

September 2016

Working together for the community of Bearpark

## Village Fun Day

CRAZY CREATURES  
NORTH EAST



saturday 17 september between 1 and 4 p.m

This year's village fair and fun day takes place at Bearpark Community Centre. Each year we try and do something a little bit different to keep the event fresh and appealing for all the family. This year is no exception and we hope you won't be disappointed!



Bearpark Residents' Group along with County Councillor Anne Bonner have secured funding for two carnival rides. Firstly, we will have a **classic cups and saucer fairground ride**. Making tea has never been so much fun, so why not pour yourself into one of our teacups and let it stir you round like never before!

You will also be able to enjoy the most popular traditional ride of all - some **Olde Tyme Swing Boats (also known as Shuggy Boats)**, where riders swish and sway through the air. They are THE iconic, traditional funfair ride and were commonly seen

in fairgrounds and funfairs around the country in the 19th and 20th century. This attraction is loved by both young and old alike.

To compliment these carnival rides, the Parish Council have hired two classic side shows. **Coconut Shy** and **Cactus Lassu** which we're sure will keep everyone entertained.

Indoors, we'll have a **face painter** on hand all afternoon, with **raffles, tombola and table top sales**. The Friends of Bearpark School will be supplying refreshments throughout the event. Community groups from around the Village will also be present. Also new for this year, the residents' group and County Councillor Anne Bonner have funded a **children's craft session** to be hosted by the Vineyard Church.

The attractions don't stop there though.....

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that **Crazy Creatures mobile petting zoo** is being brought to your fingertips! A great range of animals from cool reptiles to furry mammals will be on show. Many of the animals can be handled and stroked with special supervision. Typical animals you can expect to see include rabbits, tarantulas, scorpions, chameleons, boa constrictors, corn snakes, bearded dragons, african bull frogs and tortoises. We're confident that Crazy Creatures will be a big hit with all participants, and will entertain and educate children and people of all ages.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day. Please come along. Your Parish Council works tirelessly to bring you these events and we want as many people in the Village as possible to enjoy them.



# Welcome

To a belated summer edition of Bearpark Parish Council's newsletter which we hope you find interesting and useful.

We continue to work closely with many of our partners including Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council and Bearpark Primary School on a wide range of issues including litter, dog -fouling, planning, policing, highways and fly-tipping.

Throughout the year Councillors have been working hard to keep our village cleaner and greener through litter picks and other environmental works. You will have noticed how cleaner and brighter the gateway to the Village looks since the vegetation was cut back. This is an ongoing project and will continue well into next year. By summer 2017 we hope to see further improvements. A tree and bulb planting programme is planned for later on this year at Mullin Close, Taylor Avenue and Beaurepaire.

We have held many events throughout the year, our intention being to bring a diverse range of activities to all residents. We are volunteers who care about our Village. We do what we can to help make Bearpark a better place to live and work.

## Inside this edition

Page 1 - Village Fun Day

Page 2 - Welcome,  
Community Centre

Page 3 - Meet McColl's

Page 4 - Village Litterpickers

Page 5 - A Very Brave Girl

Page 6 - Bearpark & Esh  
Colliery Band

Page 7 - Friends of Bearpark  
Woods, Making a  
difference

Page 8 - Bearpark Football Club,  
Community Newsletter,  
Contact Us.

# Bearpark Community Centre needs you!

**Bearpark Community Association is currently in discussion with Durham County Council regarding the transfer of responsibility for the Community Centre to a board of trustees and management committee.**

A business plan has been drawn up to explore how the Centre can be developed and provide more activities and services for the community. Part of the plan includes exciting developments to the structure and fabric of the building.

If the transfer is completed this will allow major internal reorganisation and new facilities, following further consultation with user groups.

The Community Association are seeking volunteers to join their management committee or trustees.

They will help take the Centre through the planning, development and fundraising processes. This will ensure that the Centre fully meets the needs of current user groups and residents of the Village.

The Community Association has applied to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which gives protection against liability should the centre close.

There are a wide range of activities taking place here on your doorstep. Why not call in on a Thursday and have a look around. You could pop into the lunch club between 10.45 a.m. and 12 noon and sample delicious food at a reasonable price, courtesy of local business 'Truly Scrumptious'.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee/Committee member or want to find out more about the Centre or join with any of the groups or activities please contact Barbara Sewell (Chair) on 07554 233601.







# Meet McColl's

Back in April this year, the Co-op were rumoured to be selling off 300 of its food stores. At the time the Co-op group remained silent on the issue. Four months on and it's official...

