



## Fitness Trail continues to Cambois



Pictured County Councillors Jeff Gobin and Val Tyler

The equipment located in the Free Wood is currently the only outdoor fitness trail sited in Northumberland and was installed with support from the SITA Trust. Work will start on installing new equipment on Cambois Links

in January 2013 and we anticipate that the new facilities, which are suitable for all ages, will prove just as popular as our existing trail. The additional equipment

has been purchased with grant funding from Banks Group Ltd with support from Cllr Val Tyler's small grants scheme.

Continued on page 4

**Following a successful application to the Banks Group Ltd., East Bedlington Parish Council are delighted to announce that they will be installing a further outdoor fitness trail in the Parish.**

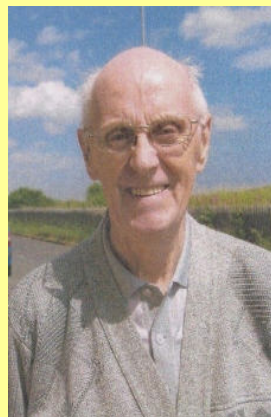
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### OBITUARY

#### Les Paton

It is with great sadness that the parish council reports the death of Les Paton on 13th October, aged 81 years. A committed community campaigner, Les devoted most of his time to championing the needs of those living in Cambois and the surrounding villages. Les was Chair of Cambois Community Association and a former vice chair of Wansbeck CVS. He leaves behind a legacy of what can be achieved through community spirit and partnership working. Cllr Alex Wallace said "He will be sadly missed by us and many friends not only in Cambois but throughout the district. He truly was a people's champion and his efforts will never be forgotten"



**East Bedlington  
Community  
Centre  
Open now**

**See pages 6 to 9**



## Garden Competition Results



Winner Best Small Garden category Mr George Atkinson of Moorland Avenue

Judging was delayed by a couple of weeks due to the extremely wet weather and eventually took place in early August. All entries were judged by Cllr Alyson Wallace, Heritage, Culture & Leisure Champion, Cllr Allan Stewart, Environment Champion and Irene Webster, Friends of Gallagher Park.

Judging criteria included the range and quality of the plants used, environmental considerations such as using water barrels and composting; features to attract wildlife such as bird feeders and bee friendly plants; suitability of the plants for the area and diversity of cultivation such as fruit, vegetables and flower mixes, green house plants.

East Bedlington Parish Council hosted their first Garden Competition in 2012. Despite one of the worst summers recorded in terms of the wet weather the judges were delighted with the high standard of the entries.

The competition was open to gardeners living in the Parish and had a category sponsored by the Bernicia Group Ltd open to those living in their properties.



Winner Best Container/Hanging Basket or Tub category Mr David Holland of St John's Crescent



Winner Best Back Yard category Joan Atkin of Stanley Grove



Winner Best Large Garden Category Mr Raymond Chaytor of Trevelyan Avenue



## Garden Competition presentations



Left to right: George Atkinson, Cllr Alyson Wallace, David Holland, Joan Atkin and Raymond Chaytor

A presentation ceremony was held at East Bedlington Community Centre, winners of each category received a trophy which they will hold for a year and an award certificate. Certificates of commendation were handed out to Anne Donaldson and Ian Steele. Additional photographs are available to view in the Parish windows and on our web site [www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.eastbedlingtonpc.org.uk). Entry forms for our 2013 Garden Competition will be issued in the Spring edition of our newsletter and available to collect from the Parish office or as a download from the website.

Categories for 2013 Best Large Garden, Best Small Garden, Best Back Yard, Best Individual Planter/basket or container and Best Allotment

Resident Involvement Housing Officers Kelly-Ann Burton and Sharon Firman are pictured presenting prizes to the winners of the "Best Garden in a Bernicia property" category. Pictured are L to R David Holland, Kelly-Ann Burton, Joan Atkin, Sharon Firman, Ian Steel





## Environmental improvements continue

Continued from page 1

### Stead Lane

In our last newsletter we featured swathes of daffodils stretching from Allgood Terrace all the way down to the Bank Top, this was just part of an extensive bulb planting programme commissioned throughout the Parish.

