



Esh Leaves



Esh Parish Council newsletter for Esh, Langley Park, Quebec, Ushaw and Wilks Hill

Submit items for the next edition to:
Esh Parish Council, Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park, DH7 9SB
or email editor@langley-park.org.uk by October 4th 2013
We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE (THE TUTE)

The abandoned former Church Street Community Centre in Langley Park will shortly receive a new lease of life thanks to the efforts of Esh Parish Council and County Councillors Joe and Barbara Armstrong.

Efforts to resurrect this local landmark began with Esh Parish Council deciding to take on the lease of the building which at the time was held by the Langley Park and District Community Association. As this lengthy process continued, a committee was formed consisting of local councillors and residents to put together a forward plan for the refurbishment and future use of the building. As a result detailed plans were drawn up which are available to view at the Harry Guildford Centre.

Enough finance has now been raised from various funders to completely refurbish the building and hopefully work will start in September or October.

After completion of the work, hopefully by the end of 2013, the facilities will include a combined IT Suite, Parish Council office and Job Club. There will be links to numerous services including the Police, CAB and the County Council. The snooker room will be refurbished and will double up as a meeting/reading room with a removable top on the snooker table. There will be a new



The former Church Street Community Centre prior to its closure

kitchen and a youth room with its own access. The large hall with the exception of a new floor will stay mostly as it is, and will have better access to the outside garden area with the addition of two side doors. New toilet facilities will be provided for the whole building.

All of the rooms in the building will be available for hire and it is hoped to see a varied range of activities and events, and links with clubs and groups to use the facilities. A management committee consisting of councillors and local residents will be formed to run the new facility.

We will of course keep our readers up to date with further developments in future issues.

The Esh Leaves Team

Editor
David Rider
Production Assistant
Lynne Rowland

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Elections for Esh Parish Council were held on May 4th 2013. Many members didn't wish to stand for re-election and with no replacements coming forward the Council was reduced to the eight elected members below:

- Richard Bowyer
- Allan Harling
- Keith Heartfield
- Alan Mollon
- Paula Mollon
- Malcolm Renneberg
- Sue Rothwell
- Barbara Armstrong

Since then the following new members have been co-opted:

- Anne Hancock
- George Hawxwell
- Chris Thompson
- Stephen Maddison
- Margaret Sands
- Ronnie Allaker

Rita Moralee
Susan Bell

If you wish to contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk email geoff.smith@langley-park.org.uk or telephone 01913736687.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Council office will now be open between 9 am and 1 pm Monday to Thursday.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council will be meeting on:

- September 10th 2013
- October 8th 2013

Both will be held at the Harry Guildford Centre.

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2013

I would like to thank the Council for their support during this year of office and present the Annual Report outlining the main activities for the year including:-

Councillors

Due to a family bereavement Councillor Margaret Sands was unable to continue as Chair from December 2012 and therefore I took over the responsibilities of the office. Councillors Berry, Bloor and Gordon resigned from the Council.

County Councillors

I would like to record my thanks for the work carried out by County Councillors Joe Armstrong and Malcolm Campbell. In particular the funding received for Langley Park Youth Project (Councillor Armstrong), Langley Park and Esh Employment Hub (Councillor Armstrong) and the restoration of "The Tute," at Langley Park (Councillors Armstrong and Campbell).

AAP/Parish Councils

Committee/Smaller Councils Forum

The Parish Council continues to be represented on these committees and are working well

to support organisations and residents within the Parish area.

Committee Structure

The committee structure has now been abandoned.

Christmas Decorations

Due to continual financial cost cutting measures the Parish Council was unable to supply trees and lights to Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. I am pleased to report that the communities in Esh and Langley Park continued to raise funds again this year for this to happen in these two villages, well done to everyone concerned.

Play Areas

The Parish Council continues to maintain the three play areas at Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. Concerns were raised at the amount of vandalism at the Sir Bobby Robson Park, at a cost of £500 to replace the damaged parts.

Newsletter

Four editions were printed and delivered during the year plus one edition of the Annual Report. I would like to thank the editors (Councillors Gordon and Carr) and the committee for all their hard work to produce these copies.

