

Parish Council News

Thelma Says 'Thank You'.....(With Help From Alfie And Friends)



Thelma Jack has learnt to ride a bike to raise money in aid of the Church renovation appeal and the Breathing Space Project at St Michael's! She is pictured with Alfie McKie (8 yrs old) at Knitsley Mill on Sat 22nd June, part way through their 22 mile cycle ride. Thelma was supported by a group of friends to complete the ride after many months of training helped by Noel Dixon and others. Thelma would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has supported and sponsored her.



St. Michael's renovation appeal has made brilliant progress with your help! Phase One (porch toilet and office) was completed last year. Phase Two (new vestry, meeting room, storage and kitchenette) is almost finished (final touches to be added after phase three.) Phase Three (Roof) starts in July and should take up to four months. The Church and Breathing Space Project want to THANK everyone for supporting this appeal with such generosity and encouragement. The ROOF SLATES will soon be ready for signing so that your chosen names will be put in the sky for a hundred years and more! Help will be given to write names and a register will be compiled to display in St. Michael's. More funds were raised at the Breathing Space Concert on mid-summer's evening at the Church. Pop, folk, jazz and original compositions featured on the programme with stunning solo performances from Effie (Fran Minney), Bethany Robson, Hannah Ward and Meena Daneshyar. The strawberries and cream went down well too!!



MANY OF YOU have already met Pam Barmby, Breathing Space Project Officer based at St. Michael's. Pam has been organizing a host of activities for the local communities, including Mindfulness Walks, conservation training in Witton Dene, Nature Detectives activities for children and young people, including 40 Brownies and Guides from Sacriston. Starting at the end of June will be 8 week 'Colour Your Life' Arts workshops, supported by Arts on Prescription and led by Jean Stokes. The next Mindfulness walk will be on Wednesday 3rd July 10am. These events are all FREE and are aimed at improving everyone's health and wellbeing. To book you slot or to find out more please contact Pam:

Phone: 07508 471522 Email: breathingspacedurham@gmail.com or check out the new Facebook page 'Witton Gilbert, St. Michael and all Angels'.

More Fun For The Kids

Work is soon to begin on the Play Park between Brookside and South Lea. New play equipment was highlighted in the Parish Plan and the Parish Council are delighted that this scheme, which will be installed under the supervision of the County Council, will be completed over the summer months. The total cost of the scheme is £40.00 of which the Parish Council has contributed £21.00. The remainder of the money has come from Durham Area Action Partnership and the County Councillors member's initiative fund. Consultation has been carried out with Witton Gilbert Primary School children and the design has some exciting new equipment.



Your Village Hall Needs You!!

As most of you know already the Community Centre (Cooper Hall) is owned by the residents of the village and NOT by the County Council, and therefore it needs your support!!

We invite more people of all ages to attend events held in the hall and would encourage younger members of the village to join our committee and get involved.

If you have any good ideas for holding events and helping to organise them please come along – committee meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month starting at 6.30pm....let us hear what you would like!!

Come along to our Coffee Mornings every Tuesday 9.30 – 12.30pm to enjoy home-baked cakes and

see what already takes place....

WATCH OUT FOR REGULAR EVENTS.....

Family Games Night.....Pie and Peas Quiz Night, Children's Party and Family Barbecue (sept)

REGULAR PROGRAMME INCLUDES..... Playgroup (daily) Dancing (Friday)

Womens Institute (monthly) Art Class (weekly) Craft and Chat (weekly) Card Making (weekly) TaiChi (weekly) Carpet Bowls (weekly) Zumba (weekly) Children Drama (weekly)

The hall can be hired for private parties and events.

We hope those who attended the Strawberry Tea Event enjoyed their day.

To make a booking ring:

A.Simpson on 01913712161

Go on... Treat Yourself.....

Beautilicious on Sacriston Lane offer all aspects of hair and beauty treatments and only use Loreal hair products...a market leader! We offer 10% discount to pensioners on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also have monthly special offers which can be found on Facebook (Beauty-licious)and in the Top Banana. We do kids pamper parties, weddings, Prom and Holiday packages. We also do ear-piercing and have a verticle sunbed.

travel or pay parking fees when we have such competitive prices. Support your village salon, book now on **0191 3712953**.

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*Witton Gilbert Nursery's Apprentice,
Zoe Burgess has received the
Child Care Apprentice of the Year award from
New College Durham
Congratulations Zoe!
And good luck in your career in Child Care.*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS OR GREETINGS TO LOVED ONES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS, eg: SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES, SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS, GETTING A DEGREE OR WELCOMING A NEW BABY INTO THE FAMILY, PLEASE CONTACT

B.Gilmore on 01913710827

or email: brendagilmore@talktalk.net

Saciston Surgery

Dr. Andrew Williams joined the practice on 1st July, following the retirement of Dr. Susan Walton. Thank you to all our patients who kindly completed the patient questionnaire, the results will be published in a couple of months. Reminder for parents of children who have not completed the course of the MMR vaccine, to make an appointment with the practice nurse asap. This year with our influenza campaign we will be offering patients aged 70 years and 79 years old the shingles vaccine.

