



Esh Leaves



Nov/Dec 2011 www.eshparishcouncil.gov.uk Volume 2, Issue 5

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

Hard times hit Esh Parish Council



Parish Council staff have had to bear the brunt of a £15,000 savings exercise brought about by loss of funding over a two year period and a reduction in other income. Sadly popular Assistant Clerk Paula Graham has had her contract ended and Parish Clerk Geoff Smith, Deputy Clerk Lynne Rowland and IT Officer David Rider have all had to reduce their working hours. Other measures taken for the rest of this financial year are a moratorium on donations, dropping the provision of Christmas trees and lights for Esh, Langley Park and Quebec, a reduction in the number of Esh Leaves published and on-going scrutiny of all budget areas. This action will save over £10,000 in this financial year. Savings next year will be in the region of £12,000.

The Parish Council regret having to take such severe action but in common with all councils it has had no alternative. Our best wishes go with Paula, who completed her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) in 2011. We trust the experience she has gained over the past two years will stand her in good stead in the future.

Boundary Commission does it again!

First they muck about with our county wards (report due in Nov. 2011) now they're mucking about with our Parliamentary areas! Under new recommendations our North West Durham constituency would cease to exist and (in the interests of mathematics!) we would become part of a new '**Consett and Barnard Castle**' constituency. This would include Haltwhistle, South Tynedale, and part of Bishop Auckland, creating a constituency of 2,500 square miles, crossing county boundaries and be the second largest in England. According to the report '**the constituency is very rural in nature, (really) but there are a number of roads across the county that link the north and south of the constituency.**' (para. 38) *i.e. we are linked by the A68!* It has been calculated that for a voter from Haltwhistle to get to Barnard Castle for a member's surgery they would need to spend **five hours** on a bus with **two changes** in Newcastle and Darlington!



The magic number of electors is 76,641 (give or take 4,000) **If Benfieldside, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill, Consett North, Crook North and Tow Law, Crook South, Deerness Valley, Delves Lane and Consett South, Esh, Lanchester, Leadgate and Meadomsley and Weardale wards were combined the total number of voters would be 74,005.** Surely this is a much more manageable (and sensible) proposal. You have until 5th December to let your views be known.

More information can be found on the Boundary Commission website. You can email your views to northeast@bcomenland.x.gsi.gov.uk, or write to Boundary Commission, 35, Great Smith Street, London. SW1P 3BQ.

Remember if we say nothing it just happens!



Esh Parish Councillors 2007—2013



Alan Mollon
Chairman
Ex officio all committees
Langley Park
Tel. 01913735058

Margaret Sands
Vice-Chair
Ex officio all committees
Esh Village
Tel. 01913731270



Barbara Armstrong
Langley Park
Tel. 01913733515

Malcolm Berry
Community Partnership
Environment
Langley Park
Tel. 01913736291



Chris Bloor
Planning (Chair)
Publicity
Ushaw
Tel. 01913731595

Richard Bowyer
Community Partnership
Environment (Chair)
Langley Park
Tel. 01913735669



Malcolm Gordon
Finance (Chair)
Publicity (Chair)
Esh Village
Tel. 01913736376

Allan Harling
Finance
Langley Park
Tel. 01913730198



Keith Heartfield
Finance
Planning
Langley Park
Tel. 01913732843

Alison Hiles
Community Partnership
(Chair)
Environment
Quebec
Tel. 01913733595



Stephen Maddison
Environment
Planning
Langley Park
Tel. 07525845077

Paula Mollon
Community Partnership
Publicity
Langley Park
Tel. 01913735058



Ray Partridge
Planning
Publicity
Ushaw
Tel. 07908378922

Malcolm Renneburg
Community Partnership
Environment
Langley Park
Tel. 01913737158



Sue Rothwell
Finance
Planning
Langley Park
Tel. 01913732416

Julie Spence
Finance
Publicity
Langley Park
Tel. 01913731270



**Woodview
Community
Centre News**

Tea Dance every
Friday afternoon
2-4 p.m. Tea & bis-
cuits, raffle
& bingo
only£2



The Cross Keys, Esh
1st Beer Festival
Tues 3rd-Mon 7th Nov
15 real ales—all from
Yorkshire



**Save Our
Libraries!**

Sign the WI
"Love Your
Libraries" petition
now in support of all
libraries before it is
too late.



Woodview
Community
Centre has
started a fund
raiser for the
village Christmas tree
this year. There are
collection boxes at
the Langley Park Pub,
the Working Men's
Club, and in the
Centre itself.

**Annual Advent
Candlelit Supper**

Fri 25th Nov
Esh CoE Primary
School



**Tickets from
Liz Porteus
3732875**

Go ON – spend an hour at Gordon Coulson Information Technology Suite!

Langley Park's, Gordon Coulson Information Technology Suite, UK Online Centre, is leading the way towards an online nation, by inviting people to spend an hour on the internet this "Get Online Week" running from

30th Oct – 6th November.

With the clocks going back on Sunday 30th October, everyone across the UK has a spare hour, and the centre is taking part in a nationwide campaign asking people to spend it online! It doesn't matter if you've never even touched a computer before or if you already know a little bit, you're invited along to a **FREE** taster session on either the **31st October or the 2nd November between 1 & 2 p.m.**



David Rider is centre manager at the Thomas Street Centre. He said: "Whether you want to follow your hobbies, keep in touch with family and friends, or just save a bit of time and money doing the things you do everyday – the internet really does have something for everyone.

