



to all our readers
from all the staff at the
Community Council



The office will
be closed from
midday Friday 24th
December opening
again on Tuesday
4th January

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LIFE AFTER THE REGIONAL REFERENDUM

WITH A 47% 'TURNOUT' and 78% of those voters saying 'no' to a regional assembly, the main shocks in the regional referendum were not the outcome, but the strength of feeling against the idea of the assembly. Much has already been written in the regional and local press about why this happened. It seems likely that the Government did too little too late to define the role and powers of the assembly, and alienated many voters by adding its running costs to rapidly-increasing Council Tax bills. So what happens now?

The development of administration and governance at a regional level will now continue via the so-called 'Chapter 2 Proposals'. These are described in the Government White Paper of May 2002 'Your Region, Your Choice, revitalising the English Regions'. Briefly, these include:

- giving further resources to the Regional Development Agency (One NE) for improving economic performance;
- giving the current (unelected) regional chamber (North East Regional Assembly) the lead over various regional strategies and policies;

- further co-ordination of government departments through the Government Office for the North East.

The 'no' vote has not altered this process of giving more responsibility to the various regional institutions.

In Northumberland, a majority of those who voted, favoured the creation of 2 unitary authorities within Northumberland, in effect, the fragmentation of the County Council, together with the amalgamation of the district councils. However, another consequence of the 'no' vote is that the present structure of county and district councils will not automatically

be reorganised.

This is, in effect, a reprieve for Northumberland County Council. The not-insignificant dissatisfaction by voters across Northumberland with the Council's handling of the schools review (2 or 3 tiers) could have led to its abolition. Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has confirmed that there will not be a restructuring of local government linked to a regional assembly, but he has emphasised that it is still Government policy to pursue the creation of unitary authorities.

Both the Labour and previous Conservative governments have been keen to move to unitary local government, which is now prevalent throughout Scotland, Wales, London, metropolitan England, the larger towns and cities and also some rural parts of England. The idea is attractive to the Treasury (UA's are cheaper) and to the plethora of departments, agencies and partnerships who would prefer to work with fewer, larger authorities. Subject to political considerations we may see a return to the question of local government structure in Northumberland, following the next General Election.

In the meantime, the county and district councils will have to overcome their differences and develop better co-operation. Next year (2005-06) is going to be tight financially, so there is little scope for starting new projects. On top of this, the LEA's problems of surplus school places, a tight revenue budget and inadequate premises, will continue, and the new phase of consultation over the Putting the Learner First programme is now having to be pursued, now with the greater uncertainty over what capital funding (if any) may be available from the Government to pay for new or refurbished buildings.

MorCed WELCOMES ITS 100th MEMBER

MorCred, the credit union for people living or working in Morpeth and district, has recently carried out special promotions in Pegswood and Stobhill. As a result of these promotions the credit union has enrolled its 100th member. Pictured below is the 100th member, Lisa Dodds of Stobhill, receiving her members pass book from collector Maureen Best, who herself joined earlier this year and has become a keen volunteer at collection points at Stobhill and Pegswood.

For further information about MorCred please telephone 01670 503666. If there is no-one in the office please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

A FIRST IN BLYTH VALLEY



Guest speaker, Jeremy Cripps

FOR THE FIRST TIME since the creation of the 6 district councils in Northumberland, the Community Council held its Annual General Meeting in Blyth Valley. On the afternoon of Wednesday 10 November 2004, 57 people gathered together in Beaconhill Community Centre to conduct the official business of the AGM and to listen to Jeremy Cripps, Project Implementation Manager of the Families and Children's Trust (FACT) Northumberland, to talk about FACT and the development of child care initiatives in Northumberland.

The meeting was chaired by our President, the Duke of Northumberland. After agreement of the previous year's minutes, there were reports from Judith Arthur, CCN Chairman, and Jeff Hughes, Assistant Honorary Treasurer. Further business carried out included the update of the Council Membership and the election of officers and Executive Committee members.

The President then introduced Mr Jeremy Cripps, our guest speaker.

