



Bowburn Interchange



New upsets for Bowburn Park

Bowburn Park has lost £50,000 of possible funding. The money, which was expected from the Big Lottery's Park Partnership Fund, has been allocated to Esh Winning instead, because Durham City Council could not guarantee the park would be completed within the required timescales.

Brian Spears, the Council's Chief Executive, told *Bowburn Interchange* that Durham's local government is likely to be re-organised (though his council is challenging that) and the new local authority may not honour commitments of the existing City Council.

After 23rd November, he said, new legislation will prevent councils in Durham entering into new contracts worth over £100,000 without the approval of a transitional body. This will apply to any contracts not entered into before that date, including those needed for the Park and other Bowburn regeneration projects.

Indeed, Mr. Spears thought any unspent money from the £1.9m Bowburn Improvement Fund (the "Regeneration Pot") could also be lost to the village, as the future local authority might have different priorities – like new schools, including Durham Johnston. Ways are being looked at, he said, to transfer this money to the Durham Villages Regeneration Company before the 23rd November deadline.

The new Park Hill play area, however, is unaffected: a separate £50,000 Big Lottery grant is safe.

We asked Durham County Council (whose assets will also, presumably, be frozen) how it saw the situation.

While they were unable to comment on Bowburn's regeneration or the Park scheme as such, a spokesman pointed us to the Government's guidelines on the forthcoming legislation. These were published on 22nd August and say the Government "would encourage all local authorities, when considering entering into contracts that will have a life beyond April 2009, to discuss their proposals with the shadow/transitional authority as early as possible".

Another problem has arisen for the Bowburn Park project, which is linked to this setback. Its planning application was finally submitted on 10th July but brought an objection from the Environment Agency, on 13th August.

They want the City Council to show exactly how much surface water now drains from the park and recreation ground into Bowburn Beck, how much would do so from the new park (given the hard surface play areas proposed) and how any extra would be dealt with.

They will insist on attenuation measures to make sure no extra water flows suddenly from the park into the beck than at present.



You might think Burn Street looked quite attractive on 18th July – until you realise this water contained raw sewage.

What causes Bowburn's floods?

This summer's floods in Hull and Cirencester may make Bowburn's problems seem small. However a flash flood on 18th July showed things need sorting out here too – not least because of two other recent shocks.

On 13th July, NWL (Northumbrian Water Ltd.) said it would object to new housing at Tail upon End Lane, unless capacity problems at the Bowburn Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and in the local sewerage network are resolved. A month later, the Environment Agency told Durham City Council that Bowburn's ambitious new park should not be allowed till its drainage is proved satisfactory.

What, then, are Bowburn's drainage problems?

1. Bowburn Beck
Most of the village's surface (rain) water drains to the Wear via Bowburn Beck. This enters a culvert near the allotments, which takes it between the Library and the Community Centre to the bridge under Durham Road. A major feeder joins that culvert behind the Library. When this "blew" on 18th July, there was severe flooding at Bowburn Bridge and in the nearby car park.

Any extra surface water from Bowburn Park would also join the beck, which is why the Environment Agency wants that attenuated.

At present there are no known plans either to increase the capacity of the culvert or to by-pass it by sending surface water straight to below Bowburn Bridge.

2. Combined Sewers
The beck's capacity problems are quite separate from those of Bowburn's combined sewers, which drain to Bowburn STW, near Peat Edge.

The problem here is that the sewers of all pre-war housing take both foul and surface water. So, when there is heavy rain, it can overload the system. Raw sewage, albeit diluted, will back up and escape where it can. This happened again near the bottom of Burn Street in July.

A few years ago, it

blew drain covers behind the Community Centre. That was apparently solved by building up the height of the brickwork there... but an escape is now found further "upstream".

This sewer crosses over the beck, then goes deep underground to behind the top of Edna

Street and thence down to the sewage works. In 1998, NWL had plans to increase its capacity near the beck but nothing happened. This summer, they announced they would do this in August or September... but have not yet started.

All foul water from housing north of the beck takes this route. All the sewers from modern housing carry only foul water – with no rain water. However in the 1950s and '60s it was thought good practice for some (not all) surface water to enter the sewers,

Foul and surface water problems are quite separate – or SHOULD be...

