



Bowburn Interchange



Farewell to the Pineapple

by Maureen Robinson

The demolition crew moved on to the site of Christ the King Church on Thursday 24th May. By the time this newsletter is printed, Bowburn's famous "pineapple", crown-of-thorns roof will have gone.

The first days were spent riling off the site and making it secure. Then small amounts of asbestos had to be expertly removed, before the main body of work – the demolition – could begin.

In my innocence I thought there would be a great big crane swinging a ball into the building. Nothing of the sort. "Too dangerous love. We don't do that any more", I was told. It will be more a case of dismantling than demolition. "Not very exciting", I said, standing there with my camera.

Thinking about it, though, for all it was a very ugly building, an eyesore, a pineapple, whatever you may have called it, the church deserved a kinder ending.

Beautiful inside, with a friendly congregation, it served the village for most of its needs. It was our spiritual home for many years, sustaining us as we went about

our daily lives. It was built with hard work, determination, and love, by people of the village who gave up their spare time on weekends and nights after their work day had ended.

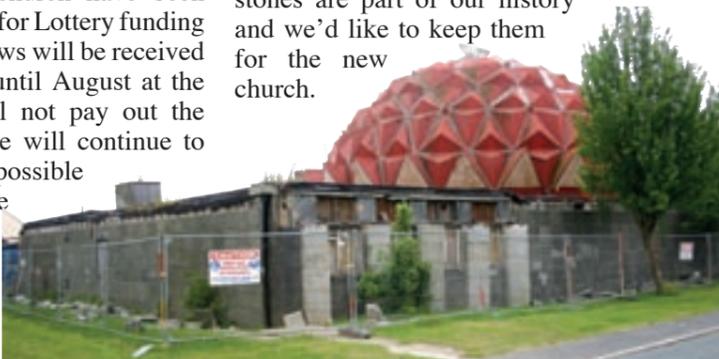
"We won't miss the sight of it, will we?" I think we will.

The plans for a new church have been submitted; the application for Lottery funding has been registered. No news will be received from the Lottery people until August at the soonest. The Lottery will not pay out the full amount needed so we will continue to raise as much money as possible ourselves, but we need the help of all the villagers if we are to succeed in getting a new church in Bowburn.

Until then I, for one,

will remember with love the pineapple church of Christ the King.

Stop Press: Will the people who stole two of the dated downcomer stones please return them? If they are quietly left on the site, and a message sent to 377-0814, to say they're there, no further action will be taken. The stones are part of our history and we'd like to keep them for the new church.



Targeting Bowburn

by Insp. Dick Dodds

IN recent months Bowburn has seen an increase in anti-social behaviour, such as "street drinking", rowdiness and motor cycles causing a nuisance.

All these activities lead to environmental problems and in order to combat these issues, a "StreetSafe" Partnership initiative began in May.

This partnership consists of police, district and county councils, fire and rescue service, educational welfare and youth engagement service. The aim is to make Bowburn a safe and confident community with a clean, green and healthy environment.

Neil Bennett and Neil Wilkinson, Police Community Support Officers, are now based at Bowburn Office, with responsibility for the Bowburn and Coxhoe area. They are supported by PC Cockburn and the local beat team. Please call at the office when they are on duty and discuss any concerns you might have.

Already, we have seen a reduction in anti-social behaviour and we will continue to target people who indulge in this type of behaviour.

Eastern by-pass starts at last

Work has at last started on the A688 Wheatley Hill to Bowburn link road, fourteen years after proposals were first published.

Since 1993, there have been various planning and legal challenges, as well as difficulties in obtaining government funding, but the County Council kept the road as one of its major highway priorities.

As far as national and regional

policies are concerned, this will be a major economic boost, improving links to the motorway.

As far as Bowburn is concerned, it will at last take heavy traffic away from the minor road past our Infant School

and through residential areas. The scheme will take up to 15 months to complete.

The road will go from a new roundabout just south of the motorway junction, heading northwards, past the cemetery and Heugh Hall Farm, to Cassop Moor, where a further roundabout will be provided.

The existing road from Cassop Moor to Byers Garth will be greatly improved and there the staggered T-junction will be changed to a roundabout.

The works will mean significant disruption to traffic while under way.



