

Witton Gilbert Parish Council News

wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com

ONE COMMUNITY

A NEW LOOK FOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

After many years tirelessly putting together the Parish newsletter Brenda Gilmore has decided to retire. Getting around the village collecting stories whilst keeping things fresh and current isn't the easiest of tasks, but Brenda has quietly got on with the job. On behalf of all of the community groups and residents I would like say a big thank you and congratulations on a job well done.



Brenda Gilmore

We are delighted to announce that David Rider has picked up the mantle. David has had many years of experience producing various newsletters, pamphlets and booklets including formally editing the Esh Leaves newsletter.

As you will see we have taken the opportunity of re designing the newsletter and we hope that you like it. Please take time to read it and let us have your comments.

David will be looking for stories; anything about village life would be most welcome.

If you have a story please contact David on wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Fraser Reynolds

LITTER PICKING

As from May 1st the Parish Council has appointed David Rider, as a litter picker, working 7 hours a week collecting litter throughout the village. In order to make things easier the Village has been split into different areas and it is anticipated that each area will be visited at least once a fortnight, with the worst places for litter, including up the hill towards Sacriston and the area round the Village Centre, visited at least once a week.

If any reader knows of any area of the village that is in particular need of attention and has not yet been visited, could

you please contact the Parish Council or a Councillor and pass on the information and this will be dealt with as a priority.

One area of concern is the continuing problem of dog fouling. Dog owners are asked to pick up their dog's deposits and place them in one of the many bins provided in various places throughout the village.

Failure to pick up droppings can result in dirt being picked up on shoes and clothing and, in the worst case scenario, result in Toxocariasis potentially causing serious illness, possibly leading to blindness.

You can be given an on the spot fine (Fixed Penalty Notice) for failing to clean up after your dog of £100 with a trip to Court and a further fine of £1000 for failure to pay.



Litter Picker D. Rider © George Hawxwell

WITTON GILBERT PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings are normally 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 the meeting during confidential parts of the agenda. The meeting will commence after there has been an opportunity for members of the public to speak. This will normally be restricted to 15 minutes and is at the Chairman's discretion. Agenda's and Minutes are regularly posted on the notice boards at McColls, at the top of Newton Street and at Briar Lea. They are also available 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

The Parish Clerk is Lynne Rowland who can be contacted on **01388249178** or **wgparishclerk@gmail.com**

If you have any suggestions or ideas which would help to improve life in Witton Gilbert please get in touch. Your Parish Councillors are all volunteers and residents of the village like yourselves. We have pride in our community and strive to make things better. Although we would be first to admit we

don't always get it right but at least we care enough to try.

Please contact us via our email address we would love to hear from you.
wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Arnie Simpson and Cllr Mike McGaun

Esh and Witton Gilbert

Business has been very busy lately. We are your elected representatives within County Hall and we have just celebrated our first year in office and what a busy year we have had representing the residents of Witton Gilbert, Langley Park, Esh Village, Cornsay Village, Cornsay Colliery, Quebec, Wilks Hill, Satley and East and West Butsfield.

Within Witton Gilbert we have campaigned for the re-surfacing of roads, held numerous meetings with Council and Police regarding the potential introduction of Speed Reduction Measures on the local roads, have had the steps at the War Memorial re-instated, have addressed illegal parking, have assisted residents with Anti-Social behaviour issues. We have had bins cleared from pathways which were stopping pedestrians passing and we have assisted numerous community groups with various issues. We have attended Parish and Village meetings as well as

representing the residents on Area Action Partnership Committees and we have represented the community by parading on Remembrance Day.

Financially we have assisted football teams and community groups and we have had the four bus shelters on Sacriston Lane refurbished.

We continue to look forward to working with the residents and community of Witton Gilbert and represent you all within County Hall.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact one of us.

Michael McGaun and Arnie Simpson.

Email:

mike.mcgaun1978@gmail.com
arnold.simpson@durham.gov.uk

Telephone:

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

SNIPPETS FROM SACRISTON SURGERY

Hello to you all. I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the summer sun. Remember to use sun screen and keep topped up with fluids (a cool glass of water or a refreshing cuppa are my favourites). There are two points I'd like to share with you this time:

Flu vaccines

- We are already planning for the 2018-2019 flu

season. The NHS has split the flu vaccines into two this year: one for under 65s with a long-term condition, and one for the over 65s. The vaccine for the under 65s arrives towards the end of September, and the one for the over 65s towards the end of October.

