



# KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022



# KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Contact Details:

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Clerk to the Council: Angela Royle  
Administrative Assistant: Emma Booth

## Meetings:

Parish Council meetings are normally held at 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Burton Village Hall, except for May. Committee meetings are called as and when required. A meeting timetable is posted on the website, along with agendas and minutes.

Every meeting begins with a public participation session when members of the public are invited to address the Council.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council and Committee meetings, except where it is notified that a particular item of business is exempt under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

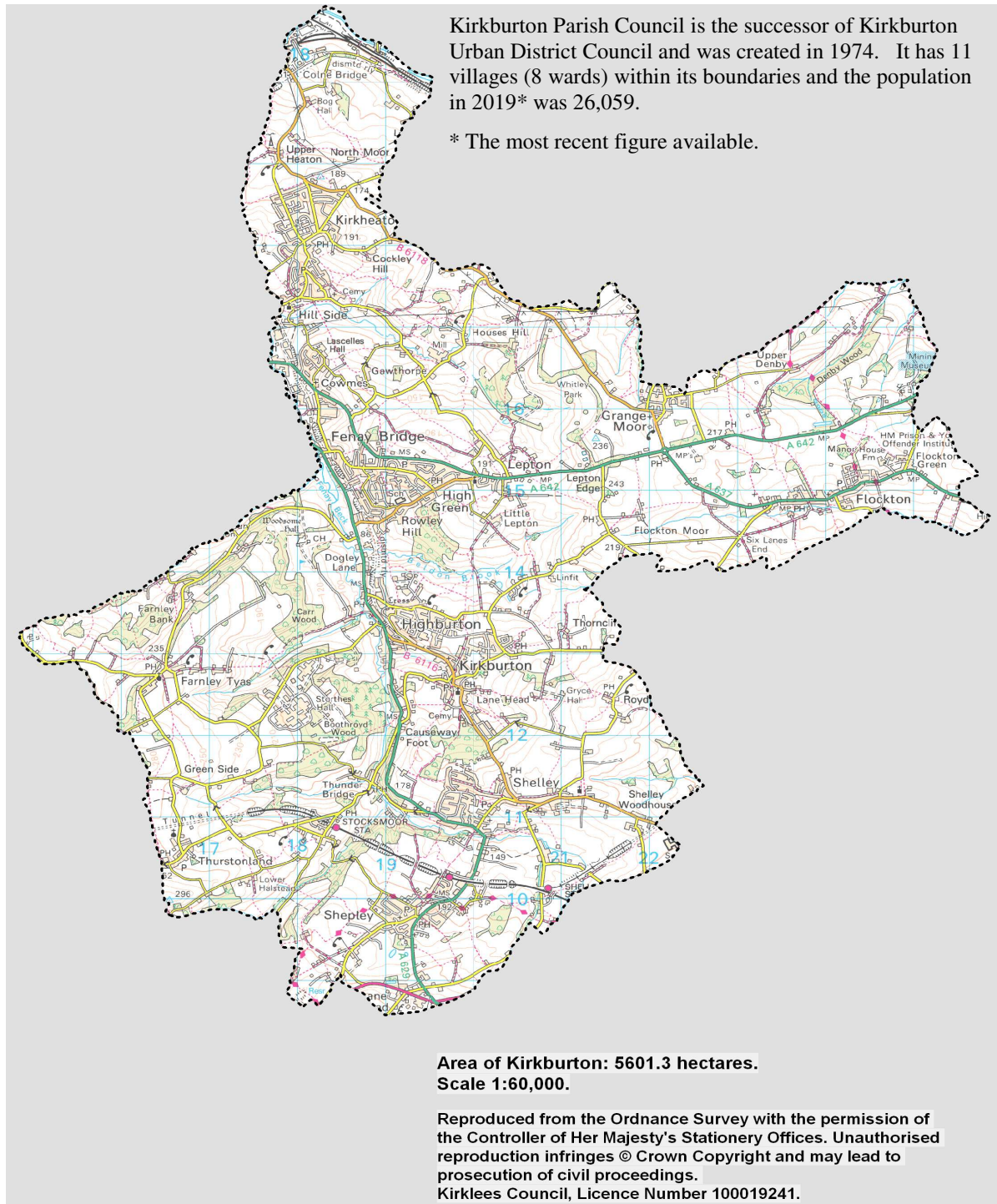
*The photo on the front cover:*

*Cllr Hardcastle standing with the South Yorkshire Pipes and Drummers  
following his Civic Sunday at All Hallows Church in Kirkburton.*



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## **Chairman's Overview of the Year**

First of all I would like to thank every one of our Councillors and residents within our Parish for coping with the Covid-19 restrictions and effects. Thankfully over the year restrictions have eased and a new sense of normal appears to have emerged.

It meant we started the year with face to face meetings again after the previous period of Covid-19 Zoom Meetings, but with mask wearing and hygiene controls in place, it was still a challenge for us all. And again I thank you all for coping with the situation, which thankfully over the passing months has eased back to normality.

I am particularly pleased the Council has continued to help small local community groups and charities as we all emerge from lockdowns and restrictions and endeavour to get back to this new normal.

### **The Council has continued to provide:**

- Almost 100 hanging baskets to brighten all our villages over the summer
- Christmas trees for all our villages
- Over £56,000 total grants awarded
- Village Improvement Funding
- Support to small library provision
- Continued support to our two Parish Council allotments at Shepley and Grange Moor
- Maintenance, including grass cutting, at Kirkheaton Churchyard.

### **More Detail:**

Over £5,000 awarded as Small Groups Emergency Grants

