

Challenging times for young people!

The Bad News!

Funding for staff and activities held at the Community Centre is coming to an end!

The Good News!

We have a planned range of Young people's activities until Christmas

Positive Steps

We are trying hard to keep the D.J/ Dance and Tuesday Music going.

We have funding applications in for:

- a combined D.J, Dance and Film Making Project from Awards for All.
- a Carved Seat Project for the Millennium Green from Bank's Landfill Tax Fund.
- wildlife garden on the Millennium Green from 'V involved' currently working with some of our young people which is also part of their DofE.
- sustaining youth work sessions from Northern Rock.
- Wear Valleys Neighbourhood Arrangements for sustained Play Scheme activities.

Elena Plumb is doing a sponsored Great North Run for Tow Law Community Centre to help sustain young people activities.

However these are competitive times! More and more funders are only interested in applications for projects and activities made by **young people** themselves.

We will be **asking you** what things you would like to do and we will help **you to make funding applications** and **support you in fund raising ideas** like: **sponsored walks etc.**

Planning for this will be on Tuesday nights.

In the mean while we hope **you** will want to build on the activities you have been doing! We could **get some decks so that you can hold your own D.J. nights?**

Do it as part of **your Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme?**

CHRISTMAS COMPETITIONS

The Town Council is organising a Christmas window competition (best dressed), the winner will receive £50. Also there is a Christmas house competition (best decorated), the winner will receive £50, 2nd place £30 and 3rd place £20. The competition will be judged in early December by local boxer Gary McCorry. Entry forms available from the Town Clerk and also from Green Newsagents

Here's what's on this term so far!

Monday Nights

Boy's Group	4.45 - 5.45
Singing - Jordan Anderson	6.00 - 7.00
Football - Jade Armstrong	6.00 - 7.00
	7.00 - 8.00
Activity /I.T. Night	7.00 - 9.00

Tuesday Nights

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Project Night	6.30 - 8.30
---------------	-------------

Wednesday Nights

Rainbows	5.00 - 6.00
Brownies	6.00 - 7.15
Under 11's I.T.	6.00 - 7.30
Drop In/Dance /I.T. Night.	7.30 - 9.00

Saturday Morning

Internet Café (£1per hour)	10 -12 Noon
Art Club	10 -12 Noon

Most of the activities have an entry fee of £1 or more. **Please contact the community centre on 01388 731444 for more details**

QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL STATUS

The Town Council have recently been awarded Quality Town Council Status. This is a national award and the Council is the 2nd Local Council to be awarded this status in the Wear Valley District and the 12th Local Council in the County of Durham.

The award was recently presented to the Council by Councillor William Waters, Chairman of the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

DATES OF THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 21st October 2008

Tuesday 18th November 2008

Tuesday 15th January 2009

All meetings start at 6.30pm in the Community Centre

All residents are welcome to come along and see how your Town Council works.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Town Councillors hold monthly meetings for residents (young and old) to discuss any problems or ideas they may have that the Town Council may be of assistance. Details of times and dates are on the Council's notice boards, also obtainable from the Clerk and will be published in the next edition of The Tattler.

NEW OFFICE TIMES FOR THE CLERK

The Clerk (Geoff Smith) works in the Community Centre on the following days and times:-

Monday & Tuesday 1.00 to 4.30pm

Wednesday 2.00 to 4.30pm

Thursday 1.00 to 4.30pm

Friday 1.00 to 4.00pm

Contact telephone number 01388 731444

the tattler September 2008

Tow Law Community Centre contact number **01388 731444**

UK Online User Journey

A new type of session is available from the beginning of September for absolute beginners in Computing. The idea of these sessions will be enable people to become confident in the use of a computer, not only in the basic use of it but also exploring the Internet with skills such as e-mails, and online services such as shopping, using public services, job hunting and banking plus digital photography will all be included. This is not a course as such but a steady progression through your interests; you will only access what you want to learn.

Drop-In sessions are available at Tow Law Community Centre open to any adults and it's all for free.

The times of sessions are:

Every Monday and Wednesday, 10.00 - 12.00 p.m, and 1.00 – 3.00 p.m;

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 Literacy and Numeracy (you can update your qualifications to Level 2 for free!), Computing, Digital Photography, Business and Management. Again, there is no cost for doing any of this!

In addition, those of you who wish to take qualifications in computing, numeracy and literacy, languages or whatever, can now do so **entirely** at the Community Centre. We will be able to register you with a course or courses from Learn Direct **at the Centre**, you will be able to receive tuition **at the Centre** and you can even take any tests that will give you a qualification **at the Centre**. The training, registration and courses in numeracy and literacy are all free. Some of the courses may carry a small charge but in some cases, there may be financial help available.

In addition, once you have taken out a registration, all of your learning can be conducted at the Centre or even at home, particularly if you have broadband access.

If you cannot make these times, then please ring and we can make alternative arrangements, either on a morning or evening. For further details call on 01388 731444.

Funding is also available for crèches, so if you need childcare, then let us know in advance.

So don't delay, if you are not sure of what you want to do, phone (01388) 731444 or pop into the Centre for a coffee (or tea) and a chat

Stop Press: to celebrate the launch of the User Journey Project, the Centre will be open its doors for a Get Online Day on Monday October 27 th; more details will be available in the next Tattler, so watch out for further details

TOW LAW PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Following on from the successful launch of the business directory in July and helping to organise the extension to the recreation ground so that the gym can be enlarged, it is disappointing for the Partnership to be discussing the continued existence of the organisation at it's AGM on Thursday 18th September.

