

Sherburn Village Parish News November 2017



Chairman's Remarks by Jimmy Leadbitter

Well a lot has happened since our last newsletter not least of which is two elections. The local elections have seen our local County Councillors' Mr David Hall and Mr Bill Kellett returned with an increased majority. They hold fortnightly surgeries in the Community Centre if you wish to talk to them on a one-to-one basis. The other election saw the Conservative Government returned with a much-reduced majority and having to form a government with the Democratic Unionist Party. We indeed live in interesting sometimes scary times my friends.

It doesn't really seem that we've had a summer and yet autumn is nearly upon us. The leaves are already changing colour and the days growing shorter. There are always people in society who live outside the norms of what is expected of decent people. These people seem to think it's ok to take what doesn't belong to them, sell it and live on the proceeds. As the nights grow longer they look for opportunities to break into people's homes, sheds and cars and steal your hard-earned possessions. Please be extra vigilant during this time and make sure you don't give them any opportunity. Already there have been a number of burglaries in the village particularly around Park House Gardens and the surrounding areas. The Police aren't everywhere but the community of Sherburn Village is. Please report any suspicious behaviour no matter how small to the police. You can also report it to your local councillors who can pass on to the appropriate authorities.

We have always prided ourselves on having a very low crime rate in the village particularly in the case of burglaries, so let's not let these low life people win!

Remembrance Sunday

Preparations are already underway for Remembrance Day Sunday with Rev, Richard Briggs, the village's curate, conducting the service with the Salvation Army Band in attendance. I'd like to personally thank both Reverend Briggs and the Salvation Army for their help in organizing and taking part in this. The service will take place on Sunday 12th November at the Village Memorial commencing at 10.30am and everyone is welcome.

Christmas Tree Blessing

I know that there will be a lot of people thinking it's only blooming October and he's on about Christmas but in my defence, it's our last newsletter before Christmas and to be honest I love Christmas! The Blessing of the Christmas Tree is always a big event in the village and it real feels that it heralds the start of that special time. Reverend Briggs will be blessing the tree and the much-celebrated Houghton Youth Band conducted by our very own Councillor Glenis Smith will be giving a special twist to the Christmas Carols. As always, the big man himself will be there, and if boys and girls are good they will receive a gift. Please take note that no matter how good the adults think they may have been, Santa knows everything and they get **NOWT!**

This year it takes place as usual on the village green on Saturday, 2nd December commencing at 3.30pm with the Blessing and the lighting of the tree taking place at approx. 4pm, I say approx..... because it's always touch and go as to whether it will light or not! There will be a Christmas Fayre in the Community Centre starting at 3pm and refreshments etc will be available.

And to all those who pulled a face at the mention of CHRISTMAS..... Bah Humbug to you all!!

New Clerk

May I take this opportunity to welcome Sherburn Village Parish Council's new clerk Janette Penn-Jones, Jan, as she prefers to be known, can be reached by calling 0778440370 (please remember this is a part time and don't phone before 10am and after 4pm) Jan can also be contacted by email at

sherburnpc@hotmail.co.uk .Welcome to the rollercoaster ride that is Sherburn Village Parish Council.

I'd also like to thank the outgoing Clerk James Taylor who has set up his own business which I believe is thriving, hence, his reason for leaving us.

Sherburn Village gardeners crowned after helping City strike gold

Green-fingered gardeners from Sherburn Village are celebrating after a ceremony revealed the winners of the 'Beautiful Durham 2017' competition. The Village scooped three prestigious awards including: Best Large Village (Winner – Sherburn Village Parish Council), Best Group Horticultural Project (Winner – Sherburn Primary School), Judges' Discretionary Award: Special recognition for enthusiasm and commitment (Winner – Adam Foster – Sherburn Primary School).

The scheme, encourages residents, businesses, schools and community groups to brighten up their properties or public spaces in Durham City and surrounding villages. Now in its 32nd consecutive year, Beautiful Durham encouraged an array of attractive floral displays and environmental improvements to provide a burst of colour to local communities.

Special Commendations were also received by: Sherburn Village Bowling Club & C. Carman in the Best Group Horticulture Project Category; V.Crago in the Best Floral Containers Category and F. Barras in the Best House Garden (Small) Category. Congratulations and thank you to all residents and community groups who took part, for their tireless work in helping to make our village a brighter and better place.

Flower Boxes & Hanging Baskets – Angela Leary

We have had a trying time this summer with watering the hanging baskets and weeding the boxes. Nearly all of us have hurt ourselves in one way or another meaning it's been difficult giving them the attention they need. Luckily volunteers have stood in and watered the flower boxes on the outskirts of the village and hanging baskets. But looking around the village I have to say it looks spectacular, I had my reservations about the hanging baskets when they were first put up but wow I think they are the best yet! I hope you agree too!

