

Healeyfield Parish News



Autumn 2020

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

As the year nears its end we thought that we would give you an update on what Healeyfield Parish Council have been up to in the Parish. Although it has been a very difficult year with the COVID-19 crisis, the Parish Council have been able to fulfil most of our usual services to the villages of Castleside and Rowley. Here is a roundup of what we have been doing.

The flower tubs throughout the village have been fully planted and cared for.

The grass verges have been cut and strimmed twice as usual, albeit a little bit later than normal.



The benches throughout the Parish are currently undergoing a repair or replace program, this is continuing.

The defibrillator, located at the side of the village hall, was provided by the Parish Council and it is checked weekly by members to ensure that it is in working order.

Our usual annual litter pick unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lockdown restrictions, however we plan to hold one as soon as we are able.

Although the Annual Autumn Festival also had to be cancelled, we still held our scarecrow competition. This provided a bit of fun not only for the entrants but also for the people walking around having a look at them. The worthy winners are now in receipt of the Scarecrow Cup.

The Parish Council are the trustees of the Parish Wood, and members regularly walk through the woods to check everything is as it should be, ensuring that any necessary repairs to stiles and bridges are carried out in a timely manner. They also coordinate with forestry groups to ensure that the wood is managed well. This work has continued during lockdown.

Every year the Parish Council organises the annual Remembrance Day service. Attendance to this has grown year-on-year and we have introduced a Parade which was attended by over 200 people last year. Sadly this year's event will be very much smaller with residents being encouraged to remember from their homes, however an act of remembrance on your behalf will still take place in a COVID secure way. Our magnificent poppy net will be on display throughout Remembrance season.



An event which also grows every year is the lighting of the Christmas tree. The Parish Council, provide the lights and are responsible for attaching them to our giant pyramid. The lighting event now involves the choir from Castleside Primary School. This year the lights will shine in Castleside, however we don't know as yet what form the lighting event will take.



Over the last few years we have organised some very special events in the village, such as celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday and 100th Anniversary of WW1, to name but two. This year a full weekend of events was planned for the 75th anniversary of V E Day, all of which had to be cancelled, however we were still determined to mark the occasion and a socially distanced village wide sing-a-long took place, lifting the spirits of all who joined in.

Throughout lockdown the Parish Council have continued to meet monthly via Zoom to ensure business is carried out as usual. We are always here for residents questions and concerns and can be contacted directly, or via the clerk.

Healeyfield Parish Council are YOUR council, as you can see we work hard for our village. If there is anything you would like to discuss with us please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Parish Councillor Johanna Foster, after 6 years of service to our community, resigned her post in July. We offer Johanna our sincere thanks for all of the work that she did. This has left the council with a vacancy; so if you wish to represent the community as a whole, care about local democracy and want to make a difference in our community, then please get in contact with our clerk as you could make a good councillor.

Please stay safe everyone and lets hope that next year is better for all of us.

Village Christmas Tree 'Switch On'

**Thursday 26th November 2020
in the grounds of St Johns Church,
Castleside.**

Keep a look out for further details.





VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY - 2020

CASTLESIDE IN LOCKDOWN

Friday 8th May marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day). After six years of the Second World War, Winston Churchill made a national radio broadcast at 3pm announcing Germany's surrender, marking the end of the war in Europe.

The Parish Council had a full weekend of events planned to commemorate this historic anniversary however, as we all know, Castleside along with the rest of the world was put into lockdown. Who could ever have imagined, when all of the plans were being made, halls and entertainment booked, that a global pandemic would put a halt to all of the celebrations.

Although everyone was confined to their homes, we could not just let the 75th anniversary of VE Day pass by without any kind of celebration. It was agreed that the residents of the village needed to get together, whilst keeping apart, and have a good old fashioned sing-a-long. By the magic of technology, and our clever Chairman Adam, songs were loaded onto a memory stick which was then plugged into a very big speaker. The speaker was then pulled around almost every street in our village, with the help of my lovely family.

The talented Mark Tennant from Castleside Photography Club, accompanied us on our route and took photos of all of the fun, which we hope to use to create a lasting reminder of the day for you all.

