

Wheatley Hill Parish Council



& Friends of Wheatley Hill



This Newsletter is Funded by Wheatley Hill Parish Council

Seasons Greetings To All Our Readers



Winter 2016

To keep everyone up to date with what is happening, Wheatley Hill Parish Council and members from various village organisations known as "Friends of Wheatley Hill" have produced a village newsletter that gives up to date information about current developments and issues relevant to Wheatley Hill.

Wheatley Hill Medical Centre

2015 saw the opening of the Wheatley Hill Primary Care Centre. The Centre is run by the Phoenix Medical Group and the building incorporates Whitfields Pharmacy. Clinical Services provided by the Centre include Family Planning, Maternity Care, Child Health Services, Well Person Examination, Smoking Cessation, Counselling and Weight Management. The Centre provides wheel chair access for the disabled. You can register for the new online appointment booking service by contacting the surgery on **01429 820233**

Surgery Hours

Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm Saturday and Sunday Closed

Doors are closed for lunch everyday 12.30pm to 1pm but are still open for enquiries and appointments.

Extended hours are from 6pm - 8pm on Mondays for pre booked appointments.

The Patient Participation Group

Everyone is welcome to join if you are registered with the Practice. For further information please contact

**Denise Scott on
01429 820235**

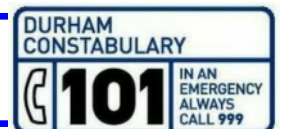
Whitfields Pharmacy

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
and Friday 9am - 12.30pm
and 2pm - 6pm

Thursday 9am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 5.30pm Saturday 9am - 12.30pm Telephone **01429 820313**



For immediate assistance with Anti Social Behaviour call Durham Police on 101



Neighbourhood Wardens

Neighbourhood Wardens carry out regular patrols and work closely with the police, fire service and other enforcement agencies to deal with resident's concerns and tackle the following issues seven days a week.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Litter• Dog fouling• Flytipping• Graffiti• Under age street drinking• Anti-social behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abandoned vehicles• Collection of stray dogs• Waste duty care• Illegal transporting of waste• Illegal storage, treatment and disposal of waste | <p>Monday to Thursday 9am - 8pm
Friday 11am - 10pm
Saturday and Sunday
4.45pm - 10pm
Telephone: 03000 26 1000
Email: help@durham.gov.uk</p> |
|--|--|--|

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Wheatley Hill Parish Council works to meet the needs of the community by listening and responding to local issues. The Council work closely with the Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, Durham County Council, community groups and local organisations on matters which affect the Parish area. The following list gives a flavour of what the Parish Council does.

- The Parish Council owns and manages the Cemetery. The Cemetery is also home to the War Memorial, Peter Lee's grave and a memorial stone for Thomas Kenny VC.
- The Parish Council owns and manages 23 allotments and stable blocks at Quilstyle Road.
- The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council. The Council therefore has the opportunity to comment on applications submitted from within the village.
- The Parish Council has its own web site which provides lots of information about the Parish Council and local events.
- The Parish Council works closely with Durham County Council to assist with winter maintenance on footpaths in Wheatley Hill. The Council is also responsible for refilling the salt bins throughout the village.
- Free Dog Poop Scoop bags are provided by the Parish Council to all residents living in Wheatley Hill in an effort to combat dog fouling.
- The Parish Council financially assists Wheatley Hill Community Association to provide their Meals on Wheels service which delivers hot meals to elderly people from Monday to Friday.
- The Parish Council provide grants and donations to local groups and charitable organisations throughout the year. All requests for assistance must be in writing.
- Meetings of the Parish Council are held at 6pm on the second Monday of the month in the Heritage Centre. Members of the public are welcome to attend and there is opportunity to have your say.



