



East Bedlington



Parish Council Newsletter

ISSUE 8 SPRING 2015

East Bedlington Parish Council sets lowest precept in South East Northumberland at £173,235



Pictured left to right Councillor Alex Wallace, Parish Clerk Ron Thornton and Councillor Allan Stewart

Once again members of East Bedlington Parish Council have agreed the lowest precept of the newly formed councils, in South East Northumberland. An achievement which is even more impressive when taking into account that in 2015 /2016 it will embark on one of its most aspiring capital programmes to date, having allocated circa £400K towards the refurbishment of East Bedlington Community Centre.

Parish Clerk Ron Thornton said: “the investment in the community does not stop there with a further £4,000 being allocated to festive lighting and activities and in excess of £6,000 for improvement to allotments.” He added “that it was to the

Council’s credit that it had been able to continue to deliver such an ambitious programme within its budget and that the current years precept of £173,285 (equivalent to Band D council tax of £89.39) represents real value for money to residents.”

Councillor Alex Wallace, Chairman of East Bedlington Parish Council added “we are committed to addressing the needs of our community and championing investment in local facilities. We were overwhelmed with the response we received to our free festive programme and have allocated resources to extend the offer in the coming year”

The parish council have also invested in staffing to enable the parish office to be open each weekday. Councillor Allan Stewart said “it is important for residents to be able to access support at a local level and we look forward to extending our services over the coming months.

Inside this issue

A partnership is painting a successful path. Mind Active and People Painting for Health & Leisure have teamed up with care homes including Chester Court to run art classes. The work will be displayed at an exhibition on 27th June at East Bedlington Community Centre to read the full story see page 5





Parish Precept Analysis 2015-16

	Ashington	Blyth	Choppington	Cramlington	East Bedlington	Newbiggin	Seaton Valley	West Bedlington
Management & support	215640	351807	97166	141960	74108	51045	162700	53599
Recreation & Leisure	75850	295750	217732	117000	34961	19700	69170	35500
Environmental Services	346500	270000	174152	420800	23290	105850	262670	10000
Cemeteries	0	0	10300	0	0	0	0	0
Grants & subsidies	64400	209600	16250	35000	13793	9000	0	9500
Other services	22700	17500	116075	44840	17083	3200	8700	71100
Total cost (NET)	725090	1144657	631675	759600	163235	188795	503240	179699
Less balances and grants	75000	132000	280075	0	10000	10000	18070	0
Precept	650090	1012657	351600	759600	173235	178795	485170	179699
Original Precept 2009/10	100,010	69198	74983	59290	75002	74994	44450	74989
Percentage increase over 6 years	550.0%	1363.4%	368.9%	1181.2%	131.0%	138.4%	991.5%	139.6%

The table above informs our residents as to where we are allocating our budget and how this compares to the other town and parish councils in south east Northumberland. This demonstrates that once again East Bedlington Parish has set the lowest precept of the newly created parishes in south east Northumberland and has also made the lowest overall increase in the last 6 years both in percentage and monetary terms.

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Free Health Check Roadshow

Friday 24th April 2014 from 11am to 2pm

East Bedlington Community Centre

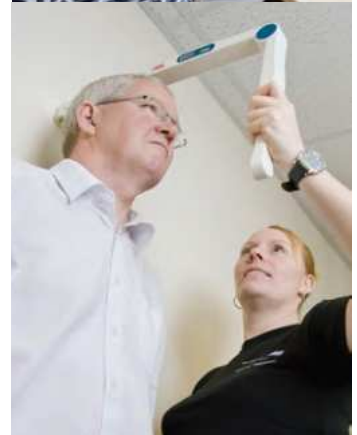
If you are over 16 and living in Northumberland the Northumberland health trainer service is here to help you make realistic lifestyle changes which can be tailored to meet your needs. Health trainers will support you around the issues that you feel are important, which might include:

- Healthy food choices
- Stopping smoking
- Drinking less alcohol
- Increasing physical activity in your life
- Weight management

If this is for you the health trainers can draw up a personal health plan which will be developed with you over a period of 6—12 sessions to achieve and maintain your goals

Come along to this free session, everyone is welcome young and old! Find out what you can do to improve your lifestyle in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere

Small changes can make a BIG difference





Parish Council investments in 2015—2016

Allotments

The Parish Council has waiting lists at all its allotment sites in the Parish. An investment programme to reclaim a further 4 plots at Cambois is underway. Work will also be undertaken to improve the walkways throughout the site.



