



1906-2006

Bowburn Interchange



1906-2006



Centenary celebrated in style

by the Centenary Group

**Coming next:
Arts, plants and
big band dancing**

BOWBURN'S Centenary celebrations continue on Saturday 23rd September with an exhibition of mining pictures in Bowburn Community Centre, from 12 noon until 4.00pm.

The pictures are being collated by Gillian Wales, Centre Manager of Bishop Auckland Town Hall, and Bob McManus. They will include paintings by the noted pitman painter, Tom McGuinness.

There will also be an art competition for local residents, to mark "Bowburn's Heritage".

Pictures can include past, present or possibly future aspects of the village. Entries should be left at Bowburn Community Centre by Wednesday 13th September and include the artist's full name, address and age (if 16 or under). They can be in any medium (paint, drawing, embroidery...) and on A4 or A3 size paper.

In October/November there are trees and bulbs to plant. The Centenary Group will be asking the young of the village to do this and will need to know from villagers about places they would like them planted.

Last but not least will be the Grand Christmas Dance in the Community Centre on 15th December. The Bush Big Band will play and refreshments will be provided. Only 150 tickets will be available, at £ 5.00 each. So come and dance the night away. Eat, drink and be merry as you bring an end to the Centenary Celebrations.

BOWBURN Centenary Group would like to thank the entire village for making the Centenary Birthday Party on Sunday 23rd July such a memorable occasion.

The year started with Bingo, Quiz and Folk nights; the designing of a banner by the Junior School children; the presentation of commemorative medals and history booklets for the children, and the giving out of bunting. The Banner Group led the Centenary Banner through the village on Big Meeting Day and the Parish Council and Park Hill Residents put out planters and hanging baskets.

Then the great day arrived. It started hot and it got hotter. The event was opened at 1.00pm with the banner marching on to the field to the new "Bowburn March".

The five-side football match was a no holds barred game, which the girls won, carrying off the Centenary Cup for the first year. This will be a yearly competition, so maybe the boys will win next time.

(What do you say to that girls? Do you want to keep the Cup?!)

The circus, Roger the Dog and Punch & Judy entertained the children all afternoon while their parents had a cup of tea and relaxed at the Community Association's tea tent. There were queues of people for the stocks and the fair. 300 balloons went off in the direction of Norway and the Hapkido demonstration drew large numbers. All the community groups came together as one and made a special day extra special. It was lovely to see people sitting picnicking in family groups on the field.

The Grand Birthday Cake, made and iced by Anderson's Bakery, was put on show, cut by one of the oldest and youngest residents, Alfie Swainston aged 90, and Kian Hill aged 4 weeks. Then 400 pieces of cake were devoured in the shortest space of time. People started drifting away at 4.30pm to get ready for the firework display.

As the day darkened and the fairground lights came on about 300 people returned for the evening entertainment. Glow sticks were sold in large numbers, adding to the special effects



Kian Hill and Alfie Swainston cut Bowburn's giant birthday cake



"All things bright and ..."
Robin Millerchip guards the Centenary raffle prize

RAOB Fun Day

THE "Buffs" are organising a Family Fun Day in the Oak Tree car park on Sunday 27th August, starting at 12.00 noon.

It will include a Car Boot Sale (£5 per stall, own table needed), Bar-B-Q, Bingo, Raffles, Tombola, Children's Karaoke, Pool & Domino Handicap and night time entertainments.

Stalls open at 12.00 noon. Contact the Secretary (0783-377-1831) for a stall. (Places are limited.)

All welcome.



Parents and children relax in the sunshine and enjoy the Punch & Judy show

New park plans unveiled

AMBITIOUS plans are afoot to develop Bowburn Park and Recreation Ground.

The long-held desire of the PARC group, to upgrade the Rec, have been reported many times in Bowburn Interchange – as have the legal problems that have held them back.

Now the City Council has a new lease for the former Welfare Ground (which includes the Park and the Rec). The landlords (CISWO) are agreeable to the recreational facilities being significantly upgraded. So proposals for doing this have been seriously taken on board. Working not just with PARC but also with footballers, bowlers and the Community Partnership, a Council project team has come up with a spectacular programme.

