



Esh Leaves

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

Submit articles for the July 2008 edition to:
The Editor, 8 Long Garth, Durham City, DH1 4HJ or email to editor@langley-park.org.uk
or leave at Esh or Langley Park Post Office by 31 May 2008

6,587 VOTES WE WILL BE PUTTING THE PARK INTO LANGLEY PARK



We must say a big thank you to all the community who helped EQUaL to win the People's Millions Big Lottery Funding for the Sir Bobby Robson Park. Such a lot was going on with posters, leaflets, clowns, balloons, word of mouth, singing, protesting and e-mails, it was really heart warming to feel the community spirit willing people to vote. The filming for the Television Programme was exciting, but enjoyable for all those taking part.

The editing that was done to present our case brought together all the elements of the community and provided extra incentive to vote, if you hadn't already done so!
We gained the most votes in the North East **Thank You!**

See centre pages for current position with the Park.



Cate the Clown

SHORTENS' CORNER

Many people are fascinated by how local place names came about. Take old Esh village for instance; years ago it was called **Ash**. Indeed, old writings clearly mention the village of Ash. The name is thought to have come from a large Ash tree or a group of Ash trees standing in that area.

One of Langley Park's well known place names is **Shortens' Corner**. Being comparatively new to the village I first discovered this place name when writing an article for the July 2004 edition of Esh Leaves about the Langley Park '**Goodwill Trip**' for the older generation. There were five buses on that occasion and one pick-up point was **Shortens' Corner**.

I later learnt that Shortens' Corner was named after the corner house of 21, Front Street where a well respected gentleman called Edmund Shorten and his family once



A recent photograph of 21 Front Street, Langley Park, once occupied by Edmund Shorten and family, and now known as 'Shortens' Corner'.
© Terry T. Chilton

lived. In 1925 writings Edmund Shorten was listed as a builder, and my wife drew my attention to a stone plaque on a row of bungalows in Nettlesworth (built in 1926 as Aged Miners Homes) that bares the name **EDMUND SHORTEN BUILDER**.

Recently I was invited into 21, Front Street, by the present owners John and Marjorie Myers. This friendly couple took me into the ground floor

rooms and told me the fascinating history of this grand old house.

John is a retired school teacher and these days he spends many happy hours expertly crafting beautiful furniture. He obviously is a man of many skills as he showed me some bunches of flowers he actually made from wood. The flower petals where so fragile and delicate I was simply amazed how he can possibly do it. John also writes for the '**Woodturning**' magazine, where he beautifully illustrates his craft with sharp colour photographs.

The couple bought the house from the Shorten family in 1979, and they told me the building was originally built as a public house. The old pub cellar is now put to good use as a store room. In fact the top of the outside entrance to the cellar can still be seen today at the side of their front



Marjorie and John Myers in the front room of 21 Front Street.
© Terry T. Chilton.



Edmund Shorten and wife Sarah (2nd and 3rd - middle row) with their children around them (except Harold). Enid Gauden's mother Harriet Shorten is the little girl bottom right, and Charles Shorten (who was killed in the First World War) is centre back row.

living room, although the old pavement doors that opened to roll the barrels down have long since gone. In later years the old pub was taken over by a doctor who was employed by the Consett Iron Works to care for the workers in Langley Park Colliery and Cokeworks. When John and Marjorie took over the house from the Shorten family they converted the old doctor's dispensary into a delightful kitchen that is still used today.

I have recently had an interesting conversation with Langley Park lady Enid Gauden, who is the granddaughter of Edmund Shorten, and the daughter of Edmund Shorten's daughter Harriet Shorten. Enid invited me round to her house to see the Shorten documents and photographs left to her by her mother, where I also met her husband Joe. The Shorten family history unfolded before my eyes as Enid carefully

opened each fragile old document and placed it neatly on the dining room table, after which she showed me the old family photographs, naming several members of the family.

During our chat Enid told me the Shorten family originally moved from Norfolk up to Northumberland to find work. Later they moved down to Langley Park where they took up residence in D'Arcy Street. In those days people usually had large families and Edmunds family was no exception with six brothers and four sisters.

Edmund George Costello Shorten, the handsome man who left his family name on a Langley Park corner forever, was born on April 23rd in the year 1872.

After the family moved to the North East he married Sarah Ann Catton. Together they

had 14 children, eight boys and six girls. Sadly they received a devastating blow when their son Charles David was killed in 1916 during the First World War. His name can be seen on the Langley Park War Memorial.

Eventually Edmund and his wife and family moved from D'Arcy Street to a larger house at 21, Front Street. Sadly, Edmund was hit by yet another devastating blow when his dear wife Sarah Ann died on April 27th, 1921 at the age of 48 years. By now many of their children had matured to adulthood, but there were still several young ones to care for.

Through these difficult times, with great strength and fortitude, he continued to build up his business in the building trade from 21, Front Street, where the large cellar became extremely useful to store his building materials. In later years the youngest boys Harold, Arthur and David Catton joined their father in his building trade business.

After a full and successful life Edmund Shorten passed away on May 21st, 1954, yet his legacy will live on in Langley Park through the members of his family and the documents and photographs that have been passed down through the years, and of course Shortens' Corner.

Terry Chilton.

Many thanks to John and Marjorie Myers and Enid and

Joe Gauden for their valuable help with this article.

Editor's note

We understand that the next Goodwill Trip is planned for Monday 4th August 2008. Further enquiries to Amanda Herworth 07780777092.

**ARE YOU A BUDDING JOURNALIST?
IF SO WHY NOT
BECOME A VILLAGE
CORRESPONDENT?**

Durham Times

The following request has been received from the Editor, Durham Times/Durham Advertiser.

I am endeavouring to set up a network of village correspondents in the communities around Durham City to provide regular local news for the City and District section on page 2 of the Durham Times. The Durham Times was launched last May with the intention of once more providing Durham and district with a weekly newspaper covering the area in depth.

We have been successful in recruiting in Bowburn and Shincliffe and I am now looking for someone prepared to do a similar job for the Durham Times in Langley Park and/or Esh/Quebec.

We are looking for an individual or possibly a small group of individuals to send in news about the communities they live in. That news could

be everything from details of the church services, village/community hall events up to reports of the parish council meeting. Some of material I read in Esh Leaves could find a home in some form in the Durham Times.

It is not intended to be an onerous task and the correspondent(s) would be free to make what they wished of the job within certain limits.

In return we would pay what is known as a lineage payment of 10p per line published (typically 4-5 words per line) plus £5 for any pictures published plus an amount for telephone expenses.

We would expect correspondents to submit copy by email. Some limited training would be possible.

I hope you can bring this to the attention of the parish council and any other organisation or individual you think might be able to help.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Warne
Editor, Durham
Times/Durham Advertiser
Tel No:- 01325 505109

Editor's note

We also make a similar plea. We are always looking for articles from our local residents and organisations. If you have any interesting news or forthcoming events that you would like to share with our many readers please

feel free to contact us at editor@langley-park.org.uk or 01913736687.

THE WICKED WITCH GOLF SOCIETY 6th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

The 6th annual event will get underway on Friday 23rd May 2008 and we are hoping to raise in excess of £4000.00 this year in aid of the Willowburn Hospice Lanchester.

We are looking for a further 10 teams of 4 people at £80.00 per team to fill up the event. A fun day out for all, with prizes for the winning team, longest drive and nearest the pin.

If you are interested in submitting a team then please ring Michael Hunt (event organiser) on 0191 3712592 or 07903648048.



