



June 2010

## Government Department Learns from the Coxhoe Model

In May 2009 a presentation of Coxhoe Community Partnership achievements was given to the Durham Rural Community Council Spring meeting entitled 'Retirement is a job for a much younger person'.

Our fame quickly spread and by January 2010 Lesley Millgate from the above council contacted us as the Department of Communities and Local Government along with other groups including ACRE and One North East wished to visit Coxhoe for the day on 22nd March. "They don't often move far north of the capital, let alone travel as far as County Durham!", said Lesley.

### Over £1m in Partnership funding.

They were keen to find out how the Partnership and Parish Council had made such excellent progress with the Parish Plan, involved the expertise of numerous partners and accessed such substantial voluntary funding.

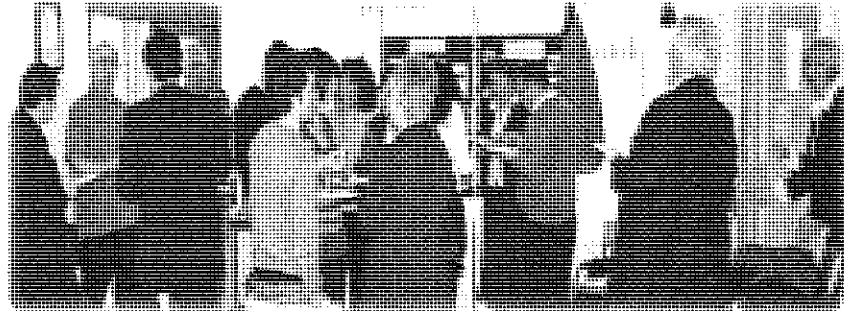
They travelled by rail from the capital city, by mini-bus from Durham and

were received at Landsdowne Community Room by representatives of the Partnership and Parish Council. During the morning we spoke of the Parish Plan process, consultation with the community and priorities formulated in 2005. The implementation of the plan focused on partner involvement and funding success. The visitors were surprised to learn that not one of our projects had failed to attract voluntary funding.

Their questions were searching and penetrative. They showed special interest in the wide range of support our projects had attracted.

After a PowerPoint presentation over lunch showing our projects we 'walked about' Coxhoe where they identified our achievements but recognised there was still much to do. The visit finished with a bus tour of the 'Limestone LinX' cycle route and returned for the 4pm train to London.

The way Coxhoe achieves is well recognised locally. Perhaps we are now making an impact on the national scene.



The Community Sector Coalition included the following extract in their publication.

### Community Led Planning

Coxhoe is a small ex-mining community in Durham which, in 2004, created a vision for their own future through the process of community led planning. With third sector community development support, local residents explored the issues and potential for the local area which led to an action plan for the local community.

Coxhoe Community Partnership was set up to take on the community-led actions, financed through local fundraising, earned income and grant applications.

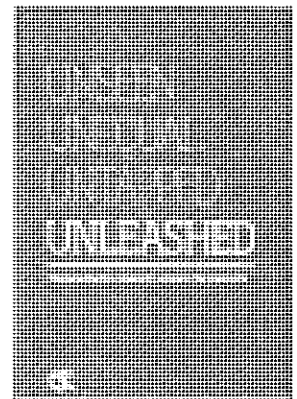
Actions that required involvement of other statutory agencies were led by Coxhoe Parish Council.

As a result, the community is tackling:

- Street lighting, community safety and vandalism
- IT Improvements to a community owned hall
- Celebrating the local heritage through restoration of war memorial.
- A Living Churchyard project
- Working with commercial partners on land reclamation
- Working with external partners to develop a new medical centre in the village.

Local interest and community action has been successfully sustained over the last 6 years. Rather than being passive recipients of local authority engagement, local people in Coxhoe have owned and managed their own plan to deliver real and continuing benefit for local residents.

Source: ACRE



## 'The Allotmenters' -

another success story for Coxhoe

About 3 years ago the gardeners approached the Parish Council, who own the Willow Cottages Allotments, asking if it was possible to provide a water supply—a costly request.

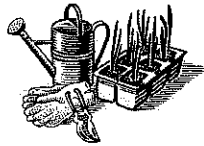
After a meeting with the Council it was agreed that the way forward was to establish a properly constituted community group.

The 'Willow Cottages Allotment Association' was formed with assistance from Durham CVS.

Groundwork Trust are working with the Association to source funding for

improvements including paths to allow wheelchair access, fencing, water supply and a visibility mirror for the hard standing which has already been installed.

The Association has obtained £5000 from Durham County Foundation and applied for assistance from the local County Councillors Neighbourhood fund. Advice has been sought from Awards for All and other funding applications are in the process one of which is to the East Durham Rural A.A.P. for a community garden. Future plans include the possibilities for healthy eating, a small amount of sales in order to be more self sustainable, involving Coxhoe Primary School, the Tarka centre and young people.



## Coxhoe's Green Flag Park Status

The 18th May was the date for the annual inspection of the Park to ensure that it still meets the standards required for Green Flag Status.

It's easy to start taking for granted the fact that we have such a good facility here so it's good to see it through someone else's 'eyes'.

The judges were impressed by many of the features including:

- The huge amount of voluntary funding
- Excellent play area and good condition of equipment 12 years on
- Opportunities for safe cycling—especially the range and choice of cycling skills e.g. cycling proficiency area for new starters, intermediate stunt area and the area for challenging activities.
- The 'Willow-wisp' conservation area is a fine feature which is seldom noticed. They observed the moorhens and chicks recently hatched.
- The sensory garden which, at the time of visit, was being used for family picnics
- The sense of community which the park promotes

There were visitors from Walworth Special School, a family from Kelloe, a couple from Quarrington Hill to borrow cycles to follow the Cycle routes and a good number of mothers and grandmothers out for a picnic.

Although overall favourable the judges identified areas needing attention—safety bases, sundial mosaic etc.

Coxhoe Community Partnership believe that the use, supervision and maintenance of the Park needs a joined up approach to help solve current issues and maximise future use and have requested a meeting between all interested parties—parish council, council environment teams, leisure services, police, anti-social behaviour teams to ensure our park continues to progress to meet the needs of an expanding community and visitors alike.



## Community clamp down on Anti-Social Behaviour

Following the escalating youth related issues within the village, the community have sent out a clear message to say that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated. Businesses and residents have provided the police with the necessary evidence to take action against the principal offenders, and this demonstrates that with positive engagement from the community we can actively target those people who blight our villages.

We currently have in place an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order against the principal protagonist of these youths, which impose a number of prohibitions, to restrict future offending. Alongside this there are currently three youths on Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, aimed at closely monitoring their behaviour.

The early indications have been very promising, with a substantial reduction in incidents. I believe that this sense of community spirit has shown that if we all take ownership of the problems that confront us, we can make a difference.

## CCTV provides vital evidence in car crime enquiry

In March and April the village was targeted by travelling criminals stealing property from vehicles. As a result of a CCTV system on a house within the village, we were able to obtain an image of an offender. This led to the images being circulated to officers working in the south of the County, who had also been suffering a substantial increase in similar crimes. As a result we were able to positively identify a suspect, who was arrested and charged with offences. This offender admitted responsibility for a total of forty two offences throughout the Durham force area.

It must be emphasised that success of this enquiry was due to the CCTV system, and demonstrates the effectiveness of such products as a crime prevention and detection tool.

Pc 1645 Mark Ogilvie (Neighbourhood Policing Team)

Telephone 0345 6060 365 ext. 66842820.

# Coxhoe United's Fun Day

A celebration of football and community spirit for all the family.

Following on from success in previous years Coxhoe United are again celebrating the commitment and dedication of all of its players, coaching staff, committee members, supporters and volunteers with family fun days on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2010. The fun days centre around a football tournament where the Coxhoe United girls and boys teams take on invited teams from the surrounding area.

Last year we finally saw some good weather and a record breaking turnout by Coxhoe residents. The annual event has gone from strength to strength which has to be attributed to the support it receives from the local community and this year the club hopes that with this continued support and a little bit more sunshine this year's event will be an even bigger success.

Everyone is invited with stalls and attractions for the young and old. From fantastic inflatables to cake stalls selling delicious home made produce, a tuck shop, and refreshments including tea, coffee, hotdogs and ice cream and if the preceding years are anything to go by a real celebratory atmosphere should be the order of the weekend.

The venue is the football field near the Linden Sports Centre.

