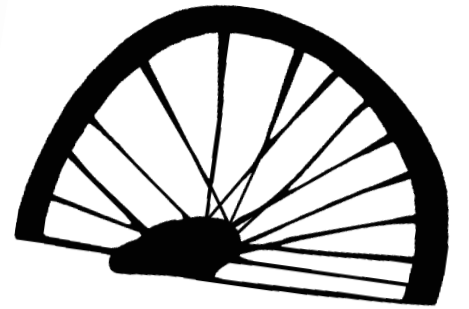




# Bowburn Interchange



No. 4

(Incorporating Bowburn Village Celebration Newsletter No. 13)

December 1997

# Real Planning

## School's Giant Map helps village improvements

**E**ARLIER this term, children at Bowburn Junior School made a Giant three-dimensional Map of Bowburn.

Helped by Richard Hurst, of East Durham Groundwork Trust, they painted roads and green areas and then made model houses and factories. These were glued to 30 polystyrene ceiling tiles. The giant jigsaw of a map can be carried around and put together when and where needed.

It was first on view at the Junior School on Tuesday 25th November. Members of Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council and numerous residents came along to take part.

They wrote comments on coloured "Issue Labels", about what they would like to see improved in the village. These were stuck on the parts of the map they thought needed attention. That evening, there was another showing of the Giant Map at the DJ Evans Youth Club, when young people wrote their comments on labels in the same way.

### Braved the snow

On 2nd December, about fifty people braved the snow to gather at Bowburn Community Centre. For the first half hour, more people put "issue labels" on the Giant Map of Bowburn, which had again been laid out to prompt ideas about how to improve the village.

These, and the ideas produced at the earlier sessions, were then discussed by them in four groups. Each group had experts on hand, from various agencies. These had kindly come along to listen to people's views and to give advice on how to put their ideas into practice.

• One group looked at **environmental issues**. It was guided by Richard Hurst, of the East Durham Groundwork Trust, Stuart Collinson,



The Giant Map of Bowburn at the Junior School...



the County Council's Northern Area Engineer, and Debbie Shanks, from the City Council's Planning Division.

• A second group looked at the needs and aspirations of **young people** in the village. It was helped by Vince High, Community Education Coordinator for Mid-Durham, Joe McMahon, who manages Coxhoe Sports Centre, and Judith Green, from Durham Rural Community Council.

• A third group looked at **social issues** – in particular where Bowburn's new Surgery should be built and how this can be made to happen. This group was led by Linda Temperley, Locality Manager from the County Durham Health Commission, Brian Spears, Durham City's Director of Housing and Health and David Thornborrow, head of the City Council's Planning Division.



... at the DJ Evans Youth Club...

• The fourth group looked at both **economic issues** (like shops, jobs and training) and at policing. People in this group could be advised by John Jennings, the City Council's Economic Development Officer, Sgt. Gerry Finn and Linda Hall, the District's Community Safety Officer.

Each group grappled with issues raised both by the Giant Map of Bowburn and in the earlier questionnaire survey. They sorted these into things that could be achieved in less than a year, those which would take up to three years, and those which would take longer than that.

### Building an Action Plan

These proposals for the village's future will be added to other evidence and advice and put together in an Action Plan for Bowburn.

There are, of course, no magic wands

## Slide Show Presentation

by Mary Hall

**I**N November, Bowburn Library was the venue for an excellent slide show, presented by Philip Nixon.

The show was well attended and his spectacular photography of the landscape and natural history of the West Durham Dales was enjoyed by everyone present.

Our thanks are extended once again to the Arts, Libraries and Museums Department, particularly to the staff of Bowburn Library for their friendliness and hospitality in hosting these events.

*We are looking forward to the start of our own local history group in the near future.*

– despite this being the pantomime season! But we now have some positive and exciting plans for improving the village and some clear ideas about how and when they can be made to happen.

The weather on 2nd December was atrocious. So there are bound to be many people who would still like their views to be included in the Village Appraisal, and who would want to take part in making things happen. If you are one of them, please get in touch with Bowburn Village Celebration, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn.



... and at Bowburn Community Centre

### Thanks to the VIPs

Meanwhile, we are very grateful to the impressive number of VIPs who came to give their time and expertise. They too had to struggle through the snow... and they had further to travel!

