



ISSUE 17 WINTER 2024

ROCKING OUT IN THE RAIN

Despite the rain, the Community Spirit was shining through at Gallagher Park Live. Bucket hats and conga lines could be seen across the field on what was a wet, but fun filled day. The bands proved to be a hit, with The UK Rock Show closing the festival, performing songs from well known groups such as Bon Jovi, Kiss, Van Halen and more!

The action packed event ran from 11am to 9pm and consisted of live music, stalls, food and drink vendors, street theatre, Koast Radio and Pride Action North East, who provided games for the youngsters. It truly was a memorable day for all who attended!

The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to all involved in making the day a great success.

Photographs provided by Highlights PR



CAMBOIS FAMILY FUN DAY



There was a great turnout for this years Family Fun Day at Cambois, with what could possibly have been the biggest turnout to date!

It was brilliant to see the community spirit shining through during the annual Sandcastle Competition, as teams worked together to provide spectacular displays, from castles with moats to mermaids. There were certainly plenty of smiles around the free kids funfair rides too. They were a huge hit!

Koast Radio entertained with an array of well known music hits, and even decided to throw in some of those old school party dances that we all know and love. The smell of fish and chips was irresistible and there were plenty of stalls with crafts and activities, providing fun for the whole family. A big thank you to all who attended!

We'd love to see you all at the next event. Follow our Facebook page 'East Bedlington Parish Council' or keep an eye out for our noticeboards around the Parish to stay up to date with the latest information.

Garden Competition 2024



Described as 'a small bundle of joy that is bursting with colour', the Best Small Garden really impressed the judges and left them wanting to see more. With a variety of unique flowers, shrubs and a gnome that even watered its own garden, this brand new entry for 2024 was definitely a worthy winner.

Congratulations to Dale Foster (Winner of Best Small Garden).

Another new entry for 2024 saw Hayley Hildrew take the award for the Best Large Garden. From recycled milk bottles housing colourful plants, to bicycles showing off a selection of individual planters, this garden really had it all. The judges were excited to delve deeper into the garden to explore more, and hope to see it again next time.

Congratulations to Hayley Hildrew (Winner of Best Large Garden).

Showing their determination and skills were the winners of the Best Back Yard, The Hive. With work carried out by volunteers, it truly was inspirational to see what had been achieved, by what can only be described as a dedicated bunch of individuals. We look forward to checking in on progress.

Congratulations to The Hive (Winner of Best Back Yard).



The winner of the Best Individual Planter thoroughly deserved this award and proved that hard work does indeed pay off. With vibrant colours and plants of perfection, the judges knew this had to be their

winner. After winning Best Large Garden on several occasions, it was a pleasure to see this gentleman entering the competition again.

Congratulations to Pete Abram (Winner of Best Individual Planter).

After battling a year of poor weather, it was clear that this entrant persevered and continued to show the passion and determination needed to tend to their allotment. It was lovely to see that despite the setbacks, their effort was still shining through and evidence of growth was present.

Congratulations to Melanie Barker. (Winner of Best Allotment).



Winner of Best Large Garden 2024



Well done and thank you to everyone who entered our 2024 Garden Competition!

We look forward to seeing you in 2025.



Civic Awards

Colin Parker Good Neighbour Award

This year, the Colin Parker Good Neighbour Award was awarded to Colin Heath. Colin was described as an upstanding member of the village, with a friendly and very welcoming attitude. The help he provided his neighbours when they fell into ill health did not go un-noticed and his approachability made him the perfect winner.



Brian Richmond Sporting Achievement Award

The Brian Richmond Sporting Award went to Rachael Spiers for her dedication to empowering women and showing that there are no barriers to sport for women. As well as raising money for charities such as Cancer Research and Parkinsons, Rachael volunteers regularly at local park runs and can be seen training with her rescue dog Bilbo.



Brian Richmond Sporting Achievement JNR

This year, the judges knew they had to give this young lady an award. Jessica Foster was a worthy winner, with her strength and determination shining through. Not only did she adapt and do everything in her power to keep a local football team together, she showed true sportsmanship by cheering loudly, even when her team did not win.

