



Action Castle Eden

- community works

Who Are Action Castle Eden (ACE)?

Action Castle Eden (ACE) is a group of volunteers who have set out to improve the village. Anyone is welcome to come along to our monthly meetings or any of the activities we arrange.

What Have We Organised Over The Last 12 Months?

- **Royal Scarecrow Challenge – Castle Eden won last year against local rivals, Elwick. We will be re-running this event, can we retain the shield?**
- **Familypics – what a great day it was too!**
- **Hog roast – good food and great entertainment!**
- **Brass concert – who could forget The Academy at Shotton Hall and Oompah Brass – a standing ovation!**
- **The Revolutionaires – there was plenty of jiving that night**
- **Litter picking – we estimate we have shifted over 40 bags of litter including a calor gas canister, broken toys and parts of real cars!**
- **Hedges and verges cut back on footpaths and the Castle Eden Walkway**
- **Wild flower preparation on the Castle Eden Walkway**
- **Spring bulb planting**
- **War Memorial Tidy-up**
- **Socials at the Castle Eden Inn – very informal get together open to anyone at all to just have a chat and drink**

What Next?

We're just two years old, and have been very busy! We have an interesting programme of activities over the next few months, we hope you will find something that appeals to you. See overleaf for some further information about forthcoming events, including the **Scarecrow Challenge** and the **Brass Band Concert**. We're also planning a **Mamma Mia film night** too - there will be something for everyone.

We're also very interested in environmental aspects of our village. We hope to be working with Durham County Council in establishing a **new wild flower area** on the former railway line. We have a **litter-picking** schedule for the year, and will put on a **Gramble** - a walk and litter pick too for the whole family. We can provide litter-pickers, high viz vests and bags too – everyone welcome.

There are other things going on that are less visible – we continue to be interested in the rights of way network, and securing a sustainable future for our trees and hedgerows. These are long term issues, but if you're interested in getting involved, please get in touch.

We are looking forward to working with the new Parish Council on a range of issues that go beyond ACE's remit including traffic issues, the war memorial, and providing support on the next Parish Plan. The Plan is important for the future of the village so we hope you have taken the time to pass on your views and priorities.

New volunteers for ACE are always welcome and membership is free. This can simply mean that you receive our updates, notices of meetings etc by email, or you can become more involved – it's really up to you. Contact the Secretary, Amanda Moon, details below.

“THANK YOU” To Our Supporters

Groups such as ACE do not just happen. They take a lot of work and commitment, often by an invisible few. A document of this type hasn't room to acknowledge everyone's help but ACE do want to thank the Parish Council for all their help and support since our inception. Special thanks are also due to our founding Chairman, Paul Wilding, who, as some of you will know, has left the village to start a new life in France. We wish him and his wife Fran all the very best. We were lucky to be given Neighbourhood Funding last year from Durham County Council which helped to fund the activities, they would not have been possible without their support. And to the invisible few – thank you, you know who you are!

Chair's Reflection

I've always thought living in Castle Eden a privilege. It's a wonderful village with a character and heritage worthy of its conservation status. We have great amenities, businesses, a national nature reserve and a thriving community. Or do we? How difficult is it to ensure we continue to have a village hall, a cricket club, or perhaps a church? What would life be like for you without access to a car or you became ill?

I sometimes fear we will only reflect on these things when they are gone, or impact upon us personally. If you think you could help any organisation in the village from the Parish Council, the cricket club, church, WI or ACE please do. It may not be easy at times, but it will be worthwhile and I know we'll do all we can to make sure it's fun along the way too.

Forthcoming Events

Scarecrow Festival – This year the theme is “Mid-Summer Madness”, scarecrows to be on display by 17th June, judging will take place around 20th June. Entrance is free.

Mamma Mia Film Night – Friday 21st June, 2013, 7pm at the Village Hall, ticket price TBC. Come and let your hair down with family and friends to this great musical. Fancy dress encouraged, and you might even want to join in. Bring your own refreshments and glasses – picnic in the hall! Raffle too!

Brass Concert – Friday 12th July, 2013, 7pm in the Village Hall. Come along and listen to Brass trio “BoldAs”, supported by The Academy at Shotton Hall, and Blackhall Youth Brass Bands. Tickets are £2.50 which includes light refreshments.

More details about all these events will be posted at a later date, tickets and further information will be available from ACE Secretary, see below.

ACTION CASTLE EDEN IS A CONSTITUTED CHARITY FOR VOLUNTEERS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE – MEMBERSHIP IS FREE AND OPEN TO ANYONE WHO LIVES OR WORKS HERE. CONTACT ACE SECRETARY, AMANDA MOON ON 01429 838337 OR EMAIL moon@amlane.plus.com



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