



Esh Leaves



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

Submit articles for the November 2009 edition to:

The Editor, 8 Long Garth, Durham City, DH1 4HJ or email to editor@langley-park.org.uk
or leave at Esh Village Store or Langley Park Post Office by 30 September 2009

ALL CHANGE AT REDTILES

Over the years many changes have taken place at the Kaysburn road junction near Langley Park. Before the present roundabout it was simply a 'T' junction, and the area took its name from a stream, called Kaysburn, that runs under the road and into a field next to the Filling Station. Yet, this area was also known by the name of Redtiles due to a Clay Pit and Brick and Tile Works situated behind the Filling Station. Of course the old Clay Pit has long since been filled in, and the Brick and Tile Works cleared. Nowadays there is no sign they were ever there, yet, the Redtiles name continues to this day as a reminder of all the bricks and tiles that were made there.



The completed new Redtiles Filling Station and Mace Store © Terry T.Chilton.

I have been talking to a gentleman who has lived in Langley Park for 87 years and he told me that during the early part of the last century a Mr. Benny Newton set up a garage in a First World War army hut to the front of the Clay Pit on the Durham to Consett road, where he installed an old fashioned hand operated petrol pump. This was the start of a Filling Station at Kaysburn supplying

fuel and oil to passing motorists. Later Benny's son Ronnie carried on the business and a bungalow was built for him and his wife next to the garage.

Over the years Texaco, and later BP, took over the site using modern electric petrol pumps. With a view to improving things even further, during March and April of this year, more changes were taking place. The original Filling Station canopy was taken down, petrol pumps were removed and the adjoining shop was carefully demolished.

After standing empty for a while the adjacent Philip Wilks Group garage and workshop were completely upgraded into a modern, light and airy Mace Store where you can browse and shop among the rows of food, tasty snacks, drinks, confectionary and groceries.

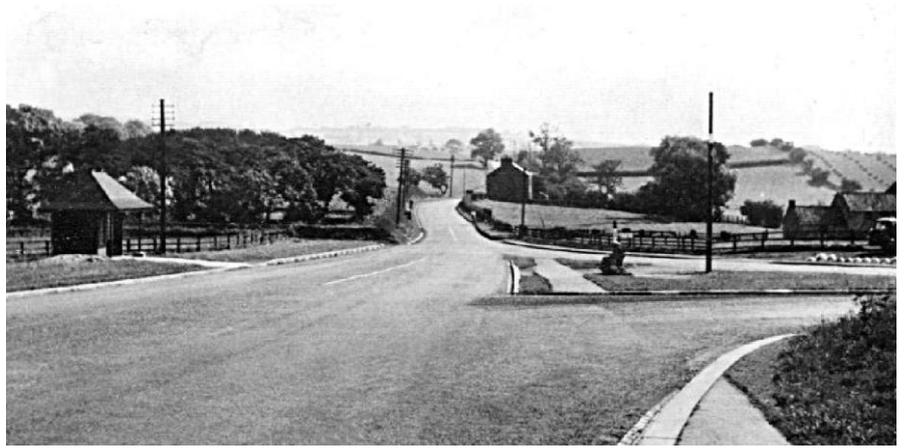


Work carried on rapidly during the alterations. The old forecourt was dug up and concrete laid to perfection as taller canopy supports were erected.

© Terry Chilton.

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During the alterations I was talking to the BP Site Manager John Marsland, a friendly and helpful man, who explained there would be three rows of pumps with the latest Multi-Media Screens advertising various items sold in the shop. He explained that the only original structures left standing in the old fuel pump area would be the large BP sign and Car Wash. The site would then be upgraded with a new forecourt.



An old photograph, probably taken in the early part of the last century, showing the Kaysburn (or Redtiles) area. In the centre is the, Kaysburn Cottages, and to the left a sturdy looking bus shelter. On the far right is a farm house (all now demolished).



The Manager is dressed as a Gorilla.
© Terry T. Chilton.



The finishing touches being added to the new Mace Store now in the building formerly the Philip Wilks Group garage and workshop.
© Terry T. Chilton.

The opening day was on Wednesday 1st July when the Redtiles Service Station staff were dressed in colourful costumes to make it a delightful and memorable occasion. There is no doubt the whole area is a vast improvement on the original site, that now provides their customers with more space and extra petrol pumps. Also the advantage of a well stocked store, that even has tables and chairs, where you can sit and have a cup of coffee to refresh you for the rest of your journey.

Terry Chilton.

North Area Local Policing Pledge

Our policing pledge is about delivering effective valuable policing, working with partners and communities to improve our service and your quality of life.

Our Pledge to you:

We will:

1. Always treat you fairly with dignity and respect ensuring you have fair access to our services at a time that is reasonable and suitable for you. This is at the heart of everything we are trying to achieve within the North Area BCU, linking into our Neighbourhoods Policing Model, our Citizen Focus, and ultimately the vision, to provide the best possible policing service for the North area community.

2. Provide you with information so you know who your dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team is, where they are based, how to contact them and how to work with them. This is a key part of our delivery of our Neighbourhood Policing model - the way we conduct our core business. Neighbourhood teams across the North Area will use posters to assist in the publication of the work they do supported by our web site that provides details on the teams and other information that the you may need.

3. Ensure your Neighbourhood Policing Team and other police patrols are visible and on your patch at times when they will be most effective and when you tell us you most need them. We will ensure your team are not taken away from neighbourhood business more than is absolutely necessary. They will spend at least 80% of their time visibly working in your neighbourhood, tackling your priorities. Staff turnover will be minimised.

Neighbourhood Policing within the North area is well developed, with a 'whole team' approach across the area working towards the priorities identified by you alongside the key crime reduction issues identified through intelligence gathering and information provided by the community. This means the focus of all our efforts is to deal with the issues that matter to you. Abstractions of officers on these teams is being kept to a minimum.

4. Respond to every message directed to our Neighbourhood Policing Teams within 24 hours and, where necessary, provide a more detailed response as soon as we can. Working with our HQ communications staff we seek to have appropriate processes in place to make sure that our Neighbourhood Teams can be contacted and that they will respond promptly to your request.

5. Aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds, deploying to emergencies immediately giving an estimated time of arrival, getting to you safely, and as quickly as possible. In urban areas, we will aim to get to you within 15 minutes and in rural areas within 20 minutes. This is a current performance indicator for the force. The control room constantly monitor their performance in this area and are working with staff from the North area to ensure that we seek to deliver these standards consistently.