The 2007 Wicked Witch event

**A WINTER WALK
FOLLOWED BY YET
ANOTHER WALK**

Winter Walk

Once again the walkers of Esh Parish struck lucky with the weather. Although there had been a lot of rain over the

New Year, all was fine for our walk on January 2nd and ten people turned out for a shortened version of the Parish Walk. Yes it was ten people if anyone is counting – one teenager did not consider it cool to be photographed with the rest of us!

This year we diverted round the Stobbilee allotments so that we could see the site of the proposed 'scrapes' (see elsewhere in this issue) before the work is done. Hopefully it will be completed before the Rogation Walk on April 27th and we will be able to see the 'before' and 'after' effect, and watch the area develop on subsequent walks. Book that date in your diaries!

Annual Beating the Bounds Walk

A big note for your diaries - the annual Parish Walk should be held on Rogation Sunday 27th April, meeting at 1.00pm on the railway path at the entrance to Langley Park. We hope to see you there!

WETLAND WORKS AT STOBBILEE ALLOTMENTS

Good News at last! We have been given the go-ahead for the creation of two wetland areas and a footpath at Stobbilee Allotments from Government Office.

A meeting for interested members of the Community, which included a visit to look at the site took place just before Christmas. It was



Walkers assemble for the 2008 Winter Walk

emphasised that the scrapes (ponds), which will provide new habitats for wildlife, may not hold water all year round. It was also stressed that the site may take a year or two to establish new vegetation and

on the Wear Project to undertake the works with the understanding that Derwentside District Council will maintain these works in the future.

Work will begin with the clearing of debris from the lower area of the allotments where the scrapes and footpath are



Stobbilee Allotments

could look rather muddy to begin with. There appeared to be a general agreement that this project could only improve the site for the community as well as for wildlife.

An agreement between the Working on the Wear Project and Derwentside District Council has been drawn up. This will allow The Working

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to be created. The contract to undertake the works has been awarded and we should see some activity beginning on the site from the end of February.

For more information please contact:
Jacqui McHugh, Working on the Wear Project Officer, Natural England
0191 2295534 or 07810 636445.

NEWS FROM LANGLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Langley Park Eco School

Our School Council is working hard to help our school become an ECO school. In our class meetings we have gathered some ideas from all of our pupils and we have made an action plan to make us more eco friendly.

We would like to share some of our targets with you:

- Litter - to reduce the litter outside our school
- Lights – to have class light monitors, to save energy
- Computers – switch them off during lunchtime
- Paper – all classes now recycle paper
- School traffic – we would like to reduce traffic outside of school.

We have also made an eco code for our school:

Lights off

Always switch computers off

Never drop litter



School Council assembly on Eco Schools

Go green

Look after wildlife

Everybody help to make us an eco school

You can make a difference

We have achieved a silver eco award, and with the help of all of our pupils and parents we would like to go for the Green Flag award.

School Council
Callum Adamson (Y6)
Charlotte Moore and Danielle Hull

Visit to Estonia

Mrs Snailham, Deputy Head at Langley Park Primary School visited Tallinn, Estonia as part of a Comenius programme. Representatives from Estonia, Spain, Germany and Belgium have been working with pupils on a common project involving nature and a local area study.

Whist in Estonia Mrs Snailham was able to visit the

kindergarten in Tallinn in order to observe the English and Estonian education system.

Future visits to England are arranged for the partnership schools over a two year period.

Visit to a Synagogue

Year 5 visited the Synagogue at Gosforth to find out about Judaism. They had an interesting visit and some pupils tried on a kippah and a shawl.

The afternoon was spent at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle exploring the history exhibits and the science maze.

Ann Atkinson

FROM ST ANDREWS METHODIST CHURCH

On Sunday 9th December we held our annual carol service led by the children of Langley

Park primary school. It was a packed chapel (I counted about 148 + school children) of family and friends and regulars. As always it was a great performance (see below for an action shot). Long may it continue! After the service everyone retired to the schoolroom for tea, juice and lots of chocolate biscuits (why do kids like chocolate biscuits so much?).

Easter Celebrations

Maundy Thursday 20th March – Love Feast at 2:45pm
 Good Friday 21st March – service led By Rev P Wood at 3:00pm followed by afternoon tea.

Easter Sunday 23rd March – service led by Rev R Walton at 10:30am

Those Were the Days

I used to go to the dances
 And jive and twist and swing
 Waltz, foxtrot and tango
 It really was my thing

But now all I can manage
 Is the Hopalong Cassidy limp
 The years are taking their toll
 on me
 Now I'm just a geriatric wimp

So now I enjoy watching



Annual Carol Service Led By The Children of Langley Park Primary School

Diary of events

Churches Together in Langley Park

Women's World Day of Prayer was held on Thursday 7th March 2008 at St Andrews.

We were delighted to welcome to St Andrews the Women's Network of the Methodist Church (Darlington District), who held their 'District Quiet Day' on Wednesday 19th March starting at 10am. The afternoon service was led by Anne Collinson.

WATT'S WORDS OF WISDOM

Sweet Memories

Cherry lips and lollipops
 Sherbert dabs and toffee

Sweet birds nests and bonbons
 Packets of old mans baccy

Love hearts and aniseed balls
 Yards of liquorice laces

Dolly mixtures in a bag
 Sweets with funny faces

Satin cushions candy mice
 All of these are nice

And favourites of us all

It really isn't the same
 But what can you do about it
 When you're stiff as a prop
 and lame

So just bring on the dancing girls
 And their partners into the swing
 'Cos if you know you can't join them
 Just do the next best thing.

Thoughts at Easter Time

Life is full of problems
 And I'm sure you've had your share
 But with faith and endurance
 You'll eventually get there

You will learn that with God's help

There's nothing you can't do
So just keep your faith
And trust in Him and your
problems you'll get through.

Betty Watt

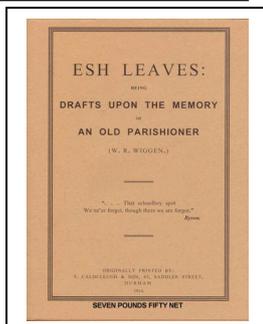
BOOK OF WORDS AND VERSES

The Parish Council has obtained a grant towards publishing a 64 page A5 booklet based on postcards/photographs, old and new, of our Parish. We have very little time to put the book together and to go to print. However work has already started and with your help we will finish it in time. What we need are a few volunteers to send in some old photographs of our Parish together with some verses or text to accompany the picture (in sepia). As space will be limited not more than 125/150 words should be used. Here is an example.

address shown at the front of this newsletter.

ESH LEAVES THE BOOK

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



The price is £7.50 per copy + postage where appropriate. The 2 Post Offices have kindly agreed to nominate 50p per book sold by them. Esh PO to Child Helpline and Langley Park PO to Cancer Research.

to be its minister was to act as a translator for a Russian pastor who was visiting the UK a few years before the fall of Communism. Not that I speak Russian, but he was from a German community in Russia, which had existed from the time of Catherine the Great. I can speak German.

The German connection seems to recur from time to time. A young German engineer who was seconded to his company's works on Tyneside and lived in Langley Park for a while, was in regular attendance with his wife who was the daughter of a German Lutheran missionary in Brazil and spoke fluent Portuguese, German and halting English! They are now living in the Black Forest with their two young sons. At the present moment we have a German in membership and we get an occasional visitor. There seems no apparent



Esh Saint Michael's AFC Pre World War 1

Football Mania by Betty Watt

*Just seen Tommy down the street.
In the huff cos his team got beat.
Men and Football what are they like
tell them all to take a hike.*

*It's a rush to get tickets
and a shift off work.
And no doubt the ref
will be a stupid berk.*

*Then our Jackie comes along
just the same with a face a mile long.
They're just like kids at the end of the day
God help us when they're playing away*

*I pray every day
for the end of the season
Might get some peace
and they will see reason.*

It is hoped that the book will be out in May price £2.99 per copy available from either Esh or Langley Park Post Offices, the new Parish Office (former Neighbourhood Office) or by contacting the Esh Leaves Editor on 0191 3736687 or by email to the

LANGLEY PARK "INTERNATIONAL" BAPTIST CHURCH

For a long time the Baptist Church in Langley Park has had an international flavour. One of my early contacts with the church before I was called

reason why we should be something of a magnet for people of that nationality.

