

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL



RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018 Issue



Cover Photo: By Simon Williams Crest Photography

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Neighbourhood Plan
and Skate Park



Spooktacular and Other
Forthcoming Events



100 Years of
Remembrance



Mayors Forward

A personal note from Councillor Christine Taylor



Welcome to our second Newsletter of the year, it's been a busy first six months with plenty going on.

Firstly I would like to talk about the recent by-election, because there has been speculation and numerous rumours about it. The facts are a vacancy on the Town Council arose during its term, vacancies of this kind are normally but not always filled via a process called co-option. However, on this occasion ten local residents exercised their democratic right to request a by-election. A co-option

is where The Council advertise a vacancy and people who live within the surrounding vicinity put in an application to fill that post, the full council would normally carry out an informal interview and if they are lucky enough to get more than one candidate The Council members will then vote and the successful candidate joins The Council, simple and straightforward and at minimal cost to the town.

Following the departure of Councillor Kathleen Roach I thought that's what would happen, however ten local residents supported by a political party decided that they would like a by-election.

I was challenged for allowing Dawn Crosby to stand in the by-election (not my decision) and I have been accused of forcing the by-election by not allowing the political parties' candidate a free pass to take up the vacant seat (again not my decision). The by-election has now been concluded and in my opinion we have seen democracy in action, at the maximum cost to the Council Tax payers of the town.

So on that note I would like to formally congratulate Councillor Dawn Crosby and welcome her to West Bedlington Town Council, there's lots to be done so you'll be very busy.

Finally, before I move on I would like to acknowledge Viv Mather, the other candidate who stood in the by-election. Having met Viv on several occasions I appreciate her interest and have issued an invitation should she wish to be involved in any of The Councils events, Neighbourhood Plan etc., our door is open.

Moving onto the old Tesco site, I'm disappointed at the lack of movement on the site, August has been and is long gone, September gave us an update but little in the way of movement, I've asked Russ Wallace the County Councillor for Bedlington Central to get some further info and get this out with fixed dates so we can see some activity sooner rather than later. At the time of going to press - work has commenced.

Summer Fair - we have had numerous comments about our summer fair this year from it was fantastic to I was totally disgusted! I'm not going to



defend our event, we tried something different, more activity based and less fairground to keep costs down for families but it would seem we still haven't quite got the formula right. We have taken a few lessons from this years and are looking towards next year's event and we are looking for volunteers to help with suggestions for formats etc., so if you have anything you would like to propose please get in touch with us at westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com.

Other events coming up are Halloween, this year we are at the Cricket Club in Bedlington, on Saturday 3rd November, many thanks to them for their support. We are planning a ticket only event and have 800 free tickets which will be available from Vet's 4 Pets, the Post Office on the Front Street, the Cricket Club and the Community Centre. It will be a disco and fancy dress competition, apple bobbing ending with a small fireworks display to end the event.

Our Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 11th November, this is the centenary year and I was privileged to attend the service organised by St Cuthbert's Church in July. During this service a very moving tribute was paid

by children from all over Bedlington following their visit to France to visit the war graves. We will have our own tributes in the Community Centre which will be available for viewing either prior to or following the Service of Remembrance.

Some of you will have previously seen the poppy map which identified the fallen from West Bedlington on an early version of our town map. Each of the fallen are depicted by a poppy which has been had stitched with their name. The original map was designed and produced in conjunction with Bedlington Creative's and in this centenary year they have produced a Second World War map depicting the fallen of our town and the Commonwealth War Cemeteries where they are currently interred.

We have seen our own service grow year on year and in this centenary year envisage a large turnout to enable us all to pay our respects.

Christmas is looming fast and we will be holding our Christmas lights switch on, on Saturday 1st December at 4 pm. During the day both St Cuthbert's Church and the Community Centre in Bedlington have Christmas Markets on so there will be plenty of activity on the street.

Finally, I have some thanks and congratulations. Firstly thank you to Councillor Kathleen Roach for her contribution to the Town Council, we wish you well moving forward.

To all the partners we have worked with from events with Salto to those who provided summer activities, the Salvation Army, Bedlingtonshire Golf Club, Foot Prints on the Moon, Class on a Glass, and Bedlington FC.

And last but certainly not least congratulations to Councillor Victoria Thompson and her husband Glen on the safe arrival of Herbert Starman Thompson, he's a little peach, little brother to Fred and Henry, he's already made his debut at our Services meeting. There's nothing like starting them young!

As this is our last Newsletter before Christmas, I would like to wish all our residents and readers a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Christine Taylor
Mayor

P.S. please find some time to complete and return the Neighbourhood Plan and Skate Park questionnaires within this newsletter.

Focus On

Bedlington Community Centre

Weekly Classes

Monday

Pilates

9.30 - 10.30am

Bedlington Singers Community Choir

7.30 - 9.00pm (Term time only)

Bedlingtonshire Local History Society

7.00 - 9.00pm (Last Monday of each month)

Bedlington Central Councillor Surgery

6.30 pm (First Thursday of each month)

Contact: Russ Wallace 07779 983775 or email
russ.wallace@northumberland.gov.uk

Tuesday

Stretch and Tone

10.30 - 11.30am

Lilia Jane Tiny Tots (2/3 years)

4.30 - 5.00pm (Term time only)

Lilia Jane Mini Stars (4+ years)

5.00 - 6.00pm (Term time only)

Basics of Brass

6.00 - 6.45pm (Term time only)

Brass Band

6.45 - 8.30pm (Term time only)

WI

7.00 - 9.30pm (First Tuesday of each month)

Wednesday

Pilates

10.00 - 11.00am

Men's Pilates

11.30 - 12.30am

Hartbeeps

13.00 - 15.00pm

Yoga

7.00 - 8.30pm

Thursday

Talking Matters

10.00 - 1.00pm

Bedlington Ukulele Band

11.00 - 12.00noon (Term time only)

Modern Jive

8.00 - 10.00pm

Music Events

Blue Flamingos - Sixties review show

Friday 16 Nov 7.00pm

The Agenda - Vocal Review show

Friday 15 Feb 7.00pm

Betcha by Golly - Wow Philadelphia Soul

Saturday 23 Mar 7.00pm

Daisy Hill - Ceilidh Band

Friday 26 Apr 7.00pm

Room Hire

We have a variety of spaces available to hire.