6. Attend (when needed) any incident relating to a priority or if you are vulnerable or upset within 60 minutes.

We are implementing a new call handling system which identifies local priorities to our call centre staff, ensuring that these are dealt with within the required period, and providing them with additional information regarding that issue.

Where appropriate will also be happy to arrange appointments following the initial call. If you are vulnerable or upset, our staff are being trained to identify this, and to deal with you appropriately.

7. Arrange regular public meetings to agree your priorities, at least once a month, giving you a chance to meet your local team with other members of your community. These will include opportunities such as surgeries, street briefings which will be arranged to meet local needs and requirements. Each of the North Area Neighbourhood Teams hold regular public meetings. These are usually held in conjunction with our partners. These will be advertised through local media and posters, details can also be found on this website. Where, following specific incidents a need is identified to hold a public meeting this will be responded to promptly.

8. Provide monthly updates on progress, and on local crime and policing issues. This will include the provision of crime maps, information on specific crimes and what happened to those brought to justice, details of what action we and our partners are taking to make your neighbourhood safer and information on how your force is performing. Monthly updates and information about what has happened to those brought to justice and what we are doing to make the area where you live even safer are a standard feature of public meetings held by the Neighbourhoods teams, and are provided verbally, through posters and via the website. The media is also used to help publicise these messages at a local level. Durham Constabulary will publicise our crime maps on this website which we will also use to provide information on our activities within the North Area (Please note that as Durham County is one of the safest places in England, there can be very little deviation in some of the low crime levels around the county. Small fluctuations in actual crime numbers of crimes can therefore result in high swings in the percentage changes.)

9. If you have been a victim of crime agree with you how often you would like to be kept informed of progress in your case and for how long. You have the right to be kept informed at least every month if you wish and for as long as is reasonable. Ensuring user satisfaction and "follow up" satisfaction has recently been set as a measure of our success for 2009/10. We will strive to improve our performance in this area and will look closely at the Process we utilise to see where improvements can be made.

See page 4 for more on this item

10. Acknowledge any dissatisfaction with the service you have received within 24 hours of reporting it to us. To help us fully resolve the matter, discuss with you how it will be handled, give you an opportunity to talk in person to someone about your concerns and agree with you what will be done about them and how quickly.

This approach should already be taken by all managers within Durham Constabulary and the North Area when receiving a complaint from a member of the public regarding the service they have received.

What can you do?

You can help us improve your neighbourhood by volunteering some of your time as a Community Volunteer, as a Special Police Constable, by joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or by attending and participating in the Partnership and Community Together (PACT) meetings.

**WILDLIFE CORNER
SUMMER 2009**

I expect a large number of you have been watching Springwatch and seeing the sometimes strange and distressing relationships that birds can have.

During the second week in June, I went with a group from work (Natural England) to the Teesmouth Nature Reserve and was able to watch several different species of birds interacting.

The pond we were observing is salty, surrounded on three sides by heavy industry and on the fourth side by a busy road. On an island in the middle is a colony of common terns and nesting in the middle of them is an avocet.

There are several other avocet families around, with chicks from a day or two old to two or three weeks. The parents are very protective and watch carefully as the chicks wade about in the shallow water, learning how to find food. They settle regularly on the bank side to brood them and warm them up and let them sleep, as all young creatures need to do.

Every time a herring gull comes close, all the terns rise

in a group to see it off and the avocets rush about to collect their chicks together and reduce the chance that the gull might snatch one.



Tern © Glen Fergus

However, the relationships between the terns and the avocets are not entirely friendly and there is a strong territorial competition between them. Each time a single or pair of terns comes near the dabbling chicks, there is a squabble between the terns and the parent avocets.

The avocet that is nesting in the middle of the tern colony has quite a struggle to get back to her nest each time she leaves it. The protective terns (who don't eat eggs or chicks, unlike the gulls) are obviously an advantage to her, protecting her nest among theirs, so it is worth her while making the effort.

While we were watching, a magpie came and perched on a stump about 25 yards from the pond. In no time at all, it was being bombarded from the air by a pair of terns who

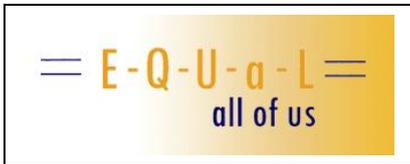
drove it down onto the ground, where a pair of avocets saw it and began to drive it away. It resisted being moved for about five minutes before it realised that all those chicks were well protected and would not provide it with an easy meal. It flew away disappointed. This time the prey species were successful and the predator magpie would have to find a meal somewhere else.

You might like to get out and do some 'live' observation yourself!

Alison

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Sadly, it appears that, by the time you read this, and we've held the AGM, EQUaL will be no more.

However, we should be celebrating! When we initiated this Community Partnership we had a detailed Village Appraisal. People put in their ideas as to what we needed in the four communities.

Everything that was highlighted as a priority has been achieved.

- We have a new playground in Quebec
- We have a refurbished playground in Esh
- We have a new playground in Langley Park
- The Old Rec in Langley Park has been transformed into a Nature Reserve – a quiet place for people as well as wildlife
- We are about to have a proper library – even if it's not quite the all singing, all dancing one we were hoping for
- Our concerns about speeding traffic have been addressed (though will it ever cease to be a problem?)
- The old cricket field fence has been replaced

Some of these things might have happened without EQUaL but I like to think that the pressure exerted by the people of the area allowed us to do what was needed.



The refurbished playground at Esh

Surely, without the fundraising efforts, not only of the EQUaL workers but the whole community (I'm thinking particularly of the voting for the People's Millions) we would never have the three playgrounds. The Parish Council is unable to bid for any of these funds, which are only available to community groups. They must raise their money by the Parish Precept, which is part of the Council Tax. EQUaL has brought almost half a million pounds into the ward during its lifetime, apart from putting pressure on the councils and the police authority to achieve what the community expressed a need for.

We should be celebrating our achievements. It was hard work but worth it!

People will surely be wanting other things in the future. If a new community partnership is needed, new people with fresh ideas can take it up. If that happens, GOOD LUCK!!!!

Alison

LANGLEY PARK CRICKET CLUB

The Club is currently trying to raise around £3000 in order to erect 9 x 6 metre poles and 9 x 6 metre tall sections of netting alongside the new wall opposite Clifford Street.



