

# *Upper Wansbeck News*

*Benefice Newsletter  
Of  
St. Andrew's, Bolam,  
St. Andrew's Hartburn,  
St. John's Meldon,  
St. Giles's, Netherwitton  
St. Mary Magdalene, Whalton*



*Sept / Oct 2025*

# Who's Who

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**Facebook**

Our page can be accessed via

<https://www.facebook.com/upperwansbeck>

You do not have to be a Facebook member to use this link. Service details, events and news can be found here, and reflections are posted daily.

**Website**

Contains service details news and events

[www.mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com](http://www.mitfordandwansbeckchurches.com)

Email [wansbeckchurch64@gmail.com](mailto:wansbeckchurch64@gmail.com)

## *Our Ministry Team*

*Revd. Elaine Jones*



*Rachel Coundon - Lay  
Worship Leader*



## *Editor's Note:*



Hello and welcome to our autumn newsletter and I hope everyone is well.

From next year 2026, I will be issuing the newsletter on a quarterly basis as opposed to bi-monthly which I currently do. I have more commitments these days with elderly parents and rather than resigning as Editor I will manage 4 editions going forward. The newsletter will be issued as a Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn edition. This I'm hoping will cover Easter services, the end of School Term before the start of the summer holidays, advertising of Whalton Show and then subsequent results of the show and finally covering all the Christmas Services. At the end of this newsletter you will find the schedule for 2026.

Of course throughout the year I am happy to forward any important notices that cannot wait for the next edition.

Now to the current edition. I have an update on the ever requests for a regular bus service through Whalton and Ogle. I, like many others met with our local MP Joe Morris during his recent surgery session held at Whalton Village Hall. I brought up the subject of the lack of a bus service and how we have tried to get the council to introduce a suitable service. I found him very receptive to listening and he said he had spoken to a number of residents who had all voiced the same concerns surrounding the lack of a service, particularly Ogle where there is nothing at the moment.

Mr.Morris MP has written a very long letter to Mr.Stuart McNaughton, Head of Strategic Transport and Climate Change at Northumberland County Council expressing his concern at the lack of a service. He sent me a copy and said he would update me when he receives a reply. So I will let you know any outcome in due course.

I have not included his letter to the council in this newsletter as I'm aware it does not apply to everyone on the distribution list, but if anyone would like to see a copy of the letter he sent to the Council, please let me know as he is happy for me to share it.

Mr.Morris MP said he is open to receiving emails from residents in support of a bus service and reasons why as this helps him to build a case for us. His email address is: [joe.morris.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:joe.morris.mp@parliament.uk)

Roisel

**Mitford & Hebron**  
St Cuthberts, St Mary Magdalene,  
Hebron Mitford

**Hartburn with Meldon & Netherwitton**  
St Andrew's, St John the  
Hartburn Baptist,  
Meldon Netherwitton

**Bolam with Whalton**  
St Andrew's, St Mary Magdalene,  
Bolam Whalton

## September – January 2025/2026

### Mitford, Hebron, Longhorsley and Upper Wansbeck Church Services

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September (Third Sunday)	10:00 – 11:00	Holy Communion	St. Cuthbert's, Hebron
	10:30 – 11:30	Holy Communion joint with Longhorsley	St. Giles, Netherwitton
	10:30-11:30	Celtic Morning Prayer	St. Mary Magdalene, Whalton
	16:00-17:00	Storytime Church – Teddy Bears Picnic	St. Mary Magdalene, Mitford
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	14:00-15:00	Anna Chaplaincy	St. Cuthbert's, Hebron
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September (Fourth Sunday)	10:00-11:00	BCP Morning Prayer	St. Mary Magdalene, Mitford
	10:00-11:00	Café Church	Mitford Village Hall, Fontside
	10:00-11:00	Morning Prayer	St. Helen's, Longhorsley
	10:30-11:30	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's, Bolam
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October (First Sunday)	10:00-11:00	Holy Communion	St. Mary Magdalene, Mitford
	10:00-11:00	Holy Communion	St. Helen's, Longhorsley
	10:30-11:30	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's, Hartburn
	10:30-11:30	Family Service	St. Andrew's, Bolam
	15:00-17:00	Choral Evensong (Sharp Festival)	St. Andrew's, Hartburn
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October (Second Sunday)	10:00-11:00	All Age Worship	St. Mary Magdalene, Mitford
	10:00-11:00	Morning Prayer	St. Helen's, Longhorsley
	10:30-11:30	Holy Communion	St. Mary Magdalene, Whalton
	16:00-17:00	Messy Church	St. Helen's, Longhorsley
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	09:30-10:30	Morning Prayer and Coffee	St. Giles, Netherwitton
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October (Third Sunday)	10:00-11:00	Holy Communion	St. Cuthbert's, Hebron

