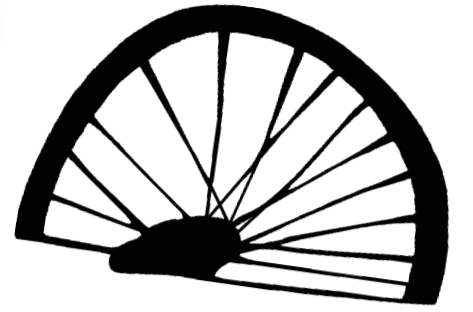




Bowburn Interchange



No. 2

(Incorporating Bowburn Village Celebration Newsletter No. 11)

April 1997

Fun Day Special

**Monday
5th May
1997**

**Grand
Family Fun Day
and Carnival
Parade**

See middle pages for our
FUN DAY SUPPLEMENT:
the programme for May 5th

Bowburn celebrates again!

On Bank Holiday Monday May 5th, Bowburn will be celebrating its 3rd annual Family Fun Day.

There will be helicopter rides, children's sports, showground attractions, a pipes & drums band, drive horses, a stilt walker, 5-a-side football, tug-o'-war, a children's small pet show, arts & crafts, a magic show and numerous other stalls and attractions.

The Carnival Parade will include floats, the pipe band, horses and the ACROSS Durham Jumbulance (which takes people with disabilities on holiday in Europe).

The sun will shine (hopefully on the right day!) But even if it doesn't, helicopters – unlike hot air balloons – can fly in the rain! And we'll have more tents this year, too...



Some things in Life are Free...

LOTS OF THINGS on the Fun Day will be free. There'll be no admission charge. The programme (in this newsletter) is free. Everyone can enjoy the Carnival Parade, Pipes & Drums, the Magic Show, Pets Corner, Model Exhibition, etc...

But some things have to be paid for. The organisers must pay for many of the attractions, insurance, the public address system etc. And people who come on the Day will have to pay for their refreshments, showground rides, helicopter rides etc.

Helicopter Rides will cost £15 for adults and £10 for children aged 12 or less. So, unless you've won a ride in a raffle during the last few months, you'd better start saving for your view of Bowburn-from-the-Sky!

The **Small Pets Show** is open to all children



and there will be no entrance fee. They must be in cages (the pets, that is, not the children!) So please bring your pet mice, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils etc.... but not dogs or camels!

Judging will be by the well-known charity, the PDSA (the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals). Trophies will be awarded to all winners.

The **Arts, Crafts & Produce Show** will be open to people of all ages. And admission, again, will be free. People under 18 will be asked to state their ages. The judges will decide, on the day, what age classes to introduce, after seeing how many entries there are in the different classes.

Entries are invited in four categories:

- Handwriting,
- Arts & Crafts,
- Miniature Garden and
- Fruit & Veg Creature.

Full details and entry forms can be collected from Bowburn Junior School, Bowburn Infant School, Bowburn Library or Bowburn Community Centre. They will also be available on the Day, but entries must be submitted by 12.00 noon (on Monday 5th May).

On other pages...

Much of this edition, like the Fun Day itself, is dedicated to children and young people in the village.

See page 2 for Johnston School, page 3 for the DJ Evans Youth Club, page 6 for Guides and Cub Scouts, pages 6 and 7 for Bowburn Junior School and page 7 for a new Kids' Club. (There was an article about Bowburn Playgroup in the last edition.)

The details include, for instance, the poem that has to be copied for the Handwriting competition.

Tug-o'-War teams can

Regular items include news from the Parish Council (page 6) and Bowburn Police (page 7).

Features include memories of Bowburn Pit (back page), the past, present and future Centre of the Village (page 2), "Lily's Story" on page 3, community health and social services (page 7), Bowburn's Book of Remembrance (page 7) and the 1997 Beautiful Bowburn Competition (back page).

The full programme for the Family Fun Day and Carnival Parade is on pages 4 and 5.

present themselves on the Day. But it will be helpful if you tell Brian Hall (tel: 377-2446) before then if you plan to enter a team. You need EIGHT team members.

Five-a-Side Football teams (aged 7-9 or 9-11 years) can also be entered on the Day. But it will help if, before then, you let Gary Hutchinson know who will be in your team (tel: 377-2752).

All **Refreshments** will this year be provided by local community organisations. They will be taking money

either to help fund their own activities in the village or to help pay for the Day's events. (Or both.) So you know your money will be going to a good cause – and we hope you enjoy the food!

Want to help?

Anyone who would like to help organise things on the Day can ring 377-3243 or 377-1491.

Or why not join with friends or a local group and organise a stall or carnival attraction of your own!

(Please let us know.)

Photo Competition

OUR LATEST photo competition shows a group of people in front of the Pit Laddie Public House in 19??

(Well when do you think it was taken?) £5.00 has been kindly donated by Mrs. Bellis for the person who names all the people in this photo. If there is more than one correct entry, including the year in which the photo was taken, the winner's name will be drawn from a hat.

Entries to *Bowburn Interchange*, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, DH6 5AT.

(See page 2 for the result of our last competition.)

And see page 2 for more about the *Pit Laddie* and the Centre of Bowburn.