Proposals include floodlighting the football field, though that could mean the permanent loss of the former cricket square – and that is one matter on which local opinions are being sought. Also considered have been:

- two mini-football pitches, for junior players;
- security fencing round the bowling green, with a new pavilion for the bowlers;
- two play areas (one for toddlers and one for older children);
- a multi-sports pitch;
- a skate park;
- a BMX track;
- one or more youth shelters;
- tennis courts;
- a sensory garden;
- car parking for visitors (one near Crowtrees Lane and the other, for disabled drivers, near the bowling green);
- public toilets;
- improved footpaths, from Surtees Avenue, Beaumont Close and through the allotment gardens from the Library;
- street lighting;
- CCTV cameras, and even...
- a permanent park-keeper!

Consultation so far has included displaying a proposed layout in Bowburn Community Centre, on 11th July, and then at the Centenary Party in the Park, on 23rd July, with views from residents being invited. Plans have also been shown to meetings of various local community groups.

When a final scheme is agreed, funding applications will be made to various sources, not least from National Lottery funds. If there is a shortfall for what could cost well over £1m, if all proposals are to go ahead, an application can be expected to be made to the village's "Regeneration Pot" – the Bowburn Improvement Fund. Grants from that will be considered in the first instance by the Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership, which will have to balance

other demands placed upon this fund by other schemes aiming to make the Bowburn Masterplan come true.

Bowburn Stroke Club

by Eileen Hennessey

A retirement party was held for Carrie Foreman and Eleanor Strong, who between them have given 25 years service to the Bowburn Stroke Club. Best wishes to them both.



New helpers at the Stroke Club are always welcome, even for just a couple of hours at a time. Please contact Eileen Hennessey on 377-2867 if you are interested.

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Parish News

by Peter Thorpe, Parish Clerk, Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council

Hanging Flower Baskets & Tubs

Residents of Bowburn & Cassop will have noticed that a considerable number of additional hanging flower baskets & flower tubs were located at strategic places in time for the Summer Season 2006.

The special floral display for Bowburn was organised to help celebrate Bowburn's Centenary Year in 2006.

BMX Cycle Track, Parkhill

After quite a few hiccoughs, the grass embankments surrounding the BMX Track at Parkhill have now been given a much needed "short back & sides".

Durham City Council has used special short mowing equipment to do the job, due to the layout of the terrain of the BMX track.

Alan Heightley memorial

IN memory of Alan Heightley, a golf tournament, buffet, karaoke and raffle were held at the Cooperage, Bowburn, on Saturday 7th June.

Betty and Alan would like to thank Sharon and Brian, all who played in the golf tournament, John for the karaoke and all his friends who attended that evening. The winner of the golf tournament was Richard Cook.

The £800 proceeds went to the University Hospital Coronary Care Unit.

Bowburn Library opening hours

We apologize for printing the Library's opening hours incorrectly in our last edition. They are now:

Mondays: 2.00–7.00pm
Tuesdays: 2.00–5.30pm
(Closed all day on Wednesdays)
Thursdays: 2.00–7.00pm
Fridays: 2.00–5.30pm
Saturdays: 9.00am–1.00pm

Thankfully, the "haircut" was done in time for the school summer holidays.

Bowburn Cemetery

Large mounds of clay deposits have been levelled at the side of Bowburn Cemetery.

The clay had built up in recent months when the grave digger excavated new grave spaces in the cemetery.

Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council commissioned Durham City Council to carry out the works. The City Council brought in specialist equipment to flatten the clay mounds, as they had started to encroach upon nearby purchased grave spaces.

Special arrangements were made with the City Council to bring the earth flattening equipment through the field adjoining the cemetery, so as to avoid damage to the newly resurfaced cemetery road.

Our thanks and condolences go to Mandy Bulmer for her agreement to use the field adjoining the cemetery.

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Youth Club News

Joanne Eden reports that all the evening sessions last term were very popular.

About 50 young people were involved in a variety of activities every week, for which they will gain a national accreditation.

The Wednesday afternoon session for those not in education, employment or training has found it hard to reach new members but Connexions and Johnston School are helping to make contacts.

Joanne took a group for a residential week in Hamsterley Forest at the beginning of the school summer holidays.

The club is open from 14th August for three weeks from Monday to Wednesday, from 11.00pm to 1.00pm, and on Tuesday evenings for the sports project, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Normal evening sessions (Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays) resume at the start of term in September.

Joanne has secured a grant to tidy the garden and all volunteers are welcome.

