

## Chairperson's Comments

**Since April, we have lost both a Chairman and a Councillor. However, I am pleased to announce that we have one new Councillor joining us and I have stepped up from Vice Chairman into the Chairman's role. It's good to have new Councillors on board, as they can bring different skills and views to the Council.**

As a Council, we have had to put some projects on hold due to the Covid -19 pandemic, but I am pleased to report that some projects have still been able to go ahead.

One of those projects is regarding the second play area, and Councillor Lynn Wylie has reported that there has been an excellent response to the questionnaires. The known outcome will be given at the next Parish Council meeting on 5th November.

For full details go to: <https://www.hurworthonline.com> and click on the Play Park Information tag.

This year should have been the 10th anniversary of the Hurworth Country Show but, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it was unable to go ahead. Not to be defeated, with careful planning and a number of wonderful volunteers, Hurworth held their first virtual craft and produce show. The standard of the crafts

and produce was excellent, and the virtual show received amazing support.

The Council have supported many excellent and worthy causes in the village including HACSA, the Hurworth Junior Football Club, the Hurworth Detached Project and the Covid-19 Support group started by Liv Baker.

The Council have also provided financial support to the Grange to ensure important repairs can be carried out sooner rather than later, helping to finish the kitchen area and completion of the Petanque court extension allowing more people to access this popular pastime.

Great efforts have been made to improve the Parish Council website and it is now a great source of village updates including photos of past events, upcoming events, general information, and just in case you are unable to attend the meetings, minutes of the council meetings. Also, if anyone has any ideas for the village, then please feel free to get in touch via the website.

It's been a challenging year, but together, I'm sure we'll get through this in the fantastic village we live in.

**Graham Wylie**

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## THE HEART OF HURWORTH

When lockdown was on the horizon Liv Baker posted her number to every house in the village to offer help and support and the rest as they say is history. This led to a group of volunteers coming together, but also started a double act in the form of Liv Baker and Tracie Jacobs who were to be a catalyst for community spirit during COVID-19 and continue to lead, plan and develop community focussed events and activities whilst also raising money for many charities and good causes.

### WINDOW DECORATIONS AND COMPETITIONS

Early in lockdown competitions were held to design windows with sunshines, rainbows, teddies, lots of things to keep the little people busy whilst out on their daily exercise walks.

Their final competition to find the oldest resident in the village led on to 48 afternoon teas been made and delivered to our over 85's. They had over 20 bakers, jam makers and sandwich makers to help bring this lovely event together.



### FUNDRAISING

A raffle for carers saw a celebration of front line workers who live in the village, in the form of carer packages as well as raising money for St. Teresa's Hospice, working with hospice staff and their supporters in the village. Liv Baker went above and beyond in shaving her head and in total, all activities raised a staggering £5502 for the Hospice. A fantastic effort, but sad to watch!

## HURWORTH SEWERS AND CRAFTERS

This group of over 30 sewers worked relentlessly in the early stages of the first lock down to make uniform bags for front line workers and made 1533 in total, but this also became a community effort with donations of bedding, thank you notes, and stickers.

In addition, this group began making pairs of knitted, sewn or crocheted hearts. One was given to COVID patients and one given to their family to bridge the emotional gap whilst not being able to see their loved ones. These continue to be provided to hospitals now, being used for many more departments than those affected by COVID and to date 1278 hearts have been made and delivered.

Sewers also made face coverings to support the local pharmacy who agreed to sell these whilst also collecting for Darlington MIND. The sewers donated 100s of masks and Carole Tunstall who is the village pharmacist, a very



proficient face covering sewer herself, handed over £1000 to Mind, which is just amazing.

The group are now also supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal and are selling knitted and crocheted Poppies to support the amazing charity, who are devastated that current restrictions mean they simply cannot be as visible in the communities as they would like.

### VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The 'virtual village bake off' was held and saw young and old alike together to raise money, and all received a certificate with winners receiving a rosette.

### BREAST CANCER NOW

A raffle to win afternoon teas for two, was held together with a cake sale £560 was raised

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This saw hundreds of villagers come together to bake, sell and buy goodies as well as providing a special sit in tea for some of the more senior villagers. £1200 was raised for Macmillan.



## HURWORTH HALLOWEEN TRAIL

This was the most recent event to go live and over 170 children and 56 houses were signed up to for a socially distanced Halloween trail, with all of the sweets donated to maintain social distancing.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

A number of socially distanced educational classes have also been arranged including wreath making and willow crafts.

## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

In order to support all of this work, Liv and Tracie have set up a community email address, a Facebook page and they are developing the community centre website to ensure messages are focussed, fun, accurate and consistent. All available platforms have been used amazingly to support the village events arranged by them both.

Both Liv Baker and Tracie Jacobs have now joined the Grange Management Committee.

## LATEST LOCKDOWN INFORMATION

Unfortunately, England is in lockdown once again, but help is still available.

If you are struggling to get out to get your shopping, there are supermarkets who will deliver via an online service.

However, if you do not have access to the internet, Morrisons have announced a new dedicated telesales shopping service aimed specifically at helping to ensure vulnerable and elderly people can get the groceries they need. Customers can order a delivery to their doorstep from a

list of 47 essential items. Customers who wish to place an order should phone 0345 611 6111 and select option five. Alternatively, you can visit their website: <https://my.morrisons.com/storefinder/124> In Hurworth, Hurworth Fisheries, the Spar and the Mustard Tree are all remaining open. If you are in need of help, Hurworth Parish Council are here.

Contact us on: **01325 722171**, or email [enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk)

# HURWORTH GRANGE



## We are **CLOSED**

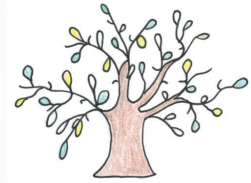
We are following the latest government advice during the current epidemic.

The Community Centre is closed to members of the public until further notice. Should you need to contact us our telephone number is:

**01325 720840**

# EPICH

(Eco People In Croft and Hurworth, pronounced EPIC)



[www.epich.org.uk](http://www.epich.org.uk)

During these strange times EPICH members have carried on with our projects, but always taking into account any restrictions.

### **The Wildflower Meadow**

It is with great reluctance that we have decided to abandon the perennial wildflower meadow at The Grange. Unfortunately, because of the balance of the original seed mix, perennial knapweed has taken over and out competed many of the other species. This has meant that we haven't been able to achieve the seasonal spread of the different flowers we had hoped for. The woody nature of the stems of the knapweed made it a difficult job for EPICH volunteers to strim and rake. In future the meadow will be cut along with the other grass areas by DBC. However, the spring bulbs we planted last autumn will still bloom before the first grass cut - rabbits permitting! We are hoping to find smaller areas in the village which we can sow with wildflowers and maintain in a much more manageable way.

### **Lychgate Orchard**

EPICH volunteers have put in a lot of effort to tidy up this neglected area and turn it into a wildlife corridor within the village. We will be leaving part of the natural vegetation but also putting in wildflower plants and putting up bird and bat boxes during the autumn. Hedgehog and insect friendly habitat piles have already been created and hedgehogs are seen regularly in this area. We are hoping

to have Hurworth registered and recognised as a "Hedgehog Friendly" village so watch out for updates on Hurworth Live as to how you and your garden can be involved.

### **Interpretation panels**

EPICH has been awarded a grant of £2000 by Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) to enable us to commission illustrated interpretation panels at locations in the village. Work is already under way for the first one, which will be in Lychgate Orchard explaining the area and the wildlife. We also hope to commission one for The Heritage Orchard at The Grange explaining and identifying our Fruit Trees

### **The Village Bees at Clervaux**

The summer honey from our bees has been for sale at Rockliffe Pharmacy. Profits from the sale of the spring and summer honey goes back into projects for the village.

We are taking eight hives into the winter and will be feeding the bees regularly to replace their honey stores (pictured).

**Recent work.**

Most recently EPICH Volunteers strimmed and cleared the verges of Coach Lane (pictured) with a view to sowing annual wildflowers along the lane in the Spring.

Also in October is our annual bulb planting; around 2000 spring bulbs for the area around the entrance to the Primary School at Westfield Drive.



**National Nest Box Week – February 2021**

We hope to repeat our Bird Box Giveaway next year, 2021. Last February, during National Bird Box Week, we gave away 35 bird boxes; we would love to hear from you about any success stories you had and the types of birds who moved in.

If you didn't have any lodgers, don't worry, it sometimes takes a year or two before the boxes are occupied but just check that you've put it on a north or east facing wall.

All EPICH events and tasks are advertised on Hurworth Live so do look out for information about what's coming up, or get in touch by email – see below.