Durham Johnston School

Admissions Another good reason for living in Bowburn!

by Sylvia Raine, Johnston School Governor

ONCE AGAIN, the popular Durham Johnston Comprehensive School is over-subscribed, with 262 applicants for the 232 places available in September 1997.

The good news for Bowburn parents, however, is that children living in Bowburn (including Park Hill and Old Quarrington) will be given priority. This is because the first admissions criterion is: "Pupils for whom Durham Johnston is the nearest suitable school." The Whinney Hill site makes the Johnston the nearest comprehensive school to Bowburn.

Only in the unlikely event that more children come into this category than the admission limit allows will actual distances from the school be taken into account.

Some parents mistakenly believe that attending certain junior schools, perhaps closer to Durham than Bowburn Juniors, will give their child a better chance of getting into the Johnston. This is

not the case. Admissions to secondary schools, apart from very rare cases of proven medical need, are based on where a child lives. They are never based on which junior school he or she attends.

So, if you live in Bowburn, and you want your child to attend Durham Johnston, all you have to do is put it down as your first preference and he/she will be given a place.



Former Bowburn couple celebrate Golden Wedding

After 42 years living at 2, Bow Street, Muriel and Bobby Brown moved to Moulton, Northampton in 1993 to live closer to their two daughters Alwyn and Judith.

They are looking forward to celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 26th.

We all wish them well and are delighted they are keeping in touch through *Bowburn Interchange*.

About Bowburn Interchange

THIS is the second edition of *Bowburn Interchange* but our eleventh newsletter since 1994. Earlier ones were smaller, single sheets, or programmes for the first Fun Days.

Much of the news was about events organised by *Bowburn Village Celebration*, especially in 1995, when we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of VE Day and commemorated those who died, for us, in World War II.

We hope that *Bowburn Interchange* will appear three times a year, in April, August and December. But that depends on two things.

It will firstly depend on funding. The costs of this edition have been entirely covered by advertisements from local shops and businesses

etc. We are extremely grateful to all those who have helped sponsor this newsletter (and Fun Day programme) in this way. We hope the people of Bowburn will show their thanks, too, by buying from their local shops and by using local services. Money spent in Bowburn means jobs for local people.

Please support those who support the village.

Publication of *Bowburn Interchange* is also subject to your news and views coming in for future editions. Please keep sending them in!

The editorial board reserves the right to edit or even reject articles it receives. While every effort will be made to ensure that facts reported are accurate, the editors cannot accept responsibility for all views expressed. Those belong to the people in the village who submit them. Please let us know yours!

Write to the Editor, *Bowburn Interchange*, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham, DH6 5AT.

The centre of Bowburn

WHEN two dozen local residents met in Bowburn Community Centre last year to plan the first edition of the new *Bowburn Interchange*, a lively debate took place about how big an area should be covered by our community newsletter.

Some younger residents did not realise that Park Hill was once nearer to the centre of the village than Bowburn Hall. Many could not remember the Pit Laddie public house, which disappeared when the A1 motorway cut the village in half.

Many people have grown up with no memories of Bowburn pit, where nearly 3,000 men once worked. And none will remember the pit

being sunk, though even that only happened this century. For many years, the pit was on the north of the village.

The first council housing was built on the south, at Park Hill. Then, after World War II, the large "New Estate" of council housing extended north, as far as Tail upon End Lane, into what had been part of Shincliffe parish.

So the centre of the village

has moved over the years.

Where do you think it is now? And more important, where *should* it be, in the future? Should there be a new focal point?

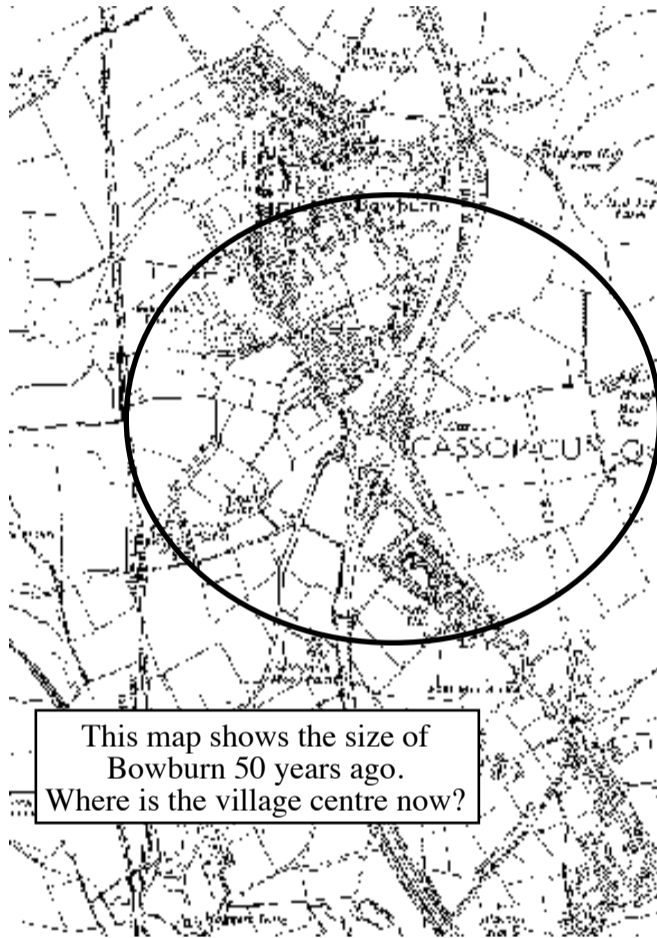
Bowburn is not a thing of the past. Nor is it just what happens to be here at the moment. It's also changes in the future. Those changes could be very exciting. And the people of Bowburn should have their say in what they are... How do *you* think the village should develop?

