

COXHOE CHRONICLE



A Parish Council / Community Partnership Publication – December 2011



Join us for the Village Christmas Celebrations

Carol Night

with Coxhoe Primary School pupils and West Cornforth Salvation Army Band, Songsters and Timbrels
Monday 5th December : 7pm at Coxhoe Village Hall



Carols by Candlelight

A relaxing evening of favourite Christmas songs and carols
Wednesday, 14th December 7.00 to 9.00pm at St. Andrews Church
Tickets £2.50, including Seasonal refreshments

Open Air Carols in St. Andrews Chapel forecourt

Saturday, 17th December, 10.00 to 10.45am – *helpers welcome to join in!*



Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church.

Sunday, 18th December, 10.45 to 11.30am

Christmas Eve Village Carol Service

24th December : 6 pm : at St. Mary's Church



See page 11 for more information and events ..

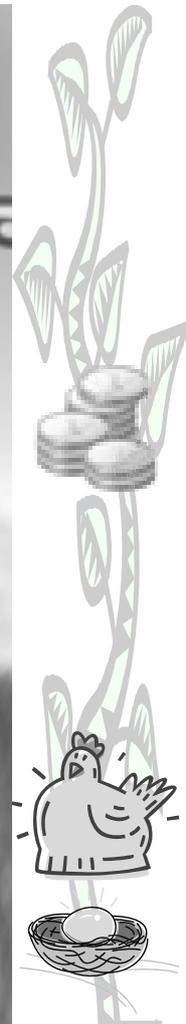


BEVERLEY ARTISTES
LIMITED
Proudly present their 2011 holiday programme

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

AT COXHOE W.M.C.
THURSDAY 22ND
DECEMBER
7.30PM PERFORMANCE
TICKETS £3.00
ON SALE AT THE CLUB
FROM TUESDAY
15TH NOVEMBER

Featured State-of-the-Art
BACK-PROJECTION
SCENES





Building Project concludes at Coxhoe Primary school

It has been a long 18 months since the building project commenced at Coxhoe Primary school however the work is now complete! The overall aim of the works was to create extra space in our over-subscribed school for pupils living in the village.

There is nothing more frustrating for Governors and myself than to see and hear of pupils of primary school age who live in the village but are not able to attend the village primary school. The project has created two extra classrooms - 1 in Key Stage 1 and 1 in Key Stage 2, plus new toilets for infant pupils, a disabled toilet, Head-teacher's office, a large resource room and a corridor which connects both Key Stage 1 and 2 areas of the school. We have also been able to install a new electronic access system which increases safety for all pupils and staff.

Everyone who has visited the school has commented on the high quality suite of rooms which were created by Durham County Council's Service Direct team. Pupils are now enjoying the new space which is enabling us to be much more creative with teaching and learning, as well as organisation of year groups.

As a consequence of the improvements we were able to increase our intake in Reception to 34 pupils from September 2011 and this will increase further to 38 pupils from September 2012. Eventually this will increase the overall capacity of the school from 210 pupils to 268 pupils. We are not quite at the 2 form entry position so this will mean some of our classes will have mixed age groups in the future. However, many of the staff, myself included, have a lot of experience working with mixed age classes and see this as a benefit in that organisation of teaching and learning can be much more readily tailored to the ability of the pupils and not just their ages.



We currently have 2 vacancies at the school - 1 in our Reception class and 1 in Year 6. If you would be interested in either of these places then please contact the Schools Admissions team at County Hall (0191 3834490), who are responsible for allocating all school places. Equally if you are on the waiting list for a place in one of our other year groups, which are all currently full, then either pop into school to have a chat about the likelihood of a place becoming available or again ring the Admissions team to discuss your position on the waiting list.

'Special' Ofsted Visit

At the end of the summer term we received a phone call from Ofsted asking if we would be prepared to take part in a 'Special' survey of how we teach Maths in the school. This was an *honour* as only 15 schools in the Country had been selected to take part by Ofsted (including Independent schools) due to our consistently high attainment in Maths. The purpose of the inspection visit was to assess how we teach Maths generally and Calculation in particular.

The visit was conducted by a Lead Inspector from Ofsted who commended us on our excellent teaching of Maths and was very impressed (as are all the staff) with the behaviour and attitude to learning of all our pupils. He concluded:

Rigorous monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of mathematics have ensured consistency in teaching and learning, leading to pupils' exceptionally good progress and high attainment.

The quality of teaching provided by senior staff is outstanding and good teaching is evident among recently appointed members of staff.

The use of assessment within lessons is extremely good. Teachers' probing questioning and requirement that pupils explain their reasoning develop their understanding of mathematical concepts and associated vocabulary particularly well.

Lively and stimulating provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage successfully engages children in real-life mathematical experiences and develops their understanding of number and enjoyment in learning.



Lessons are quickly paced and very challenging and the activities provided are carefully tailored to pupils' different learning needs. These factors enable all pupils to succeed and many to reach high levels.

The mathematics curriculum is particularly well designed and carefully structured to develop pupils' proficiency in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Investigating and problem-solving have a high profile in mathematics lessons and across the wider curriculum. Consequently, pupils become adept in reasoning, making decisions, testing hypotheses and solving problems.

