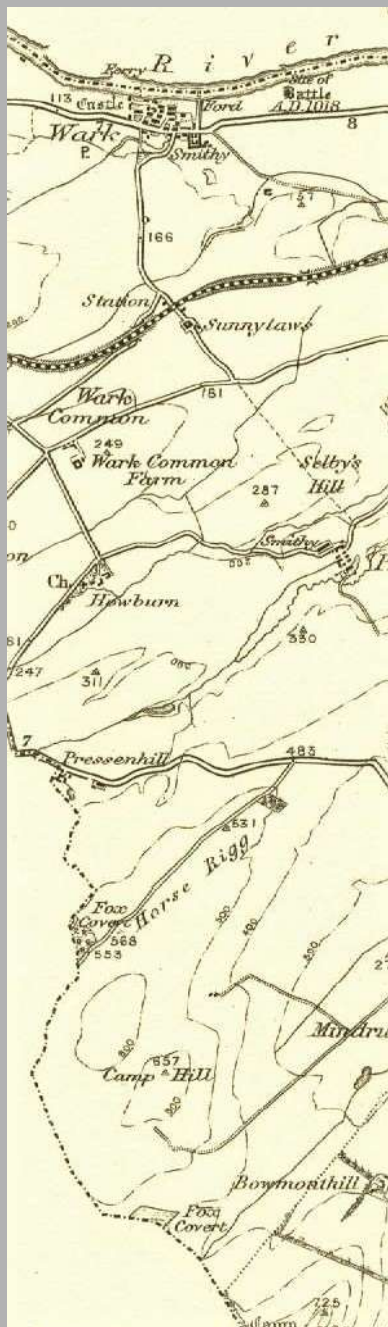


Carham Parish Council Newsletter

No 13 ~ December 2023



It is dispiriting to look back at last December's newsletter and find that some things have not changed in the last year! We are all still facing inflation, paying more than before for our food and fuel, and worrying about the future. But despite these hard times, there has been a very generous response to our efforts to raise money for public access defibrillators for the parish: in under a year, the parish's residents have raised over £3,600. Thank you! We hope you do not mind us asking you to support one more fundraising event this year, which is a Christmas raffle - details are below. In the meantime, we wish everyone a happy Christmas and hope that 2024 will be a good year for all.

Carham Parish Council

Christmas Church Services

This year's carol service at St Cuthbert's church, Carham, will be on Sunday 17 December at 11 am. On Christmas day, Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) will be held at the church at 9.30 am. For further information, contact churchwarden Peter Straker-Smith on 01890 830 316.

Christmas Raffle

This Christmas raffle is the last fundraising effort of the year for the parish defibrillator fund. Tickets are just £1 each, and the prizes that have been donated should add nicely to anyone's seasonal festivities. They include a magnum of Champagne, bottles of wine, whisky and sloe gin, boxes of chocolates, a £30 gift voucher for The Good Life Shop in Wooler, a basket of Christmas treats from Cornhill Village Shop and a sack of Saxon potatoes – an essential accompaniment to the turkey! – from Particularly Good Potatoes in Wooler. Tickets are available from Victoria Poland at Mindrum Station House, John McGregor in Wark and Willa Straker-Smith at Wark Common, and are also on sale at Cornhill Village Shop. Ticket stubs and money need to be returned by Saturday 16 December and the draw is on Monday 18 December. Please support the raffle if you can!

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Carham Parish Council is in a position to co-opt a new councillor. A councillor's task is to bring local issues to the attention of the council, and help it make decisions on behalf of the local community. There are usually six Parish Council meetings a year, and training is available to help councillors to develop skills and knowledge. This is a voluntary position. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, contact the Parish Clerk on 01890 850 336 or clerk@carhamparish.org

Carham Parish Footpaths Group

The aim of the Footpaths Group is to check that the public rights of way in the parish are open and in good condition. The walks it organises are a good way of doing this, and over the five years since it was set up the group has arranged 15 walks around the parish's 12 miles of footpaths, bridle paths and byways. Even if there are no walks in the offing, the public rights of way are not forgotten. Earlier this year, the walks organiser compiled a comprehensive audit of missing and broken byway, bridle path and footpath signage in the parish. This information has been sent to Northumberland County Council, which is the body responsible for the footpaths and other public rights of way. A recent update to the audit has also been sent.



Contact Us

The Parish Clerk
Carham Parish Council

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01890 850 336

Email

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Website

www.carhamparish.org

Public Access Defibrillators

We are delighted that the project to get public access defibrillators into the parish's communities has been so well supported by residents. At some point next year, we expect this project to become an entity in its own right. It will still be supported by the Parish Council, of course, but being separate will enable it to get its own bank account and start applying for grants. This is essential, if it is to succeed. A defibrillator costs around £2,000, and if every community is to have one, we will need to raise just short of £40,000 over the next four or five years. But match-funding and grants should cover much of the cost, together with more local fundraising. The support the project has enjoyed so far gives us confidence that the project will meet its objectives. If you would like to receive the occasional email update, so that you know how it is progressing, please send an email to carhamparishdefibs@gmail.com and we will add you to the list.

2024-25 Precept

The Parish Council cannot, unfortunately, do very much to help residents with the cost of living, but we have made sure that the annual precept has not increased, as this is something that we do have the power to do. The precept is the money that we need to run the Parish Council, covering non-discretionary items such as insurance, accountancy fees and the Parish Clerk's salary. It also covers ad hoc items, such as the purchase of a speed sign for Carham and the repair of the speed sign in Wark. The money for the precept comes from the Council Tax, of which it is a very small part – less than 1%.

Happy to Help

If you or someone you know could do with a little support, Northumberland County Council can help. Its Northumberland Communities Together service offers information and advice on a wide range of subjects, from household costs and bills through to wellbeing and mental health, and includes details of the support and benefits that are available to those who are eligible. You can call Northumberland Communities Together seven days a week, from 9 am to 6 pm, on 01670 620 015, or email nct@northumberland.gov.uk.

Carham Parish Council is an elected body in the first tier of local government. It is responsible for representing the interests of the whole community. Among other things, it is concerned with community safety, street lighting, common land, play areas, litter, tourism, traffic calming, seats and shelters, rights of way, and some aspects of planning and highways.

The Parish Council meets six times a year. Meetings are in alternate months beginning in May, on the second Tuesday of the month, in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm. Anyone living or working in the parish can attend a meeting.

For the minutes of Carham Parish Council meetings, go to www.carhamparish.org