

Winter Newsletter



Blackwell Parish Council

Winter 2025 Events Calendar

Sunday 9th November	Blackwell Parish Council with St Werburgh's Church REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Doors open at 10.30am.
Saturday 29th November	10am-12noon ST WERBURGH's CHRISTMAS FAIR at Newton Community Centre
Saturday 29th November	BRAG Christmas Fair at Blackwell Community Centre
Friday 5th December	NEWTON CARNIVAL TEAM Christmas Fayre and lights at Newton Community Centre
Saturday 6th December	NEWTON METHODIST CHURCH Christmas Fayre 10am-12pm. All welcome.
Saturday 6th December	BRAG Over 60s Christmas Meal at Blackwell Community Centre
Sunday 7th December	NEWTON CARNIVAL TEAM along with Santa, the Naughty Elf and Grinch will be visiting Blackwell from 4.30pm
Saturday 13th December	BRAG Kids' Christmas Party at Blackwell Community Centre.
Saturday 13th December	NEWTON CARNIVAL TEAM along with Santa, the Naughty Elf and Grinch will be visiting Hilcote from 4.30pm and Westhouses from 6.30pm
Sunday 14th December	Carol service at ST WERBURGH's church, 3pm
Sunday 14th December	NEWTON CARNIVAL TEAM along with Santa, the Naughty Elf and Grinch will be visiting Newton from 4.30pm
Saturday 20th December	BRAG Christmas buffet with Santa at Blackwell Community centre
Sunday 21st December	NEWTON CARNIVAL TEAM presents 'Tea with Santa' 3pm- 5pm
Wednesday 24th December	Crib Service at ST WERBURGH's
Jan 2026	BRAG Cash bingo– details will be released on Facebook page

Dates are subject to change. Check on individual community group Facebook pages for up to date information.

Contents Page

Page number	Information about:
2-3	Content Page and Blackwell Parish Council contacts
4-5	Your Councillors/ Councillor information
6-7	Blackwell Parish Council update and Dog Fouling
8-9	Parish War Memorials and History on our Doorstep– Allport Terrace
10-11	Friends of Westhouses Primary School and Westhouses Community Association
12-13	HELP group & What does each Council have responsibility for?
14-15	St Werburgh's & Platform Thirty1
16-17	Blackwell Parish Council Questionnaire– Young People's Activities Survey– Please share your views
18-19	Hire our Centres and Tibshelf SNT
20-21	Newton Methodist Church and Newton OAP Club
22-23	Unity Concert Band and Newton Toddler Group
24-25	Precept spending and Vandalism/Graffiti in the Parish
26-27	Newton Carnival Team, Sponsorship and B.R.A.G
28-31	Classified section
32	Blackwell Parish Remembrance Service 2025

Blackwell Parish Council

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is situated at **Hilcote Community Centre:**

Address: 544 New Street, Hilcote DE55 5HU

Opening Hours: Monday 9am-2pm

Wednesday 9am-2pm

Friday 9am-2pm

Phone: 01773 580002

E-mail:

The Clerk, Kate Poynter - clerk@blackwellpc.org.uk

Admin Assistant, Becky Huckerby - admin@blackwellpc.org.uk

Projects and Procurement Assistant, Emma Ganley- projects@blackwellpc.org.uk



Dog poo bags are available from the Parish Office, Post Office (Tues and Thurs mornings at Blackwell Community Centre) or from Martin (the Parish Ranger) if you see him out and about in the parish van.

Please note that inclusion of any articles or advertisements in this newsletter does not in anyway signify endorsement of any product or service by Blackwell Parish Council. The material and information in this newsletter is designed to provide general information. Every effort is made to ensure this information is accurate but the parish council does not take any liability for any errors or omissions.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH:

With three different councils covering where you live, it isn't always easy to know how to contact each one. Hopefully this simple guide will help...