Pupils' behaviour in lessons is exemplary. They listen attentively, work industriously and show pride in the presentation of their work. Pupils thoroughly enjoy mathematics, are not afraid to make mistakes, and work together harmoniously.

As you can imagine staff, pupils and parents are all very proud of our continued high standards.

New Opportunities

This term we have adopted a new curriculum in school which follows a more thematic approach to teaching and learning. It allows us to be much more creative and exploit fully links between subjects so that pupils can be immersed in the topic they are following. Early signs are that pupils (and staff) are really enjoying this approach and it is raising the quality of teaching and learning even more.

To give you a flavour, some of the new themes include: 'Marvellous Me', 'Lights, Camera, Action', 'Walk like an Egyptian', 'To Infinity and Beyond', 'Terrible Tudors', 'Vile Victorians'.

We have also listened very carefully to pupils and their parents in both designing the new curriculum and also in our provision of After-school clubs - new clubs this term include Tri-Golf, Spanish, Choir, Netball and in the future Nature Detectives, Family learning, Gardening and much more.

We are also hoping to show the musical talents of our older pupils more fully at the Village Hall Carol Service with the Salvation Army on Monday 5th December, as they perform 'Hosanna Rock'.

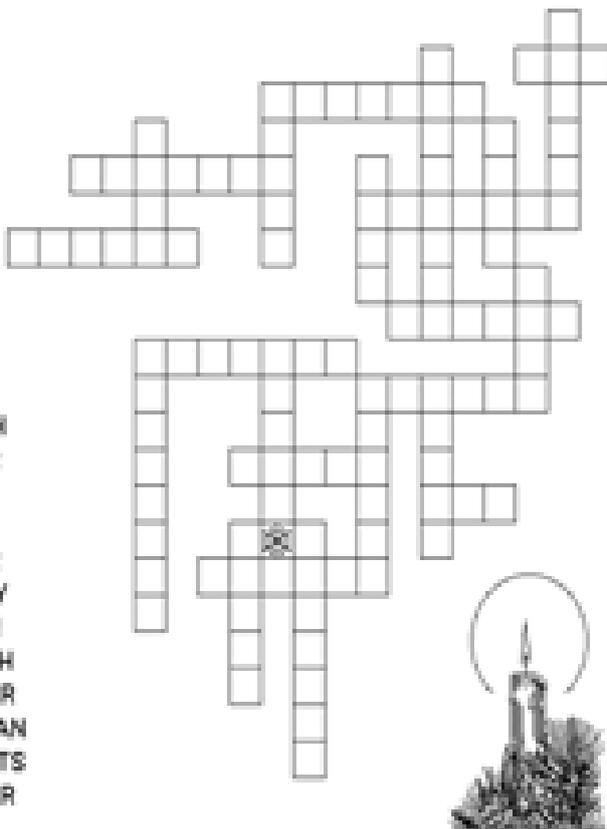
Mr S Jones

Coxhoe Primary (0191 3770294)

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword
(each word is only used once)

ELF
TOY
GIFT
BELL
TREE
STAR
SANTA
COMET
CUPID
YXEN
CANDY
FROSTY
WREATH
DASHER
DONNER
SLEIGH
DANCER
CHIMNEY
BLITZEN
RUDOLPH
PRANCER
SNOWMAN
PRESENTS
REINDEER



Christmas Tree Maze

Can you find your way from the base of the Christmas tree all the way to the star?



When you've found your way to the star you can colour me

Coxhoe values the younger members of the community and recognises their good attitudes and achievements.. Mary Egglestone tells us when the old wreaths were removed from our War Memorial in preparation for the wreath laying ceremony on 13th November they were untouched from last year.

We are delighted to hear that the new Leisure Centre manager has a background not only of sport but of working with communities and young people also.

Parish Plan 2 will shortly begin consulting with our young people and school children to ask for their views—their likes and dislikes about the village and how our community can be developed to better cater for their needs. To build a strong community, now and in the future, we must seize every opportunity to recognise the good in them.

We believe that all children have special talents yet many go unnoticed. This month our newsletter focuses on the special achievements of four of our young people.

Scott Knight - Dance City

Scott Knight, age 14, from Coxhoe has secured a place at the prestigious Dance City Academy in Newcastle.

Scott started dancing three years ago and joined Sophie Johnsons School of Dance at Trimdon Colliery. He always said he wanted to dance purely as an interest and had no desire to enter competitions despite having the obvious flair to do well.

Scott attends Sedgefield Community College, and takes dance and drama as part of his curriculum. His teacher quickly identified Scott's ability and it was a visiting tutor from Dance City who invited Scott to an audition.

The audition day came around faster than you can say Billy Elliott so off to Newcastle he went, full of excitement and trepidation in equal measure. His audition lasted six hours along with about twenty five other equally apprehensive 13/14 year olds. They were told they would be informed within two weeks by post.

On the same evening the phone rang ... it was Dance City with the news that "Scott had impressed so much they would like him to return the following day for a medical"!