The road from the motorway bridge (near the top of Tail upon End Lane) to Byers Garth will be closed (other than for farm access), for up to nine months. During this period, traffic will be diverted via the A181 and B1198 past the Rose Tree, Shincliffe, or via the B6291 and A177 through Coxhoe and Bowburn. Access to Old Cassop will be via Quarrington Hill and Red Briars Bank.

During the works, for the safety reasons, there will be temporary speed limits on adjoining roads and nearby footpaths and a bridleway will be closed.

The road through Park Hill will remain open throughout, with a contraflow arrangement. After the works are complete, there will be only a single carriageway south of the new roundabout, with traffic speeds reduced as a result – good news for pedestrians!

The bus shelter removed recently will be replaced, close to where it was before.

Memories for sale

Bowburn Local History Society has a new book for sale. Called "Memories of Bowburn", it has 71 photos, with information from the society's records.

Our local historians are grateful to all those who lent photographs for this publication. They would also welcome more information about any of these – and, indeed, more photos to copy for future use.

All records collected will be kept in the heritage resource centre, in Bowburn Community Centre. This will be for anyone interested in the history of Bowburn and surrounding area.

Applications are in for funds to help set this up.

To buy the book, 'phone (0191) 377-1491 or 377-1729. Price £5. (Free delivery locally or P&P 95p for one copy or £1.25 for two.)



Bowburn gets new councillors

ELECTIONS were due on 3rd May for both the parish and district councils. However there was no contest for the parish, as only 15 candidates were nominated for the 15 places. Two parish councillors had retired, so there are two new ones.

The district elections resulted in one change locally, again due to a retirement.

Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council, which covers Bowburn, Cassop, Old Quarrington, Park Hill and Tursdale, now consists of: Howard Armstrong, Jack Barker, Janet Blakey, Margaret Higham, George Marsden, Muriel Marsden, Dennis Morgan, Sylvia Raine, Alan Richardson, Jimmy Robinson, Maggie Robinson, Stan Robinson, Andrew Shutt, Mike Syer and Billy Tickell.

The District Council ward includes both Cassop-cum-Quarrington and Croxdale Parishes (including Croxdale and Hett). Our City Councillors are now: John Kelly (tel.: 01388-815162), George Marsden (01429-820017) and Maggie Robinson (0191-377-2222).

Our County Councillors are still Mac Williams (378-3723) and Dennis Morgan (377-0553) for areas north and south of the motorway, respectively.

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Councillor retires

by Maureen Robinson

ON 3rd May, after twenty three years' service, Mike Syer retired as City Councillor for Cassop-cum-Quarrington.

He was well known in the village for his Sunday morning walkabouts, a tradition started by Cllr. Colin McCormick many years ago, and proudly continued by Mike until his retirement. On these days anyone with a question, complaint or a worry was able to stop him, have a chat and be assured that, whatever the problem, it would be looked into.

Mike, who retains his seat on the Parish Council, was asked, "What will you do with your spare time?" He replied "I haven't got any! But I'd like to continue with the Banner Group, do a lot more local history and spend more time with my wife." When asked what Jen, his wife, felt about his retirement, he smiled and said, "I don't know. I've been busy and haven't really had time to ask her; but I think she's pleased!"

Best wishes Mike and thank you for all your years of service to the village of Bowburn. Enjoy your retirement.



Lucy Short, Year 1 teacher at Bowburn Infant & Nursery School, whose visit to Kenya was reported in the last Bowburn Interchange

Thankyou Parkhill

PARKHILL Resident's Association wishes to thank all residents who contributed to its collection for the flowers on the estate for this year. The total raised was £299.60.

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£12.95 per person*

Fri. 21st Sept.–Carvery Night–
£12.95 p. person*
(*Arrive 7.00pm to be seated for 7.45pm)

Nature Notes

by Richard Cowen

SPRING is now well under way and on the bird front all migrants are likely to have arrived.

First to arrive was chiffchaff and more than usual have been around Crow Trees and in Park Hill Woods this year. There also seem to be more willow warbler and blackcap. Whitethroat arrived late but there are now quite a few.

On the rarer side, I have seen tree pipit once or twice but they were probably on passage to other sites. I have seen and heard garden warbler around Crow Trees and am told they are around the Cape site.

Swallows are back in force and I've seen house martin, swifts and sand martin, but not in force. There are sedge warblers at Coxhoe Ponds.

