

HHST PARISH NEWS

Welcome to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council's annual news round up, lets have a look what we have been up to 2022/23!

Following a lengthy consultation with residents and Durham County Council the Council officially changed our name to Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council on the 1st February 2023.

We have strengthened our relationship with Wingate Parish Council to expand the services that we can offer. In April we held our first bingo session, which was so successful, has now been running for a year! Why not come along and join us? We also partnered with Wingate PC for their children's Summer Programme, and we are working with them to offer a Citizens Advice Service at Wingate Community Centre.



A Community Allotment project was launched at our site in Hutton Henry to facilitate any resident who wishes to grow their own produce but does not have either the time or ability to maintain a full allotment. In February we planted a fruit orchard on the site to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II. New grit bins have been installed in Hutton Henry and Station Town thanks to a £500 grant from the County Councillors and AAP.

In July 2022 we held our first Garden Competition and the council agreed to host the competition again in July 2023 as well as holding a Spring Garden Competition in April. Entries close 30th April for this year's spring competition so don't miss out on your chance to win a fantastic prize! Entries for the summer competition open 1st May.



In May 2022 we joined the Nation in celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. The Council partnered with Hutton Henry and District Community Association for the celebrations which included beacon lighting ceremonies in Hutton Henry and Station Town followed by a family fun day held at St Francis Village Hall. Following the Queens passing in September the Parish joined the Nation in a state of mourning with a book of condolence made available for residents and flowers and messages were left at the War Memorial in Hutton Henry and the Pit Wheel in Station Town.



This year, we are celebrating the Kings Coronation, on Sunday 7th May with a family fun day at St Francis Village Hall in Hutton Henry. The event is free for residents of the Parish, but booking is essential. See leaflet for more information.



Inspired by the story of Matilda Handy from Nottingham who had the idea of installing a Post Box to Heaven at her local cemetery as a coping mechanism following the loss of her grandparents, in March 2023 we installed a Post Box at Station Town Cemetery and hope it will provide comfort to many families and help the bereaved cope with their grief. Letters will be shredded and used as compost to aid the growth of a memorial tree to be planted in the cemetery in the near future.

We are continuing to offer FREE activity packs to residents during the school holidays. We know that keeping your young ones entertained is an increasingly difficult task during the holidays and with the cost-of-living crisis we hope that our activity packs help to alleviate some families concerns. A donation was also made to local schools to help with the increased levels of food poverty. Schools are sadly encountering many families struggling to pay for school meals and falling into debt and we hope that our donations have helped to ease some worries. We have also made donations to Action for Station Town for craft sessions and contributed to Milbank Methodist Church for their Christmas Lunch.

In July 2022 we held our 2nd Family Fun Day in Station Town which was completely free for residents of our Parish. We are hosting the event again on Sunday 16th July 2023 and we will have inflatables, animals, face painting and more so don't forget to register your place to receive your free picnic and ice cream! Plans are progressing, all be it slowly, for the creation of a Pump Track in Station Town - we have been successful in achieving £45,000 in grants towards the project and hope to have the project completed before the end of 2023, watch this space!



Can you help us? The Council is run by volunteers, Parish Councillors are not paid for what we do, and we need more volunteers to help run our activities. If you have any free time and would like to help please get in touch via the Clerk.



Details of the new Citizens Advice Service at Wingate CC

Speeding is one of the main concerns raised by residents and we are working closely with the Police and Durham County Council to help combat the issue. Speed watch training has been made available for volunteers and regular speed checks are being carried out in the Parish. The Council and Police urge residents to continue reporting all incidents by contacting 101 (or 999 in the case of emergencies) or online at Durham.Police.uk. The council also receive regular complaints regarding litter and dog fouling in the area and we have installed additional dog fouling signs to remind owners it is essential to pick up after their dog! Posters have been put up in the area, but we need the help of residents to keep our Parish clean, tidy, and safe!

Updates & useful information can be found on our website, Facebook and Noticeboards.

Fear of missing out? Why not join our mailing list. Email hhstparishcouncil@outlook.com