



Esh Leaves



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



Introducing the new chair of Esh Parish Council

'Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them.' So said Malvolio in Shakespeare's play 'Twelfth Night'. Becoming the Chair of the Parish Council is definitely a case of 'having greatness thrust upon' me. Having had this 'greatness' given to me, during my time as chair I would like to see put in place a 'Parish Plan' which would help us all work together towards creating a better place in which to live, work and bring up our families. We need to find out your thoughts on the services we provide, things we do well, things we could do better, things we don't do and you think we should.

The survey will take time, organisation and lots of co-operation from you, but the outcomes will show us how to serve our community best. To try to work more efficiently within the Council, last year Committees were set up to oversee key areas such as Finance. These are now working on Three Year plans, to keep things on track, improve delivery and make savings where possible. They also support new initiatives. The setting up of the Allotment Association with a view to them becoming responsible for their allotments is part of the Environment Committee's remit. Another group is working towards re-opening the Institute, better known as the "Tute" for community use. We already have Quality Parish Council status but we want to be even better!

If you want to get in touch with me please leave a message at the office. I can't promise to always find solutions but I do promise to listen.

Margaret Sands

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Queen's Jubilee kicked off with a weekend of fun at **Langley Park** Cricket Club, unfortunately the rain stopped play to Saturday's outdoor activities. The weekend consisted of fun for all the family with show rides and burger/hotdog van. Local bands played Saturday evening and the popular band Re-Take That completed the festivities.

In **Esh** not even the torrential rain could dampen spirits, although the stalls and "mini Olympics" had to move indoors, not all the scarecrows proved to be waterproof and the bands' instruments had to demonstrate that they really were rust proof. June has proved to be a special month in the life of the village, concluding with the Family Quiz Night and Supper at the Cross Keys on 23rd June. With a growing sense of togetherness, it is good to hear people asking, "What are we doing next?"





During the recent **'Walk to School'** week the children, parents and teachers of St. Michael's R.C. Primary School created a 'walking bus' from St. Michael's Church car park along to school. As well as encouraging

a healthy lifestyle, this initiative helped to reduce the number of cars dropping off children at school in the morning. Just in in Year 2 says 'The walking bus was brilliant because it gave us exercise! It's a lovely walk to school!'

After consulting with the Local Authority and listening to parents' comments, we have decided that a Park and Stride scheme is a better option for the future.

The church car park is to be opened each morning to

allow parents to park there and walk with their own children along to school. Parents from both village schools are welcome to use this facility.

The **TORCH** came through the parish on Saturday 16th June. It was well attended with crowds of people lining the streets.

There was a fantastic atmosphere and the rain did not dampen people's spirits.

The parade of police vehicles, coaches and other traffic passed through the villages followed by the arrival of the torch bearer. A piece of history probably never repeated again.

The festivities continued in Durham, where you could have your photograph taken with the torch.



DURHAM CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Monthly advice sessions in the Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park. The sessions are held the second Wednesday of every month between 10am—11am. Appointments can be made (if necessary) by contacting the Parish Office.

The Citizens Advice Bureau offer free confidential advice.

Sessions Held: July 11th, August 8th, September 12th, October 10th, November



The **Cross Keys, Esh** is now under new ownership and the Pub Manager Angela Dodds and bar staff Daniella, Stephanie, Martin, Kirsty and Katelyn will be delighted to greet customers old and new.

PARISH NEWS

Next meetings of the Esh Parish Council are to be held Tuesday 10th July and Tuesday 11th September in the Harry Guildford Centre, Langley Park.

FRIENDS OF DURHAM HOSPITAL AGM

Friends of Durham Hospital held their AGM at St Andrews Methodist Church on Thursday 17th May. This is a fund raising group of volunteers who have regular meetings and events in Langley Park. There used to be a number of these groups which have unfortunately closed. There were a number of groups fortunate enough to be presented with cheques at the AGM. These were Great North Air Ambulance, Hospital Radio, Hospice Volunteers from Willowburn Hospice, St Johns Ambulance and Hospital Volunteers.

President Mary Bell gave an outstanding speech in which she thanked the volunteers for their support and described the many events she had attended over the year

which included talks on Cambodia a pie and pea supper and a slideshow of San Francisco to name a few. The AGM then concluded with a superb musical duo called "Us 2," a married couple Paul and Sharon from Bishop Auckland, who sang a number of songs from the musicals, followed by tea and scones.

Contact Maud Lowden on telephone 3731662 for details of the next meeting or see the noticeboard at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Langley Park.

Maud explained "Everyone is welcome, we are

friendly like our name, "Friends of Durham Hospitals".

Next Meetings on 27th July at 7pm and 28th September at 7pm, in St Andrew's Methodist Church.



LYKE WAKE WALK

On the 16th June 2012, twenty nine walkers set out on the Lyke Wake Walk, a forty mile trek across the North York Moors. The walk was organised by Trina Hodgson and Jill Archer back in November, when they decided to do the walk in aid of Henry Dancer Days, a charity set up by their friend Jane Natrass, in memory of her son, 12 year old Henry who died of Osteosarcoma, a very aggressive bone cancer.

When Trina and Jill began to talk about their intentions, people began to volunteer to do the walk with them. They could never have imagined that they would end up with so many walking companions.

The walk proved to be very difficult due to the changing terrain and the large amount of rain fall. Although a few walkers dropped out they had all done extremely well having all covered 20 miles plus.

The last group of walkers came in at 1am and were presented with badges. They were all elated that they had completed such an immense challenge. They could not have done it without such fantastic support.

Although the final figure is yet to be established, Trina and Jill think they will have raised at least £5,000.



Trina Hodgson

STOP PRESS

Aura has now moved to 11 Front Street, Lanchester. Telephone 07910080209 for appointments. We wish Jackie all the best for the future.

**GOODBYE**

Head teacher Miss Brennan is retiring after 25 years' service to Langley Park School. We wish her all the best for the future. We give a warm welcome to the new Head Teacher Mr Michael Gardener.

BUS SERVICE

Following a number of issues raised about 13/14 bus service investigations have taken place which will hopefully improve the service. Please ensure any problems are raised by ringing 0845 6060 260 or visit www.simplygo.com

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Stage 1 is happening 12th September when BBC2 will stop broadcasting.

Stage 2 is happening 26th September when the remaining channels will be permanently switched off.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to help at the Luncheon Club please contact Kevin Elliott on 3730757 for more information.



The Pact Meeting is held the first Tuesday of every month in the Wood View Community Centre, Langley Park at 6pm.

This is your chance to discuss issues or concerns with members of the local police force and your parish council.

It is often attended by local members of the Neighbourhood Watch.

Luncheon Clubs

Meet every Friday at Wood View Community Centre Langley Park at 12 noon. The price is £2.50 for a main meal and a sweet. We have a bus which picks up at Langley Park, Esh and Quebec from 11am and return by 1.30pm. Please contact Kevin Elliott on 3730757 or Sylvia Buxom on 3731644 for further details. Why not come along and make some new friends, or meet some old friends and enjoy a lovely meal.

Also Esh Lunch Club meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Cross Keys, Esh. The Cross Keys is now under new management and wish them continued success.

Introducing the new Editor of Esh Leaves.

As newly appointed Editor of the Esh Leaves I hope you have enjoyed my first edition. It has been a little stressful but things have come together at the end, thanks to the help of my fellow councillors. I have taken over from Malcolm Gordon who has done a superb job over the year and I know he will be on hand to advise and assist me over the coming months.



You can send comments, letters, photographs etc.
to -

eshleavesnews@langley-park.org.uk

Or drop them off at the Harry Guildford Centre,