

SEATON VALLEY FUTURES

ISSUE 35

Gardening Competition Results

Summer Holiday Sports Camps

Christmas Lights Switch On Events



Message from our Chair



Sue Bowman

Chair, Seaton Valley
Community Council

Welcome to issue 35 of Seaton Valley Council's Futures magazine.

As winter approaches, we're excited to bring you the highlights of our community, from beautiful gardens to festive celebrations.

This year's Gardening Competition was a resounding success, with participants showcasing their best blooms and innovative designs. I can't believe that we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary of the Seaton Valley Gardening Competition. I have enjoyed being part of this competition over the recent years and it has been a joy to witness the hard work and creativity of our green-thumbed residents. Congratulations to all participants, your efforts are truly inspiring.

Reflecting on the recent summer school holidays, we had a fantastic array of activities that kept the children engaged and entertained. Our School Holiday Sports Camps are a hit with the children who attend and it's a big thank you to the Northumberland Sports Development Team for making the activities engaging and so much fun.

As we look ahead, the excitement is building for our annual Christmas Lights Switch-on Events. Set to illuminate our villages, these beloved events promise a spectacular display that will truly welcome Christmas to Seaton Valley. The events start in Seghill on Friday 22 November and there are more details about the events in this magazine. I hope you can join us for entertainment, festive treats and the chance to see our Christmas lights and trees being switched on.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of our magazine and I would invite you to contact the council with any comments that you may have about the articles.

If you would like to contact Seaton Valley Council,
Please use the details below:

Telephone:

0191 237 9870

Email:

contact@seatonvalleycommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Open:

Monday - Friday

Opening Times:

8:30am - 4:00pm

Address:

20-22 Astley Road

Seaton Delaval

Northumberland

NE25 0DG



Scan to go to
Seaton Valley Council Website

Dunes Play Park Gets a Repaint



The Dunes Play Park on the Links at Seaton Sluice has received a fresh coat of paint on the play equipment just in time for the school summer holidays.

This park is a favourite among residents and visitors in Seaton Sluice, and we are thrilled to see it looking its best.

In recent years, we have made significant investments in this facility, including installing a new metal fence in July 2022 to replace the original wooden fence. Additionally, a new trampoline was added in March 2020, replacing some old climbing boulders. We are constantly striving to improve our play parks for the enjoyment of all.

Following the summer holidays, work has begun on repainting the two play parks at the Welfare Memorial Recreation Field in New Hartley in our commitment to providing healthy and fun play areas for young people in Seaton Valley.

We have 14 play parks in our area, and the council is dedicated to creating safe and enjoyable spaces for children to play and explore.

Changes to Winter Fuel Payments

On 29 July 2024, the Chancellor announced changes to the Winter Fuel Payment (WFP).

The WFP is an annual one-off payment to help pensioners pay for heating during the winter, introduced in 1997. Depending on your age and if you live with somebody else who's eligible, it could provide up to £300 towards your bills.

However, the new announcement means only those receiving Pension Credit or other means tested benefits will now be eligible for WFP.

The changes might be confusing and worrying to some people who have already factored WFP into their household budget.

If you are struggling, or simply want to make sure that you are getting all the financial help you are entitled to, Citizens Advice Northumberland can help you to check that you are not missing out on any Pension Credit or benefits that could boost your income.

You can get online advice about WFP on the Citizens Advice Northumberland website: **www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk** or you can call them for free on **0808 278 7944**.

Citizens Advice hold a drop-in session on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at the Welcome Café in Seaton Delaval Community Centre on Elsdon Avenue between 09:30 AM and Middyay. There is no need to make an appointment.

Gardening Competition Blossoms in the Seaton Valley —

This year, the annual Seaton Valley Council Gardening Competition has once again brought the spirit of community, creativity, and green-fingered enthusiasm to the Valley. From vibrant flowerbeds to lush vegetable plots, residents of all ages have transformed their outdoor spaces into beautiful, blooming paradises, showcasing the very best of British gardening.

The competition, that celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year, aims to encourage residents to showcase their gardens, allotments, and communal green spaces and celebrate their passion for gardening and growing.

This year's competition saw a wide range of categories designed to celebrate the diversity of gardening talents in the community. Categories included:

- **Best Garden:** A category that celebrates aesthetic appeal and kerb side beauty, encouraging residents to create eye-catching displays for passers-by to enjoy.
- **Best Allotment:** With the growing popularity of home-grown produce, this category has seen increased competition, with gardeners showcasing bountiful harvests of vegetables, herbs, and fruit.
- **Best Community Garden:** Encouraging collaboration, this category celebrates shared green spaces that bring people together and benefit the wider community.
- **Best Business Display:** Businesses can use their outdoor space to enhance their customer's experience and create a welcoming environment.
- **Best Single Container:** This category recognises gardeners who turn even the smallest areas—like hanging baskets, planters or even window boxes—into vibrant green spaces.