Communications



A new notice board will be located in East Sleekburn village to help keep residents living there better informed. The work will take place in April 2015

The council are also planning to make greater use of our IT and social media links. To sign up for regular updates please visit our website www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk and register for updates alternatively follow this link <http://www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk/registration.php?id=29>

Youth work

We are in discussion with the County Youth Service and with Hope Church to explore setting up a weekly youth club in East Bedlington Community Centre. It is early days and we would encourage young people and their parents/carers to chat to the detached workers or pop into the parish office with your ideas so we know exactly what you would like to get involved with. Keep checking the notice boards and website for updates.

Extended office opening

Our assistant clerk is now working full time. The parish office is now open to the public Monday to Friday from 10am—12noon and 2pm—4pm.



Partnership success - helping people living with *dementia* and those in care

Bedlington based MIND **Active** supports the quality of life of people with **dementia** and their loved ones living at home, and hundreds of older people in residential care and nursing homes, in partnership with East Bedlington Community Centre and community group "Painting for Health and Leisure". The activities take place in East Bedlington Community Centre. "The venue has all of the 'ingredients' necessary to enable our groups to relax in a modern and bright interior, so very important for our guests to feel valued and appreciated". Helen Fiddes, activity co-ordinator



An Exhibition of care & nursing home residents' artwork is being held on Saturday 27th June 11am – 2:30pm at the East Bedlington Community Centre, Bedlington Station, next to Keenlysides. Refreshments will be available. All welcome Centre phone no. 01670 828808

Care home artists/residents admiring their artwork with a cuppa

MIND **Active** has four activity co-ordinators and an excellent volunteer support team working together to make each of the 8 luncheons and live entertainment days per month that little bit special. "Witnessing the residents smiling, dancing, singing and generally having a good time is very rewarding, knowing we helped make it happen gives a great sense of satisfaction" Hilarie, volunteer. The project team supports regular tea dances, games afternoons, luncheon groups, summer events and hundreds of activities in residential care and nursing homes each year.

The team supports more than 40 residential care/nursing homes from as far away as Durham and Alnwick. "Having people travel from so far away is recognition of the value they have for the service we provide". Ruby Smailes, trustee.

For many years we have been concerned for the number of people affected by **dementia**, particularly the carer which tends to be a loved one who often feels they have little support. For the last four years we have focussed our attention on identifying and encouraging these people to join our activity day lunches. The majority of those that give us a try, become regular attenders, and look forward to their allotted days knowing they will be with people that understand and make them feel 'human'. "There are thousands of people diagnosed with **dementia** such as **Alzheimer's** being looked after by a loved one in the North East, we want as many as possible to use our service while we exist, to feel they are treated like people again, it is very disheartening when we hear, "I wish I had known about Mind Active when I looked after my mother/father". We want people living with **dementia** to come along, meet others in a similar situation and experience the benefits we provide".

Stephen Ward
Project Manager.

Luncheon group with 'Mam's best china and Elvis',
What a combination.





EASTER FUN

EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

<p>THURSDAY 9TH APRIL</p> <p>EASTER ARTS & CRAFTS</p> <p>AGE 5+ 10.30AM - 12.30PM</p> <p>FREE ACTIVITIES!</p>	<p>FRIDAY 10TH APRIL</p> <p>DJ DECKS & PIZZA</p> <p>AGE 10+ 7.30PM - 9PM</p> <p>PIZZA DELIVERED 7.45PM</p>
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BAD APPLES NORTH EAST EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE | 16 STATION STREET
BEDLINGTON STATION | NE22 7JN | T: 01670 828808



East Bedlington Parish Council Garden Competition 2015

Calling all our green fingered parishioners! Entry forms for this years Garden Competition will be available from the **Parish Office** from 1st May 2015. You can either collect a form from the Parish Office or download one from our website. Winners in each category will receive a trophy to hold for the year and all entrants will receive an invitation to our presentation evening.

