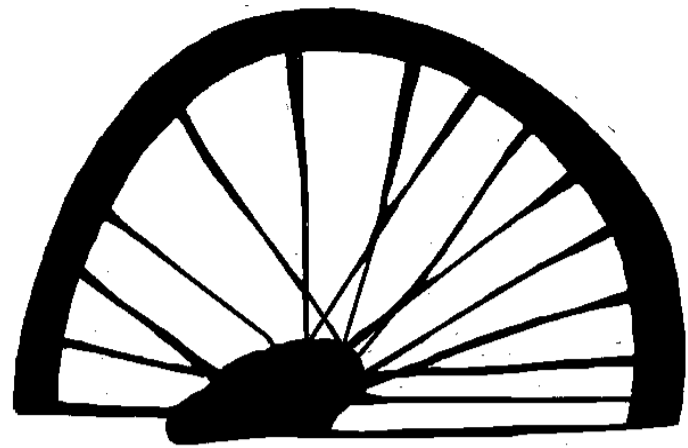


Bowburn Interchange



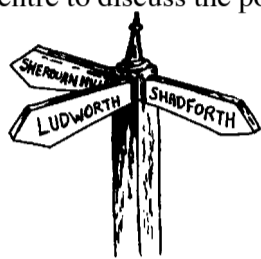
Incorporating Bowburn Village Celebration Newsletter

December 1996

WELCOME!

As representatives of *SLS Community News* (Shadforth, Ludworth and Sherburn Hill), which has been running successfully for five years, we were invited to the open meeting held in Bowburn Community Centre to discuss the possibility of producing a similar newspaper in your area – to offer advice and guidance on articles, finance and distribution.

by Betty Dodd and Dorothy Stead



Best wishes from
Shadforth

The meeting was well attended and well represented and the idea of a newsletter was enthusiastically supported. By the time we reached the after-lunch session we were very interested observers.

The obvious enthusiasm for producing this newsletter augers well for its future and *SLS Community News* wishes the editor and committee of Bowburn Interchange successful publishing! Please send us a copy of the first and future issues!

We thank you for inviting us to your Newsletter workshop. It was unfortunate our editor,

Stuart Watt, was unable to come because he would have enjoyed the discussion. He also missed a delicious lunch!

Good luck with your new newsletter!

Junior School Branches Out

by Lynne Lyons, Headteacher,
Bowburn Junior School

AS PART of National Tree Week pupils at Bowburn Junior School have been branching out recently with lots of activities based on the theme of trees.

English, Science and even Maths have all had Trees as a focus for work.

Children have made friendship trees and decision trees and done paintings as well. Above all, the children have been learning a great deal while having lots of fun. Our photos reflect the hard work and happy faces of children who love going to school at Bowburn.



staff often wear their red sweatshirts too.

Children work hard at Bowburn Juniors. They all have homework diaries and read regularly at home.

Teachers work after hours providing extra-curricular activities – sport and drama, cookery and newspaper clubs, providing something for everyone.

Bowburn Juniors is twinned with a school in Amiens, France. Older pupils correspond with French pen pals, who may visit us at the school.

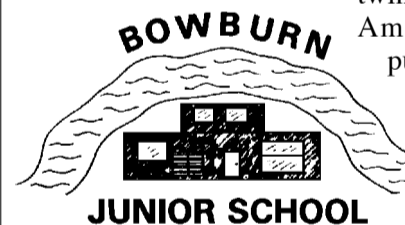
Parents are made welcome and will soon be able to work alongside teachers in classes as parent helpers.

One Spring project for 1997 is to be a Community Tapestry. A textile artist will work in school; older residents of Bowburn will be invited to help children with weaving, proggy mat making, French knitting and pompoms. The "Bowburn Banner" which results will be displayed for school and community.

On a personal note I, as Headteacher, would like to thank pupils, parents, governors, teachers and non-teaching staff for making me so welcome at Bowburn. I am happy to be part of Bowburn Junior School and look forward to working with you all to bring school and community together so we can truly say – *Bowburn Junior School is simply the best!*

Bowburn Juniors are Simply the Best

At Bowburn Junior School, things are looking up in more ways than one.



There have been many changes and children and their teachers are feeling proud to be part of the school. Everyone is involved in making Bowburn Junior School one of the best Junior schools in the County.