Judging in the Gardening Competition is a delicate task, undertaken by a panel of local experts, including experienced horticulturists and a representative from the council. The Judges remarked on the high standard of entries, with many gardens reflecting the increasing interest in sustainable gardening practices.

The competition entrants all came together to celebrate their entries at an awards ceremony held at the council's offices in Seaton Delaval.

The Best Overall Winners this year are Judith and Mark Fraser from New Hartley. The judges were impressed by their ability to adapt and change aspects of their garden to the changing climate. This garden is a hidden treasure and constantly changes with the seasons to give you something of interest all year round.



Cllr. Sue Bowman presenting Judith and Mark Fraser with their Best Overall Winners certificate and trophy

Our category Best in Class winners are:

Best Garden – Malcom Collins, Seghill

Best Allotment – Michael Thompson, Seaton Delaval

Best Community Garden – Hartley Court, New Hartley

Business Display – Holywell Pizza, Holywell

Best Single Container – Jean Bainbridge, Seaton Sluice

Our front cover shows a willow and plants in the garden of our best overall winners, Judith and Mark Fraser. More images of the magnificent entries into this year's Gardening Competition as well as a list of all the gardeners that entered can be found on our website under the Community dropdown menu.

We will be holding our annual Gardening Competition in 2025, and we hope that seeing the photos of the entries in this year's competition will inspire you to enter the competition.

Summer Holiday Sports Camps



Many parents face the challenge of keeping their children engaged and active over the school holidays. One popular solution is booking them on school holiday sports camps.

These camps offer a blend of physical activity, skill building, and fun, providing children with the perfect opportunity to stay fit, make new friends, and enjoy their time off school.

Teaming up with Northumberland County Council's Sports Development Team, the council provide funding for these sports camps to run during the school holidays (except for Christmas). Our funding ensures that these sports camps are totally FREE to attend.

The sports camps take place in all the villages in Seaton Valley and include Tennis, Cricket, Football and Multi Sports Camps.

The camps give children a structured way to stay active during the holidays and a chance to meet others with similar interests. Team sports help build teamwork and friendships, all while having a ton of fun in a safe environment.

This summer, the Sports Development Team delivered 27 sports camps that were a big hit with the children. These camps have been very well attended and the young people who took part have enjoyed the games, fun and activities.

We provide a packed lunch to everyone who takes part in the sports camp. A huge thank you to Lakes & Dales Cooperative for giving us a Community Grant towards the cost of these packed lunches over the summer holidays. Their support is greatly appreciated.

If you want to book a place for a school holiday sports camp in Seaton Valley, keep an eye on our website and social media accounts a couple of weeks before the school holidays start.

The logo for Lakes & Dales Cooperative. It features the text "Lakes & Dales" in a white, sans-serif font, with "coop" in a smaller, blue, stylized font below it. The logo is set against a dark blue rectangular background.

Allotments for Rent: Growing Community in Seaton Valley

In recent years, our allotments have surged in popularity across the Seaton Valley area, serving as valuable green spaces where residents can cultivate their own plots.

Allotments provide individuals and families the chance to grow their own fruits, vegetables, and flowers, offering not just a source of fresh produce but also a way to connect with nature and engage with the wider allotment community.

Allotments have several benefits; you can grow your own fresh produce, they foster a sense of community, they are shown to have numerous physical and mental health benefits, and they contribute to the local biodiversity by providing habitats for various species.

We have vacant allotment plots available to rent at our allotment sites in Seaton Delaval. The plots vary in size and range from 50 – 100 square meters.

There are further details about our allotment sites on our website under the Services drop-down menu where you can find information on our site locations, our Lettings

and Management Policy, Allotment rents and how to apply for an allotment.

Please note that you must be a resident in Seaton Valley to apply for one of our allotment plots.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a novice, renting an allotment can be a rewarding experience that nurtures both plants and community. So, if you're considering getting your hands dirty and reconnecting with nature, consider renting one of our allotments—they might just be the perfect green space for you!



Christmas Lights Switch-On Events

Get ready to start the holiday season in style with our Village Christmas Lights Switch-On Events! The most magical time of the year is just around the corner, and we couldn't be more excited to invite you to join us for some festive fun.