(continued on page 3)



Fun Day was "Ace"

Families and young people flocked to the Fun Day at Bowburn Community Centre on 7th August. There were queues throughout the day for face painting, wall climbing and the bucking bronco – which some brave parents also tried! Dance, stories, painting and music were just some of the other attractions. And the food was delicious.

Thanks to the Darlington & Durham County Racial Equality Council for organising this.



Youth Project News

Bowburn Youth Project had several trips in the summer holidays, thanks to funds raised by the young people themselves, with help from their youth workers.

There was a one to Lightwater Valley, fishing, an outward bound residential weekend, paintballing, ice skating and go-karting. A visit to Wet & Wild was postponed but will take place soon.

This term, weekly youth club sessions will be as follows:

- Monday 4.30–6.00pm: Drama project,
- Tuesday 6.00–8.30pm: Young men's youth club,
- Wednesday 4.30–5.30pm: Dance project,
- Wednesday 6.00–8.00pm: Young women's youth club.

There will also be monthly ice skating, on Friday evenings, at Billingham, thanks to funding obtained by the young people through Connexions and to the help of a qualified mini-bus driver who is also a qualified youth worker.

Regular sessions are now staffed by Joanne Eden (youth worker), Gemma Simpson (youth worker and admin.), Daniel Evans (Youth Worker) and Catherine Heron (Auxiliary). There are also hopes of adding a new worker. Special leaders are coming in for the dance and drama sessions.

The DJ Evans Youth Club is holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1st November, starting at 7.00pm. Attendance is open to all. Anyone interested in joining the management committee will be particularly welcome. (The committee is responsible for the club premises and, in partnership with Durham County Council, for the Youth Project itself.)



Centenary oak tree

by Maureen Robinson

ONE year on from celebrating Bowburn's centenary, we were out again with our cameras – this time to record the growth of the commemorative tree planted last year.

With us were Kian Hill and Alfie Swainston, who declared our centenary celebrations open last year. They are seen here posing against the Centenary Oak Tree.

Alfie is now aged 92 (and has looked the same for the last 40 years!) Kian is now 15 months old and has learned to walk, grown to twice his original size and is into everything. We are going to record this every year, as near as we can to the date of planting. It will be wonderful to watch the tree and child grow. (Alfie, of course, will never change!)

Coffee morning

A FORTNIGHTLY coffee morning in the Marlene Avenue communal hall, for people aged 50 and over, began on Wednesday 5th September

Contact Sarah on 377-0521.

Rubbish year for Bowburn

by Sylvia Raine

IN FEBRUARY 2006, Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council backed plans for a "Centenary Clean-up" campaign, in the run-up to Bowburn's centenary celebrations: Parish Councillors, assisted by members of the public, agreed to go out and pick up litter in various parts of the village.

After discussions with the Neighbourhood Warden, Paul Parker, regarding provision of litter-pickers, bags etc, and the collection of the filled bags at the end of each session, the first "clean-up" session took place on 6th May. They continued once a month throughout the year.

The litter problem did not go away at the end of 2006, so the campaign continued.

At each session we pick up an average of twelve bags of rubbish, which means that so far we have removed approximately 156 bags of rubbish from Bowburn. Usually we concentrate on public spaces and areas owned by the Parish Council, but we have had two "blitzes" on the beck, one on the park, and one on the Infant School grounds.

Items found include two bikes, a bird table, various carpets and half a bath, but the main bulk of the rubbish is cigarette packets, drink cans, crisp packets and sweet wrappers.

Special thanks go to Lynda Morgan, Steve Raine, Caroline Watson and Dawn Whittaker – members of the public who have regularly turned out to help.

Why not join us? We meet on the first Saturday of each month, at 9.30am, in the Community Centre car park. Gloves and litter-picking sticks are provided, courtesy of the City Council.

If you know of an area where there is a litter problem let us know and we shall see if we can help.

The next session is on 6th October.

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Sat. 27th Oct. - Carvery Night - "Fill ya Boots" then disco to shed those extra pounds - £12.95 pp*

Fri. 2nd Nov. - 70's Night - Choice of Lasagne, Curry & Pasta, then Dessert & Coffee - £12.95 pp*

Sat. 3rd Nov. - Sound of the Sixties Disco - Extensive finger buffet - £7.95 per person

Fri. 9th Nov. - 80's Night - £12.95 per person*

(*Arrive 7.00pm to be seated for 7.45pm)

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What causes Bowburn's floods?