Blackwell Parish Council	see above or the website for BPC staff contact information and the Councillor page/website for their contact Information
Bolsover District Council	01246 242424 enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk www.bolsover.gov.uk Councillors: Clive Moesby & Sally Renshaw
Derbyshire County Council	01629 533190 www.derbyshire.gov.uk Councillor: David Harvey David.Harvey@derbyshire.gov.uk

Your Blackwell Parish Councillors

Parish Clerk

Kate Poynter
Parish Office
Hilcote Community
Centre
544 New Street
Hilcote

01773 580002

Blackwell Ward



Chairman

Tony Gascoyne

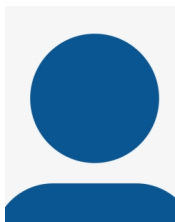
07968 971015



Vice Chair

Ian Newham

01773 813552



Ian Peters

07899 988801

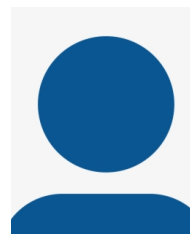
Newton Ward



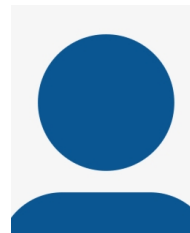
Sally Renshaw

01773 813937

Also District Councillor



Councillor Vacancy



Anthony Burrows

07895517805



Martyn Hart

07887 686 423



Pam Stocks

075333 94355

Your Blackwell Parish Councillors

Westhouses Ward



Kevin Hough

07902 749481

Roger Poulter

rpoulter@me.com

Hilcote Ward



Adrian Reynolds

07507 773571



Emma Lee

07916 881769

Could you be a Blackwell Parish Councillor?

What does it mean to be a Blackwell Parish Councillor?

Councillors are a point of contact for issues that people are concerned about in the parish. Councillors are able to effect change in their communities to improve the lives of residents. They can make decisions to put in place or to put forward the case for improved services and provisions. Training is available to Councillors who are willing to learn more.

Being a Parish Councillor is not a paid role.

How much time does it take up to be a Blackwell Parish Councillor?

There are Full Council Meetings once a month, BPC has three committees (Finance and HR; Parks, Floral and Events; Parish Facilities) which Councillors can elect to join, BPC is the

sole trustee to three charities, some Councillors represent the council on other bodies such as the Allotment Association, and other Councillors get involved in community events, help with litter picks and contribute knowledge and time to other projects.

How do you become a Blackwell Parish Councillor?

There are two ways that you can become a parish councillor – by **election**, which comes round every four years, or by **co-option** when there are unfilled vacancies (there is a co-option policy on the council website which outlines the process).

Qualifications and exemptions for standing as a Councillor can be found in the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972) section.79.

Blackwell Parish Council



New Team Member

Blackwell Parish Council would like to extend a warm welcome Rachel Walkington who is the new evening key holder for Hilcote Community Centre. Caretakers and

Wardens are a crucial part in being able to hire centres at evenings/weekends and keeping Bamford St park locked in the evening. Thank you to all of our caretakers for their invaluable service.

Remembrance and Carol Service

The Annual Blackwell Parish Council Remembrance Service will take place at St Werburgh's Church again this year on Sunday 9th November. Doors open from 10.30am and refreshments will be available.

There will also be a Carol Service held at St Werburgh's on Sunday 14th December at 3pm. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

A big thank you to St Werburgh's for working with the council to put on these events.

Sponsor a hanging basket / poppy

Please see page 26 for a list of the kind people and businesses who have sponsored a hanging basket or planter this summer.

The council is also offering businesses/individuals the opportunity to sponsor a lamppost poppy. Any sponsors will be mentioned in the next newsletter and on the website/Facebook when they are put up. Each poppy sponsorship is £10 per lamp post and will be donated directly to the Royal British Legion.

If you are interested, please email

admin@blackwellpc.org.uk for more information.

Community Centres

The Designated Premises Supervisor who manages the bars at Blackwell and Hilcote Community Centres, Adele, has brought kegged beer back to the halls and has had wonderful feedback from those who have booked an event.

She is also able to provide a bottle bar at Newton Community Centre. Keep an eye out for information on her upcoming 'pub nights'. She has lots of exciting ideas. Her 'Dellys Deli Events and Catering' Facebook page will have updates about events she is holding. See more about hiring a centre on page 18 (with or without bar). There are a few regular daytime/ evening slots available for any groups/ businesses/ classes looking for new premises too. Get in touch if you think that our centres could work for you.