Jeremy held the attention of everyone with a very interesting and informative presentation

covering Northumberland County Council and Care Trust's recent review of Children's Services, the Government's current vision for integrated children's services, proposed outcomes from the Children Bill 2004, an explanation of what a Children's Trust and the Northumberland Families and Children's Trust - its aims and objectives. He emphasised that there had never been a better chance to improve children's services and that this was therefore a very exciting time. The Government's aim is for most authorities to have a children's trust by 2006 and all by 2008.

After a lively question and discussion session, Jeremy Cripps thanked the President and CCN for the opportunity to give the address.

John Lewis, CCN Executive Member moved the vote of thanks to Jeremy, followed by an appreciative round of applause from the audience.

The President thanked everyone for attending the AGM and Beaconhill Community Association for allowing us to use their premises for the meeting.

FUTURE FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY BODIES

A WIDE VARIETY of voluntary and community bodies throughout the North-East are facing a difficult future, as a number of significant funding mechanisms came to an end. It has been estimated that the ending of the SRB (Single Regeneration Budget) and the Objectives 2 and 3 European Programmes will see a loss of more than £50 million per annum, from the voluntary and community sector. In recent years, smaller but significant sources such as the National Lottery, many charitable trusts and the Government's Rural White Paper Initiative have also reduced or ceased operation.

Clearly, local authorities and other local bodies cannot feasibly make up this shortfall. There is a real danger that the clients and beneficiaries of organisations as diverse as Citizen's Advice Bureaux, youth projects, training schemes, development trusts and care initiatives will all be hit by the closure of projects and the collapse of key organisations.

The Community Council of Northumberland has joined with a number of other voluntary bodies and networks within the region to form Invest 2006. This is a campaign to secure and build the work of the voluntary and community sector, by ensuring a continuity of public financial investment in the sector. One of the main challenges is to convince the Government and its departments and agencies to value and support this work, in the way that they underpin the business community with a wide variety of direct and indirect support.

Invest 2006 was launched during November and it has already received a great deal of interest from both within and outside the region.

For further information, contact Jane Streater, based in the VONNE office (tel 0191 233 2000) or www.invest2006.org.uk



Lisa Dodds, on the left, receives her passbook from Maureen Best

Rural Support in Northumberland Life After the Northumberland Rural Stress Initiative

RESIDENTS of rural Northumberland may be familiar with the work that Susan Cross undertook in Northumberland over the past few years, developing a county based stress network, which was very timely, considering the Foot and Mouth crisis. This network brought various organisations together, who have a remit is to support rural folk in distress, under the banner of 'Northumberland Rural Stress Initiative'. NRSI want to alert such residents to the fact that although Susan has moved onto other things, the members of the initiative are still active as a network, exchanging information and promoting best practice, to try and ensure that rural people in distress in Northumberland receive the best service possible, whichever organisation they come into contact with!

The network meets on a quarterly basis, the next meeting being in Morpeth on the 27th January 2005. The theme of that day is 'Stigma and Discrimination'. If anyone would like to come along as a representative from their organisation, to exchange info/promote your services etc, please do get in touch with Helen Ovens, on 01609 767416 or heleno@rsin.org.uk

HOW BROADBAND CAN CUT YOUR PHONE BILLS

VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP) is set to be a key technology adopted by community organisations over the next year. The technology has been around for numerous years but it is only recently that there has been widespread availability of affordable broadband.

VOIP offers groups the opportunity to use spare capacity in their data network to carry voice traffic. In most cases this provides groups with tangible direct cost savings through better use of existing computer networks and by using their phone network less, or in some cases, reducing their voice network requirements.

Voluntary sector groups can use VOB to provide free calls between offices. With free features like call divert and voicemail, organisations can work much more effectively. Carrying calls via a broadband link can also give extra flexibility. In one case, a charity which was doing fundraising work in the run up to Christmas increased the number of volunteers working in their office. Rather than buy extra lines from BT and get locked into an annual contract, they were able to increase the speed of their broadband connection for a fraction of the cost. At the end of the work, they reduced the speed of their connection. In smaller organisations, a worker may have a phone with a fixed number which can be plugged into a computer network at different sites. In one case this was ideal for a worker who operated out of different offices as the calls followed them around, but colleagues did not have to pay expensive mobile rates.

A project supported by the Northumberland Strategic Partnership is aiming to get organisations within the County to take up VOIP by loaning equipment to test out the service.

