



# Wheatley Hill Parish Council



**Seasons Greetings To All Our Readers**

**Winter 2018**

## FRONT STREET IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Residents will be aware that over the last few months work has been undertaken on the Front Street to give it a much needed facelift.

The £20,000 initiative was jointly funded by County Councillors Jude Grant, Lucy Hovvells and Peter Brookes and Wheatley Hill Parish Council. Each County Councillor contributed £5,000 from their Neighbourhood Budget to the project and the Parish Council also contributed £5,000 as well as agreeing to make up any shortfall if needed.

The aim of the project was to spruce up the Front Street. The works included covering the boarded up empty houses and vacant shops with decorative vinyls. Shop rolling shutters were painted in a uniform colour and street furniture was given a new lease of life with a coat of paint. Once the works were complete the streets and pavements were given a “deep clean”. Work started in September at the empty corner shop known locally as “Lucy Huttons”. This shop has stood empty for many years and has now been fitted with a vinyl covering resembling a café.



The scheme was given the stamp of approval by the Shadow Housing Secretary, John Healey and Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Rog Hogg when they visited Wheatley Hill at the start of the initiative in September.



The Front Street was once a thriving area used regularly by residents and a focal point of the village. However, over the years it has become run down, houses have been boarded up and properties left vacant which has left the area looking unsightly.

The scheme is a direct response to the community’s needs. Residents told us they have to live alongside these properties and they wanted to see something done to improve the Front Street. It is appreciated that this is only a sticking plaster and ideally we would all like to see the

vacant houses and empty commercial properties brought back into use. The scheme was a priority for the County and Parish Councillors representing the residents of Wheatley Hill and it was important that something was done.

The initiative has seen the business sector, landlords and residents all coming together to support the scheme and we would like to see more of this. It is hoped that the money spent will make a vast difference to residents.



Additionally we would like to see landlords and property owners taking responsibility for their property and we will help and support them in a positive way to ensure this happens. We hope that when residents start to see a difference it will lift their feeling of wellbeing.

# Seasons Greetings from the Chair of Wheatley Hill Parish Council



**Jake Miller (Chair)**

Firstly, I can't go on to write anything about the Parish Council, without first paying my respects to the late Morris Nicholls.

Morris was the first person to ask me about my interest in joining the Parish Council in 2013. He helped, guided and mentored me throughout my first years on the Council, and he always encouraged me to go higher. He was a fantastic Councillor for the Parish, District and County, an excellent colleague and a great friend. These are a few of the many reasons why I and the Parish Council wanted to honour him, by placing a memorial seat next to his headstone, to thank him for all he has done for Wheatley Hill.

I have served as a Parish Councillor since 2013, and as Chair since September 2017. Throughout that time we have supported a number of community groups across the village, from the Mother's Club, the Working Men's Club and the Community Centre. Each request for financial assistance or other type of support is important to all Members of the Parish Council, and we will do as much as we can, to support everyone in the village.



2018 has been a big year for the Council, for a number of reasons, but I'll just mention a few;

The Council worked alongside The Last Shift Committee, to ensure that 50 years since the closure of Wheatley Hill pit was properly commemorated.

Members took part in the unveiling ceremony and I made a speech about how important it is for my generation to remember the hard work and hard times that our families have lived through.

A big thank you to Ray Lonsdale for his creation.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council owns and manages 22 allotments and stable blocks that we rent to residents from the Parish.

This year we were faced with one of our allotments being used as a refuse site, which completely destroyed the allotment and damaged more.

Fly tipped rubbish including glass, building materials, baths, tyres, plastic containers, half a caravan and carpets illegally dumped on this allotment, needed to be removed and a plan of action was needed to ensure this would not happen again.

Almost £10,000 of the Council's budget was used to clear the fly tipped rubbish, re-fence the allotments and place boulders at the track entrance, to stop access to vehicles coming onto the site to illegally dump rubbish. That is £10,000 of expenditure that should have been used for funding community projects, the upkeep of our Cemetery and Parish investment into the village.



We don't think it's fair that money, which is meant for the village had to be spent on the removal of fly tipped rubbish. Despite weekly visits to the allotment site, monitoring and liaison with Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council it has been necessary to increase rents for allotments and stable blocks.

We understand that not all tenants allow their allotments/stable blocks to be used for this purpose. During a recent site visit we saw that tenants are maintaining their plots to a high degree; keeping horses on stable blocks, and growing their own vegetables on allotments. These are the reasons we have the site, and we encourage anyone who wishes to do such activities to contact the Council about applying.



It was agreed at this year's annual budget meeting that we would once again fund the Meals On Wheels project delivered by the Greenhills Centre. The Parish Council has done this since 2013.

It is important that we support the elderly and vulnerable in our community, and funding this project means that they receive a freshly cooked meal presented by a friendly face, which they may not have seen had it not been for this valuable service.

The Parish Council works closely with the community centre, and offers support to ensure that caring projects like the Winter Warmer Packs, and the exciting programme during the school six weeks holidays is able to go ahead for everyone's enjoyment.