Each community centre is an important hub for the local parish. (See pg18 for some of the regular users). There are both public and private hirers in regularly and this keeps the centres very busy. Thank you for the continued use and support of these buildings and for sharing them via Facebook comments. It is much appreciated.



Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is still an issue in the Parish.

Dog poo bags can be picked up free of charge at the Blackwell Parish Council office at Hilcote Community Centre, the Post Office held during the BRAG café at Blackwell Community Centre or from our Parish Ranger Martin.



There are 53 bins located in Blackwell parish - some owned by the parish council and some owned by the district council. Dog waste can be disposed of in any bin.

The Parish Council pays a weekly charge to have the poo bins owned by the Parish Council emptied.

A full bin location list can be found on the home page of the

website: www.blackwellpc.org.uk

At the last count, Newton has 23 bins, Blackwell has 12 bins, Hilcote has 10 bins, Westhouses has 8 bins and the car park at Fordbridge Lane also has a bin owned by Blackwell Parish Council.

Just a reminder that there are Bolsover District Council enforcement officers who patrol the Parish and if you are a dog owner, you may be asked to show that you have the means to pick up after your dog.

Failure to demonstrate you have the means to pick up could result in a fixed penalty notice in line with the PSPO conditions set out.

Offenders can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100, and if the case goes to court it could cost the owner, or person in charge of the animal, up to £1,000.

To report dog fouling or a breach of the Dog Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), please visit the Bolsover District Council **Self Service portal** or telephone 01246 242424.

Parish War Memorials

There are several war memorials in the Parish to remember those who died serving this country.

War memorials form an important part of the UK's cultural heritage. They reflect the changing face of commemoration as well as artistic, social, military and international history. Each war memorial presents a unique record of the past, as the design and wording on the memorials were chosen by the communities who created them.

Westhouses has a war memorial near the recreation ground to commemorate the 17 servicemen from Westhouses that lost their lives



during the First and Second World Wars.

Newton also has a war memorial for the 40 that lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars from the village. This is situated outside the Community Centre

St Werburgh's churchyard is the location of the war memorials of ten servicemen who lost their lives in the first and second world war: W H Wilkinson, W Hind, Second Lieutenant C B Furmston, Lance Corporal G E Hill and T Hill, Gunner J Salt, Lance Corporal H Pearce and F S Pearce, G Gibson and Private R Phelps. These are located in the graveyard.

Inside St Werburgh's there is also the window and plaque of the 61 who served and died from this Parish during World War One (photos bottom left of the page).

The Blackwell Parish Remembrance Service will be held on **Sunday 9th November** at St Werburgh's. Doors open at **10.30am**.

(Information cited in this article is cited from the **Imperial War Museum** website)



History on our Doorstep – Allport Terrace

What's in a name? Well, plenty as it turns out in this instance. Read on!

The Parish Council were made aware of the incorrect spelling of one of the 'Railway Terraces' in Westhouses which had 'lost' an L and been written as Alport since the early 1970s and had never been corrected!

The internet came in very handy for checking the history of the Terrace and finding out that it definitely **was** Allport, so named after Sir James Allport, a Director of the Midland Railway, and was identified as such on historical maps plus the 1911 Census and the 1939 Register, as well as on a sign above one of the houses!

It was important to gather as much evidence as possible and from different sources and eras about the original name and thankfully that was possible, before going about restoring the correct spelling. The oldest source was an Ordnance Survey Map dated 1879 and the most recent, an admissions register



at the school with dates in 1969 and 1970.

New signage is being ordered, courtesy of Bolsover District Council, and should be in place in December when there will be an unveiling ceremony, attended by the local Primary school.

All the residents have been informed of it reverting to the correct spelling and the

changeover should go quite smoothly, with the postcode staying the same and the emergency services having been made aware too. The countdown to the Terrace regaining its proper spelling is on. Look out for further news in the next newsletter.