This year we have listened to your comments and are adding more colour by locating hanging basket trees at each of the four bus stops en-route, as well as seating in order that residents can rest and take in the sites and surroundings.

Councillor Allan Stewart, Environmental Champion (pictured) commented “these improvements will make Stead Lane a better place to live and visit and provide a pleasant walk between the Free Wood and Gallagher Park.

### Making a difference in the “Station”

Some of us are old enough to remember Mattie Robinsons “Old Curiosity Shop!” before it burnt down some thirty odd years ago. Up till now the remaining gap site has been an eyesore in the heart of the Bedlington Station shopping centre —but hopefully not for much longer!

Having already made significant improvements to Khans Corner, the Parish Council has some exciting plans to turn the site into a Park with a walkway linking the car park to the rear with Station Street.

Commenting on the proposed improvements, Councillor Stewart said “ we are addressing issues on a number of fronts, firstly removing an eyesore and replacing it with a landscaped park, secondly, the enhanced access to car parking will help improve the shopping experience in East Bedlington and help support the existing retailers and we must not forget the growing number of groups and individuals using the East Bedlington Community Centre. This will only increase when the plans for developing the upper floor come to fruition”.



## Bedlington Station First School celebrates its Centenary

Bedlington Station First School was built in 1912 to accommodate the increasing demand brought on by the building of terraced streets between 1900 and 1910. which increased the population by 1000's. At the time of building the school was surrounded by grassed fields. Much has changed in the last 100 years and the Parish Council was delighted to contribute funds to help the school celebrate its achievements over the years, with pupils old and new.





## Community round up



The Parish Council annual Fun Day was celebrated in partnership with Beast is Best supporters (BIBs). Centred around Charlton's Pub, beach games were organised by the Play Rangers who helped a record number of entrants take part in our sandcastle competition. Soccer legend Jack Charlton OBE offered his personal support to the day and is pictured along with Parish Councillors Allan Stewart, and Colin Parker, County Councillor. Val Tyler, the Play Ranger Team and our Sandcastle contestants. For more information on BIBS contact Julia Masters on 0782 459 7481

## CELEBRATING IN STYLE AT NORTH BLYTH

Residents in North Blyth know how to throw a party! Pictured right are revellers who celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee at North Blyth Club. The event was organised by North Blyth Residents. Photograph courtesy of Carol Crossland.



Bedlington Community High School open day proved to be a resounding success with stalls, activities and performances from a wide range of community groups pictured are the amazing "Peachy and the Brain" and below the excellent school choir who entertained an enthralled their audience with a modern twist on popular music. The Parish Council is proud to have been able to lend its support to this event and we look forward to more activities in the future.





## EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

East Bedlington Community Centre is now open for business. A new community group has formed following the decision by Bedlington Station Residents to call time on their organisation.

The Trustees have signed a Trust Deed which names East Bedlington Parish Council as custodian trustees and have exciting plans to develop both floors of the 16 & 17 Station Street property.

Significant refurbishment of the building is now underway with new signage installed, redecoration inside and out as well as a simplified room hire pricing structure.

Chairman Ron Straughan said “if local residents had not come forward to form a new community group, many of the existing centre users would now be faced with nowhere to meet. The building owner had considered demolishing the property. We are grateful for the support received from the Parish Council who share our vision of creating a community facility that is run by the community for the community”

We have prepared a business plan to submit to Northumberland County Council and other funders which will allow us to extend the opportunities currently on offer and start the serious work of refurbishing the upper floor.

“ Our vision is to create a Community facility that is run by the Community for the Community”



Ron Straughan  
Chair EBCC

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE AT THE CENTRE

### MIND Active - Actively Engaged Partners



Bedlington charity, MIND Active has been using the Bedlington Station centre for many years, providing activity days, concerts and lunches with people from residential and nursing care homes.