Look out for adverts in local shops closer to the date with details of which teams are playing on each day.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**Coxhoe United**  
CHARTER STANDARD CLUB



# FUN DAY

Come and join in the fun as Coxhoe Utd's Boys and Girls  
Compete in their annual tournament

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2010  
Sat 9:30am — 3:15pm Sun 9:30am — 2:30pm

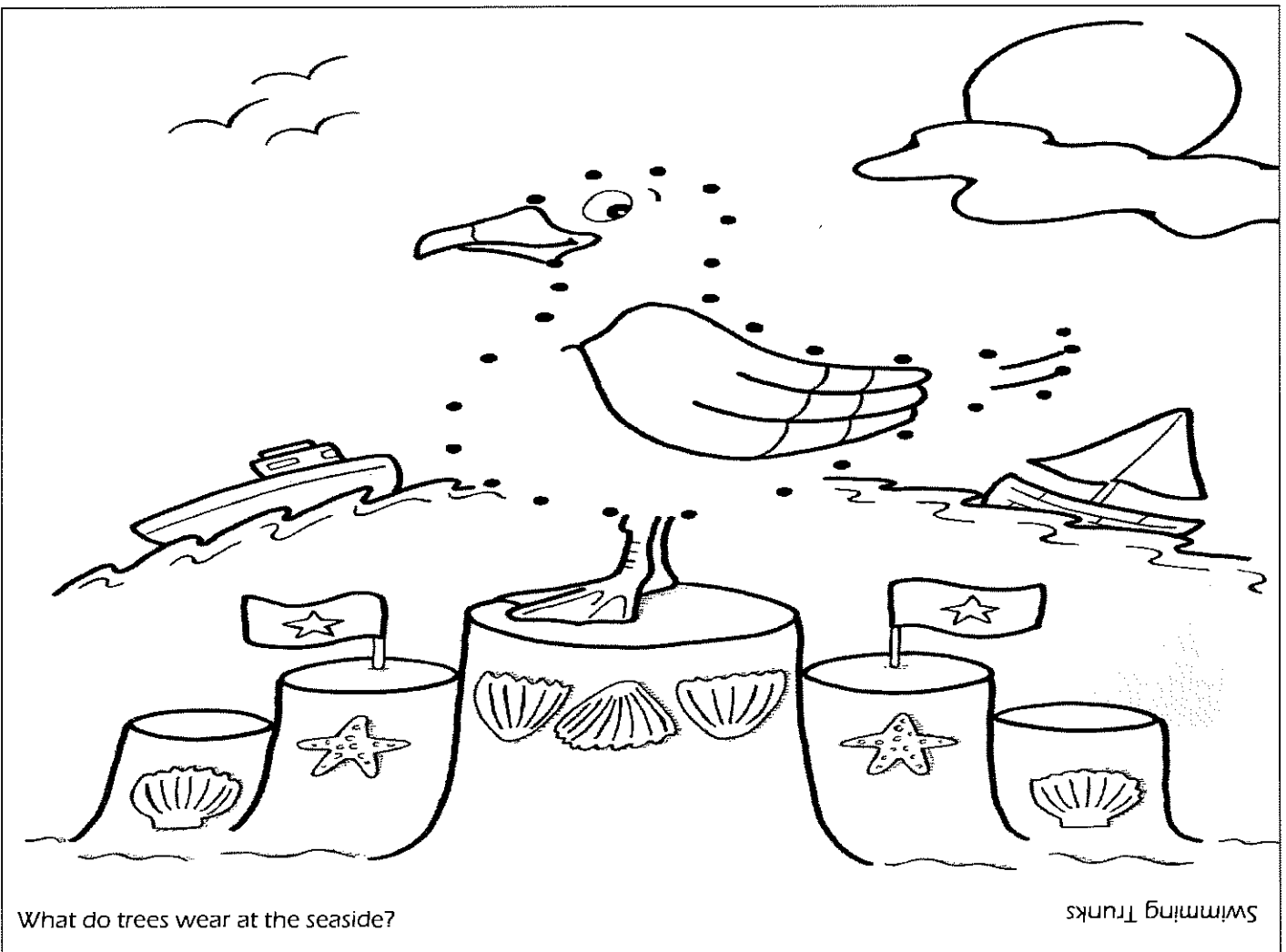
Venue: Football Pitch near Linden Sports Centre, Coxhoe

## STALLS INCLUDE

- Home Cooked Pies and Cakes
- Sweet Stall
- Hotdogs & Refreshments
- Ice Cream Van
- Inflatables



EVERYONES INVITED!



What do trees wear at the seaside?

Swimming Trunks

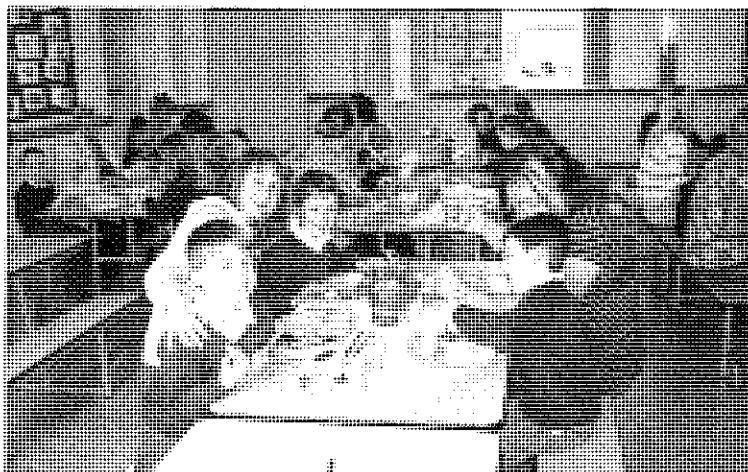
## Mum's the Word!

To celebrate Mothering Sunday, the children at Coxhoe Primary School invited their Mums to join them for a delicious lunch in our school dining hall. After a huge amount of hard work and preparation by the staff at school, especially Mrs Nixon, our fabulous school cook, with just one hour to go – disaster struck. A power cut throughout most of the school meant that the kitchen equipment, such as the ovens and hobs, were not available. Working frantically with local workmen, some power was restored so that we were able to provide some lunch but only for the children. Our poor visitors went hungry!

Not to be defeated, the staff worked closely with parents to re-organise another opportunity for them to come in and sample the delights at lunchtime with their children. Children and their families enjoyed quiche, turkey dinner and apple pudding with custard in the hall which was beautifully set with table cloths and flowers.

The atmosphere in the hall was wonderful, children chattered excitedly about their morning in school while they shared a delicious healthy meal with members of their family.

Feedback about the event was extremely positive, "What a great idea! I had a fantastic time and the food was delicious. I loved playing with Sarah on the playground too," enthused Mrs Hodgson. Her enthusiasm was matched by Mr Jones who said, "The hall looked beautiful, the food was fantastic and children really enjoyed having their mums with them for lunch. Some even stayed to play games on the playground afterwards!"



## Italian Dreams

Year six children are currently undertaking a huge restaurant project as part of their curriculum, which will culminate in them running their very own Italian restaurant in school.



This exciting venture kicked off with a post SAT's celebration visit to 'ASK' restaurant in Durham where the children enjoyed a three course Italian meal. A fantastic time was had by both staff and pupils. Mrs Henderson, year six teacher, said, "It was lovely to see the children outside of school, relaxed and enjoying themselves. A fantastic time was had by both staff and children and the service was fantastic". Holly Crozier, a year six pupil, said, "I had a really lovely time, the food was delicious and it was nice to visit a restaurant with all of my friends, after a very hard week at school".

Preparations are currently underway for the unveiling of 'Italian Dreams' on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Parents and friends of year six children will be treated to a three course Italian inspired meal – all freshly prepared and served by the children themselves.

The thought of being chefs and waiters for the day has really captured the children's imaginations and the whole class are looking forward to being involved in the project. The big question at school is will they make a profit? Parents are only being asked to pay what they think the meal is worth, as opposed to what it cost to make!

Results could be interesting - watch this space.

## Chomp'n'Munch

### Local Enterprise in Action

After an exciting week of enterprise at the end of Year 4, we appointed a group of up and coming entrepreneurs to launch Coxhoe's very own 'small business'. They set up their very own company, Chomp'n'Munch, with their own logo and even a catchy slogan – 'Chomp'n'Munch – Pick your Favourite Bunch'.

To fill a gap in the market, they wanted to sell tempting and tasty fruit to the children in Key Stage 2 because the government provide free fruit for all of the children in Key Stage 1. Together with Mrs Bartle, they approached Lisa at 'The Village Greengrocer' to help them get supplies from the market each week. The children work closely with Lisa, discussing which fruits are in season, the tastiest and the most cost effective each week.



Involvement in this small business has allowed the Year 5 children to develop a range of enterprising skills, including communication, leadership, collaboration, risk taking and research. They have visited Lisa in the shop to find out more about their produce and they take responsibility for telephoning our busy Village Greengrocer each week to discuss their order. "The best bit about being in Chomp'n'Munch is working with other people," Rebecca Dalby. "I really like using the telephone," Megan Burnham.

They also meet weekly to 'do the accounts' and make important decisions about their company. "I really like making our own decisions!" reported Kane Hodgson. Recently, after much animated discussion, they have decided what to spend their profits on – a video

camera to film their advert on.

They are all very excited about the next decision to be made – selecting up and coming entrepreneurs to step into their shoes as they move up into the heady heights of Year 6 – could it be you? Have you got what it takes?