- Sacriston Surgery does not ask anyone else to deliver the flu vaccine to our patients: if you get your flu vaccine somewhere else, then 1) there is less money coming into the practice for us to use for the good of patients and 2) we may not be informed that you've had the flu vaccine.
- So, please keep an eye out for further information, and please support the practice by getting your flu vaccine from us.

Friday afternoon drop-in sessions

- Would you like to pop in for a tea or coffee, and meet other members of our community?
- We are trying to develop a programme that looks at health related issues in the community.
- If so please come along to our weekly drop in session, here in the surgery, each Friday afternoon between 1.00 pm and 2.30 pm.

Regards, Martin

WITTON GILBERT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Witton Gilbert Community Centre has many activities going on throughout the week with something to suit all of the family. Weekly activities include:-

Monday Play Group, Pilates, Art Class, Ladies Bowls (more on this and the I.T. class further on), Tai Chi, Woman's Institute meetings, I.T. Class, Parish Council meetings (every second Monday of the month at 6 pm).

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.

Also on a weekend we take bookings for such as Children's parties, Celebrations, Conferences and other similar activities when there is a room available.

For further information call Arnie on 01913712161 or 07982862127.

I.T. at the Community Centre

For the past year the Witton Gilbert Community Centre has been offering I.T. classes at the Centre on a Monday afternoon between 2 and 4 pm. Computers had been available for many years in the Community Centre but the equipment was by then obsolete and had been standing idle for quite a while.

Last year a new volunteer tutor came into the picture and the committee authorized the purchase of new replacement equipment, with the result that the computer centre has taken on a new lease of life.

The resident tutor can offer I.T. tuition from a basic to an advanced level depending on how far you wish to go and at a rate of progress you feel comfortable with. Why not come along and see for yourself and join a friendly and now well established class. Free parking is available should it be required and there is a bus stop nearby for those who wish to use public transport.

The Centre uses the **Learn My Way** course from the Good Things Foundation Online Centres Network to provide an online learning system designed to help people take the first steps into the world of computers and the internet. This starts from the very basic for new learners progressing to a more advanced level and certificates are provided as each stage of the course is



Monday afternoon I.T. Class from the far end John Foster, Nigel Haddock, Margaret Burt and George Hawxwell

completed. In addition to this course we can also provide separate tuition in Word-processing; Spreadsheets and Database to an advanced level and provide help with many other I.T. related subjects.

If you don't want to learn new I.T. skills but just want to come in and use a computer we would still be happy to accommodate you. Charges are £1.50 per hour with an extra charge for printing of 10p per sheet for black and white and 20p per sheet for colour.

Indoor Bowling Club

Our indoor bowling club meet at Witton Gilbert Community Centre every Monday between 1pm and 3 pm, excepting bank holidays. It is believed that there has been indoor bowling at the community centre since it first opened, but the available records only start in 1987.

The original club diminished to only a few members, until 2008 when more of us joined to form the current group.

We have 12 members, from Witton Gilbert, Langley Park, Lanchester, and Edmondsley.

As most of us have retired, the social aspect of the club is very important, but some members demonstrate great skill and take their bowling very seriously. We are not in a league, and do not enter competitions; the club is for our own entertainment. We have managed to replace the carpet used by the previous club from our own contributions.



The Indoor Bowling Club

In fact, regardless of ability, the club allows us to spend a couple of hours in friendly company, with the added bonus of a game of bowls.

If you would like more information, contact Margaret Burt on 07944027606.

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

The First World War

To commemorate one hundred years since the end of the First World War Witton Gilbert Parish Council has

decided to purchase a Victorian style seat which will be sited adjacent to the war memorial.

Described as 'the war to end all wars' it touched every town and village in the land with many fine young men sacrificed for an outcome that left most of Europe and beyond on it's knees.

Their bravery will never be forgotten; every year more and more people attend the remembrance service in November

Witton Gilbert Educational Foundation

A meeting of trustees of the above foundation is to be held to consider applications for grants in respect of students who are over 16 and under 25 on 1st September 2018 and undertaking full time further education at School, College, or University.

Witton Gilbert, Applicants must be resident in the Ancient parish of Witton Gilbert (which includes most of Sacriston). Requests for an application form should be made to; WGEF, 33 Hillside, Durham, DH76RB (Or email **cowanlm1@gmail.com** for a printable application form).

Completed forms should be returned by 30th October 2018.

Editor Mr. D. C. Rider
wgpcnewsletter@gmail.com

Closing date for articles for the next edition is 12th October