



RURAL PROGRAMME A STEP CLOSER

FIFTEEN MONTHS AFTER THE WINDING-DOWN or closure of key rural regeneration schemes, the Government has launched a consultation on its proposed Rural Social and Community Programme. In short, there is a lot of good news for communities in Northumberland and elsewhere late in 2005. The Haskin's Report on Modernising Rural Policy had recommended a wholesale transfer of DEFRA's rural regeneration funding from the Countryside Agency to the Regional Development Agencies. In March 2004 this led to a halt in several successful and popular programmes (for example, parish plans and community transport schemes) and uncertainties over the future of others. Although One NorthEast through the NSP (Northumberland Strategic Partnership) is now looking to provide continued support for the Market Towns Initiatives, for several more years, overall much of the Government's support for rural communities - particularly away from the towns - has significantly dipped.

Now DEFRA's proposed Social and Community Programme offers the prospect of renewed support for community action, for the period to March 2008.

Across rural England, some £13.5 million per annum will be available, of which some hundreds of thousands of pounds will be available as new money to initiatives in Northumberland. The aims of the programme are:

- To enhance the community capacity building and entrepreneurial capability of rural communities so that those communities can work together to shape their own future.
- To help socially excluded individuals in rural communities improve their life chances.
- To develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector; to reinforce the delivery of the first two aims.
- Priorities for the programme will be determined within each county, with a substantial input from local communities. The sorts of activities which might be funded include:
- Community development advice and support, through locally-based workers.
- Advice and encouragement for local social housing initiatives.
- Parish Plans and community appraisals.
- Focussed work to address social exclusion.
- Training for parish councils.
- Specialist help for village halls..... and so on.

It is suggested that the process of prioritising these activities and of developing them into a 'sub-regional business case' should be under the auspices of the Government's Local Area Agreement initiative (which is still taking shape in Northumberland) and that a first draft is submitted to the Government Office by the end of November 2005. This is a challenging timetable, given the need for proper community involvement, and also given the need to negotiate a certain amount of matching funding from non-Government sources. Nevertheless, it is a significant step towards re-building the momentum which was established by the Rural England White Paper in November 2000 and unlike many other programmes, it has the genuine potential of reaching out to every rural community in our area.

Although the consultation period of this national document does not end until 13 October, work within Northumberland will need to begin in early September to prepare the ground for the Northumberland Strategy, if the end of November deadline is to be met. The Community Council will play a leading role in this, but it will be essential to draw in a wide range of other agencies, authorities and groups, if it is to be successful.

Copies of the consultation document, the Rural Social and Community Programme are available from DEFRA publications, telephone 08459 556000. For more information on how the process is being taken forward locally, contact David Francis at Tower Buildings (01670 517178)

PUTTING THE LEARNER FIRST

IN RECENT ISSUES OF COMMUNITY NEWS, we have publicised the County Council's review of school in Northumberland, together with views from local communities and some parish groups about the process and direction of the review. Now that a decision has been made to move to the next stages of the review, we have invited the County Council to write an article on what will be happening in various parts of Northumberland.....

Putting the Learner First is the name for the initiative to develop a system of education fit for Northumberland's children in the 21st Century. It grew from an urgent need to address some long-term issues that were having a detrimental effect on the educational performance of our children.

STANDARDS

The evidence shows that our children are top of their class at age seven (Key Stage 1). By age 16 (Key Stage 4) they are average. Why should this be?

BUILDINGS

The state of many of our school buildings is unacceptable. Northumberland has a backlog of repairs amounting to £52.7 million. It is estimated that a further £26 million is needed to bring electrical and mechanical installations up to standard. Complying with the Disability Discrimination Act will require a further investment of £7.3 million.

At the end of the day, the cost of maintaining schools falls on the shoulders of council taxpayers. It has become increasingly obvious that throwing money at maintaining a declining school building stock is not sustainable.

SURPLUS PLACES

Like many areas of the country, Northumberland is experiencing a falling birth-rate. This means fewer and fewer children will be entering the school system in the foreseeable future, creating more and more surplus places.

The County Council estimates there are 4,000 surplus places in its schools today and this will increase to 5,000 by 2009 if no action is taken. Empty desks cost money. The County Council has a duty to ensure there is a balance between the number of school places available and the number of children available to fill them.

(continued on back page)

Berwick Opening of New Children's Centre

Finally, after 5 years of hard work, the new Children's Centre in Berwick organised its Official Opening on Friday 15 July and was facilitated by the Rt. Hon. Mr Alan Beith MP (see photo).



The Berwick Children's Centre is an amazing example of hard work, effective partnership working and community involvement. The main partners in this project are SureStart, Berwick Borough Family Centre and the Berwick Fire Department. It is hoped the Berwick Children's Centre will continue to be very successful for many years to come. Congratulations!

LICENSING ACT 2003 :

24 November Approaches

THE IMPLEMENTATION of the Licensing Act 2003 involved three important dates for organisations and businesses to apply for the new style Premises Licence:

7 February 2005 - First Appointed day. (Start of transitional period) From 7 February applications for Premises Licences would be accepted by the local authorities. Those applicants already in possession of a current licence applicable to their activities (eg a village hall with a Public Entertainment Licence) would be eligible to apply for a conversion of that licence. The conversion process allowed the retention of existing conditions of their licence. If an applicant required a variation from their current licence or a new licence then the application process would be more demanding than that of a conversion.

6 August 2005 - End of Transitional Period. After midnight on 6 August no more applications for conversions would be accepted. From 7 August all applications would be treated as applications for a new licence.

24 November 2005 - Second Appointed Day. Up until midnight 24 November businesses and organisations would be able to carry out their licensable activities under the cover of their current licence. From 25 November any business or organisation that carried out licensable activities on their premises would not be able to continue doing so until they had the appropriate new Premises Licence.

The 6 August has passed and early estimates indicate that around 50% of community buildings in Northumberland have applied for a Premises Licence. Assuming that around 20% of the buildings will not be carrying out licensable activities (regulated entertainment, sale of alcohol, sale of hot food after 11.00pm) there are around 30% of buildings which still have to submit their application and have it approved by 24 November 2005. The approval of a new licence can be a lengthy process as there are a number of statutory agencies that have to be consulted as well as objections that may be lodged by persons living within the vicinity of the premises and local residents associations. CCN's advice is that if you are one of the estimated 50 halls that are carrying out licensable activities but have not yet applied for a Premises Licence do not leave it too late.

Advice and information can be obtained from your local authority and CCN also offer some guidance on their website www.ccn.org.uk in the Village Halls section.

The public consultation on Permitted Temporary Activities and draft Temporary Event Notices (TENs) regulations has now begun. Details can be found on the DCMS website: www.culture.gov.uk

A New Home for Northumberland Records

Northumberland County Archives Service currently holds the historic records of many Parish Councils at Morpeth Records Centre. In 2006 all of the records held at Morpeth Records Centre and at Northumberland Record Office in North Gosforth will be transferred to brand new premises on the site of Woodhorn Colliery. In October 2003 The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant of £10 million to a partnership of Northumberland County Council and Wansbeck District Council. This funding, together with a further £7 million will provide for the conservation, restoration and renovation of Woodhorn Colliery's at risk buildings and plant, and the provision within a landmark building of new County Archives and Local Studies facilities and gallery and community space. Building work on the project commenced in January 2005 and we plan to open at Woodhorn in late 2006.

In order to accomplish preparatory work in advance of the move to Woodhorn, the Melton Park (Gosforth) and Morpeth offices will be closed for an extended period. The final day of full public service will be Friday 2 September 2005 and full service will not resume until we open at Woodhorn in late 2006. During this closed period we will continue to accept into our custody deposits of Parish Council records and will be pleased to deal with any queries from Parish Councillors relating to Parish Council records. All requests to deposit records and any queries from 5 September 2005 should be directed to Louise Smith, Archivist, at Morpeth Records Centre. Louise can be contacted on 01670 504084 or via e-mail at LOSmith@northumberland.gov.uk.

MORE CCN MOVES

The following changes have taken place within CCN in recent moves.

REALL (Renewable Energy at Local Level) have moved from Benmar House, Morpeth to Earth Balance, West Sleekburn Farm, Bomarsund, Bedlington, NE22 7AD. Their telephone number is now 01670 823706.

LEADER + North Northumberland have moved from Russell House, Alnwick to 52 High Street, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6GB (for those visiting them, it's above the 'Good Life' shop, entrance is to the rear of the building, up the steps). Their telephone number is now 01668 283898

Sandi Downing, Assistant Director North has moved from the Centre, 27 Fenkle Street to Russell House, Greenwell Road, Alnwick, NE66 1HB. Her telephone number is 01665 606578.

Julia Sharpley, is the new Community Development Officer covering Eastern Alnwick. She is located at The Centre, 27 Fenkle Street, Alnwick, NE66 1HW. Her telephone number is 01665 605540.

TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS "Basic Book-keeping Training"

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL of Northumberland is organising a course introducing the basics of bookkeeping. If you are new to bookkeeping or have minimal experience, this course will enable you to set up a simple, manual financial system suitable for your organisation.

If you need re-assurance that your present system is acceptable and as efficient as possible, then this is also the course for you.

Topics include:

- Maintaining records
- Accounting systems
- Petty cash systems
- Golden rules for handling money
- Bank reconciliation

Trainer: Angie Martin, Finance Manager, GVOC

Venue: Northumberland County Blind

A QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL



Following Morpeth Town Council's success last year Longhorsley Parish Council are the second parish council in Northumberland to secure Quality Parish Council status. Our picture shows Dr. Oliver Staines, Chairman of the PC, receiving the certificate of accreditation from Norman Dunn, Chairman of the accreditation panel.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

THE BUILDING CAPACITY in Voluntary Organisations is a FREE training course (funded by the Northern Rock Foundation) for managers and supervisors in the voluntary and community sector, and participants also have the opportunity to undertake the optional NVQ in Management qualification. As part of a capacity building programme Project North East are looking at courses at a variety of venues throughout the region.

An awareness session is held to enable participants to register, learn more about the course and to meet other participants. Each course is made up of 12 workshops covering a variety of topics including, recruitment, motivation, marketing, personal effectiveness, fundraising and business planning.

For further information or to reserve your place on the course please contact Anne-Maria on (0191) 2616009 or by email at anne-maria.brown@pne.org

(The Building Capacity in Voluntary Organisations course is funded by the Northern Rock Foundation).

NEW SUPPORT FOR PARISH PLANS

THE ABRUPT CLOSURE of the Countryside Agency's Vital Villages grants programme in the spring of 2004 caused widespread disappointment among communities throughout rural England. Fortunately, DEFRA have recognised the value of parish plans as a tool in local community-led development and regeneration, and they have now provided funds to support new parish plans, throughout the country.

Parish plans and community appraisals are compiled by and for the community, including a wide range of local people and interests. They are not only an expression of local needs and ideas: they are a plan of action, which demonstrates how these needs will be met and how various local bodies (parish councils, village hall committees, development trusts, etc) will work - both on their own and together - to get things done.

The scheme is being administered by the Community Council of Northumberland, on behalf of DEFRA. Parish councils throughout Northumberland and Newcastle may apply. Grants are available of up to £3000, or up to 80% of eligible costs, whichever is the smaller.

For guidance on planning a parish plan, contact your local CCN field worker. For an application form contact CCN at Tower Buildings on 01670 517178.

AGM 2005

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for the year-end 31 March 2005 will take place on Wednesday afternoon 9 November at the Hindmarsh Hall, Alnmouth. There will be a Buffet Meal at 1.00pm provided by the Centre. The cost and further details of the meal will be available from the administration staff at Tower Buildings and also enclosed with the Notice of the Meeting that that will be distributed to groups and organisations on our mailing list. (Meals must be ordered and paid for by 1 November)

At 2.30pm there will be the formal business of the AGM, to be chaired by our President, the Duke of Northumberland.

This will be followed by presentations from some of CCN's staff covering current community and CCN initiatives and activities throughout Northumberland.

All Council members and representatives of community organisations are welcome to attend. Invitations will be sent to those on our mailing list. Should you wish to attend and have not received an invitation by the middle of October please contact our office at Morpeth on 01670 517178.

Association, Staithes Lane, Morpeth.

Date: Thursday 6 October 2005 (10.00am to 4.00pm)

Cost: £35 including lunch and refreshments.

Bookings: Forms available from Tower Buildings, Oldgate, Morpeth

(Tel: 01670 517178) or on our website www.ccn.org.uk

Closing Date: Monday 19 September 2005

CONTACT THE ELDERLY

IN THIS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER there are numerous organisations that rely almost entirely on volunteers to enable them to meet the needs of the community they serve. One such organisation is Contact the Elderly (view their website at www.contact-the-elderly.org) and the following item from the Northumberland Friendship Group addresses the organisation's work in Northumberland.

Can you Help? A Little Time - A Lot of Fun - A Big Difference

A Sunday afternoon tea with friends once a month makes all the difference when you are elderly, live alone and, like many, find Sunday the loneliest day of the week. Can you help us for just a little time, and so make all the difference.

Our Sunday afternoon teas each month, in the home of a different local host, provide a family environment where members gain encouragement to keep touch with life and enjoy friendship. A Contact Friendship group normally consists of around 8 elderly members and 4 drivers; in addition a number of Hosts, who each welcome the group to their home for a couple of hours just once a year - It's fun and a caring thing to do!

Drivers chauffeur the elderly members and join in the tea party, help as needed and

return them safely home again - just once a month or much less as a reserve driver. The experience is life enhancing for all concerned!

More drivers and hosts are needed urgently to help develop new Friendship Groups in Northumberland. We also have vacancies for more elderly members.

Mary, one of our members, said, "So often when you are old and on your own, it doesn't seem to matter what your previous life has been, you often feel like a nobody. Contact has put self esteem back into my life - being looked after by lovely drivers and being welcomed into people's homes has made all the difference to me".

In 1965, our founder chairman, Trevor Lyttleton, found a way to make a difference to lonely Sunday afternoons. Nationally, there are now 267 Friendship Contact groups

meeting every month, all good reasons for celebrating our 40th Anniversary!

If you can make a difference please contact Rachel Welch, Northumberland Friendship Group Development Officer, tel: 01661-842349 email: rachel@contact-the-elderly.org.

STAYING AT HOME

Northumberland Home Improvement Agency (NHIA) has recently been established and the Manager, Margaret Bland has been appointed to set up the service. From its initial base in Ashington, the Agency will be developed to deliver services to the whole county of Northumberland.

Northumberland Home Improvement Agency will help homeowners & private sector tenants who are older, disabled or on low income to repair, improve, maintain or adapt their homes enabling them to remain in their own home, safe, secure, warm and independent.

The service is very client-focused with a full assessment being carried out in the home to identify individual problems and to consider the possible solutions. Information and assistance will be given regarding various ways of financing the cost of the works and a full technical service will be given to include selecting contractors, drawing up schedules for the agreed works, obtaining competitive prices, monitoring the work in progress and ensuring satisfactory completion which meets the clients needs and wishes. The type of work can range from minor to major, for example small plumbing repairs through to major renovations, improvements, or adaptations for a disabled person to enable them to remain living at home. Information will also be provided about other support services that may be available to assist them in maintaining their independence.

Agency staff will shortly be recruited and trained to deliver this high quality service, which will be of great benefit to the people of Northumberland. Referrals will be taken from all sources as soon as NHIA is ready to deliver the service. For further details contact the Manager, Margaret Bland on 01670 850410 or e-mail nhia@dsl.pipex.com

HITTING THE HEIGHTS

DANGLING 150 FEET from a rope is a unique way to experience the spectacular views up and down the Tyne! When the call came for daring, caring folk to visit the Baltic Arts Centre in Gateshead - and then jump off the building to complete a sponsored abseil for charity, two CCN staff quickly took up the challenge. Apparently there's nothing like the exhilaration and adrenaline rush of abseiling off the side of a tall building and gliding back down to earth - and the girls are going to find out just how true that statement is!

Participants are attached via a safety harness by a trained instructor, then step off the top of the building, guiding themselves to the ground below - after instruction on how to control the roped descent so that they can go as quickly or as slowly as they like!

In October 2003 over 1,000 people took part in the RNIB BALTIC abseil event, raising over £146,000. This year they are aiming to recruit more than 1,500 abseilers and raise over £200,000.

Abseiling from BALTIC is a privilege for RNIB participants only, as no other charity is permitted to abseil from this distinctive venue. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase a photograph of their descent to make sure that friends and family appreciate the achievement.

During the course of the weekend, Gateshead Council is providing a variety of entertainment in BALTIC Square. You will be able to learn more about RNIB and their work in your community inside the centre, which will also host some spectacular artwork and sculptures designed by a local blind artist (name to be confirmed).

Office Manager Chris Hall and Assistant Finance Officer Carol Megson have applied to take part in the event, in aid of the Royal National Institute of the Blind, to be held during the weekend of 15/16 October and now have to find a combined sponsorship of at least £200 to hand over on the day.

If you would like to sponsor the girls, contact us at Tower Buildings on 01670 517178 or email to info@ccn.org.uk

CCN's new CDO for the Alnwick area

JULIA SHARPLEY has recently been appointed at CCN as the new Community Development Officer for Alnwick District and will be based in Alnwick at our new Fenkle Street office. Her role will embrace two CCN Programme areas; community regeneration and health and social objectives. She will, therefore, be working with a wide range of community groups throughout the District. Julia's career background is in Higher Education - most recently at the University of Northumbria - where she specialised in tourism management and rural development issues at the Business School. Julia says, "During my ten years experience in Higher Education, I have always involved myself and my students in 'real' community projects and research. I am therefore delighted at the prospect of working with community groups as the main focus of my new job."



Originally from Nidderdale in Yorkshire, and having lived in rural Northumberland for the past 8 years, Julia is no stranger to rural community issues. As a volunteer with a number of rural projects herself, she is aware of the pressures faced by people running committees in rural areas. She is looking forward to meeting the groups who already have ongoing projects in the area as well as those who might be looking for new help with issues such as funding, charity registration, etc. Julia can be contacted on 01665 605540 or by email juliasharpley@ccn.org.uk

Leading the Field

LEAD THE FIELD is an exciting comprehensive training programme for voluntary and community organisations, which will take place in 2006.

Funded by Northern Rock Foundation as part of its Training Institute, and delivered by Mark Butcher Associates, the programme will comprise of four individual training courses and will be entirely free to participating organisations.

The four training programmes are:

The Sustainability School: This 5 day residential fundraising training event will seek to produce empowered, knowledgeable, confident fundraisers, equipped with all of the skills they will need to begin raising large sums of money immediately.

The Time Out Programme: This 2-day programme will help staff and trustees to consider where they are and where they are going as an organisation.

The Capacity Building Programme: This is a 10-day management development programme which will cover strategic planning, fundraising, project management,

(continued on back page)

Well Worth Joining

VONNE is a charity that supports the Voluntary and Community Sector in the North East and gives it a voice at a regional level. Their membership is open to all voluntary organisations based in the region and brings together a host of groups that are managed by volunteers, independent and working for the public good.

VONNE aims to:

- Ensure that regional partners recognise the value of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
- Keep the sector informed of regional developments
- Support involvement in influencing and developing policy
- Highlight the potential the sector has to play a greater role in shaping our region

Don't forget it's FREE to join VONNE, just complete and return the membership form. If you'd like further information please visit the website www.vonne.co.uk or ring Carrie Brookes on 0191 233 2000.

AWARDS FOR ALL

A NEW VERSION of the A4A application form was published in March 2005.

The new version included some important changes:

- All groups (except schools, parish councils and health bodies) need to send in with their application, three months' worth of original bank statements and photocopies. The most recent of these must not be more than three months old. A4A will keep the photocopies on their files, and return the originals to the group.
- In addition to the bank statements there is now a "Bank Verification" form that needs to be stamped and signed by a bank or building society official.
- Independent referees must now be selected from a specific "pick list". One of the following must be used: arts development officer, sports development officer, lottery officer, museums officer, officer from a development agency eg rural community council such as CCN or a council for voluntary service; local councillor, member of parliament, justice of the peace, senior bank official, religious leader, healthcare professional*, school teacher*, social worker*, police officer*. If the project is working with children under the age of 16, their referee must be from someone from the options marked with an asterisk (*).

There has also been a tightening up on the interpretation of membership clauses in the constitutions of applicants. A4A need to ensure that anyone who wishes to take part in A44 funded activities is not excluded from doing so. Hence they look for an "open" membership clause in the constitutions of applicants.

It is likely that many recent applicants have not been taking careful note of these changes as A4A have recently reported a decline in applications that have been approved. The lesson then is to carefully read the application form and perhaps consider an early application. Remember that Community Council staff are happy to advise on Awards for All applications but can not fill in the application form for you.

(continued from front page)

THE ISSUE AND THE SOLUTION

Looking at the education system in Northumberland compared to the rest of the UK, one obvious fact stands out. In Northumberland we have a three-tier system of education, with first, middle and high schools. In most of the rest of the country there is a two-tier system of primary and secondary schools.

The National Curriculum, with its Key Stage assessments linked to specific ages, assumes a two-tier system. The County Council believes that Northumberland's children are disadvantaged by being educated in a system which is out of step with the national system.

Children's Stage 2 and Stage 3 education is fragmented because they have to move schools in the middle of curricula. There is evidence that school transfers affect performance. Also, accountability for performance is divided between first and middle schools at Key Stage 2 and middle and high schools at Key Stage 3.

THE DECISION

In June 2004, the County Council resolved to address these issues and recommended a change to a two-tier system of education. An extensive consultation exercise was undertaken and a campaign to retain middle schools was launched by a group of parents and teachers who argued that middle schools have an ethos that makes them special and worth preserving.

However, in April 2005, the Council, having listened to the concerns of parents, teachers and others, decided to proceed with a reorganisation of schools in the County to two-tiers.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Since April's decision, progress on moving to two-tiers has been rapid.

Head teachers, chairs of governors, county council members, Learning and Skills Council and representatives of Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses in three school partnerships - in Cramlington, Blyth Valley and Seaton Valley - have been working on models of school reorganisation in their area (first round).

The Council's Executive looked at the work of these Partnerships in July 2005 and decided that the process could move to the next stage by involving parents and teachers on a school-by-school basis (second round).

Alnwick, Hirst and Ashington partnerships have now also undertaken the first phase of discussions.

The Council Executive will meet again to consider the findings and to decide whether to move to a formal, statutory stage of consultation (third round).

If there are any objections to the statutory proposal, the final decision on the organisation of schools and catchment areas in every partnership will rest with the School Organisation Committee - an independent body. If agreed and implemented, then Cramlington will see reorganisation in 2007 but the whole process across the county may not be completed until 2020.

Putting the Learner First is not something the County Council has embarked on without a lot of hard thinking. It represents a tremendous opportunity to be bold and positive about the future of education in Northumberland and to improve the chances of turning aspirations into reality.

