

Hurworth Parish Chronicle



Chairman's Comments

Graham Wylie - Parish Council Chairman

This year will hopefully be one of the best for the Parish Council. We are getting through the projects, including the history plaque, the skateboard area, Jean's garden and the Grange play-park. There's been a bit of a delay in getting these sorted, but its good to see that they are finally getting done.

The council lost a valuable member, Elly Hedley, which came as a terrible shock to us all. She will be greatly missed, especially as she was instrumental in putting these chronicles together. You can read a tribute to Elly in this chronicle.

Work was completed in January on the all-weather path at the Grange; this final extension will enable people to easily access and enjoy the Grange grounds. Cllr Lynn Wylie has been overseeing this work, as it was her project. She is currently improving the areas along the new path, clearing the debris, along with planting woodland shrubs and plants to bring the garden back to its Victorian grandeur.

The Grange Bar has become really popular since its revival last year, and the Coffee Pot is also a place to meet up for a friendly chat over a nice drink and a bite to eat. The Grange Bar and Coffee Pot also support the many Grange events, such as the very first village Wassail (which was organised by EPICH back in January) and the upcoming Easter Fun Run and Country Fair to name a few.

The traffic calming measures on Roundhill Road will be completed very shortly, with the introduction of 20mph signs near to where the lollipop lady helps the residents cross; as we know this junction can be a bottle neck, especially at peak times. Also, there will be a speed restrictor, which will help with keeping the speed down.

The Parish Council meet at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month at Hurworth Grange Community Centre. We encourage everyone to turn up for the public participation section, where you can suggest improvements, ask questions about events, or even praise the council. If you want to discuss a matter in private, there is an opportunity to meet with Councillors, before the main Parish Council meeting, in the Grange Library from 6:30pm.

A tribute to Elly Hedley

Councillor Elaine (Elly) Hedley passed away peacefully, in hospital, on the 22nd February.

Elly was a well-known figure in Hurworth; often seen accompanied by one of her beloved Black Labradors. She had lived here for many years, having moved to Hurworth with her husband and family in the 1980s.

Elly was a Primary School teacher and even after she retired in 2008, she kept teaching both in school and in church, where she helped with Sunday School.

Elly was an active member of All Saints Church with a significant emphasis on nurturing the young people as an integral part of the 'Children's Church' team. She was also a key member of the hugely successful 'Open the Book' project, which delivers bible stories to the Primary School children in the form of playlets, where her enthusiasm was very much appreciated.

Elly joined Hurworth Parish Council in April 2015, and immediately took a very active role.

Elly took over the production of the Parish Chronicle, collecting the content, and with her husband's help, prepared and published it for the last seven years.

Elly's next important Council role was the challenge of traffic speeding in the village. Her contribution to this was immense. Along with Dorothy Oughton, she took on and organised the SpeedWatch sessions and created a close relationship with Durham Police.

The very detailed traffic reports, which are presented at every Parish Council meeting, are the work of Elaine and her husband; the results are there to see, the average speed of traffic through Hurworth has dropped remarkably.

In addition Elly represented the Parish Council on the Durham Small and Medium Sized Councils and the Darlington Association of Local Councils. As a Councillor, Elly will be sadly missed.

Elly was a much-loved wife to John and mother to her three boys. She was fiercely proud of her family (not forgetting her beloved Labrador Suzy).

Through their shared love of Labradors (they both had dogs of the same age), Elly became close friends with Dorothy. The dogs became friends too and every day they would take them for walks round the village.

Elly was held in high esteem by her fellow Parish Councillors and was a wonderful friend to many residents in Hurworth.

Elly will be greatly missed by all of us.

Hurworth Grange Playpark



The project to revamp the play park at the Grange started in 2019 after a relevant comment from a parishioner who rightly said that the play park was not up to standard. After a conversation with the Council and Groundworks we sent out a survey to ask the village what they wanted out of the area and for what age group. All the answers were collated and a few things stood out: Climbing, speed and spin. Unfortunately a few things set the project back, a pandemic, a lack of funding, difficulties to access equipment BUT we are now there, and the work started on the 14th March.

