



Parish Precept frozen

The Parish Council has set a stand still budget for a record third consecutive year and now has the lowest council tax in South East Northumberland at just less than £20 a year for a band “A” property. Achieving this, despite taking over services such as Bus Shelters and Floral displays from Northumberland County Council costing around £7,500 and new investment in excess of £17,000.

Of course all of this could not have been achieved without attracting external funding and we would like to place on record our gratitude to SITA and the Banks Group for their financial support. Special thanks must also go to our two Ward Councillors Jeff Gobin and Val Tyler for their continued support through their small grant funds. Councillor Brian Richmond (Finance Working Group Champion), pictured above, commented **“Balancing aspirations with affordability has been a challenge and we are proud of what we have achieved so far without adding to the financial burden of our Parishioners”**



Councillor Richmond went on to outline plans for 2012/13 which included further investment in the Free Woods and Cambois links, installation of CCTV cameras in the main shopping area at Bedlington Station and a new gardening competition. He also confirmed that the Parish would be continuing to support schools in its locality.

If you go down to the woods

The Parish Council are delighted to confirm that they have been successful in securing funding from the SITA Trust to carry out significant improvements in the Free Woods.

Recent visitors to the park will notice the new picnic tables and seating that have been installed to help make the woods the perfect venue for a

family day out.

In early May the existing improvements will be complimented with an outdoor fitness trail. Photographs of the proposed equipment are currently displayed in the Parish Office windows.

The Parish Council will also be able to re-instate the “Sounding out Bedlington” trail which brings to life, using local people’s memories, the natural and built heritage of the Free Wood.

Interpretation panels to commemorate the world famous Bedlington Iron and Engine Works

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**East Bedlington
Parish Council
Garden**

**Competition
Entry Forms**

Inside this issue!

or

**Pick one up
from the Parish
Office**



Free woods development continued

will be prepared by local historian Barry Mead and by working in partnership with Northumberland County Councillors, Val Tyler and Jeff Gobin, the Parish has also secured funding to commission a Gateway feature. The artwork, which will be designed by Tom Maley will depict the worldwide significance of the rail track produced at Bedlington Ironworks. Tom's work includes the iconic "Robin of Pegswood" and the recently unveiled "Bobby Robson memorial statue, St James Park".

The completed project is expected to cost in the region of £55,000

Cllr Mrs Alyson Wallace , Heritage, Culture & Leisure Champion, checks out the new picnic tables



Clean up days

The Parish Council seizes every opportunity to improve the quality of life for those living, working or visiting the Parish. Supporting the NCC Love Where You Live initiative the Parish will be one of the first to demonstrate its commitment to creating an anti-litter campaign that "encourages and enables us to make where we live, work and play the kind of place we really want to be"

We know from our Parish questionnaire that litter is a major concern to local residents. To help reduce the amount of litter in our local beauty spots we held two litter picks during the February half term holidays, one on Cambois Beach and links and the other in the Free Wood.

The Parish Council would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who took part along with the Northumberland County Council officers who also offered their support. Our last clean up event was held on Saturday 28th April and concentrated on the area from Furnace Bridge to the Black Bridge. Many thanks to all who took part. The **next** Community Litter Pick will be on **Thursday 16th August 2012** from 10:30am till 12:30pm. We will provide bags, gloves and litter pickers so if you would like to help out please meet at Furnace Bridge Car Park.





Blooming lovely

Investment in bulb planting across the Parish has had an outstanding impact. Environmental improvements to the Parish were identified as the main priority for local residents in the recent Parish survey. Councillor Allan Stewart, Environment Champion commented **“This investment will improve year on year, we will continue our planting programme in the autumn to**



take in the entire boundary of the Parish”

If you have a suggestion for an area that would benefit from an environmental make over call into the Parish Office and share your ideas.

Pictured Daffodil display at Stead Lane and Hyacinth beds at East Sleekburn Village

Allotments

Building on the Cambois Allotment regeneration initiative, reported in our last publication, we are delighted that progress continues to be made in restoring the site.

The replacement of storm damaged wooden fencing with steel palisade fencing has greatly improved security on the site. The opportunity to install CCTV is currently being explored to help identify those responsible for fly tipping in and around the site.

Friends of Cambois First School have been able to start work on their communal plot which will encourage children and parents to work together to grow a range of fruit and vegetables, whilst gaining valuable skills and knowledge in sustainable gardening.

A competition to produce a design for the community garden was held at Cambois First School.

The winning design, created by **Alisha Ellis**, aged **8 years**, will be used to influence the

garden layout and artwork on the boundary fencing to the plot. People Painting for Health & Leisure have kindly agreed to help turn the design into a mural.