It is free to enter so why not give it a go!

Bernicia tenants your entries will also be considered for an additional award sponsored by Bernicia

Closing date for entries will be Friday 3rd July 2015

Judging will take place week commencing 13th July



Traditional Chinese & Thai Massage Workshop



With Master Practitioner Tony
MacDonald & friends

Saturday 23rd May 2015

10am till 3pm

The day will include:

- Reception
- Course overview
- Traditional Chinese Medicine applications to treat common injuries / conditions
- TuiNa & Thai Massage
- Chi Kung experience
- Meditation



Note: All treatments will be done over the clothed body

Tuition in Chinese and Thai massage Chi-Kung & Meditation. (For health & wellbeing)

Course fees to be paid in full in advance and is non-refundable unless the course is cancelled.

Cost £30.00 per person

Please bring a warm blanket, long towel and pillow. Finger and toenails to be kept short for health and safety reasons.

Light refreshments available on the day.
Please bring a packed lunch.

To register contact Tony MacDonald on mobile number **07951042406** or e mail: **mac191@sky.com**

Venue:

East Bedlington Community Centre
16 & 17 Station Street
Bedlington Station
NE22 7JN



BBC School Report Live



Pupils from Bedlington Community High school visited East Bedlington Parish Council offices to interview staff as part of the BBC School Report News Day.

Alex Greer carried out an interview with assistant parish clerk Jenny Tindale whilst Cory Scott, Abbie Mole and Caitlin Sheppard made an audio and visual recording of the session.

Questions included how the parish council identifies its priorities for services, how they have managed to help East Bedlington Community Centre trustees develop a renovation plan for the former Co-operative Hall, how much the project will cost and how quickly it can be built.

The parish council is looking forward to strengthening our links with young people and with help from Bedlington Community High School we will be seeking to develop a youth parish council made up of young people who live in our parish and want to contribute to making it a better place to live, work and grow.

The parish council have also signed up as a 'Learning Destination' for the Children's University which will enable us to stamp awards in learning passports. The national scheme which recognises additional learning, will help us recognise the contribution young people make when taking part in our environmental campaigns such as organised litter picks, sporting activities such as caged football, as well as taking part in arts & crafts sessions and helping to organise community events.

Bedlington Community High School Summer Fair

Saturday 4th July — save the date!!!

Something for all the family

www.bchs.uk.net





Your new community centre ... its almost there!

In December 2013 the Centre trustees produced a questionnaire and invited residents of East Bedlington to tell them what they would like to see in your new community facility. There were 522 responses to the questionnaire from a range of age groups.

You said: we want to see

- Table tennis
- Café /bar/ socialising
- Board games
- Live bands and music
- Fit kids sessions
- Theatre and drama
- IT classes and photography
- Arts and crafts
- Carpet bowls
- Pantomime
- Film nights
- Bingo
- Youth activities
- Parent and toddler groups
- Slimming groups
- Keep fit
- Dance classes

The trustees are putting together the final application and designs to the Big Lottery .

If you are a community group or an individual provider and you want to be involved or have an idea that you think needs to be considered please get in touch.

Expressions of interest are being taken for future room hire now.

Should the Big Lottery application be successful it is expected that the new Centre will be open in time for Easter 2016.

Up to date design plans are on view at the community centre and regular web updates will begin in April 2015.

Planning a celebration in 2016?

When completed the new main hall will have a capacity of 230 people seated and can accommodate up to 100 people seated cabaret style. It will be ideal for wedding receptions, birthday celebration, engagement parties or works parties - at affordable rates. In addition there will be a mezzanine floor level with seating capacity for a further 40 people cabaret style. The facility will be fully accessible to all floors via a passenger lift. The centre will also have a licensed café/ bar for your refreshment needs.