We now use the venue on a regular basis to provide lunches and entertainment for people with dementia and their carers/loved ones, joining people from the care and nursing homes to enjoy good company in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.

This is our 10th Anniversary year working with the community, for the community, where we believe a quality of life is as important as being cared for.

The charity is always on the lookout for new members living with dementia in their own homes who would like to enjoy a monthly day out with people who understand. Anyone wanting to find out more or try us for a day can ring Janet or Stephen on 01670 820461.





## CURRENT ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE AT THE CENTRE

### BEDLINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Bedlington Floral Art Club, (to give us our official title) are affiliated members of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranging Societies) and we have been practising the art of arranging flowers for over 50 years in the Bedlington area.

We are a small, friendly group of flower arranger's who would welcome new members of any ability. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month (except January and August) from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at East Bedlington Community Centre, 16 & 17 Station Street, Bedlington Station.

If you have arranged flowers in the past or are a complete novice, we would love you to join us at our monthly meetings where you can see how the members can create a piece of work to a chosen title. Practical help is always given to anyone who needs it.

If you would like more information please contact:

**Gladys Smith** on **01670 824314**

**The South-East Northumberland Stroke Support Group** are a local volunteer organisation set up to help and support people living with stroke and their carers.

We have meetings in East Bedlington Community Centre on the 3rd Monday of every month from 1.00 – 3.00pm. All visitors welcome.

For more information about this group or our activities in Bedlington and Cramlington visit [www.strokesense.org.uk](http://www.strokesense.org.uk) or ring the secretary in office hours on either:

01670-712834 or 07791-628144



### PEOPLE PAINTING FOR HEALTH & LEISURE

Our group began 12 years ago after a few local people attended a Local Authority run painting project. We enjoyed it so much a few of us decided to find accommodation to keep the group going. For us it's not about being a good artist, but more about making new friends and enjoying a new therapeutic hobby. We find that together both activities help each other in many ways adding to everyone's wellbeing and enjoyment of life. We meet every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm in the refurbished Centre. We have participants from 9 years old to 90 years old and new members are always welcome. (under 18's must be accompanied by a relative or guardian. The current charge is £2.50 per session including tea or coffee. Paints, papers, easels etc are also available to get you started. Join us and take a step to healthy living—drop by for a chat and more information.

### WANSBECK MATTERS

Wansbeck Matters are a friendly group who meet every Monday (except 3rd Monday of every month and Bank Holidays). If you are interested in good company, and keeping alive the traditional crafts of making hooky and proggy mats join us from 1pm until 3pm at East Bedlington Community Centre. For more information please contact **Pat Wright** on **01670 826 575**

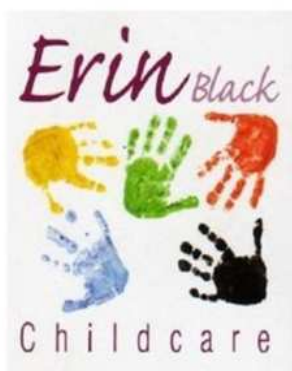


## CURRENT ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE AT THE CENTRE

### **NEW!** Baby and Toddler sessions!



- All Parents, Carer's, Grandparents and their Children welcome!



Baby and Toddler sessions are held in the centre Monday's 10am till 12 noon. The sessions are provided by local childcare business Erin Black Childcare.

- New toys
- Activities
- Songs and games
- Make and do and various other activities
- Snacks
- Tea and Coffee provided

For more information please contact Erin on 07590 575256

### EXERCISE WITH EMMA

**Mondays 6-7pm Booty Blast**

Combination of toning exercises for abs, bum and legs. Slow and fast movements for more effective results.

**Wednesdays 6-7pm Bootcamp**

Mega fat burn class with toning and cardio exercises. Limited use of equipment as based around high/low impact.

**Friday 6-7pm Boxercise**

Boxing class with circuit, great for toning of upper body and abs.