But weather is a minor problem when you really want to go somewhere. With their help, and with the enthusiasm of those who came to this important event, and with that of anyone else who wants to get involved, this village can really go places!

## Goodbye Irene!

**G**ENERATIONS of readers will be very sad to lose Miss Irene Pollard, who retires from Bowburn Library at Christmas.

Irene has been in Durham County's Library Service for over 40 years, about half of this as Assistant In-Charge at Bowburn.

We wish her a very happy retirement.

## Prize Draw winners

**P**EOPLE who returned their "Making Bowburn Better" questionnaire (included in the last edition of *Bowburn Interchange*) before the middle of October could enter a Free Prize Draw.

The winners' names were drawn after the Annual General Meeting of *Bowburn Village Celebration*, on 21st October 1997. They were:

- First Prize:* P. Dawson (2 meals at Bowburn Hall)
- Second Prize:* T.H. Thompson (2 tickets to Robins Cinema):
- Third Prize:* J. Gray (£5 Boots voucher):
- Fourth Prize:* R. & B. Swinbank (£5 Boots voucher):

## Not too late...

It is still not too late to make your own views known, by filling in a questionnaire about Bowburn's future. You can get a spare copy from Bowburn Library.

Please deliver it to "Making Bowburn Better", c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn.

All comments will be taken into account when Bowburn's Action Plan for is written.

## 60s Reunion

*THE former Bowburn Modern School reunion in September was a great success. It was well attended by pupils and staff from the 1960s.*

After all expenses had been covered, there was £88 left over and this was kindly donated to Bowburn Junior School. Our photograph shows John Gray, one of the organisers of the event, handing the cheque to Ernie Mann, Deputy Headteacher.

## Photo Competition

There was a lot of interest in the photo competition in our last edition, which showed the cast of a 1960s Bowburn School production of The Mikado. Yet not one entry was received.

Perhaps everyone thought that some one else knew all the names, while they only knew some of them. There's a

message there for people hesitating over whether to enter future photo competitions: Go for it!

(Our latest photo competition is on page 4.)



## Three Opencast Sites

### "Quarrington" site still undecided

**T**HERE is still no news on plans to opencast near Park Hill, south of Bowburn Cemetery.

DS Supplies (and Rackwood Colliery Co.) applied to extract 825,000 tonnes back in December 1995. That application was held up when the County Council asked for further information. When this was produced, planning officers decided to recommend that permission should be refused.

Before this could happen, Rackwoods asked for the decision to be delayed, saying they wanted to suggest different restoration plans.

In March 1997, they submitted a separate application, to Durham City Council, to build a golf course on the site. Obviously, if this was approved, a golf course would become their restoration proposal.

City Council planners have also said they need more details, before they can make a recommendation to councillors. That further information has still not been submitted. So the whole issue remains on hold.

(Information supplied by the Bowburn & Coxhoe Opencast Action Group)

### "Whitwell" site ending...

RJ Budge are nearing the end of their work along the Sherburn road.

By the end of January, they will have finished removing approx. 410,000 tonnes of coal. They will then move into the final stages before restoration.

Backfilling of the mounds (which has already started) should be complete by the end

of May 1998. RJB are likely to use the excavators and dumper trucks already on site for this, rather than bringing in motor scrapers and dozers. (This is to be welcomed: the latter would cause more noise nuisance as they would drive along the tops of mounds.)

Full restoration of both sub- and top-soils should be achieved by October, or earlier if weather permits. A five-year statutory maintenance period then begins, for which RJB

remain responsible. Planting is unlikely to start till 1999AD.

### Tursdale House next?

Meanwhile borings have recently been taken above Tursdale Woods, to the south of High Croxdale.

The company with exploration rights is Hall Construction. It is not yet known if they will put in a planning application to opencast the site.

## Beginners to Gold

**T**HE Fuchsia Society was formed in the early eighties by a small group of enthusiasts. This followed a letter in *Garden News* by the late Mrs Erica Ward, who was to become our first Secretary.

The founder members were obviously very keen on Fuchsia culture. But they were beginners at exhibiting at specialist Fuchsia Shows.

Our first Show was held at Bowburn Community Centre. We have since held this at

Shincliffe, Chester-le-Street and now Sedgefield.