When I first came to the church, over 18 years ago, we had occasional visits from Korean Presbyterians to whom we extended the privilege of Holy Communion,

there being no church of their own denomination nearby at the time.

In the early day of my ministry I was privileged to conduct a wedding of one of our members to a Frenchman. The service was in English but we produced the order of service, as well as the notes of the sermon, in French so that the guests would be able to follow things. The couple made their home in the south of France and make annual visits with their three delightful daughters.

We have an American connection too. Another wedding saw one of our girls married to an American Airman - echoes of World War 2. They are sometimes stationed in the UK and sometimes in Germany and, of course, in the USA. A few years later an executive of the Caterpillar Corporation was sent to England for a couple of years. He and his family became valued workers in the church. They have two sons and two daughters. I was privileged to baptise one of their girls on profession of her faith. Through them my wife and I were introduced to their home church in Lafayette, Indiana, and travelled to a Counselling Training Conference there for four years in a row. Some of their members have visited us here. On one occasion we had a group of young Americans who performed an evening of 'sacred music' in our chapel. Many from the village will remember that.

We have had a Kenyan who

was a chef at the 'Board Inn' who attended when he could. Another Kenyan contact led to me being invited to address a pastors' conference in the suburbs of Nairobi, just over two years ago. The area which was called Baba Dogo, has been the scene of violence after the contested election at the end of 2007 which still continues.

The pastor who invited me to the conference is still in e-mail contact with me about the situation there at the moment. Members of his church have been attacked and wounded. His house was burned and he, his wife and two young children had to take shelter in a Police compound. They have their own place again, but have lost all their belongings. In it all he preaches the gospel of peace. This all makes Kenya's troubles seem so near.

We also help to support missionary work in Kenya. Another Nairobi church, Trinity Baptist, has in the last 30 years established 40 churches and mission stations throughout the country, as well as some schools.

Our missionary interests widens the international scope of the church. As well as Kenya we have interests in Sierra Leone and North Cyprus. One of our other projects is helping to establish a Church in Palmerston North, New Zealand. It was begun by a couple of our own member who emigrated to that wonderful land. My wife and I had the privilege to be at the inaugural services of the church in February 2005, when I was the preacher.

About a year ago I was invited to join the newly formed UK Board of Trustees of the International



Some of the Kenyan Children

Governance Institute (IGI). It is a Christian organisation which began in Nairobi as a response to the corruption that is so widespread in Africa. It is this feature which is at the bottom of much of the poverty in that vast continent. IGI is dedicated to seeking to establish integrity, honesty and accountability at all levels of government, through lobbying and educational programmes among public servants and the general public alike. The trustees see themselves as applying the teachings of Christianity to a very practical problem.

So Langley Park is known throughout the world! Many of those I have mentioned are grateful to God for Langley Park. The international flavour somewhat reflects the Christian Church as a whole. This reminds us that the Founder of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ said 'make disciples of all nations'. He has certainly proved to be acceptable to people of all nationalities.

Alan Brunton (Revd.)

**LANGLEY PARK
CRICKET CLUB REPORT**

Langley Park Cricket Club recently held its junior presentation evening and was delighted to welcome England bowling coach and Durham star Ottis Gibson as guest of honour.

Ottis went on to present the trophies, including the RS Pratt Trophy won by our under 13s, and then gave a



Under 13s Cricket Team

talk on his career, and answered any questions put to him.

Awards went to under 13s player of the year Tom Clarke, under 15s player of the year Chris Winn, under 18s player of the year Anthony Dinsdale, to Sportsman of the year Gareth Brixton and to the most improved player Liam Tyers.

Under 13s captain Dagon Stebbings received the RS Pratt trophy won by the Under



Gareth Brixton

13s team.

Langley Park cricketers started practice nets on Thursday 7th February 6.30pm - 8.00pm at Fyndoune School. Anyone who would like to come along is most welcome to do so, both Junior and Senior. Contact Tom Huscroft (tel:0191 3733033) for further details.

Langley Park Cricketers have received a grant from "Grants for All" to allow us to purchase new grass cutting equipment and to help towards new nets for practice, to repair all weather pitch.

Tom Huscroft

**USHAW COLLEGE 200
YEARS**

Now that we have entered 2008, the feelings of celebration are increasing as we move towards the actual anniversary on July 19th. We shall celebrate not only 200 years at Ushaw, but 440

years of forming ministers from our first foundations at Douai in France.

The first cause for celebration this year was the news in November last year that our President, Monsignor Terry Draine, had been appointed Bishop of Middlesbrough. Mgr Terry remained with us until the end of term in December. He was ordained Bishop on January 25th at the cathedral church of St Mary in Middlesbrough, where the College community took part in a moving and thoroughly enjoyable ceremony. The College choir and organist contributed greatly to the occasion. We wish Bishop Terry success in his new ministry, which he enters with joyful hope.



Bishop Draine

Shortly afterwards it was announced that our next President will be Father John Marsland, a priest of the Diocese of Salford, who has been working with Young Christian Workers in Rome for the past seven years. Previously he was Vice Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome and

he is currently concluding a sabbatical in Jerusalem. Until Father John's return to England in May, Father Philip Gillespie will continue in the position of Acting President.

From the 16th to the 20th of January, over eighty theologians and practitioners from Britain and Ireland, continental Europe, the United States and Australia, gathered at Ushaw for a Colloquium on the theme of 'Formation for Ministry'. This was to mark the bicentenary of formation here. We were glad to welcome contributions from so many notable visitors from home and abroad; they in their turn were pleased to see the very effective cooperation of the College with the Department of Theology and Religion in Durham, with our partners at Cranmer Hall and the Wesley Study Centre and with another good friend of the College, Bishop Tom Wright of Durham. The Colloquium's purpose was clear throughout: to bring together in hospitable surroundings people from different backgrounds and varied ecumenical experience, to take part in a wide-ranging programme. The themes of Formation for Priestly, Diaconal and Lay Ministry were explored in a series of presentations, formal responses and discussions, as well as more informally.

In the coming months the College's celebrations will continue with an exhibition about Ushaw, its origins, people and artifacts, all set within our magnificent

architecture. A concert programme is planned, with performances taking place in St Cuthbert's Chapel. We are holding a fun weekend with a mediaeval theme on Saturday June 14th and Sunday the 15th: it includes jousting, falconry, a mediaeval banquet on Saturday evening, and Sunday lunches. There will be opportunity to look around the College and to take in a flower festival in the chapels. The flower festival is also open on June 12th and 13th, with pre-booking available for group visits.

The formal occasion for the 200th Anniversary will be celebrated on the May 25th with a Bicentenary Mass for invited guests. On the actual anniversary date of July 19th the occasion will be marked by a gathering of past students and staff, again by invitation. We will also remember the occasion by recreating the walk that the students and staff made from Crook Hall near Consett, to Ushaw, a distance of some eleven miles. Some residents of the Crookhall area have already been in touch, and are keen to accompany our walkers.