Congratulations to all of our winners and to all of those nominated for one of the above awards!

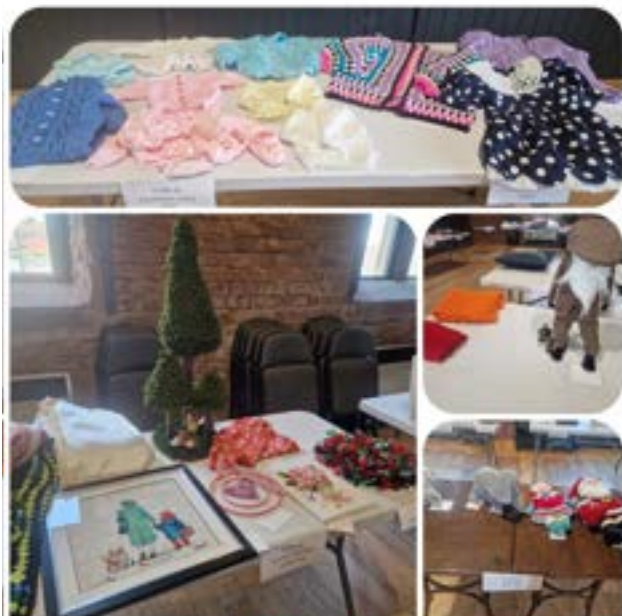
We look forward to seeing the achievements of the community next year.

Volunteer of the Year

Despite his health challenges, Robert Bell showed that he was not willing to give up. After volunteering at The Hive for two years, it is evident that he has a love for gardening, with his nominator Cathy stating, 'The transformation is not only evident in the garden's flourishing state, but also in Robert's own well-being'. The journey from a place of loss to one of fulfilment is truly inspiring.

Craft & Produce Fair

A GOOD FAIR - YOU CAN'T 'BEET' IT!



A selection of categories, including something new from something old.

The Parish Council Craft & Produce Fair took place at East Bedlington Community Centre on Saturday 31 August. Community Spirit shone through again, with a grand total of 106 entries across 84 categories. A new record for the event!

The Fair is run annually and welcomes participants from all walks of life to show off what they love to do. This year, there was a vast array of crocheted items, knitted garments for babies and children, toys and even some unique creations such as a pitman and his lamp (pictured left).

The precision and accuracy throughout the selection of crafts was outstanding to see, and the aromas from the baked goods, such as flapjacks, shortbread and ginger cakes were enough to make your mouth water. There were even delicious jams and beetroots!

It was lovely to see some new faces with their creations throughout the day, alongside the dedicated members of the community who regularly enter the competition annually and continue to support the Parish Council with this family fun event.

The Children's classes really impressed, with wooden spoon decorating and railway themed pictures showing just how talented the younger ones of the community truly are. It was great to see them showing off their awards with pride at the end of the Fair.

The judges were impressed by all of the entries and admired the effort put in across the board.

The Parish Council would like to say a huge well done to all of those who took part this year and hope to see you all at the next one!



Photos from various categories and Ada receiving her 1st place rosettes.

Community Directory

Did you know the Parish Council produces a Business Directory listing retail premises throughout East Bedlington? It's really handy, especially if you are new to the area. If you have an online business or work from home, you can list your service in our online directory - its FREE. Contact our Assistant Clerk Tina for more information on 01670 828808.

Youth News

Exciting News! A designated club coach will be working in schools across Bedlington, introducing rugby to even more young players!

Join Ashington Rugby Club Juniors – A Fun and Inclusive Rugby Experience for All Ages!

Looking for a dynamic and supportive environment where your child can learn rugby, build skills, and make lifelong friends? Ashington Rugby Club's Juniors Section offers training for boys and girls, from Under 6 to Under 18!

Training Sessions: Every Sunday morning, with additional midweek sessions for select teams.

First Month Free: Try for FREE in your first month – no commitment needed!

Kit & Boot Exchange: A convenient kit and boot exchange to ensure everyone is ready to play.

Be part of the rugby family – where fun, fitness, and teamwork are at the heart of everything they do.

