

June/July 2019

Edition 12

Eldon News

Special Interest Articles:

Garden Competition

Village Fun Day

Your Council

Eldon Community Centre

Did you know that Eldon Community Centre has a Cafe which is open on Wednesdays & Fridays between 9.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and take-away meals at very reasonable prices?

The Centre can also cater for special occasions, including - weddings, birthdays, engagement parties, social events, children's parties, bereavement receptions and company meetings or conferences

Catering hygiene at the Centre has been awarded 5 stars, so you can book your event with confidence.

Room hire, buffets to order and a bar service are all available. Community Centre telephone – 01388 775955 or ring Diane on 01388 773309.

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Garden Competition

It's that time of the year again! The Parish Council garden competition will be judged on **Sunday 21st July 2019**.

There were some excellent gardens last year in Eldon and Old Eldon.

Anyone who lives in the

Parish is eligible for the competition.

If your garden can't be viewed from the highway and you want to enter the competition, you will need to allow us access. Please contact the Clerk before the judging date so we can make arrangements.

The categories are:

- Best Kept Garden
- Best Flower Garden
- Best Vegetable Garden or Plot
- Best New Garden

Last year there were winners in all the garden categories. There is a prize of £50 in vouchers for each winner.



Village Fun Day - 2019

The Village Fun Day, organised by the Parish Council and Eldon Community Partnership, is being held on **Saturday 6th July 2019 from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m.** at the Community Centre.

There will be three free fairground rides for children this year; face painting for young people and magic shows and balloon modelling as well.

Sadly, we are no longer able

to provide a bouncy castle and slide, because of safety and licensing issues.

There will be a tombola and cakes and pies on sale in the Community Centre as well as refreshments.

Your Parish Council in 2019-2020

This May saw the annual meeting of your Parish Council.

Councillor John Gibson was elected as Chairman of the Council, with Councillor Paul Henry as Vice-Chairman.

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of July, September, November, January (14th in January), March and May at 7.00 p.m. in the Community Centre.

You can attend and can

also ask questions subject to giving us prior notice.

Details are on the Parish Council notice-board and on our website.

The May meeting will be preceded by the Annual Electors Meeting at 6.45 p.m.

Community Centre News

Commemoration Event: Armistice Centenary, November 2018

The Parish Council was privileged to fund an event in the Community Centre on 10th November 2018 in conjunction with the Eldon Community Partnership to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice.

The free event, which was well attended, consisted of singing, 1st World War food, demonstrations of army kit, readings, poems; and a display of local photographs and posters. Thanks to all involved.

NHS Service provided at the Centre

A support service is being provided by NHS Health Visitors for mothers, babies and toddlers at the Community Centre to discuss health and related issues. Toys are available for toddlers to play with during the sessions held on Thursdays from 1.30 – 2.30 p.m. The service is not restricted to people who live in Eldon.

Help – Your Community Centre Needs You!

We have a fantastic Community Centre in Eldon.

The Centre gets no funding, other than grants from the Parish Council; all other income is from functions, lunches and events, including bingo.

The Centre is run by unpaid volunteers and needs others who can spare a few hours.

Please help – more volunteers means more things on at the Centre.

If you can help, please ring Diane on 01388 773309. Thank you.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Eldon

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour has risen in Eldon in recent months with problems with quad-bikes, many driven by younger people, who have damaged the surface of the village green and smashed gates whilst trying to gain access to other areas of adjacent land. Earlier in the year the footway adjacent to the village green was impassable because of mud from motor bikes and quad bikes. Aside from any damage caused, these vehicles pose a serious safety risk to local people.

Last year damage was caused to a Perspex panel in the youth shelter by a youth from outside Eldon who later admitted the offence to the police and was charged. The replacement cost and fitting was over £700. The Parish Council was unable to recover any costs due to the age of the perpetrator and the unwillingness of the parents to make a contribution. We are currently exploring with our National Association whether a civil action can be brought against parents in such cases to recover costs and the Council will not hesitate to do so if these powers exist. In the last couple of weeks a further Panel has been smashed and the police have been provided with the names of the youths involved, all of whom appear to live outside Eldon. Sadly, the Parish Council has decided that it cannot go on replacing the perspex panels only for them to be damaged again at a cost to local taxpayers.

As this newsletter is published, remaining panels are being vandalised, we are advised, by some children from within Eldon, with rocks thrown at the panels. If you witness or observe any incidents, and know those involved, please pass on details to us and we will forward these to the police who will visit the families concerned.

As a result of the above and other issues, including tree damage, fly tipping and burning of rubbish in Eldon, a multi agency meeting took place with Durham County Council, the Police, Eldon Estates and County/Local Councillors which resulted in a community safety audit being undertaken. Police/Neighbourhood Warden Patrols have been increased in the area. We hope you will see the results in the coming months, but everyone who lives in Eldon has a role to play in reporting crime and anti-social behaviour.

County Councillor Henry Nicholson

We were saddened to learn earlier this year of the death of County Councillor Henry Nicholson, one of the three local County Councillors representing our area. Henry was a regular attendee at meetings of the Parish Council. The Parish Council sent a message of condolence to the family and was represented at the funeral.

At the By-Election which followed in relation to the vacancy, Councillor Garry Huntington was elected and his contact details are set out below, together with other County Councillors for our area.

Your County Councillors

There are three County Councillors who represent our area, as well as the rest of Shildon and Dene Valley, on Durham County Council.

- Garry Huntington
- Shirley Quinn
- Brian Stephens

Contact details are:

Councillor Garry Huntington

Phone: 03000 268 756

Email: garry.huntington@durham.gov.uk

Councillor Shirley Quinn

Phone: 03000 268 759

Email: shirley.quinn@durham.gov.uk

Business phone: 03000 268 825

Councillor Brian Stephens

Phone: 03000 268 775

Email: brian.stephens@durham.gov.uk

Business phone: 03000 268 830

You can find more details (including addresses) on the Durham County Council website at www.durham.gov.uk

Contacts: Contact us on - Tel. 01388 710737 or Email: eldonpc@btinternet.com

Councillor John Gibson (Chairman) – Telephone: 01388 774358

Tom Bolton (Clerk) – Telephone: 01388 710737