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### FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COXHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

After almost a year of consultation between the Headteacher, Governors and representatives of the Local Education Authority it seems that the wishes of the community may be about to be realised!

We are all excited about the possibility of increasing the number of classrooms and support rooms which would enable the annual intake of the local Primary School to be increased in order that our wish of seeing all children of Primary school age living in Coxhoe being able to attend their own village Primary school becomes reality.

Feasibility studies have been completed and proposals made by the school to increase the annual intake into the Foundation Stage (Reception) class from September 2011. However, this will be subject to final design and costs being approved by the LEA who will be financing the major part of the work. If this approval is gained then the first phase of the work to begin to create an additional classroom in Key Stage 2 and one in Key Stage 1 will commence in the summer holidays of this year. The remaining work continuing in the spring of 2011.

The whole project should be completed so that the larger intake can be welcomed in September 2011. In the long term this will enable us to have more classrooms but smaller class sizes so that pupils gain more in terms of teacher time and resources.

Governors met with the LEA representatives last week to give their unanimous approval to the plans which they hope will not only increase the roll of the school but enable us to continue to build upon the excellent quality and breadth of educational opportunities offered to all pupils in the school. Over the next few months please continue to lobby our local MP and councillors to ensure that the project is not hampered by future budget cuts. Help us to encourage a long term view of the investment that such a move will bring for all of our pupils and the community in which they live.

Stephen Jones, Headteacher

There's more information on the Coxhoe Primary School website at : [www.durham.schooljotter.com/coxhoe](http://www.durham.schooljotter.com/coxhoe)

## 'Fulfilling a Dream' From Coxhoe to Wembley – Matthew Robson



When Carlisle met Southampton at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March the English League Division One sides attracted over 73,000 spectators which was a larger attendance than at last year's UEFA Cup Final.

Among the Carlisle fans was a bus load (32) from Coxhoe and a dozen or so from our area who travelled to the event by rail or car.

They were there to witness the appearance of Coxhoe lad, Matthew Robson, at our National Stadium.

This unique appearance was no less than Matthew deserves as his commitment and dedication to life and football reveal. Born of sporting parents, Matthew enjoyed kicking a ball around from an early age. At Coxhoe Primary School he recalls 'smashing a few classroom windows' with a football *(during BREAK times—ed)*.

Matthew had a good attitude and behaved well at school but says "I wish I could go back and study harder, all I thought about was football. I think for boys and girls who enjoy football it's massively important to concentrate on the academic side as well!"



He did, however, achieve more than he admits to as teacher Teresa Harrison wrote to him when he was aged 11: "*Dear Matthew, This is just a short note to wish you well at Tudhoe. You've impressed me, since Christmas, by the excellent attitude you've shown towards school and work (including the energy you've put into the presentation!) Keep it up and enjoy all the opportunities that will come your way. Good luck in all you do.*"

Teacher coach, John Trueman describes Matty as having '*exceptional skills, a good attitude, intelligent and hard working. From a very supportive family.*'

Matthew was a keen all round sportsman

at Tudhoe Grange school and also enjoyed athletics and cross country. He represented Bishop Auckland District and Durham County School Boys at Soccer.

Early football memories include regular support for Coxhoe Athletic to watch his father play with the likes of Don Williams and Paul Charlton. "I used to love having a kick about with Neil Charlton but was often told off when the ball went on to the field of play during the game."

Hartlepool United was Matthew's first club. "As a Y.T.S I cleaned Mark Tinkler's boots – he rewarded me well!"

He made his debut, aged 17, in an LDV Vans Trophy which Hartlepool lost 5-0.

Matthew had the honour of playing at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff in the Play off finals against Sheffield Wednesday. Hartlepool lost 4-2, "We were robbed by the referee!"

Matthew moved to Carlisle in June 2009 aged 24, as he fell out of first team favour at Pools, "I felt I needed to be playing and wouldn't have been happy sitting on the bench collecting my wages".





Matthew is happy at Carlisle and until his recent injury he has made 53 consecutive first team appearances during what is arguably his best season in professional football. He has scored seven goals including a 'screamer' against his old club, Hartlepool. He appeared at Goodison Park in the F.A. Cup. On the eve of his Wembley appearance Grandad Spike said he'd 'cover every inch of the Wembley turf'.

"To play at Wembley was a dream", says Matthew. "I never thought I'd ever appear there. The build up was fantastic, running out for the warm up and seeing the crowd steadily rising was amazing. I felt proud singing the National Anthem with 73,000 people."

Needless to say the game itself didn't go as planned with Southampton winning 4-1. "We came up against a fantastic team on the day", Matthew sportingly comments, "and they fully deserved the win but when you look at the size difference between the clubs we did ourselves proud."

Meanwhile Matthew's family and supporters were very, very proud of him and wouldn't have missed the experience for the world.

Carlisle United legend George McVitie believes Matty is 'a throwback to his days of terrorising defences at Brunton Park'

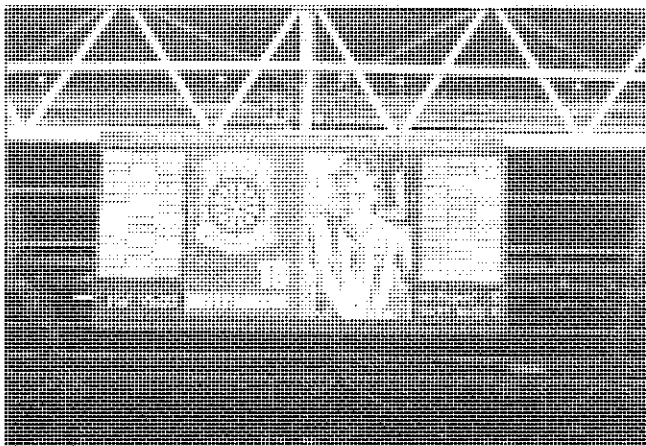
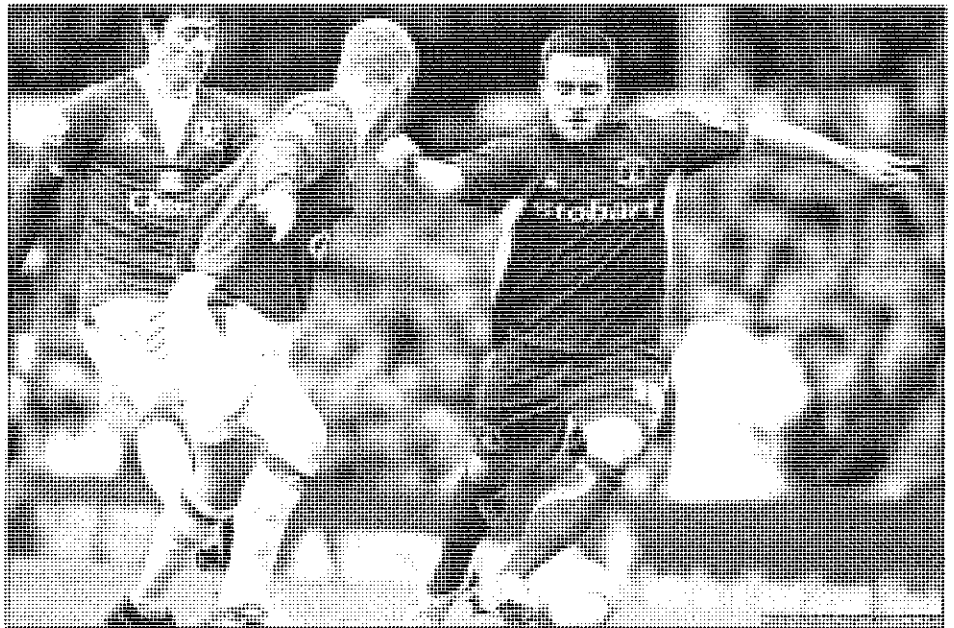
In the future Matthew will dedicate himself to achieve all he can knowing that investments in foreign players makes it increasingly difficult for home produced lads. However this may be changing as investors are hesitating which may favour the lads from the football academies once more.

Matthew appreciates the tremendous support from his family. "I was never pushed into football like some parents do".

He also feels some youngsters go to football academies at too young an age "just enjoy playing at local clubs until you feel you are ready!"

Matthew now lives in Durham, enjoys walking his dog, and visits family and grandparents regularly. He sees his strengths as speed, fitness and determination, all qualities he nurtured from an early age. "Coxhoe is a great little village" says Matthew. I have lots of memories and lots of friends. I would like to think the football team is there when I finish my career as I said I would always return to them!

Matthew is an excellent role model for our young people who should see him as worthy of his success which has been achieved through good behaviour, healthy attitudes, commitment and an abundance of skill.



The two photographs were taken by Jack Turton at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff. The photograph on the right shows Matty covering the left goal post.

# Coxhoe Heritage and Living Churchyard

Thursday March 11th witnessed the culmination

of 4 years of partnership working within the village with the completion and dedication of our Heritage and Living Churchyard in the grounds of St. Mary's Church.

