

NAWTON



PARISH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

REFLECTION

Strangely, social isolation has brought people together in a new way. Communities have rallied round to ensure that no one is left forgotten, without support. Volunteers have shopped and made deliveries of essential food and medicines and people have been looking out for their neighbour's more than usual.

Social media and modern technology has meant that people have been able to connect together for work meetings, school work, chats with family and friends, exercise classes, singing etc.

Everyone has been affected in some way and we have all had to make adjustments to their everyday life; by staying at home except for essential trips, by working and learning from home and by putting their skills, knowledge and experiences to new uses, finding new ways to offer help and support to others during this difficult time.

I hope we will all learn from this experience and it will help us build a better world. Maybe it will remind us that we are all part of one big family - humans around the world have been suffering, struggling, sharing and supporting one another, reaching out and connecting.

When life begins to return to normal, I hope it will have changed us for the better. Maybe we will remember what isolation feels like and continue to check up on our elderly neighbour's, offer to shop occasionally, call granny and granddad more often, connect with those we love, value those we rely on - our NHS, our teachers, our cleaners, delivery drivers, shop assistants etc.

Maybe we will be more willing to give a cheery wave or friendly hello, or stop for a quick chat instead of passing by someone we don't know very well. This collective experience has shown us we all need each other. We don't and can't exist in isolation. Let's not be strangers.

Rebecca Hall

Nawton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Chairman's report
 - road safety
 - affordable housing
 - planning and conservation
 - miscellaneous other issues
3. Items raised by electors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ Dickinson', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Russ Dickinson
Chairman
1 April 2020

Nawton Parish Newsletter – Contents

Page number

Chairman’s statement

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|
| 1. | Affordable housing | 2 |
| 2. | Planning and conservation | 2 |
| 3. | Road safety improvements | 3 |
| 4. | Other activities | 4 |
| 5. | Planning applications | 7 |
| 6. | Governance | 9 |
| 7. | Changes in officials | 11 |
| 8. | Finance | 11 |
| 9. | Annual parish meeting | 11 |

Financial statements	12
-----------------------------	----

Information from village organisations

Community Connections	18
------------------------------	----

Councillors	19
--------------------	----

Chairman's statement

1. Affordable housing

Please inform The Council if you have any housing needs as both Sanctuary Housing and Yorkshire Housing contact Nawton Parish Council when a house becomes vacant.

There are no planning applications pending for provision of further affordable housing in the Parish.

1.1 Housing

There has been one new build during the last year. This is a bungalow on Chapel Street. The Council received £701 for the infrastructure levy. At this date there are no plans to develop the village beyond its current size.

2. Planning and conservation

At the time of writing there have been no applications received that would substantially increase the size of the village by construction of any new housing developments.

The position of the parish council towards any further planned development remains unchanged, in that we would oppose any large scale development.

Plans to install a Mobile Telephone Mast within the village are still ongoing. A proposed suitable site is situated at the rear of Calvert's Carpets however negotiations appear to have stalled. This matter is still ongoing however the Council will continue to support the matter which on completion will provide better mobile coverage within the village.

In the near future, the electrical sub-station sited in the farm yard at the rear of the Rose and Crown is to be relocated. It is to be placed on land owned by the Parish Council within the Colley Pond lay by. There are several reasons why this is necessary but it will place the sub-station on publicly owned land and also improve the power supply to the school.

2.1 Local Plan Strategy

The Council will strive to ensure that there must not be any further approval of development in Nawton for the whole of the 15 years planning period with the exception of:

- homes, whether affordable or otherwise, that would be restricted in perpetuity to occupancy by households with a proven local need that meets the definition agreed between the Council and Ryedale District Council
- individual conversions
- small scale in-fill

and that any development fulfilling these criteria be in keeping with the rest of the village.

3 Road safety improvements

3.1 Temporary vehicle activated speed signs

For us to have our own VAS it would seem that we have to comply with the conditions given by NYCC. The council has agreed with the terms laid out by the County Council in relation to the siting of the sign and its conditions of use. The agreement has been signed and returned to them. The sign is to be placed on the A170 on a lamp post, east of the entrance to the sports field. The agreement is being processed and we anticipate the sign will be placed and in use in the near future.