This project is being run with:

- **Cybermoor** - www.cybermoor.org - a broadband service co-op which has the highest rate of broadband take up in the UK and specialises in getting the most out of technology
- **The Phone Co-op** - www.thephone.coop - provides cheap telephone services to members and is one of the fastest growing co-ops in the country
- **Northumberland Strategic Partnership** - www.nsp.org.uk - is driving the take up of broadband in Northumberland through innovative projects

If you would like to find out more about what broadband telephony can do for your organisation, call Daniel Heery at Cybermoor Services Ltd on 01434 382 808 or E-mail info@cybermoor.org.uk for full details.

TOP COMMUNITY SPACE

THE SEARCH is on to uncover the North East's most inspired transformation of a neighbourhood space. The new competition - 'A Picture of Change' - will reward local groups who have had a huge impact in making neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and greener. Community groups who have led change in their area can enter the competition to win up to £6000 to help improve or maintain their work.

The top three entries from the North East will be chosen with a first prize of £1000. The winners from the North East will go through to a national final with a further £5000 up for grabs. The national winner will also benefit from professional advice from an expert who will come and work with the project. Entries will be showcased at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit being held in Manchester in January 2005 and on www.cleanersaferegreener.gov.uk

To enter, local groups need to tell the story of their achievements in words and pictures, demonstrating what has changed in a local park or space, street or housing estate, town or city centre and the impact it has made on the people that live there. Community groups can find full details and enter via the website above.

NEW TRAINING TO FIND OUT ALL ABOUT ENERGY

ON THURSDAY 13th January 2005 at Berwick-upon-Tweed, there's a chance for find out about sustainable energy and how it can benefit you and your community.

'Finding Out About Energy' is a great opportunity to learn new skills that could help you and your group save energy, help the environment and save money. The course comes from Community Action for Energy (CAfE), the national network that supports local community-based projects that encourage saving energy and using greener sources of energy.

This fun and interactive day will be relevant and useful to anyone who has regular contact with their community and wants to know more about how sustainable energy can benefit the people they meet, including: community-based organisations, volunteers, residents' and tenants' association reps, members of local community groups, e.g Women's Institutes, rotary clubs, village/parish associations members, youth group workers or if you're just a keen environmentalist.

The course is open to all residents of Northumberland. There are still some places available, but book now to avoid disappointment. The cost is just £30 for members of the CAfE network, but if you're not a member it's easy and free to join.

To find out more and book your place, visit www.cse.org.uk/cafetraining or call the CAfE Community Helpline on 08701 261 444.

COUNTY COUNCIL PLANS REFORM

NORTHUMBERLAND County Council's Executive met on 29 November 2004, and agreed a range of recommendations designed to improve the way that the Authority interacts with voluntary and community groups. The report also contained an Action Plan which should see the delivery of an agreed compact, a more proportionate approach to risk, better representation for community and voluntary groups on County Council committees and moves toward medium term funding against service agreements.

The report addresses many of the issues that the community and voluntary sector have been aware of for a long time, and the recommendations were revised after extensive consultation across Northumberland during September. A full copy of the report and action plan is available at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/drftp/8898.doc> or by contacting Kevin Williams, Principal Performance Officer, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth NE61 2EF. Telephone 01670-533908 E-mail KEWilliams@northumberland.gov.uk

FINE NOW ON LINE

READERS may be familiar with the North East Guide to Grants for Voluntary Groups which is published by Funding Information North East (FINE).

The publication is reviewed every two years and the current issue is the 7th edition (2003-2004). It provides information on over 100 Trusts and Foundation, which give grants in the North East of England. Information includes:

NEW STAFF

MELANIE GREENWOOD has joined CCN as a part-time Project Administrator for the REALL project based in Morpeth.

Originating from North Yorkshire, she worked for various organisations in an administrative capacity until 2001 when she moved to Northumberland with her partner and daughter (11). The move to the North East coincided with her completing 6 years of part time study with the OU and graduating at last with an honours degree in Environmental Studies and English. The arrival of Matthew (now 2 years old) put plans for career progression on hold, and Melanie spent a valuable 2 years as a full time mum and working part-time/voluntarily in a local school's nursery unit.

