

# Healeyfield Parish News



*Winter 2019*

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# THE SCARECROWS OF CASTLESIDE

This is the sixth year that Healeyfield Parish Council have held the annual scarecrow competition and I have to say, it was the best year yet with 15 entries. I know compared to some villages scarecrow festivals this seem like a small number, but it is a massive increase on last year and hopefully it will continue to grow year on year.

The standard of the scarecrows was superb, which made judging very difficult indeed, if it had been left up to me everyone would have got a prize, however a winner had to be chosen.



The very deserving winner came from the Murphy family who had created a scene from Peter Pan in their garden, which contained Peter Pan, Captain Hook and Mr Smee, as well as the dreaded crocodile and clock.



In second place was the incredibly realistic 'Buzz Lightyear' who even lit up in the dark. This space ranger was built by the children in years 1 and 2 at Castleside Primary School under the creative supervision of Mr Robson



Last years winner Stephanie Winter got third place with her Alice in Wonderland garden, the hard work and detail that went into this creation was amazing. Stephanie is such a talented young lady.

very sweet.

The fourth place rosette went to the Farrimond Family who had made a charming 'Elsa' Scarecrow, it was a great likeness and



Our special award rosette this year went to the residents at the Lilacs, who had created Disneyland, no less, in their garden, complete with Snow White, Woody and the Little Mermaid, fabulous work by all involved.

A massive thank you to everyone who made a scarecrow, every single one was fantastic and I know a lot of people who took time over the weekend to have a walk around the village to

look at them.

I feel that the real winner here was Community Spirit, I read a few comments on the community facebook page saying "I wish I lived in Castleside" or "Well done Castleside", MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! I can't wait to see next years.

*Cllr Judith Robson*



# Autumn Festival 2019

Well, Castleside, you did it again! Our fourth annual Autumn Festival was a roaring success. You came out in droves to have a cuppa, something to eat and a chat to people you may not have seen since last year. Our vision for the festival was to be a version of the old Castleside Show, where residents can show off their talents and get together as a community and my goodness you did.

We had entries in every category which, this year, included potatoes and tomatoes. We had delicious Victoria sponge cakes, decorated cupcakes, homemade cards & buttonholes, decorated wooden spoons and edible necklaces. Our photo theme this year was a photo to make you smile, which they really did.

Congratulations to Stephanie, Jessica and Rebecca Winter, Grace, Joseph, Phillip and Victoria Morris who won a clutch of rosettes across the board. Also very well done to Hannah Thompson, Castleside Primary School and Mason Brown who all also won first prize rosettes.

A big well done and thank you to everyone who entered, especially the younger entrants. This year, as well as the fabulous photographs from Castleside History Society, the Parish Council were able to display the silverware from Castleside Shows gone by, a lovely sight to see.

We were entertained once again by the wonderful Castleside School Choir who sang some lovely harvest songs for us and as an added surprise Emma amazed us with her fantastic rendition of the Home Alone theme tune on the Baritone. Our village school has some very talented children and teachers.

Many Thanks to Ann from Castleside Cubs and Scouts for providing us with a tuck shop.

The whole community was involved in this years Autumn Festival which truly warms my heart.

Here's to many more to come!

*Cllr Judith Robson*

## 2018 A year to Remember

*Looking back at the remembrance events of last year*



How quickly time passes. This time last year members of the Parish Council were panicking! Did we have enough poppies to fill the net? Would people come to the Memorial Tea Dance? What if it rained when the Beacon was lit? These were just a few of the worries that seemed to fill our minds, day and night.

However, we were all truly blessed, by both the turnout for all the events and the weather. So many people in the village community supported us with the poppies for the net. Men, women and children knitted, crocheted, sewed and tied the poppies, to make sure everything was ready. We had so many comments from people, just passing by, to say what a great spectacle it was. A fitting memorial to the fallen of the village and beyond. I admit that there were a few tears from, not just me, but others as it was unveiled.

Then onto the Tea Dance. What a shock! The hall was filled to overflowing with villagers, who had come to commemorate all who served in WWI, including the animals. When we asked for people to bring a shared tea, we didn't expect quite so much. We could have fed the whole of Consett. A session of dancing followed with the not so agile enjoying the talents of others. Our school choir sang for us beautifully and we rounded the day off with a good old fashioned sing along and God Save the Queen.