Situated at the northern aspect of the churchyard the project has focused upon heritage and environment with the aim of providing an open space that both local people and visitors to our village can enjoy. With the development of pathways and information panels visitors can also learn a little of the history of our village and the ecology of the churchyard and its plants and animals.



During the final stages of preparation and the fixing of the panels it was interesting to observe the number of people who took the time to stop and read the information on them. A degree of anxiety was expressed by a large percentage of people that the hard work and endeavour of a number of groups would amount to nothing, given the recent spate of antisocial activity the village has endured. It's been encouraging to note, that at the time of going to press no acts of vandalism or destruction have been directed at any part of the project and this reflects the degree of respect that the vast majority of young people of this village have for the good work that goes on in our community.

As time goes by and plants and shrubs will mature and bring a blaze of colour to an aspect of the churchyard that has long been neglected, and a place where many of the early inhabitants of our village lie at rest. With the wealth of information also available on the panels, it's also possible to marry heritage and history with ecology and wildlife, and both will be enjoyed for many years to come.

*Report by Jack Turton*

**NOW .....**

**... and THEN**

**'Newcastle Courant Friday**

**December 2nd 1887.**

**"Jubilee Tree-planting at Coxhoe**

In commemoration of the year of the Queens Jubilee, about 500 trees and shrubs, the gift of Rev RH Williamson of Whickham, the Rev. D Fleming, the Vicar and Thomas Hall of Coxhoe, have been planted in St. Mary's Churchyard, Coxhoe during the last few weeks."



The Heritage and Living Churchyard Project was submitted to be considered for a County Durham Environmental Award by Coxhoe Community Partnership.

On 28th April the judges visited St. Mary's Churchyard as the project had been shortlisted. We were delighted to receive a notification that our project has been nominated for either an Award, Commendation or cash prize and are invited to a presentation ceremony at the Gala Theatre, Durham on 24th May when we will learn how well our project has done.



**Future activities :**

10th June 7pm: 'Children's Employment in the Coal Industry in the 1840's ' - by Brenda Graham

12th August 7pm: 'Winterton Hospital—The First Ten Years' - presented by Jack Turton

In July we'll be looking at our latest research. Although we're always looking for a wide variety of information we're focusing at present on 'Coxhoe Hall and its People' - visits to Durham University Library, Records Offices, via the internet etc.—with a view to producing a full collection for our archives. We're also planning a Heritage Day in the Autumn. I.T. equipment's been purchased through the Our Heritage Churchyard grant which will be in use regularly at our meetings including laptop, projector and screen. We have a scanner set up in the room so please call in at any of our meetings with photographs or information connected to Coxhoe's history.

If you're thinking of researching your family history our members can help get you started.



*Villager: It was 'ere that Catherine of Aragon was bitten by a mad dog.*

*Tourist: Tudor?*

*Villager: Yes, chewed 'er something 'orrible it did.*







Our information tells us that this photograph was taken at Coxhoe Carnival in July 1952. Is that right? Do you recognise anyone? Give us a ring or email—contact details below. *Photograph Library Beamish Museum Ltd.*

**Coronation Celebrations at Coxhoe—Durham Advertiser 5th June 1953**

Coxhoe opened on Sunday night with a united service at the Village Hall. On Monday, children were entertained to tea and presented with souvenir mugs in the Village Hall. After starting with a programme of sports these had to be postponed and were arranged to take place last night. Television facilities were made available for the aged on Coronation Day. Proceedings will end tonight with a parade of children in fancy and comic dress through the village. Judging will take place at the Store Field.

Celebrations at Coxhoe ended on Friday when Deaf Hill Colliery Band led a parade of children in fancy and comic costumes around the streets. They returned to the Village Hall where judging took place. Judges were Mr. & Mrs. L. Adamson and Mr. M. Patterson. Awards were 2-7 years: 1. Carol and Susan Tighe 2. Ellen Dobinson 3. Heather Murray and Anne Pickering. Specials Valerie Dixon, Jim Malcolm, Pamela Hutchinson, Janice Hodgson.

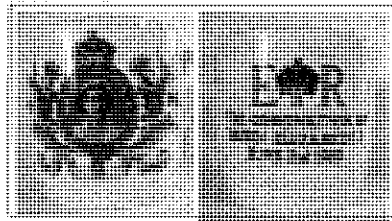
7-12 years: Pamela Carter, Brian Mohon, Sheila Mohon, specials Patricia Carr, Gloria Ryder, Joyce Kitchingman, Valerie Barber.

13-15 years: Sheila Ogden, Eileen

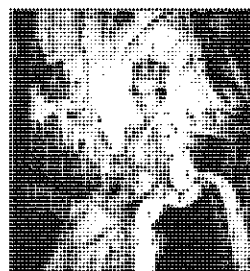
Mulgrew, Norman Smith. specials Yvonne Bateson, David Burns, Shirley Valks. All other children who took part in the parade were given two shillings and a Coronation pencil.

Before the procession Mr. Tom Evans of Cornforth Lane gave a film show for the children in the Village Hall. Prizes for the best decorated dwelling houses were won by 1. Mrs. Denney, Peats Buildings, 2. Mrs. V. Dixon – Green Crescent. 3. Mrs. HL Dennison, The Avenue.

Business premises prizes were won by: 1. FC Head and Sons. 2. Coxhoe Cooperative Society. 3. Nortons Ltd. Owing to Bowburn Colliery being on holiday for a fortnight the programme of childrens sports was postponed until June 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Barbara Hepplewhite's Souvenir Mug



*The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II Westminster Abbey 2nd June 1953*

Coxhoe children (382) were given a free trip to Redcar and a crown piece by Coxhoe WMC on Saturday to mark the Coronation

About 200 mothers and children who attended the Coxhoe Child Welfare Centre were entertained to a Coronation party at the Village Hall on Friday. Councillor G Fishburn (Kelloe) presided. After tea entertainment in the form of a film show was provided. There was also a display of knitted baby wear done by the mothers. Among those present were Dr. Williamson, Medical Officer for Child Welfare, and Misses Frazer and Furness (organisers). Arrangements were carried out by a committee with Mrs. Batty—secretary and Mrs. Durkin chairman.

**Do you have any photographs or memories of these events we can add to our collection?**



Delivering Quality Services to  
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

## Coxhoe Parish Council – Summary of Annual Report 2009/2010

The last year was my third year as Chairman of Coxhoe Parish Council. It has been yet another challenging year for us. Like everyone else we have had to cope with the impact of the recession and have had value for money firmly in our minds when we have continued to implement the Parish Plan. We have, therefore, had a year of careful budget management but, in doing so, we have continued to strive to meet the evolving needs of the community by delivering your priorities. My last Annual Report underlined the importance of partnership working. Again this year, a year of significant change and uncertainty, it has been proved that working with others is crucial to our achievements.

**Improving Personal Safety:** There have been some significant issues of anti-social behaviour, particularly by youths visiting Coxhoe. At the meeting in October 2009 there were signs of a reduction in reported crime. However reports of anti-social behaviour began to increase towards the end of 2009 and as a result we convened a public meeting with our partners to discuss the problems. As a result the police have been targeting particular locations and times and have encouraged the public to report issues. Reporting incidents is crucially important to the police and they have urged residents to let them know wherever and whenever issues arise.

**Improving Health - Coxhoe Medical Practice:** The Parish Council, following on from the excellent work of the Coxhoe Community Partnership, has been lobbying for a new Medical Practice to be developed in Coxhoe. It is awaiting the outcome of a positive meeting with representatives of the Primary Care Trust and GP's, along with other community representatives, including Coxhoe Community Partnership and County Councillors. Proposals are being developed and we expect that there will be an open day in the village hall shortly to help keep residents up to date with what is happening.

**Improving Highway Safety – Working with the County Council:** We have made significant progress over the years in terms of highway safety. We made further progress this year. Speed reduction signs have been installed in Quarrington Hill, in partnership with Durham County Council. Work is ongoing to make arrangements to site these in Coxhoe on a rota basis. In addition, further speed humps have been provided in Quarrington Hill. As a result, we feel that highway safety has been improved within the villages.

The Parish Council has made representations to the County Council to encourage improvements to their system for reporting highway issues known as HAL (Highways Action Line). We also carried out partnership working with the County Council to provide bollards in The Avenue at Coxhoe to restrict inappropriate parking to avoid nuisance to residents. We have taken up the concerns of residents on non-compliance with no entry restrictions in Coxhoe with the police who are now monitoring such motoring offences.