The village has undergone huge changes in the 20th Century: from a few farmsteads, to a very large pit village, to... what?

What will the village be like in ten, twenty or even fifty years time? Let us know what you think and we'll try to publish your ideas in future issues.

Question: Where is the Dead Centre of Bowburn?

Answer: Bowburn Cemetery!



This map shows the size of Bowburn 50 years ago. Where is the village centre now?

Pit Laddie Corner

JENNIE SHEA (born Hall, in Heugh Hall Row) now lives in Swanley, Kent. Sadly, her husband Dick died earlier this year.

Jennie recalls the signpost at the crossroads in the middle of the village, at Pit Laddie Corner. Like signposts throughout the country, it was removed during the War.

Jennie remembers it saying:

- 4 (miles to) Durham
- 3/4 Old Quarrington
- 6 Sedgefield and
- 1 Hoggarts Gate [Tursdale]

Oh Where?

by Anne Onnimus

**Oh where is the Bowburn that I knew so well?
The heart of the village they had to sell.
The motorway came and tore it apart.
A circle was formed in place of a heart.
It's still one big village indeed that's true
But split in the middle and formed into two.**

**The "Pit Laddie", the "Forge" are no longer there,
A lovely big "orchard" that none could compare.
The "Pit Laddie" was full on a Friday night,
The miners all out for the usual pint.**

**The horses were shod at the Forge nearby.
The apples were great when you passed by.
Gone now forever for progress in time,
The heart of our village encased in Lime.**

Photo Comp Result

THE WINNER of the photo competition in the last edition of *Bowburn Interchange* was Rose Stephenson (née Corner).

Rose herself was in the middle row of the photograph, which was taken in 1950 or 1951. She was standing between Geof Hewison and Muriel Ramshaw.

Most of you will find her easier to recognise from our more recent photograph!

Thanks to all those who sent in entries and others who helped identify all 35 children - only seven of whom still live in the village.



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How good is your memory ?

by Lillie Bellis

How Lily Schofield came to Bowburn

JUST admit that my memory is not so good! But one lady in Bowburn can remember exactly what she was doing and where she was on 1st September 1939.

How many of you know what an evacuee was? Lily Schofield (or Lily Gates as she was then) knows, because that is what she was when she first came to Bowburn on 1st September 1939. She came from Welbeck Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

At that time children were moved from dangerous areas on the coast, away from the bombs, to what was classed as a safer zone.

From Newcastle...

The three Gates children were 13-year-old Ronnie, Lily at eleven and Joe who was just seven. Along with many other children in the same circumstances as themselves, they left Newcastle by train. Their first destination was Sherburn.

There they collected food parcels containing corned beef, sugar, tea and biscuits etc. This was to help feed the children when families were found to provide them with safety, a home and hopefully lots of loving care. (Remember these were small children who were leaving their home and loved ones for the very first time.)

... to Bowburn

After leaving Sherburn they came to Bowburn. They were lined up in the hall of Bowburn School and stood in a line just like little orphans, with a name tag around their necks and a gas mask on their shoulder and the rest of their personal belongings in a pillow case. The children had to stand in line to wait for a family to choose them. It must have been very bewildering for such small children.

The two brothers were chosen by Mr & Mrs Fishburn. Lily should have been taken by Mrs Hughes but sadly she had been taken ill. Lily thought that no one wanted her and sobbing bitterly she begged her brothers not to leave her alone. The evacuee officer asked the Fishburn family to take her until other arrangements could be made.

From rickets to "luxury"

Lily had been in a Gosforth home for crippled children. She had had rickets and wore callipers on her legs. These were the days when food was scarce and malnutrition was rife among the under-nourished children. Lily wore these callipers until she was ten years old.

The home she went to was in Tweddle Terrace. It was luxury compared to what they had left! It had a bathroom and hot running water, whereas they had been used to a zinc bath and boiled their water on a coal fire.

On 1st September a nephew of the family took the children to Shincliffe for a walk and on the way back the air raid sirens almost frightened the life out of them. This was the declaration of war between England and Germany. The young man who was walking with them was a member of the RAF named

Roland Brown and sadly he was killed on duty some time later.

Lily later left this family to go and live with the Parkinsons. The children had to practice putting on their gas masks and running as quickly as possible to the air raid shelter at the bottom of the school field.

Loving family at last

Lily was due for yet another move. This time it was to a different branch of the Parkinson family who resided in Ash Terrace. Her new home was a little less modern as it had no bathroom or hot running water but the family were very good to the young girl and she was very happy and felt like a member of a loving family at last.

She never returned to Newcastle or to her parents as she discovered they had never had any love for her. But she was given lots of love and devotion by her aunt Jane, as she called the lady, and in return Lily gave all her love wholeheartedly to the lady who was more than a mother to her.

