

Esh Parish Council News



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www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Youth Cash Boost for Esh Parish



The young people of Langley Park and the surrounding villages have received a cash boost from the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership to support them to develop a variety of drop-in sessions.

The cash boost of £15,411 comes on the back of several discussions between young people and the local police where young people have indicated a need for informal drop in and recreational sessions.

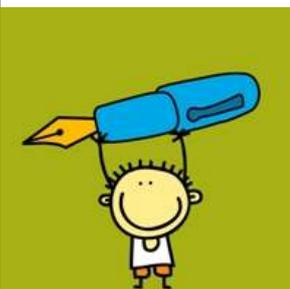
The police, alongside Esh Parish Council, County Councillor Joseph Armstrong and the Langley Youth Partnership worked closely with their AAP and several other partners to develop a youth support and development bid, which also encompassed the villages of Burnhope, Castleside, Esh Winning, Hamsteels Estate and Lanchester.

The monies secured for the Esh Parish Council area will provide three years worth of provision which includes funding to help train local volunteers to sustain and develop the provision in the future.

The programme is planned to commence in September and will work closely with young people to design the sessions which will be a mix of social informal youth work and structured recreational activities including sports and arts.

Esh Parish Councillor, AAP Board member and lead on the youth working group, Barbara Armstrong commented; 'There are lots of young people on the streets at the moment, with basically no where to go.'

The young people will tell you they would like somewhere to socialise, to join in with some 'fun' activities and a place to call their own, this projects aims to provide some of those things and to address the other points in the future.'



SO why not write in with your views or comments, or even call in at the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park and pass on your thoughts and ideas! Or send them to eshleavesnews@langley-park.org.uk.

Barbara Armstrong will be delighted to hear from you.

School Focus

In September 2010 Roger Ward became the new Headteacher of Esh CE Primary School. Starting out at JFK Primary in Washington he moved on to be Deputy Head at Westlea Primary in Seaham before his first Headship appointment to Esh C.E. Primary School.



Headteacher
Roger Ward



The school is very popular, has a wide catchment area and could easily take more pupils than the 12 reception places they are limited to at present - simply because of space.

The school staffing consists of two full-time and three part-time teachers, three support assistants, lunchtime supervisor, caretaker and the school secretary.

Roger Ward is building on the successes of the past and the solid high quality foundations to develop the curriculum and the physical provision in and around the school. To this end Roger has already been successful in obtaining grants from the Diocese to extend and greatly improve the nature area and provide the Reception class with an area to allow outdoor provision next to their classroom.



Similarly the outdoor room has been converted into an excellent Library facility with state of the art computer logging for all books using pupil thumbprints ! - *how cool is that!*

The computer side of the curriculum has also been greatly upgraded with a new network based on notebook computers giving much more flexibility for pupil use.

Another significant initiative, and one greatly appreciated by parents, has been the Breakfast Club which started in December. This is held in the Parish Hall from 7.45 a.m. and costs £1-50 a day with cereal, toast and a drink all in.

This has proved so successful that St Michael's RC school also share the facility. Roger hopes that the links with St Michael's will continue to develop.

It is noticeable that security for pupils is being improved and it is hoped that this is being done in such a way as to maintain that village feel about the school.

Some recent highlights below -with a lot more to come I am sure for this happy active school.

A very Red Nose Day with staff and pupils



Year 6 pupils acrobatics practice



Marie Riley from Riley Langdon Solicitors kindly donated this fantastic new football strip.



More information on the school at <http://www.esh.durham.sch.uk>



UNWELCOME PESTS

It's the time of year when, unfortunately, rats do become more active and more obvious.

Residents should ensure that gardens and allotments do not become overgrown or allow rubbish to build up e.g. timber, old carpet, stockpiled materials etc, as this provides cover for rats to live under (harbourage).

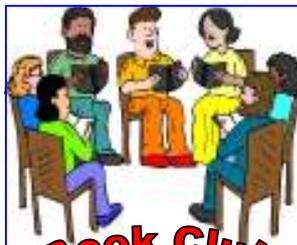
Members of the public are advised not to use rat bait in public places. There is a very real risk of exposing non-target animals to accidental poisoning, which apart from the distress caused, is illegal and could result in prosecution.

Durham County Council will treat the following pests free of charge if they are in a domestic property.

- rats (inside or outside the property)
- mice (inside the property)
- cockroaches
- bedbugs

If you have a problem you can contact the Customer access point at Consett on 01207 693 693 or

email: help@durham.gov.uk



Book Club

Langley Park Library's Book Club goes from strength to strength. The Tuesday Group are now reading Sophie Hannah's—'The Point of Rescue' while the Friday Group are reading Margaret Cezair-Thompson's— 'The Pirate's Daughter'.

More information from Langley Park library on 0191 3735448



Fund Raising in Esh

A group of people, of a certain age!, have been raising money for various charities over the past few year by having a Weight Loss Club.

They try to lose weight over the week and then meet at their local pub, the Cross Keys in Esh, have a weigh-in, check how much weight they have lost and then put it back on by having a drink and a meal afterwards.

