

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL



WEST BEDLINGTON  
TOWN COUNCIL

# RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017 Issue



Simon Williams Crest Photography

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# Foreword from Christine Taylor the Mayor



**This is my first message to you as the Mayor although I have been heavily involved in the production of the previous editions of our newsletter.**

I joined West Bedlington Town Council three years ago and feel that I have been serving an apprenticeship in preparation for taking over the helm. I have been privileged to have worked with and learnt from some dedicated people who have had our town at the heart of everything they do and I will continue the great work during this administration.

Being Deputy Mayor and Chair of Services for the last two years has given me the knowledge and experience to oversee the management of both our finances and assets, as well as increasing my expertise in ensuring our events go according to plan. Not a shrinking violet I'm not afraid to shout and/or seek help from professionals when I need it to make sure I get what we need.

As a result of the elections in May we lost some town councillors and gained some new faces, we said farewell to Joe Dobie, Simon Tyler, Keith Dalton and Malcolm Robinson

and I would like to acknowledge their contributions over the previous four years and congratulate Malcom Robinson on his election as County Councillor for Bedlington West. Incoming Councillors, Mike Trimming, Cath Henderson, Kathleen Roach and Victoria Thompson, all bring new skills, fresh ideas and differing approaches to support the further development of the town. Existing Councillors who stood for re-election were Adam Hogg, David Graham, Jim Tyler, Paul Hedley and myself so we have a good mix of experience within the new administration and we continue to be fully supported by Steven our brilliant town clerk.

I'm looking forward to us all working closely over the next four years to continue building a better town.

*Christine Taylor*  
Mayor

## Bedlington's Carnival

This year's street fair had a carnival theme, billed as a fun day for all the family it certainly lived up to expectations.

Saturday the 6th August started early as a gloriously sunny day on the Front Street when the fairground arrived to set up, this was quickly followed by the stage and market stalls. The day promised to be thrilling, with the fair ground, live music, market stalls and lots of food to entertain and feed locals all day.

Compare Paul Grant kicked off and held the entertainment side together all day as a fantastic compare, singing and cracking jokes and getting everyone involved.

Next up, were the Vieux Carre Jazzman who had us clapping and tapping our toes along to their music billed to appeal

to the older generation, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their performances and the rows of seats quickly filled up when they came on.

All the kids loved the Disney Princess, Belle and Ariel, looked fantastic and had all the little girls wanting to be them, they led the singing and dancing to the Disney favourites and some younger residents came dressed up in their fancy dress as Belle.

The big finale, was the Little Mix tribute band who had everyone dancing along including some Dad's. Unfortunately, the rain arrived however, this still didn't dampen the enthusiasm of fans of Little Mix music and dancing continued in the rain.

A fantastic family day thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.



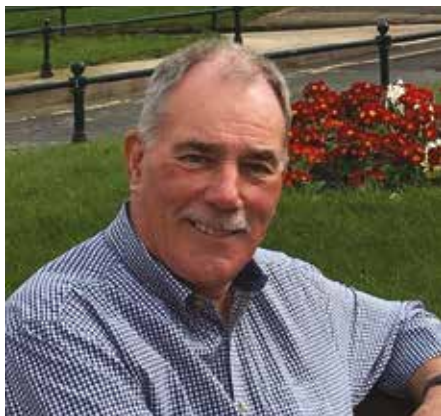
# Message from your Northumberland County Councillors

County Councillor Russ Wallace

**I was both honoured and delighted to be elected to Northumberland County Council as the Independent Councillor for the Bedlington Central ward in the Local Elections on 4 May.**

My thanks to those who voted for me and I repeat my pledge to put Bedlington First in my plans, decisions and actions as a Councillor and to do all I can to keep residents informed as to what is happening in their town. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Cllr Alyson Wallace - namesake but no relation - for her hard work and all that she achieved during her time as County Councillor for Bedlington Central.

