



# Esh Leaves

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

Submit articles for the November 2005 edition to:  
The Editor, 8 Long Garth, Durham City, DH1 4HJ or email to [aparishclerk@homecall.co.uk](mailto:aparishclerk@homecall.co.uk)  
or leave at Esh or Langley Park Post Office by 30 September 2005

## A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR QUEBEC

**E-Q-U-a-L**  
all of us

After months of negotiation EQUaL and Esh Parish Council are pleased to announce that a new playground is to be built at Quebec. The final piece in the funding jigsaw came through in June from Living Spaces who awarded the project £25,000. Featuring state-of-the-art safety surfacing, the park will have traditional features such as swings, roundabout and see saw plus a 'multipac' with a host of funky features. The area will have a separate fence, picnic tables and benches.

The play area will be constructed by Wicksteed who have a good reputation for solid, long-lasting play equipment and once open to the public will be managed by the Parish Council.

Funding for the park has come from a variety of sources: £25,000 from Living Spaces, £4,851 from Lottery's Awards for All, £2,000 from the Sir James Knott Trust, £4,038 from



Artists Impression of the New Playground

Derwentside District Council's SRB Community Resource Fund and £300 from the Co-operative Dividend Fund.

In addition, the people of Quebec got behind the scheme and organised a variety of fundraising events with £541.25 being raised. This will be used for seating at the park. Known as the Quebec Fundraisers, Barbara Dodsworth, Ruth Roberts and Val Barron organised a number of events with Adam Roberts, Sam Barron and Jemma Young being sponsored. Hamsteels Pub owner Billy Barron donated £50 with

the Quebec People Treat Fund giving £300. Thanks to all and a special thank you to Alan Mace for supplying a tractor and trailer for collecting rubbish from various locations throughout Quebec.

It is hoped that work will start on site in August and EQUaL, in partnership with Esh Parish Council, are planning a Grand Opening Ceremony, sponsored by the Barbour Trust.

This is great news, not just for Quebec, but also for our other villages. Given the prime location of the site at Quebec other children will benefit as people pass by and 'make a stop at the park'.

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS OF URBAN RENAISSANCE EXHIBITION**

## **Esh Playground**

Meanwhile, a grant from Garfield Weston Foundation has helped secure the installation of four swings at Esh Playground with a trim trail to be placed around the existing equipment. Ludus has been chosen as contractor and it is anticipated that this work will also take place in the summer holidays.

## **Langley Park**

Sir Bobby Robson has given his name to the project which will be of enormous benefit. As he said himself: 'I was brought up in the former pit village of Langley Park and have some very fond memories on playing football for Langley Park Juniors at what is now land that belongs to Langley Park Sports and Social Club. The football pitch and cricket pitch were adjacent to each other and I spent a great deal of my youth playing both sports – football in the winter and cricket in the summer. It was through practice, preparation and playing that I was able to perform both sports reasonably well. Through those formative years, especially where football is concerned, this set me on the road to a highly professional sports life lasting over 50 years. Therefore, Langley Park Sports and Social Club will always remain dear to my heart.' Some of you may have seen the excellent coverage in the local press

regarding Sir Bobby's endorsement.

Despite being knocked back from initial funding applications, work is on going to create a robust legal framework and project management with Derwentside District Council. Together with professional landscape architects Southern Green Partnership, it is hoped that future applications will be successful and result in the opening of a first class toddler to teenager facility, one in which we can all be proud of.

### ***A new website for EQUaL***

To get all the latest and read about on-going developments as well as the historic perspective look at our new website at [www.equal.vcip.org.uk](http://www.equal.vcip.org.uk).

### ***Curry and Cotopaxi***

EQUaL held two successful events at the Wood View Community Centre in April with a curry night raising £250 for general running costs and the Environment Action Team hosted Tom Simms, a local firefighter who went close to climbing up the highest mountain in Ecuador, Cotopaxi. He gave an interesting talk on his expedition. More talks and food nights are planned, so watch out for posters.

### **Note from the Editor**

The Parish Council would like to thank EQUaL and County Durham Foundation

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Community Chest for sponsoring this special coloured front and back page edition of Esh Leaves.

### **NEWS FROM THE LANGLEY PARK BEAT OFFICER**

It is with great delight that I can announce that a new Police Community Support Officer for Langley Park. His name is Steven Brown. It is the primary role of the PCSO's to lead on Anti Social Behaviour issues. He will also forge links within the village by working alongside myself.

You may have already noticed posters around the village promoting a Beat Surgery. The surgery will run every two weeks on a Friday morning from 10am - 11.30am and is held in the Council Offices at the rear of Front Street. This is an opportunity for you to pop in and see us and discuss any problems you may have, or even pass on any compliments! There is also a 'Street Safe' post box in the office where you can leave items for us to read, you can even do this anonymously. The box is emptied twice a week.

With the summer upon us it is always prudent to take extra precautions where crime prevention is concerned. Always keep valuables out of sight, particularly where your vehicle is concerned. Also, if you are gardening why not lock your front door to

ensure no one can sneak in undetected.

When going on holiday, always try to have an appointed key holder. They can contact the police or any other agency, if your home requires attention, on your behalf so any incidents can be dealt with quickly and without delay.

If you need to contact either PCSO Brown or myself please use the new non-emergency hotline:

0845 60 60 365

Enjoy your holidays!!!

PC Dover & PCSO Brown

### COUNCIL SERVICES

In order to clarify the Who Does What question we have prepared a detailed schedule of both functions and contact points for each of the 3 Councils serving your area. The list will be found on pages 16 and 17

### STREET MAPS

We are currently in contact with the Ordnance Survey to print some maps of Esh, Langley Park and Quebec in a future edition of Esh Leaves. More on this in a later edition.

### COMPOST BINS

Anyone in County Durham and Darlington wanting to start composting can buy a bin by calling 0845 077 0757.

To find out more about composting at home visit [www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost)

The bins are delivered to the door and the costs are

220L	- bin	- free
330L	- bin	- £5
600L	- bin	- £15

### LAST POST

A survivor's guide to junk mail is on offer to people in County Durham.

Durham County Council has produced a handy sticker to put on letter boxes telling anyone delivering mail whether junk is welcome or not.

Available from the County's local libraries, the stickers say 'No Junk Mail Thanks' on one side and on the peel-off reverse there are more tips on how to reduce the amount of unwanted mail.

"Around a million tonnes of junk mail are binned in the UK every year - that's an awful lot to go in a bin," said (who?)

"And we don't have to just live with it.

"We have the power to be more selective about what comes through our letter box and by opting out we can help ourselves, the environment - and the postman," s/he said.

As well as displaying the sticker, people can opt out

by contacting the free Mailing Preference Service (MPS) to have their name removed from, or added to, most mailing lists in the country.

MPS can be contacted at [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) email [mps@dma.org.uk](mailto:mps@dma.org.uk) call 020 7291 3310 or write to The Mailing Preference Service, FREEPOST 22, London W1E 7EZ saying you'd like to stop receiving unsolicited direct mail and including your address.

Unsolicited marketing mail can be stopped by writing to Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd, Door to Door Council Manager, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS or visit [www.dma.org.uk](http://www.dma.org.uk)

To stop unsolicited, unaddressed mail delivered by Royal Mail, write to Royal Mail Door-to-door Opt Out Dept, Room 130, Wheatstone House, Faraday Road, Swindon SN3 5JW, or call 0845 795 0950, email [optout@royalmail.co.uk](mailto:optout@royalmail.co.uk)



Junk Mail Delivery

## ESH LEAVES ANCESTRAL SEARCH - 1

In Esh Leaves March 2005 edition we included a plea from a Mr Sid Bolam from Scunthorpe who was trying to trace his Cousin Brenda Donaldson (nee Iveson from Cornsay Colliery). We are pleased to report that within 48 hours Sid was reunited with his cousin.

We asked Sid to say a bit more about himself and his ancestral search and here is his article. We also asked Sid for an "old" photograph and although he didn't have one he said "There is an old one on your site, where I am pictured along with the whole Esh RC School around 1954. Surprisingly I recognise the vast majority of persons thereon."

"My father's family as best is known moved backwards and forwards from Stella to Lartington. Around 1880 they moved to Hill Top and around 1900 to Langley Park. His mother's family came from the Coxhoe and Sacriston area, they were living at Wall Nook in 1861 and in 1871 were at Low Side (which is what Langley Park was originally known as). They eventually moved to High Finings Farm. I was born in 1939 in Wood View, Langley Park, and attended Esh R.C. School and Durham Johnston Grammar School (as it was known then). In 1955 I worked at Langley Park Colliery. From 1962 till 1990 I was a Police Constable in

Durham, Lincolnshire and Humberside Forces.

My last job was as a school caretaker and finally I retired in 1995 at Scunthorpe. I have a married sister living with her family in a house in what was once one of High Finings Farm fields. My Aunt Phil also resides in Langley Park. Sometimes, no oft times, I wish I did too.

My interest in the family antecedents stems from childhood, when like many other I asked my parents where I came from. My father had an excellent memory of his family and relations but sadly he never set a word down. So like most others I started with a near blank sheet and prior to the interest now shown by the media.

