On behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, we would like to wish everyone who lives and works in the village a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Since our last newsletter Cllr Tom Laidler has resigned from the Parish Council after almost 10 years’ service and we thank him most sincerely for all his efforts. We welcome new Cllr Paul Hitchenes who was co-opted onto the council in May.

If you have any issues you think the Parish Council needs to be made aware of, or would like to attend any meeting of the Parish Council, please feel free to come along to one of our meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Institute hall (the small hall to the left of the Village Hall). The general public are welcome to attend and will be given an opportunity to bring forward any concerns or comments if they wish.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

We are now in a position to take the plan forward again and would be grateful if you would help us by filling in the enclosed Questionnaire and returning it in the White Post Box at the Village Hall entrance or if it’s more convenient in the cardboard box in the Post Office. We have also included a link in the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council website at www.spanglefish.com/dinnington of an online “Survey Monkey” version of the Questionnaire, which for those who are able, we would prefer you to use as it makes it easier for results to be accurately collated and analysed and saves us having to re-enter the information manually. We will also be holding another "Drop-in" event in the Village Hall on **Sat 9th December** from 10.00 until 16.00 to answer any questions you may have about the Neighbourhood Plan and to assist in filling in the questionnaire, if required.

**Reduction of Litter Bins around the village**

Newcastle City Council has chosen to replace the litterbins throughout the village with larger litterbins, however bins in a number of locations have not been replaced. The new locations were decided by Newcastle City Council without any consultation. They claim that the reduced locations for the larger litter bins were identified using local intelligence gathered from operational staff, complaint information and information from Envirocall. We have had numerous complaints over where bins have been removed and not replaced at all and have complained to Newcastle City Council and asked for their reinstatement. We will of course keep chasing this matter.

**Dinnington First School Development**

Dinnington first School have recently applied for planning permission for the provision of a new much larger school in the same location, immediately adjacent to the west and south of the existing building, with all associated works including landscaping, boundary treatments, drainage, access and parking (including alterations to existing recreation ground parking area to create an additional school drop off point). This will double the capacity from 150 to 300 pupils. The works will be carried out to enable the existing school to continue to function normally, while the new school is built around the old one and then the old one demolished. Access for construction will be from the south via the current Recreation Ground entrance. We expect them to obtain permission as the school needs to be increased in size to accommodate more children from the new housing being built around the village. They are hoping to start work in February 2018 and they expect to complete by August 2019.
**Dinnington Parish Newsletter Page 2**

**Dinnington Doctors Surgery**
Woodlands Park Doctors received permission to close their Dinnington Surgery from NHS England and closed their surgery on 26 May. They will continue to see their existing patients at their Wideopen Medical Centre, but will no longer come to the surgery at Dinnington, nor will they give out prescriptions from the Dinnington Surgery. This means that the Ponteland Practice are now supplying the only doctors in the village at their morning surgeries. Woodlands Park Health Centre have also recently written to a number of their existing patients residing in Dinnington to advise them that following the closure of their Dinnington branch they will no longer be able to provide home visiting for patients who are not already housebound. We believe the village merits a better service than this, particularly with all of the new houses being built and we will be striving on your behalf to improve this situation.

**Donkey Field (Sheraton Park)**
The affordable housing including the 24 apartments in the 2 Storey supported living block has all been handed over and is now being managed by Your Homes Newcastle. 55 plots out of the remaining 133 are either reserved, exchanged or sold. Keepmoat have established a new site entrance for all their construction traffic about 50m south of the current estate entrance and all construction traffic will use this entrance to the site from now on.

**Bellway Homes**
The house foundations are now substantially complete, with 28 houses now completely roofed. The show houses are now open and they have sold all the "help to buy" and affordable properties. There are currently 3 houses occupied. They have completed the electricity supply from the sub-station on Mitford Way down to the site and they expect to finish the development in late 2018.

**Persimmon Homes**
Persimmon were granted planning permission for 200 homes on land south of Front Street, west of the village, on 2 February this year. They are currently finalising arrangements, they have erected a large advertising sign and they expect to commence work on site in the New Year.

**Dinnington Community Library**
We would like to highlight once again and remind everyone that Dinnington still has a Community Library and we encourage current members and new members to come along to use their fantastic collection of books. There is no charge to join the library and everyone is welcome. Dinnington Community Library was set up in the summer of 2013 by volunteers when Newcastle City Council decided to close the branch library in Dinnington. The Community Library is situated in the Memorial Institute which is next to Dinnington Village Hall and is open on Wednesdays 10.30 – 12.30, Fridays 2.00 – 4.00 and Saturdays 10.30 – 12.30.

**Adopt-a-Planter and Northumbria in Bloom 2017**
Following on from our success in winning a Silver award in the Large Villages category last year we entered the village into the Northumbria in Bloom competition again this year. We included the Dinnington school garden and this year we also included Dinnington Allotments. Bracken Close residents approached us and asked to enter their street as a standalone entry in the Residential Communities category. The final judging took place in August and the awards ceremony took place on Wed 13 September. We are very pleased to report that Dinnington Village again received a Silver Award in the Large Villages category. We are also delighted to report that Bracken Close received a Gold Award at their first attempt in the Residential Communities category and The White Swan received a Silver Award in the Pubs & Hotels category. We once again thank our volunteers and the businesses who supported us and hope they will continue to do so in the future. Anybody who is interested in volunteering to help with our continuing efforts to improve the village would be most welcome to join us. Please contact the Parish Clerk for information.