Throughout all our celebrations the work of the Seminary continues, with our students in training for the priesthood and lay ministry. Our conference centre, too, continues to flourish, inviting an increasing number of participants from near and far to enjoy our facilities, and setting. We continue planning for the future at Ushaw, and

hope that within our bicentenary year we will be able to look forward to a fitting and sustainable future for some of the buildings here that are in need of restoration and reuse. To have completed 200 years in any endeavour is an achievement in itself. To secure and sustain our future in terms of our service to all our users, whilst maintaining our architectural and Catholic heritage and setting, is a challenge that we gladly take up.



Colloquium 2008

Details of all the bicentenary events are available on our website: www.ushaw.ac.uk where links can be found to bicentenary@ushaw.ac.uk for specific enquiries and bookings.

Peter Seed

GEORGE CHAPMAN

Memories from his wife, Marion

George moved into Langley Park when we married in 1977. As most people in the village know, we were widow and widower who met and enjoyed 30 years of married life together.

We have five children between us. George has two girls who live in Esh Winning, my three live around the area. We have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. We are a very close knit family.

George was not a stranger to the village as he was safety and fire officer at Langley

Park Colliery until he retired in 1983.

We joined the Community Association as we love to dance and he soon took over the post as secretary from Mrs. Jean Taylor. This was a position he loved because he got to travel around to different centres, meeting people and stating his views.

He loved organising different entertainment for our own members. He called the bingo for years and enjoyed the companionship of the many friends we made at Wood View. He would often sit at the door with our chairman Eddie Leeming to welcome the members into the hall. He and Eddie often put the "world to rights" and Billy Dover often joined them, they were our three oldest members at the time.

George became involved with Age Concern and joined Sylvia Buxton and Dr. Graham on the Committee. He also delivered the "meals on wheels" for thirteen years. When he retired from this he

remarked "I was taking meals to people younger than myself"

He loved forward to helping with the aged peoples Christmas tea, he listened to the band and the entertainment as well as helping with the tea and mixing with the audience.

We had many holidays abroad and spent lots of time at our caravan. George always said we had been given a second chance of happiness and we must "live for today". We always helped with the upbringing of our grandchildren, and they all loved to spend time with us at the caravan.

George gave my daughter Alison extra support when her husband died, and he was always on hand to help our granddaughter Sarah with advice. He was very proud when he took her dads place on her wedding day.

About five years ago George began to suffer with arthritis and although he was still very

active he needed to use his walking sticks and sometimes a scooter. He then retired from the community centre but he was still a trustee and helped on the committee.

In 2007 George was diagnosed with renal failure and spent a lot of time in Sunderland Royal Hospital having dialysis treatment.

Our last family celebration was at our great grandson Sam's christening in October. We all met at Wood View after the service for a meal our great granddaughter Violet was with us and we were able to take many photos of our four generations. I think that day will always stay in our hearts and memories. George's health deteriorated and he died on the 21st November aged 85.

George was a kind and gentle man who appreciated the friendship of the people in Langley Park and he was always ready to help in any way he could.

Memories from his grand daughter, Sarah

For all my life George Chapman has been my granddad, he might not have been my biological granddad but by every meaning of the word he fitted the name.

Apart from him doing errands for other people in the village he would take my dad (Tommy Spenceley) to all his hospital appointments at Newcastle General, then when my dad was in hospital he was the first person take



George Chapman & Family

my mam and I to visit him. He must have been sick of travelling backwards and forwards to hospital but he never once complained.

When my dad died George stepped up his responsibilities towards me and became a father figure in my life. He was always there for me, even though I had moved away from the village we still stayed close. I think one of the proudest moments of his life was when he gave me away at my wedding, as he said in his speech "I have been trying to give her away for years, and now I have finally managed".

When I told him I was pregnant he was thrilled that he was going to be a great granddad for the first time. It wasn't long after that that he became unwell and he was admitted to hospital for the first time. His health started to deteriorate but when Sam was born in June he had a new lease of life and every time he saw Sam he got that

old twinkle back in his eyes, and it didn't matter how poorly he was feeling he would always have a hold of him.

As Sam's christening in October approached he was determined to be there, and he was. We had a get together at Wood View Centre and all granddads side of the family were invited including his great grand daughter Violet who was born in July. Afterwards he said that he enjoyed his day as he had got to see all the family together again.

This was to be the last time George seemed really happy, as he started to go downhill after that, until he was taken back into Sunderland Royal. He died on 21st November, only a month after what had turned out to be a special day for more than one reason.

**'YOUR HEALTH, YOUR REGION, YOUR VOICE'
HAVE YOU DONE YOUR LIFESTYLE SURVEY?**

By Pat Lawlor, PCT Health Correspondent

County Durham Primary Care Trust and Derwentside District Council are asking people across the Derwentside area for their help in finding more about health and issues that affect health.

18,000 randomly chosen people in the Derwentside area have been asked to take part in the health and lifestyle survey. The PCT and Derwentside District Council are reminding those residents who have not completed their lifestyle survey to do so and wish to thank the 4,000 to 5,000 people who have already responded.

The survey is the second health and lifestyle survey for Derwentside, and the results of this consultation will help us to track any changes that have occurred since the last one, which took place in 2005.

Local people are being asked about their eating, smoking and drinking habits, and how much exercise they take. All of the answers will be completely confidential.

Health in Derwentside has improved over the last ten years but there is still a gap between the health of the population of Derwentside and the health of the

population of England and Wales. The major causes of death in Derwentside are heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Iain Miller, Partnership and Performance Manager for County Durham and Darlington Public Health Team, said: "It is important to us that local people complete these surveys even if respondents are in good health at the present time, as all answers received will help us to shape future programme for improving health and ensuring that help is targeted where it is most needed."

Angela Harrington, Corporate Policy Officer at Derwentside District Council, added: "To get the best possible picture, we need as many people as possible to complete the surveys which should only take about 15 – 20 minutes to complete and can be returned by FREEPOST in the envelope provided.

"The more people who take part in the survey, the better our information will be. We had an excellent response to our previous survey in 2005 with over 40% of people returning them."

The results of the survey will be published in July 2008 and they will be shared with local people and partner organisations working to improve health.

REVIEW OF SHOTLEY BRIDGE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Discussions are taking place about transferring ownership of Shotley Bridge Community Hospital to the local County Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT) from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

This follows the establishment of the Shotley Bridge Stakeholder Steering Group, which will take forward the work started by external consultants, Tribal, who were commissioned to look at future services at the hospital.

The Steering Group met for the first time in November and is made up from representatives of the PCT, the Foundation Trust, Derwentside District Council, the Local Strategic Partnership and local GPs.

David Gallagher, Director of Strategic Projects and Partnerships, said: "Following on from one of the recommendations made by Tribal, the PCT and Foundation Trust have begun discussions about the future ownership of the Shotley Bridge site.

"Community Hospitals are a key facility in delivering the PCT's ambition of providing high quality and locally accessible care outside of acute hospitals. The potential acquisition of the site provides an exciting opportunity to move forward with our ambitions to improve

health and health care for people in Derwentside.”

Laura Robson, Director of Nursing at County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, said: “Any decision will be made in the context of providing patient care closer to home and is purely a discussion about the site ownership and not about who employs staff.”

JOHN FOSTER'S HALL OF FAME

GERTIE TATTERS

Mr. and Mrs. William James had four sons (one was killed during the First World War) and two daughters one of whom was to become Mrs. Gertie Tatters and well known in the local community.



Gertie Tatters

The family had come to Langley Park in 1880 and Gertie's father was employed at the colliery for forty years. He died in 1943 while living with his daughter. Mrs. James had pre-deceased him.