Batsman's eye view of the boundary wall from the crease

Alan Cassidy's has carried out some hard work upgrading the cricket ground and building this new wall, part funded by the former District Councillors, and boundary nets would help to finish off the job.

If anyone would like to sponsor the Club, towards the cost of this new equipment, they should contact the Chairman, Tom Huscroft, on 0191 3733033.

Incidentally Tom has advised Esh Leaves that planning permission has been obtained for this project. All that remains now is the question of that £3000 funding!



CHANGE4LIFE

Results from a massive survey of families who have registered with the Change4Life campaign show that almost three quarters (72 per cent) of children are not getting the recommended 60 minutes of daily activity outside of school. The 'How Are The Kids Survey', launched in January, was the biggest national survey of children's diet and activity levels and received more than 260,000 responses.

The survey also found that 45 per cent of kids watched TV or played non-active video games before school and only 22 per cent did something active after their evening meal.

Families who register at www.nhs.uk/Change4Life are sent tailor made support packs to help them make

small but important changes to their daily routines.

If we're going to cut obesity levels, our children need to be active for 60 minutes a day, on top of what they already do at school. The recommended levels of daily activity can be achieved either in one session, or through several shorter bouts of activity of 10 minutes or more.

Any family can get their own tailor made action plan from the Change4Life website or contact the public health team for information on support available locally.

By eating well and moving more, we can all live longer and healthier lives.

NEW PROGRAMME LOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DIABETES

The first two programmes of self care workshops for young people with Type 1 diabetes run by NHS County Durham has been such a huge success that they are now looking for volunteers for their next programme starting in September.

NHS County Durham was the first Primary Care Trust in the country to commission the 'Getting Sorted' programme which provides education and support to young people between the ages of 12 and 17 years to cope with the day to day problems that living with Type 1 diabetes can bring.

The workshops will run between 10am and 3.30pm

on Sundays from 6 September 2009 by the 'Getting Sorted' team who are looking for young volunteers in the 18 to 25 year group who have type 1 diabetes to act as facilitators in this next programme.

Each workshop is based around activities and games as well as looking at different ways of coping with the condition. The workshops are held in various sports centres across County Durham, rather than in a clinical atmosphere giving young people the freedom to talk about any issues surrounding their diabetes.

Anyone wanting further information or are interested in attending the workshops, or if you are aged 18 – 25, have Type 1 diabetes and would like to become a facilitator for these workshops we would like to hear from you, contact Mary Maplesden, Getting Sorted co-ordinator on 07534749660.

PARENTS URGED TO VACCINATE THEIR CHILDREN AGAINST MEASLES

Parents have been urged to protect their children against measles by taking up an important vaccine designed to safeguard their health.

The North East has recently seen its largest outbreak of the illness for almost 20 years – highlighting how crucial it is for youngsters to be vaccinated.

In County Durham and Darlington, about ten per cent



Child with measles and typical coryza

Head and shoulders of a boy with measles, third day of rash

18 days until the fever breaks, and nine to 21 days until a rash appears. Cases are infectious from the first day of fever to four days after the rash appears.

of children have not had the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) jab, putting them at considerable risk of developing serious illness.

Dr Tricia Cresswell, executive director of public health for County Durham and Darlington, said it was essential for parents of any children not already vaccinated to make an appointment at their GP practice as soon as possible.

“Measles can have serious consequences for anyone unfortunate enough to contract the illness. Its early symptoms are a fever that lasts for a couple of days, followed by a cough, runny nose and sticky red eyes. After a few days, small white spots may be seen and then, a few days later, a rash appears, starting on the face and upper neck, spreading down the upper body and then extending to the arms, hands, legs and feet.”

Dr Cresswell said that measles would already be infectious before such a rash had become visible, meaning sufferers were often unwittingly spreading the virus. The Measles’ incubation period is seven to

Most children who get measles are really quite poorly with a high temperature. There can also be an even more serious side to measles, with complications such as diarrhoea, chest and ear infections, and even pneumonia affecting one in six people.”

Dr Cresswell added: “Our message is quite clear – if you want your child to be protected against measles and these possible complications, they must receive the MMR vaccine.

“Children are offered vaccination between the ages of 12 and 15 months, and to be fully protected children aged over three-and-a-half must have a further dose of MMR vaccine before they start school. Older children who have not had their two doses of MMR should still have it and can get it free of charge from their GP or school nurse.

“This latest outbreak underlines the importance of vaccination for children of all ages, so we would implore parents to ensure they receive it.”



LIBRARY EVENTS

The next tiny tots music and story sessions at Langley Park Library will be Monday 3rd and Tuesday 18th August 2009 from 2.00pm to 2.30pm.

PROPOSED BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS, LANGLEY PARK

Councillor Joe Armstrong has advised Esh Leaves that during 2009/10 Durham County Council proposes to carry out work to remove and dispose of 2 bus stop signs/poles in Langley Park and upgrade 13 others.

A schedule of the proposed work is available for inspection in the Parish Office.

In addition a replacement bus shelter has been erected where the new cricket ground wall has been built.

HOME INDEPENDENCE SERVICE

EASIER SOLUTIONS TO BENDING

As we all get older our bodies may not move and bend as they use to! Picking things up from the floor and bending to put on socks and shoes can all become more difficult and time consuming. Help is available in the form of small and simple gadgets which may help to make the task easier.

Long shoe horns and elastic shoe laces may help you with putting shoes on/off
 Plastic gutter shaped aid may help with socks or stocking/tights

A long type stick with a pull handle at one end and a jaw section at the other end is called an easireacher and this can help to pick up lightweight items off the floor. Other known uses are helping to close curtains and switching light switches on/off!!

These and many more are all available to view and discuss with staff at the Home Independence Service, which is non profit making and funded through Durham County Council.

Abbey Day Centre, Pity Me, Durham DH1 5DQ
 Tel 0191- 3846726
 Stanley Day Centre, Wear Road, Stanley Tel 01207- 290581

Open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fridays 10.00 until 12.30 and 1.00 until 3.30pm

More information at www.durham.gov.uk/his

LOCAL SCHOOLS

ST MICHAEL'S RCVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer Fayre

On the 13th May the friends of St. Michael's Esh Laude organised a Summer Fayre to raise funds for the school. On

TRADING STANDARDS

CALLING ALL TRADESPEOPLE



Calling all builders, plumbers, electricians, decorators and gardeners! If you're working in construction and maintenance on homes in the county, we want to hear from you.