**Mitford & Hebron**  
St Cuthberts, Hebron      St Mary Magdalene, Mitford

**Hartburn with Meldon & Netherwitton**  
St Andrew's, Hartburn      St John the Baptist, Meldon      St Giles, Netherwitton

**Bolam with Whalton**  
St Andrew's, Bolam      St Mary Magdalene, Whalton

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October (con)	10:30-11:30	Holy Communion joint service with Longhorsley and Harvest Festival with the Roost	St. Giles, Netherwitton
	10:30-11:30	Celtic Morning Prayer	St. Mary Magdalene, Whalton
	16:00-17:00	Story Time Church	St. Mary Magdalene, Mitford
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	14:00-15:00	Anna Chaplaincy	St. Cuthbert's, Hebron
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October (Fourth Sunday)	10:00-11:00	BCP Morning Prayer	St. Mary Magdalene, Mitford
	10:00-11:00	Café Church	Mitford Village Hall, Fontside
	10:00-11:00	Morning Prayer	St. Helen's, Longhorsley
	10:30-11:30	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's, Bolam

**Please note some changes to the usual schedule:**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October – **NO EVENSING AT HEBRON.**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October – MESSY CHURCH starting at St. Helen's Longhorsley

Service types may be subject to change according to minister availability.





## From Sadie Flanagan

We made it to the north Highlands and are settling in well. We have made some wonderful friends during our time in Northumberland, and we look forward to returning on holiday as often as we can. Thank you for your generous gifts which were presented to us at a lovely service in Whalton on 20 July.

**With best wishes, Jane and Sadie.**

## From Pam Walker

Dear All,

It was a pleasure to take my last "official" service on August 24<sup>th</sup>, just as it has been a pleasure and honour to serve as lay minister for the last 7 years. Thank you to Bolam church for the bubbles and cake after the service. Thank you also for everyone who contributed to my gift vouchers, a lovely and generous gesture. I am keeping my licence and will therefore still be seeing you when I take services.

**Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.**

**Pam Walker**



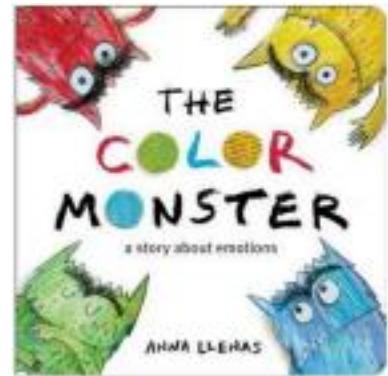


## *News from Belsay Primary School*

Belsay School is back in full swing after a wonderful summer break and the children have returned brimming with enthusiasm for the new academic year. We are delighted to welcome our brand-new Reception class, as well as six new starters across the school, all of whom have settled in beautifully.

We began the term with great energy, as some of our Year 5 and 6 boys took part in a Trust-wide football tournament, competing against other primary schools in the Pele Trust. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to celebrating our girls' tournament in the coming weeks.

Our Reception Class teacher, Miss Houghton, has been thrilled with how confidently our youngest children have embraced school life. To start things off the children are focusing on the important theme of emotions. To support their learning, they are using the much-loved book *The Colour Monster*, which will help them better understand feelings and how to express them.



all about their discoveries.

In Maple Class, our Year 1 and 2 children have been journeying into space, learning fascinating facts about our solar system. Perhaps we have some future astronauts among us! Both Maple and Willow Classes are also looking forward to a joint class trip to the Centre for Life in Newcastle, where they will explore current exhibits on seasonal change and enjoy the spectacular Living in Space exhibition. We can't wait to hear

In Alder Class, pupils are delving into the world of the Anglo-Saxons. Mrs Aynsley has lots of creative ideas up her sleeve, so we may see some wonderful (and possibly very messy!) art projects inspired by this fascinating period of history.