Although I work closely and in an 'all equal' partnership with fellow Bedlington Independent Councillors Bill Crosby and Malcolm Robinson, I am pleased to be the leader of the Bedlington Independent Group at County Hall. I am also aware of my countywide responsibilities. I serve on both the County's Children and Family Services Committee and Town and Parish Liaison Group. This allows me to pursue my lifelong interest in the education of young people and enables me to work more closely with



Northumberland's local councils.

I have lived in Bedlington for over 40 years and I have seen the facilities, amenities and physical infrastructure of the town decline over recent years. At the same time an accelerated programme of house building has seen a rapid increase in our population.

Recognition of the challenges facing Bedlington provides a focus to what needs to be done to improve our town. Residents highlighted these issues time and time again during recent campaigning:

- upgraded education, health, leisure and social facilities
- a better range and improved choice of retail services

- investment in our road structure to make it safer and less congested
- improved town centre parking.

I can make no promises to bring these issues to a satisfactory conclusion. I can however promise to work tirelessly and do all I possibly can to improve Bedlington as a place to live - although having said that I would not want to live anywhere else!

I have already discovered how important it is to be available and accessible to residents. I can be contacted at russ.wallace@northumberland.gov.uk or 07779 983775, and I hold a surgery at Bedlington Community Centre at 6.30 on the first Thursday of every month. I also publish a regular blog which can be found at [www.cllrusswallace.wordpress.com](http://www.cllrusswallace.wordpress.com)

West Bedlington Town Council is proving to be an extremely proactive and hard working group who are very much aware of the needs of local residents. I thank them for the opportunity to write to you through their Newsletter.

Best wishes - and thank you for reading.

*Russ*



## County Councillor Malcolm Robinson

First let me say thanks to all the Bedlington West residents who voted for me and for putting your faith in me by electing me to be the Northumberland County Council ward councillor. Humbling and appreciated!

It's already been a bumpy few months and it's going to get bumpier because I will do exactly what I said I would do in my election leaflets and put the needs and concerns of this ward front and centre! I will also continue to ask the questions which were contained within my leaflets!

Not having the space needed to go into everything which has happened since the election please if any of the residents of Bedlington West want to keep up with

what I'm doing on your behalf please read my diaries which can be found on my Facebook page Malcolm Robinson Bedlington West Ward.

Or my monthly blog at: [cllrmalcolmrobinson.wordpress.com](http://cllrmalcolmrobinson.wordpress.com)

For those of a nervous disposition please be warned, I said they would be warts and all and they are!

I have put in the three suggestions for the first round of the NCC "Pot Hole Fund" and also submitted three suggestions for the Local Transport plan. All of these were suggested by ward residents.

My monthly surgery (First Monday of the Month) at Netherton Club has already been quite busy and I am always eager to see and try and help residents at that venue.

I can also be contacted by phone 077779983080 or by email: [malcolm.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk)

# TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS



**You can attend Town Council meetings (usually the second Thursday of the month at Bedlington Community Centre at 6:30pm)**

Before each Town Council meeting there will be a 15 minute open Session. The Chair will invite members of the public present to put questions to, or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council prior to commencement of business. In order to give every member of the public a fair chance of asking a question, each person will be limited to two questions at each session and each question is limited to 3 minutes per person.

Alternatively you can at any time contact the Council office directly to discuss any Town Council matters. (Our contact details are shown at the end of this newsletter).

## Council and Committee Meeting Diary

All meeting dates are subject to Council approval and can be subject to change. Any changes will be highlighted on the Council Website: [www.westbedlington.org.uk](http://www.westbedlington.org.uk)

Provisional dates for 2017 - 2018 are shown in the table below.

Year	Month	Full Council 6.30pm	Services Committee 6.30pm
2017	November	9th	23rd
2017	December	14	28
2018	January	11	25
2018	February	8	22
2018	March	8	22
2018	April	12	26
2018	May	10	tbc

## OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Children's Play Areas
- Grit Bins - if the County Council won't supply the Town Council may supply
- Litter Bins
- Public Seating
- War Memorials
- Christmas Lights
- Christmas Tree
- Notice board Provision
- Flower beds and bulb planting
- Town gateway features
- Additional grass cuts - The County Council does not cut grass in April and October so we may pay for additional grass cuts in those months
- Any entry into the Northumbria in Bloom completion
- Support of Community Events.