The key to this is teamwork. The caretaker and secretary, kitchen staff and dinner supervisors all work with the Headteacher and staff to create a caring atmosphere, in which children are safe, happy and willing to learn.

Children wear their uniform with pride – bright red tops and dark skirts or trousers. Even the teachers wear Bowburn tops in blue to show pride in this lovely school. Non-teaching

What cure for Bowburn's medical problems?

"I LIKE the people here... I WANT to work in Bowburn", says GP

PEOPLE are worried about Bowburn's Medical Practice. The premises at Romaine Square are woefully inadequate and there have been several temporary doctors over the last year. Local people

wonder when these two problems will be sorted out.

The premises were originally used three times a week by the Coxhoe GP partnership. Many patients (ctd. on page 2)

Are you a Senior Citizen?

by Bob & Lillie Bellis

DO YOU need a couple of hours away from the house?

Then join us at the Senior Citizens at Bowburn Community Centre, where you will meet others of your age group.

We meet once a fortnight on a Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm. We have:

- Singers/comediennes,
- Talks by Oxfam, Recall etc.,
- Bingo, Raffles...
- Grand Christmas Tea Party,

• Xmas night out at a local pub for a meal and a sing-a-long.

In 1996, we had four day trips, at a very low cost for members.

Our first meeting in 1997 is on 16th January. Why not come along and give it a try?

Opencast Update

BOTH of Bowburn's opencast prospects face uncertainty at the moment.

At the Whitwell site on Sherburn Road, RJB (Mining) wants to extract a further 115,000 tonnes of coal from within existing boundaries.

When the County Council first met to consider this application, it decided to defer making a decision. Its members wanted personal assurances from Mr. Richard Budge first, that his company would not break planning conditions and pledges made in the past.

And the proposed Quarrington site at Park Hill?

Rackwood Colliery Co. have asked the County Council not to make a decision yet on the application to extract 734,000 tonnes between the motorway and Coxhoe. They want to look again at restoration plans.

This is the second time a decision on this site has been deferred at the last moment, just as planning officers were about to recommend refusal.

The company has said it will come back with revised plans.



Not today's Juniors! (Nor today's Senior Citizens, yet!) How many can you identify? £5 for the highest confirmed number. Send entries to 8, Clarence Street.

Residents Wardens

THERE are two resident wardens in Bowburn: Carol Snook at Lawson Road (tel.: 377-0158) and Margaret Sturdy at Marlene Avenue (377-0763). Both are on emergency call-out to their residents for 24 hours a day, five days a week, and make intercom calls twice daily when on duty. And both help OAPs to run activities in their communal halls.

Regular activities are as follows:	Marlene Avenue	Lawson Road	Wednesday: Luncheon Club	9.00pm and any residents can go in for a natter or to read books or the daily papers, which are provided.
	<i>Sunday:</i> Bingo 6.30—8.30pm		Bingo 11.00am—1.00pm	
Monday: Luncheon Club 11.00am—1.00pm Coffee Afternoon & Bingo 2.00—4.00pm	<i>Monday:</i> Luncheon Club 11.00am—1.00pm Slimming Club 6.00—9.00pm		<i>Thursday:</i> Stroke Club 10.30am—2.00pm Social Night with Supper 6.00—9.00pm	
<i>Wednesday:</i> Luncheon Club 11.00am—1.00pm	<i>Tuesday:</i> Home Care Meeting 11.00am—12.00 noon Knit & Natter		<i>Friday:</i> Luncheon Club 11.00am—1.00pm	
<i>Friday:</i> Luncheon Club 11.00am—1.00pm	Bingo 2.00—4.00pm 6.00—9.00pm		The Centres are open five days a week, from 9.00am till	

Bede Terrace

Communal Hall

THE third communal hall in Bowburn is in Bede Terrace. There's no resident warden but residents make sure this centre is very much alive and kicking!

Val is a very active Bede Terrace volunteer.

She reports: "Our regular events are Bingo on Monday at 2.00pm and Friday at 6.00pm. Fifteen of us are going to the Metro Centre on December 9th, by courtesy of a free bus provided by the City Council. On Monday 16th December, 25 of us are off to the *Poacher's Pocket* for a Christmas Lunch. Our Christmas Party

at the Centre will be from 6.00pm on 23rd December.

"This year we've had three coach trips and a lunch at the Kicking Cuddy. The trips are free to members and have included visits to Gretna Green, Morecambe and Heartbeat Village and Whitby."