Agreed £3,000 in grants to groups celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Led a pilot scheme enabling local residents to trial electric bikes for free, and later to hire them for two weeks to try them out. It is believed to be one of the first schemes in the area.

Installed a new noticeboard in Flockton.

Moved the Christmas tree to Flockton Club at the request of the local residents

Installed new Christmas lights over the shops in Lepton

Following the 1,000 fruit tree planting project a few years ago, two Fruit Tree Pruning workshops have now taken place.

11 poppy wreaths were laid in total in the Parish by the local Councillors on Remembrance Sunday and some Councillors attended village events on Armistice Day. I also unveiled a new memorial to the fallen of WW2 in Kirkburton which was also attended by some of their relatives. Further details can be found later in this report. I spoke at a later event at Kirkburton Library when a photograph board was unveiled. It acknowledges and illustrates the role played by local WW1 nurses on returning injured servicemen, one of whom was a local relative of mine. It was donated by one of their relatives. Kirkburton History Group carried out research into each of people featured.

### **In addition the Council:**

Continued to monitor the two developments planned by Penistone Road in Lepton and discussed issues of concern with the developer.

Welcomed Chief Inspector Travis and Sergeant Slack from West Yorkshire Police to one of our meetings when they discussed relevant topics with the Councillors. This was very helpful in that it provided an opportunity for a 2-way exchange of information.

Supported the continuance of the footpath between Liley Lane and Carr Mount in Kirkheaton.

Agreed a new Eco-Schools Project which would see schools being able to apply for up to £500 each to take part in the scheme.

Helped to raise almost £500 for the Chairman's Charity to Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

In Memoriam: Cllr Roger Battye, and also Cllr Mel Munday, a past Chairman.



I welcomed Cllr Andrew McCaig, who took over Cllr Battye's seat. I wish to give my thanks to Cllr Charlotte Myles for the hard work performed during her time as a Councillor.

In March I held my Civic Sunday Service at All Hallows, Kirkburton Parish Church. It was performed diligently by the Rev Sue Clarke and gave thanks for the past year, recognising the voluntary service given by all of the Parish Councillors.