3.2 Bus Stop

The Council had planned to install an additional bus shelter near to the entrance to the cricket field. These plans have for the moment to be postponed. In the near future the Council will need to replace the street lights within the village with energy efficient ones. The cost of this will be considerable. For this reason monies allocated for this project may have, in part to be spent on the streetlight refurbishment. . The situation has not changed during the past year.

3.3 Future road safety improvements

For some years now, the Council has been aware of the potential threat to the safety of all pedestrians using Gale Lane. Of particular concern is the stretch of footpath leading to Ryedale School.

Although it would be desirable to move the access to the school to relieve traffic and pedestrian problems on Gale Lane, at this time funding for such a project is not available. Unfortunately this problem may not be resolved for the foreseeable future.

3.4 School Lane

The road surface has been replaced by NYCC.

A grit bin has been placed in Mr Capstick's yard to enable volunteers to grit the Lane as and when it is necessary. The Council agreed to pay £75 towards two fillings of grit in the bin.

4 Other activities

4.1 Grass Cutting

The Council is in receipt of £368 from NYCC for grass cutting. This is for the areas considered necessary for traffic visibility. Andy Mennel has been awarded the contract for grass cutting and ad hoc Caretaker services in the village for 2020/21

4.2 Tree Replacement

A new tree has now been planted to replace the tree that was felled along the A170.

4.3 North Yorkshire Community Messaging

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free community messaging system for North Yorkshire that allows you to register to receive the latest crime notifications and community news happening in your local neighbourhood. Use this link to sign up <http://www.nycm.co.uk/>

4.4 Street Lighting

The Council subscribes to North Yorkshire County Council's formal Maintenance Plan. All streetlights owned by the Council are now routinely inspected, cleaned and have replacement bulbs fitted on a 2 yearly basis. This is next due in 2021. Repairs carried out in the interim period are charged individually at a rate set out in the Maintenance Plan.

In the near future the Council will need to replace the street lights within the village with energy efficient ones. The cost of this will be considerable.

4.6 Defibrillator

A defibrillator machine for the village is located on the front wall of the Rose and Crown public House.

4.7 School Crossing Patrol

A post exists funded by Ryedale District Council for the provision of a school crossing patrol. Suitable applicants are invited. Details can be found on the RDC website.

4.8 Footpaths

The Council has applied for a definitive footpath modification order in respect of:

- the path from Pinfold Hill to the Memorial Hall
- the path from School Lane to Beckett Recreation Ground.

At the last enquiry, the Council was informed that the Recreation Ground ranked 41 of 95 and Pinfold Hill, 40 of 95. These matters are ongoing.

4.9 Dog Fouling

Please can dog walkers stop putting dog bags in the waste bin located at the covered bus shelter. People often stop and sit under the shelter but find the smell offensive.

There is an accumulation of dog poo reported in the field from Pinfold Hill across to The Howl. Please pick up your dog poo as it is a danger to the sheep and children.

4.10 Oil Cooperative

Yorkshire Energy Partnership has teamed up with Scarborough and Ryedale District Council to form oil clubs which will bulk buy fuel in order to keep prices down and help to reduce fuel bills.

Anyone interested in joining an oil club can call 01904 545 020 or email oilryedaleandscarborough@energypartnership.org.uk .

4.11 Volunteers needed for Snow Clearance and Litter picking

Due to the cold and icy conditions in winter we are keen to maintain a list of volunteers to ensure that paths are kept clear and that those most in need can get in and out of their homes safely. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact the Clerk.

We are also looking for volunteers for **litter picking** around the village as there is an increasing amount of litter in the verges. Thank you to all those who contribute in keeping the village tidy

4.12 Parish Notice Board

The left hand side of the notice board remains unlocked, so that parishioners can display appropriate posters/notices. Please respect other users and only remove items when the event has expired. The board is very cluttered most of the time so A5 or smaller signs and posters in the future please.