For more information, visit their social media pages or contact via ashingronrfc@gmail.com or speak directly to Gareth Newman, Chair of Youth Rugby (07984053382)



Pride Action North Youth Club

Do you have children aged between 8 and 12 who are looking for something to do on a Friday night? Then bring them along to East Bedlington Community Centre, where they can hang out and make friends at the weekly Youth Club, funded by East Bedlington Parish Council.

Sessions run every Friday (excluding bank holidays), from 6pm to 8pm and are completely free of charge.

A range of activities are provided, including arts, crafts, gaming, board games, laughter, chatter and there is even a tuck shop is available.

Contact Pride Action North with any queries on 0333 242 7307 or alternatively email support@prideactionnorth.org.uk



Youth Directory

The Parish Council are in the process of producing a Youth Directory , to list any activities and clubs throughout East Bedlington for youths up to 18 years of age. If you run any activities or clubs, whether at a cost or free of charge, please help us update our Directory by contacting our Assistant Clerk Tina on 01670 828808 with the activity, cost, location and other details you feel are important to know.

Reporting Concerns

REPORTING FAULTS & PROBLEMS

The following items are all the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. It is recommended that you report any of the below as soon as possible. If you request the report reference number when reporting, you can check on the progress of your complaint if you feel that nothing is happening. You can also report the problems online at www.northumberland.gov.uk. Simply find the section your report relates to and enter your details.

- Street lighting (please take note of the column number as you will be asked for this)
- Highways—including road markings; gritting; pot holes; missing or damaged signage.
- Blocked drains
- Dog fouling and stray dogs
- Street cleaning
- Fly-tipping
- Tree maintenance
- Anti-social behaviour
- Planning Authority
- Libraries
- Council Tax & Benefits
- Public Rights of Way
- Abandoned Motor Vehicles
- Nuisance parking
- Minor localised flooding/blocked drains
- Bin collections
- Graffiti removal
- Unauthorised waste carriers
- Noisy animals
- Illegal grazing

PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES



ALLOTMENTS



RECREATION & PLAY
AREAS



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING & PLANNING
APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS



GRANTS



BUS SHELTERS



Fix my street is an online service that lets you report, view or discuss problems (such as graffiti, fly tipping, potholes or street lighting etc) in your area. It is a simple and easy platform to use. Should you wish to report an issue, visit <https://www.fixmystreet.com> where you will receive email updates to keep you up to date with the progress of your submission .

If your concerns have not been addressed within the specified timescale, you can speak to your **ward councillor** who will be able to make enquiries on your behalf. Remember to retain the reference number you are given when you are making a complaint to help speed up this process.

Northumbria Police

REPORTING INFORMATION

The Parish Council are often informed of incidents by word of mouth or via Social Media, however; it appears that the majority of these are not being reported to the police. It is crucial that any incidents, whether they are major or minor, are reported, not only make the police aware, but to ensure up to date logs are kept. This allows problematic areas of the Parish to be monitored and patrols put in place.



How to join

It could not be easier, simply visit:
www.northumbriacconnected.co.uk
register by clicking on the 'join' tab.
One of our staff will then register you on the system so that you can receive alerts and information for your area.



Why join?

- Northumbria Connected allows you to share your priorities, concerns and views with us directly
- You will receive information that you want to receive from us on those matters that affect you and your communities most
- Northumbria Connected makes Northumbria Police more accessible to you
- Northumbria Connected allows you to share your feedback with Northumbria Police on how you think we have tackled the problem
- Northumbria Connected allows you to create groups with other people in your area with the same interests



Report an incident to the police by contacting 111 or reporting online via the following link [Report | Northumbria Police](#)



Come along to East Bedlington Community Centre to speak to the Bedlington Neighbourhood Policing Team. Here you can speak to an officer from the team to discuss any issues in your community, obtain the latest crime prevention and safeguarding advice and request an update concerning anything you've previously reported. It is a great opportunity to get to know the officers in your local area and highlight what matters to you.

Sessions run on the first Friday of each month between 10am-11am as part of the Centre's 'Welcome Hub'.

East Bedlington Community Centre



Station Rave proved a huge success!

