



# 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, Langley Park Miners Institute, Church Street, Langley Park, DH7 9TZ  
or email [editor@langley-park.org.uk](mailto:editor@langley-park.org.uk) by September 7th 2015

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

## A MINING MEMORIAL FOR LANGLEY PARK

### Langley Park Miners Memorial Group

Many of you will already have heard that we have established the above group with the aim as follows:

*'to raise sufficient funds to provide the village with a permanent memorial to recognise the history of Langley Park as a mining community.'*

We are aware that a lot of work was done several years ago with a similar aim but that things came to a halt. Since forming our group we have been delighted by the support we have received and have been pleased to hear views from members of the community either at our recent fund raising/awareness raising events or from members of our Facebook group.

We all have personal reasons for embarking upon this project, fully appreciating the central place of mining to our background and to the heritage of the village as a whole. It means a lot to us all to ensure that this lives on for future generations in Langley Park. We are proud of our village, and its mining heritage, and want to celebrate it in a tangible, enduring form, enabling the memories of so many members



The Proposed Memorial

of the local community (past and present) to live on.

Our proposed project is to erect a metal statue of a miner in an agreed place in the village, located to allow access for all and ensure visual impact for both residents and visitors. We have approached a well-known sculptor, Ray Lonsdale, following local acclaim for another sculpture of his, 'Tommy the Soldier' in Seaham. Mr Lonsdale has agreed to undertake the project and has provided us with a sketch (see above) as well as a proposed inscription which reads:

*Bow your head and feel the past  
at hand,  
Think of the people who  
formed this land,  
An honest day's work for an  
honest day's pay;  
Deep in our hearts these  
memories will stay.  
A village united with one  
common goal,  
To haul to the surface that  
Langley Park coal.*

We are currently pursuing a number of funding options and grants, having already received a pledge of support from the NUM. Once we have secured funding, and agreed planning permission, we intend to commission Mr Lonsdale and begin working on the project. We are consulting with local councillors and Durham County Council in relation to planning permission and have begun the consultation process within the village. Links have been made with Langley Park Primary School and Fyndoune Comprehensive School and we have been delighted with the interest shown by the young people. They are the future of the village; they are the ones who will keep our memories alive.

Petitions to show wider community support have been distributed around shops and pubs; an online petition has been set up and well supported, along with a Facebook group which currently has almost 700 members. Thank you to everyone who has shown their support so far. We welcome any

feedback on the proposed statue or locations, although the latter may be restricted by planning permission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us either via the Facebook page or on one of the numbers below.

### **Langley Park Miners' Memorial Group**

*Chair – Julia Dixon 07946 002017*

*Secretary – Gwen Blakey 07891 860095*

*Treasurer – Donna Donaghy 07794 038402*

*Committee member – Christine Pringle*

*Committee member – Denise Long*

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

***Chairman's Report to Esh Parish Annual Assembly Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in the Miner's Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park.***

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:-

### **1 COUNCILLORS Resignations**

**Malcolm Renneberg** was on the Parish Council, for 4 years. He was a regular member of the litter picking team as well as a volunteer in the Miner's Institute. Malcolm was instrumental in organising the return of the Langley Park Banner to the village.

**Ann Hancock** has been on the Parish Council for 2 years. In that time she has been very active in caring for the village. She could be seen regularly litter picking

around the village. Ann was also instrumental in the development of an environmental action plan.

**Sue Rothwell** who has been on the Parish Council for 21 years, Sue was the present Chair person of the Council until illness forced her to resign, we wish her well and hope for a speedy recovery.

### **New Councillors**

The Parish Council co-opted the following new Councillors:-  
R. Hughes, J. Carr, L. Finch and M. McGaun

### **2 COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

I would like, on behalf of the Parish to record my thanks for the work carried out by County Councillors Joe and Barbara Armstrong on the many varied project within the Parish.

### **3 AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP/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.

### **4 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

Many thanks to those involved in bringing Christmas to the Parish and their continued efforts to improve and expand the decorations in and around the villages within the Parish.

### **5 PLAY AREAS**

The Parish Council continues to maintain the three play areas at Esh, Langley Park and Quebec.

The Esh play area is at present in the process of being re-furbished once the finance has been completed.

### **6 ESH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

3 editions were printed and delivered during the year. I would like to thank the editor David Rider and production assistant Lynne Rowland for their continued efforts.