I am grateful to Councillor Mahmood Akhtar, Deputy Mayor of Kirklees, for his attendance and also to the South Yorkshire Pipes and Drummers and the Police, for the music and leading the parade.

In closing I would like to thank the members for their support over the last year. Especially the support from Cllr John Cowan as my Vice Chairman and Cllr Richard Burton as Line Manager. Special thanks for her help and advice throughout the year go to our Clerk, Angela Royle and not forgetting the essential administrative role played by our Administrative Assistant, Emma Booth. And throughout the year thanks to all who have given their time to provide help and information to the Parish Council.

All in all, I believe it has been a successful year as our Parish Council and Society has emerged from the pandemic.

Last but not least, a special thank you goes to previous Chairman, Cllr Steve Beresford, for his help and guidance in my two-year term as Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Derek Hardcastle  
Chair 2021-22



## **Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions**

This year Covid continued to present a significant problem, but the Council carried on serving its communities and has gradually seen operations return to normal.

### **Public Involvement**

The Council always encourages the public to have its say on its operations and supports the residents wherever possible. People have started to attend meetings again, and we also have contact via email and phone on matters which are of concern. Everyone is encouraged to come to a meeting occasionally to find out what is going on and to make Councillors aware of the issues you are facing. If you have any problems, which fall within the Council's remit, please do tell us about them and we will support you if we can.

There is full disabled access to the village hall, meeting rooms and toilets. If we are aware in advance, we will reserve a parking space close to the entrance.

Agendas are put up on the noticeboards throughout the Parish, the minutes, agendas and plan lists are on display on the noticeboard within Burton Village Hall. There is an electronic mailing list, so if you would like to receive those documents by email, please let the Clerk have your contact details.

### **Noticeboards / Website**

We have a number of noticeboards throughout the parish and have just installed an extra one in Flockton by Flockton Club. We recognise that not everyone is a frequent user of social media, and some people still appreciate information being posted in noticeboards. Community groups are also welcome to display their posters free of charge.



We have 4 websites. The main [www.kbpc.co.uk](http://www.kbpc.co.uk) is the official site, which is updated regularly with news of recent decisions and projects taking place. You can also find your local Parish Councillor and check which ward you are living in. There are two sites, which are maintained in conjunction with Denby Dale Parish Council: one is an archive of historic documents and materials: <https://denbydalekirkburton.past-view.com/> which has lots of old photographs and documents relating to the two parish council areas. If any local history group would like to contribute photographs of local interest to the site, or want to have a link please let us know.

The other one is a tourism website: <http://www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk> which is designed to provide information to residents and visitors alike and hopefully increase the number of visitors to our area. We hope this will in turn help local businesses.

The Parish Walks has its own website: [www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk](http://www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk), where you can download a route map for any of the 10 circular walks, find out a little about the villages and their history. All the walks are circular ones and vary in length.

### **Representation**

One of the Council's roles is to represent the views of the local residents to external bodies, where decisions affecting those people are taken. The Council considers most planning applications lodged in this area and sends comments to Kirklees Planning Services where appropriate. The decisions taken by Kirklees do not always reflect our views, but it is important to ensure the local view is known.

The Council wants to see development which benefits its local residents and does not detract from the wonderful open views, which we all value.

With this in mind the Council is continuing to work with local community groups in Kirkheaton and Lepton on developing Neighbourhood Plans. These are long-term projects, which will be beneficial to those areas when they have been completed.

The Council met with the developer for the HS2 site parallel to Penistone Road when Councillors raised concerns about a number of aspects of the plans including the proposed roundabout on Penistone Road and how it would impact on local businesses with accesses onto Penistone Road at that point, the lack of places in the local schools and in health centres / dental surgeries in the



area. Of equal concern was the number of parking places which would be provided within the development, the provision of affordable housing at the sites and the proposed access into the development from Hermitage Park. At the time of publication, the planning application is with Kirklees Council for a final decision.

