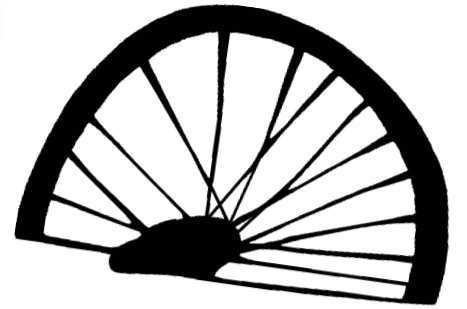




Bowburn Interchange



No. 5

(Incorporating Bowburn Village Celebration Newsletter No. 14)

April 1998



NATIONAL
LOTTERY
CHARITIES
BOARD

Grotspot gets funding

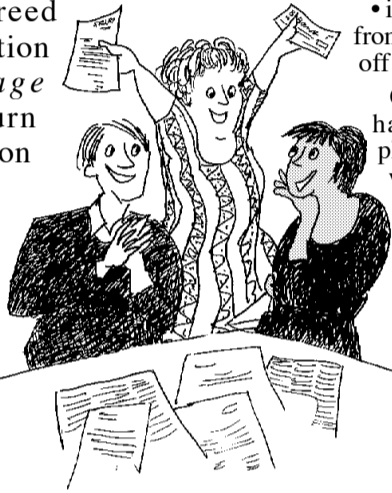
Lottery grant for footpath project proves Village Appraisal will help Make Bowburn Better

BOWBURN has been awarded £37,426 by the National Lottery Charities Board.

The grant was agreed following an application by Bowburn Village Celebration, Bowburn Community Association and the D.J. Evans Youth Club, to do something about one of the village's "grot spots", identified in last year's Village Appraisal. Of the various sites mentioned in the survey, this was the only one owned (or leased) by registered charities. So it was the only one eligible for this source of funding.

The scheme will include:

- new boundary features for the Youth Club at Burn Street,
- a high quality, wheelchair-accessible footpath from there through to the Library, including street lights and landscaping,
- resurfacing the Community Centre's car park and

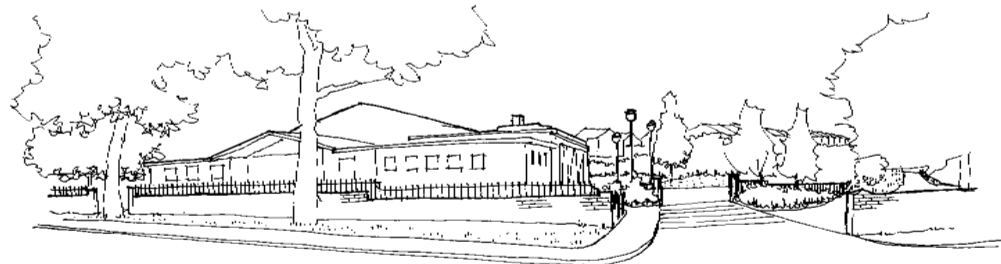


- improvements to the Centre's front boundary wall and entrance off Durham Road.

Groundwork East Durham have drawn up suggested plans for the scheme and these went on display in Bowburn Library, in the Community Centre and at the Youth Club from the end of April. Comments on these plans are sought from anyone who expects to use the new footpath, or who lives nearby, or who is simply interested in improving the appearance of the village.

A public meeting about the scheme will be held in Bowburn Community Centre on Tuesday 19th May, between 5.00pm and 7.00pm. Interested residents will be able to view the plans and leave their comments about them. From 6.00pm onwards, they'll be able to discuss the issues with Groundwork's landscape architect, Michele MacCallam. Written comments can also be left at the Community Centre, any time before the meeting, marked "Footpath Project".

After final plans are drawn up, work is expected to start in July. The footpath will be officially opened in the Autumn.



How the entrance to Bowburn Community Centre might look, after Lottery grant for landscape improvements

Prince Charles comes to Bowburn

PRINCE Charles is coming to Bowburn on 2nd July. He will open the new Durham Aged Mineworkers Homes Association bungalows in Jones Court, off Lawson Road.

Many residents will want to give a hearty welcome the heir to the throne – believed to be the first member of the royal family to visit Bowburn since the

Duke of Gloucester opened the D.J. Evans Youth Club in 1964.

We wonder whether he'll come up Prince Charles Avenue and, if he does,

what he'll think of one of Bowburn's Grot Spots – the area around the former Coop building.



Church to stay in Bowburn

by Father James Thompson

PARISHIONERS of Christ the King Church have been told they can carry on with whatever plans they think best.

The church, on which building work started in 1963, only opened in 1978. Fifteen years later its days were already numbered. The roof had developed serious faults. The Archdeacon of Auckland ruled that there would be no funding for repairs or replacement. The church would have to close.

Then last year, the church was brought into the Archdeaconry of Durham and there was a change of heart. If the Parochial Church Council could

raise enough money for repairs or rebuilding, or even to move to somewhere else in the village, then they had authority to do so.

At its AGM on 26th April, the PCC decided to ask architects to give detailed advice on what can be done with the existing building. Future plans will then be worked out in detail.

One thing is certain, though. People who now worship at Christ the King Church will be able to continue to do so in Bowburn.