Melanie is excited about joining the REALL project and hopes that both her administrative and environmental background will help in the future success of the project.

- **contact details.**
- **grant making policies.**
- **application procedures.**
- **meeting dates.**
- **examples of grants made.**

The guide is now available as an online database. The electronic version is updated on an on-going basis when new or amended information is received. It allows you to:

- **search by name, type of activity or beneficiary.**
- **hyperlink to trust website and email address.**

Available on annual subscription, it is accessed via a verified username and password on FINE's website - www.fine.org.uk

A subscription to the database depends on the type of organisation and the number of site licences required.

For more details and a subscription form see FINE's website www.fine.org.uk



Melanie Greenwood joins REALL

PCs and LSPs

What are all these initials for? LSPs are Local Strategic Partnership, an idea promoted by the Government to encourage principal local authorities to work with a wide variety of other interests and sectors. Parish councils are represented on many, but not all, LSPs. In several areas, elections were held recently to up-date this representation. The following people now represent parish councils:

- Alnwick - *Debbie Dawson (Lesbury PC)*
- Berwick - *Edward Brown (Kirknewton PC)*
- Castle Morpeth - *Bernard Scott (Whalton PC)*
- TYNEDALE
- Eastern area - *Adrian Hinchcliffe (Bywell PC)*
- Northern area - *Phil Biggs (Corsenside PC)*
- Central area - *Robert McFarlane (Sandhoe PC)*
- Western area - to be confirmed

In Newcastle, the City Council does not include the parish councils on its LSP.

FIRST IN NORTHUMBERLAND PARISHES

Congratulations to two parish councils for being the first of their kind in Northumberland.

- **To Kate Foreman, Clerk of Longhorsley, for being the first to secure the new AQA-accredited Certificate of Local Council Administration**
- **To Morpeth Town Council, for being the first to secure Quality Parish Council status.**

Jim Takes The Chair

Following an exciting and energetic 3½ years in the post, Cllr Norman Dunn has completed his tenure as Chairman of the County Committee of NALC - Northumberland Association of Local Councils. Norman, a member of Glanton PC, chaired our association through a key phase in the parish council world: the implementation of the government's initiatives on community governance, the new ethical framework, the Vital Villages programme, the new Training Strategy, the Quality PC regime, and many more. Norman also played a major part in securing parish councils' involvement in the European Objective 2 programme in Northumberland. He will remain as an active member of the County Committee.

In his place comes Cllr Jim Rudd. Jim, a member of Morpeth Town Council, has been long serving Vice President of the Association, and a keen advocate of the first tier of local government. Although he represents the largest town council in our area, he has always shown a passion and concern for the many small but enthusiastic parish councils which are very typical of Northumberland's primarily rural character.

GOLD SUCCESSES



Tina Phelan (Project Administrator) and Valerie Metcalf (Volunteer) using the new IT equipment in the reception area of the new Resource Centre

GOLD Grant to Bell View Project

Lynne Livesly, the Project manager writes:

In March we received a GOLD grant to purchase new computer equipment for the Bell View project, this included two new internet ready PC's, a scanner and a colour laser printer. This equipment was essential to increase our IT capacity and to assist the Bell View project to cope with the demands of the transition to the new Resource Centre. We previously did not have colour printing capability but now we can produce newsletters, posters etc to advertise events, keep people up-to-date with developments and to help other community groups such as "Voices of Experience" (the over 50's forum), the Bell View Carer Support Group and the Walking for Health Groups. We have been able to network our office computers and our volunteer admin team now have full computer access - where previously, staff and volunteers had to share two incompatible PC's with limited memory.

MORE THAN JUST AN OLD TIN HUT

CAPHEATON VILLAGE HALL was constructed in 1921 and has served the community well since then with a long history of acting as a venue for social and educational events, witnessing foot-stomping local dances, fiercely contested whist drives, and lively discos, parties and celebrations over its eight decades. In 1969 a new lease was signed and in November 2004 the 35th Annual General Meeting took place.

Alan Hedley, Village Halls Adviser, was delighted to be invited and witnessed an enthusiastic attendance of more than 50 people.

The meeting, chaired by John Browne-Swinburne, consisted of the normal business - annual report including financial report, presented by Crystel Patton, treasurer, and the election and appointment of the new management committee.