Know Your Parish Councillors

Chairman of the Parish Council - Morris Nicholls - 87 Johnson Estate - Tel 01429 820003

Councillor Eleanor Carr	19 Gable Terrace Tel 01429 821349	Councillor Brian Maddison	2 Bevan Crescent Tel 01429 820159
Councillor Mary Nicholls	87 Johnson Estate Tel 01429 820003	Councillor Catherine Stogdale	17 Gable Terrace Tel 01429 820633
Councillor Marina Goyns	28 East View Tel 01429 820615	Councillor Jake Miller	7 East View Tel 01429 824397
Councillor Edward Goyns	28 East View Tel 01429 820615	Councillor Linda Stewart	1 Miners Villas Tel 01429 821220

Parish Clerk - Joanne Thompson - Tel 0191 5279027
Email clerk.whpc@btinternet.com



Register to Vote

You need to register to be able to vote in elections and referendums. The Electoral Register is the list of everyone who is registered to vote. Everyone is responsible for registering themselves.

Telephone 03000 261212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk

Know Your County Councillors

Trimdon & Thornley division, which includes the Trimdons, Thornley, Wheatley Hill, Ludworth & Haswell Plough is a three member ward.



Morris Nicholls

Telephone:

03000 268 755



Lucy Hovvels

Telephone:

03000 268 728



Peter Brookes

Telephone:

03000 268 689

Meals on Wheels

Did you know The Greenhills Centre provides a meals on wheels service in Wheatley Hill?

They provide good quality, value for money, homemade meals which are freshly prepared each day at the Greenhills Centre kitchens.

The service offers a choice of starter, main course and desert. Menus change weekly and are tailored to meet customer requirements.

The service operates Monday to Friday with the option of fresh chilled meals available for weekends and Bank Holidays which you can heat up on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information **Contact Hilary Jamieson**

Telephone: 01429 820214

Wheatley Hill Steering Group

The Durham County Council Wheatley Hill Steering Group meet from 1pm - 3pm on a Thursday in Wheatley House every six weeks. The meetings are open to ALL and residents are encouraged to attend and have their say

Contact Sue Carr Telephone 03000 261 079

100th Birthday Celebration

Mrs Mabel Holdcroft, retired Parish Councillor, celebrated her 100th Birthday at Abbott's Court Nursing Home.

Mabel sends a message of thanks to all her friends for the cards, flowers, gifts and love she has received.



Parish Council Grants Section 137 Donations

Grants & Donations given during the
2015/2016 Financial Year.

Wheatley Hill Community Association	4,866.00
All Saints Parish Church	300.00
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club	600.00
Wheatley Hill Disabled Club	300.00
Wheatley Hill Women's Section - RBL	390.00
Wheatley Hill Children's Centre	300.00
Wheatley Hill History Club	300.00
East Durham Comm Transport Ltd	100.00
Wheatley Hill WMC Football Team	300.00
Wheatley Hill Scouts	300.00
Wheatley Hill Community Nursery	600.00
Wheatley Hill Heritage Society	300.00
All Saint's Church - "Over 20's"	300.00
Wheatley House	200.00
Great North Air Ambulance	100.00
Durham Cathedral	50.00
Wheatley Hill Working Mens Social Club & Institute	300.00
Durham Miners Gala Brochure	45.00
TOTAL	9,651.00

THE LAST SHIFT - THE STORY SO FAR

Wheatley Hill pit closed on 3 May 1968. In 2014, and with the 50th anniversary of the closure approaching, Irene McAteer, suggested that the Mothers Club should start a campaign to build a statue to the memory of the local mine and miners. The Mothers Club agreed to this and the first meeting of The Last Shift was held in May 2015.

Ray Lonsdale – he of “Seaham Tommy” fame – came up with designs for the statue which was later tailored to a photograph of Tom Davies at the pit in 1963. The cost for the statue was approximately £22,000. The committee set a target of £10,000 to be raised by June 2016. They would then apply to funders for the remaining £12,000, although costs continue to rise.

As The Last Shift is a temporary fund raising group, it was decided that Wheatley House Moving Forward, a constituted charity, would administer the funds. Fund raising began with The Mother’s Club and their contribution to the fund has been substantial and is ongoing.

