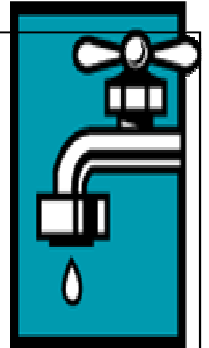


TOW LAW TATTLE

JULY/AUGUST 2005

THERE WAS I DIGGING THIS HOLE !!!!!!!

Three meetings have so far been held with representations of Northumbrian Water, Durham County Highways, and McAlpines to try and find ways of minimising the Problems and the traffic chaos which have been caused by the renewal of water mains in the town. The good news is that from the contractors' point of view, work is progressing well, and it is hoped that an earlier finish than expected might be achieved, possibly around October.



Some positive results have been achieved by the meetings, in that traffic lights have been relocated from time to time to take account of the ongoing work, and indeed the lights have been removed completely from the A68 junctions with Smith Street and Ironworks Road.

At the latest meeting on Thursday 30th June, the highways representatives indicated that at peak times, around 30 vehicles can pass through the two phases of traffic lights each time, and while vehicles emerging from the Smith Street junction were to an extent dependent on the courtesy of other road users, the arrangements were operating satisfactorily.

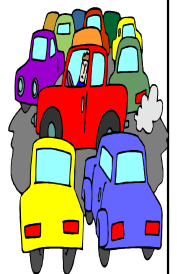
It has been agreed that there is an urgent need for the re-instatement of the block paving at the bus stop in High Street, opposite the Co-Op, and this is now in hand. Similarly, reports of an oil spillage in the same area will receive urgent attention. The contractors have further agreed to arrange for the sweeping of the road at the rear of Bridge Street, following the completion of re-instatement work, and also in the Dan's Castle area, where accumulations of dirt are beginning to invade the drainage system.



The expectation is that work in the High Street will only be ongoing for two or three more weeks, while further work in the Castle Bank/Church Lane area will necessitate the retention of the traffic lights for perhaps three or four weeks. Work at the northern end of the town will necessitate the consent for a number of land owners, and this is currently being obtained.

It is emphasised that the current re-instatements using black tarmac are only temporary, and that all work on areas which were previously coloured red will be completed in that colour.

The Town Council has been actively involved in the monitoring of this project, and has welcomed the opportunity to meet on a fortnightly basis, with all parties



"THANK YOU"

At the Town Council meeting on 28th June, new Chairman Councillor Terry Batson, made a presentation to outgoing Chairman Jenny Flynn. The ceremony brought to a close Jenny's 14 year term in the Chair and members paid fulsome tribute to the many years commitment which she had given, both to the Council and the wider community.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Town Council have been invited to a meeting with the Deputy Chief Executive (Environment & Change Management) Durham County Council, to discuss possible future regeneration projects in and around the town, following the many meetings which were held during the Foot and Mouth outbreak. The opportunity will be taken to push claims for some further investment into the community, which had more than its fair share of traumas at the time.

NEW WORKERS AT THE CENTRE

With the help of a grant from the Big Lottery we have now recruited three new part time workers at the Community Centre.

Lynne Rowland is the new administrative worker . Lynne is from Tow Law and will be getting us properly organised.

Jason Miller from Tow Law will be our I.T. worker. He will be responsible for developing I.T. training at the centre and the use of our I.T. suite.

Ashley Kay is from Bishop Auckland and has been appointed our Link Worker. He will be working as part of the new team with responsibility for older young people in the 12 – 20 age range and will take responsibility for working with other agencies on inclusion schemes. All will be taking up their post during the summer months so we hope to have more news from them in the next Tattler.

Then and Now a series of workshops with Tow Law History group and photographer Louise Taylor is being organised for later in the summer. Please telephone Jenny Flynn on 01388 730525 for more details if you are interested

RECREATION GROUND

Following a further meeting with the Acting Director of Community Services at Wear Valley District Council, it is understood that the recently resurfaced sports area, will be available for use in the near future. At the request of the Community Project Development Officer, Tow Law Community Partnership is to make a formal request to Wear Valley for a lease of this area, so as to show security of tenure, and to allow progress to be made with a feasibility study, for which funding has already been agreed in principle.

Discussions continue.



DRY STONE WALLING

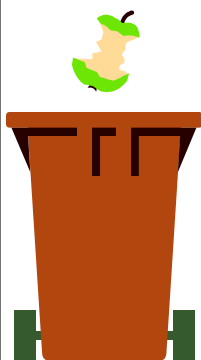
COURSE

The Northumberland Association of Dry Stone Waller's have offered to run a weekend dry stone walling course at the Beehive Coke Oven site. Are you interested? If there is enough interest we hope to run a course in September or October. The course will be free. Telephone John Abbot the Town Clerk on 01388 731444 on Tuesdays or Thursdays to express your interest and give us your details or leave contact



Household Waste – How? – Where?

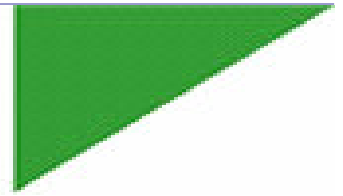
Residents are advised that in order to relieve any pressure on their normal wheely bins, they may place items of paper, cardboard, tins, glass or textiles in their recycling bins. It is an alarming statistic that in County Durham only 18% of rubbish is recycled as opposed to 80% in some Scandinavian countries. The problem is exacerbated by the closure of some civic amenity sites, the remaining ones being too remote to be popular, although it is understood that a possible site near Wolsingham is being looked at.