**Improving the Environment and working with the Community Partnerships:** The Parish Council has continued to actively work with Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill Community Partnerships supporting environmental improvement in the villages. Following a huge amount of work by Coxhoe Community Partnership, the Memorial Garden in Coxhoe was formally opened on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009. We feel that this has had a significant impact on the visual appearance of this part of the village while enhancing the setting of the war memorial. Since the Memorial Garden was formally opened on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009, lighting has been improved in the Memorial Garden. We have also raised various issues of environmental improvements required in terms of highways, footpaths, fencing and street lighting with the County Council. We are continuing to lobby for a suitable scheme for the community for future restoration works at the Premier Waste Joint Stocks Waste Disposal Site. Quarrington Hill Village Partnership is working tirelessly to procure play facilities in Quarrington Hill that will enhance the environment and create a safe area for children to play. We have provided details to the Partnerships on funding available through the County Council for play facilities through the Play Builders Programme 2010/2011 and we have also agreed a donation of £1000 for the play park.

**Churchyards, Grass Cutting, Hanging Baskets and Planters:** Although the Parish Council owns a small parcel of land at St. Mary's Churchyard in Coxhoe, both churchyards are the responsibility of the respective Parochial Church Councils (PCC's) and ultimately under the auspice of the Diocese of Durham. The Council has an agreement with the PCC's to get its contractor to cut the grass to an agreed standard and the two PCC's contribute towards the cost of these cuts. Since this agreement was established there have been very few complaints. The Parish Council has also continued to provide grass cutting services within the villages of Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill and provided a total of 70 hanging baskets during the summer months. We have conducted a value for money exercise in respect of this and other planter and flower bed provision within the villages. We have recently decided to award the contract to a new service provider as a result and feel that this will again enhance the quality of service we provide.

**Improving the right to be heard - County Durham Statement of Community Involvement:** During the year the Parish Council agreed to make a detailed representation to Durham County Council on how residents should be involved in planning decisions in the future. We made representations on a proposal for 80 residential dwellings at Coxhoe Industrial Estate, encouraging the County Council to use street names previously lost in the village and lobbying the County Council and developer in the use of planning gain monies for the benefit of the community.

We also held a special meeting to consider representations on two applications. These were in respect of development at Cold Knuckles Quarry and Premier Waste Joint Stock Waste Disposal site. In respect of the latter, we agreed to appoint two Parish Councillors to the Premier Waste Liaison Group to help get residents' views across and look to continuous improvement. We have commented to the County Council on the County Durham Local Development Framework Core Strategy Issues Document and passed views to them about the potential closure of Community Centres and Customer Access Points. We are continuing to strive to maintain community centre facilities in Quarrington Hill and a public meeting in this connection will be held in Quarrington Hill Community Centre at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

**Parish Council Administration and Meetings – Towards Quality Status:** In June 2009 the Parish Council appointed a new Parish Clerk, Margaret Forster, who took up her duties in July following the resignation of our previous Clerk. It has been a very busy year for the Parish Council and for the Clerk. All of our meetings have been attended by the public. Residents have the opportunity to come along and raise issues at the beginning of each Council meeting. The meeting agenda is placed on the Parish Notice Boards in both villages in advance of the meeting and full minutes of meetings are also published there once they have been approved. Meetings are generally all held on the fourth Wednesday of the month commencing at 6.45p.m. All meeting dates are displayed on the Parish Notice Boards. Since June 2009 all Parish Council meetings are held at Lansdowne House, 64 Lansdowne Road, Coxhoe (just down from the Doctor's Surgery) where the Parish Council offices are based. These are open to visiting members of the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9.00am and 12.00 noon. We have been fully committed to achieving 'Quality' Council Status for the Parish Council. We are pleased to say that we are now moving forward on this as our Parish Clerk is now undertaking the appropriate training which is a key part of achieving the standards required. During the year, the Council received positive reports from its External and Internal Auditors, as well as undertaking a full risk assessment of our activity.

In March this year the Parish Council and Coxhoe Community Partnership hosted a visit by a party from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in London. The work that has been carried out in Coxhoe was considered as best practice by DCLG and it is felt that this proves how hard we are working in partnership to achieve improvements for our communities.

#### Financial performance 2009/2010

We have prudently managed our budgets this year in the light of the recession and to protect us from financial risk in future years. We have also undertaken a number of value for money exercises which ought to result in efficiency savings for future years including the provision of planting services, the in house printing of village newsletters, and the maintenance of the two Millennium Clocks in Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill. Below is a summary of our expenditure and income at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

#### Total Income and Expenditure 2009/2010 compared with previous year

	2008/2009	2009/2010
Total Expenditure	£52,978.68	£39,946.64
Total Income	£43,787.13	£43,941.59
Net expenditure	£9,191.55	-£3,994.95
Balances at end of financial year	£16,859.76	£20,854.71*

\*This includes £10,700 of committed expenditure agreed to be carried forward to 2010/11.

#### Breakdown of Total Expenditure 2009/2010 compared with previous year

Area of Expenditure	Expenditure 2008/2009	Expenditure 2009/2010
Central Services	£13,487.44	£8,444.68
Salaries		£12,428.62
Churchyards	£4,240.00	£2,590.00
Footpaths and Open Spaces		£795.00
Allotments and Gardens	£196.70	£451.64
Public Buildings	£1,905.00	£333.13
Highways	£29,207.70	£10,049.10
Section 137 Grants & Donations	£1,345.50	£2,767.50
VAT Recoverable	£2,596.34	£2,086.97
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£52,978.68</b>	<b>£39,946.64</b>

Breakdown of Total Income 2009/2010 compared with previous year

Area of Income	Income 2008/2009	Income 2009/2010
Precept	£33,473.00	£35,118.00
Interests on Investments	£388.70	£55.48
Allotment Rents	£377.25	£1,152.43
Plants and Trees	£450.00	£0.00
Grants and Contributions	£7,000.00	£3,581.75
Cemeteries	£1,300.00	£0.00
VAT Reclaimed	£798.18	£4,033.93
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£43,787.13</b>	<b>£43,941.59</b>

**Conclusion**

Public spending in the next few years is going to be cut in order to address the national deficit. This means that opportunities to finance initiatives will become more restricted and our partners will have fewer resources to address issues. We feel that we have prudently managed our budgets this year to leave us in a healthy position to address future projects whilst making clear progress on the priorities in the Parish Plan. We are constantly looking at ways of achieving the most economic, cost effective and efficient means of doing things. We continue to look at ways of reducing expenditure and increasing income without affecting service delivery to the community. We have improved as a Parish Council and are now formally on our way to achieve 'Quality' Status. We know that we need to continually improve to ensure the best services for our communities in Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill. We fully aim to do so.

Partnership working will continue to bring about real changes within a community and the work of the two village partnerships is to be commended. These partnerships work tirelessly in a volunteer capacity to drive and achieve improvement. I thank them very much for the work they do and reassure them that the Parish Council fully support them and what they are trying to do. Parish Councillors also work in an unpaid capacity and I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, both within the Parish and on the County Council, for their support, commitment, passion and aspirations for Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill, during another busy and challenging year. In particular, my thanks go to the Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, Stuart Dunn, who has again deputised for me when necessary and helped me so much to move the Parish Council forward.

Last but not least I would like to thank our Clerk, Margaret Forster, who has worked long and hard since her appointment, to improve our procedures, meticulously delivering the services we provide and dealing with our significant workload in an extremely professional manner.

Paul Dodsworth  
Chair of Coxhoe Parish Council

Contact Details for Coxhoe Parish Councillors and Clerk:

Parish Councillors in Coxhoe	Telephone:	Email
Councillor Paul Dodsworth (Chair)	0191 3778914	<a href="mailto:p.dodsworth@bandk.co.uk">p.dodsworth@bandk.co.uk</a>
Councillor Stuart Dunn (Vice-Chair)	0191 3773314	<a href="mailto:stuart_dunn@tiscali.co.uk">stuart_dunn@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Councillor Ron Mayo	0191 3771770	<a href="mailto:ronmayocxo@msn.com">ronmayocxo@msn.com</a>
Councillor Mrs. Barbara Hepplewhite	0191 3771366	<a href="mailto:bhepp4@btinternet.com">bhepp4@btinternet.com</a>
Councillor Tony Rowe	0191 3773642	<a href="mailto:tony@rowe9.fsworld.co.uk">tony@rowe9.fsworld.co.uk</a>
Councillor Colin Thirlaway	0191 3772596	<a href="mailto:cthirlaway@btinternet.com">cthirlaway@btinternet.com</a>
Councillor Jimmy Taylor	0191 3771512	<a href="mailto:jamestaylor001@myguide.net">jamestaylor001@myguide.net</a>
Councillor Dennis Smith	0191 3772437	

Parish Councillors in Quarrington Hill		
Councillor Keith Pounder	0191 3773611	<a href="mailto:keith.pounder@tesco.net">keith.pounder@tesco.net</a>
Councillor Mrs. Carole Wigham	07545 526338	
Councillor George Shotton	07768 350576	
Margaret Forster (Parish Clerk):	07988 283287	<a href="mailto:clerk@coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

**Latest News** Update on New Medical Centre : Coxhoe Medical Centre report that they have had a further meeting with the PCT and it is looking positive but a decision has been deferred until July. There have also been discussions re staffing and utilisation of the building.