Recreation Ground

The Parish Council is working in partnership with Natural England to upgrade the area (i.e new fencing and protection of the natural habitat etc).

Publications

Two publications are still available from the Council's office, they are "Esh Parish Walk" (free of charge) and "Esh Parish in Words and Verses" (£2.99).

Police Reports

The Parish Council continues to receive a copy of the monthly PACT report, which are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Wood View Community Centre, commencing at 6.00pm.

Environment Improvement Works

Durham County Council

continue to carry out grass cutting on behalf of the Parish Council at the three play areas at Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. Unfortunately due to financial cost cutting the Parish had to withdraw the provision and watering of hanging baskets. Inspections of the Council's play equipment is carried out by Jeremy Cassidy. The Parish Council provided two new litter bins at Langley Park and Quebec play areas. Parish Councillors meet with other organisations on a regular basis to carry out "walkabouts" in Langley Park to inspect the area for environmental

improvements. A voluntary litter picking team organised by Councillor Renneberg and Malcolm Berry carry out weekly litter picking within certain areas of Langley Park, my thanks to all the volunteers. Councillor Renneberg and Malcolm Berry work with staff from Durham County Council to carry out street cleaning for the car parking areas at Front Street, Langley Park on a monthly basis

Planning Applications

Throughout the year the Parish Council has responded to 28 Planning Applications. Details of all applications together with a note of the Parish Council's response can be found on our website (see front page)

Donations

Unfortunately due to financial restrictions the Parish Council was only able to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (£60).

Citizen Advice Bureau

The Parish Council continue to financially support this service which is available at the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park (no appointment necessary) on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.00am to 11.00am.

Allotments

The Parish Council transferred the management of the two allotment sites to the Langley Park Allotment Association, but retained four smallholding sites. "The Tute", Langley Park

The Parish Council have signed the legal documents to take over the lease of the building and bring it back into community use. The Parish Council paid for the "boarding-up" of the building to make it secure and weather tight. Finance was received from County Councillor Armstrong's Member Initiative Fund to pay for the roof to be repaired. Further funding is being actively progressed by Councillor Barbara Armstrong.

Parish Council Office

The Harry Guildford Centre is open to the public Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 12 mid-day, telephone number 0191 3736687. The Gordon Coulson IT Suite is open on a Monday and Wednesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm and a Friday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, contact David Rider

on 01913736687 or david.rider@langley-park.org.uk

All Saints Youth Centre, Langley Park

The Parish Council continue to

work with County Councillor Joe Armstrong and officers from Durham County Council regarding the state of the building and surrounding area. The hope is to get the building demolished and the site cleared up.

Council's Web Site

The Parish Council have agreed to update the site.

Railway Path Master Plan

The Parish Council is still in talks with the various partners regarding the plans/improvements to the railway walk at Langley Park.

Youth Provision in Langley Park

The Parish Council continues to work with the AAP/DISC and Councillor Barbara Armstrong to provide weekly sessions for young people in Wood View Community Centre, Langley Park.

Dog Fouling Bags

The Parish Council continues to supply packs of dog fouling bags from the Council's office at a cost of 50pence per pack.

Staff

My thanks to Geoff Smith (Parish Clerk), Lynne Rowland (Deputy Clerk) and

David Rider (I.T Officer) for their work and support throughout the year.

Councillor A. J. Mollon
Chairman 2012/2013

STOBILLEE WETLANDS

The Stobillee Wetlands nature area on the outskirts of Langley Park has recently been the subject of a concerted cleanup effort by the Langley Park Environment Group assisted by the Prince's Trust. The group which includes Parish Councillor Keith Heartfield have spent the past five weeks installing picnic tables, benches, litter bins, nesting boxes, a small creature house and wood carvings. The



Some of the recently installed picnic tables
© George Hawxwell

ESH PARISH COUNCIL

Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31st March 2013

INCOME (UNAUDITED)