Online Crowdfunding initially raised £580 which started a series of private donations from both home and abroad, donations have been received from all over the world from former local residents and/or their families. Many organisations as well as individuals have supported our cause. Numerous fundraising events have been held by local clubs, schools, churches, businesses and organisations with all proceeds going to The Last Shift.

As a result of our fundraising campaign we reached our initial target of £10,000 before the June deadline. Pit Tokens are still available to purchase from the ongoing project “Memory Board” located in the Community Centre. The Last Shift would sincerely like to thank everyone who has helped us to achieve this fantastic goal in such a short period of time no matter how big or small their contribution. Fund raising continues and everyone is encouraged to get involved.

The favoured location for the statue was initially on land near the pit wheel which is owned by Durham County Council. However, locating the statue here had its difficulties which included entering into a legal agreement with the County Council, planning permission, various surveys and assessments. Other issues such as vandalism, site security, insurance and future maintenance highlighted this was not the most suitable site. This was a major blow as the site was thought to be the right and proper place for a tribute to Wheatley Hill pit, as it was as near to the pit site as possible. However it was evident that pursuing this would be an expensive and time consuming exercise.

Following discussions with interested parties Wheatley Hill Parish Council offered the statue a home, on their land, in the cemetery which was a secure site. The Parish Council agreed that once erected they would take on ownership of the statue for insurance purposes and future maintenance. Already home to the Heritage Centre, the graves of miners’ leader, Peter Lee and Thomas Kenny, plus his VC commemoration stone, the cemetery provides a focus for our local heritage. A final location within the cemetery has yet to be decided upon, but taking everything into consideration it is the best place for the statue, with the intention of having it face in the direction of the former pit site.

Fund raising to date stands at £11,315 which is a fantastic achievement. The process of applying to funders to match-up the rest of the projected costs has begun.

An unveiling event will be held on Thursday 3 May 2018 in Wheatley Hill Cemetery. It is also proposed that a time-capsule will be buried near the statue on the day of its unveiling and it is intended to include a list of everyone who has donated financially to the statue, together with other relevant items.



NEW VILLAGE BUSES

Durham County Council has secured and financed two new bus services for Wheatley Hill on a 12 month trial basis. Residents will be aware of the Indigo service 59 which has been in operation since May 2016. This provides a service from Wheatley Hill to the Arnison Centre on Sundays and Bank Holidays only.

The 216 Village Link service has been in operation since October 2016 and operates Monday to Friday. It provides a village link between Trimdon, Deaf Hill, Wheatley Hill, Thornley, Ludworth, Haswell, South Hetton and Easington Lane. The Service is proving very popular and the number of passengers using the service is improving every week.

Bus timetable leaflets are available to collect from the Community Centre, Wheatley House and the Heritage Centre. They are also posted at bus stops in the village.

Both of these services are operating on a trial basis **SO USE THEM OR LOOSE THEM!**



The Health Appointment Scheme

Do you have mobility problems, do you need help with travelling to your health related appointments?

You could benefit from the “Supportive” Health Appointment Scheme. **The Health Appointment Scheme aims to improve access to health services for people of all ages, who live or are registered with a GP within the East Durham or Sedgfield district.**

The scheme is very much about individual transport and the specific needs of users. It is aimed at those who, because of a short or long term disability, are unable to access public transport.

Service users who qualify for the Scheme are provided with assisted door-to-door transport to enable them to attend any health related appointment i.e. Doctor, Dentist, Optician, Hospital etc.

The cost of the service is on a sliding scale with a minimum of £1 to a maximum of £10 per single journey.
For more information Telephone: 01740 658885

ABSENTEE LANDLORDS

Various problems exist throughout the village related to the Front Street and absentee landlords.

Houses which are left empty for a long period of time quickly fall into disrepair. They can become an eyesore, attract vermin, may become unsafe and they often become the focal point for anti-social behaviour.

When an empty property is reported to Durham County Council they will identify and contact the owner. They will then encourage owners, occupiers and landlords to take responsibility for their property and bring it back into use or a good state of repair. If this fails enforcement action can be taken against the owner.