Our first success as an Affiliated Society was at the Harrogate Autumn Show, in 1983, where a second prize was gained in the affiliated Societies class. Later, in 1988, we entered a display at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the B.F.S. at Scarborough. This was followed up by our success in winning the large Gold Medal at the Gateshead Garden Festival in 1990.

Last year, as a Society and as individual members, we took part in the first of the new annual national Society Shows at Hexham, with considerable success.

We hope to contribute as a Society at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the British Fuchsia Society at Harlow Carr, Harrogate, at the proposed three day event in 1998.

Whatever your competence

### More about the Fuchsia Society by Beryl Butler

as a Fuchsia grower – complete novice who wants to learn, experienced grower or advanced exhibitor – a warm welcome awaits you at our Society meetings.

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month (except December), at Bowburn Community Centre. Meetings start at 7.30pm. We have a varied programme of speakers on Fuchsia and related topics.

For beginners, we have separate, additional meetings, starting in the early months of the year.

Annual Subscriptions are, for joint membership: £6.00, joint membership (senior): £4.00, single member: £4.00 and senior single members: £2.00.

For further information about our Society, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Beryl Butler, 9, South Street, Spennymoor, Co. Durham, DL16 7TT.



### Loves and hates

**A**CCORDING to questionnaires returned so far, the four things people in Bowburn worry about most are: speeding cars, vandalism, drugs and road safety.

The four best quality services are: refuse collection, library, home care and schools.

## New heating system at Youth Club

**A** NEW heating system will be installed at the DJ Evans Youth Club in January. The system will include radiators throughout as well as hot water for the toilets, the kitchen area and, eventually, for showers.

The costs of the scheme are being covered by grants from the National Lottery Charities Board and from Durham County Council.

The work will be done by Kingdom, a local CORGI-registered contractor.



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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*New Parish Clerk – Grants – Street Lighting – Allotments – Planning for Real*

by Sylvia Raine

## THE Parish Council welcomed a new Parish Clerk to its November meeting.

*Jamie Corrigan, of Hurworth Burn near Trimdon, will be taking over from Anne Hutchinson in December.*

Anne, from Sherburn Village, has served us extremely well for ten years, but has had to give up due to pressure of her work and other commitments.

The Parish Council would like to thank Anne for all her hard work and to welcome her successor. We hope he will stay with us for at least ten years too!

All requests for financial aid are considered at the October meeting of the Parish Council and this year it was decided to give grants to the following local organisations:

- Bede Terrace Centre,
- Cassop Community Centre and
- Bowburn Senior Citizens (for pensioners' Christmas

parties);

- Cassop School and
- Bowburn Junior School;
- Bowburn Taekwondo and
- Bowburn Village Celebration.

Street lighting requests are also considered in October but the Council regretfully felt they were unable to commit the £20,000+ required for the requested lighting between Hallgarth Estate and Broadmeadows at the current time.

Improvements to the existing light, rather than installation of a new one, were suggested in the garage court at Newburn Avenue.

It was reported at the November meeting that the purchase of the "British Coal" allotment and garage sites by the Parish Council should be completed by the end of 1997. This will ensure the future of this land, which will then be held by the Parish, for

the benefit of local people. There are currently a few plots vacant, so if you are interested in an allotment, watch out for more news in *Bowburn Interchange*.

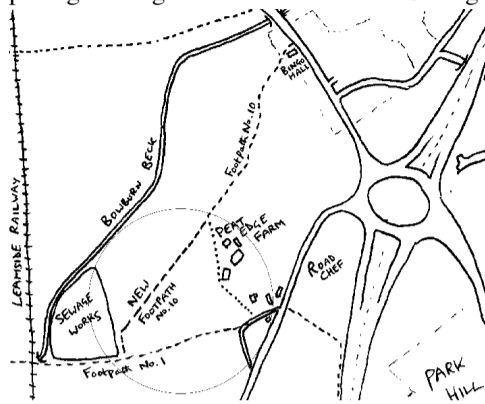
Members of the Parish Council were invited along to Bowburn Junior School in November, to view the wonderful giant 3D map of Bowburn (including Old Quarrington, Park Hill and Tursdale). This was made by the children with the help of East Durham Groundwork Trust. It is primarily a tool for a "Planning for Real" exercise, so all local people can have a say in what their priorities are for the village.

We were very impressed by the hard work all the children had put in, and the marvellous result they had achieved. Our thanks go to them all, and to Richard Hurst who coordinated the map, for their efforts on behalf of their village.