The design incorporates inclusive equipment including a secure path, a slide and climbing frame for the little ones and of course some more for the older ones including a zip wire. There is also a spinning, climbing and a revamp of any old equipment that is staying.

It's taken a long while, but hopefully everyone will agree that it was worth the wait!



Hurworth Village Hall

January saw the restart of the Village Hall cinema. The cinema will continue on the first Sunday of every month throughout the year excluding June, July and August when people are usually on holiday and it's too bright outside. Already we've had some great movies, thoroughly enjoyed by all those coming along.

As well in January, the Hall (and possibly the village) hosted its very first Tamil wedding reception. Around 60 guests attended. The Hall was thought to be such a good venue, and value for money, that members of the Tamil community have booked the Hall again in April and May for further events including a celebration of a child's first birthday.

February saw another first for the Hall, with a Rural Arts sponsored production of 'The Sleep Pirates'. A great time was had by all, especially the 20 or so little ones. It was great to see new faces in the audience especially those from the new estates.

In February we welcomed the calorie laden return of The Pudding Club with 20 individual entries providing approximately 240 servings of favourite puds!

A great time was had by all and 'doggy' bags provided for those in need of a few more calories around supper time.

March will see the Hall host the first Quiz of 2022 and already it's a sell-out. What more can I say?

Keep your eyes peeled for another 'first' on Saturday 9th April when The Village Hall brings you William Shakespeare.....The Bard in the Yard !

A highly rated stage production that is truly interactive.

So, in short, it's been a great start to 2022 at Hurworth Village Hall. New productions, new faces, new events, as well as some old favourites.

The Committee would like to thank all those that get involved in helping out or just by turning up to have a good time. Your support is very much appreciated.



Skateboard Park



The Skateboard area, at the Grange is well known throughout the skateboarding world, and in its heyday, played host to several big events. When I investigated the area, it looked deserted, with cracked concrete, and a general air of neglect.

I asked around to see if anyone still used the Skate Ramp, and I received a good response, as well as gaining lots of historical facts about the place. People, using the area, were disappointed that the surface was cracking and wasn't the place it once was, so had started going to other places.

As well as meeting up with a local skater, I talked to a few people, including Anthea Russell, who had used the Skate ramp over the years. Anthea told me that she had actually spent her own money organising a Skate Jam in 2003, which had brought 500 skateboarders to the area.

At this point I realised that I had to do something, and as Chairman of the Council, I was able to add the project into the budget and make the Skate Ramp a popular place for the youngsters and adults who enjoy the activity.



I asked for quotations from local companies, in and around the area, but unfortunately, these companies never got back to me. Eventually, I received a quote from a local resident, and a company from down south. Luckily, we have Kelvin Russell, who is a fellow Parish Councillor, and an expert groundworks contractor. Kelvin provided the Parish Council with an acceptable quote, allowing for the improvement works to proceed. Kelvin has not only brought the Skate Park back to life, he has also added a half pipe, plus a stunt ramp in the middle.

With these the improvements finished, this will allow people to come back to the Grange on a regular basis, and will also give the residents of Hurworth something else to do.

Further to the actual Skate Ramp improvements, to make sure vehicles don't drive onto the area, a fence has been erected.

I'm hoping this will be a really well used facility, which will encourage Skaters to come back, and for people to try something different.



Hurworth Parish Council

Hurworth Parish Council meet at the Grange on the 1st Thursday of the month except August, when there is no meeting.

This year, because of the timing of the Queen's Jubilee, Junes meeting will be the 2nd Thursday, 9th June because it's a bank holiday, and a lot of people will be away, or celebrating the event.

As a resident, you can attend these meetings, if you have any concerns, ideas or want to know what is discussed in relation to the village.

Before the meeting, councillors give up their time for people to chat about issues in the village quietly in the library. All councillors are assigned to different areas, for example, Police Liaison, Allotments, Pathways and highways, open spaces, notice boards and trees to name a few.

