

PITTINGTON

PARISH NEWS DECEMBER 2014



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Chairman's Introduction



Welcome to our December edition. The Council has continued to work to meet the needs of the community by listening and responding to local issues, working closely with the Police, Durham County Council, community groups and local organisations on all matters affecting the parish area. As the Christmas period rapidly approaches The Parish Council wish you a safe and enjoyable time with your family and friends and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of every month with the exception of August. Agenda and minutes can be viewed on the noticeboards at the Village Hall in High Pittington, in Littleton and in Low Pittington. Past minutes can now be viewed on the our website: www.pittingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Every Parish Council meeting begins with a public participation section which is your chance to have your say.

Have your say



Pittington Parish Council would like to hear from you! We are considering funding a regular Citizens Advice Bureau outreach session at the Village Hall. The proposed sessions would run for one hour one morning every week and would be run on a drop-in basis with no appointment needed.

What the Parish Council would like to know is whether this is a service that you would make use of? Have you used the CAB in the past and would rather use it closer to home? Perhaps you've thought about getting advice but been put off by having to travel into Durham for an appointment.

Please let us know what you think by calling or texting the Clerk on 07415009431 or emailing pittingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk. Alternatively get in touch with any of the parish councillors - contact details are at the back of this newsletter. We are also happy to receive comments through twitter [@pittingtonpc](https://twitter.com/pittingtonpc) or our facebook page at facebook.com/pittingtonparishcouncil

St Laurence Church



Members of the church have had a busy summer and autumn programme, the August cream teas were a particular success this year with a number of visitors from outside of the region.

Harvest Festival saw the church decorated with a wonderful display of autumn flowers and banners drawn by the children of Pittington school. A special thanks to the staff at the school for taking the time to add this task to their busy curriculum. Also to Tom Whittaker who arranged for the Church Vale allotment Society display at the front of the church.

The church played host to Sunderland University Choir, led by world renowned opera stars Graeme Danby & Val Reid, who put on a wonderful concert to help raise funds for much needed repairs.

Eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed the scaffolding both outside and inside the church, this being for repairs to the window to prevent

water damage to our 12th Century frescos.

Our new Friends of St. Laurence was launched recently, why not become a member by sponsoring a day in the life of the church. You can help us to keep the church open, and continue to care for it and for all in our community, by sponsoring a day, (£60.00 per day per year).

You may like to choose a day which has particular meaning for you and your family. Or you could ask for a 'lucky dip', and have a day chosen for you at random!

Friends will receive a certificate commemorating their sponsored day, and regular communications through the year (roughly quarterly) keeping you up to date with events at St. Laurence. We plan to also provide Friends with a free ticket to a special event once a year – a talk about the history of the church, a concert, and so on – to thank you for your support and help you keep in touch.

We are grateful to all those who continue to support the numbers draw every month. Numbers costing £1 per month are always available and prizes of £50, £20 & £10 are paid out each month. Please contact Kath Fall, 4 Manor View, Pittington, tel: 0191 3720108 or email Kathy.fall@btinternet.com if you would like a number.

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

St John's Methodist Church



Sunday service at St John's is normally at 10.00a.m. and our minister is Rev. Angie Long. We give anyone a warm welcome to come and worship with us. We have a coffee morning every Tuesday at 10.00 to 11.00am to which everyone is welcome. Every fortnight we have a Ladies Circle, an informal get together where we sometimes have speakers on various subjects.

On Sunday, 14th December, at 4.00pm we have our annual a village carol service with Pittington Brass. This year it is to be held in the village hall. This is a great way to start Christmas, singing the traditional carols.



A new joint venture between St John's and St. Laurence called Messy Church will take place on the first Sunday of each month between 4.00 and 6.00p.m. in the Village Hall.

The theme for Sunday 7th December will be 'Christmas is Coming' and everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy fun crafts, celebration time and food! Entrance is free of charge.

