

# Witton Gilbert Parish Council News

wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com

## 100 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE

At 11 am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 combat in the First World War ended with an armistice leading to an eventual signing of the Versailles Treaty on 28th June 1919, formally ending the war.

Families throughout the Country suffered the loss of loved ones with almost a million soldiers killed in action whilst serving with the British armed forces, this included just over 500,000 with no known grave. Added to that more than 2 million were wounded.

Altogether there were more than 8 million deaths and 21 million wounded when taking into account casualty figures from all the combatants involved in the war.

Because of the impending 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice Witton Gilbert Parish Council considered it appropriate to do something over and above the usual remembrance ceremony in November to commemorate those from Witton Gilbert and surrounding areas who gave their lives in this and other conflicts.



The new seat commissioned by the Parish Council

It was decided to commission a seat to be placed next to the War Memorial with an inscription that reads "1918 *Lest we forget* 2018". The seat was installed on October 30<sup>th</sup> in good time for the anniversary in November.

### Remembrance Ceremony

Local dignitaries, including County and Parish Councillors, and more than 200 members of the public took part in the yearly remembrance ceremony on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It was a very moving and dignified ceremony, which included a service, a laying of wreaths and a bugler playing the last post.

Many thanks to everyone who turned out on what was quite a cold day.



Councillor Simpson and RAF Flight Lieutenant Houle lay wreaths at the War Memorial

*They shall not grow old as we  
that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them, nor  
the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
We will remember them*

Extract from For the Fallen  
by Laurence Binyon

## WITTON GILBERT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Community Centre at 6 pm.

Members of the public wishing to attend may do so but must leave during confidential parts of the agenda. Before the meeting members of the public may be given an opportunity to speak but this will be restricted to 15 minutes and is at the Chairman's discretion. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the notice boards at McColls, at the top of Newton Street, at Briar Lea and on the Parish Council website.

Your Parish Councillors are as follows:

Fraser Reynolds (Chair)	3711198
Neil Liddle (Vice Chair)	07950440265
Arnold Simpson	3712161
Paul Guy	3710455
Lynne Michelle Cowen	3719461
Anthony V. Harries	3710988
Amanda Hillary	3718239
Jon Reynolds	3718691
Louise Murphy	3711564

The Parish Clerk can be contacted on 01913711808 or **wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com**

### **A new Parish Councillor**

The Parish Council have co-opted Louise Murphy to replace Marie Waller who has resigned from the Council.

Louise has lived in the Village all her life apart from a spell in Australia, she is married with 2 children and works in banking.

## COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

### **Cllr Arnie Simpson and Cllr Mike McGaun**

Since our last report we have attended meetings on speed reduction/traffic management and the implementation of better local bus services amongst other things.

We held a meeting with the Durham County Council Highways and Traffic Management Officer at Durham Special Operations Unit to discuss the implementation of speed reduction measures, including Chicanes and Dragons Teeth. We are happy to say that work will begin on implementation of these in Witton Gilbert and Langley Park in the New Year followed by Esh, Cornsay Colliery and Satley soon after.

We have also held a meeting with the Contracts and Services manager Simon Day regarding more local bus services through Langley Park onto Quebec and Esh Winning and will be having further meetings to push this forward.

The County Council are currently coming down very hard on Fly Tippers. A perpetrator was recently fined, ordered to do unpaid work and had his vehicle confiscated and crushed. We would encourage you to report fly tippers by emailing **flytipping@durham.gov.uk** or telephoning **03000261000**.

We will continue to work to improve the lives of residents of Witton Gilbert, Langley Park and the other areas we represent to the best of our ability.

If there are any questions, or we can help in any way please feel free to contact one of us (see below for details).

Michael McGaun and Arnie Simpson.

**Telephone:**  
**07715 935488 for Mike McGaun or 01913712161 for Arnie Simpson**

**Email:**  
**mike.mcgaun1978@gmail.com**  
**arnold.simpson@durham.gov.uk**

## POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

PACT meetings are currently being held on a monthly basis at Witton Gilbert Community Centre. Each meeting is attended by a member of the local Neighbourhood Policing team so if you have any issues you would like to bring up with them please feel free to come along. Privacy can be arranged if required.

The final PACT meeting of the year will be on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6 pm.

## SNIPPETS FROM SACRISTON SURGERY

Hello to you all.

There are two words on my mind a lot of late: "flu jab". The flu season this year has

been challenging, for which I am sorry. NHS England changed the process this year: there are two vaccines (one for the under 65s, one for the over 65s), two suppliers and really unhelpful delivery schedules. All deliveries are in now, and we are trying to play 'catch up' with the over 65s vaccine (delivery has been late), and there are still plenty of under 65 vaccines left. **IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, YOU SHOULD HAVE THE FLU JAB!** To help you decide if you are eligible, here is a reminder:

**People who should have a flu vaccine:**

The injected flu vaccine is offered *free of charge* on the NHS to people who are at risk. This is to ensure they are protected against catching flu and developing serious complications.

