

# Esh Parish Council News



February 2011



[www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Volume 2, Issue 2

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



## Parish Paths work at the Recreation Ground

Following work parties on the 8th and 12th January the volunteers uncovered the 3 metre wide tarmac path with, in places, concrete edging! Twenty two volunteers turned out on Saturday and twenty one on Wed, plus 3 DCC staff, and on the Saturday three extra DCC staff to work the chainsaw and chipper. Wood chippings were laid at the northern end to define the path. These will blend in over time and by then local residents and walkers will be aware of the path. A tarmac section has also been dug out and scraped clean. Unfortunately, even though the volunteers worked really hard, they did run out of time and the top section of the path, though cleared of bushes, still needs scraping off and even with the chipper



going full tilt there are still a few piles to be chipped. This path is part of the Esh Parish Walk, and is all ready for 'Beating the Bounds' on May 29th – but don't wait till then! A leaflet and map explain the walk is available from the Harry Guildford Centre, and from our website <http://www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk/AboutEsh/EshBdArtLast.pdf> You don't have to do the full eight miles, the walk can be divided into smaller sections.



Esh Parish Council have arranged meetings with the Citizens Advice Bureau for residents who would like **free confidential advice** on a wide range of concerns.

These will be held in the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street Langley Park from **10.00am to 11.00am** on the following **Wednesdays**.

**9th February; 9th March; 13th April; 11th May; 8th June 2011**

No appointment needed.



## Fed up with potholes?

Damage to pavements and potholes on the roads can cause damage to vehicles

injury and to pedestrians. If you see anything in need of repair then contact HAL.

Durham County Council's Highways Action Line (**HAL**) is a one-stop call centre that enables you to report any road and lighting defects and hazards quickly and easily. You can contact HAL on **0191 370 6000**.

The Highways Action Line is open 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday. For emergency situations outside these hours, you can still contact Durham County Council on **0191 370 6000**.

You can also report a fault or make an enquiry using the HAL Online Form at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) or the email address [hal@durham.gov.uk](mailto:hal@durham.gov.uk)

You can even use the line to report blocked street drains, faulty street lights and traffic lights!



# The Durham Railway Paths Network

## 'Your Gateway to the Durham Countryside'

Project partners are seeking to develop a masterplan improving the existing path network by hinging communities as a platform to explore and exercise in the outdoors.



Come and give your views on the Railway Paths!

Lanchester Valley Way

- How are they important to you?
- How could they be improved?
- What would you like to see?

Deerness Valley Way

Broompark

Brandon to Bishop Auckland Way

d3-associates and Southern Green Landscape Architects have been appointed by Durham County Council and the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership, to undertake a masterplan of the railway path network that runs throughout the West Durham area. The aim of the masterplan is to provide an overview of the proposed improvements which can be made to this valuable community resource so that it is enhanced for generations to come. The railway paths are an extensive network of accessible walkways that cater for multi-users (cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders), and lie adjacent to many towns and villages along the way. As part of this process they would therefore very much like to understand what the local communities views are on the area at present and to gain an understanding of how they think the railway paths network could be developed for present enjoyment and for generations to come. Residents will be able to have their say with a questionnaire to be delivered shortly, comments boxes will be situated in local community venues or can be downloaded from [www.d3-associates.co.uk](http://www.d3-associates.co.uk). You can also contact Emma Fox, of d3-Associates, on 01434 610434 to discuss anything.

Natural Based Play



Site Interpretation



Community Food Production



Changing Railway Path Directions



Adding Colour To Your Neighbourhood



Encouraging wider user groups



Sculpture



Community Seating



Outdoor Learning



## Valentines Candlelit Supper

Friday 18th February

7.30 p.m. at

Esh C of E Primary School

Proceeds in aid of St Michael & All  
Angels Church Funds.

Tickets Adults £5 Children £2  
from

**Liz Porteus, Glebe Cottage, Esh  
3732875**

Please note that tickets for the cancelled  
Advent supper can be used.



## Sunday Bonus

The Cross Keys, Esh will start  
taking bookings for Sunday  
lunches as from the 13th February.

Licenses Mark and Mary have  
decided to open initially on this limited basis  
due to popular demand and hope to have the  
restaurant fully open by March.

So every Sunday 12noon—3.00 p.m.

1 Course £6. 50

2 Courses £8. 50

3 Courses £10. 50

Booking is advisable on 0191 373 1279

## Did you know?

- ◆ Copies of this newsletter are available in Langley Park at the Post Office, Reay's Newsagents, Library, the Londis Shop, Harry Guildford Centre and Wood View Community Centre. Earlier issues are available at the Harry Guildford Centre.
- ◆ Proposed changes to subsidised bus services can be found on the Durham County Council web site at -  
**[www.durham.gov.uk/  
Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=904](http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=904)**
- ◆ The next meeting of the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership is on Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at Castleside Village Hall at 6.00pm.
- ◆ You can recycle with **Freagle!** Stop throwing things away! If you live in the Durham city area, please offer your reusable items to other group members and ask for items as well! Just log onto **[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
group/durham\\_freagle/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durham_freagle/)**



## Police and Communities Together—PACT

Do you want to find out what agencies such as Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary are doing about crime and anti-social behaviour in your area?