We had hoped to secure funding from an infrastructure bid from the new Working Neighbourhoods fund but the new Unitary Council has been unable to put the funding framework in place for October as originally thought and our funding now runs out for our workers at the end of September. The implications were discussed at the AGM but one of the conclusions that we may have to reach is winding up the Partnership. We have had a very successful 10 years helping community groups and community regeneration in Tow Law and it is shame it may all have to end. The Partnership wishes to thank Diane Pearson and Pat Gibb for their continued service over the uncertain times and wish them well for the future.

Area Partnership Workshops – Neighbourhood Arrangements Team

The Neighbourhood Arrangements Team held a number of Local Area Partnership workshops across Wear Valley over June and July this year. One of these was held at the Community Centre in Tow Law and was attended by around 20 people.

The team has been working across the district with a view to establishing 3 Area Partnerships. Tow Law is in the partnership area which covers Crook, Willington, Howden Le Wear, Sunnyside and Stanley. The purpose of the workshops held over the summer was to find out how local communities wanted their Local Area Partnership to work, what they would want their partnership to look like and who should be involved.

As the concept of Area Partnerships is relatively new in the District, the team felt it was vital that everyone should be given the opportunity to have their say on how the Area Partnerships should be developed.

Though the 3 areas chosen to have an Area Partnership (Bishop Auckland, Crook/Willington/Tow Law & Weardale) are different in many ways, there were common themes that came through from all 9 workshops.

The wish is for everyone in these areas to have the opportunity to contribute; to have a real influence on local services; and to ensure senior officers who represent local service providers are involved and working to meet local needs.

The overwhelming comment was “all should come together to benefit local people”.

To move this consultation further, in-depth presentations are planned for each of the 3 areas in November 2008.

The presentation for the partnership area which includes Tow Law and the Hilltop Villages will take place at

St Catherines Community Centre, Thursday, 6th November 6 – 8

As part of the teams’ continued partnership working, the police will be attending each meeting to discuss local priorities and provide their quarterly feedback.

If you would like any further information or would like to come along to one of the meeting, please contact the Neighbourhood Arrangements Team 01388 765555 ext 281 or 304. A buffet tea will be served and transport to and from the event can be made available

Youth Panel for Wear Valley

Wear Valley District Council’s Community Involvement Team has spent some time this August trying to gain feedback from young people living within the District.

The Community Involvement Team have attended four events aimed at young people within the area and have asked them for their views and opinions on issues relating to the development of a new Youth Panel for the District.

The consultation undertaken by the team was based on:

- Finding a name for the panel from a short list of eight names which were submitted by local schools and young people as part of the recent Name the Youth Panel Competition which received over 100 entries.
- Gaining views on the type of prizes to be included in a new Youth Reward Scheme
- Asking young people about the types of activities to be included in a Youth Opportunity Menu

Finding out what topics young people would like to be consulted on. This will enable the team to design surveys for the youth panel members.

Based on the above consultations, the Community Involvement Team are progressing well with the development of the Youth Panel and have set up a Youth Engagement Working Group consisting of youth workers, school representatives and local residents to help them develop a range of activities to suit the needs of young people living in the District.

For more information about the Youth Panel contact either Corinne Gardner on **01388 761989**, c.gardner@wearvalley.gov.uk or Christine Davison on **01388 761952** c.davison@wearvalley.gov.uk

FIRST AID COURSE TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Basic first aid course with St John’s Ambulance Brigade from 10 – 3 cost £67.50 for firms and local employers £30 for community groups.
Contact Alan at the centre 01388 731444 to book a place. Places are limited

Tow Law celebrates World’s Biggest Coffee Morning



On Friday September 26th, between 10.00 and 12.00 p.m., Tow Law Community Centre will hold a Coffee Morning as part of the Macmillan Cancer Charity’s World’s Biggest Coffee Morning.

The Tow Law Community Association is holding this as part of an information-giving session to highlight what is on offer at the Centre. As well as tea, coffee and biscuits, there will be members of staff on hand to answer any questions about the Programme at the Centre and there will be a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses as well as members of the Management Committee.

The World’s Biggest Coffee Morning is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK, with an estimated 2 million people raising their mugs for Macmillan last year.

Diane Pearson, Tow Law Community Partnership worker said: “This year’s event takes place on Friday 26 September and with the public’s help we aim to raise money towards a predicted total for the Charity of over £7 million for people affected by cancer. Every year 270,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in the UK. We want to support every one of those people and their friends and families too. We can only do this with the public’s help and we are hoping the public of Tow Law will turn out in full to support this event. At last year’s event, we raised over £350 for the Charity and this year, we would like to raise even more”

If you want further details, then telephone (01388) 731444 and ask for Diane Pearson or if out of office hours on answer phone.

Computer Training available from Tow Law Community Centre

Attention **ALL** people living or working in the DL13 postcode area and who wish to access free training available from the Community Centre in Tow Law.

A few assisted places are still being offered for anyone wishing to take the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence), which is being offered at a cut price rate of £100 (normally this sells for over £400) to a limited number of people who register before the end of October.

To qualify for this you must either live or work in Tow Law and will have to show proof of this. Registration takes about two weeks and help will be available to assist you with the course. This scheme has been extended until December 31st, 2008, and registrations are now being taken at the Centre.

Beauty Room

Top Floor at Hers & Sirs
Opening now on Wednesdays & Fridays
Spray Tan has arrived
“Tan without the ageing”
Book now on: 01388 730930

Computers for sale

**The Community Centre have 3 computers for sale at £85 each.
PLEASE CONTACT LYNNE OR ALAN AT THE CENTRE TO BUY
01388 731444**