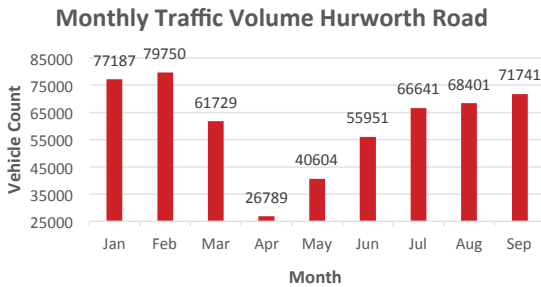
If you would like to get involved in improving the environment in and around Hurworth for wildlife and residents alike, get in touch via email: [secretary@EPICH.org.uk](mailto:secretary@EPICH.org.uk)

Thank you for your help and support this past year and “stay safe”.

*Judith Redfern Vice Chair*

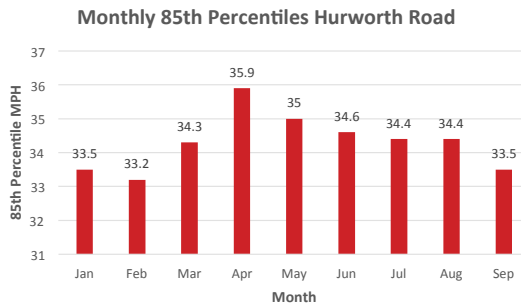
# TRAFFIC REPORT JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER

Traffic monitoring continued to take place as we moved into the Covid-19 lockdown situation. During this period Hurworth Road continued to be the worst location for speeding. As can be seen from the first chart there was a sharp decrease in traffic volume as the situation developed from March onwards.



The April traffic volume had fallen to 35% of what it was in January and 33.5% of the February volume. However, as the quantity of traffic decreased, the speed at which it was travelling increased. Durham Constabulary reported that the situation was being repeated across the whole of the Borough.

The 85th Percentile figure is a good indicator of the traffic speed in an area. One definition of the 85th percentile speed is, “the speed at or below which 85 percent of all vehicles are observed to travel under free-flowing conditions past a monitored point.” An 85th percentile figure of 32 M.P.H. means that 85% of traffic is travelling at or below 32 M.P.H. Darlington Highways Dept. regard an 85th percentile figure of 35 M.P.H. (in a 30 M.P.H. zone) as a major cause for concern. The chart below shows monthly 85th percentile figures for Hurworth Road:





The April figure of 35.9 M.P.H. is the worst we have ever recorded, 15% of vehicles were travelling at over 35.9 M.P.H (4018 total). The September 85th percentile for The Green was 31.3 M.P.H and Metal Bridge (Otter & Fish) 30.0 M.P.H. The Parish Council have recently received complaints about speeding from residents of The Green, and Roundhill Road.

We currently have three speed monitors which can be deployed in five locations. In response to the increasing concerns over traffic speeds within the village, the Council has decided to invest in two new speed monitors. These are able to record at 30 or 20 M.P.H. speed limits and will enable us to monitor the new 20 M.P.H. limit which we hope will in place early next year. With five devices in fixed locations we will be able to improve the targeting of speed watch activity within the village, as well as having a full set of data from each location which can be passed on to Durham Constabulary.



## SPEEDWATCH

The Speedwatch team is pleased to welcome two new members to the group. We continue to go out regularly and continue to have a good relationship with our Police Neighbourhood team. As a result of our teams hard work the Police have identified the areas of concern and have been out with the speed gun on several occasions.

We are always looking for more volunteers so if you have an hour to spare please get in touch with the Parish Council Office. Full training will be given

*D. Oughton*

## INTRODUCING YOUR LATEST PARISH COUNCILLOR: PETER WILLIS

My wife and I have lived in Hurworth for just over a year, having moved here from Darlington where we lived for 12 years. I was born and raised in Richmond and left to go to University many years ago! My career started in Research with ICI Billingham, Prior to taking early retirement I was a Senior Manager with Marlow Foods which is known for the production of Quorn. I now spend some of my time as a consultant involved in a start-up hydroponics business. I also enjoy spending time with family, being an active member of the Independent Monitoring Board for Kirkclevington Prison and walking our dog, Izzy, around the village.

So I am a bit of a newcomer to Hurworth but not to the local area. I hope I can contribute to the great work the village Parish Council already delivers. I am particularly concerned with protecting the environment, maintaining a village community feel to Hurworth despite ongoing development and controlling traffic behaviour on our local roads.

Recent months have been hugely challenging for so many people, I have often reflected on how fortunate we are to be able to walk around the village and meet so many friendly people who are happy to stop for a chat.

Best regards Peter

## HURWORTH VILLAGE HALL

2019 was another great year for Hurworth Village Hall. Not only did we continue to host our regular weekly classes and groups such as: Indoor Bowls, Aloha Yoga, Pilates, Jolly Fit, Art, Body Control Pilates, Iyengar Yoga, Line Dancing, Latin Dance, and Weight Watchers we also welcomed Sound Bath Meditation and Zoe in Stitches (Patchwork and Quilting class). 2020 has presented new challenges for us all but despite these challenges the Village Hall committee has welcomed Jodie Crisp's Sunday Bingo to add to the wide variety of things available for you to enjoy.