Meeting rooms downstairs:

The Phoenix

£15 per hour. A multifunctional room accommodating up to 40 people.

The Shire

£15 per hour. A multifunctional room accommodating up to 40 people.

Rooms upstairs: (Stair lift available)

The Green Room/Buffer room

£10 per hour. Approximately 10 people can be accommodated around a table or long tables can be set out in a buffet arrangement around the room.

The Longridge Suite

£25 per hour (includes Buffet room and Bar). Large multifunction room accommodating up to 150 people.

The Bar

The fully licenced bar was completely refurbished in December 2017 and is included in the hire price of the Longridge Suite.

Additional information

A 25% Non-Returnable Deposit to be paid within 14 days of a Provisional Booking. Please note all balances are due 28 days before the event. Prices are all inclusive of the use of tables and chairs.

Contact Us

We look forward to hearing from you!

Website: www.bedlingtoncommunitycentre.com

Email: bedlingtoncommunitycentre@hotmail.co.uk

Facebook: [bedlingtoncommunitycentre](https://www.facebook.com/bedlingtoncommunitycentre)

Telephone: **01670 824141**

Office open times:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 - 1.30pm

Wednesday, Friday 9.30 - 11.30am

Charity No. 1151177



1914- 1918

It started with a poem

Remembrance time is approaching and many, many people of all ages will be seen around the town wearing the traditional scarlet poppy. Perhaps there will be more poppies in evidence this year as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War. But, although many people know the significance of the poppy, very few know how it originated as the symbol of remembrance.

Colonel John McCrae was a Canadian who had served in the Boer War and then became a doctor. In 1915 he was working in a Forward Dressing Station at Vlamertinghe near Ypres. Many of the casualties brought to the dressing station succumbed to their injuries and were then buried in a small cemetery nearby, their graves marked with a

simple wooden cross and, between the crosses, the red Flanders Poppy grew in profusion.

One evening, taking a rest from his medical duties, Colonel McCrae sat on a step looking out over the cemetery and was inspired to write a poem, the first verse of which was this;

**In Flanders fields
the poppies blow,
Between the crosses,
row on row,
That mark our place,
and in the sky,
The larks still bravely
singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid
the guns below.**

Initially, McCrae showed the poem only to his close friends but many of them urged him to submit it for publication so, in 1917 he sent it to Punch Magazine. When it was published the poem resonated with the British people, most of whom had at least one

relative serving in the forces, and soon copies of it were framed and hanging in houses all over the country. The poppy had become synonymous with remembrance and McCrae became instantly famous.

Sadly, McCrae was never able to enjoy the fame his poem had brought; he died of pneumonia in January 1918. However, the link between the poppy and remembrance grew ever stronger and when, in 1921, the British Legion were looking for a way to raise money for their welfare work, the symbol they chose was the poppy. Last year over 40 million poppies were distributed all over the world. They are worn by the great and the good and by ordinary people and they also make up the 1 million wreaths which are placed on war memorials all over the world.

The poppy is one of the best known symbols in our country, a symbol that reminds us of the many brave people who gave their lives in the service of our country. And it all started with a poem !

Your local Poppy Appeal Organiser is Mr. Sydney Graham who can be contacted for the supply of poppies and wreaths on 01670 731196 or by e-mail at sydneygraham804@gmail.com



Commemorative Parade and Service to mark the Centenary of the Armistice and Return Home

St. Cuthbert's Church, Bedlington, was the centre of the town's events to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. A decision was taken to mark the occasion in July as many of the military and ex-military personnel involved were planning to be in France and Belgium for the actual anniversary in November.

The event began with a parade down Front Street to the church, led by a pipe band and with standards flying in the glorious sunshine. The parade contained serving members of 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery, veterans in the Tyneside Scottish Association and army cadets from Tyneside and Bedlington.

The service included enthusiastic community singing of WWI songs, led by Ashington and District Male Voice Choir, a talk by Rev Ian Hennebry,

vicar of Bedlington, on the Armistice and July 1919 peace celebrations in the town, and a moving solo "Weep you no more" by young church member Will Brown, who is also a corporal in Bedlington 2522 squadron, Bedlington ATC. There was a wonderful film presentation of a recent visit by students of Bedlington Academy to the First War battlefields, led by Mr. Andy Allman, which culminated in them taking part in the wreath-laying sunset ceremony at the Menin Gate.

The Rev. Geoffrey Driver, Padre of the Tyneside Scottish Association delivered a sermon based on 1 Corinthians 13 : 1-13 and Rev Elizabeth Brown, Curate of Bedlington led the prayers. The most moving part of the service, the Act of Remembrance, followed. As a lone piper played "Flowers of the Forest", posies of flowers were laid in front of a replica 1918 grave marker by Wansbeck MP Ian Lavery, Col. Glenton, President of the Tyneside Scottish Association, the Civic Head of Northumberland County Council, Jeff Watson, Mayor of West Bedlington, Christine Taylor, representatives of army cadets, air cadets and four local schools and Mrs. Jean Carrick, representing St.