In Park Hill Woods I have seen treecreeper this year for the first time and recently heard green woodpecker with its loud, laughing call. A pair of mistle thrush have also taken up residence. There seem to be more goldfinches than usual this year.

Bluebells are now blooming in the woods and cowslip are in abundance around Crow Trees. Water aven has also been seen. Violets are in abundance in the cleared area below the King's Wood at Quarrington Hill. As yet, I have not seen any orchids.

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Unsafe monuments

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

ARRANGEMENTS have been made with registered stonemasons to seek price quotations for repair work to certain monuments in Bowburn Cemetery.

Around a dozen monuments failed a safety test in December 2006. Now the Durham Diocesan Court has granted an Order to lay down the most dangerously unsafe monuments.

Other unsafe monuments (which may not be dangerous, but are not satisfactory) can be repaired by a registered stonemason, now that a second Order has been granted by the Diocesan Court.

The Parish Council is responsible for repairs to the monuments where next of kin cannot be traced.

Cremated remains

It seems some cremated remains have been interred in Bowburn Cemetery in recent months.

Families who have purchased a grave space in the cemetery can place three sets of cremated remains in one purchased grave space without further charge by the Parish Council. However, I need to be notified about the details of cremated remains placed in the cemetery, as I am required by law to keep an appropriate entry in the Book of Burials.

If any reader has placed cremated remains of a loved one in the cemetery, please write to me as soon as possible with the following details: (1) name of deceased person, (2) date of death, (3) age of the deceased at time of death, (4) place of residence at time of death, and (5) date when cremated remains were placed in the cemetery.

Please note: the Parish Council is not seeking to take action against any bereaved relatives.

Note from Sylvia Raine: The next litter-picking session will be on Saturday 7th July, when the Gala Day banner route will be cleared. Meet at 9.30am, at Bowburn Community Centre.

Beautiful Parish Competition

THE Parish Council will again be making awards this year to those whose gardening skills help to make our parish a better place to live.



As before, judging will be done independently, as part of the Beautiful Durham Competition, in which all local entrants will also be included.

Entry forms can be collected or filled in at Bowburn Community Centre until Friday 29th June 2007.

New right of way?

Do you walk down John Hare's Drive, through the woods opposite Tweddle Terrace? Do you use the footpaths behind Windsmoor and PC Henderson's? Have you done so for 20 years or more? Would you like these paths designated as a right of way?

If so, please fill in an evidence form, available from Bowburn Community Centre or the Post Office.

Johnston school admission worries

RUMOURS have been rife about changes that might occur after Durham Johnston Comprehensive School moves on to a single site in 2009.

The rumours have arisen because Johnston has, for some years, had different admission criteria to those of other schools in the county, because of its split-site nature. Johnston has a "nearest suitable school" criterion that refers to both sites. This was to ensure that children living near the Whinney Hill site did not lose their right to attend the school when new housing was built near the Crossgate Moor site. At present, children in Shincliffe and much

of Bowburn get priority under this rule, because Whinney Hill is nearer than, say, Gilesgate School. However that could change when the lower school is demolished.

In Bowburn's case, under present rules, all children would qualify anyway, because they live in an area covered by "Assisted Transport". That is, school buses are laid on for Bowburn and Park Hill, after arrangements were made (and promises given) when Landsdowne Comprehensive School closed in 1985. If the new single-site school had the same criteria as the rest of the county, and if Assisted Transport remains the same, from 2009 onwards, then this rule should still guarantee places for Bowburn and Park Hill's secondary pupils.

However recent legislation could lead to changes in school transport provision. County Hall has been reminded of the guarantees given before Landsdowne closed. These will doubtless be taken into account when decisions are made about both admissions criteria and the future of school buses. A Cabinet meeting was to have looked at these on 24th May but the matter was deferred.

Cape site goes to public inquiry

DILLION Butters have appealed against the City Council's refusal to grant outline planning permission for housing and some industrial units on the former Cape asbestos works site.

A Public Inquiry will now be held, in the Lindisfarne Centre, St. Aidan's College, Durham, to consider the appeal.

The Inquiry will open at 10.00am on Tuesday 10th July and is scheduled to last four days.

Anyone wishing to speak at the Inquiry must be there on the first day when the Inquiry opens.

Mat making classes

ANOTHER 10-week mat making course starts at Bowburn Community Centre on 18th September.