The first youth rave night proved to be a hit with the younger community, with tickets completely sold out. It was great to see the younger members of the community coming together and even busting out some of their best moves throughout the night! We hope to be able to continue these events in 2025.

Thank you to East Bedlington Parish Council and Pride Action North for helping to fund our first Station Rave.

Christmas Fayre

We had a fantastic day at our Christmas Fayre this year, with a range of stalls from cakes and jewellery to birdhouses and even caricatures!

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our stall holders and to the members of the public who attended.



The Community Centre will be closed for the festive period from Saturday 21 December and re-open on Monday 6 January 2025.

For more details and a timetable of activities, visit www.ebcc.org.uk or contact the centre directly on 01670 828808 option 2.

The venue is fully accessible to all floors. It is available for hire for private functions and corporate events, children's parties, weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties, training events, exhibitions, art and craft sessions. For more information, contact Stacey Price, Centre Manager on 01670 828808 or alternatively you can email eastbedlingtoncommunitycentre@gmail.com

Community Help

East Bedlington Parish Council Welcome Hub

- Free refreshments, every Friday between 10am & 12 noon
- Some friendly faces to chat to
- Chat to a Parish Councillor
- Support from Communities Together
- Healthwatch (last Friday of month)
- Pop up Police Station (monthly)
- Bedlington Food table available



NCC Animal Welfare Out-of-Hours Service

If you are in possession of a stray dog outside office hours and can't return the dog to its owner, NCC will arrange for the dog to be collected using their out-of-hours service. Call them on **0345 600 6400**.

Do you need advice about benefits, work, or debt and money?



Come along and speak to Citizens Advice at East Bedlington Community Centre. Every Friday 9am-12pm. Appointments on a first come first serve basis throughout the morning.

Visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> for more information about the areas of advice provided.

EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

The Parish Council operates a small grants scheme to support voluntary & community sector groups who are either based within the boundaries of the Parish, or who are based outside but still deliver a significant service to the residents of East Bedlington, on a not for profit basis.

Community Groups must have a constitution and bank account in their Group name. We do not fund individuals; activities which are normally statutory provision; businesses; salaries or wages; and cannot fund retrospectively. Typical awards are between £50 and £250 and each application is considered on its merit. For more information, please contact the Clerk on 01670 828808 or email clerk@eastbedlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bedlington Salvation Army Foodbank: Email: bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk

Wansbeck Valley Food Bank: Email: wansbeckvalleyfoodbank@gmail.com

Northumberland Line

NORTHUMBERLAND LINE RAILWAY

The Northumberland Line Project is due to be completed soon, with works currently underway to construct both the Northbound and Southbound platforms in Bedlington Station. It has been confirmed that the passenger train will be running directly from Ashington to Newcastle from Sunday 15 December, with the aim to open the Bedlington Station in 2025. The weekly timetable has now been released, and can be seen below.

If you would like more information or further updates on the current progress of the Northumberland Line, you can access the latest Network Rail Newsletter by clicking on the below link.

[November Newsletter](#)

Ashington to Newcastle

Mondays to Saturdays		Sundays	
	TX	SO	TX
Ashington	d 0600 0631 0700 0750 0751 0800 0831 0900 0900 0930		
Bedlington	-	-	-
Blyth Belside	-	-	-
Newsham	-	-	-
Seaton Delaval	0617 0648 0717 0748 0817 0848 0916 0916 0947		
Northumberland Park			
Manors	0633 0705 - - 0808 0833 0905 - 0932 1003		
Newcastle	a 0636 0708 0738 0737 0807 0836 0908 0932 0935 1006		

Ashington to Newcastle

Mondays to Saturdays		Sundays	
	TX	SO	TX
Ashington	d 1200 1030 1100 1130 1200 1230 1300 1330 1400 1400		
Bedlington	-	-	-
Blyth Belside	-	-	-
Newsham	-	-	-
Seaton Delaval	1017 1047 1117 1147 1217 1247 1317 1347 1418 1418		
Northumberland Park			
Manors	- 1105 - 1200 - 1304 - 1405 -		
Newcastle	a 1034 1106 1137 1206 1234 1307 1337 1407 1429 1440		