Pittington War Memorial



Remembrance Sunday (Nov 7th) at Hallgarth was special this year because it marked the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. Congregations from both St Laurence Church and St John's Methodist Church, together with other members of the public, shared a short but moving service before wreaths were laid on behalf of both churches, the British Legion and Pittington Parish Council. As in many previous years the James family had already laid a wreath in memory of relatives who died in the Great War.

The memorial itself is now showing signs of considerable discolouration, and is in need of renovation of both

the stone and the lettering forming the names of those from this parish who made the ultimate sacrifice in our two world wars.

The Parish Council is looking at potential sources of funding to help secure restoration of the memorial to a standard that respects those who have died in service to our country.

The memorial, designed by architect W. H. Wood of Durham and constructed by Bowman and Sons of Stamford using red sandstone was unveiled in June 1920. It lists 38 soldiers from the first World War and 11 soldiers and airmen from the second World War.

Christmas Events in the Parish

Sunday 7th December

Pittington Primary School Fair from 10am - 12 noon. Live Music, refreshments and an opportunity to purchase products designed and made by the children.

Sunday 7th December

Messy Church - 'Christmas is Coming' at Pittington Village Hall from 4pm to 6pm. Free entry, all welcome.

Sunday 14th December

Pittington Christmas Carols at the Village Hall - a joint service with St Laurence and St John's church with music from Pittington Brass Band. Service starts at 4pm. We will be singing Pittington's Top Ten Carols as voted for by you! Look out for posters and voting forms in the local shops to vote for your favourite carols, or text your top choices to 07565 521309 to enter the poll!

Refreshments will be available with all proceeds going to the Village Hall

Sunday 21st December

Pittington Carols in the Streets with Pittington Brass Band, starting from the Village Hall at 10:30am

Sunday 21st December

Pittington Village Hall Mobile Cinema - Frozen Sing-a-long - 3pm

Christmas Church Services

A warm welcome to all at these or any of our regular Sunday services.

Sunday 21st Dec, 6pm

Traditional service of Lessons and Carols with the Benefice Choir at St Mary Magdalene Belmont.

Christmas Eve, 3pm

Family Nativity and Carols in St Laurence Church: children can come dressed as a nativity character, or can find a costume from our collection!

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Midnight Mass in St Laurence Church - a beautiful candlelit service to usher in Christmas day for the night owls among you!

Christmas Day, 10.30am

United Benefice Family Communion at St Mary Magdalene Belmont

Pittington Village Hall - future now secure



After nearly two years' of work last month finally saw the completion of the asset transfer process for Pittington Village Hall. Trustees from the newly formed Pittington Community Association signed a new 30 year lease with Durham County Council securing the future of the Village Hall.

Under the new lease, the Community Association are responsible for all maintenance, improvements and running costs of the hall. This represents a big increase in the cost of running the hall and we are very

grateful to the Parish Council for their assistance in helping to fund the additional outgoings.

The first major project that we are looking at is the replacement of the current central heating system. The anticipated cost of this is in excess of £75,000 but we are close to securing grants for this and hope to begin work shortly. Future improvements include roof repairs, disabled ramp and toilets and wireless internet access.

Following the retirement of our caretaker Joan we recently took on our first employee - Julie Brown as Village Hall Attendant. Julie is responsible for the day to day running of the hall and managing bookings. Get in touch on 07925 067001 or bookings@pittingtonvillagehall.org.uk

Village Hall Committee Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Village Hall. New volunteers are always very welcome.

Dance Fusion Academy



Dance Fusion run regular classes at Pittington Village Hall for children of all ages and abilities:

Wednesdays 5.30 – 6.30 (Ages 3–6)
Wednesdays 6.30 – 8.00 (Ages 14+)
Fridays 5.00 – 6.30 (Ages 7-10)
Fridays 6.30 – 8.00 (Ages 11-14)

For more details Contact Ashleigh Cleary on 07852 924909 or acleary1006@aol.co.uk.

