

Update

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

FREE
Please take a copy



IN THIS ISSUE:

Who's coming to our Dracula Spectacular?

A frightfully good afternoon
for the good folk of Bedlington.

Gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice

Join us for our Remembrance
service on 8th November at 2.30pm.

Christmas lights switch-on event

Don't miss Bedlington's festive
switch-on event on 28th November.

AUTUMN/WINTER 2026



**WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL**

Hello autumn; cosy season has arrived

As we settle into autumn, it's time to reflect upon West Bedlington Town Council's amazing summer events and look forward to what's planned for the months ahead.



Check out pages 12 and 13 to find out what's in store this festive season, including a fabulous switch-on event, Magic of Christmas afternoon, and Naughty Elf show. Jump to page 8 to learn more about our Dracula Spectacular, and page 9 to get the details of our Remembrance Sunday service, which is on 8th November this year.



Our photography, gardening and the Best of Bedlington competitions have all been judged and the winners will be presented with their prizes at a special evening on 13th November at Bedlington Community Centre. Glen Townsend will be hosting the evening to celebrate the town's talent and unrivalled community spirit, and attendees will enjoy a free pie and pea supper too.



In this issue of Update, we're talking about our flower provision in our Service Spotlight section on page 16, and on pages 14 and 15, you'll find details about the not-for-profit organisations who have benefited from our Community Chest funding so far in the financial year 2026/27.

What's more, on page 10, you can learn more about how to book Bedlington Playzone (Westlea) – an all-weather facility where the community can connect, stay fit, and enjoy the benefits of sport and activity, whatever the weather.



So, if you have five minutes to spare, why not grab a pumpkin-spiced latte (or if that's not your cup of tea; a regular brew) and get up to speed with what's new at West Bedlington Town Council this autumn and winter. We'll be back in spring 2027, but before then, everyone at West Bedlington Town Council would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year when it comes. All the best!

Summer 2026; thanks, you were a blast



Summer's over, but hopefully the memories made at West Bedlington Town Council's fantastic free events in July and August will last a lifetime.



The summer holidays started in style with a fabulous family disco with Sweet Sabrina as Sabrina Carpenter on Monday 20th July. Then, on 24th and 29th July, the kids got creative with clay and paint, making and creating everything from funky frogs to awesome aliens. We were super impressed with all of the sculptures that were made, so well done to everyone who attended.

On 30th July, it was our big trip to Lightwater Valley theme park in North Yorkshire. Children went free, and adults paid £20 per person, with coach travel provided there and back. By all accounts, an epic day was had by everyone.

Our Mad Hatter's tea party took place on 17th August at Bedlington Community Centre which was brilliantly bonkers. As well as a delicious afternoon tea, guests enjoyed a mini show, disco, and non-stop fun and games.

On 19th August, it was our amazing roller disco, then on 25th August we hosted an outdoor cinema and it's-a-knockout-style event with archery and foam party. If you attended, we're sure you'll agree, it was an outstanding afternoon full of fun, sunshine and laughter.

On 29th and 30th August, Bedlington's super popular two-day family festival was back on 20 Acres with headliners, The Lindisfarne Story Band featuring Billy Mitchell and Ray Laidlaw. We provided two days of free music including Beatlemania, Miss Nashville and The K-Pop Universe to name just a few, as well as free henna tattoos, face painting, glitter bar, pottery making, plus a giant games screen and balloon modelling. Despite the mixed weather, crowds in their hundreds came down to enjoy the live entertainment all weekend long.

And last, but by no means least, it was West Bedlington Town Council's multicultural evening on 25th September with Bollywood dancers, a steel band, Irish dancers and a magic show so good that it even featured on Britain's Got Talent. With tickets at just £15 per person for all of this, including fabulous food, no wonder this event was so popular.

We hope you had a great summer and enjoyed the fun-filled programme of events we provided. If you have any comments or photos you'd like to share with us, please email clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk and make sure you're following West Bedlington Town Council Events on Facebook to stay up to date with all things events.









Who's coming to our Dracula Spectacular?

West Bedlington Town Council has planned a frightfully good afternoon for the good folk of Bedlington on Saturday 31st October, and we can't wait to see you there.

Our hostess, Cruella, and her beastly assistants will provide a disco and games from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Bedlington Community Centre. As well as a spooktacular costume parade, there will also be free hot dogs, chips, and sweet treats for your little monsters.