### **7 RECREATION GROUND, LANGLEY PARK**

The Parish Council is in the process of obtaining quotes for the new fencing work which will hopefully start in the near future. Thanks to the Environment group for their efforts in keeping the area tidy.

### **8 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).

### **9 POLICE REPORTS**

Our thanks go to the Police and Support Staff in dealing with problems within the Parish

### **10 ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

Durham County Council continues to carry out grass cutting on behalf of the Parish Council at the three play areas within the Parish. The play equipment is inspected on a regular basis.

The voluntary litter picking team still carry out weekly litter picking within the area. Our grateful thanks to these dedicated volunteers. Also our thanks to Councillor

Heartfield and the Environment Group for their continued efforts to further improve the outlook of the Wetland's, a stirring effort, well done.

#### **11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Throughout the year the Parish Council has responded to 21 Planning Applications. Details of all applications together with a note of the Parish Council's response can be found on our web site [www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk)

#### **12 DONATIONS**

Throughout the year the Parish Council has been able to support the following:-

- Children's Christmas party in the MIB £200
- Langley Park Cricket Club £400
- Langley Park Hotspur F. C. £400
- Langley Park Allotment Association £100
- Royal British Legion Poppy appeal £100
- Langley Park Environment Group £120
- Goodwill Association £200
- Langley Park Environment Group £580

#### **13 CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU**

The Parish Council has continued to support this service financially. It is available at The Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park (no appointment necessary) on the first Thursday of the month.

#### **14 ALLOTMENTS**

The Allotment Association is continuing to make improvements to the allotments. A community garden area is in the process of being developed. Early efforts are producing some pleasing results. It is hoped to have it completed in the near future.

An inspection was carried out on September 23rd by members of the Parish Council. Members noted a huge improvement.

#### **15 THE MINERS INSTITUTE BUILDING, CHURCH STREET, LANGLEY PARK**

The Miners Institute has now been up and running for some fifteen months with a small dedicated team of volunteers. The breakfast club is proving very popular and is well attended. However more volunteers are desperately needed.

#### **16 W.W.1**

An excellent exhibition was mounted in the Miners Institute over the weekend of November 8th - 10th. Many thanks to the sterling efforts of Councillor Renneberg and his committee.

#### **17 LANGLEY PARK MINER'S BANNER**

Negotiations are in an advanced stage to bring the banner back to the village. It is reported to be on a fair condition but requires some repairs. A suitable display case is being sourced and insurance for the banner has been obtained.

#### **18 PARISH COUNCIL'S OFFICE AT LANGLEY PARK**

The office is open to the public on Monday to Friday 9.30 till 12.30, telephone

number 0191 3736687 or email the Parish Clerk on [geoff.smith@langley-park.org.uk](mailto:geoff.smith@langley-park.org.uk)

#### **19 ALL SAINTS YOUTH CENTRE, LANGLEY PARK**

It is hoped that the building will be demolished some time early May by Swale Valley Construction prior to building eighteen houses on the site.

#### **20 COUNCIL'S WEB SITE**

The web site has been updated and modified and is much more accessible. Items for the website are always acceptable.

#### **21 YOUTH PROVISION IN LANGLEY PARK**

There are three sessions per week in the village. The Thursday session is primarily aimed at The Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

#### **22 DOG FOULING BAGS**

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

#### **23 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 G Hawxwell  
Acting Chairman 2014/2015

#### **Esh Leaves**

*Editor  
David C. Rider*

*Assisted by Lynne Rowland,  
George Hawxwell, Lynn Finch,  
Rita Moralee*

Articles must be in Word format with photographs provided separately at 300 dpi by the closing date (See page 1)

## Residents Petition

The points made on the petition were discussed by the Council at a recent meeting with the following results:-