Dance Fusion will be in action at the Gala Theatre in Durham on 15th February 2015 where they present 'A Little Pary' their fourth Gala production. Dancers from all ages will join together for an evening packed with many different dance styles and a combination of music to suit all tastes. This fun filled evening will be sure to get your foot tapping and enjoying the talent from the local dance school. Tickets £10. Book now on 0300 026 6600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk

Pittington Youth Clubs

Pittington Village Hall run two youth clubs. The primary school age youth club runs on two Mondays each month during term time from 6pm - 7:30pm and is run by local policeman Philip Raine.

Following the success of the Summer activity program a secondary school age youth club started in September and runs every Tuesday during term time from 6pm - 8pm and is run by Keely Fingleton from Mid Durham Youth Projects Club based at Belmont School. Funding for this is currently provided by our County Councillors.

Check out these comments from some of the regulars at the Tuesday night youth club...



"I like coming to youthy because it gives me something to do on a night rather than hanging around on the streets or being on my own in the house."

Leah Potts, Pittington

"I travel from Sherburn Hill to the youth club to see my friends and have fun. We make things to eat and do arts and crafts to take home. I enjoy coming."

Kendra Ardle, Sherburn Hill



"I like coming to youthy because we do fun stuff. We get to make new friends and go places. In the summer we went to Alton Towers and are going bowling and the ice rink. We are working towards a Keyfund at the minute to raise money for the club. I like seeing the youth workers."

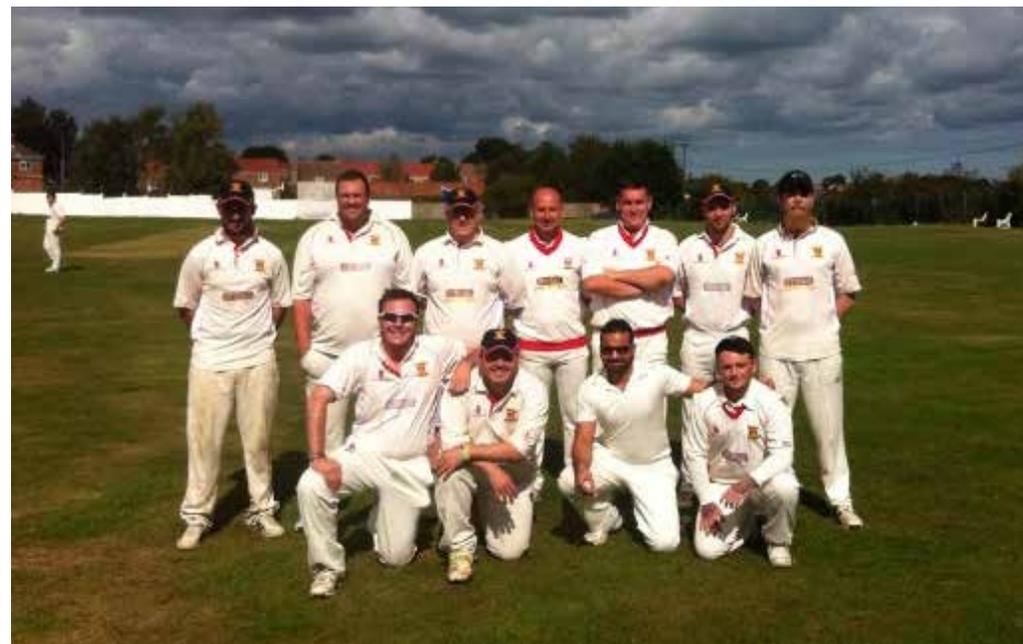
Abigail Lawson, Pittington

"We get to make food and see our mates, it's better than hanging about and getting into trouble."

Stephen Bradley, Zac Percival, Jake Huggill, Pittington



Littletown Cricket Club



2014 was a great summer for Littletown CC in our second season back as a club. The first XI finished 3rd in their division, the 2nds won the cup, the Sunday XI had its usual collection of waifs and strays donning their whites and competing strongly and the ground looked stunning. Our jewel in the crown was the Under 11 side though who finished mid-table in an established league despite most of them having played for barely 12 months. Fantastic!