Events of the 11<sup>th</sup> of November were more subdued, as we took time to reflect back 100 years and think of the service and sacrifice of all who served, at home and abroad. So many were called to do their duty and so many responded. We owe them a great deal.

As we walked to the cemetery, for our memorial service, behind our pipers, it was wonderful to see how many came to pay their respects. Young and old processed side by side, united in their desire to make sure that a generation which is passed will not be forgotten. Once at the war Memorial a short ecumenical service took place and the names of the Fallen read out. After the last post was played the two minute silence was broken only by the sound of nature all around us. It was very moving.

Finally, later the same evening, it was time for the Beacon to be lit. Transport was arranged for those who required it, the road closed and all was ready. However most people chose to walk up Rowley Bank or Drover Road to the event, and we will never forget the site of hundreds of people walking in the darkness with torches to take part in the closing ceremony. As the beacon was lit, once again our thoughts went back to those who did not return, or whose lives had been shadowed by the events of The Great War. What a generation they were. Stoical, hard-working, modest, accepting and proud. They shall not be forgotten.

Cllr Kris Spencer

**At the going down of the Sun and in the morning we will remember them.**



# Remembrance 2019

## *Tea Dance*

Join us on

Sunday 3rd November 3pm until 5pm

at Castleside Village Hall

Please bring a plate of food to put on our shared table and we will provide the tea, coffee or juice.

This year it will be a traditional tea dance, dancing, an interval for tea then a second session of dancing.

This will be a lovely community event, if you are unable to dance why not come along to watch, have a chat and something to eat.

## *Remembrance Sunday, 10th November.*

We will be meeting outside of St Johns Church at 2.40pm and parading to the war memorial in the grave yard for our annual remembrance service at 3pm.



# Christmas Traditions

Christmas is fast approaching. It hardly seems possible does it? The years fly by so quickly and before we know it the seasonal festival is with us once more. Many of the traditions that we associate with the celebration of Christmas are well known, others not so popular, but the last one below is not often mentioned, and yet, to me, it is one of the most beautiful.

## Mistletoe

Hanging mistletoe in the home is an ancient pagan practice adopted by some early Christians. The word itself is Anglo-Saxon and the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe originated in England. Each kiss required a berry to be plucked until none remained.

## Christmas Carols

Carols were songs of praise and joy in pagan times, to welcome the The Winter Solstice and the return of light to the world. Carols have been written through the centuries, but the most famous date from the Victorian era. More secular songs have joined them such as 'White Christmas' and the ubiquitous 'Merry Christmas Everybody' by Slade.

## Mince Pies

Mince pies were originally made of meat, fruit and spices and inspired by Middle Eastern cuisine brought back by the Crusaders. They commonly had 13 ingredients representing Christ and the Apostles and were shaped to represent the manger. Meat had disappeared from the recipe by Victorian times, although beef suet is often still included.

## Stockings

Leaving stockings out at Christmas goes back to the legend of St Nicholas. Known as the Gift Giver, on one occasion he sent bags of gold down a chimney at the home of a poor man, who had no dowry for his unmarried daughters. The gold fell into the stockings left hanging to dry. St Nicholas was later referred to by the Dutch as Sinterklass and eventually, by English Speakers, as Santa Claus.

## Holly and Ivy

Synonymous with Christmas and the subject of a traditional British folk carol, both holly and ivy were originally used in pre-Christian times to celebrate the Winter Solstice, just like the mistletoe above. As they provide a rare splash of colour in the darkest month of the year, their popularity has endured.

## Christmas Crackers

London sweet maker Tom Smith invented Christmas crackers in the late 1840s. Even though he included mottos or riddles inside each, it was not until he found a way to make them 'crack' that sales took off. His sons Tom, Walter and Henry later added hats and novelty gifts.

## Turkey

Turkeys originated in Mexico and were first brought to Britain in 1526 by William Strickland. Henry VIII enjoyed turkey but it didn't become fashionable in high society until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it was Edward VII who made it more acceptable to the middle classes.

### **Christmas Pudding**

Also known as plum or figgy pudding, this Christmas staple has its roots as far back as the middle ages in a wheat-based pottage known as frumenty. By the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was thicker and had developed into a dessert with the addition of eggs, dried fruit and alcohol.

### **Christmas Cards**

Sir Henry Cole and artist John Horsley created the first Christmas card in 1843, as a way of encouraging people to use the newly created postal service. Cards cost a shilling (about £5.75 now) and stamps a penny (about 40p at modern prices). Advances in printing brought the prices down and by the 1900s sending Christmas cards had spread throughout Europe.