All other local Council Services (e.g. Housing, Refuse Collection, Council Tax and Housing Benefits) are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.

**[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk) or call 0345 600 6400**

# Neighbourhood Watch Schemes Helping To Combat Antisocial Behaviour



We are looking to recruit volunteers to run Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Bedlingtonshire area taking in all parts of Bedlington, Bedlington Station, Nedderton, Choppington, Guide post, Stakeford, West Sleekburn, North Blyth and Cambois. We will provide information and support to anyone wanting to set a scheme up in their street.

Stephen Armstrong ( Chairman ) said "this is a great opportunity for residents to become involved in their community and meet new people". He said "There are several schemes already running very successfully in the Bedlingtonshire area and we are hoping to add even more". "we are trying to make our Bedlingtonshire a safer and more friendly place to live".

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are run solely by residents and are headed up by a coordinator from within your street, the rest of the residents then become members of that particular scheme. Coordinators

are invited to quarterly meetings with neighbourhood Police officers and coordinators from other areas.

If you would like to join us or require information on how to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NHW) in your street you can contact us via email; [steve.5265@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.5265@btinternet.com) or Telephone me Stephen Armstrong (chairman of Bedlington NHW) on 01670 825029 or Dawn Coutas ( Secretary of Bedlington NHW ) 01670 813825

If you wish to speak to a Neighbourhood Police officer ring 101 ext 63726 ask for PCSO Bev Sellars.



## Your Northumbria Informing you and your community

Neighbourhood police in Bedlington are encouraging residents to sign up for the all new community messaging service, known as YourNorthumbria.

Keep up to date about the types of crimes and policing issues that affect where you work, live and socialise. You can also choose how you would like to receive information, either via email, SMS (text) or voice message. Take an active part in supporting your Community whilst keeping up to date with what's going on around you. Officers are also keen for social media savvy residents to follow the neighbourhood police twitter page @BedlingtonPol.

# Bedlingtonshire Local History Society 2017-2018

If you enjoy listening to a good story from the past; if you research and delve into the local history of Bedlingtonshire and a little beyond, you will find us interesting, informative and entertaining. We try to have a balanced programme to cater for all tastes, whether it is about the Shire's Prince Bishops, landed gentry, bankers, industrialists, civic pioneers or crim-nailers. Better than Monday night's telly!

We meet in the cool months: 7.30 pm on the last Monday evening of the month.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>September 25th 2017</b> | The Life of Sir Charles Parsons - John Riley.                                     |
| <b>October 30th 2017</b>   | Photographs off the Beaten Track - Kevin Dunlop.                                  |
| <b>November 27th 2017</b>  | Gertrude Bell - Desert Queen - A Atkinson.  |
| <b>February 26th 2018</b>  | Life and Times of Daniel Gooch - Ian Hennebry.                                    |
| <b>March 26th 2018</b>     | Memories of the RVI - Helen Saint.  |
| <b>April 23rd 2018</b>     | Darling of the North - Freda Thompson   |
| <b>May 21st 2018</b>       | A short AGM..Humford: Heritage; Health and Happiness - Marley, Miller and Cowans. |



Come; enjoy and find out!

*David Cowans*  
David\_Cowans@hotmail.com



# Remembrance

**As Remembrance time approaches it is pertinent to think, once again, about the human cost of the wars which were fought to maintain freedom in our country.**

The town of Bedlington has always responded generously to our nation's call, as the 223 names on the war memorial attests. However, it is important to remember that not all war casualties were soldiers - or, indeed, men. A good example of this would be 2111620 LACW Minnie Nicholson, a young Bedlington lass who was a member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In April 1945, almost the end of the Second World War, Minnie was serving at RAF Aston Down in Gloucestershire. This was the home of No. 55 Operational Training Unit which trained aircrew for combat flying.

On 25th March 1945 a Hawker Typhoon aircraft piloted by Warrant

Officer R Thompson attempted to make a forced landing at Aston Down but it crashed into a dispersal hut where Minnie was on duty and burst into flames, setting the hut alight as its fuel tanks ruptured and burned. The pilot and two ground crew were killed instantly and 18 other personnel injured.