In addition the agenda included the launch of a campaign to renovate the hall. Jackie Richardson, Secretary of the management committee, gave detail of a needs assessment survey she has carried out in Capheaton and the surrounding area, to support grant applications. The survey confirmed that the hall was valued and needed by the local community. A renovation strategy had been drawn up and an estimated £75,000 would need to be found.

Jackie said the institute currently has just over £9,000 in the renovation fund and were contributing to it at an average of £2,500 per year from the surplus made through hall

activities. She pointed out that without grant aid it would take another 26 years to raise the necessary funds.

With advice from the Community Council, Jackie had carried out research and was confident that funds could be raised from grant making trusts and government grant sources such as DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Peter Steel, a local resident and project co-ordinator for Alnwick Garden and Chillingham Castle, echoed Jackie's confidence.

The meeting continued with Bob Johnson, the Tyne Tees Television weatherman, lending his support to the campaign by entertaining those present with an amusing history of weather forecasting.

John Browne-Swinburne closed the meeting by proposing a toast to launch the campaign.

It is clear that the new management committee are full of enthusiasm and well motivated

and that the hall is well supported within the locality. The Community Council wishes them well and promises to give advice, support and assistance wherever they can.

IT developments at Branxton

Bill Walker, Chairman of Branxton Village Hall Management Committee writes:

In December 2003 Branxton Village Hall reopened after a complete upgrade to comply with current hygiene, fire and disabled access regulations. As part of the upgrade a dedicated computer room was added.

With the help of a CCN "GOLD" grant we were able to equip the new IT room with a PC, a laptop with a scanner and printer, plus a good digital camera. With this new facility the Village Hall is able to be more effective in dealing with new demands for educational IT courses and training, but is also able to support the local Flodden Battlefield Group with the development of their new website.

A Northumberland College course on the use of digital cameras and image manipulation is now well under way and being enjoyed by all. The digital camera has been used to record both public and private events held in the hall. One such occasion was an adult birthday celebration where the client was presented with photographs of the evening on a compact disc.

This has led to increased use of the hall's facilities outside the course, initially to repeat exercises and help the course participants to do their homework. This was quickly followed by the production of a series of prints of villagers and their families and local landscapes. A further spin-off has been the setting up of a weekly drop-in evening where villagers are being helped by more experienced residents with regard to IT.



The IT room at Braxton Village Hall



Festival Music

The Glendale Festival.

This one-day festival, held on the first Sunday in July of the Northumberland school holidays in the North Northumberland market town of Wooler, is now in its sixth year. The performers of music, dance, crafts and street entertainment are from Glendale. Many are youngsters new to performance. There is no charge made to the public so it is accessible to everyone.

The Festival committee of seven local volunteers who organise and run the day are responsible for raising funds to provide not only entertainment for locals and visitors but also a welcome boost to the district's economy.

Without the support of the GOLD fund the Festival would not have taken place this year. Plans were well advanced when it was realised there would be a shortfall of about £1400. The application process and decision making from the panel was so straightforward and quick that the committee's fears of having to cancel were soon dispelled. Many thanks from all who enjoyed the day.

John Davidson. Past Festival Chairman

BYE BYE SUSAN

SUSAN BOWER, one of our longest serving members of staff, left us in November to start a new life in Gambia.

Susan started at the Tower Buildings office on 18 July 1994 with an official job title of "clerical officer/typist".

Over her 10 years working for CCN Susan has seen numerous changes of staff and witnessed the introduction of Information Technology turning her overnight from a typist into a word processor.

Always a one for foreign holidays in the sun, Susan first visited Gambia about 4 years ago and fell in love with the place. Since then she has visited many times and about a year ago made the decision to move there. All the staff at Tower Buildings and in our countywide offices wish her the best.



Susan Bower (left) with Chris Hall at her "leaving do"

AND FAREWELL MIKYLA

MIKYLA ROBINSON, Assistant Director covering the northern area, joined CCN in March 2002 with a background in community regeneration. Mikyla brought some of her community business experience into her community development work with CCN, the most obvious influence being in her work to initiate the BizFizz project based at Alnwick. Northumberland County Council had a vacancy in their Social Enterprise Team which attracted Mikyla. She has been successful in her application and will be leaving CCN at the end of December. On this occasion there will be no move to sunnier climes and her talents will not be lost to Northumberland. CCN wishes her well and hopes that her move will enhance our already healthy relationship with the County Council.



