

Focus on Whickham North & Swalwell



Happy New Year!

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The Whickham North Focus team hopes that you had a great Christmas and New Year break.

We have been busy this Christmas and all year round helping our residents to prepare for and enjoy the celebrations.

Christmas Switch-ons



The Swalwell Christmas tree is fundraised for by Swalwell Community Group. Donators this year included your ward Councillors (above) Local Community Fund, Whickham Rotary, PK Motors, Holy Trinity Church, Swalwell Allotments Society, The Dream Achievers Beauty Box (Body Shop) & Patrons of The Sun Inn. A big thank you to Swalwell residents who donated £320 via the Just Giving page, supported SCG's fundraising events and gave personal donations.

Also a big thank you to Swalwell resident Emma Moorhead for arranging the Swalwell Christmas Hamper raffle which raised an amazing £825.00 towards the cost of the tree.

Christmas Fairs



Above: The Christmas Coffee Morning raised £525 towards the running of Swalwell Community Centre. Peter & Sonya are trustees.

Below: Swalwell Community Group's Christmas Fair has raised £322 towards the cost of next years' tree. Chris acts as Chair of the group.



Christmas Carol concerts were held at Whickham St. Mary's Parish Church in Whickham (right) on 22nd December and Holy Trinity Church in Swalwell (below) on 15th December. Cllr. Sonya Hawkins performed a reading at the Whickham service.

Carol Services



In Whickham, the fundraising falls to Lighting Up Whickham, so a big thank you to them (our 3 ward councillors are also members of this group). Also a massive thank you to The Woodman's Arms who sponsored the Whickham tree this year.

Remembrance Day



Pictures from Remembrance Day events in Whickham and Swalwell.

Above: Our bugler plays The Last Post during the Remembrance Service at the the cenotaph in Whickham. **Cllr. Peter Craig** laid a wreath at the service.

Below: **Cllr. Sonya Hawkins** laid a wreath at the Remembrance Service at Holy Trinity Church in Swalwell.



William Shield Festival



• Organised by Community Music, Whickham & Swalwell between 2nd and 25th November.

The 4th William Shield Festival was held in November and was a huge success!

It started with a Handbell Rally in Holy Trinity Church, Swalwell - 100 yards from where William Shield was born and ended with a Musical Concert in St. Mary's Church, Whickham, where **Cllr. Peter Craig** gave the closing address.

In between, there were also events in Gateshead and Newcastle which included opera, orchestral and folk music.

As well as organising events and providing opportunities for performers, CMWS also provide tuition - for more details please go to:

www.communitymusicws.com

How to get more local news

As well as this regular newsletter, Lib Dem councillors now provide a regular email newsletter full of up to the moment local news. If you would like to receive it, please let one of us know by contacting us using the Focus Team details.

Flower planting updates



Above: Volunteers from Planting Up Whickham were busy on two weekends in October. The first saw volunteers stripping out the flowerbeds and on the second they were planted up again with the Winter plants. Here are the results of their hard work on Church Green!



Left: The railing bed in Swalwell has also been replanted by volunteers. This is on a busy roundabout and the display is enjoyed by many drivers as they pass each day.

Library Improvements

The Junior Library area has recently been improved by Whickham Volunteer Library Association and funding provided via the Whickham North councillor's Local Community Fund, has contributed to this project. For further information on WVLA, please visit:

www.whickhamlibrary.co.uk



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