Usually, before the meeting at 6.30, the Police attend the Grange and listen to any issues that are arising within the village. Again, residents can attend this, can ask questions, or alert them to any issues.

The website is a good source of information, and alerts you to any latest news, events that are going on, and past events within the village. The website also has a backlog of the minutes of the meetings, crime reports and information about the traffic that drives through the village.

www.hurworthonline.com

Hurworth Parish Council also has its own Facebook page, which alerts you to any events, meetings, or progress on roadworks and work going on within the Parish.

www.facebook.com/groups/hurworthparishcouncil

The council are always on the lookout for projects, so if you have any ideas, please let the council know, by either turning up at the meetings, emailing them on:

enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Or phone: 01325 722171





The Queens Jubilee



Hurworth Village Hall is arranging a Jubilee Lunch Street Party on Sunday, 5th June. This free event will be open to all, based on bring your own food and refreshments.

Tables and chairs will be available in marquees on a first to arrive basis.

The programme will be as follows:

12pm Children's Fancy Dress parades and competition, several age groups
Also children's games, face painting and children's colouring sets will be provided.

2.30pm Serenity Duo live on stage

3.45pm Children's traditional games on the Green

4.30pm The Brancepeth and Aycliffe Brass Band on stage

Short break (toilets on site)

5.30pm The Brancepeth and Aycliffe Brass Band on stage

6.30pm DVD Band live on stage

8pm Karaoke open to all

In addition, for your delight:

The Lord Lieutenant (Sue Snowdon), the Queen's representative is due to appear.

HMS Hurworth - Naval Commander and members of the crew will be participating.

All Saints Church From 2pm until 5pm the church will have marquees on the Green selling Strawberries and cream, hot and cold drinks and other refreshments.

Hurworth Albion will be serving a BBQ from 5:30pm

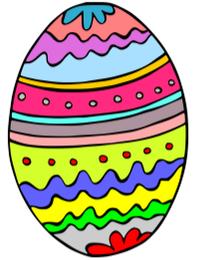
The main street will be decorated with bunting, and the main road may be closed for the day.



Strait Lane Allotments Easter Party

All are welcome to a children's Easter party to be held at Strait Lane allotments on Easter Sunday (April 17th April).

There will be lots going on including an Easter bonnet competition, paint your own Easter egg competition, and a decorated Easter basket competition.



Along with lots of children's games, there may even be a cheeky glass of wine or two for the adults.



So come along and join us for a great Easter afternoon!!

Scarecrow Festival

The Scarecrow Festival is BACK!

The date will be announced shortly...lookout on Facebook, the Parish Council Website and the village notice boards for more details.

We have had some amazing entries over the years. Who could forget the BFG, Paddington, Malificent and of course Groot. So so many amazing entries that were all deserved winners. If you would like some inspiration, then please check out our Facebook page [Hurworthscarecrowfestival2022](https://www.facebook.com/Hurworthscarecrowfestival2022)

There are still lots of details to be decided, but get your thinking caps on and look forward to seeing all the scarecrows around the village





Friday Night Youth Club

For the Junior school age kids, the Youth Club starts at 5.30pm until 7.30pm and it generally gets up to 30 kids most weeks. With plenty for them to do, the feedback has been very positive and they all seem to enjoy the activities.

The 7.30 until 9.30 Youth Club is for the Comprehensive kids, and whilst this is not quite as busy, the older kids seem to really enjoy the pool table, computers and consoles plus much more.

Martin, and his team, were very grateful for the recent Parish Council donation and they several ideas on what to purchase. The Youth Club has become a great place for the kids to go to and is a welcome facility in the village. Martin and his team run it really well and the kids all seem to like them.

