



Esh Leaves



Esh Parish Council newsletter for Esh, Langley Park, Quebec, Ushaw and Wilk's Hill

Submit articles for the March 2009 edition to:

The Editor, 8 Long Garth, Durham City, DH1 4HJ or email to editor@langley-park.org.uk
or leave at Esh or Langley Park Post Office by 31 January 2009

THE END OF AN ERA

For well over 100 years there has been a Post Office in the village of Esh. Over time it has been situated in the little house attached to the school, in a front room, in a farm building, and most recently, in the village shop. The Postmaster was responsible for selling letters and stamps and paying pensions, first to old soldiers and sailors, then after 1908 the State Retirement Pension. 'Letter carriers' or postmen were initially paid the princely sum of 4 shillings (20p) for seven days work and a special food allowance was made for the PO cat which had the important job of vermin control.

After 1873 unmarried women were allowed to work for the PO and records show that in 1894 the Post and Money Order Office was run by Miss Elizabeth Howatson-Smith who was responsible for the letters which arrived from Durham at 9.45 am and the despatch of the post at 4.15 (on weekdays only). Over time the service expanded so in our twenty-first century PO you can (or could) among other things, pay your water and electricity bills, buy your TV licence, use it as a bank,



Linda Crow

order your foreign currency and purchase all kinds of insurance.

In June 2008 we were informed that as part of a reorganisation/standardisation/cost-cutting exercise, our Post Office was on the list for closure along with 79 others in the north-east. We were given six weeks to raise concerns and arguments for a reprieve. At a well attended public meeting in the village, called by Joseph Armstrong, our County Councillor, people made their strong feelings known. The needs of older residents and young families were highlighted; together with the lack of public transport and security issues. There was also the likelihood

that if the Post Office closed we would lose the village shop as well. People attended other meetings called by the County Council and submitted individual objections all to no avail. The post office closed on 6th October 2008.

Our last postmistress, Linda Crow, and her husband Frank, took over the village shop and the Post Office franchise over nine years ago. Linda had previously run the Post Office in Quebec. They have worked hard to make the joint business a success, (the Esh version of 'Open All Hours'). As well as the Royal Mail facility and general groceries we had access to shoe repairs,

**WELCOME TO THE 25th ISSUE OF ESH LEAVES
SERVING ESH PARISH SINCE OCTOBER 2000**

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ironing and dry cleaning, newspapers, freshly baked bread, charity books, a parcel collection point and a place to meet people and share the local news. The shop is an important, key part of our village life. Sadly Linda and Frank decided that as the Post Office franchise was to go they would also cease trading. We can only offer a huge, heartfelt thank you for all the service, support and shared smiles they have given us over the years. We wish them well in whatever they choose to do next.



The Former Esh Post Office now the Esh Village Store

On a more optimistic note, villagers were offered the opportunity to take over the shop and Patti and Darren Howe took up the challenge. We wish them every success in their new endeavour.

Editor's note

The Parish Council would like to extend its best wishes to Linda for a long and happy retirement and to thank her for all the support given over many years with various Parish Council publications and public notices.

We would now like to extend a welcome to Patti and Darren Howe who have taken over the former Post Office and are continuing to run it as a general store. The opening hours remain as before: **Mon to Fri 7a.m to 6p.m, Sat 7.30a.m to 12.30pm Sun 8a.m to 12.30p.m**

We wish them well with their new venture and are grateful to them in keeping open this valuable village facility.

TRADING STANDARDS

"Be a Savvy Shopper this Christmas"

Durham County Council Trading Standards Service is offering residents of County Durham some festive shopping tips in the run up to Christmas, to avoid potential disappointment and problems with presents bought for family and friends:

The advice seeks to raise consumers' knowledge when Christmas shopping whether from shops, on-line or by mail order. Many parents will be after the must have toys this Christmas and early planning is needed to avoid last minute disappointment.

- Always keep receipts just in case there is a problem and a gift needs to be returned.
- There is no legal right to a refund or replacement if something is the wrong

size, style or colour, so it is worth checking out if the shop has a goodwill policy on returns before you buy.

- Legally goods must be of satisfactory quality, fit for purpose and as described.
- When buying goods on-line, from a catalogue, magazine or other distance selling method, you have certain rights :

To be provided with clear information about the goods, the price and any delivery charges.

To have a cooling off period of at least 7 working days from receiving the goods to cancel the order (except for perishable goods and CD's , DVD's and computer games if the packaging is opened).

To obtain a full refund, if the goods aren't supplied by an agreed date, or otherwise within 30 days of placing an order.

- Credit cards offer additional protection for purchases over £ 100, giving you a right to claim against the credit card provider and the supplier of the goods. If things go wrong such as the supplier going bust, you can still make a claim with your credit card company.
- Beware of Counterfeit Goods often offered for sale at pubs, clubs, markets and car boot sales in the run up to Christmas. They are of poor quality, may not work at all and could be unsafe. Counterfeiting is theft of someone else's idea.
- Ensure any toys bought for children are suitable and safe, check the labelling and any warnings and age recommendations, be wary for small parts which may be left lying around within the reach of younger children and present a choking hazard.
- Check out the Christmas tree lights for signs of worn cabling and damaged lights. If in doubt get them checked out by a qualified person or replace them.

Anyone who does have a problem with any goods or services they buy, can seek advice from Consumer Direct North East on 08454 04 05 06.

New safety net for doorstep buyers

People who buy goods in their own home now have an improved safety net if they change their mind.

Durham County Council's Trading Standards Service says increased protection now gives people seven days to cancel an agreement.

The Doorstep Selling Regulations cover all sales people who visit consumers at home to sell goods and services such as conservatories, double glazing and orthopaedic furniture.

The law has always provided a one week cooling off period when the sales visit has not been pre-arranged.

But changes to the regulations mean that, provided the transaction is for more than £35, people will have seven days to cancel an agreement regardless of whether they asked the sales person to call or not.

And doorstep sellers are now required to inform customers in writing of their right to cancel.

Phillip Holman, Durham County Council's Head of Trading Standards, said: "The new regulations make things a lot clearer for consumers.

"If you are buying goods in your own home there is now a safety net of seven days in which to change your mind –

regardless of who arranged the visit. Traders failing to give these rights are breaking the law," he said.

Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Member for Trading Standards, said: "This change in the law provides extra safeguards for vulnerable members of our communities who may feel pressurised into making a decision on their doorstep to buy goods or services.

"This gives them the added security of being able to think about things and change their minds."

A market survey by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has shown that 94 per cent of people were generally unaware of their rights when buying on the doorstep.

Thirty per cent said they experienced problems, and most people said they felt buying in the home was more pressurised than anywhere else.

As a result of the study, the OFT recommended that the legislation should be extended to give cancellation rights to solicited visits as well as unsolicited ones.

Last year, the OFT helpline received more than 50,000 complaints about goods and services bought on the doorstep.

The top complaints were about home maintenance and improvement services, glazing products and

installations, and gardening products and services.

Anyone who experiences problems with goods or services, however they are bought, should contact Consumer Direct North East on 0845 4 04 05 06 for advice.

THE LANCHESTER VALLEY WALK

Inhabitants of Langley Park are lucky enough to have walks from the village in two directions along the Lanchester Valley Walk. Some of the very oldest of us will remember when this was part of the railway line from Consett to Durham but it is many years since that was the case.