You can help our Trading Standards service stamp out bogus workmen and unwanted cold callers. How? By joining our list of vetted traders who are committed to working honestly and fairly. The County Durham Registered Trader Scheme was launched three years ago to help tackle doorstep crime and distraction burglary. The details of reputable traders are passed on to organisations who are often asked by members of the public for the names of reliable people to work on their homes. Craig Hudson from Trading Standards said: "We often hear complaints from householders who have work carried out on their houses only to find that if problems occur in the future, they can't track the traders down. This scheme aims to reduce such incidents and promote legitimate traders so people receive good service."

The scheme has over 110 members and is supported by partners, including the county's Community Safety Partnerships, the Police and other voluntary, public and private sector organisations, such as libraries, the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Neighbourhood Watch and the Social Care Direct Helpline.

If you are interested in joining the list, return the form to the address on page two. Or email tradingstandards@durham.gov.uk, www.countydurhamrts.org.uk

Countywide – Registered Trader Scheme:



Please send me further details about the registered Trader Scheme

Trading name: _____ Type of business: _____
 Address: _____ Postcode: _____
 Telephone: _____ Email _____
 Contact Name: _____

the day, unlike last year, it was blazing hot and lots of people came. There were many stalls including the toy tombola. Moreover, there was a fire engine and a reptile corner where you could hold the animals. At the fire engine you could use the hose and get safety tips about fires and how to contact them for help. There was also a coconut shy, run by Kevin Gannon. The rules were: you were allowed to have 3 goes to hit the coconut with the bean bag and the most coconuts you were allowed were 2. There was a lot of

entertainment, especially the bouncy castle which was £1 for 5 minutes, there was also a game called beat the goalie (run by Stuart and Miss Luke) and it was 50p for 3 shots and the only people who scored all of the 3 goals were Joseph Kelsey and Luke Chapman. Tracy Russell's gift shop is a real shop in Langley Park and she kindly brought some things from her shop to sell at the Fayre. One of the best things was the face painting run by Miss Hall and Jan Blakey. Next to the face painting was the hair braiding and French Plaiting which

were both £1. There were refreshments including hot dogs, drinks and ice creams.

Many thanks to
The Friends of the School,
Sister Anna,
The children and the parents
who supported us!

by Georgia Gannon and
Caitlin Hodgson.

A Fun Filled Week of Activities

Fortunately, after a stressful week of SATS we were lucky enough to have a fun filled week of activities ahead of us.

Our first adventure began as we entered Kielder Forest. My classmates and I walked a staggering seven and a half miles in the treacherous rain. Eventually the rain came to a halt and we were able to enjoy a playful afternoon in the park. Watching the birds of prey we were dazzled by how obedient the birds were for their owners; as we held the baby owls it made our day.



Kielder Forest
© www.freefoto.com

To have the opportunity to look at life as a Victorian child showed the children how fortunate they are. The pupils visited Beamish Museum to experience the work of a miner. As we stumbled on the cobbles of the street we entered the sweet shop where the air was filled with a sweet smell of cotton candy.

The children were taken to Seaham Harbour to take part in a coastal walk, look at all of the wildlife and hear about the geology of the region. The pupils went through a cave that had been eroded by the waves. They were able to dig in the sand and look for the glamorous stones hidden underground. We went on the man made beach and piled up stones to see who could build the tallest tower.

On Thursday morning an artist came in to work with Class Six. He showed the children many different styles of art and how to mix different colours to make the one you need. He showed Class Six how to fold and cut paper to make an eye catching pattern.

Bedes World was a fantastic day out for the pupils as they got to learn about the Anglo Saxons and the Monks. We were taken to a farm to see all of the different animals and to learn what they were used for. The children had the chance to dress up and see what weapons Anglo Saxons used to kill the animals so that they were able to feed their family.

by Scarlett and Jade

LANGLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL – BASKETBALL

Over 60 primary school children from around the County had a fabulous afternoon of basketball competition at Ferryhill Leisure Centre on Tuesday 3rd March 2009 in the Durham County Primary Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament. Organised by the Durham County Competition Managers and officiated by members of Durham Wildcats Basketball Club, 10 teams competed for the trophy.



Matthew Rowe, Chloe Turnock, Josh Layton, John Fortune, Zack Guendouz, Thomas Henderson and Ryan Nelson receive trophies from Wildcats Stephen Jones



Most valued player was Ryan Nelson from Langley Park

GOODWILL TRIP

To those going on the trip to South Shields on 3rd August 2009, have a good day and don't forget to take some photos for the next edition of Esh Leaves.

NEWS FROM USHAW COLLEGE

HISTORIC USHAW DANCES INTO ITS FUTURE



Ushaw College has set out an astonishing range of plans for its future development. Its plans include an intention to re-structure and improve its conference and events centre and to develop a Heritage Centre, Outdoor Public Events, Leisure Breaks and water sports on a newly restored lake plus a Public Park and Family Attractions with many other ideas being developed.

Director of Finance and Commercial Development, Kay Wightman said: "Conferencing and business meetings are not all we do here. We can host almost any kind of meeting or event having recently held a motorbike rally and a classic tractor rally. This weekend we were all dancing at a charity ceilidh while also hosting the RVI's poignant memory day for bereaved families. We are hosting all kinds of events for charities, businesses and schools and these new developments mean our plans for the future show no sign of slowing! "

Kay continues: "We want local people local businesses and local groups to get involved with what we are planning so a Volunteer Week has been organised from Monday 21st – Friday



Tractor Rally at Ushaw College

25th September 2009. Volunteers can come and have a free lunch with us and help tidy our gardens as eventually these will become a park local families can use. During the week we will be asking local children for their help to design the park. We also want to invite ex employees and local historians to lunch on the 23rd of September 2009 at 12.30. Anyone with an interest in Ushaw's history or Catholic history in Durham and the north is welcome to get involved with our Heritage Centre plan. We would also love to see your photos and share your memories of Ushaw in past years for the archive we are building".

For more information please contact:

Colin Murphy Waters,
Development Manager, Ushaw
Conferencing & Events, Durham
DH7 9RH

Tel: 0191 3738504 Fax: 0191
3738503 E-mail:
colin.waters@ushaw.ac.uk

EVENTS AT USHAW COLLEGE

Tractor Fans converge on Ushaw College

After a 22 year wait the National Vintage Tractor Road Run finally arrived at Durham. Over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend

over 250 tractors of all shapes and sizes converged at Ushaw College for the annual Run.