At 40, Front Street Mrs Tatters ran a successful fruit and vegetable business and also sold flowers and confectionary. The shop was also an agency for Northern General Transport booking

day and holiday tours. In those days passengers would be picked up and started their journeys from a stand in the village to which they were

returned at the end of their trip. No need to go into Durham, Chester-le-Street or further afield.

The shop with its colourful window display was next to the newsagents and is now part of the premises today occupied by K. and V. Reay. Mrs Tatters shop was to the right of that shop as you enter from the street.

The James family were associated with the Baptist Church situated near the shop. For over forty years Gertie was a Sunday School teacher and in December 1955 performed the opening ceremony at the new hall in Thomas Street. Illness prevented Robert Cooper, after whom the building was named, from attending.

Having lived in Langley Park for over seventy years Gertie Tatters died in March 1957.

In October 1937 Thomas W. Watson, who came from New Brancepeth, married Mrs. Tatters' daughter Bessie. The couple took over the business and ran it until 1977. However throughout its



Margaret Watson's Country Style
© D. C. Rider

existence many local people always referred to it as 'Tatters Shop'. Mrs Watson died in March 2004 and Mr. Watson in February 2006.

Their daughter, Margaret, is today well known in Langley Park. After her parents left the Front Street shop she set up a business in Quebec Street that has been there for thirty years. Again, in keeping with family tradition, it trades in fruit, vegetables, flowers and floral tributes.

© John C. Foster March 2008

**WILDLIFE CORNER
SPRING 2008**

This spring, work should start properly on our own Nature Reserve. You will have seen in previous EQUaL articles that we were given money for the Old Rec by the BBC's Breathing Places. By the time you read this, I hope that the first of the work will have been done. In order to try to protect the heather and other plants coming up amongst it from walkers and, more particularly, motorbikes and quads, we have planned a

fence at the top, with a gate for the footpath.

Because we want people to use the site and have no intentions of stopping things like dog-walking, we are putting in another path to encourage walking there rather than all over the place. There was a very good path on the side nearest to Langley Park which we will be getting volunteers to clear again so that it is useable.

'Interpretation Boards' to explain what the site is about will be going up. The schoolchildren will be helping with the art work.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Alison on 0191 3733595. There is an answer phone so if I'm not in, please leave your number and I'll get back to you.

Once the work has been done, I hope that this will be a pleasant area for people to 'chill out' as well as a valuable resource for wild creatures. It would be good to have a picnic party in the Rec to celebrate when we're finished.

Having said that, work is never really finished on a 'natural' site. In this country almost all land that is left untouched for any length of time reverts to its natural woodland state. This is all very well and we all know the benefits of woodland but other habitats are important, too. We have already had to take silver birch and little oak trees out of the heather area,

which grieves me, considering the amount of effort I have put in to planting trees over the years. If only we could persuade the jays that have been very busy burying acorns there to put them somewhere else!

Would anyone like to coordinate a collection of sightings of various creatures in the Rec? This could be from rabbits and foxes to short-eared owls and even the rare green hairstreak butterfly, which breeds on Tow Law Fell and could well set up a new colony in Langley Park! I haven't even begun to make a list of the birds that use the area, leave alone the insects and other smaller creatures. If you were interested, you could get in touch with me and we could work out a suitable way of going about it. Someone might like to do the RSPB's Big Bird Watch there next year (see their website for more information on that).

I'm getting quite excited about this – I hope some of you are, too!

Alison

THE BURGOYNE JOHNSON TROPHY

Editor's note

In the November 2006 and March 2007 editions of Esh Leaves we featured articles on the Burgoyne Johnson Trophy. Since then the trophy has found a new home and we are delighted to update our readers on what has happened since. The

following letter from Nigel Quinn, brings us right up to date.

Dear Sir

*Please find attached a couple of photographs from the Hamilton & District Homing Society presentation night, **the Burgoyne Johnson Trophy** which was kindly donated to the club by Ruth Oliver and her family and presented to Mr John Hodgson of Hodgson Sons & Cowie the eventual winners on their behalf by Nigel Quinn. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ruth and her family for donating the trophy, and also the main sponsors of the evening; Fast Fit Tyres Langley Park, WJM Quigley Builders Esh Winning and Thompson Builders Centre Langley Moor.*

The trophy has created a lot of interest within the club and several of the elder members can remember pigeon lofts up at Quebec but have no recollection of a homing society (inscription on the trophy "Quebec Homing Society" 1902). Burgoyne Johnson became cashier at Hamsteels colliery which his father owned after leaving the army, it is a possibility that several miners might have formed a small homing society, and raced against each other. It seems rather unusual as Burgoyne's sporting passion was rugby, and he became president of Durham Rugby Club from 1904-1907.

The Johnson family were

originally brewers and came from Castle Eden, Burgoyne adopted a young girl called Hannah from the Castle Eden area, she eventually married Timothy Quinn; and I have discovered that they were my great grandparents.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Quinn

NEWS FROM DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Success of County Durham Registered Trader Scheme

Durham County Council's Trading Standards Service in conjunction with the County's Community Safety Partnerships, have set up this scheme to help people in County Durham choose a reputable home repair trader.

The scheme provides a list of reputable traders available to residents of County Durham, who have been vetted by Trading Standards, and are committed to good working practice. All traders who are members of the scheme have undergone a series of stringent checks and only if they fulfil all criteria will be entered onto the scheme.

We often hear about so-called trades people who have no real building skills and charge exorbitant prices for sub-standard work. They will target the old or infirm who, cannot tell whether work needs doing or whether it has been completed satisfactorily. They will also insist on cash up-front and leave no details



Nigel Quinn Presenting the Burgoyne Johnson Trophy to John Hodgson

such as receipt or invoice. But if things go wrong there is no form of redress as the 'trader' is not an actual business and there is no way of tracing them.

The Registered Trader Scheme will help to alleviate these problems. The traders on the scheme all abide by a Code of Practice, and their business documentation contains their contact details for the consumer to reach them on. In the event any problems do occur, Durham Trading Standards Service is more than happy to mediate between the customer and trader to reach an amicable solution.

It is an excellent way to help protect the residents of County Durham from unscrupulous people who, especially prey on the elderly, and will ensure that we can have confidence in the work that is done on our homes.

Anyone who would like further information on the scheme, either traders or consumers, should contact Trading Standards on 0191 3833589 (local call rate) or www.countydurhamrts.org.uk.

OUR COALMINING HERITAGE

I first met a remarkable Langley Park lady at an Esh Parish Council meeting when we were discussing the erection of a Langley Park Colliery Memorial. My first impression was that this lady really does know about the coalmining history. Her sensible, well thought out ideas in support of such a Memorial were refreshing to hear, and it wasn't long before her obviously keen enthusiasm for our coalmining heritage was clear for all to see.

Since then we have talked many times about her ideas

for the project, indeed her continued sincere enthusiasm influenced me in bringing along a selection of my own photographs to the Langley Park Mining Exhibition held in Wood View Community Centre last year. At the Exhibition I photographed her many times, along with a number of schoolchildren who had a great time wearing various mining gear when the Exhibition moved to Langley Park Primary School.

Most of you will undoubtedly know the lady I am talking about is Anne Suddick, and the new initiatives and projects that flow from her active mind never cease to amaze me. Of course, Anne will be the first to admit she has valued support from a number of friends', in particular the 'Mining and Memories Group' formed in October 2006, of which she is the Secretary.

Last year Anne took on the editing and printing of a booklet called 'Tommy Gardner' an insight to the thoughts and life of a Langley Park Miner. The words for this Gem of a booklet were supplied by Tommy Gardner's daughter Mavis R. Gardner who had carefully kept her Dad's very own words that are now printed in the booklet. It makes compelling reading.