Bowburn Computing Project

BOWBURN Village Appraisal highlighted a need for access to computers and computing courses within the village.

Consequently, Bowburn Village Celebration is investigating the possibilities of setting up a six machine open access IT facility in the Community Centre.

It is planned to have

internet access for most of the machines. BVC is looking for people, with interest in and some knowledge of computing who would like to be involved



Does anyone fancy some computer training?

by Howard Armstrong in this venture.

A meeting for interested parties is to be held on Monday 18th May at 7pm in the Community Centre. We hope to put together bids to the National Lotteries Charities Board and the Durham Rural Development Areas Small Projects Fund at this meeting.

For further information please contact Howard Armstrong, tel. 377-2027.

In grateful memory

IT IS sadly not possible for Bowburn Interchange to record the village's sorrow at the loss of every resident who dies. We would like, however, to record our gratitude and fond memories of four who have died since our last issue. These had contributed to early editions of the newsletter and activities of Bowburn Village Celebration.

Ralph Fleetham was a tireless supporter of the Beautiful Bowburn competition and organised the children's produce show at the early Family Fun Days. He generously gave trophies to both events.

Charlie Pragnell, as one of the last men to go down Bowburn pit, contributed an article to the second edition of Bowburn Interchange.

Rose Stephenson was winner of our first photo competition.

Frank Brooke was our first auditor.

This article is very hard to write. Memories of all these people will be cherished for far more than is mentioned here and some of those memories came flooding back as these few words were written. Rightly or wrongly, it was decided by the editors to refer briefly only to the ways in which these four people had supported Bowburn Interchange and BVC in the last couple of years. We are deeply grateful to all four.

If you would like this newsletter to record your memories of loved ones you have lost, please send a copy of what you would like to appear to the Editor, Bowburn Interchange, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, DH6 5AT.

Fun Day '98

BOWBURN's Family Fun Day will this year be held on Saturday 6th June.

This is a month later than in previous years. We are determined to have warmer rain!

Celebrations will start in Park Hill at 11.00am, when the Park Hill residents' carnival float and a display of drive horses will parade around the estate. Durham City Jugglers will demonstrate their skills.

The full Carnival Parade will set off from the Esso Garage on Durham Road at 12.00 noon. It will include drive horses, bagpipes and drums, street entertainers, ambulances and at least three floats. It will wind through the estate, by the same route as last year, coming out by the Post Office and arriving at the Cooperage at

around 12.45pm. From there it will go along the Sherburn Road and enter the Junior School field at around 1.00pm.

The afternoon events, on the Junior School field, will include children's sports, a juggling workshop, a tug-o-war contest, various stalls and sideshows, children's rides, refreshments, a pets corner, model displays, children's produce show, five-a-side football...

Helicopter rides will run from the football field in the adjacent Park, starting at 1.00pm. Rides will cost £15 (£10 for children aged 12 years and under). Tickets can be bought in advance from Andy Carr (377-3423), Steve Southam (377-2454) or Mike Syer (377-1491). They'll make an ideal birthday present!

Admission to the school field is free. We hope everyone will come along, bringing sunshine if possible, to enjoy a wonderful day of family fun.



A Village at the Crossroads

BOWBURN is at a crossroads in its history. It is 30 years since the pit closed, after 60 years as one of the largest in the Durham coalfield. The pit effectively created the village, from a handful of farmsteads and pubs at the turn of the century. So in 1967 the original reason for the community's existence was lost."

These are the opening words of the Report on the Bowburn Village Appraisal. On the rest of these two pages we have printed further extracts from the introduction to that Report and a brief summary of the issues raised by the Appraisal.

A full copy of the Report is in Bowburn Library. Please let us have your own comments about any of the issues raised. And tell us about others that are not mentioned here.

Housing

Since 1967, the 244 houses owned by the then National Coal Board have been sold – a few to Bradford & Northern Housing Association, a large number to former NCB tenants, many to new owner occupiers and many to private landlords.

Of the 1,009 houses and bungalows owned then by Durham Rural District Council and ten others built subsequently by its successor authority, Durham City Council, only 600 are now council-owned. The rest have been sold, mostly under Right to Buy legislation. Since 1967, 22 Council and Housing Association bungalows and 270 owner-occupied houses had been built in the village. At the time of the Village Appraisal, a further 90 were under construction or planned and by the time this Report was written, half of the latter had been built and occupied. In terms of housing tenure, therefore, the village has changed enormously since the pit's closure. Two thirds of the houses were then rented, from the Council or from the NCB. Two thirds of them are now owner-occupied.

Employment

The pit once employed over 3,000 men. Since its

closure, two industrial estates have developed, one of them on the site of the former colliery. They comprise a range of industrial/light engineering, warehousing

Bowburn when the pit was due to close. But its asbestos factory also closed in 1990, with the loss of 170 jobs. One of the industrial estates is identified in the County Structure Plan as being of "Prestige" status and both this and the former Cape's site present important future prospects for local employment. Most of this, however, is (or will be) of a very different kind to that which created Bowburn in the first place. Here, too, we see a village still on the point of major changes.