A copy of the signed minutes of the previous Council meeting is displayed each month on this part of the board.

4.13 Website

Just type in www.nawton.ryedaleconnect.org.uk into your computer or search for Nawton Ryedale. The site covers Parish Council member's details, news, meetings and minutes, as well as village events including sports fixtures, Neighbourhood Watch updates, school events, and village news with useful links to local organizations. We have also listed local business.

If you have anything you would like posting we would be pleased to hear from you. It's your website, completely free to use and a great way of getting your message out to the community as more people use computers. Contact links are on the site for the Clerk and the editors.


The Council would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to become an editor of the website.

4.14 Internal Auditor

Ms S Brown was chosen to become our internal auditor.

5 Planning applications

The following applications for planning permission within the parish of Nawton have been made to Ryedale District Council during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The status of the application is that as at 31 March 2020

- [Variation of Condition 05 of approval 11/01062/FUL dated 15.12.2011 to replace drawing number 4081/001 Revision E with drawing number D11729-05 Revision A - alterations to overall height, number and position of windows and doors, and roof covering.](#) 

Land To The South Side Of Sykehead Lane Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire
Ref. No: 20/00247/73A | Received: Mon 09 Mar 2020 | Validated: Mon 09 Mar 2020 | Status: Registered

- [Construction of an artificial grass pitch \(AGP\) 7420 Sq. metres\), erection of a 4.5 metre high mesh perimeter ball stop fencing, eight 15 metre high lighting columns, 2 metre high and 1.2 metre high mesh perimeter barrier fencing, 3 metre wide entrance gates, creation of hardstanding area and footpath \(938 external sq.](#)
-

[metres\), erection of a steel maintenance equipment storage container \(15 sq. metres\) and hard and soft landscaping works.](#)

Ryedale School Gale Lane Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7SL
Ref. No: 20/00239/CPO | Received: Wed 04 Mar 2020 | Validated: Wed 04 Mar 2020 | Status: Decided

- [Erection of a single storey extension, extending 3.2m from the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse with an eaves height of 2.8m and a maximum height of 3.7m](#)


Ashton Cottages 33 Beckett Close Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7SB
Ref. No: 20/00225/GPDE | Received: Mon 02 Mar 2020 | Validated: Mon 02 Mar 2020 | Status: Unknown

- [Siting of 4no. Modular timber structures and 1 no. shepherds hut with associated decking to replace 5no. existing safari tent pitches](#)

Canadian Fields Gale Lane Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7SD
Ref. No: 20/00061/FUL | Received: Fri 17 Jan 2020 | Validated: Mon 03 Feb 2020 | Status: Approved

- [Removal of Condition 03 of approval 3/90/9C/PA dated 05.02.1994 as it pertains solely to No.1 Valley View Lodges to allow it to be occupied as a permanent residential dwelling for local needs occupancy](#)

1 Valley View Lodges Station Road Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7RG
Ref. No: 20/00036/73 | Received: Fri 10 Jan 2020 | Validated: Wed 22 Jan 2020 | Status: Refused

- [Erection of single storey rear extension with alteration to roof pitch of existing lean to side extension](#) 

2 Station Cottages Station Road Nawton Helmsley YO62 7RG
Ref. No: 19/01429/HOUSE | Received: Tue 24 Dec 2019 | Validated: Tue 24 Dec 2019 | Status: Registered

- [Variation of Condition 12 of approval 16/01775/FUL dated 12.04.2017 to replace Drawing No. 3350/02 Site Layout by Drawing No. 3350/06A Site Layout and to gain approval of Drawing No. 3350/07 Revised Cabin Plans and Elevations](#)

Land East Of Longwood Farm Highfield Lane Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire

Ref. No: 19/01313/73A | Received: Wed 27 Nov 2019 | Validated: Wed 27 Nov 2019 | Status: Approved

- [Erection of detached six bedroom replacement dwelling with additional landscaping and alterations to the access track within the site with change of use and alterations and extensions to outbuilding to form garaging and workshop \(revised details to part-implemented approval 14/00744/FUL dated 24.09.2014\)](#)