Performing Arts

The new centre will have full stage facilities including a disabled lift, green room and toilets. Are you part of a band, interested in running a drama group, part of a choir, looking for somewhere to practice? Get in touch with us now and be part of the design process.

Thank you!

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all the funders who have supported us so far:- East Bedlington Parish Council; Big Lottery; Community Foundation—Barnes Fund; Joicey Trust; Catherine Cookson Trust; Sir James Knott Trust; The Mann Trust; William Leech Charity; the Hadrian Trust; Willan Charitable Trust; **STOP PRESS...** **CISWO** have confirmed a grant of £48,500 towards the refurbishment of the building. We are so pleased that funders understand the needs of this former mining community and recognise the work we are undertaking to bring opportunities and facilities for all ages back to East Bedlington.



Plans for £1.2 million investment in Bedlington Station takes a step closer.

East Bedlington Community Centre Trustees are celebrating after successfully completing the second stage of their Big Lottery application for funding to re-develop the former co-operative building on Station Street to create a new community centre.

The final step which must be presented in May this year, will give the committee the opportunity of involving as many people as possible to make sure that the plans cover the needs of all members in the community.

A grant of £10,000 has been awarded by the Big Lottery 'Reaching Communities' scheme to help complete the final stage of the application.

Secretary Jenny Tindale said: "Everyone on the board of trustees is really excited to have come this far. People in Bedlington Station and the surrounding area desperately need and deserve a facility like this as there is currently no provision for people to meet for any activity or to socially interact."

Speaking at a recent council meeting Chairman of East Bedlington Parish Council, Alex Wallace said: "We are delighted with the news that the Community Centre trustees have reached the final stages of their £762K bid, and are committed to working in partnership with them to deliver the facilities and services that have been identified as lacking by our community during the development of our Parish Plan."

Councillor Alan Stewart commented that: "the parish council was unanimous in its support for the project and that its financial commitment to the

scheme which in the region of £400k would represent excellent value for money with the average band A tax payer contributing less than 20p per week."

Councillor Colin Parker, the parish council's appointed trustee commented "the parish council and the centre trustees are committed to working together to address the levels of deprivation in our community and hope that this project will provide the catalyst for further investment and regeneration in the area"



Pictured Trustees Ian Yarrow and Jenny Tindale



Hope Church

BEDLINGTON

What Hurts Most?

What Hurts Most?

What Hurts Most?

Hope Church, a Christian Church that meets at East Bedlington Community Centre on Sunday Mornings at 11:00, is currently undertaking a single question survey amongst residents of Bedlington. The question they are asking is “What Hurt’s Most?”.

Megan Warren, who has given up a year of her time to volunteer with the Church, and is leading the project said “Quite simply, we want to know what aspect of life people find most difficult, or causes the most pain or anxiety. For some it might be financial or employment worries, in other cases it might be relationship breakdown or health issues. Or it might be something completely different from any of these things. But we want you to tell us, in your own words – what hurts most”



in other words, they want to know the biggest issue in life people find most difficult or painful. The survey is completely anonymous and runs until Easter. Those wishing to respond can either take a Response Card and put it into one of the voting boxes at the Community Help Hub, 30 Front Street West (open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday), at East Bedlington Community Centre Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, or on Thursday or Saturday mornings up till 26th March at the stool in Front Street outside Tesco's. Alternatively, responses can be made on line at www.whathurtsmost.org.uk or via text to 07977 646313. Hope Church are wanting as many people as possible to respond.

The Church will analyse all the responses and during the month of June they will hold a series of special services which will include a talk on the 4 issues that are mentioned most frequently. These meetings will not be at East Bedlington Community Centre but will be at the larger Community Centre in Bedlington Front Street, at 16:00 on Sunday afternoons

Hope Church was previously known as County Church and also operates the Community Help Hub in Bedlington Front Street, which gives free help, support and advice for people who are looking for work or applying for government benefits.