The class will meet on Tuesdays, 1.00-3.00pm. It costs £35 for the full course but is free to anyone on benefits, other than a £5 registration fee.

To book a place, phone 383-5979, or just come along to the first class.

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Big Meeting on 14th July

THIS year's Durham Miners' Gala – the Big Meeting – is on Saturday 14th July.

Bowburn's two new banners, the Centenary Banner and the Children's Banner, which took part for the first time in 2006, our centenary year, will again be paraded through Bowburn and Durham City. The Shepherd Building Group Brass Band (the former Rowntrees, Band) are again coming up from York to help us celebrate.

The band will give a FREE concert in Bowburn Community Centre on Friday 13th July, starting at about 8.00pm. Bar opens at 7.00pm. All welcome.

A slide show of last year's Gala will precede the concert. (Come and see yourself on film!)

Before that, at 5.30pm, there's a FREE under-13s children's disco.

On the Saturday, the parade will gather in the Crowtrees WM Club car park at 8.00am and set off down the front street at 8.30am. It will turn in at the post office, as last year. When it gets to Prince Charles Avenue, it will divert for the band to play at the war memorial and then proceed up Bede Terrace (North) and file through to Dallymore Drive.

The band will play at a number of stopping points on the way.

Buses will then be waiting to take us



into Durham. Transport is FREE – though donations will be accepted! Tickets should be booked in advance to guarantee a seat.

Please 'phone 377-1491 or 377-0553, or e-mail banner@mandjsyer.demon.co.uk, or leave your name at the Community Centre.

We'll meet up again near the New Inn, at the top of Church Street, at about 10.00am. From there we'll march with our band and banners

down New Elvet to the Royal County Hotel and then to the Racecourse.

While on the Racecourse, make sure you visit the Durham Photographic Society's tent, where an exhibition of photographs of the Bowburn banners and Bowburn people will be on display!

The banner will be lifted from the Racecourse at 3.00pm, then we'll march back up the hill to the buses, which will set off back to Bowburn at about 3.30pm.

Housing decision this summer

As predicted in the last *Bowburn Interchange*, an application for planning permission for housing on the playing field at Tail upon End Lane (Henry Avenue) was duly submitted, by the Durham Villages Regeneration Company, on 12th April.

Eighty-six houses are now proposed (not the 79 we forecast in March) but the layout is very similar.

On 26th April, notices inviting objections or representations were sent out to occupiers of the 35 dwellings nearest the site and posted at the edge of the playing field. The notice said that representations should be made within 21 days (i.e. by 17th May). However it is most unusual for the Council not to take account of letters submitted right up to the time when a report is written for the committee.

The application will be considered by Durham City Council's Development Control Committee, which currently meets in The Studio, at the Gala Theatre. The earliest relevant meeting could be on Thursday 19th July or 2nd August. Meetings start at 5.30pm.

Members of the public can address this committee, with

a maximum of five minutes (between them) for supporters of any application and a maximum of five minutes for objectors.

If this committee is "minded to approve" the application – i.e. believes permission should be granted – the final decision then goes to be made by the Government Office North East. This is because the proposed development is on a greenfield site (i.e. not previously developed), which is normally against local and national planning policies. The applicants have argued that this is justified, because of the regeneration benefits it will bring to the village.

The application can be viewed at Byland Lodge, in Durham, or on the Council's website. (It is application no. 07/00311/FPA.) There is also a copy in Bowburn Library, though there may have been some amendments made since that was first placed there by a local councillor.

Crowtrees F.C. looks to the future

BOWBURN Crowtrees football club had a disappointing season and it looked at one time as if it might fold. New officers came forward at the AGM, however, and things now look more positive.

"Maybe expectations at the beginning of the season were too high", said ex-secretary Gary Hutchinson. "We were expecting to go up, even if not as champions, but we only managed to finish two places above relegation. Off the field, financially, the team was helped by the Bowburn & Parkhill Partnership. On it, things did not go to plan." Both Gary and manager John Rowe announced they would step down once the season had finished.

Now David Foster has come in as manager and Mark Hunter takes over as secretary. John remains as treasurer. Three new players have already signed for next season and David has high hopes of finding new sponsors.