She continued living in the village during the war, as a schoolgirl and a young woman. She was sixteen and working at West Auckland when the war ended. Later she married and had two lovely daughters. Later still she bought and ran the local fish and chip shop. After

being widowed she sold her shop and retired but she still lives in the village and can remember very vividly all the pain and heartache she went through as a child of the war years.

She now participates in many of the local activities for the senior citizens and enjoys life to the full. You know she is still here when you hear her hearty laughter and her delightful singing voice, which until recently she used to entertain older people in the surrounding villages.



Lily Schofield after the War

DJ Evans Youth Club

by Mary Bell

THE DJ EVANS YOUTH CLUB was opened by the Duke of Gloucester in 1963.

The Duke was president of the National Association of Boys Clubs, which helped pay for the building, and the Club has ever since been known as "the Boysie". But even its original constitution made clear it was always intended for both boys and girls. Activities today are organised for children of both sexes between the ages of 11 and 16.

Activities and Leaders

The Management Committee, the Youth Leaders (employed by the County Council) and Club members plan activities together. In 1997, these will include some linked to special dates and events - e.g. Valentines Day, Mothering Sunday, Easter, the Carnival Parade and Family Fun Day, Environment Week, Guy Fawkes Night, Christmas, etc.

Regular activities include 5-a-side football, quizzes, craft work, board games, table football, table tennis, pool, baseball, basket ball, modelling, painting and informal discussions.

Last November, eight members went with Toni Pennington and Andrea Clark on an Environment Day project at Thornaby. They helped build footbridges and plant hundreds of trees. And they earned an award of £200 for new equipment for the Club!

Don Knowles has recently joined as another Youth Leader.

Club nights have recently changed to Tuesdays and Wednesdays (6.30-9.00pm). It is hoped that things will again be organised on other nights in future, and that fortnightly under-18s discos will resume. (These were



Members of DJ Evans Youth Club all got certificates from the Environment Agency when they took part in a tree planting day in November.

cancelled last year because of problems with the premises.)

Premises and Helpers

The premises are a constant headache for the management committee. They have raised thousands of pounds for roof repairs, heating, rewiring, kitchen units, re-decoration etc. Some of these works are still waiting to be completed as further funding is sought. There has been lots of help in this, for which the Club is very grateful. But more adult volunteers would be very welcome.

Help can consist of the occasional odd job (changing a light bulb, putting the bins out, minor repairs etc.), helping on disco nights, offering transport on outings, helping to plan

future activities, shopping for equipment and fundraising.

New Members Welcome

New Club members (11-16 years) are also welcome, providing they support the Club by sticking to its rules and helping to make it an enjoyable, safe and stimulating place for Bowburn's young people.

Both Club members and their parents are now required to sign an agreement that they will respect the Club's rules.

Club Nights: Tues. & Wed. 6.30-9.00pm

Leaders: Toni Pennington, Don Knowles and Andrea Clark

Subscriptions: £1 a year plus 25p per session attended

Further information: Tel. 377-1391, 377-3416 or 377-1491.

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D.J. Evans Youth Club Bowburn

**Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 22nd April
7.00pm**

The Youth Club invites all parents and others who want enjoyable, stimulating and useful activities for young people in the village. New volunteers particularly welcome.

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page 3



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Bowburn Library is open
Monday 2.00 - 7.00pm
Tuesday 2.00 - 5.30pm
Thursday 2.00 - 7.00pm
Friday 2.00 - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Bowburn Library is part of the Arts, Libraries and Museums Department, Durham County Council, which includes the Josephine and John Bowes Museum, Killhope Lead Mining Centre, Binchester Roman Fort, Durham Light Infantry Museum, Durham Art Gallery and Forty other libraries.

Arts, Libraries and Museums Department

11.00am Pipe Band at Park Hill

START:—
Bowburn Filling
Station 12.00 noon

12.00—1.00pm Carnival Parade through Bowburn



Arrive at
The Cooperae
12.45pm

Arrive at
Junior School
Field 1.00pm

Guest Stars:

South Durham Pipes & Drums
Horse & Carriage Display
Across Jumbulance
Albert Alchemy (stiltwalker)



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on

Monday 5th May

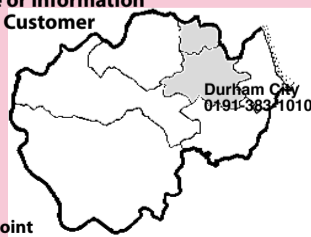
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Afternoon Attractions & Events

- 1.00pm Arrival of Carnival Parade
- 1.00 onwards Helicopter Rides (in Bowburn Park)
- 1.15 Magic Circus Show
- 1.45 Under-12s Five-a-Side Football Competition
- 2.00 Judging of Infant School Small Pets Contest
- 2.30 South Durham Pipes & Drums
- 2.45 Junior School Fun Sports
- 3.30 Tug-o'-War

followed by

Grand Finale

also:

- Pets corner
- Pony rides
- Stalls and sideshows
- Face painting
- Fairground rides and amusements
- Arts, crafts and produce show
- Model vehicles show
- Police dog
- Refreshments
- Toy stall
- Ice cream van...

