

Happy Birthday Ma'am

The bells of St. Philip & St. James Church will ring out over the town at noon on Friday 21st April. Following an approach by the National Association of Local Councils, the Town Council has agreed to mark the 80th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen in this way, and thanks to the co-operation of the Parochial Church Council, this important anniversary will be suitably celebrated.

Once a Year Time

Tuesday 16th May provides the opportunity for all residents to attend the Annual Meeting of Electors. Town and Parish Councils are unique in the local government world in holding this statutory event at which the Council's report for the previous year is presented along with the Statement of Accounts, and at which residents are able to ask questions and express any concerns which they have regarding their local administration. The meeting starts at 6.30p.m. and is followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, at which a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the new civic year are elected (or re-elected) and representatives are appointed to serve on outside bodies, both statutory and community, and report back. This too, like all meetings of the Council is open to the public, who are given the opportunity in the Agenda to participate and submit representations on matters of their choice.

Take the Weight Off!

By the time this appears in print, there will be four new public seats in place in the town. One will be sited at the top of Ironworks Road by the Community Centre, one at the junction of Alpine Way and High Street, and one at the entrance to Pennine View to provide wonderful views to the west. It was intended to place the fourth seat in the High Street for use by weary shoppers, but the problems associated with car parking facilities and the need to avoid interfering with residents' privacy have forced a re-think. The decision has been taken to place the seat in a suitable spot in Dan's Castle Cemetery to provide somewhere for rest and quiet contemplation, and more fine views of the surrounding countryside. Approval is currently being sought from Wear Valley District Council which operates the cemetery. The seats are manufactured from low maintenance material, and it is hoped that plaques might be attached in due course to commemorate those who have played a special part in the community life of Tow Law. This is the start of a rolling programme of additional seating, and it will be interesting to hear suggestions for future locations. Please call John Abbot the Town Clerk at the Community Centre on 731444 if you have any ideas, or speak to your Town Councillor.

More Change – with a Difference!

The Town Council is one of thousands of Town and Parish Councils across the country which are expecting an increase in their powers under what is widely believed to be a further review of Local Government. The Government's inclination is likely to favour the abolition of one of the present tiers of administration, leaving only single "unitary" or all-purpose councils to carry out the major functions, while enabling local communities to have a greater say and influence in their own affairs. Watch this space.....

Let's get Together

The Town Council and the Community Partnership are to hold meeting to discuss opportunities for joint working. At this point in time, the Council is dependent predominantly on the finance which it receives from its Council Tax payers, while the Partnership relies on external funding and grants to be able to carry on its activities. It is hoped that some way forward can be identified for the furtherance of benefits to the community.

Will it happen at Last?

At long last a feasibility study is getting under way to determine the future of the town's recreation ground. The area has remained unused for some time, and the Community Partnership has been working hard to secure funding for the study which will hopefully mark the starting point for its revival. A number of uses have been identified, but only an acceptable and viable business plan will enable this to happen. At least the ball is now in play, so to speak.

Complaints Corner

There has recently two written complaints received by the Town Council, and in both instances have been asked to be included in the Tattler.

Is TOW LAW Going to the Dogs?

Everyone is complaining about it but who is doing anything about it? **Dog Dirt!**

Keeping the Customer Satisfied?

The non-collection of the rubbish on 28th of March and the fact that there was no notice from Wear Valley District Council.

The letters submitted unfortunately are to long to be included in their entirety, however they can be viewed via the website www.towlaw.org.uk. and clicking on the tattlers link on the left.

the tattler april 2006

First Time Online

Alan is organising a number of Drop-In sessions to anyone interested in either learning to use a computer, developing new skills such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, etc or those who wish to learn how to use the Internet e.g. how to e-mail, how to shop on line, etc and it's all for free. That's the sessions not the shopping – you'll have to pay for that yourselves!!

In addition, these sessions are a must for anyone who wishes to access any of the Learn Direct courses and work towards a qualification. This can be done totally online either at home or at the Community Centre. There are courses in Computing, Literacy and Numeracy, Digital Photography, Business and Management – you can even research your family history online. Again, there is no cost for doing any of this!

For further details give Alan a call on 01388 731444.

Times of sessions: every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1.00 – 3.00 p.m. Starting Date: Tuesday April 25th. If you cannot make these times, then please ring and we can make alternative arrangements, either on a morning or evening



Community Centre AGM adjourned until 25th April 2006

The centre AGM had to be adjourned until Tuesday 25th April at 7.00 because insufficient members attended to give us a quorum. The AGM will only take about 30 minutes and there is always a cheese and wine party afterwards. Do the users of the centre and the residents of Tow Law care so little about the centre that they can't even be bothered to turn up for one night. The Trustees are now down to 6. No-one has come forward as Treasurer and soon we could be so down on numbers that we will not be legally able to carry on the business of the centre. Are you happy to continue to moan on the sidelines or are you prepared to help us. Membership is open to all. Use it, help it or lose it!



Tow Law Millennium is working in partnership with Durham Dales Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the Rural Regeneration Unit to bring good quality, value for money fruit and vegetables to local people from local suppliers direct to your area.

This means that every week you will be able to buy your affordable fresh fruit, vegetables and salad here at the school. The produce will be fresh and very good value for money.

If you are interested in knowing more about food co-ops or would like to get your fresh fruit and veg here please contact Diane at the Community Centre by the 6th April.