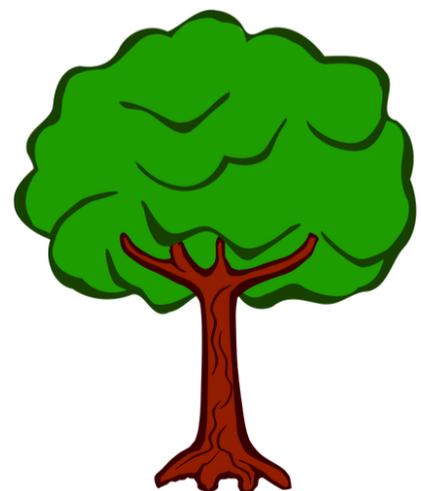
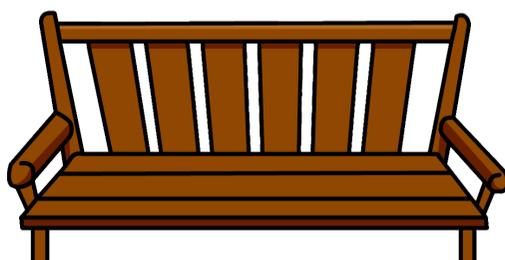
Jean's Garden

Early in 2020 Councillor Elly Hedley and Councillor Dot Oughton decided, as their joint Council project, to landscape Jean's Garden (at the Grange) into a peaceful and tranquil area for villagers to visit as an area for contemplation.

Lockdown in March 2020 brought the project to a halt. However, Elly and Dot continued to discuss their ideas; hopeful that they could start work soon.

Now in Spring 2022, and following the passing of Elly, Dot is determined to continue the project as a memorial to a very good and caring friend.

Work will be starting shortly.





EPiCH Update

Since the last issue of The Chronicle, EPiCH volunteers have certainly been very busy around the village.

First, a grant from Tees Valley Nature Partnership funded an interpretation panel providing information about each of the tree varieties. Thanks are due to EPiCH volunteer Jaime Westwood for her time and expertise on this interpretation panel. Also, slate labels, giving the variety of tree, have been added to each tree.

In January the first Hurworth Orchard Wassail was held, with well over 100 people coming to toast the health of the orchard with mulled cider, apple juice, and apple cake, along with singing and generally making a terrific din. Thanks to the wassail singers “No Added Sugar” and to the Hurworth Grange Manager, Keith Sandick. The wassail is set to be repeated next year with the addition of Morris dancing, who were unable to attend this year due to several of the Morris dancers coming down with Covid.



This Spring, the first stage of establishing a wildflower sward underneath the orchard trees is well under way, with EPiCH volunteers planting wildflower plug plants that they have grown over the Winter.

The bird feeding station at Hurworth Grange is scheduled for a face lift at Easter with the addition of a mural inspired by ideas from Priory School (now Aspris School), and the adjacent bug-hotel will also be refurbished when all the overwintering guests have checked out.

The EPiCH bees have been relocated from their long-time home at Clervaux Garden School in Croft, to the new organic garden on the Rockcliffe estate. The relationship with Clervaux has been fabulous, but the location within the village is more accessible and will allow anyone interested in finding out more about beekeeping to come along and get involved.

This Spring we should all be able to enjoy the efforts of the residents who joined EPiCH volunteers last Autumn to plant Spring bulbs, on The Green, alongside the Primary School path, round the new Pear Tree in Lychgate and other smaller areas.

If you are interested in getting involved in activities like these please do get in touch. No need to attend meetings – just join our mailing list and turn up to events which interest you! Email secretary@epich.org.uk

Follow us at facebook.com/epichupdates and look on Hurworth Live about upcoming activities.



Hurworth Country Fair 2022

The Country Fair Committee are well under way with their preparations in setting up the 2022 Hurworth Country Fair, which will be held this year on Saturday 17th September.

The Committee, building on the success of the previous years, are planning to come back with a bang after the disruption caused by the Pandemic.

The Produce Show categories have received a bit of an overhaul, with new produce categories introduced and the removal of others. Final preparation is underway on this, and it is hoped that entry forms will be available early to mid-April on both the Hurworth Parish Council website and Grange website.



Having overseen the Produce Show for the past couple of years, Councillor Lynn Wylie had noted that many of the main contributors are children, but their categories did not award a trophy for their efforts! So, from this year, each child winning first in their category will receive a trophy to keep, as well as a rosette for coming first, second, or third.