...and loads of other attractions!

Come along and enjoy yourselves!

Bowburn's Village Celebration

Bowburn Junior School

Monday 5th May

ANN'S OFF LICENCE 3, ASH TERRACE

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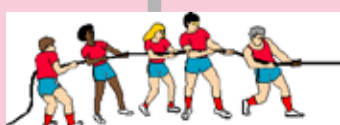
Pedestrian entrance
(Surtees Avenue)



Toilets in pavilion

Helicopter
Rides

Vehicular entrance
(Sherburn Road)



Parish Footpaths and Bridleways

by Brian Hall, Footpaths Sub-Committee,
Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council

CASSOP-CUM-QUARRINGTON Parish Council has become a member of the *Parish Paths Partnership*. It has already started improvements on footpaths and bridleways in the parish.

Where needed, new stiles and bridle-gates are being installed and fencing and sleeper bridges are being repaired and renewed.

On the railway embankment, on Footpath No.1, new steps will soon be in place. This has greatly improved access to the farther

stretches of this footpath, beside Tursdale Beck through the quiet woodland beyond Hett Mill.

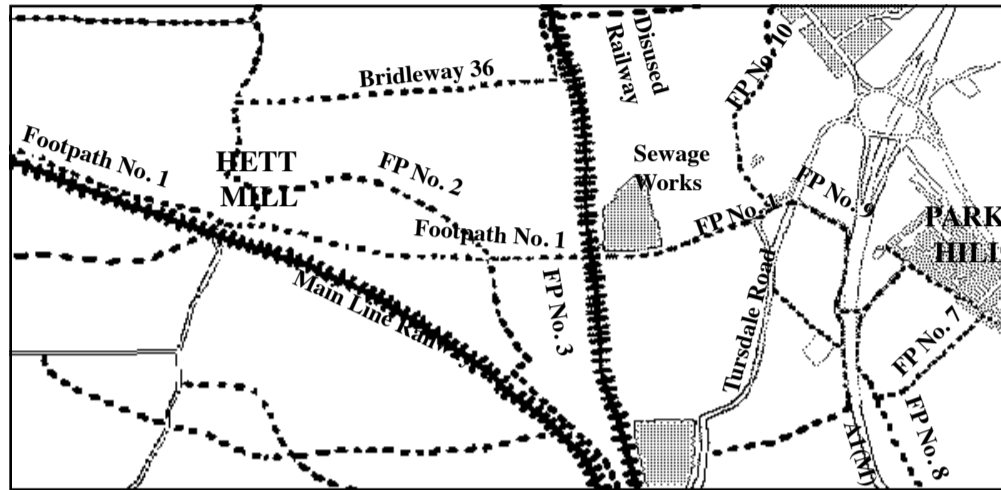
Work on footpaths at Park Hill and Old Quarrington has already started. And work at Cassop will commence at a later date.

If members of the public come across problems with stiles and bridle-gates while

walking these pathways, could they please inform the Parish Council or the Rights of Way Officer at County Hall.

These pathways give a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment to many people.

But please remember that the countryside is a working environment and *Follow the Country Code*.



Steps and bridges have recently been greatly improved on Footpath No. 1

Scouting is fun

by Julie Dobson

DO YOU have boys aged between six and eight? Why not introduce them to Bowburn Beaver Colony, starting soon in the village?

Beavers' motto is "Fun and Friends" and that's exactly what's on offer. Names are also being taken

of younger boys, aged 4-plus, to go on to the waiting list. For more information, telephone Julie Dobson

(Beaver Leader) on 377-0813. (Parent helpers are also welcome)



Bowburn Guides go to panto

by Fiona Terry

THE 1ST BOWBURN GUIDE COMPANY meets every Wednesday during term-time, from 7.30 till 8.45pm, in the Community Centre.

Guides are open to girls between the ages of 10 and 14. On joining, you undertake a series of

challenges to prepare you for enrolment, which is when you make your promise.

The Promise is:

*I promise that I will do my best:
To love my God,
To serve the Queen and my Country,
To help other people
And to keep the Guide Law.*

(The Guide Law is a six-part law.)

At Guide meetings, we do a variety of activities, including craft, games, cooking and service projects. If you are interested, please come along on a Wednesday night.

Trip to the panto

At the end of January, a bus-full of Brownies, Guides, parents and leaders went to see Jack & the Beanstalk at Darlington. A good time was had by all.

(Oh No it Wasn't!)

Oh Yes it Was!



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The Pied Piper of Hamelin

CHILDREN from the Junior School went to the Pantomime at Bowburn Community Centre in January. Here are some of the poems they wrote afterwards, with some of their pictures. There were many, many others and it was hard to choose which ones to publish..