This initiative has been supported by the Parish Council as it clearly demonstrates the advantages of community cohesion.

The Parish has been able to significantly reduce the waiting list for plots and will strive to bring more plots back into use in the future. If you want to join the waiting list please contact the Parish office on 01670 828808.



Small Grants Awarded

The Parish Council are pleased to have been able to support the following voluntary and community sector groups.

Peoples Painting for Health & Leisure
Friends of East Meets West Black Belt Academy
Bedlington Junior Community High School
Age UK
Community Action Northumberland
Ellie-Phant
Great North Air Ambulance
Central Palz
Bedlington Traders Association
South Northumberland Radio Group
Federation of Bedlington High & Junior High Schools
Samaritans of Northumbria
Friends of Gallagher Park

East Bedlington Parish Council Small Grants Fund can be accessed by any group based in or delivering significant services / benefit to residents living within the Parish of East Bedlington.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk or collected from the Parish office:

The panel generally meets on a monthly basis and qualifying organisations must have:

- constitution or written set of rules, management committee and able to demonstrate independence.
- Bank account in the name of the organisation
- Current set of verified / audited accounts
- Able to demonstrate need.

Below - The competitors travelling to the World Championships.

Right - Friends of East Meets West Black Belt Academy receiving their grant cheque from Cllr Alex Wallace





Garden Competition

From 1st May, the Parish Council will be launching its first gardening competition.

We are delighted that Bernicia have agreed to support the competition and have kindly agreed to sponsor a category which will be open to any resident living in a Bernicia property within the Parish.

Entry forms can be collected from the parish office and are available to download from our website.

www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk

Anyone living within the Parish boundary can enter. If you would like to take part please ensure you return your completed entry form by the 30th June. Judging will take place in mid to late July and the winners and runners up will be invited to attend an award ceremony in September.

Categories will include:

- Best Small Garden
- Best Large Garden
- Best Back Yard
- Best Allotment
- Best Public House / Commercial Property
- Best Individual Hanging Basket / Window Box / Planter
- Best Garden Cared for by Children
- Best Garden in a Bernicia Property



Parish Plan Update

The draft Parish Plan is now well under way, thanks to the hard work of a group of dedicated volunteers. The final sections and updated action plans will be presented to the Planning & Corporate Strategy working group in

June. The Parish Plan is being developed to create a 'vision' for the future of our community. It will set out how we want it to change in the future. It will be a practical plan, which the Parish Council, working with others, can help

bring to fruition. We want our consultation to be robust and inclusive, If you would like to join the steering group or make a suggestion for inclusion in the action plans, please contact Jenny Tindale, Assistant Parish Clerk on 01670 828808.

Looking for a new hobby?

Are you interested in keeping alive the traditional crafts of making hooky and proggy mats? Why not join Wansbeck Matters. The group meet every Monday (except 3rd Monday of the month & Bank

holidays) from 1pm till 3pm at Bedlington Station Residents Association, 19 Station Street, Bedlington.

For more information please contact:

Pat Wright on **01670 826 575**



Community Messaging

Local People, Local Crimes, Local Knowledge

Members of the community in Bedlington are being encouraged by Bedlington's Neighbourhood Policing Team to become involved in a new scheme called Community Messaging which is being set up in the Bedlington area.

Community messaging allows members of the public to receive information direct from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team regarding current local trends, crime patterns and local appeals for information relating to local crimes. These messages are sent out instantly by email, text and/or voice mail, to the details supplied by those individuals who would like to be involved in the new scheme.



Melissa Hepburn NBM for Stakeford and Cambois who is pioneering the scheme throughout Bedlington said "we have already had a very encouraging uptake with individuals to Community Messaging which increases the speed and efficiency of informing people what is happening locally. It is important that the Police use all the new technology available to improve the communication to the communities we serve to ensure we gain their trust and confidence and help drive down crime."

More information can be found on the Northumbria Police Website at www.northumbria.police.uk. People wishing to sign up to receive "Community Messaging can send their contact email address to bedlington.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk or if they would like more information about the scheme contact Bedlington NPT on telephone 101 ext 63726.

IT Suite drop in

Following a successful pilot project the Parish will be hosting regular drop in sessions every Monday afternoon from 2pm until 4pm. In addition there will be opportunities to take part in workshops focussing on a particular subject such as "How to use a Kindle" or "scanning photographs" The sessions are ideal if you are wanting to get online for the first time or just want to brush up on basic computer skills. Beginners will be enrolled on the "go-online"

course, and will work at their own pace, with assistance from our volunteer Digital Champions.

The Parish Council is delighted to be working in partnership with Northumberland Community Development Network to promote on line access in particular to older learners as part of the "Older People & Digital Inclusion Project"

There is no charge for this activity and further sessions can be developed to meet demand.

