

Esh Parish Council News



January 2011



www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk

Volume 2, Issue 1

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



AND IT SNOWED
AND SNOWED
AND SNOWED. . . .

Sorry about the delay
with the December
issue.

We did try ever so hard—
honest—no really honest!

Ed.



Happy New Year

Knock next door – be a good neighbour this winter

Following the recent bad weather, people have been asking what the Parish Council is able to do to help maintain the roads and footpaths in the Parish. The legal position is that the County Council is responsible for highways. As you will recognise they cannot possibly keep every street clear of snow and so they prioritise main roads and bus routes. The gritting policy is reviewed each year and is published in 'County Wide'. After the main priority areas the County Council tries to maintain a 'footway' in front of shops, although in the recent bad weather they have had to work round the clock to keep the high priority roads clear. The Parish County has limited resources – we have no 'handyman, for example. However we are examining what more we can do to help, one area being the possibility of providing more grit bins. Durham County Council has also issued a 'call to action' to help combat the snow and freezing temperatures.

Residents are encouraged to:

- ◆ **Be a good neighbour** by calling on those living near by to check if they need anything.
- ◆ **Look after the vulnerable** by getting in touch with people who are ill, older or on their own and may need a helping hand.
- ◆ **Keep drives and footpaths clear** by shovelling snow for friends and neighbours if they struggle to do it themselves and need to go out.

Please do your bit to help.

Residents are advised to call the following numbers for help or advice:

Highways Action Line (HAL): 0191 370 6000
or email HAL@durham.gov.uk - for enquiries about the salting of roads and footpaths.

Social Care Direct: 0845 850 5010 – for concerns about someone's welfare.

Durham County Council: 0300 123 7070 for all other issues, or visit www.durham.gov.uk

LANGLEY PARK'S OWN WORLD CHAMPION

A couple of years ago Esh Leaves published an article on Rachel Davies and her achievements in the sport of tumbling at both national and international level. Since then, Rachel has continued to train hard and in 2010 has enjoyed great success!

Rachel trains five times a week at Deerness Gymnastics High Performance Centre in Ushaw Moor. She is coached by Glen Wharton who, in the four years since he set up the tumbling section of the club, has very quickly produced a number of medal winners both nationally and internationally.

In a previous article on Rachel in July 2009, it was mentioned that Rachel was preparing to take part in the trials for the 2009 World Age Group Championships. She was successful and gained one of four places on the Great Britain team which flew out to compete in St. Petersburg, Russia in November 2009. For Rachel, the trip was enjoyable and provided a valuable learning experience. In terms of her performance on the world stage, nerves got the better of her (bearing in mind she was only 11 at the time), but she finished a creditable 13th.

After returning from Russia, and as a result of her performances in 2009, Rachel was nominated for the Northern Echo Local Heroes award for Most Promising Newcomer 2009. The presentation evening was attended by over 1000 local sports people and some well known sporting figures in the North East. Much to both her coach and parents' delight, Rachel was the winner of her category.

In 2010, Rachel had a particularly good year. Unbeaten in all competitions in the early part of the year, in July she was crowned British Champion (11/12 Age group) at the British Championships held in Birmingham. In October she was again selected to represent Great Britain at the World Age Group Championships which were held in Metz, France.



The awards ceremony in Metz

We are delighted to say that, after a nail biting final, she achieved her ultimate goal and is now the **WORLD CHAMPION** in her age group!

2011 starts with Rachel attending the BBC North East and Cumbria Sports Awards at the beginning of January, having been nominated for the junior sports award. She continues to train hard, having now moved into the 13- 14 age group, and is hopeful of gaining a place on a British team competing in Canada later in the year, and trialing again for the World Championships at the end of 2011.

Congratulations Rachel - achieved by putting in a tremendous amount of hard work! Esh PC.



Under New Management in Esh

Mark Charlton, Mary Donkin, Kathryn Charlton and Paul Scutter are the new tenants of the Cross Keys in Esh. They have all come from a long licensed trade background and have been

running The Cross Keys, Hamsterley together for two years.

They plan to bring all of the knowledge and skills they have learnt there to this, their second business venture together. One couple plan to live at the pub and become as much a part of village life as is possible and hope Esh villagers are as excited as they are about the new start for the Cross Keys.

They plan to offer an excellent 'value for money' bar menu as soon as they have the kitchen up-and-running and will be offering an inviting atmosphere in the bar so people can feel comfortable using the pub as a meeting place with friends or just a quiet drink or two! Real ale will be a massive part of what they do along with a fully stocked bar with lagers, ales, ciders, bottled products, spirits and soft drinks accompanied by an extensive diverse wine list. Mark and Kathryn's mum and dad, Wilf and Christine, are also actively involved in the business.

So while they are preparing the pub, Wilf will be opening every evening at 6pm for drinks, so please go along to see him as he is happy to answer any questions you may have about the pub, or just pop in for a chat! You can be assured of a warm welcome every visit. We wish them every success.