***"The Co-op Group has today agreed the sale of 298 of its smaller Food stores as part of its strategy of refocusing its store estate on a convenience, own-brand led shopping experience".***

The sale of the stores, which are 1,700 sq ft on average to McColl's Retail Group plc (McColl's) for £117m, is subject to approval from the CMA and McColl's shareholders.

The Parish Council caught up with the Chief Operating Officer for the McColl's retail group.

## What exactly is happening?

The Co-op are selling us 298 convenience stores throughout the U.K. as they believe these are too small for them to operate. McColl's believe these stores are a perfect fit, they are the right size, the right location and stores which they plan to develop and invest in. McColl's have agreed to pay the Co-op £117m so it is a huge commitment and investment for us. We have to wait for the competition clearance

so it may take a few months before we can start transferring the stores over.

## So, who are McColl's?

McColl's are the second largest multiple convenience operator in the U.K. to Tesco, but bigger than Sainsbury's Local. We currently have 1350 stores of which 933 are convenience and the balance are Newsagents and trade under the brand of Martin's and RS McColl in Scotland. We are a PLC who floated in February 2014, and we have been running stores since the early 1930s. We are a neighbourhood operator and like to see ourselves as part of the local community in many different ways.

## What do you pride yourselves on?

Great service, great product offer and being part of the community we trade in.

## What services and products will you offer?

Many of our stores have Post Offices, Pay point, Lottery, Collect+, and transport tickets. We offer an extensive convenience offer of groceries, chilled and frozen food, beers wines and spirits, along with soft drinks, sweets and tobacco.



## When will the Coop close and when will McColl's open?

We will only be closed for two days and we will advertise this.

## What is happening to the staff currently employed by the Coop?

All the staff in the shop will be transferring to us on their existing terms and conditions.

## Will there be any further job vacancies?

Possibly, it is too early to say at this stage.

## Do you have a loyalty scheme? What is it? What are the benefits?

We do, it is called 'Plus' and it offers discounts and prizes to members. The card is free and can easily be joined.

## What will your store opening hours be?

Opening hours are store specific but typically they are 6.00am to 10pm, 7 days a week.





# Village Litterpickers

*“My 3 kids really look forward to getting out in the fresh air and helping in the litter picks organised by Bearpark Parish Council. They are always well equipped with disposable gloves, hi-vis vests and grabber sticks which they love using. We always end up having a little family competition to see who can collect the most rubbish, it's surprising how much you can collect in an hour. The morning is always rounded off with refreshments in the Community Centre which is a lovely opportunity to socialise with others in the community”*

The sky is blue, the birds are singing, the air is fresh and all you can see for miles ahead are the familiar views, landmarks and scenery you have grown to love. But hold on – what's this you've just stepped on? A plastic bottle, its contents long gone. Then you spot a carrier bag flapping in the hedgerow. Some old soft drink cans nestling in a clump of grass, followed by some vodka bottles and some scratch cards. Suddenly, instead of a nice Bearpark trail, our village has been invaded by an ugly trail of litter. Along with many others, you feel strongly about this – but what are you going to do about it? Of course, you could pick up the litter. But there is so much – how are you supposed to pick it all up by yourself? Who is responsible for litter? And how will the powers that be find out about all this mess?

We are trying to encourage and educate as many people as possible to take action to help keep our community clear of litter through our litter picks. We welcome anyone who wants to join

us. It is a great way to meet people as well cleaning up where we live.

We embarked upon our first litter pick way back in March 2015. Since then we have collected 100 sacks of rubbish in just 4 outings! We aim to carry them out on a quarterly basis, targeting different parts of the village. We usually pick litter for an hour. If we had more volunteers we could carry them out more regularly. Our picks are fully risk assessed and we provide you with all the necessary equipment including gloves, sacks, high vis vest and pickers. Refreshments are provided afterwards.

Our aims are simple - we strive towards living in a nicer, cleaner, better looking environment and

pride ourselves in taking positive action to improve OUR local area.

You can follow progress on our website [www.bearpark-pc.org.uk](http://www.bearpark-pc.org.uk) or on the litter action website [www.litteraction.org.uk/bearpark-litterpickers](http://www.litteraction.org.uk/bearpark-litterpickers)

In March 2017 we'll be undertaking activities to coincide with Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' but before that we'll be carrying out one further litter pick, so keep an eye out for that being arranged.

If you are interested in helping us out or want to know more, please get in touch.