Longwood Highfield Lane Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7TU
Ref. No: 19/01150/FUL | Received: Thu 03 Oct 2019 | Validated: Thu 03 Oct 2019 | Status: Approved

- [Erection of general purpose agricultural building \(retrospective\)](#)

Holly Park Guncroft Lane Nawton Helmsley YO62 7RH
Ref. No: 19/00950/FUL | Received: Thu 08 Aug 2019 | Validated: Thu 08 Aug 2019 | Status: Approved

- [Use of holiday cottage approved under planning approval 06/00157/FUL dated 10.04.2006 for permanent local occupancy residential use](#)

Clyde Cottage Gale Lane Nawton Helmsley YO62 7SN
Ref. No: 19/00944/FUL | Received: Thu 08 Aug 2019 | Validated: Thu 08 Aug 2019 | Status: Approved

- [Erection of single storey extension, extending 4.825 metres from the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse with an eaves height of 2.1 metres and a maximum height of 4 metres](#)

Newlands Howldale Lane Nawton North Yorkshire YO62 7SS
Ref. No: 19/00897/GPDE | Received: Tue 30 Jul 2019 | Validated: Tue 30 Jul 2019 | Status: Unknown

- [Erection of a timber summerhouse](#)

Honeysuckle Cottage High Street Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7TT
Ref. No: 19/00819/HOUSE | Received: Mon 15 Jul 2019 | Validated: Wed 17 Jul 2019 | Status: Approved

- [Erection of double garage with lean-to log store](#)
-

1 East View High Street Nawton Helmsley YO62 7TP

Ref. No: 19/00554/HOUSE | Received: Thu 09 May 2019 | Validated: Wed 15 May 2019 | Status: Approved

• **Erection of single storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory**

5 Bellaby Park Nawton Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 7RA

Ref. No: 19/00443/HOUSE | Received: Fri 05 Apr 2019 | Validated: Wed 10 Apr 2019 | Status: Approved

6 Governance

6.1 Code of Conduct

Transitional arrangements (confirmed in the Localism Act 2011 (Commencement Order No.6 and Transitional, Savings and Transitional Provisions Order 2012) SI 2012/1463 brought into force on 7 June 2012 confirmed that a parish council must adopt a new code of conduct to take effect on or after 1 July 2012.

Consequently, pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has adopted the National Association of Local Council's final template Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behavior by its members whenever they conduct the business of the Council.

6.2 Attendance at Council meetings

A Council meeting was held every month from April 2018 to March 2019, with the exception of August 2018. Attendance by Councillors was as follows:

	Number of Council meetings held	Number of Council meetings attended
Russ Dickinson	11	9
Lorraine Hugill	11	11
Andrew Edwards	11	5
Debbie Swift	11	8
John Windress	11	10
Mike Jackson	11	9
Sam Jones	11	8

6.3 Transactions with Councillors

No Councillor received any remuneration directly or indirectly in respect of fulfilling their role as Councillor.

6.4 Transactions with the Clerk

The Clerk was remunerated according to salary scales recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks, salary point 22. She was paid monthly in arrears by the Council, and received a total of £ 1, 315 up to 31 March 2020. In addition, she received £7 as reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of the Council. This related to postage, stationery, use of private vehicle for Council business, calls to mobile phones and computer inks.

7 Changes in officials

I was elected Chair in May 2018

As always, thank you to all the Councillors for their continued efforts and commitment to the community.

8 Finance

8.1 Precept

The Council has decided to maintain the precept at £5,393.

The Council will continue to identify areas in which it is able to make savings in order to ensure that, where possible, it will not increase the burden to local council tax payers.

8.2 Accounts

The Council's financial position is set out in the financial statements on the following pages.

9 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Monday 18th May 2020 in the Pavilion at the Beckett Recreation Ground. The agenda is inside the front cover of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there and to answering any questions you

may have about the Council's stewardship of the Parish in the past year and its plans for the future.