Cuthbert's. Peter Dodds of the Tyneside Scottish Association spoke the words of "For the Fallen" before a trio of buglers then marked the start and end of a minute's silence.

The service ended with Rev Driver leading the congregation in the Commitment to Peace before the pipe band led out the standards to the strains of "Highland Cathedral".

Everyone stayed behind afterwards to partake of refreshments in the church's community space, which was bedecked with bunting and flags. There was an opportunity to look at displays of work on the Armistice by students of Whitley memorial C of E First School, Bedlington Station Primary, Meadowdale Academy and Bedlington Academy and to share in a specially commissioned cake!

St Cuthbert's is grateful for the support they have had from West Bedlington Town Council (especially Mayor Christine Taylor), Northumberland County Council (especially Jackie Roll) and the Tyneside Scottish Association, in organising not only this event, but previous centenary events in 2016 and 2014.

Events and services at St. Cuthbert's Church, The Church of England Parish Church of Bedlington

Christmas Fayre

Saturday, December 1st
10:00am- 1:00pm

ENTRANCE FREE

Featuring music from local schools

Home Produce Refreshments Craft stall

Chocolate Tombola, Toys & Games, Tombola, Wine or water?, Bag-O-Fun, Soft Toy Tombola, White Elephant Raffle, Grand Prize draw, Christmas stall,

...and Santa! (from 10.30am)

St. Cuthbert's Autumn Quiz Night

Friday, October 19th
From 7:00pm

Tickets £3.50 (u-16 £2)

(You are welcome to bring own refreshments)

Tickets available from church members
or Tel. 828493

Church Services

8:00am Sunday services:

Said Eucharist, Common Worship

9:30am Sunday services:

1st Sun of the month : All-age morning worship.

2nd Sun of the month : Sung Eucharist (with Sunday Club for Children).

3rd Sun of the month : All-age Holy Communion.

4th Sun of the month : Sung Eucharist (with Sunday Club for Children).

5th Sun of the month : United Benefice service – check website to see which church this will be held in.

9:15am Wednesday services:

Said Eucharist, Common Worship

For details of special Advent and Christmas services
check in church or on our website.

FEATURING Ashington and District Male Voice Choir

Saturday, December 15th
From 7:00pm

Tickets £5 (includes seasonal refreshments)

Tickets from church members or tel. 826719 or 828493

Monthly Coffee Mornings

Saturday, September 1st (with cake stall)

Saturday, October 6th

Saturday, November 3rd (with Christmas stall)

Saturday, January 5th

ALL FROM 10:00am-12noon

Baptisms and Weddings can be booked at Office Hour

(in church 6:00-7:00pm on the 1st and 3rd
Friday of each month)

Tel 829631 for further information

citizens
advice

Are you having HOUSING ISSUES?

Citizens Advice
Northumberland
is able to provide
Legal Aid funded
housing advice.

This can include, but is not confined to:

- Possession action on any grounds such as rent arrears or anti-social behaviour
- Anti-social behaviour injunctions against tenants
- Mortgage repossession
- Challenging homelessness decisions
- Major disrepair
- Unlawful evictions

Anyone in receipt of an income related benefit is eligible for legal aid - for all other incomes, an assessment needs to be completed.

For more information contact Sue:
suegrebby@
citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk
or tel: 07384 518 382

For all other enquiries call
Northumberland Adviceline
on 03444 111 444



Our Future Champion?

My name is Amy Lott, I'm 14 and live in Bedlington. I have been a hurdler at Morpeth Harriers for 3 years and since beginning to compete I have really wanted to represent Northumberland in some of the major athletics championships.

English Schools is a national competition for the elite of the country where counties compete against each other. This year I was chosen by Northumberland Schools Athletics Association to be part of their team and compete in

Birmingham at the beginning of July.

I managed to get through to the semi-finals and was proud of my achievement. I ended up ranking 16th in the UK for under 15 girls 75m hurdles.

Thank you to West Bedlington Town Council for helping me with funding to be able to go to Birmingham to represent Bedlington.

This summer has been busy with competitions and at the Northern Counties championships in Liverpool, I won a bronze medal. A week later I travelled up to Aberdeen and won a silver medal at the Scottish National Outdoor Championships. At the end of September I am moving to the U17 age category and I am hoping to get through to English Schools 2019.

Messages from our County Councillors



Russ Wallace

Northumberland County Councillor

I continue to be very much aware of the huge privilege it is to be the Independent County Councillor for Bedlington Central.

Along with fellow Independent Councillors Malcom Robison and Bill Crosby, I have kept my promise to do my absolute utmost to ensure that the views of Bedlington residents are heard loud and clear at County Hall and to keep Bedlingtonians informed about what is happening in their town.

A major step forward for the town is that, at long last, work is underway on the Market Place site. This development is crucial to the future of Bedlington. The transformation of our town centre into what I am confident will be a thriving and successful retail development is what the people of Bedlington have been waiting for and richly deserve.

Although projects such as the Market Place development are important, I continue to gain much pleasure in supporting residents over matters that concern them. These include parking, road and pedestrian safety, housing issues and most recently, youth misbehaviour. Having worked

with the Bedlington Police team I am aware of their hard work, knowledge, skills and constraints, in dealing with anti-social behaviour.

Congratulations to Independent Councillor Dawn Crosby on her victory in the West Bedlington Town Council by-election, polling almost 70% of the votes cast. My commiserations go to the Labour candidate, Vivien Mather.

I wish to acknowledge the support I have had from West Bedlington Town Council. I have enjoyed working with WBTC on a number of projects, most recently in increasing the number of grit bins on our estates and the provision of new bus shelters. The Council does an outstanding job and is a pleasure to work with.