We can imagine the joy and excitement in the entire household when told Scott had secured a place on the advanced dance programme. This entails going straight from school two nights a week and six hours each Saturday. The three sessions include three differing dance styles : contemporary, creative and ballet. Scott does stretches at home most days in order to improve his suppleness and looks forward to each training session which feeds his passion for dance.

Over the years Scott has endured ridicule from his peers for preferring dance to football but this has at no point deterred him and his perseverance has paid dividends having secured a place in Dance City.

The family appreciate the commitment necessary in both time and expense but consider both sacrifices important in providing Scott with an opportunity of a life time. Who knows where it will take him?. Many of Dance City's students go on to perform in the West End and further afield. Who could deny him his dream!

Scott has performed at the Gala theatre on a number of occasions amongst other venues. He also enjoys fishing and like most other 14 year olds his computer and Play Station-and always has a mobile phone in his hand.!

We admire Scott's perseverance and Coxhoe hopes he achieves his dream.



If I'm standing at the North Pole, facing the South Pole, and the East is on my left hand, what's on my right hand?

Fingers!

What comes before Christmas Eve?

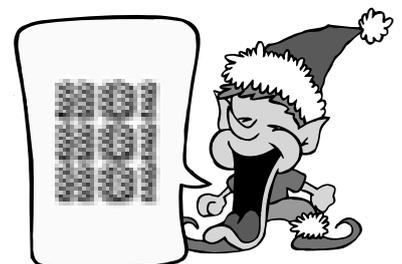
Christmas Adam!

How do you scare a snowman?

You get a hairdryer!

Why don't penguins fly?

Because they're too short to be pilots!



Sarah Orton - Dancing to Success

'I really liked dancing at an early age' says Sarah, aged 14, of School Avenue, Coxhoe and when she learned that her cousin attended Joanne Banks Dancers at Spennymoor Sarah asked if she could attend also.

The photograph shows Sarah in dancing pose, aged 4 years, shortly after she began Joanne's classes.

Sarah continued these classes for nine years and mum Susan speaks highly of the inspirational teaching and wide experiences Sarah encountered. Sarah recalls playing the part of Snow White at Coxhoe Primary School and she has appeared in pantomime at the Gala Theatre, Durham and Civic Theatre at Darlington.

Sarah now attends Tudhoe Grange School and during P.E. she also received a lesson from a tutor at Dance City.

Unbelievably her experiences mirrored those of Scott - an audition and a visit to Newcastle. The telephone invitation to attend a medical and the acceptance shortly afterwards were all conducted at whirlwind pace. 4,000 hopefuls attended the audition and only 45 or so were selected for the Advanced Training Programme.

Sarah and family were delighted at her selection. She trains on three occasions weekly for a total of 9 or 10 hours and enjoys all three aspects of contemporary, ballet and creative dancing.

Sarah aspires to succeed but sees enjoyment as essential. She is interested in choreography and would enjoy teaching dance.

Sarah is conscientious about school activities, enjoys all subjects and loves netball. She intends to progress to 6th Form, feels confident about the process and would enjoy being an English teacher. She enjoys reading and loves to attend music festivals.

The tuition at Dance City demands concentration and control but Sarah is thoroughly enjoying the course. She appreciates that the teaching and behaviour standards have developed her as a person and she has grown in confidence. She says 'Balance is the key to success. If you want to do dancing don't allow it to detract from your other interests or your school work'.

Sarah has benefitted considerably from the opportunity to develop her special talent and we look forward to seeing her appear on the stage in the future.

Dance City is an arts organisation which nurtures social transformation and artistic excellence through creative movement. It is based in Newcastle and is the most northerly of nine Dance Agencies in England

Local Talent: Coxhoe talent is not confined only to our young people as you will see from the information below about Simon Banks. Co-incidentally Simon is the husband of Joanne Banks who taught Sarah Orton to dance.

Simon Banks—actor, singer, director.

Simon was born and bred in Durham and has lived in Coxhoe with his wife and children for the last seven years.



Simon is lead performer in the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime which will be at Coxhoe Workmen's Club on Thursday 22nd December.

Simon has been involved in the world of theatre and performance since he was 13 years old, both on stage and off and this is his third pantomime season with Beverley Artistes who commission him to write, direct and perform.

Simon says 'We love the village and it's great to bring the panto to Coxhoe. It's all about fun and enjoyment, a fun story full of great characters with plenty of laughs. It not only gives my friends and family a chance to come along and see it but it's also always packed and a great night.

Children love a panto, particularly in the build up to Christmas but many families are unable to afford a family visit as shows at major venues can be very costly. The show always sells out so buy your tickets early!'



James Pratt - National Recognition at Water Polo!

James height belies his age - 6ft 2" and still growing! Aged 14, James lives at Bogma Avenue, Coxhoe with dad Eric and brother John.

A former pupil of Coxhoe Primary School he now attends Tudhoe Grange School.

At age 6 or 7 he was taught to swim at Spennymoor Leisure Centre. A natural in the water his talents for the sport soon showed particularly at his favourite stroke-front crawl which powered him through the water.