So where next? Well, thanks to Councillors Hall and Guy we have a net system that is due to be erected over the winter and we continue to fundraise for a new clubhouse. On the playing front we plan to run a new Under 13 side in 2015 and if any of

you reading this know of any lapsed or prospective cricketers please let us know, our senior sides are always after a keen player!

As ever we're after all sorts of help to keep the ship running though. If you could spare some time to trim our grass wall, roll a wicket, source a sponsor (hoarding or shirt), fundraise, become a social member or even just come down to cheer us on we'd love to hear from you. Word is slowly spreading about our project and we're humbled by the contribution the local community has made.

If you'd like to hear more about us visit please our website or email us at littletowncc@outlook.com. We hope to hear from you soon...

Your Parish Council



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Cllr. David Turnbull
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djt182@
btinternet.com



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Littletown
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gbfenwick@
hotmail.co.uk



Cllr. David Hall
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Cllr. Barry Patterson
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3tubass@gmail.com



Parish Clerk
Amanda Sutherland
35 South Street
Spennymoor
DL16 7TU
07415009431
pittingtonpc@
hotmail.co.uk

Useful Contacts

Neighbourhood Policing Team -
customerservicedesk@durham.pnn.
police.uk or phone 101

NHS Urgent Care
24 hour service - phone 111

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111 or
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Durham County Council Action Line
For road or lighting defects, flytipping,
dog fouling, neighbourhood wardens
- help@durham.gov.uk or 03000 26
1000

**Durham County Council General
Enquiries** - 03000 26 0000

Sherburn Surgery - 0191 3009661

Go NorthEast buses - 0845 60 60 260
or 0191 420 50 50

Parish Clerk - 07415009431 or
pittingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk
www.pittingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Village Hall Bookings 07925 067001
bookings@pittingtonvillagehall.org.uk

St Laurence Church, Miranda
Threlfall Holmes - 0191 386 1545

Citizens Advice Helpline
03444 111 444

County Councillors:
Stephen Guy
stephen.guy@durham.gov.uk
03000 268 715 (diverts to mobile)

David Hall:
dhall@durham.gov.uk
03000 268 716 (diverts to mobile)

PACT Meetings

Pollice and Communities Together meetings are held monthly in the Hallgarth Manor hotel. These meetings are your opportunity to talk to the neighbourhood police officers about any concerns that you have and help to set their priorities.

Current priorities include dangerously parked cars around Pittington Primary School at pick up and drop off times. If anybody has any concerns they would like to pass on to the team please contact them on 101.

The next meetings will be held on:

Tuesday 27th January, 7pm
Tuesday 24th February, 7pm

Next Issue

The next issue of the parish magazine will be published at the beginning of March 2015. Deadline for submissions is 1st February. Articles should be sent to the Parish Clerk.

Advertising

If you'd like to advertise in the next issue of the newsletter please send adverts for approval to the Clerk.

Rates will be £15 per quarter page or £30 per half page. Rates are per issue.

Large Print Edition

If you or someone you know requires a version of this magazine in large print please contact the clerk and we will deliver one.

**BRINGING THE BIG SCREEN
EXPERIENCE TO YOUR DOORSTEP!**

LET IT GO!

**SING ALONG TO THE WORDS OF THE
ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED FILM EVENT OF A GENERATION.**



Fancy
Dress
Optional

Disney
FROZEN

Sing-A-Long

Sunday 21st December at 3pm



Pittington Village Hall
High Pittington

TICKETS £2

*REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE
VILLAGE HALL*

*CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER MUST
BE ACCOMPANIED BY A
RESPONSIBLE ADULT*

Brought to you by Durham Area Action Partnership in collaboration with
Active Life @Coxhoe. U Rating: All ages admitted, there is nothing
unsuitable for children.