Nowadays Anne's small terrace house constantly rings with the sound of a well used printer striving to keep pace with the number of booklets that are needed to keep the shops supplied. I



Anne Suddick in a thoughtful moment at the 2007 Langley Park Mining Exhibition. © Terry T. Chilton

am told that as fast as she prints them they are sold. But that isn't all; apart from this booklet Anne tells me she has two more on the cards! Anne's coalmining interest goes back to when she was a small girl with many of her relations being coalminers, who no doubt captured her imagination with unforgettable stories about life at the coalface. She was born in the coalmining community of East Hedleyhope, and after leaving school she took typing lessons and used this newfound skill by starting work at Bearpark Colliery as a typist. Later she worked as a secretary for the National Union of Mineworkers, and was often invited to speak at meetings throughout the North East.

Yet, with all her drive and initiative at taking on new projects Anne is a very modest person and would far

rather someone else take the credit than herself. I think we are very fortunate to have such a person in our parish, and I feel sure that Anne and her friends in the 'Mining and Memories Group' will continue to surprise us with many new projects for the good of our community.

Terry Chilton.

**LANGLEY PARK v
LEEDS UNITED – 7.30pm
TUESDAY 7th AUGUST
1990**

Floodlight Fund Appeal match.

Here is the programme. Were you there, what was the result, who scored, how big was the crowd (5'9", 6' 0" or possibly 2 metres)?

2 of the Leeds United squad selected for that game were Carl Shutt and John

McClelland. Carl Shutt went on to play for Birmingham, Manchester City, Bradford, Darlington and finally at Kettering where he was the manager until 2003. John McClelland finished his career at Darlington in 1997 and won 53 caps for Northern Ireland.

**HARRY GUILDFORD MBE
'HERO OF DERWENTSIDE'**

Speaking to Alex Watson Leader of Derwentside District Council about their recent Hero of Derwentside Award Ceremony he said, "Most of us play our part in society by raising our families to have respect for authority and the law and by taking part and helping in community activities.

There is however in many communities a number of individuals whose work in the community goes far beyond the normal participation we can reasonably expect. Their work adds significantly to our quality of life and is of immense value to us all.

A hero of Derwentside recognises the excellent work being carried out by individuals without thought of reward or recognition."

Michael Malone, Deputy Leader of the Council who acted as the Master of Ceremonies commented. "Society today is far to often centred on personal gain and material possessions, which makes the selfless acts and voluntary work carried out by

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY IN AID OF LANGLEY PARK F.C. FLOODLIGHT FUND APPEAL	
TUESDAY 7 AUGUST 1990	
KICK-OFF 7.30pm	
<p>LANGLEY PARK F.C.</p> <p>Yellow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PETER CAEDNER JOHN NICHOLSON PAUL McVITTIE ALAN SCOTT GEORGE DAVISON STEPHEN CLOSE STEPHEN JOHNSON KEVIN CIBSON JOE CALVERT KEVIN BERRY KEVIN McELWEE <p>Subs: STEEL DIXON O'DONNELL SOWERBY</p>	<p>LEEDS UNITED F.C.</p> <p>White</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> O'DOWD GRAYSON HAYWARD STOKER O'DONNELL McLELLAND SHUTT PRESTON ALLMARK EDMONDS WIGLEY <p>Subs: GK EDWARDS 12 HEWORTH 14 CROSSBY 15 BALL 16 PHILIPPS</p>
REFEREE: I NICHOLSON	
"RED FLAG": K THOMPSON	
"YELLOW FLAG": J KAY	
<p>LANGLEY PARK F.C. would like to thank LEEDS UNITED F.C. management and players for agreeing to play this fixture in aid of our Floodlight Fund and all of our supporters and spectators watching tonight's game.</p> <p>THANK YOU AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.</p>	

Floodlight Fund Appeal match programme

award recipients all that more impressive.

All recipients have several things in common apart from their bravery or commitment to voluntary working in the community.

They are all a little reluctant to talk about their good

deeds, and all are both surprised and slightly embarrassed to hear of their nomination.

Harry Guildford MBE is a former District Councillor and Chairman of Derwentside District Council.

However, he was not



Harry Guildford and family

honoured for his excellent work as a Councillor, he was honoured because of the work he has done in the community before, during and since he stood down as a District Councillor.

Harry a former miner who had a young apprentice by the name of Bobby Robson has a formidable record of voluntary service:

Harry has served as a Parish Councillor for 40 years

He is a former Chairman of Lanchester District Council

Harry served as a committee member and treasurer of Langley Park Colliery Welfare Football Club for 33 years

Secretary of Durham City FC 3 years

Worked as a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for 10 years

Scouted for talent for Bobby Robson

This service to the community has been in addition to his 30 years as a Councillor with Derwentside

Harry is most certainly worthy of the title 'Hero of Derwentside'.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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



Harry and Councillor Denise Bennett

occasionally at other locations. The choice of venue is subject to an annual review at the Annual General Meeting.

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

Next Meetings

8th April 2008 Annual Assembly (Notice hereunder) followed by Ordinary Meeting in the New Parish Offices (Former Neighbourhood Office), Thomas Street, Langley Park.

13th May 2008 Annual General Meeting followed by Ordinary Meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

10th June 2008 Parish Council Meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

8th July 2008 Parish Council Meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

Annual Assembly

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF PARISH MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** of the Parish Meeting for the above named Parish will be held in the New Parish Offices on Tuesday the 8th April 2008, commencing at 7.00pm.

Such Persons only as are registered as Local Government Electors for the Parish will be entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting.

The Business to be transacted at the Meeting will be as follows:

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the Assembly held on 10th April 2007
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Parish Precept 2008/2009
- 6 Any Other Business

Councillor A. Mollon
Chairman, Esh Parish Council

Could eligible residents please provide the Clerk with at least 3 working days notice, in writing, of any item that they might wish to raise under item 6 at the Assembly.

Letters to be addressed to Mr G. F. Smith, Clerk to Esh Parish Council, 11 Bamburgh Road, Newton Hall, DURHAM, DH1 5NW.

Preliminary Notices

ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the first Annual Meeting of the Trustees of Charity No 1003989 - Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground - to be held at a venue to be decided on Tuesday 13th May 2008 to following the Annual General Meeting which commences at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

DRAFT AGENDA

NB Where appropriate the Clerk's recommendations are shown in brackets

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Election of Vice-Chairman.

4. Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer (The Parish Clerk).
5. Cheque signatories
6. Standing Orders
7. Financial Regulations
8. Update on the Rec project
9. Letting of contracts
10. Dates, times and venues for future Annual Meeting. 2nd Tuesday of May each year to follow the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Esh Parish Council to be held at a venue to be decided on Tuesday 13th May 2008 commencing at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

DRAFT AGENDA

NB Where appropriate the Clerk's recommendations are shown in brackets

- 1 Election of Chairman.
- 2 Apologies for absence.
- 3 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2007
- 4 Election of Vice-Chairman.
- 5 Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer (change from the Assistant Parish Clerk to the Parish Clerk).
- 6 Cheque signatories
- 7 Membership of the following (existing

members shown in brackets):-

- a) Allotments (All Councillors + Clerk).
- b) Playground Working Group (All Members of the Council to consider proposals submitted by the EQUaL Partnership).
- c) Scrutiny and Financial Risk Assessment Working Party
- d) Trustees of Charity No 1003989 - Langley Park Miners Welfare Institute and Recreation Ground (The Parish Council are the sole Trustees of this Charity).
- 8 Nominations for:-
 - a) Derwentside District and Parish Councils Liaison Committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman + Clerk).
 - b) Planning Applications - Consultation procedure when comments are required before the next scheduled ordinary meeting (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, appropriate Local Member + Clerk).
- 9 Standing Orders (Annual review of the threshold for which written quotations are required currently £1000).