All classes £3.50 and refreshments provided

Regulars who attend have achieved great results in toning and weight loss.

Also looking to start a class for the over 60's on either a Monday or Wednesday evening 7-8pm.

If you are interested or require any more information on the classes please ring

Emma on 07983 309 933





## CURRENT ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE AT THE CENTRE



### 1st Bedlington Rainbows

Girl Guiding for 5 to 7 years

Thursdays 4.15m to 5.45pm

For details please email [flitterbug@live.co.uk](mailto:flitterbug@live.co.uk)

Or phone Claire on 01670 825773

or text 07763 142257

### HIRE EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE from £10 PER HOUR

Situated on Station Street (next to Keenlysides) the recently refurbished Community Centre offers spacious facilities including a kitchen. Full disabled access. Available for meetings, training sessions community activities, birthday parties, funeral teas, consultation events, table top sales, fund raising events, information and advice sessions.



“Run by the  
Community  
for the  
Community”

### Interested in running a carpet bowls group?

East Bedlington Community Centre have received a donation of an indoor bowls mat and 8 sets of bowls from Cramlington Bowling Club and are keen to put them to good use. If you are interested in running a group or in playing on a regular basis please contact Ron or Jenny on 01670 828808.

### Table Top Sale

East Bedlington Community Centre

Saturday 26th January 2013

10am till 1pm

Tables £5

Sellers 9am Buyers from 10am

Entrance charge 20p per person to include free raffle ticket.

To book a table please contact Brian Buskin on

07752 796 139

## Job Search Sessions

Starting

Wednesday 16th January 2013

10.30am to 12.30pm

Are you

**unemployed?**

**New to the area and  
looking for work?**

**Returning to the workplace after  
having a family?**

**Struggling to fill in  
application forms?**

**Need support with on-line  
applications?**

**Need help with your CV?**

Call in and chat with our qualified advisor

**Claire Owen**

Drop in sessions are completely free and informal



## Local Development Orders & Enterprise Zone Sites

### Blyth Enterprise Zone Sites

Five sites around the Blyth Estuary area have been granted Enterprise Zone status. Enterprise Zones are a central government initiative that provides a range of incentives to help support economic growth in the areas through the creation of new businesses and jobs.

Northumberland County Council is exploring a range of measures to make it easier for business to be established in these zones and one of these is looking towards simplifying the planning process through the use of Local Development Orders.

Local Development Orders are an effective tool for delivering a simpler and more streamlined planning process. If approved they will give planning permission for certain forms of business related development up-front. Subject to meeting various criteria, developers can therefore start developing sites without the need to apply for planning permission.

The first draft Local Development Orders have been prepared for the two sites at Cambois, north of the River Blyth, and the Bates site south of the River Blyth. The draft documents have been subject to a five week period of consultation, with events taking place in Cambois and Blyth.



Look out on the County Council's website for more information

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/  
planning](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/planning)

If you would like to be notified about the consultation email: [PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk) or call 01670 623 622.



## Bernicia Housing offer support - Welfare Reform Act 2012

**Bernicia pledge help at hand for tenants set to lose out.** Social housing company the Bernicia Group, has set up a special team to support tenants facing benefit changes next year including the so-called bedroom tax. It wants to make sure their tenants are aware of the changes and get the support they need to minimise the impact of the 2012 Welfare Reform act.

The company who are in the process of relocating to Ashington, estimates that a new under occupancy charge could cut some peoples benefits by as much as £25 per week and that up to 1,800 households could lose some of the help they get to pay their rent.

Tenancy support officer Mark Sproat said “from next April, many people face significant changes in their housing benefit. Those deemed to be living in properties with more bedrooms than they need face a reduction of up to 25% of the help they currently get to pay their rent. We feel it is very important that people understand that they will lose a percentage of their rent, not just the benefit they receive”

The changes will mean that one bedroom will be allowed for a couple or adult over 16; two children of the same sex under 16; or two children under 10, irrespective of gender; any other child , other than a foster child or child whose home is elsewhere, and a carer, or team of carers, providing overnight care.