In Oak Class, our oldest pupils are beginning their study of both world wars. They will be learning not only about the global conflict itself, but also about its impact on ordinary people and communities closer to home. Through poetry, diaries, and letters from the frontline, the children will gain an understanding of the lives of soldiers and their families. They will also be exploring the importance of remembrance and reflecting on how we continue to honour those who served. This promises to be a deeply meaningful topic.







### *News from Belsay Primary School Cont.*

Looking ahead, we have some important dates in our diary. Our Harvest Festival will take place in mid-October and will be our first whole-school performance of the year. Rehearsals will soon begin, and we look forward to supporting local food banks through the generous donations of our families.

Meanwhile, the PTA is raring to go, with preparations already underway for our much-loved Halloween Disco. This favourite event is always a wonderful way to round off the first half term, with plenty of costumes, music, and fun for the children.

Finally our Belsay bees have had a very busy summer and Mr Atkinson has managed to fill 40 jars of honey. We have had a taste and it is delicious! We really are very lucky to have such a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning right here on our doorstep, helping our children to connect with nature and understand the importance of looking after our environment.



It is shaping up to be a very exciting year at Belsay, and we look forward to sharing more highlights with you soon.

Mr Shaw

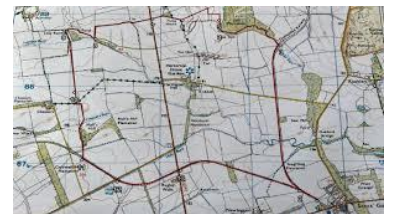


## *News from Cambo First School*

Welcome back to a new school year at Cambo!

And our new starters into school. Where did that summer go? One minute it was July and now we are in September. The weather? Well... We have had some sunny days.... but I am afraid my verdict is 'could do a lot better'!

Our school term was kick started by a visit to Beamish with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to learn about toys and history. What fun we had and what wonderful interactive workshops! I think we were all pleased not to be in school in the Victorian times! Our Key stage 2 children also had a visit to The Stephenson Railway Museum and Scots Gap to begin their history topic: 'Our Local' Area and the 'Wanny Line'! I can safely say there was a lot of walking and a lot of evidence building as they traced the historical tracks across those fields around Scots Gap etc.



This term our Y3/4's also took part in Level 1 cycle training. I want to say the weather was gorgeous and sunny, BUT... No! Every time we do this training it is either raining or snowing! Mind the children enjoyed the learning anyway and they all passed with flying colours!



Kathy Anderson and Mr Burns our wonderful music teachers, also join us in school to develop singing, movement recorder, ukulele and other tuned instruments!

This term we welcome back Matthew Senior and Liz Armstrong into school to develop cricket and ball skills. Kate Freeman will also be delivering tag rugby and then we have swimming, Phew what a physical term this will prove to be!

Debbie McAllister is also in school continuing to develop the social and emotional elements of learning through yoga!



Our Harvest Festival Service this year will take place in Cambo Church at 2.30pm on Friday 24th of October; all of the community are welcome to attend with all donations going to The Peoples Kitchen.

As always it is so good to be back at school!



## The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

*Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe  
and achieve to be the very best that we can be...*

*Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love*

### Welcome to our Whalton News!

Welcome back! Although the summer holidays are a distant memory now, we are ready and looking forward to a busy and fun-filled Autumn term, with lots of learning here at Whalton C of E Primary School.

We said 'goodbye' to our fabulous leavers in Years 4 and 6 in July and have now welcomed and said 'hello' to our new children in Reception and across school. With our new shepherds hut nearing completion and a new space for our outdoor adventure class on Wednesdays, as well as the Pod, which has been refreshed, we are so ready for the new academic year. In school, classes have moved around allowing us to have a room for computing and small group interventions too. With our small class sizes, the children receive individual attention and adults working with them who know them all very well!

As well as getting to know our new children in Reception, all of Class 1 have been busy creating their very own class timelines! Each child added themselves alongside key historical events, making a unique record of the past and present.

Children in Class 2 are settling beautifully into their new classroom. With flexible seating and a bright, welcoming space, they are enjoying every moment. This term, they are especially looking forward to a special visit to the leisure centre, where they'll take part in bowling and climbing as part of National Fitness Week. More visits are planned, including Northumberland Zoo, linked to their learning in Science.