And, as you can see from the photograph we've also been able to do some much needed repairs with new doors expertly made and fitted. Many thanks go to Jillson Lawrence for his hard work and undoubted skill.

I'm sure you'll agree that the Village Hall is a valuable community resource and offers something for everyone. Beginners are especially welcome to attend classes and you'll be met with a warm smile and friendly atmosphere. If you're a little unsure or want some more information, then please do give me (Bill Drumm) a ring and I'll put you in touch with the group organiser who will be only too happy to help.



2020 has also presented everyone with new challenges to overcome and the Village Hall is no exception. Events planned for this year from the ever popular quizzes and concerts to the Halloween murder mystery night to the weekly cinema on your doorstep have all had to be postponed.

Events still in the calendar for the remainder of this year will see the return of Hot Club du Nord for their third visit to the Village Hall (Sunday 13th December). This exquisite and highly talented gypsy jazz quartet

have previously treated audiences of up to 70 people in the Hall to an hour and a half of exceptional live music. Numbers this time will have to be in line with Government guidelines but hopefully we'll be able to entertain as many of you as possible.

We also have the ever popular Christmas Wreath making scheduled for Saturday 19th December. Again, numbers will be in line with Government guidelines but please do let me know if you'd like to reserve a place.

So, what do we have in store for you in 2021?

Well, we can promise you that the comprehensive programme of weekly classes will continue and go from

strength to strength. We also promise a return of 'The Pudding Club', the weekly cinema, concerts, exhibitions, quizzes AND above all else, a welcoming atmosphere, a friendly smile and a VERY warm welcome.

This is your Village Hall and we'd like to see you using it and, more importantly enjoying it. So, if you want to know anything about the events we're planning, classes that are held or if you want to hire the Hall for your own event please do let us know, we'll be only too happy to help.

**Bill Drumm**

Booking Secretary

**(01325) 720694**

**bill.drumm@talk21.com**

## STRAIT LANE ALLOTMENT FUN DAY

In August the allotments put on a Fun day. This event was a fantastic opportunity to show what the allotments are all about. The day consisted of children's games, BBQ, refreshments, and a cake stall (thanks Lynne). The vintage tractor was a great talking point and of course there was tombola. Thank you to everyone who donated to the tombola, there were so many prizes which were all claimed. The main prize was £50 donated by Ben Crisp.

Your support proved to be outstanding. A big thankyou to all allotment committee members. Your commitment and hard work have made the day memorable for the members and the villagers. We hope to see you all again next year, hopefully we can make it bigger and better.

**Dave Crisp**

## Hurworth Parish Council

Hurworth Grange Community Centre, 41, Hurworth Road, Hurworth  
Darlington DL2 2BN

### For Parish Clerk - Peter Allan & Enquiries

Phone 01325 722 171 E-mail: [enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Councillor's Surgeries

The Parish Councillor's Surgery is held the first Thursday of the month at 6.30pm at The Grange unless notified otherwise.

**Council Web Site;** The Council web site hosts information about the Council and its business and records of all its meetings.

Why not visit [www.hurworthonline.com](http://www.hurworthonline.com) where you can leave comments or issues you may wish to raise.



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## Hurworth Parish Council Members

Cllr Graham Wylie (Chair)	Hurworth Parish
Cllr Bree Stamp Vice Chair)	29. Church Row, Hurworth, DL2 2AQ
Cllr David Crisp	12A Church Row, Hurworth, DL22AQ
Cllr Janine Forster	11. Church Row, Hurworth, DL2 2AQ
Cllr Peter Foster	End View Cottage, Hurworth Moor, DL2 1QJ
Cllr Elaine Hedley	43. Westfield Drive, Hurworth, DL2 2ET
Cllr Amanda Oughton	43. Emerson Road, Hurworth, DL2 2AW
Cllr Dorothy Oughton	43. Emerson Road, Hurworth, DL2 2AW
Cllr Sam Ring-Viney	Hurworth Parish
Cllr Peter Willis	Hurworth Parish
Cllr Lynn Wylie	Hurworth Parish

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## Darlington Borough Councillors;

### Dr. Christy Chou

Democratic Services, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT Conservative

### Lorraine Tostevin

Stone Gables, Norton Back Road, Sadberge, DL2 1SO Conservative

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