Those with one bedroom too many will lose 14% of their entitlement and those with two or more spare will lose 25%.

Mark added “What we can do is identify the people who will face this charge and advise them about their options. This could be about a move, but it’s more likely about how they can make savings elsewhere to offset the impact of the bedroom tax”.

For more information, call the Bernicia team on 0191 238 3176.

## Christmas Lights Switch on

**Thursday 6th December**

**Sleekburn House, Bedlington Station**

The evening's activities are as follows:

- 5.30pm Music and light show with Station Entertainment
- 5.50pm Christmas message from your Parish Council
- 6.00pm Big Switch on
- 6.05 to 7pm Soapy Elvis at Christmas

Refreshments available from Sleekburn House





## Help for Community Groups

During the past few months we have been approached by several voluntary and community sector groups who have expressed concern over rising costs and lack of funding opportunities. To help support the organisations who deliver a range of diverse activities that no doubt enrich our community we have funded Wansbeck CVS to deliver **Funding Advice Surgeries**. The sessions will be held in the East Bedlington Parish offices and run by Stephen Humphrey, an Institute of Fundraising qualified practitioner (pictured below).



The sessions are free and open to any voluntary or community group who is based within East Bedlington Parish boundaries or who delivers a significant service in East Bedlington.

### Session dates

**Thursday 13th December 10am to 4.30pm & Thursday 17th January 2013 10am to 4.30pm**

The sessions will allow for general funding advice, signposting to appropriate funding streams, checking of applications and referrals for on going training and support. 10.30am to 12.30pm

To book an appointment please contact the **Parish Office** on 01670 828808

## IT Suite drop in

The Parish Council have held regular drop in sessions on Monday afternoons from 2pm until 4pm. These will be suspended in December and restart on 7th January.

Sessions are informal and can cover basic topics such as Skype, how to use a Kindle, online shopping and downloading and scanning photographs.

The sessions are ideal if you are wanting to get online for the first time or just want to

brush up on basic computer skills. Beginners can be enrolled on the “go-online” course, and will work at their own pace, with assistance from our volunteers and starting on 14th January we will be working in partnership with BRIC who will provide a basic IT tutor

There is no charge for this activity, but if you have any particular needs it is best to give us a ring to discuss them or pop in to the office for an informal chat.

We are also interested to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to share their IT or mentoring skills, further training can be arranged, you will need to be very patient and be prepared to undertake a CRB check if required. For more information contact the Parish Office on 01670 828808.

**“I found that the one to one tutoring gave me more confidence as I could work through the course at my own pace and there was support there for me if needed “**

**Maureen**

**East Bedlington**



## Faith news

United Benefice Service First Sunday of every month 10am at St John's, Bedlington Station, otherwise:

Sunday Services: St Andrew's, Cambois - Holy Communion 10.30am  
 St John's, Bedlington Station— Holy Communion 9am.  
 Weekday Service: St John's, Bedlington Station—Thursday's 10am

Parish Breakfast First and Second Sunday at St John's

Enquiries for Baptism—Confirmation—Weddings—Blessings or any other Church matter please telephone 07746 414800

### Special Advent Service

organised by Churches Together  
in Bedlingtonshire

St Cuthbert's Church in  
Bedlington on Sunday 2nd  
December from 4.30pm. All  
money raised will go to charity.

### Christingle Carol Service

St John's Church, Bedlington Station

December 24th, at 6pm

in aid of The Children's Society

Come along and bring your children they  
all receive a Christingle.

Everyone is welcome to this very special  
service

## The Matthew Project

**Can you help the Matthew Project?** This is a project set up by Bedlington Christian Fellowship to help needy families in Wansbeck.

The Matthew Project will distribute food parcels worth £20 to families struggling to cope due to their economic or social circumstances.