# Footpath Diversion

ONE of Bowburn's countryside footpaths is likely to be diverted. Footpath no. 10 runs from the old cinema/bingo hall to Peat Edge Farm, off the Tursdale Road. It has been less used than many other local footpaths because it is so muddy as it passes the farm.

Parish Councillors have suggested that the path go straight towards Bowburn Sewage



Disposal Works instead and this has been supported by Durham City Council.

If agreed by the County Council, the path will now join Footpath No. 1 nearer to the currently disused Leamside railway line. As reported in last April's edition of *Bowburn Interchange*, that path has recently been greatly improved, with steps over the railway embankment and new stiles.

Now the pleasant round trip from the bingo hall, to the sewage works, to Tursdale House Farm (near Hett Mill) and back over the former pit heaps to the bridle path opposite Bowburn Community Centre will be further improved. This walk is approximately 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles (4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> km) long.



## Bowburn's Grot Spots

*Everyone knows there are several sites in Bowburn which are, to be blunt, pretty grotty!*

One of the points of doing the "Making Bowburn Better" Village Appraisal has been to identify these, to list the ones

that local people think should be dealt with as soon as possible, and to make plans for dealing with them.

The report on the Appraisal has not yet even been written. But things are already beginning to happen!

## Action on Derelict Site

ONE of the issues raised by the Village Appraisal has been the awful state of some sites in the village.

Those that have drawn particular criticism include:

- the former cinema/bingo hall.
- Bowburn South (Ogden's) Industrial Estate.
- the site of the former Cape asbestos works.
- the area between the Library and Burn Street and
- the area around the Coop stores.

Most of these sites are in private ownership. But

one is leased mainly by two charities: Bowburn Community Association and the DJ Evans Youth Club. These two

have joined with Bowburn Village Celebration to put in an application to the National Lottery Charities Board, to



pay for clearing this site up.

If the bid is successful, East Durham Groundwork Trust will be asked to oversee the construction of a properly lit footpath, with attractive landscaping, between Burn Street and the Library. This has unofficially been used as a footpath for many years – but only by those who are agile enough to climb through holes in the fence!

If all goes well, work could be done next summer... but the funding bid has to be successful first!

(If you have strong feelings about any other derelict sites in the village that need action, please write to the "Making Bowburn Better" Village Appraisal, c/o Bowburn Community Centre.)



Bowburn Community Association and the DJ Evans Youth Club, with Bowburn Village Celebration, have applied for Lottery funds to clear up the site between their properties. The Parish Council has just bought former NCB allotment and garage

sites, so these can be kept for local amenity use. Parish Councillors are now talking about possible improvements, after years of British Coal neglect. The Probation Service has offered to help. The City Council is also asking what sites in Bowburn need attention. And East Durham Groundwork Trust is looking at possible landscaping.

### So what are your "favourite" Grot Spots?

Shown here are a few of those mentioned in the Appraisal questionnaires and in the Planning for Real (Giant Map of Bowburn) exercise. But it's not too late to say what you think should be tackled most urgently!

We don't expect miracles. But, by making it known that we care about our village, and that we want to do something about it, we are already getting offers to help.

Together, we can make Bowburn a better place to live!



## Yoga Specialists Visit Bowburn

by Andrew Robson (Year 5)

ON 14<sup>th</sup> November, Tony and Naan (husband and wife) visited Bowburn Junior School.

I found it very interesting: it really relaxed me. I found out that Yoga was really good as before I thought it was just a kind of faraway mythology. Some of the moves were difficult and straining but I got over them. Myself, I think some children were a little restless but that did not spoil it. I don't think that anyone

even considered doing Yoga before. I thought I would never come to do this, but we did and I personally enjoyed it!

I would recommend anyone to try it out. In my opinion, it is a perfect way of relaxing. I recommend Yoga to any tensed, stressed up person.



by Liam Barron (Year 5)

*IN school two people came in and they were called Tony and Naan.*

They taught us to bend our legs and we did a song with them. Then we laid on our backs and we were breathing in and out.

Then we put our hands together and we said *umshanti*.

