

Esh Parish Council News



December 2010



www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Making the community safer and better

New Neighbourhood Warden

Durham County Council has now introduced a new team of neighbourhood wardens to the area to help deliver a safer, cleaner and greener community. Neighbourhood Warden **Stuart Liddle** is now in place, with a range of powers to help educate and, where necessary, crack down on a host of environmental crimes.

The overall aim of the wardens is to improve the quality of life of residents by:

- reducing the level of anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- tackling environmental problems to improve the local environment - such as, litter, dog fouling and fly tipping.
- promoting community involvement and social inclusion, especially among young people.



Total Home Safety Scheme

Many County Durham residents will benefit from the introduction of the Total Home Safety scheme which is designed to reduce burglaries and fires in the homes of vulnerable people in the Durham City, Derwentside and Easington areas.

Those to benefit from the scheme may be elderly or might not have the means to provide the basic safety and security measures many of us take for granted.

An initial home assessment is undertaken by a police or fire and rescue officer to gauge what advice or safety and security measures are required while ensuring the project reaches the right people. Work is then carried out by Durham County Council's Direct Services Team who ensure minimum disruption.



If you know or care for a vulnerable person in Durham City, Easington or Derwentside and want to find out if they qualify for this scheme, call community safety officer :

**Gary Eden at Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Headquarters on
0191 332 4294**

The Safe Durham Partnership



Cllr. Gordon Coulson

Cllr Gordon Coulson died peacefully in hospital on October 23rd, aged 80 years. He was the beloved husband of Joan and also a dear father of Keith and Colin. Gordon had lived all his life in Langley Park. He was a staunch Trades Unionist and member of the Labour Party and

served as a Councillor on Derwentside Council and Esh Parish Council for a great many years. He will be remembered for his hard work for working people and the greater community.

'He will be sadly missed but memories live forever'

I have had the privilege of knowing Gordon as a friend and colleague for many years, as a trade unionist, a member of the Labour Party, a Parish and a District Councillor. Gordon was a true community champion for Langley Park and Esh Parish. My sincere sympathy goes to his wife Joan and his family.
County Cllr. Joe Armstrong

Be Safe at Home over winter

Operation Winter Nights aims to reduce and remove opportunities for house burglaries as the nights get darker.

So make sure, if you're not in or not around, that you.....

- ◆ Consider leaving a light on
- ◆ Lock your windows and doors
- ◆ Close curtains
- ◆ If you have an alarm—use it



For more information contact your local neighbourhood police on **0345 60 60 365**

It's the Christmas Switch-on



The heavy snow and freezing temperatures meant a lower than usual turnout for the switching on of Langley Park's Christmas Tree lights on Thursday 25th November.

This year's star attraction to switch on the lights was Mathew Wilkinson, a Yr. 6 pupil at Langley Park Primary, who, after taking the microphone to say a few well chosen words, flicked the switch to have the tree light up perfectly.



Mathew ready for the switch on (left) and thanking everyone for attending (below)



Tea and biscuits were provided by Langley Park Baptist Church after a successful, but very cold event, so our grateful thanks to them for their hospitality.

CAROLS AROUND THE TREE
Sunday 19th Dec. 6.00 pm
Everyone Welcome! (of all Faiths and none)
Seasonal Refreshments Afterwards
Langley Park Baptist Church



There are also Christmas trees at Esh and Quebec

Now 'formally' open!

The Chairman of Durham County Council Cllr Mac Williams officially opened the new Langley Park Branch Library. Langley Park has been without a permanent library for many years. Previously, a service has operated from a trailer and a former fire station. Staff have now moved into fully refurbished facilities in former Co-op buildings, in Front Street.



County Councillor Joe Armstrong said that the move had been 18 months in the planning and had to overcome a number of difficulties but had been well worth the wait and all the hard work.

It is hoped that many more local residents will use the library and staff will be happy to hear how they want their library to develop.

Invitation to join our new Reading Group

The library hosted a talk by the author Elizabeth Gill on Friday October 29th. She told us a little about herself and how she started to write, and about her books and how she gets her ideas for stories. We also talked about books and reading more generally and it was suggested that the library should form its' own reading group – so here is an invitation to all of you who enjoy reading and want to talk to like-minded folk about books.

If you are interested come along to the library on Friday 21st January at 2.00 p.m. and have some coffee and biscuits and find out more.

The library also holds a **Tiny Tots session** on every first and third Tuesday of the month at 2.00 p.m. with stories, songs and rhymes for children from 0-3yrs. Just pop along and join in the fun.

The library is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 7pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm.



For more information, call the library on 0191-373-5448.

Buy Local

SPEND IT HERE • KEEP IT HERE

Life is hard enough for our local businesses under normal circumstances, but in the current financial difficulties we are in danger of losing some of them. Their survival could well be in your hands. Deciding to shop or do business locally more often could make all the difference.

We would ask the residents of Langley Park, Esh & Quebec to rally behind their local businesses and local services. If you don't you could be in danger of losing some of them. When the Post Office in Esh was closed a local couple, Pat & Darren Howe, made a valiant effort to keep open the shop for the benefit of villagers.

Unfortunately after some 18 months of hard work and innovations they were forced to call it a day, so we need to support our local businesses or continue to lose them.