Bowburn After-Stroke Club

by Elain Chrishard

BOWBURN Stroke Club meets in the Community Centre at Marlene Avenue on Thursdays, 10.30am—2.00pm.

The Club was started in 1982 by a group of volunteers, with help from Mrs. Hawgood, of Durham County Council Social Services, to provide a change of environment for people who have had a stroke and a welcome break for their carers. Today's volunteers are Mrs. Pat Bell, Mrs. Elain Chrishard, Mrs. Caroline Foreman and Mrs. Joan Grady.

The Club provides various activities, all selected to give encouragement to the members' particular needs, with an emphasis on self-help skills – including playing dominoes and chair-based exercises to music. These exercises were devised by Barbara Morris and are especially structured for people with a physical disability. Members have won several trophies at the annual County Stroke Club Games, held at Seaham.

Lunch is provided at the Club, members and helpers each paying £1. Members and helpers bring small raffle prizes and tickets sold at 10p each provide extra Club funds.

Membership is usually by referral (through Mr. T. Whellans, of Social Services, tel.: 383-1010) but at the present time the Club is unable to accept new members without extra helpers. All help is voluntary and helpers are urgently needed for the Club to continue. Anyone interested can phone Mrs. Foreman (tel.: 377-1569) or Mr. Whellans.

Spectrum Gives Good Results

by Liz Atkinson

ENLISTING the help of Barnardos Spectrum organisation, a needs survey was carried out by half a dozen members of the Methodist Church with support from Christ the King Church and the local development officer.



The survey was very comprehensive, covering the whole age range in the Bowburn area. The results revealed that the greatest need lay with children and young people.

From these results the group came up with three proposals.

- Firstly the development of some provision for children and young people. These included uniformed organisations (Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers etc.) as well as a youth club for younger children and sporting clubs.

- Secondly, an investigation into the needs of local teenagers, leading (in consultation with them) to the development of some suitable provision. Examples of these might be a drop-in coffee stop, featuring soft drinks, chessboards and maybe even video games.

- We also discussed the possibility of setting up an informal drop-in job club, with training opportunities for

people who are unemployed.

Two well publicised public meetings were held in November to put these proposals to the people of Bowburn. Although neither meeting was exactly crowded, those who were there offered enthusiastic practical suggestions on how to make progress on these issues.

A future meeting was arranged to move forward and begin acting on the many suggestions made.

If you were unable to attend previous meetings but would like to help, it's not too late! You're welcome to contact the group by phoning Liz Atkinson on 377-0687.

A local physiotherapy clinic	26
Local advice on drugs and alcohol	24
A local chiropody clinic	23
A local day centre for young and middle aged people with disabilities	22
A healthy eating club or advice	20
A self-help group for people having problems with depression, anxiety or phobias	18
Reflexology	19

Clinics etc. of interest to Bowburn patients (survey, Aug. 1996)

Durham & Northumberland Fuchsia Society

THE Fuchsia Society meets at Bowburn Community Centre on the third Tuesday of each Month except December. It is affiliated to the British Fuchsia Society and The Royal Horticultural



Meetings start at 7.30pm and last until about 9.30pm.

We have speakers on mainly Fuchsia topics and related subjects. We also have separate beginners nights when there is sufficient interest. Members range from experienced growers who enter national

shows, to complete beginners

and those who grow just for their own pleasure.

Our annual show is held at Spennymore Leisure Centre in August. There are classes for members who are Beginners, Novices and experienced growers. There is also an open Fuchsia section and pot plant competition for non-members.

Why not come alone and join us at one of our monthly meetings? The following is a provisional list of speakers:

Jan.: Norman Welton, Durham: Judging rules, showing etc.

Feb.: Tony Poole, Leeds

March: John Porter (Potters Fuchsias Southport)

April: George Bartlett, President of British Fuchsia Society

May: Talk & demonstrations by Ravensworth Nurseries

June: Jack Lamb, Fuchsia Species specialist.

(While every effort is made to comply with the above list of speakers, unexpected events do occur and the committee

A cure for Bowburn's medical problems?

(ctd. from page 1)

travelled to Coxhoe to see a doctor. But for those who couldn't travel that far, the three-times-a-week surgery in Bowburn was welcome. Indeed many wanted it to be open more often.

Now Bowburn's own surgery is open five days a week. Marvellous!