Nowadays the path provides access for walkers, horse riders and those on pushbikes and is a popular facility for all three.

The path follows along the line of the little river Browney and there are many access points to the river, though in some places it is quite deep and potentially dangerous.

Starting at Bearpark, you can travel in a westerly direction towards Langley Park and one of the first things you come across is the ruin of the old Beaurepaire, which can be reached by taking the track across a bridge. Underneath the bridge is an ideal spot for a good paddle and 'river dipping' to have a close look at the creatures which live there. You do need to take care not to injure any of the water beasts and



Lanchester Valley Walk

remember that they 'drown' in air just as much as we would drown in water.

As you walk along, you get views across the fields north towards Witton Gilbert and south up the hill to Bearpark, Ushaw College and then Hill Top before the river snakes under you twice as you go over the metal railway bridges. There is a wide variety of flowers and trees on either side of the track and birds and animals to watch if you are quiet enough.

When you cross the road/track which leads up to Hill Top Farm, you can see the old Station House and Station Yard before you pass the Old Rec Nature Reserve off to your left and head towards the main road into Langley Park.

Before you cross the road, it is worth taking a diversion to look over the bridge to have a look at the new fish ladder up the weir under it. At the right time of year you can see salmon, trout and eels (and

other fish) running up the ladder after circling eerily in the pool below. It just goes to show how clean the little river has become since Consett Iron Works closed its doors!

You can extend your diversion a bit further to walk through the new wetlands developed alongside the river on the old Stobilee Allotment site. If you continue your walk through the wood and over the footbridge you can rejoin the path near the Earl of Durham Allotments which are still in use as gardens. You can see the new Sir Bobby Robson Park to your left past the football field, where the children can have a break and you may be tempted to use the picnic benches and have your lunch.

The path continues along the back of Davis Crescent and suddenly becomes rural again. The fields to the south run to the back of Blackburn farm and up the hill to Esh. To the right are trees and the river hides in the wood a little

way from your route. You can circle along the footpath past the farm back to the road to Langley Park or carry on to pass the Malton Nature Reserve and then the Malton Picnic Site where there is another opportunity to have a paddle or refreshments.

When you get to Lanchester, there is another children's playground close to where the path crosses the road. Another Station House lies just beyond where the old railway bridge used to be (on the entrance to the village just as there was in Langley Park). The path continues in the Consett direction past Lizards Farm and on to Hurbeck Cottages, where it joins the road.

From the Bearpark end, you can cross the road travelling south east, past Aldin Grange and Baxter Wood to join the Brandon-Bishop Auckland Walk and a whole other place to explore.

I've concentrated mostly on the landscape features of the path but in fact when I walk along it I am mostly drawn to the natural things there are to see. There is a wealth of flowers and trees and, at the right times of year, different wildlife large and small. The children can collect leaves or pebbles, acorns or blackberries or just watch the fish in the stream.

I think we're very lucky to have our own piece of peace to enjoy.

Alison

HOME INDEPENDENCE SERVICE



Check it out.....Ferrules

There are many types of walking sticks and indoor frames on the market which all help you to mobilise safely. All of this equipment will have rubber ferrules or "stoppers" at the bottom which prevent you from slipping on indoor and outdoor surfaces. Over time they will suffer from wear and tear and it is very important to check that they are not worn down. At the Home Independence Service we have seen frames where the tubular metal is showing through the ferrule and some ferrules which are very worn down on one side and smooth. This will reduce the grip and make the mobility equipment less safe.

Ferrules do come in different sizes but the Home Independence Service sells a range of standard sizes from 75p each. Staff are available to offer advice/assistance if required.

There are 5 shops across the county. Telephone 0191-3860742 for your nearest shop or www.durham.gov.uk/his

Editor's note

Readers are reminded that the shop and demonstration area at the Abbey Day Centre, Abbey Road, Pity Me site closed on 16th October 2008 in order to install a new heating system and to carry out other refurbishment works.

Any queries will be diverted to our shop in Stanley Day Centre, Wear Road, Stanley. 01207-290581. Durham site should be re-opening Monday 5th January 2009.

GOODWILL OUTING

Monday morning again, but this Monday was special as it was the day we had worked hard for all year and yes once again we have been able to achieve our aim of taking people from Langley Park away to South Shields for the day.

We lined the buses up at the start of the journey. At 10:35am everyone began climbing aboard with smiles on their faces. After stopping for a pickup at the Blue Star we all left for what we hoped would be an enjoyable day out together.

On our arrival at South Shields we proceeded to drop off points, one at the market for people who wanted to do a little shopping and one at the sea front.

As I walked around South Shields I met a few

trippers who were really happy and laden with bags of goodies. I called at the Bringham and Cowen club and saw a lot of our passengers who were enjoying a cheap pint and a game of bingo.

I spoke to a couple who thanked me because this is the only day in the year that they leave Langley Park, I was very proud.

The weather stayed fine. As time went on it was soon 4:45 and we were all climbing on the buses to come back home.

We got back in to Langley Park at around 5:30. Some people came back to the Rams Head for a free pint, others went home.

As I was having a well deserved pint one passenger made the comment that "we get older every year but I'm so glad I'm sitting here after going on this trip for 15

years now. I know how hard it must be for you". He then went on to say that my dad would have been proud, because he thought that after my dad passed away, there would be no more goodwill trips. However we are as determined as he was to keep them going.

Well another year over and it's time to start working on next year's trip.

With special thanks to everyone who made this possible.

Amanda Herworth

NOTES FROM THE POLICE

A thank you

We often read about people who cause problems in the community, but it is nice to recognise those individuals who go out of their way to solve them without being asked and without asking for reward in return. To this end I

would like to personally commend Mr Dominic Flint (age 13) and Mr Daniel Flint (age 14) of Langley Park, for demonstrating a high standard of teamwork and commitment assisting Police to prevent an outbreak of livestock into a housing estate at the start of October.

Beat Surgery

I've added an event to the diary in the Parish Council Office for Tuesday 2nd December 2008 at 19:00 (for 1hr). It's a Beat Surgery for the ward, where myself and 1 other from my team will be available for anybody to call in and see us about any problems they may be having.

This will probably be a monthly event so keep a look out for further information on future Surgeries.

PCSO Pearsall
Langley Park Section

DAMAGED NOTICEBOARD UPDATE

We are pleased to report that the replacement board for Front Street, Langley Park has now been ordered and should be installed shortly, if it has not already happened by the time this magazine goes to press. Included inside the new board will be an updated version of the Parish Paths map. The original board and map were wiped out last May by an alleged drunk driving incident which also demolished Stuart Wright's office front.



Local residents setting off on the Goodwill Trip

Stuart's office now has a new look as shown in the photograph to the right.

NEWS FROM ESH C of E SCHOOL

EVERYONE SMILES HERE

Outstanding Ofsted report for the second time.

Esh C.E. Primary school is celebrating their recent Ofsted inspection which concluded that it was an Outstanding school - the same verdict it reached in 2005 when it was last inspected.

The school was praised for its exceptionally high standards and the excellent quality of teaching which makes lessons enjoyable and the exemplary match of work to meet the needs of the pupils. The leadership is a major strength of the school and there are excellent relationships and partnerships with parents and



Stuart Wright Funeral Service Ltd.

the community.

The Head commented that this is a wonderful report which emphasises the great family tradition of the school. It is a report which everyone connected with school - the pupils, parents, governors, Church, staff and community, should be extremely proud.