Update from SENRUG on Ashington-Blyth-Tyne Re-opening

Following the approval of Northumberland County Council's full budget back in February, SENRUG understands the Council now has the funding in place to proceed with the next stage of re-opening the rail line from Newcastle to Ashington and Woodhorn, which is the formal GRIP3 Study with Network Rail. Additionally, SENRUG is delighted that the new franchise specification for Northern Rail released by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 27th February requires whoever will be running the franchise from 2017 to work with Northumberland County Council to move the re-opening forward. SENRUG has been campaigning for this new rail passenger service which will link Bedlington Station to Newcastle in the south, and to Ashington and hopefully Woodhorn in the north, for 10 years. Many people will remember



Charter Train leaving Bedlington Station

that in 2008 SENRUG organised a Charter Train round the line through Bedlington to demonstrate how easy it would be to get passenger trains running again. It is encouraging to see that bit by bit SENRUG is making progress. But SENRUG now wants to see the rate of progress increased dramatically. SENRUG is concerned that the new Combined North East Authority for Public Transport and Rail North use their muscle to speed things up, supporting Northumberland County Council as they advance the project,

and resist the temptation to slow things down by requiring further examination of the business cases, all of which have already been completed, in some cases several times.

SENRUG's longer term aspiration is that, in addition to re-opening the core route from Newcastle to Ashington & Woodhorn, trains on the existing MetroCentre to Morpeth route will be extended on to Bedlington via a re-opened station at Choppington, which would then connect Bedlington both to Newcastle, Ashington, Morpeth and Cramlington. Metro connections would additionally be available through the new station at Northumberland Park.

Dennis Fancett

Chair, SENRUG: The South East Northumberland Rail User Group

Find out more about the work of SENRUG by visiting www.senrug.co.uk



What's on at

Hope Church BEDLINGTON

Meet at East Bedlington Community Centre every Sunday morning

10:30 for tea & coffee

11:00 meeting starts 12:30 finish

For more information please visit our website www.countychurch.co.uk

WOW! Fitness

Monday 6 - 7.30pm

Wednesday 6 - 7.30pm

Booty Blast Metafit **Box 'n' Abs**

For more information please contact Emma on 07803 730 339

Kettle Bell Strength & Fitness Class

Wednesday 8.15pm— 9.15pm

Saturday 10.30am—11.30am

Burn up to 1200 calories per hour

£3.50 per class—REPS accredited instructor

"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great".

Contact Tony on 0795 104 2406 for details

People Painting for Health & Leisure

We meet every Wednesday from 10am—3pm

Make new friends and enjoy a new therapeutic hobby!

£2.50 per session including tea or coffee

Materials provided



Mind Active Activity Days

Lunches and entertainment for people with dementia and their carers/loved ones. Enjoy good company in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. To find out more or try out a session contact:

Stephen on 01670 820461

Guidepost Art Group

We meet every **Thursday** between 7pm and 9pm .

New members

welcome - just pop

into one of our sessions





Wansbeck Matters

We meet every Monday (except the 3rd Monday).

We are a friendly group who are interested in keeping alive the traditional



crafts of making hooky and proggy mats.

For more information call into a class!

The South East Northumberland Stroke Support Group

A volunteer led group set up to help and support people living with stroke and their carers. We meet on the 3rd Monday of every month from 1pm to 3pm.

We have range of activities including speakers, bingo sessions, organised trips, domino's, board games and much more. For more information about the group please call the secretary within office hours on 01670 712834 or 07791 628 144 or visit our website www.strokesense.org



Hearing aid support in Bedlington Station

Many people who use hearing aids find it difficult to get to a hospital for regular maintenance or help but now you can receive that at the East Bedlington Community Centre. For simple tasks such as

- Re-tubing for NHS hearing aids (every 6 months)
- Or information on cleaning
- Or collecting new batteries (or returning old ones)

You could come along to the drop in session held on the 1st Tuesday of every month, between 12noon and 1pm

The sessions are run by Action on Hearing Loss (previously RNID) and we work in partnership with the audiology department of the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

For further information please call 01670 513606 or email:

Heartohelp.northoftyne@hearingloss.org.uk

HIRE EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE from £10 PER HOUR

Situated on Station Street the recently refurbished Community Centre offers spacious facilities including a kitchen. Full disabled access. Parking in close proximity. Available for meetings, training sessions community activities, birthday parties, funeral teas, consultation events, table top sales, fund raising events, information and advice sessions.