**Commemoration of Great War Centenary**
The Parish Council have been working hard to find a way to commemorate the Centenary of the end of the Great War 1914-1918. To this end, we have worked with Leazes Homes & Keepmoat to have the streets on the new Sheraton Park development named after the men of the parish who lost their lives in the conflict. We have secured support from the developers to also have a commemorative plaque installed at the entrance to the estate with a ceremony to unveil the plaque on the 100th anniversary of the ending of hostilities in November 2018.
Dog Fouling  
We are still receiving complaints about the amount of dog fouling around the village. The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dog and get really annoyed with the few who don’t as they don’t want to be “tarred with the same brush.” There is no excuse for not picking up. If you have any information on those responsible for allowing dogs to foul without picking up you can contact the dog warden on 0191 211 6102 or online: https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/dog-fouling/form

Crime  
From our monthly discussions with the police we know that Dinnington continues to have very low reported incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour. However, the inconsiderate parking adjacent to the school (whilst dropping children off) is still causing problems for the residents who live there and we look for your cooperation in minimizing this issue. Can residents when parking please leave enough room on pavements for users of wheelchairs and buggies and to ensure you do not break the law. PC (3044) Lee Maddison is the dedicated neighbourhood police officer for Dinnington, Brunswick and Hazlerigg (Castle Ward), e-mail address: lee.maddison3044@northumbria.pnn.police.uk Newcastle North Neighbourhood Policing Team, Etal Lane Police Station, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 4AW. Tel: 101 to contact your local police when it is less urgent than a 999 call.

Dinnington Village Hall Update  
A new boiler was installed in the Village Hall in August and is already making a difference, being much more efficient. The new windows, blinds and carpet have now been fitted in the WI room and it and the toilets have been decorated. Grateful thanks to Banks Community Fund for the generous funding of this project. In October the WI porch roof was renewed. Our next Fundraising event is on Friday 12th January 2018 at 7pm, when the Northumberland Theatre Company brings its Christmas production ‘The Princess and the Goblin’, generously supported by The Masons Arms, James Anthony Workwear, Challenge Northumberland and Dixon and Thompson (all businesses based in the village). Tickets £8.50 adults and £4 children, to include a glass of wine or juice, available from Joyce Porter (see below)
To find out more about the Village Hall or make a donation please contact Treasurer Mike Wood 01661 825358 or Secretary Joyce Porter 01661 821041

1st Dinnington Scout Group  
We have again registered for the Chronicle Wish Appeal for Group funds and would be very grateful if you could collect tokens for us. They can be put in the boxes in the Library or Masons Arms, given to any of the leaders or collection can be arranged. The Cub Pack has a waiting list but there are places for boys and girls in the Beaver Colony and Scout Troop. For more information on this or the Wish Appeal please contact Joyce Porter, Group Scout Leader, on 01661 821041

St Matthew’s Church  
A warm welcome awaits you at St. Matthews - Please come and join us for our special services at Christmas.

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER at 3.00pm – traditional carol service by candle light followed by coffee, tea and mince pies.

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE.
Family service with communion at 10.30am – members of the congregation from St Cuthbert's will be joining us for a joint service.
The ever popular Christingle service at 4.30pm
Midnight mass at 11.30pm – the first service of Christmas.

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY - Family service at 9.30am.

CLOSURE OF THE WEST GATE. Please note that to preserve the integrity of the path the gate at the west end of the church will be locked for a 24 hour period from 6.00pm on Sunday 31st December until 6.00pm on Monday 1st January. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. Warning notices will be posted on the notice boards and the main gate during the closure period.
With our best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all in the community and with our thanks for your continued support throughout the year.
### City Councillors’ Surgery
- Monthly – 2nd Saturday (except August)
- 10.30am-11.30am
- Dinnington Social Club

### City Councillors’ Surgery (cont)
- 15 minutes before Parish Council meetings (at 6:45pm)
- Monthly – 3rd Wed (except August)
- Memorial Institute

### Dinnington Community Library
- Wed & Sat 10.30am-12.30pm
- Fri 2.00pm-4.00pm

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Karate</td>
<td>Mondays</td>
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<td>Village Hall</td>
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<td>Junior Karate</td>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
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<td>Old Peoples’ Treat Fund</td>
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<td>Beaver Scouts</td>
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<td>Scouts</td>
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<td>Rainbows</td>
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<td>Brownies</td>
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<td>Handicrafts</td>
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<td>Indoor Carpet Bowls</td>
<td>Wed 7.00pm-9.00pm</td>
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<td>Dinnington Village WI</td>
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<td>St Matthew’s Church</td>
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<td>Service and Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Junior Church members meet during service</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
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<td>Wednesdays 10.15am - Holy Communion BCP</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
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<td>Bible Study Group</td>
<td>1st Wednesday of each month</td>
<td>Coffee morning</td>
<td>Village Hall</td>
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<td>Revd Mark Edwards, MBE</td>
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<td>Doctors at the Clinic, Main Road, Dinnington</td>
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<td>Ponteland Medical Group</td>
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<td>Ponteland Medical Group</td>
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<td>Mon – Fri 8.30am-12noon</td>
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<td>Tues – No Doctor, Nurse in attendance 9.00am-12.15</td>
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**Parish Councillors:**
- Cllrs Raymond Thompson (Chairman) Tel: 0191 2363379; Mike Wood (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Audrey Dellow; Sylvia Hood Tel: 01661 823382; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Keith Oliver; Dr Jeremy Scratcherd Tel: 01661 821436; Paul Hitchenes Tel: 07590 533525

For more information visit the website at: [www.spanglefish.com/dinnington](http://www.spanglefish.com/dinnington)

Clerk to the Parish Council – Karon Hadfield
- Tel - 07841650640
- Email: [dinningtonparishcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:dinningtonparishcouncil@hotmail.com)

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