What a wonderful afternoon it turned out to be. You came out into your streets and gardens in your hundreds (we counted approx 472!), singing, dancing, even hula hooping! Some of you had picnics, some had flags to wave, but you all had smiles, warmth and a lovely feeling of togetherness. I know many of you stayed out on your street long after the singing had finished, talking with neighbours, sometimes, neighbours you hadn't spoken to before.

What wonderful community spirit there was in Castleside on VE Day 75. Thank you all for coming out to commemorate a very special day in very unusual times. One day this will all be over and "We will, meet again"

Cllr Judith Robson



Your Lockdown Hero Scarecrows!

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our Annual Autumn Festival this year, however, we were still able to have our Scarecrow Competition. This year's theme was 'Lockdown Hero's' We had some wonderful entries and I would like to share them all with you, along with what they represent.

This year we had a joint winner, two families had put so much work into their scarecrows that it was impossible to choose between them. Congratulations to the Morris family and the Murphy family. Both names will be engraved onto the cup for 2020 and each family will hold it for 6 months.

Thank you to all of the other families who got together, stressed out, fell out and had fun whilst making their scarecrows, they are all fabulous.



Joint Winner The Morris Family

This entry pays tribute to many of the key workers who kept the country going through lockdown, we have COUNCIL WORKERS, POSTAL WORKERS, SCHOOL STAFF, NHS & OTHER CARE WORKERS. Well done for the huge amount of work put into this entry. Thank you to all of the unsung key workers who carried on with their jobs in such a difficult time.



Joint Winner The Murphy Family

A touching entry showing that FAMILY is what kept most of us going. We were there for each other, often working, home schooling, navigating the supermarket queues and just being there. FAMILY has never been more precious. This entry also paid tribute to our Prime Minister Boris and our Government who have had the most difficult job navigating our country through a global pandemic.



Cllr Judith Robson



Parish Footpath Review – Summer 2020

With 'Lockdown' due to Covid-19 occurring over Spring 2020, many of us took the opportunity to explore the footpaths in the Parish. I was interested to find that each of our footpaths had an allocated number from the Durham County Council from their 'Definitive Map' and following a discussion at our Parish Council Meeting (which are still open to members of the public and currently held using 'Zoom') we set about establishing a report to identify the current state of repair of all footpaths within the Parish.

We found that within the Parish there are twenty-five footpaths that have a specific number references allocated by Durham County Council, two footpaths without reference numbers as well as The Waskerley Way and a few paths within the Woodland Trust Woods.

As the Waskerley Way and Woodland Trust footpaths are maintained 'by others' we have not considered these for maintenance however, we have currently identified a few well used footpaths that are in need of some intervention to allow them to be used effectively by the many members of the Parish and visiting walkers who regularly use them throughout the year.

Initially we will advise Durham County Council of the two well used footpaths that are generally wet all year and request they are maintained. As some locations require only a simple drainage ditch the Parish Council may consider organising this work if the County Council cannot fund this work for us – initially we have identified footpath 6 as our starting point for this work. This well used footpath has wet and muddy sections as it heads from Church Street towards The Parish Wood. Within the Parish Wood there are some minor footpath repairs to Footpath 27 we are considering also as this would be necessary to remove some year-round wet and muddy patches, making it easier and safer for this footpath to be used.

Cllr Alan Wallace



Footpath 6. Near Dean Howl Farm - part of the Northern Saints Trails footpath. This long distance footpath enters the Parish from Comb Bridges and heads towards Durham City after crossing Hownsgill Viaduct on the Waskerley Way.

Footpath 4. Near Comb Bridges - through the 'Derwentside Gorge and Muggleswick Woods National Nature Reserve' which is also part of the Northern Saints Trails.



For more information on the Northern Saints Trails, visit: www.northernsaints.com

The Parish Wood

It has been quite a nice summer in the Parish Wood. Warm temperatures and little rainfall have encouraged the wild flowers and ferns to put on a colourful display.

The Gruffalo Trail has been very popular with young visitors and it is nice that this has generated visitors from outside the Healeyfield Parish.

“Follow George” continues to be popular, with children having picnics and parties.

It is encouraging to note that people have been adhering to the pandemic guidelines whilst visiting the wood.



The Parish Council is currently researching the best way to repair and upgrade some of the areas of muddy paths to improve access and to encourage more people to explore what is on their doorstep.

As the temperature is dropping and the leaves are changing colour and falling, it is a good time to take a walk through the wood before it becomes too dark.