One of his coaches at Spennymoor, George Carpenter spotted James' prowess and in October 2006 invited him to join the Sedgefield Water Polo Club squad. He has largely represented them since at club level except for a spell at Lancaster who are Sedgefield's sister club. His position is Pit Defence.

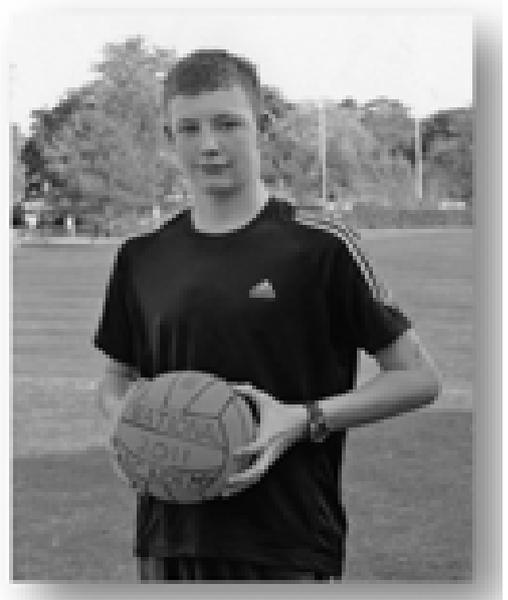
James has played in teams for Sedgefield and Lancaster which have each won National titles. He hopes to aspire to the Great Britain Under 16 team. He was one of 16,000 boys invited to train for the Great Britain team in December 2010. These numbers were then reduced to 150 and James now trains with the remaining 34. He has to attend Cardiff for a weekend once a month where he trains for 12 or 13 hours over two days. Training consists of skills, tactics, stamina and games. His coaches feel he has a good chance of making the national team.

During a normal week James trains for 12½ hours yet still has time for other sports and homework. He achieves well at school, particularly in Maths and Science and realises the need to do well intending to progress to 6th Form.

He still finds the time for other sports-playing in goal for Durham Youth Football team, cricket for Norton and is good at basketball.

James is seeking a Sports Scholarship and has been told by George Carpenter if he can make the Northumbrian University Team he will be offered one.

James is to be commended for his talent and commitment and Coxhoe wishes him well and looks forward to him representing the nation.



Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket for the Stadium of Light. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat (B14) next to them and they had a friend who would

love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together.

One half-time Freddie went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty.

Then on Boxing day, much to Freddie and Eddie's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season.

John could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season?'

'Don't ask' he said, 'the wife bought the season ticket last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present!!'



A small girl watching a water-skier said to her father,

"That man is so silly. He'll never catch that boat!"



Sign at the foot of a ski slope:

Laws of Gravity Strictly Enforced.

What stories are told by basketball players?
Tall stories!

What does Rudolph want for Christmas?
A pony sleigh station!



What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

How much difference is there between the North Pole and the South Pole?

All the difference in the world!



Kathryn Dowson - Born to Perform?

Kathryn, aged 15, lives in Coxhoe and attends Framwellgate Moor School Durham. Recently her singing and guitar successes have been comprehensively covered in the local press.

Kathryn performed in the UK Open Mic National Talent Competition at Newcastle Under 16 section and has progressed to the next stage, the area finals at Dewsbury; one step away from the 02 in London.

She recalls an early interest in music; singing about the home and developed to violin tuition, drama and musical performances at Coxhoe Primary School. This commitment and creative development continued with performances in concerts at Secondary School.

When she was aged 12 she commandeered her dad's acoustic guitar, developed her skills independently and then received weekly guitar lessons. Taylor Swift is her favourite performer and Kathryn is motivated to play like her.

Kathryn's talents aren't limited to performing. She has also developed a talent for writing songs. She varies her song writing strategies, sometimes beginning with melodies and fitting in lyrics, at other times she is motivated by words and later fits a melody around them. Kathryn says most of her compositions are love songs but she is also inspired by everyday events, friends and people she knows. She wrote about a tramp because she wondered how he would feel knowing that no one appears to love him and she has recently written a song about her boyfriend.

Kathryn remains interested in everyday activities, enjoying shopping. She is committed and conscientious in her studies at school and is working to achieve good grades and intends to continue on to 6th Form. She has ambitions to work in Marketing and Management but to continue with music as a hobby.

Kathryn is apprehensive about the quality of her competitors when she performs at Dewsbury on December 11th but says she is never nervous when appearing on stage.

It has been noted that Kathryn's dad, David, has played bass guitar in a number of rock bands over 20 years and that Grandma Dowson, both of whom live in Coxhoe, was a trained dancer many years ago. Perhaps Kathryn was born to perform.

Coxhoe wishes you success at Dewsbury, Kathryn and hopes that you continue to the final stage.

Kathryn kindly agreed to perform at the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP Forum meeting and represented Coxhoe with distinction. She gave an excellent performance and all those present were very impressed.

If you would like to hear some of Kathryn's music visit: www.myspace.com/kathryndowson



Noticeboards and Village Signs

The partnership have met with the Parish Council and Groundwork Landscape

Architect to help draw up plans and locations for Notice Boards. There will be a public consultation to show proposals after which funding applications will need to be made.