Minnie suffered serious burns and was taken initially to RAF Innsworth from where a Dakota aircraft flew her to the RAF Hospital at Cosford, near Wolverhampton. Minnie's injuries were severe and despite the efforts of the doctors she died on 7th April 1945. She was just 21 years old.

Minnie's body was brought home to Bedlington and she was buried in Netherton Lane Cemetery. Her grave, marked with a Commonwealth War Graves headstone, can be found not far from the main entrance and her name is engraved on the Bedlington Town War Memorial.

Like thousands of others, men and women, Minnie gave her life in the

service of our country. She and all the other casualties of war deserve to be remembered with honour and respect. Lest we forget.

Sydney Graham,  
Poppy Appeal Organiser,  
The Royal British Legion.

## Remembrance Day Memories

The Council was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Joe Riley.

Regular attenders at the Remembrance Day Service will know that Joe has always laid a wreath on behalf of the Black Watch, the regiment in which he served for many years.

The Council wishes to send its condolences to the family and friends of Joe, he will be sadly missed.

# Remembrance Service

## Sunday 12th November 2017

**Service 2.30pm**  
At Bedlington War Memorial,  
Front Street West, Bedlington

**Parade starts 2.15pm**  
From Salvation Army,  
Hartford Road, Bedlington

# Everyone Welcome!

They shall grow not old, as we that are  
left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the  
years contemn.

At the going down of the sun and in  
the morning

We will remember them.

From "For The Fallen" - Laurence Binyon

When you go home, tell them of us  
and say,

For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

John Maxwell Edmonds



### Bedlington War Memorial

Completed in early October 2017, The Town Council has commissioned a new accessible pathway and seating area at the War Memorial on Front Street Bedlington which we hope will be enjoyed by all.

We hope the pathway designed and constructed by local firm W L Straughan & Son Ltd will enhance the existing Memorial with the provision of additional seating and some enhanced year round planting. Set back behind the War Memorial, away from the road the area should provide a quieter more tranquil place for reflection and contemplation.

The seats are World War One memorial benches and they have been specifically designed to be the mirror image of one another.

The project was made possible by financial contributions from our Northumberland County Councillors Members' Improvement scheme funding and West Bedlington Town Council wishes to publically thank County Councillors Bill Crosby, Jeff Gobin, Malcolm Robinson and Russ Wallace for their very kind and generous contributions.

# Poppy Appeal

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Organiser: Mr. S Graham

Contact: 01670 731196 or  
[sydneygraham804@gmail.com](mailto:sydneygraham804@gmail.com)

A full range of poppies, crosses, car poppies, stickers, metal pin badges, wreaths and other remembrance items are available for immediate delivery. Special wreaths with logo for your organisation can be obtained within 7 days.

Support our armed forces,  
those who are serving and  
those who have served.

Registered No. 219279 under the Charities Act, 1960





# Salvation Army Summer Club

**The Salvation Army in Bedlington work with the local community from new-born babies to people approaching their centenary year. Our weekday programme is non-stop, from Parent and Toddlers on a Monday morning to DV8 youth club or Messy Church on a Friday evening.**

Many of our sessions work on a membership basis, but some of the programme such as Seated Aerobics, Games Club or The Soup Spot are open to anyone to drop in and join in. An average (I won't say normal!) week covers three Parent and Toddler groups, Home League, Bible Study group, Lunch Club, Over 60s, Seated Aerobics, Games Club, CAMEO, The Soup Spot and either DV8 Youth Club or Messy Church. In between our programme Slimming World have two sessions, Mind Active deliver their Activity Day using our catering kitchen and Guidepost Artists group meet together to paint and draw.

Wherever we do have to charge for activities the cost is kept to a minimum

in order to keep the programme running, but no profit is made.

Anyone who would like information on any part of our programme please drop into the centre or give us a ring on 01670 829356.