The first steps are always backwards and is with older family members. A search through Family records, Bibles and photographs can be helpful. When these lines are exhausted join a local Family History Society, where there are like-minded people and more experienced persons who can help. You can have published via their journals your interest and possibly link up with someone who has already done some of your research.

The Durham County Record Office at County Hall is a most valuable store of information, holding extensive County records such as Census, Church and parish records etc. Their staff are extremely

helpful. City Libraries usually hold Microfiche of the General Register Office which list all recorded Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1837 to the 1980's, some libraries also hold the International Genealogy Index (IGI) this holds similar records to the GRO except it is not as extensive, though it goes back further in time.

If you do not live near Durham City you can resort to the ubiquitous computer. Search the Web and you can find the Mormon site holding the 1881 Census of England. A very good site and free, where you should be able to find many of your ancestors which in turn will lead you on to search elsewhere. I subscribe to a commercial Family History site out of necessity and do not begrudge one penny, as it has been an important tool in my searches. Through it I can search from home the 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and the 1901 Census' and also much more information available on their site.

It was as a result of my interest being published in a Family History Society journal that a relative of whom I was unaware contacted me. From this persons research I am now able to trace my authenticated ancestry back to about 1485. Listed amongst my forebears are a Bishop of London, a turkey merchant, a gentleman usher to Queen Catherine, in the USA, a President of

The Council of Virginia, also a tobacco farmer in Virginia of 20,000 acres and 400 slaves, a Chief Justice in Canada, as well as Farmers, tradesmen, miners and labourers. My family has over two hundred years of Police service in Durham, Northumbria and the Metropolitan Police.

My wife's family has been traced back to Scotland around 1706 and this came about after the point blank refusal of her father to help. I was searching the Internet by inputting my wife's maiden name and I stumbled upon a site, which gave me more than eight tenths of what I have now.

You can spend as much as or as little as you wish in pursuit of this interest. The most satisfaction

I get is from the contacts made and the sharing of information. In my computer's family history programme I have a list of nearly 800 persons. My search continues in tracing other members. If there is a secret it is LOOK together with LUCK.

All the best from Sid Bolam.

### HELP NEEDED

Have you ever thought of helping out St. Cuthbert's Hospice by volunteering in our Langley Park Charity Shop? The shop is run by a dedicated team of volunteers and together with our other four charity shops they provide a quarter of the Hospice's

running costs per annum. The Hospice provides free palliative care for those with a life threatening illness, such as cancer or motor neurone disease, providing support and help for families and sufferers on a daily basis. St. Cuthbert's is currently raising money for a 10 bedded in-patient unit. As a retail volunteer you would be sorting, pricing and assisting in customer care. If you are interested in helping us in this way, or through any other of our many volunteer opportunities, please call into the shop for a Volunteer Pack, or phone Amy Farquhar, the Hospice Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0191 386 1170.

### THE VILLAGE CHOICE JOINS WORLD WIDE WEB

Opened in June 2002 The Village Choice started trading with everyday supplies and the odd unusual ethnic article.

Due to the continued interest in the fair and ethical trade ethnic crafts, arts, and musical instruments on sale at the shop in Langley Park and numerous phone enquiries the owners Lesley and Kenny have decided to put the ethical trade side of their business onto the net - [www.thevillagechoice.co.uk](http://www.thevillagechoice.co.uk)

Selling everything from Guatemalan worry dolls to large soapstone carvings it is hoped it will generate even more interest and create future work for the

craftsmen who make these items. Every piece that sells does make a major contribution and sometimes is the only income for whole villages. Dealing with fair trade suppliers guarantees they are getting an honest amount for their labours and your purchases will be helping someone in another part of the world.

See advert on page 29.



### HANGING BASKETS

The Parish Council asked NJC Wrought Iron to check the existing brackets and then arranged for Paul Snowdon, to supply around 60 baskets for this season. Another blooming success?



Hanging Basket in Quebec Street

## WITH A HARD HAND AND KEEN EYE

A tourist passing through Langley Park would see few signs that this village once contributed millions of tons of coal to the British Industrial Revolution.

Gone are the busy railway lines and all the sidings. Gone are the old coke ovens, and their tall chimneys. Gone is the impressive headgear that stood high above the old shaft. There isn't even an old winding-gear wheel to remind visitors of Langley Park's proud history.

Yet, I'm sure the older generation who lived through that time will never forget the bustling hive of activity during those exciting colliery years, when groups of chatty miners would collect at favourite meeting places around the village and happily share a joke with anyone passing by.

However, there is still one thing left in the village to remind us all of those hard-working miners, who were actually responsible for the existence of Langley Park. Tucked away behind The Langley Park pub (known locally as the Blue Star) is a very high wall once used by the miners to play handball. They called this area the Ball Alley, and the wall is of such historic significance it has been classified as a Grade 2 listed structure.

I have been talking to a



The Langley Park 'Ball Alley' wall behind the 'Blue Star'.

number of the older residents in the village hoping to find out more about the Ball Alley and the miners who played handball there.

During one of these conversations an 87-year-old gentleman told me that handball had not been played on that wall since he moved to Langley Park in 1930. Although he did remember it being played on a Sacriston wall.

I now realised it was going to be an almost impossible task to find anyone old enough to have actually seen handball played on the Langley Park wall.

Then I spoke to 88-year-old Thomas (Tucker) Dockray, who left the village in 1927 at the age of ten, and he clearly remembers his cousin George Walker, a miner from Logan Street, playing handball with another miner on the Langley Park wall. He also remembers seeing men

play quoits on the Thomas Street green. Both games were keenly played by the miners at that time.

I have also learnt that the game of handball was highly competitive, and villages throughout the area held championships to find the best player. These games were serious business and attracted large crowds where huge sums of money changed hands. It is said that a man would bet as much as half a crown on a game. In those days this would be a man's pocket money for the week.

Handball, also called 'Fives', was played way back in the 1700's, and although the rules have continued to change throughout the years it is still played today, but with a gloved hand.

Of course, the hard working miners had such hard hands they used only a bare hand to strike the ball. Indeed, to improve their competitive edge it is said

that some miners actually soaked their hands in pickles to make them even harder.

I have been trying to find out how the miners played this game of handball, but as it is well over 70 years since the game was played at Langley Park the few people old enough to have seen it were still going to school, and their memories of the game are naturally a bit sketchy. However, in an effort to give some idea of how it was played I have made an attempt at piecing together those memories.

A line was drawn across the wall at a certain height (probably three yards high), and the object of the game was to hit a hard rubber ball above that line. One player was called the **Server** and the other the **Receiver**. First, a coin was tossed to decide who would be the Server.

The Server would then start the game by holding the ball aloft in one hand. He could then drop it and hit it with the other hand as it fell, or after just one bounce.

If the ball didn't hit the wall above that line, one point went to the Receiver. If it did hit the wall above the line, upon its return the Receiver must hit it before the second bounce, and return it to the wall above the line. If he failed, one point went to the Server, and so on.

After six points the Server and Receiver would change

places. A game would be won by the first person to reach 12 points, and the winner of a contest would be decided over five games.

Played by two skilled players the game is said to be fast and furious, and very exciting to watch.



Jackie Mordue

One such player was a man called Jackie Mordue, a famous footballer who played for Sunderland from 1908 to 1920. He later played for both Middlesbrough and Hartlepool.

Jackie was born in the village of Edmondsley in 1886, and as a young man played football for Sacriston. He also played the game of handball on a Sacriston wall, and I am told he was so brilliant at the game he eventually became a World Champion handball player.

Of course, Jackie also played on the Langley Park wall, and was so skilful he has actually been known to play the game with his feet.

In those days the whole area in front of the Langley Park wall was a flat surface, but after so many years of not being used the private owners of that piece of land generously decided to

revitalise the area, and created a beautiful garden with low walls and seating.

Sadly, despite their best efforts to keep the garden tidy over the years, some people have continued to leave rubbish such as bottles, cans and food wrappers.

It would be rather nice if a way could be found to restore the area directly in front of the handball wall, and to place an appropriate plaque nearby to the memory of all the miners, and Jackie, who once played there.

Terry Chilton.

*We would like to thank the "A-Love-Supreme" website for use of the Jackie Mordue photograph.*

#### **Note from the Editor**

*Please note that the land referred to in Terry's article is in private ownership and is not owned by Esh Parish Council.*

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

#### ***Chair's report to Esh Parish Council Annual Assembly 2005***

The Chairman, Alan Mollon, thanked the Council for their support during his year of office and presented the annual report outlining the main activities for the year including:-

## **Councillors**

During the year we had 3 casual vacancies. I would like to place on record my thanks to Doreen Cummings, Joan Geany and Kevin Robson for their various contributions throughout their periods of office, particularly Doreen Cummings who was on the Council for 20 years, including a spell as Chairman.

## **A new noticeboard for Langley Park**

The board has now been delivered and at the moment we are delaying installation until the proposed CCTV equipment has been provided in this area of Langley Park.