### **Christmas Trees**

Christmas trees actually appeared in the UK in the 1830s. But it wasn't until Prince Albert put up a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle in 1841, that the evergreen trend began.

### **Tinsel**

Tradition has it that when the Holy Family were fleeing to Egypt, to escape King Herod, they rested in a cave overnight, before continuing their journey. Whilst they were asleep the spiders in the cave heard a commotion in the distance. Knowing at once that this was Roman soldiers and their horses, seeking the baby Jesus, in order to kill him, they planned a course of action to protect the family. They immediately weaved their webs to and fro, until the whole of the cave entrance was covered. As the Sun rose and the dew fell, the webs were covered in sparkling drops of water, glistening in the sunlight. When the soldiers saw this, they went on their way, believing that the webs must have been there for some time to be so covered by the morning dew. Now we use tinsel to commemorate the brave spiders.

Cllr Kris Spencer

# *Village Christmas Tree 'Switch On'*

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 6pm  
in the grounds of St Johns Church,  
Castleside.**

**Carols around the tree with  
Consett Brass and items from  
Castleside Primary School Choir.**





Next year marks the 75th Anniversary of the ending of WW2.

Healeyfield Parish Council feel that it is very important to enable people to pay tribute to those who served in one of the most significant events in our country's history.

We are busy planning a weekend of events starting on Friday 8th May.

Our plans include:

- Decorated house competition, red, white and blue**
- Good old fashioned street party**
- 1940's dance, (fancy dress optional)**
- Ecumenical service on the Sunday.**

Watch this space for further details,  
We do hope you can join us.



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 7.30pm 'til late at Castleside Village Hall**

**Tickets £20 including 2 course meal**

**For tickets contact Lynn on 07932738880**

**CASTLESIDE**



**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## What's happened at Castleside School

Pupils and staff at Castleside Primary School started the 2019-20 term with the thrilling news of a national award. Year 2 pupil Lochlan cooked up a winning recipe in the primary school category of the Young Pea Chef of the Year competition. Lochlan's stripe pea fishcakes served with pea mayonnaise and pea shoots was judged top of the national class by a panel of professional chefs. In the process, the intrepid young culinarian earned his school a £500 healthy lifestyle fund.

On the sporting front, the school football team also came up with a winning recipe on the opening light of the Tony Reather League season at Langley Park, beating Burnside 10-0 and Leadgate 6-1. Daniel scored five goals in each game but it was team-work and attitude that earned the boys their rewards as much as their outstanding individual skills.

The school cross country team swung into action the following night at Catchgate, the intrepid Daniel leading the way with seventh place in the boys' race and Drew finishing 17th in the girls' event. Special mention needs to be made of another Year 5 Daniel, who has been attempting to swim the equivalent of the English Channel in 5 weeks to raise money for the children's cancer ward at Newcastle's RVI hospital. Good luck in the pool and on your JustGiving page, Daniel! The school is proud of you.

The same could be said of everyone who contributed towards a bumper harvest of prizes at the annual Beamish Agricultural Show. Lunchtime supervisor and all-round inspiration Mrs Storey maintained the school's triumphant tradition in the flower arrangement event, while there were also first place certificates for Seren and Harleigh (Key Stage two art), and Grace and Logan (animal made from vegetables).



The successful trip was led by the two new additions to head teacher Mrs Spence's dynamic team. Mrs Lightley has arrived in Class 4, teaching the Year 5 pupils, with 20 years of experience in different primary school settings. She has settled straight into school life and made an immediate impact, as has Miss Moat in Class 3. The extensively experienced Miss Moat is contracted to cover in Class 3 until Mrs Draper returns from maternity leave.

Mrs Spence is also delighted that experienced Teaching Assistant and former pupil Mr Robson is looking after the Year 1 children for the final placement in his teacher training course. "We're fortunate to carry this out because Mr Robson knows the children so well and is able to implement all of our systems," said Mrs Spence.



The busy start to the new term has also included a Crime Prevention and Community Safety Advice Roadshow, featuring members of the police and fire service, and trip to the Blue Reef Aquarium for the Year 2 pupils.



## 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Friday in each month from 3:30-5:30 in the Scout Centre.

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

We are a group of ladies who meet once a month to make new friends and have a chat over tea and cake.