The Council also kept up its communication with the local Police, and was pleased to welcome Chief Inspector Travis and PS Slarke to a meeting when Councillors discussed many issues, which are of local concern. It was also a good opportunity for a 2-way exchange of information. Individual Councillors maintain contact with the Police on issues within their villages.

## Poppy Wreaths

Inkeeping with tradition, the Parish Council provided 11 poppy wreaths which were laid by the local Parish Councillors across the area.

This year a new memorial board was unveiled in the Memorial Garden in Kirkburton to commemorate the men from the village who died in the Second World War. Relatives of some of those named on the board travelled from across the country to be there (*pic right*).

Brian Hill wore his dad's medals for the first time and laid a wreath in his memory. Until January 2021 he did not know that his father was remembered anywhere. It was a truly emotional day for everyone.



A second board was unveiled in Kirkburton Library, on which photographs of Kirkburton Military Hospital were mounted. (*Photo below*) Both boards were funded through the Village Improvement Funding scheme.



## Christmas Trees



A Christmas tree was provided in each village (9 in total), one of which was paid for by Kirklees Council. As always they were popular. The Flockton tree was re-located to the area by Flockton Club at the request of villagers. We are grateful to Kirklees Council for checking each socket before making the installations, and for organising the relocation of the Flockton tree. (*Photo left: the Farnley Tyas tree*).

The Highburton tree, planted in memory of the late Postman was finally large enough to take the Christmas lights. Unfortunately, it is not near enough to a lamp post to be able to take the electric lights (the regulations have changed since it was planted). So a battery operated set was hung on the tree. It was very disappointing that the first set was stolen within days of installation, but Kirklees Council very generously did not charge for the replacement set, which they provided as soon as they were made aware of the theft. (*Photo right*)



We were very pleased to be able to replace the Christmas lights in Lepton Square. Our own enthusiasm for this Village Improvement Funding project was equalled, if not surpassed, by the Lepton residents.

## Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets are another popular expenditure, bringing lots of summer colour to the villages. We put up a total of 94 baskets across the Parish Council area. Kirklees Council provided 2 small grants, which helped towards the cost.

Shelley Over 60's and Yetton Together raised the funds for extra baskets in Shelley and Kirkheaton, making the displays even more impressive.

## Dog Wastebag Dispensers

Free dog waste bags were supplied in Lascelles Hall, Lepton, Stocksmoor and Thurstonland. Councillors take the time to fill the dispensers, which appears to be successful in reducing the level of dog waste on the street.

## Allotments

We would like to thank all of the tenants for looking after their allotments and also for doing extra jobs free of charge in the communal areas. We welcomed new tenants at both Shepley and Grange Moor.



## Fruit Tree Pruning Workshops



Two workshops were conducted to train volunteers in the art of pruning apple and pear trees at Healey Greave Meadow in Shelley. The first one was led by a professional and the subsequent one conducted by some of the people who had trained in the first session.

Both were well attended and were popular with the volunteers. Shortly after the first session we heard reports that some of the participants were already tackling the community trees in Stocksmoor. We are hoping that by training volunteers in the subject, they will be able to pass on their skills to others, and in this way, the trees planted by the community will be also maintained on a voluntary basis. This not only saves the Council money, but it also gives those connected with the trees some sense of ownership and a community spirit between the volunteers develops.

## E-Bike Trial

The problem of climate change is well documented and a high priority, so projects to help combat its impact have been under investigation. One such project we undertook was a series of free 'Try an E-bike' events in Highburton, Kirkheaton, Lepton and Shepley in partnership with Environmental Projects in Kirklees (EPIKS). This was followed by an E-bike Library when local residents could have loan an E-bike free of charge for a 2-week period.



## Kirkheaton Churchyard



The Churchyard is maintained by the Council as it is a 'closed churchyard'. As well as cutting the grass, the Council is also tackling the Japanese Knotweed in the lower section of the graveyard and monitors the trees / walls.