As part of our future

developments, we have almost completed a small classroom in the old playground which is to be used as a base for outdoor activities.

Mike Urwin

WILDLIFE CORNER WINTER 2008

Now I've got another lovely job.

I'm looking at sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and deciding on their condition. I then have to work out what their future management should be to either keep them in a good state or improve them.

It gives me the opportunity to see some wonderful patches of countryside with beautiful collections of wild flowers, some of them very rare now, or groups of different species of dragonflies. Some of them are on Nature Reserves but many are on private land and I feel very privileged to be



The new Classroom at Esh C of E School

able to have a good look at them.

The thing is, when I was a child a lot of the countryside supported this sort of area and flower meadows were almost normal, instead of very special small patches as they are now. We really need to keep what we've got left!

On an even more local level, I recently received an e-mail from a neighbour to say that they have Barn Owls nesting, with chicks. This was lovely news but also a little unexpected, since they tend to prefer to be lower than the 750 foot contour that we sit on.

I had seen them hunting across the field but never dreamt that they were nesting here. I mentioned this to a friend from Alston and was astounded to find that she had a nest with chicks in this year and she lives at over 1,000feet.



Barn Owl by Steve Brace
http://www.flickr.com/photos/steve_brace/217149481/

Perhaps it's global warming increasing vole numbers for them to feed on or perhaps they're moving in where

they're less likely to be disturbed, or a bit of both.

One puzzle is that they seem to be doing so well (bringing up three and five chicks respectively) when the summer has been so wet. Because of their soft feathering, Barn Owls very quickly become saturated in the rain and are unable to fly to hunt. Each owl needs 5-7 voles or mice a day, which is quite a lot of hunting. I suppose that although it rained every day for months, it didn't actually rain *all* of every day!

The other day I heard a tapping at the dining room window when I was working in the kitchen. I thought it was one of my own chickens or possibly one of the lambs but I dried my hands and went to investigate.

Imagine my astonishment to find that it was a cock grey partridge pecking at the putty! They are quite wild and only called 'grey' to distinguish them from their foreign cousins who are 'put down' for shooting, whose legs are red instead of grey. He took a little while to realise that I was just on the other side of the window, then took off across the yard in a fright.

Alison

MORE NEWS FROM TRADING STANDARDS

New Ombudsman protection to help resolve property disputes

Extra protection for people in the home property market is

now in force to help resolve disputes with estate agents.

All residential estate agents are now required to be members of an approved scheme to resolve disputes with clients.

Durham County Council's Trading Standards Service says buyers and sellers of residential property will be able to refer complaints concerning members of a scheme to an ombudsman who has the power to make awards, including compensation.

Phillip Holman, the County Council's Head of Trading Standards, said: "Buying and selling a home can be a complicated and stressful process.

"Most estate agents will act in a professional manner when dealing with complaints or disputes with clients, but this new requirement ensures that people will have a free, easily accessible redress scheme to ensure fairness and transparency."

The Office of Fair Trading has so far approved two schemes operated by the Ombudsman for Estate Agents (OEA) and the Surveyors Ombudsman Service (SOS).

Estate agency businesses in the county needing advice on their legal obligation to belong to an approved scheme can contact Trading Standards on 0191 383 3589.

Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet member for Trading

Standards, said: "This change in the law now brings all estate agents into an ombudsman scheme which can only help improve industry standards and provide consumers with a means to resolve complaints."

Early Warning Network

Durham Trading Standards has an early warning system which alerts the reader to rogue traders operating in the County Durham area.

Whenever possible the Parish Council places these notices on its web site – www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk

Keep an eye on this site in case we receive details of any such traders operating on our patch.

If you hear of any place contact the following to share the information with them.

CONTACT OFFICER	Sharon Harrison
TEL. NO.	0191 383 3586
FAX	0191 383 4234
E-MAIL	sharon.harrison@durham.gov.uk

WANT TO JOIN TRADING STANDARDS REGISTERED TRADER SCHEME?

If you know of any workmen who you feel would want to help us stamp out Bogus Workmen and Cold-callers PLEASE put them in touch with us. We will send them an application form to join our REGISTERED TRADER SCHEME and go through our stringent vetting procedure. On successful completion of all our checks they could join

our list of vetted traders who are committed to HONEST AND FAIR TRADING. If you need a stock of our Registered Trader Scheme Leaflets for your organisations please ring Debra on 0191 3834240 or Sharon on 0191 3833586. For further information on how to join our scheme visit:- www.countydurhamrts.org.uk OR ring 0191 - 3833589

Please also inform me of any Doorstep Crime talks or training you have given. Thanks.

DO NOT let anyone official in without an appointment and DO NOT give any personal details over the phone to anyone you are not absolutely sure about.

REMEMBER if they are genuine they will not mind coming back later. This gives you a chance to check their story OR for you to phone a friend to be with you before you let them in.

Also, please remember to tell older/vulnerable adults about our Registered Trader Scheme. We can send them a full list of Traders on our scheme or specific trader types (ie builders, plumbers) in specific areas if they wish. Simply ring 0191 - 3833589 or www.countydurhamrts.org.uk.

DO NOT EMPLOY COLD CALLERS

JOHN FOSTER'S HALL OF FAME

As the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day occurs every year in November, from the many names on the War Memorial in Langley Park, one is selected at random to represent all who served during the War years and lost their lives doing so.

JACK WOOD

'The Royal Oak' was launched on 17th. November 1914 and among Royal Navy servicemen became known as 'The Mighty Oak'.

Over 800 naval personnel were lost when on 14 October 1939 a German submarine U.47 under the command of Gunther Prien sank the battleship that was anchored in Scapa Bay. There were many fatalities in the Durham area. Among them was A.B. Jack Wood son of Mr. Fred Wood and Mrs. Wood who lived in Finings Avenue.

Jack Wood joined the navy in 1938 and trained on 'The Caledonian' before transferring to 'The Royal Oak'. Educated in Langley Park he also attended All Saints Church Sunday School. He had worked at the Co-operative Laundries at Nevilles Cross and at the Kings Cinema, Langley Park. On the day his parents heard the news of his death they had just received a letter from their son.

Fred Wood was well known in Langley Park being employed

as a butcher in the local branch of Annfield Plain Co-operative and was often seen around the village serving customers from the Co-op van.

'The Royal Oak' is now preserved as a protected war grave.

© John C. Foster Nov. 2008

**WHAT'S ON AT
ST ANDREWS
METHODIST CHURCH**

Saturday 29th November - Anniversary Fair from 10:30am various stalls including cakes and buffet lunch.

Sunday 7th December - Langley Park Primary School Carol service - 10:30am

Wednesday 10th December - Community Carol Service - 7:00pm

**LOCAL GIRL TUMBLER
IN PORTUGAL**

An update from Chloe Tindale who featured in our previous edition.

Chloe was selected to represent England at an international tumbling competition held in Portugal in late September.

Whilst Chloe did not make the final her coach, and the national coach, said the experience was invaluable for her.

Chloe is scheduled to attend the British championships in Stoke, in the last wee'k-end in November, and we hope to include a report of the week-end in our next edition.



The Royal Oak

Chloe would like to thank the Parish Council, local businesses and all her sponsors for supporting the visit to Portugal and for the opportunity to gain some most valuable experience in her chosen sport.

**LANGLEY PARK &
DISTRICT COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

"New, younger blood on the committee of Langley Park & District Community Association has meant lots of new ideas, and new activities and events, such as recent Table Top sales.