Spaces for this event will vanish as quickly as Dracula at sunrise, so be sure to keep an eye on West Bedlington Town Council Events on Facebook, then call Charmain on 07792 422086 to book once they're available.



Pop along to the next drop-in

Police event in Bedlington

Come along to Greggs in Bedlington Market Place on 10th October, 9am to 10am, to chat with your friendly Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Meet with an officer from the team to discuss any concerns in your neighbourhood, get the latest crime-prevention advice and find out more about the work the team are doing to make Bedlington a safer place to live, work and visit.

If you'd like updates on anything you've previously reported, please bring photographic ID to confirm your identity before discussing the matter.

The next pop-up event will be on Saturday 10th October, 9am-10am, Greggs, Market Place, Bedlington. The Neighbourhood Policing Team will be at the same location, at the same time, every four weeks thereafter, and everyone is welcome.



Join us for Remembrance Sunday, where community spirit is second to none



Join us for our Remembrance Sunday service and parade on 8th November 2026 at 2.30pm to commemorate the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and civilians in times of war.

The parade will leave from The Salvation Army on Hartford Road West at 2.15pm and the service will start at 2.30pm at the War Memorial on Front Street, Bedlington. Dignitaries and representatives from schools and local groups will lay wreaths alongside residents in their hundreds who will congregate as always to show their respects.



West Bedlington Town Council will provide free refreshments at Bedlington Community Centre before the service, from 1pm, and afterward, too. As well as tea, coffee and juice, there will also be a selection of delicious cakes and bakes available from Bedlington Women's Institute.

The Town Council will also host an informal act of Remembrance at 11am on Wednesday 11th November specifically for school children and their families. This is a smaller, less formal gathering than the Sunday service, but an equally important one.

Children will gather at the War Memorial to read poems and pay their respect to those men and women who gave so much to secure the peace and the freedom we enjoy today. The children will then enjoy refreshments at Bedlington Community Centre before heading back to school.

Book a session at Bedlington's PlayZone



Whether you're looking for a friendly kickabout, a structured sports session, or just want to stay active, look no further than Bedlington PlayZone (Westlea).

The PlayZone is free to use between 8am and 9am, and 3pm and 6pm, Monday to Friday in term time. It's also free to use on Saturday and Sunday, and throughout the school holidays, unless there is a special booking. Anyone wanting to use the facility during the dedicated free hours is welcome to do so, however, this may mean sharing the court with others, so please be considerate and courteous when using the space.

To make a booking, visit book.footballfoundation.org.uk/BedlingtonPlayzone, choose your preferred date and time, then secure your slot. On the website, you'll see a calendar with the date and time slots available to book (up to 14 days in advance) and you'll also see the open-access times when it's free to use. Once your booking is confirmed, you'll receive a four-digit PIN, which you'll need to enter the facility. For any regular-booking requests, email clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk and we'll aim to get back to you within three working days.



Bedlington PlayZone is located at Westlea Park, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6DX. There's a defibrillator on site too, which is always good to know.

The PlayZone is an inclusive, safe, fun environment where the community can connect, stay fit, and enjoy the benefits of sport and activity. What's more, with its durable surface and floodlighting, you'll have the perfect space to play, train, or celebrate, whatever the weather.

Would you like to join a steering group?

If you would like to join a steering group to support the community engagement of Bedlington PlayZone, please email clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk to register your interest and we'll pass your details on. Thank you.

And the winners are...

If you caught the spring and summer issues of Update, or follow West Bedlington Town Council on Facebook, we're sure you'll be familiar with the competitions we've been running this year – photography, gardening and the Best of Bedlington Awards.

The judging has now taken place, and the lucky winners and their families will be attending an awards night on 13th November at Bedlington Community Centre to celebrate. Glen Townsend will be hosting the evening, and attendees will enjoy a pie and pea supper too.

Not only is this event for people who have won our competitions, but we have also invited our defibrillator guardians – Vida, Keith and Lucie – who are the town's unsung heroes; checking the machines on a regular basis to make sure they're working and ready to use if anyone in Bedlington ever needs to use one. We have also invited all of our local judges – to thank them for giving up their time and sharing their knowledge and experience in their chosen fields.



We'll reveal the winners in our next issue of Update, which will be out in spring 2027, so watch this space.

Digging the community spirit of the veg-swap table

Throughout August, green-fingered residents left homegrown fruit, vegetables and plants on a dedicated table outside of Bedlington Community Centre for passers-by to enjoy.

