

Lodge Banner Proposal

For a long time there have been ambitions for Kimblesworth Lodge to have a new banner that will represent the impact the mining heritage on the local area.



The pit was sunk in 1894 and closed in 1967, marking 73 years of an industry that impacted so largely on developing a thriving community.

There is hope that a new potential banner will spark interest from many quarters, including those who have an interest in their family’s past, or have their own memories of the days of the pits and the wider community. Such a project may benefit those who want to learn more about their community’s history.

Kimblesworth Cricket Club

**Bingo** (with pie and pea supper during break) commenced Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September @ 8pm. Frequency t.b.d.

**Halloween Fancy Dress Disco** Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> November @ 8pm. Enquiries, contact Stuart on 07771551558.

20 MPH Zone

The much awaited 20 mile per hour zone is now in place. This has taken a great deal of work and significant partnership working to come to fruition. There is some disappointment that it applies only during school access and egress and not all of the time. Nevertheless, it is a welcome addition to the Parish and shows the wider community’s determination to ensure safer roads.

Cross Lane Development

The proposed new development at Cross Lane for 104 houses is now live, and can be accessed using the reference **DM/25/02128/FPA** via Durham County Council’s (DCC’s) Website.

The Parish Council has received some comments on the proposal, which drew attention to factors such as impact on local services and general infrastructure.

As a statutory consultee, the Council has taken these into account in its submission to DCC’s planning department.

Community Centre Timetable

|           |                                                                   |                                                                             |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 11am-3pm<br>6.30-7.30pm<br>6.30-8.30pm                            | Community Café<br>Durham HiIT Club<br>Step This Way                         |
| Tuesday   | 9am-5pm<br><br>6.30-8.30pm                                        | Eating Distress North East (EDNE)<br>Waldridge Fell dog training            |
| Wednesday | 11am-2pm<br>7-8.30pm                                              | Sugar Craft<br>KPPC Dog Training                                            |
| Thursday  | 10am-midday<br>9.30am-10.15am<br>6.30-7.30pm                      | Mona Lisa Art group<br>Mini Melodies<br>Durham HiIT Club                    |
| Friday    | 9.30-11.00am (term time only)<br>4-5.30pm<br>5-6.30<br>6.30pm-8pm | Baby and toddlers<br><br>SYP Minis<br>SYP Juniors<br>SYP Senior Youth Group |

Family Fun Day

The Family Fun Day took place on Sunday 1st June 2025.

Led by the Community Association in partnership with O’Brien’s Funfair and funded by your Parish Council, it brought widespread enjoyment to those who attended it. Even the odd shower didn’t dampen anyone’s spirits!

All activities were free and also included local makers and traders stalls to showcase local talent and small enterprises along food and refreshments.

The event was used to gather opinions and feedback on the future developments proposed for the Centre.

Scheduled for 7th June 2026, next year’s Fun Day is already being planned, with funding from the Parish Council in place. This will take the event into its fourth consecutive year; funding is already agreed and in place from the Parish once again.

It is always a great family event for the community look forward to.

Contact Your Councillors

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Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

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Website: **www.kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk**

Email: **clerk@kimblesworthandplawsworthparishcouncil.co.uk**

## Community Round Up

### Nettlesworth Primary School

We stay in regular contact with the local primary school as a key partner and discuss monthly updates at our meetings.

The school are just at the beginning of a new and exciting school year, and welcome all the new pupils and families, as well as wishing the best to all of the former pupils who are moving on to their new academic adventures at various secondary schools when they will be much missed!.

### Environmental Works

We have been busy again over the first half of the year, **placing benches** on Plawsworth bank and Westhills Close to giving opportunity for respite for walkers, and shoppers as well as to take in some of the lovely views our villages offer.



The interpretation panel at the **trough** adds information on its historic context within the local area, and a new mysterious addition of a colourful scarecrow is a great addition, although we don't know the identity of the craftsperson who kindly created it.

Our **allotment** holders have been doing us proud with an array of fresh produce in what has been an unusually dry and hot summer.



The **seasonal planting** has looked fabulous thanks to a contract with Waldrige Parish Council's horticultural team and local volunteers, and will continue to do so over the colder, darker months with winter planting to be installed.

Longer term plans are still in place to redevelop **Plawsworth Railway, Ugly Lane Football Pitch** and **Nettlesworth Conservation Area** and the installation of **village stone markers**; although we do not have timelines to share as yet.

### Your County Councillors

We now have two new County Councillors who represent you within the newly established Sacriston and Witton Gilbert Electoral Division.

#### Tim Robson

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E: tim.robson@durham.gov.uk

#### James Pickard

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E: james.pickard@durham.gov.uk

### About Your Parish Council

A parish council is the lowest tier of government in England, a statutory elected body responsible for managing local services and amenities which in our case include allotments and a recreational area funded primarily through a local tax called the "precept". As the level of government closest to the community, parish councils provide a crucial link between residents and the wider local authority, giving a voice to local needs and concerns on issues from planning to community projects.

The Parish Council meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Community Centre at 7pm, with the first 15 minutes being allocated to the community to voice their concerns, ideas and opportunities to work collaboratively for the parish area.

## News From Your Community Centre

### Business Plan and Lease

We (the Community Association) have updated the Community Centre's Business Plan, and it has been submitted to Durham County Council (DCC). This process is needed to ensure that the Trustees have a clear plan for developing the Community Centre and the building refurbishments. We have received excellent feedback on this from DCC.

We are ready to sign a new 50-year Lease with Lambton Estates, but are waiting for some necessary legal steps by DCC. At the July 2025 Cabinet meeting, DCC agreed to step down from its role as Trustee of the charitable scheme that governs the Centre, and to install the Community Association in that role; however, this needs to be approved by the Charity Commission before it can take effect.

Once the lease is signed (which will enable us to apply for major grants), We have great plans for a full refurbishment of the Centre, from its electrics and lighting, to heating, toilets and much more.

We want the Centre to remain and to develop as the social hub of our community, helping our villages to thrive.



### The Trustees

John Barclay—Chair

Diana Barclay—Minutes Secretary

Donna Bruce—Parish Council representative

George Kendall—Trustee

Heather Liddle—Treasurer

Lillian Walker—Trustee

### Freelance Development Worker

After receiving an Organisational Sustainability grant from Point North (formerly County Durham Community Foundation) we have engaged a Development Worker, who is working eight hours per week until January 2026. She has a wealth of experience supporting charities with their governance, business planning and bid writing. Sarah has worked with the Chair to update the Business Plan and update the Community Centre's policies and procedures. The current priorities include writing funding applications for project development, core costs, and capital works; partnership working; and creating new publicity materials for the Centre, as well as the website.



### Hire the Community Centre

The Centre is always open for booking for private events and family celebrations, from birthday parties, to corporate meetings.

They also have space for regular groups to add to the community offer, so please get in touch if you have an enquiry via the below contact details...

### Take The Survey

To take part in the survey being conducted by the Community Association (see P4 "Family Fun Day", please scan the QR code (right).



#### Email

enquiries@nettlesworthcommunitycentre.co.uk

#### Website

www.nettlesworthcommunitycentre.co.uk