- 1. Christmas lights and decorations at Langley Park/Esh (EPC)**
    - DCC charge £2,000 to check lamp posts before motifs can be fitted.
    - 6 x £300 – supply boxes
    - £170 each lamp post to put up and take down
    - £6,500 for decorations
    - Parish Council have the motifs which will have to be checked by DCC – at a cost?
    - Solar lights cost £60 per string of 300 lights.
  - 2. Dog fouling and bins (EPC)**
    - Dog Owners are responsible to clean up after their dog
    - Cost of new bin £750
    - Article on irresponsible dog ownership to go in the next edition of Esh Leaves (*see page 5*)
    - The Parish Council would like a contact telephone number for the Neighbourhood warden who deals with our area
  - 3. Parking – Permits, Parking Bays, etc (DCC)**
    - No permits from DCC
    - Parking problems – awaiting price from DCC for the scheme at the Aged Miners Homes at Langley Park. Concerns were raised regarding irresponsible owners of vehicle parking on the grass verges. Funding has now been secured awaiting new drawings/start date.
  - 4. Parks- various area, play areas for Children (EPC)**
    - EPC is responsible for 3 play areas at Langley Park – Sir Bobby Robson Park situated at Lambton Street Quebec – Front Street Esh - (this play area is being refurbished)
    - Parish Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground near Bridgeway Langley Park (subject to a Natural England Stewardship and the Langley Park Environment group carrying out grass cutting on the football field).
  - 5. Street Lighting (DCC)**
    - Street lighting not working encourage residents to report to DCC Highways (include the lamppost number) or call into the Parish Council Office. Article is to be placed in the next edition of the Parish Council newsletter. (*see page 5*)
  - 6. Computers for youth (EPC/MIB)**
    - Computer facilities are available in The Miners Institute Building
  - 7. Food Bank**
    - Donations to Methodist chapel is sent to Chester le Street food bank. Cost of training is £1,500.
  - 8. Leisure facilities/Youth Club**
    - Wellness on Wheels at school.
    - New football ground been set up on school field
    - Langley Park school gym to be opened in April 2015
  - 9. Roads-Yellow lines, Zebra crossing (DCC)**
    - Allocation of £10,000 given to the school from the 106 monies
    - Regular speed visor checks in the village possible meeting with Durham County Council in May.
    - Speeding issues, speed bumps etc
  - 10. Hanging Baskets (EPC)**
    - To be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting (May)
  - 11. Transparency of Funding (EPC)**
    - All information is on the Parish Council web site
  - 12. Luncheon Club**
    - The Miners Institute Building kitchen is not fit for purpose (Industrial ovens are at Woodview)
  - 13. Better Bus Service**
    - Bus companies run bus routes
  - 14. Public Toilets**
    - Members of the public can use the toilets at the Miners Institute building.
  - 15. Grit Bins (DCC)**
    - Contact your local County Councillor
  - 16. Neighbourhood Watch ASBOS (Police)**
    - Contact Durham Constabulary
  - 17. Old Youth Centre – Demolition (DCC)**
    - Contract let for the demolition to take place in early May 2015
- Members will continue to work through the Residents petition with a number of organisations

(Residents Association, The volunteer groups, MDAAP, Police, Schools, DCC and County Councillors and any other relevant agencies).

### **Dog Fouling**

We have been contacted by numerous residents in the Parish complaining about the large amounts of dog mess being left on the main roads, footpaths and grassed areas.

Not only is **DOG FOULING** anti social but it is also a health hazard especially to children, as it is our children who play on the grassed areas and pavements where dogs usually do their business. Under the Environmental Protection Act of 1990 it is an offence if you do



Bin for disposal of dog mess along the Lanchester Valley Walk

not clean up after your dog (source Durham County Council). Failure to comply with this act will result in an £80 Fixed Penalty Notice (on the spot fine) being issued by an authorised Officer or if taken to Court a maximum fine of £1000. **POOP SCOOP BAGS** are available from the **Parish Office, Langley Park Miners**

**Institute, Church Street, Langley Park** during office hours for a small fee of 50p a pack. Bins for the disposal of dog mess are also available locally, especially along the Lanchester Valley Walk where many people walk dogs.

Local residents can report incidents of dog fouling on the Durham County Council website **www.durham.gov.uk** or by telephone on **03000 26 1000**.

### **Street Lighting**

Local residents can play their part in keeping the lights on by reporting any defective street lights directly to Durham County Council by telephone on **03000 26 1000**, or by filling in a form on the Durham County Council website (follow the **REPORT IT** link from the home page).

You can also use this number to report issues with pot holes, damaged footpaths, stray dogs, abandoned vehicles, pest control, street cleaning, litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly tipping and fly posting.

### **Office Hours**

The Parish Office at the Langley Park Miners Institute is generally manned between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm Monday to Friday although it may be closed occasionally as staff may need to attend to issues outside the office or attend training courses.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month except August when it is in recess.

The public are welcome to attend the non-confidential part of the

meeting but need to provide at least 3 working days notice of any issues to be raised with the Council. Failure to comply with the 3 day rule will lead to the Council not being able to hear the issue as the Council would not have sufficient time to investigate and provide answers to the issue(s) raised.