Limestone LinX

A Cycle and Walk Grand Opening Event is being planned for April 2012. This will be based at Coxhoe Leisure Centre and will be organised by the same team who organise the Durham Big Bike Ride.

Fossil Trail

Members are working with the Limestone Escarpment Project, local quarries and Groundwork to develop a scheme which will show different limestone rock formations and their uses and illustrate fossils which have been found in the rock formations locally.

Parish Plan 2

Partnership members continue to work with the Parish Council to identify the main points of the survey results.



East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership



The Forum event at Coxhoe on 15th November concluded the second year of AAP activity.

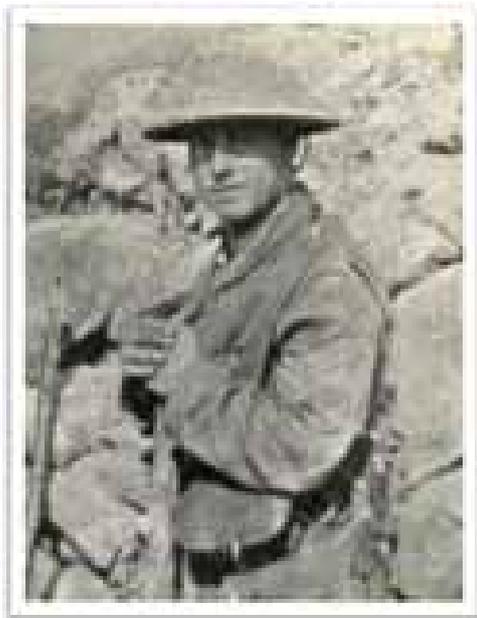
The project they agreed in the last year were:

- Youth workers
- Sports Apprentice Scheme
- Great North Resource Centre Community Hub

Priorities for 2012/13 were voted at the Forum Meeting as follows :

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Activities for Children and Young People | 78 |
| • Community Spirit and Aspirations/Support for Voluntary Community Sector | 40 |
| • Employment and Job Prospects | 32 |
| • Crime and Community Safety | 26 |
| • Sustainable Traffic and Transport Issues | 20 |
| • Environmental Issues | 14 |

The internet casts its web worldwide and an email received from Mr. Ron Chatt in New Zealand caught the attention of the members of Coxhoe History Group.



"Playing around on the computer" as Ron describes it he discovered the history group website and a particular piece grabbed his attention. His email and contact at this time is made all the more poignant because it was received so close to Remembrance Sunday.

The website www.coxhoehistory.org includes a section on the contribution that local soldiers made to the two world wars of the 20th Century. Amongst the soldiers detailed, Sgt William Wilson DCM & Bar (pictured) is of greatest significance to Ron because he is his grandson.

Sgt Wilson unveiled the village war memorial on June 17th 1922. At that time it was set inside the wall of the village hall and was later moved to its current location in the memorial garden and mounted on its concrete plinth. Sgt Wilson served with the 19th Service battalion of the Durham Light Infantry during WW1 and was one of only 7 Durham Light Infantry soldiers to gain a bar to his Distinguished Conduct Medal, which in effect means he was a recipient twice over for acts of distinguished conduct in the field. Of 25,000 awarded during WW1 only 490 soldiers gained a bar and only 10 gained a second bar to the medal, which places Sgt Wilson amongst illustrious company.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was (until 1993) an extremely high level award for bravery. It was a second level military decoration awarded to other ranks of the British Army and formerly also to non-commissioned personnel of other Commonwealth countries. Only the Victoria Cross supersedes it.

Sgt Wilson's citation's were as follows:-

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He commanded a platoon for a lengthy period, often under most trying circumstances, and led his men with the utmost courage and ability, setting them a splendid example throughout.
London Gazette 16 July 1917

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a raid on the enemy's line he distinguished himself by his gallantry and devotion to duty, which were an outstanding example to all ranks. He kept his party together with great skill throughout the operation, and inflicted severe casualties on the enemy, of whom he killed three himself with the bayonet. Although wounded he was the last of his party to leave the enemy trenches.

London Gazette 29 October 1918.

Sgt. Wilson's medals are on display at the Durham Light Infantry museum at Aykely Heads in Durham City.

There is however another twist to this tale and the words of Ron Chatt describe the situation that William Wilson found himself in post war. An incident that looms large in Coxhoe's history and attracted national attention, the murder of Police Constable W. Shiell.

"While browsing through the Coxhoe website I came across the Coxhoe Store murder of 1940. The William Wilson mentioned in that article was my Grandfather. I remember as a boy he told me that he was there armed with his pit bottle, feeling as brave as a lion until the shot was fired at which point his legs turned to jelly and he started to look for cover.

It was strange, but then again perhaps not, that he talked about this incident but never about his World War 1 service where he distinguished himself.

I am a retired police officer with service in Britain and New Zealand so this story was particularly interesting to me.

Also of interest is that the Durham Light Infantry played a significant part in the colonisation of New Zealand and that many of the men in the regiment remained in New Zealand and joined the Armed Constabulary which later became the New Zealand Police."