Quiz!! Quiz!! Quiz!! Meanwhile here's an opportunity for you to test your knowledge on this subject or to do a bit of research to find the answers. Are you up for the challenge?

**Cllr Martyn
Hart**

1. What was James Allport's middle name? Answer:
2. What was his date of birth? Answer:
3. Which of these is true? He championed a) luxury travel for the nobility or b) cheaper tickets with comfortable seating for the masses Answer:
4. In what year was he knighted? Answer:
5. In which landmark building did James Allport sadly die? Answer:
6. In which cemetery in Derbyshire is he buried? Answer:
7. Above which of the 12 properties in Allport Terrace is the street sign with the correct spelling? Answer:

Answers can be found on page 13



Friends of Westhouses Primary School

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday 28th November
2.30pm-4.00pm

Various local stalls, guess the sweets in
the jar, Games, Chocolate Tombola,
Raffle, Cake Stall & Many More

Refreshments will also be available

Thank you & Happy Christmas!

Westhouses Primary School
Bolden Terrace, Westhouses



Made with PosterMyWall.com

Westhouses Community Association



Festive House Competition

It's time for our last competition of 2025. Get your baubles on display and your lights set to dazzle. Decorate your house, garden or window this festive season. We will be keeping a look out in Westhouses through December, final judging will be on 23rd
Good Luck!

LET'S GET WESTHOUSES FESTIVE!

Find us on Facebook Westhouses Community Association

H.E.L.P group



prizes. Thanks also to all the volunteers and H.E.L.P group that helped to make it such a wonderful day. All proceeds raised go towards making our village a better place to live and every raffle ticket, duck race sale and food purchase goes towards this good cause.

This year, Duck Day made £2066. The replacement bridge over Blackwell brook cost £1986, so the funds raised have already gone back into the community. This is only one aspect of the costs involved in maintaining the village, so you can see that isn't a cheap venture. Please keep supporting fundraising events such as these.

It's been a good year for the weather, but not so good for keeping plants and trees growing. Now they have come into their own though, and the village of Hilcote looks great.

The Royal Oak Meadow project looks absolutely brilliant and we are proceeding with the project to be a nature reserve. Watch this space.

When using Royal Oak Meadow with dogs, they need to be on leads. Enforcement is in operation and CCTV is in place. Let's protect the nature and biodiversity in there.

Duck Day was again a fabulous day. Thanks to all sponsors and companies for the

H.E.L.P group needs new members, so if you are interested or want to find out more about what would be involved, please ring me (Brian) on 0754 395 8761 for more information. A meeting will be arranged for the coming year's events in due course.

Which village is going to have a nature reserve in it? **OURS**

Brian



What does each Council have responsibility for?

Allotments

Blackwell Parish Council

Animal Welfare

Derbyshire County Council

Buses

Derbyshire County Council

Bus Shelters

Derbyshire County Council

Blackwell Parish Council

CAN Rangers

Bolsover District Council

Cemetery

St Werburgh's Church

Child Protection

Derbyshire County Council

Dog Wardens

Bolsover District Council

Education

Derbyshire County Council

Electoral Registration

Bolsover District Council

Gold Card

Derbyshire County Council

Gritting

Derbyshire County Council

Grit Bins

Derbyshire County Council

Blackwell Parish Council

Highways

Derbyshire County Council

Housing

Bolsover District Council

Leisure & Culture

Bolsover District Council

Libraries

Derbyshire County Council

Litter Picking (parks)

Blackwell Parish Council

Litter Picking (streets)

Bolsover District Council

Planning (emergency)

Derbyshire County Council

Planning (general)

Bolsover District Council

Planning Portal

Play Areas

Bolsover District Council

Blackwell Parish Council

Public Rights of Way

Derbyshire County Council

Racial Discrimination

Bolsover District Council

Social Services

Derbyshire County Council

Sports Development

Derbyshire County Council

Sports Fields & Pavilions

Blackwell Parish Council

Street Lighting

Derbyshire County Council

Street Signage

Bolsover District Council

Transport

Derbyshire County Council

Waste Collection

Bolsover District Council

History on our Doorstep – Allport Terrace

Answers:

1. Joseph
2. 27th February 1811
3. b
4. 1884
5. The Midland Hotel, St Pancras Station
6. Belper
7. Number 1

St Werburgh's

Since the last Newsletter, meetings have been held to finalise the Parish Council Remembrance Service on 9th November, 10.30 at St Werburgh's. A date to erect the War Horse and poppy decorations was also set.