It seems to work quite well! They have just reached their third £100 mark and decided that they would donate this to support the ongoing work of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation .

The good news is that the Weight Loss Club will continue with the fund raising and aim to donate next to the

Great North Air Ambulance Service.

Anyone interested in joining this light hearted attempt at weight loss can join in on any Wednesday from 6 p.m. at the Cross Keys, Esh.



It is doubtful that the UK will say goodbye to rain altogether, so good practice will be to mimic the Mediterranean rather than the Sahara. This means many of the herbs that we already love can still be grown. Lavender is a good example such as *Lavandula pinnata*. Rosemary also is heat resistant and drought tolerant and can be pruned to fit into even the most manicured garden.

If it is beauty you are after then sea holly (*Eryngium maritimum*) is well adapted to drought conditions: sea holly grows to about 30cm tall but its roots can spread over a metre downwards to look for water.



Andy Hamilton
selfsufficientish.com

How to create a drought-friendly garden

When the affects of climate change take a stronger hold we can expect long periods of drought (this week's heat wave my be a taste of things to come). The canny gardener will not only harvest as much rainfall as possible but will also use water effectively in their garden.

Always water in the evenings rather than the mornings, mainly because much of the water can be lost to evaporation. Also mulch with straw to keep the moisture in, and lawn clippings can be put to good use as a water-retaining mulch. Mulching also keeps at bay the weeds, which will compete with your plants for water.

You may have your guttering all connected up to water butts and are smugly reading this, or perhaps you don't want to fork out for a butt. In either case, a very simple method of collecting rainwater is to leave buckets, old dustbins or old barrels outside. These should be covered in dry weather to reduce evaporation and to discourage mosquitoes.

It is the container gardener that really suffers during drought as pots can dry out quickly. These should be moved into the shade on particularly hot days or if you are going on holiday. The parts of your garden that get the most sun will also need more water, therefore you should aim to plant more drought-tolerant plants in these areas.

Meet your Parish Councillors



Sue Rothwell
Langley Park

Sue was brought up in South Wales but settled in the North East in 1979 working in the NHS until she retired in 2004. She moved to Langley Park in 1992.

As well as being a Parish Councillor she was a Councillor on Derwentside District Council and is proud to have been its last Vice Chair.

Her main focus on the Parish Council is as a member of the Finance Committee. She aims to help with the work of creating a better local environment for all to enjoy including the needs of the older members of our community.

Her interests are archaeology and the arts. She is also a Friend of the Botanic Garden in Durham.

The Annual Parish Walk



will take place on Rogation Sunday, 29th May. The origins of Rogation Sunday go back to Roman times, when the 'baptism' of Robigus, the god of grain took place in the spring. The citizens of Rome would process out of the town to the shrine of Robigus where animal sacrifices took place and there would be games, races and amusements (not always decent ones!).

The early Christian church did not approve of these activities, but did take over the festival as one of prayer for a successful harvest. The name Rogation comes from the Latin rogare 'to request'. Processions round an area were also used by the early church to ward off natural disasters and it is recorded that in 470 St Marmertus, bishop of Vienne in France instituted a rogation against storms, earthquakes and floods which had hit the area. This was extended to all Frankish churches by the Council of Orleans in 511, and Pope Leo III (reigned 795-816) adopted them at Rome.

The alternative name for this ceremony 'beating the bounds' gives us a clue to its civic function. In the days before decent maps were available it was important for citizens of an area to know where the boundaries of their Parish were, and so they would walk round these boundaries 'beating' them with willow twigs. The use of willow could relate to other, older, customs as willow was sacred to the druids. It was not only the bounds that were beaten! It was quite normal for young children to be 'bounced' on boundary stones and trees, and maybe even thrown into rivers where these formed the boundary. Watch out children of Esh Parish - the River Browney and the Hedleyhope Burn both form parts our boundary! There was compensation for this. The Church Accounts for 1670 at Chelsea record a payment of 4s (20p) 'Given to the Boys that were whipt'. Nearer to home there are records of the beating of the bounds at Blanchland in 1793 where one William Horsley had his 'bottom alias backside knocked against the Warlow Pyke stones'.

Eating and ale drinking also played a part in these ceremonies. The boundaries were normally followed very strictly, so that if the boundary went through a house the walkers would go in through the door and out of another door or even the window. On occasions the same small boys who had been whipped were expected to climb up and over a house to follow the boundary. If the walkers found a carriage parked across their path they would even walk through it! We will not be whipping or ducking any children on 29th May, or walking over parked cars, nor will we be drinking ale, though refreshments will be provided. The walk only involves one hill - up by the recreation ground from the railway line to Hilltop. It's a 7 mile walk and will take about 4 hours

If you want to take part in this ancient ceremony meet at the car park off the old railway line (at the entrance to Langley Park from Kaysburn) at 1pm. Refreshments will be provided, but as the walk is one of the series of walks organised by the County Council there will be a charge of £3.00. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Do join us please.

Cllr. Chris Bloor