Julia Haswell (Practice Manager)

Durham Police

DURHAM POLICE are keen to keep crime levels down and are aware that this time of year can be appealing to opportunist thieves. The warmer weather often means open doors and windows, residents enjoying their gardens or going away on holidays.

You can also help by taking your own preventative steps to stop becoming a victim.

Just follow a few simple security measures that we recommend.

Securing your property is always important.

1. If you have an alarm fitted make sure you use it.
2. Security lighting around your property is also a good idea. We recommend you use the dusk 'til dawn lights which are more energy efficient and illuminate automatically when it becomes dark.
3. Timer switches are also a good idea when going away from home.
4. Make sure that all doors and windows are security locked when leaving your property. It is also wise to keep doors locked even when you are inside or in the rear garden.
5. Make sure that outbuildings, such as garages

and sheds are kept locked when not in use. Garage doors in particular should be closed.

Vehicle security is also important.

1. If you have an alarm system fitted to your vehicle make sure it is enabled when not in use.
2. Never leave any valuables on display and always make sure they removed and taken with you. If this is not possible lock them away out of sight.
3. If you don't have a garage or driveway and you park your car on the street. try to find a well-lit area that is clearly overlooked by houses – and remember to lock it.

If you notice anything suspicious don't be afraid to ring 101 non-emergency telephone number and report what you have witnessed to the Police.

Why not come along to your local Residents/PACT Meeting. These are usually held on the second Wednesday of each month at Cooper Hall, starting at 6.30pm

Check Durham Constabulary's Website for details, Discover PACT at www.durham.police.uk

Witton Gilbert Parish Council To Develop A Neighbourhood Plan

Witton Gilbert Parish Council have resolved to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish Council's area, and to pull it all together they have formed a committee of 3 Parish Councillors and 3 of the residents who played such an important part in developing and completing the Parish Plan 2012. The Parish Council have applied for and successfully acquired a £7000 grant from the Dept of Communities & Local Government which will provide the lion's share of the costs of the plan.

Since April 2012, local communities have been able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local area, putting in place planning policies for the future development and growth of the neighbourhood.

The Plan is a 'community-led' framework for guiding the future development and growth of the area and will contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

Neighbourhood Plans relate to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental issues. It may deal with a wide range of issues (like housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area.

Neighbourhood Plans enable communities to take the lead in producing part of the statutory development plan for the area. Crucially, unlike a parish plan, these neighbourhood plans must be used to determine planning applications in a neighbourhood area.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to continued consultation with the people of Witton Gilbert and when finalised will be subject to a referendum within the village and then form part of Durham County Council Local Development Plan.

Witton Gilbert Parish Councils Web Site

Witton Gilbert Parish Council now has its own web site and it can be accessed at <http://parishes.durham.gov.uk/wittongilbert>

The site is hosted by Durham County Council and will give residents access not only to the administrative functions of the Parish Council, such as agendas, minutes, allotments, Councillors details and annual accounts but also to local information, maps, parish newsletter, news & events.

So please have a look and let us know your comments. We can be contacted at wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com or by the link on our site.

Witton Gilbert Gardening Club

WITTON GILBERT GARDENING CLUB is still going strong even though we have experienced inclement weather this season. We are now the very proud owners of an allotment. Last year we produced an abundance of vegetables, especially potatoes. We even thought about opening a Chip-Buttie stall!! We were very grateful for all the compliments on our 'prize' sunflowers, which lined the fence of our allotment. Our loyal helper John Burnett constantly helps to keep our allotment in order. We will be forever in his debt!!



We also have had an amazing opportunity to work with Sunderland University students in the autumn term. After numerous meetings and consultations with the students, sharing experiences and ideas,



the students made a magical and informative nature trail

for the outdoor environment at the front of our school. The students produced some fantastic wooden animals and fairy enchanted doors and windows, which we then decided to position on the trees. We have received many positive comments from parents and staff on how these pieces of art have promoted language and communication between the children. We enjoyed the whole experience and look forward to working with the wider community again.

For many people living in the White Tun area Thursday June 28th 2012 will long be remembered as the day when the rain came down. Many houses including the Tun were flooded in what proved to be the worst storm for 100 years.

A year on and most people are back to normal, however it is uncertain as to whether the Tun will ever re-open.

A lot of maintenance work has been carried out to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Your Parish Councillors

Fraser Reynolds (Chair)	3711198
Arnie Simpson (Vice Chair)	3712161
Lynne Michelle Cowan	3719461
Paul Guy	3710455
Anthony V. Harries	3710988
Amanda Hillary	3718239
Neil Liddle	3710339
Maria Waller	3718365
Alexander Woodmass	3710732
Geo.Thompson (Clerk)	3711808



Tell us what you think.....

Name:..... Address:.....

Tel:..... Email:.....