



Your Parish News:

Summer 2016

Chairman's Chatter:

What a wonderful and busy summer we're having; Team GB wowing us in Rio and lots going on around the Parish. I hope you're getting involved and enjoying some of the clubs and events or maybe just getting out and about in the beautiful countryside around us.

You may remember we recently asked for your thoughts for a new Parish logo. A big thanks to all those who shared ideas which have helped us to create what, we hope you will agree, is a wonderful new logo which represents our community and the things you said were

important to you via the Parish survey. The logo is in the shape of a mitre with the four quarters divided by a cross with the upright being a crozier representing our heritage as a home of the Prince Bishops. The castle and heavy wrought iron gate effect represent the former grand buildings in the Parish: the Bishop's Palace and Mainsforth Hall. The Swans, still seen on the lakes around our Parish today, were kept in the castle swannery.



Bishop Middleham
& Mainsforth

The colours are those of County Durham and the words around the edge represent the primary aim of your Council, which is to conserve our heritage and to move our community forward, investing to build our future and avoid the Parish becoming a museum. A big thanks to Jonny Parish who took your ideas and created the logo free of charge.

You may have noticed new benches appearing around the Parish. Thanks go to Liese Cooper (pictured) who wrote in with some feedback regarding the state of the old benches along with ideas of where to place new ones. Thanks Liese, they look great and we've received lots of positive feedback.



Financially we remain in good shape and I was really pleased that, once again, we didn't need to raise the Parish council tax (Precept) that we all pay. I'd also like to thank our County Councillor, Mick Simpson for his continued support and funding that he has contributed to a number of projects.

Finally, I'm really looking forward to the Horticultural show on Sept 10th, which is always a great community event and a true spectacle with wonderful flowers, crafts and other produce on show. Do come along and why not get involved and make an entry this year?

Julie Hall (Chair)

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Did you know???

- The Prince Bishops had a swannery with 50 swans being ordered for a single feast to celebrate the visit of Richard II

Swans are still a feature on many of the Lakes around the Parish, currently being a bit upstaged by the geese!

- A 'moose deer' antler was discovered at Mainsforth.

Keep an eye out if you're walking over to the cricket club to enjoy the wonderful new club house facilities!

If you have any "did you knows" about the Parish or its people please send them in!

News & What's on

A Plea from our Children

Councillor Dave Hardy and Clare Hubbard from Durham County Pride held an assembly at St Michael's school highlighting the effects of dog fouling. A number of the children went on a walk to spot fouling and placed 45 "Dog Poo Alert" flags on the lane behind the school alone. On return to school a video of the walk was played to all the children who then drew pictures to bring the issue to the attention of dog owners and to ask them to be responsible. Many of these pictures have been displayed on the Parish



notice board and Roseanna Brimm's picture was chosen to feature on stickers that have been distributed around our Parish. Roseanna was awarded a framed picture of her design. The level of dog fouling in our Parish is quite simply a disgrace. Those owners responsible should be ashamed. Maybe having children asking you to change your behaviour will have some effect. Report irresponsible dog owners to:

www.durham.gov.uk/dogfouling or tel 03000 261 000



Bright Water Landscape Partnership

As many of you will know, the Bright Water Landscape Partnership has attracted almost £3m of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support a range of projects in the Skerne catchment area. There are still 18 months to go before individual projects actually start, as Bright Water's 'Delivery Phase' does not begin until January 2018. It will then continue on through to the end of 2021. In the meantime, however, quite a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to get things ready, particularly in the Bishop Middleham area. Experts have been out and about undertaking studies on the natural environment, local archaeological sites, and on the river Skerne itself. A new website is due to be launched over the next few weeks and you may also catch sight of a drone taking aerial shots of the area for use in a promotional video. Over the coming winter and spring months, members of the Bright Water team will be arranging to talk to groups in this area. They will be sharing information gathered from the expert studies and, in particular, Bright Water's plans to create a small nature reserve down by the river. They will also explain in further detail just what will be going on and how individuals will be able to get involved. There will, for example, be opportunities from 2018 onwards to take part in creating "village atlases" that research and celebrate local history, in community archaeological digs and in various cultural activities. Bright Water will also be working with small local businesses, particularly those in the food, drink and rural crafts sectors, helping to promote them to both existing and new visitors to our area. Details of the information events to be held later in the year will be posted on the new website: www.discoverbrightwater.org.uk (due to be up and running by the end of August).

Church News



After more than ten years at the Helm of our Parish and having just celebrated 25yrs since his ordination, we bid farewell to Michael Gobbett who is moving on to take over the Parish of Whitby. Michael has made a massive contribution to our community over those years and will be missed for sure. A sung Eucharist was held at St Michael's to celebrate his ministry which was well attended and it was great to see the Church so full, with the sound of singing lifting the rafters!

All the very best Michael, we wish you well.

Brownies to continue

A BIG thank you to Jill Chatt who is handing over after many years supporting both

The logo for Brownies, featuring the word "Brownies" in a yellow, bubbly font with a star over the 'i', enclosed in a yellow rounded rectangle.