To keep the fair entertainment line-up fresh, the emphasis has been on attracting different entertainers, and the Committee have already confirmed several new entertainers such as a Magician, Morris Dancers, a Juggler, and the duo Serenity (who are from Hurworth).

Tony and Ann Gent have already done an amazing job on contacting our previous fair Sponsors; many of whom have generously agreed to continue to support the Hurworth Country Fair. Further to this, Tony and Ann have also reached out to several potential new sponsors, who have kindly given their support too.



Following the success of last year, the fair stalls are staying in the Fletcher Hall. All of the available stalls are now taken up with a good selection of local artisans, food stalls and crafters, as well as some of our well-known local businesses such as 'The Little Quaker Gin Company' and the 'Richmond Brewing Company'. There will also be several stalls, out on the field area including various trade stalls along with 'The Clucking Pig Scotch Eggs' and 'Paddock Farm Nurseries'.



Events at the Grange Community Centre



Classic Car Event 2022

SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2022

10 AM - 4 PM

Music For All

16th July 2022.

This is a popular event, so tickets will go fast.



Train Rides

The Train Rides run on the 1st Sunday of the Month.

The cost is £1.00

This is run by South Durham Society of Model Engineers

Hurworth Country fair

17th September, open to the public from 10.30am

Over 30 stalls, rides and family entertainment, plus the Produce and Craft Show

For more information, and other events, visit The Grange's Website:
www.hurworthgrange.com Or phone: 01325 720840



Hurworth Albion Football Club

Hurworth Albion will be returning to training at the prep field when the clocks go forward.

We're looking forward to returning to the ground after a significant investment, by the club, into the pitches and infrastructure.

A big thank you to the anonymous donation for a container which will allow us to develop the cutting shed into a new tuck shop providing both hot and cold foods and drinks.

It's great to see our U14s in the 1st division of the Russell Foster league competing to win the league.

A big thank you to Andy Metcalfe for securing the funding for the pitch maintenance programme.

In our 5th year, since we formed, we welcome back all the teams from U6s all the way up to u15s.

A final thank you to all the local community who help out and support the club. It wouldn't be the same without you.

We look forward to the Hurworth Parish fun run which is another worthy cause and supports the local community Fun Run.



Hurworth Fun Run

Yes....the Hurworth 5km Fun Run is back!

We hope that you can come and join us in supporting this amazing event on Saturday 16th April at the Grange Community Centre in Hurworth.

With the support of Oxford Garage and Hurworth Parish Council, the Fun Run is being organising to help local charities and groups within the Hurworth Parish.

Please download the sponsor form, which is at the top of the page, collect as much money as you can, and either bring it on the day, or you can hand it in at the Grange at a later date.

Run, walk, get dressed up, dance around if you like, but do come along to enjoy the day, and get involved.

The event is open to everyone and will give the opportunity to raise much needed funds for your local groups.



All competitors will receive a race memento.

To enter, visit www.hurworthonline.com



- Registrations from 10am
- 10:30am Race briefing
- 11am Fun Run start
- The organisers reserve the right to amend the timetable subject to any variables which may impact the event or runners' welfare
- Runners can be any age, but young children must be accompanied by an adult (This to be at the parent/guardian discretion)
- There are no cut-off times for this event.
- Supporters are welcome to attend the event and support the athletes.



Hurworth History Plaque

Visiting other villages and towns you will often see information boards detailing the history and notable buildings/ areas of interest. With this in mind, Councillors Graham and Lynn Wylie decided that they would look at creating one for Hurworth to celebrate and share our village history with residents and visitors alike.

Hurworth has a lot of history dating back to the time of the Romans and Anglo-Saxons, with many prominent local families (Backhouses, Scurfields, Hopper-Williamsons and Tailboys to name a few) having made Hurworth their home; leaving their mark with many beautiful villas, as well as buildings that modern day residents are able to use as valuable community hubs such as the village hall and the Grange.