This newsletter has been printed for the first time 'in-house'. After carrying out a financial assessment and tender process it was decided by the Parish Council that the most cost effective and efficient way of producing the Chronicle was to print them on the Parish Council's newly acquired Photocopier.



## Report from your County Councillors :

It has been another busy year for Dennis and Maria. The County Council is up and running with a seamless transition and some positive changes such as free school meals. The time is divided with local meetings including parish and partnership as well as committee meetings to ensure our voice is heard. This enables us to keep up to date with the local issues and needs and to bring them forward to Council . Through these meetings, we have been able to be involved, both in time and financially with local projects and initiatives. Some of these are:

- Coxhoe street lighting columns
- Doctor's surgery project still ongoing
- Quarrington Hill Traffic Calming
- Quarrington Hill Play Area
- Coxhoe Church Yard
- Coxhoe Village Hall Memorial Garden
- Limestone Linx
- Funding input to allow extra session for Coxhoe Youth Room

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership has been in place for a year, and this has been a source of funding and advice for many groups across the area. Coxhoe has benefitted in many ways. One such benefit is to the skate park as one of the top priorities being 'activities for children'. There have been many small groups who have had funding from the Members Initiative Fund, from Residents Associations to sports groups. Dennis has joined the board of Durham Villages Regeneration Company to ensure our housing and planning interests are taken into account, and Maria is Cabinet support for housing which includes being board member for Durham City Homes. It continues to be a busy year with many more projects and schemes to benefit.

**Councillors Maria Plews and Dennis Morgan**

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### East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership (EDRC AAP)

In its first year EDRC has met bi-monthly as an AAP Board, a number of Task and Finish group sessions based on local priorities have been held and the Board have received training to enhance its performance.

Priorities for 2009/10 have been as follows:

- Activities for Young People
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Community and Voluntary Sector

The Board have managed a budget of £150,000 which has been allocated to 15 priorities across the area in over ten villages.

Coxhoe has benefitted largely as a result of a series of activities from Coxhoe Leisure Centre applied for and implemented by Durham County Council's Leisure Services Dept.

These are:

- Free cycle hire programme (see details on 'Limestone LinX' sheet)
- Free holiday coaching sessions at Skatepark
- Saturday night opening of Leisure Centre and transport for young people (see back page)

In addition £30,000 was allocated to 'Limestone LinX' which was expended in the Cassop/Quarrington Hill area but benefits seven communities, including Coxhoe for cycling and walking access.

£100,000 of the total budget was allocated by the Board and £50,000 at a forum meeting at Trimdon Station when attendees from the area voted on their priorities.

It is important that the general public attend meetings and maintain an interest in developments within their area, particularly at Forum meetings when priorities are considered and ultimately decided by votes.

In 2010/11 £150,000 is allocated to our AAP.

The next Forum meeting is on Monday 5th July at Fishburn Community Centre. Between 3 and 6 pm there will be a review and display of projects and from 6-8pm there will be a Forum meeting.

At the launch of the AAP in 2009 Coxhoe was well represented and helped shape priorities. Sadly at the Forum event when £50,000 was allocated only one person from Coxhoe attended to vote.

It is important that Coxhoe people attend.

If you have any queries contact Jane Bellis on Tel. 0191 5274764 or email [jane.bellis@durham.gov.uk](mailto:jane.bellis@durham.gov.uk)



## Coxhoe Customer Access Point—Linden Centre, Coxhoe Leisure Centre

Coxhoe Customer Access Point is a one stop shop which provides residents and visitors in the Coxhoe area with access to a wide range of council services.

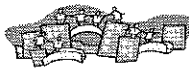
We provide a range of advice and information on Durham County Council's services. This enables visitors to the office to have their queries for Council Tax, Council Tax and Housing Benefits, Refuse, Recycling and Concessionary Travel dealt with in one place. We can also provide advice on other Council services and if we don't know the answer we will find it or put you in touch with someone who does. Please see the attached list of services available:

We are located in the Linden Centre, Linden Grove, Coxhoe, Durham, DH6 4DW and are open from 8.30 am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays Alternatively you can contact us by phone by calling 0191 386 6111 or via our website at [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) and follow the Contact Us links.

### Services Available

Key: Y – Services are available from this point SP – Will signpost to another service.

Animals - reporting/dog bins/fouling	Y	Dealing with strays, deerness kennels, environmental health, arranging bins to be emptied, monitor fouling & clean up
Arts - information	SP	
Anti - Social behaviour	Y	Logging the call, times, dates and nature of the enquiry
Building Control	SP	
Complaints	Y	Log and pass on to the complaints team
Council Tax	Y	Billing enquiries, movers forms, exemptions, payments, direct debits, change of circumstance evidence, discounts
Councillors - general information	Y	Contact details, where they are located and what areas they deal with
Concessionary Fares	Y	How to get a pass, costs, time scale for delivery, Identification, lost passes
Highways	Y	Streetlights, gritting, potholes, road maintenance, traffic lights
Disabled people - blue badges	SP	
Electoral register	Y	Sit in reception while people look through register
Homelessness - advice/support	Y	Transfer call to homeless or tell them to come into office and ask for homeless to get more specialised advice
Housing allocations	Y	Reference numbers, passwords, banding, change of circumstances
Housing Repairs	Y	Issue repairs and inspections, gas commissions
Land & Property	SP	
Housing & Council Tax Benefits	Y	How to claim, appointments, progress, evidence needed, how much the entitlement is
Land Searches	SP	
Licensing	SP	
Libraries - general information	SP	
Non Domestic Rates	Y	Account enquires, mover forms, payments
Pest Control	Y	Logging, advising, taking payment for services requested, advising of timescales
Museums - general advice	SP	
Planning Services	SP	
Refuse	Y	Deliveries, bin collections, recycling, green waste collection, tip opening times, bulky collections, new bins
Recycling - general information	Y	Ordering of recycling bags, boxes, delivery of refuse items, collections, items included in recycling collection
Right to Buy	SP	
Sports Bookings/advise	Y	Information on classes etc
Street Cleaning / Grounds Maintenance	Y	Areas to be cleaned, logging on system, when areas will be cleaned
Tourism - general information	SP	
Trading standards - reporting	SP	
Vandalism - reporting	Y	logging, cleanup, housing officers involvement (if council properties)
Waste permits	Y	Booking, printing, advising offices of collection



Charity No. 1077277

This has been another year of fulfilment as projects are being delivered.

The **War Memorial Garden** is transformed and has received all round praise. The open and attractive civic space which has been created is befitting of the local heroes who gave their lives in two great wars. It is pleasing to note that our young people respect the area. The Big Lottery Changing Spaces Fund are delighted with the result of their investment of £47,849.44 and we thank them for their support.

**Heritage and Living Churchyard Project** The project is now complete. It has increased visitors and raised respect for the churchyard and much interest has been shown in its cultural and natural heritage.

The **Local History Group**, part of the Heritage project, now has a website and members have grand plans for future activities.

The project has been supported by the Big Lottery 'Our Heritage' Grant Scheme £50,000, County Durham Environmental Trust £40,000. Premier Waste Management £4,000, Durham City Council's Flourishing Communities Fund £5,000. County Durham Environmental Trust's funding is obtained from the Landfill Tax paid by Premier Waste Management who have supported us throughout the project. Coxhoe Parish Council and Councillors Morgan and Plews neighbourhood support budget assisted in attracting wider funders.

The **Limestone LinX Cycle and Walk Ways Project** Working Group consists of members from partnerships at Bowburn, Kelloe and Quarrington Hill assisted by highways engineers, footpath and ecological officers from Durham County Council. Coxhoe Partnership leads the funding applications and considerable progress has been made.

Substantial funding of £124,000 has been received from Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund administered by Natural England from their Manchester office.

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership supported the project with a grant of £30,000.

Financial input was received from Durham County Council's Local Transport Plan 2, Public Rights of Way and Highways Dept.

Councillors Plews and Morgan provided match funding from their members allowance to attract larger sponsorship. Tarmac and Lafarge support has been invaluable and Tarmac have made substantial contributions in-kind.

The East Durham LEADER programme, a European funding source, will complete the section between Park Hill and Bowburn in the summer.

There has been an obvious increase in cycling and walking activity in the area. An example of one of the interpretation panels is shown on the enclosed leaflet.

The **Youth Room Partnership** sub-group – representatives of our group, Durham County Council Education in the Community, Leisure Services and Coxhoe Leisure Centre – continue to provide many interesting and varied activities for our young people. Plans are being progressed to increase the space and upgrade the kitchen facilities.

The **Coxhoe Chronicle** quarterly village newsletter – edited by partnership members, funded by Coxhoe Parish Council - continues to be well received.

**Crime and Community Safety** issues have been raised at Partnership meetings and progressed with the Parish Council and Community Police. Members have suggested that rewarding our young people for their positive contribution may be a way forward.

**Computer classes**, requested by Partnership members, are being proceeded through the Partnership via Durham County Council Adult Learning Section.