(continued from page 1)

to help flush them out. So these, technically, are also combined sewers, with potential capacity problems after heavy rain.

There have also been various more local sewerage problems. Those at Philip Avenue and David Terrace were hopefully resolved by new sewers laid during construction of Centenary Park.

Work at Lawson Road last year by-passed a "bottle neck" and

some blockages were also cleared. However the system in that area is still under pressure – and problems in Leyland Close are presumably linked to this.

3. New Sewers

If all sewers only took foul water, its drainage would not be a problem from new housing, such as at Tail upon End Lane and Horton Crescent. The actual amount of sewage generated should easily be accommodated.

However this has to join the combined sewerage network that passes over the beck towards the STW. So it could exacerbate existing problems there.

Moreover it is now recognised that the whole network has problems.

Following the Tail upon End Lane planning application, NWL told the City Council that the developers should finance a survey of the sewerage network and, if necessary, pay for any necessary extra capacity. (They also required improvements at

Edna Street, not related to the above but due to inadequate filters at the pumping station there, was resolved in 2004.

Park Avenue's sewerage problems were resolved when larger pipes were laid in the 1990s. These too were unrelated to capacity problems near Bowburn Beck.

Perch pronouncements No. 33

Some people blame global warming.

But I think the problem started...



...when they did away with the nettles!



the STW – see below.)

4. New Surface Water Drainage

More rain than ever before – from roads, driveways and block-paved front "gardens" – now enters the combined sewerage network, especially after heavy rainfall.

However from new developments, surface water should not flow into the same drains as foul water and so should not overload them.

Moreover all new surface water drains are now built with attenuation measures – significant extra capacity, to hold sudden heavy rainfall till it can drain away more slowly.

5. Other recent problems

A pollution problem near

NWL has no short term plans to enlarge them.

The latest enlargement, in 2004, presumably dealt only with demand at that time – not future demand.

For, this July, NWL wrote to the City Council to say the proposed development at Tail upon End Lane "shall not commence until a scheme for the expansion of the Bowburn STW... has been submitted... and approved... [No] buildings shall be occupied on site until the increased capacity at the STW... [has] been constructed."

This was in addition to their concerns about the capacity of the sewerage network leading to them.

Nature notes

by Richard Cowen

Numerous summer flowers have been blooming around Crow Trees Nature Reserve, including knapweed, scabious and, a bit later, harebells. Purple saxifrage was less widespread this year but still provided good ground cover. Early purple and common spotted orchids were later than usual but still plentiful.

Bee orchid is an irregular flower in the Nature Reserve. I think no one saw any there last year but I found two this year. They were also numerous on land opposite Bowburn post office.

Ringlet butterflies regularly feature on the nature reserve and this year has been no exception, along with some meadow brown butterflies. I've only seen one or two common blues this year. I also saw an elephant hawk moth (so called because of the shape of its caterpillar) in my garden.

After a spring when there were few unusual bird species, July proved more interesting. A goshawk (like a large sparrowhawk) appeared once or twice. Tree pipits proved not to be the passage migrants I thought they'd be: I saw them quite a few times in June and July and believe they must have nested here.

Wood warblers also showed

in July. Of resident, but uncommon, birds, I saw corn bunting a couple of times. These are often seen around Bishop Middleham, perhaps their last stronghold in the County. It is good to see them here too.

Bullfinches were regulars, the males striking with their red breasts, and willow tits, nondescript black and white little birds, were often heard and sometimes seen.

Kingfishers have been on Bowburn Beck.

The Nature Reserve is a good place for warblers. Willow warblers and chiffchaff are very common. Common whitethroat and blackcap are also regulars.

Occasionally you may see a garden warbler or lesser whitethroat. The elusive grasshopper



warbler, however, is only likely to be seen or heard from late April till early June.

Perhaps my best sighting was of a bird that is not very rare but not often seen.

One morning at the beginning of July, I was surprised to find three very juvenile long-eared owls. I checked a few evenings (the more logical time to see them) and every time heard their "squeaky gate" call and managed to see at least one.

