet has been tampered with between inspections.

The next **50p CINEMA** showing at the Vineyard Centre (Unit 3 on the Aptec Business Park) will be *The Grinch* on Saturday April 6th at 6.00pm. Entry is only 50p payable on the door. Tuck Shop, Tea, Coffee available



CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

A small but determined group of residents gathered on the evening of Tuesday December 18th to sing carols around the Christmas Tree on the village green



Unfortunately, after a day of light drizzle, the heavens opened just as people were gathering but the singing still went ahead. Many thanks to the Salvation Army Band who provided the music in rather difficult conditions and to whoever provided plastic covers for the song sheets preventing them from becoming a soggy mess

It is usually the cold which has to be endured: this time there was a desperate need to dry out afterwards but the excellent home-made soup on offer at The Well was still very welcome

Nursery Places

Is your child turning 2,3 or 4?

Have you considered nursery?

Did you know.....

- All 3 year olds are entitled to 25 hours free nursery education a week the term after their 3rd birthday?*
- Some 2 year olds are eligible for 15 hours free nursery education a week?
- Some 3 year olds are entitled to 30 hours free nursery education a week?

*If places are available your chosen nursery may be able to top up children's nursery hours the term after their 3rd birthday. This depends upon your chosen nursery.

If you would like to find out more or to find out if you are eligible contact one of the nurseries in your area.

Oakley Cross Primary School and Nursery Unit,
West Auckland 01388 833186

St Helen Auckland Community Primary School 01388 604168



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STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY



One of the greatest leaps forward during the Industrial Revolution was undoubtedly the coming of the railway: a great stimulus to motivate this

revolution which would go on to affect just about every aspect of the modern world. West Auckland played a role in this development, being on the route surveyed by George Stephenson and his son Robert in 1822; the world's first public railway to use locomotive engines opened in September 1825

This line of track bed was originally put into place to have the superior coals of the district brought the 26 miles from their seams at Witton Park to the port of Stockton-on-Tees and then onwards to the important markets of London by coastal collier

When the survey was carried out, the Gaunless river crossing was seen as a major obstacle to the track. Stephenson's iron bridge was 'cutting edge' technology at this time and was the world's first iron railway bridge. It straddled the river until it was replaced by a more modern bridge in 1899 which itself was removed in 1962 but the stone abutments can still be viewed today at the southeast corner of Oakley Green. The original iron bridge still exists and is currently at the York Railway Museum but there are currently plans to bring it to Locomotion at Shildon in time for the Stockton and Darlington Railway's 200th Anniversary in September 2025

The Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway are behind these plans and a further project to create a continuous pathway along the original line of the track bed for walkers and cyclists; this will have an impact upon West Auckland if the project is successful as the chance to experience this route may well bring visitors to our area. Further plans include the possibility of putting a footbridge on the site of the original iron bridge so that the route can be walked without a detour; there are several track beds around the area following the route of branch lines which have already been developed and can be walked easily.

THE ARK at St Helen's Church

The Ark is now beginning to develop as a community hub: The newly formed St Helens and West Auckland Local History Group meets at 6.00pm on the second Tuesday of every month and offers a warm welcome to all.

On Wednesdays from 12.30 there is a self-help quilt group. On Mondays from 10.00 until 12.30 there are Welcoming Spaces for everyone who would like coffee, a chat or just to meet people.

The Ark is also available from 10.30 until 12.00 noon on the first or fourth Saturday of the month, free of charge, for any group who might like to hold a coffee morning.

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
Ann Palfreyman.....	07876754813
Billy Robinson.....	833663
Chris Smith.....	07711 423746
Ed Farrer.....	832810
George Smith, Vice-Chairman.....	662659
Jean Curl.....	833610
Karen Bolton.....	07789 813703
Lynn Rielly	833032
Martin Roberts.....	833214
Neil Simpson.....	07725979714
Rachel Gargett-Gillens.....	07949 959564

Parish Clerk: Sharon Proud . 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/>

WestLife is produced by West Auckland Parish Council, printed by Cre8tive Graphics and delivered by St Helens Scout Group. If you live in West Auckland and don't receive a copy at your home, please contact the Parish Clerk.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
at the Church of England for West Auckland
and St Helen Auckland

Palm Sunday April 14th 10.00am
*Commemoration of the Lord's entry into
Jerusalem and The Parish Mass*

Monday and Tuesday in Holy Week
7.00pm Holy Mass and Address

Wednesday in Holy Week
10.00am Holy Mass and Address
6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday
*7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by
The Watch of the Passion until 10.30pm*

Good Friday
*2.00pm The Celebration of the Passion of the
Lord*
2.00pm Children's Good Friday in the Ark

Holy Saturday
*11.30am Messy Easter for children and parents
in the Ark*
Lunch, crafts, Easter story and prayers
*7.30pm The Easter Vigil and First Mass of
Easter*
followed by Fireworks and Parish Party

Easter Day
10.00am SOLEMN MASS
6.00pm Festival Evensong and Benediction

**The Preacher for Holy Week and Easter is Fr
Peter Anderson SSC
Honorary Associate Priest at St Helens**

WEST AUCKLAND VINEYARD CHURCH
Unit 3 Aptec Business Park Darlington Road
West Auckland DL14 9PD

Good Friday Service at 10.00am

Easter Sunday Family Service at 10.00am

There will also be a Sunrise Service on Easter
Sunday morning at 5.45am; meet in
the lay-by on the A68 just before the B6275
turning to Piercebridge at Royal Oak

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
for the Catholic Parish of St Mary
and St Wilfrid

Palm Sunday April 14th
Mass and Distribution of Palms
*9.30am St Wilfrid's 11.00am St
Mary's*

Maundy Thursday
Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper
7.00pm St Wilfrid's

Good Friday
10.00am Town Walk of Witness
*3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion of
the Lord*
at St Mary's

Holy Saturday
8.30pm Easter Vigil at St Mary's

Easter Sunday
9.30am Mass at St Wilfrid's
11.00am Mass at St Mary's

