

## TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

**Town Clerk**  
Following the Council's Annual Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May, the Town Clerk, Geoff Smith became ill and had to be admitted to hospital. The length of the indisposition is of course not yet known, and in order to secure the smooth continuation of the Council's business, it has been decided to second the recently retired Clerk, John Abbot on a temporary basis. The present arrangement is that Mr. Abbot will attend the office each Tuesday from mid morning to mid afternoon, so if any resident wishes to conduct business in the Clerk's absence, they will be welcome to come along and do so. Alternatively, they may telephone the Community Centre on 731444.

**Police Appreciation**  
The Town Council was very gratified to receive the upbeat report by the police at the Annual Meeting reflecting a reduction in the incidence of anti-social behaviour in the Town. A hearty vote of thanks was given to P.C. Jeff Blair and his beat time, to Inspector. George Ledger, and to Eugene and Louis the Community Beat Officers. It was also agreed that this appreciation be passed to the Northern Echo. The acknowledgement was duly published in the Echo on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

**All Change in the Chair**  
At the Annual Meeting, Councillor Jeff Gale was appointed as Chairman of the Council for the 2007/2008 civic year, succeeding Terry Batson, and has now taken up his office. Councillor Gale can be contacted on 731033. Councillor Ron Grogan continues as Vice Chairman, and can be reached on 731969.

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**New Councillor**  
Lynne Rowland, who works as Administrator and Finance Officer in the Community Centre has been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Elevena Gwynnette, and is looking forward to serving the community in her new role. Lynne can be contacted at the Centre on 731444

**Town Councillors 2007/2008**  
The following members were elected to serve the Town Law Community for the forthcoming year :

Councillor Geoff Gale (Chairman)	731033
Councillor Ron Grogan	731969
Councillor Adrian Blacker	07789231931
Councillor Terry Batson	730257
Councillor Jim Day	730193
Councillor Peter Graham	730602
Councillor Aileen Green	731025
Councillor Lynne Rowland	731444
Councillor Greg Stevens	07787885221
Councillor Judith Stevens	731029

**If you are currently claiming Incapacity Benefit or Income Support and living in Tow Law, we could help with**

- Financial help during transition to work
- Work clothes and equipment
- Travel expenses
- Training advice
- Self Employment advice
- Signpost to Information Advice and Guidance
- Referral to Partner Organisations where necessary

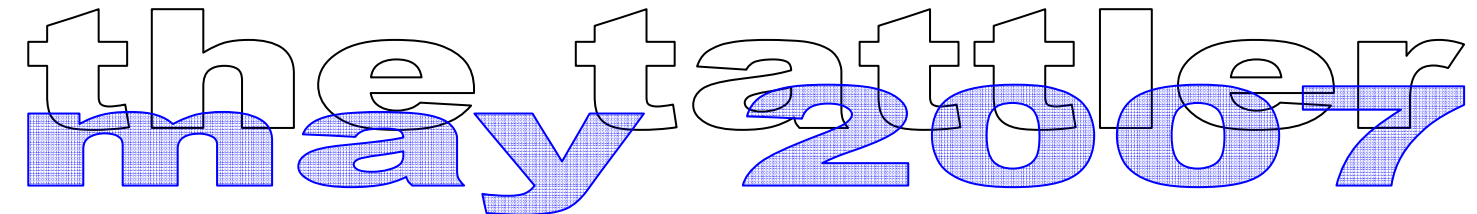
**Wear Valley Employment Team** has advisers available by appointment at

47-48 Market Place  
Bishop Auckland  
DL14 7NP  
Tel : 01388 458181

**we also provide an outreach service from our mobile unit sited at various locations throughout Wear Valley District including Tow Law.**

Please call **01388 458181** for further information or to make an appointment.

Project funded by Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and supported by Wear Valley District Council



**Cubs and Scouts**  
Many people have asked me if we could have Cubs and Scouts in Tow Law. In order to do this we would need volunteers from our own community who would be willing to give up some of their time and undertake training to get this up and running.  
Establishing good role models from our own community is important in helping to maintain structured activities and a secure beginning for our children and young people growing up in Tow Law.  
If you are at all interested please contact me Jenny Mountain at Tow Law Community Centre on 731444. We shall be flagging 'Cubs and Scouts' up as part of the 2D coffee morning, for 'Volunteers Week' on Friday the 1st. June 2007 at 10.00 am -1.00 pm.