Motorway

The "prestige" status of industrial sites in Bowburn is largely due to their proximity to the A1 motorway. Opened in 1969, this has had a major impact on the village. It is not just a way into Bowburn, but also a way out. One of the most frequently

quoted "best things" about living here, according to the Household Questionnaire survey, was nearness to the A1(M). For many this means easy access, with car ownership, to work elsewhere in the region. For many residents, Bowburn has become a commuter village. Taken with the growth in the number of houses and the shift in the pattern of housing tenure, this is a further major change to the village.

The motorway has had another important impact on Bowburn: it cut the old village in two. The Pit Laddie Inn, whose site lies beneath the S.E. corner of the motorway interchange, is still remembered by many with nostalgia. Before the War, it had been the geographical centre of the village, with council housing to its south and the colliery housing (and the pit) to its north. Now that council estate, with other housing south of the motorway, is regarded by many as a separate settlement



"They said it was near the motorway interchange, at the crossroads, possibly going downhill, but could really go places if the people who lived there wanted it to. Surely Bowburn should be on the map!"

and high-tech units. The former NCB workshops at Tursdale, which once served the coal industry throughout the region (and later the country) are now owned by Tursdale Engineering Ltd. The majority of their work no longer has anything to do with coal mining. One major employer, Cape Universal/Unichem, was attracted to

Project Supported by
rural action
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Children at Bowburn Junior School took part in the Village Appraisal by constructing a Giant Map of the village to help people to plan improvements

(Park Hill), a view reinforced by its Coxhoe postal address and postcode. Yet half of those

It's not too late to have your say!

A full copy of the Report will be placed in Bowburn Library. Please write comments and suggestions in the notebook provided. And look out for future meetings.

who replied in the Household Questionnaire survey said they regarded the whole area as part of the same village or community.

Education

There have been other important local changes, too, in the last 30 years – some, but not all, mirroring changes elsewhere in the region. The

Secondary Modern School (opened in 1958) became half of a split-site Comprehensive in 1975 and then closed in 1984.

The site is now part of a large private housing estate. All children from the village aged over 11 are bussed out of the village, mostly to Durham Johnston School.

Community facilities

The extensive and well-resourced leisure facilities of the Miners' Welfare included what are now Bowburn Community Centre, and Bowburn Park and recreation ground. These are now on long leases, respectively, to Bowburn Community Association (formed in 1978) and to Durham City Council. The 80 or so allotment gardens once owned by the NCB have only recently (December 1997) been bought by Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council.

End of coal mining

If one adds to these changes the fact that the Durham Coalfield as a whole ceased to produce deep-mined coal in 1992, it is clear that the last direct links with the industry that created the village are now virtually gone.

With the introduction of gas to the village in 1993, even miners' concessionary coals are becoming a thing of the past. All that remains is a diminishing number of miners' and widows' pensions and the personal, family and community ties that developed over three generations of dependence on deep mining... and memories. Those ties and those memories are still strong – very strong. But they are no longer the single, most

Continued on page 3

Economic Issues

1. Employment

- Awareness of existing job opportunities
 - Advertise jobs locally
- Increase job opportunities on local industrial estates
- Other local job opportunities
- Using local services
 - Shopping locally
 - Tourists/visitors
 - Signs from the A1(M)
- Eligibility for employment – see training

2. Business in the Community

- Employers' involvement in, and service to, local community
- Employers' responsiveness to community's needs
- Employers' involvement in environmental improvements
- Sponsorship of local activities

3. Training

- Local vocational training
 - Involve local employers in training
 - Evening (and daytime) classes/courses
 - Computer/ICT project

4. Shopping

- New Local Village Centre on Durham Road
- Supermarket
- Enhance existing shops
 - Shop locally
 - Vacant units in Coop building

5. Advice

- Advice on employment/ benefits etc.
- Employers to advertise jobs locally
- Employers to use village web site (See ICT training objective)

6. Credit Union

- Opportunities for residents to save and get credit at reasonable rates

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Tel.: 377-0200

Environmental Issues

1. Derelict & Semi-derelict Sites

Ogden's Industrial Estate (frontage)
Capes
Coop Building (part)
Bingo Hall/Cinema

2. Unkempt & Unattractive Sites

Henry Avenue Playing Field
Bowburn Beck
Allotments (some)
Household gardens (some)
Durham Road footpaths and houses (some)
Other colliery streets (some)
Overhead electricity wires
Road south from motorway (B6291)
Road north from motorway (A177)
Vehicles/parking on residential estates
Grange Park Crescent &c.
Youth Club exterior
Park Hill Playing Field
Cemetery area
Coop Area

3. Unattractive Landscaping

Hollyhock Tee
General central area (Prince Charles Avenue)
Grassed areas (some)
Youth Club area
Cemetery area

4. Litter and Fly-tipping

Bowburn Hall Woods
Hall Farm Woods
Cemetery area
Bridlepath 36 (opposite Community Centre)
Bridlepath 39 (Ramsay's Drive)
Tail-upon-End Lane (verge)
Road up to Heugh Hall/Old Quarrington
Library area
Garage sites (some)
Henry Avenue Playing Field
Adopted footpaths - Colliery streets
Bus Shelters (some)