Obviously the meeting will depend on the current Coronavirus situation. If the current lock down prevails until that date the AGM will not be held as planned. Updates to this situation will be posted on the website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ Dickinson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Russ Dickinson Chairman 1 April 2020

Financial statements

Bank balances

Year end

The bank balances at 31 March 2020 in aggregate were £17,878. Of this amount, £17,777 was held in the Council's current account and £102 was held in the Council's Business Money Manager Account. Both of these accounts are with HSBC. All figures have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Year end bank balances compared to 2018/19

The bank balances at 31 March 2020 in aggregate were £4,725 more than a year earlier. The reasons for the increase are explained in the receipts and payments sections.

Year end bank balances compared to target

The Council's objective is that the year end bank balances in aggregate should, in the absence of any known special projects for the following year, approximate to the annual precept from Ryedale District Council. In 2018/19 the precept was £5,393.

The bank balances at 31 March 2020 in aggregate were £12,485 greater than the target. The Council anticipates that it may need to spend the following on special projects in 2018/19 and subsequent years:

- £8,000 or more for improvements to Colley Pond including a bus shelter.
- £2500 on a Vehicle Activated Sign
- On-going cost of replacing existing streetlights to led lights.

After taking account of these anticipated projects, the bank balances in aggregate are greater than the target.

Adequacy of funds

The Council believes that the bank balances at 31 March 2020 together with the expected precept receipts from Ryedale District Council will be adequate to meet the Council's planned expenditure for 2018/19 and that the insurance policies in the name of the Council will be sufficient to cover any other unavoidable expenditure.

Receipts

Receipts in 2018/19

Gross receipts for the year were £9013. The receipts came from the following sources (figures rounded to the nearest pound):

- the precept from Ryedale District Council £5,393
-

- payment from Nawton Shoot in consideration for shooting in Howl Wood and Nawton Quarry £50
- payment from Ryedale District Council for grass cutting areas for traffic visibility £368
- a grant from NYCC towards a VAS sign of £2,500
- a receipt of £701 from infrastructure.
- vat refund £565

Receipts in 2019/2020 compared to 2018/19

Gross receipts for the year were £3,202 more than in 2018/19. The main reason for the net increase is as follows (figures rounded to the nearest pound):

- An increase in grants of £2,500
- Infrastructure payment of £701

Payments

Payments in 2019/2020

Total payments for the year were £4,448

All figures are inclusive of VAT and rounded to the nearest pound.

- Stationery, printing, postage and sundry expenditure £290
- street lighting maintenance and energy used in 2018/19 £1,173
- audit £75
- insurance £384
- rent of the Pavilion at the Beckett Recreation Club for Council meetings and the Annual General Meeting £165
- Clerk's salary £1,315
- Grass cutting and tree surgery £1,035
- Computer security £63

Payments in 2019/2020 compared with those in 2018/19

Gross payments in the year were £1,045 less than in 2018/19. The main reason for this net decrease was as follows (figures rounded to the nearest pound):

- £1,218 less was spent on tree surgery
-

- £158 less on sundry items
- £470 more on street maintenance
- £63 more spent on Computer security

VAT

At 31 March 2020 there was a debit balance on the VAT account of £12.50. This will be recovered during the course of 2020

Fixed assets

In 2016/17 the full depreciation of the accounting value of fixed assets other than land has been applied.

Nawton Parish Council
Financial Summary
31/03/2020

	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2020	<i>Change</i>
Net financial assets:					
Bank accounts	11,680	12,702	13,153	17,879	4,726
Other net financial assets					
Net financial assets	<u>11,680</u>	<u>12,702</u>	<u>13,153</u>	<u>17,879</u>	<u>4,726</u>
Tangible fixed assets	<u>8,400</u>	8,400	8,400	8,400	<u>0</u>
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	<i>Change</i>
Income	5,759	5,811	6,095	9,013	2,918
Expenditure	<u>-5,605</u>	<u>4,846</u>	<u>-5,493</u>	<u>-4,447</u>	<u>1,045</u>
Net income and expenditure	154	966	602	4,565	3,963
Movement on the VAT account	<u>227</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>13</u>	
Net receipts and payments	<u>381</u>	<u>1,117</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>4,578</u>	<u>3,728</u>