Dismal premises
But its facilities are dismal. Staff work in cramped conditions. Patients are often embarrassed by the lack of privacy. It is just not possible to provide the range of clinics and advice that is found in surgeries elsewhere.

A recent survey by Bowburn Community Association found lots of people were interested in such clinics etc. (See table.)

In response to this need, Bowburn Community Association suggested to Dr. Pollard that he build a surgery in front of the Community Centre, between the main front entrance and the car park. This could have been

linked to alterations inside the building, where rooms could be used for a waiting room, a children's play area, new clinics, self-help groups, health-related advice and day care (run, for instance, by the Red Cross or the Alzheimer's Diseases Society).

Dr. Pollard was very keen on the idea. So the Community Association put in a bid for money from the National Lottery for its part of the project, inside the Centre. (Dr. Pollard would still have had to find the money, through the Health Authority, to build the surgery itself.)

The National Lottery Charities Board announced its winners this month. Sadly, Bowburn didn't win. So somewhere else must be found.

Where can it go?

If the new surgery can't be next to the Community Centre, it might be purpose-built on a vacant site, such as opposite the Post Office. It could be in existing empty premises, such as part of the Coop building or

(ctd. on page 3)

This first edition of *Bowburn Interchange* was produced following two workshops organised at Bowburn Community Centre by *Bowburn Village Celebration*.

27 local residents took part, planning articles and the future of Bowburn's own community newsletter.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Mike Syer at 8, Clarence Street or "Caz" at 33, Clarence Street. Or telephone 377-1491 or 377-3429. Or just send us your news, views or photos.

We are very grateful for help and support given by SLS Community News (the newsletter group in Shadforth Parish) and for sponsorship by:



Durham County Council,
the Workers' Education Association
and Anderson's Bakeries, Bowburn

Merry Christmas

and

All the Best

for 1997

to everyone in Bowburn and surrounding areas



Lyons Male Voice Choir

President: Thomas Allen



The Lyons Male Voice Choir of Hetton-le-Hole, a Nationally and Internationally-known choir, is at present recruiting new members.

If you can sing Tenor, Baritone, or Bass, and feel you would like to sing with us, you are warmly invited to attend one of our Friday evening practices in Elemore Community Centre, Easington Lane, at 7.15pm

Alternatively, please contact either
Phil Rosser, Telephone 586 3869
or Pat Coade, Telephone 528 0179

We look forward to seeing you.

Policing in Bowburn

by Peter Foster, Sergeant 1684

BOWBURN Police welcomes this first edition of *Bowburn Interchange*. I'd like to take this opportunity to give an overview of Policing of Bowburn.

Bowburn Section covers a large rural area. Its boundary runs from Shincliffe east, along the A181 road to Cassop, south to Catley Hill Farm, west to Thinford Inn, north along the A167 to Durham and back to Shincliffe. The villages policed by the Section include:-

Sherburn Village
High Shincliffe
Hett
Tursdale
Croxdale
Bowburn
Coxhoe
Kelloe
Quarrington Hill
Cassop

This is a very large area. Its salient features include: the used and disused quarries, the A1(M) motorway, including the *Road Chef* Service Station, the East Coast railway line, the developing Bowburn Industrial Estates and local housing developments.

The adult population of the area is approximately 9,500 people. There are 24 public houses, 16 off-licences, five Workingmen's Clubs and two Betting Offices.

Current staffing

The section is currently staffed by one Sergeant and eight Constables. These officers work a full shift pattern, to provide 24-hour cover, every day of the year.

The section office in Prince Charles Avenue is not a 24-hour manned office. To

catch us in, the best times are at shift changes: 9.00am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm and 10.00pm. It is advisable to try and ring us first. In any event, the telephone adjacent to the door is a direct line to the Durham City Police Office switchboard. Just pick up the handset and press the button down.



Unfortunately, to meet the needs of policing, the section officers are required to be mobile, in marked vehicles. Each officer has an allocated beat and, where practicable, deals with incidents and enquiries on that beat.

Bowburn Section has a well run network of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes (11 schemes in total). There are schemes in Bowburn itself.

Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Ring

The Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have recently been enhanced by the computerised

Crime Ring System. This passes a voice-recorded message by 'phone to specific target areas. It relays messages about suspicious persons/activities, recent crimes that have occurred and advice on any developing crime pattern or trend. Anyone interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can contact Mr Tim THOMPSON at Durham Police Office.