## **Christmas Decorations**

Tree and decorations provided in Langley Park and trees installed in Esh and Quebec. The Langley Park tree was "lit up" by Pee Wee Price, a cast member from Cinderella being performed at the Gala Theatre, Durham.

## **Play Areas**

The EQUaL Partnership is now at an advanced stage with the provision of new play areas at Esh and Quebec.

## **Esh Leaves Newsletter**

3 editions printed during the year with one Extra edition to announce the start of the Service 767 initiative.

## **Environmental Works**

In conjunction with Durham County Council the Parish Council arranged to carry

out further hedge and tree planting along Kaysburn Road in March 2004. Further work and maintenance was arranged in January 2005. The Parish Council is grateful for the support of Durham County Council with this project and to Durham Wildlife Services for their advice.

## **Car parking on Esh Green**

Following numerous complaints the Parish Council installed a NO PARKING notice on the edge of the Green in Hall Road, Esh.

## **Manual Work**

All work now carried out by Contractors and, where appropriate, tenders had been invited to carry out the work. The work included grass cutting, winter gritting, installing and watering over 60 hanging baskets and inspecting the Councils play areas on a regular basis.

## **Parish Transport Grant**

The Parish Council received a grant of nearly £6000 towards additional collection points for the Service 767 in Esh and Langley Park. The Service is scheduled to finish in June/July 2005 and discussions are ongoing with the County Council to extend the Service beyond this date if possible.

## **Winter Gritting**

A limited amount of gritting has been carried out by Wharton Landscapes.

## **New library**

We have continued to support Cllr Armstrong's

work in providing a permanent library for Langley Park. We look forward to having our new library although it might mean that the Parish Council needs to find new premises.

## **Planning Applications**

Throughout the year the Parish Council has responded to various planning applications and has facilitated a public meeting for one of the more major applications, the proposed Wind Farm at Burnhope. Details of all applications, together with the Council's response, should be found on [www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **www site**

Parish Council web site now up and running with regular updates and improvements. The Council is seeking further funding to continue with this valuable service.

## **Donations**

Several made including a commitment to a major contribution to a new ramp installed by the Langley Park Community Association at the entrance to the Church Street Community Centre. In addition the Parish Council agreed to provide in excess of £5100 towards a major bid made by EQUaL to a BIFFA initiative.

## **Social Events**

During the year the Parish Council organised the annual beating the bounds walk, a winter walk and a pantomime performed by

the Panto Company from Bedlington.

### **Seats on Esh Green**

Further donation received from a former local resident to repaint the 2 cast iron seats on Esh Green and to replace the plaques.

### **Future Areas of Work**

Include the usual services and the installation of 2 new seats – one at the top of the Silly Steps in memory of Doreen Cummings and the other on the highway verge opposite the Quebec play area in memory of Norah and Norman Gowland.

The Parish Council has also requested the Probation Service to continue cleaning up the Recreation Ground under the Community Enhancement Service scheme as this site continues to be targeted by fly tippers.

### **Precept for 2005/06**

The Parish Councils precept for 2004/05 was increased by 5.2% following lengthy discussions with Derwentside District Council on their annual Contribution (just over £12,000). It is hoped that the Contribution will continue and that we will avoid the difficulty faced with this year when we had to set our Precept before the District Council's contribution was known.

### **Finally, and certainly not of least importance**

The Clerk Designate, Geoff Smith, is now at an advanced stage with his Certificate in Local Council Administration. We wish

Geoff well with the rest of his portfolio and look forward to him taking the Parish Council through to Quality Parish Council status.

Also my thanks to Mike Ackroyd, the Clerk, for his hard work and dedication to the Parish.

A. J. Mollon  
Chairman 2004/05

### **Parish Council Meetings**

All Meetings commence at 7.00pm (excepting when following the Annual Assembly and the Annual General Meeting) in the Parish Room, Church Street Community Centre and occasionally at other locations. The choice of venue is subject to an annual review at the AGM. 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 Ordinary Meetings**

13<sup>th</sup> September 2005

11<sup>th</sup> October 2005

8<sup>th</sup> November 2005

### **Pantomime**

I know many of you have yet to take your summer holidays but before you go make a note in your diary of our next annual Pantomime. For your entertainment we have engaged the Panto Company from Bedlington who will be performing "Sleeping Beauty" at the Wood View Community Centre at 2.15pm on

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005. More details later.

### **Annual Audit 2004/05**

The Parish Council's accounts for 2004/05 will be submitted to the District Auditor for approval in October 2005. Residents will be advised of their rights in respect of the Audit, at the appropriate time, by way of public notices to be displayed at various locations throughout the Parish. It is anticipated that the accounts will be available for inspection in the Parish Room, on days and times yet to be determined, between 19<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

As part of the submission will be a summary of the accounts for the year and these are set out at the top of page 10 for the benefit of our readers.

### **Casual Vacancies**

In the March 2005 edition of Esh Leaves we advised readers that the Parish Council had advertised a casual vacancy, with no election called for, and that a second vacancy was in the process of being advertised. We are now able to report that as no election was called for either vacancy. The Parish Council has therefore contacted the District Council to ascertain the procedure for reducing the number of Councillors on the Council (currently a maximum of 16). We will keep you informed on any developments.

## Summary Statement of Accounts for Esh Parish Council 2004/2005

### Income

Precept and District Council Contribution	34524
Miscellaneous items	38
Bank Interest	2116
Rents	3485
Sponsorship	125
VAT refund	2314
Esh Leaves	1235
Parish Transport Grant	5247
Pantomime	77
Donations from individuals and other grants	1582
	<b>50743</b>

### Expenditure

Central Administration	21111
<i>(Staffing, Insurance and office rent = £17195. Balance including by election costs of £2440, training, equipment etc = £3916)</i>	
Contracted work	6435
<i>(Grasscutting, hanging baskets, winter gritting)</i>	
Leisure services	3914
<i>(Allotments, open spaces, play areas, tree week, PPP and pantomime)</i>	
Christmas lights	3432
IT services (publications, www and IT@theTUTE)	7672
Donations	855
<i>(Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted, Esh Treat Fund, Finchale Training College, Goodwill Association, Great North Air Ambulance Service, McMillan Nurses)</i>	
Other major contributions	7712
<i>(Parish Transport Grant – contribution towards the Service 767 and hedgerow work along Kaysburn Road)</i>	
Other items	435
	<b>51566</b>

Housing Association for the new tenants.

### Hilltop View

The regeneration process continues. All tenants have now been relocated from the designated properties and the Council are about to progress to the next stage of the process.

### Garden Rubbish

The Council are operating a pilot scheme for the removal of garden rubbish from a designated area of Langley Park, all properties in the scheme have been contacted and asked if they wish to participate

### Work with the Police

The Police in partnership with the Council, have agreed an Acceptable Behaviour Contract with a youth in the Langley Park village, if further incidents are reported then further action can be taken. The Police have installed a "post box" in the neighbourhood office and anyone wishing to leave messages can deposit them in the box.

### Money Advice

A money advice worker is available, on appointment, at the Neighbourhood Office, please contact the office for an appointment should you require one

### Neighbourhood Office

Available from the Neighbourhood Office Energy Saving Lightbulbs Doggy waste bags Recycling bags.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

### The Housing Stock Options

The process continues with all tenants receiving a newsletter. There are some spare copies available in the office should people request them. There are 2 Freephone numbers for anybody wishing to ask any specific questions or get more information.

The Councils Information Service - 0800 977 6018  
Independent Tenants Advice - 0800 169 1814

Please note that these numbers are only to be used for housing stock enquiries.

### Langley Park, New Houses to Rent

The new houses recently completed by NOMAD Housing have been relet, and have proved very popular.

Some additional 2 and 4 bed houses are currently being built by NOMAD Housing, though these are not planned to be completed till the Autumn and the Council will be making nominations to the

### **Smoking**

As from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005, the council will introduce a No Smoking policy across all public buildings and facilities, to include leisure and swim centres, theatre and cinemas, private facility hire, parks and play areas and outdoor pitches. With regard to the policy we therefore respectfully request that you do not smoke when using any local authority owned leisure facilities.



Photograph of the MARC vehicle

### **MARC (Multi Agency Resource vehicle)**

Good News, as from 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005 the Customer Service Staff from Derwentside District Council will be joining the MARC vehicle and the current team of officers.

They will be able to take queries concerning housing applications, housing issues/problems, housing repairs, give advice on street cleaning, fly tipping, recycling and any problems concerning wheelie bins. Please remember we also give advice on Housing/Council tax benefit, Pension credits, tax credits, welfare rights, debt counselling and home security.

If you see the MARC vehicle in Front Street, Langley Park please call on board. We look forward to seeing you in the near future. There is a Marc helpline number 01207 218692.

The MARC vehicle is scheduled to be in Front

Street, Langley Park between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on the following dates (all Tuesdays)

July 26<sup>th</sup>  
August 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>  
September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>  
October 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Note from the Editor**

Whilst the list does not include a visit to Esh we are aware that the MARC vehicle has been to the village before. We will keep readers posted, through Esh Leaves, on any future visits to Esh.

