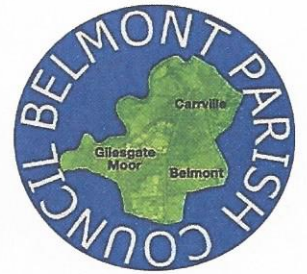


NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



SPRING 2018

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY AND PANTO AT BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL



WELL DONE AND MANY THANKS TO BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On behalf of all who attended the senior citizens' Christmas Party and excellent production of *Dick Whittington*, Belmont Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Belmont Community School! Once again we were treated to a very enjoyable afternoon with first class, talented entertainment, and superb party refreshments provided by school cook, Mrs Allison Tindale. The Headteacher, Mr Paul Marsden, and the Inclusion and Community Teacher, Mrs Anita Stephen, gave everyone a warm welcome, supported by other members of staff. Guests were full of praise for the care, politeness and efficiency of students who helped serve the refreshments and were a credit to the school. The Parish Council held a Free Prize Draw and winners seemed delighted with their prizes. Students also held a raffle to raise funds for their Tall Ships adventure (For more information, see article on page 2).

NO INCREASE IN PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT!

2017/18 Budget Precept £76,750.01

2018/19 Budget Precept £76,750.01

Once again Durham County Council has applied the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in line with the overall formula made available to Durham County Council from Central Government. The outcome of this action is Belmont Parish Council will not be receiving **any** Grant and our budget for the forthcoming year is accordingly reduced by **£2,632.00**. However, we are fortunate that through New Building in our Parish, more Residents paying their Rates and prudent Parish Council management we have no need to raise the Parish Council Precept for 2018/19

TALL SHIPS

Ten pupils from Belmont Community School are set to embark on their first tall ships voyage in March 2018. They will be representing the school and experience life on board one of the challenger yachts as they undergo the tall ships adventure. Belmont Parish Council has agreed to support with funding towards this, following an excellent presentation to the Parish Council from two of the pupils. We wish them well in their adventure.

BELMONT, CARRVILLE AND GILESGATE MOOR IN BLOOM

Belmont Parish Council is looking forward to participate once again in Northumbria in Bloom and Beautiful Durham. Last year in Northumbria in Bloom we did very well, winning an overall tally of four Gold awards of which two were Best in Category, and a Silver Gilt that was also Best in Category.

We very much appreciate the efforts of all who work in many ways to improve our environment and make our parish such a pleasant place to live. As well as praising group and school participants, judges always remark on the fine work of residents who maintain such attractive and varied gardens.

May we encourage you to enter the Beautiful Durham Competition. Entry is free and details regarding the 2018 competition will become available on the DCC website (www.durham.gov.uk) in the near future or you can contact the County Council on 03000 261 000.

In relation to Northumbria in Bloom, pictures from the Parish Council's Annual Children's Art Competition are converted by students at Belmont Community School into children's calendars. Donations for these have raised well over £120 for the Great North Air Ambulance – well done to all of the pupils involved and all who contributed. Enjoy your calendars!

PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE PARISH

New equipment has been installed at Cheveley Park, the Moorfield and Poplar play areas.

CHEVELEY PARK TODDLER PLAY AREA has a new sputnik and new climbing apparatus.

POPLAR ROAD CARRVILLE has new tarmacked paths, a new seat, and the grid at the entrance has been replaced by a gate.

MOORFIELD TODDLER PLAY AREA has a new roundabout to replace the old one.

NEXT TO THE MOORFIELD TODDLER PLAY AREA new fitness equipment has been installed.

POPLAR DRIVE GILESGATE also has some new play equipment.

The Parish Council is very proud of the Play facilities in our Parish and members work hard all year round to maintain and improve them.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM TO RECEIVE BICYCLES

The Parish Council has secured a deal to purchase three pedal cycles to be utilised by uniformed officers within the Belmont and Gilesgate area for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour and community engagement.