Taking place on the last two weekends in November, these events will fill you with Christmas cheer and will be a great way to start the festive season.

The events all start at 4:15 PM, and include entertainment from our compare, prize draws, free mulled wine and mince pies and the announcement of our Christmas lights design winners.

And of course, the highlight of the evening will be the grand illumination of the village and Christmas Tree lights, turning the streets into a winter wonderland.

We've got a special guest all the way from the North Pole - that's right, Father Christmas himself will be there to spread some holiday magic. So be sure to bring the little ones along for a chance to meet the man in red.

Please note that Seaton Valley Council will be taking photographs at these events for promotional and archival purposes. If you are attending, and would prefer not to be photographed, please let the event photographer know.



THE EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON:

- **Friday 22 November**
The Blake, Seghill
- **Saturday 23 November**
St Paul's Church, Seaton Sluice
- **Sunday 24 November**
Avenue Head, Seaton Delaval
- **Friday 29 November**
Milbourne Arms, Holywell
- **Saturday 30 November**
Memorial Hall, New Hartley

Seaton Valley Community Directory



community directory

In today's interconnected world, technology has revolutionised the way we engage with our communities. One effective method of communication is through an online community directory where groups, clubs, and organisations can showcase the activities and services they offer.

Our online community directory is easily accessible through the Community Directory drop down menu on our website. We have also created web pages for the village community centres, to help promote their facilities and the regular activities and groups that they host.

We have reached out to local groups, clubs, and organisations and have invited them to complete the online registration form to be included in the directory.

It is important to note that the directory is for non-profit organisations, groups, registered charities, social enterprises, or CICs - no businesses will be included.

Within the directory, each organisation will have a detailed description along with contact information, website, and social media links. Additionally, information about meeting locations and times will be provided.

The community directory is a simple yet powerful tool. By bringing together organisations, clubs, groups, and residents in one easily accessible platform, this directory will make it easier to find and support local resources, build relationships, and participate in community life.

Seaton Valley Bowling Challenge Cup Competition



The anticipated annual Seaton Valley Bowling Challenge Cup took place in Astley Park on Saturday 17 August, featuring a thrilling showdown between Astley Park, that incorporates Seaton Delaval Ladies Bowling Club and Seaton Sluice Bowling Clubs.

Despite the leisurely reputation of lawn bowls, the competition was fierce, with Seaton Sluice emerging victorious and claiming the trophy this year. The Challenge Cup has been an annual competition between these local clubs since 2018, with the council providing the trophy and a financial contribution towards the post-competition celebration buffet.

Pictured right is Rob Weatherson, Captain of the Seaton Sluice Bowling Club receiving the trophy from Cllr. Eva Coulson, Holywell Ward Parish Councillor.

Lawn bowls, a sport with a rich history spanning centuries, requires a unique blend of precision, strategy, and teamwork. While it may be seen as a casual pastime, competitive lawn bowls demands skill, focus, and strategic thinking from its participants.

One of the most appealing aspects of lawn bowls is the sense of community it fosters. Even during competition, sportsmanship and camaraderie are highly valued. Competitors often form lasting friendships beyond the competition, and the inclusive nature of the sport means that individuals of all ages and abilities can participate.

The bowling clubs are seeking to recruit new members. If you are interested in taking up Lawn Bowling, you can contact them through their respective Facebook pages.



Seaton Delaval Hall

Christmas is around the corner, and since the end of October half term we've been in winter mode, which means with the dark nights drawing in the hall closes at 4pm with last admission at 3:15pm. We go back into 'summer' mode and later opening in February half term... more about that later!

If you're planning on visiting Seaton Delaval Hall over the festive period, you'll find us taking inspiration from Christmases of the hall's Georgian past from Saturday 30 November. The Delavals would have decorated their home with evergreens to bring the outside in to cheer their home on dark, cold winter days and the hall's brilliant team of gardening staff and volunteers will be working their magic inside, making use of foliage from the grounds. You can also enjoy the hand-painted wintery scenery on the West Wing Kitchen Baroque stage, plus maybe a little (or large) surprise in the Central Hall!

Make a Christmas visit to remember with our extended opening hours on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 December until 8pm. No need to book, it's an ordinary visit with the added bonus of seeing the hall lit up for Christmas plus live festive music and of course a trip to the Brewhouse for seasonal tasty treats!

Enjoy Festive Friday Crafts every Friday in December between 11am-2pm, suitable for under-5s and free with your membership or standard admission. Get into the Christmas spirit and make decorations to hang on your tree or gift to a loved one and get ready for the new year!