There were tractors everywhere ranging from a couple of 1941 Farmall models to a more modern 1990's Ford 7810. Some had travelled from as far afield as Cornwall, Devon, Kent and even Quebec! Which one you are asking!

The Run set off in the most glorious weather from the College grounds on Easter Sunday morning. The 25 mile route covered a host of local villages, with some field driving included, before finishing back at the College in the early afternoon. We are

Esh Leaves

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

pleased to report that all the tractors finished the course with only one temporary breakdown reported.

The event attracted over 600 visitors and raised more than £13,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Epilepsy Action.

The Run moves from county to county each year and is usually organised locally. Brian Watson from Esh Winning, together with his wife Joyce, did the honours this time spending many long hours planning the event and were mightily relieved when it was all over.

Brian and Joyce, who sadly lost a 23 year old son after an epileptic fit over 12 years ago, said they were delighted that the event had been such success and had raised so much money for their chosen charities.

Brian's final thought was to thank everyone concerned for all their hard work and Joyce's memorable moment was to see all 350 tractors ready for the start of the Run. We have captured that moment with a photograph provided by Ushaw College on page 10.

Well done Brian, Joyce and anyone else who helped in making the event such a success. Sorry to say the next time the Run is scheduled for Durham is 2034 – perhaps organised by another member of the Watson family!

Editor's note

This is not the end of the story as the organisers will be holding a Dinner and Presentation evening at Ushaw College on Saturday 31st October 2009 commencing at 7.30pm.

For further details contact Joyce Watson on 01913735011.

Blue Knights Rally

The England 3 Chapter of the Blue Knights held their annual rally over the weekend of Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th May at Ushaw College, Durham. The Rally is very much based on the historical ties Durham has with the church.

To celebrate the event they named it "The Benedictus Rally" in association with the Durham Brewery* who made a special edition of their Benedictus Beer**.

On the Saturday around 30 bikes set off for a Poker Run around the roads of Durham and visited some of the historical sites en route.

The Rev Roz blessed the bikes on the Saturday prior to setting off on the poker run. The event had great coverage in the local press and TV and over £2000 was raised for the UKCOPS charity.

Visitors to the rally included Blue Knights from Germany, Belgium, Scotland and other English Chapters.

* The Durham Brewery, which is based in Bowburn, has been in business since 1994, and is run by Steven and Christine Gibbs. They brew a variety of beers and the Blue Knights have named their future annual rallies after the beers as they all have an association with the Land of the Prince Bishops.



Blue Knights Rally

****Benedictus Silver Medalist at the CAMRA National Winter Ales Festival 2008 in the Barley Wines category.**

England 3 visit -
www.bkengland3.co.uk
Durham Brewery visit -
www.durham-brewery.co.uk/html-files/index.html

LANGLEY PARK MINING AND MEMORIES GROUP

There are two major news items from the Langley Park Mining and Memories group.

The group has also been approached as one of thirty community groups throughout the county to take part in the 'Durham In Time' Project. The project has been set up to help community groups keep their collections of photographs and artefacts in pristine condition and to ensure that information on the history of the area is available for the local community and others.

As a result of this, the group has been offered a series of web pages to the Durham In Time website for the use of the community project. Talks are to take place with the project organisers to see how best we can make the project work locally and to display the results on the website.

The Langley Park Mining and Memories group has information and pictures on many aspects of living in the village, principally of course, referring to Langley Park Colliery which opened in 1875 alongside the Durham

to Consett Railway Line, thus setting in motion the birth of the village of Langley Park. Although the colliery was closed in 1975, it is amazing how much interest there is in remembering and marking its existence. The web pages will not be totally be used for information about the mine – there are many other issues of historical value to do with the village that would be interesting to both villagers and the wider community.



Langley Park Colliery

This is an exciting project and the group is proud to take part.

Beamish Museum is also to loan the group equipment to conduct oral history interviews with a number of people of the village so that eventually the group can compile further village heritage booklets. The project will last for a year and if you are interested and would like to take part, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to be interviewed. All the audio interviews will then be deposited in the Beamish Museum Heritage Centre and the interviews will be used to examine the development of ex-mining communities.

Initially, there are three groups of twenty people who we would need to approach to be interviewed:

- (a) Men, work and life in Langley Park
- (b) Women, work and life in Langley Park
- (c) Those who participated in the Soapbox project in the 1980's.

A transcribed copy of all interviews will be given to the participants taking part.

Each of us has a story to tell that illustrates the social structure in an ex-mining community which will be of interest - so now is the time to get out those old memories and make your voice heard.

If you are interested in this project and would like more information, please contact Anne Suddick, Secretary, Langley Park Mining and Memories Group, 9 Aged Miners Homes, Langley Park email:

annesuddickis@talktalk.net

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This is an exciting project and the group is proud to take part.

Just a note of thanks to Reay's Newsagents who have been willing to act as go-betweens for people to pick up booklets – thus saving us a lot in postage.

Anne Suddick

THE STEELERS

Steelers FC are a football team local to the Parish and their home base has been The Hamsteels Inn at Quebec for three years, although we have just agreed a deal to play at the Esh Winning AFC ground for the 2009/2010 season. The club was founded in 2006 and the



Steelers FC

season that has just ended was their third year in the Durham & District Sunday League.

Raising revenue and funds is always a mammoth task and it is for this reason that the club has a huge thank you to say to Neil Gregory from Langley Park Travel. Neil decided to assist the club towards the end of the campaign that has just finished by offering to purchase a set of new strips. After a couple of meetings together, the design and colour was agreed and the new strip was ordered, complete with a two coloured sponsors logo for the shirt front. The management were over the moon when the strips arrived as the existing all white strip from our founding season was looking a little jaded and faded.

It was hoped that the team would probably get the chance to air the new strip in a final at Ferrens Park but

this opportunity fell through when the team were beaten 1-0 away to Newton Aycliffe in the semi final. Plan B came into operation and with Neil's consent the strip was finally paraded at a home league game in March.

Kerry Moralee, who designs and maintains the club web site www.steelers-fc.co.uk has added a link to Langley Park Travel on the home page and we hope that this advertisement will help Langley Park Travel's business as the number of hits the site gets a month is quite high.