This was a new community-minded idea where items were free to take, and by all accounts, it was well received by residents and visitors of the Community Centre.

If you'd like to see this initiative again next year, or have comments about this, or anything else Town Council related, feel free to drop us an email – clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk – and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.



Dates for your diary this Christmas



From an ice rink and visit from Santa, to a festive afternoon and a Naughty Elf show, there's lots to enjoy this Christmas, all free of charge from West Bedlington Town Council.

28th November – Christmas lights switch-on event

Join us between 2pm and 6pm on Saturday 28th November for a fabulous festive afternoon in Bedlington Market Place with live entertainment, free rides for the little ones, Elfie Central where you can post your letter to Santa, a visit from the Big Man himself, face painting and an ice rink (no need to book, just turn up).

The lights will be switched on at 5pm, but make sure you come early to enjoy the choir, live performances, market stalls, and the hustle and bustle of Bedlington. See the poster opposite for timings and line-up.

11th December – Magic of Christmas event

And it's not just about the little ones this festive season. On 11th December we are throwing a Magic of Christmas event for yesterday's youngsters at Bedlington Community Centre from 2pm to 4.30pm. Residents of West Bedlington will enjoy a delicious meal, festive bingo, and there will be plenty of Christmas classics to sing along to. If it's anything like last year, guests are in for a real treat. Once spaces are advertised on West Bedlington Town Council Events page on Facebook, call Charmain on 07792 422086 to book.

28th December – Naughty Elf show

On 28th December, there will be three performances of our Naughty Elf show at Bedlington Social Club at 10.30am, 12.45pm and 6.30pm for residents young and old to enjoy. It's a magical Christmas experience for the whole family with live music, comedy, and an extra sprinkle of festive magic. Once spaces are advertised on West Bedlington Town Council Events page on Facebook, call Charmain on 07792 422086 to book.

Free selection boxes for primary-school pupils

West Bedlington Town Council will be spreading a little festive cheer once again this year by giving out chocolate selection boxes to all pupils at our four fabulous primary schools, and sweet treats for those with allergies.

We hope the selection boxes are well received by the little ones at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Meadowdale Primary Academy, West End Primary School and Whitley Memorial C of E Primary School, and they have a wonderful Christmas break when it comes.

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF
MAGIC
 AS WE
SWITCH ON THE
CHRISTMAS
Lights

28TH NOVEMBER 2026
2.00PM – 6.00PM

SPONSORED BY
WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

WHAT'S FREE

- FACE PAINTING
- ELSA & ANNA
- ELFIE CENTRAL
- 2 ROUNDABOUTS
- ICERINK
- VISIT FROM SANTA

ENTERTAINMENT

- 2.30PM** HARRIET LOUISE PERFORMING ARTS
- 3.00PM** CHRISTMAS CHOIR
- 4.00PM** LIVE CHRISTMAS COUNTRY VIBES
- 5.00PM** LIGHT SWITCH ON
- 5.15PM** VISIT FROM THE MAN HIMSELF

SANTA CLAUS

Let's come together, celebrate and make this a Christmas to remember!

SUPPORT OUR MINI MARKET

- TOMBOLA
- SKIN CARE
- CHRISTMAS GOODIES
- CAKES
- SELFIE POD

Supporting our community is so important to us

We think it's important to share good-news stories about West Bedlington Town Council's Community Chest funding so you can see how it directly benefits the town and its people.

We hope this article raises a little awareness about some of the great work we do behind the scenes, and we also hope it shines a light on some of the fantastic groups who have benefited from our support so far in the financial year 2026/27.

Organisation	Reason for funding	Date granted	Awarded
Bedlington Community Allotment	Polytunnel repairs	14.05.2026	£500
Bedlington Brass Community Trust	Room hire	14.05.2026	£500
2522 Bedlington Squadron RAFAC	Educational visit	11.06.2026	£500

Bedlington Brass; keeping music alive in our community

There's plenty of music being made at Bedlington Community Centre, where Bedlington Brass continues to rehearse thanks to the funding from West Bedlington Town Council.

The intermediate training band currently has eleven regular players, and because of the grant funding for room hire, is completely free to attend.

Under the guidance of their Musical Director, Richard, Bedlington Brass Community Trust works with local schools to encourage young people to discover the enjoyment of making music and provides a pathway to further develop their skills.

Behind the scenes, the band is run entirely by dedicated volunteers, all of whom are active players. Together, they work hard to keep music accessible and to give children and young people the opportunity to learn, progress and enjoy being part of a friendly, community-focused band.