*There was a town called Hamlin.
It was full of rats,
All the children everywhere
Hitting them with bats.
Then one day came a man,
Dressed in red and yellow.
And of course the Mayor said,
"What a jolly fellow!"*

by Wendy Robertson

*Rats, rats everywhere,
Over there! On the stair!
Rats, rats up the pipe,
All the rats a different type.
Could there be so many rats*



*On the mats and on the cats?
I've never seen so many rats,
Under Hamlin's people's hats.
They are grey. They are brown.
They are around with a frown..
They claw on the door and
make horrible marks.
They don't like the black-smith's
because of the sparks.
All the rats run round*

*squeaking.
All the doors, they are creaking.
The Pied Piper's come
And it's time to hum.
He's piping a tune,
Under the moon.
All the rats have drowned.
The baron frowned.*

by Jayne Hutchinson

*He's yellow and red.
He's magical, they said.
"The Pied Piper is my name!"
As to Hamlin, he came.
The Mayor said he'd pay him.
Oh, what a sin.*

*For when he did this, he crossed his fingers
And gave a grin.
So when the piper came back,
Money, the Mayor lacked.
So the piper played a different tune...*

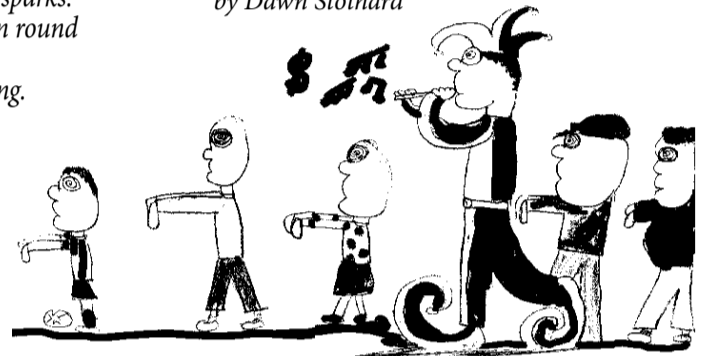
by John Harvey

*Pied Piper with his flute,
Red and yellow is his suit.
He blows a tune and off they go
To the river their minds a-flow.
Down they go, in the river.
They are gone. The town is clear!*

by Lisa Weipert

*To Hamlin that he came,
Pied Piper was his name.
He danced around with all the rats
And took them to the lane.
And never to be seen again,
Never to be seen again.*

by Dawn Stothard



Countryside under threat - a personal view

by Neil Heslop

I RECENTLY found out that some one wants to turn agricultural land near Heugh Hall into an opencast mine. I hope all the people of Bowburn will support the fight against this proposal.

It could cause could be more damage than you first think. The change to the environment may be the first thing you think of but it would go a lot deeper than that. There would be more Heavy Goods Vehicles on the roads, which could mean more accidents. Are the roads in Bowburn strong enough to take extra traffic? Then there would be the extra noise and dust from the extra traffic.

We were told that they had enough coal. They closed all the local mines down or sold them on. Now they want to turn a beautiful piece of land into opencast.

This piece of land may only be agricultural land but have you ever walked up their alone, or with your spouse, and just stopped and looked around and listened and smelt?

Just imagine a nice Summer Day: the breeze blowing the corn and the smell of it; grasshoppers making their music in the tall grass; birds flying through the bushes; rabbits playing in the fields; kestrels overhead; maybe a glimpse of a fox and its cubs walking across the boundaries and, if you're lucky, maybe a deer. You sit for a bit then walk on,

get to the woods. You hear the caw of the crows and the scuffles of wild animals in the bushes. PEACEFUL.

Or would you rather have controlled explosions, 50-ton tipper, the smell of diesel, the taste of dust and people telling you to GET OFF MY LAND!

These may sound like the ramblings of an aging hippy but it's just some one who is concerned about his living environment.

They built on the old pit heaps - straight on top of where frogs and newts used to spawn when I was a kid. They do not care, except for the money. And now, if they get their opencast, what are they going to do afterwards?

- Sell it to Coxhoe Tip?
- Put it back perfect with all the animals back? (Probably not)
- Make a golf course? (Who needs it?)
- Sell it to a major company who will create a thousand jobs just for the people around the surrounding area? (Not in the least)

Would you like to bring your child up in this?

DURHAM CITY CARE DO YOU KNOW SOME ONE WHO NEEDS HELP?

Perhaps a friend, neighbour or a relative close to you has health problems. Are they elderly, disabled or live alone? Have they just left hospital? Do others worry about them?

DURHAM CITY CARE may be the answer for those who need that little bit extra. As a professional service on call throughout Durham every day of the year, City Care staff respond to alarm calls for emergency needs, however great or small, twenty four hours each day.

For further details of this scheme, which encourages independence whilst providing peace of mind for those who care, ring 386-6111 in office hours and ask for Philip Malyan or Jean Gunn.

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or 'phone 377-1491



Bowburn Juniors say "Bonjour"

CHILDREN at Bowburn Juniors are getting off to a flying start with French, thanks to their pen-pals in a school in Amiens in Northern France.

Just before Easter, a busload of French children arrived at the Junior School where they spent the day practising their English and having lots of fun. In June, Mrs Lyons and Mrs Evans will take a group of Year 6 pupils for a return visit to France. That's not all! Plans are underway for a partnership with a school in

Berlin - Bowburn Juniors goes European!

Bowburn Juniors get crafty

The school is getting a whole new look, with red paintwork, new carpets and a brand-new library. Pride of place will go to the Bowburn banner which proudly claims that 'Bowburn Junior School is Simply the Best', made by Upper School pupils and Mrs Wilson, a school helper. Another feature of school display will be the wall-hanging made by pupils working with an artist-in-residence, Fiona Bernhoeft and local residents

by Lynne Lyons, Headteacher

Bob and Lillie Bellis. This depicts 'Bowburn's Hidden Treasures'. The hall has come alive with fabulous Egyptian masks made by Lower School pupils working with Jackie Scollen.