There are a wide range of activities happening at Wood View Community Centre - please contact the Secretary, Alison Spenceley (0191 373 1876), for further information, or to book the centre for your family party,

celebration or meeting.

We are hoping to revive our Film Club this winter, so look out for publicity.

New members, with new ideas are always welcome."

Esh Leaves

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**Regular Contributions by
Terry Chilton, John C. Foster,
Alison Hiles, Pat Lawlor,
Anne Suddick & Betty Watt.**



Wood View Community Centre

WHEN THE DIVI COMES IN

For over one hundred years the above words would have been a very familiar sound to most working class people, due to a retail formula that was established in the North of England during the mid 1800's and became one of the greatest retail success stories of all time.

This was a century of much change in Britain as the Industrial Revolution forged ahead with great innovation and new inventions. So much so that Britain was called 'the workshop of the world', and great wealth was generated for the nation.

But there was another side to the story. The early 1800's saw many serious strikes by working class people protesting against wage reductions, but without success. As a result, those very workers who had helped to create the nations wealth continued to suffer the poverty of low wages.

Yet, as far back as the mid 1700's ordinary working people were realising they must unite in a different way to rise above the endless deprivation, and groups of workers were forming co-operative's that supplied goods at a fair price.

Co-operatives continued to be formed well into the 1800's. Then in 1844 The Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society was established in Lancashire, and it is this



Langley Park Co-operative Store in Front Street as it was in the late 1800's.

society that is generally accepted as giving birth to the first successful co-operative retail model that went on to be copied throughout Britain, and the world.

It was founded after the collapse of the weavers' strike of that year by a group of 28 ordinary working men with a capital of only £28 who pooled their resources to open a shop in Toad Lane, where they sold good wholesome food at a reasonable price. The shop was an astounding success and established principles that would be adopted by countless other groups who eventually formed their own co-operative society.

The first fully-fledged retail society in the North East of England was established at Blaydon in 1858, and very soon most towns and villages had their own society. This retail formula was so successful that towards the end of the 1800's there were about 1,400 co-operative societies throughout the country.

Langley Park's Co-operative Store (above) was opened in 1884, as a branch of the Annfield Plain Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd, which was founded in 1870. About one hundred years later the Annfield Plain Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd moved to another site. The original building was taken down brick by brick and moved to the Beamish Museum where it can be seen today in all its glory.

The new Langley Park Co-operative Store looked very impressive with its long shop front of carved wood, and row of neat windows on the upper floor. To the rear of the store were stables for horses used to deliver milk and other goods. People have told me what a wonderful sight it was to see those grand old horses stop at every door without instruction as the milkman delivered the milk.

There were six shops in the Langley Park Co-operative building, a Grocery and Provisions shop, Drapery,

Furnishing and Hardware, Greengrocery, Butchers, and Millinery.

However, in October 1893 a serious fire broke out in the building. Fortunately the damage turned out to be far less than it might have been, considering the value of the building and the stock it held, and trading was interrupted very little as the repair work was carried out.

The Co-operative was very special indeed. Apart from the good quality produce at reasonable prices, there was a warm and friendly atmosphere, and of course, there was the Dividend, affectionately known as the 'Divi'. Every customer became a member of the Co-operative Society. They were given a Share Book and number to quote when buying goods. The more they bought, the higher their dividend, and every three months the dividend was calculated for entry into their

Share Book. The dividend could then be left in the book, or withdrawn on 'Divi' day.

I have been talking to a lady who worked at the Langley Park store more than 50 years ago, and she told me about their store butcher deliveryman who made his usual Christmas delivery by horse and wagon to Bearpark village. Almost every house he stopped at he was offered a little Christmas cheer to help him on his way. By the time he had made his last delivery he was a very happy man, and fell fast asleep in the wagon.

The old horse realising the situation started out for home and delivered his smiling master safe and sound to the Langley Park store.

As the UK co-operative societies grew they became more involved in other ventures. Apart from being generous contributors to charities and good causes,

they built houses, opened libraries, cinemas and opticians, and took on many other projects designed to improve the social and domestic conditions of members. Indeed, Langley Park benefited from the above house-building programme when 16 particularly well-built houses were erected, and sold to Co-operative members at the cost of building.

However, by the 1960's many changes had taken place in the UK, especially the opening of Self-Service Supermarkets, and the co-operative societies now found themselves struggling to survive as shop after shop closed down, and the popular dividend was abandoned.

It was now decided they must join forces to compete, and in 1970 the main North East Co-operative Societies merged to become 'The North Eastern Co-operative Society'. Then in 1990 that society joined forces with the national 'Co-operative Wholesale Society' (CWS).

Sadly, the outcome of those very difficult years has left only the one Co-operative shop in the original Langley Park building, the grocery and provisions shop. But I am very pleased to say it still retains that warm and friendly atmosphere visualised by the Rochdale Pioneers all those years ago.

Terry Chilton.



The present Langley Park Co-operative Store Manager David Blades still keeping up the old tradition of showing a friendly Welcome.

© Terry T. Chilton

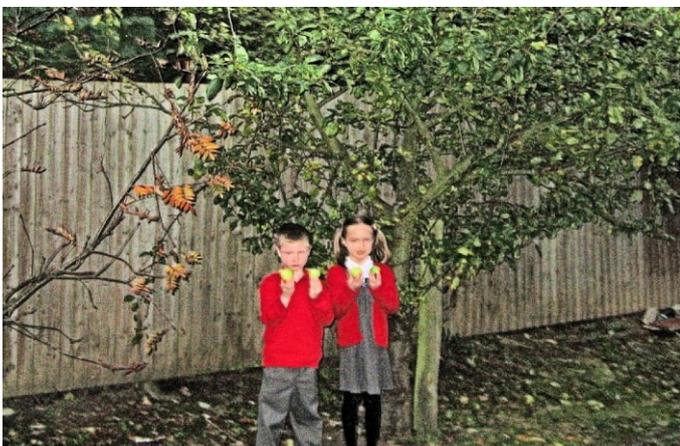
Harvest Festival

The children of Langley Park Primary School delivered a lively Harvest Festival to a hall packed to capacity with parents, relatives and friends. The children are always excited when their parents watch them perform and the excitement helped them produce their best singing. £140 was raised for Ian Botham's campaign for Leukaemia Research

European Links

The children of Langley Park Primary School are taking part in a 2 year Comenius Project with schools in Estonia, Belgium, and Spain. Our project is looking at the environment throughout the seasons in these different countries.

The children from the different countries will produce a collaborative environmental calendar and create a video of outdoor activities. Each season each country will do a weather survey and email the results to the other countries



Comenius Project



Harvest festival

involved in the project.

Children in Year 3 have been busy looking for signs of Autumn around the school and village.

Two of the children in the picture have been picking apples from the school tree to make apple pies.

Ten teachers from the schools taking part in the project will visit Langley Park Primary School in November.

Hatastic!

Children, teachers, parents and friends of Langley Park Primary School

have been enthusiastically knitting hats for new born babies in support of the Save the Children's Charity.

In developing countries, a woolly hat can make the difference between life and death for a new born baby as they cannot regulate their own body temperature.

The school sent 625 hats to the charity help this worthy cause.

Thank you everyone who helped and well done!