If so, The Safe Durham Partnership supports PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings, which are held every month.

Identifying local problems at the meetings, residents identify crime and anti-social behaviour issues they feel are important for local action.

Meetings are open to everyone and are attended by Safe Durham Partnership representatives such as Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

**Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Wood View Community Centre, Langley Park.**

**Meetings start at 6 p.m. and will last no longer than one hour.**

**Come along and share your views.**

Dates of the first five PACT meetings are:

**1st February 2011**

**1st March 2011**

**5th April 2011**

**3rd May 2011**

**7th June 2011**



## The Great Poppy Party Weekend 10 June - 12 June 2011

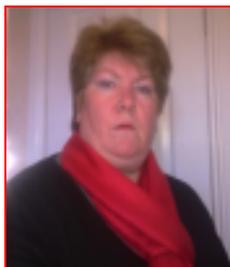
The Royal British Legion would love to see everyone join the nationwide celebrations of their 90th

anniversary by hosting a Poppy Party on the weekend of 10-12 June 2011 with family and friends, with neighbours or work colleagues. It doesn't matter whether it's a barbecue, fancy dress event, karaoke night, masked ball, barn dance, games evening, a dress down day at school, or any one of so many other wonderful and inventive ways of partying.

For information visit

**[www.thegreatpoppartyweekend.org.uk](http://www.thegreatpoppartyweekend.org.uk)**  
to download a brochure, register your party or  
download sponsor forms.

## Meet your Parish Councillors



### Paula Mollon Langley Park

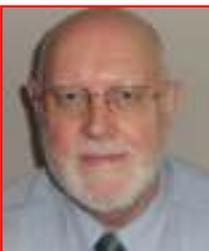
Paula Mollon has lived in Langley Park for 25 years.

Married to Alan they have two grown up daughters.

Paula is a registered childminder and she has been on the Parish Council since September 2007.

Since moving to the village and bringing up her daughters she has been very active with lots of community groups in particular with a special needs youth club for some ten years. She certainly misses the All Saints Youth Centre and the people who were involved.

One of her tasks for the future is to help improve community facilities in the parish.



### Alan Harling Langley Park

Alan moved to Langley park after living and working for ten years in North

Northumberland - previously in County Durham.

He has worked for 44 years in the Health service and health Charities at clinical and managerial levels. He has also helped start and act as chair for several health charities to improve and help people with caring or life in general if they have disabilities.

He has lived in Langley Park for 19 years and been a parish Councillor for 18 of those years. This work accords with the above principles by improving local environments for local people.

He has several hobbies , mainly archaeology, work, and the Parish Council.



### Alison Hiles- Langley ark

Alison Hiles has been on the Parish Council, for 35 years. She

has been responsible for much community development, including the three recreation grounds in Quebec, Esh and Langley Park. The Nature Reserve at the 'Old Rec' was her idea, as was the original 'Beating of the Bounds', a copy of the Rogation Sunday walk carried out for several centuries at Scapegoat Hill, where she was brought up in West Yorkshire. Her four girls grew up in the parish and caused her involvement with playgroup, toddler group and youth club as well as being chair of Esh C of E school governors for many years. She works full time as a land management advisor for Natural England.

### Where does the Parish Council funding come from?



*"Not from the money tree!"*

In

December's issue we explained what the Parish Council

does. This is about where our funding comes from.

The Parish Council is a 'precepting' authority. This means it instructs the collecting authority, Durham County Council, to collect money on their behalf.

Durham County Council makes a contribution to the Parish Council's precept from Central Government Grants and collects the remainder from local residents and businesses through the rating system. This information is published in your Council tax Bill.

For 2010-2011 this precept amounted to

£38,594 — a cost to Band D council tax payers of £25.94 per year.

The Parish Council also obtains additional income through the recovery of VAT, bank interest, allotment rents and other miscellaneous items including some grants.

In addition Durham County Council did make a further contribution in recognition that its rate grant included an element for Parish Council expenditure. This money was used for grass cutting, open spaces, maintenance costs for three play areas, insurance of play areas etc.

However the Parish Council was shocked to be informed that this will be reduced from £13,692 to £6,846 for 2011-2012 and then stopped completely from the following year and this concession was hard won through County Cllr. Joe Armstrong's intervention.

Discussions are now ongoing to decide what effect this action will have on the Parish precept for the coming financial year 2011-12.