Each child in school has also completed their portraits for the gallery in the Hall. We keep these every year and when it's time to leave to go to their next school, all of the children's previous self portraits (since Reception!) are presented to them as another memory of their time with us (and also lets the children see the progress of their drawing skills too!).



As a whole school, we have been discussing how we can continue to work as a team to support our world, country and community. To help us on this journey, we have our new:



**School Eco Team**



**RE Ambassadors**



**School Council**

These groups ensure that all pupils have a voice and the chance to make and then see positive changes for the better. This includes community events, such as the upcoming Whalton Village Show, running our stalls in support of our church, local community, and school.

**Looking Ahead** - We can't wait to see the progress and success of all our learners this academic year. We're also excited about developing more **outdoor learning spaces** to enrich our children's experiences even further. We will keep you updated.

As always, if you would like to come and see what we have to offer, especially our fantastic staff to pupil ratios and small classes, please contact school on 01670 775216 or visit our website on: <https://www.whalton.northumberland.sch.uk/>



let's do  
lunch

*Hartburn Community Lunches*  
*St. Andrews Church Hartburn*

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – 12:00 – 12:30 at Hartburn Church - £6.00**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – 12:00 – 12:30 at Hartburn Church - £6.00**

**Contact Pooh Stafford to book – [poohstafford@btinternet.com](mailto:poohstafford@btinternet.com)**

**Phone: 01670 772313**



## *FILM NIGHTS*



Film rating 12A

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September



Film rating PG 13

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October



Film rating 15

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Middleton Village Hall - 7.00 – 7:30 pm Refreshments available**

**Donations at the door**



**A Grand Concert of Musick to be  
performed in Honour of the Illustrious  
Sharp Family**



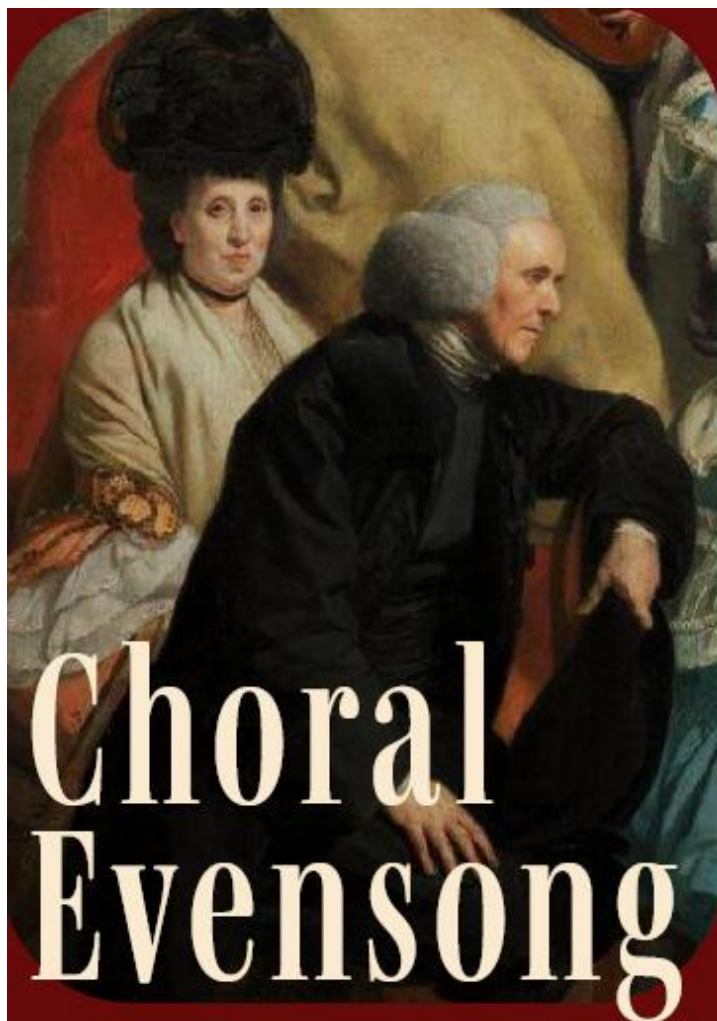
***The Westerly Trio with Soprano Anna  
Dias will entertain us with both  
contemporary and modern pieces***