As last year there will be refreshments served at the Parish Remembrance Service. There will also be booklets for sale produced by Katherine Salt and Ivan Brentnall describing the experiences of a local man, Jack Salt who was a Japanese prisoner in WW2, with the proceeds to the church roof fund.

Extra parking is available through the gate at the right of the Church car park by kind permission of John Lynch. A sign will be put out to direct car park users.

The "Blackwell Brides" exhibition event is moving forward so please if you can loan any Wedding and Bridesmaid dresses, invitation cards, orders of service or any other related memorabilia please get in touch with Steph or myself.

The Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 29th November at Newton Community Centre from 10am -12 noon.



The Carol Service will be held on 14th December at the earlier time of 3pm with home made mince pies and mulled wine afterwards.

The Crib Service will take place on the 24th December again at the earlier time of 3pm and who knows what will happen!

Midnight Communion will be at 11.30 pm on the 24th.

Looking forward to the Greater Creative Christmas Trees being installed throughout the Parish. Thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year.

God Bless
Barbara



Platform Thirty1

SAVE
THE
DATE



SAT
22nd
NOV



SQUARES

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVENT
4-6:30pm Newton Community Centre



Residents of Blackwell
Parish have been
crocheting and knitting
5,000 squares this year
to make five festive
trees to be displayed
across the parish this
December!

Come and see all of the
finished trees here!

FREE FUN FAMILY EVENT!

Expect to see a heartwarming display created by the power of parish residents, hear festive songs from 'The Unity Band', take part in drop in crafty activities and expect refreshments on offer from B.R.A.G & NCAfe too!

Need a lift or want more info?
stef@platformthirty1.com 07368 575822



Blackwell Parish Council

Young People's Activities Survey

We'd love your ideas!

The Parish Council would like know what kind of activities young people in our area like to do. Please help by filling in this short survey – it will help us understand what you most enjoy and help us identify funding and opportunities to provide this. Your views really matter!

About You

1. How old are you? (please tick one)

☐ 6–8 ☐ 9–11 ☐ 12–14 ☐ 15–17

2. Which village do you live in? (please tick one)

☐ Old Blackwell ☐ Blackwell ☐ Newton ☐ Hilcote ☐ Westhouses
☐ Other: _____

Your Interests

3. What kinds of activities would you most like to take part in? (tick all that apply)

Recreational / Sports

☐ Football ☐ Basketball ☐ Dance ☐ Walking ☐ Skateboarding ☐
Other: _____

Social / Community

☐ Music nights ☐ Movie evenings ☐ Local trips ☐ Volunteering ☐
Other: _____

Educational / Skill-based

☐ Art & crafts ☐ Cooking ☐ Gardening ☐ Technology / coding
☐ Other: _____

Young People's Activities Survey

4. What times would suit you best?

- ☐ After school ☐ Weekends ☐ School holidays ☐ Evenings

5. Would you prefer activities:

- ☐ In your own village
☐ Anywhere in the parish
☐ Further away (if transport was provided)

Your Thoughts

6. How often would you like activities to take place?

- ☐ Once a week ☐ Every few weeks ☐ Once a month
☐ Occasionally / special events only

7. Would you be happy to make a small contribution towards an activity if it meant something more exciting or higher quality could be offered?

- ☐ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

8. Is there a particular activity, club, or event you'd really like to see happen?

9. Any other ideas or comments?

Thank you!

Your feedback will help shape what's offered in our parish.

Please return this form to:

- Comment boxes placed in Blackwell/Newton Community Centres accessible during NCafe on Mon morning (Newton) or BRAG café (Tues/ Thurs Morning (Blackwell))
- Using the online questionnaire on the website www.blackwellpc.org.uk
- Directly to the Blackwell Parish Council office at Hilcote Community Centre during office hours (see pg3) or using the letterbox on the wall outside.



