



Annual Report 2017/18

Volume 12 — Issue 1

June 2018

Welcome to Waldridge Parish Council's Annual Report

**This report describes the main achievements of
Waldridge Parish Council during 2017 — 2018**

**It also gives details about the services / activities provided by the
Council**



Overview by Chairman - Cllr Howell Davies

Over the past 12 months we have organised and held many events which will be discussed later in our Annual Report. We review these activities on a regular basis and are always looking for ways to improve and extend them. If any residents have any ideas we are more than happy to listen and see what we can do to include them in future events. I am particularly keen to get our older residents involved and I am looking for ideas and activities that would be of interest and hopefully get them away from "Coronation Street" for an hour or so.



The Parish Council would also love to hear from any residents that might be able to spare some time, however small, to help out with setting up on our fun days or perhaps taking part in one of the litter picks in an effort to keep the Parish looking good. Keeping the Parish, especially the flower beds, in tip top condition is ongoing as the seasons change and takes quite a lot of work. The bulk of the work is carried out by Councillor Geoff Cork, our Caretaker Brian Laidler and a small band of volunteers. Their efforts have gained the Parish the highly sort after Northumbria in Bloom 'Silver Gilt' award, which we are all very proud of.

This year we will trialling a new competition with our neighbouring communities through the Chester le Street AAP called "Chester's Best". Cllr Geoff Cork has been very instrumental in leading this activity and has gained support all over the town. If anyone would like to help out at all please get in touch.

You might have also noticed that quite a lot of work has been carried out on the Millennium Green over the last few years with tree pruning and general tidying up. With the addition of the goal post and the fun ball hoop the area is being used on a regular basis and we hope is a safe environment for children to play in and enjoy the facilities. If you have any ideas on how we can grow this area with additional facilities, again I ask that you let us know.

Members of the Parish Council feel privileged to live in our area and as volunteers will all strive to do our best for our Parish by giving up personal time and energy to help sustain and improve the community in which we all live. I would like to thank the members of our Parish Council, our County Councillors Allan Bainbridge and Paul Sexton, Durham Constabulary and Neighbourhood Wardens for the time and effort they dedicate throughout the year within our community. I would especially like to thank Angela Foster, the Clerk of the Parish and Brian Laidler our Parish Caretaker, for all of the unseen hard work throughout the year. We would not be able to survive without their support.

We hand deliver the clippings quarterly to every household in the Parish, if you would prefer to have yours via email, please contact the Clerk or checkout the website for details. I look forward to seeing you at events held throughout the year and also at our monthly Parish Meetings, everyone is welcome.

Don't forget you can hire the

Parish rooms at 1 Poplar Street, Waldrige Village

There is a large carpeted room, a kitchen with cooker, amenities and toilet facilities £3.00 per hour or £5.00 per hour for use of kitchen facilities

TO CONTACT THE CLERK

MRS ANGELA FOSTER

**4 STAINMORE DRIVE, GREAT LUMLEY,
CHESTER-LE-STREET**

0191 38814168

parishclerk@waldrigeparish.co.uk

3 *Working Group — Community events*

Our Working Group have been working hard on community engagement and planned some wonderful events & schemes for our residents.

We have launched a Kindness Campaign in order to motivate our residents to 'Be Kind in Waldrige'. The campaign was initiated with random acts of kindness in our community. We have distributed books, flowers, seedlings and peg dolls throughout our parish for our residents to find and will continue to develop this further. We've also arranged some events that stem from the Kindness Campaign including the 'Big Waldrige Spring Clean' and our 'Post a Smile' letter-writing morning. We've shown kindness to our animal friends too, by hanging bird fat around the Millennium Green, and we hope to expand on this in the coming months.



Residents are also invited to nominate their neighbours and fellow-parishioners for a 'Box of Kindness' each month, which acknowledges and encourages the lovely community spirit that is ever-present in Waldrige.



To support the initiative we've created a hashtag (#bekindinwaldrige) so our residents can track what we are doing and share their own acts of kindness. Social media is something we are exploring as a useful tool to further engage our residents and our 'Be Kind In Waldrige' Facebook & Instagram pages have gained more than 100 followers each in a little over 3 months.