As I mentioned, I realise how important it is to be accessible to residents. I can be contacted at: russ.wallace@northumberland.gov.uk or 07779 983775 and I hold a surgery at Bedlington Community Centre at 6.30pm on the first Thursday of every month. I also have a Facebook page which can be found at: <http://bit.ly/RussWallace> and publish a regular blog which can be found at www.cllrusswallace.wordpress.com

Finally, can I thank you for the support I receive from residents - it is much appreciated! I am confident that by continuing to work together we can make Bedlington an even better place to live.

Best wishes - and thank you for reading.



Malcolm Robison

Northumberland County Councillor

Again another 6 months has passed and anyone reading my monthly blogs will know just what a bumpy ride it's been.

We see the new apartments development on the site of the old school and whilst I might have preferred the old buildings renovated for modern day usage the fact that all these new apartments have been let shows that they do satisfy a local need.

We have also seen the main contractor appointed to the Town centre redevelopment at last and I would expect work to start almost immediately.

There are some things on the horizon which will affect our role in the county, notably the Devolution deal with Newcastle and North Tyneside and the Borderlands deal which is going through central Government scrutiny as I write. I will make every effort to gain maximum benefits for our Town and its environs within both these initiatives.

Closer to home I have been working with several local groups to help secure extra funding and also taking up ward residents' concerns directly with whoever need to be approached.

I have asked questions at most full Council meetings on behalf of residents and the forthcoming answers can be viewed on the County Council You Tube channel.

Other things to note are that we now have a defensible Town settlement boundary as far as planning goes, one section of the main highways has been resurfaced and the other is due to start. Plessey Woods will soon see brand new and exciting play equipment installed over the winter months and I'm still trying to get speed indicator interactive signs for one of our problem areas.

Lots still to do of course but I do think Bedlington is not now being ignored as has been the case for decades and our arguments are now being taken seriously at every level!

Anyone with a strong enough constitution can view all these developments and many more by reading my 'diaries' at WordPress:

<https://cllr MalcolmRobinson.wordpress.com/> Or Facebook: Malcolm Robison Bedlington West Ward.

Anything constituents want to see me about please use the following,

Phone: 07779 983080

Email: Malcolm.Robinson@northumberland.gov.uk

And my Surgeries are usually the first Monday of the Month 6.30pm at Netherton Club the full list is here: <http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Councillor.aspx?cllrlID=215>

Bedlingtonshire Local History Society 2018-2019

If you enjoy listening to a good story from the past; if you research and delve into your family history and connections with Bedlingtonshire and a little beyond, you will find us interesting, informative and entertaining.

We have a balanced wide ranging programme, including: remembering and defending the local shire; then for king and country; railway history; landed gentry; industrial, mining and social pioneers. Better than 'Bodyguard'!



We meet in the autumn and spring months: 7-30 pm on the last Monday of the month. In the Bedlington Community Centre, on the ground floor.

September 24th 2018

Tony Lamsdale: Crossing the Line: a Brief history of Reivers.

October 29th 2018

D Cowans; J Brown; D Johnstone; Rev I Henneby: WWI-1918

November 26th 2018

Dr W Stokes: Fat Cows and Railways. Fatter Xmas mince pies!

February 25th 2019

J Riley: Wagonways of the North East.

March 25th 2019

B Mead: Bedlington Remembered.

April 29th 2019

G Hughes: Wallington Trevellyans

May 20th 2019

AGM: then K Hutchinson - Hartley Pit Disaster.

David Cowans

Chairman BDLHS

Annual Meeting of the Town 2019 - Can you contribute?

The Annual Meeting of The Town for 2019 will be held on Wednesday 19th April 2019 in Bedlington Community Centre starting at 6pm.

The Annual Meeting of The Town is not a meeting of The Town Council but a meeting of electors in the parish.

The theme of the event should be determined by residents and for 2019 the Council would like to enlist residents to take ownership of this meeting. The Council has a small budget available to assist any prospective resident(s) who would like to organise the meeting.



The evening is very informal and has in the past included a small buffet with refreshments.

Please contact The Council directly should you wish to be involved or if

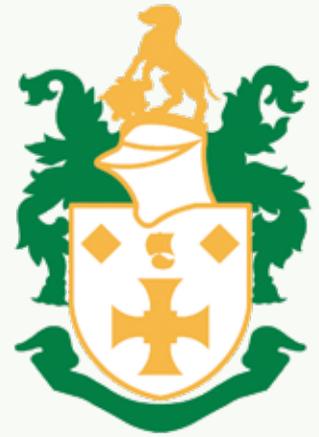
you have any suggestions for a theme or format for the event.

Please contact us at atwestbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com

HAVE

YOUR

SAY!



The future development of Bedlington: the chance to have your say!

The Town Council has taken the decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to cover the period 2020 - 2040 to complement the Local Plan currently being developed by the County Council.

The adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan will provide the opportunity for the residents of West Bedlington to help shape the future development of our community by providing a uniquely local perspective. By means of a Neighbourhood Plan we can seek to retain and enhance those features of West Bedlington currently felt to be good whilst providing a framework for improving those aspects currently less well regarded.

The process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan requires

extensive consultation and this will take place over coming months. It will take various forms, for example, questionnaires, discussion panels with residents and stakeholders and consultation on a draft Plan. Finally residents will be invited to vote on whether to accept the final document.

During this time things will not stand still. For example work on the new Town Centre development has started and on completion, will transform the Town Centre environment and our local shopping experience. But there are many other aspects of our community that impinge on the daily lives of residents that might be improved through change.

