

# Witton

# Gilbert

Issue 36  
April 2014

## Parish Council News

### PEACE OF MIND FOR FLOODING VICTIMS

Following a bid by Durham County Council to the Environment Agency, £3000,000 has been allocated to prevent flooding in Witton Gilbert. The area was declared a priority after heavy flooding in June 2012 left the village under several feet of water causing damage to homes, roads and businesses. The necessary design and survey work is expected to take several months to complete before the work on the ground can begin with the project being completed within 14 months.

Hopefully this will ensure a permanent solution to the problem and give residents peace of mind. Parish Council Chairman, Fraser Reynolds, whose house was flooded in 2012 said ' this is tremendous news, as we have lived with this problem for many years and we look forward to being able to sleep more easily in our beds now'.



### "Oh! Yes we did!" - another successful Panto season for Witton Gilbert Group!

Witton Gilbert Drama Group staged 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Fyndoune College over three consecutive nights in February, to the delight of their audiences.

The Group is managed by Debbie Harris and has 28 current members, most of who live in Witton Gilbert, but some coming from Sacriston and Langley Park.

Debbie is assisted by Mrs. Beryl Doney on costumes, Mary Thorpe as prompt, and Sam Jackson who helps with choreography. The group is funded by holding fund-raising events throughout the year, and in 2013 received a grant of £300.00 from C.H.A.D. (Children's Hopes and Dreams)

The group was originally opened in 1992 by the W.I. and the first ever Panto was 'Cinderella' with cast members including Margaret Burt, Jean Geddes and the late Mrs. Anita Harris.



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## Pews pitched!

Work has started on the removal of pews in the side aisle at St Michael's Church, to create a flexible community space for Breathing Space and social activities. The pews are made out of pitch pine and have been stored off site. They only have one end as they were attached to the wall, but if anyone would like to salvage the wood for a small donation then please contact David Wilcox on 0191 3710529.

Fraser Reynolds  
Arnie Simpson

## Witton Gilbert Bowls Club

The new bowling season starts with the green opening on 16th April for practice and the first Saturday League match on 26th April. We also have a team in the Tuesday night league. New players are always welcome to come along and try the sport for themselves. The green is open Monday and Thursday afternoons 1.00pm – 3.00pm and Thursday evenings from 6.30pm.



## S.O.S!! KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN!

Cooper Hall needs your help! Funds are needed to keep the Hall flourishing for everyone's use.

We have just had to pay out large bills to update the Electrical System to meet current standards that ensures a 10 year Guarantee Certificate, also the Small Hall cupboards and sick units were desperately in need of replacement.

The enclosed leaflet gives details of on-going classes and groups and everyone is welcome.

The local Walking Group leave from here at 10.00am every Tuesday for a walk lasting just over one hour.

During the year we hold fund-raising events and on March 8th we held a 'Pie & Peas & Mash' night with a quiz, this was well attended but we could have catered for more.

April 15th we held an Easter 'Choc' Raffle On July 12th there will be a 'Strawberry Teas afternoon with tickets on sale shortly. This will be a two-part event with monies from Raffle and teas going to St Cuthberts Hospice, whilst monies from Stalls, Tombola & Prize-a-Time, etc going to support the Hall.

Another 'Pies & Peas' event will take place later in the year, along with Children's Parties and a Xmas Craft Fayre. WATCH OUT FOR POSTERS!

If you have any good ideas for a fund-raising event or would like a stall at our Craft Fayres please contact Barbara Minns at the Coffee Morning held every Tuesday 9.30am – 12.00 or phone on 01913712139

## BIG SPRING CLEAN-UP IN WITTON GILBERT

Between Sunday 16th March and Wednesday 26th March, 25 volunteers did three litter-picks. The covered areas were Witton Dene; Nor Lane; footpath to Kaysburn, and the whole of Sacriston Lane. This culminated in the collection of a staggering 41 bags of rubbish. The 'pickers' were made up of Friends of Witton Dene, Parish Councillors, Witton Gilbert Environmental Group and local people with pride in their village. A BIG thank you to you all! This round of 'picks' only covered a small percentage of our village so if YOU would like to come along on the next round of 'picks' please call PENNY on 01913711295 and leave your number.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE.....

Whilst England were beating West Germany 4-2 in a memorable match at Wembley to pick up the World Cup in 1966, our own village lads scored a memorable 7-1 win over Stanley RAFA in the Stanley & District CIU league. HAPPY DAYS!

**Pictures are: back row left to right – Tommy Cochrane, Dave Hodgson, Bob Jacques, Tom Cochrane (manager) Terry Waddle, Keith Tiffen, Joe Nagy. Front Row: left to right – Ken Haig, Fraser Reynolds, Colin Turnbull, Billy Tulip and Albert Lamb.**



# Witton Gilbert Womens Institute

The W.I. has been active in Witton Gilbert for 67 years and still boasts one of the founder members, as well as long-standing and newer members who have come to reside in the village. We are a friendly group and meet every second Monday in each month at Witton Gilbert Community Centre at 7pm

This is an opportunity to meet up with like-minded ladies, enjoy speakers, regular meals out, day-trips, crafts, theatre visits and many more activities throughout the year. In the coming months we have a millinery demonstration, pudding tasting, advice from AGE UK, as well as a visit from Lanchester Dairies and a trip to York.