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Marie would like to thank all regular customers for their support at Coxhoe over the last four years and hopes to see them in our new premises.

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Co-op re-fit due soon

LOUISE Faghy, Manager of the Co-op stores in Bowburn, wishes to thank all those who sent in ideas on how they can be improved. Developers and planners have now been in and tried to use this information to plan a re-fit that best benefits its customers.

The checkout situation is a priority. The tills will be moved back to the window, where the newspapers and magazines are now. This will mean a lot more space, and leave the option open for three tills. The store will run the opposite way and the aisles will be wider than now.

"We are getting all new top-of-the-range fridges and freezers", said Louise, "which are also designed to use 60% less



School builds links with South Africa

BOWBURN Infant and Nursery School was delighted to welcome three teachers from South Africa in June. The teachers spent time in school teaching the children about South Africa and sung some beautiful African songs.

The visitors also enjoyed learning about the history of Bowburn and County Durham from the children and visited Durham Cathedral and Beamish Museum.

The School has also worked closely with Balfour Beatty in preparation for the building of the new bypass.

All children took part in a poster competition, designing posters about the dangers of building sites and how to keep safe. Representatives from Balfour Beatty judged the competition and presented prizes in the school assembly. A group of children from Year 2 also visited the building site for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Thanks – Bowburn Interchange

thanks Curtains 'n' Things, which closed this summer, for its support for many years.

Alan Heightley

A golf tournament and a raffle and karaoke at the Hare & Greyhound have been held in memory of Alan Heightley.

Betty and Allen would like to thank John and Debbie for arranging this, also Gary for the karaoke, Debbie and Michelle for arranging the buffet, and all Alan's friends for attending.

Special thanks to Niall Quinn, chairman of Sunderland Football Club, for sending us a signed picture of the Stadium of Light. This was auctioned and brought £130.

In total, £600 was raised, which was donated to the Coronary Care Unit, Durham University Hospital.

energy. The whole store will be a lot cooler, which is excellent news for both customers and staff. The white and rosé wine will be fully refrigerated, as will a bigger range of lagers and beers. We are making the range on many grocery lines bigger, as well.

"The outside is going to be fully taken in hand. We are getting a large new sign which will stand out, plus all the windows that have the shutters down will be opened up. The ATM machine will be put outside; I am unsure whether there will still be a charge or not."

The work will probably start in February or March next year – though there are hopes it could be in January. Louise would like local schools to get involved on the store's re-opening day and with other activities. Dates of the temporary closure for these works may be known in time for the next edition of *Bowburn Interchange*.

Stone wall blessed

THE churchyard stone wall at St. Paul's churchyard was blessed on 26th July.

After months of work by volunteers from Bowburn and Quarrington Hill, the wall was finished in time for a ceremony performed by the Area Dean, Rev. K. Lumsden, and attended by the Mayor of Durham, Cllr. Wynn.

The volunteers, who learned the arts of dry stone walling from qualified instructors, were congratulated on their efforts. They entertained their guests to a meal in Quarrington Hill Community Centre afterwards.

Judo classes

WEEKLY Judo classes started on Tuesday September 4th, at Bowburn Community Centre:

- 6.00–7.00pm: boys and girls aged 7 to 11 years.
- 7.00–8.00pm: boys and girls aged 12 to 15.

Courses are supervised by a 3rd Dan Black Belt and Senior Coach of the British Judo Association. Parents welcome.



Celebrating banner heritage

THIRTY magnificent banners attracted about 400 people to Bowburn Community Centre on 8th September.

Bowburn Banner Group, with the help of the NUM Durham Area and the Durham Mining Museum, had assembled the exhibition as part of the national Heritage Open Days weekend, calling it "Celebrating Miners' Lodge Banners". Displays were also mounted by the Durham Photographic Society, the Durham Mining Museum, the Silksworth Mining Society and, of course, Bowburn Banner Group.

had been brought or lent by community groups but the loan of some of the oldest (and most fragile) banners by the NUM (Durham Area) was absolutely crucial. Some of these may never see the light of day again.

Dating from 1890 to 2007, banners were present from virtually every decade in that period.