Cllr A Hird



CASTLESIDE



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Castleside Primary School News

Visitors to Castleside Primary School will have noticed a sparkling new artwork outside the main entrance since the start of the 2020-21 term. The magnificent rainbow display painted by local artist and former pupil Glenn Malpass has provided a fitting welcome to a learning environment that has shone brightly through the gloom of the coronavirus.

Even in lockdown, head teacher Mrs Spence and her dedicated staff managed to keep the school open to the children of keyworkers. And, since the full reopening in September, the pupils in their vivid yellow jumpers have glittered like little pots of gleaming gold.

“There were so many smiling faces when the children came back for the start of term,” said Mrs Spence. “They have settled in really, really well. They’ve been little stars.

“Sometimes I think we underestimate how resilient children are. They’ve just taken everything in their stride.

“Yes, there are some gaps in learning but with the fantastic attitude that the children have shown – listening and taking everything on board – fingers crossed we’ll make that up.”

Among the adaptations have been a new pick-up system after school, with parents and carers following a one way route to collect children from the Key Stage One and Key Stage Two yards, and a Class Dojo system that has significantly boosted communication between school staff and families.

“There are lots of systems that we’ve introduced in school that I think we’re going to keep,” said Mrs Spence. “We’re also trying to be creative and resourceful in the way that we celebrate Harvest and Christmas.

“It was such a shame that we weren’t able to put on a performance for the Year 6 leavers before the summer break but we did manage to put on a lovely socially distanced ceremony for them and we also held a presentation in the yard for the footballers.”

The school football team ended up winning the Tony Reather League title by a margin of six points from Lanchester All Saints. In what proved to be their final set of fixtures, in a demanding schedule at Langley Park, they showed the resilience of champions, beating the hosts 1-0, winning 2-0 against Burnside and overcoming Leadgate 7-0.

On a sad note, former Castleside teacher Dave Collingwood announced in September that he would be retiring from his role of organising competitive sporting events for primary schools in the Derwentside area. “Dave taught alongside Ken Davison here and he’s played a massive part in Derwentside school sport for years and years,” said Mrs Spence. “It’s really sad that he’s retiring.

“We’ve reduced the number of our classes this year and we’ve had some staff changes. We’re delighted that Mr Robson has settled into his new school and that Mrs Bruce has landed a job straight away in her new career. She had been looking after us as cook for years but, like many people, had a good think over lockdown and decided to take the plunge and make use of her teaching assistant qualification.”

Mrs Bruce’s replacement, Mr Heighton, is a former chef, while on the literary front deputy head Mrs Hart is now a published author, with her debut novel Ice Cream and Indy Music.

“We’re all delighted about that,” said Mrs Spence, “and also about the wonderful things the children did in lockdown – playing musical instruments to the local community, wild-water swimming, climbing Skiddaw, baking.

“One of the key things from the surveys we sent out was that the children enjoyed spending time with their families during lockdown, so that has been priceless. The thing they missed most was their friends and, seeing them all back in school, I think they appreciate their friendships even more.

“It was wonderful that when everyone came back we had such an amazing artwork at the front of school. Glenn came in during the holidays and brightened up the entrance with the rainbow he painted. It was a lovely surprise for all the children to come back to.”



Rowley Baptist Church

Due to COVID-19 our regular services have changed. Follow us on Facebook or check our website for latest information.

Each Sunday Morning (fortnightly) - 10:30am
Virtual Sunday Evening via 'Zoom' (fortnightly)- 6:00pm

Look out for the Christmas card (and our website) which will include details of our Christmas services.



@Rowleybaptistchurch

Web: www.rowleybaptist.webs.com



Rowley Messy Church

Is geared towards young families with a wide range of fun activities based around a theme, a meal ; all free of charge. Under eights **must be** accompanied by an adult.

1st Friday in each month from 3:30-5:30 in the St Johns Church Hall, Moorside.

Not currently running due to COVID -19. Follow the church Facebook page for a 'restart' date!

Parish of St. John, Castleside

Priest-in-charge: The Rev'd Martin Jackson, St Cuthbert's Vicarage, Church Bank, Shotley Bridge, 01207 503019 – Mobile 07972262412 email martin.jackson@durham.anglican.org

Normal Services

Each Sunday at 9am apart from second Sunday in each month at 4pm
Each Wednesday at 10am, The Eucharist. Followed by tea/coffee.