We continue to work with Coxhoe Parish Council and partners on plans for the Village Health Centre.

It was an honour to receive a request via Durham Rural Community Council to meet with Department of Communities and Local Government as a result of our project delivery over the last 12 years and our successes in obtaining over £1m voluntary funding. As we have worked so closely with the Parish Council we wished to include them in the visitation which was on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, all day. They are seeking to further the work of the third sector (local volunteers) and they are formulating plans to demonstrate what successful partnership working can achieve.

Future plans:

To complete the final phase of the Limestone LinX project

Continue support of Coxhoe Youth Room and Coxhoe Chronicle

Work in partnership with Coxhoe Parish Council

We thank our County Councillors Maria Plews and Dennis Morgan, for their continued attendance and support.

The Partnership would benefit from new membership. It is always refreshing to see new faces and hear new ideas. As preparations begin for a new 'Parish Plan' it is an interesting and fulfilling time for anyone to join.

**Editorial Team: John and Barbara Hepplewhite. Next issue is September 2010**

To include any news or adverts please either : email [coxhoe\\_chronicle@live.co.uk](mailto:coxhoe_chronicle@live.co.uk)/telephone 0191 3771366 or post to 4 Station Road East, Coxhoe DH6 4AT

## Retirement is a job for a much younger person!

Looking around today it is not always possible to appreciate the impact that volunteers have on many aspects of our society. A wide variety of services could not function without the many hours of unpaid work provided by volunteer helpers.

I have since 2004 worked as a volunteer on the Weardale Railway, which currently operates a five-mile long 'heritage passenger line' between Wolsingham and Stanhope. Having an interest in industrial history and particularly in railways this, upon my retirement from County Hall, was an ideal opportunity to pursue a hobby and to assist in the running of a real railway.

Operated by The Weardale Railway Trust with predominantly volunteer labour three return trains run daily on certain dates during the year. A Buffet and a Gift Shop are provided at Stanhope and special events which include a Wartime weekend and Santa Specials are held each year.

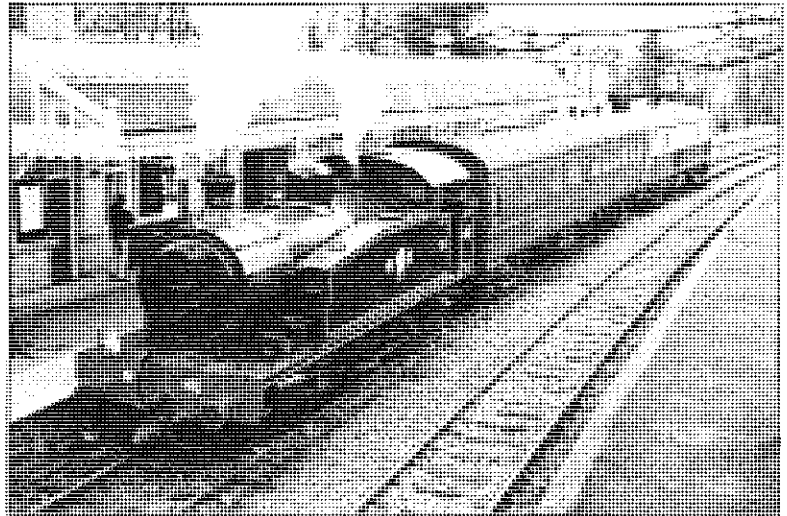
A wide variety of skills are required and there is something for everyone. Full training is provided, this in the main by established volunteers.

For operational duties safety is paramount and Personal Track Safety, Rule Book and medical tests have to be taken and each volunteer 'passed out' for particular tasks. This is not as daunting as it might appear.

I work on track-clearing duties and as a crossing keeper at Frosterley. The volunteers come from all walks of life, some retired, others in employment. Some have expertise such as a trade or have been professional railwaymen and this is harnessed to serve the railway in relevant areas. Others do not have specific skills but after training and practice are soon able to perform valuable functions.

The Railway also runs a thriving Junior Club made up of young people (boys and girls) who, under the auspices of a volunteer liaison officer receive training and undertake a variety of projects. At the moment the group is renovating a disused railway carriage at the Wolsingham Depot.

Being a volunteer can be rewarding and fulfilling. It is usually possible to give as much or as little time as you want and so dovetail with other commitments. Many organisations depend on voluntary help and genuinely appreciate all offers. I would strongly recommend it to anyone thinking of giving it a go. **Wes Gargett.**



The Weardale Railway Trust owned steam engine No. 40 (ex NCB Ashington Colliery engine) standing at Stanhope Station having arrived from Wolsingham.

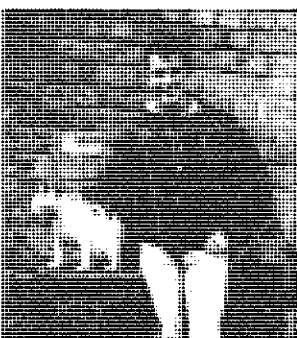
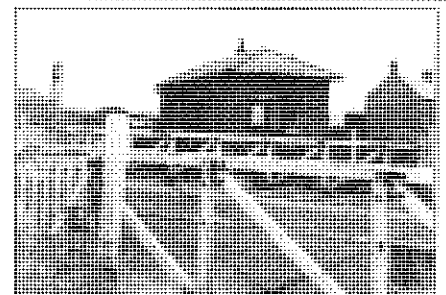
One of the landmarks in Coxhoe until the 1950's was the railway crossing. Many of you will have memories of the queues of traffic waiting when the crossing gates were closed.

Michael Peacock's been telling us that he worked for two years as a level crossing assistant gatekeeper based at Coxhoe WH Station on the Clarence Railway which was a link between Steetley's Basic Works and Ferryhill and beyond in Michael's time.

Senior Crossing Gatekeeper was Bob Scott from Duncombe Terrace, Ferryhill. Bob walked to work each day for an 8am start and walked home after the last train in the

afternoon. Bob interviewed Michael and offered him the job which paid about £8 a week. British Rail owned the railway at the time. Michael commenced work at 8 am, worked for 5 full days and mornings only on Saturdays and Sundays. They kept a cat as there was always vermin in the goods station.

The first daily job for Michael and Bob was to ensure that the track was in good condition between Coxhoe and West Cornforth, checking that signal levers on the line were in good working order. There was a siding on the line not far from Coxhoe Crossing in the Cornforth direction where empty trucks were often stored. Padlocks on the crossing were unlocked.



There were two trains a day at that time, one at 10am and one at about 1 pm. Only steam trains ran on the section between Ferryhill Station and Coxhoe.

When the early morning train left Ferryhill they telephoned the goods station at Coxhoe so they could prepare for its arrival which was about 15 or 20 minutes after the phone call. Trucks were empty leaving Ferryhill.

The train sounded its whistle as it approached the crossing and would stop about 50 yards distant. Bob and Michael would check the trucks and ensure everything was OK.

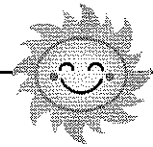


Even in the 60's there was a fair amount of traffic between Coxhoe and Durham and a good number of buses passed that way including G & B, Scarlet Band, United (double deckers), T.M.S., A.B.C – later D.D.S. There was keen rivalry between buses and they wanted to be on time so they could collect their allocation of passengers.

While every care was taken not to close the gates when motor vehicles were progressing through Coxhoe Michael says he was particularly careful to have a good look up the bank knowing that if he delayed the buses he would incur the driver's wrath. This did happen on a few occasions.

Michael looks back on his time at 'WH' with affection. 'it was a good job and only 80 yards distant from my home in Long Row'.

Another railway crossing photograph—this one from Shirley Dowson (nee Valks) was taken in 1949-50. and shows Shirley with Pamela and Maurice Carter at the Clarence Railway crossing on the Coxhoe to Metal Bridge road. She says "We went for a walk down Pit Row and a man from the Northern Despatch came past and asked to take our photo"



*Railway Porter (cheerfully) - Miss the train, sir?*

*Passenger - No, I didn't like the look of it, so I chased it out of the station.*

*Two fortune-tellers met at the seaside one sunny summer day. 'Lovely weather' said the first fortune-teller. 'Yes', said the second, 'it reminds me of the summer of 2010'.*

## FOXTONS BISTRO

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3 Course Sunday Lunch

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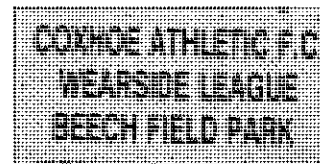


## FOOTBALL

The end of another season brings with it all the ifs, buts and might have beens.

**COXHOE ATHLETIC** eventually ended the season in 18th place but within touching distance of 16th. This means the club are up for re-election (no automatic relegation) but Coxhoe is a credit to the league for their good football, discipline, friendliness and attitude that I for one am not expecting any problems. Local football, even at this high level, is full of ups and downs and it is only two seasons ago that Athletic were challenging for the title.