[bearparkpc@live.com](mailto:bearparkpc@live.com)  
[www.bearpark-pc.org.uk](http://www.bearpark-pc.org.uk)





# A caring community

## A *very* brave girl

Following months of feeling unwell 11 year old Caitlin Minnis was diagnosed on 31st December 2015 with a stage 4 Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma and needed three cycles of five-day chemotherapy here in the UK. The decision was then made by doctors to send Caitlin to the USA for further treatment. The treatment and accommodation for Caitlin and her mam would be funded by the NHS, however all other expenses would have to be met by the family.

Caitlin's Aunt set up a crowdfunding page in an attempt to raise enough funds to make the stay more bearable. Fundraising soon became the paramount activity in not only the village, but

the wider area. Individuals and groups within the community held events, a charity bike ride, raffles and cake sales to raise funds towards the appeal.

The Parish Council had already decided to host a bake-off themed event in 2016 and it soon became apparent in one of our event planning sessions, that it only felt right to donate the proceeds of our event towards Caitlin's cause. We managed to raise £360 and are grateful to everyone who took part. We were delighted to be able to present a cheque to Caitlin and her mam at one of our meetings. Following 34 rounds of proton radiotherapy and two cycles of three-day chemotherapy in Jacksonville USA, Caitlin is now



home and although she faces six months of daily interferon injections, she is looking forward to attending St Leonard's Catholic School in September.

Caitlin is doing well, her weight is increasing, her hair is growing back and she has started to play outdoors with her friends.

Caitlin's mam, Caroline, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the family.

**"the support we have had is overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who made life in America a less daunting experience. Even though it was lifesaving treatment, people have given us memories to treasure. Thank you."**

We are sure you will join with us in wishing Caitlin well.



# Bearpark and Esh

# COLLIERY BAND



Bearpark & Esh Colliery Band has gone from strength to strength in 2015/16, firstly winning first prize in at the Durham Association Competition in February 2015, where the Band picked up the Northern Echo trophy along with the trophies for best principle cornet player (Michael Evans) and best bass section (Daniel Maitre, Helen Griffiths, Nicky Boak and Garry Mitchell.

On 15th March 2015, the Band competed in section 4 of the qualifying rounds of the National Finals of Great Britain at the Gala Theatre in Durham. The band won 2nd place, along with the prize for best Euphonium player (David Griffith) and were invited to represent County Durham and, indeed, the North East of England in the 4th section at the National Finals at Cheltenham on 19th September 2015.

This was a huge honour, with the Band beating 19 other Bands to bring home the third prize, The Dennis Wick Trophy. However, before the band could enter, they had to raise approximately £5000 for entry fees, music, transport and hotel accommodation. This is not without drawbacks, as the Band has been self supporting since 1967 and has to raise £8000 - £10,000 per annum just in order to survive. This is primarily done by concert work throughout the North East and the Band has a strong following outside of the villages of Bearpark and Esh Winning.

We also rely on sponsorships from local companies to help with the large projects and AVC WEECO is one key sponsor who has supported the Band for some time and in 2015 they supported the Band by buying a new EB Bass as extra support in recognition of the achievement of reaching the National Finals.

This past year we have also been indebted to the County Durham Community Foundation and local councils for their financial help to keep the Band heritage alive.

The County Durham Community Foundation has helped the Band raise money to obtain two cornets for youngsters to play within the Band, along with support to buy raincoats for our all too frequent inclement weather.

In November 2014, the Band started a project to re-new their uniform (the ones we were using were 20 years old) and with a grant from the Coalboard Regeneration Trust we were able to buy new jackets.

Bearpark Parish Council also assisted with the project by donating two hundred pounds in order that the Band could purchase monogrammed ties to complete the uniform update. Hopefully, the now familiar black and grey uniforms will last another twenty years as we continue to keep the mining heritage alive in the local area.

In July 2015, the Parish Council donated two hundred pounds towards getting the Band to the National Finals. The Band is very proud to put the local villages in our area firmly on the map in the National arena of the Brass Banding world.

The villages of Bearpark and Esh Winning can be justly proud of their local Brass Band.

In March 2016, we again entered the qualifying round of the National Finals held at the Gala theatre Durham, this time having been promoted to the

Third Section. We were astonished when once again we picked up second place winning the Boosey & Hawkes Trophy, along with the Bob Stephenson Trophy for best percussion section.

As a result we have been invited back to the National Finals in Cheltenham in September, this time to play in the Third Section. We would like to think that we could once again bring home one of the trophies on offer. As a result of the success we have had a meteoric rise into the Second Section.

Of course this means we are back to the never ending round of fund raising to be able to go. We are the only North East Band to represent the region in the Third Section, as the Band who gained first place at Durham comes from Cumbria. Once again Bearpark Parish Council has donated two hundred pounds toward our fund raising to be able to attend the competition.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us, both as established organisations and as individuals. We hope that we can rely on all your support in the future to help keep your local Band alive.