Finally, may the management of Steelers FC thank all those who have supported, watched and assisted the team over the past months but can we offer special thanks to Neil for his help and generosity with, what we think is a lovely strip.

What is CE Electric UK?

We provide electricity for the North East of England, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire through our companies - Northern Electric Distribution Limited (NEDL) and Yorkshire Electricity Distribution plc (YEDL).

What is the priority services register?

It is a database of around 170,000 homes that benefit from priority treatment during a power cut. The number of homes on the register has doubled in the last three years and we are keen to add more, which is why we have produced this leaflet.

What are the benefits of going on the register?

There are several. First, you'll receive a welcome pack with tips about how to save energy and helpful advice about how to prepare for a power cut. More importantly, you'll be given a special priority phone number that you can call if you do have a power cut.

What happens when I call the priority number?

You'll get straight through to one of our specially trained agents in our customer relations centre, which is open 24 hours a day.

What can the agent do for me?

They will give you the latest information about the fault and do their best to call you back and tell you when your power is due to go back on. Sometimes during long power cuts, or if you have special needs, we could ring you back six or seven times.

What sort of things can the agent help me with?

That depends on your circumstances. We may be able to arrange for the charity WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service) to bring you a hot meal and hot drinks. Some people receive a visit from one of our staff and are given one of our 'winter-warmer packs' which contain a wind-up torch, a radio, and blankets. In some cases, we might lend you a small generator, particularly if you need electricity for medical or other equipment. We may also send our customer service vehicle to a site close to your home so that you can get hot drinks and snacks.

Who can sign-up for the register?

Anyone with special needs. This is not just limited to people with stairlifts or other equipment that is powered by electricity, such as oxygen concentrators, nebulisers, home dialysis units, sleep apnoea monitors, ventilators, and heart-lung machines. You can also join the register if you:

- Are over 60;
- Are seriously ill;
- Are disabled or have disabled children at home; or
- Have sight or hearing difficulties

Most people stay on the register for years after they join but some are only on it for a limited time. Examples include someone caring for a young baby or a sick relative who gets better overtime.

Does it cost anything to go on the register?

No, it is free.

How do I put my name on the register?

Fill in the form opposite, then tear the form out and return it to us in the self-addressed envelope provided. There's no need to put a stamp on the envelope.

What happens if I have a problem with filling in the form?

Call our helpline on 0800 169 2996 and we'll be happy to help you. Our lines are open 24 hours a day.

Is there anything else I should know?

One final point. We'll do our best to help you but you can also help yourself by making arrangements to help you manage during a power cut. These could include: having a phone that does not rely on a mains electricity supply; keeping a torch at hand; and buying a heater that does not use electricity. If you need equipment that is powered by electricity for medical or other needs, your doctor or social services can help you make arrangements. These might involve buying or being supplied with a generator.

SIR BOBBY ROBSON FOUNDATION TRIP TO SEAHOUSES

On Saturday the 28th March two coach loads of people braved the rain and cold to help raise money for The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

A stop at Heighley Gate Garden Centre proved very popular then on to Seahouses for the rest of the day where most people enjoyed the traditional fish and chips.

A total of £1345 was raised.

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise money for this very worthy cause.

Dorothy Madrell
Alan Madrell Coaches

NEWS FROM OUR YOUNG ATHLETES

We have previously reported on young Chloe Tindale's successes in the Tumbling events well now we have two more young athletes to tell you about.

FLYING THE FLAG IN BULGARIA

Emily Forsyth, and her partners Carys Risdale and Fiona Hogg, recently travelled to Bulgaria, to represent Great Britain in the 3rd ACRO International Tournament in Samakov, a competition featuring more than 200 gymnasts from 23 clubs across Europe and from Israel.

The trio, who train at Deerness Gymnastics High



Sir Bobby Robson Foundation trip to Seahouses

Performance Centre, are coached by Vicki Kirkham and Katie Lawton, and earlier this year they won gold in the under 17 women's age group at the British Championships in Stoke.

Portugal, later this year. We are delighted to report that all their hard training has been rewarded as the team has been chosen to take part in the Championships and we wish them all the very best.



Emily, Fiona and Carys in Bulgaria

Emily, Carys and Fiona were very successful in their first international event, winning gold in the dynamic exercise, a bronze in the balance exercise and overall took the silver medal - a total of 9 medals and more success for the British squad! The girls completed an initial trial in Loughborough, and a second selection event on 5th July 2009, for a place in the European Age Group Championships to be held in

Emily recently received a grant, generously donated by Esh Parish Council, and we would like to express our appreciation for this token of support.

Editor's note

Well done Emily and the rest of your team. If any of our readers would like to sponsor Emily would they please contact her mother, Gillian Forsyth, on 0191 3739977 for further details.

ANOTHER AWARD WINNING TUMBLER

Rachel Davies has been tumbling for the last three years. During that time she has made considerable progress, particularly in the last year.

At a local scale, she won gold medals in the last three Deerness Valley Tumbling Competitions in her age group and competed regularly for the club in the National Team Tumbling League. Last year, she was nominated for a Northern Echo Local Heroes award and was a runner up at the presentation evening.



Rachel accepting her Gold medal at the British Tournament in November 2008

Nationally, in March 2008, she won the bronze medal at the British Championships and was subsequently selected for the National Squad.

In September of that year, she attended her first international competition in Loule, Portugal. Although she was not placed, this provided valuable international experience for her and she very much enjoyed the opportunity.

In November 2008, she won a gold medal at the British

Tournament, becoming the first ever gymnast in her age group to complete a run ending in a double somersault. She was then re-selected onto the National Squad for a second year. Earlier this year she competed in Sofia, Bulgaria as part of the Great Britain team, winning the silver medal in her age group.

She is currently training for the trials for the 2009 world championships which are due to take place in September. They will be held in St Petersburg, Russia, at the end of November. We hope that she will gain one of four places on that team.

Last year Rachel received a grant, generously donated by Esh Parish Council, and the family would like to express their appreciation for this token of support.

Editor's note

Well done Rachel – and yet another success for one of our young local athletes!

If any reader would like to sponsor Rachel would they please contact her mother, Caroline Davies, on 0191 3736202.

UNICYCLE RIDE IN AID OF DOROTHY'S WELL PROJECT

My name is Ben Broome, I'm 14 and from Esh. In August I will be Unicycling from Edinburgh to 'Grey's Monument' in Newcastle (a journey of roughly 200 miles). The ride will take just over a

week, I will be riding on the 'Coasts and Castles' cycle route and will be covering 20 – 30 miles a day.