The Churchyard is a valuable open space for the local people as well as church-goers. They can often be seen there taking exercise and enjoying the wildflowers throughout the seasons. It is a destination for many people carrying out family research, and there are also a number of notable gravestones.

All the sites where the Council has a responsibility received an annual risk assessment inspection, and any problems noticed were addressed.



## Finance

<b>Summary of Accounts 2021-22</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept	140,562
Council Tax Relief Grant	1,687
Allotment Rent & Deposits	624
Shelley Village Hall: Ground rent and insurance costs	1,713
Hanging Baskets: Grants + purchases by Community Groups	3,689
Bank Interest	89
VAT Refund	6,752
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>155,116</b>
<b>General Running Costs:</b>	
Administration including employment costs, insurance, meetings, office equipment, photocopying, postage, rent, stationery, telephone/internet.	<b>49,705</b>
<b>VAT (to be reclaimed in full)</b>	<b>4,180</b>
<b>Civic Governance:</b>	
Audit, bank charges, chains of office, civic functions, elections, legal/professional advice and fees, poppy wreaths, subscriptions, training.	<b>4,916</b>
<b>Public Information:</b>	
Advertisements, noticeboards and websites.	<b>1,732</b>
<b>Grants:</b>	
Small annual grants to 54 non-profit organisations within the Parish; Clock Grants, General Grants, Village Improvement Funding, Small Groups Emergency Grants.	<b>73,701</b>
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	
Allotments, Christmas trees, dog wastebags, e-bike trial, fruit tree workshops, hanging baskets, Kirkheaton Churchyard, support to Kirkheaton Library, libraries.	<b>29,643</b>
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>163,877</b>
<b>Allocated Reserves</b> (To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed):	<b>62,105</b>
<b>General Reserve:</b>	<b>59,922</b>

The general reserve is legally required to be maintained to cover unexpected emergencies which may arise during the year. The full Receipts & Payments Statement can be viewed on the website and copies are available on request.

### Small Groups Emergency Grants

Groups found it difficult to fundraise with the Covid rules still seriously restricting gatherings and fundraising events, so the Council continued with the Small Groups Emergency Grants. They were aimed at helping with the overheads and other bills which still had to be paid, despite the groups not being able to meet or hold events. £5,220 was paid out under this scheme.

### Small Annual Grants Awarded

This year the maximum grant was increased to £300 for community groups, and £250 for clock grants. 55 small annual grants and clock grants were awarded, totalling £15,432, a slight increase on last year. The groups were spread across the whole of the Parish and covered all interests and age groups, including playgroups, Over 60's, musical groups, various sports and environmental clubs, for items such as musical instruments, new toys, camping equipment, help with running costs, PPE, benches for spectators, etc. Photographs of some of the items funded by the grants can be seen throughout this report.



*Left to right: Crafts by Flockton WI, Afternoon Tea at the Friday Friendship Café and a ukulele representing Highly Strung, who meet in Highburton.*

## Village Improvement Funding

Many projects were funded through the Village Improvement Funding. Under this scheme local Councillors are able to put forward projects, which they feel would be beneficial for their village.

This year £17,728 was used to support a wide range of projects across the Parish for things such as refurbishment of public seats, new replacement Christmas lights in Lepton Square, refurbishment of playgrounds, a defibrillator, village marker stones, improvements to public land by planting wildflower seeds and repairing a bridge, new interpretation boards at recreation grounds, as well as the new Memorial Board in Kirkburton.

Many improvements were carried out at Shelley Recreation Ground, including the creation of a new petanque court and a refurbishment of the children's play area, to which the Parish Council contributed along with other funders including Kirklees Council. Lorna MacDonald is pictured below with Cllr John Taylor and Cllr Tricia Moores when the area was officially opened by Lorna and Malcolm MacDonald of Shelley Community Association.