During the first two weeks of the schools' summer break we offered Summer Club for children over 6 years old. Both weeks were fully subscribed with our maximum of 30 children each day. We all had great fun playing indoor and outdoor games, doing craft activities, hearing stories and singing songs. Each day finished off with lunch for all the children before they were collected. Fish fingers, sausages, burgers, bolognese, sandwiches and ice cream were all consumed in record quantities.

We are very grateful to West Bedlington Town Council who gave us a Community Chest Grant of £500 to cover the shortfall between the minimal charge we make for each child and the outlay to cover two weeks food, crafts and activities. As always, we tried to spend it wisely on games and equipment that are sustainable and will be used for many summers to come.



## Interested in Volunteering?

**Bedlington Community Centre are looking to recruit new Trustees who will work with current Trustees to assist in building on the work that has already been ongoing for the last 5 years.**

The position of Trustee is a voluntary one although reasonable travel expenses will be paid.

Your time commitments? Board meetings are held four times per year, however Trustees share the responsibilities for opening and locking the building as required. The board will be looking for someone who has good organisational skills, common sense and is a good team member as the current group of volunteers are a small dedicated group.

If you are interested please contact Bedlington Community Centre on 01670 824141 or email at [bedlingtoncommunitycentre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bedlingtoncommunitycentre@hotmail.co.uk)





# COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS



## West Bedlington Town Council has a 'Community Chest' scheme which gives local voluntary groups and organisations a chance to bid for funding.

This might be to help establish a new group or to carry out extra activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do - e.g. sporting activities, arts, music or craft group, new equipment for a youth club - but these ideas will be coming from the community themselves.

To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate clearly that any funding from West Bedlington Town Council will benefit the Town, or residents of the Town.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the Full Council. In determining the validity of an application, the Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Applications will be considered for the following purposes:

1. For the purpose of purchasing equipment or materials either in part or in full.
2. For the purchase of services e.g. venue hire or transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes.
3. For running costs (but not wages) of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
4. For the provision of recreational activities and facilities.
5. For activities that raise the profile of the area.

There is £5,000 available for community grants in the current financial year.

Application forms are available from the Council's web page or from the Council's Office

## Community Chest awards made so far this financial year include:

Organisation	Brief Purpose	Amount of Award
Bedlington Juniors Football Club	Football Equipment	£332
Northumberland Community Enterprise Ltd	Provision of monthly activities for residents at Bedlington Community Allotment	£500
The Salvation Army	Summer Activities For Children	£500
Morpeth & District Cage Birds Society	Room Hire for Annual Show	£200
Bedlington Creatives	Bringing Art To Bedlington	£500
Bedlington Boxing Club	Provision of Boxing Event	£500

## A story from one of our beneficiaries Northumberland Community Enterprise at Bedlington Community Allotment

West Bedlington Town Council awarded Northumberland Community Enterprise £500 to provide a range of gardening associated activities at its Bedlington Community Allotment.

The Community Allotment is situated at Plot 13 within the Doctor Pit Allotments Bedlington (access from Park Road or Hassop Way). Drop in sessions "free and open to all" are on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon where you can join in



the gardening activities or simply observe and enjoy the tranquil environment of the allotment.

The allotment plot has 13 raised beds which can be accessed by

all, including wheelchair users and volunteers are always on hand to provide knowledgeable advice, guidance and encouragement.

Regular plant and produce sales take place - you are sure to pick up a bargain.

Call in no appointment or garden experience needed.

Have a look at a further article from one of our other benefactors (The Salvation Army - Summer Club) elsewhere in this newsletter.

# Ashington Blyth and Tyne Railway Association (ABTRA)

Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Railway Association (ABTRA) was formed in July 2016 to help preserve and promote the history around the Ashington Blyth and Tyne railway line including but not limited to colliery systems, waggon ways and the Bedlington Iron & Loco works.

Whilst the group is in its infancy we have had some positive meetings including one with Network Rail where we discussed a good deal more than just weed clearance and rubbish removal at the disused Bedlington Station and its associated buildings.

In addition the group has also held meetings with Harworth Estates regarding the unused rail link at Ashington (known locally as the Butterwell branch).

Discussions with Northumberland County Council with regard to pit tub memorials with a view to the group repairing the tubs and enhancing the areas in which they stand.