It is clearly important when developing any plan that seeks to manage change within a community that it reflects the views of those who live and work there. As a first step therefore, the Town Council is inviting all residents and other interested parties, including local interest groups, to record their initial views of West Bedlington, the good,

the bad and the downright ugly using the form enclosed with this Newsletter. To aid the process we have asked for comments under a number of generic headings: Heritage; Environment; Community Well-being; the Local Economy; Transport and Transport Infrastructure; and Housing.

The form should be completed and return to the Council Office by Friday, 23 November 2018. An online version is available at westbedlington.org.uk should you prefer.

I very much hope you will take the time to participate in this planning process and I look forward to receiving your comments. In particular I'm very much looking forward to working with you to develop a vision for the future of Bedlington we can all share and a community we can be proud of.

Adam Hogg

**Chair West Bedlington Town Councils
Neighbourhood Planning Group**

West Bedlington Town Council

Consultation on the Development of a Neighbourhood Plan



Although the final form of the Neighbourhood Plan will be shaped by the consultation process, it is currently envisaged as comprising a number of major elements. Each is considered in turn below.

At this stage we are simply seeking general comments on each element as a precursor to developing a policy statement for further consultation. Please comment on each section as you feel appropriate.

Completed forms should be returned to the Council Office within the Community Centre on Front Street

West by Friday, 23 November 2018. An online version of the form can be downloaded from westbedlington.org.uk and, once completed, returned by email to westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com

I hope you will take part in this important survey to help shape the future of our town.

Adam Hogg

Chair Neighbourhood Planning Group

Heritage

West Bedlington has a proud heritage with past links to the iron industry, mining and the railways. An appreciation of our heritage gives us all a sense of place, a sense of belonging and helps to develop a cohesive society.

We have sought to highlight our history through our 'gateway' features but could we/should we do more? Please share your views below.

Environment

West Bedlington residents enjoy multiple opportunities to experience the natural environment. We are blessed to have in our small Town such wonderful facilities as Attlee Park, Plessey Woods Country Park, Dr Pit Park and Humford Woods, as well as a significant number of designated open spaces.

Whilst not all are under the control of the Town Council we would nevertheless welcome suggestions as to how these spaces and others might be developed in order that they might be improved and/or enjoyed by a wider cross section of our community. Any thoughts?

Community Well-being

The Town Council is committed to using both its resources and its influence to improving the well-being of residents. This can and does take many forms: from providing youth activities for younger members of society to supporting organisation offering cultural and sporting opportunities to their parents and grand-parents. The Town Council also organises a number of community events including the Bedlington Picnic and the August Street Fair. Just as important is ensuring that new housing developments are accompanied by appropriate adjustments to the Town's infrastructure, including health services and leisure facilities.

The Town Council has already identified a need for dedicated leisure facilities but are there other improvements you would like to see?

The Local Economy

Increasingly West Bedlington residents find that they need to commute outside of the Town for work. Whilst development of the Town Centre will provide additional employment opportunities, of itself it is unlikely to make a significant difference to the current imbalance.

Do you feel there is a need to develop wider employment opportunities within the Town or would that potentially impact adversely on the environment? How might we achieve a desirable balance?

Transport and Transport Infrastructure

West Bedlington currently enjoys a regular bus service with Newcastle and Cramlington to the South, Morpeth to the North and both Blyth and Ashington to the East. Other services provide access to local hospitals and to South Tyneside. Looking to the future, there is the possibility of rail services to Newcastle with links beyond. Whilst some congestion is experienced in the vicinity of the Red Lion roundabout, traffic is generally free-flowing. The proposed Town Centre redevelopment will include significant car parking to complement that behind Front Street West, though time will tell if it is sufficient.

Having regard to all these factors, do you feel there are further issues the Town Council should address in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan?

Housing

West Bedlington has seen significant house building over recent years with further development to come if, as seems likely, sites currently with outline planning permission get full approval. However all currently identified sites are likely to be fully developed by circa 2030 which leaves open the question of whether some further development during the years to 2040 might be desirable.

If so, should such development focus on starter homes, social housing or accommodation more suited to our increasingly elderly population? Your thoughts would be welcome.

Additional comments



Skate Park

The Council has been approached by a number of residents and asked to consider providing a Skate Park within the town.

The Council would be pleased to receive your comments and suggestions either for or against the provision of a Skate Park. We would also welcome suggestions in relation to suitable locations for any Skate Park and importantly, an indication if you or

someone you know will use the Skate Park, if one was provided.

The Council would like to gauge the demand and estimate the potential usage of such a facility within the Town.

Initially please send your views, comments or suggestion to West Bedlington Town Council, Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington NE22 5TT or email us at westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com





Bedlington Street Fair

The sun shone on Bedlington for the annual Street Fair on Saturday 25th August 2018 and it was a grand day out for the children and families who came along. Even the youngest visitors could join in the activities with drumming, mask making and cookery on offer.

Twenty kilos of strawberry jam was simmered and bottled and hundreds

of sushi rolls were plated up in the 'Bedlington Jam Factory' and 'Sushi School' while the street theatre had a definite culinary theme with the Fairly Famous Family's Kitsch Kafe and Liver Cottage walkabouts challenging passers by to comedy pancake flipping contests and offering dubious kitchen hints and tips.

The all day street and stage music programme began with local community choir Wansbeck Voices packed on to the Market Stage and ended with The Baghdaddies high energy Geordie Balkan sounds with On Board Arts giant arctic foxes joining in the dancing.

"We wanted to offer something of real quality for everyone this year and I think we got a lot right for those who came along" said Mayor of West Bedlington Christine Taylor

"The Let's Circus outdoor circus ring shows were a huge success and it was good to see so many youngsters taking part in the circus skills and other activities." She added.

West Bedlington Town Council is keen to hear from the community and all feedback on the day will help inform future town events.