Litter Picks/Fly Tipping

We managed to fit in two litter picks (injuries to blame) and our regular contact has moved departments but I have managed to find a new one but he was on annual leave for a month. You get a shock at some of the things that we find. This time it has been amounts of small empty bags used for illegal substances. The police are now aware of these and are investigating. One really annoying thing and dangerous is broken glass on the football pitch. The teams now have to do a full pitch inspection prior to every game. A piece of glass can cause a lot of damage. There are Dog Bins situated around the village but we are still finding bags of dog poo lying on the floor and in bushes. If you cannot find a dog bin then please take it home and place it in your own bin.

A large quantity of plaster and bricks were dumped just outside of Sherburn on the way to Pitlington recently. This has been removed but is currently under investigation. Large fines are imposed if you are caught. There are also the stupid items which are dumped which are both repulsive and have had serious consequences for a dog. A bag of rotten gutted fish was found by the dog whose owner then had to take him to the vet where he spent the night after having them removed. Dog owners please be vigilant while out walking your dogs in case this happens again.



The food bank is run The Durham Christian Partnership and is based at 3 Fram Well House, DH1 5SU. This particular food bank has helped over 16,000 people and has received over 123 tonnes in donations.

I have started to collect for this food bank on the 1st and 3rd Saturday at Sherburn Village Community Centre between 9.30 am – 11 am.

In the next few weeks they expect the demand to rise due to the introduction of universal Credit in East Durham. The food bank works through referrals from agencies i.e. social workers, citizens advice bureau. They will assess the needs of the family/person and issue a voucher to receive 3 days' worth of food and this is limited to 3 vouchers per year.

Presently they have a shortage of the following items: -

UHT milk, Fruit Juice, Sponge puddings, Biscuits, Chocolate, Coffee and cereals.

As a village, I am sure we can come together to help those in need and less fortunate than ourselves.

Sherburn Community Centre – Raymond Pye

The year since March has been very successful with the centre consolidating on the usage of the centre. Bookings by groups are going well and one-off bookings are up. We hosted a return visit from a Jazz Band from Gwent who were competing in the area.

In September the Community Centre in conjunction with the Lambton Arms held a fundraising coffee morning in aid of St Cuthbert's Hospice raising a total of £2,207.01. The centre would like to thank everyone from the Lambton Arms and the Community Centre who helped as volunteers, gave raffle prizes and helped in any way. Finally, we would like to thank all those who supported the event and proved again what a great community we have when fundraising for charity.

As you can see from the outside of the centre, the improvements made earlier have made a difference we are just waiting for the final part of the painting and new signage to the front fascia which complete the frontage.

The hanging baskets at the front of the centre have been the best display since we started putting them up since the 1980s. Also, the flower tubs at the rear of the premises which complemented the wonderful display from the bungalows. Well done to the volunteers who have kept them watered and fed.

A grant has been secured from County Durham Community Foundation to purchase a new polishing machine for the centre which will help to keep the main hall floor in excellent condition.

Looking to the future the centre is looking for committee members and prospective officials to run the centre. Training will be given. Also, suggestions for new groups to fill the voids in the centre's activities.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who help at many functions, especially our full breakfast (£2 including coffee or tea) at our coffee morning on a Saturday morning.

Attlee Square

Attlee Square Communal Hall, Sherburn is situated at the outskirts of the village, just behind the Doctors Surgery. It is smaller than the one in village centre, members of the community around the area set up a luncheon club for the over 60's nearly 11 years ago (it is still going strong by more or less the same people who started it). They were the same age as some of those being catered for. They have a cooked lunch with dessert, tea or coffee followed by bingo.

Outings and events are arranged including fish & chip suppers, entertainment, cream teas. This year for Christmas lunch, which is paid for, we will be going to Chilton Club as we enjoyed it last year. Each person receives a monetary Christmas gift. For many this is the only main meal they have made for them and we try to make sure that they are well looked after.

County Councillors – David Hall & Bill Kellett

David Hall and Bill Kellett would like to thank you for re-electing us and are proud to represent our area as your County Councillors and listen to residents about what is important and act on those wishes and requests. In that relatively short time they have spent over £100k on the area and brought in much more investment and resources from the Council and other agencies, including recently:

- New dropped kerbs, resurfacing & improvements to Front street
- Requested new traffic lights for A690 & accident avoidance improvements for the mini-roundabout in centre of the village
- potential new parking schemes and verge improvements around the village
- Assisted with funding and grants for community buildings refurbishments & activities for local projects & groups
- raised residents' concerns about a proposed development near Atlee Square, which has now been dropped.