***Saturday 11th October 2025 at St  
Andrew's Church, Hartburn, NE61 4JB  
7pm, Doors open at 6.30 pm***

***Tickets £25 per person to include a glass of  
wine and homemade canapes  
Please book early to avoid disappointment  
Contact [janepotterton@btinternet.com](mailto:janepotterton@btinternet.com)***







# Choral Evensong

**St Andrew's Hartburn NE61 4JB**

*To celebrate Northumberland's magnificent Sharp Family and their lives of service and philanthropy. John Sharp's arresting words advocating the abolition of the slave trade will be heard in Northumberland for the first time in 200 years.*

**Collection in favour of  
The Oswin Project -  
please give generously,  
cash preferred**



DISCOVER MORE about  
the Sharps and abolition  
here:



**5th October  
2025  
3pm  
All welcome.**

***With Newcastle  
Cathedral Choir***

**To be followed by  
tea and a talk by  
Hester Grant,  
author of The  
Good Sharps**

***Supported by***



A festive poster for the Hartburn Christmas Market. The background is a deep red with white stars and snowflakes. At the top, a silhouette of Santa Claus in his sleigh, pulled by two reindeer, is shown against a starry sky. The text is arranged in a central, bold layout. The event name 'Hartburn CHRISTMAS MARKET' is prominently displayed, with 'Hartburn' in a script font and 'CHRISTMAS MARKET' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the day 'Saturday' and the date '15TH NOVEMBER' are clearly stated, along with the time '10am - 4pm'. The location 'Hartburn Church, near Morpeth, NE61 4JB' is provided. A 'FREE ENTRY' banner is featured, and a logo for the Hartburn Community Project is shown. A white oval contains the text 'Cash & Cheques Recommended'. The bottom of the poster is decorated with a dense border of white snowflakes and holly leaves.

*Hartburn*  
**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
*— Saturday —*  
**15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
*— 10am – 4pm —*  
Hartburn Church, near Morpeth, NE61 4JB  
**FREE ENTRY**  
  
Cash & Cheques Recommended



# Middleton Village Hall

Registered Charity no. 522088

## Graffiti Classics

THE COMEDY STRING QUARTET - **Thursday 13 November 7.30pm**



**Turning classical music on its head**

**Fun and accessible**

**Great for all ages**

**Inspiring for young people learning instruments**

Graffiti Classics first performed at Middleton Village Hall 12 years ago to a near sell-out audience and, since then, we have often been asked when we were planning to invite them back.

They are a comedy string quartet who never sit down, bursting the perceived elitist boundaries of classical music with their all-singing, all dancing musical comedy show. Wickedly funny, the Comedy String Quartet energetically leap and clown their way through an eclectic musical landscape from Beethoven to Elvis.

This group is on a mission: to make classical music irresistibly fun. This isn't a classical concert – it's a crazy mix of musical comedy, gypsy-folk, opera, bluegrass, stand-up comedy and dance, all tied together with cheeky audience interaction.

This autumn Highlights Rural Touring has set the standard ticket price at £15 but we are experimenting with a Pay As You Decide arrangement offering tickets for £12, £15 or £18. We are also able to offer a concession price of £10 for people in receipt of disability or unemployment benefits and for people under the age of 25.

**For on-line tickets: <https://highlightsnorth.co.uk>**

**To Book: phone: 07855 444719**

**or email [georgecourtice@btinternet.com](mailto:georgecourtice@btinternet.com)**



Storytime  
Church

Exploring  
**GOD'S BIG STORY**

Storytelling, crafts, music and prayer  
for families and little one alike



Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 4pm

At Mitford Church



Refreshments Served





1 Barns Farm, Netherwitton, NE61 4NW

# the Roost *Harvest*

**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**11:00 - 15:00 / Free entry**

**FOOD SERVED FROM 12**  
**BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICHES,**  
**VEGGIE/VEGAN OPTION AVAILABLE**

**HOME MADE CAKES**  
**HOT AND COLD DRINKS**

**APPLE PRESSING - OPTION TO BRING YOUR**  
**OWN APPLES**

**ROOST HARVEST PRODUCE FOR SALE IN**  
**THE MEADOW**

RSVP to Rachel by September 30th  
07931736775 or [rachel@roostcommunity.org](mailto:rachel@roostcommunity.org)  
[www.roostcommunity.org](http://www.roostcommunity.org)

Donations by cash/card for food, drink and produce





## WHAT'S ON AT THE HALL 2025

### MONDAY

**Chair Yoga 9.30am-10.15am.** Come and join this 45 min class and enjoy yoga movement to strengthen, mobilise and relax the body. Suitable for those with limited mobility and physical impairments. For more details contact Barbara Swan, email [barb.swan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barb.swan@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07535631387.