A NEW COMMUNITY SPACE AT GUNNERTON

A Safai party held in the newly created community space at Gunnerton Church



THERE WAS A GOOD SIZED GATHERING at Gunnerton Church on Friday evening 15 October 2004 to witness the official opening of the new community space.

A questionnaire circulated in Gunnerton in 2002, revealed a desire for a community facility. People were hoping that it would become a communal focal point with provision for work with children, for a luncheon club, for special interest groups, and social events. It showed that the life of the village would be much enhanced with this facility.

This was the catalyst for an extensive project of providing a community space with kitchen area and toilet. The completed project

includes new heating and lighting systems, the restoration of the unusual but original colour scheme, as well as the renewal of the rainwater goods, four leaded windows, and external roof cross.

Vincente Stienlet, a Newcastle architect with a great deal of experience in remodelling church buildings was commissioned to re-design the building. A great deal of care had to be exercised because it was recognised that the church building was the outstanding work of John Cyril Hawes (1876-1936), and was based on a design submitted to the Royal Academy exhibition by him in 1898. Hawes reckoned that Gunnerton was one of the best examples

of his work, and wrote "that entering the church you could easily mistake it for a Catholic church with its stone altar, tapering tabernacle and six tall candlesticks, its roodbeam and twin ambones." Hawes, who became an Anglican and subsequently a Roman Catholic priest and finally a hermit, continued to work as an architect; most of his work is to be found in Australia.

The task of refurbishing has been lengthy and costly; the view taken was that it would be better to attempt the project and fail, rather than not to try to at all. The local church and community set about raising the money; it was recognised that without the help of the Government agencies, the District Council, Charities and the Diocese, the project would have floundered.

There was much to be thankful for and John, on behalf of the church community, thanked all who had helped and supported the project. From those present on the night there was a unanimous expression of gratitude directed towards John whose hard work contributed greatly towards the success of this project.

On Sunday 24 October 2004, Bishop Martin came to give thanks for, and to bless the building.

It is early days yet but there is evidence that the church and community will benefit from the creation of the community space. Already the facility has been used by Village Access, the Chollerton Parish Council, the PCC and has hosted social evenings.

Broomley & Stocksfield Habitat Survey Project

THE STOCKSFIELD ENVIRONMENT GROUP was established during 2001-2 by Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council, following the recommendation of the 1998 Parish Appraisal Report. The aim was to bring together interested local residents and parish councillors in a group which would provide a focus for action on environmental issues. Advice was sought from various agencies and it was decided that the group would undertake, as its first project, a habitat survey of the parish. Encouragement and practical assistance was received from both English Nature and Northumberland County Council's Countryside Services. English Nature provided a grant and the Parish Council provided additional funding. Whilst habitat surveys have been carried out in parishes in other areas of England, this is the first survey of its kind carried out in Northumberland. Its objective is to study and map the different types of vegetation which provide the habitats for other forms of wildlife, such as insects, birds, fungi, etc.

In the autumn of 2002 the group carried out a pilot survey of two adjacent areas within the recently established community woodland. During 2003 the survey was extended to the rest of the parish. In the late summer of 2004 a public exhibition was held to illustrate the results of the survey and throughout the period of the project various free events were held which were well-attended. These included talks on such subjects as Red Squirrels, Farming and the Environment and flora and fauna to be found in the parish. Walk subjects included bats, geology and flora.

In early 2005 a survey of birds and mammals species to be found in the parish will be conducted and this will be repeated in the summer and possibly in other years.

Throughout the period of this project, the work of the Environment Group has been reported in and supported by the Parish Council newsletter and also in the local weekly paper.

For more information contact: Margaret Williams, Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Clerk, telephone 01661 843114.

HALTWHISTLE PRIDE

THE TOWN OF HALTWHISTLE was buzzing during mid November. Haltwhistle Pride, a celebration of the town, organised by the Haltwhistle Partnership took place and was enjoyed by hundreds of people including local residents and visitors to the area.