FINDING OUT

The consultants have now been appointed to carry out the feasibility study into improving recreational facilities and are trying to find out what people do for recreation and what improvements they would like to see. Please could residents complete the questionnaire that has been delivered with the Tattler. If you would like to take part in the free prize draw for £25 please put your name and address on the form. Boxes to leave the survey in are in the Community Centre, Greens Newsagents and Tow Law Football Club. They can also be completed and returned online at www.towlaw.org.uk.

Thank you for helping.


Food Hygiene Course

Three
weeks
Three
Fridays

28th April
5th May
12th May

@ Tow Law
Community Centre
Tel. 01388 731444





Media Training Day How To Get Your Stories Told

At Tow Law Community Centre
Date: May 4, 2006 (10am to 3.30pm)

Open to individuals and local businesses. Please book
early by phoning Lynne on
(01388) 731444

places are limited and will be allocated on a first come,
first served basis

The day will focus on regional media and will cover:

Introductions Who are we? What do we want from the media? What do we want from the day? How the media works Regional vs. national media, Newspapers, Radio Audience Who are we trying to reach?	Press Releases What is a press release? What purpose does a press release serve? What do they look like? Who are they aimed at? What are the alternatives? Writing a press release Practical exercise, Techniques, Tips
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The day will include opportunities for participants to practice techniques – the afternoon more so than the morning. Please bring a recent local newspaper – the one you would normally buy.

Homework club announcement 2007 Year of the Community

The Homework club will be begin again on Monday 24th April with **NEW** times of **4:30 to 6:00**. Also, note that the there will be an **minimum age of 11**, as well as a requirement of a **signed consent** form prior to attendance, these will be available from the community centre. Please note that these sessions are for **HOMEWORK or RESEARCH ONLY**, and not an extension of the teen club.

Teen Club to Restart

The Teen Club is scheduled to restart on Monday May 8th, with **NEW** times of **7 - 9pm**. Please check at the centre closer to the date. We are looking for volunteers to help, if you are interested please contact Ashley at the centre.

Provided we get enough people to serve on a committee the Community Partnership will be organising a number of community events to coincide with the 20 anniversary of the community centre next year. We are hoping to organise a number of community events our self but are also looking to community groups to organise events themselves for their own funds with the Partnership doing the central publicity. We have done this in the past with the 1994 150 years anniversary and the Millennium events in 2000.

We will be trying to raise funding to kick-start events if money is needed to organise things such as marquees or preliminary expenditure. We will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 19th April at 7.00 in the centre for anyone interested.

Tow Law Calendar competition


The Community Centre is inviting all you budding artist and photographers to submit photos, drawings, or any art work relating to Tow Law and the surrounding area for possible inclusion in a calendar for next year, 2007. We are looking for images or art work of Tow Law throughout the year, so all weathers are hoped to be included. Please submit copies of images to info@towlaw.org.uk, or drop them off at the community centre. If you only have originals only please arrange with Alan or Lynne at the community centre prior to submission so that you can keep your originals.

Digital imaging

Topics to be covered


- Selecting the appropriate software
- Opening an image
- Edit an image using a variety of tools available
- Adjust the image settings, adjust the brightness level
- Crop the picture, or resize the canvas
- Adjust the brightness level
- Use Filters
- Merge different images
- Colour correct images
- Import pictures from scanned images
- Understand media limitations
- Save the changes made
- Save the image to a new file type/new file name
- Printing the image
- Use layers
- Save a layered image
- Export a layered image to a different file type
- Close the application
- Shutdown the computer
- Understand copyright issues






Thursday evening 6:30 - 8:30, Starting Apr 27th for 5 weeks @ £2 per session

Tow Law Community Centre 01388 731444



TAEKWONDO

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN SELF DEFENCE SKILLS,
IMPROVE YOUR FITNESS AND HAVE FUN?

WHY NOT TRY THE MARTIAL ART OF TAEKWONDO?




EVERY TUESDAY 6.00 PM – 7.15 PM

STARTING APRIL 11 TH
IN TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE

CHILDREN £2.00
ADULTS £2.50
FIRST LESSON IS FREE

4 TH DAN MASTER BLACK BELT INSTRUCTOR

ALL AGES WELCOME
BEGINNERS TO EXPERIENCED

REGULAR GRADINGS
TRAINING SEMINARS
AFFILIATED TO WORLD TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION

COME AND HAVE A GO OR JUST COME AND WATCH

Boxing Club

Tow Law Community Centre

Every Friday From 6.00 Pm - 7.30 Pm

Please Wear Loose Clothing & Trainers

A £1.50 Entry Fee Will Be Charged
Per Weekly Session

Contact Ashley Kay For Further Details
Tow Law Community Centre 01388731444

Desktop Publishing

Desktop publishing (DTP) refers to the use of a computer system to create a publication that is ready for printing. This includes entering text, creating and placing graphics and combining them into a report, document or magazine.

Typical pieces of hardware include:

- computer - often with a large screen
- printer - usually high quality output
- scanner - for scanning photographs and other images


Typical applications of DTP:




- creating your own letterhead
- single sheet leaflets/posters
- multi page publication of a magazine

The Publishing Process

The publishing process involves the bringing together of text and graphics on a page using a computer. The sources of graphics are:

- photographs
- artwork
- clip art
- elements such as lines, boxes, created within the publication



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