On Sunday 11 November 2018, 180 crosses were displayed in the Cemetery, to remember the 180 men who never made it home after World War 1.

Remembrance Sunday, in Wheatley Hill, has always shown a large number of people taking part in the Remembrance Service. The



parade and the laying of wreaths is an opportunity for us all to pay our respects to all the fallen men and women, who serve our country.

This honouring idea came from a community group within the village, whom we on the Council were happy to support. A special thank you is needed to Gordon Tempest, for creating each of the crosses, and for all of his support and participation over the years.

I held a Parish Surgery on 9 October 2018, which showed a good response from residents. Some great ideas were suggested and discussed there, and I will do my best to ensure they are acted upon.

Lastly, I just want to show my, and I'm sure the rest of Member's, appreciation to our small, but brilliant, Parish Family. Kenny who joined us in a permanent position within the Cemetery this year. Everyone I have spoken to has commented on your positive attitude and friendliness, so I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of the Council. John, who everyone in the village owes a massive gratitude to. For all the hard work and energy you put into the Cemetery, making it a beautiful place for people to show their respects to loved ones. And last, but by no means least, Joanne. You keep the Council together. We experienced a short time without you this year and we noticed it big time! We're all glad to have you back in good health, and a massive thank you for all you do. P.s. please don't get sick again!



Thank you,  
**Jake Miller**  
**Chair of Wheatley Hill Parish Council.**  
**Tel: 0793 968 2482 email: milljake94@gmail.com**

# Know Your Parish Councillors

Meetings of the Wheatley Hill Parish Council are held on the second Monday of the month at 6pm in the Heritage Centre, The Cemetery, Wheatley Hill.

Meetings are open and members of the public are more than welcome to attend.

Details of your local Parish Councillors are outlined below if you would like to contact them.

For details of upcoming meetings, agendas and minutes as well as lots of other useful information about what is happening in Wheatley Hill please visit the Parish Council website - [Wheatleyhill.parish.durham.gov.uk](http://Wheatleyhill.parish.durham.gov.uk)

**Or Contact**  
**Joanne Thompson - Parish Clerk**  
**Tel: 0191 5279027**  
**email: [clerk.whpc@btinternet.com](mailto:clerk.whpc@btinternet.com)**



**Councillor Eleanor Carr  
(Vice Chair)**

**Tel: 01429 821349**



**Councillor Catherine  
Stogdale**

**Tel: 01429 820633**



**Councillor Edward Goyns**

**Tel: 01429 820615**



**Councillor Linda Stewart**

**Tel: 01429 219421**



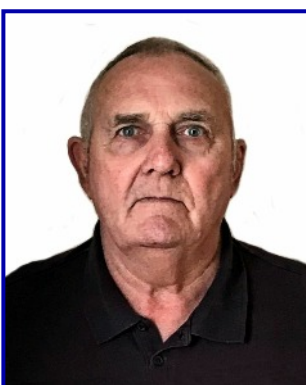
**Councillor Marina Goyns**

**Tel: 01429 820615**



**Councillor Laura White**

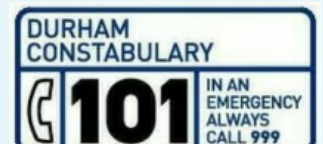
**Tel: 07415 796299**



**Councillor Brian Miller**

**Tel: 01429 821446**

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



# Wheatley Hill Cemetery



Kenny Walton & John Davies

Residents will recognise John who has been with the Parish Council since 1989. Kenny is our newest member of staff and joined us in May this year.

John and Kenny are based in the Cemetery and are responsible for the smooth running and upkeep of the Cemetery. They can also be found out and about around the village, undertaking a wide range of duties which includes grounds maintenance, grass cutting, snow clearing and gritting, emptying of litter/dog bins and litter picking.

They are responsible for open spaces, allotments and activities operated by the Parish Council.

If you have any queries related to the Cemetery or any other area in the village please contact:

**John Davies or Kenny Walton on 01429 824402 or 07817199096**

## "50 Years Without Our Pit" Miner Sculpture

In 2014 The Mothers Club discussed the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the colliery's closure in May 2018 and proposed erecting a "statue" to commemorate the mine and miners. This led to local organisations forming a funding committee called The Last Shift to raise the money needed to have a sculpture fabricated by the well know artist Ray Lonsdale he of "Seaham Tommy" fame.

Over the last 4 years, village organisers, groups, clubs and individuals have raised funds, put on shows, organised fund raising events and projects and dug deep in order to raise the money needed.

The statue itself depicts a typical Wheatley Hill Miner, carrying a "Powder Box" over his shoulder, working the last shift at the colliery. He is positioned with a slight turn of his head toward the now reclaimed colliery surface infrastructure and pit waste heaps.

The Parish Council offered the statue a secure home in the Cemetery and agreed that once erected it would take on ownership of the statue for insurance purposes and future maintenance.

The official unveiling of the sculpture was held on 3 May 2018 at Wheatley Hill Cemetery, the date of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the colliery's closure.