Bowburn Juniors get Sporty

For their Easter treat, pupils at the Junior School travelled to Coxhoe Sports Centre for an 'It's A Knockout' competition organised by the Deputy Head, Mr Mann. Teachers and parent helpers worked hard to make the occasion a success. A big thankyou from all the pupils!

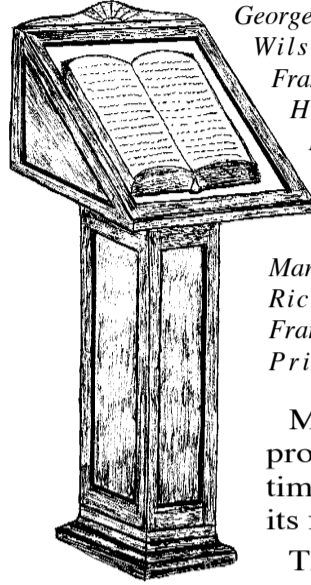
To Those Who Fell...

WORK continues on the Bowburn Book of Remembrance. This will honour, by name, each local person who died in action during World War II.

We did hope this would be finished earlier. But when a name has been suggested, but we cannot trace a surviving relative, it has sometimes been extraordinarily difficult to learn all the details we need - next of kin at the time, date of death, service or regiment, rank etc.

We have full details about the following men who died:

Fred Barlow, Henry Bell, Roland Brown, George Elsbury, Robert Wilson Fleetham, Frank Harker, Wilfred Holden, Stanley Burton Howell, Ralph Johnson, William Jordan, James William Marr, Thomas Henry Richard McKeag, Frank Newby, Robert Pringle, Robert



Rowcroft Ridley, Joseph Smalley, Richard Norman Snowdon, Harrison Stainthorpe, Francis Barkhouse Stewart, Thomas Thomson, Henry Outram Thwaite, Albert Travers, James Truby, Thomas Venners, George William Wharrier, Thomas Edward Willey and Willie Young.

We also believe the following lost their lives, but need more information.

Thomas Jefferson Moore, Lance Gardiner and Frank Roland Wilson

If you can help, please write to 8, Clarence Street, Bowburn or phone 377-1491. We are particularly keen to learn of any surviving relatives.

Meanwhile, a high quality oak cabinet is being produced to hold the Book. It will be made with timber donated by Bowburn Methodist Church, from its former pews, to a design by John Johnson.

The Book and its cabinet will initially be housed in Christ the King Church but its design will make it possible to relocate it to other suitable buildings in the future.

Have your say...!

...in Bowburn Local Advisory Group

by Rose Seabury

DO YOU live or work in West Rainton, Pittington, Sherburn, Ludworth, Cassop, Quarrington Hill, Kelloe, Coxhoe or Bowburn?

Are you in touch with local issues?

Do you have views on what health services, housing and social support local people need?

Do you want to encourage new services and support in your area?

Are you prepared to give your time to a monthly meeting?

If the answer to these questions is "Yes", then come to one of our meetings.

Transport costs will be reimbursed and a sitting service is provided for carers.

Ring Ursula on 0191-387-3313 for further details.

Policing in Bowburn

by Sgt. 1356 Gerry Finn

Bowburn Police Office, 2, Prince Charles Avenue, Bowburn, DH6 5DL (Tel: 377-0354)

BOWBURN is policed primarily by eight PCs and myself, as Sergeant, from the above address. We provide twenty-four hour cover, supported by the various resources Durham Constabulary provide and we respond to an array of incidents and responsibilities requiring our attention.

Crime will always be major priority and I am pleased to report some success lately. Following good police work by PC Maynard and PC Rooney, several outstanding house burglaries have been cleared up. Also a team of burglars caught

by Chester-le-Street Police have admitted responsibility for the recent burglaries at a local Working Men's Club.

Illicit drugs are misused wherever there is a market for them. Durham Constabulary's strategy for this problem involves options for cautioning and counselling where appropriate. But drug dealers are of great interest to us. If you have any information regarding this, why not contact us?



Youths causing annoyance and nuisance can cause untold misery, especially for the elderly and vulnerable. I would like to appeal to those responsible to consider what effect this is having on others. There are many positive things happening

in the Bowburn area. It is annoying to see a small minority detract from this.

Finally, can I publicise the hugely successful CrimeStoppers initiative, which Durham Constabulary utilise to great effect. If you wish to help stop crime but are reluctant to contact the local police, for whatever reason, consider phoning 0800-555-111 and passing your information to them. You can remain anonymous yet still help.

Bowburn Surgery

WE intended to include an interview with Dr. Pollard in this edition about his Sports Injuries course. This has not been possible, due to lack of space.

Meanwhile, the Health Authority, Dr. Pollard and Durham City Planners are actively looking at sites in the village where he might build a new medical practice.



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Kids' Club to open soon

by Liz Atkinson

YOU may remember the Spectrum community survey reported in the last Bowburn Interchange newsletter.