Ashington to Newcastle

Mondays to Saturdays		Sundays	
	TX	SO	TX
Ashington	d 1430 1459 1459 1530 1530 1600 1600 1630 1659 1730		
Bedlington	-	-	-
Blyth Belside	-	-	-
Newsham	-	-	-
Seaton Delaval	1448 1516 1516 1547 1547 1617 1617 1647 1716 1747		
Northumberland Park			
Manors	1504 - - - 1608 - - 1703 - 1804		
Newcastle	a 1507 1534 1537 1604 1607 1639 1634 1706 1739 1807		

Ashington to Newcastle

Mondays to Saturdays		Sundays	
	TX	SO	TX
Ashington	d 1800 1830 1900 1900 1930 2030 2130 2230 2230 -		
Bedlington	-	-	-
Blyth Belside	-	-	-
Newsham	-	-	-
Seaton Delaval	1817 1847 1917 1917 1947 2047 2147 2247 2247 -		
Northumberland Park			
Manors	- 1905 - - 2009 2103 2204 2304 2305 -		
Newcastle	a 1834 1908 1933 1934 2006 2106 2207 2307 2309 -		

Useful contact details

- Fares and service information**
National Rail Enquiries
visit nationalrail.co.uk
call 03457 48 49 50
telephone 0345 60 50 600
- Customer helpline**
For comments and enquiries
visit northernrailway.co.uk/comments
call 0800 200 6060
- facebook** /northernassist
- @northernassist**
- Access or disabled information and assistance**
call 0800 138 5540
email assistance@northernrailway.co.uk
- Lost property**
email lostproperty@northernrailway.co.uk
call 0800 200 6060
- Correspondence**
Customer Experience Centre
Freepost NORTHERN RAILWAY
- British Transport Police**
call 0800 40 50 40 text 61016

This timetable is also available online and you can download it to your mobile. This saves space in your pocket or bag, as well as paper and the planet! northernrailway.co.uk/timetables

Click here for your copy of the South-East Northumberland to Newcastle timetable

[Northern 1 \(3-up\) 1224 24pp.indd](#)

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

If you have recently visited our website, you may have noticed that there has been a reduced amount of up-to-date content. We are currently in the process of updating our website, and hope to have this up and running in the next couple of weeks.

We will be sharing the link to our new website across our Social Media outlets as soon as it is launched, so keep your eyes peeled!

Our current site is still up and running and can be found at www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk



Feeling Festive

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON



Children from Stead Lane Primary School and 'Bedlington Station Primary School' performing some feel good carols.



Children from Bedlington Academy Choir wowing the crowd with their harmonies.

Our annual Christmas Light Switch On took place on Thursday 28 November and was a huge success, with a record number of spectators attending to celebrate the start of the festive season. The support shown for the children of Stead Lane Primary School, Bedlington Station Primary School, Cleasewell Hill School and Bedlington Academy was outstanding, showing the true spirit of the community and the support for local talent.

All three performances were absolutely fantastic and full of energy, with each group singing well known, well loved Christmas carols, such as 'Jingle Bells' and 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. It was lovely to see everyone smiling, clapping and singing along, without any hesitation!

The event was made extra special with a visit from Santa Claus himself! Thank you to all those who attended! We hope to see you again next year!



Children from Cleasewell Hill School rocking around that Christmas Tree.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

This year has certainly been an exciting one for the Parish Council. With a whole host of events held for all ages, planning for upcoming projects and new ideas on how to improve your local area being discussed.

Your Parish Councillors and staff would like to thank you all for continuing to support the Parish Council, and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you all in 2025!

Remember you can keep up to date with the latest information for your local area, including upcoming events and projects, by following us on Facebook at 'East Bedlington Parish Council'.



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Please note the Parish Council office will Close at 4.30pm on Friday 20th December 2024 and re-open on Monday 6th January 2025.

Worship In The Parish

St Andrew's Church - Unity Terrace, Cambois

Service 10.30am 2nd & 3rd Sunday

St John's Church - North View, Bedlington Station

Service 10.30am 1st & 4th Sunday

Contact:

Rev'd Ian Hennebry 01670 823453

**Enquiries can also be made to
reverendianh@gmail.com**



Bedlington Colliery Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. Richard Porter

Senior Steward— Mr. Sam Simmons Tel: 07791 249 409

Visit us online at bedlingtoncollierymethodist.co.uk

Contact us by e-mail collierymeth@btinternet.com or on



Can you help the Bedlington Foodbank?