Do come along and join us.....all new members welcome!

**Cynthia Thompson - President**

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## Witton Gilbert Development Group

Witton Gilbert Development Group held its first AGM on 25th February at Cooper Hall. The Committee would like to thank everyone who took part in the meeting. We had some lively exchanges on how to progress with the Parish Plan and these comments and suggestions are to be taken forward. It's important that as many of the residents as possible give their views and get involved in any way they can. The more we work together the stronger our community will become. If you want more information or you would like to get involved please contact **Brenda Gilmore (Chair) on 01913710827**



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## Dog Fouling

Over the winter months the Parish Council have received a great number of complaints regarding irresponsible dog owners allowing their dogs to foul on open public spaces in the village, in particular on the area between the allotment gardens and the recreation field in the vicinity of the children's play area and the school, and on the Coach Road leading to the Parish Church.

PLEASE! PLEASE! Dog owners respect our village and always scoop up after your dog has fouled.

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## Sacrison Surgery

Saturday morning opening will be extended until the end of May 2014, and we are hopeful this will extend to the end of the year. Thank You to everyone who takes the time to complete the patient experience outcome questionnaire regarding the opening times.

Between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday, we have a doctor available to speak to if you feel you cannot wait until the next available appointment. We ask you to please contact the practice in the first instance before going to A&E department. The end of February saw a fond farewell to Dr. Judson after 33 years at Sacrison. We all wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

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## Anderson School Of Dancing - 30 Years Anniversary Celebration

Since 1984 principle dance teacher Karen Anderson has ran dance classes every Friday evening at Cooper Hall, Witton Gilbert, along with the help of fellow teacher Michelle Harrison, student Kirsty, and other helpers, where they have been putting adults and children of all ages through their paces and keeping them fit for the past 30 years. To mark this anniversary a family fun-day is planned for Sunday 14th Sept 2014 at Cooper Hall for the community, pupils past and present and their families.

Activities will include entertainers, bouncy castles, face-painting, crafts, dancing and many other attractions.

Karen would like to express her sincere gratitude to Michelle, Kirsty, helpers, parents, pupils and everyone else who have helped and supported her over the years to enable the dance school to be the success it is today.

Further details of this forthcoming event will follow in the next newsletter.

For more information please contact **Karen on 01913710455 or Michelle on 01913711732.**

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## A Breath Of Fresh Air!

A BIG Thank You for all the food donations towards the Durham Food Bank!

In our village there are a number of collection points including St Michael's and the Methodist Church. All food donations are greatly appreciated and if you have any spare items of finned food or dried goods please drop them off; or speak to Stephen on 01913711491.

St Michael's in Coach Lane is open for longer now that the roof work has been completed. There are services through the week (9.15am Sunday; 8.30am on Tuesday and 9.30am on Wednesday) plus Pam (Breathing Space Project Officer) and others are often to be found at the church Mon - Thurs.

Everyone is welcome to drop in or talk to Pam on 07508471522

You may have heard that the pews in the side-aisle have been removed and replaced by moveable

chairs and tables. This allows the space to be used more flexibly, both for services and other community activities, including; social get-togethers; art work; concerts; discussion groups; refreshments; prayers and meditation. Our Vestry/Meeting Room has also been completed with fresh paint and floor-covering and it is well worth a visit.

See the photos on Facebook: Witton Gilbert St Michaels and All Angels.

Our aim is to have the church open seven days a week eventually so that everyone can avail themselves of a 'Breathing Space', a time to pause, ponder, slow down and reflect, in a safe and peaceful setting (whether or not you choose to take part in any of the activities on offer in and around St Michael's.

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR NOTICES OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS/OR TALK TO PAM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

# WITTON GILBERT NURSERY

Witton Gilbert Nursery have had an amazing couple of weeks looking at stories by Nick Sharratt. We shared stories with other classes within the school and even got to meet Nick himself. The children decorated socks and wore silly socks for the day.

We made sock biscuits, matched socks and voted for our favourite Nick Sharratt book. 3rd place was 'Socks'; 2nd place was 'I'm going to the Zoopermarket'; and 1st place went to 'Never ever use a knife and fork'. Although we did talk about how we DID use a knife and fork! Our competition for silliest socks was won by AMY in the morning and MASON in the afternoon; we hope you enjoy wearing your sock prizes!! This was all linked, as always, to the Early Years Foundation Stage development matters, which is our way of monitoring and recording the progress/achievements of each individual child.

We have limited places for Sept 2014, please contact Nursery ASAP if you have a child who is 3 years old before 31st August 2014.

07971799575

l.markwell100@durhamlearning.net



## Parish Notice Board

Witton Gilbert Parish Council are looking at ways to improve the village Allotment site and hope to introduce new measures in the Spring. The Allotments are currently inspected twice per year and the council have just signed a pest control agreement with County Council. They are also looking at rules to cover bonfires and random skip hire to remove unwanted items. After an absence of many years allotment holders have started to keep hens, which for a large family, can be a good source of food. This current trend will be monitored with the right regulations being put in place. All of the plots are currently occupied and there is a short waiting list.

The current site known as the 'Paddock' has been in use for over 100 years. Not only does it provide fresh wholesome food and good exercise, it attracts people of all ages and professions, both male and female.

**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.....

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