In order to forge even closer links to the community the club is hosting an **OPEN DAY** on **Saturday 26 June at 1pm** on their home pitch—Beechfield Park. Everyone is welcome to go along to meet the players, coaching staff and manager and there will be a coaching session laid on.



So if you would like to join the team as a player, supporter or on the committee this is the ideal opportunity.

And don't forget the **PRESENTATION NIGHT** on **19th June**. Tickets are still available for £30 each or if you buy a table of ten you only pay for nine ! Tickets and further information are available from Coxhoe WMC.

## KICK BOXING

Every Thursday night at Coxhoe Leisure Centre I partake in a gentle game of 5-a-side football. As we stagger off we are engulfed by an eager bunch of youngsters who are desperate to take part in their own sport of KICK BOXING. Mad keen they might be but polite and friendly with it and under some expert coaching they are all aiming to emulate one of their rising stars.



**ANDREW PUNSHON** is a local lad who started training at 9 years old and is now a professional Mixed Marshall Arts fighter (MMA for short!). His professional record is won 7 lost 3 and his most recent bout ended after only 1 minute when Andrew won the European Middleweight Title. A great achievement but although he is champion of Europe he still does not hold the British Title. He is though about to fight for this title on May 30 so good luck Andrew !

The next step in Andrew's career is to join the Ultimate Fighting Championship and he is hoping that his progress so far can generate some sponsorship for what can be an underpaid profession.

Congratulations to Andrew and his coaching team and good luck to all those at Coxhoe looking to follow in his footsteps. The photo shows Andrew with his Title Belt and some of his training partners.

Contact our local 'sports reporter' Mick Lavelle—

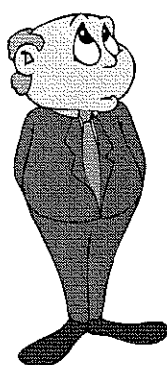
Tel. 0191 3773673 email: [lavelle27@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lavelle27@tiscali.co.uk)



Did you ever stop and wonder.....

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard? What is the speed of darkness?

If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?



Do married people live longer than single ones or does it only seem longer?

Why do toasters always have a setting so high that could burn the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Stop singing and read on.....



# WHAT'S ON IN COXHOE?



June 26th 4 pm Summer Fair in St. Joseph's Church grounds. Many stalls, Bottle tombola, Grand Raffle.  
 July 3rd 10 am-12 noon St. Mary's Church Summer Fayre with Prize Draw, Stalls, Cake Stall and refreshments  
 July 14th Afternoon Tea with cakes and scones at St. Mary's Church  
 Sept 20th tba Concert by Chester-Le-Street Methodist Choir at St. Andrew's Church



out for the Tyne Tees Heavy Commercial Vehicle Rally passing through Coxhoe on Sunday 6th June!

## Durham City Shopmobility

Shopmobility hire out motorised scooters, manually operated and power assisted wheelchairs in Durham City.

It is for anyone young or old whether their disability is temporary or permanent.

All customers must register as a member of the scheme—cost £3 per year.

A hire charge of £1 per hour (daily charge £5) opening hours 9.30am to 4.45 pm.

Excursion Programme: Catering for all members of the, public regardless of age, who have limited mobility or difficulty using public transport  
 Friday 4th June: Scenic Trip to Upper Teesdale £20 per person (incl. High Tea)

Thursday 17th June: Whitby £13.50 per person

Friday 9th July: Redcar £12.00 per person

Friday 30th July: Gateshead Flower Festival £12.50 per person includes entry fee

Thursday 5th August: South Shields £8.25 per person

Tuesday 31st August: Doncaster £17.80 per person.

Mobility Equipment (scooter, wheel chairs) will be available at the excursion venue, at an additional charge

(except scenic trip where limited walking will be required).

For further details and information contact Durham Shopmobility, Level One Car Park, Prince

Bishops Shopping Centre, Durham DH1 3UJ. Tel. 0191 386 8556 (Registered Charity No. 1089386 Company No. 4076663)



with DJ JOHN's Disco 50p entry

Good family entertainment

**Coxhoe Club Kids** Once a month on Saturdays 12.15-2.15pm

ALL WELCOME

5th June - 3rd July - 7th August - 4th September

Hotdogs \* Tuckshop \* Prizes \* Raffle

Telephone 0191 3778826 for more information



## Coxhoe Village Hall

Parent/Toddler Playgroup 0-4 yrs	Tues-Friday 9.30-11.15 am
Healthy Horizons Gentle Exercise for over 50's organised by Age Concern	Mondays 3.15-4.15 pm
Snooker Club	Monday 6-9 pm
Line Dancing	Monday 7-8 pm
Tea Dance	Tuesday 1.30-3.30pm
Diet Fit	Tuesday 6-8 pm
Ladies Club—Monthly	Tuesday 6.30-9 pm
Rosemary Conley Diet/Fitness	Tuesday 6-8pm
Citizens Advice 2nd & 4th Tues of the Month	2-3 pm
Applegarth Dance School	3-8 yrs Wed. 5-6 pm
Slimming World	Wed. 6-8 pm
Weight Watchers	Thursday 6.30-8 pm
Chantelle Knox Dance Class	Friday 5-7pm
Sequence Dance	Saturday 7.30-10 pm

—for bookings/enquiries Tel. 0191 3772261

## Coxhoe Workingmen's Club

Entertainment in the Bar/ Lounge (Free)	Saturday's	7-11 pm
Member's Money Draw 14 prizes	Sunday's	9 pm
£100 down to £5 Tickets 20p each		
Tote Double Draw foll by Live Entertainment (Free)	Monday's	8 pm
Bingo in Concert Hall & Joker Wild Draw	Monday's	8 pm
Sky Sports on Big Screen	Every day	

## Landsdowne Community Room

Coxhoe History Group	Second Thurs of month	7 pm
Coxhoe Community Partnership next meet	Wed 30th June	7 pm
Coxhoe Parish Council	Fourth Wed of month	6.45 pm

## St. Mary's Church

Service 1st, 2nd, 4th Sun of month	9.15 am
Family service—3rd Sun of month	11 am
Holy Communion Tuesdays	9.15 am
Coffee Morning Tues & Thurs	10-11.30 am

## St. Andrews Church

Morning Service Sundays	10.45-11.30 am
Shoppers Service:	10.00-10.30 am
First Saturday of every month	
Coffee Morning—Saturdays	9.15-11.30am
Wives Club—Fortnightly	Wed. 7-9 pm

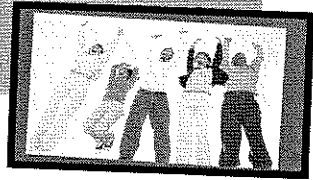
## St. Joseph, Patrick & Cuthberts RC Church

Rosary Stations of the Cross	Thurs, Sat 8.40 am
Morning Mass	Thurs, Fri, Sat 9am
Latin Mass	Thurs 12 noon
Vigil Mass	Sat 6 pm
Coffee Afternoon	Thurs 1.30-3 pm

DISCLAIMER: The information in this newsletter is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to print. Coxhoe Community Partnership accepts no responsibility for any error, omission, subsequent changes and complaints arising from items printed in this newsletter. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Coxhoe Community Partnership group.



# Coxhoe Youth Room



**Mondays—Lads and Lasses**

**Wednesdays—Boys Night**

**Thursdays—Girls Only**



## Saturday Life!

At Coxhoe Leisure Centre from 10th April



# Saturday night and nothing to do?

## Saturdays will never be the same again!

### You asked for it and we're going to deliver!

You told us that there was nothing to do on Saturdays in your area. We listened and we've come up with an idea we hope you'll like!

From Saturday 10th April, we'll be opening up Coxhoe Leisure Centre exclusively for young people to come along and take part in a wide range of activities including Football and other sports, Dance, DJ Workshops plus Wii games and much, much more for just £1.00!

These sessions are for YOU and YOU can have a say in what YOU want. They will be staffed by qualified coaches with loads of experience to share with you but places will be limited so make sure you sign up well in advance.

**Coxhoe Leisure Centre**  
0191 3018302  
4.30 - 6.00 pm 8 - 11 years  
6.00 - 7.30 pm 12 - 18 years

### Can't get there? No problem!

We'll be operating a community transport scheme for those of you who have difficulty in getting to the centre. The pick up and drop off points are listed below. To book a place and confirm the pick up time, please contact 01740 652 000.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Bowburn          | Bowburn Community Association car park |
| Parkhill         | St Mary's Road bus stop                |
| Quarrington Hill | Community Centre                       |
| Cassop           | Community Centre                       |
| Kelloe           | Tate Avenue bus stop                   |



**Durham**  
COUNCIL

To use this transport scheme your parent or guardian will need to complete a parental consent form. To get a copy of this form contact Coxhoe Leisure Centre.

# Coxhoe Leisure Centre's open for YOU! (but only if you're 8 - 18 years!)

Durham County Council Design and Print: 01207 217 107 109