Upcoming meetings are July 14<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Langley Park Miners Institute starting at 7 pm.

### **Gordon Coulson IT Suite**

The IT Suite based in the Parish Office is currently open to the public on Monday afternoon 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Wednesday 2 to 4 pm and Friday 3 to 5 pm. The service costs £1.50 per hour with a small fee for any printing and a qualified tutor is available if required. The opening times may change in the future so keep an eye out for notices in the Parish Office or notice boards around the Parish.

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

### **Langley Park Youth Centre**

The eyesore of the Village is finally demolished to make way for 18 rent to buy houses. County Councillors Joe and Barbara Armstrong have worked with Prince Bishop Homes and Durham County Council's planning department to push this along, despite numerous



Keith Tallentire Prince Bishops Financial Director, Joe and Barbara Armstrong

setback and hindrances the dear old building is now laid to rest; the planning permission comes with a small community funding gain which any local group can apply if you meet the criteria.

### **Front Street, Esh Bank**

With the railings and pathway starting to literally fall down the hillside and amid concerns about the road and pathway having to close, Durham County Council's Highways Department stepped in to effect repairs to this major route. Thank you to the Highways Department for a first class job.

Thank you also to the same department for the absolutely fabulous job they have done resurfacing all of Langley Park's roadways; it feels like we all have electric cars.

### **Esh Village Play Area**

Esh Residents Association won a bid, two years ago through the Area Action Partnership's Village Voice Project for £5000 funding. It was decided to refurbish the village play area, with match funding coming from the Neighbourhood Budget of County Councillors Joe and Barbara Armstrong and further funding from the AAP Area Budget. Groundworks Trust NE are taking the lead, working with Esh Residents, in developing and designing this project, and are sourcing a further £10,000 from Awards for All and £3,000 from Esh Parish Council; making a total of approximately £25,000.

### **Langley Park Primary School Gym**

Funding of £10,000 was secured for this project from planning gain in the village.

There are more than 120 members and volunteers using this incredible new facility, no longer do you have to get a bus to the nearest leisure centre to work out, keep fit or keep healthy; it's now on your doorstep.

### **Parking in the Park**

Our houses and homes were never designed for car ownership, never mind 2 car ownership; and there's very little anyone can do to alleviate the problem throughout the County. Parking and access will always be a problem in our post mining villages.

Funding of £19,000 from the Neighbourhood Budget will be used to hopefully alleviate some of the problem at the Aged Miners Homes on Front Street where 5/6 parking bays with fencing will be created. These bays are not reserved

### **LANGLEY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN**

After months of hard work and dedication by a group of volunteers, plus funding from Awards for All and Councillors Armstrong, we are delighted to announce the opening of Langley Park Community Garden. An "official" opening event will take place on Thursday 9th July.

The garden which is situated to the rear of Garden Avenue, is open to everyone during the hours of 10 - 5. Please feel free to come along and enjoy the tranquil setting whilst taking in the wonderful landscapes in the background. You are more than welcome to come and weed



Langley Park Community Garden © D. C. Rider

some raised beds or hoe up some vegetables, or just sit on the picnic benches and relax.

Moving forward we would like people to consider coming along and planting some fruit and vegetables or potentially sponsoring a raised bed.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who has been involved in making this dream come alive, without you all we could not have accomplished what we have done.

*Awards for All, Caroline Golightly, Esh Parish Council, Dave Short, Councillors Armstrong, Ian Dowson, C D C F, Alan Mace, A A P, Charlie Scott, Diggerland, Steve Cheal, Alan Cassidy, Princes Trust, Community Payback Team, Ryan Cheal, Langley Park Environmental Group, Vincent Taylor, Ken Thomas Skips, Claire Copestake, Carillion, Gideon Copestake, Seymour Group, Julianne Thompson, N J C Wrought Iron, Ross Stirling, Eco Toilets, Trevor Spooner, Arbour Timber, J James – path, Fast Fit Tyres, Dean – path, Langley Park Primary School, Jayne Blacklock, Crown Decorating Centre, Tom Maycock, Will Groo Nurseries, Dave Rowe, Pity Me Nurseries, Peter Allan, Poplar Garden Centre, Kenny Lowerson, Langley and Lanchester Hardware, Eddie Nicholson, Little Pals, Terry Taylor, Oliver's Tree Services, Mark Jackson, Colin Coult, Bev Coult*

## LANGLEY PARK MINERS INSTITUTE

Welcome to our new page which we hope to feature in Esh Leaves on a regular basis, keeping you informed of what is happening at this ever popular venue here in the heart of Langley Park. Since distributing our own Institute Update, back in February, a few changes have been made to our regular weekly programme of events and classes which are all listed further on. But first a quick resume of what we have been up to.



