

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2025



It is with great sadness that we learnt that Dr. Drew passed away in early June 2025. Dr. Drew had been a parish councillor for decades and had served as Chair and Vice-Chair over the years. The contribution he made to the Village (both in a voluntary capacity and his professional role) will be valued by many residents, and the Parish Council will be seeking to have a suitable memorial placed to recognise this.

He will be sadly missed by us all.



Dr. Drew was instrumental in the opening of a surgery in Cornforth. Many people alive today, would not be here if not for his hard work, care for our community, and the people in it.

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Welcome to the Summer edition of the Cornforth Parish Council Newsletter – the first newsletter since the May 2025 election when 12 councillors, all volunteers, were elected to help improve the local community. There are currently 3 vacancies for parish councillors, so if you're interested in becoming a parish councillor, please get in touch!

At the annual meeting of the Council in May, Janet Snowball was elected to serve as Chair and Paul Metcalfe as Vice-Chair – both are very dedicated to the Village and will continue to carry on the work of the parish council enthusiastically.

In the May 2025 election, 3 parish councillors (Marie Walker, Jake Ratcliff and Dr. Stephen Drew) stood down from the parish council. We would like to thank all three for their service.

The council employs one part time (15 hours per week) member of the staff – Richard Ormerod - the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Usually, Richard is at Cornforth House between 1pm and 5pm on Monday and 9am to 12pm on Wednesday to deal with issues and be available for members of the public and councillors. If you want to speak with Richard, email clerk@cornforthparishcouncil.org to make an appointment.

Whilst we can deal with many issues relating to the Parish, we occasionally hear concerns from residents about issues which are not the parish council's remit. We can provide contact details for you to report directly to the relevant organisation (or we may be able to report your concerns on your behalf).

Parish Council meetings are held in West Cornforth Community Centre at 7pm usually on the second Monday of the month – the planned meeting schedule is on www.cornforthparishcouncil.org. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and there is time set aside early in each meeting for public participation. Please come along, we value the contribution made by residents!

We also publish updates on what we're doing on the noticeboards (located at the Oval, Bill Wilson Memorial Park and the High Street) – so please take a look if you're out and about in the Village.



We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter – and hopefully it will give you information on events to get involved with – we have a lovely village (you told us that in the survey last year!) – and we will continue to work on your behalf to maintain and improve where we live!



IN THE VILLAGE...

Allotments have long been a part of village life, providing spaces for nature and food for local people. Parish plots have been available for some time and we're pleased to say that the waiting list has now been cleared. Almost every space has been rented and this shows the Parish Council's determination to get these often abandoned pieces of land back into use for local people.

Allotments played a major part in the country during the 2nd World War - more than 1.4 million of them were organised to help keep families fed and the frontline stocked with supplies. Originally, these wartime gardens were mostly kept by women, becoming an integral part of the war effort as a Womens Land Army.

Please email clerk@cornforthparishcouncil.org if you want to be on the waiting list.

P.A.C.T.

Police And Communities Together

P.A.C.T. meetings are held at No. 66 in the High Street. Cornforth PCSO Jo Welby should be attending, and we look forward to updates on current issues in the village.



There have been efforts to stop quad bikes damaging property and being driven dangerously. This has resulted in several removals, as well as additional drone training and tracking by local police. Information should be available at the meeting.

The next meetings are:

23rd July 2025

20th August 2025

17th September 2025

Need to contact our MP or County Councillors?

All details can be found here:

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx>



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COMMUNITY FUN DAY

August the 15th this year, it'll be time for another Community Fun Day!

Games with prizes, raffles, tombolas, and inflatables, the Community Fun Day is always great!



As much as we all look forward to embarrassing ourselves on the rodeo bull, the Fun Day is a fantastic time to learn about, and show support for, local small businesses and sole traders, many of whom are making wonderful stuff while breathing a bit of life into local communities.

Our friends from Stockton Archery Club should be returning too, with free taster sessions for both children and adults alike. You never know, you could be the next Robin Hood!

Add to that, trying out football game equipment, local charities and social groups bringing examples of what they do, and education provider WEA (they made a free soup last year!), and it should be a fun-filled event!

There may still be spaces left for traders, so please nip in to Cornforth House if you would like to hire a spot, we'd love to see what you make!

The Bread & Butter Thing

There is a low cost food service in the village on Mondays - The Bread & Butter Thing. For £8.50 you get three bags of shopping, including dry stuff, veggies, fruit, and a bit for your freezer. Collection is from the Community Centre at 2pm each Monday, but booking is essential. Contact TBBT to get set up on www.breadandbutterthing.org or text **07860 063 304** with your name and the location "**Cornforth Community Centre**" to get set up.

THE VILLAGE SHOW

Cornforths Village Show is back on the 7th September!

It was busy last year, so we're keeping it going with an expanded Kids Section - whether it's growing, drawing, model making and decorating, or photography, lets get kids involved in the fun!

All the adult sections are still on, so please bring your creations. The judges would love to see them.

The Village Show Committee has plans to keep improving and expanding, so we'd love to hear from you and, most importantly, see you on the day. Entries need to be in by 11am on the first Sunday of September. Come on in, take part, and take a look around other entries. The Village Show is held in the Community Centres big hall.

And of course the raffle will be back too. If you would like to donate anything for it, please email clerk@cornforthparishcouncil.org.



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