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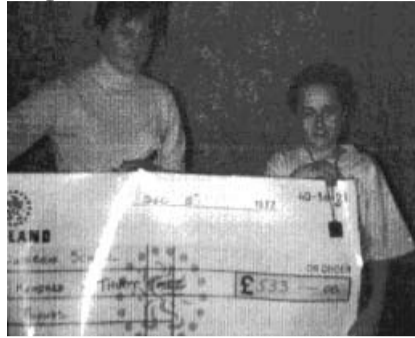
For further details of this scheme, which encourages independence whilst providing peace of mind for those who care, ring 386-6111 in office hours and ask for Philip Malyan or Jean Gunn.

## Glades' special gift

by Eileen Hennessey

THE Ladies Oak Glade would like to thank everyone who helped us by donating money and gifts towards our fund-raising for a special chair.

Special thanks to Robert Hurton, aged 10 years, who ran the Great North Run and raised £198.75p.



Robert is seen here with the Glade Ladies, presenting the cheque to Mrs. Williamson from Rosebank School, Ferryhill.

Once again, many thanks to all concerned.

## Presentation Night

BOWBURN's teams in the Coxhoe & District Ladies' Darts & Dominoes League (The Hare & Greyhound 'A' and 'B', and the Oak Tree) had a good night out on 4th December. All three brought back some

League or Knock-out trophies from the annual Presentation Night.

The Oak Tree finished 5th, their best position ever, and the Hare & Greyhound 'A' were 3rd. The H&G 'B' would not want their position to be made public... but they do enjoy a night out!

## Quick Response to Youth Survey

LOCAL police and footballers have already responded to young people's wishes in the *Making Bowburn Better Village Appraisal*.

As part of this Appraisal, a team of young people wrote their own questionnaire about improvements youngsters would like to see. They asked about facilities in the Youth Club and the Community

Centre. They also asked whether people would like a new Fitness Centre and, if so, what facilities there should be in this.

### Weights Machine

One of the most popular suggestions was weight training. So Bowburn's Sgt. Gerry Finn promptly donated a weights machine to the DJ Evans Youth Club.

This isn't exactly a Fitness Centre. But it's a new resource for young people, made available for them because they said what they thought was needed, and because the local police were keen to help.

At the time that this newsletter went to press, arrangements had still to be worked out to make sure that a properly trained supervisor is on hand when the weights machine is used. This could involve arranging training for one or more senior members of the

Club, or perhaps some one who is already qualified will come forward to help. (Any volunteers?)

### Football

Another activity that came high on the wish list of the 156 young people who returned the questionnaire, and of those who joined the Youth "Issue Group" on 2nd December, was Football.

So the Cooperaage Football Club has promised to help. From 14th January 1998, the Club's players will be training at the DJ Evans Youth Club on Wednesday nights, from 8.00pm till 10.00pm. Now they have offered to start earlier, with their doors open to young people.

From 6.00pm till 7.00pm, youngsters of all ages will be welcome. The hour between

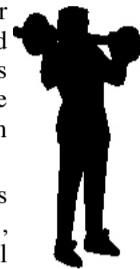
7.00pm and 8.00pm will be for 11- to 16-year-olds. And after 8.00pm training and football will be for over-16s - with no upper age limit! - together with the Football Club members.

Admission on these Football Wednesdays will only cost 25p. Those interested can put their names down at the Youth Club before then.

No doubt the Cooperaage FC will be talent-spotting for future stars! But there could also be the prospect of forming a junior league team.

This was one of the Action Plan proposals from the Youth "Issues Group" on 2nd December. To do that would require funding (from sponsorship, perhaps?), for strips, transport etc. Plans will need to be made to bring this about, by the young people who are interested in forming a team, but with help of others willing to help.

Most Favourite Activities	
Pool	83%
Shop/cafe	76%
Weight training	74%
Five-a-side	67%
Basketball	64%
Day Trips	62%
Table tennis	57%
Boxersize/boxing	55%
Football	54%



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Just a very small group of people, I know, To remember the War dead of long ago. Of all ages we were that November day Remembering young folk who died far away.

We had our own thoughts as in silence we stood

Together in fellowship and brotherhood. Mine were of Grandad, in the Great War, In the D.L.I. as were so many more.

My Grandad died when I was small. But gran made sure that I could recall Tales of the suffering he endured for his King, As Abide With Me each November she'd sing.