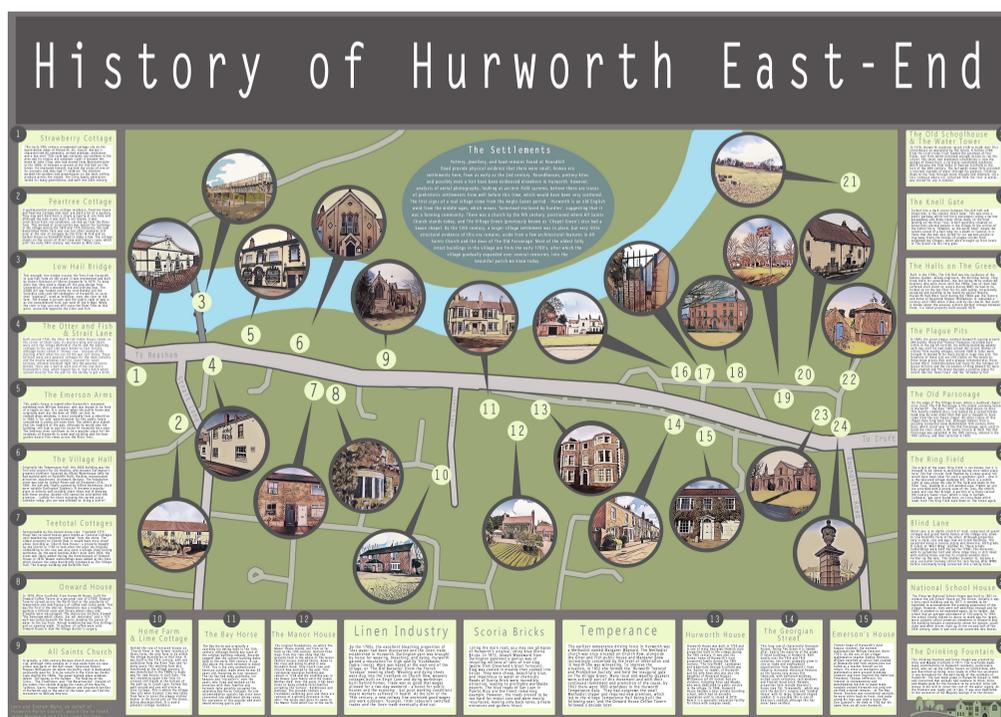
Cllr Lynn Wylie, with her existing knowledge of the village's history, started to look through books and the internet, collating interesting detail and facts about the village and its areas of interest.

Following the work on the two EPICH plaques (the Grange Heritage Orchard and the Lychgate Orchard), Lynn approached our resident artist Jaime Westwood, and they started to collaborate on bringing ideas together. As well as providing the artwork, Jaime was very successful in obtaining residents contributions from requests made on Facebook.

Further to working with Jaime, Lynn also approached Chris Lloyd (of Northern Echo fame) who, with his in-depth knowledge of the village, enthusiastically provided additional information to fill in knowledge gaps.

The initial plaque, which is currently with the printer and is hoped to be ready for installation by late April, covers the village east of Roundhill Road. The plaque will be installed on the site of a previous Parish Council notice board, in front of the old post office.

There are plans to start, later in the year, a same style of plaque detailing the history of west of Roundhill Road and down into Hurworth Place: so, watch this space and look out for further Facebook posts requesting memories and information.



Hurworth Parish Council

Hurworth Grange Community Centre, 41 Hurworth Road, Hurworth,
Darlington, DL2 2BN

For Parish Clerk Peter Allan & Enquiries

Phone 01325 722171 E-mail enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk

Councillor's Surgeries: The Parish Councillor's Surgery is held the first Thursday of the month at 6.30pm in The Grange Library unless notified otherwise.

Council Website: The Council web site hosts information about the Council and its business and records of all its meetings.

Why not visit www.hurworthonline.com Where you can leave comments or issues you may wish to raise.

Follow us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hurworthparishcouncil>

Graham Wylie (Chairman)
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Janine Forster
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Lynn Wylie
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