1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013

Details	£.p
Precept/Double Taxation	72304.00
IT Fees	759.00
Garage Rent	1470.00
Wayleaves	29.76
Vat Refund	1067.93
Allotment Rent	33.00
Small Holdings Rent	700.00
Dog Bags	72.00
Sale of Esh Leaves - The Book	49.00
EQUaL Grant repayment (South Derwentside Part)	400.00
EQUaL Salary	1524.57
Grant (Coun Armstrong) Youth Project	300.00
Grant (AAP) Job Hub	400.00
Youth Project - Receipts	86.30
Interest - Bank Accounts	26.06
Total	79221.62

Expenditure (Unaudited)

1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013

Details	£.p
Admin/General	8082.94
Staff Costs	26533.37
IT Centre	3304.32
Environment	7332.49
Donations	60.00
Newsletter	2520.00
Christmas Lights	405.11
Miscellaneous	10065.52
Councillor/Staff Training	67.00
VAT	1069.16
Langley Park Youth Part expenses	50.00
Total	59489.91

Balances Statement

Details	£
Balance as at 1 st April 2013	5571
Precept	72170
Other Income	7051
Total Income	79221
Staff Costs	26533
Other Expenditure	32957
Total Expenditure	59490
Balance as at 31 st March 2013	25502

Please note

Further detailed reports of income & expenditure are available from the Parish Clerk

Princes Trust workforce helped out by putting grass and rubbish into bags, painting benches, lifting and carrying and much more. Funding was provided by the community benefit fund of EDF Energy's High Hedley Hope II and Langley wind farms and the County Durham Community Foundation.

PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME

The local Woodview Community Centre is currently playing host to a Prince's Trust Team Programme for 16 to 25 year olds, thanks to Consett & District YMCA. The programme aims to take young people who are currently unemployed or on jobseekers allowance in the Langley Park area, through 12 weeks of team building, employability skills and community work in order to assist them into work or further learning. The current team have already made a large impact in the local area, by working closely with the Langley Park Environment group to improve the Stobilee Wetlands. The Prince's Trust will be recruiting for the next Langley Park Team in September. Anyone interested can contact the Team Leader, Christian McAndrew on 07825619423.

Editors note

Don't forget that the Parish Council are also hosting a Job Club every Wednesday at the Harry Guildford Centre between 10 am and 2 pm.

ROYAL VISIT TO LANGLEY PARK INFANT SCHOOL

Our Royal Garden, which was designed and created by pupils, volunteers, local businesses, Friends of the School and school staff, was officially

opened by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on Wednesday 24th April 2013.

HRH Prince Philip arrived by helicopter on the school field to a tremendous welcome by flag waving pupils, esteemed guests and parents/carers. After formal introductions were made to School Governors he then proceeded to watch a very entertaining performance from the school music club who sang a medley of songs from the



musical "Oliver". This was followed by a tour of the KS2 classrooms where HRH Prince Philip watched children engaged in lessons on English, Maths, Art and Science. He was really interested in their work and asked many questions about what the children were doing.

After making his way to the Royal Garden, he officially opened it by unveiling a plaque. During which he declared himself to be the world's most

experienced plaque unveiler. He was then presented with a miners lamp and a book of poetry about Langley Park, written for him by the pupils.

This was followed by an excellent lunch with guests and several children, four of whom sat at the same table as our esteemed adult guests. Tables were waited on by Y6 pupils who had been trained especially for the job by staff from Taylor Shaw.

On leaving the dining hall Prince Philip signed our visitor book, before making his way to the school field, where he flew off to his next engagement.

A fantastic day was had by all. However, this was only made possible by the hard work of many volunteers and the support we received from local businesses, organisations and parents/carers. Many thanks to all who contributed.

100th BIRTHDAY FOR A LOCAL RESIDENT



Nancy Smith a resident of Langley Park Nursing Home celebrates her 100th birthday on 14th June 2013. Presented with flowers from Durham County Council Chairman Pauline Charlton, a birthday card from Her Majesty the Queen, and biscuits from County Councillors Joe and Barbara Armstrong. Let's hope Nancy has many more birthdays