Contact Carol Alevroyianni
Email: calevroyianni@aol.com
or telephone 07791 169 747



Terrier gets a make over

The more observant amongst us will have noticed a couple of changes afoot with some of The Town Councils “Bedlington Terrier Style” public seats.

Firstly along at North Ridge, Bedlington, one of The Councils “Bedlington Terrier Style” seats has had a makeover thanks to the skill of a local resident.

Alan Hart who lives in the vicinity of the seat approached The Council with an offer to revamp the seats end panels and make them look a little more “terrier like”.

Alan has indicated that the transformation is a one off, despite the Council receiving several positive comments about the change.

The Council would like to place on record its thanks to Alan for his time, dedication and no shortage of skill for transforming the seat at his own cost.

We hope that residents will enjoy and appreciate the new look.

Secondly the Council has recently relocated two “Bedlington Terrier Style” public seats from the path at the top of Attlee Park bank. One of the seats has been relocated to the entrance to Nedderton Village to act as a small gateway feature and the other has been relocated to the main car park entrance to welcome visitors to the town.

Environmental Enforcement Officer for West Bedlington

With effect from 1st October 2018 the Council has agreed to fund an Environment Enforcement Officer for West Bedlington. This exciting new project is a joint initiative with Northumberland County Council, Seaton Valley Community Council and Lynemouth Parish Council.

The environmental enforcement officer will be employed by Northumberland County Council directly with the costs of the position been shared between the three town/parish/community councils pro rata.

The officer will carry out investigation, surveillance, patrolling

and enforcement in the following areas through reactive and proactive work activity:

- Dog Fouling, Other dog control issues enforceable under Northumberland County Councils Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order
- Littering, Fly Tipping and Abandoned Vehicles.

Initially the project will be for one year with an option to renew on an annual basis.

The Council very much hopes that the presence of the Environmental Enforcement Officer will help to greatly reduce some of the environmental issues we have experienced in the town.

If you witness or are aware of any issues of this kind please report them directly to Northumberland County Council Customer Services Team on tel: 0345 600 6400.



New Bus Shelters for Shoppers

Thanks to the generosity of County Councillors Malcolm Robinson and Russ Wallace the Town Council has been able to purchase and install two new bus shelters for shoppers on Schaulksmuhle Road, Bedlington.

The bus shelters were funded through the County Councils Members Local Improvement Scheme and the Town Council would like to express its appreciation to both County Councillors for making this possible.

We very much hope that the shelters will be of benefit to all who use them.



Remembrance Service

Sunday 11th November 2018

Service 2.30pm

At Bedlington War Memorial, Front Street West Bedlington

Parade starts 2.15pm

From The Salvation Army, Hartford Road Bedlington

Everyone Welcome

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.

From "For The Fall" - Laurence Binyon

When you go home
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.

John Maxwell Edmonds



Local fundraiser urges people of Bedlington to help him Sponsor an RNIB Talking Book

A Bedlington man has pledged to help people with sight loss enjoy books - by raising funds to make brand new titles for RNIB's Talking Books Service.

Kevin Mulhall, whose mother lost her sight, is already an enthusiastic volunteer for RNIB, holding regular bucket collections in his local supermarkets. He has raised an incredible £24,000 in his eleven years of volunteering for the sight loss charity so far. Now he has set himself an ambitious new fundraising target of £4,000, which will provide two new Talking Books for RNIB's much loved Talking Books library - and he's hoping local people will be inspired to help.

There are over 11,000 people living with sight loss in Northumberland, and over two million in the UK as a whole.

For over 80 years, the Royal National Institute of Blind People's (RNIB) Talking Books service has helped create a lifeline for blind and partially sighted people, keeping them connected to the outside world. More than one million audiobooks are sent out free of charge to customers every year. But they are expensive to make, due to the studio time they require - an average book takes around 16 hours to record.

So now the charity is aiming to add more new titles to its library by asking people to Sponsor a Talking Book.

"£4,000 is what we need to add two brand new Talking Books to our library - one adult book and one child's," says Kevin, who plans to hold more bucket collections, and involve local individuals, organisations and businesses in lots of different fundraising activities to reach his target.

**FREE
EVENT**

ADMISSION STRICTLY
BY TICKET ONLY
(FOR VENUE CAPACITY
SAFETY REASONS)



WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL

EVENT SOLD OUT

No admittance to anybody without a ticket.
Halloween Disco from 4.30pm - Short Firework Finale at 8.30pm

BEDLINGTON

SPOOKTACULAR

**SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2018, 4.30PM TO 9.30PM
AT BEDLINGTON CRICKET CLUB**

HIRST HEAD, BEDLINGTON NE22 5QH - NO PARKING AVAILABLE ON SITE

**FIREWORKS, DISCO, FANCY DRESS COMPETITION, APPLE BOBBING,
HOTFOOD AND REFRESHMENTS, KIDSRIDES**

Tickets available locally at Bedlington Cricket Club, Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street Post Office and Vets 4 Pets, Bedlington. Event provided by West Bedlington Town Council and Bedlington Cricket Club.

Bedlington In Bloom 2018

Despite having a difficult year, Bedlington in Bloom group members are delighted to report that we have retained Silver Status in the Northumbria in Bloom 2018 Awards Competition.

Having visited Bedlington during the spring and summer seasons, the Northumbria in Bloom Judges were greatly impressed by the colourful floral displays and dedication to the creation care and maintenance involved in looking after the planted containers and flower beds which is undertaken by our group members and NCC Grounds Maintenance Team.

The Judges Summer visit also welcomed the involvement of Bedlington Creatives and Trinity Church Craft Groups, whereby both groups provided very impressive, complimentary, knitted and crochet floral displays which were viewed by the judges as part of their street inspection tour.