In the past twelve months, the section has carried out a number of Operations. These were specifically designed to tackle Auto Crime, because it had been found that Bowburn suffers from persons travelling into or through the area, committing crimes.

We do also have our fair share of local criminals, who receive our close attention.

Whilst Bowburn is seen as a quieter part of the Division, our management information shows each officer deals with as many crimes/incidents as officers in other section areas.

Please talk to us

Through this column in *Bowburn Interchange*, I would like to encourage the public to report everything which they consider to be suspicious. YOU are the people who will make the difference.

Police information and advice are given free of charge. Please talk to us.

Bowburn Police 377-0354
Durham Police 386-4222

Playgroup and Toddlers can be Fun for Parents Too

Playgroup: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.15-11.45am

Toddlers: Tuesdays

Both at Bowburn community Centre

OUR PLAYGROUP is for children from 2 1/2 years of age and we are registered with Social Services for 20 children.

Children have the opportunity to mix with other children in a caring environment which helps develop their social skills. We have a variety of toys and activities which help develop all areas of child development.

We rely on fundraising by our Committee to help us buy new toys and also presents, as Christmas is coming up. A sponsored dance was held this month and money raised will help take the playgroup children to the Sports Centre, to the soft play, where Santa

will pop in with a present for all the children.

Nor will the toddlers be forgotten. They'll have a party in the Community Centre and they also will have presents.

At the moment the children are preparing for Christmas, doing wall displays and making cards, calendars and Christmas crackers.

If you are interested in playgroup, feel free to call in and put your child's name on the waiting list and we will let you know as soon as a place



is available.

If you have younger children, Toddlers is an ideal time for you to meet other parents and have a coffee and a chat while the children play.

Crowtrees WMC Carpet Bowls

by Jim Milburn, Secretary, Durham & District Carpet Bowls League

ON Thursday 12th December, Crowtrees Club hosted the bi-annual presentation evening for the Durham & District Carpet Bowls League.

The event was well represented by bowlers from all nine Clubs in the League, whilst trophies were presented to six different Clubs.

Durham City WMC were League winners, as well as winners in the Triples and Rinks sections. Crowtrees were League runners-up, and collected also the Singles winner trophy - this year won by George Broom of Coxhoe, with assistance from Jean Bateson of Coxhoe, who deputised for George during his holidays.

Pairs KO

The Pairs KO Competition

this year was won by Low Spennymoor WMC, with Meadowfield runners-up. To complete the awards, New Durham WMC and New Brancepeth WMC were losing semi-finalists.

Remember the Newtones?

Entertainment on the evening was provided by Claire Mansfield and her boyfriend, Paul Munroe - better known to people of Bowburn as local boy Paul Bateson. His

mother Jean, who collected a Singles trophy, was once part of a well-known duo, "The Newtones". But sadly, Jean's husband Bob Bateson died four years ago of cancer.

Thank you

On behalf of the League Committee, I would like to thank Crowtrees for allowing us the presentation evening and to remind our members that the new League season begins again in January 1997.

If you would like to support *Bowburn Interchange* by advertising in our next edition (due in Spring 1997) please 'phone 377-1491

Durham Factory Carpets

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Sherburn Hill, Durham
Tel.: (0191) 372-2500

Monday-Saturday: 9.30am-5.00pm
Sunday: 10.00am-2.00pm

Carpets Cushion floors Roll ends
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Crowtrees Lane,
Bowburn
and



Church Street,
Coxhoe

Open:

Monday-Friday
8.30am-4.15pm

and
Saturday

8.30am-12.00 noon

Tel.: 377-0200

A Cure for Bowburn's Medical Problems? (ctd. from page 2)

the Bingo Hall. It might even be in a couple of converted council houses, although Dr. Pollard is convinced this could only be a short-term solution. "Bowburn needs a permanent, purpose-built surgery", he says.

But the surgery premises are not the only issue. The GP's own intentions are also crucial. As everyone knows, the Coxhoe GP partnership broke up two years ago. Since then, Dr. Pollard has run a one-doctor practice in Bowburn.

If the only doctor in a practice is away - on holiday, on sick leave or for other

reasons - a series of temporary doctors may take his or her place. This has happened in Bowburn during the last year and many residents have been dissatisfied.