5. Environmental Services

Waste disposal

- Publicise Coxhoe Waste Disposal Tip
- Publicise bulk waste collection service
- Get wheely bins off the streets

Street sweeping

- Publicise details of street sweeping service (and where to complain)
- Ask City Council to ensure standards are kept to
- Ask City Council to improve standards if

necessary

Grass cutting

- Seek clearance of grass cuttings from adopted footpaths
- Seek clearance of grass cuttings from household footpaths

Recycling facilities

- Seek banks for paper, plastics etc.
- Seek banks in new locations
- Publicise facilities at Coxhoe Waste Disposal Tip

6. Pollution

Traffic

- Measure pollution levels from vehicle exhaust
- Publish pollution levels from vehicle exhaust
- Monitor pollution levels from vehicle exhaust if necessary

Flooding

- Monitor level of flooding near Lansdowne Crescent
- Ensure regular cleaning of Bowburn Beck
- Build up bank to beck/raise footpath through allotments

Sewerage

- Ensure sewage does not flow into Burn Street and Community Centre car park

Opencasting

- Resist future mineral extraction that would create further pollution problems

Waste disposal

- Resist new waste disposal developments in the area
- Acquire Cold Knuckles Quarry for environmental trust?

Dog fouling

- Publicise new dog fouling bylaws
- Provide dog fouling bins in appropriate places and encourage their use
- Seek enforcement of bylaws

Smoke

- Seek enforcement of smokeless fuel bylaw when necessary

7. Traffic & Highways

Traffic volumes

- Seek to exclude/minimise heavy through traffic
- Press for Bowburn-Wheatley Hill link road
- Seek western bypass to link motorway and industrial estates

Speeding and dangerous driving

- Further railings at Methodist Church
- Pedestrian crossing near Library

- Traffic calming measures on Durham Road (e.g. white lining or mini-roundabout)
- Clutter of signage at the Cooperage junction
- Traffic calming measures (various streets)
- White lining to show traffic priorities
- 30 mph limit along Tail upon End Lane

Parking and vehicular access

- Lay-bys in residential areas
- Encourage use of garages
- Discourage parking on footpaths and grassed areas

8. Adopted and unadopted footpaths

Seek new linking footpaths (various)
Footpath from Robert Terrace to Hallgarth Estate

9. Access for disabled people

Disabled access to public buildings and shops
Dropped kerbs at crossing points

10. Public transport

Information about bus times (at bus stops and elsewhere)
Wheelchair accessible buses and bus stops
Quality of bus shelters (some)

11. Street furniture and facilities

Bus shelters

- Discourage anti-social use of bus shelters

Litter bins

- More bins needed (vandal proof)
- Encourage use of litter bins

Salt bins

- More needed (vandal proof)

Dog fouling bins

- More needed

Street lights

- Between Broadmeadows and Hallgarth Estate
- Garage sites
- Behind Community Centre

Public seats

- Consider provision of more

12. Countryside & green environment

Highway verges

- Seek policy on cutting of roadside verges

Tree planting

- Produce programme for new planting
- Flowering trees in roadside landscaping
- Plant trees at Cemetery

Hedgerows

- Produce programme for planting and improvement

Wetlands

- Protect as wildlife habitats

Continued from page 2

significant fact of life for the residents of Bowburn.

One further development since the pit closed should be mentioned. This is the advent of opencast coal mining in the area. RJB (Mining) started work on its 419,000-tonne site at Cassop Moor (Whitwell OCCS) in 1993. Coal extraction will end in 1998.

The site was approved on appeal to the Secretary of State in 1992. There had been strong local resistance to the proposal and the development has been much re-sented. A number of respondents in the Household Questionnaire survey mentioned opencasting, and/or the possibility of further opencasting, as environmental problems (10%) or even as one of the things most disliked about living here (4%). But beside being an environmental issue, opencasting can also be said to have had an important psychological impact on the village. Taken with the loss of Bowburn

pit, the Pit Laddie (when the motorway was built), Lansdowne Comprehensive School, the Cape Unichem factory, and so on, the failure of local residents to prevent the opencast has been one of a long line of blows to the village's self-esteem since the 1960s.

The Household Questionnaire survey helps to confirm that most people in Bowburn are glad to live here. But it also offers evidence of a wide-spread dissatisfaction with "the way things are going". There is concern about what is seen as the physical deterioration of the village and a growing number of social problems. And there is a general lack of confidence that anything will, or can, be done.

There is a real danger of further local social disintegration. Many major changes have hit the village and damaged its community spirit. But, because of its location and because of the strength of its past, there are also enormous

opportunities for the village to find a new identity and a new sense of purpose.

The Village Appraisal was designed to identify changes that Bowburn's own residents want to see take place. It aims to plan such improvements as

can be achieved; to involve where possible local people in making them happen, and to set the village's own priorities for the future.

The issues listed here are the main ones included in the Bowburn Action Plan. They were all raised by residents during the Village Appraisal. The full Action Plan is still not finished. Make sure you have your say in setting priorities for Bowburn's future!

Community Health Warning!

Just putting something in the Action Plan list won't automatically make it happen.

But leaving it out may make sure it doesn't!