Parish Paths Working Party

The Parish Paths Partnership Working Party has agreed two dates the 8th and 12th January 2011 to carry out work at the recreation ground. Volunteers would be welcome in addition to those already involved. Contact Geoff Smith on 01913736687



Environment Awards

As reported in the Durham Times 10 Dec. congratulations are due to five village businesses.

Gold Standard Certificates in DCC's Tidy Business Awards were picked up by:

- ◆ Kingsway Nursing Home—donating land for community use.
- ◆ Langley Park Care Home— supporting the We are Langley Park community group.
- ◆ Langley Park Fish Shop—supporting a recent council anti-dog fouling campaign
- ◆ Langley Hardware—as above
- ◆ St Cuthbert's Hospice Shop— support for We are Langley Park and recycling unsold items.

In addition Porkies Butchers picked up a Silver award and The Salon a Bronze.

Did you know?

- ◆ Esh Leaves will now only be published in June!
- ◆ An ambitious business plan has now been completed to refurbish 'The Tute' as the heart of social activities in the village. The Plan can be viewed at the Harry Guildford centre.
- ◆ The newly refurbished IT Suite in the Harry Guildford Centre is to be called "The Gordon Coulson IT Suite" in memory of Cllr Gordon Coulson who died in October.
- ◆ Steven Liddle is the new PCSO for our area—*not Stuart* - Sorry! He can be contacted on : steven.liddle@durham.pnn.police.uk
- ◆ The Allotments rent will be £33 from January 2012.
- ◆ The Introductory Reading Group will meet, to see how many people are interested, on Friday 21st January at 2.00pm at the Langley Park Library. Do come along for coffee and biscuits and find out more.

Meet your Parish Councillors



**Chris Bloor,
Langley Park**

Chris has lived in the North-East since 1984, and has been living in Langley Park

for the past 15 years.

He is originally from Stoke and still supports the 'other' red and white team. He has recently retired from the University of Sunderland where he lectured in computing.

Chris' interests on the Parish Council relate to planning matters and the maintenance of footpaths. He is a keen walker and leads the Beating the Bounds walk, and the New Year's Day walk.

Chris has also devised a series of walks covering most of the footpaths in the parish, ranging from four to twelve miles.

These were published in early editions of Esh Leaves.



**Stephen Maddison,
Langley Park**

Stephen was born in Langley and still lives here with his wife and two

daughters, who attend Langley Park Primary school, where he is also a parent governor. Originally a chef by trade, Stephen moved onto working in the gas industry as a gas safety engineer, attending to gas leaks during the day and on a 24 hour call out rota! In his free time he likes to spend days out and weekend breaks with his family but when he does have time to himself he likes to go to the gym and do a bit of running and cycling. His main aim as a parish councillor is to maintain Langley Park as a family friendly village - the way it has always been.



**Malcolm Gordon,
Esh**

Malcolm and his wife Judy moved to Esh in August 2007 when he retired and he was co-opted onto the

Council in January 2010. Born, educated and married in Middlesbrough (*yes we will return to the Premiership!*) his time as a teacher of the deaf took him to Plymouth, Bradford, Newcastle upon Tyne and finally back to Bradford. Malcolm is a keen vegetable grower, enjoys walking their two dogs (a familiar sight around Esh & Langley Park), using the computer—including editing this newsletter—and is an avid reader. By being a councillor Malcolm hopes to be of use to the community by representing their views on local issues and things which affect people.

Committee structure and membership

The Parish Council now has a number of sub-committees whose job it is to speed up the business at full Council meetings by considering items for action and presenting recommendations. The Committees and membership are as follows and include Alan Mollon (Chair) and Margaret Sands (V. Chr):

Community Partnership (EQUaL)

*Working with Organisations within the Parish,
Special Projects (re Youth Provision)*

Cllrs. Barbara Armstrong, Malcolm Berry, Richard Boyer, Alison Hiles, Paula Mollon, Ray Partridge.

Environment

*Allotments, Play areas, recreation Ground,
Hanging baskets, Grass cutting, Open spaces,
Seats, Litter & dog bins, Street Scene.*

Cllrs. Malcolm Berry, Richard Boyer, Alison Hiles, Stephen Madison, Paula Mollon, Ray Partridge.

Finance & General Purposes

*Budgets, Income & Expenditure, Requests for
Donations, Staffing Matters, Events.*

Cllrs. Chris Bloor, Richard Bowyer, Alan Harling, Sue Rothwell, Malcolm Gordon

Planning

Planning Applications

Cllrs. Chris Bloor, Stephen Madison

Publicity

Parish Newsletter, Esh Leaves Magazine.

Cllrs. Barbara Armstrong, Chris Bloor, Malcolm Gordon (Chair) Alison Hiles.

Members of the public are welcome to raise matters with committee members as well as by contacting the Parish Council staff on

0191 3736687