As a result of this survey, a young mothers' coffee morning (on Thursdays) was set up last autumn. And now the group is in the process of



setting up a youth club for 5 to 8-year-olds.

The "Kids' Club" will meet one evening a week

in Bowburn Methodist Church.

We are applying for funds and have organised a First Aid training day for the volunteers.

If you would like to help, or put down your child's name for the new Club, contact Denise Horner, 29, Surtees Avenue (tel: 377-0670)

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30th anniversary of pit closure

But we're looking to the 21st Century!

BOWBURN Colliery ceased production in July 1967. That might not seem like "news" to some people. But the village's past is half of what is most important to the people who live here.

THE OTHER HALF IS ITS *FUTURE!*

Bowburn Village Celebration and the newsletter, *Bowburn Interchange*, are as proud to report stories from the past as we are to help plan events and activities like the Family Fun Day and Carnival. And we believe that all local residents should be involved in planning how our village develops in the future.

This year's three newsletters will report your

memories of the past... and your news and views about what's going on today... and your dreams for the future!

In our summer edition, we hope to include a questionnaire about changes you would like to see in the village. What improvements would you like to see made to the local environment? What new facilities do you think should be introduced? What

activities would you like to take part in?

If you would like to help plan the questionnaire – and start planning Bowburn's future – *please* get in touch!

Meanwhile, we also want to print *your* stories – *your* news, views and memories – in future editions of this newsletter. In this 30th Anniversary of the closure of Bowburn Colliery, we will particularly welcome stories of pit work and pit village life.

Write to the Editor, *Bowburn Village Celebration*, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham, DH6 5AT or phone 377-1491.

Last men down the Pit

Bowburn Pit closed in July 1967. But salvage work continued into 1968.

The last two men to come up the shaft were Charlie Pragnell and Harold Bainbridge. When they had climbed out of the cage, the rope was cut and the cage plummeted to its watery grave below. The Pit was now truly dead.

Charlie first moved to Bowburn (to live at 16, Steavenson Street) in 1914. His father had given up the village smithy in Shincliffe to become blacksmith at Bowburn Pit. (The work was not well paid but it was regular.) Charlie himself worked at the pit for forty years and, with Harold Bainbridge, Steve Clark and Bobby Arkwright, was engaged on salvage work till the very end.

Before coming up for the last time, Charlie and Harold tested the depth of water at the bottom of the shaft with a bottle on the end of a piece of string. "It was 22 feet deep", he recalls. "We used pillar work on the Busty. So the whole of that seam was flooded. It still will be. Bowburn must be floating on water!"

Most of the higher seams were longwalled: they were allowed to collapse after being worked. The other seams worked at Bowburn were the Hutton, Tilley, Harvey, Brockwell and Low Main. The pit was sunk in 1906 and was merged with Tursdale Pit, also owned by Bell Bros, in 1931.

Charlie, like many other ex-Bowburn miners, believes the pit could have been worked for at least another 20 years.



Growth of a pit village

SINKING the shaft of Bowburn Colliery began on 23rd July 1906. Before that, the village had consisted of about eleven cottages, five farms, a large private house, three ale houses and one forge. From 1908 the first houses in the colliery rows began to be occupied and by the time of the 1911 Census the population had risen to about 400.

Almost exactly 61 years later, the pit closed. On 15th July 1967, for the last time, working miners took the Bowburn banner into Durham for Big Meeting. Mary Pragnell had hung a paper carrier bag from one of the poles as it paraded past the County Hotel. On it she had written, "We're on the dole next week."

In those sixty-one years, Bowburn Colliery had grown to be one of the largest in the Durham Coalfield. At its height it employed just under 3,000 men.

The village itself grew as houses were built first by Bell Brothers (later Dorman Long), then privately and then by Durham Rural District Council. Building continued after 1967, at Broadmeadows, at Hallgarth Estate and now at Croxdale Park. The population today (including Park Hill and Old Quarrington) is around 4,000.

Bowburn *does* have a great future!

But the reason for the village's first growth was lost in 1967.

Have you a story about Bowburn Pit? Let us publish it!
Please write to the Editor, Bowburn Interchange, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham, DH6 5AT

Beautiful Bowburn 1997

ENTRIES are again invited for the *Beautiful Bowburn Competition*. You can use our short version of the entry form. Or pick up an official one from Bowburn Library.



All judging will be by the official *Beautiful Durham* (Britain in Bloom) judges, so you could win a prize in the Durham City competition too! Every local entrant will have a chance to win one of our own *Beautiful Bowburn* trophies.

Judging will take place in the middle of July.

Entries should be made before the end of June. You can return forms directly to the Amenities Division, Durham City Council, 88a, Claypath, Durham City. Or just address it to *Bowburn Village Celebration* and drop them off at the Community Centre.

Please enter my name in the "Beautiful Bowburn" competition.

I'd like the judges to look at:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| our pub/hotel/shop/filling station/industrial premises | our sheltered accommodation area . |
| our school garden/group project . | my large garden..... |
| my small garden (less than 100m ²).. | my floral container |
| my garden as seen from the road | my conservatory or greenhouse |
| my allotment garden | |

I am:... under 18 years old 18—60 retired

Name:

Address:

Telephone: