



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 by August 18th 2014

We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

LANGLEY PARK MINERS INSTITUTE (The Tute)

The former Church Street Community Centre, Langley Park was closed in 2009 due to its poor state of repair including dampness, broken windows and a badly leaking roof. A Needs Survey carried out in the village in 2010 showed that residents wanted this building back in use; it's taken a while; but a new lease of life for this venerable old building began with a grand re-opening on February 14th 2014 as the Langley Park Miners Institute.

Work started on the renovation in October 2013 and concluded in February 2014, although minor improvements and additions will continue. The work was made possible thanks to grants and funding from the Neighbourhood Budgets of County Councillor Malcolm Campbell, County Councillor Joe Armstrong and County Councillor Barbara Armstrong; County Durham Community Foundation, The Banks Group, Derwentside Homes, Esh Parish Council, the EQUaL Partnership, and a legacy fund from Derwentside District Council. The cost of the work was £175,000, with funding still being sourced for extra works and equipment.

The Parish Council has supported the project throughout, acting as guarantors for the funders and providing



Langley Park Miners Institute © George Hawxwell

administrative support until a management group was formed. The Parish Council are the lease holders for the building.

The refurbished building still houses the original 1906 vintage billiards table; The Green Baize Club have already raised funding for new equipment (billiard and snooker balls, cues, and a score board). As the billiards table has a removable cover the room can be used for other activities.

The Parish Council has an office in the building, Monday to Friday 9:30-12:30. The Council supports IT classes in this room on a Monday and Wednesday 2.00-4.00pm and a Friday 3.00 - 5.00pm; the room and the IT Suite (4 desktop computers) are available for hire at all other times. Wireless internet is available throughout the building, with six laptops also available. The Mid Durham Area Action Partnership is taking office space in the building putting a branch of local government on our doorsteps.

Numerous courses are run in the building including Food Safety, First Aid, Web Design, Easy Accounts and also Easy Internet courses on how to shop, bank and pay bills on line. Other provision already up and running includes the Breakfast Club, Tuesday and Friday 9.30-11.30am. The Playgroup, Kickstart Fitness (see page 4), Watermelon Dance, Distinctive Dance, The Steps Project, Mother and Toddler Group, The Green Baize Club, Langley Art Group, numerous birthday parties have booked the hall, and lots more is in the pipeline.

For more information or to hire a room in the building telephone 07599951523 or email LPInstitute@outlook.com.

Esh Leaves

Editor

David C. Rider

Production Assistant

Lynne Rowland

Articles submitted must be in Word format with photographs provided separately at 300 dpi

Parish Council Meetings

The meeting dates for the next few months are as follows:

- Tuesday 10th June at the Langley Park Miners Institute
- Tuesday 8th July at the Langley Park Miners Institute

All meetings are at 7pm and the public are welcome to attend the non - confidential part of the meeting. Agendas are posted on notice boards and the Parish Council website.

Chairman's Report for 2013-14

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

Alison Hiles was on the Parish Council, for 37 years. She has been responsible for much community development, including the three play areas 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. **Chris Bloor** was another fine Councillor which has stepped down

due to his personal work. Many thanks.

Death

Unfortunately I have to report that **Councillor Allan Harling** passed away on the 18th January 2014. Allan had been a Councillor 21 years his knowledge, humour and expertise will be greatly missed.

New Councillors

The Parish Council co-opted the following new Councillors:-

R. Allaker (who has since resigned), S. Bell, A. Hancock, G. Hawxwell, R. Moralee and C. Thompson.

2 COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

3 A AP/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

Our thanks go to those involved in bringing Christmas to the Parish.

5 PLAY AREAS

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

6 ESH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Four editions were printed and delivered during the year plus one edition of the Annual Report. I would like to thank the editor David Rider and his committee.

7 RECREATION GROUND, LANGLEY PARK

The Parish Council is working in partnership with Natural England to upgrade

this area and also working with some residents and the Environment Group based in Langley Park.

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

Hopefully it will improve very soon 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 at Esh, Langley Park and Quebec. Monthly inspections of the Council's play equipment is carried out by Jeremy Cassidy. A voluntary litter picking team carry out weekly litter picking within certain areas of Langley Park my thanks go to all the volunteers. Our thanks go to Councillor Heartfield and the Environment Group who have done excellent work within the Parish and the award winning Wetland's

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Throughout the year the Parish Council has responded to 34 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

12 DONATIONS

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

- 13 CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU**
The Parish Council continue to financially support this service which is available at The Miners Institute Building, Church Street, Langley Park (no appointment necessary) on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.00am to 11.00am.
- 14 ALLOTMENTS**
The Parish Council transferred the management of the two allotment sites to the Langley Park Allotment Association, which is working well with many improvements to the site
- 15 THE MINERS INSTITUTE BUILDING, CHURCH STREET, LANGLEY PARK**
Our thanks go to County Councillors Joe and Barbara Armstrong along with the volunteers and all involved with this project bringing it back to life.
- 16 PARISH COUNCIL'S OFFICE AT LANGLEY PARK**
The office was transferred from the Harry Guildford Centre to the Miners Institute Building at Church Street which 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
- 17 GORDON COULSON I.T. SUITE**
This was transferred from the Harry Guildford Centre to the Miners Institute Building, Church Street which is open Monday and Wednesday 2pm till 4pm and also Friday from 3pm till 5pm. Please contact David Rider on 01913736687 or david.rider@langley-park.org.uk

18 ALL SAINTS YOUTH CENTRE, LANGLEY PARK
Progress is slow on this development due to the housing market, but it is hoped that things will be resolved shortly. The Parish Council and County Councillors will monitor the situation.