“Run by the Community for the Community”

Call us on 01670 828808 for more information or to make a booking!



WHAT CAN WE GET FOR A PRESENT? CIGARETTES OF COURSE

War time Bedlington remembered by Carole Fife

When I was researching the histories of the Colliery School (now the Library) and the Council School (now Bedlington Station Primary School) I was surprised to find that neither school Log Book mentioned the start of the First World War. Then it dawned on me that the War had started during the school summer holiday, and the Log Books only recorded events that happened in term time.

Mr Bullerwell, Head of the Council School makes little mention of the War in his Log Book until June 1915 when one of his staff enlists, but Mr Smith of the Colliery School gives much more information about small ways in which the local population supported the troops, and also how the town was affected by so many working men joining the military. As soon as the school returned from the summer holiday on August 20th he started a collection among the children "in aid of the distress cause by the war.". On October 5th he reported "I have remitted to the County Accountant the sum of 19/6 which has been subscribed by the teachers and scholars to the Lord Lieutenant's War Fund". As the War progressed the fund raising became more specific, and usually raised larger amounts, and as we shall see later the more people could identify with their fund raising target the more money they raised.

On February 26th 1915 Mr Smith gave some indication of how Bedlington itself was being affected by the War when he wrote "Attendance is very bad at present. There is a good deal of sickness in the village and the absence of so many men on military duty seems to have increased irregularity ". It was probably the older boys who were taking advantage of the absence of their fathers to skive off school, and as there were usually larger families than today many mothers would have found it hard to function as single parents while managing on army pay, especially when they had been used to better wages if their husbands were working down the pit.



Cigarette box 1914

In 1914 there were still hopes that the War would be over by Christmas, and it was Princess Mary, the daughter of George V, who had the idea of sending gifts to the troops, and this seems to have popularised the idea of sending cigarettes to those at the front, especially for fund raising initiatives. Socks, scarves and other knitted articles, together with food parcels, were now left to families and women's groups.

HRH Princess Mary



On May 21st 1915 Mr Smith wrote "We are making an Empire Day collection on behalf of the soldiers and sailors at the Front. We have already sent £1 to the Lord Lieutenant's Fund and 16/- to the Y.M.C.A. for huts for soldiers". It is highly likely that what was raised in this collection went on cigarettes, and Sinclair's Tobacco Factory in Newcastle seems to have been the conduit for getting the cigarettes to the troops.

Do you have any information to share with Carol regarding this article or earlier articles relating to WW1 & WW2? If so you can contact her at c.fife43@yahoo.co.uk



THEY WEREN'T ALL TYNESIDE SCOTTISH

Bedlington is very closely associated with the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd Battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers, which were designated as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions of the Tyneside Scottish, whose chapel can be found in St Cuthbert's Church, Bedlington, and many men from Bedlington and its surrounding area did indeed join these battalions, including many miners.

But what is not often known is that the first men to enlist could not join these battalions because they weren't formed until September 1914 and later. If you enlisted in August 1914 in Bedlington it was often in the 6th East Yorkshire Regiment, which was formed on 23rd August 1914 as part of the 11th (Northern) Division, and which in December 1914 became the Pioneer Battalion for that Division. Men of the Pioneer Battalions were usually experienced in various construction trades and general labouring, and as well as receiving basic military training they were supplied with tools needed for their work as Pioneers. Much of their work during the War consisted of digging trenches, so miners were probably thought well suited for this.

In July 1915 the Battalion sailed for Gallipoli, taking with it Private Hebbie Anderson, aged 19, the son of Thomas and Eliza Anderson of 35, Back Clayton Street, and Private George Taylor, aged 24, the son of Margaret Taylor of 15 Holly Mount. Both men had been miners before they enlisted. The Battalion landed at Suvla Bay on 7th August 1915, and two days later both men were dead, having died in what is still thought of as one of the biggest shambles of the War, with a complete breakdown in communications and the consequent loss of a lot of men.