# WHEATLEY HILL MEDICAL CENTRE



## Surgery Hours

Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm Saturday and Sunday closed  
Doors are closed for lunch everyday between 12.30pm to 1pm but are still open for enquires and appointments.  
Alternate Thursdays between Wheatley Hill and Thornley practices 8am - 6pm  
Tel: 01429 820233

## Whitfields Pharmacy

Monday to Friday 9am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 6pm  
Saturday 9am - 12.30pm Sunday closed  
Tel: 01429 820313

## 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.  
**To report a stray or tethered horse contact Durham County Council**  
**Telephone: 03000 26 1000**



## Household Waste Recycling Centre

Between 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019 Durham County Council's household waste recycling centres will operate winter opening hours. Thornley, Coxhoe and Horden will be open 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 0000**

## 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 0000**

## 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 0000**

## SECTION 137 GRANTS & DONATIONS 2017/2018

The Parish Council is able to award grants and donations to organisations and groups based in Wheatley Hill.

All applications for grants and donations should be made in writing to the Clerk for consideration by the Full Council.

We try and support as many organisations as possible and during the 2017/2018 financial year the Parish Council approved the following:-

Wheatley Hill Community Association	7,870.00	Great North Air Ambulance	100.00
Citizens Advice County Durham	100.00	Wheatley Hill Community Nursery	300.00
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club	600.00	Wheatley Hill Community Association	500.00
Wheatley Hill Workmen's Club & Institute	300.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wheatley Hill Scout Group	300.00
All Saints Church	600.00	Durham Miners Association	100.00
Wheatley Hill Football Club	300.00	County Durham School Benevolent Fund	50.00
Haswell and District Mencap Society	50.00	Durham Miners Gala Brochure	45.00

**TOTAL 11,215.00**

# ORGANISATIONS IN WHEATLEY HILL

Wheatley Hill has many established groups and organisations. For more information please contact them direct.

## Wheatley House

A venue for meetings and events in Wheatley Hill.

Contact: Eileen Briddick  
01429 820689

## Wheatley Hill Mothers' Club

Is for women to meet and socialise. They meet at 7pm every Wednesday at the Working Men's Club.

Contact: Wendy Huntington  
01429 823516

## Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre

Tuesday and Thursday

10am - 12noon

and 2pm - 4pm.

Saturday 2pm - 4pm.

Web site:

[Wheatleyhill.heritage.centre@btinternet.com](mailto:Wheatleyhill.heritage.centre@btinternet.com)

## Wheatley Hill History Club

Meetings are held March to October from 7pm - 8pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Wheatley House

email:

[history.club2@btinternet.com](mailto:history.club2@btinternet.com)

Disabled Club Meetings held at 7pm on Thursdays every 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Wheatley House.

Contact: Eileen Cave  
01429 821067

## "Over 20s" 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

## Wheatley Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion

Meetings held monthly.

Contact: Willie Oswald  
01429 820631

Mens Kree Mens social group.

Meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Greenhills cafe.

## The Greenhills Centre

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 8.30pm

Friday 8.30am - 7.30pm

Saturday and Sunday - events and functions only.

Telephone: 01429 820214 email:  
[admin@greenhillscentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@greenhillscentre.co.uk)

## All Saints Church

For service times

Contact: Diane Metcalfe  
01429 820854

Greenhills Girls meet every

Tuesday 10am - 12noon

at the Greenhills Centre.

Friends of the Forces meet

7pm at Wheatley House on the first Thursday of every month

Contact: Eileen Cave  
01429 821067

## Wheatley Hill Angling Club

Adults £50 first year, £30 thereafter  
Children £7.50

Contact: Alan Hall  
075140 22069

## 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 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.

Telephone: 03000 26 0000

## 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 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.

## Wheatley Hill Steering Group

The Durham County Council Wheatley Hill Steering Group meet at 1pm 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.

The next meeting will be held on 17 January 2019.

Contact Sue Carr Telephone: 03000 261 079

# Know Your County Councillors

**Lucy Hovvels**



Tel: 03000 268 728

lucy.hovvels@durham.gov.uk

**Peter Brookes**



Tel: 03000 268 689

peter.brookes@durham.gov.uk

**Jude Grant**



Tel: 03000 268 755

jude.grant@durham.gov.uk

## 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.

### Contacting your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

PC 2304 Ged Cooke email: [Ged.cooke@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Ged.cooke@durham.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 7358 Sarah Kinghorn email: [sarah.kinghorn@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sarah.kinghorn@durham.pnn.police.uk)



### Cuppa with a Copper and a Councillor

Come along and have a cuppa with your local neighbourhood police officers and County Councillors.



**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 December 2018 at 6pm in Wheatley House**

## Neighbourhood Wardens

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

- Litter and waste
- Dog fouling
- Flytipping
- Graffiti
- Anti-social behaviour
- Under age street drinking
- Abandoned vehicles
- Stray and tethered horses

Monday to Thursday 9am - 8pm Friday 11am - 10pm Saturday and Sunday 4.45pm - 10pm

**Tel: 03000 26 1000 email: [help@durham.gov.uk](mailto:help@durham.gov.uk)**

## 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](mailto:electoralservices@durham.gov.uk)**

## 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**