World War 2 Artefacts and Memorabilia Exhibits



The first event we held this year was a 1st Birthday Party on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate the first year since the Institute building was refurbished. We had a brilliant turnout and a good time was had by all. A superb spread was put on and we even had our own birthday cake! (See picture above).

The next event was an Easter Treasure Hunt which was held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Although the weather was slightly overcast, it was well attended by both children and parents and a good time was had by all. The Treasure Hunt involved following a list of clues where the answers to the clues could be found on

various posters in the local shop windows. It was designed to be educational as well as fun for the children by getting them to either count numbers, look out for cartoon characters, recognise colours and finally a brain teaser by guessing how many mini Easter eggs were in a glass jar. All children received a free Easter egg for taking part. We hope to run a similar event next year.

Over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May and to celebrate the end of World War 2 (VE Day in Europe) the Institute hosted an exhibition and display of WW2 artefacts and memorabilia.

A huge amount of effort was put in by the WW2 committee and all the volunteers to make this a memorable weekend. It was amazing just how many items were loaned to us from the residents. Year 7 pupils from Langley Park Primary School produced some excellent work for the display and enjoyed their visit to the exhibition on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. A memorial service was held on the Sunday at All Saints Church which was then followed by a Street Party held in the main hall of the Institute. A prize was awarded for the best 40's style of dress and the winner was June dressed as a land girl pictured in the centre of the group.



The Street Party in the Main Hall



More from the World War 2 Exhibition at the Institute

## Weekly Activities

### Monday

Starting on Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Smoking Cessation Class between 5:00pm and 7:00pm. This is being run by the Mid-Durham Health Trainers as part of the "Well Being for Life" initiative which supports people to live well by helping to address the factors which influence their health. This class will be held every fortnight.

### Tuesday

Our ever popular Art Class is held in the Snooker room between 10:00am and 12:00noon. Whether you are a beginner or skilled please come along and take part in this most satisfying class. This class is run by Anne Cain and she can provide you with any equipment you may need. Cost of the class is just £4 which includes a tea or coffee and biscuits.

While the Art Class are painting away our new Hatha Yoga Class

meets in the main hall between 10:00am and 11:30am. We have been waiting for a while for enough people to come forward for this class and from the number of people we now have turning up it is proving most popular. The class is run by "Healthy Horizons" and costs just £3 per session. Your first visit to this class is absolutely free of charge so do come along and see if this is the class for you.

Another new class we have just started to run is the Langley Lion Cubs Playgroup which meets in the main hall between 1:30pm and 3:00pm. The cost of this session is only £2.50 per child which includes a free drink of squash and biscuits for the little ones and a tea or coffee for the mums. This is a new playgroup and we hope that it will go from strength to strength with your support. It's great to see the little ones mixing with other children and enjoying themselves playing, singing and generally having a good time.

To end a really busy Tuesday "Distinctive Dance" run their dance school between 6:45pm and 8:00pm. This freestyle dance school, run by Natalie, is rapidly becoming popular with today's youth and is aimed at pupils between the ages of 3 years to 17 years of age. It covers many genre of dance including acrobatics, ballet, contemporary, disco, lyrical, slow and street dance. Pupils of Distinctive Dance can and do enter regional competitions and exams in either solo, duet or team routines. Natalie would like to hear from anyone who is interested in attending this dance school and the cost of the class is only £5.

### Wednesday

The day starts here at 10:00am where the walking group meet for their regular one hour walk in the local area. The venue sometimes changes but there are always refreshments available for those taking part. If you are interested just call in on any Wednesday and meet some of the regular walkers.

The main hall is again in use this afternoon for the "Circuit Training" class which is run by Healthy Horizons. This class is on for an hour between 1:00pm and 2:00pm and is especially designed for adults aged 40+ and only costs £2 per session. Your first session is free of charge so that you can see if this class is right for you.

We finish today with another class from "Distinctive Dance". This session runs for three hours between 4:30pm and 7:30pm and is split into three segments. The first is a new class for beginners only and is from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. This class costs only £3.50. The second segment is from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and is for pupils of all

levels (freestyle). The cost for this is £5. The third segment is from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and is for advanced level (freestyle) which also costs £5.