Durham County Council has a Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme. The scheme is voluntary and requires private landlords to work in line with a Code of Practice. It recognises landlords who offer good quality, well-managed accommodation and promotes the ongoing improvement of housing in the private rental sector by encouraging all landlords to achieve the same standards.



Housing Solutions 03000 260 787

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IN WHEATLEY HILL

The neighbourhood policing team is made up of Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables. They work with local people to find out what matters most to you in the area you live. They work together with the local community and other partners to tackle problems and help improve the quality of life for local residents.

A current priority for Wheatley Hill is loose horses in the village. The Police are working in partnership with Durham County Council to ensure fences are in good repair. Many horses have been seized and if they are not claimed by the owner they are rehomed.

How to contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Email: **PC 2304 Ged Cooke** Ged.cooke@durham.pnn.police.uk
or **PCSO 6627 Kelly Hyde** Kelly.hyde@durham.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 101 Facebook: Peterlee Police Twitter: @PeterleePolice

Peterlee Police Station, St Aidan's Way, County Durham. SR8 1QR

Wheatley Hill "Mini Police"

Wheatley Hill has its very own "Mini Police". The project is a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity for primary school children aged 9 - 11 years old. It allows the children to contribute to policing and community safety, in a fun way, giving young people a voice.

The project is a means of engaging children within their communities, it helps to address policing priorities, increasing confidence and reducing perceived barriers. Children's interaction with the Police at a young age has a lasting effect on how they view the force and engage with them as adults.

Wheatley Hill Primary School in partnership with Wheatley Hill Community Association launched its year 5 "Mini Police" project in September. The launch involved the whole school and the children enjoyed a visit from the Police helicopter. The children watched the helicopter land and had the chance to explore it and other police vehicles as well as meet the Police dogs. Our "Mini Police" Volunteers do a fantastic job and absolutely love carrying out this role in the community.

To assist with the project Wheatley Hill Parish Council provided the funding to purchase the "Mini Police" uniforms for Wheatley Hill Primary School.



Christmas Cheer Packs

In the lead up to Christmas the Greenhills Centre in partnership with Wheatley Hill Parish Council will be delivering 200 Christmas cheer packs to our elderly and vulnerable residents. The packs will contain items such as a fleece blanket, hand warmers, tea/coffee, bed socks, hat/scarf/gloves, biscuits/chocolate, book/magazine etc.



The packs will be prepared by Community Centre staff, volunteers and the Wheatley Hill "Mini Police". The "Mini Police" are also assisting with the distribution of the packs and a Christmas card to accompany it.

The elderly and vulnerable in our community are often socially isolated and the project entails visiting the elderly or vulnerable person in their home and spending some time with them for a chat and a cuppa.

The cost to supply the Christmas packs is **£2,500** which has been funded by Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

REPORT DOG FOULING

If there is a problem with dog fouling in your area or you see someone failing to clean up their dog's mess, contact Durham County Council and give as much information as possible, such as **date and time, location, description of dog, dog owner and if possible their address.**

The information will be passed to the Neighbourhood Wardens to make enquiries and take the necessary action against the offender. All reports are dealt with in confidence. If the pavement or verge is badly fouled Durham County Council can arrange for it to be cleaned and arrange for an officer to patrol the area in an effort to catch the offenders.



Failure to clean up your dog's waste is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If you do not clean up your dog's waste you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80. If taken to court, you could face a maximum fine of £1,000.

Telephone: 03000 26 1000

Provision and Maintenance of Dog Bins

Dog waste bins are located throughout Wheatley Hill at various locations. The dog bins are checked and emptied on a regular basis. You can also use any litter bin to dispose of dog waste, **provided it is properly bagged.** If you are aware of a bin near you that is not being emptied on a regular basis please contact the Parish Council. **FREE** Dog Poop Scoop bags are provided by the Parish Council and are available to collect at the Heritage Centre, The Greenhills Centre and Wheatley House.

PROBLEM HORSES

Durham County Council is responsible for all stray or tethered horses illegally grazing on **council owned land.** Horses that are on, or are in danger of straying onto a public road or highway are dangerous and should be reported to the Police.