Many interesting events took place including walking tours, run by senior members of the History Society, and visits to local places of interest - these included Bellister Pele Tower, Errington Reay Pottery in Bardon Mill, which is the last commercial property in Britain licensed to produce salt glaze pottery, Blenkinsopp Water Treatment Site, which is a fascinating environmental project using reed beds to treat the contaminated water from the former mines in the region, and Nampak, a plastics manufacturing company which is also Haltwhistle's largest employer.

Several exhibitions also took place, the largest of which was in the Methodist Hall,

where organisations and groups from all over the area were on hand to give demonstrations and advice. These include DEFRA, Volunteering Tynedale, and Businesslink to name only a few. Chris Barker (pictured below) represented the Community Council of Northumberland at the event and is pictured at the CCN's display explaining CCN's activities to Kim Pearson from North Tyne Neighbourhood Nursery. Other exhibitions included amateur and professional art and crafts, railway memorabilia and at Greenhead a Walltown Quarry exhibition. As well as all this, there were quizzes, competitions, concerts, taster sessions and more. This was a super event made possible by hard work not just from the Haltwhistle Partnership but by the many groups, businesses, organisations and local people that took part. It was a true celebration not just of the town but also of the people who live in and around the area, and hopefully it will become a regular event.



www.voluntaryskills.com

THIS WEBSITE aims to encourage people from within the voluntary and community sector in the North East region to get involved in appropriate training and development activities. It provides relevant and up-to-date information on opportunities available currently throughout the region, in one easily accessible place.

The site was originally launched in May 2002 and covered the Tyne & Wear area. Now, following increased use of the site and requests to cover a larger area, the site has vastly developed its content to cover the whole of the North East and has a new user friendly and attractive re-design. Supported by a database of over 3,600 courses, offered by 289 training providers throughout the North East, www.voluntaryskills.com contains current news, event information, useful links and case studies of people from within the sector.

For further information contact Emma McLellan at Project North East* on 0191 2616009 or email emma.mclellan@pne.org

* Project North East is a not for profit organisation consisting of a number of independent companies limited by guarantee. See www.pne.org for more information.

WHAT WE DO

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NORTHUMBERLAND provides a range of advice and support services for community and voluntary groups to enable people throughout Northumberland to overcome disadvantages and improve their quality of life. These services include:

- Funding advice
- Management committee development
- Advice on constitutions, charity law and legal structures
- Support for village halls / community buildings
- Project management support
- Local regeneration
- Support for parish councils
- Employment services
- Production of community newspaper

CCN is anxious to ensure that it effectively supports local communities and therefore operates a process of continuous evaluation. This requires feedback from our users. Any comments on services provided are not only welcomed but essential to help us to make sure that we are meeting the overall needs of users and maintaining our quality standards.

Northumberland Community News is published bi-monthly. It contains useful information on sources of advice and funding, helps to alert people to changes in legislation or service provision which may affect them, and passes on ideas and news from one community to another. Contributions and items of informative and newsworthy value are welcomed. Please get in touch with the editor at Tower Buildings, 9 Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1PY or email items direct to alanedley@ccn.org.uk.

Copy deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 18 January 2005.

For more information on the Community Council check out their website at www.ccn.org.uk

HOW TO CONTACT US

MAIN OFFICE

David Francis, Alan Hedley, Christina Hall, Frances Surphlis, Linda Frater, Margaret Tweddell, Carol Megson
Tel. 01670 517178 Fax 01670 511400
email info@ccn.org.uk

NORTHERN AREA

Mikyla Robinson, Wendy Fergie 01665 606578
Clare Wood, Colette Barker 01665 605540
Neil Wilson, Dawn Brodie-Clarke 01665 603852
Mark Shipperlee 01665 605977
Barbara King 01665 605030
Sandi Downing, Ian Bell 01665 605772
Els Nicol 01289 304141
Terri Bearhope 01289 308338
Ken Walters 01669 621770

WESTERN AREA

Richard Powell, Judith James 01434 607871
Jane Hart 01434 220154
Lesley Allen 01434 220714
Chris Barker 01434 322766

SOUTH EASTERN AREA

Bill Carr 01670 791773
Mervyn Anthony, Melanie Greenwood 01670 505451
Lindsay Nicholson 01207 529621