This year has seen the welcome adoption of two of our main street Tub Planters by St. Bede's Little Vinnies Gardening Group whereby the children have taken on the responsibility for

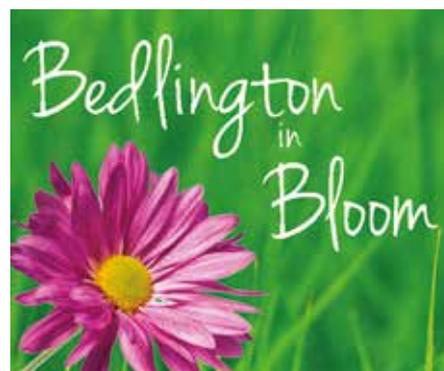
planting and maintenance of the tubs, with plants supplied from our own plant material stock. The children have taken on this task with great enthusiasm and pride.

Several town businesses have also taken on responsibility for watering of hanging baskets and some planted containers. However, more adoption of planted containers, by businesses, schools and residents would be welcomed as regular watering, dead heading and weeding ensures that displays remain in good, healthy, condition throughout the year.

Morrisons Supermarket appointed a Community Champion who has taken on the responsibility of working with our members by adoption of planting, care and maintenance of three street containers. We greatly appreciate this involvement and look forward to a long and happy association with Morrisons.

Our small group of dedicated volunteers would welcome more residents to become involved in all aspects of the work required to ensure that our town retains the colour and beauty that our floral displays provide for our proud community.

Bedlington in Bloom Group can be contacted via our post box, located in the reception area of Bedlington Community Centre.



Forthcoming Events in West Bedlington

Supported by West Bedlington Town Council

Date and Time	Event	Venue
30th October 2018, 2pm - 5pm	Class in Glass - workshops for children	Bedlington Community Centre
31st October 2018, 2pm - 5pm	Class in Glass - workshops for children	Bedlington Community Centre
1st November 2018, 2pm - 5pm	Class in Glass - workshops for children	Bedlington Community Centre
3rd November 2018, 4.30pm - 9.30pm	Spooktacular	Bedlington Cricket Club
11th November 2018, 2pm - 3.15pm	Remembrance Service and Parade	War Memorial Front Street West
1st December 2018	Christmas Lights Switch On	Market Place Bedlington



Salvation Army Summer School

Another Youth Leisure provision funded by West Bedlington Town Council.

Our Summer Club this year was a little bit different to events we have previously offered. While only one week it was a full programme of indoor games, outdoor games, crafts, circus skills, songs and bible teaching.

The week for children over 6 and under 12 years old was fully subscribed with our maximum of 40 children each day. Each day finished off with lunch for all the children before they were collected.

Fish fingers, sausages, burgers, bolognaise and a buffet over the five days with ice cream each day covered in enough raspberry sauce to fill a lake.

Half way through each morning the children all stopped for a snack and a drink. We are very grateful to Morrisons who supplied crisps, chocolate biscuits, bananas and squash for the whole week and their Community Champion Stacey who came along and volunteered her time with us.

The finale to the week was a circus workshop on Sunday afternoon from 2pm until 5pm.

Dan Brown from Circus Central was with us and 30 of the children and they all had great fun doing balancing tricks, spinning plates, flower stick tricks and walking the tight wire (something none of the adults dared do!).

Having learned all their new skills the children demonstrated all they had learned all week in an evening celebration that included our church members and all the parents.

We are very grateful to West Bedlington Town Council who gave us a grant of £600 to cover the shortfall between the minimal charge we make for each child and the outlay to cover the weeks food, crafts and activities.

As always, we tried to spend it wisely on games and equipment that are sustainable and will be used for many events and summers to come.

Many of the items we bought will go on to be used in our DV8 Youth Club which is every other Friday from 6pm until 7.30pm for 6 to 12 year olds (please call for places (£1 per child)) or

as part of Messy Church which takes place on the last Friday of each month.

Messy Church is a family evening which starts at 6pm with crafts, bible stories and songs and ends with everyone sharing a meal. There is no charge for Messy Church, please feel free to come and join us as a family.

At the start of the new term in September we will be reintroducing Family Film Club on the 'vacant' Friday evening. The first film will be Early Man at 5.30pm on Friday 14th September. Again, we are grateful to West Bedlington Town Council who have paid to have our cinema equipment updated and for the purchase of the first six films to get the ball rolling.

There will be no charge for entry to films, but we never refuse a donation!

Wherever we do have to charge for activities the cost is kept to a minimum in order to keep the programme running, but no profit is made.

Anyone who would like information on any part of our programme please drop into the centre or give us a ring on 01670 829356 or like us on Facebook to follow regular updates.



Youngsters Tee Off At Bedlingtonshire Golf Club

As part of the Councils youth leisure provision the Town Council funded a series of very popular free golf lessons for children at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club.

The lessons, for non-golfers as taster / starter lessons were open to all and free of charge.

The events were very well supported and enjoyed by those residents that attended.

Our thanks go to Mark Sanderson and his team for making the events so enjoyable and rewarding for those that participated. You never know we may have just found the next Nick Faldo or Laura Davies.

Youth Leisure Provision Forthcoming Event

Class on a Glass at Bedlington Community Centre

Wednesday 31st October 2018 2pm - 5pm

Thursday 1st November 2018 2pm - 5pm

Friday 2nd November 2018 2pm - 5pm

Numbers are limited for these FREE Children's workshops sponsored by West Bedlington Town Council.



Jobs Fair Success

While many job seekers use the Internet, professional business connections, recruiters and local newspapers to find jobs, many find face-to-face discussions with potential employers most beneficial.