Fancy giving it a go? Bedlington Brass is always looking for new members, so check out facebook.com/Bedlingtonbrass to find out more about this brilliant group and how you can get involved.



Bedlington Brass Community Trust



Band members, outside Bedlington Community Centre



New polytunnel at Bedlington Community Allotment



A warm welcome at Bedlington Community Allotment

Bedlington Community Allotment; boosting health and wellbeing

The polytunnel at Bedlington Community Allotment was badly damaged by Storm Floris in August 2025 and funding from West Bedlington Town Council was used to purchase replacement wooden rails and a new polythene cover.

With help from the allotment's members and friends at Earth Balance Shed, volunteers managed to replace the cover and reinstate and improve the rain-water collection gutter.

Bedlington Community Allotment is a great place to visit, so if you're free on a Monday or Wednesday morning, why not pop along to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the space and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals.

There's no digging required, what's more, being part of such a worthwhile group can help to boost your health and wellbeing, and you can take fresh vegetables home to cook and enjoy. Furthermore, it's free.

Bedlington Community Allotment is located on Court Road, off Hassop Way, Bedlington, NE22 7LD.

RAF Air Cadets; instilling the importance of remembrance

The funding from West Bedlington Town Council will be used for an educational visit for twelve RAF Air Cadets from squadron 2522 (Bedlington).

In October 2026, the cadets will be undertaking a trip of a lifetime where they will be visiting the World War One battlefields in Flanders, Belgium, and learn what it means to preserve a democracy and to instill the importance of remembrance.

During the five-day visit, the cadets will stay in Ypres where they will visit the Flanders Fields museum, experience what life was like for soldiers living in a section of preserved trenches on Hill 60 and lay crosses in Reservoir Cemetery to airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Visits will also be undertaken to the Air Services memorial in Arras and to the crash site of Captain Albert Ball VC. Importantly, the cadets will participate in the famous Menin Gate Ceremony where they will be in uniform on parade. Links have already been established with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Last Post Association so future opportunities can be generated.



RAF Air Cadets from squadron 2522 (Bedlington)

Service Spotlight: flower provision

Service Spotlight is a regular feature in Update. In each issue, we delve into a particular area of our service offering, and in this edition, the spotlight is on West Bedlington Town Council's flower provision.

West Bedlington Town Council is responsible for the flower planters along the Front Street, but not the bedding plants, which are provided by Northumberland County Council through a service level agreement.

Last year we refreshed our provision by purchasing twelve new sustainable octagonal planters which are self-watering to keep maintenance costs to a minimum. We also repainted the fourteen existing cast-iron planters with a fresh coat of green and gold paint.

North East firm, Orangutan, provide our floral displays in these 26 containers twice a year, as well as providing flowers for the seven railing planters next to St Cuthbert's Church.

We love to keep West Bedlington looking its best for residents, people who work here, and those passing through, so we hope our flower provision helps to do just that.





Everyone's welcome to attend our regular monthly meetings, where councillors get together to make informed decisions about projects and spending, as well as discussing general Town Council business. It's ok if you're washing your hair that night, but if you're interested in popping along, you are very welcome to attend.

In May every year, a schedule of annual meeting dates is agreed by councillors, which is usually the second Thursday of the month at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre. Visit the 'Meetings' section of our website, westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk, to find our next scheduled meeting date.

At the start of each meeting, there's a fifteen-minute open session where the Chair will invite members of the public to ask agenda-related questions directly to West Bedlington Town Council. We're always interested in hearing your views and comments, but once the question-and-answer session ends and the Town Council meeting commences, the public are politely requested just to observe so we can conduct our business, unless specifically requested by the Chair to speak. There is an opportunity to ask questions which are not related to the agenda at the end of the meeting too.

Mobile phones must be switched off during the meeting, and if the meeting is disrupted in any way, the person/people causing the disruption will be asked to stop, and if they refuse, asked to leave.

Written questions received in advance of the meeting are encouraged, but not essential. If provided in advance, it's easier for an answer to be prepared for the meeting.

We can only make decisions on topics that are publicised on the agenda, except items delegated to the Clerk. Agenda items may be suggested via email – clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk – no later than ten days before each meeting, otherwise the item will be included on a future agenda (if it's a matter that we're responsible for).

