

**DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

held in  
Belmont Community Centre  
at 6.30 p.m.  
(Second Thursday of the month, excluding  
August)  
Next meetings on  
9th November 2023 /14th December 2023/  
11th January 2024  
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Durham County Council  
General enquiries 03000 260 000  
Highways, Lighting  
and Streetscene 03000 261 000  
County Council Help Desk 03000 123 7070

Community Police Officer can be contacted on the  
police non-emergency number 0345 606 0365

# NEWSLETTER

## Belmont Parish Council



**AUTUMN 2023**

**PARISH COUNCILLORS**

<u>Belmont Area</u>		<u>Carrville Area</u>		<u>Gilesgate Moor Area</u>	
Eric Mavin	07507095616	Lesley Mavin	07944471749	Chris Fletcher	03000269096
Mick Bennett	01913407361	John Appleby	07960241576	Patrick Conway	07943015662
Kim Noble	07912790903	Patricia Conway	07943016225	Val Hawes	07920145442
Arthur Walker	01913846282	Joe Knight	01913862902	Carole Lattin	07813937725
Stephen White	07914006465	Ann Watkins	annwatkins261@hotmail.com	Mick Watson	07514431196

**Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664**

**BCA FACILITIES FOR HIRE**

Belmont Community Association is a busy and successful centre. Rooms are available to hire for family celebrations, public meetings, training events, exhibitions, leisure and recreational activities and much more. Please contact centre manager Jacqui Miller on 01913866659, belmontca@live.co.uk or prices and further details.

**CARRVILLE AND BELMONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

The Residents' Association meets the first Thursday of every month at Lynn Jordison House, Broomside Lane at 6pm We would love to welcome new members, come along to our next meeting on 2nd November to find out what we do, or contact Eric Mavin (details above)

**FRIENDS OF BELMONT SCRAMBLES**

The Friends of Belmont Scrambles will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 14th November at 7.15pm at Lynn Jordison House. They would also love to welcome new members – come along and join them, or contact Stephen White (details above)

**YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED**

We would be very interested to hear feedback from residents about how they feel we as a parish council are doing, or whether you have any issues / concerns / support needed or any feedback on items in this newsletter. Please complete the slip below and return to the parish office or email to the address below.

Name ..... Contact details (phone/email) .....

My views / suggestions are .....

.....

.....

.....

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

**SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will be held on  
**Wednesday 13th December 2023**  
at Belmont Community School.

Guests will be received from **12:45pm** for a performance at  
**1.00pm of 'Snow White'**

The school has kindly offered to provide a cuppa and a slice of cake after the performance - a much appreciated treat!

**Everyone Welcome**

If you would like to attend, please telephone the Parish Office on 0191 386 0664.

At the time of booking please notify of any special dietary requirements, the school needs to know these no later than 24th November.

Transport is available on request to the Parish Office. Transport to pick up from 12.00 noon.



**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2023**

**Sunday 12th November 2023**

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH 10.00 A.M.**

**BELMONT WAR MEMORIAL 10.35 A.M.**

Following the services light refreshments will be available in Belmont Parish Hall.

Members of the public are very welcome.  
Please do join us.

Members of the public are also very welcome to join the 'Friends of Belmont War Memorial' working party. Please contact Eric Mavin or Mick Watson if interested (details on back page)

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## BELMONT PARISH IN BLOOM



We would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Parish area of Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor so attractive in the spring and summer, particular thanks go to our new contractors, Durham County Council for our wonderful beds and tub displays, and to volunteers who have planted three new sustainable beds this year – at Wantage Road, the Sunderland Road entrance to High Grange estate, and Cheveley Park library. Members of Belmont Parish Council Environment Committee, along with community volunteers attended the Northumbria in Bloom Awards. As well as visiting the specific competition entries, the judges were also impressed with the many attractive private gardens which they passed on their tour of the Parish so a big thank you to all the residents who contributed towards us gaining our gold awards. Belmont Parish nominated awards were as follows:

- Schools - Gilesgate Primary School Allotment - Gold & Best in Category
- Religious - Belmont Cemetery - Silver
- Hotels - Ramside Hall – Silver Gilt
- Allotments - Belmont Allotments – Silver Gilt
- Urban Community - Belmont (Parish) -Silver
- Conservation - Belmont Scrambles Nature Reserve - Silver Gilt.
- Private Garden - Dinsdale Drive, Belmont – Gold and best in class
- Community Champion – Barbara Howarth, nominated by Belmont Parish Council.
- In Your Neighbourhood – The Duffy – Thriving Level 4
- In Your Neighbourhood – Dragon Park – Advancing Level 3