Article by Jack Turton

Commonwealth War Grave:

You may have noticed the sign which has appeared at the entrance to St. Mary's Churchyard. There is one identifiable Commonwealth war grave in the churchyard which belongs to Frank Harker of Bowburn who served in the Royal Air Force during WW2. It can be found on the left of the footpath as you walk towards Landsdowne Road. All Commonwealth War Grave Commission Headstones are manufactured from Portland Stone.

Information about Coxhoe's World War Connections can be found on the interpretation panel at the north end of the churchyard– to find it turn right at Canon Fleming's grave and continue to an area encircled with trees.



Did the Romans settle Here?

The village's turnpike road, without doubt, follows closely the route of 'Cade's Road' .

Cades Road is a Roman road, which ran from Brough-on-Humber to Newcastle passing to the immediate west of Chester-le-Street. It was named after the 18th century archaeologist who discovered its route. The map discovered at the Clayport Library, Durham shows roads and settlements in the Roman period.

Local collectors have discovered Roman coins, pottery and jewellery in the area. Were they left by travellers as they passed through or were there local Roman settlements?

The '**Monthly Chronicle**' - July 1889 includes an article "**North-country Lore and Legend** :

Mrs' Browning's Birthplace

To many people who travel by railway from Newcastle to Hartlepool via Ferryhill, the country they pass through - the 'soft' coalfield of Durham - is a "sealed book." Black and unsightly collieries meet the eye at every turn. Yet the district is full of traditional interest. An encampment was stated to have existed in the old Roman days in the valley midway between the villages of Kelloe and the height on which stands Coxhoe Hall and Kelloe Church. Nearly everything appertaining to this encampment has, however, been swept away, and, but for the works on the heights to the southward, there is little to tell that the Romans once sojourned there.....

.....The site now occupied by Coxhoe Hall is believed to have been an important point in connection with the Roman encampment below, and the terraced construction of the grounds surrounding it, together with the land on either hand up to the crest of the ridge, even if old remnants of masonry had not been found to bear out this theory, fully justifies the assumption."

Ben Edwards, a student at Durham University, in his thesis "Coxhoe, County Durham: A Parish History - Specialised Aspects : Advanced Landscape Methods' writes

"Romano-British AD43-AD410

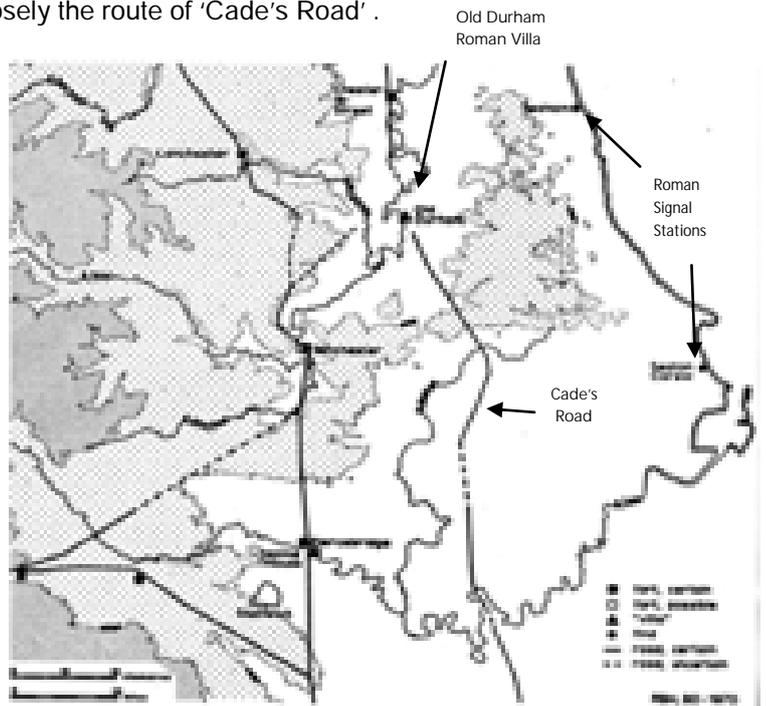
Very little is known concerning the Romano-British period in the parish aside from the course of the Roman road, revealed through 'informal trowelling' on the main road through the modern village (Durham County Council 2004).

Worth noting however, is the name of the crossroads at Coxhoe, .. the tithe map and estate map reveal the name 'Black Gate' associated with the toll gates on the turnpike, yet this name could have its origin in the minor name or field name of the location that preceded this structure. If this is indeed the case, the component 'Black' (from the Old English bloec) could relate to buried archaeological remains, recalling the 'black earth' that overlies many Roman settlement sites (Field 1972, p22). Field warns against assuming the 'black' component is always an archaeological indicator (ibid), but when allied to the existence of the Roman road, there consequently exists a high potential that more substantial Roman archaeological remains could lie beneath the modern village. Moreover, considering the existence of two known Iron Age settlements in the area the likelihood of continued occupation between the two periods should be considered, and indeed, seems likely."

In 2009 the TV programme "Time Team" discovered evidence of a Roman-British town near Sedgefield and it was known to have a pottery.