They may find it hard to compete with major chains and businesses purely on price, but they can give you a better and more personal service. You can ask their advice at any time. Your local businesses need your support to survive.



Whenever possible the Council uses the services of local

tradesmen and retail outlets.

Please support them!



Did you know?

- Sports and Social Groups can apply for funding from the Mid Durham AAP from the small grants fund. Information from the Harry Guildford Centre.
- Consultation will take place with residents in Langley Park over parking on grass verges where this is a problem.
- Discussion are under way with County Cllr Joe Armstrong on making the 'Tute' safe and watertight for possible future use.
- There are two vacancies on the Parish Council — more information from the Harry Guildford Centre 3736687
- The Parish Council has raised concerns with the County Council over its review of Bus Services and will continue to voice public concerns at the next round of consultations in the New Year. The link below will give more information.

www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=7762

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?



Esh

Annual Advent Candlelit Supper
Friday 10th December 7.30 pm
Esh C of E Primary School
Tickets £5 adults £2 children
From Liz Porteous 019103732875

Langley Park Cricketers
Cricket Fun & Coaching for under 13s
Esh Village Hall every Tuesday 7.30 pm
Fully qualified coaches £1 per session

Langley Park

Langley Park Primary School Christmas Disco
Woodview Community Centre
Friday 3rd December 6-9 pm
More infmn. from the school 01913731398

Quebec

Mondays: Dance Lessons including tap
6.30-9.00pm
Tuesday: W.I. second Monday of the month
7.00-10.00pm
Wednesday: Keep Fit 7.30-8.30pm
Thursday: Sequence Dancing
8.00-10.00pm
Friday: Sumbe Exercise 7.00-8.00pm
Saturday: Dance Lessons including Tap
9.00am-1.00pm

Anyone interested in carpet bowls on a Wednesday afternoon please contact Mrs Arlene Bell 0191 3733569

Church Services



St Michael and All Angels

Friday Dec 17th 7.00pm
A Service of readings and carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. If anyone would like to be part of the 'choir' please get in touch with Margaret Sands through the Parish Office.

Christmas Eve Service 8.00pm
Christmas Day Service 10.00 am
Boxing Day Joint Service at Quebec 10.00 am

St Michael's, Esh Laude

Christmas Eve - , Mass through Midnight, starting at 11.00pm with carols

St Joseph's, Langley Park

Christmas Day Mass at - 9.00a.m

Comments or articles for submission can be sent to eshleavesnews@langley-park.org.uk

Meet your Parish Councillors



Margaret Sands,

Esh



Margaret is Vice Chair of the Parish Council.

A retired teacher, she has lived in the village of Esh for

forty years. This is her second term as a parish councillor and she feels she initially spent a lot of time in meetings reminding others that Esh is part of the Parish!

Since retirement she has tried to learn Italian, taken up T'ai Chi, joined the Stanley Silver Singers and has turned part of the garden into a vegetable patch (with variable results!) Her latest project is to learn to play the ukulele – we wish her well!

Her hope for the future is that the village grows into the best supportive, neighbourly community it can be.

Malcolm Berry,

Langley Park



Malcolm was co-opted onto the Parish Council in January 2010.

He and his wife Lorna have only lived in Langley Park for three years, however he is not new to the north-east, born in Jarrow and going to school in Newcastle and spending much of his married life living in Tynemouth. After teaching in Wallsend and Newcastle for 30 years he then moved to live in Stafford where he was involved in National Football administration.

In retirement, Malcolm is following many different interests. He is keen to encourage other recently retired people to take a positive and active interest in their local community.

Barbara Armstrong,

Quebec



Barbara has lived in Cornsay from being five years old and attended Langley Park

Primary School. She is at present Chair of Cornsay Parish Council, having been a member since 1994, and a member of Esh Parish Council for over three years.

A Board member of the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership she takes the lead on Youth Provision.

She was a Derwentside District Councillor and is married to County Councillor Joe Armstrong.

Even being so much involved in local affairs she still finds time to do work supporting people with learning difficulties. She also has a great interest in gardening, reading, cooking and travel.

What does the Parish Council do?

The Parish Council meets every 2nd Tuesday in the month and discusses a wide range of issues affecting people living in the Parish. So we -



- comment on various County Council proposals
- raise issues with our two County Councillors Cllr. Joe Armstrong and Cllr. M Campbell.
- receive a report each month from our PCSO.
- maintain two allotment sites
- have a small fund to make donations to various groups within the Parish or can also direct groups to other sources of funding
- maintain the Sir Bobby Robson Park and the parks at Esh and Quebec
- comment on planning applications

- publish this Newsletter each month, and 'Esh Leaves'

'Hot' topics at the moment are traffic problems, litter, parking, the state of the old All Saints Youth Centre and the 'Tute' and the need to provide facilities for young people.

Although street cleaning, crime and disorder, development control, youth provision, planning, schools and the elderly are not under Parish Council control we do support, report and are very much involved with all of the people of the Parish. The Harry Guildford Centre should be the first point of contact for concerns or your local Councillor. If the matter is a County Council one then you can contact County Councillor Joe Armstrong. Come along and observe one of our meetings if you want to know more!

"STOP PRESS"

'Winter Walk' on Sat Jan 1st – meet on the railway path at the entrance to Langley Park at 1.00 pm.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