Social Issues

1. Community Development

Relations between new and long-established residents

Pride in village's heritage
Confidence in village's future
Membership of existing community organisations
New community organisations
Activities involving cross-section of residents

2. GP Surgery

Adequate and suitably located premises
Ensure surgery continues to operate daily
Seek choice of male or female GP

3. Other Health Services

Locally available health services
Premises of children's clinic

[Stop Press: Return of children's clinic to Bowburn!]

4. Education

High regard for local primary schools
Local identification with Durham Johnston
Disadvantages of busing
Evening classes
Develop evening classes into community groups

5. Housing and planning

Target housing improvements grants
Resist further major housing development unless amenities

are greatly improved or increased
Developers' improvement obligations

6. Social & Community Resources

Develop new groups/organisations
Ensure existing venues are suitable and well used

Play equipment
Use of bus shelters and seats
Public phones

7. Information

Local newsletters
Notice boards
Information and advice on benefits etc. and form-filling

8. Community Services

Local care services for older people
Gardening and decorating services for older people etc.
Services for young children and their carers

9. Community Safety

Improve public perception of and support for the police
Improve police understanding of and response to local priorities
Vandalism and anti-social behaviour
Neighbourhood Watch schemes

10. Youth Issues

Youth Club

- hour
- facilities
- activities, e.g. video nights, discos

Community Centre

- activities for young people

Other (new) sports facilities

- fitness centre
- football - village team, training
- group visits to sports centres

Seats

Advice, counselling etc.

Training

Wildlife

Recycling

Do you want to attend Evening Classes?

DURING the Village Appraisal, quite a lot of people expressed an interest in attending evening classes in the village.

So Vince High, Community Education Coordinator for Durham County Council, has offered to arrange two new classes in Bowburn Community Centre, starting in September. Each course will run for 10 weeks. The course fee will be a total of up to £28 (i.e. up to £2.80 per session).

Depending on the subject, it may also be possible to get the Workers' Education Association or one of the Colleges of Further Education to organise courses. The cost of these could be as low as £2 in total for some one who



was unemployed and on means-tested benefit.

The most likely evenings for new courses will be Mondays, Tuesdays,

Wednesdays or Thursdays.

The following subjects were rated the most popular in the Village Appraisal's Household Questionnaire survey: Local History, Computer training, Craft/Arts, Aerobics, Wildlife/conservation, Languages, Cooking and Making clothes.

To help us decide which two courses to start from September 1998, it would help if you could drop a note into the Community Centre, saying which subject you would be most interested in - i.e. which one you would attend - as well as which evenings you could attend and how much you would be prepared to pay. Alternatively, just cut out the box below, fill it in, and return it to:

"Evening Classes", Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5AT.

Returning this form will not commit you to attending, but it will give you priority if courses are oversubscribed.

Name:
 Address:
 Phone:

I would like to start attending evening classes in September 1998 in the following subject(s):
 (Please tick)

Computer training	Local History ...	Craft/Arts	Aerobics
Wildlife/conservation ..	Languages	Cooking	Making clothes ...

I could attend on the following evening(s):

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
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I would be prepared to pay the following for a 10-week course:

£2 (I am unemployed)	£10	
£20	£28	£50

Trials for England

BOWBURN's Helen Kane has high hopes of playing football for England.

Helen first started playing football at Coxhoe Sports Centre and kept that up till the

age of 12 years.

Then she got to play on the girls team at Durham Johnston Comprehensive School and from there progressed to a weekly side at Chester-le-Street. Her team has a 100% record in the League which, as Helen puts it, isn't bad!

The big break she was waiting for came when she was invited for trials for the England under-16s on 7th April. "I tried my best", says Helen, "which is all I could do."

Helen expects a letter in the first week in May. We all hope it says she has been accepted!

Bowburn Taekwondo

BOWBURN Taekwondo Club was established in July 1997 and is based in the Community Centre. It is run jointly by two qualified instructors on an equal basis.

These instructors are Jim Wright 2nd Dan and Peter Siberry 1st Dan. The club is a member of the Koryo Taekwondo Organisation and we are affiliated to the World Taekwondo Federation and the British Taekwondo Federation. Taekwondo is the Korean martial art of self-defence. It is an ideal martial art for the whole family both male and female.

Some of our club students recently took part in a grading and proved to be very successful. Seven of our newest members achieved their Yellow belts. Three students achieved their Yellow belt Green tag including two who achieved a double grade for their spectacular performance on the day. One student was promoted to Green belt and a further student was promoted to Red belt. One of the new yellow belt students was also awarded a special trophy and certificate for showing true Taekwondo Spirit in the months leading up to the grading. He was awarded this because he always gives 110% effort, with all aspects of his training.

It has been commented on by many senior Koryo Taekwondo officials, how well trained Bowburn students showed themselves to be and also how disciplined they are, especially with regard to club etiquette etc. Many more of our students are hoping to take their next



grading in March 1998. We wish them well.

The Club is now in a position to accept new members and we would welcome men, women and children over 6 years to participate in this, the premier martial art. We train in the Community Centre on Monday and Wednesday evenings 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Please feel free to call in and take a look.

Brownies by Brown Owl

THE 1st Bowburn Brownies meet every Wednesday, from 6.15-7.30pm, in Bowburn Community Centre.