Nawton Parish Council

Net financial asset

31 –March- 2020

	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Mar-18</u>	<u>Mar-19</u>	<u>Mar-20</u>	<i>Change</i>
Net financial assets	<u><u>11,680</u></u>	<u><u>12,551</u></u>	<u><u>13,153</u></u>	<u><u>17,879</u></u>	4,726
Tangible fixed assets	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

Analysis of net financial assets

	Mar-17	Mar-18			Change
Current account: HSBC Community Account	11,579	12,450	13,052	17,777	4,725
Savings account: HSBC Business Money Manager Account	101	101	101	102	1
Sub-total bank accounts	11,680	12,551	13,153	17,879	4,726
VAT account	227	151	265	13	
Total	11,907	12,702	13,418	17,892	4,474

Analysis of tangible fixed assets

Land					
Nawton Quarry	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Marr Pond	250	250	250	250	
Howl Wood	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	
The Green	500	500	500	500	
Colley Pond	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Pinfold Hill	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	
	8,350	8,350	8,350	8,350	
Filing cabinet	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	
Total	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	<u><u>8,400</u></u>	

Nawton Parish Council
Income and expenditure
31 March 2020

	2016/17	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	Change
Income:					
Precept from Ryedale District Council	5,393	5,393	5,393	5,393	0
Interest (gross)				0.22	0
Infrastructure grant				701	0
Grass cutting subsidy from NYCC	316	368	368	368	0
Income from Nawton Shoot	50	50	50	50	0
Other receipts	0	0	0	2,500	0
Total income	<u>5,759</u>	<u>5,811</u>	<u>5,811</u>	<u>9,013</u>	<u>0</u>
Expenditure:					
Grass cutting and tree surgery	900	990	1,861	1,035	826
Stationery, printing, postage	322	386	448	290	158
Street lighting: maintenance and power	1,253	684	703	1,173	470
Insurance	324	338	384	394	10
Audit	0	0	0	75	75
Rent of pavilion at the Beckett Recreation Ground	165		165	165	0
Donation to recreation ground and to the Parish of Kirkdale	0	388	0	30	30
Donation to memorial hall	90	0	0		0
Dog bins	131	0	193	0	193
Subscriptions (SLCC, etc)	0	0	0	0	0
Fencing at the tip / Benches	0	154	0	0	0
Poppy appeal					
Repairs	0	0	0	0	0
Clerk's salary	1,239	1,292	1,239	1,315	76
Computer charges	57	29	0	63	63
Caretaker activities	130	360	50	0	50
Other payments	995	60	0	0	0
Total expenditure	<u>5,606</u>	<u>4,846</u>	<u>5,043</u>	<u>4,446</u>	<u>597</u>

Information from village organisations

The Nawton and Beadlam Millennium Wildlife Garden

The Nawton & Beadlam Millennium Wildlife Garden can be found at the north side of the Recreation Field. The Garden is managed as a charity and all fund raising and maintenance is undertaken by a committee of local volunteers. We are always eager to welcome new helpers, whatever your level of experience or expertise. Please see the website <http://nawton.ryedaleconnect.org.uk> for updates.

Please contact Amanda Carroll on 01439 771838 for further details.

HELP! Your Village Hall needs you

Volunteers are urgently needed to join the Village Hall Management Committee. If you would like to hire the hall for an event, please call

Sandra Thurlow 01439 771107

Donna Foster on 01439 771918 donna.foster16@btinternet.com



We have a billiard/snooker club operating in Nawton Memorial Hall. Over recent years we have gone from 2 teams to 1 and lost our snooker team. If there is enough interest we may get another team as the club and league are both fragile. Membership is £20- billiards needs 6 players and snooker 4. If you want to form a team or just play with friends contact Steve (Rose and Crown)on 07977721054 or 01439 770854

Beckett Recreation Ground

The children's play area continues to be well used.