We've also expanded on our seasonal events, initially with the Easter Funday which was a fantastic and successful day. We plan to replicate this success over the Christmas period with another craft event for our younger residents, as well as a showing of a classic film in the parish rooms for our older parishioners.

Our biggest event of the year will be 'Pizza and Prosecco at The Pictures' in August, which consists of an open-air screening of The Greatest Showman on our Millennium Green and a pizza van and prosecco van serving food and drink. Tickets for the showing will be complementary and the food and drinks vans are offering our residents reduced rates for their products.

We're also exploring ways in which we can fundraise and contribute to an array of charities. The 'Grow Gold' idea initiated by Cllr Cork, in which he has coordinated golden flower displays in the parish to raise awareness of childhood cancer, has led to us raising £300 so far for North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund. We're also managing a sponsored 'toddle' for our littlest residents in order to raise money for Barnados in June and will be holding our annual 'Beating the Bounds Walk in June.

4 *Receipts and payment account*

Payments

Salaries	13,127.54
Fuel, Water & Tax	1,591.74
.00Planting	6,459.75
Printing, audit, ins, & subs	3,414.57
Grants award inc Tombola income	616.00
Repairs, sundries & projects	10025.65
Petty cash	244.24
Training, publication, website	824.78
Events	2683.31

Receipts

Precept & grant	30620
Room hire	697.00
Interest/credit	10.92
Donations	991.56
Allotment rent	736.87
VAT	1443.26
Funding	
Other	323.00

Balance at 1 April 2017	£46,850.02
Add total income	£34,822.61
Less total expenditure	£38,987.58
Balance at 31 March 2018	£42,685.05

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2018 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year

Several projects in the Parish have been delayed during the year. Money left over will pay for these in the coming year.

‘Waldridge in Bloom’

Last year we decided to take break from NIB. But did decide to take part in the new competition "Chesters Best" wining a Gold award for the Waldridge Parish. We also won a number of gold awards for the private gardens with an awards night at the Riverside cricket ground.

This year we have decided to re enter the NIB competition with new and exciting projects. One of these being the "Grow for Gold" which is a project of growing yellow or gold flowers drawing attention to illnesses caused through children's cancer. Which we have raised £300 towards children's cancer charity.



**You can contact your Parish Councillor on the telephone number listed on page 8, through the website at www.waldridgeparish.co.uk or via the Parish Clerk on 0191 3881468—
parishclerk@waldridgeparish.co.uk**

5 ***Schedule of meetings***

Waldridge Parish Council has 10 members at present, see back page for their details. We have one Clerk and a handyperson and meet 11 times per year. The Neighbourhood police attend our meetings and give a monthly report of all reported activities. Allan Bainbridge and Paul Sexton the Durham County Councillors also attend and are very much involved in helping the Parish run smoothly.



All meetings are held in the Parish Rooms, 1 Poplar Street, Waldridge Village at 7.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month (except August). All members of the public are welcome to attend, except where it is notified that a particular item of business is exempt under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Notice of all meetings can be found on the Parish notice boards and the website one week prior to the meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held at 6.00pm, usually before the ordinary meeting, but check the website for confirmation of this. Here the Parish Councillors, County Councillors, Neighbourhood Police and Wardens will be in attendance to take your questions. We also try to find guest speakers, if you would like to see a specific subject discussed, please do let us know and we will do our best to accommodate.



What the future holds?

- Continue to help residents with their queries and concerns. If you have anything you would like to Parish Council to help you with, just give us a shout, remember we are an extra voice for you
- Expand on the many beds that we have to improve the appearance of our Parish
- Hold our usual events Funday, Easter and Halloween, we look forward to seeing you there. We are also holding an event to commemorate the end of the World War 1 on 11 November 2018
- The working group have arranged for a cinema on the Millennium Green on 2 August, watch out for more info.
- Improve the Parish rooms to make them more attractive to residents.
- Install a small play area on the Millennium Green for our younger residents
- Install a seat on the Millennium green so residents can enjoy a rest while visiting our lovely green space
- The Council have agreed to pay for 12 lights on the C11 which should help everyone stay safe on the long winter nights



Allotments

The Waldrige Allotment Association have dramatically decreased the waiting list.