Brownies and before that Rainbows and over the last four and a half years as Brown Owl. We also say cheerio and a big thank you to Olivia Maude who has also made a big contribution helping out with Brownies and wish her all the very best as she goes off to study at York University. The good news is that we are really pleased to welcome our new Brown Owl Louise Flint and to thank her for taking on this important role and wish her fun and success leading the 1st Bishop Middleham Brownies.

The Church Summer Fête

Great fun was had by both young and old as people came together to enjoy the summer fête. Craft stalls, tombola, raffle, tasty cakes, plants and time to catch up for a natter over a cup of tea and a scone. Music was provided by Janet and Philip and we're still wondering how Lucie managed to get so many balloons into her car?

Thanks to all who contribute to making this popular event so successful, over £1,000 was raised.



Scarecrow Festival

The scarecrows were out in force again this year, with pantomime characters everywhere. Oh yes they were.... It was good to see such a good turn out for the 10th anniversary of the event. The Vickers family's Wizard of Oz, complete with Yellow Brick road, took the Adult first prize and the Godfrey – Smith's Aladdin's Genie was the winner in the Children's category. A record number of trail maps were sold which raised £180. Well done to everyone who took part.



Fly Tippers Beware!

After increasing amounts of fly tipping in the Parish, some of which included asbestos, your Council are stepping up action with the purchase of a covert camera system and joining the County's multi agency 'operation stop it' campaign. The cameras will act as a big deterrent and will also help catch and fine the culprits. Our neighbourhood warden, Neil Bloxsome (pictured) will place and monitor the cameras. Big thanks go to Neil for the work he does around the Parish and also to Fernie Boorman (also pictured) who escalated this issue requesting action.

To report any incidents please phone 03000 261 000

Dates for your Diary

Mon 6pm	Youth Club at the Village Hall
Tues 9pm	Quiz Night at the Cross Keys
2nd Wed Monthly	Parish Council Meeting 7pm Village Hall
1st Thurs Monthly	PACT meeting 6.30pm St Michael's
Last Sat Monthly	Live music night at the Fleece
7th Sept & then wkly	BALM (Bereavement And Loss Meeting) Wed 7pm Village Hall
8th—11th Sept	St Michael's Church Open day. See FB page for opening times
9th Sept	Local History Society 7pm Village Hall The Weardale Railway
10th Sept	World's Biggest Coffee Morning Village Store 10am —12 noon
10th Sept	Horticultural & Crafts Society Annual Show. 2-4pm Village Hall
20th Sept	Women's Institute Meeting Speaker TBC Village Hall 7pm
Sept TBC	"Messy Church" 4pm St Michael's Church Date TBC

For Village Hall activities please go to www.southdurhamhalls.org.uk/halls/bishop-middleham-village-hall

Please like our Facebook page to keep up to date with what's on!

www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham



and finally



New Bereavement and Loss Meeting (BALM)

Balm is a group of local people who have undergone special training in listening to people who need support after a bereavement or other loss, providing a supportive environment to share thoughts and feelings over a cup of tea or coffee, as part of a group or 1:1. Sessions are held every Wednesday at the Village Hall from 7 to 8.30 pm, starting on September 7th 2016.

Who Killed the Director?



The Friends of St Michael's school proved they have talent by staging a sold out murder mystery night at the Village Hall. £582 was raised and a fantastic night was had by all .. With the exception, maybe, of the director (who did make a miraculous recovery for the after show party) Encore, next production please!

It's a Century!

Congratulations and many happy returns go to John Richardson who celebrated his 100th Birthday earlier this year. John has some tales to tell, including being banned from the village for riding his bike on the paths!

♪♪♪ Happy Birthday to You ♪♪♪

Horticultural and Craft Society Show

The 32nd annual show will take place on the 10th Sept in the Village Hall 2-4pm. Entries are welcomed from all ages, so whether you have a great leek, some beautiful flowers, an amazing photo, wonderful jam or a poem, there are many categories to have a go at. Entries can be made right up to the day. Forms are available at the Post Office, Village Hall and included with this newsletter. The show is open to all, so please come along, support and enjoy this community event.

Gold Coins for our Children

Many of us will remember being given jubilee coins when we were young and your Council thought it would be nice to offer similar to all Primary school aged children across the Parish by giving them a commemorative gold coin to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday. Pictured are Julie Hall (Parish Council Chair) and head teacher Lindsey Vollans presenting the coins to pupils from St Michael's School.



DON'T JUST LIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, BE A PART OF IT. GET INVOLVED!

Please send us your news & views: letters, articles, news, pictures and poems.

How to Report Issues: street lights, broken pavement, dog fouling, fly tipping etc

Report directly to the council on www.durham.gov.uk/reportit or **phone 03000 26 1000**. Alternatively go to www.fixmystreet.com where you can report issues online and see what else is being reported in our area.

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