### Thursday

The only current activity today is the Steps Youth Club which is on from 5:45pm to 8:15pm. This is run by Durham County Council Youth Service and helps young people with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

There is a possibility that another Yoga class may be held on a Thursday daytime and an evening class as well. More details will be put on our noticeboard so keep looking.

### Friday

To end our daytime activities at the Miners Institute we run our ever popular Miners Kitchen which runs from 9:30am to 12:00noon and serves the most delicious breakfast treats. Whether you just fancy a bacon butty or a full English breakfast you will not be disappointed with our new breakfast menu. Remember that a cup of tea or coffee is included in the price of the full breakfast which includes a free refill.

Also on a Friday morning, every fortnight between 9:30am and 12:00noon, we hold a "Check 4 Life Health Check" where a Mid-Durham Senior Health Trainer will be on hand to give you personalised advice and information about your lifestyle. A "Drop In" session is also held once a fortnight on a Friday morning where you have the chance to report any problems or speak in confidence to your local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer).

The last class of the week is on tonight run by Lotty of

"Watermelon" and is called Fitsteps. Lotty has been running Zumba and dance classes in the area for some time now and Fitsteps is proving very popular. The class runs from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and is extremely popular with people of all ages. The mixture of music and rhythmic moves is sure to bring a smile and to get those muscles working for you. The class costs just £4.

### Forthcoming Events

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September we will be having a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. More details and posters for this event will be put on our noticeboard in due course.

In October, date to be advised, the Institute will be hosting a Mining Heritage Exhibition. Posters for this event will be put on our notice board in due course.

### Staying in Touch

The Miners Institute can be found on Facebook where we try and keep all of our activities advertised and up to date. You can even comment on events and leave messages. We also have a page on the new "Streetlife" website but make sure you find this Langley Park page and not the Langley Park one in Buckinghamshire.

On behalf of all the volunteers here at the Miners Institute we hope that you will find something of interest in the classes we run. We would love to hear from you if there are any other courses or classes that you would like to participate in. We will always try and accommodate you if we can.

The Miners Institute is available for private hire for a variety of functions including childrens

parties, family celebrations, weddings, funerals, christenings, craft fairs etc. Catering can also be arranged at extremely competitive rates if required. Remember too that we have a full size snooker table that is available to book at a cost of only £1.50 per hour.

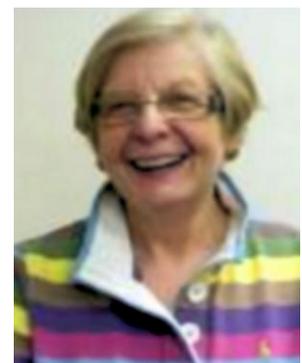
Our contact phone number is 07599 951523. As this is only manned when a volunteer is in the building please be prepared to leave a message or send a text so that we can get back to you.

### SUE ROTHWELL

Sue Rothwell served as a Parish Councillor for 21 years and as a former District Councillor on the now defunct Derwentside District Council for many years and was the last Vice Chair of Derwentside Council.

She was brought up in South Wales but moved to the North East in 1979, has lived in Langley Park since 1992 and was employed in the NHS until her retirement in 2004.

Sue has unfortunately had to step down from the Council due to ill health after serving as Chair of the Parish Council for most of the last year. All of the staff and Councillors at Esh Parish Council would like to thank Sue for her years of distinguished service and wish her a speedy recovery and best wishes for the future.



Sue Rothwell

## GEORGE HAWXWELL

Hello, my name is George Hawxwell and I have been a Parish Councillor for 2 years.

In May I was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council. I succeeded Councillor Sue Rothwell who had to resign due to health issues. I would like to wish her well and a speedy recovery.



Chairman of Esh Parish Council  
George Hawxwell

I am a former Special Needs teacher having worked at Earls House Hospital School and also Trouts Lane Special School.

I am married to Liz who was born in Langley Park. We have a daughter Louise, who is a former pupil of Langley Park Primary School and is now a Senior Lecturer at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, Lancashire.

My first job as Chairman was to organise the hanging baskets for the village. This year there will be some 75 baskets around the village providing a blaze of colour!



