

NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



AUTUMN 2013



Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 11th December 2013 at Belmont Community School, receiving guests at 1:15 p.m. for a performance of 'Robin Hood' at 1:30 p.m.

Everyone welcome

If you would like to attend, please telephone the Parish Office on 0191 386 0664.

Transport is available on request to the Parish Office.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES AT BELMONT WAR MEMORIAL

Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2013

A Remembrance Day Service will be held at 9:30 a.m. at St Mary Magdalene Church. An Act of Remembrance will commence at 10:30 a.m. at Belmont War Memorial.

Everyone welcome

Light refreshments will be available in Belmont Parish Hall following the Act of Remembrance – Please do join us.

NOTICE OF PLANNING MEETING

County Durham Plan Pre-Submission Consultation will be held from 14th October 2013 to 6th December 2013.

Find out more at a Presentation at Belmont Community Centre on Wednesday 27th November 2013 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE

An application to build 350 Student Accommodation Units in Renny's Lane, Gilesgate Moor, is due to go to Durham County Planning Committee in December 2013 or January 2014.

An officer will be at the above meeting to answer any questions relating to this Student Accommodation Application.

The Planning Application to build 54 units, including flats, near Willowtree Avenue in Gilesgate Moor was **REFUSED** by D.C.C. Area Planning Committee. Strong objections and a request for rejection were made by the Local County Councillors, Belmont Parish Council and a residents' representative who strongly objected to this high density plan on greenfield land, which potentially would have greatly increased traffic problems in the area. On behalf of many local residents, grave concerns about the adverse effects of the proposal were firmly stated.

Activities on Belmont Scrambles

The Friends of Belmont Scrambles (FOBS) manage this lovely wildlife site on behalf of the Parish Council, repairing steps and paths, and also maintaining and improving the various habitats.

Jobs done by FOBS members over the past few months include repairs to the Coniston Close steps, removing Himalayan Balsam (which is constantly threatening to intrude close to Pittington Beck), and spreading wild flower seeds.

Late this summer the main and smaller meadows received their annual cut and rake, which should result in another fine display of wild flowers next spring and summer (during the last two years, orchids have been especially prominent). This practice has now been extended to the triangular area inside the Cheveley Walk entrance, and on warm days during the summer this area was alive with butterflies.

The approaches to the boardwalks on the path below Coniston Close often become muddy after rain, so the boardwalks are to be extended, the cost being met by the Parish Council.

Twice a year FOBS members hold a litter-pick, at which members of the public are invited to help.

For the last three months FOBS members have been receiving by email a regular 'flower of the week' (species to be found on the Scrambles). Anyone interested in joining the emailing list, and helping the FOBS group with the work it is doing, is invited to contact the chairman, Ken Neat (ken@kenneat.wanadoo.co.uk).

This year's autumn litter-pick will be held on Sunday, 17th November at 2.30 p.m, meeting at Cheveley Walk entrance.

Litter-picking sticks will be provided, but please do wear gloves, as well as sensible clothing and footwear.



The main Scrambles meadow after its annual cut. Sadly, the bales cannot be used for hay - because of dog-fouling.

Children's Art Competition

In association with the Northumbria in Bloom Competition we held our own Children's Art Competition, which was open to all primary schools in our parish. Book tokens were awarded to the individual winners in each school and plants were awarded to the schools of overall winners in each age category.

The prizes were presented in Belmont Library by the Mayor of Durham and Chairman of Durham County Council, Cllr Pauline Charlton. As in previous years we are grateful to Dunelm Florist for providing the Mayor's bouquet. Once again we plan to bring together the artwork and technical expertise of students of Belmont Community School in the production of calendars which will be available from Belmont Library for a small donation to go to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

Beautiful Durham

In the beautiful Durham competition we were delighted that the Parish won the cup for the Best Large Village. Thanks are due to our contractor for attractive planting throughout the district and for his additional voluntary assistance but also to those who maintain tidy, eye-catching gardens

Special congratulations go to residents who were awarded Certificates of Merit - they are Mr & Mrs Rowell, Belmont; Mr Brown, Carrville; and Brenda Harvey, Durham City Homes, Carrville. The Parish Council really appreciates all efforts to improve and bring floral colour to our neighbourhood and would like to hear from any members of the public who have planting ideas to share with our small planting scheme working group – just give the parish office a ring.