The deal includes the three bikes, safety helmets, lockable chains and insurance cover for 3 years, which covers servicing and repairs over that period. The Parish Council received a reduction of 20% on all costs.

BELMONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – CENTRE AND SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER

The Parish Council is based in Belmont Community Centre and so are lots of community groups who meet to arrange flowers, chat and craft, scan and cut, learn about archaeology, be part of the University of the Third Age and get coaching in a range of martial arts. The Centre is home to the Cheesy Waffles Project (come in and ask) and Belmont Mother and Toddlers. The Parish Council Office sells poo bags and the centre even hosts a dog grooming parlour. As most local people know we have ample car parking and are right beside the tennis courts, cricket pitch and the bowling green. The Community Association also has access to Belmont Community School evenings and weekends where groups can hire the sports hall, the gym, the astroturf, the performing arts block AND newly refurbished classrooms within the School. Lots of facilities, plenty of groups to join and one number to contact us to book a room or enquire about activities

Phone: 0191 386 6659

BELMONT SCRAMBLES ACTIVITIES

Over the last few months, through the liaison of National Trust wardens Dave Carver and Jodie Peachey, several children from Belmont Community Schools have been involved in practical sessions on the Scrambles, as part of their involvement in the Green Academies Project. Friends of Belmont Scrambles have also been taking part.



Clearing scrub and brambles on the Scrambles.

The jobs that have been tackled include:

- Clearing bracken at the side of the main meadow.
- Planting trees in the same place.
- Scattering yellow-rattle seeds on the triangle inside the main entrance.
- Clearing protruding vegetation by the main entrance.
- Planting 500 wild flower bulbs in various locations.
- Clearing scrub and brambles from the wet-flush area.

Would you be interested in getting involved? If so, please contact Ken Neat, Chairman of the Friends of Belmont Scrambles (kp.neat@gmail.com).

A MESSAGE FROM BELMONT BOWLING CLUB SUNDERLAND ROAD, MOORFIELD, GILESGATE MOOR

Members of the Belmont Bowling Club are looking forward to the 2018 season with "club friendlies", Inter-club, League and Club Competitions. New members are always very welcome, so why not come along and enjoy an afternoon, evening or weekend of bowling in pleasant surroundings, or for the more competitive, hone your skills in the club competitions in the Durham and District Areas.

Our season starts in mid-April through to mid-September. Own equipment is not necessary as the use of club equipment on the day is available, with "Free Lessons" and advice always available. If you are interested why not come to the "Open Weekend" at the start of the season; look out for the dates and times.

For further information please contact Mrs S. Overton on 0191 3860 664 at the Parish Office, opening hours 09:30 – 11:30, Monday – Friday, or Club Members Mr Tom Dixon (Tel: 0191 3862 845), Mrs Christine Budd (Tel: 0191 3845 870).

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

We are very pleased to welcome Tracy Lemmon as a new Belmont Ward member of the Parish Council. Tracy joined the council following the resignation of Philip Langley for health reasons. We wish Philip well and hope Tracy enjoys her new role.

CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE PARISH

Local parish councillors and volunteers worked very hard, to ensure we had a Christmas tree this year in the grounds of St. Mary Magdalene Church.

There was a grand switching on of the lights, with carol singing beforehand in the church, mince pies, mulled wine, and even Santa made a guest appearance!

We were delighted with the turn out and felt it was a very successful event and wonderful start to the festive season.



Dates for Parish Council Meetings

held in
Belmont Community Centre
at 6.30 p.m.
(first Thursday of the month, excluding August)

1st March 2018

5th April 2018

3rd May 2018

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Durham County Council 03000 260 000

General enquiries

03000 260 000

Highways, Lighting
and Streetscene

03000 261 000

County Council Help Desk 0300 123 7070

Community Police Officer

Can be contacted on the police
non-emergency number
0345 606 0365

Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664

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Council Office : Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate Moor, DURHAM, DH1 2LL
Open 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. Tel 0191 386 0664 Email belmontpc@btconnect.com