"We want to challenge the people of Esh Parish to spend an hour with us and see what the Internet can do for them! It's completely free, there'll be loads of other beginners there in exactly the same boat, and our friendly staff will be on hand to help."

Local woman Liz Hawxwell, from Langley Park, is one of the people the centre has already helped to get to grips with computers. She said: "I used to be scared of computers, but the tutor went through everything at my pace. Now I'm e-mailing my family, and surfing the net regularly. I can't believe how much more confident I am with computers, and how much I now do on the Internet. It's opened up a whole new world to me. I'd recommend anyone to come along and just spend an hour here finding out about it all. It needn't take you long, and it could change your life for the better."

To follow in Liz's footsteps why not spend an hour at The Gordon Coulson Information Technology Suite and see how computers and the Internet could improve your life.

Call 01913736687 between 2-4 p.m. on a Monday or Wednesday or 3-5pm on a Friday for more information.

Community Forum Event

Monday 14th November at Woodview Community Centre 7–9 p.m.

Residents of Esh Parish are welcome to visit the community forum to put forward their comments and ideas that the Parish council could take up. Participants will be encouraged to contribute to a 'Wall of Ideas' by writing their ideas, comments etc. on sticky notes.

You can also talk to Councillors and staff from a wide range of agencies and organisations who will attend with presentation/information boards. These include:

Neighbourhood Watch

Durham Police (PCSO) - DCC Neighbourhood

Warden - DCC Civic Pride Officer - DCC

Environment section - DCC Highways section

DISC Youth Workers - Citizens Advice Bureau

Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and

many more.

Find out what is happening in your Parish – see you there!



SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS 2011

St Andrew's Methodist Church, Langley Park

α Sunday Dec. 11th Carol Service 10.30am

α Christmas Day Witton Gilbert Chapel 10.00am



All Saints CofE, Langley Park

α Sunday Dec 11th Service 9.45am

α Sunday Dec. 18th Service 9.45 am

α **Ecumenical Christingle Service 4.00pm**

α Christmas Eve: Dec 24th Service 6.30pm

St Michael and All Angels CofE, Esh

α Sunday Dec 11th Service 9.00am

α Sunday Dec 18th Service 9.00am

α **Monday Dec. 19th Village Carol Service 7.00pm**

α Christmas Eve: Dec 24th Service 8.00pm

α Christmas Day Service 10.00am

Esh Laude RC

α Sunday Dec 11th Mass 9.00am

α Sunday Dec 18th Mass 9.00am

α Saturday Dec 24th. Mass through Midnight 11.30pm

You can send comments, letters, photographs etc. to eshleavesnews@langley-park.org.uk
Or drop them off at the Harry Guildford Centre, Thomas Street, Langley Park.



Meet your Parish Councillors



Richard Bowyer Langley Park

Richard is a Langley Park lad, born & bred and he lives here with his family. Richard became a Parish Councillor more than twenty years ago because he wanted to help make the area a better place to live. He says that is why he is still a Parish Councillor. "The village has grown so much since I was a lad, but there is so much less for the young people to do. We need to make providing a facility for young people a priority."

Richard is also treasurer of the EQUaL Partnership and was one of the team who applied for the funding and eventually established the new playgrounds at Esh, Quebec and finally the Sir Bobby Robson Park in Langley Park.

"Working together with EQUaL, the Parish Council and the County Council we've also managed to get a proper library back into Langley Park, which was one of EQUaL's main aims. It is this idea of various groups and bodies working together that we need to pursue to make sure we get the facilities we deserve".

AUDITED INCOME ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2011

DETAILS	AMOUNT (£..p)
Precept	38594.00
DCC contribution	3692.00
DCC double taxation	134.00
Garage rent	1320.00
VAT refund	3519.75
Esh Leaves (adverts)	667.50
Book of Poems	56.80
Wayleave payments	28.41
EQUaL Partnership	8362.97
Allotments	2912.50
DCC rate refund	384.88
Esh Leaves (book)	14.45
Youth Partnership income	65.07
Bank interest	75.02
I.T. Grant	4771.00
Miscellaneous	10.00
TOTAL	74608.35

AUDITED EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2011

DETAILS	AMOUNT (£.p)
Staff costs	
(wages, Tax, NIC & Superannuation)	34251.30
I.T.	4372.11
Environment-Play Areas	778.40
- Allotments	3395.96
- Grass cutting	7269.40
- Garage costs	257.83
- Open Spaces	225.82
- Hanging baskets	1583.00
Donations	1355.00
Esh Leaves/Newsletter	3984.00
Christmas Trees & lights	2813.68
EQUaL Partnership	1000.00
Langley Park Needs Survey	7200.00
Audit fees	534.38
Youth provision (Consett YMCA)	664.00
I.T equipment	5725.96
Langley Park Com'n'ty Assoc (TV Aerial)	345.50
Chairman's allowance	200.00
Subscriptions	964.76
Office running costs	5728.83
Garage costs	453.39
Clerk's expenses	271.21
Councillor/staff training	271.50
Annual Report (printing/delivery costs)	610.00
Youth provision (Wood View Com. Centre)	360.00
Hire of rooms (Council meetings)	66.25
CAB sessions	300.00
Insurance	4364.97
Repair to notice board (Langley Park)	774.68
Admin costs	525.52
TOTAL	90647.55