However as mentioned we are still a small group and in order for us to move forward we require more members and funds to carry out our proposals.

The group have also discussed the possibility of opening a small museum in Bedlington, to promote the history of the area such as Sir Daniel Gooch who identified the site of the Swindon works, and who was actually born and grew up in

what is now The Grapes Public House on Bedlington Front Street.

If you would like to become a member or consider making a donation to the group, please contact the Secretary for more information at:  
[abtra.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:abtra.secretary@outlook.com)

To keep up to date with news and developments by ABTRA follow us on:

Facebook [/abtra.northumberland](https://www.facebook.com/abtra.northumberland)

Twitter [@abtra\\_nland](https://twitter.com/abtra_nland)

or our blog [www.abtra.wordpress.com](http://www.abtra.wordpress.com)

Any help you could provide would be greatly appreciated by us.

Thanks for taking time to read this article.

Regards the ABTRA committee.



## More Christmas Lights in the town

**Further to our pledge last year to continue to enhance the town's festive glow, we have purchased additional Christmas lights which will be placed on lamp posts down Glebe Bank, along Schalksmuhle Road and will re-join the front Street at the corner of the Northumberland Arms. In addition, we are replacing and adding to the lights around the Market Square as well as those on the Christmas tree.**

Last year we placed heras fencing around the tree to deter people from climbing on the tree, we received a number of negative comments

about how this detracted from the spectacular tree, so this year we have purchased a white picket fence which will be placed around the base of the tree and will hopefully act as a barrier to remind some people that the tree is for decorative purposes and is there to be viewed and enjoyed by all residents of the town.

### Christmas date for your diary

West Bedlington Town Council's Christmas Lights Switch on Event will be on Friday 1st December 2017. Details of the event are still to be finalised but we feel sure it will be a night to remember.

Look out for more details of the event locally and on the Council's website.





# Bedlington Picnic 2017

**Here in Bedlington we all love a party and it's been another great year for events in the town. It was with great pleasure that we could bring back the Bedlington Picnic for a second year, this time as a West Bedlington Town Council event.**

For those of you who can remember the week leading up to the 1st July, you may recall nothing but grey skies, rain and a very worried look on the faces of anyone involved with the event - the night before our team visited Attlee Park for a site assessment and were up to their ankles in water, but the forecast was for sun! Eventually, at 9am on the Saturday morning, the sun broke through and set the scene for a terrific day!

Last year was an amazing first year (albeit a wet one) but this year we surpassed ourselves and we were really able to show the community spirit we have going here in Bedlington! Bigger and better than 2016, the Picnic was everything we wanted and more. Our home-grown performers and stall holders absolutely excelled themselves with their wonderful ideas and truly entertaining offerings; everyone involved has been an absolute credit to the town!

Our event began with Bedlington Brass Band coming out to start the show in style with their traditional tunes. Our

Bedlington Choir and Ukulele group wowed the crowds with songs old and new while dancer Paris Lee and the Callie Griffiths School of Dance dazzled with their fantastic repertoires. Blyth Valley Samba livened the pace with their upbeat style, while Bedlington's own songstress Arieanne Masters was a perfect complement to a sunny afternoon. The programme finished with a Battle of the Bands where local bands Quantas Never Crashes, The Lighter Nights, Sonic Void, The Fury Remains and Far Pacific kept the audience rocking on!

Our stall holders were incredible and it was fantastic to see our local organisations represented: Our glorious girls from Bedlington in Bloom came along to show us their green fingers and the wonderful work they have been undertaking in the town, while the Community Allotment showcased their achievements in the community. Bedlington Terriers joined us for some footballing fun, Paramount Gym with some fitness finesse, while Bedlington and Netherton WI set the scene with a great selection of fun. The Hope Church provided an incredible range of activities and crafts with information on their amazing work in the town, St Cuthbert's Church brought with them a lovely stall and lots of smiles and Bedlington Brownies offered some amazing crafts for the day. DW Media gave us a fantastic photobooth experience with a Beauty and the Beast characters adding to the experience. Our local groups were

able to fundraise for good causes too, with stalls from ABRTA (Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Railway Association), Chernobyl Children, Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Bedlington lad Callum Appleby for his Ecuador fund. Finally huge thanks must be given to Morrisons, who again, provided free picnics to younger Bedlingtonians and kept the rest of us going with free baked products as well as running a Lego club and fundraising for their Clic Sergeant Appeal.