Not everyone wanted to join the army. George Reed, son of John and Margaret Reed of 108, North Row, and a miner like his father, thought he would see the world by enlisting in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Unfortunately the Navy found itself with too many sailors and marines and not enough ships so Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, had the idea of forming the Royal Navy Division, with its six Battalions named after former Naval Commanders. George was in the 6th (Howe) Battalion; he wore naval uniform, but to all intents and purposes he was a soldier. The Royal Naval Division took part in the defence of Antwerp before being sent to Gallipoli, where George died on 4th June 1915, aged 19.

Hebbie Anderson, George Taylor and George Reed are commemorated together on the Helles Memorial overlooking the Dardanelles, which remembers the 21,000 Commonwealth soldiers and sailors who died at Gallipoli.



Report it!

Following Local Government Reorganisation in 2009, many residents are still uncertain as to who they should report issues such as litter, dog fouling, street cleaning, flytipping, street lighting and road repairs

The screenshot shows the Northumberland County Council website with several reporting options. At the top, there are 'Alerts' for winter services, garden waste payments, and local highways maintenance. Below this, there are 'TOP TASKS' including 'Pay Online', 'Apply Online', and 'Report a Problem'. The 'Report a Problem' section has a grid of icons for: Check bin collection dates, Report missed bin collection, Garden waste, Waste permits, Register to Vote, Report fly tipping, Request tree maintenance, Report dog waste, Report pothole, Report street light fault, Report noise including barking, and Report planning breach. There is also a 'Register to vote' button and a 'YOUR VOTE MATTERS' banner. At the bottom, there are links for 'Other council services' and a 'Free magazine' sign-up.

to. The above list all falls within the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. You can report your concerns using their lo-call number 0845 600 6400 or if you have access to the internet you can also visit www.northumberland.gov.uk and click on one of the report it buttons.

You should ensure that you receive a reference number for your complaint or query. This number can then be used to receive updates or follow up your initial concern if it appears that nothing has been done to address the problem.

East Bedlington Parish Council will respond to problems with the play areas in our parish, bus shelters, allotment enquires, flower beds and hanging baskets, seating and the provision of litter bins. Concerns regarding these matters should be raised by contacting the Clerk, Ron Thornton on 01670 828808 or via email clerk@eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk or by using the contact us feature on our website www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk

2015 Anti –dog fouling campaign

We know that there are many considerate dog owner out there who always clean up after their pets. However for those who don't, we are encouraging every resident of East Bedlington to get involved in supporting this campaign. We will be arranging for all our mounted litter bins to be stickered with reminders that 'any bin will do' and we will consider adopting the by-laws introduced by neighbouring parish and town councils which ban dogs from the beach from May until October.

You do not have to give your name when making a report but it is helpful if you can give as much information as possible such as identify the type and/ or give a description of the dog along with the time, location, frequency of the alleged offence

Offenders who fail to pick up after their dog(s) face an on the spot fine of £75 and if prosecuted, a fine of up to £1,000. People should also be aware that they must always keep their dog on a lead when visiting memorial grounds, cemeteries or garden of remembrances **anywhere** in Northumberland.

A county wide dog control order, introduced in April 2011, makes it an offence to not immediately pick up after your dog has fouled, on any publically accessible land anywhere in Northumberland 365 days a year.



Attendance Allowance

A guide to claiming your entitlement



What is Attendance Allowance?

It is a weekly benefit for people who are over 65 years old with health problems that affect the way they live i.e. needing help with personal care either during the day or at night (£54.45*) or both (£81.30*), because of a physical or mental disability.

It is non-means tested and non taxable. No details of income or savings are needed in order to apply.

Attendance Allowance never has a negative effect on other benefits or pensions.

People in receipt of Attendance Allowance will usually qualify for higher amounts of Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

If you find it difficult with any of the following, you could claim Attendance Allowance.