She told me the tales of the lice and the mud, As in the trenches my Grandad stood; Of cold and of rats and of agonising pain And thoughts that he'd never see home again;

Of the hunger, the fear and the poison gas, As over the top the men had to pass. Through barbed wire and bullets to gain an inch,

Over bodies and blood they couldn't flinch.

Many were left in those fields of France With dead and injured given little chance. Lions lead by donkeys, it was then said Of millions of men who were now dead.

But Grandad came back, one of the lucky few, To family and friends and places he knew. Though life could never again be the same, After being in Hell and touching Satan's flame.

Gran told me it had been a war to end wars. But count them up, there's been so many more.

So many people have died in vain From the Somme to the Gulf. Please never again.

by Margaret Heslington

## New bungalows

DURHAM Aged Miners Homes Association will soon be offering their twelve new Bowburn bungalows for rent.

Jones Close is being built by the Durham Housing Partnership (of which DAMHA is a member), at the end of Lawson Road. The bungalows will be let to people from the City Council's waiting lists.



The Mayor of Durham, Cllr. Neil Griffin, made an official visit to the site. He planted a "time capsule" of items collected by children from Bowburn Infant and Junior Schools.

### New houses

When the houses now being built by McLeans are complete, there will be a total of 200 houses on the sites of the old pit baths and Bowburn Secondary (later Landsdowne Comprehensive) School.

The new streets are Runcie Road, Carey Close, Wolsey Close and part of Barrington Way (built by Barratts), and the rest of Barrington Way, Montaigne Close and Beaumont Court (built by McLeans).

## What people think of Bowburn

THE "Making Bowburn Better" Village Appraisal is in full swing.

The latest episode has been the "Planning for Real" exercise, reported on the front page.

The questionnaire survey was started earlier, but is not yet complete. The detailed points need analysing. And questionnaires are still being handed in.

Here are some of the more general comments so far handed in:

The best things about Bowburn are...

On major bus route Adjacent to countryside  
Near motorway Neighbours  
Friendly people Close to Durham  
Good for walks to countryside  
Family live here Near my work  
Quiet Community spirit  
Easy to get to towns for shopping  
The people Has its own police station

Too much to put on three lines...

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FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Some of the children who built the Giant Map of Bowburn show it to Parish Councillors Stan Robinson, Maggie Robinson, Brian Hall and Sylvia Raine

The worst things about Bowburn are...

Traffic Rubbish in the streets  
Appalling visual impact of Durham Road  
Derelict land needs cleaning up  
Allotments untidy, could be put to better use  
Bad footpaths for wheelchairs  
Drug problem Co-op wall area  
Lack of supermarket/butchers  
Poor surgery accommodation  
Opencast No choice for shopping  
Dislike trying to cross road in morning  
Dog fouling Litter around streets  
Drinking in public  
An ignorance of what we already have...

If you have not aired your own views about what you think of the village, then collect a questionnaire from Bowburn Library and hand it in at the Community Centre. It's not too late!

## Photo Competition

## Well? What's the difference?

THE photograph below, kindly lent by Brian Hall, shows Durham Road, Bowburn, about 1930. The car probably belongs to the photographer.

There is a prize of £5 for the reader who can list the most differences between the scene shown here and how things look today.

Please send entries to Bowburn Interchange, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn.



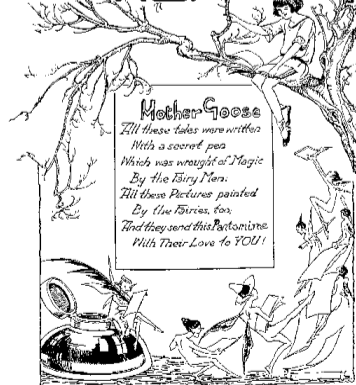
When the Club's officers retired this summer, no one came forward to take over. So the sad decision was taken to close down.

After a final audit of accounts, the Club's assets were distributed as follows.

- St. Cuthbert's Hospice: £1,000
- McMillan Nurses: £400
- Coxhoe Surgery: £100
- Bowburn Surgery: £100

Several generations of local gardeners will be grateful to Billy Barron, Ralph Fleetham, Jim Harle, Sammy Thompson and others who gave up their Saturday mornings for so many years. They will also be very sad that this excellent local resource has been lost.

## bruvvers present MOTHER GOOSE



Bowburn Community Centre

Tuesday 23rd December  
6.30pm

Children FREE Adults £1

Sponsored by Durham City Council and Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council