As more and more families are suffering from hardship, demand is growing on the foodbanks.

Donations of non-perishable food such as long life milk, breakfast cereals, flour, tinned foods, pasta, rice, biscuits, tinned vegetables, sauces, tinned fruit, tuna, hot dogs, tea, coffee, sugar, jam and instant mash are gratefully received.

The Bedlington Foodbank will also welcome toiletries, sanitary products, toilet rolls and cleaning materials.

Donations can be left at East Bedlington Parish Council Office.



We have been thinking of ways to make our newsletter more sustainable and environmentally friendly and have made the decision to go digital by producing e-newsletters.

If you wish to subscribe to our e-newsletter, please send your email address to clerk@eastbedlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your Councillors

SLEEBURN WARD

Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)	☎ 07855 711813
Councillor Dawn Crosby	☎ 07714 211877
Councillor Bill Crosby	☎ 07866802510
Councillor Allan Stewart	☎ 07955232714
Councillor Grant Ward	☎ 07989 077884
Councillor Jayne Todd	☎ 01670 898119

BEDLINGTON EAST WARD

Councillor John Batey (Vice Charman)	☎ 07802 167212
Councillor Len Smith	☎ 07709 656973
Councillor Keith Scantlebury	☎ 07305 590056
Councillor Paul Hedley	☎ 01670 530566
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek	☎ 07779 983656

Councillors can be contacted on the numbers listed above or alternatively you can email any queries or questions to clerk@eastbedlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
The Parish Council has a communications policy and will respond to all enquiries to the Parish Office within 7 working days.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Parish Council meetings are generally held at East Bedlington Community Centre on the first Tuesday of every other month (first being May) .

Links to the meetings are posted on our website and details are displayed in our notice boards.

If there is a matter you would like the council to discuss, you must write to the Clerk to request that it be considered by the Council. Decisions or 'resolutions' can only be made on agenda items at a meeting of the full Council. Individual parish councillors do not have decision making powers.

There is a period of 15 minutes prior to the start of the agenda, during which members of the public can raise matters of concern or comment on agenda items. All matters raised are noted in the minutes, though may not be responded to until a later date, when research or verification has been completed.

Your Parish Team

Jenny Tindale

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

01670 828808

clerk@eastbedlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Tina Rowell

Assistant Clerk

01670 828808



assistantclerk@eastbedlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Andrew Thornton

Outdoor Services Officer

01670 828808



outdoorservices@eastbedlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Office

EAST BEDLINGTON
Parish Council



East Bedlington Community Centre

16 Station Street

Bedlington

NE22 7JN

01670 828808

www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk

Opening Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am-4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday- Closed

MP

Ian Lavery MP

Wansbeck Constituency

7 Esther Court, Wansbeck Business Park,
Ashington, NE63 8QZ

Tel: 01670 852494

Email: ian.lavery.mp@parliament.uk

NCC COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Bedlington East Ward

Councillor Rebecca Wilczek - 07779 983 656

Rebecca.wilczek@northumberland.gov.uk

Sleekburn Ward

Councillor Alex Wallace - 01670 822539

Alex.wallace@northumberland.gov.uk

Meetings

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Tuesday of each second month (first being May) at 6.30pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, Station Street, Bedlington NE22 7JN.

The first 15 minutes of each meeting are allocated to members of the public, who can raise issues and comment on the business to be conducted.

About East Bedlington

The Parish serves the communities of North Blyth, Cambois, East Sleekburn, Bedlington Station and East Bedlington. The Parish consists of two wards, Sleekburn and Bedlington East and has some of the highest levels of economic and health related deprivation statistics in the UK. The Parish is represented by 11 Councillors, whose details can be found on page 21 of this publication and on the Parish website www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk

Our population:	Bedlington East Ward	4,818	number of households	2,224
	Sleekburn Ward	4,284	number of households	2,134