Hire our Centres

Perfect for children's birthday parties, meetings, community events and more....

NEWTON

Newton Community Centre can be found in the centre of the village of Newton and boasts: a recently decorated large hall with a capacity of 250 people; a raised stage area with theatrical curtains; a kitchen area with self catering facilities; disabled friendly - with ramps and disabled toilet; baby changing area; CCTV; and a car park to the rear.



HILCOTE

The facilities include: a large modern function room with a raised stage and sprung floor, an individual meeting room which can be hired separately, bar area, a kitchen providing self catering facilities complete with cooker and fridge, a pleasant, secure garden area with seating, disabled friendly - including ramps and disabled toilet; CCTV; and ample off road parking.



BLACKWELL

Blackwell Community Centre is distinctive with its unusual curved roof and has the capacity for 250 people. The facilities comprise of: the main hall, a lounge area with bar, a kitchen with self-catering facilities; toilets; disabled friendly - with ramps and disabled toilet; baby changing area; CCTV; Wi-Fi; and a large car park.



Book via:



email: admin@blackwellpc.org.uk

website: www.blackwellpc.org.uk

Weekly events at our centres

Monday	Tuesdays	Thursdays
NCafe – 8.45am-11.30am- Newton	B.R.A.G café and the Post Office – 9am-12pm– Blackwell	B.R.A.G café and the Post Office – 9am-12pm– Blackwell
Newton OAP club – 7pm-9pm- Newton	Remember to use or lose your Post Office	Newton Toddler Group – term time– 1pm-3pm– Newton

Tibshelf SNT

Meet Your Local PCSO – Jason Ashton

**Serving Derbyshire Constabulary
for 6 Years**

**Over 20 Years of Customer Service
Experience**

Patrolling: Tibshelf, Newton,
Blackwell, Westhouses & Hilcote

Why I'm Here:

I'm passionate about making a real difference. I believe that **community engagement is key**; by speaking with residents, I uncover issues that might otherwise go unnoticed and ensure they're addressed appropriately.

I'm here to:

- **Listen** to your concerns
- **Triage and resolve** local issues
- **Build trust** between the public and police
- **Promote accountability** within our service

Stay Informed & Get Involved

We offer several ways to stay connected and informed:

- **Facebook:** Tibshelf SNT Police Page Follow daily updates, patrol news, and community initiatives.
- **Derbyshire Alert Service:** A free messaging system that keeps you informed about local policing issues. You can also **reply directly** to share your thoughts or concerns.



Let's Work Together

Your feedback helps us improve. Whether it's a concern, a suggestion, or a compliment **we're here to listen**. Together, we can build a safer, more supportive community.

**Here's to many more years of
making a difference.**

PCSO Ashton

Newton Methodist Church

NEWTON METHODIST CHURCH

Main Street, Newton, DE55 5TE

**More than just a Sunday
place**



Sundays	Evening worship from 5.45pm
Mondays	Take Note Choir Practice new members welcome 2pm Keep Fit 7.45pm new members welcome
Tuesdays	Second and Fourth Tuesdays Prayer Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesdays	Second Wednesday Afternoon Tea 2–4 pm
Thursdays	Every Thursday Coffee & Chat 9.30 – 11.30 am Informal Fellowship 11.30 – 12.30 pm
Fridays	
Saturdays	First Saturday Breakfast. Full English or just a snack 10am – 12

CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
10am-12pm
ALL WELCOME

More details available on 01773 873414

Newton & District OAP Club

NEWTON & DISTRICT OAP CLUB

We meet weekly every **Monday from 7 to 9 pm**
at Newton Community Centre

Winter weather break from Monday 8th
December 2025

(For the safety of our members) .

We return on **Monday 2nd March 2026**

Subsidised Transport for those with mobility issues

**Just £3.50 a night including Tea or Coffee and
Biscuits**

(Membership optional)

Would a change of name encourage you to come
or perhaps different activities? We are looking to
increase our membership to sustain this 75 year
old club in our Parish.

If you have any thoughts or ideas then we would
like to hear from you. These could be from you or
on behalf of an elderly relative/friend who just
needs to get out of the house.