It is possible that clay pits at Coxhoe supplied that establishment with the raw materials needed to make utensils, or for building e.g. tiles, pipes, drains, bricks. Perhaps advantage was also taken of other local resources - limestone for constructing houses, building roads and coal for fuel and smelting purposes.

Could there have been a Roman homestead/villa similar to that at Old Durham on this site hundreds of years ago? Are there remnants of Roman buildings buried deep beneath Front Street or even intricate mosaic floors concealed beneath Coxhoe Hall? We'll continue our research



A full version of the Iron Age information is now on our website. If anyone is interested in visiting the Fulling Mill Museum, Durham to see the 'finds' from the Coxhoe West House Iron Age settlement and Coxhoe Hall archaeological investigations please contact us 0191 3770771 or through our website: www.coxhoehistory.org



Coxhoe Parish Council—Information Point



As the nights close in the seasonal colour from the hanging baskets and planters in the main street in Coxhoe is making way for the Christmas lights, which will be switched on from the 5th December to tie into the village halls annual carol concert.

Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

The Parish Council has now received the results of the questionnaires which will further influence the development of Parish Plan 2 and has commenced the process of publishing the results. In parallel the action plan is being developed and many residents expressed an interest in being involved at this stage. Parish Plan 2 including the action plan when finalised will direct and influence the work of the Parish Council and its partners in 2012.

www.coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk—The Parish Councils community focussed website is now a year old and your feedback would be greatly appreciated. If you feel the Parish Council could improve it even more please let us know (clerk@coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk), always happy to add new links and information on events in the community. There is also a Facebook page and group, so why not become a friend.

The Parish Council now meets on the first Wednesday of the month and this arrangement will stay in place for 2012. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings, they commence at 7.00 p.m in Lansdowne House, 64 Lansdowne Road, Coxhoe. A standard agenda item at each meeting is a police report covering reported crimes, anti social behaviour and vehicle nuisance. Agendas for meetings are displayed in advance on the Parish Notice Boards. Minutes of the meetings are also displayed there once they have been agreed. You can also access agendas and minutes for our meetings through our web site. At the Parish Council's November meeting the Chairman welcomed to the meeting Carole Parkes who is a new Parish Councillor, co-opted on to the Parish Council for Quarrington Hill.

Contact Details for Coxhoe Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk

Parish Councillors in Coxhoe Telephone

Paul Dodsworth (Chair)	0191 3778914
Stuart Dunn (Vice-Chair)	0191 3773314
Ron Mayo	0191 3771770
Barbara Hepplewhite	0191 3771366
Tony Rowe	0191 3773642
Colin Thirlaway	0191 3772596
Jimmy Taylor	0191 3771512
Dennis Smith	0191 3772437

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cthirlaway@btinternet.com
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Parish Councillors in Quarrington Hill

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	keith.pounder@tesco.net
George Shotton	07768 350576
Carole Parkes	0191 3771315
	carolefreedom@yahoo.co.uk

David Vasey (Parish Clerk) 07988 283287 clerk@coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Everyone at the Parish Council wishes the readers of the Coxhoe Chronicle a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2012.

Community Website - What do you think?

In the recent Parish Plan Household Survey several people said they did not know that there was a community website in Coxhoe. Well there is.

The Parish Council Website has been designed to be a 'one stop shop' of advice and information. The site has a massive amount of information about Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill and is not just about the Parish Council.

It includes details of what happens locally and has a developing photo gallery.

Why not have a look at it and let us know how you feel about it by completing the on-line survey on the home page at



www.coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk



Social and Community

**Monday 5th December: 7pm
Carol Night at Coxhoe Village Hall.**

*This is an event not to be missed.
Be sure to go early as a large audience is expected once more.*

**Thursday 22nd December : 7.30pm
Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime**

At Coxhoe Workingmen's Club
Tickets £3 from WM Club

**Christmas Eve : 6pm
Village Carol Service**

at St. Mary's Church.

A service of Carols and Readings with a child centred approach involving members of several village organisations. It attracts members of many village families from near and far.

Thursday 9th February: 7pm

'Coxhoe History Group presents:

Adam Luke - 'Hatching the doves and the masonry bees'

at Landsdowne Community Room
£2 including tea and biscuits

Saturday 15th February : 7.30-10.45pm

Valentine Dance & Pie and Pea Supper

at Coxhoe Village Hall

Music by Fred & Anne, Tickets £5

Bring own Drinks

Monday, 19th March :

Concert by Belmont Ladies Choir
at St. Andrews Church



Coxhoe Parish Council : 1st Wednesday of the month 7pm

Coxhoe Community Partnership : 1st Thursday of the month 7pm

Coxhoe History Group : 2nd Thursday of the month 7pm

at Landsdowne Community Room



Church Services



St. Mary's :

Sundays 9.15 am;

Tuesday 9.15 am : Holy Communion

Monday 1.30pm : Mother's Union

Christmas Communion:

10am 25th December

St. Joseph's :