### **Summer Activities**

Presented by Derwentside Leisure Services in partnership with Derwentside Leisure Ltd. and community partners. For a full list check the District Council's brochure – copies should be available

in the Neighbourhood Office. We have however included the following.

### **LARK IN THE PARK with FREE BUSES**

### **Give Your Family The Feel Good Factor**

11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., on Mondays & Wednesdays, during the first 5 weeks of the summer holidays. Admission £4; under 3's and supervising parents FREE.

Pack a picnic...grab the kids....get on the free bus and come along for a Lark In The Park.

Bigger and better than they've ever been there'll be: giant inflatables; children's professional entertainment; sports and games with the Leisure Rangers; arts & crafts, face painting (additional charge); Duke & Daisy may call in, and there'll be loads and loads of fresh air and space for the kids to run off their energy, make friends and really enjoy themselves. In the meantime you can take advantage of the safe,

friendly and supervised activities and relax with a book; chat with your friends; or even JOIN IN!

This year we're ringing the changes by designating some of the dates as **Arts** days (with additional music, dance, workshops and mobile cinema) and others as **Sports** days (with additional coaching sessions, games workshop, challenges and competitions). Why not give them both a try!

Dates this year include:

Day	Date	Venue	Theme
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup> July	Allensford Park	Arts
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup> July	Oakies Playing Fields	Sports
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> July	Blackhill & Conset Park	Arts
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup> July	Craghead Millennium Green	Sports
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> August	Annfield Plain Park	Arts
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Allensford Park	Sports
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> August	Craghead Millennium Green	Arts
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup> August	Annfield Plain Park	Sports
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> August	Oakies Playing Fields	Arts
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> August	Blackhill & Consett Park	Sports

The FREE buses for the Lark In The Park events **only** will pick up from East Hedleyhope, Esh Village and Cornsay Colliery, Hamsteels, Hamsteels Colliery, Langley Park and Quebec, and will need to be booked 24 hours in advance of the dates.

### SIMPLY SOCCER

Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> August there will be a week of Soccer Coaching and activities for girls and boys age 4-12 in Langley Park. The Langley Park Sunderland Supporters have recruited Simply Soccer to provide the

coaching for the week long event. The event will take place at the Sports and Social Club in Langley Park and support has been received from Esh Parish Council.

Simply Soccer will start each day at 9.45 with enrolment.

The full itinerary will not be exact and appropriate to age group but will go something like as shown under the table below:-

### Simply Soccer timetable

#### AM

Warm up Exercises  
Shooting Skills, Dodgeball

The Sports and Social Club will be open over the lunchtime for the children to have their packed lunch and a quiz. The bar will be open for pop and crisps and if any of the parents wish to stop for the day can have a drink.

#### PM

Warm Up  
Games  
Exercises  
Game of Football  
The event will finish at 3.00pm

Prices are.

£8 per day, 2 days £15, 3 days £20 4 days £23, 5 days £25.

At the end of the week the children will be presented with a gift pack, which will include a small commemorative medal, free admission tickets to both Swimming Baths and Cinema facilities at Consett/Stamley and 2 for 1 voucher for Metroland.

Places must be booked in advance and an application form is included in this magazine, further copies can be obtained from:

JOHN TURNOCK  
12 NETHERTON CLOSE  
LANGLEY PARK  
DURHAM  
DH7 9FB

Tel: 07791675241

Email [turnocj@aol.com](mailto:turnocj@aol.com)

All monies paid are non refundable.

Any surplus will be donated to the Grace House Children's Hospice Appeal  
[www.gracehouse.co.uk](http://www.gracehouse.co.uk)

### Note from the Editor

I am delighted to report that the Parish Council has agreed to sponsor one coach for this event. We wish John, Billy and colleagues all the best with this very worthwhile initiative.

### Testing Your Memory Time

Whilst on the subject of football John Turnock has

sent in a photograph taken in what is now the nursery school gardens Langley School of the 14/15 year olds football team season 1954/55.

can be sent to the Editors home address or left in the Parish Room (opposite the Post Office, Langley Park).



Langley Park School of the 14/15 year olds football team season 1954/55

The names are as follows:

*Back row left to right.*

John Wigham, Brian Renwick, Richard Stark, Alan Johnstone, Michael Turnock (John's father), Unknown, Mr Brearley

*Front Row left to right*

Benny Slater, Jimmy Weighill, Unknown, Unknown, Brian Calland, Dicky Duffy, Frank Bell (we think)

John's dad lived in Witton Gilbert and Langley Park but went to school in Langley before going to the pit then off to work for the CO-OP and the Post Office. He has been living in Framwellgate Moor for the last 37 years.

Can any reader fill in the missing names – answers

### Junior Fiction

Wilson, Jacqueline	Clean Break
Wilson, Jacqueline	Best friends
Wilson, Jacqueline	The Diamond Girls
Wilson, Jacqueline	Midnight
Campbell, Rod	Dear zoo

### JOHN FOSTER'S HALL OF FAME

Following the articles on Joseph Colton and Joan Wadge published in previous issues of Esh Leaves, John Foster now presents another local personality who has achieved remarkable success in the field of amateur boxing not only locally but internationally and very worthy of inclusion in the Langley Park Hall of Fame. He is:

### JOHNNY CUTHBERT

or as he is known to his friends in the village Jackie.

Johnny was born in Langley Park in 1934 and went to school in the village. His full time employment was as a painter and decorator working for many years for the local authority but it is in the field of amateur boxing that Johnny became a national star.

As a schoolboy he was introduced to boxing by his Uncle Edward and was soon attending the Seven Oaks Gym at Quebec under George White, himself a successful local boxer. It was Mr. White who was his trainer and the man who

### WHO'S READING WHAT?

#### Adult non fiction

Gasgoigne, Paul	Gazza
Heath, Chris	Feel
McKeith, Gillian	You are what you eat
Bryson, Bill	A short history of nearly everything
Hancock, Sheila	The two of us

#### Adult fiction

Brown, Dan	Digital fortress
Brown, Dan	The Da Vinci code
Brown, Dan	Deception point
Brown, Dan	Angels and Demons
Cole, Martina	The Graft

#### Junior Non Fiction

Butterfield, Moira	The Wheels on the Bus
Andreae, Giles	Cock-a-doodle-doo! Farmacyard Hullabaloo
Taylor, Geraldine	Twinkle, twinkle little star
Deary, Terry	The woeful Second World War
Andreae, Giles	Pants

took him to national success.

From Quebec they came to Langley Park It was from the primitive surroundings of the Langley Park Boxing Club based in an N.C.B. winder house that Johnny set off for most of his boxing tournaments all over the country and further afield.

By 1953 he had a string of successes to his name and the impact he was making in the boxing world was becoming apparent.

Following an impressive performance at the Empire Pool, Wembley at the A.B.A. Championships he was chosen to represent the A.B.A. for Great Britain against a Golden Gloves team of America. In connection with this notable event both teams found themselves being presented on the stage of The London Palladium.

From 1955 to 1957 Johnny was conscripted into the army for National Service. He became a Physical Training Instructor to recruits and regular soldiers, his ability in the ring was a major asset and the facilities available were top class, far removed from those at Langley Park.

Originally a bantamweight Corporal Cuthbert moved up into the featherweight division and by the end of 1955 and six months of service he had won all his fights in the army and had the benefit of being trained

by first class army instructors.

He was also representing Great Britain against teams from other countries and was experiencing a life style unknown to a lad brought up in a colliery village.

Early in 1956 Langley Park C.W. had opened a testimonial scheme for him gaining international status and Langley Park Sub Postmaster Mr. Stephen Hoggart made a presentation on behalf of the scheme. The people of the village were saying well-done Johnny.

The following are just some of Johnny Cuthbert's achievements in a remarkable career

4 years North Eastern Champion

2 years Northern Counties Champion

4 years Northern Counties finalist

Fought for England against Norway (twice), Germany, Wales (4 times), Scotland (twice) and Ireland.

Appeared in A.B.A. semi-finals and finals and many more.

During his time in the Army he represented Two T.R. Royal Signals, his regiment, Northern Command and was in The British Army Team.

In the 1950s he was rated by The Ring Magazine as the number one amateur bantamweight in Great Britain and would also go on to be number two at featherweight .

On retirement from the ring in 1958 Johnny became an A.B.A. Advanced Coach and re-started Langley Park Boxing Club, which had closed on the departure of George White. He was A.B.A. Coach there for some time but with the closing of Langley Park Colliery he moved in a similar position to Consett Sports Centre.

As a result of his involvement in boxing Johnny met many of the famous boxing personalities and trained an eleven-year-old local boy Glenn McCrory who became a junior A.B.A., Champion and later in his career won a version of the World Cruiserweight Championship.

During his career Johnny had many offers to turn professional but declined them all. He always acknowledges that a lot of his success was due to the hardworking George White and his chief second George Maddison and also to another local boxer, Alan Blakey who was often his sparring partner. Unfortunately Mr. Blakey had to give up boxing for health reasons.