Paul Snowdon putting up the Hanging Baskets

If you have a problem or a concern about the Parish don't hesitate to contact me on: 07530829630 or by email at: [george.hawxwell@langley-park.org.uk](mailto:george.hawxwell@langley-park.org.uk)

## HANGING BASKETS

As Councillor Hawxwell mentioned in the previous item the Parish Council recently made a decision to fund hanging baskets in the village again after quite a few years absence.

As this issue goes to press Paul Snowdon has supplied and hung around 75 baskets with Jeremy Cassidy of NJC Wrought Iron checking the old mounting brackets and supplying replacements and supplemental brackets as necessary (see photograph above).

Visit the Parish Council  
Website at

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

## ALL SAINTS YOUTH CENTRE

On the 10 March 1878 the first purpose built school in Langley Park, The British School was opened. The first Headmaster was George Henderson and the school was supported by grants from Consett Iron Company and the Church Authorities. Initially there were 97 pupils and Fees were 2d or 3d and later 3d and 4d.

When the new Infants School at Wood View was opened in 1907 the old British School was no longer required and was put to good use as All Saints Church Hall, often referred to as the Parochial Hall. Not confined to church use, in addition to the weekly Sunday school, the building was booked by many organisations. The hall was used for dances, parties, meetings and plays were often staged. The Over 60s Club had a permanent booking and the Aged Peoples Treat was an annual event.

Closed in 1963 The Church Hall underwent a major refurbishment costing over £40,000. Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>,



All Saints Youth Centre in the 1980s © Lynn Finch

March 1964 was named as the re-opening date and the building became known as All Saints Langley Park Youth Centre. The Bishop of Jarrow performed the opening ceremony and soon the Youth Club was the focus of attention for many of the young people of the village and one of its early achievements was raising two enthusiastic football teams (Junior and Senior) who competed in league competitions.

The Youth Centre continued to be used by various organisations for their social events. The Over 60s Club were regular users of the hall and the venue was the only place in the village that could accommodate the annual Aged Peoples Treat.

By 2005 the building had been subjected to a great deal of vandalism and this was a major factor in the decision to close it down. On Saturday 29th December 2007 at approximately 2.00 pm flames and smoke were seen emanating from the now empty and vandalised building. A number of residents called 999 and approximately six fire appliances proceeded to bring the fire under control.

Sadly the Youth Centre and it's Fun Runs, Discos, Family Nights, Pantomimes, Youth Club, Cubs & Brownies, Playschool and over 60's meetings was no more.

This venerable old landmark was finally demolished in early



The Youth Centre is finally being demolished © G. Hawxwell

June 2015 to make way for new houses, after many years of wrangling while resident bats were removed from the building.

**Editors note:**

Thank you to John C. Foster for providing material for this article.

**DR MURRAY INTERVIEW**

George Hawxwell recently interviewed local GP Dr. Murray who has announced his retirement:

1) **Q** Dr Murray we're sorry to hear that you've announced your retirement. You came to us as a very young GP, what were your first impressions of Langley Park?

**A** Langley Park was very different when I came here, it was all just the old mining village really, none of the mines were here obviously, Sacriston was still working but nothing else was. All the new building that there is now, none of that was here. The coal merchants used to go around delivering regularly. It was nice, it was a typical old ex mining village I guess, which I hadn't met before, coming from Dundee so it was lovely.

2) **Q** How long have you been at this practice?

**A** February 1985, 30 years

3) What changes have you seen in:

a. **Q** The health of the community?

**A** Things have changed quite a lot I think, when I started it was very much a treating, service where as now there is much more



Dr Murray © George Hawxwell

prevention in medicine these days, of course that's potentially a very expensive thing because some of the people you're treating aren't going to get what you're trying to prevent, but it is different. So back in those days we used to have 3 surgeries each day, seeing 18 patients 5 minutes each, in out, in out. And yet you couldn't do that for every patient, some patients needed longer so it was different. I think one of the things that has struck me in terms of health in the village is that lung disease is far less than it used to be to begin with, so many old miners, so many smokers, and now a lot of the old miners aren't with us anymore, and far fewer people are smoking and that is making a huge difference to the amount of lung disease, thank goodness.

b. **Q** In the practice?