The more modern ones

Streetscape improvements get support

BOWBURN & Parkhill Community Partnership has agreed that £100,000 should be committed from the village's "Regeneration Pot" for streetscape improvements.

If these all proceed, they will be on Durham Road, at Romaine Square and near the Co-op stores in Prince Charles Avenue, and will attract another £100,000 from Durham County Council's Urban & Rural Renaissance Initiative (URRI). Other funding is also expected.

The schemes are subject to discussions and agreement with owners of property not part of the adopted highway, and to further local consultation.

Paul Anderson, from the URRI team, showed outline proposals to two Community Partnership meetings, on 19th June and 23rd July. Now details of a possible scheme for Durham Road will go on show in Bowburn Community Centre, on Wednesday 10th October,

2.00–8.00pm. Everyone is invited to come and voice their views.



New Johnston School

CONSTRUCTION of the new Durham Johnston School began on Monday 24th September. It is due to be finished by April 2009, then the existing buildings will be demolished.

Three Streets bingo

THE Three Streets – Lansdowne Crescent, Neville Terrace and Grange Park Crescent – are fundraising to repair and upgrade their unmade roads.

To this end Table Top Sales have already been held on 11th August and 15th September in front of the Community Centre and were well attended.

All items were donated by residents in the Three Streets and a grand total

of £320 was raised.

A spokesperson said, "Thank you to everyone who donated items, to those who bought the goods and to the residents who helped on the day."

"This was the first of many fundraising events.

A weekly Bingo Night, on Thursday evenings from 7.00pm in Bowburn Community Centre, started on 20th September.

"Do come and enjoy yourself. You may win! These are open events and all are welcome."



Link road finds coal mine

Old mine workings, believed to date from around 1840, were uncovered above Bowburn cemetery this summer, as work progresses on the new link road. The coal taken from the remaining pillars will help finance the road.

The Sherburn road will be closed for 14 weeks from 24th September.

Christ the King Church

by Maureen Robinson

IT IS with regret that I announce that the application for Lottery Funding to enable us to build a new church in Bowburn was unsuccessful.

The Parochial Church Council are now having meetings with the Arch Deacon and representatives from the Diocese of Durham, to see where we go from here.

Thankfully, we are still allowed to worship in the Methodist chapel. Services are as follows:

- Sunday–Sung Eucharist at 9.30am.
- Wednesday–Communion service at 9.30am in the vicarage.

Funerals and Baptisms are carried out as usual; arrangements for these are made through the Churchwardens, whose telephone numbers are: 0191-377-0814 and 01429-820754.

Mat making

MAT making classes began again in Bowburn Community Centre on 18th September and will run on Tuesdays, 1.00–3.00pm. Free to anyone on benefits, except for £5 registration fee. Otherwise £35 for the ten week course.

How good is your memory?

BOWBURN Local History Society is most grateful to those who have pointed out errors or supplied further information about the photographs in its latest book, "Memories of Bowburn".

While they try to make as few mistakes as possible, the club's members can often only record what people tell them. By publishing this, they have been delighted by the additional information brought to their attention. Thanks in particular are due to Bill Harrod (all the way from Spain!), Kathleen Heron and Margaret Heslington.

The book is selling well but some are still available at the Post Office, the Community Centre, Atkinsons' newsagents and the Doctor's Surgery. You can also 'phone 377-1729 or 377-1491 for a copy.

Bereavement Support

BOWBURN Bereavement Support Group has organised various fund-raising events. Tickets are available from Bowburn Medical Centre. They are:

- Friday 26th October, at Bowburn Hall Hotel, 7.00pm till late – Disco, quiz, buffet & raffle – Tickets £10.
- Thursday 15th November, 2.00pm till 4.00pm – Thorntons Chocolate Extravaganza – Tickets £1 (including refreshments).
- Thursday 1st November, 2.00pm till 4.00pm – The Body Shop Pure Pamper Party – Tickets £1 (including refreshments). Please bring a bowl and fluffy towel.

• Christmas Catalogue – If you would like to purchase items from the new catalogue or book a party, please contact Gillian Clare at Bowburn Medical Centre. Tel: 0191-377-2495 (work), 01388-730032 (home) or 0775-711-5075 (mobile).