You can find the waiting list on the website, if you live in the Parish and would like your name adding to the list, you will be given a unique number to keep track on your position.

Having your say

Our Facebook group is proving very popular, keep up to date with everything that is going on. We deliver the Clippings direct to your door 4 times per year. If you would like to sign up, please check out the website.

Millennium Green

This is a great asset to our community, whilst we hold many events on the green, it is also used by residents to walk, rest and play. Why not go and enjoy the green space.



Awards for our community

The Parish Council received a lot of requests this year through their grant awarding policy scheme. The Council decided to support the following:

Citizens Advice

Waldrige Craft Club

If your charity / non profit making organisation would like to apply for next year, contact the Clerk. They are given out annually at the award evening in November.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council discuss and comment on all planning applications at their monthly meeting. They have considered and responded to 17 applications in the last year. Application requests can range from a conservatory to a newbuild.

If you would like to find out about any applications in your area, visit the website (under meetings) or contact the Clerk.

Notice Boards

The Parish have three notice boards one situated at Fenton Close and one at the Parish Rooms, and one on the Millennium Green. This is an important means of communicating with the public. We are willing to display notices for community groups to advertise your various events and fundraising opportunities. Please contact the Clerk if you have something to display. We plan on erecting another one on the C11 road, at the top of Falstone Drive, we could install a further one in the near future.

7 *Award evening*

In October we held our annual award evening. We gave awards for all the competitions (below) and the grants which we awarded.



Photograph

The winning entry was put onto canvas and is displayed in the Parish rooms. We had two winners from the over 18's category, **Derek Hall** and **Billy Atkinson** and **William Beatty** for the under 18's. They all received Metrocentre vouchers. Start taking your photos now for next years competition, especially you younger budding photographers.

You can view all the photos entered on the website and on our Facebook page.

Citizen / neighbour of the year

We didn't receive much interest in this award this year, which is a shame as there must be loads of people out there who deserve this award. The winners were chosen for their commitment to help others in need. However we have started a Kindness campaign, check working group for more info

Gilliam Ferry — over 18's

Unfortunately no under 18's nominated this year, if you know of any children that deserves an award, please do let us know.



Best Kept Garden — (Jackie Donkin Award)

Once again the areas were split into 4, giving all estates an equal chance of winning. This year it was the **Waldridge Village** which won overall. **3 Olive Street**, received a trophy and £50 of garden centre vouchers.

The other winners were **12 Dronfield Close** for Waldridge Park, **23 Embleton Drive** for the Deanside estate, **2 Summerfields** for Poppyfields estate and the best front door display went to **39 Denwick Close**. They all received their prizes at the award evening held in October.

This year we would like you to nominate either yourself or a neighbour.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK
OUT OUR WEBSITE**

www.waldridgeparish.co.uk

Meet your Councillors



Cllr Howell Davies (chair)
11 Rothbury Close
07900827284



Cllr Geoff Cork (Vice Chair)
47 Dustan Close
0191 3889837



Cllr Kathleen Foster
20 Fenton Close
0191 3889221



Cllr Glenn Martin
8 Denwick Close
078663396698



Cllr Melanie Howie
15 Falstone Drive
0191 3883375



Cllr Katie Warren
6 Cheviot Close
07720 316248



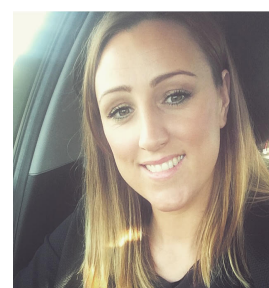
Cllr Kat Harding
2 Pine Street
07730480963



Cllr Paul Sexton
38 Chillingham Drive
07595 342901



Cllr Graham Bell
New to the council
18/19



Cllr Helen Corner
New to the council
18/19

Many thanks for taking the time to read our Annual Report. The Council is here to serve everyone in the area, so if you have any views or ideas to help improve the work of the Parish Council, please let us know as we are interested to hear them.

Suggestions for new projects we could take up in the future are also welcome.

We are also here to represent the views of the residents, so if there are any issues you would like the Council to take up on your behalf, please do let us know and we will do our best to help you.