Aurora Strings at Seaton Delaval Hall at Christmas (C) National Trust Images - Trevor Ray Hart

Throughout December you can also have a festive adventure and pick up Robin's Winter Wander trail. Find the Christmas reindeer, play jingle bells on the mushroom drums in The Oval, complete the panto challenge on the Baroque theatre stage and discover the festive baubles hidden throughout.

All Christmas activities are included with admission and there's no need to book. We're keeping things simple, so no scrum for tickets, no bunfights for booking and no additional expenses. The hall is open daily from Wednesday 18 December through to Sunday 5 January, with closed days on Tuesday 24 - Thursday 26 December inclusive to give the team here a Christmas break.

Into the new year and as the first signs of spring appear, in February half term we'll be open daily and letting our imaginations run wild with storytelling, poetry stations, cosy reading corners and more.

For news and updates, the best way to keep in touch is via our social media channels. For now, from all the staff and volunteers at the hall, we wish you a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the hall this year. We look forward to seeing you again in 2025.



A family enjoying a winter walk at Seaton Delaval Hall at Christmas (C) National Trust Images - Trevor Ray Hart

Keep in touch for updates:

Website - nationaltrust.org.uk/seatondelavalhall

Facebook - National Trust Seaton Delaval Hall

Instagram - SeatonDelavalHallINT



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Seaton Valley Partnership Performance Report

1 July 2024 – 30 September 2024

Grounds Maintenance



GRASS CUTTING

Grass cutting commenced on 25 March 2024, and we are currently undertaking cutting cycle 12.

There was a delayed start to the grass cutting season due to wet weather and ground conditions.

WEED SPRAYING

We have completed the third full weed spray across Seaton Valley.

FLORAL BEAUTIFICATION

Ongoing work maintaining summer bedding throughout Seaton Valley. Winter bedding prep and planting is now underway.

The team supported the Holywell in Bloom group for Northumbria in Bloom.

OTHER

Football and rugby pitch marking completed.

Street Cleaning



LITTER PICKING / CLEANSING

100% of Litter picks and bin emptying have been completed to schedule.

Mechanical Sweeping completed to schedule.

ENVIRONMENTAL

26,080 kg of litter was collected and 34 fly tips were removed during this period. 13 fly tips were also investigated by the Enforcement Team.

2 abandoned vehicles and 4 accumulations were actioned by Enforcement during this period.

Public Realm



Bus Shelter cleaning completed to schedule.

War Memorial inspection and cleansing completed to schedule.

Additional cleansing and preparations for Harbour Day.



Customer Feedback

COMPLIMENTS

1 Compliment was received during the period regarding Neighbourhood Services.

COMPLAINTS

5 formal stage one complaints were received and actioned during this period.

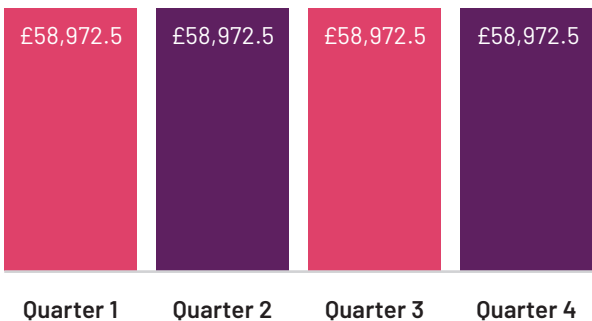
SEATON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION 2024/25

- Grounds Maintenance
- Public Realm
- Street Cleansing



Budget £235,890

BUDGET 2024/25



Quote Of
The Quarter

"Thank you to the team for doing a great job of cutting the hedges back."

Councillor Information



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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Wed 27 November
Full Council
7.00pm

Seaton Valley Council Offices -
Seaton Delaval

—

Wed 11 December
Finance & General
Purposes
6.00pm

Seaton Valley
Council Offices -
Seaton Delaval

—

Wed 22 January
Full Council
7.00pm

Seaton Valley
Council Offices -
Seaton Delaval

Planning Sub-Committees will
be scheduled as and
when required.

CONTACT

Please use the contact details
if you wish to contact your
Ward Councillor to discuss
any issues.

Christmas

IN SEATON VALLEY



Join us for the Christmas Tree and lights switch on events

SEGHILL - The Blake - Friday 22 November

SEATON SLUICE - St Pauls Church - Saturday 23 November

SEATON DELAVAL - Avenue Head - Sunday 24 November

HOLYWELL - The Milbourne Arms - Friday 29 November

NEW HARTLEY - Memorial Hall - Saturday 30 November

ALL EVENTS START AT 4:15pm