You are eligible to receive a free flu vaccine if you:

- are 65 years of age or over
- if you are pregnant
- if you have certain medical 'long-term' conditions (e.g. diabetes, COPD, asthma, CHD)
- if you are overweight
- if you live with a learning disability
- if you are living in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facility
- if you receive a carer's allowance, or you are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose

welfare may be at risk if you fall ill

- if you are a front-line health and social care worker.

**If you are unsure as to whether you should have the flu jab or not, PLEASE just ask us, we're here to help.**

**Flu vaccine for children**

Nurseries and Schools should provide the flu vaccination for most eligible children. However, if you've missed the session within the nursery or school, or are not sure whether your child should have the vaccination, PLEASE just ask us.

**If you are unsure as to whether your child should have the flu jab or not, PLEASE just ask us, we're here to help.**

I know that a number of people choose to receive their flu vaccine from a pharmacy or chemist, but getting the flu vaccination from your surgery ensures you are supporting your local GP surgery: so I ask you to continue to support the surgery by coming here for your flu vaccination.

Here's hoping we all remain sneeze free this autumn and winter. Please do contact me if there is anything you think I can help with, with regards to the practice.

Regards,  
Martin

**WITTON GILBERT COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Witton Gilbert Community Centre has many activities going on including:-

**Monday** Play Group, Pilates, Art Class, Ladies Bowls, Tai Chi, Woman's Institute meetings and a popular I.T. Class.

**Tuesday** Play Group, Weight Watchers, Coffee Morning, Walking Group, Card & Craft, Bridge Club, Sugar Craft, Zumba, Sewing Group.

**Wednesday** Play Group, Card & Craft, Zumba, Sewing Group, Morris Dancers.

**Thursday** Play Group, Flower Arrangers, Active Theatre, Dog Craft, R.S.P.C.A.

**Friday** Play Group, Sewing Group, Dancing Classes.

**Saturday and Sunday** Yoga, Ladies Chanting, Gong Bath and on Sunday Zumba.

For further information telephone 01913712161 or 07982862127.

**FRIENDS OF WITTON DENE AND BREATHING SPACE**

Friends of Witton Dene in conjunction with Breathing Space have this year, despite the weather conditions, managed to enhance the beauty of Witton Dene by providing a woodland meadow. The meadow area has been seeded and next year should see a diverse



Ongoing work at Witton Dene

collection of woodland flowers.

The meadow was judged by Britain in Bloom judges who made an award for the volunteers efforts.

The coming year should see further improvements not only to the meadow but in adjacent areas. Planning is at an early stage but suggested projects are provision of seating for visitors/walkers who access the Dene and woodcarvings at suitable locations throughout.

All projects depend on funding some of which is raised through the sale of calendars . Be sure to get your 2019 copy.

New Volunteers always welcome. Enquiries via Denis on 07887425242 or simply pop down to the church which is open each morning as a drop in centre.

The Parish Council would like to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### CHILDREN'S HOPES AND DREAMS (CHAD)

The Children's Hopes and Dreams (CHAD) group based in Witton Gilbert are a small charity who raise money to help children in the local area. We also help buy equipment for Treetops Neonatal Ward at University Hospital of North Durham.

We have events over the Christmas and New Year. On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December two live bands at Witton Gilbert Club, doors open at 6.00pm, £3.50 on the door. On New Years Day, again at the Club, we have a games day with horse racing, play your cards right, raffles, bingo etc., from 11.00am.

All money raised goes to help the playgroup, the drama group and towards a second high flow oxygen system for Treetops.

### A PLEA TO KEEP FOOTPATHS CLEAR THIS WINTER

Last year we had some quite heavy snowfall but hopefully this year we will have a milder winter.

If it does snow please consider pedestrians when clearing your drives and try to avoid leaving cleared snow on the pavements.

The elderly, parents with children in buggies, people in wheel chairs or who have mobility problems, all need clear footpaths or they can become stuck inside and isolated.

### PARISH NOTICEBOARD

#### **Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Plan**

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to the County Council and is subject to a further 6 week consultation before being examined by an independent planning inspector. The plan is available online at:

<http://witton-gilbert.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

The inspector will ensure the plan complies with the law, with national planning guidance and with the strategic policies of Durham County Council's local plan. The inspector can require amendments or recommend that the Plan go forward for a public referendum. Should the community support the plan it will be formally adopted and become an integral part of the planning process when determining planning applications in Witton Gilbert Parish.

#### **Allotments**

Residents may have heard that the Parish Council recently put in a bid for the land next to the Infants School occupied by one of two sets of allotments in the village. Unfortunately we have to report that the Council were unsuccessful with this bid and we don't yet know who the winning bidder is as this issue goes to press.

**Editor Mr. D. C. Rider**  
[wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com)