- The third and final stage for the desired footpath to Dragonville that Councillors requested is now finished.

And finally, Bill is the current ceremonial Mayor of Durham City and happy to attend to support local events and good causes within our area.

What would you like to see done within or for your village? – Please let us know!

Durham City Gymnastics Club – Glen Wharton

It is over one year since we opened as Durham City Gymnastics Club in the old Sherburn Centre and we have faced many challenges during this period but none more so than having no heating. The Parish Council helped to resolve this issue and the new Biomass Boiler was fitted by Northern Renewables and on Monday, 20th February the heating was finally turned on. The Parish Council were the first parish in the country to support a project like this and to be able to receive the RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive) payments which will cover their loan and have it paid off in approximately 7-8 years but be able to receive the payments for 20 years. We are very lucky and grateful for all this support.

We have received financial help from UK Mail, PGI Engineering, Sherburn Future, Neighbourhood Budget, Barclays Bank and British Gymnastics with our own members raising funds to fund various projects. Gymnastics equipment, CCTV (both inside and out), internal doors in reception, a First Aid room and renewing the lights throughout the building. There are still repairs to be done which we are trying to resolve and so much more in the building that we would like to do but it means continuous fundraising to enable to do these and the upgrades.

The club currently has 190 members (Tumbling Gymnastics and Cheerleading) who use the club 2-5 times a week and travel from all over the north east including one member who comes from Berwick each week. Our general classes are approaching 400 members and we now have waiting lists for these classes. Eleven members are in the National Squad with several others on Development Squads for Great Britain.

Other activities include Birthday parties (Sunday afternoons), Baby Gym, Metafit and from October, Sports Massage. Classes are running from Monday to Friday 4pm – 9pm, Saturday 8am – 4pm and Sunday 9am – 5pm.

During the day the centre is used by Ethicare a group that support people with a learning disability. They help with: -

- Independent living skills, budgeting, cooking etc
- Employability/volunteer – skill development
- Personal Development
- Design, arts and crafts
- Community based opportunities

And much more.

Christmas Show

Our annual Christmas show showcasing the talents of so many amazing young talented Gymnasts will be opening on Saturday, 16th December at 2.30pm.

Show times are as follows: -

16th & 17th December – 2.30pm – 4.30pm & 6pm – 8pm

18th & 19th December – 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Tickets are on sale from reception from the 30th October where you can also get details of any of our classes or call on 019 3720971.

Sherburn FC – Michael Atkinson – Sherburn FC Manager

Following on from a successful season last year when we finished 2nd in the Durham & Districts Premier League and won the Ramside Cup Winners Cup we set our targets even higher this year, including winning the league along with more success in the cup competitions. Having made some excellent additions to our already talented squad, we have not disappointed so far, after a good preseason, we have kicked off with an unbeaten start in all competitions, with some outstanding performances both individually and as a team.

Pittington FC – Peter Cole

We are now in our 25th season and currently playing in the 2nd division of the Swinburne Maddison Durham & District League. The team are currently 2nd in

the league and have won the last 6 games in both cup and league competitions. We have high hopes for the season including promotion and progressing as far as possible in cup competitions. The club has acquired a new management team who have worked hard to bring in a talented group of new players who have integrated well with the current squad. Thank you to Deerness Fencing, City Fabrications, Elliot & Westland Insurance and the local council for all your support.

Durham Rangers FC

We play in the 3rd Division, Durham & District Sunday League based at the Lambton Arms and playing at Laurel Avenue School. The team are currently unbeaten in the league. The young squad are full of quality and they have made massive progress since last season and will hopefully continue to improve and get some silverware in the future.

Sherburn Shufflers

Every other Friday morning a group of local villagers meet up outside the Community Centre and go for walks lasting no more than a couple of hours, usually covering between 3 to 4 miles. The walks start promptly at 10 am and people are asked to be there by 9.50 am to hear about the proposed route. We are a very sociable group who wish to have a walk and exercise our tongues! There is no membership fee and for more information please contact Paul Tindall on 0191 372 1553.

**Advertise your Business, Event or Club
in the next newsletter**

**1/4 page - £5.00 1/2 page - £10.00
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**For more information please contact
the Parish Clerk**

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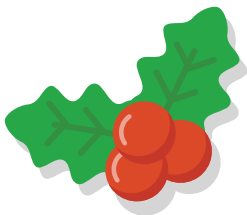


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