

HAWTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

No. 2 : Spring 2015

Dear Resident,

This is the second newsletter published by your Parish Council. Feedback from the first edition in November was very good and we are now looking to produce this on a quarterly basis. The web-site is also now well established at www.hawthornparish.co.uk and we welcome all information from local groups and organizations which can then be included.

The circulation for the new Hawthorn Round Up is continually increasing and again is providing up to date information on a regular basis by e mail to all who register with our Parish Clerk. (lesley.swinbank@hawthornparish.co.uk)

I am delighted to say that our first 'Switching on' of the Christmas Tree Lights was very successful. Our next community event will be 'The Big Lunch' and Open Garden Walk on Sunday 7th June. Further details on these including an invitation to everyone to open up their gardens will be circulated nearer the time.

And finally I would like to invite all residents to come along to our first Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 17th March 2015 in the Community Hall. The Parish Council has been approached to look into providing new facilities and we want to know what you want!

Cllr Alan Askew

(Chairman)

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	Address	Tel.	E mail
Cllr. Alan Askew	7 Western Park, Hawthorn, SEAHAM,SR7 8BF.	0754 501 9164	alan.askew7572@googlemail.co
Cllr. Michael Dowson	South Farm, Cold Hesledon, Seaham, SR7 8RL	01642 877045	Michael.dowson@hotmail.com
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Cllr. Sheila Irving	4 High West Lane, Hawthorn SR7 8RY	0191 5270428	Sheilairving4@gmail.com
Cllr. Maxine Smith	29 West Lane, Hawthorn.SR7 8SB	0191 5273526	maxandian@live.co.uk
Cllr. George Vest	Eaglecrest, High West Lane, Hawthorn. SR78RY	0777 1847899	Georgevest10@hotmail.com
Lesley Swinbank Parish Clerk	Hawthorn Parish Council Springwell House, Sedgfield, TS21 2HS	01740 622429	Lesley.swinbank@hawthornparish.co.uk

The Police are looking to recruit additional Neighbourhood Watch Members for Hawthorn. If you are interested please contact Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Jottings from the Parish Council

The Parish Council has applied for Foundation Status. The new Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

Christmas Tree : Switching on the Lights Quite a crowd gathered to watch Santa switch on the Christmas Lights last November. The grown ups enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies whilst the younger members of the community received presents from Santa. All joined in with the Salvation Army who led the carol singing. Photos are on the council website at www.hawthornparish.co.uk. The event will be repeated next year.

Council Tax 2015 / 2016 : The Parish Council has set the precept at £6,824. This is the amount requested from residents of Hawthorn and pays for the Parish Clerk, local maintenance and grasscutting, donations, play equipment charges and community events etc. It represents a Band D council tax of £34.50 and will result in a zero increase in the Council Tax from last year.

New Facilities : The Parish Council has been approached about providing a bowling green and / or multi sports use facility. Before making a grant application there needs to be consultation and evidence that such facilities are wanted by the community, identification of land/sites, consideration of financial resources for both capital and revenue costs and the long term financial implications for the Parish Council. The Council welcomes all views and comments on this. The **Annual Parish Meeting** on March 17th is also the ideal opportunity for everyone to give their opinions on this and all other parish matters.

Contacting your Parish Council

The Parish Council is always interested in your views, comments and suggestions. The following table indicates the quickest way to get your voice heard or problem sorted.

Problem	Who to contact	Action we will take
Street light not working Litter dropped Footpath Problems Dogs fouling	Ring Lesley Swinbank 01740 622429 Or email lesley.swinbank@hawthornparish.co.uk	We will contact Durham County Council
Seeking a donation for your group / organisation	Write to the Parish Council at address shown or e mail lesley.swinbank@hawthornparish.co.uk	Your request will be placed before the next meeting of the parish Council.
Concerned about a planning application or action the parish council is taking	Write / e mail the Parish council and / or come along to a council meeting. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the 3 rd Tuesday of each month (except August) in the community Centre.. You can speak at 'Public Participation'. Agendas for meetings are placed on the noticeboards and website.	Members will listen to your views and take these into account when making their decision.
Want information re planning, crime warnings etc.	Register with our Hawthorn Round up by e mailing lesley.swinbank@hawthornparish.co.uk	We will add you to our distribution group
You want to volunteer to help plant bulbs, help with the web-site, projects etc.	Contact the Parish Clerk – e mail as above.	We will be in touch!
You want to talk to an individual Councillor	Contact details for all Councillors are included in the newsletter, Hawthorn Round up and will be on the web-site.	Alternatively a meeting can be arranged with the Councillor.
You want to know what the Parish Council is doing and how it is representing you.	Come along to the monthly meeting or the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday March 17 th , 2015 at 7pm in the Community Centre.	Members will listen to your views and comments.

Additional information

County Councillors

Angela Surtees 1 Davis Terrace, Easington Colliery, SR8 3JF a.Surtees@durham.gov.uk 03000 268778 / 07900 702339

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