- Getting in/out of bed
- Putting shoes and socks on
- Moving around indoors
- Bathing
- Shaving
- Taking medication
- General communication
- Remembering things
- Staying steady on your feet
- Getting/staying comfortable in bed
- Using the toilet/bottle/commode
- Preparing a meal
- Eating/drinking
- Sight loss

To find out if you could claim Attendance Allowance, please call Age UK Northumberland on either 08450 950 150 or 01670 784 821

CREDIT UNION

SAVE IT BORROW IT BUDGET FOR IT

Credit Union for South East Northumberland—CUSEN

Collection point facilities **Thursday from 1pm till 2.30pm** at East Bedlington Community Centre.

Come along and meet the friendly Credit Union advisors and discover the wide range of Credit Union Services available including secure savings, landlord schemes and lower cost borrowing for more information contact Fiona Wardlaw—Money Management Advisor on 01670 522779 or email: Fiona.Wardlaw@cusen.co.uk



Church Services in the Parish

St John's Church
North View
Bedlington Station

Parish Office Hour
Every Thursday
From 1pm—2pm

Sunday 9am Holy Communion
Thursday 10.15am Holy Communion

**All age worship at St Johns is the 2nd
Sunday of the month**

**Join us for a Parish Breakfast in the Parish
Hall after the services at St John's on the
1st and 2nd Sundays of the month**



St Andrew's Church
Unity Terrace
Cambois



Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion
Wednesday 10.45 Holy Communion

**All age worship at St Andrew's is
4th Sunday of the month**

Contact:

Vicar:

Rev'd Derry Twomey 01670 823453

Assistant Curates:

Rev'd Ian Hennerbry 01670 822309
Rev'd Elizabeth Brown 01670 515556

Dates for your diary

Saturday 4th April Joint Easter Vigil at St John's at 7pm followed by a Barbecue Social

Thursday 23rd April at St Johns Church Hall—Pie & Peas and Bingo Tickets £5.00 available from Audrey Symons



Your Councillors



Councillor Alex Wallace
Chairman

☎ 01670 822858



Councillor Allan Stewart
Vice Chairman

☎ 01670 826025



Councillor Nichola Hogarth

☎ 0770 931 6617



Councillor Andrea Innes

☎ 01670 823149



Councillor David Graham

☎ 01670 828907



Councillor Joe Dobie

☎ 01670 824113



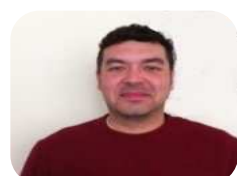
Councillor Paul Hedley

☎ 01670 530566



Councillor Colin Parker

☎ 01670 825330



Councillor Terry Johnstone

☎ 0789 169 8040



Councillor Eddie Dickson

I have lived in Bedlington all my life and currently work as a carer in the community. I am interested in environmental and community issues.

☎ 01670 826527



Councillor Andy Watson

I am 35 years old and live with my wife in East Bedlington. I work full time as a pharmacist. In my spare time I teach Taekwondo to both adults and children. I am passionate about healthcare, helping individuals and if necessary finding new ways of doing things to make it happen.

☎ 0779 556 8369



Your Parish Team

Ron Thornton

Parish Clerk & Responsible
Financial Officer
clerk@eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk
Mobile 0752 842 8609



Jenny Tindale

Assistant Parish Clerk
jennytindale@btconnect.com
Mobile 07900 683 675



Parish Office

East Bedlington Parish Council
Parish Office
16 Station Street
Bedlington
NE22 7JN
☎ 01670 828808

www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk

Normal opening hours

Monday to Friday

10am to 12 noon

2pm to 4pm

Your Northumberland County Councillors

Councillor Valerie Tyler
Bedlington East Ward
01670 825252

Councillor Jeff Gobin
Sleekburn Ward
01670 822539

MP

Ian Lavery MP
Wansbeck Constituency
7 Esther Court, Wansbeck Business Park,
Ashington, NE63 8QZ

Tel: 01670 852494

Email: ian.lavery.mp@parliament.uk

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 15 of this publication and the Parish website

Meetings

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