We are also interested to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer and share their IT or mentoring skills, further training can be arranged, you will need to be very patient and be prepared to undertake a CRB check. For more information contact the Parish Office on 01670 828808.

"I found that the one to one tutoring gave me more confidence as I could work through the course at my own pace and there was support there for me if needed"

Maureen

East Bedlington



Dates for your diary

Saturday 26th May

From 10am ~ 2pm

Stead Lane First School Fair *

Stead Lane, Bedlington

Saturday 26th May

From 11am to 4pm

The Riverside Festival - Environmental Festival by the Lakeside

QE II Park, Woodhorn, Ashington

For more information please contact Kevin Lillie at

Ashington Community Development Trust on 01670 854422

Monday 4th June

10 hours of entertainment!

Starting at 2pm

Free entry

Bedrock Festival

Participating venues include: Barrington Arms, Northumberland Arms, The Black Bull, Market Tavern, Sun Inn, The Grapes, The Blue Bell, Tino's Deli. Acts include: Robbie, Totally Gaga & Girl Aloud.

Proceeds will go to support development of Station Community Arts & Music Academy. There is also a ticket event at Netherton Club. For more information contact ticket line on 01670 828150

Saturday 9th June

10:30am to 12:30pm

Summer Fair

St John's Church

North View, Bedlington Station

Saturday 23rd June

From noon till 3pm.

Family Fun Day*

Bedlington Community High, Palace Rd, Bedlington.

Saturday 30th June

Event starts at 2pm

Centenary Celebration*

Bedlington Station First School, School Road, Bedlington.

Wednesday 11th July

from 2pm to 6pm

ending with a Music

Extravaganza!

Cambois Community Fair*

Cambois First School, Cowgate, Cambois.

*** supported by East
Bedlington Parish
Council**

Saturday 14th July

From 2pm

Tour & Talk Bedlington Ironworks*

Meet at Furnace Bridge Car Park at 2pm the Tour and Talk by Barry Mead will last about one hour. Part of the Festival of British Archaeology

Sunday 15th July

From 2pm

Guided Walk around Cresswell

Meet at Cresswell Ices at 2pm, This walk, part of Festival of British Archaeology will last about two hours.



Bedlington Station Library - a building with a long history (part one)

by Carole Fife

The building which is now the Library and the Open Learning Centre began life in 1856 as Sleekburn School. In the 1850s the government of the day was keen to persuade organisations to build schools in their local area, and the Church of England became involved in building many schools at this time. The Bishop of Durham selected a prime site for a school in Sleekburn, but there was a problem in that he had already leased the land in 1832 to Nathaniel and John Clayton, a lease which had allowed them sink the 'A' Pit. It was the growth of this Pit which now necessitated a school at Sleekburn and, after financial compensation was agreed, the Bishop and the Claytons transferred ownership of a plot of land (but NOT the mineral rights) to the Trustees. The school would be run by the Church of England, but was provided by the Bedlington Coal Company, who built a very impressive school.

The original school and house (which now contains the Library) were built of stone, probably from the Bedlington Quarry, with a beautifully crafted slate roof. The school comprised the large room which is now the lending library, and the Library entrance and computer room were the downstairs rooms of the house. The school was built for about 150 pupils. It opened in 1856 with 120 pupils and one Master, William Fisher, who was assisted by Pupil Teachers and Monitors. It was a school for children aged 5 to 12 years, and was free while you wrote on slates, but once you progressed to writing in a copy book you had to pay 3 pence per week. All the children were taught in the one room, with classes divided only by partitions so that the Master could always see how the whole school was working – no wonder talking was banned during lessons! By 1859 the attendance had risen to 150 so an Assistant Master was appointed, but from then until the late 1920s the school was always overcrowded, and frequently short of staff.

By 1874 the attendance had risen to 206, and Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools insisted that the school be increased in size or they would withhold the School Grant which paid the teachers. This threat was used more than once! A two room extension was built in 1875 (in what is now the reception area of the Open Learning Centre), to be used as rooms for the Infants and Standard I. The school house was also extended at this time. However, by 1886 the number on roll was 342, so the school was extended again in 1888, the strange shape of the room being due to it being built right up to the property line. But by 1894 there were 450 children on the registers, 150 of whom were infants, so the final extension (the building that is now the boxing club) opened in 1897, although it didn't become a separate infant school until 1907. The Infant School only had two Headteachers, Kate Henderson (1907-21) and Maud Fairbrother (1921- 40).