**A** Well the practice itself has changed because when I started we were 10 Doctors who all did their equal share, now there is much more accommodation for Doctors who don't want to work full time, a lot of the

younger female Partners have families so they've got to manage their home life as well as their working life, so it's a much more variable type of partnership, much bigger, we need far more staff, we need bigger and better buildings, and although we see fewer people, we still spend a much more intensive time with the patients, which I think is a good thing

actually. I was just thinking the other day - I didn't sleep well 2 nights ago and was like a bear with a sore head all day, pity the poor patients that saw me that day - how I would manage now that I'm 30 years older, if I'm still working nights and weekends, as well as having to come in and do the work through the day, I can't envisage that. I think it's made a big difference for the patients, not being able to get in touch with their own GP out of hours but I think it's certainly made the service we provide a much safer one, because we are not so exhausted.

4) **Q** What have been the highs and lows?

**A** The lows were definitely working the weekends it was very hard work, I think the biggest high here is having this building, having been refurbished and extended, and it makes the surgery a really nice place the way we've done it open plan is lovely. Patients come in here from other surgeries and see no barriers between staff and patients and everyone is one big happy family really. I think that has made a

huge difference and I think the Patients really like it. It's a nice building "you don't come in and think oh this is shoddy" when you compare it to the old building so I think that has made a difference.

5) **Q** Have the changes been for the better?

**A** There are some things that are for the better, I think the fact we are trying to be more preventative is good, having much more time for the Patient is good. There are some things that are not so good; I think it's much harder for the patient not having their own Doctor Out of Hours, I think that is definitely more difficult and I don't think that the Country as a whole has really dealt with it adequately. I think one of the big problems is that we have been lead to become a nation where we can get anything straight away, so people are not prepared to wait, a lot of people usually younger people, if they get a cough one day they need to be seen that day where as older patients who have been through all this just get on with it. This is not really to do with just our practice this is to do with the whole Country and probably the Western World, everything is available now. And I think the other thing is that there are a considerable number of people who don't take the same sort of responsibility for themselves and I'm not just talking about in health terms as they used to. Life was hard and people just got on with it. We are a very different society now to the society we were then, materially better but I don't think it's always better.

6) **Q** How are you going to spend your retirement?

**A** I've got quite a lot of plans - there's a lot of travelling I want to do, My Aunt died a few years ago and I have been left all her photographs, she used to work in Uganda as a Nurse and she'd taken loads of photographs and I've got the family job of cataloguing all those, I've got to get them all transcribed onto the computer. My Father died 2 years after leaving General Practice and I want to be fit and well to do things and not end up the way he did, I want to enjoy it and do some of the things I have not been able to.

**Q** Does that include going back to Scotland?

**A** Only to visit, this is my home now.

### LANGLEY PARK ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The Langley Park Environment Group has recently obtained a new Ride on Mower with the help of funding from the County Durham Foundation, EDF Energy High Hedleyhope Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, EDF Energy Langley Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and Durham AAP Small grants Fund. The Group would like to thank everyone who contributed funds.



The Ride on Mower

The group have been busy down at the Stobillee Wetlands where they have completely changed the entrance to the wetlands replaced the owl which

was stolen put bark chipping around the area with a circle of logs around the owl waiting to be planted up, the wild flower seeds planted last year are flowering and should provide a different display of flowers all through the summer, they have planted geraniums around the Christmas tree, and continue to cut the grass on the parish playing field the recreation ground and the wetlands on a weekly basis, they are hoping to get a continuous supply of water into the ponds shortly.



Entrance to the Wetlands

#### **Editors note:**

It has come to our attention since we received this item that the newly replaced Owl (see photograph above) and a Rabbit/Hare Sculpture have been stolen and a number of animals and nesting birds have been shot with some dead bodies left hanging in the trees.

If anyone has any information on this incident could they please contact Durham Police by telephone on **101** or email [customerservicedesk@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:customerservicedesk@durham.pnn.police.uk) quoting Incident Reference: **DHM-17062015-0272**.

### LANGLEY PARK ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Langley Park Angling Association was formed over 50

years ago, we have 2 ponds and a stretch of the River Browney.

We have a Junior Angling Club run by Colin Whittaker the junior secretary and Richard Davison angling coach level 2. We run taster days every Sunday for youngsters wanting to have a go at angling 12.00 noon until 2.00 pm at Edmondsley, fishing gear is provided. After trying a taster session you can join the junior section for a fee of £17 for the first year then £15 per year after that. For that you have the rights to fish the LPPA waters. During the school holidays we have junior matches every Tuesday at Edmondsley and other venues, transport is provided.

Through the generosity of Esh Parish Council and others who have provided donations we can do all this for free, so come along and give it a go.

For more information get in touch with Richard Davison: tel 0191 3730974- 07741458260



Young member of the Angling Club

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