**Jewel in the Lotus Yoga (Evening).** Open to everyone of all levels. For all classes, booking required, please bring your own Yoga mat. Contact Debbie on 07812 124888.

**Whist 7.30pm** – Everyone welcome, just turn up on the night to have some fun or contact Karen on 07974405178 for more information.

### TUESDAY

**Morpeth Art Group 10am-2pm.** For further details on joining this group visit the Morpeth Art Group Website on: [www.magart.org.uk](http://www.magart.org.uk)

**Ringcraft training and socialisation for dogs. Re-start date TBC. 6.30pm - 8.30pm.** For more information contact Joanne Graham on 07771616144

### WEDNESDAY

**Seniors keep fit 9.00am-10.00am.** Just turn up on the day, no booking required.

**Chiropodist (Every 2<sup>nd</sup> month)** - To book an appointment call Joanne Leiper on 07890322719

**Carpet Bowls 7.30pm.** Just turn up on the night to find out more and give it a try.

## THURSDAY

**Post Office 9:15am – 10:15am** – In the Bar Room. Post parcels and letters, withdraw cash, pay bills and all the usual things that you do in a Post Office

**Kirkley Carvers 1pm – 3pm.** Join this mixed gender group of self taught hand tool woodwork enthusiasts always happy to welcome anyone interested in fashioning something out of a piece of timber. Please contact Bob 01912671930

**Gardening Club (*Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month*)** Mixture of external visits, practical sessions and speakers – contact Anna Sill 01670 775375

**Women of Whalton WI 7pm (*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month*)** For more information and details on joining email WhaltonWI@hotmail.com or just turn up on the night.

## FRIDAY

**Jewel in the Lotus Yoga 9.00-10.30am.** Booking required & please bring your own Yoga mat. Contact Debbie on: Tel: 07812 124888

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**October 5<sup>th</sup> – Tin Shed Art Exhibition, Free Entry 10:30 am and 4 pm**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sound Bath. To book a slot visit [soundroomhealing.co.uk/shop](http://soundroomhealing.co.uk/shop)**

**October 21<sup>st</sup> – Parish Council Meeting**

**If you require any further information please phone 07856 176358 or Email: [bookings@whaltonvillage.org.uk](mailto:bookings@whaltonvillage.org.uk)**



## Wallington Demesne Parish Council

The following meeting will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 commencing at 7:30 pm in Middleton Village Hall.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November September 2025 commencing at 7:30 pm in Cambo Village Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate under Public Questions.



## Whalton Parish Council

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October in Whalton Village Hall

Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate under Public Questions.

[Link to Whalton Parish Council](#)



## *PCC Meeting Dates*

### **Bolam**

PCC Meeting – 7.00 pm	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
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### **Whalton**

PCC Meeting – 7:00 pm	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
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### **Netherwitton**

PCC Meeting – 6:00 pm	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
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### **Hartburn and Meldon**

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### **Longhorsley**

PCC Meeting – 7.00 pm	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
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### **Mitford & Hebron**

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Deadline for the next Newsletter Submissions is 24<sup>th</sup> November  
with publication planned for 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

All future newsletter articles please email to:

[roisel@btinternet.com](mailto:roisel@btinternet.com)

[roiselthompson12@gmail.com](mailto:roiselthompson12@gmail.com)

### 2026 Newsletter Schedule

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Submissions</b>	<b>Publication</b>
Spring	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Summer	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Autumn	7 <sup>th</sup> September	10 <sup>th</sup> September
Winter	26 <sup>th</sup> November	29 <sup>th</sup> November

These dates are subject to change

The Newsletter has been checked and verified by the Ministry  
Team