Our meetings are full of laughter and throughout the year we have speakers or entertainers. In September we had ladies teaching us all about soap making and aromatherapy and had goods for us to buy. We have had card making, learning about chocolate, a group member's journey on the Orient Express to name a few. We have a Strawberry Supper in July and a Harvest Supper which is in October along with entertainment. At Christmas we have a party which is more food and tea and a good old sing along.

We enjoy games of bingo with prizes and the odd quiz and have a competition every month, which is anything from a soap dish, a pocket watch to a fruit kebab. All in good fun. We have day trips and meals out which is all about friendship. Our members are from all ages and are made very welcome.

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the village hall. Come along and have a cuppa with us.

If you would like to see what we do, we can be found on facebook, Castleside WI or would like to come along, contact Jo Foster, Secretary Castleside WI Tel; 07743 010457.

Rowley Baptist Church

# Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at 6pm

Carols led by Members of Consett Brass

*All children present will receive a small gift*





## Rowley Baptist Church

Each Sunday morning - 10:30am

Sunday Evening - 6:00pm (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays only)

*Communion - held 2nd Sunday evening and last Sunday morning service*

Recharge @ Castleside Village Hall

Cafe-style church, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 6pm.

## 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](mailto: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*

### Bereavement Group

*Second Monday each month from 1.30pm*

### Prayer Shawl Group

*First Monday each month from 1.30pm*

### Knit and Natter

*Third Monday each month from 1.30pm*

## Christmas Services

**Sunday 22nd December at 6pm**

Christingle & Christmas Carols

**Tuesday 24th December, at 8.30pm Christmas Night**

First Mass of Christmas – just like Midnight Mass, but earlier!

## 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 commencing at 10.45am

Gentle Exercise held every Wednesday at 10.00am (only £1)

Ladies Thursday Group is an informal 'get-together' held on alternate Thursdays at 1.30pm with chat, invited guest speakers and refreshments.

Taketime Together Meditation at 10.30am on alternate Thursdays to Ladies Thursday Group

Coffee Mornings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 10.30am.



## CHRISTMAS



30<sup>th</sup> November Mini Craft Fayre  
10am to 2pm (with soup lunch)

1st December Toy Service  
*(bring a gift for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal)*

8th December Church Anniversary Service

15th December Ordinary Service

22<sup>nd</sup> December Carol Service with Holy Communion

29th December Joint Service @ The Grove with Blackhill & Shotley Bridge  
Uniting, Consett and Delves Lane Methodist Churches

## What's on at St Johns Community Hall

<b><u>Monday</u></b>		<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	
Mums and Tots	9am - 11am	Slimming World	5pm - 9pm
St Johns Players drama group	7pm - 8 pm		
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>		<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	
Yoga	12:30pm - 1:45pm	Karate	5:30pm - 6:30pm
Gentle Exercise	2pm - 3pm	Community Spirit	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month
Youth drop in <i>(11-16 years old)</i>	4:30pm - 6pm	Coffee morning - Tea and treatments	9:30am - 11:30am
Dance Club 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	7:45pm - 10:30pm	<i>For more information or to book the hall please contact Hilary McGeorge (01207) 500649</i>	



## *Castleside & District Photography Club*

The Scouts Centre, Drover Road Castleside, DH8 9RE.  
We meet every Tuesday evening at 1900 hr till about 2045.

**All interested are welcome to attend.**

A full range of photography subjects and tuition are covered at all Levels.

For more information please look at the website  
[www.castlersideanddistrictphotographyclub.co.uk](http://www.castlersideanddistrictphotographyclub.co.uk)

## ***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](mailto:kaymac123@btinternet.com)

## HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council can be contacted via the Clerk:

**Mr Jonathan Coates**

19 Oakwell Court, Hamsterley Vale, Newcastle upon Tyne NE17 7BD

Tel: 07588826026 Email: [contact@healeyfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:contact@healeyfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

### Parish Councillors can be contacted as follows:

Name	Address	Telephone
A. Pearson ( <i>Chairman</i> )	'Conway House', 35 Consett Road	07808734057
J. Robson ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	39 Castlehills	582955
D. Dixon	Middle Heads Farm, Rowley	509253
J. Forster	19 Park Terrace	07743010457
A. Hird	20 Hillgarth	07762357391
K.Spencer	9 Front Street	07719088404
A. Wallace	6 Castlehills	
<b>County Councillors are:</b>		
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 August and December*) in Castleside Village Hall at 7pm after the Parish Surgery (6.30pm-7pm). Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

