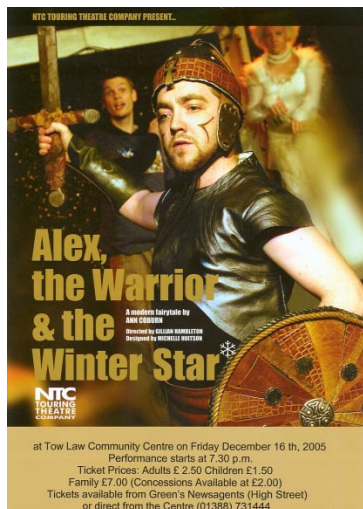




Tow Law Tattler

December 2005



The Community Centre is hosting a performance of Alex, the Warrior & the Winter Star on December 16th at 7:30p.m. In addition the community centre also is a venue for a number of clubs, groups, and as well as IT sessions. For the latest information contact the community centre on 01388 731444 or try the community web site at www.towlaw.org.uk

Redevelopment of the Cattle Mart site.

The redevelopment of the site has begun with the clearing of the holding pens and the demolition of the Cattle Mart Pub. The development is to be called Valley Rise, for more information contact McInerney Homes on 01740 621898



Hundreds courses available.

Durham Logistics College with the Tow Law Community Centre are offering hundreds of Learndirect courses, where you can work independently or with the support of a tutor.

Shopping vouchers available if you complete a Maths or English course!

For more information ring Margaret to enrol on 0191 373 8441

Treasurer Wanted. The Community Association treasurer, Don Royle is retiring in January, can you help. Book keeping skills essential but training can be provided if they need brushing up. It is an important job but we do have staff support. Volunteers are always needed for the committee or to help out with activities. If you can help please contact Jenny on 01388 730525 or the centre on 731444.

Family Learning with Millennium Primary school is continuing on Wednesdays 1-3 at Tow Law Community Centre.

We very much hope to be starting a Family learning course for pre-schoolers in January. This course 'Playing with Language', will be very practical, using fun and play to promote language development. For more information contact Diane at the Community Centre on 01388 731444

Tow Law community Partnership have run several **short courses** over the year and hope to offer more in the new year.

Don't forget to let us know what courses, skills, or personal development you are interested in. We only put on courses that have been requested, so it's a chance for you and your friends to do something you want. Give us a ring at the Community Centre and leave your details. Tel 01388 731444

Fun Club Teen Club

Fun Club on Wednesday evenings will finish on **December 7th** and re-start on Wednesday **18th January 2006**. Volunteers wanted

JACK DRUM ARTS are holding a workshop on Jan 18 with the Fun Club. There will be performance Sun 22nd for parents—more details later....

Teen Club on Monday evenings will finish on **December 12th** and re-start **Monday 16th January 2006**

Home Housing Surgery

every Wednesday 2 to 3pm.

Baby Massage

group run by Ann Golightly started on Wednesday Nov 30 and will continue on Wednesdays until the 21st of Dec

We like to promote local people and local skills

If you have a skill or subject you could pass on to others, then contact Diane Pearson at the Community Centre, on **01388 731444**

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—Tow Law Community Centre Staff

Auction Mart Site – “Lots” of Houses

Work is obviously well advanced on site preparation work in connection with this new mixed development, which will provide 63 dwellings. This can only be beneficial to the economy of the town, by helping to secure the future of shops, post office and other facilities, as well as reversing the trend of falling rolls at the two primary schools. The auction ring will have to be retained, being a Grade 2 listed building, but will be sensitively landscaped to fit in with the development and consultation is ongoing with conservation officers and other agencies to seek possible future uses.

Budget 2006/2007

The Town Council has agreed a slightly increased budget of £16,500 for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2006. The purpose of the increase is to allow it to embark on a rolling programme of bulb and tree planting in appropriate locations in and on the approaches to the town, as well as to provide additional public seating. It has been suggested that this seating can be used to commemorate present and former residents who have played an important part in the history and development of Tow Law over the years, and this is being considered.

“Get Fell In”

Craig Best, the Wildlife and Community Officer, reports a very healthy response to his appeal for voluntary workers to help in the task of revitalising the Hedleyhope Fell. Writing in the latest Hedleyhope Herald newsletter, he reports that there are now 10 helpers signed up to carry out a range of work across the Fell. So far, several tonnes of dumped rubbish have been removed, two bridges have been repaired, and several reserve interpretive signs have been installed. The next few months will involve focusing on tree management and improving access to the area. The task force operates on Wednesdays and Fridays most weeks throughout the year, and anyone interested in lending a hand is asked to contact Craig on (01388) 488728.

The Way Forward?

The Town Council has now studied the report on the Quality of Life survey which was carried out recently by Newcastle University, and is actively considering how best to approach the task of carrying out some of the findings which emerged from the study. An opportunity exists to identify appropriate environmental and economic regeneration in the town, with guidance and assistance which could be available from a variety of sources. It is felt that an element of self-help will be necessary in moving things forward and it is hoped that the New Year will see the implementation of a consultation process to identify the wishes of those who responded to the survey.

Play Time

We still await the setting up of the feasibility study to look into the future of the recreation ground. Funding is available for the study, which will look into a variety of suggestions for the revamping of the facilities to make the area more attractive to potential users. The matter is currently in the hands of Wear Valley District Council's Community Services Department.

Floral Dance

The condition and value of the floral tubs in the High Street are a constant talking point and a source of numerous complaints for a variety of reasons. The County Council which provided the tubs in the first place has noted the concerns, but will only agree to remove them and re-instate the footpaths at the Town Council's expense. Accordingly, it has been decided to carry out a survey in the High Street to establish how best to deal with the matter, perhaps by lowering the tubs and making them less intrusive, and carrying out a replant to provide year round colour in place of the shrubs which have hitherto been used, and which attract wind blown litter and other rubbish. The results of this consultation will be eagerly awaited.

Waste Not Want Not

The Town Council has recently been invited to comment on a planning application for a change of use from an agricultural building at Thornley Pit House Farm to a “waste transfer station” If approved, the facility will be available to residents to dispose of inert waste materials such as paper, plastic, glass etc., ready for transport to recycling facilities elsewhere in the county. No toxic, hazardous or organic material will be stored. A deputation of residents attended the last meeting of the Town Council, putting forward a number of objections on environmental, health and safety and other issues. As a result of this, the Town Council submitted a formal objection to Durham County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority, and the outcome is awaited.

“The Way to the Forum”

In an effort to facilitate greater consultation and accessibility between the two tiers of local government, Wear Valley District Council has established a Forum which will meet quarterly from January 2006 at which Town Councils, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district will be encouraged to put their views on matters of joint interest and concern.

“All the Best”

The members and staff of Tow Law Town Council extend their Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all residents.

And Also.....

As a reminder, the Town Clerk attends the Community Centre on two days each week, usually Tuesdays and Thursdays, and is available to meet with residents to discuss their problems and concerns. If a problem can not be immediately resolved, then advice will be given on how to approach the relevant body to seek advice and assistance. It is best to telephone ahead so as to avoid a wasted visit – (01388) 731444

