

Carham Parish Council Newsletter

No 16 ~ May 2025



As you will hear if you are able to attend the Annual Parish Assembly on 12 May, we have been lobbying Northumberland County Council on two fronts. First, we have said that we would like to see better access to bus services for Carham parish residents. We recognise that there are cross-border problems to overcome and that any service would have to be subsidised, because of our low population, but we hope that the County will be able to come up with some sort of solution. If so, it will then be down to all of us to use it and make it a success. We have also been lobbying for improvements to the footpaths and signage around Wark Castle – see item below. If there is something that you think Carham Parish Council could take on for the benefit of the people of the parish, come along to the Annual Parish Assembly, so we can hear what you have to say. And if you cannot make it to the meeting to give us your views, contact the Parish Clerk or one of your six Parish Councillors – see overleaf for who we are.

Carham Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly

This year's Annual Parish Assembly is on Monday 12 May at 6.30 in St Cuthbert's church, **Carham**. This is a meeting for members of the community to have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of the parish, as well as learning what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year. You can find the draft minutes of last year's Annual Parish Assembly at

www.carhamparish.org/annual-parish-assembly

- ❖ The Annual Parish Assembly is convened by the Parish Council, the chairman of the Parish Council presides, and it is usual for Parish Councillors to speak as well as listening, but this is a community meeting, not a Parish Council meeting.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Parish Clerk Update

Our Parish Clerk, Agnes Changleng, has now retired. We are very grateful to her for everything she has done for Carham Parish Council over the last 12 years, first as a Parish Councillor and later as Parish Clerk. Following her retirement, we are very pleased to welcome our new Parish Clerk, Isabel Hunter. Isabel is an experienced parish clerk who looks after a number of parish councils in north Northumberland. She has also represented Berwick West with Ord as a County Councillor since 2021. Her contact details are overleaf and at

www.carhamparish.org/contact

Wark Castle

The castle of **Wark on Tweed** is one of the most important castles on the border between England and Scotland and is a Grade II* Listed Building. As we all know, not much of it remains – its most prominent feature is the Mound, containing the ruins of the keep – but it is still an important monument, of interest to scholars and visitors alike. We have asked Northumberland County Council to improve the footpaths around the Mound, and we have also asked for funding to improve the signage, so that residents and visitors to our area find it easier to locate and have information about what they are seeing. Our progress with this will be recorded in the minutes of our meetings, which you can find at

www.carhamparish.org/meetings



Contact Us

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Carham Parish Council

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Open Gardens

The garden at Kirky Cottage, **Mindrum**, will be open in aid of the British Red Cross on Sunday 25 May, with plants for sale that are all propagated from the garden. Admission is £6; children under 12 are admitted free. The garden is open from 11 am to 5 pm. The gardens at Mindrum House and Kirky Cottage will both be open on Sunday 15 June for the National Garden Scheme, with home-made teas at Mindrum House and a plant stall at Kirky Cottage. One admission fee of £10 (children admitted free) gives entry to both, from 12 to 5 pm.

Change of Day for Parish Council Meetings

Please note that we are changing the day on which Carham Parish Council meets from a Tuesday to a Monday. We will continue to hold six meetings a year, on the second Monday of the month, starting in May. There is no change to the time of the meetings, which is 6.30 pm, and meetings will continue to be held in St Cuthbert's church, **Carham**. All parishioners are welcome to attend any meeting.

- ❖ If you have a question for the Parish Council, please send this to the Parish Clerk in advance of the meeting. This advance notice is needed because it is unlawful for the Parish Council to make a decision without at least three clear days' notice. The Parish Clerk can ask the question on your behalf and let you know the outcome or, if you attend the meeting, you can ask your question in person. Parishioners' questions are answered before the main proceedings of the meeting begin.

Your New Parish Council

In the May 2025 local elections the following have been elected unopposed to Carham Parish Council:

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| ❖ Janet Chubb | ❖ John McGregor |
| ❖ Mark de Fusco | ❖ Victoria Poland |
| ❖ Patrick Feerick | ❖ Duncan Wells |

It is the Parish Councillors who deliver this newsletter to your door, so you have an opportunity to get to know them the next time they are out and about.

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 Monday 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