Coffee Morning

Last Saturday each month from 10am

Prayer Shawl Group

First Monday each month from 1.30pm

Bereavement Group

Second Monday each month from 1.30pm

Knit and Natter

Third Monday each month from 1.30pm

What's on at St Johns Community Hall

<u>Monday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
Mums and Tots	9am - 11am	Slimming World	5pm - 9pm
St Johns Players drama group	7pm - 8 pm		
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>	
Yoga	12:30pm - 1:45pm	Karate	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Gentle Exercise	2nd Tuesday 3pm	Community Spirit	2 nd Thursday of each month
Youth drop in (11-15 years)	4:30pm - 6pm	Coffee morning - Tea and treatments	9:30am - 11:30am
Dance Club 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday	7:45pm - 10:30pm	<i>For more information or to book the hall please contact Hilary McGeorge (01207) 500649</i>	

Activities currently restricted due to COVID-19

ST. PIUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH *at Moorside*

Sunday service commencing 11:00am

Monday 10:00am Tuesday 10:00am Wednesday 7:00pm



The Grove Methodist Church

Regular Sunday Services

commence at 10.45am lasting no longer than 40 minutes
adhering to all Government and Methodist guidelines.

Our Ladies Thursday Group is being held on alternate Thursdays at 1.30pm with wearing of face coverings and 2 metre social distancing in place.

We are currently not holding our Coffee Mornings.

13 December 2020 – Church Anniversary at 10.45 am led by Rev Paul Harris

20 December 2020 – Carol Service at 10.45am led by church members

24 December 2020 – Christmas Eve Service at 4.00pm led by Rev Anne Jeffrey

If anyone would like to join us for any of the above services, please contact either Mrs Heather Reilly on 01207 501157 or Mrs Angela Hird on 01207 508640 so that a place can be reserved for you.

Castleside & District Photography Club

Do you wish you could take a better photo, more in focus and more professional looking? Well why not come along to our Photography Club at Castleside.



We welcome beginners to amateurs, any age are made very welcome. It's a good social hobby as we go and see photography speakers and we get out and about once the weather changes. We cover all aspects of photography and are always open to new suggestions from new members.

We take part in a lot of District competitions across the northeast. We have an excellent relationship ongoing with Stanhope and Weardale Camera Club.

Joining 1st Castleside Baden-Powell Scouts Group

Beavers (5yrs-8yrs) meet Tuesday - 6pm-7pm :

Wolf Cubs (8yrs-11yrs) meet Wednesday - 5.45pm-7:15pm :

Scouts (11yrs-18yrs) meet Wednesday - 7.15pm-8:45pm:

For more information **come along to Scout HQ and find out more.**

Contact:07896942378

Interested in learning about the past? Come along, once a month to the

History Society

7:30pm on the third Wednesday each month in Castleside Village Hall.

New members & visitors always welcome.

We have informal meetings most Thursday mornings from 10.30am. This is when we work with the extensive archive material. Contact details below should you wish to attend.

(01207) 509456 or 502038 kaymac123@btinternet.com

HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council can be contacted via the Clerk:

Ms Lisa Standish

76 The Crescent, Chester-Le-Street, Durham, DH2 2DY

Tel: 07763268840 Email: contact@healeyfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:

Name	Address	Telephone
A. Pearson (<i>Chair</i>)	'Conway House', 35 Consett Road	07808734057
J. Robson (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	39 Castlehills	07305951509
D. Dixon	Middle Heads Farm, Rowley	509253
A. Hird	20 Hillgarth	07762357391
K.Spencer	9 Front Street	07719088404
A. Wallace	6 Castlehills	
Vacancy		
County Councillors are:		
Ossie Johnson		03000 268732
Jude Considine		03000 268794

ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Healeyfield Parish Council meets on the last Thursday of each month (*apart from July and December*) in Castleside Village Hall at 7pm after the Parish Surgery (6.30pm-7pm). Everyone is welcome to attend. **We are currently meeting virtually via 'Zoom' due to the current pandemic. Access information to our meetings is available on the agenda published on our website.**

The councils public participation policy, provides residents with the opportunity to speak on agenda items at Parish Council meetings.

If there is a specific issue that you would like to discuss, you can contact the Parish Clerk who can then add the item to the agenda. This must be done at least ten days before the meeting.