The Brownies aim to help girls aged 7-11 years old to be better people in the community and in the home.

There are loads of activities, including various kinds of craft. Much of it is safety oriented and ALL of it is FUN!

All welcome. Contact Audrey Burton, 88, Bede Terrace, for more information.



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Bowburn Fisheries

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Opening Hours

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 Telephone: (0191) 377-0786

Whitwell South Farm, Bowburn, Durham

Local band on TV

JUKE Box Jive, who were voted Clubland's Top Band in November 1997, had their TV debut on Friday 9th January, when they were featured on Mike Neville's Channel 3 North East News Programme.

TV presenter Malcolm Herdman and a camera crew came to Bowburn Community Centre, where the band rehearse, to interview and film the band. This was a preview of their TV role in the new Catherine Cookson series, "The Round tower", which was shown later that evening.



It was faster in 1922! by Dennis Morgan

SINCE the last "Interchange" there has been much talk in other media about the possibility of reopening Ferryhill Railway Station and the Leamside Branch.

Which for any in doubt is the rail track that skirts the eastern boundary of Bowburn Trading Estate. The Ferryhill scheme may happen but I have my doubts about Railtrack (the private company that now owns the railways, its bridges and tunnels etc. in this country), and their plans for the Leamside Branch which is to haul freight. It has very much the ring of big business wishful thinking - you know the sort of thing - when the local television station announces "XYZ Ltd are to bring in so many hundred new jobs to a site..." and a few years later on those employed after the development grants have all been spent is but a small fraction of the projection. We shall see - "Interchange" will keep you informed. Ye can but hope, a future result of the return of the Leamside Branch to the private sector is a return of a passenger service.

We once had a good one even by today's standards. Many readers will know that the only daily public transport service from our side of Durham City to Newcastle is the XI bus which takes 'about' 55 minutes on a good day to get to and from the Hare and Grey Hound to Newcastle. I say 'about' because

it can regularly be well over one hour, often in the seedy splendour of a twenty year old bus belching diesel fumes and the passengers instructing the driver on the route to take!

Cast your imagination back by contrast to the days of Steam - the year is 1922! The North Eastern Railway Company operated a service which departed from Shincliffe Station at 7.45am and arrived at 8.43am into Newcastle having shuffled through Sherburn Colliery, Fencehouses, Washington, Felling and Gateshead, returning at 5.07pm and arriving into Shincliffe Station at 6.03pm.

Over 75 years later the express bus schedule is remarkably similar with a major exception - if you missed the train, there would be another direct service that evening. If the 5.15 from Newcastle on the XI is missed a change at Durham is necessary - along with an even higher fare and, since deregulation, no transferable fare is available. So one must ask oneself - what price progress?

Can any reader remember the price of a return ticket from Shincliffe Station to Newcastle?

Has anyone got any old photographs of trains going from Shincliffe Station? I am sure Bowburn's Local History Group would be interested in putting together a full record.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

by Jamie Corrigan (Clerk to Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council)

THE Parish Council has recently undergone a number of changes with the ultimate aim of improving the Quality of Life for the residents of the Parish.

In January of this year Allotments and Garages in Bowburn and Tursdale were purchased from British Coal. These are currently in a state of disrepair and are in need of some attention. The Council therefore are embarking upon an ambitious programme to improve these by installing water and the erection of new perimeter fencing as well as carrying out some landscaping works. This will eventually lead to a vast improvement of the visual impact of the sites. However the Council is conscious of not spending the precept paid by all the parishioners on facilities used by a few, therefore the funds to carry out this improvement will come from the rents and will hopefully be subsidised by grants from various bodies. The Council currently have a number of applications pending.

Anyone wishing to rent an allotment or garage should contact the Clerk, Mr. Corrigan, on (01429) 276106.

The Council has recently

adopted a mission statement and strategic objective. This will ensure the efficiency of the Council and make it more focused.

Mission Statement

Here to enhance the Quality of Life for the Parishioners whilst delivering an efficient and proactive service.

To strive to promote the interests, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life of the people of the Parish, whilst acting within the remit of our statutory powers. To treat all equally, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, political persuasion or length of residence in the Parish.

Objectives

- ◆ Retain and improve the quality of Footpaths,
- ◆ Install and improve play equipment in all areas of the Parish,
- ◆ Maintain and protect all the Hedgerows,
- ◆ Introduce/encourage as much tree planting as possible

◆ Improve Allotments and Garage sites

To complement these the Council is to develop and adopt a Parish Crest. This will hopefully be done with the involvement of the local schools whereby a competition will be run to design the new crest.

Also the Council are seeking to implement a number of tree planting and landscaping schemes within the Parish. The main scheme currently at the planning stage is the Bowburn Beck area, where plans are in hand to introduce new plants with a view to preventing the beck silting up and causing an unpleasant smell. A number of other projects are currently on the drawing board and will be announced once the planning and funding have been completed.

If any Parishioners have any views or ideas as to how the Council can carry out its objectives we would be pleased to hear these. They can be passed on to one of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk.

Down Memory Lane



THIS photograph of a group at Crowtrees WM Club was kindly sent to us by Mrs. Hougham. (See her letter on the back page.)

We think we know five of the men here. How many can you recognise? And when was the

picture taken?