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

24th Dec: Carol's for Christmas 5.30 pm

First Mass of Christmas 6 pm

St. Andrews Church

Monday, 12th December, at 7.00pm

Memorial and Remembrance Service

Remembering loved ones at Christmas

Conducted by Rev. Jenny Wilkes

Sunday, 18th December, 10.45 to 11.30am

Christmas Celebration Service

Led by the Church Stewards

Sunday, 25th December, 10.00 to 11.00am

Christmas Morning Holy Communion

Led by Rev. Jenny Wilkes

*Shopper's Services: 1st Saturday of the month
10-10.30am*

St. Andrew's Methodist Church, is offering to remember in prayer anyone who is ill, in trouble, or otherwise in need of support. Whitfields, Chemists, have kindly offered to display in the shop a 'prayer box', in which requests can be left for collection by the Church. Unless requested otherwise, prayers for the requested individuals will be offered for a period two weeks at the Church's weekly Monday Fellowship Meeting. More information is obtainable from St. Andrew's Methodist Church.

Footsteps to Fitness

The weekly Health Walks are no longer led by Durham County Council.

However, a group of walking enthusiasts still meet at in front of Coxhoe Village Hall each Thursday at 10am for a friendly ramble. The walks are suitable for all ages and abilities.

All welcome



Do You Like Treasure Hunts?

Well if you do, 'Geocaching' is the activity for you!

GEOCACHING is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online.

There are currently 392 geocaches hidden in a 10 mile radius of Coxhoe. A few of which are based at Coxhoe, with some hidden on our lovely circular walks. In a 50 mile radius 3,629 can be found. Worldwide there are more than 1,500,000 Geocaches!!!!

I began to participate in this fun activity last Spring and soon realised that it's a great way of getting out of the house and enjoying the fresh air. Searching for these sneaky containers can take you to places of interest. E.g. There's one outside Durham Cathedral. My daughters and I adore the thrill of finding the treasure both locally or whilst away on holiday. All we need is a GPS device for the coordinates of the location (I personally use my iphone) and sometimes our wellies. It's that simple!

It's a very cheap pastime! Perfect for all ages. Wonderful for dog walkers and cyclists too. Great for the whole family! So why not give it a try?

For more information, simply search online. www.geocaching.com

Article by Kay Quinn



Relationship Problems?

We can help

relate | north east
the relationship people

Centres in Darlington, Durham,
Middlesbrough, Scarborough and Sunderland

Website: www.relatenortheast.org.uk
General enquiries: info@relatenortheast.org.uk
Area Offices: (see reverse side)

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 Latest News

50p
a
session

- * Members of the Coxhoe and Bowburn groups were treated to a visit to the ice-rink at half –term
- * Coxhoe Girls Group's "Getting Pretty for the Prom" project was acknowledged at this year's Durham County Council "Youth Work that Works" Awards. Project work included boot camp and nail art sessions, looking at issues of health and wellbeing and a trip to New College for a pamper session.
- * Members have also been working for their Youth Achievement Award. This is a nationally recognised qualification which involves 60 hours of activity and the completion of a file showing their work. Full Bronze Awards will be received by Kirsty Greenwood, Sarah Forster and Rachael Barker and youth workers hope to have all the group through by April next year.
- * The young people have been involved in consultation with the 'FLiC' group and are excited about the plans for the centre and youth room.
- * Parish Plan 2 will consult with the Youth Room to help determine young people's needs and priorities for the future. A positive group of young people attended the main village consultation event but they'll now visit us on our 'home ground'.
- * Youth Workers have been out in the park promoting the sessions.



'Girls Only' activities for this term will include a 'Xmas Fun' project—cake decorating, xmas card making, xmas film night, theatre and ice skating trips .

'Lads Night' plans are still being confirmed so now's the time to come and let us know what you would like to do.....

'LAD'S NIGHT' WEDNESDAYS 7-9 pm : 'GIRLS ONLY' THURSDAY'S 7-9 pm



What happened when the snow girl fell out with the snowboy ?
She gave him the cold shoulder !



How can you tell a Snowman from a Snowwoman?
The Snowwoman is the one wearing the make-up!

A Sign of the Times?

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The girl stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"

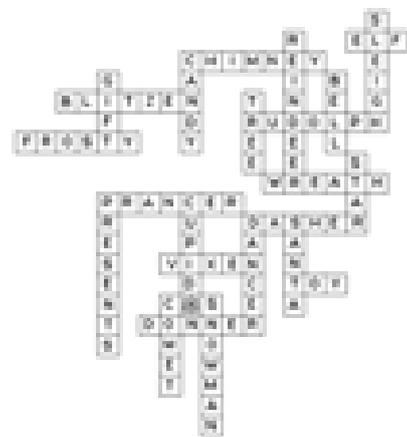
Father Christmas' sleigh broke down on Christmas Eve. He flagged down a passing motorist and asked, "Can you give me a hand?"

"Sorry," the motorist replied. "I'm not a mechanic, I'm a chiropodist."

"Well, can you give me a toe?"



Christmas Crossword Answers



DJ JOHN'S Disco Once a month on Saturday's 12.15—2.15pm 50p entry

All Welcome Look out for notices with dates for January and February