Miners' memorial

TWO further names have been added to the list of men killed at Bowburn Colliery, as a result of the article in June's Bowburn Interchange.

They are Billy Peverell (spelling to be confirmed) and Alec Weir. Both died during World War II, bringing the number killed at the pit during that period to fifteen. The exact dates of these two accidents are still, however, uncertain.

A complete list of men who died in the quest for coal at the local colliery is being sought for a monument to be erected in their memory, in Bowburn Community Centre, later this year.

It is feared that some names may be missed, especially during the early years of the colliery's working. So any information about fatal accidents at Bowburn will be gratefully received. Please contact Mike Syer at 8, Clarence Street, Bowburn (tel.: 0191-377-1491 or e-mail mike@mandjsyer.demon.co.uk).

New developments in Bowburn

NEW house building at Philip Avenue is now well under way. The 86 dwellings will include twelve bungalows and twelve flats for rent (by Three Rivers Housing). The rest will be houses for sale.

All are being built by Haslam Homes, on behalf of the Durham Villages Regeneration Company (DVRC). The new estate will be called Griffiths Court, named after Robert Griffiths, believed to have been the first checkweighman at Bowburn Colliery.

Plans have not yet been published of the next DVRC development, between Prince Charles Avenue and Horton Crescent, previously occupied by council housing and green open space.

Like Charlton Court (named after the last manager of Bowburn Colliery) and other new houses in Lawson Road, both the above estates will be on land originally owned by Durham City Council but transferred to DVRC. So also is the playing field behind Robert Terrace, where further development is also expected to be proposed.

Cape's site

An outline planning application to build 250 houses and some manufacturing and office units was submitted in June on behalf of the owners of the former Cape's asbestos factory site. (The owners - Hallam Land Management and Commercial Estates Group - should not be confused with Haslam Homes, a subsidiary of Keepmoat plc and partners with the City Council in DVRC.) Hallam's agents, Nathaniel Lichfield, have mounted exhibitions about their proposals in Bowburn Community Centre and addressed a meeting of the Community Partnership in July.

Business Park

No housing is proposed in another recent planning application, for a business park on Peat Edge Farm, north of the motorway service station.

This is a revised version of plans withdrawn last year after objections from the Highways Agency, which is responsible for the A1(M). The new application includes a roundabout south of the service station entrance and an extra lane on the motorway exit slip road.

It covers a smaller area than the earlier proposal, as it does not include land immediately behind Edna Street and Durham Road West. (A later application, however, may include that area.)

All planning applications are determined by Durham City Council, after consultation with various agencies and neighbouring residents. Some copies are in the Library. All are on the internet (<http://publicaccess.durhamcity.gov.uk/publicaccess/>).

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Bowburn re-joins the Big Meeting

BOWBURN'S Centenary Banner was unfurled on Friday 7th July, in Bowburn Community Centre, by ex-miner Cllr. Ernie Foster, Chairman of Durham County Council.

The new Children's Banner was unfurled by Roberta Blackman-Woods MP a week earlier. The ceremony took place in Bowburn Junior School, where the children who helped design and make the banner then enjoyed a disco party.

Both banners were marched through Bowburn and Durham on Big Meeting Day, 8th July. At least 300 Bowburn residents joined the Gala in Durham.

They were accompanied by the Shepherd Building Group Brass Band, who also played in Durham Cathedral, during the annual Miners' Service.

(A fuller report about Bowburn's new banners and Gala Day will appear in a special banner edition of Bowburn Interchange this autumn.)

Nursery children park and stride

THIRTY-seven youngsters, aged three to seven, launched their first "walking bus" on 22nd May.

They walked from Bowburn Community Centre to Bowburn Infant and Nursery School, accompanied by local County Councillor Mac Williams, head teacher Christine Ormerod, staff and parent helpers.

Parents were encouraged to leave their cars at the centre and join in the short walk to school.

A special assembly was held on Friday 26th May, at the end of national Walk to School Week, and the children received certificates to mark their achievement.

"Park and Stride is an important part of any school travel plan", said Miss Ormerod. "This first attempt was extremely successful. So we plan to continue with the walking bus next term. It makes a healthy start to the day and, by helping to ease congestion at the school gates, it will make it a safer place for everyone", she said.