Email me (Melvyn) on melbarb2@icloud.com or text on
07702 183203

Thank you for reading this.

Unity Concert Band



Unity Concert Band were very pleased to be invited to participate in the Bolsover Blitz event at Bolsover Castle last May.

It was the first time that the band had played at a venue outside our local parish and the event was enjoyed by both players and audience.

The band played music from the 1940's era including A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, Satin Doll and Keep Smiling Through, a selection of wartime songs.

Preparation has now started for our annual Christmas Concert on

the afternoon of Dec 20th at Newton Community Centre, and we hope you will come and celebrate the festive season with us.

Watch out, also, for details of our Spring Proms Concert next year!



Newton Toddler Group

NEWTON TODDLER GROUP

At Newton Community Centre

COME AND JOIN US!

THURSDAYS DURING TERM TIME
1PM-3PM

JOIN US FOR:

FRIENDSHIP & COMMUNITY
CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
SNACKS & DRINKS

CONTACT KATH FOR MORE DETAILS
ON 07783 645 194



Each week there is a different activity happening at Newton Toddler Group.

Kelly from KJ dance attended the group in September. The children enjoyed the dancing and so did some of the mums! She will return in November.

Other crafts in September and October were biscuit decorating, paint stamping, Halloween cupcakes and Halloween Crafts.

Please join our Facebook group

(search for Newton Toddler Group) to stay updated with the activities on offer.

All are welcome aged 0-5 and at only £3 per family. Snack and drink for the kids and adults.

1-3pm on Thursdays (term time only) at Newton Community Centre.

Come along & join us, have a cuppa & natter while your children play.

Precept spending

The following paragraphs explain what the Parish council's part of the council tax (the precept) pays for.

For **2025/26**, the **Parish Council part of the precept is be: £300,409**. Due to the rising costs of everything, this should ensure that the usual services are able to continue. If there are any other projects that need to be undertaken, the Parish Council would have to look for funding.

Parks and Playgrounds

Bamford Street Playground, North/South St Recreation Ground, Charnwood Recreation Ground (Charity), Scanderlands Recreation Ground and skate park, Westhouses Recreation Ground (Charity), Hilcote Recreation Ground

These require **maintenance** – mowing, repairing broken play equipment and damage from acts of vandalism, removing graffiti, emptying bins, litter picking, strimming, repairing fences, playground inspections etc.

Other areas

Hedges that are on parish council-maintained land, **Bus Shelter** at Old Blackwell, some of the **parish benches**, maintenance and support for four **Defibrillators** in red phone boxes, **Churchyard maintenance**, **Allotments** (in conjunction with the Allotment Association), **Royal Oak Meadow (charity)** – currently managed by HELP Group, **Blackwell Cricket Ground (Charity)** – which is looked after by the Blackwell Miners Welfare Cricket Club.

Seasonal Events

Floral Displays (summer and winter planting and watering, including lamppost testing), **Remembrance**

(poppies on lampposts, wreaths, Tommies and War Horse display), **Christmas** (lights in Blackwell, Newton - lights originally provided by Newton Carnival Team - and Westhouses. Electricity costs for lights are paid by the council. A Panto is also booked for the Primary Schools and paid for by the council. **One-off events** – such as VE Day commemoration.

Community Centres and Pavilions

Blackwell Community Centre, Newton Community Centre, Hilcote Community Centre (Charity), Charnwood Pavilion (Charity), Scanderlands Pavilion

The parish buildings involve: **Maintenance** (everything from broken toilet handles to damaged boilers and rotten floors), **Servicing** (i.e. boilers, fire safety equipment, fire and burglar alarm testing etc.), **Cleaning/Caretaking** (cleaning, opening and closing the centres, window cleaner), **Utilities** (gas, electric and water), and **larger projects** – such as Blackwell kitchen.