Hats for Save the Children Charity

Visit the Parish Council website at www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk

SIR BOBBY'S WALK

In the last edition of Esh Leaves we reported on the very successful walk organised by Geraldine Raggatt and Debra Robey in early June.

Recently Geraldine and Debra attended a function at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle to present Sir Bobby with a cheque for an astonishing £11,391.50 raised by the many people who tackled this walk.

We asked Geraldine for an update on the walk and here is her response.

As you already know we presented Sir Bobby with a cheque for £11,391.50 and a further £484.00 was forwarded at a later date. Unfortunately around fifteen sponsor forms were never returned and although we sent letters and reminders, no responses were received which is sad as the sponsored walk was for charity.

If anyone still wants to make a donation I would be more than happy to forward any monies received.

Editor's note

If you are one of those walkers, with a sponsorship form and funds to hand to Geraldine (0191 3731538) or Debra, please do so as soon as possible in order that the remaining funds can be handed over to this most worthy cause.



Presentation of the cheque to Sir Bobby

It really would be a bonus to report back in our next edition that all the money was in, and that the fund had been given over £14,000 from the walk!

Incidentally we hear that Sir Bobby has just released his new book, which is an excellent read, and is called "Newcastle My Kind of Toon". Great for a Christmas present!

THE 36th BEAMISH TROPHY TRIAL

In total there were 98 starters on the day (the same as in 2006) from a total entry of 112, with 14 either failing to turn up or withdrawing prior to the day. There were 91 finishers, 7 non finishers, most of whom broke down and had to be recovered back to the start or make their own recovery arrangements.

There were 24 entrants who hadn't previously taken part in the event, which, once again, shows how popular the trial continues to be.

The weather was at least dry if not sunny, which after the summer we have just had is little short of a miracle. At one stage, a week before the event, Westgate Ford was so high that we had made contingency plans to avoid it, yet on the day it was perfectly passable as the entrants all proved.

This is of course the first year we in South Durham Section of the VMCC have organised the event. We have had wonderful advice, support and help from Pete Robson and his colleagues, the previous organisers, from the Durham Classic Motorcycle Club. If you have ridden the Beamish previously you will notice that this year we made some changes.

We missed out Gold Hill and Coombe Bank because the bridge is closed for major repairs. We have dropped the observed sections on tarmac because everybody was getting through them without problem and it seemed a waste of precious Observers'

time. We added in the new green lane section along Middlehope.

We introduced some new questions (despite the grumbles it was surprising how many got them right!)

Haggs Bank seems to get tougher each year and judging by the video I have seen, some found it quite challenging! On the road section between Haggs and Studdon hairpins one entrant unfortunately parted company with his machine and was recovered in a sidecar to the lunch stop at Allenheads where an ambulance was called he was evacuated with a broken leg.

Thanks to North Durham Motor Club, The Friends of Killhope Lead Mine, the North East Classic Motorcycle Club and the Durham Classic Motorcycle Club who provided marshals at Killhope, Haggs Bank, Velvet and many of the checkpoints and did a fine job, yet again.

Thanks also to the many members, partners and friends of South Durham VMCC who worked so hard prior to & on the day to enable all of the sections to be open & the event to be completed successfully. If you know anyone who wants to be a marshal, just let me know, we may well find many of this year's marshals would like to ride next year.

We are also indebted to the owners & management at The New Board Inn at Hilltop, Esh, who allowed us to use



36th Beamish Trophy Trial Entrant

the pub site for the start/finish again, the rear field for parking & the facilities at the pub for tea/coffee/meals/toilets. We would also like to thank all of our trophy sponsors. A massive 'thank you' to all the landowners and users who allowed us access to their land and property once again.

There will be an official 'Beamish Night' at our regular venue: Middleton St George Cricket & Social Club, Water View, Middleton St. George, Darlington, DL2 1JQ starting at 7:30pm on Thursday 22nd January 2008. There will be a buffet, a video and still photograph display and the presentation of trophies. We are also inviting all the marshals, observers and helpers so it is an opportunity to thank them.

Looking ahead, Sunday 20th September 2009 is the date for the 37th Beamish Trophy Trial.

We have a number of changes planned for next year. The main one is that we are going to try, so far as possible, to handle the entry paperwork by electronic means. What this means is that we will send Registration, Entry Forms and Final Instructions as email attachments for those that have email. For those that don't we will continue to send out the paperwork by conventional post.

Tom Norman

Trial Secretary:
Tom Norman,
16 South Crescent,
Hartlepool,
TS24 0QD.
Telephone: (01429) 280820,
email: beamishtt@live.co.uk
VMCC website:
<http://www.vmccsouthdurham.co.uk/>
Beamish Trophy Trial
website: www.beamishtt.com
For results and a more detailed report on the Trial visit the organisers website.

IT'S ALL IN THE SMILE

I recently had a delightful chat with Mrs. Olive Jupp, who is thought to be the oldest person in Langley Park. On Friday, August 8th, 1909 Olive was born into an age of cobbled streets and horse drawn carts. She is now a wonderful, young at heart, 99 years old, and with her usual friendly smile told me about her long life, going back to her childhood almost a century ago.



Mrs. Olive Jupp still showing her birthday smile in her cosy living room.
© Terry T. Chilton

Olive was born in Crossgate, Durham City, in one of those lovely stone built houses near to, what was once, the old Durham Union Workhouse. The Durham Union Workhouse was a large complex with many buildings. Those residing there aged from small babies to the elderly. Built in the 1830's the Workhouse was a welcome shelter for some, yet many people had a fearful dread of it.

Fortunately the Workhouse no longer exists, yet some of the old buildings still remain and have been converted for a much more pleasant use. The long terrace beside Crossgate road, that used to be the Workhouse Administration Block, has since been converted into very desirable living accommodation.

Olive was the daughter of John and Annie Armstrong who had five children, two boys and three girls. I asked her what things were really like when she was a little girl

all those years ago. She then told me about her happy childhood, growing up in a time when there were no modern devices like we have today. She told me they didn't have radio or television in those days, so they made their own entertainment, and without the motor car they were able to play quite safely in the old cobbled streets. They perfected a game of marbles, and would look around the cobbles to find three holes to roll their marbles into.

I then asked her what it was like during the war years, to which she replied, 'Which war?' It had slipped my mind for a moment that Olive had actually lived through two World Wars. She then explained that the wounded soldiers coming back from fighting in the First World War were stationed in the nearby Workhouse.

During our chat I was pleased to hear that Olive's house in

Crossgate was a very happy place indeed. I was told that many a time the living room carpet would be rolled back, and with someone at the piano they would all start to sing and dance around the floor. Hearing the music, neighbours passing by would sometimes knock on the window, and with an enthusiastic wave from inside, they would be invited to join in the fun.

Ever since then Olive just loved dancing, and as a young woman she became a regular visitor to dances held at the Shakespeare Hall in Durham City. During this time she worked in Lipton's shop, and eventually the Meadow Dairy, where she became Manageress.

While travelling on a Gypsy Queen bus to the Langley Park Meadow Dairy the friendly bus conductor, called Joseph Jupp, engaged Olive in conversation and eventually they became very



Langley Park Mobile Hairdresser Norma Quinn (nee Fletcher) applying the gentle art of hair styling on one of her regular visits to Olive's home.
© Terry T. Chilton.

cleaner at St. Bede's College, Durham working from 9 a.m. to 12 noon looking after 16 of the boys' bedrooms. She retired from this job at the age of 70, and was presented with a picture of the College.