If you have an old photo you'd like printed in a future newsletter, please send it to "Memory Lane", Bowburn Interchange, c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn

Spot the Difference Photo Competition

THE winner of the last photo competition was Lorraine Phillips of William Street.

She spotted a lucky thirteen differences between Durham Road (front street) as it is now and the 1930s photograph printed in Bowburn Interchange No. 4.

Lorraine has lived in Bowburn all her life.

McLEAN in BOWBURN and COXHOE

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• Driveways

• Paving

• Patios

• BBQ Areas

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• Garden Furniture

• Garden Lighting

• Garden Rooms

• Greenhouses

• Pergolas

• Gazebos

• Planting

• Lawn Care

• Hedge Trimming

• Tree Pruning

• Tree Stump Removal

• Tree Preservation

• Tree Transplanting

• Tree Felling

• Tree Lopping

• Tree Pollarding

• Tree Root Pruning

• Tree Root Barriers

• Tree Root Grinding

• Tree Root Removal

• Tree Root Extraction

• Tree Root Grinding

• Tree Root Removal

• Tree Root Extraction

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• Tree Root Grinding

• Tree Root Removal

• Tree Root Extraction

• Tree Root Grinding

• Tree Root Removal

• Tree Root Extraction

Ray's School of Motoring

Ray Glendinning

5, Broadmeadows Bowburn

Telephone: 377-0008

D.J. Evans Youth Club Bowburn

Annual General Meeting
Friday 29th May
5.30pm

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

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

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

DURHAM CITY CARE may be the answer for those who need that little bit extra.

As a professional service on call throughout Durham every day of the year, City Care staff respond to alarm calls for emergency needs, however great or small, twenty four hours each day.

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

Social Services in County Durham are here to help

If you need advice or information contact your local Customer Services Team

Durham City
0191-3831010

Visit your local Customer Services Point at Hopper House, Atherton Street, Durham or Dryburn Hospital
Tel:- 0191-3831010

Emergency calls between 5pm-8.30am, Monday to Friday or at any time on weekends or bank holidays:
Tel:- 01740-657796

SOCIAL SERVICES Department

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

What goes on in Bowburn?

Directory to be printed this Summer

BOWBURN Village Celebration's plans to produce a printed directory of every organised activity in the village were put on the shelf last year until the Village Appraisal was completed.

Now a simple version of this will appear as part of the "Making Bowburn Better" Report. It is intended to produce a full version this summer, for delivery to every household.

If you have recently started a local group, or you think we may not know about one you are involved in, or if your secretary, or meeting times, or other details have recently changed, please let us know.

Get in touch with Howard Armstrong (tel.: 377-2027)

Remembrance Book nearly complete

BOWBURN's long-awaited Book of Remembrance will be finished this Summer.

Detailed entries about the thirty men known to have given their lives during World War II to bring us peace are being beautifully written on to parchment paper by Susan Moor, a professional calligrapher. Each page will be trimmed with gold and the Book will be bound in leather by Newcastle University Library.

It will be placed in the oak cabinet that has been crafted with dedicated skill by John Johnson, using timber from the old pews at Bowburn Methodist Church.

The Book will be dedicated on Sunday 26th July, after a parade by service associations and a marching band. The ceremony will take place in Bowburn Community Centre and the Book, in its Cabinet, will then initially be kept in Christ the King Church.

If you would like further information about the Book, or the events on 26th July, please contact the Secretary, Bowburn Village Celebration, 8, Clarence Street, Bowburn (tel.: 377-1491).

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest your newspaper recalling Bowburn's past. I moved to Bowburn in 1924. My father Jack Collingwood was a colliery blacksmith and horseshoer and my three brothers followed in his footsteps, two as blacksmiths and Ernie now deceased as a horseshoer and I believe he was the last horseshoer and visited all the collieries around. We lived in 25, Steavenson Street and to this day I miss the friendships that developed over the years.

I well remember the rivalry between the housewives as to who could hang out their washing - stretching across the two sides of Steavenson Street - first on a Monday morning. Coppers were alight in the wash-houses before the men set off for work at 5.30am. Mr. Jackson was knocker-up. Time was chalked on the slate outside front doors, so it was impossible to sleep in.

One's memories keep flooding back. We walked as children to Cornforth Lane School, via Coxhoe - no fears and never tiring.

Our cinema then was above Crowtree Club and I remember "Ben Hur". Then the Crown Cinema was built. On weekends we attended Chapel three times on Sunday and after evening service we strolled around Coxhoe Hall where many a romance began.



Mrs. Hougham and her daughter Sheilagh

I visit Bowburn as often as my age will allow. I see many changes. My generation can't change but it would be so good if the camaraderie still existed as it did for us - life was hard but never lacked enjoyment for young and old.

I look forward to your paper, sent to me by my sister-in-law, Mrs. Annie Collingwood. My only complaint is, I spend a fortune on phone calls reminiscing and comparing notes. I wish you success in your venture to improve dear old Bowburn. Whenever I have a sleepless night I phone my 86 year old brother and we discuss who lived where and where are they now.

Good Luck, Yours faithfully

Madge Hougham, Ramsgate, Kent

Elvis coming to Bowburn?

by Julie Dobson



DO YOU recognise anyone in this photo?

