

DALTON-LE-DALE'S DIARY

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF DALTON-LE-DALE PARISH COUNCIL

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First – the apologies (once again). A lot of water has passed beneath Cromwell's bridge in the village since the last Diary was published in June 2004, so it's high time for another one!

St.Andrew's Church

2005 marks the 850th anniversary of our lovely old Church, and this milestone will be celebrated in suitable style, with a fete on 2nd July, when all of the organisations in the parish will come together in praise and fellowship. By that time, St.Andrew's will have gone its separate way from Murton and Hawthorn, and will have joined New Seaham in a new benefice. A new Vicar will have been appointed, and a new era will have dawned. The Parochial Church Council has started on arrangements for the celebrations, in partnership with the W.I., the Community Association and the Parish Council, and the event will be blessed by a visit by the Bishop of Jarrow. Further information will be reported as it becomes available, on the parish notice boards (new and larger, ones) and via the web site – www.dalton-le-dale.com

Community Association

The Management Committee has suffered a (hopefully temporary) set back in its efforts to provide a brand new community building to serve the whole of the parish of Dalton-le-Dale. Some funding had already been in place or in the pipeline, when the major source – The Heritage Lottery Fund, which had been replaced by The Big Lottery“ pulled the plug” without any explanation. Undaunted, the committee is carrying on with its efforts, albeit with an amended and less expensive design. Plans are already being drawn, and will be submitted to the Planning Authority in due course, when no obstacles are expected.

The Association holds its Annual Meeting in the Hall on Thursday 21st April at 7 p.m. when all members are welcome to attend. The membership fee remains at £1 and application forms are available from Jean Hughes on 5818837. Other forthcoming events include a “Wine & Savoury” evening on 21st May, a B-B-Que on 30th July, and another “Race Night” in September or October.

Parish Council

As the Council approaches a new Civic Year, a number of ambitious plans are afoot to improve the general environmental appearance of the parish. Floral tubs and perhaps hanging baskets will adorn the main routes, and open spaces and roadside verges will have a much needed makeover. It is hoped that this work will be carried out under a partnership arrangement with the District of Easington and

Groundwork East Durham.

Play Time

Thanks to a grant from the Children's Fund, the Parish Council is to renew some of its play equipment at the St. Andrew's recreation area, with perhaps one or two new items to add greater variety. The area is popular with parents and grandparents with young children, but in recent times, only the swings have been in use, following an adverse safety report on the banana slide. It is hoped that the new equipment will be in use by the end of April.

Safe Crossing

A new crossing facility is to be provided at the bottom of Walton Avenue, incorporating dropped kerbs to assist people with mobility difficulties to cross easily to the Jubilee Stores. This facility will be funded by the Parish Council, while in a reciprocal partnership arrangement, Durham County Council will pay for three similar crossings on the opposite side of the road to complement the central reservation near the Avenue junction, This will give access to the garage and the shops on the eastern side of Stockton Road.

Roadside Fencing

The Parish Council has long been concerned at the unsightly, and in places dangerous, concrete post and metal barrier fencing on both sides of the B1285 south of the Times Inn to the Murton parish boundary. The County Council has been asked to investigate the renewal or refurbishment of this fencing to enhance the approach to the Dalton Retail Park. It is also expected that this will complement the environmental programme being prepared.

Parish Council Meetings

Council meetings continue to be held in the W.I. Hall in the village on the first Thursday of each month (except January and August) at 7 p.m. Residents of the parish are entitled by law to attend these meetings, and an opportunity is provided in the Agenda for them to raise matters of interest or concern, and question members accordingly. Additionally, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held this year on Thursday 5th May at 6.30 p.m., immediately before the Council's own Annual Meeting. The Parish Meeting gives the opportunity for the Council to present its Annual Report on the activities of the previous year, and to submit its financial report and accounts to the public, as well as setting out its plans for the succeeding term. Again, residents are entitled to attend, but sadly, little use is made of the opportunity to learn of the Council's work, and experience a meeting "in action"

The Council presently comprises nine members, five serving the Dalton Urban Ward and four serving the Dalton Village Ward.

The administration of the Council is carried out by a part-time Clerk, working from his home, to whom all enquiries relating to the Council's work should be directed :

John Abbot
63 Oakfield Court East Herrington, Sunderland SR3 3SA
Tel: (0191) 5280346
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The Parish also has a successful web site, on which the Council Minutes are posted :

[www.dalton-le-dale .com](http://www.dalton-le-dale.com)