



BISHOPTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

March 2025

WELCOME TO BISHOPTON



Bishopton Parish Council extends a warm welcome to everyone who has recently moved into Bishopton. We hope you have settled in well and share our enthusiasm for living here.

We are developing an Information Pack which will go to every house in the village then form the basis of a Welcome Pack to be given when new people move here. It would be good to know what should be included in these Packs so please contact the Parish Clerk if you have any ideas.

A BIT OF HISTORY

In the year 1143 the Anglo-Saxon settlements of 'Biscopton' and 'Stainton' was granted by Bishop Randulf to Roger De Conyers to be held for a knight's fee.

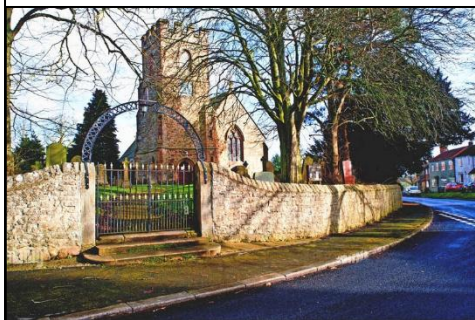
De Conyers fortified 'Biscopton' after refusing to pay homage to William Conyn in doing so creating Castle hill. The Motte and Bailey castle did not see any battles but acted as a vital strategic strong hold during the reign of King Stephen.

The name Bishopton is Anglo-Saxon meaning 'Bishop's farm'.

THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Parish Council has a statutory obligation to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for the upkeep of The Village Green. This includes ensuring it is maintained to a high standard and that all aspects of its use are with the appropriate byelaws. It may sometimes seem that this responsibility requires us to keep saying, "No" or "You can't do that!" to specific requests. All we are trying to do is maintain the integrity of our village and hope that common sense and pragmatism can be the basis of maintaining the quality of our shared areas.

Whether it is parking, use of scaffolding, estate agency signs, dog fouling, access issues, general maintenance and many more the Parish Council has specific responsibilities. Full details of all of these are contained within a newly updated Village Green Policy which is available on the Village Website among the Parish Council Policies or by [clicking here](#).



This Policy includes details of who is responsible for maintenance of which areas – footpaths, driveways, highways, verges and, of course, grassed areas. It also explains some of the more arcane parts of the statutory responsibilities and the duties put on Parish Councillors. We ask that all who live on or use The Green are familiar with The Village Green Policy and work with the Parish Council to keep it as the beautiful and beating heart of our village.

The Newsletter will be published quarterly for residents within the Bishopton area. It replaces information previously published in Parish News which is no longer being produced. A copy of this newsletter is also available on the Bishopton website at <https://bishoptonvillage.co.uk/> - using the electronic edition means the hyperlinks (text underlined and in bold) will take you to the information you require. If you would like an e-copy every time please contact the Parish Clerk who will automatically send it to you when published.

Steve Rose, Parish Clerk

SPRING CLEANING THE GREEN



Volunteers please to help with annual Village Green Spring Clean. Parish Councillor Debbie Latham is organising and asks to meet at the Bus Shelter on the following days:

**Saturday 5th April 10.00am-2pm
and Sunday 6th 2pm-4pm**

By the way, we pay contractors for the larger tasks so this will be about tidying, picking up leaves & litter with some general cleaning-up. Please bring gloves and, if possible, a hard, outside brush. Children with adults welcome! Coffee and cake provided to boost energy levels! See you there!



BISHOPTON VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall is an independent charity run entirely by volunteers.

There are two rooms available for hire – the Main Hall and the smaller Supper Room. Both benefit from the recent refurbishment of the kitchen facilities.

Bookings can be made through the website where all contact details are available

[Book Here](#)



Monthly Coffee Morning

Held on the first Friday of each month 9:30-12:00

Everybody is welcome

PARISH PRECEPT

The Parish Council is responsible for: upkeep of the Village Green and playground; formal planning consultation; events; defibrillators; WiFi; speed monitoring and public meetings.

To meet these commitments the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept by under 1.5% for 2025/26, well below the inflation rate meaning around £1 increase for most in the Parish. We also aim to raise approximately £8,000 each year in grant income. The Parish Council is obliged to undertake a precept review each year in December.

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

There are currently two vacancies. The commitment is a monthly meeting and a willingness to help sustain Bishopton as a pleasant place to live and work. Does that sound like you? Open to all who live in the village and are over 18 years. If interested contact the Chairman, Norman Melaney, or Clerk, Steve Rose

VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

We will soon be confirming how to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day Thursday 8th May. Currently looking at a Village Hall tea but we are open to ideas – please contact the Parish Council with your thoughts.

CONTACT DETAILS

email: clerk@bishoptonvillage.co.uk or ring 07735 598251

Parish Councillors:

Chair: Norman Melaney

Parish Councillors: Geoff Preston (Vice Chair); Graham Fisher; Debbie Latham; Stephen Wall

Darlington Borough Councillors: [Deborah Laing](#); [Colin Pease](#); [Yvonne Renton](#)

(Click on their name for contact and surgery details)