**Tow Law Local Radio Team**  
Prince Bishop Community Broadcasting is hoping to have a community radio in this area in the autumn.  
They are looking to recruit local reporters and people who have news or stories to share to form our Tow Law Local Radio Team. This team will work to produce a 15min Tow Law slot on Bishop fm.  
You may be part of a community group or an interested individual. You may be a young person on a Media Course or an older person with lots of life experience. You are all welcome and we would love to hear from you.

**FREE TRAINING**  
For more information contact Michael Fryer on 07917 694588 or 01388 628 244 or e-mail: [michaelfryer@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelfryer@hotmail.com) or Diane, Tow Law Community Partnership on 01388 731444

**New Parent Support Advisor**  
Flis Chesters has been appointed Parent Support Advisor in the Tow Law schools. This pilot, by the DfES, is aimed at helping predominantly white ex-mining or farming communities. The issues of rural deprivation and lack of access to essential services that prevent our youngsters from achieving the very best, although all the schools work well and work together to raise aspirations and achievement.  
What does it mean? Flis is available for to work in the Millennium & Blessed John Duckett throughout the week to help children & parents through the move from nursery to school or from junior to senior school, and can provide Information & advice, 1:1 support, a "voice" for children, a listening ear for dads, mams & careers consultation with staff & other professionals as well as life/parenting skills. Contact Flis directly on 07770872483 or pop into school, I work during school holidays too!!



**'Visual Voices'**  
**digital photography competition**

Tow Law residents are invited to submit up to 4 digital photographs (taken on a digital camera, web cam or mobile phone camera) illustrating 'citizenship. Topics for images to consider can include Arts/Culture, Race, Children/Families, Disability, Environment, Faith, Health, Sport/ Recreation, Worklessness, or other suitable themes.

The competition is open to anyone that is associated with voluntary organisations that are based in the North East, so if you even pop into the Community Centre, that means you!

At the end of the project there will be a regional event in to recognise the best submissions, and to finally establish an overall regional winner. The winners will each receive their winning print framed and a digital camera and software as prizes for their host VCS organisation.

All images must be submitted by email to [visualvoices@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:visualvoices@yahoo.co.uk), accompanied by the competition entry form (download at [www.vonne.co.uk/issues/ict/trainingworkshops.htm](http://www.vonne.co.uk/issues/ict/trainingworkshops.htm))

**Closing date for submissions – 18<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Celebration event and prize giving – 20<sup>th</sup> June**

For further details on this competition, please contact Matt Legg, Regional ICT Coordinator/ Champion on [matt@vonne.co.uk](mailto:matt@vonne.co.uk) or telephone 0191 233 2000.



**Activity Day at the Tow Law community centre on Friday the 1st June between 10am till 1pm**



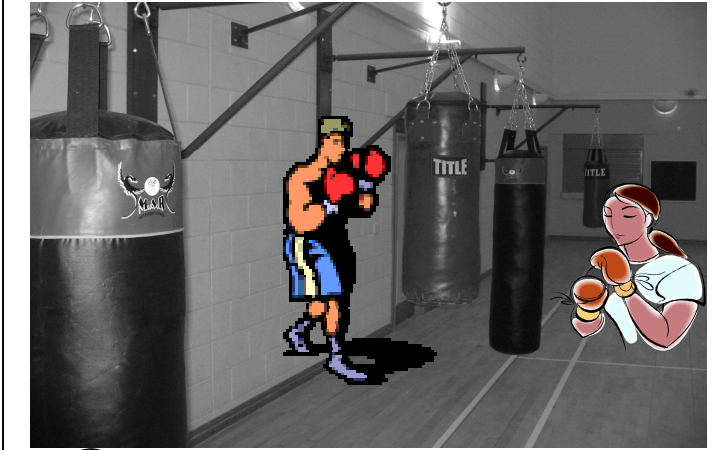
**2D** Rachael from 2d will be in the centre on Friday also to inform people of the many great volunteering opportunities on offer and the fun that goes with it.



Here is a group of volunteers who ran the Fun Club for 2 years receiving a plaque, certificate and a bouquet of flowers for their commitment and hard work from the Management committee.