- 10 Financial Regulations (annual review).
- 11 Consideration of the Chairman's Allowance (currently £159.00).
- 12 Annual Risk Assessment Statement
- 13 Changes to the Parish Council's Asset Register
- 14 Dates, times and venues for future meetings.

Ordinary meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (excepting for August when no meetings are held) commencing at 7.00 pm unless following the Annual Assembly (April) or the Annual General Meeting (May).

PANTOMIME

The Parish Council hosted its annual Pantomime at the Wood View on Saturday 12th January 2008 attended by around 50 parents and children. Little Red Riding Hood and Her Amazing Grandmother was this year's classic. However it should have carried a parental guidance warning as there was one Hitchcock type Psycho moment when the wolf had his inside ripped out. Miraculously Mr Wolf recovered in time to take his curtain call!

During the interval refreshments were served by Alison Spenceley and Chris Robinson, and several prizes were on offer for the lucky programme number and raffle.



The 2008 Pantomime at Wood View Community Centre

A big thank you to all those who supported this event.

ANNUAL NOTICE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ALLOTMENT WAITING LIST

The Parish Council owns a substantial number of allotments on land to the south of the Langley Park Primary School and to the west of the Cricket Ground in Langley Park. If anyone is interested in putting their name on the Waiting List then please contact the Parish Clerk on 0191 3736687. The rent for 2008 is £25 per allotment. The rent for the 2009 season has already been fixed by the Parish Council at £25 per allotment. The allotments have the benefit of a water supply via lockable taps.

Residents are advised however that currently there is a LONG waiting list for these allotments.

TURNING ON THE LIGHTS

Unfortunately our Turning on the Lights guest, Durham County Cricketer Will Gidman, was delayed on his way to Langley Park to do the honours for us this time. At short notice Alan Brunton, the Baptist Church Minister, stepped in and pressed the right buttons for us.



Rev Alan Brunton switches on the lights

As it happened Will turned up 10 minutes later and did sign some autographs and had his photograph taken with the

Langley Park Under 15's cricketer of the year Chris Winn and later arranged for some signed photographs to be sent to the Langley Park Primary School.

NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICE

The Parish Council has now transferred its base into the former Neighbourhood Office. We will have new office opening hours from the week commencing 31st March 2008 as follows:-

Monday 9.00am to 12.30pm
 Tuesday 9.00am to 12.30pm
 Thursday 9.00am to 12.30pm
 Friday 9.00am to 12.30pm

Tel No 0191 3736687

The TUTE IT Centre should also have moved into the new premises by the end of March.

More on this in the next edition of ESH LEAVES JULY 2008

ESH PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

The Parish Council and EQUaL have added a Community Directory to the Parish Council website for the purpose of highlighting community activities within the Parish. See the centre pullout section from EQUaL for more information.

WHAT A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!!

Saturday 29th December 2007 approximately 2.00p.m.

As I sat with my afternoon coffee, searching the T.V. for



Will Gidman and Chris Winn with the Christmas tree in the background

football I heard many car doors clashing and noise from outside my lounge window.

Then I thought "Why is Marion Goodyear walking fast, looking rather concerned, followed shortly by her husband Mick (Marion and Mick Goodyear were long established youth leaders and management of the Youth Centre in the past).

My curiosity got the better of me to which by this time traffic was building up outside.

As I opened my front door to say Merry Christmas to them, to my horror smoky flames were gushing from the far right side of the "Youthy". Marion said they were passing through

"Langley" to visit family and saw the flames and smoke. They had called 999, likewise so had many other people.

I grabbed my camera and took some pictures.

We stood outside for some 40 minutes talking about the past events of the Youth Centre. Fun Runs - Discos - Family Nights - Pantomimes - Youth Club - Cubs and Brownies - Playschool - over 60's



Photograph of the fire taken by Paula Mollon

meetings which were held there.

Marion actually had her wedding reception and 25th wedding Anniversary in the Youth Centre.

There was quite a gathering on Front Street by this time.

A total of about six fire fighting machines proceeded to do their duty to bring things under control.

The Youth Centre may not last long, but we all have our own memories of it which will last a lifetime.

Former Caretaker and Resident of Front Street, Parish Councillor Paula Mollon.



Hello All,

We now have Jamie Pearsall as our new PCSO for the area. Please say hello to him when he is out and about on foot patrol. I have been made aware that youths are continuing to cause annoyance in the area. Please contact the police if you are suffering from this type of anti social behaviour. When ringing the police, please take the following factors into consideration:-

1. Who are the youths? Do you know their names?
2. What are they wearing? Are they wearing anything distinguishable?

3. If the youths are walking away, where are they heading to?

This type of information assists us greatly when trying to locate the youths responsible. If youths come to our attention on numerous occasions then it may be possible to issue them with an acceptable behaviour contract which can prohibit their behaviour. If these contracts are broken, then an anti social behaviour order could be issued. Acceptable behaviour contracts have already been issued in the area.

If you have any problems then please contact either myself or Jamie on 0845 60 60 365.

PC 1975 Jacklyn Laws.
Langley Park/Esh Beat Officer

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2007

Festival of Remembrance

I obtained two tickets for £10.00 each to the Festival of Remembrance and my daughter and I booked the train and accommodation for two nights in London.

Saturday morning I placed wreaths for the Unknown Soldier's grave, afterwards for the R.L. Women's section at the Memorial.

Our seats were for the evening performance. We set off early as we expected crowds. There were plenty of

police outside the Albert Hall and our bags were searched - with no crowds - and we made out way via the elevator to the circle. Below us to our left was the Royal Box. The stage was enormous. The cameras and TV were there and directly in front of us, raised up, were huge screens, showing the BL at work.

The organ played, then a fanfare of trumpets and the stage was already filled. The Royal Party entered and the National Anthem was sung. Flags and the Torch of Remembrance were displayed and Alfie Bass sang "Bring Him Home" and Katherine Jenkins "Requiem for a Soldier".

The Service was wonderful and ended with the Laying up of the Drums and Book of Remembrance. We all stood for the Chelsea Pensioners. The oldest one aged 105 was wheeled in. Everyone was represented from a Poppy Seller, War Widows, Army, Navy and Air Force, St. John's Ambulance and children from a London School presented poppies to all those who gave their lives so that we can live and be free.

The Last Post sounded and the poppy petals fell.

The audience said "We will remember them" followed by the reveille and then the dedication.

The hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save" was sung. Sunset was sounded. The

Blessing given and the National Anthem sung.

The organisation, the pageantry, the bands, everything was perfect.

I will always remember my Festival of Remembrance weekend.

The Parade

We went to stand on the pavement outside Westminster Abbey. A young man and lady were standing next to us. He lived abroad and was on holiday. He had lived at Witton Gilbert.

The noise was deafening as each section marched past, nearly all of them had a band. The most applause was for the Gurkhas and the Chelsea Pensioners.

At Westminster Abbey there was a Field of Remembrance. A board was up with a number of each plot. Poppies were being sold and I found the plot for the K.R.R.C. my Dad's brother, Ernie King's Regiment. He is buried in Calais, which I have visited.