Over the years she continued dancing up to the age of 94. Even though Olive enjoyed

her dancing she always found time to regularly visit Langley

Park 'All Saint's Church'. She recalls going on the Church trips to the seaside, when they made their way to Witton Gilbert Railway Station at Wallnook and caught a steam train to Whitley Bay.

Most of us are often curious as to how some people live to such a ripe old age, so I asked Olive, 'What in your view is the secret of long life?' She replied, 'Just keep going, and keep busy with plenty of interests'.

Olive obviously follows those words of advice to the letter. There is no lying in bed for her on a morning. Even at the age of 99 she gets up around 7 a.m. and comes downstairs to enjoy a cup of coffee and ginger snap. Then goes back upstairs to have a shower, make the bed and tidy up. After that she comes downstairs again to have her

breakfast while waiting for her carer to arrive.

What a remarkable lady Olive Jupp really is, full of fun and enjoying life immensely. I have never met anyone 99 years old before, yet it was a real privilege and a pleasure talking to her, and listening to her stories from all those years ago.

Since writing this article I was very sorry to hear that Olive had a setback, and was taken into hospital for tests. Fortunately nothing serious was found, but she was moved to another hospital for a complete rest. I am now pleased to say this dear lady has left hospital and is back in the comfort of her own home, and is still smiling.

Terry Chilton.

SOAPBOX

'More than just a newspaper'

It is surprising what can come out of a late spring evening spent with friends enjoying a few light refreshments in the garden. Alongside general talk about the important mundane things of life, an idea was born. It was an idea voiced by Dave Gaston who resided in Railway Street in 1983, and in another time and place no more would be thought about it. The friends with whom he had been discussing the idea were inspired and almost in the same breath, Soapbox was born. Dave Gaston, unemployed at the time, thought it would be a great thing to set up a community

newspaper to let people know about the good things which were going on in the area rather than the bad news normally heard of in the village.

Dave and his friends met in the pub or at someone's home to put the newspaper together, and the first issue was a tentative success. It was then that the volunteers moved on to address other areas of community involvement, and in doing so, swiftly realised that to be a success as a village action group, they would have to move into their own premises. Those premises were the upstairs area of the Langley Park Branch of the Annfield Plain Co-operative Society.

The volunteers of Soapbox paid a peppercorn rent for the premises, but in return they had to take on the task of rewiring, redecoration and plumbing. After hours of soul-destroying work, together with the removal of many dead pigeons, the office was deemed to be ready. As well as the production of the bi-monthly Soapbox magazine, the offices enabled many other activities to be organised for the benefit of the Parish.

The venue was used for Worker's Educational Courses on Photography, Weaving, Silk Screen Print, Adult Literacy, Women and Health courses; but in addition, they provided facilities for a drop-in centre, welfare rights surgeries, Thrift shop (the equivalent of our local St. Cuthbert's Hospice

shop), as well as a meeting place for the Gingerbread organisation which focussed on single parent families, the Castle Chare Arts Project, and many other projects that eventually fell within the remit of Soapbox. Funding for Soapbox was initially provided by a number of small grants, fund raising activities and advertising revenue from the bi-monthly newspaper. At a later stage in its history, funding was obtained from the Manpower Services Commission via the umbrella organisation run by Minsteracres Monastery.

Their efforts to provide a service for the community earned the volunteers a prestigious award, in fact they won first place in the Village Ventures competition, sponsored by Shell UK and the Development Commission. The award was presented to the group by Dr David Bellamy on 1st November 1984.

There is no doubt that Soapbox provided a real service to the community. 1983/4 was a time when unemployment was high in the whole country, but even more so in the Derwentside area. The welfare rights service offered ensured that those who needed advice on their rights were professionally advised by trained volunteers and as part of the Soapbox philosophy, the idea of bringing together all sections of the Parish revealed that a support mechanism was badly needed in the community at that time and in their own

way, the Soapbox volunteers provided that facility.

At the time of setting up the organisation, Langley Park in particular had been designated by the press as a 'glue-sniffing' village, and the organisation provided a platform for young people to refute these allegations. In addition, several functions were held to show the Parish that young people were not just a problem, but indeed, were able to be part of the solution. Special rock Nights for the young people were a regular feature; The Castle Chare Arts group brought theatre to the area; young people were given a voice via 'Young Ones Plus'; educational efforts were supported; tenants associations were provided with facilities to ensure that their complaints about the lack of repairs etc., could be heard and the last and perhaps the most important function of the group was to provide a forum for discussion on many issues that occurred within Esh Parish.

The Langley Park Mining and Memories group are planning another booklet in the series of mining heritage booklets which will be written in 2009. To that end, they would like the Esh Leaves readers to contact them with their own memories of Soapbox and how it affected their lives at that time, and although they have managed to save a number of the Soapbox bi-monthly newspapers, that collection is by no means complete. If you have

retained any copies of the newspaper and you are willing to allow them to be copied, then please contact us via Esh Leaves as soon as possible.

Anne Suddick

**NHS COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE**

Press Release

**Local Residents Urged To
Get Free Flu Jab**

Health officials in County Durham and Darlington are urging residents at risk from flu to get a free jab – and help protect themselves from getting ill this winter.

County Durham PCT and Darlington PCT want everyone at risk to visit their GP to get the vaccination and ward off potentially serious health problems.

Those at risk of flu include anyone with asthma, diabetes, a chronic heart, chest, liver or kidney condition or problems with the immune system, as well as all people aged 65 or over.

The PCTs are backing the Department of Health flu immunisation campaign, which is launched in October. Posters and leaflets will be used over the next few months as well as TV and press advertisements to remind everyone at risk of flu to get a jab.

Dr Tricia Cresswell, executive director of public health for County Durham PCT and

Darlington PCT, wants to encourage anyone at risk to get the jab, and avoid becoming ill with flu this winter.

Dr Cresswell says: “After a series of winters with quite low levels of ‘flu in the community, it is easy to be complacent about the threat of ‘flu – but even in years when there are low levels of flu in the community, around 3,000 deaths nationally can be attributable to the complications of flu each year.

“Having Flu is not the same as having a cold – it lasts longer than a cold, making a person feel very unwell and for some individuals, progressing to complications such as bronchitis or pneumonia.

“Older people who catch flu are more likely to be made very unwell by the infection. Every year, some people die from the complications of flu and these are mainly older people who have not had the jab.

“We are urging those at risk to get a flu jab now. The influenza virus is always changing, so last year’s vaccine won’t protect you.”

The vaccination takes two minutes and is safe, effective, and free for those who are at risk. If you have not had the jab or made arrangements to have it, you should contact your doctor’s surgery.

If you have any questions about the ‘flu jab you can ask

your doctor, nurse or pharmacist, or telephone NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

For more information please contact the Communications department on 0191 333 3003.

**NEWS FROM ESH PARISH
COUNCIL**

Christmas Decorations

The Parish Council has once again agreed to provide Christmas trees in Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. It is intended that pupils from Langley Park will turn on the lights around 4.00pm on Saturday 29th November 2008 following a procession from the School’s Christmas Fete starting at 1.00pm. The lights at Esh and Quebec will also be turned on the same day.

Pupils from Langley Park Primary School will once again be painting seasonal murals to attach to the fencing around the Langley Park tree and Durham County Council, Olivers Tree Services and NJC Wrought Iron will be carrying out the works required to bring more light to the Parish.