In the 1950s Johnny was described as always level headed and the enormous success he had made had not gone to his head. Today in happy retirement Granddad Cuthbert is still the same modest and quiet person. In company with friends he is more likely to

talk about the achievements of others rather than his own. With his wife and family (a son David, daughter Dawn and grandchildren Claire and Martin) he stills lives in the village in which he was born. Way back in 1956 Langley Park said 'well done Johnny' and, in 2005, the people of the village will happily endorse that remark.

Copyright John C. Foster May 2005.

**NEWS FROM LANGLEY PARK & ESH PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**LANGLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

***Buddy Assembly***

At the end of May the Buddies and Mediators held a special assembly to tell everyone how they help at school everyday. They told us about Mediators and their confidential help at lunchtime, they also told us how buddies help when you are lonely, upset or being bullied.



Also, during the assembly the Drama Club showed us three plays, which reminded everyone that we should respect and care for other

people and to behave in a kind thoughtful way.

Overall, the Buddy/Mediator assembly helped everyone to feel that they can go to a buddy or mediator when they feel alone or unhappy.

By Louisa

***France***

On 16<sup>th</sup> May a group of Year 6 children from Langley Park Primary School visited France. It was a long journey there but we finally got there. Accompanying us was our Headteacher, Miss Brennan, Mr Blakey, Mr Meek and Miss Mitchell. There with us was a school from Wolsingham. Children from our school made lots of new friends. We visited a French farm and saw lots of animals. We also went inside some underground caves. We had to learn how to ask for ice creams in French and bought souvenirs on a market. Overall everyone enjoyed this week away and learned a lot about France.

By Rebecca

***Cycling Proficiency***

Class 3 took part in a cycling proficiency test. They learned to ride their bikes safely.

They learned all the arm signals needed to ride their bikes safely. They also had to do a theory test. They had to learn about many

road signs. They also had to learn the basic steps of turning right and left. They needed to do both practical and theory tests.

All who took part passed.

Well done Class 3!

By James



***Middleton***

In March, Year 5 went to Middleton. We went to Kirkcarrion, High Force, Low Force, and the Hudeshope Beck to go fossil hunting. We learned about the history and geography of the area. We had to make our own beds and we learned to look after ourselves and others. The playground was fun, the food was lovely and we all saw interesting things. We all had a great time.

By Cait

***African Music***

Songwriter, Composer, Bandleader, Robert Moseko brought fantastic Congolese rhythms into school when he gave African drumming workshops to every class.

Children's Comments: "I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was fun singing songs in another language".  
***(Continued on Page 18)***

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

### **Durham County Council**



Adopting children.....	0845 850 5010
Aids and adaptations/equipment to help people live at home.....	0845 850 5010
Archaeology.....	0191 383 4212
Archives and records of the County's history.....	0191 383 3253
Art Galleries - DLI Museum & Durham Art Gallery.....	0191 384 2214
Arts activities/Arts development.....	0191 384 2214
Benefits - See Welfare Rights Advice Line under Durham County Council's entry in the phone book	
Blue Badge Scheme for disabled drivers.....	0845 850 5010
Business services (County Durham Development Company).....	0191 383 2000
Business site development.....	0191 383 3345
Childcare Information Service.....	0845 602 4469
Community Support.....	0191 374 0541
Community Safety.....	0191 383 0537
Complaints about Durham County Council.....	0191 383 4567
Country parks and railway paths.....	0191 383 3595
County Councillors - See County Councillors under Durham County Council's entry in the phone book	
Consumer advice.....	0845 330 3313
Countryside information.....	0191 383 4144
Durham Learning Resources.....	0191 383 3720
Economic policy.....	0191 383 3699
Education in the Community.....	0191 383 3258
Environment - general enquiries.....	0191 383 3473
European funding and information.....	0191 383 4358
Family, health and disability issues.....	0800 393 726
Fostering & Adoption.....	0191 370 6100
Highways Action Line (HAL).....	0191 370 6000
Historic building conservation.....	0191 383 3237
Housebound Library Service.....	0191 383 3692
International Office.....	0191 383 3358
Job vacancies at the council.....	0191 383 3384
Land ownership (Durham County Council land).....	0191 383 4006
Land and property sales.....	0191 383 4020
Landscape.....	0191 383 4077
Libraries - See under Libraries in the phone book	
Lottery projects advice.....	0191 383 3633
Museums- Durham Light Infantry.....	0191 3842214
Killhope Lead Mining Centre.....	01388 537505
Bowes Museum.....	01833 690 606
Binchester Roman Fort.....	(site) 0191 3834212
Planning - minerals and waste development.....	0191 383 4099
Planning - strategic policy and development plans.....	0191 383 4114
Planning - County Council development proposals.....	0191 383 3408
Public Information Services.....	0191 386 4003
Public Rights of Way.....	0191 383 3239
Public transport - Traveline (times and fares).....	0870 608 2608
- Other enquiries.....	0191 383 3337
Recycling.....	0191 383 3186
Regeneration policy and strategy.....	0191 383 4351
Register Offices - See under Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages in the phone book	
Road safety.....	0191 383 3768
Roads - See under Highways Action Line (HAL)	
Schools - See Schools under Durham County Council's entry in the phone book	
School admissions.....	0191 383 3278
School transport.....	0191 383 5500
Scientific Services.....	0191 383 4232
Single Programme funding.....	0191 383 4357

## Durham County Council (Continued)



Single Regeneration Budget.....	0191 383 4351
Social Care and Health .....	0845 850 5010
Street Lighting see under Highways Action Line (HAL)	
Student support .....	0191 383 3261
Tourism .....	0191 383 3354
Trading standards.....	0845 330 3313
Waste disposal .....	0191 383 3828

Welfare Rights Advice Line - See Welfare Rights  
Advice Line under Durham County Council's entry in the phone book

## Derwentside District Council



This is a list of the main services covered by Derwentside District Council. All services can be accessed through the 01207 693693.

Building Control, Planning, Housing, Environmental Health  
Environmental Services – This includes grass cutting, refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning  
Council Tax, Council Tax and Housing benefits, Business Rates, Electoral Registration  
Land Charges, Council Land and Property Management, Community Safety, Cemeteries Services  
Careline Warden Service, Economic and Business Development, CCTV

## Esh Parish Council



Responsible for the following – contact 0191 3736687

Grasscutting along Kaysburn Road, Esh Village Green and the Childrens play areas, Hanging Baskets, Esh Leaves, Consulted on planning applications, Management of around 100 allotments, Public noticeboards, Roadside seating, Donations, IT@theTUTE, Limited amount of winter gritting, Pantomime, Childrens play areas



## Calling First Time Buyers

New 2-bedroom properties for shared ownership in Langley Park now available.

Prices start from £56,250 and  
weekly rent £37.86  
for 50% share.

Contact **0191 375 3729** (9am – 5pm)  
for more information

**Diggerland** would like to offer half price entry for readers of **Esh Leaves** and their families up to a total of 6 people. This offer applies to entry only not to credits or wristbands. It is valid for the mechanical rides/drives only and it cannot be used on a Bank Holiday.

To take advantage of the offer just cut out this token and present it when paying for entry. Photocopies not accepted.

**Expiry date 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005**



"It was really cool". "I liked the way he changed rhythm so fast".

## **ESH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS ARTSMARK SILVER AWARD**

Esh C.E. Primary School has achieved one of the 432 artsmark silver awards across the country.

The artsmark award recognises schools that demonstrate a commitment to providing opportunities across all artforms from Drama to music, design to literature, dance to sculpture. The scheme encourages schools to work in partnership with artists and arts organisations. Head teacher Mike Urwin said 'I am delighted that the Arts council has recognised our school's progressive well-balanced arts education. It also acknowledges the hard work that all staff give to our school.

Sir Christopher Frayling, Arts Council England Chair, said "It is very encouraging to see so many schools displaying such dedication to their arts provision. They are bringing arts alive for young people and giving them opportunities to get closer involved with a wide range of activities. My warm congratulations to all those that have achieved a highly-deserved Artsmark award this year."

This award is valid for three years and will be displayed in school along with the Basic Skills Quality Mark which has recently been

awarded for the second time. This award acknowledges the excellence of our teaching of the basic skills to children.

In September the school will be continuing with their partnership with the family learning community which aims to help parents, grandparents, etc. improve their knowledge of how we teach their children in school.

### **PRESS RELEASES FROM COUNTY DURHAM NHS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

#### ***Smoke free places and quitters presented with awards in Derwentside***

Public places that have gone smoke free and people who have stopped smoking in the Derwentside area have been presented with awards for their efforts. Twenty four local offices, venues, businesses and schools that have gone Smoke Free were presented with a National Clean Air Award (founded by the Roy Castle Foundation) by Councillor Alex Watson, Leader of Derwentside District Council.

They each received a certificate, gold plaque and will be included in the list of Smoke Free venues on the new Smoke Free Derwentside website - [www.smokefreederwentside.org](http://www.smokefreederwentside.org) and on the National Clean Air website at [www.cleanairaward.org.uk](http://www.cleanairaward.org.uk)

Dr Maggie Ireland, Chair of 'Smoke Free Derwentside' said: "The Clean Air Awards aim to reduce public and workplace exposure to second hand smoke. We hope that the award ceremony will encourage other organisations to implement no smoking policies and to provide an environment where smokers who wish to stop smoking can be supported and encouraged."