You can view meeting agendas and minutes on our website, westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk, and they will also be displayed on the notice board in front of Bedlington Community Centre. If you would like our meeting agendas emailed once a month, please get in touch and we'll add you to our mailing list.

We hope to see you at a Town Council meeting or event in the not-too-distant future.

Your town council, here for you

Here at West Bedlington Town Council, we work hard to safeguard Bedlington's past, present and future to ensure the town continues to be a great place to live, work and visit, whilst preserving Bedlington's rich heritage.

West Bedlington Town Council employs two part-time members of staff to support residents and councillors (we aren't a huge team like Northumberland County Council). We have nine voluntary, unpaid councillors, representing two electoral wards – Bedlington Central and Bedlington West – who help to inform decisions about local services and contribute to the overall wellbeing of our community.

Our services include the provision of:

- Children's play areas (Meadowdale, 20 Acres, Westlea – not Doctor Pit Park)
 - Bus shelters
 - Litter bins (we provide the bins, but Northumberland County Council empty them)
 - Public seating
 - Events for the whole community
- (for example, school-holiday activities, Bedlington Festival, Christmas lights switch-on event and Remembrance)
- Community grants
 - Grants for primary schools
 - Community CCTV
 - Community defibrillators
 - Planters and flowers on the Front Street (not the bedding plants)
 - War memorial and flagpole maintenance
 - Christmas tree and lights
 - Christmas and Easter gifts for primary schools
 - Town gateway features (for example, the train sign at Atlee Park and the Bedlington terrier sign on Hartford Road East)
 - Road speed-awareness signs (maintenance only, not their provision)
 - Sun dial in the Market Place

All other local council services, for example, housing, refuse collection, Council Tax and housing benefits are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. You can report all sorts of issues, from fly tipping to street lighting at fix.northumberland.gov.uk or by calling 0345 600 6400.

For everything Town Council related, you can get in touch with us via email or telephone, or feel free to pop in and see us during our office opening hours.

Email: clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01670 457070

Address: West Bedlington Town Council
Bedlington Community Centre
Front Street West
Bedlington
Northumberland
NE22 5TT

Office opening hours:

- Monday 9.30am to 1pm
- Thursday 9.30am to 1pm
- Friday 9.30am to 1pm



Scan QR code to visit our website

westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

West Bedlington Town Council

Working to safeguard Bedlington's past, present and future

Meet your councillors



Trevor Austin

Central Ward

Bedlington has been home to my family for over twenty five years. Now I feel it's time to give something back. I want to use the experience I've gained over a lifetime of work to make a meaningful contribution to our community.

trevor.austin@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
07407 787026



Dave Chapple

West Ward

After growing up in Bedlington Station and completing a full career in the Army, I chose to make Bedlington my permanent home. I care deeply about our town and want to do my best for its residents.

lawrence.chapple@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
07721 692020



Brian Denny, Mayor

Central Ward

As an avid traveller and photographer, I stood as a councillor so I could do the best for the town I know and love, bringing new ideas from my travels.

brian.denny@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
07407 690897

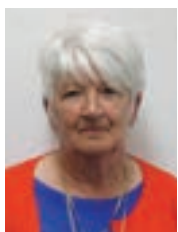


Sian Denny

West Ward

I am really honoured to have been elected on to our Council and will endeavour to do my very best for our great town and its community.

sian.denny@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Catherine Henderson

West Ward

catherine.henderson@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Adam Hogg

West Ward

I have lived in Bedlington all my life and have been a Town Councillor since 2013. I have a particular interest in planning and have raised residents' views at public meetings.

adam.hogg@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Al Roberts

West Ward

al.roberts@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
07760 818525



Christine Taylor

Central Ward

christine.taylor@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
07591 621238



Victoria Thompson

Central Ward

victoria.thompson@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Working to safeguard Bedlington's past, present and future

Here at West Bedlington Town Council, we work hard to safeguard the town's past, present and future to ensure Bedlington continues to be a great place to live, work and visit, whilst preserving its rich heritage.

Some residents tell us they aren't exactly sure which part of Bedlington is east and which part is west. West Bedlington Town Council represents two thirds of Bedlington, including the town centre and the villages of Nedderton and Hartford Bridge to the west. The map on this page shows the boundary line, and if you'd like to view an interactive map in more detail, visit our website and zoom away.

Email: clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01670 457070

Address: West Bedlington Town Council
Bedlington Community Centre
Front Street West
Bedlington
Northumberland
NE22 5TT



Scan QR code to
visit our website
westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