YOUTH SHELTER

Home Housing and the Police have offered us some funds to provide a youth shelter for our local youngsters. One of the Link Workers first jobs will be to work with the local youngsters to see if they want the shelter and if so where. One suggestion is the Millennium Green.

AGAIN WATCH THIS SPACE.



BE A VOLUNTEER

www.yearofthevolunteer.org

This year is the year of the volunteer. Surveys of Employers have shown that many employers look for experience in working as a volunteer when recruiting new employees. Volunteering experience is seen as giving added value.

We always need volunteers current vacancies in Tow Law are: -

TREASURER TO THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.

The Community Partnership brings together all community groups in Tow Law including the Community Association, The Town Council, the Football Club, the Two Schools, the health visitor, the Churches together with Wear Valley District Council, Durham County Council, Bishop Auckland College, Groundwork West Durham, 2D, the Police, Home Housing and others to try and come up with a co-ordinated approach to regeneration for Tow Law. We always need volunteers and welcome new members to come along to the meetings but we desperately need a treasurer. Our turnover is about £25,000 per year, all of it grant funds, which need to be properly accounted for. Can you help our meetings take place monthly except August and December the next meeting is July 13th at 3.00 in the Community Centre.

All new members are welcome but if you are interested in becoming treasurer please contact

Jenny Flynn on 01388 730525 or Diane Pearson on 01388 731444.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS TOW LAW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

The Community Association has just recruited three new members of staff, An Admin worker, an I.T. Worker and a Link worker working with local young people. The volunteer management committee are responsible for managing the building and overseeing the staff. We do need help from someone with experience in management and particularly in human resources, we also need someone with experience of health and safety

VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

We still need volunteers to work with the Fun Club and with the Link Worker to work with older children. We are establishing a training pathway with Education in the Community so that those who are interested can go into formal training for youth work if they wish. Wednesday evening is Fun Club night if you want to call in or contact any worker at the centre if you are interested. The number is 01388 731444. Please note all volunteers working with children and young people will need to go through an enhanced police check.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS TOW LAW FOOTBALL CLUB

Tow Law Football Club always needs new committee members to help out around the ground, with fundraising and generally helping to run a football team. Anyone interested speak to Steve Moralee or ring the clubhouse to find out the next meeting.

The number is 01388 731443 evenings only.

Does your organisation need volunteers if so contact Emma at the Tattler

on towlawtattler@hotmail.co.uk



BE A "SPECIAL" VOLUNTEER

As it is the Year of the Volunteer, Durham Constabulary are looking to increase in the numbers of Special Constables in the County Durham and Darlington area. Carol Oliver, Special Constable Recruitment

Officer South Durham said

"The numbers of Special Constables in the area has increased significantly over the last few months, in both new recruits and applications, but we still need more. Specials play an important role in tackling crime, and providing a visible reassuring presence in communities. They are a valuable asset to the extended police family, bringing a wealth of experience and skills to the role, and now Durham Constabulary are able to offer an annual bounty payment of £1500 for a minimum of 6 hours per week"

Special Constables are volunteers from all walks of life who want to do something positive for their local communities. Specials are fully trained, have the same powers as a regular police officer and wear the same uniform. If you could be someone "Special" and would like to know more, contact Carol Oliver on 01325 742060 (South Durham) or Melanie Wright on 0191 3752336 (North Durham).



BATH TIME

Tickets and parental consent forms are now been prepared for the weekly trips to Crook swimming baths during the school holiday period. On Wednesdays 20th and 27th July and 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th August, the coach will leave Dan's Castle at 1 p.m. and return from the baths at 3 p.m. There will be an intermediate stop in High Street. Tickets will be available shortly, and can be obtained from Green's newsagents in High Street and from the Community Centre.



Summer Playscheme at the Community Centre and around Tow Law

There are lots of events planned for the summer starting with a Fun Day on July 19th at 11.00 there will be a Punch and Judy, balloon modelling, go karts bouncy castle slide, badge making and lots more come along and join in the fun

There is two free trips to Beamish Museum, a trip to Locomotion bus fare £2 adults and £1 children, 2 trips to Hamsterley Forest BMX track bus fare £2. A daily internet café open to all from 1-3. Courses from Bishop Auckland College and lots more.

See the playscheme leaflet for more details or contact the centre on 731444

**YOU HAVE ANY STORIES, NEWS OR EVENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE TATTLER
PLEASE LET US KNOW.**

YOU CAN EMAIL TOWLAWTATTLER@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

OR RING

01388-731444

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 5TH SEPTEMBER 2005

SUMMER I.T.

Throughout the summer there will be a daily Internet café Monday—Friday at 1-3 Saturdays 10-12 come along and learn to use the net or just drop in and use the email £1 per session

Tuesday evenings 6.30 –8.30 Basic I.T. drop in £2 per session having problems with I.T. word processing, spreadsheets, the internet or email drop in.

Wednesday 6.30-8.30 20/7,27/7,3/8,10/8. We are looking for contributions to WWW.TOWLAW.ORG.UK

Ideas stories, pictures are wanted and will be published on the site you will also learn some web design skills free