We also need to keep recruiting players, so if you can play a brass instrument come along and if you cannot play or read music - well it is never too late to learn!! There is a learners section (all age groups welcome) which meets every Wednesday at the band hall (The Old Chapel, Esh Winning Industrial Estate) at 6.30pm.

## **BAND REHEARSES**

Every Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Sundays 10.30 - 12.30pm.



# Friends of Bearpark Woods

Bearpark Woods were created when the Colliery site was levelled and thousands of pines and a few other trees were planted. The council intended to harvest the pines but haven't yet, so with their permission we are trying to make the woods better for wildlife and the community.

We have:

- ➔ Removed some pines, opening up pathways and planting other trees and woodland plants.
- ➔ Started an orchard.
- ➔ Created a meadow, and got a local craftsman to build a bench with the help of children from Bearpark Primary School.
- ➔ Done regular litter picks.



## Volunteers are Welcome

We meet at 1.30pm every third Sunday of the month at the top of Aldin Grange Terrace. **[bearparkwoods@gmail.com](mailto:bearparkwoods@gmail.com) or Facebook**



*Help us make a difference*

The Parish Council are always looking for volunteers and want people to become actively involved in our projects. If you care about Bearpark, want to make a difference and feel like you might be interested in some of our work including litter picks, the village gateway, gardening, tree planting and much, much, more please contact us. Alternatively, if there is something that you would like to see happening in the Village and have some ideas, let us know.

## Bearpark Community Partnership

Residents of Bearpark!!! Would you like to join "Bearpark Community Partnership"? We invite residents of all ages and live in Bearpark. If you want to make a lasting difference, enhance and support our village, promote good physical and mental wellbeing, and above all foster a community spirit then we want you to join us.

As a partnership we can reduce isolation, develop existing community and recreational facilities and engage in environmental projects to name a few possibilities.

It's time to make a difference! Focus on the issues that matter to us! Help us be the partnership for change!

Bearpark Community Partnership are not looking for professional people. We all have varied skills and care about our village and the people who live here.

Help us be the partnership for change together we can make a difference.

Please visit our table at the village fun day, we want to meet you!

# Community News -

help us to help you.

Like this newsletter? We plan to move forward with a community focused newsletter which will aim to promote local events, competitions, groups and businesses. We want to publish items of interest to the community of Bearpark and to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community.

To do this we need your input. In the future, it is hoped to accept adverts for local businesses as well as those that publicise charitable and fundraising events. Please contact us if you are interested in being a part of this project.

## Your Bearpark Parish Councillors are:

### Cllr Norman Anderson

12 South View, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7PZ

### Cllr Alex Brown

2 Auton Court, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AW

### Cllr Gerry Hendry

7 Blackburn Close, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7TQ

### Cllr Gordon Hull

60 Taylor Avenue, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AY

### Cllr Rosemary Kemp

18 Blackburn Close, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7TQ

### Cllr Kevin McKechnie

66 Cook Avenue, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7BD

### Cllr Marion Wilson

58 Taylor Avenue, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AY

### Cllr Stephen Wilson

58 Taylor Avenue, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AY

### Cllr Tony Wilson

58 Taylor Avenue, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AY

### Cllr Matthew Wright

9 Auton Stile, Bearpark, Durham DH7 7AA

### Clerk to the Parish Council

07977 076517

# Backing Bearpark Football Club



Bearpark Workingmen's Club Football team was formed in 2015 to give young men of the village the opportunity to play competitive football. The Parish Council made a donation of £250 to assist them with their start-up costs and helped pay towards some match equipment. The team train every Wednesday evening unless a mid-week game has been arranged. Now in their second season, the team are playing in Division 4 of the Swinburne Maddison Sunday League.

At present the team are using the football pitch at New Brancepeth as drainage work is needed at the Recreation Ground in Bearpark, something which the Parish Council are looking to assist with the help of local County Councillors, David Bell, Anne Bonner and Jean Chaplow.

The team are kindly sponsored by Michael Watson Construction Ltd. Anyone interested in joining the team or wants to find out more can contact John Peart by telephone 07983 978 199 or email [johnpeart1@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpeart1@hotmail.com)



## Contact Us



[facebook/bearparkpc](https://facebook.com/bearparkpc)



[@bearparkpc](https://twitter.com/bearparkpc)



[bearparkpc@live.com](mailto:bearparkpc@live.com)

[www.bearpark-pc.org.uk](http://www.bearpark-pc.org.uk)