Elsewhere on the field our four-legged friends were taken care of with a fantastic dog-show with categories for Bedlington Terriers alongside other fun classes. Punch and Judy, balloon modelling, face-painting and story-telling were all offered free for children and many happy faces were seen enjoying these throughout the day!

As a town we have a lot to be proud of in showing what we can achieve when we work together. This year we were very kindly supported both financially and on the day by former NCC councillor Val Tyler, we have had some great community volunteers supporting us: Daniel Wilkinson, Alison Healy and Dave Johnson - thanks so much for your help!

Planning for next year will be starting soon! If anyone would like to get involved in making 2018 great, please get in touch at [bedlingtonpicnic@gmail.com](mailto:bedlingtonpicnic@gmail.com) or via our facebook site.

# West Bedlington Town Council



## Happy Halloween Halloween Disco

at Bedlingtonshire Golf Club

Tuesday 31st October 2017, 4.30pm - 9pm

Apple Bobbing

Zombie Walk

Games

Free Hot Dogs

Best Carved  
Pumpkin/Turnip

Fancy Dress  
Competition

## Free Event Open to ALL



# AUTUMN and WINTER at ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

## Monthly coffee mornings 10:00am - 12:00noon

Saturday, October 7th

Saturday, November 4th

Saturday, January 6th

Saturday, February 3rd

Refreshments and many stalls, including: Raffle, White Elephant, Toys & Games, Tombola, Cards

September: Home Produce stall.

October/November: Christmas stall and Christmas cards

**FREE  
ENTRY**

## Autumn Quiz

Friday, October 20th  
at 7:00pm

(doors open 6:30pm)

A fun, general knowledge quiz.

You are welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks

Tel: 01670 828493

**Tickets  
£3.50  
(u-16 £2)**

## Grand Auction

Saturday, November 18th

Viewing 10:00am-12noon  
Auction 2:00pm onwards

Donations of auction items gratefully received from October onwards.

Sorry - no furniture or books.

If you need your items collected telephone

**Entry  
£1.00  
Pay on door**

## Annual

## Christmas Fayre

Saturday, December 2nd  
at 10:00am until 1:00pm

Refreshments available throughout.

Stalls include : Toys and Games, Tombola, Grand Prize Draw, Bag-O-Fun, Home Produce, Wine Or Water? Soft Toy Tombola, Crafts, Raffle, Christmas Stall, White Elephant, Sweet Tombola.

Santa's Grotto (11:00am-12:00noon) Live Musical Entertainment

**FREE  
Entry**

# What's been going on at The Council?

Councillor Christine Taylor

Well the biggest changes were made in May following the elections, there were changes in administrations at both County and Town level.

Well the biggest changes were made in May following the elections, there were changes in administrations at both County and Town level. Three out of four Bedlington County Councillors were exchanged, Labour for Independents, with Terry Johnstone being replaced by Malcolm Robinson, Russ Wallace superseded Alyson Wallace (no relation) and finally Bill Crosby took up the reigns in place of Val Tyler. I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the outgoing Councillors and congratulate the new incumbents. We are looking forward to working with you all over the next four years, and to start the ball rolling, I issued an invitation to the new County Councillors to attend and provide updates for residents at the West Bedlington Town Council full council meetings. To date they have attended all meetings and provided full round ups of their activities as well as what's going on in the county, giving

residents a better insight into activities. So if you want to know more of what's going on get yourself along to West Bedlington Town Council meetings. They are held on the second Thursday of every month starting at 18.30, everyone is welcome.

At Town Council level, we also had a change in administration with new faces joining the Town Council and I've outlined these changes in my foreword.