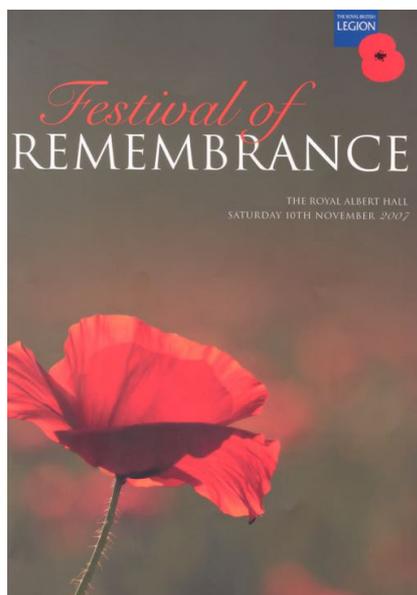
R.N.L.W. Section

We had four members. Doris Hayden moved away so Ann Callan and I have joined the Consett branch. Our books have been audited and found correct and a cheque has been sent to Headquarters.

This year the Poppy Appeal was organised by Ms. Jean Thorburn from Wallnook. She is the organiser from Lanchester.

I thank everyone who supported this good cause.

Esther Hayton



TIPS TO AVOID IDENTITY FRAUD PART 2

The March 2007 edition of Esh Leaves listed a range of tips to help keep your identity safe. This time we are concentrating on:-

The warning signs of identity theft and fraud

- Your regular bank or credit card statements fail to appear- they may have been stolen or the mailing address may have been changed.
- You notice that some of your mail is missing.
- Your credit card statement includes charges for an item you have not purchased or ordered, or withdrawals or transfers that you did not make.
- A debt collection agency contacts you

about goods you have not ordered or an account you have never opened.

- You receive a telephone call or letter saying you have been approved or denied credit for accounts you know nothing about, or you receive a credit card statement for an account that you never opened.

If you think you have been a victim of identity fraud:

- Contact your bank or the financial institution concerned and keep a record of all communication.
- Report the incident to the police, especially if it involves stolen identification documents, and ask for a crime reference number or other documentation so that you can keep a record of the incident.
- Check with credit reference agencies. If applications for credit have been made in your name you can ask to have any incorrect information removed.
 - **Call Credit:**
 - **0870 060 1414**
 - **www.callcredit.co.uk**
 - **Equifax:**
 - **0870 514 3700**
 - **www.equifax.co.uk**
 - **Experian:**
 - **0870 241 6212**
 - **www.experian.co.uk**

- It can be useful to get a copy of your credit report. This is available from all the above agencies for a small fee.
- Contact CIFAS on 0870 010 2091. They will earmark your name and address which means that if anyone tries to apply for something using your name it will automatically be double-checked.
- If you suspect mail theft contact the Royal Mail Customer Enquiry Number on 0845 7 740 740.

By quickly taking the steps described here you can prevent fraudsters from doing any further harm, and start the process of clearing your name. Unfortunately, this process can require time and effort from you: to write letters, make phone calls and provide any other necessary documentation and information. In addition the problem may not be resolved immediately.

To ensure that an incident of identity theft is resolved and does not recur:

- Keep a log of all your communications, including phone calls, letters and e-mails – write down the name of anyone you talk to, what they tell you and the date of the communication.
- In complex cases, you may want to follow up in writing with contacts

you've made in person or on the phone.

- Keep the originals of any supporting documentation, e.g. police reports, letters to and from companies. Only send copies of this documentation and retain the originals.
- Keep old files, even if you think your case has been resolved. Errors can reappear on your credit report or your information can be re-circulated.

Identity thieves obtain your personal information by:

- Removing post from your post-box or fraudulently redirecting your post.
- Stealing personal information from your wallet, purse, post, home, vehicle, computer and websites you've visited or e-mails you have sent.
- Retrieving personal information from your rubbish or recycling bins.
- Posing as a creditor, landlord or employer to get a copy of your credit report or to get access to your personal information from other confidential sources.
- Tampering with cash machines and point-of-sale terminals, enabling thieves to read your debit or credit card number and PIN.

Searching public sources such as newspapers (obituaries), phone books and records open to the public (professional certifications) and the Internet.

Again our thanks to Cardwatch for allowing us to use this material. If you need more information go to www.cardwatch.org.uk where you will find some more useful information on cards.



THE REC

WANTED

Old photographs of the Recreation Ground

We are urgently looking for old photos of the Rec when it was at its best so that we can use them for information boards in the Old Rec Nature Reserve. We would like people to know what it used to be like!

Anyone with anything interesting can contact Alison Hiles on 01913733595. Please do leave a message if you get the answer phone.

COMPETITION

Stuart Harris formerly of Langley Park Post Office has

compiled a SPRING FLOWER WORDGRAM.

All you have to do is ring the answers.

Words can be found Horizontally, Vertically and diagonally in any direction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We receive letters from readers on a range of topics which we welcome.

However if any correspondence is to be taken into consideration it would be helpful if the writers would provide both their name, and address, just in case we need to get in touch with them.

NEWS FROM ESH C OF E SCHOOL

Langley Park Play Area

As a school we were delighted play a small part in the successful bid to 'Put the Park in Langley Park' The children (and staff) were fascinated with the workings of television production. It was also a great opportunity to meet children from other schools and playgroups.

Editor's note
See photographs on page 1

Visitors from Beamish Museum

We were delighted to welcome visitors from

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

Tulip, Daffodil, Hyacinth, Polyanthus, Aubretia, Narcissus, Iris, Crocus, Primula, Pansy, Amaryllis, Anemone, Viola, Snowdrop, Bluebell, Cyclamen, Heather, Alliums, Bellis

Langley Park Overlanders
Juvenile jazz band



We are currently constructing a website celebrating the old "Northern Area of juvenile Jazz Bands" and are looking for photos of the above band. If you can help by submitting material please contact Les.clarke@talk21.com

Until sufficient photos are found to create the stand alone site they will be displayed at www.freewebs.com/colburnfusiliers Drop by to view the pictures and let us have your memories by signing the guest book.

Beamish Museum into school.

The day began with a retired coal miner sharing his experiences of working down a 'deep pit' and the village life that went with it.

Then the children handled numerous artefacts connected with the mining and with the help of a local artist drew some of the objects.

All in all a most enjoyable day with thanks to all at Beamish for their services.

Accident and Emergency

The Reception and Y1 children were amazed when they spent an afternoon in the presence of an Accident and Emergency Doctor who explained all about X-Rays and how broken bones were repaired.

The experience is still being talked about and we currently have 26 potential doctors of the future!

Mike Urwin

**UNIQUE COUNTY
COUNCIL ELECTION
PAVES THE WAY TO
UNITARY COUNCIL**

A County Council election with a difference is due to take place on 1 May 2008 as part of the move to create one unitary council for County Durham.

The Government has confirmed that from 1 April 2009, there will be unitary local government in County Durham, which involves bringing the county and District Councils together so that all of the main council services people receive are provided by one unitary authority. The existing District Councils and the County Council will be transformed into a new Unitary Council, providing both District and County functions.

As part of the move, a County Council election will take place this May, when the existing 63 county Councillors will stand down so that people can have a fresh vote for the Councillors they want to set up and then run the new unitary council. 126 Councillors will be elected, two for each of the existing county electoral divisions. In their first year, the Councillors will develop the new unitary and run the County Council until the

unitary handover in April 2009. From then on, they will become the county's first fully-fledged unitary Councillors. existing District Councillors remain in post until then.

The election is a key step towards a new era for local government in the County so it's important that people take part in the election and vote. To vote, you need to be on the electoral register. To check that you are registered, contact the electoral registration officer for your area. If you need to register or re-register if your circumstances have changed, your application must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 16 April 2008.

The Electoral Registration Officer number for Derwentside is 01207 218218.

**MYSTERY PHOTO
ANSWER**

The answer to the mystery photograph shown in the November 2007 edition of Esh Leaves is Lands End.

Esh Leaves

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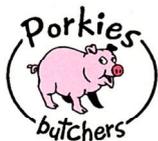
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