Final Masterplan will soon be ready

THE Bowburn Masterplan is expected to be ready for publication in September. The report is being finalised by Fiona Bretwood, of the Halsall Lloyd Partnership, a firm of architects commissioned by the Durham Villages Regeneration Company.

The Masterplan will be an update of the work Fiona first presented to the village in February 2004. Later that year she organised a number of workshops in Bowburn Community Centre, to hear residents' views about how they would like to make Bowburn a better place to live. A number of community groups submitted proposals for improvements in January 2005 and the revised Masterplan seeks to set out what the village wants and how that can be achieved.

This will be an extremely important document for the village. It will not only set out our dreams of what could be but include action plans for making them a reality.

It is expected that funds from what has come to be called the "Regeneration Pot" – the £1.9m allocated to Bowburn from the disposal of Council land housing at Lawson Road – will only go to projects identified in the Masterplan.

Christ the King Church

by Maureen Robinson

ON the last week of term, an exodus took place from Bowburn Junior school. Mrs. Lyons and her merry band of teachers and helpers led the children, like Pied Pipers, from the school to the church. Waiting there for them were the Churchwardens, who gave a short talk on the building of the church and the deterioration of its structure.

Very carefully, teachers and wardens walked the children through the church, showing them the damage that had been done and the dangers this had caused both inside and out. Lights were switched off to show how dark and damp the place would be when the utilities were disconnected after they had left.

It is hoped the children, having seen the dangers for themselves, will now avoid climbing on the roofs and tell others to keep away.

Thank you, Mrs. Lyons and staff for taking time out from a very busy week, in an attempt to ensure the children's safety in the summer holidays.

Dates to note

Harvest Festival – Sunday 10th September 9.00am, in Methodist Chapel.

Harvest supper (broth and stotty) – Tuesday September 12th, in the vicarage. Tickets available soon. See any church member to arrange a ticket.

Girls win the first Centenary Cup

Half of the young people in this photograph look a bit despondent and half look very pleased with themselves. Guess who won the Centenary Cup!

(See Birthday Party story on the front page.)



Where are your children?

Police News by Sgt. Dave Turner

Do you know where your children are? Over recent weeks we have been seizing alcohol from youths in and around the Bowburn area. The parents of some of these have either had a letter or a visit from the Police.

Whilst our aim remains focused on all issues surrounding anti-social behaviour, we need everyone's help to ensure that this form of behaviour is addressed.

Under-age drinking leads to mindless acts of vandalism and disorder. Particular hot spots in the village remain around the Co-op and the park.

In the next week or so, residents of Bowburn should be receiving through their letter box a questionnaire with regards to anti-social behaviour. I would ask that residents complete these and return them to us, so a clear picture of what is happening in the village can be formulated and the matters raised addressed effectively. We may think we know what the problems are but we need to know if we have got it right.

Calls from the public are welcome and your local Neighbourhood Police team is working for you. Help us to help you.

Telephone 0845-6060-365 (or 999 in an emergency).



After the Centenary Party, Bowburn's new banner was taken to be photographed at the site of the Harvey shaft of Bowburn Colliery, whose sinking began after Gertrude Bell cut the first sod exactly 100 years earlier, on 23rd July 1906.

Local history gathers interest

BOWBURN Local History Society hosted an enjoyable event in Bowburn Community Centre on Saturday 24th June – though it was less well-attended than had been hoped.

There were displays from Cassop, Wheatley Hill, the Trimdons, Clayport Library, Bowburn Library, Archaeology Department, Beamish, Durham Mining Museum, NE War Memorial Project, Friends of the Fulling Mill, Skills 4 Life, Clayport Matters, 12 Villages Network and the Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

The "Time Bandits" explained the part played by Durham miners on the front lines in the First World War – in which 50 Bowburn men gave their lives,

from a village then of less than 300 houses.

Bowburn's own history group shared space with the Banner Group, showing slides, photographs, books and artefacts about the village's 100-year-old colliery history.

The Society plans to open a resource room in Bowburn Community Centre, where records, maps and objects of local historical importance can be studied and enjoyed by all who are interested. Funding applications are being prepared.


Perch pronouncements No. 29



Bowburn Banner Group presents the

Fishburn Band

in Concert



at the unveiling of the 1920
Edith Cavell Banner
on
Friday
8th September 2006
in
Bowburn Community Centre
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