Following the changes in the County Administration, I was pleased to hear about the devolvement of decision making to Local Area Committees. However further announcements revealed that we would be coupled with Cramlington and Seaton Valley. Whatever your opinion I feel that localised decision making has to be better in the longer run as local knowledge and expertise inevitable, leads to more sound solutions for local



issues. To date most of these meeting have taken place in Cramlington with just the last one being held in Bedlington, however there are plans to host these more evenly across the area and there will be another one soon in Bedlington's Netherton Club.

Over the last two years West Bedlington Town Council have focused on renewing our assets and we have invested heavily in bus shelters and playground equipment. Those now out of the way we have shifted our efforts and are looking at maintenance for these assets. We previously budgeted for an operative and to push forward with this we have set up a working group to look at what we hope to gain from having a handyman and the associated costs to fund him/her/ them. This working group is being led by Councillor Kathleen Roach who is reporting to full council with her findings, hopefully this work will progress quickly and we will have a plan outlined in the very near future.

Work is continuing to enhance the Christmas lighting and we will have Christmas lights all up Front Street, down Glebe Bank and along Schalksmuhle Road, re-joining Front Street at the Northumberland Arms junction. I think this will give us a fantastic display of lights which will enhance the Christmas feeling for everyone to enjoy. Of course the focus will still be the Christmas tree in the Market Square. I'm hoping our investment in the Christmas





decorations will remain vandal free and would appeal if anyone sees or hears about any vandalism in our town please contact the police immediately or ring the Council office on 01670 457070.

As a council we have successfully delivered a number of events during the summer period. The Picnic, see the full write up from Councillor Victoria Thompson, was a fantastic event for all the family. Also I was asked to organise and run my first ever dog show. Thankfully I didn't do this single handedly and I put in a call to Peter Arris of the Bedlington Terrier North East Group, what a fantastic bunch of people, they turned up in their droves to support and assist with the event which was really well supported by residents. I didn't sit down all day and called in favours from my friends, Mrs Doreen Richardson who judged the dog the judge would most like to take home, had difficulty selecting a winner. I think she wanted to take them all home!!

August saw the street Carnival, a fun fair, Disney Princesses, a fabulous compare, live music from a jazz band and a headline Little Mix tribute act. This along with a Scarecrow competition provided something for everyone. Special thanks should go to Charmaine Hamilton who organised the event and Councillor David Graham who ensured it all ran smoothly on the day.

In between our two events West

Bedlington Town Council was pleased to offer financial support to the Bedlington Northumberland Live event. I attended on the day with my family and we all had a great day out. I understand that plans are going on to provide another event next year.

Looking forward we have two events in the pipeline, the first one for Halloween on Tuesday the 31st October. It's a free event which is being held at Bedlington's Golf Club, starting at 16:30 until 21:00. We have prizes for the best carved pumpkin/turnip (it was always a turnip when I was a kid), fancy dress, best family etc. We will have a disco and zombie walk, apple bobbing and other games and the golf club are putting on Hot dogs and toffee apples free of charge for all attending children. It is the first time we have held this event so please do come along and support it.

Our last event will be the Christmas

switch on to be held on Friday the 1st of December from 16.30hrs in the market Square, details will be circulated at a later date.

On a personal level, some noteworthy events I've been invited to include the People Art exhibition at St Cuthbert's Church. I was very impressed by the standard and quality of this art work, we have some truly talented people in Bedlington. I also assisted with the litter pick in Gallagher Park, a gem right on our doorstep. A number of volunteers gave their time to clear several bags of rubbish, so a big thank you to Councillor and Mrs Crosby for organising and well done to all the volunteers.

Next on the Councils agenda is budget setting and forward planning for 2018/19 and in line with the last two years we will be looking to reduce costs while delivering more to our residents. Easier said than done!



# WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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## Contact details for the Council Office



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### Office Opening times

The office is generally open Monday Wednesday and Friday (9.30am - 5.00pm)

However and regrettably due to staffing levels we cannot guarantee any fixed opening times.

We would advise that in the first instance you contact us via telephone or e mail and we will endeavour to answer your query or if you prefer we can arrange an appointment at the office.



**WEST BEDLINGTON  
TOWN COUNCIL**