

# Waldridge Parish Council Northumbria in Bloom 2014





## Winter Planting

Our winter planting was completed and we were waiting for a spectacular display not knowing what the winter had in store for us all. We had a mild winter then we had a beautiful display of Wallflowers, Pansy's & Bellis daisies .

## Part of our Daffodil display April 2014

Our aim for our winter display is to increase our bulb planting especially Crocus's also to include some winter flowering shrubs including Hamamelis molis & Viburnum x bodatense "Dawn"



## **Summer Planting**

The Hermitage Comprehensive School designed & planted the bed outside the Whitehill Pub in conjunction with Mrs Lynn Howe and her team of pupils from the school.



Laying out the design June 2014

Having fun planting



Enjoying their work June 2014

Our thanks to the Hermitage School for all of their efforts. The Learners designed and planted a smiling sunny face which you can see on the front cover of this Portfolio



“Beating the Bounds” of the Parish this an event which is enjoyed by all



The Village wildflowers



Our summer beds turned out well after a good summer



Mammy & son enjoying the flowers



## Litter Pick 2014



Job well done? June 2014

Well done to the children who helped the litter pick June 2014





Hermitage School "Community Core" Team helping during Litter Pick 2014. Also providing support was our local MP Kevan Jones and Councillor Katherine Henig, our local County Councillor.

We publicise Northumbria in Bloom through our local newspaper which is published 4 times per year and delivered to every house in Waldrige. We also have a best kept garden & best front door display competitions. We also advertise Northumbria in Bloom at all of our events which are held on the Millennium Green which are held through the year we also use our website which can be found at

[www.waldridgeparish.co.uk/](http://www.waldridgeparish.co.uk/)

Our funding comes from the following sources which are the Parish Council The Residents Association, St Barnabas Nursery, Costcutter and Charleton Fencing.

We also ran numerous coffee mornings over the year not only does it raise money but let's people have a good natter

We also hold events on the Millennium Green such as the Family Fun day in September, Halloween & an Easter Parade. This year we will be holding our third "Flower & Produce show" which will be held on 2nd August

The North "Welcome" sign these are also placed at the East, West & South entrance to the Parish





## Community Projects on the Fell

Waldridge Fell is a SSSI and is the only example of lowland heath in County Durham and one of the few in the Country. It is home to an amazing amount of flora and fauna. The Parish receives help in maintaining this from Durham County Council Ranger Service and a number of community groups including the local Scout Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chester-le-Street, which is based in the village. The group have carried out a number of projects over the year on the Fell including taking part in The Big Spring Clean, planting bilberries, clearing foliage and erecting hives for Solitary Bees



Mark Oliphant, the Countryside Ranger and Russ Lindley, one of the Leaders who lives in the village, helping the Cubs make Solitary Bee Boxes



Cubs planting on the Fell



Planting tubs June 2014

Our future projects are as follows

- Working with the Cubs & Scouts and the Waldrige Fell Rangers on other wild life & natural flora project and planting at Waldrige Village Hall
- Working with Durham County Probation Service who will be carrying out clean ups, tree pruning, path maintenance, etc.
- The Haggrid Project – who will providing plants for future schemes and salads for lunch next year.
- More herbaceous borders which will include hardy annuals.
- Redesdale Road ongoing planting with shrubs & herbaceous







We have formed a litter picking club as they go for their walks around the parish they pick up any rubbish and have called themselves "The Junior Wombles"

Amie, our community Police Officer who keeps good order in the parish, making good use of the "street furniture" we have installed around the parish.



## **Dog Fouling**

We are taking strong measures to try to reduce this problem. We have highlighted the problem in our quarterly magazine called the "Waldridge Clippings" warning of the consequences of failing to pick up after your dog. We have also used the Neighbourhood Wardens in the area who have now issued a number of fixed penalty notices of £80. The Parish Council, in conjunction with Coun. Katherine Henig, have commissioned a series of posters designed by local school children from a number of local schools highlighting the dangers and unpleasantness of dog fouling. In addition we published an article on deterring Cat fouling in gardens in a recent issue.

## Waldridge Rangers

The Waldridge Rangers are group of young people who we provide as much support as we can are led by Mark Oliphant who is the full time County Ranger for the Waldridge Fells which contains a "SSSI" site. The work that he does as Country side Ranger along with the Junior Rangers is invaluable to the well-being of the fells. Repairs, planting to bracken & Himalayan balsam bashing. They created a superb wild flower meadow on the fells which just starting to come to fruition. We have planted over 200 trees on the fells which came from the Queens Jubilee





## Completed Projects in 2014

The Metal Sculptures are now in place, with the exception of one which has been delayed due to the sewerage works in the Parish.



Heron Sculpture looking fabulous in the winter sunshine

Wooden Wildlife Sculpture on the Nature Trail. There are two pieces in situ with another three to follow. These have been delayed due to personal reasons of the artist.



## **Funding**

We are very grateful to the Parish Council for supporting us over a number of years especially in these difficult times. But we have sponsored our main flower beds to local businesses, we have a number of Coffee Mornings throughout the year which are well supported by the local community. We also get donations from our tea & coffee stall at our special events which are held on the Millennium Green.

In 2013 we were fortunate to receive a Durham Environment Award which is on display in the Parish Rooms.