Northumbria In Bloom

The Belmont Parish area of Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor, won silver in the Urban Community category of the Northumbria in Bloom Competition. We were delighted to maintain our standard with complimentary comments from the judges on residential and community gardens as well as conservation and biodiversity. Once again Ramside Hall Hotel won Gold in the Whitley Bay Trophy Licensed Premises category and the Friends of Belmont Scrambles and Belmont Allotments are awaiting the results in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition.

We are always being urged to encourage community involvement and look for sponsorship and we are gradually making headway. We are pleased that once again the children of Durham Gilesgate Primary School helped plant-up tubs in Millhouse Court. The Millennium flowerbed near Belmont

Church is sponsored by North East Site Maintenance, the flowerbed near the Shell Petrol Station is sponsored by Sanderson's Nurseries, also Paul Bowden's Hairdressers, on Carrville High Street, has recently agreed to sponsor a flowerbed. We are very appreciative of their support and would welcome any similar offers towards the upkeep of a bed or tub from any business or individual. We hope to arrange for small plaques to mark such generosity.

Cheveley Park Play Area

Since its refurbishment and the installation of a wider variety of equipment, the Cheveley Park Play Area has again become a popular and well used venue for children and youths of all ages from the Belmont Parish. Whilst it has been good to see so many children enjoying their play, unfortunately, with the increased popularity has come an element of antisocial behaviour, which takes two main forms: littering and vandalism. Despite the presence of four refuse bins the area is frequently littered and costs time and money to clear.

Regrettably, when a length of the boundary fence along Brackendale Road was repaired it was uprooted within hours of being installed. Since then further lengths of fence have been vandalised.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the fence and parish council tax contributes to this upkeep. However, the council does not have unlimited funds for dealing with wilful damage caused by a few individuals. The fence will be replaced and we feel sure parents and adults will do all they can to encourage young people to use all play areas responsibly and not damage or spoil facilities provided for the pleasure and recreation of all.

Tribute to Raymond Schofield

Members and staff of Belmont Parish Council were very sorry to hear of the sad death of Mr Raymond Schofield. Ray was frequently to be seen tending the gardens of local residents or cutting the grass of the local pub and restaurant. He looked after Belmont Cemetery for over twenty years. He gave immaculate care and attention to his work which was greatly appreciated.

Ray was never too busy for a cheery word or maybe a prediction of the weather. He was much respected and will be missed by many.

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Mrs Schofield and family.

Dates for Parish Council Meetings	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
<p>held in Belmont Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. (first Thursday of the month, excluding August)</p> <p>Next meetings on</p> <p>7th November 2013 / 5th December 2013 / 2nd January 2014</p> <p>Members of the public are always welcome to attend to express their views or raise concerns.</p>	<p>Highways Action Line 0191 370 6000 Neighbourhood Warden 0300 026 1000 (Streetscene) County Council Help Desk 0300 123 7070</p> <p><u>Community Police Officer</u> PC Nicola Quarmby can be contacted on the police non-emergency number 0345 606 0365 or Tel: 101 Ext. 661 4820</p>

Parish Councillors

<u>Belmont Area</u>	<u>Carrville Area</u>	<u>Gilesgate Moor Area</u>
Eric Mavin 386 9031 Beatrijs Muylaert 375 7844 Arthur Walker 384 6282 Rosemary Murphy 07747 077 690 Graham Robinson-Lundy 07598960649	Barbara Howarth 384 2224 Katie Corrigan 0300 268 700 Tom Charlton 386 8557 Joe Knight 386 2902 Lesley Mavin 386 9031	Sydney Inglis 384 6023 Dennis Southwell 386 4838 Patrick Conway 0300 268 698 June Corrigan 659 1014 Diane Waggott 386 3701

Parish Clerk Mrs C. Atkinson 0191 386 0664

STOP PRESS WINTER/CHRISTMAS FAIRS to note and enjoy:

Belmont Comm. Assoc. at Belmont Community Centre - Saturday 16th November 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Belmont Community School - Saturday 23rd November 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Belmont Parish Hall - Saturday 30th November 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Carrville Methodist Church - Saturday 7th December 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.