In 1904 the County Surveyor's report said that, using a calculation of 8 sq. ft. per child, the school could accommodate 553 children, with room for 164 in the Library area, 224 in the Open Learning Centre and 165 in the Boxing Club. As the population continued to grow and the school leaving age had risen to 13, the Council's only option now was to build another school, and Bedlington Station Council opened in 1912, but this only alleviated the problem slightly. By 1914 the mixed school of juniors and seniors still had 374 children – and only 6 teachers!

Teaching at Sleekburn School, which in 1906 became known as Bedlington Colliery School, was never easy and saw the deaths in service of the first three Headmasters, William Fisher in 1885 at the age of 60, James Saint in 1904 at the age of 50 and John Smith in 1924 at the age of 54. James Boundy outlived the school, but he only lived in the school house for 6 months. To be continued



What's new?

Cold Cuts Delicatessen

Cooked Meats & Picnic Delicacy Specialists

Open Monday to Saturday
6am to 4pm
7 Ravensworth Terrace
Bedlington Station



Hands On Salon

Offering a range of massage treatments, Reiki, Reflexology, nail extensions, waxing Make Overs and much more

6 Ravensworth Terrace
Bedlington Station
Tel: 01670 826083



Carols Kidz Care

OFSTED Approved
Facility for children from birth to 12 years old operating Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm

(former Rascals building)
School Road
Bedlington Station



MP Ian Lavery officially opens Carols Kidz Care



Muddy Monday Mountain Bike League

Starting on Monday 24th May, Barnesbury Cycling Club is holding a weekly mountain bike league for all ages and abilities at Gallagher Park, Bedlington.

Starting at 6.30pm for youth riders who will compete in a

skills test, a time trial and then a mass start dirt race each week.

Points will be awarded each week, with a separate prize list for boys and girls of all age groups. Awards will be made at the end of the 10 week league.

To enter, all riders need is a road worthy bike, a helmet and parental consent (for youth riders on the night of each round).

Entry for youths is £4. There is also an adult race, cost £6 so all the family can have a go! All riders completing six rounds will be awarded a prize.



The activity has been supported by Bernicia Housing Association, Start Cycles and British Cycling.

For more information check out the website at www.Barnesbury-cc.co.uk

The Matthew Project

Can you help the Matthew Project? This is a project set up by Bedlington Christian Fellowship to help needy families in Wansbeck.

The Matthew Project will distribute food parcels worth £20 to families struggling to cope due to their economic or social circumstances. The food parcels provides sufficient food for 3 days and is aimed at needy families referred by the Children's/ Families

division of Social Services.

East Bedlington Parish Council will accept donations of food items on behalf of Bedlington Christian Fellowship from the "shopping list" and act as a **community collection point**.

If you would like more information or would like to be more involved please contact Mike Clark on 01670 829062 or email mclark095@gmail.com

Shopping List

Tinned	Cream crackers
Soup	pasta
Tomatoes	UHT milk
Carrots	Jam
Tuna	Rice
Cooked meat	Biscuits
Rice pudding	Pasta sauce
Custard	Sugar
Fruit	Coffee
Spaghetti	Tea
Potatoes	Instant mash
Hot dogs	Cereal



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(Chair)
01670 822858
Alexwallace@hotmail.com

Planning & Corporate
Strategy Champion



Councillor Brian Richmond
(Vice Chair)
01670 824758
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Finance Champion



Councillor Allan Stewart
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A.stewartnum@tiscali.co.uk

Environment & Allotments
Champion



Councillor Colin Parker
01670 825330
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Community Cohesion
Champion



Councillor Alyson Wallace
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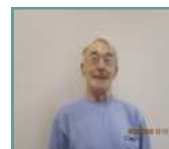
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Champion



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Councillor Irene Harbottle
01670 829 933



Councillor Ron Major
01670 828 580



Councillor Joe Dobie
01670 824 113

About East Bedlington

The Parish serves the communities of North Blyth, Cambois, East Sleekburn, Bedlington Station and East Bedlington. The Parish consists of two wards, Sleekburn and Bedlington East and has some of the highest levels of economic and health related deprivation statistics in the UK.

The Parish is represented by 11 Councillors whose details can be found on page 11 of this publication and the Parish website www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk

The Parish Council meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6.00 pm (with the

exception of August) at its office on Station Street.

The first 15 minutes of each meeting is allocated to members of the public who can raise issues and comment on the business to be conducted.

Your Parish office

East Bedlington Parish Council
Parish Office
16 Station Street
Bedlington Station
NE22 7JN
www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk
01670 828808

Normal Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday
10am to 12 noon
2pm to 4pm

Staff



Ron Thornton
Parish Clerk



Jenny Tindale
Assistant Parish Clerk

Your County Councillors



Councillor
Valerie Tyler

01670 825252 (Home)
07530608192 (Mobile)



Councillor
Jeff Gobin

01670 822539