Personal Achievement Awards were also presented to ten individuals who had successfully quit smoking for at least three months. They each received a certificate, a gift voucher from John Lewis' department store and a Smoke Free Derwentside money box which can hold 500 £1 coins to help them see how much money they are saving by quitting smoking. A 20-a-day smoker can save around £1,500 a year by stopping.

If anyone in the Derwentside area would like advice on stopping smoking they can contact the Derwentside PCT Stop Smoking Service on (01207) 214 630.

Businesses or public places that are interested in working towards a National Clean Air Awards can contact Mark den Hollander, the new Smoke Free Places Project Worker on 0191 374 4109 or email him at [mark.denhollander@durhamclspct.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.denhollander@durhamclspct.nhs.uk)

## Note from the Editor

A challenge to our readers. We understand that there were no awards for anyone in Esh Ward. Why not encourage your employer to have a go for one and if you are a smoker then the incentive to stop must surely now be even greater!

## Storyteller shares tales with children in Brandon and Deerness Valley

A local Storyteller, Anna Anderson, shared many interesting tales with children from the Brandon and Deerness Valley Sure Start area when she visited local libraries recently.

She gave local children the chance to enjoy listening to stories and rhymes in a fun and friendly environment.

Sure Start is an exciting Government funded programme that aims to improve services to all families with children under the age of four in the local area. This includes child care, education, social, health and family services, which will help to improve the health, well being and experiences of young children.

Children under the age of four and their parents were invited to come along to the Storytelling sessions and join in the fun.

Mary Lax, Outreach Librarian said: "We wanted to make the sessions as fun as possible where children can meet other children and



The 2005 Esh Parish Walk

their parents, and develop their imaginations. Our aim was to give local children the chance to get interested in books before they start nursery or school."

The Brandon and Deerness Valley Sure Start partnership includes local parents, community organisations, Durham and Chester-le-Street Primary Care Trust and a number of voluntary and statutory agencies.

The success of Sure Start hinges on working partnerships based in the community and brings together a range of organisations to work alongside families in developing a range of flexible support tailored to meet the needs of pre-school children and those caring for them.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Brandon and Deerness Valley Sure Start

programme should contact the office at 3 Holly Park, Ushaw Moor, Durham on 0191 373 4844

## THE PARISH WALK

When Mike asked me to lead the Parish Walk a few years ago I didn't realise I had a job for life, though there was a clue in his statement "Thanks, Chris, we won't have to pay you so the Parish Council will save £25"! Once again, despite rain threatening in the morning, we had some good weather for the walk and 13 people turned up to 'beat the bounds'. Or did they ... Because of the work being undertaken on the Hillside estate, and the amount of litter etc on the path up to Esh Hilltop, this year we took a detour into Witton Gilbert Parish. This took us along to Witton Station, then up the track to Hilltop as per the winter walk described in the December 2004 edition of Esh Leaves. We were not challenged so maybe the

good folk of Witton Gilbert are not so concerned about defending their boundaries! Q - Why is it Witton Station when it is a lot nearer to Langley Park than Witton? A - Because Langley Park was not there when the railway line was built! Anyway this detour gave us a good view of the valley back towards Durham, and the gorse was a wonderful sight on either side of the path. After Ushaw it was full steam ahead to Quebec and an excellent tea prepared by the Council Chair and his wife. Which other Parish Council provides scones with cream and fresh strawberries? We only provide the bESHT in ESH!

**A WALK ROUND QUEBEC**

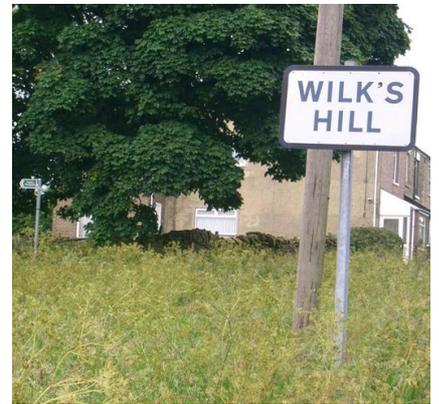
This is a walk of approximately three-and-a-half miles, starting and ending at Quebec, though it is accessible off the Parish Walk. Parts of the walk are a bit overgrown with vegetation, but it is possible to get through without too much trouble. If you want to do something practical about this, there are always the Environment Action Team work days!

Make your way to Heugh Farm, then go through the farmyard down towards Esh Winning. Immediately after the plantation turn right over the stile and follow the field boundary through the next three fields. Don't be tempted to follow the track, the footpath keeps to the

field edge. At the end of the third field step over the stile and turn left, going down the hill and keeping the hedge on your left. If you are following the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map it's wrong! It shows the footpath on the Esh side of the hedge, but it is clear from the stiles that you should be on the Quebec side. At the end of this field you join a track to your right that will take you along to the road. Here you are on the site of Hamsteels village, a former pit village that was razed to the ground and its remaining inhabitants moved to the new Hamsteels estate on the edge of Esh Winning. Turn right up the hill, and if you just want a short walk continue up back to Quebec.

The more adventurous should turn left at the waymark at Clifford's House Farm. The path is a little unclear here, but you should be able to see the stile on the left, and beyond that the track to the left of the cottages. Follow the track into the next field but then go diagonally across the field to the stile in the far right hand corner. Turn right after this stile and follow the hedge round to the main road. Turn left and then through a kissing gate on your right about 200 metres along the road. Keep to the field boundary again and follow it up to the road at Wilk's Hill.

Go directly across the road and follow another track



across to the Square House road. Here again there is a choice to be made. You can turn right and continue along the road to meet the Parish Walk at Biggin Terrace, but to get back to Quebec take the lane opposite Malton House Farm. Continue through the next two fields, then turn left along the field boundary and right through a gap about halfway along the hedge. If you then head for the stile halfway along the hedge on your left this will take you back to the Parish Walk again, and into Quebec.

**ESH LEAVES ANCESTRAL SEARCH - 2**

One of our www site "visitors" from New Zealand has been in touch we us regarding photographs of her ancestral home, Esh. In particular our visitor, Julie Ferguson, was looking for a photograph of Esh Laude Church – we were happy to oblige.

Julie is also tracing her family and again we invited Julie to write a few words about herself and her search.

Julie grew up in around Kent until at age 9, and emigrated to New Zealand. She currently lives in Auckland, New Zealand with her husband Craig (a New Zealander of Scots descent), with two young sons, and a dog of dubious heritage.

Here is Julie's article.

## **FORSTER'S AND THIRLWELL'S OF ESH**

I was once told that our family came from "The North". But in living memory we had always lived in "The South", London was as far North as we went. These days we live about as far South as you can get, in New Zealand.

My Dad, a Forster, was born in Lambeth, the eldest of seven. But trying to ascertain my Grandfather Forster's origins was not so easy. There was some kind of 'skeleton in the closet'. I knew that Grandad had been brought up by his mother alone, and that the marriage between his parents had been very short.

Grandad was born to Robert Forster and Florence Grover in Peckham, London in 1911. Robert was born in Picktree, Durham in 1854, and became the Cemetery Superintendent at Nunhead. Prior to that he had been a gardener at Peterley Manor House, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. Before

his marriage to Florence, he was married to a woman called Martha from Hunmanby, Yorkshire. Robert and Martha (or Mattie) had children, Gertrude, Margaret, Beatrice, Robert, William, Kate, Bertha, and Eugene. Martha passed away in 1907, and is buried at Nunhead. Robert was also eventually buried by her side in February 1924. I don't know how Robert met our Florence, it was rumoured that she may have been his housekeeper, however they were married on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1911, and my Grandad was born on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1911. Okay, so there's the skeleton!

The story goes that Florence was not a welcome addition to the established Forster household in the eyes of her step children, and because she insisted that her disabled sister should live with them, there was much friction, and the couple was soon to part company. Robert eventually moved back "North" and Florence went "South", along with her sister, and my infant Grandfather. I don't know whether they ever saw Robert again, but I do know that Florence and her baby were very well provided for.

Having come to a bit of a dead-end with my research, I put out a call for help on a Genealogy website for information about my Forster ancestors. My

request was answered by a fellow researcher, Sean, who had extracted information from various censuses that appeared to be a match for my family.

From the information provided we discovered that Robert's parents were Francis Forster and Phillis Story. This was confirmed when I finally located and purchased a copy of Robert's birth certificate. Francis was born on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1808 at Esh, Durham, and christened at Esh Laude Chapel. He became a horticulturist/gardener. Phillis was born at Lambton Park in 1818. The couple was married at Chester-le-Street, and census records show that they had the following children, Franckis, Mary, Mark, Thrush, William, Phillis, Francis, Robert, Willson, and Hannah. Willson and Hannah were born at Lambton Park. There are also records of two grandchildren, Phillis and Barbara, born at Seaham Colliery, but I have no record of who their parents were.