East Bedlington Parish Council will accept donations of food items from the "shopping list" and

act as a **community collection point.**

If you would like more information or would like to be more involved please contact Mike Clark on 01670 829062 or email [mclark095@gmail.com](mailto:mclark095@gmail.com)

### Mathew Project Carol Service

Bedlington Christian Fellowship, Vulcan Place  
Tuesday 11th December at 6.30pm, with refreshment to follow

### Shopping List

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Tinned       | Cream crackers |
| Soup         | pasta          |
| Tomatoes     | UHT milk       |
| Carrots      | Jam            |
| Tuna         | Rice           |
| Cooked meat  | Biscuits       |
| Rice pudding | Pasta sauce    |
| Custard      | Sugar          |
| Fruit        | Coffee         |
| Spaghetti    | Tea            |
| Potatoes     | Instant mash   |
| Hot dogs     | Cereal         |



## Bedlington Station Library - a building with a long history (part two)

by Carole Fife

John Smith, Head of Bedlington Colliery School from 1904 to 1924, experienced probably the most difficult times at the school. He arrived full of new ideas, but was slowly ground down by a constant combination of overcrowding and lack of staff. Some of the most difficult times occurred in World War I, with married women teachers being brought back into work as the men were called up, and twice the school had to leave its own buildings and share part-time with the new Station School (for two months in 1915 and four months in 1917) while the Colliery School was used as military billets. In July 1918 there was one day when there were only 4 staff for more than 300 children. It is only after the Spanish 'Flu epidemic that the regular staff began to return to school, which remained understaffed because no one applied for the vacant jobs! In 1924 there were 364 children in the mixed school, with 6 teachers, and H.M.I. said the work wasn't good enough.

James Boundy took charge in 1925, but John Smith's sudden death had probably influenced the Council for there were 7 full time teachers and 2 assistants by April of that year – and some classes now had less than 50 children!! Bedlington Colliery became a Council School in 1928 - the year the school leaving age was raised to 14, but at last the birth rate began to fall.

In 1934 the building was reorganised, with a new kitchen being added to the schoolhouse, so that for the first time there was a Staffroom/Head's Office (now the reference area of the Library) and in 1938 there were further plans for improvement. When the new Bedlington East Secondary was built, the Infants and Juniors would combine in the Mixed building and the Infant School would become the School hall!

Then along came World War II and everything changed. After the upset in the first few months of the War while Air Raid Shelters were being built, the children got back to full time schooling, only for the building to be requisitioned again by the Army in October 1940. Once more they had to share premises with the Station School, but only until the end of term. Then they were moved into the new Senior School for a term, until Bedlington Colliery School was officially closed in April 1941 under school reorganisation. Mr Boundy became Head of the Bedlington Station Primary School.

The School building, now usually referred to as the 'Auld School' was used by the Army for much of the war, but by the summer of 1945 the former Infant school was being used as a Central Kitchen, cooking meals for schools in the area until 1973. In 1946 Bedlingtonshire UDC asked whether the buildings could be used for industrial use, and the County Council agreed to Welwyn Electrical Laboratories Ltd. manufacturing cracked carbon resistors in the building, before moving to Cramlington until their new factory in Bedlington was completed.

In May 1947 the County Council made plans to use the Auld School as a Community Centre, only to discover that they couldn't do this, nor could they run the Central Kitchen on the premises, and they certainly shouldn't have leased part of the building to Welwyn Electricals – because they didn't own the buildings!! Under the Trust Deed they could only use the premises for educational purposes. So the County Council took the least embarrassing option and decided to buy the buildings from the Trustees, finally completing the sale in March 1951 at a cost of £4,000.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> 1954 the Bedlington Station Branch Library and Central Book Store was opened in the former Mixed School buildings by Coun. Ellen Mitchell. The school house was still in use at that time, but in 1958 the lower floor became the garage for the school meals van, and is now the Library entrance. The new addition in the 1960s to house the mobile libraries, together with the book store, eventually became the Open Learning Centre.

..... for more information see the booklets in the reference section of the Library

**Carole Fife**



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