

# WHORLTON NEWS

Produced by your Parish Council to keep you up to date with what is happening in Swainby  
May 2023

## Whorlton Parish Council

The 1<sup>st</sup> April was when the new County Council began work. It replaced the eight councils which previously provided District and County services. You can contact the new Council by phone on **0300 131 2131** or apply, book or pay for services online and report problems 24/7 by visiting [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk) The same staff will provide the services that they delivered previously and you can access support and services via your local council building.

Their press release advises that the council is geographically the largest in England but aims to be “the most local, large council in the country. The move is intended to save between £30 million and £70 million to be used to protect some of our most important local services at a critical time when everyone and every organisation is feeling the pressure.”

**Council tax** rates have also now been sent out from the new Council. The Parish Council agreed not to ask for an increase in our precept from this tax as we still have adequate funds thanks to the government rebate on the toilets which we received following the pandemic.

Over the winter you may have noticed that **the Pinfold** has been refurbished – the combined efforts of councillors have seen the unruly weeds and flowerbeds cleared and replaced with gravel which is much easier to keep tidy. The mosaic rescued from the school has also been installed in the floor to complement the retained Millenium Stone and seating.

Development of the 9 houses on the **school site** is progressing but we still await a copy of the legal transfer document that will secure Parish Council ownership of the public car park and proposed electric vehicle recharging station along with the financial contribution towards its maintenance which the Parish Council negotiated with the building company.

On **Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May** a **Charity walk for Dementia Awareness Week** will pass through Swainby on its way from York to Stockton led by John Hirst who lost his wife aged 66 to the disease. You are welcome to join in for a section and support would be appreciated by donating to [justgiving/fundraising/70@seventy](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/70@seventy) John also offers to arrange a visit from a speaker from Alzheimer Research UK, please let one of your councillors know if you think it would be useful to arrange a public meeting on this subject.

From walking to running - the Moors And Dales Races held their 4<sup>th</sup> annual race from Swainby on 16<sup>th</sup> April and the organisers have written to thank the village for their hospitality. The Esk Valley Fell Runners will hold the annual **Whorlton Run** on the evening of **Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June**. Please turn out to support this historic event.

And now to cycling – after issues during some events last year, councillors raised concerns and have been working with race organisers of events planned to pass through the village this summer. There is to be more signage for both cyclists and vehicle traffic, especially on the steeper sections, and better briefing of competitors warning of walkers where there are no footways. **On Sat 24<sup>th</sup> June, on 120 mile coast-to-coast cycle race** riders will be cycling up Shepherd Hill, hopefully reasonably slowly by then. Unfortunately, a different race takes place on the same date but in the opposite direction, riders will be passing down Shepherd Hill between 1.30pm and up to 11pm for the stragglers so please be forewarned.

**No-Mow May** is back for another year but, to address concerns expressed by a few residents, councillors have agreed to extend the cutting regime this season to also include more tops of the river banks as well as the seating areas. Grass cutting will resume in June but please understand that it will take much of that month for

Jem to work around the whole area and some long grass sections will still be retained if wild flowers have established.

Our next project is to repair the **fencing along the playingfield footpath**. We intend to move the fence back in those sections where the stiel has cut into the bank making the path very narrow. The path itself is on the National Park rangers programme for resurfacing when their time and budgets allow.

### **Swainby Oil Club**

The club is managed by Mike Foster, [mikefoster51@gmail.com](mailto:mikefoster51@gmail.com) or on 01642 700119. This service offers group buying to get the best price. Mike places an order every two months, the next will be in September, then Nov, January, March and May. Contact Mike to place an order.

### **Swainby Playing Fields Association**

In April, with help from local children, **31 trees including lime, alder and larch** were planted around the field. We have also replaced the Jubilee oak tree which unfortunately perished due to the exceptionally dry and warm weather we experienced last year.

With funds raised by the Jubilee Committee and a contribution from SPFA we have recently taken delivery of an **oak memorial bench to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. The bench will be installed in the play field area shortly once a suitable base has been created.

Once again, the annual **village sports day will be taking place at 2pm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July** on the Playing Field. This fun event is must for children and adults alike. As well as field events we'll also have the usual fancy dress competition, Whorlton Junior Run, bar, tombola and possibly live music. A flyer with more details will be circulated around the village shortly. Could previous cup winners PLEASE RETURN CUPS to Brook House, High St by 11<sup>th</sup> June. Donations for the tombola and offers of help to help run the events gratefully received.

Did you know that although the playing field is managed by Swainby Playing Fields Association, a sub-committee of the Parish Council, it is financially independent and upkeep is entirely reliant on fundraising events and donations. If you would like to contribute towards this valuable asset you are very welcome to make a contribution through a monthly standing order. To sign up please contact Jonathan Skidmore at [jskidmore257@gmail.com](mailto:jskidmore257@gmail.com). Unfortunately, in recent months we have suffered some minor vandalism including damage to the cycle rack, broken glass and damage to the recently planted trees. We will of course do our best to put everything right as quickly as we can but you will appreciate this is very frustrating.

### **VILLAGE HALL**

Generally things are slowly getting back to normal following the huge impact on gatherings during the Covid pandemic. Your village hall is no exception and it was heartening to see such enthusiasm for our recent Race Night event.

We have been thrilled with the response to 'Filling the GAP' on Wednesday mornings. Our Baristas and servers have been hard put to cope with the demands of regulars and new customers alike. It is an ideal opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends and to enjoy our home made produce and range of coffees and teas, all at modest prices. If you haven't yet experienced the GAP, give it a try, you'll be very welcome and you won't be disappointed. Incidentally, you can pay by card.

Don't forget the Post Office attends the Village Hall on a Monday afternoon and a Wednesday morning and there is a range of activities which you may find appealing.

Information for all the above items can be found on the notice boards.

**Whorlton Parish Council:** [www.whorlton-pcswainbyvillage.org.uk](http://www.whorlton-pcswainbyvillage.org.uk)  
**Dolly Hannon** (Chair) **Jonathan Skidmore** (Vice Chair), **Steve Brisley**, **Jem Beadle**, **Brendan Milburn**.  
**The Clerk is Angela Livingstone, 01642 274283 – all contact details on the website and on the notice board.**