**Boxing Club**



**Monday 4th June from 7 - 8.30pm @ Tow Law Community Centre**

**Activities During Summer Half Term**

**Tuesday 28.05.07**  
1.30pm - 3.00pm - Drama Art and Photography

**Wednesday 29.05.07**  
1.30pm - 3.30pm - Drama Art and Photography

**Friday 30.05.07**  
10am -1pm - Drop in Coffee Morning  
10.00am-12.00pm - Drumming ages 8 -13

**Monday 04.06.07**  
Film Premier Showing Tow law Video Project  
First showing 2-15pm -3-15pm – For Blessed John Duckett and The Millennium Schools  
5.30 and 6.30 for Wider Community

**Community Project Nights June /July**  
**Monday**  
4.30pm Homework Club

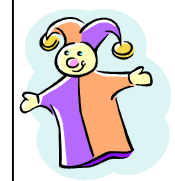
6.30pm Percussion drumming ages 8-13  
7.00 pm Boxing ages 13 -19

**Tuesdays**  
6.30 pm Rock with Joseph the Sage Gateshead

**Wednesdays**  
6.00 -7.30 Graffiti Art and IT - Making a Mural  
7.30 DJ Night with Tom from the Sage Gateshead ages 13-19  
7.30 Young Mans Health with Karl Bell, PCT– ages 16- 19

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007 Community Sports Day At the Football Club 1.30-3pm**  
Children from both primary schools will compete in mixed school, mixed ability teams to win Tow Law Sports Day Trophy

**FREE COURSE Preparation for Reception**



3 weeks, Friday 10-12,

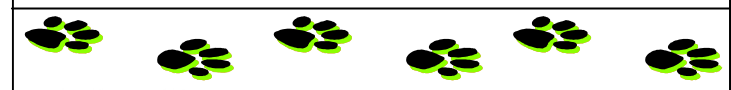
**At the Community Centre**  
This is a hands on course where learners can make simple learning aids for their children.

No need to book, just pop along!!

**St Phillip & James Church Hall OPEN DAY JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 10AM—4PM**

The HISTORY SOCIETY will be displaying a selection of boards and the books of photographs. Also the church hall art group will have art work on display

Entrance will be £1 which will include raffle tickets and refreshments.



**RSPCA** Tow Law Dog Show with the RSPCA 1<sup>st</sup> July, as part of the Festival on the Green

Rosettes and prizes in the following categories:

- Dog/bitch under 1 year
- Dog/bitch 1-7 years
- Dog/bitch over 7 years (veterans class)
- Best child handler
- Dog which looks most like its owner



£1 entry fee per class payable on the day.  
Contact Diane Pearson on 01388 731444 for more details



**Learning at Tow Law Community Centre**

There are a number of local residents accessing our computing facilities at the Centre. Why? Some, like Madge Coughtrey and Nancy Russell have been coming to the Centre for a number of years, firstly with Jason, then with Anne Appleby and now are regular attendees on a Monday afternoon at the Drop-In session. They still enjoy trying to fathom out the intricacies of using the computer but also enjoy the relaxed, friendly atmosphere that there is at the Drop-Ins. Others such as Helen Beveridge, Janice Gould, Andrea Richardson, Anne Marie Charlton and Ann Marie Sweeney are taking long-distance learning courses with Learn Direct. (Long-distance learning courses are online courses, many of them available for free including numeracy and literacy, courses in data basing, accounting, word processing, etc). Help is available to all the learners both in the room and also by online tutor, and all the qualifications are recognised City & Guilds or CLAIT qualifications.

Others such as John Fraser are starting off on that long (and sometimes frustrating) journey trying to achieve a level of confidence to enable them to show off to the grandchildren or at least not to feel too embarrassed when they come to visit. Beginners can quickly gain confidence in doing simple tasks such as letter writing or setting up posters, and really then the world is their oyster. With the rapid advances in digital photography and the easier use of software, it's not too long before anyone can be producing their own Christmas Cards, Business Cards, Calendars or whatever. So if you have thought in the past that you can't, why not start thinking that you can and come and join the rest of the gang who attend the sessions. Sessions at the moment are Mondays and Wednesday s, 10.00 a.m – 12.00 p.m and 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m., Tuesday afternoons, 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. (Crèche provided for those of you with young children). All drop-ins are free of charge so what's stopping you?



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