One-doctor practices are not easy

Nor are one-doctor practices very popular with GPs. Most doctors work in partnerships, to avoid the pressures of working alone. As Dr. Pollard says, "In today's primary care system, there is no guaranteed back-up for doctors themselves falling sick. There is no bank of replacements for single-handed GPs. It's a bit unreal,

really."

If Dr. Pollard left, we wonder if a replacement could easily be found. Would the very poor premises at Romaine Square attract a dedicated replacement?

People have naturally been worried about Dr. Pollard's long-term intentions. It has been suggested that firm plans to build a new surgery would prove his commitment. But should he have to draw those plans up himself - as well as working twelve hours a day as a GP?

Dr. Pollard is adamant

"Bowburn needs a permanent, purpose-built surgery" - Dr. Anton Pollard

Certainly Dr. Pollard himself is adamant that he wants to stay in Bowburn. "The first year I was on my own, I took no holiday at all and I was on a reduced income. I did this because I like the people here. I like the patients and the staff. I've known most of them for ten years now. I want to work in Bowburn."

Perhaps more important is proof that the Health Authority is committed to making

sure Bowburn gets a decent surgery. How committed are they to making a real success of the Bowburn practice? Couldn't they help draw up detailed options for the much-needed new premises?

If Bowburn's one-person GP practice is to work well, there must be a determination to solve its problems. It is time now to determine how Bowburn's medical needs are met after 2000 AD. Let

us know what you think the people of Bowburn should do to help.

See the next edition of Bowburn Interchange for Dr. Pollard's own story about his year's sabbatical training on sports injuries.

Too old? Not at Bowburn Cooperage FC!

by Jimmy McGra

WITH an average age of 36, you are never too old to play football. We even have a few players over 40... who shall remain nameless, of course!

However we also have the youth as well, with a crop of footballing youngsters about to shine through.

With credit to our coach, Martin Ridley, we are currently lying second in Division 4 of Durham & District League and we're involved in two Cup competitions. The outlook for

a successful season looks bright.

But like any club, we need to generate cash to operate a football buster and lottery draw. You guessed it: we could do with a lot more help – sponsors etc.

Anyone wishing to help or indeed play, please contact: Jimmy McGrath, Secretary (Tel.: 377-2646)



Hare & Greyhound FC

by Maurice McWaters

BOWBURN Hare & Greyhound have made a steady start to the '96-97 season in the *Just Sport* Durham & District Sunday League Division One. There are plenty of signs this will be another successful season.

Last season was one of the best in the club's 27 year history. In that time it has had various names but most of its games have been played in Bowburn. Two committee members, Maurice McWaters and John "Ringo" Fairless, have been with the club, through thick and thin, since its formation.

Last season the club eclipsed the 1981-82 Hare & Greyhound side (who won the

President's Cup) by finishing League Division Two Champions and completing the double by beating Brandon Bay Horse to lift the Guards Cup.

The team consists of local players and special mention should go to Stephen Bell, who finished leading goalscorer in all the Divisions of the Durham and District Sunday League.

Hopefully, they can only go from strength to strength. They also extend a warm welcome to anyone willing to help, in any way, towards the running or the support of the football team.

Make their success your own!

So here's to a good season and – with your help – long may it continue!

Beautiful Bowburn

THIS year saw NINE entries from Bowburn in the *Beautiful Durham* Competition. This was nine more than had ever entered, at any time, in the past.

Three of these entries received awards in the Durham competition which was, in turn, part of *Northumbria in Bloom*.

The Judges for the regional competition agreed to look closely at the Bowburn entries and to single out what they regarded as the best entries from the village.

On Friday 25th October, a special presentation night was held at the Oak Tree, to honour those prize winners. Everyone taking part was thanked for proving that there are gardens in Bowburn of such a high standard, that

national Judges could single some out for awards and special mention.

In accordance with the decisions of those Judges, we were pleased to present shields and certificates to:

Mr. R. Sowerby, Cambridge Terrace, for his entry in the Large House Garden Class,

Mrs. P.M. Cook, Heugh Hall, for her entry in the Large House Garden Class,

Mr. & Mrs. D. Lawton, Durham Road West, for their entry in the Small House Garden Class,

Miss A.J. Fleetham, Crowtree Lane, for her entry in the Small House Garden Class,

Mr. R. Fleetham, Walker Street, for his entry in the

Retired Persons' Garden Class and

Mr. R. Atkinson, Dallymore Drive, who received special mention by the judges, for his entries in both the Floral Containers Class and the Large Garden Class.