Annual Audit

Esh Parish Council’s accounts for 2007/08 were submitted to the External Auditor in early August 2008.

Residents were given the opportunity to inspect the accounts over a 4 week period and no comments or issues were raised.

The External Auditor has now issued his Notice of Conclusion of Audit, which has been displayed at various locations throughout the Parish, and has identified 1 matter which needs to be drawn to the attention of the Parish Council namely that:-

a) That the Council did not undertake a risk assessment during the year ended 31st March 2008. The Council have taken steps to assess the risks they face after the year end which has not been reviewed.

Council's response

The Council has reviewed its Risk Assessment policy on a regular basis usually at the Annual General Meeting. Its failing, if any, has not been to bring all the changes into one report for adoption by the Council towards the end of a financial year.

It is proposed therefore to review all changes made during the year at the Parish Council Meetings each January prior to the Council's annual insurance premium being calculated that month.

Parish Council Meetings

All Meetings commence at 7.00pm (excepting when following the Annual Assembly and the Annual General Meeting) at the Harry Guildford Centre (former Neighbourhood Office), Thomas Street, Langley Park and at other locations. The choice of venue is subject to an annual review at the Annual General Meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the non-confidential part of the Agenda and there is an opportunity to raise matters of interest at the end of this part of the Agenda.

Next Meetings

9th December 2008
13th January 2009
10th February 2009
10th March 2009

Hanging Baskets

Another season over. More than 40 baskets provided and watered by Paul Snowdon. Once again our thanks to the local shopkeepers for their co-operation in this matter and to Alan Wilkinson for maintaining the flower tubs on Esh Green.

In addition to the Parish Council baskets there were several others on display in the Parish. Well done to those who provided that extra colour this season.

Staffing matters

Chris Wayman, one of our Assistant Clerks, has now left the Council and joined Buckingham Town Council as the Assistant Clerk. Shortly before leaving the Parish Council Chris had completed his Portfolio for a Certificate in Local Council Administration and had submitted it for accreditation.

We wish Chris well in his new post.

Lynne Rowland has now been appointed as Chris's

successor and she too is now preparing her Portfolio towards a Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Welcome Lynne to Esh Parish.

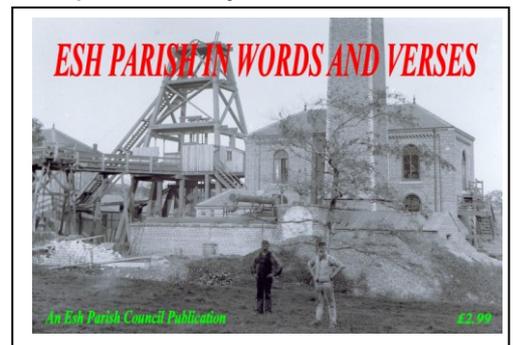
ESH PARISH IN WORDS AND VERSES

At long last our book is nearly ready for sale.

Copies of the book should shortly be available for purchase sale at Langley Park Post Office, Reay's Newsagency, Esh Village Store, Ushaw College and at the Parish Council Offices in Thomas Street, Langley Park.

The book has card covers and 60 pages of prints, mainly based on old photographs of the Parish, accompanied by words and verses.

The vast majority of the text, accompanying the prints, was provided by local residents.



The perfect Christmas present. Buy your copy whilst the book is in stock!

Only 250 copies printed although another run might be considered although it is likely to be just the one colour throughout including the front and rear cards.

Price £2.99 yes just £2.99 per copy.

ESH LEAVES THE BOOK

Copies of the book are still available from Langley Park Post Office, the Harry Guildford Centre (former Neighbourhood Office in Thomas Street, Langley Park) or by contacting the Esh Leaves Editor on 0191 3736687 or by email to the address shown at the front of this newsletter.

The price is £7.50 per copy + postage where appropriate. The Post Office has kindly agreed to nominate 50p per book sold to Cancer Research.

STEPS DETACHED PROJECT

Working with 13-9 year olds. The aim is to offer young people the opportunity to develop life and social skills whilst enjoying themselves. Currently working in the Esh area on Thursday evenings from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Ring Louise Wilson on 07884260461/07842133613 for further details.

IT @ THE TUTE

We would like to remind everyone that the I.T. centre is still in operation and has now moved from Church Street Community Centre to the Harry Guildford Centre in Langley Park.

As with the old centre, we offer Internet access through a wireless broadband connection, we have the full

suite of Microsoft Office 2000 Software, Microsoft Encarta, two scanners, a Laser and a Colour printer (capable of printing your family photographs) and software capable of re-touching photographs if you need to do that. We have three Webcams which can be used with Skype for keeping in touch with family members. We can offer you basic I.T. tuition covering word-processing, spreadsheets and database and help and advice on using the Internet. We have had people who have gone onto better things, including further training at local colleges or have gone into employment, who have indicated that the basic training we offer was helpful in getting them where they wanted to be.

The book "Looking at Langley Park" written by John C. Foster was 100% prepared using our equipment and with our technical support and advice, as are his "Hall of Fame" articles for this publication. John has followed this up with other books in preparation, "Looking at Theatre Royal Newcastle upon Tyne 1950-2000", "Looking at Durham Stage and Screen 1884-1963", "Looking at Victorian Thespians". Why not follow in John's footsteps and pop along and see what we can offer you.

You can find us at The Harry Guildford Centre (The new Parish Council office), Langley Park, between 2-4pm on Mondays and

Wednesdays and 4-6pm Friday evening. We charge £1 per hour (half price on a Wednesday) with extra charges for using the printing facilities.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL

The old St Joseph's Church Hall in Hedley Terrace has had an amazing makeover after a long history, first as a Salvation Army Citadel, then a Catholic Church, after which it became a Catholic Club and community hall.

When the new St Joseph's Church was built behind Browney House surgery, this was a prefabricated building, and time has taken its toll. And so we have gone full circle back to Hedley Terrace.

We now have a brand spanking new church cum community hall. The opening mass was celebrated by Canon Cunningham to a full congregation and on the community side of things our Tuesday club for elderly members of the village is open once again.

Also Thursday evening bingo began on 20th November at 7.00 pm.

Many thanks must go to our present Parish Priest Fr Michael Griffiths, for his dedication to this big project. Also the people who turned up with their vans, cars etc to move from old to new.

Lots of our old well loved furnishings which have been lovingly restored and fit in very well with the new, so here's to many happy years in our new old building.

LANGLEY PARK LUNCH CLUB

Langley Park lunch club began life as the Day Club around 1976.

The aim to encourage the elderly most who lived alone to meet socially.

Until recently I still had all the old minutes and could tell you who started it and exactly where our initial funding came from.

Regrettably when I came to write this article they were nowhere to be found.

We were founded through Age Concern Durham but our financial support came from almost every pub, club and business in the village, and Esh Parish Council. We met in the Miner's Welfare hall A.K.A "The Tute."



The newly refurbished St. Joseph's Church Hall

During the morning many of the members did craft work, which was sold and we soon became self financing.

More volunteers made and served lunch, after which we played beetle, dominoes or bingo, Prizes being bars of chocolate or penny fingers of fudge.

Initially all our members were collected by private car

probably not allowed now through health and safety red tape.

This continued until the Wood View School became our community centre, and we moved to the new premises.

About this time my working hours changed and since we were not able to pick up our members in cars we were allocated Social Services transport.