That cool Rock 'n' Roll chick is Etta Fineran, who was born in Bowburn and lived here until 1960, when she was whisked away to Carrville to live in wedded bliss with the devilishly handsome 'James Dean' look-alike next to her in the photo.

I'm planning a surprise party for her and am trying to trace as many of her old friends from the village as possible.

possible.

The Party is to be held in the Community Centre in December and will include a very special guest, all the way from Memphis (or maybe Sunderland) - the excellent 'Steve Roman', a.k.a. Elvis Presley.

There will also be a bar and a buffet. So dust down your blue suede shoes and call Etta's daughter, Julie, on 377-0813, to be part of this spectacular event.

Some Dates for your Diary

- Monday 18th May Meeting about Computing Project (7pm)
- Tuesday 19th May Consultation meeting about Community Centre and Youth Club footpath and landscaping (5pm-7pm)
- Friday 29th May D.J. Evans Youth Club A.G.M. (5.30pm)
- Saturday 6th June Bowburn Carnival and Family Fun Day
- Saturday 27th June Christ the King Church Fair at Bowburn Community Centre (1pm)
- Thursday 2nd July Visit of Prince Charles
- Saturday 11th July MP's surgery at Bowburn Community Centre (10am-11am) and Lawson Road (11am-12 noon)
- Sunday 26th July Dedication of Bowburn's Book of Remembrance to those who died in action during World War II

Baby Clinic saved from closure

THE new Chairman of North Durham Health Care NHS Trust has stepped in to save Bowburn's Child Health Clinic. He has promised Durham City's MP that money will be invested on improving its premises in Bowburn Community Centre.

On 17th April, notices had gone up in the Centre announcing that the Clinic there was to close, after 30 years. This was a complete surprise to the Community Association and to the parents who used the Clinic.

Premises are poor

Everyone knew the premises were poor. The health visitors used the Board Room, which is not bad ... except when the roof leaks. But the doctor had to use the tiny, cramped office. Lighting there is weak, hand-washing barely adequate and confidentiality (with thin walls and the public pay phone just outside the door) below standard. All this had long been acknowledged by the Health Service.

The clinic is the only one of its kind in Durham. Everywhere else, the local GP is able to use his or her own surgery. But Dr. Pollard's premises in Romaine Square are woefully inadequate... but that's another story! (We hope there'll be some news about this, by the way, before the next edition of *Bowburn Interchange*.)

When a member of the

public complained about the Clinic in 1995, the NHS Trust which was then responsible looked at various options. One was to put a caravan in the car park.

Another option was to close the clinic and make parents travel to the new Clinic at Coxhoe. This was dismissed because a survey of the parents who used the clinic showed that many would not go to Coxhoe. It is, after all, a bus journey which most parents would rather do without. Pushchairs are not easy on the buses... and you have to pay fares! They preferred go

to the Community Centre - whatever its faults.

Bowburn is a large village. The Clinic is very well used. The prospect of even one baby being at risk because of not being immunised was extremely worrying.

So the NHS Trust looked instead at paying to convert the Centre's ladies cloakroom. That was three years ago. And they were still considering it, as far as Bowburn Community Association knew, when notices went up announcing that the Clinic was closing.

A petition was quickly going round. The Community

Health Council and the MP were contacted. And, just one week after the closure notices went up, the MP met Kevin Early, Chairman of the NHS Trust, and its Chief Officer, Bill Worth.

They were very receptive. By the end of the meeting they had given assurances that money would be spent to make improvements in the Community Centre. The Clinic was saved.

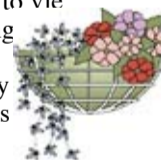
Bowburn is grateful for this prompt action.

Beautiful Bowburn

THIS year's Beautiful Bowburn competition will be judged a week earlier than Beautiful Durham. Because so many people are now entering the local one, two of the Durham judges have very kindly volunteered to come to the village first. They will look at all the gardens, floral containers etc. and give their verdicts for our own trophies and awards.

Then Bowburn's top entries will go forward into the Durham Competition to vie with the best in the District. You do not therefore need to enter both: entering one automatically enters you in the other.

Send the form below to "Beautiful Bowburn", c/o Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5AT. The closing date for entries is 3rd July.



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

I'd like the judges to look at:

- our pub/hotel/shop/filling station/industrial premises
- our school garden/group project
- our sheltered accommodation area
- my large garden
- my small garden (less than 100m²)..
- my back yard
- my garden as seen from the road
- my floral container
- my allotment garden
- my conservatory or greenhouse

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

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

T	U	N	S	T	A	L	L
Y	R	A	M	O	H	L	I
T	E	D	E	B	I	H	G
A	Z	C	I	H	O	U	S
W	A	L	K	E	R	T	Y
S	U	R	T	E	E	S	H
T	A	L	A	W	S	O	N
P	X	O	M	A	L	Y	W

Children's Corner

Can you find the following local street names in this word square?

- Park Hill Estate
- Surtees Avenue
- Tunstall Avenue
- Wylam Street
- Bede Terrace
- Walker Street
- Mary Terrace
- Lawson Road

Do you know how these streets got their names?