The Judges decided that Third Prize in the Beautiful Bowburn Competition should go to Mr. V. Simpson, Henry Avenue, who entered in the

Retired Persons' Class

Second Prize was awarded to Mr. A. Watson, Tunstall Avenue, who entered both the Floral Containers Class and the Large House Garden Class and...

The winner of the FIRST PRIZE in the first ever *Beautiful Bowburn* Competition, who also entered in the Retired Persons' Class was Mr. Arthur Collingwood, of Henry Avenue.



Mr. & Mrs. A. Collingwood, winners of *Beautiful Bowburn* 1996

Parish News Update

by Maggie Robinson, Parish Council Chairman

THE PARISH of Cassop-cum-Quarrington is a very large area. It covers Bowburn, Cassop, Old Quarrington, Park Hill and Turstable.

We try to achieve as much as possible for our residents but naturally we are limited to certain issues.

We have powers and responsibilities relating to street lighting, designated footpaths, the cemetery, play equipment and planning applications.

We meet every third Wednesday in the month to discuss village issues.

There are fifteen Parish Councillors: four live in Cassop, four in Park Hill and seven in the rest of Bowburn.

Four Parish Councillors walk the footpaths in the countryside on a regular basis and report back to the Parish on anything that needs attention. This was first tried in 1995. It has been very successful, partly due to our new membership with the Footpath Partnership. The

Parish will benefit from this scheme with cleaner, safer footpaths – not to mention some new stiles.

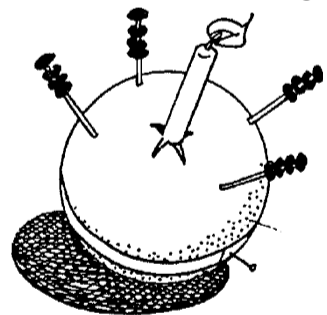
We have five Parish Councillors who concentrate on play equipment which have corroded or been vandalised. The City Council will put £1,000 matching funds towards any play equipment the Parish buys. Play equipment was purchased for Bowburn in 1995/6. Cassop will benefit this year (1996/7) and Park Hill next year (1997/8).

We also give donations to worthy causes in the parish once per year. For example, the Senior Citizens, schools, churches, bowls, playgroups etc. have all benefited from this.

Last but not least, may I mention that two Parish Councillors have very kindly spent many hours of their time (free) cleaning and tidying up our cemetery, since our cemetery attendant retired in the summer.

Church Services over the Christmas period

Bowburn Methodist Church



Sunday 22nd December

A Christingle Service for children of all ages at 4.30 pm at Bowburn Methodist Church

Love came down at

Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

25th December Rev. E.A. Oliver
9.30 am

Christ the King Church

24th December Midnight Mass of the Nativity

25th December Father James Thompson
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Joint Service

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti 1830-94

No dogs at Fun Day

SADLY, we will not be hosting a 1997 Bowburn Celebration Whippet Open this spring.

The 1996 championship was a huge success and the regional Whippet Racing Association was looking forward to another spectacular event in May. But the national association has now moved its annual May Day weekend championships up from Burton-on-Trent to Easington District.

This is good news for local whippet fanciers. (There will be some £1,500 prize money.) But it's bad news for the people of Bowburn, who were looking forward to watching some top class dogs barking it out on our own track.

We do not yet know whether the BWRA decision will just be for 1997, or whether it will be a longer term arrangement.

There will be loads of other attractions, however. The biggest will be Helicopter Rides over the village and surrounding area. Some people have already won Free Rides in local raffles and competitions.

The pipe band, shows, five-a-side and tug-o'-war are other certainties.

Do you belong to an organisation that could put on a carnival float on May 5th?

Contact Mike Syer
8, Clarence Street
(Tel.: 377-1491)

Follow the Pied Piper

BOWBURN Community Association presents *Bruvvers* The Company in "The Pied Piper", a pantomime, on Tuesday 1 January, starting at 1.30pm.

Being Bowburn, no one will enjoy it...

Oh Yes They Will! – especially when they learn that children will get in free, thanks to funding by Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council and Durham City Council.

bruvvers

The pantomime is suitable for children over-7, over-60... and all ages in between!



Thursday Coffee Morning for

Mums & Kids

Drop-in Helpers needed:

Good listeners and to assist with children

9.30 – 11.30am

at Bowburn Methodist Church