The Beautiful Durham awards were held on 4th October 2023 and Belmont Parish has achieved well again with 9 awards including a Winner for the best large village – Belmont (Belmont Parish Council), a Winner for the best group horticultural project -Durham Gilesgate Primary School, and a Winner for best allotments - Belmont Allotments Club. We also received a Winner for the best-kept residential area - Patterdale Close, with Wantage Road receiving a Highly Commended and Oakham Drive receiving a Merit

## PARISH IMPROVEMENTS

The Environment Committee have been very busy this year and have made several improvements in the parish. All medium repair works have been completed throughout all the playparks. The elephant, horse and see saw at Poplar Park, Carrville, have had a fresh coat of paint, a new parish football pitch is up and running at Moorfield, and the two new storage containers purchased, will make a huge difference for Belmont Cricket Club and Belmont United Football Club.

## BELMONT LOCAL HEROES

Thank you to everyone who nominated Belmont Local Heroes. The panel of judges were very impressed with the entries and enjoyed reading about the amazing contribution made to our parish by local people. The winners will be announced at an Awards event on Saturday 18th November 2.00pm to 3.30pm at Belmont Community Centre. Local winners of Northumbria in Bloom and Beautiful Durham will also be presented with their awards at the event. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome. It would be appreciated if you could let the parish office know if you wish to attend, so that we have an idea of numbers to cater for.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

Parish councillors have made a commitment to take positive, concrete steps to contribute to making our area safer for everyone and have signed up to the above charter. We have made a pledge to take positive action against harassment, anti-social behaviour, and intimidation, and will receive training to enable us to do so. Watch out for further information in our future newsletters.

## PARISH PLANNING MATTERS

The parish council is a statutory consultee for planning applications in Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor. Weekly lists are published by the County Council and reviewed by parish councillors with representations made to the planning authority when appropriate. Most applications are not contentious e.g., extensions to residential properties, retail, and business developments in the area. But from time-to-time applications are more controversial and varying opinions are expressed by residents. At present conversion of properties to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) are the subject of much debate. Belmont Parish Council is, in principle, opposed to these conversions which result in a reduction of badly needed family housing stock. Representations have and are being made to the local authority citing material planning reasons why these applications should be opposed. A formal request for a review of the policies in the County Durham Plan concerning HMOs has also been lodged with the County Council. Residents can review planning applications and comment directly by visiting the County Council website at [www.durham.gov.uk/article/3276/Planning-applications-and-advice](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3276/Planning-applications-and-advice)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The County Durham Plan (CDP) and its policies is the key document by which planning applications are assessed. In early 2022 the parish council in collaboration with Gilesgate Residents Association agreed to begin work on a Neighbourhood Plan which would, if completed, strengthen the CDP in respect of this part of Durham. A newsletter was circulated to all households followed by a well-attended public meeting and a working group, involving residents established. The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and its adoption is a lengthy process and a further newsletter dedicated to this work will appear later this year or in early 2024. In the meantime, if you would like further information, please contact Lesley Mavin or Patrick Conway (details at the end of the newsletter)

## CEMETERY NEWS

Belmont Parish Council cemetery will reach full capacity within a few years. Councillors have considered various options, and due to financial implications and lack of available land, are not in a position to establish a new facility. To help prolong the life of the cemetery, some of the burial plots have been changed to ashes plots. When there are no plots left in the cemetery it will remain open, indefinitely, for residents to visit loved ones, but for new burials, other designated County Council sites would need to be used by residents, such as South Road. Other areas within the parish are being considered as possible 'Gardens of Rest' for the scattering of ashes.

## SHETLAND VISIT



A great time was had by all the Belmont Community School pupils who attended a recent trip to Shetland, which the parish council helped to fund. They engaged in many activities, learning about Shetland and building resilience and confidence. They did coasteering – jumping over rocks, swimming, and jumping into the water. They visited Sumberg Head lighthouse and did a Mousa boat trip. They saw puffins and storm petrels. They learned about conservation and sustainability through looking at a wind turbine, waste recycling and getting involved with some peat restoration.