The end of season presentation was at Crowtrees Club, with the following awards: Players' Player of the Year, picked by own team mates – Rob Searle; Player of the Year, picked by opposition teams – Ray Pirt; Top Goalscorer – Ray Pirt; Manager's Player of the Year – Craig Hill; Assistant Manager's Player of the Year – Rob Searle.

Division Three League Table

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Durham City FC	24	19	1	4	92	40	52	58
2. Bedlington United	24	18	3	3	100	39	61	57
3. Whitehaven FC	24	16	4	4	95	46	39	52
4. Easington FC	24	14	1	9	73	52	21	43
5. Pelton United FC	24	12	6	6	65	49	16	42
6. The Aycliffe FC	24	12	3	9	53	50	3	39
7. Chester-le-Street FC	24	10	4	10	55	49	6	34
7. Blyth Spartans FC	24	10	4	10	61	67	-6	34
9. Spennithorne FC	24	9	2	13	57	73	-16	29
10. Consett FC	24	5	3	16	54	95	-41	18
11. Bowburn Community FC	24	4	4	16	46	74	-28	16
11. Gateshead FC	24	5	1	18	51	103	-52	16
13. White Town FC	24	2	4	18	28	92	-64	10

Banner conservator in top three

Sarah Maisey, who worked on Sour Edith Cavell banner at the University of Northumbria, is down to the last three in the Student Conservator

of the Year Award competition.

Judges visited Bowburn on 6th June to see the banner and learn more about Sarah's research.

Quarry plans would change landscape

TARMAC Ltd., who, as Hepplewhite Quarries & Plant Hire Ltd., operate Old Quarrington quarry, will soon apply for permission to work out parts of the old Cold Knuckles quarry, near Crowtrees, Quarrington Hill.

The proposal would stabilise the currently unstable south-facing quarry face below St. Paul's churchyard and



move the line of the "top" bridleway (no. 35) – after it is temporarily diverted along the bottom of Cold Knuckles – about 100 metres northwards. It would involve the extraction of about one million tonnes of high quality sand, over a ten-year period.

Under existing planning permissions, the quarry operators can extract sand and limestone from Old Quarrington quarry itself, almost as far east as the Heather Lad public house and north to Hill Top farm. But they cannot go south towards Cold Knuckles – although there is a separate, existing 1950s permission for that quarry itself. On the other hand, there is at the moment virtually no control over when they are allowed, for instance, to blast or to run vehicles to and from the site, nor is the number of vehicles legally restricted. (The existing operating hours are more or less voluntary.)

The new application will be packaged with the company's Review of Old Mineral Permission (ROMP). This will replace the existing five basic

conditions on how they operate, which date back to 1952 and 1956, by several dozen new ones. Basically, though they are obliged to undergo this review by the Environment Act 1995, nothing can take away their existing rights to work Quarrington Quarry. The new permission, to work Cold Knuckles, will – if granted – impose numerous new conditions, including how the area will be quarried and details of restoration, when they have finished.

Tarmac are embarking on a major consultation exercise before they submit their application. It will include exhibitions in local community centres, with their Environmental Impact Assessment and a three-dimensional "fly-through" that shows how the workings

will look, from any given direction, at any stage during the next ten years. When the views of local residents have been heard, and the plans amended (if appropriate), the application will be

made to Durham County Council, probably in July.

It is likely that a legal undertaking will be offered that the new operations will not start until the A688 link road is finished and that no future Tarmac quarry traffic will go past Bowburn Infant School.

(We are grateful to Michael Young, Tarmac's Estates Manager, for supplying information for this article.)

Bookies up and running

BOWBURN'S new bookmakers are now open.

After several weeks' work to the empty shop unit next to the Co-op, in Prince Charles Avenue, they opened on Friday 1st June – just in time for the Oaks and the Derby, the big races in the June calendar.

The shop is owned by Jimmy Winwood and Jonathan Ridley, who have managed shops elsewhere in the North East for

many years. Most punters will more often see Jayne and Susan, who has moved from their shop in Ushaw Moor.

Jimmy said he was surprised a village the size of Bowburn didn't have a bookies already, though he remembers at least one of the four we used to have in the village, some thirty years ago.

He has expressed thanks to the staff of the Co-op for their help while the shop was being refurbished. "They were very helpful with things like water and electricity", he said.



Perch pronouncements No. 32

I wonder if the new bookies are taking bets...



... on how many houses will be built on the Tail upon End Lane playing field!