Administration

This includes: **Parish Newsletter and website**; **Staff, Parish Van and Ranger equipment** (the mower, strimmer, hedge trimmers and leaf blower), **Parish Office** (including photocopier, stationery, phone, internet, computers etc.), **Training** (so staff and Councillors have up to date skills and knowledge), **Subscriptions** (i.e. membership of Derbyshire Association of Local Councils), **Internal and external audits**, **Elections, Dog Poo Bags, Small Grant Giving** (to local groups), and **Insurance cover** (for all of the above).

Vandalism/Graffiti in the Parish



Unfortunately there have been quite a few incidences of vandalism and graffiti recently.

Some of these are pictured in this article. Each time there is vandalism or graffiti it requires

time and money spent on it. For example, for graffiti, specialist graffiti removal liquid needs to be purchased if soap and water isn't sufficient to remove it. This is approximately £16.95. Then the time taken to scrub this off, means that the staff member is unable to do other jobs that improve the Parish.

When items are unsafe such as the recent rocker damage on Scanderlands, the item needs securing, marking as unusable and then the council needs to pay for removal. Repair is an option with some items, which costs for both labour and parts (as the are required to meet strict standards). Repairing the gate mechanism at Westhouses cost £152 recently as one example.



manufactured, which means that play park has unfortunately lost another item of play equipment that is unlikely to be replaced quickly due to budget constraints.

Budgets are set the November before a financial year and although there is a certain amount set aside for maintenance/replacement, the amount of unprecedented damage this financial year has impacted any planned improvements.



Wet pour damage is another reoccurring problem. Wet pour repair kits are being purchased and will be used, but this costs around £150 per 2m patch repaired (depending on depth). Some patches have been picked apart to such a deep level that they will need professional repair. Most parks have several patches that need repairing, so as you can see, the repair total quickly adds up! Each repair will take the staff member several hours of their allotted time.



The brick wall at Bamford Street is another item that has been picked apart and damaged profusely (see left)

A quick chat with your children/teenagers to ask them to look after the parks they are playing on would be much appreciated. If the parks and equipment are looked after, then the money could be better spent on improvements rather than repairs. The Parish has six parks in total which is a lot more than many local Parishes.

Newton Carnival Team

Newton Carnival Team Christmas Fayre and lights

Friday 5th December 2025

4.30 till 8.30pm

Craft trade and charity stalls

Festive foods and drinks

Brass band, Newton school Choir

Festive entertainment

For booking details please contact us via Facebook messenger



Sponsorship

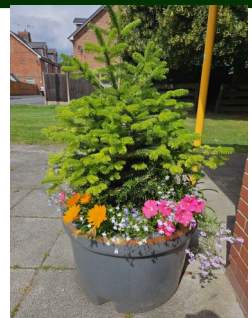
Thank you to those who have sponsored lamppost hanging baskets and planters this year.

Hanging basket sponsors:

- Cllr Martyn Hart
- Blackwell Residents Action Group
- Cllr Sally Renshaw
- Westhouses Community Association
- Jacqui Miles

Planter sponsors:

- Doe Hill Action Group
- Dog and Spoon Distillery



We have also had a **£10** lamppost poppy sponsorship from two anonymous donors. Any proceeds go straight to the Royal British Legion.

If you are interested in sponsoring a poppy yourself or on behalf of a business, please get in touch with Becky on admin@blackwellpc.org.uk.



Our recent events, Cash Bingo, Autumn Afternoon Tea and the Halloween Family Party have been a great success. A big Thank You to everyone who has supported us by coming to these.



As ever the snack bar continues to be a great success. We also hold cash bingo every Thursday morning. Why not pop down for a cuppa or a chat.

Save the Date

29th Nov - Christmas Fair
6th Dec - Over 60s Christmas Meal
13th Dec - Kids Christmas Party
20th Dec - Buffet with Santa
Jan 2026 - Cash Bingo



Classified Section



The Post Office

The Post Office continues to be open on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** morning, at **Blackwell Community Centre**, **9am-1pm**, (alongside BRAG Café) for all of your regular Post Office services and needs.

Classified Section

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- lest we forget -

BLACKWELL PARISH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

DOORS OPEN AT 10.30AM

ST WERBURGH'S CHURCH

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL
WITH ST WERBURGH'S CHURCH

REFRESHMENTS BEING SERVED