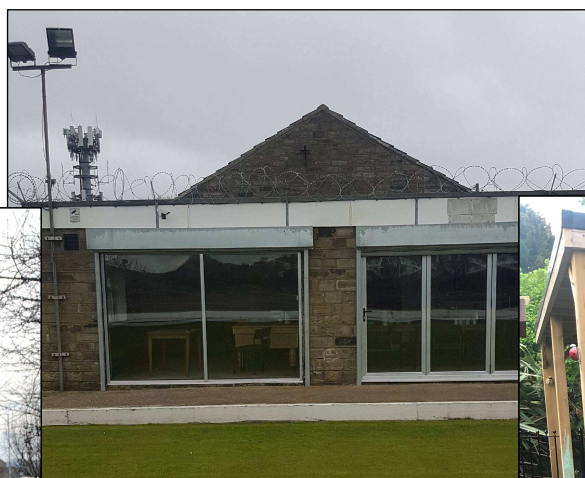
Some of the funding was also used to help with Shelley Educational Foundation's legal costs to amend the deeds allowing the land to be fully used by the public.



Clockwise from the top:  
Opening of Shelley Recreation Ground, Highburton Playgroup Sensory Garden, new replacement Christmas lights at Lepton Square, Members of BEG planting wildflowers, Kirkburton stocks in their new location courtesy of Kirkburton History Group and Shepley Playgroup's new fence.



<b>General Grants</b>	<b>£</b>
Farnley Tyas Community Group: For improvements to green space in Farnley Tyas.	1,480
Grange Moor Community Association: Consumables for the defibrillator.	232
Grange Moor Community Association: Towards refurbishment of Miniature Park.	3,000
Highly Strung: Professional tutor and venue costs.	750
Kirkburton AFC Seniors: Towards the cost of replacing 150m fence at Gregory Fields.	2,700
Kirkburton Cricket Club: To renew all-weather practice nets.	5,000
Kirkburton History Group: To provide a new plaque and clean the grave of a WWI victim, and to digitise 56 photographs of the Kirkburton Military Hospital from the Phyllis Geissler collection.	750
Kirkburton PCC: Towards the public clock maintenance.	250
Kirkburton Senior Citizens Support Group: Towards the cost of the Annual Tea.	750
Kirkheaton Cricket & Bowling Club: Towards the cost of replacement windows.	4,000
Kirkheaton History Group: Venue and speaker costs for the regular Talks.	400
Lepton Pre-School: New equipment and storage following extensions.	2,124
Shelley Community Association: QR signs for Shelley Village Hall.	298
Shelley Methodist Church: Repairs to the community hall.	2,500
Shepley Band: New music and sweatshirts.	560
Shepley Bird & Wildlife: To help with the running costs of the group.	300
Shepley Pre-School: Towards new fencing around the children's playground.	2,160
Shepley Spring Festival: Towards cost of outdoor stage & sound equipment.	220
Shepley Village Association: Towards cost of new storage container.	2,000
Stocksmoor Bridge Club: Purchase of software & licence for scoring.	1,000
The Cabin: New equipment for the Out of School children.	750
Yetton Together: Music licence, insurance & contribution to cost of utilities.	1,805
Yetton Together: Towards cost of swift nesting boxes and wildflower seeds.	310
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>£32,672</b>



Left to right:  
New signs in Shelley, new windows for Kirkheaton Cricket & Bowling Club and improvements / new toys at Lepton Pre-School.



## Parish Councillors

<b>Flockton</b>		
Jimmy Paxton	01924 848445	
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Andrew Cooper	07721 348619	<a href="mailto:andrew.cooper@kirklees.gov.uk">andrew.cooper@kirklees.gov.uk</a>



Left to right: BEG members installing a new handrail at Burton Dean Park, All Hallows Church in Kirkburton and one of the new village marker stones installed in Lepton & Fenay Bridge by the Lepton Preservation Society.