

# NORHAM NEWSROUND

## FEBRUARY 2015

Overhead Cables Scottish Power will not undertake any cable work until the Parish Council has investigated relative costs of overhead and underground cables. It was important to stress that Castle Street is part of Norham's Conservation area so support would be sought from Conservation bodies.

Speed Survey results The results of the Survey near the School showed that more than 50% were exceeding the 30 mph speed limit, with an average speed of 34.7mph. Near Birch Hill more than 50% were exceeding the 30mph limit averaging 40.7 mph. The Castle Hill equipment had been defective so no results were recorded. It was suggested that the cost of installing an electronic flashing sign indicating speeds should be investigated for placement near Norham First School.

Norham Castle Until English Heritage has completed its reorganisation, no progress can be made in promoting the Castle as a tourist attraction.

Norham Boys HQ Sheila Johnson and Rev. Rob Kelsey reported on the plan to appoint a Governing Body for Norham Boys HQ, to ensure continuity and oversight of the club. Representatives from Leaders of the organisation, parents, delegates from PCC and from the Parish Council..would form the Governing Body. The Council approved the initiative and agreed to consider a delegate before the next Parish Council meeting. Thanks were expressed to Sheila and to Rob.

To select new trustee for Jubilee Field Charitable Trust The present trustees Mrs.de Clermont and George Straughen would continue but a Parish Councillor would be required to replace Ian Martin. This is not an arduous job and no money is involved. Jim Greenwood will replace Ian Martin as the new trustee.

To look at state of Roads and Pavements The road between West Street and St. Cuthberts Square is in a bad state or disrepair. This is not helped by the increase in traffic due to inappropriate use of Sat Navs. An advisory notice to limit traffic use will be investigated.

Any Other Business The Petanque area is not being used at present. A £12 donation will be requested from anyone wishing to play a game there.

Date of next meeting The next meeting will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

### ITEMS FOR MARCH NEWSROUND

Any contributions should be given to Josephine Harris (382363) before Thursday 26th February.

### Forthcoming Events.

Sunday 1st February : **Blessing of new Fishing Season**; 9.15 a.m.  
Pedwell Landing

**Candlemas Service** in church at 10 a.m.

Thursday 5th : **W.I. Meeting**; 2pm in the Village Hall.

Monday 9th : **Mothers' Union A.G.M** at Branxton Village Hall; 2pm

Thursday 11th : **Parish Walk**. Meet on the Green at 9.30am

Wednesday 25th : **Drop-in-4-Coffee** in church between 10.30 and 12.

**SINCERE CONDOLENCES** to the family and friends of Elizabeth de Clermont, who died on December 17th; also of Douglas Simpson, who died on December 26th; of Jack Harris, who died on January 16th; of Hazel Purvis, who died on January 19th; and of Nathan George Curry, who died on 25th January.

**A SMILE FOR CHRISTMAS** A number of people have expressed their thanks for the 'village gift' they received this Christmas, so thank you to those who organised the scheme. It is, of course vital that all who live alone in the village, regardless of age, are included and that anyone can withdraw themselves from the list if that feel it inappropriate. No small or easy task but clearly worth the effort, so well done, Linda and co.

A belated **THANK YOU** to all who supported the Vicars and Tarts Tractor Rally last autumn. £1000 was raised for an agricultural charity and £250 each for the churches of Norham, Cornhill, Branxton and Carham.

**DAVID and JANE HOWELL** would like to thank all the generous-hearted people of Norham for their gifts and offers of help during their health hiccups before Christmas. It was much appreciated.

**MARGARET SPARKES** would like to say a BIG THANK-YOU to all the kind people who helped in so many ways when she fell on 27th December. "You were wonderful, some staying for a long time on a bitterly cold day. Thank you also for the lovely cards I have received. God bless you all."

**NORHAM W.I.** At the February meeting Renna Telford will talk about Holy Island.

**NORHAM VILLAGE CALENDARS** Thank you to all who bought and above all thank you to Pauline for producing the lovely 2015 calendar. The project raised £550 towards the cost of repairing the church clock.

**ADVENT CALENDAR** Thank you to Mary-Rose for her brilliant idea of having a Living Advent Calendar in the village last year. It was so interesting to see all the different ideas and skills people have and also great fun to do. We look forward to doing it this year. *Elizabeth T*

**LIVING NATIVITY PLANNING GROUP** would like to buy a set of Nativity Figures for the village to be used as part of an outdoor scene at Christmas time. We have managed to source a set which looks smart, is a good size and very attractive. The cost will be approximately £1000.

We would like to ask Norham residents to consider helping towards the cost. If you feel this is a worthwhile cause and are able to help, please put your donation in a marked envelope explaining what it is—cheques made payable to Norham Village Hall— and pass it to Terry Harris (North Lane). We are grateful to the Hall treasurer for allowing us to use this account.

There may also be fund-raising events throughout the year. The planning group hopes that the set will be purchased in time for the Living Nativity event in December 2015. All donations, both big and small, will be very much appreciated. *Jim Blythe.*

**NORHAM PIGEON CLUB** (belated news). Last summer the Border Fed organised a race from Ypres to commemorate the use of pigeons in the 1914-18 War. 104 pigeons were released, and Norham Club had the 1st, 2nd and 9th home.

**THE RSPB FIRMLY RECOMMEND** against putting out large chunks of dry bread for the birds, whatever the season. It can cause them harm and, particularly putting it on the ground, encourages rats.

**A SERVICE OF BLESSING FOR THE NEW FISHING SEASON** will take place at 9.15am on Sunday 1st February at Pedwell Landing (at the bottom of Pedwell Lane) in Norham.

The Pedwell Landing is one of many sites along the River Tweed where, for about a thousand years, net fishing for salmon was a major part of the local economy, until its demise in the 1980s.

In the past, the Vicar of Norham said prayers of blessing at midnight at the start of the new salmon fishing season on 1st February. Part of the tradition was that, if a fish were caught during the first casting of the nets, then it was given to the Vicar! The tradition was re-started four years ago, at the instigation of a local fisherman. The prayers have been adapted slightly to take account of the fact that net fishing has been replaced by line fishing, and to incorporate a blessing on the River Tweed and the local ecology, as well as human activity.

Everyone is very welcome to attend. The short service will be followed by a wee dram!

*Rob Kelsey, Vicar*

#### **NORHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

24th November 2014

Footpaths A new footpath gate has been installed at Castle Bank. The steps have been improved on both sides of Mill Burn. Some of the Footpath finger post signs have been replaced. Forms have been handed out concerning the footpath at the east End of South Lane to Mill Burn.

Responsibility for Norham Playgrounds From 1<sup>st</sup> April Norham Parish Council will have full responsibility for the Play areas. Alan Cater, an independent qualified Operational Inspector, has inspected the Play equipment on Norham Green and at Ubbanford and taken photographs. He will carry out monthly Operational inspections from March to September and a Winter inspection in November and in January for £35 each and a Yearly inspection for £75. This will mean a total cost of £390. Each inspection will be fully documented and a report forwarded to the Parish Council. A weekly inspection will be carried out by a local volunteer.

Precept 2015-2016 As responsibility for the Play areas would necessitate an additional sum of about £500 (including insurance) and as a donation of £50 was agreed for the work of Citizens Advice Bureau, it was unanimously agreed that the Annual Precept should be set at £3,350. This is an increase of £350 on last year's Precept, but still about £1,300 less than the total cost Norham residents had been paying in 2014-2015 as the Special Expense sum of £1,632.75 has now been removed.

Gateway Signage Planter NCC has now relocated the Norham Gateway sign so the Planter can now be installed.