When a stray horse is reported on council land a Neighbourhood Warden will visit and move the horse to a secure area away from the public. They will try to identify the owner and post notices on the land near to where the horse was found. If a horse is loose or tethered on private land, it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure it does not cause a danger to the public. The County Council will inform the landowner that they have a stray or tethered horse on their land and advise them of the options available should they wish to remove it.

To report a stray or tethered horse contact Durham County Council

Telephone: 03000 26 1000

All reports are treated in confidence



Household Waste Recycling Centre

Between 1 October 2016 and 31 March 2017 Durham County Council's household waste recycling centres will operate winter opening hours. Thornley, Coxhoe and Horden will be open from 10am - 4pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 3.30pm on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays. All recycling centres are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. **Telephone: 03000 26 1000**

How to Get a Salt Bin Refilled


Each Durham County Council salt bin has a unique reference number on it. If you are aware of a salt bin that is empty and needs refilling **Telephone: 03000 26 1000**

Potholes

Potholes can occur at any time of the year, however they tend to peak during the winter months. If you want to report any road damage please call Durham County Council **Telephone: 03000 26 1000**

ORGANISATIONS IN WHEATLEY HILL

Wheatley Hill is fortunate to have a number of groups and organisations successfully established in the village. We hope by advertising contact information this will provide an opportunity for people to consider applying to join or to visit one or more of the organisations.




Wheatley House. Wheatley House Moving Forward have successfully maintained and improved the Centre. They provide a venue for meetings and events in Wheatley Hill. Contact **Mrs Freda Coxon 01429 820689**

Wheatley Hill Mothers' Club. The aim of the club is for women in the village and surrounding areas to meet and socialise. They meet at 7pm every Wednesday at the Working Men's Club. Contact **Mrs Wendy Huntington 01429 823516**



Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre is a small building of architectural beauty. Built in 1907 it served as a Chapel of Rest before being renovated and turned into a museum dedicated to remembering our coal mining past. Admission is **FREE** Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 12noon and 2pm - 4pm. Saturday 2pm - 4pm. Web site: **wheatleyhillheritagecentre.btck.co.uk**



Wheatley Hill History Club was founded in 1995. Meetings are held March to October from 7pm - 8pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Wheatley House. There is always a speaker who gives a presentation on a topic of local interest or history. Email: **history.club2@btinternet.com**



The Greenhills Centre is a large modern community centre managed by Wheatley Hill Community Association. It offers a wide range of Services. Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 8.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 6.30pm Saturday and Sunday - events and functions only. **Telephone: 01429 820214**
Email: admin@greenhillscentre.co.uk

All Saints Church, Wheatley Hill, was built in 1873 and the Chancel erected in 1899. The Church was extended in 1952. For service times contact **Diane Metcalfe 01429 820854**

Wheatley Hill Angling Club
For Members only
Adults £50 first year, £30 thereafter
Children £7.50
Contact **Alan Hall**
Telephone: 075140 22069

DISABLED CLUB
Meetings held at 7pm on Thursdays every 2nd week in Wheatley House. Contact: **Eileen Cave 01429 821067**

OVER 20's CLUB
Meetings held at 7pm every Tuesday in All Saints Church. Contact: **Barbara Saxby 01429 820864**

THE CAMERA CLUB
Held in All Saints Church every Wednesday at 7pm Contact: **Bob Ord 01429 820736**
Everyone welcome.

WHEATLEY HILL BRANCH of the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Meetings held monthly. Contact : **Willie Oswald 01429 820631**

MENS KREE (THE CAVE)
Mens social group. Meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Greenhills cafe. Everyone welcome.

GREENHILLS GIRLS - LADIES WHO LUNCH
Meet every Tuesday 10am - 12noon and Wednesday 11am - 12noon at the Greenhills Centre. Everyone welcome.

FRIENDS OF THE FORCES
Meet 7pm at Wheatley House on the first Thursday of every month Contact: **Eileen Cave 01429 821067**