Francis' parents were William Forster and Mary (Marie) Thirlwell. These are the common ancestors whom I share with my newly identified distant cousin, Sean. We have no information on William's birth, but Mary was born in Holmside in 1774. The couple were married in Witton Gilbert in 1796, and subsequently produced the following children, John,

William, Thomas, Elizabeth, Robert, Edward, Francis, and Mary (Maria). All, but John were christened in Esh Laude Chapel. It came as somewhat of a revelation that our family had previously been Roman Catholic.

Digging around in my family history made me curious about the villages and towns where my ancestors lived, their work, and their daily life. I did a search on the internet for Esh Laude chapel, because I wanted to find a picture of the chapel and its surroundings, which led me to the Esh Parish Council website, Esh Leaves and its kindly editor.

Genealogy research from half way around the world can be difficult, relying much on luck, and the kindness of others, and I have been lucky to find Sean who resides in England.

Both Sean and I are keen to learn more about our Forster and Thirwell ancestors, and the various branches of descendants and ascendants. Particular names of interest are Marley, Story, and Winship. Julies cousin, Sean Foster from Leadgate has also asked us "Where are the old records for Newhouse church before 1800? As I feel a lot of answers to my ancestral research could lie here?"

We would be glad to hear from anyone interested in the research that we have

already done, who may have any information that would enrich our research findings, or who is linked to our family in some way. Please contact me on [Julie.ferguson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Julie.ferguson@xtra.co.nz)

**SEATS DEDICATED TO DOREEN CUMMINGS AND NORMAN AND NORAH GOWLAND**

In the March edition of Esh Leaves we advised our readers that the Parish Council had commissioned bench seats to be installed at the top of the Silly Steps near the Board Inn opposite the childrens play area at Quebec and.

We are pleased to report that the seats have been installed and dedicated to the late Doreen Cummings and Norman and Norah Gowland at a short service held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and conducted by Father Martin Morris, the Parish Priest. Tom Cummings (son of Doreen) was present at

the first service and Susan Wicks and Margaret Hallam (daughters of Norman and Norah) were in attendance at the second service.

We featured an article on Doreen in our November 2004 edition and Margaret Hallam has kindly written the following article on her parents.

***The Late Norah and Norman Gowland***

The bench outside Poplar House, Quebec, is dedicated to the memory of Norah and Norman Gowland who were active members of the local community.

Norman was born in 1919 at Toronto, Bishop Auckland, and later moved to Tow Law where he grew up. Through sheer hard study he attended Wolsingham Grammar School, whereby his father



From left to right are Tom Cummings, Parish Councillor Marie Tyler, Parish Council Clerk Mike Ackroyd, Father Martin Morris and Parish Council Chairman Alan Mollon



Standing are Parish Council Chairman Alan Mollon and Father Martin Morris. Seated are Margaret Hallam and Susan Wicks

made him study for many hours in a garden shed by oil lamp. He then went on to study at Birmingham University where he would cycle from Tow Law to Birmingham, taking him two days and stopping overnight at youth hostels – which was a shilling in those days!!

Soon after graduating, the Second World War broke out and Norman joined the Armed Forces as a Second Lieutenant. Unfortunately, within weeks he was captured and spent the next six years as a prisoner of war at Spangenburg Castle in Germany. He and his fellow officers would have starved had it not been for the Red Cross Parcels they received. He was in solitary confinement for a time and mingled with a lot of famous war heroes that passed through the gates of Spangenburg.

After the war was won, Norman returned to Tow Law and started his

teaching career at Annfield Plain. He drove the same journey daily and often saw Norah in the distance at Click-em-Inn Farm. One day he stopped the car and asked Norah for directions to Annfield Plain, hence, a courtship and marriage blossomed which spanned over 53 years.

Norman received his Deputy Headship at Esh Winning Junior School, and several years later became Head Master of Cornsay

Colliery School. The school was later demolished and Norman was transferred to a newly built school on the Hamsteels Estate in Esh Winning, where he stayed until he retired in January 1984.

Norman was both a County and Parish Councillor and was also an active member of the Labour Party. He was a School Governor at St Michael's RC School for many years and Chairman of Quebec Village Hall. Last, but not least, his greatest love was having a season ticket for Newcastle United from 1948.

Norman died in September 2001.

### **Norah**

Norah May Quinn, born 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1927, was a very ordinary woman. Daughter of the late Mary Annie and John Quinn of Click-em-Inn Farm, Quebec. Her father died when she was five years old but her strength



Mr and Mrs Gowland

and determination came from her mother who ensured the farm prospered and at the same time raised five children.

Norah met and married Norman and moved half a mile down the road to start married life in 1948 at Wilk's Hill. As her family expanded they moved to Poplar House, Quebec, in 1957, where they remained for the rest of their married life.

Once her children had grown-up, Norah enjoyed working part-time at Ushaw College and these were some of her happiest days. Norah was well known locally and enjoyed attending bingo, whist drives and supporting all the village fetes.

Norah, especially in her latter years, was greatly admired for her inner strength and determination in continuing her daily routine whilst battling with terminal cancer and a serious heart condition. It was apparent to the eye that she was seriously ill as she suffered severe weight loss but she had a cast-iron determination and willpower that was evident to everyone who knew her. It was only in the last two months of her life that she became terribly weak with her heart condition and she eventually became so tired that she was confined to her home. She still had that lovely smile for everyone who visited her bedside. A very ordinary but remarkable woman who is

greatly missed by all she touched!

Norah died in May 2004.

### **LANGLEY PARK WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH**

In the March 2005 edition of Esh Leaves we included an article on the former Langley Park Wesleyan Methodist Church. We have to say that the article generated a lot of interest including a letter from a former member of the congregation, Jan Hutchinson (nee Sellers) from the Keighley area who lived at 25 Front Street and later at 24 Quebec Street in Langley Park from the 1940's. Jan has fond memories of her School days in Langley Park and at the Durham Girls Grammar School and looks forward to keeping in touch with her former neighbours, friends and residents and through Esh Leaves.

### **BUNNY GOINGS ON IN LANGLEY PARK**

It was about 9.30 on a fine summer's night – last summer to be precise. We had been to see a film at Waterhouses Village Hall Cinema Club and had gone in a friend's car. Arriving home in our back lane, we espied several neighbours squatting or bending and peering under our new car. Were they all fascinated with the near-new, shiny under-carriage? Upon closer inspection, we noticed, rather worryingly, that a couple of them had

long, rough, bits of wood and similar instruments, which they were poking under our lovely new car. Then, great excitement all around, as a small white rabbit skipped from under our car to take cover in an equally inaccessible place under a neighbour's car. Our small friend had of course escaped, and in making a bid for freedom, small though she was, had managed to climb 3 steep steps out of her yard into the wide open spaces of the back lane. Apparently the mob had been trying to persuade her back for at least half an hour before our arrival.

Night was drawing on and a couple of cars, headlights ablaze, passed up and down the narrow lane, both drivers too polite to stop and enquire what strange ritual this motley crew were involved in, wielding their assorted sticks, tools and implements. Or maybe the drivers thought it was another Peasants' Revolt, and were too frightened to make eye contact, which might get them involved in the Revolution.

Someone had the idea of fetching some corrugated plastic to form a fence and edge the escapee back home. Another peasant brought an old nursery fireguard ("I knew that would come in handy one day!"). Another rabbit – a huge white rabbit - actually, I believe The White Rabbit from 'Alice in Wonderland' - was brought to lure the little creature out. In all of this,

the object of the chase continued to give us the run around, hopping from the shadow of one car to another, but finally, the fireguard, corrugated plastic and other fencing products won the day, and our small flop-eared friend was corralled back down the steep steps, safe again in her own back yard.

Peace reigned again in the now dark back lane.

Oh!, and by the way – the film we had been to see at Waterhouses Village Hall? It was that excellent Australian film ‘Rabbit-proof fence’. Honest!



**Note from the Editor**

Yes there was a film titled “Rabbit Proof Fence”. It was filmed in 2002. Set in 1931 it tells the story of three aboriginal girls who escape after being taken from their homes to be trained as domestic staff and set off on a trek across the Outback.

**WORDGRAM**

In the last edition we featured a Wordgram kindly devised by Stuart Harris, of Langley Park Post Office.

The answers were:-

Middridge, Meadowbank, Wood, Hospital, Logan, Thomas, North, Palm, Cedar, Front, South, Herrington, Darcy, Crescent, Finings, Woodlands, Davis, East, George, Cedar, Elm, Railway, Phoenix, Eppleton, Ash, Netherton, Larch, Rose, Hilltop.

The joint winners were Louise Lumsdon of Langley Park and Mrs M Harris from Lanchester.

Stuart has kindly prepared another Wordgram at the bottom of this page which features the names of animals that can be found locally. You are looking for a total of 15 words.

A nature book will be given to the first correct entry drawn. Entries please to Mr M. G. Ackroyd, 8 Long Garth, Whitesmocks, Durham City, DH1 4HJ by Friday 26 August 2005.

Good luck and our thanks to Stuart for his Wordgram.

**JOHN FOTHERGILL ON THE MOVE**

In our previous edition we reported on John Fothergill’s famous pork pies.