I am raising money for Dorothy's Well Project, a locally based charity funding the drilling of a well in Tanzania. The women of the village have to walk many miles a day in order to fetch buckets of dirty water for their families.

To sponsor Ben telephone 01913737864.



Ben on his unicycle

40 YEARS ON.....A SISTERS TALE

As a young 5 year old my parents took me to Newcastle Airport to meet my brother. Yes I thought planes and a ride in the car were exciting for a child - not that my brother had just scored the winning goal for Newcastle United in the 1969 Fairs Cup. Alas the last cup they have won (if am right in saying so).

Along with lots of people and football fans all waving black/white scarves, (that's all you could buy those days) as we made our way back to St

James Park. My dad and I, together with other family members, were escorted to pitchside. My mum was allowed to go and have photos taken with my brother, the team, manager Joe Harvey and the Fairs Cup. No WAGS, or high class stuff in those days, as the open topped bus was surrounded by screaming fans.

Now, 40 years on, I am an excited 45 year old spending hours on the internet googling Newcastle United and the Fairs Cup, dusting off my autograph book and wondering how much it's worth on ebay. My idol was Jimmy Smith (Jinky Jim).

My brother brought the Fairs Cup back to show my mum, and her new found friends in the Southern Cross Care Home in Langley Park.

Oh yes my brother's name ... Alan Foggon

SPONSORED ZIP WIRE

To celebrate his 80th birthday Pat Bland of Davis Crescent, Langley Park zip wired across the Stadium of Light and



Pat Bland with former Sunderland skipper Kevin Ball



Lisa Dent, Neil Wadge and Michelle Vasey enjoy a magical moment holding the Inter City Fairs Cup. (Top left inset Alan Foggon)

raised £350 for the Sunderland AFC Foundation.

Pat is a founder member of the Langley Park branch of Sunderland AFC and follows the "Black Cats" at home and away matches.

Pat said "I enjoyed it and would do it again; I would like to thank my friends, local neighbours and fellow Sunderland supporters for sponsoring me and raising £350 towards a good cause".

The Langley Park branch organises two buses to the home games. Bus one picks up supporters at Lanchester, Langley Park, Witton Gilbert, Sacriston, Framwellgate Moor and West Rainton. The second bus picks up at Esh Winning,

Ushaw Moor, Broompark, Nevilles Cross and Durham.

For further details and times of pick up contact Lol Vickers (07903795410).

The branch also runs a bus to all away matches, for further details contact David Christian (07713332763).

WATT'S WORDS OF WISDOM

Friends

How nice it is for friends to meet
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A cup of tea and biscuit
And pleasant company
A chat about the good old days
And how things used to be

We didn't have a tele
Or a mobile phone
But with the friends like we had
We never were alone

JOHN FOSTER'S HALL OF FAME

JACK DAVIS

On this occasion there is a memory of the days when the railway played an important role in passenger and goods transportation. Langley Park never had a railway station so it was Witton Gilbert that was designated as the local station.

The subject of this article is John Davis (known by everyone as Jack). Born in June 1907 was one of four sons born to Edward and Harriet Davis, licensees of 'The Grey Horse' public house in Sherburn Village

He attended the village school and became a choirboy at St. Mary's Church in Sherburn. He was considered good enough to apply for a place in the Durham Cathedral choir but turned it down, as he did not like the uniform he would have to wear.

In his younger days he played football for Chopwell, a team in the North East Football League Second Division. At the end of the 1930-1931 season they became champions of the league and he was presented with a gold medal. He took up an offer to join the prestigious Crystal Palace squad but a knee injury ended his sporting ambitions.

In Durham he became a porter and gained experience in the work of the railway world and had many



Jack Davis at Witton Gilbert signal box interesting stories to tell of his time there. This was when the station dealt with local as well as main line passenger services.

Jack married Ellen (known as Nell) Rutherford in 1934 and they moved into a railway house at Tursdale. Here, in the following year, daughter Maureen was born. The family would eventually move to another railway house this one in Shincliffe and here son Barry came into the world. Sadly Barry died at the early age of 29 in 1966.

In 1938 Jack was given the job of porter and signalman at Witton Gilbert Station and he was employed there until his retirement. Until 1939 passenger trains were regularly running on the line and then it was goods traffic only.

Initially the family resided at Station Cottages where Maureen's sister Gwen was born in 1947. By the early 1950s they had moved across to the Station House.

In his spare time he took a keen interest in gardening, the railway houses having large gardens meant he was in his element cultivating

flowers and vegetables and also growing gooseberries, red currants, strawberries, cooking apples, pears and plums in abundance.

Jack also did some part time work keeping order at the Hippodrome Cinema in Langley Park and was for a time a collector for

Provident Clubs.

At All Saints Church in the village he was known as a member of the choir and a very active member of the Whinney Hill School where his son had been a pupil. When Langley Park Church Hall became the Youth Centre he was busily engaged in fund raising activities.

In later years he looked after the security for Eurochem a firm that took over buildings on the Witton Gilbert Station site.

He was the proud possessor of a gold watch that was presented to him for fifty years service on the railways.

In his latter days he suffered much through ill health and in December 1982 he died having suffered a heart attack.

© John C. Foster 2009

LOOKING AT LANGLEY PARK

John C Foster presented a cheque for £2000 to the Langley Park Branch of the Friends of Durham Hospitals.

This being the profits from the sale of the book "Looking at Langley Park".



Mr Foster would like to thank all who collaborated and kindly bought the book. Copies have been dispatched to many parts of the Country and to locations abroad.

Mr Foster is pictured with Maud Lowdon and Maureen Saville of Friends of Durham Hospitals.

RECONNECTING WITH THE PAST

The last issue of 'Esh Leaves' brought a nice surprise for one of our readers.

When Liz Hawxwell took a copy of the magazine to her mother, Mary Dawson who lives in Spennymoor, she was quite surprised when Mary rang her to say that she had read the section on booklets that were available in the village, and was sure that she recognised Bill Hitch, whose Bevin Boy experiences had been documented by the Langley Park Mining and Memories Group in the booklet 'Bill Hitch – A Bevin Boy's Tale'.