Junior cricket coaching is on Wednesdays from 6.30-7.30 pm for children aged 6 and over. Boys and girls are welcome.

For further information about activities at the Beckett Recreation Ground, or to hire the meeting room at the pavilion, contact

Secretary Kate Farrell 01439 770598.

Gordon Harrison (Treasurer) 01439 771498.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

For a long time now (weeks and months before Covid 19 rudely interrupted our lives) I have been thinking about starting some intergenerational community activity days in Nawton, to bring people, young and old, together in friendship.

Our recent enforced isolation has shown how important social interaction is for us all and how busy our lives have become, rushing here there and everywhere, making it feel even more important to get this going as soon as we can. We have all had to find new ways to connect with others and it has brought into sharp perspective, how lonely and isolated a lot of our community must feel, most of the time. Perhaps now is the time to think about how we can make things work better for our whole community.

Instead of spending time only with our own age group, this initiative would bring different generations together, to share and learn from one another. We all have something to offer others, something to share, whether this be our time, experience, patience, energy, love, knowledge, interests, joy, talents etc.

It has been proven that older people can really benefit physically, mentally and emotionally from interactions with young children. Contact with young people can encourage them to be more active in body and mind, and can give them a new lease of life. It can give them much needed social and physical contact, and can create lasting friendships and bonds.

Young children can benefit from being with older people, by developing their confidence and social skills through sharing activities and conversation. Older people often have more time and patience and can offer a listening ear, experience and wisdom. In return, young children can offer unconditional friendship and love, through their joy and laughter, their enthusiasm and energy, their curiosity and frankness.

When I was a child growing up, we knew almost everyone in our village, and we felt safe roaming around as people looked out for one another..There seem to be far fewer community events these days and many of us don't even know our neighbours. Many children live miles away from grandparents these days which means that contact can sadly be infrequent. Wouldn't it be lovely if we knew all our neighbour's and maybe we could all find an 'adopted grandparent/grandchild' in our local community?

Teenagers can offer practical skills such as IT and social media, creative, innovative ideas and solutions, as well as specific expertise and interests. They could benefit from older people's wisdom and counselling, and by socialising with other generations they could find their inner strength, resolve and resilience. By meeting and interacting with people from different generations they would develop their social skills such as conversation, caring thinking of others, as well as learning practical life skills such as gardening, cooking, woodwork, sewing etc.

I envisage these activity days starting with just a few people, perhaps sharing tea and cake and maybe some card games, or dominoes, but as members invite others, it would grow and develop according to people's interests. Activity days could happen occasionally through the year, or possibly on a more regular basis, maybe once a month, if the interest was there.

Possible activities could include: playing games, reading/sharing stories, baking and sharing cakes, pizzas etc, craft activities, designing such as Lego, mechano, scalextric, dressing up and performing, singing/making music, dance and exercise, gardening, hair and make up, photograph sessions etc. The list is endless!

We would need a core group of people to plan and oversee activities, so we would need a few volunteers, but no one would need to commit to being involved with every session and the more who are willing to help, the less often it would need to be. Depending on how the next few weeks and months pan out we may have to start with virtual groups before we can get together face to face. Unfortunately older people aren't usually so tech savvy, but it could be a good way to get started at least.

Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this in whatever way you feel able to. I would love to hear from you.

Rebecca Hall Rebecca.hall@btconnect.com 01439 771370 07501 219102

Councillors

As at 31 March 2020

Russ Dickinson (Chairman) 2 High Lane	01439 770910
Andrew Edwards Brighter Sandy, Gale Lane	01439 771230
Debbie Swift Lovat Cottage, Chapel Street	01439 771048
John Windress 33 Beckett Close	01439 771605
Mike Jackson 11 Station Road	01439 770664
Sam Jones 1 Kirk View Howldale Lane	01439 771824
Lorraine Hugill Ewe Cote Farm Skiplam	01439 771901

Clerk

Anne Twine Melrose house 1 Southlands Court annetwine@gmail.com	01439 772044
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