Unfortunately as this was shared with other clubs we were starting later and finishing earlier and this is how our day club became a lunch club.

The benefit of the social services transport was that we were now able to accommodate members with walking aids or wheelchairs.

In over 30 years obviously we have seen lots of people come and go both members and volunteers.

We have had a succession of cooks, and volunteers Mrs Barclay for some time



The Lunch Club at Wood View Community Centre

managed to keep both the meals and the tea dance going. Age Concern would not be the only organisation in Langley Park who only realised how much she did do until she was no longer doing it. There are many more I should be giving credit to for our continued existence, but without the records I would inevitably omit some. We have now reached a point where by Christmas we will only have two volunteers. We are currently making meals for between 35 and 40 people each Friday. If we cannot attract more helpers we will have to fold.

If you have any free time between 10am and 1pm on a Friday even just an hour and think you could help please pop into the Wood View centre to see us. We prepare, cook and serve the meals. We need an escort on the transport. The meals are simple, the atmosphere is friendly.

I believe in the maxim many hands make light work, and hope there are Langley Park residents prepared to come and join us. I am afraid the only reward is a free lunch.

WORDGRAM

Stuart Harris has compiled a WINTER WORDGRAM.

All you have to do is ring the answers. Words can be found Horizontally, Vertically and diagonally in any direction.

The answers are provided underneath the Wordgram. See page 25 for the answers to the July Wordgram.

E	C	A	U	L	D	D	W	I	N	T	F	R	O	S	T
W	O	S	V	L	O	G	A	I	R	S	D	A	N	L	O
S	L	L	O	G	F	I	R	E	S	A	W	I	N	E	S
E	L	W	C	P	E	A	M	E	R	E	O	N	I	E	K
V	Q	U	U	H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
A	G	O	S	A	E	E	L	O	C	A	L	E	S	R	K
E	S	D	D	F	Z	S	O	W	S	W	L	S	N	O	W
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N	N	I	O	S	N	O	H	N	E	B	H	B	G	B	N
E	O	S	T	G	A	G	I	E	U	R	A	F	N	V	T
L	T	C	G	X	I	N	N	E	B	T	T	R	I	X	E
L	S	V	F	N	D	E	G	D	E	L	S	R	I	F	R
A	L	F	K	K	S	F	A	L	L	L	E	N	K	H	C
F	I	R	E	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	S	V	O
E	A	T	H	Q	L	O	F	F	H	H	R	T	S	V	A
D	H	V	S	N	O	W	S	T	O	R	M	S	V	D	T

Chestnuts, Cold, Dark Nights, Fallen Leaves, Frost, Flu, Hailstones, Hot Chocolate, Log Fires, Rain, Skiing, Sledge, Sleet, Snow, Snowflakes, Snowstorms, Soup, Warm Clothing, Winter Coat, Woolly Hat.

LANGLEY WIND FARM BURNHOPE

We understand that a number of residents are having problems with Freeview Digital television reception since the beginning of operations at the Langley Wind Farm at Burnhope.

Anyone having these sort of problems should write to EDF Energy (Energy Branch) Plc, 40 Grosvenor Place, Victoria, London, SW1X 7EN, quoting Langley Wind Farm in the letter.

If EDF are unable to help, write to The Planning Department, Derwentside District Council, Civic Centre, Medomsley Road, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5JA.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

All Saints, Langley Park

Sunday 21st December: 4pm Children's Christingle Service

Christmas Eve: 8pm
Christmas Communion with Carols

St. Michael & All Angels, Esh

Christmas Eve: 8pm
Christmas Communion with Carols
Christmas Day: 10am Family Eucharist with Carols

St. John the Baptist Hamsteels

Christmas Eve: 11.30am
Midnight Communion with Carols

NOW A WORD ABOUT OURSELVES

As some of our readers might have spotted already this is our 25th edition.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our readers, contributors, advertisers, everyone who has worked on the production side of the magazine in the

past and Esh Parish Council for all your support over the past 8 years. We look forward to marking our 50th edition in 2017!

DELIVERY OF ESH LEAVES

A big thank you to Lisa Oliver and her colleagues, at TOP BANANA, for helping with the delivery of Esh Leaves. Our regular delivery person was unable to assist us on this occasion and very kindly Lisa agreed to help us out.

LIST OF COUNCILLORS AS AT 1ST NOVEMBER 2008

DURHAM CC/UNITARY AUTH.
01913833000

Joe Armstrong
Malcolm Campbell

ESH PARISH COUNCIL 01913736687	WARD
Barbara Armstrong	Quebec
Chris Bloor	Ushaw
Richard Bowyer	Langley Park
Gordon Coulson	Langley Park
Harry Guildford	Langley Park
Alan Harling	Langley Park
Alison Hiles	Quebec
Liam Looby	Langley Park
Alan Mollon	Langley Park
Paula Mollon	Langley Park
Sue Rothwell	Langley Park
Margaret Sands	Esh
Marie Tyler	Langley Park
Wallace Tyrie	Esh

Esh Parish Council Officers

Geoff Smith	Clerk
Mike Ackroyd	Assistant Clerk
Lynne Rowland	Assistant Clerk
David Rider	I.T. Officer

Please note that the Clerk will be in the office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 12:30pm and can be contacted on 01913736687

Esh Leaves

A new Millennium - a newsletter for Esh Parish

An Esh Parish Council production for the people of Esh Parish

This is your newsletter.....
Contributions, articles, poems, news, events etc
please leave at the Parish Rooms, opposite the PO
Deadline 30th November 2000

Esh Parish Council is pleased to announce the arrival of Esh Leaves, a newsletter written by you and for you. Published three times a year this local newspaper will be your guide to events and happenings throughout the Parish. If you organise a regular car boot sale, football club training, games evening, tea dance or are promoting a one-off event then we want to hear about it. With a circulation of over 2,000 you can be safely assured that any news will reach most residents, thus promoting a successful event.



Langley Park's Millennium Baby is Christened

Regan Parker-Platt was born at 8.45am on New Year's Day at Dryburn Hospital, Durham and weighed in at whopping 10 pounds and 8 ounces.

The proud parents are Keith Parker and Lisa Platt of Garden Avenue, Langley Park. Regan is the brother of Janine (12), Christopher (10) and Conor (3).

Baby Regan (above) was christened on 27th August

2000 at All Saints Church, Langley Park.

Well done to the Parker-Platt family, there is absolutely no reason why any of you should forget Regan's birthday!

The Parish Council and Esh Leaves team wishes you all the very best for the future.

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ISSUE 1 OF ESH LEAVES OCTOBER 2000

DERWENTSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL

01207218000

Gordon Coulson
Wallace Tyrie
Sue Rothwell

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WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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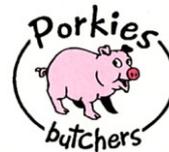
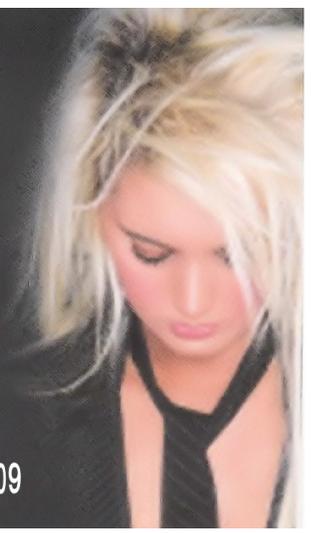
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