Liz sought a copy of the book and took it to her mother who was surprised to find that it contained a photograph of a wedding group featuring Bill and his young bride Eleanor who was Mary's cousin. Mary had been a fourteen-year-old bridesmaid at their wedding and the wedding group photograph was featured in the booklet. This confirmed Mary's certainty that she knew Bill Hitch and that he had married her cousin Eleanor. Unfortunately, Eleanor had passed away, and Mary and Bill lost touch with each other.

But Mary's view that Bill himself had passed away some ten years ago was swiftly dispelled and the mining group were happy to put them in touch with each other. Liz wrote to Bill on her mother's behalf and the day he received that letter, Bill got in touch with Mary by telephone.

Bill told 'Esh Leaves' that he was very surprised to hear from Mary. "Mary's husband

was in the RAF and moved around to wherever he was posted, including to Cyprus, and that's how we lost contact. I am really delighted that we are in touch again."

Mary said 'When I saw the name, I wondered if it was the same Bill Hitch who had married my cousin, and I was delighted when I saw the wedding photo in the booklet and realised it was the same man and that I was on the wedding photograph. We had a long chat on the telephone and the memories were still fresh after all these years. Bill was always a kind and gentle man and we are going to keep in touch. I am so glad that the article was featured in 'Esh Leaves'.

If you have any experiences where Esh Leaves has been instrumental in uniting people, then we would be delighted to hear them. Just contact the Editor, 'Esh Leaves' at Esh Parish Council Office, Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park or by email editor@langley-park.org.uk



The Wedding Group featured in the Bill Hitch booklet
Note: Mary is the bridesmaid on the left.

WICKED WITCH GOLF SOCIETY

Once again The Wicked Witch Golf Society's tournament was held in support of Willow Burn Hospice, Lanchester.

The golfing event which took place on 22nd May 2009 broke their own record for this event, by raising an amazing £4,200!! The cheque was recently presented to the Willow Burn fundraising and nursing team at the Hospice premises.

This annual event which is organized by Michael Hunt, Stewart Thompson and sponsored by Tates Security Services Ltd of Langley Park is inspired by the hard work and amazing efforts of the nurses, volunteers and staff at Willow Burn Hospice.

Margaret Toberty, Willow Burns Community Fundraiser, was overwhelmed to receive such a substantial amount and wishes to thank The Wicked Witch Golf Society & Tates Security Services, The Glendenning Arms (and everyone who took part and supported the event) for their ongoing commitment to



Wendy Wilson, Pam Tate, Laura Tate (Pam's Daughter) and Margaret Toberty.

Willow Burn Hospice.

Anyone who would like to enter a team for this event in 2010 or even learn more about Wicked Witch's work, please call Mr Michael Hunt on : 01913712592.

BRIAN FIRBANK

Shortly before going to press we heard of the sad death of a very popular local character Brian Firbank.

Brian (61) had owned the barber's shop in Front Street, Langley Park (next to Pagebet Bookies) since the late 1960's. The premises were previously owned by Harry Collinson who had a chiropody practice in the front room, with his daughter using the back room as a hairdressing salon. Brian was trained at Browns of Framwellgate Moor and had several well known clients in his career including the Russian World Cup



Brian and his Father in the shop
© Richard Firbank

team in July 1966 and more recently our local group Prefab Sprout (from Langley Park to Memphis fame).

Brian, a Langley Park lad, through and through, was a great country and western fan, loved his darts and football (Sunderland AFC) and enjoyed his

many trips to family members in North and South Yorkshire.

Although Brian did not enjoy the best of health he always kept a cheerful manner with customers and will be greatly missed. His funeral was attended by many folk such was the respect for this endearing local character.

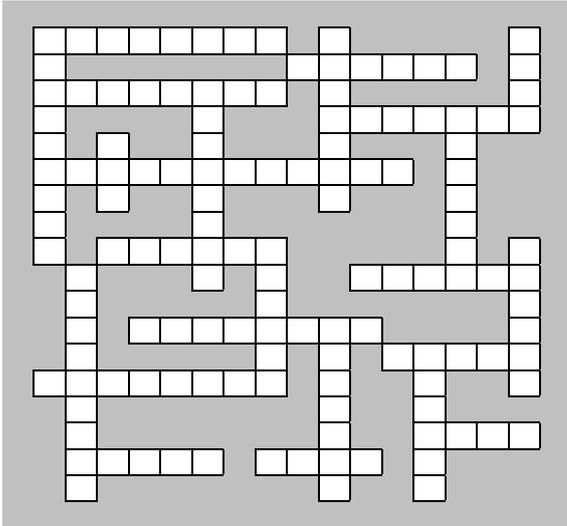
We have been extremely fortunate in obtaining a copy of a photograph, taken in 1998, of Brian and his father "Tot" who was often to be found in the shop until his death in May 2000. Our thanks go to Richard Firbank for the loan of this precious item.

I was also one of Brian's regular customers and will miss my visits to his quirky little shop and the chance to read his morning newspaper!

Your Editor

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adults can
drive real
diggers and
so much
more!



DIGGERLAND
THE ULTIMATE ADVENTURE PARK EXPERIENCE

Rides, drives, static displays and play areas

Call 0871 22 77 007 or visit www.diggerland.com

Open 10.00-5.00pm weekends and 7 days a week during school holidays

Riverside Industrial Estate
Langley Park,
Co. Durham,
DH7 9TT

Are you looking for a unique and exciting day out for the whole family then look no further than action packed Diggerland. The Langley Park attraction is open every day during the school holidays for you and your youngsters to experience the thrill of driving and riding on real diggers!

Diggerland is the only place to offer everyone from the age of five the chance to ride and drive full size JCB Diggers and lots more!

Test your driving skills on the Dumper Trucks, Robots and Go-Karts. Improve your hand eye-co-ordination on the Mini JCB Challenges and save the ducks in the Dippy Ducks challenge. Find buried treasure, knock down skittles and dig a giant hole on the Giant Dirt Diggers! Experience the ultimate adrenaline rush on Spin Dizzy and take in the fantastic views from Sky Shuttle 50ft in the air.

Diggerland is also home to an indoor play area and The Goodie Store for all your Digger toys and gifts. Experience all of this and more at Diggerland this summer! For admission prices please log on to www.diggerland.com or call 0871 22 77

4 FOR 3

1 person free with 3 full paying entries

Terms and Conditions
1. Valid at Durham park only 2. Not Valid with any other offer or
discounted entry

3. Only one voucher per transaction permitted.

Tel: 0871 22 22 007 www.diggerland.com



Voucher Code: 40008