19 COUNCIL'S WEB SITE
The Parish Council have agreed to update the site. This is ongoing any further suggestions are welcome please contact David Rider by email.

20 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 the Miners Institute Building at Church Street, Langley Park.

21 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.

22 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 2013/2014

COUNCILLOR ALLAN HARLING OBITUARY

Allan Harling, a respected and valued Parish Councillor and past Chair of the Council died on the 18th January 2014 at Willow Burn Hospice. He faced life with Motor Neuron Disease with courage and determination and retained his sense of humour to the end.

He believed that it was right to be involved with Community

issues. He was a champion for the betterment of services especially for vulnerable people. This was especially true of his professional life working in services for people with mental illness.

His contribution in his role as a Parish Councillor will be greatly missed. His analytical mind and wisdom brought thoughtful contributions to every meeting. He was a humanist and socialist and lived his life according to those values.



Allan's wife, Elizabeth, would like to thank everyone involved in Allan's care and to all those who sent flowers and cards.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENERY

As the Centenary anniversary of the beginning of the First World War looms closer we are looking to remember those who gave their lives during 1914-1918, not only at the front but also at sea, in the air and on the home front.

We would like to establish a committee within the community of Esh Parish consisting of Parish Councillors, the local Clergy and other members of the community. Some good ideas have already been put forward to the Parish Council however we would welcome suggestions from all residents of the Parish as to how we should best remember those who gave their lives during 1914 -1918.

Should you feel you would like to be involved in this committee and have ideas you would like to bring to the table, please send your details to Esh Parish Council by either emailing the address on the front page of this

newsletter, calling into the Parish Room at the Langley Park Miners Institute or by telephoning 0191 3736687.

We are also looking for a Bugler/ Trumpeter and Piper to play at the Langley Park Memorial on this year's Remembrance Sunday, so should any reader know of anyone who plays either the Bugle/Trumpet and Bag Pipes and would be willing to give 30 minutes of their time please ask them to contact Esh Parish Council.

Chris Thompson



Langley Park War Memorial, November 2013 © D C Rider

KICKSTART FITNESS WITH SARAH HODGSON

When the UK Finalists for the prestigious national What's On 4 Me 2013 Awards were announced Langley Park resident Sarah Hodgson was among them.

The What's On 4 Award programmes are now in their seventh year and celebrate the best activities from throughout the UK - both for kids and adults - as nominated and voted for by the UK public.

Kickstart fitness was a Finalist in the category Best Sports, Health

or Fitness and consequently they were invited to attend a glittering awards ceremony at Earls Court on 14th November 2013, where the Winners were announced.

The awards cover 12 categories from Most Inspirational Coach, to Volunteer of the Year and thousands of nominations and votes were received from all over the Country.



Sarah Hodgson receives her award

Kickstart fitness with Sarah Hodgson is a locally ran business delivering group exercise classes in local community venues. As a specialist in health and fitness education Kickstart fitness run a number of unique, bespoke program's created by Sarah Hodgson to help people create long term attainable health and fitness goals, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to do this, whilst supporting them every step of the way.

Sarah Hodgson said: "I am so overwhelmed to be in the final 5 at the What's On 4 Me National Awards. It's lovely that so many people have taken the time to vote for Kickstart fitness with Sarah Hodgson. I've worked incredibly hard to build my local business this past year and just being nominated for an award alone was the perfect way to

celebrate my first year of business".

Editors Note:

Kickstart Fitness is currently running classes at the Miners Institute on a Monday and a Thursday evening.

LANGLEY PARK ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Langley Park Environment Group was successful in winning a Grant from the Biffa Group to install seats and litter bins on the old Parish playing field above the recreation ground and an extra bin at the bottom of the recreation ground.

The Environment Group would like to thank Biffa for the Grant which has enabled them to carry out this worthwhile project.

POLICE REPORT

Members of the public are welcome to attend their local PACT meetings which are held every other month in Langley Park.

Meetings are held in the Langley Park Miners Institute and the dates for 2014 are as follows:

- Wednesday 30th July
- Wednesday 24th September
- Wednesday 26th November

All of the meetings start at 6 pm and last for an hour. At every PACT meeting there's a discussion between members of the public and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team in order to identify and act on issues identified as important to local residents.

Why not call in to one of these meetings, they are very informal, you can call in just to listen or discuss any concerns.