Since then many of you will have noticed the FOR SALE signs appearing on John’s premises, in both Langley Park and Bearpark, and are perhaps wondering what is happening. With John’s permission we are able to let readers know that he has been advised by his doctor that he needs to take life a little easier and wind down from his present 14 hour working day.

In the circumstances John has decided to sell up and take over some well established Tea Rooms in Warkworth (Northumberland).

John has been in the Bakery business for 12 years having previously been the tenant of the Centurion in Wallnook Lane for nearly 8 years. Sadly

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

John lost his wife Valerie in 1997 and since then has had to double up as both a busy shop proprietor and father to his young daughter Catherine.

John has asked us to say a BIG THANK YOU to all his customers and he looks forward to meeting some of you again in his more leisurely surroundings when he finally moves into his new premises.

John is certainly keeping up with the VE day Celebrations having spent 8 years ROLLING OUT THE BARREL, 12 years preparing for WE'LL MEAT AGAIN and now he is getting ready TO DOING THE LAMBETH WARKWORTH.

In turn we would like to wish John and Catherine all the very best with their move and to thank John and his staff for services rendered.

### BECKY CAREY

In our previous edition we reported on Becky Carey's success in reaching the World Kickboxing Championships in Cyprus. We are delighted to announce that Becky gained a bronze medal against some very stiff opposition in the 55kg competition.

Becky said that she was very grateful for all the training given by her coach, George Carr, and was looking forward to fresh challenges.

Becky has now formed her own Martial Arts Club (Durham Destroyers), for 6 year olds and up, which meets at the Church Street Community Centre (opposite the Post Office) in Langley Park. Classes are held on Mondays (6.00 – 7.00pm) and Fridays (7.30 – 9.00pm). The fees are £3.50 adults (18 and over) and £2.50 children (under 18). If anyone is interested in obtaining further details they should contact Becky on 07910148343.

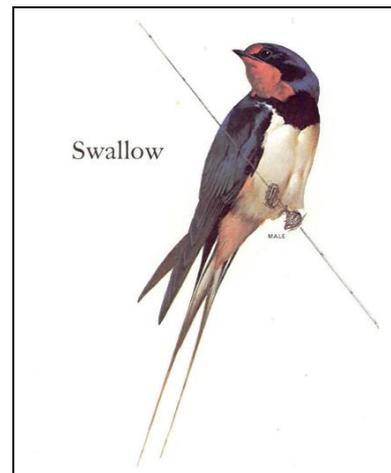


Becky with her Bronze Medal

### ALISON'S WILDLIFE CORNER

Falling off a ladder and breaking your leg makes gardening and even watching wildlife rather difficult. On the other hand, it does give you time...The swallows that nested in the stable last year were back a bit early, before the horses were turned out, which confused them a bit. Last

year's nest is in reach for the biggest horse and that proved to be just too alarming and they started to build (unknown to me at the time) on top of the light fitting instead. Luckily it was before the first egg was laid that one of the goats kidded late at night and the lights were left on all night.



The nest was cooked, of course, but luckily no baby birds! It just goes to show how the most caring and careful person can seriously affect the wildlife around us. It gives me a reminder not to shut the door on a shed or garage where swallows or martins are nesting or the eggs may get cold or the chicks starve. The happy end to my swallows' nest story is that, like Bill Oddie's abandoned swallow nest, it has been taken over by wrens.

When we first moved here in 1973, the house had a demolition order on it and the three story back wall had so little mortar left that it was doing a good imitation of a dry stone wall. Several families of wrens were living in holes in it and, apart from works necessary

to stop it actually falling down, I was soft enough not to evict them. It was only when there was a strong gale blowing when I was wallpapering and the paper gradually blew off the wall that I gave in and decided that I had to point the wall. I had to choose a time when the young birds had just flown to be sure nothing was walled in but it was certainly worth it for us because the house was almost instantly a great deal warmer! That winter I built the dry stone wall that I talked about in a previous Wildlife Corner and the evicted wrens moved in there.

In 1973, the back of the houses looked straight out on the field and apart from the wrens, the only other birds around were the rooks in the wood next door, the jackdaws in the roof, the magpies in the holly bush and the starlings in the eaves. Occasionally a house sparrow or dunnock would come prospecting but were easily put off by the open aspect and all those crow family residents. Now, the gardens are full of trees and bushes with plenty of cover for small birds and shelter from the strong winds and they have come in force. Watching out of my bedroom window while I've been laid up, I've seen 6 different species of tit, blackbirds (but no thrushes), robins, warblers, nuthatches, chaffinches, greenfinches, Yellowhammers and many other small species as well

as woodpigeons, collard doves, partridge and pheasants. What a difference a bit of cover can make. I think our most regal visitor was a cock sparrow-hawk who unaccountably stunned himself on the living room window and, after struggling up to the lid of the wheelie bin, spent the afternoon recovering in the front garden, much to the admiration of passers-by. He eventually sloped off, sparrow-hawk fashion, low over the garden wall.

**ALISONS CHILDRENS CORNER**

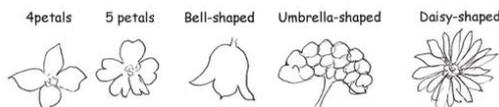
**CHILDRENS QUIZ**

**In and out of doors - for Children, mainly!**

Next time you go for a walk why not do a flower survey? If you take a notepad and pencil with you it is easy to make a note of the different sorts of flowers you see.

You don't need to know their names but how about sorting them into colours and shapes?  
 How many were Blue?  
 With 4 petals?,  
 Red? With 5 petals?,  
 Yellow? Bell-shaped?,  
 Pink? Umbrella-shaped?,  
 White? Green?

The green ones might be really hard to find but there's lots of them if you look (you might try in the grass or on the trees).



What can you find that doesn't fit any of these?

Would you like to draw any of them so you can start a collection of flower drawings?

A good place for this sort of thing is along the railway line either towards Malton or Bearpark.

Did you know that one of the reasons that railway lines have so many different wild flowers is that in Victorian times a man travelled on as many trains as he could, all his life, throwing flower seeds out of the window everywhere he went? You wouldn't be able to do that now because you can't open the windows on the train!

**NEWS FROM THE EDITOR**

By the time you read this edition of Esh Leaves I will be on the verge of stepping down as your Clerk although I will be continuing to work as the Assistant Clerk on reduced hours. I will also remain as your Editor.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Parish Council for all their support since I was appointed as the Clerk back in September 1994. Parish Councillors help, and that of many other Council contacts and residents, has been much appreciated and I will leave you all in the very capable hands of my successor Geoff Smith.

Although Geoff has missed out on the thrill of distributing surplus EEC meat tins, and the exhilaration of watching men dressed in white suits removing asbestos sheets from some of our allotments, I am confident there will be other interesting challenges ahead for him even though he is a Sunderland supporter!

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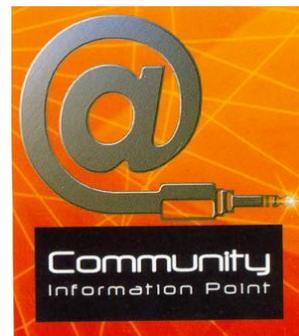
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## **Urban Renaissance Initiative**

In the March 2005 edition of *Esh Leaves* we advised readers that Langley Park had been nominated as one of the settlements included in the County Council's Urban Renaissance Initiative and that approximately £30,000 (including £5,600 from County Councillor Joe Armstrong's own Member's allocation) had been allocated for environmental improvement work. The work consists of new paving and bollards outside Church Street Community Building and traffic calming measures (new signs, lining and possible promontories) between Church Street and Stringer Terrace. It is proposed to hold an exhibition in the Church Street Community Centre on 21st July from 10.00am until 6.00pm to outline the proposals in more detail. Residents will have the opportunity of raising questions with representatives from the County Council on the draft scheme. The exhibition boards will remain in the Centre for two weeks until 4th August.



Church Street, Langley Park

### **Library**

Since the last issue, work has progressed on the agreed development of the Church Street Community Centre, as a library. The County Council, in December, agreed this course of action, and the necessary finances of £320,000, to deliver the overall refurbishment. As the property is owned by the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation, the County Council, together with the Community Association, are progressing discussions about the plans to significantly the range of community services, including a public library and public information service. These are proceeding satisfactorily, and involve Councillor Armstrong, and relevant colleagues from the County Council and Community Association.

In the interim, a temporary base for a library service is

being progressed at the old Fire Station, and it is expected this service would commence by September 2005. By then, it is hoped refurbishment of the Church Street premises will be beginning. Subject to reaching a satisfactory agreement with CISWO it is hoped to refurbish the Church Street Community Centre at a cost of over £300,000 to create a permanent home for a library within the village alongside the community facilities operating from that building.

With a suitable agreement in place it will still take up to 18 months to carry out the design and adaptation work to the Centre. To provide library facilities during this interim period it is intended to make temporary use of the former Fire Station. Negotiations with Derwentside College, the owners of the building are being finalised with a view to commencing occupation as soon as the agreement is complete and the accommodation is fitted out.