To give our residents the best opportunity to find work West Bedlington Town Council working with the DWP Job Centre in Bedlington provided these opportunities through our Jobs Fair held in Bedlington Community Centre on the 18th September.

The staff from the Job Centre in Bedlington and beyond worked hard to provide an abundance of potential employers and opportunities with over 40 employers and over 200 attending the event.

It was a really successful day, speaking to some attendee's on the day they said that they were impressed by the numbers of jobs on offer, with one employer listing 30 posts.

This is our third jobs fair and the most successful to date, so to build on this success and take this forward we will be working with the Job Centre to provide another jobs fair in February 2019. Watch out for a poster advertising the event.



COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS

West Bedlington Town Council has a 'Community Chest' scheme which gives local voluntary groups and organisations a chance to bid for funding.

This might be to help establish a new group or to carry out extra activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do - e.g. sporting activities, arts, music or craft group, new equipment for a youth club - but these ideas will be coming from the community themselves.

To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate clearly that any funding from West Bedlington Town Council will benefit the Town, or residents of the Town.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the Full Council. In determining the validity of an application, the Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Applications will be considered for the following purposes: -

1. For the purpose of purchasing equipment or materials either in part or in full.
2. For the purchase of services e.g. venue hire or transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes.
3. For running costs (but not wages) of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
4. For the provision of recreational activities and facilities.
5. For activities that raise the profile of the area.

Application forms are available from the Council's web page or from the Council Office.

Morpeth & District Cage Bird Society

For the past few years West Bedlington Town Council have supported a Caged Bird Competition which is held in the Community Centre, Bedlington each October.

Organised by Joe Moore this event attracts breeders from all over the country, the competition is fierce with a fantastic array of birds from Zebra Finches to Budgies all displaying the most beautiful

coloured feathers imaginable. The Mayor has been privileged to award the prizes for the last three years and has been impressed by the young people who are entering the competition after breeding their birds with parents or grandparents.

If you're interested in breeding or would like to enter this year's competition please contact Joe Moore, Treasurer, Morpeth and District Cage Bird Society, Ashdown, 33 Shields Road, Hartford Bridge, Bedlington NE22 6AN. (Tel: 01670 822266) entry is for all ages.



Community Allotment

Welcome to Bedlington's best kept secret at Dr Pit allotments.

Bedlington Community Allotment has been running for several years and is open two days per week, run mostly with unpaid supporters and volunteers.

The Community Allotment helps the people who visit to get involved with growing and planting vegetables and flowers and meet other people in a friendly, safe environment.

The Community Allotment meets each Monday and Wednesday 10am to 12noon.

West Bedlington Town Council continues to financially support The Community Allotment.

The last time the Town Council gave financial support the funding was used to make net covers for our raised beds.

The site is wheelchair friendly, has a large poly tunnel, plenty of seating and 13 raised beds.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

You can attend Town Council meetings (usually the second Thursday of the month at Bedlington Community Centre at 6:30pm)

Before each Town Council meeting there will be a 15 minute open Session.

The Chair will invite members of the public present to ask questions to, or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council prior to commencement of business.

In order to give every member of the public a fair chance of asking a question, each person will be limited to two questions at each session and each question is limited to 3 minutes per person.

Alternatively you can, at any time, contact the Council office directly to discuss any Town Council matters. (Our contact details are shown at the end of this newsletter).



OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Children's play areas
- Grit Bins - if the County Council won't supply the Town Council may
- Litter bins
- Public seating
- War memorials
- Christmas lights
- Christmas tree
- Notice board provision
- Flower beds and bulb planting
- Town gateway features
- Additional grass cuts - The County Council cut the grass from April to October so we may pay for additional grass cuts outside of those months
- Support of community events

New Councillor on the Council

Following the by election held on 27th September 2018, The Council would like to welcome Councillor Dawn Crosby to The Council.

Dawn will represent constituents from the Central Ward of West Bedlington.

A vacancy was created by the earlier resignation of Councillor Kathleen Roach.

The Council would like to place on record its sincere thanks to Kathleen for her dedication, work and commitment during her time on the Council and to wish her and her



family well for the future.

Councillor Crosby takes her place on The Council with immediate effect.

Councillor Crosby can be contacted:
Tel: 07714 211 877
Email: dcrosby100@yahoo.com

All other local Council Services (e.g. Housing, Refuse Collection, Council Tax and Housing Benefits) are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.

www.northumberland.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 600 6400

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS



David Graham

Central

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david.graham54@yahoo.co.uk



Christine Taylor

Central

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Dawn Crosby

Central

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Victoria Thompson

Central

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victoriawbtc@gmail.com



Jim Tyler

Central

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01670 638210



Mike Trimming

Park Road

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mike.trimming@yahoo.co.uk



Catherine Henderson

West

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catherinehenderson4@sky.com



Paul Hedley

West

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01670 530566
angelahedleyzz@hotmail.com



Adam Hogg

West

14 North Ridge, Bedlington, NE22 6DE
07572 912 485
adam.hogg.wbtc@hotmail.co.uk

Contact details for the Council Office



The Town Clerk is

Steven Young

You can contact Steven Young at the Town Council office:

Telephone
(01670) 457070

Email
westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com

Post
**Bedlington Community Centre,
Front Street West, Bedlington,
Northumberland, NE22 5TT**

Office Opening times

The office is generally open Monday
Wednesday and Friday (9.30am - 5.00pm)

However and regrettably due to staffing
levels we cannot guarantee any fixed
opening times.

We would advise that in the first instance
you contact us via telephone or email
and we will endeavour to answer your
query or if you prefer we can arrange an
appointment at the office.