TIMETABLE FOR DISCUSSION ON SCHOOL MODELS

Partnership	First Round	Second Round	Third Round	Implementation
Cramlington	May/June 2005	September 2005	Nov/Dec 2005	2007
Blyth	May/June 2005	Jan/Feb 2006	Jun/Jul 2006	2008
Hirst	May/June 2005	Jan/Feb 2006	Jun/Jul 2006	2009
Ashington	May/June 2005	Jan/Feb 2006	Jun/Jul 2006	2009
Seaton Valley	May/June 2005	Nov/Dec 2006	April/May 2007	2009
Alnwick	May/June 2005	Nov/Dec 2006	April/May 2007	2009

For further information, contact learnerfirst@northumberland.gov.uk or Lorraine Fife on 01670 534244

TYNEDALE WHEELS 2 WORK - IT WHEELY WORKS

ANDREW ARCHER left school in June 2003 and went to work for A. Scudamore (Motor Engineers) of Haydon Bridge. Living in Allendale, transport proved to be a problem for Andrew. Faced with attending work in Haydon Bridge to attain his 3 year mechanic's qualification, Andrew was not only restricted in the hours he could work but relied on other people for lifts to and from work because of the lack of convenient public transport.

After a referral to Tynedale Wheels 2 Work, Andrew passed his CBT (compulsory basic training) in June 2005 and took delivery of his new 'Peugeot Speedfight 50' scooter in the same month.

As a result of this, Andrew has moved to Bellingham where he now lives, and is able to work 6 days a week travelling to and from Haydon

Bridge on his scooter and do his studying for his qualification. "I got a bit wet during all that torrential rain" he told Edwina Little (project co-ordinator), "but apart from that, the scheme has been a great help". Through the scheme Andrew has been provided with the scooter plus helmet, gloves, jacket and over-trousers and all the necessary equipment to enable him to make full use of his new mode of transport. The scheme has made an exceptional difference to Andrew and given him the independence he needed.

The Wheels to Work approach has been proven to help young people secure employment that otherwise they would miss out on because they couldn't get to work or training. The short-term loan of scooters and provision of additional services such as driving lessons has been really successful. The Tynedale scheme is part funded by the Countryside Agency, Northumberland Strategic Partnership, Northern Rock Foundation, Job Centre Plus and the Tynedale Rural Transport partnership and is administered by A.D.A.P.T (Action by Differently Able People in Tynedale). It is open to anyone aged over 16 who lives, works or attends further education or training within Tynedale and has available scooters and cars to use to help solve transport problems. If you would like to know more please contact Edwina Little on 01434 600599.

Andrew Archer with his Peugeot Speedfight 50 scooter.



ICE - a cool ideal

BOB BROTCHE is a paramedic working for the East Anglian Ambulance Service. Bob was reflecting on some difficult calls he had attended where people were unable to speak to him because of injury or illness making it almost impossible to find out who they were. Many such patients carried mobile phones and they could often be used to discover who they were.

Bob thought that if there was a uniform approach to searching inside a mobile phone for an emergency contact it would benefit all parties concerned. Hence his ICE (In Case of Emergency) idea was born.

The idea is that mobile users should store the word "ICE" in their mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person they would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency". For more than one contact name use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.

The idea was adopted by the East Anglian Ambulance Service who launched a promotional campaign in May this year. Following the 7 July disasters in London the campaign has increased in momentum largely through a series of emails that have spread rapidly through most workplaces. CCN happily endorses the idea and suggests that, if you have not already done so, put some ICE on your mobile now.

A sad postscript to this story is that a malicious hoax email has started to appear. The hoax message says that people who have created ICE entries on their mobile phones are at risk of a mobile phone virus. No such virus is known to exist. There are a number of websites out there that provide lists of both real and hoax viruses. Any concerned persons can get more details of the hoax from any of those sites. CCN suggests you can start at www.datafellows.com/hoaxes/icehoax.shtml

(continued from previous page)

leadership and team building, time management, creative thinking, influencing skills and marketing. Organisations can apply for the whole ten-day programme or select individual training days to suit themselves.

The Leadership Challenge: This 3 day event is aimed at team leaders, trustees and managers who must get the best from themselves and their teams.

All of the training will take place either at the White Swan Hotel in Alnwick or Linden Hall in Longhorsley between January and June 2006. For more details email markbutcherassociates@blueyonder.co.uk or call Mark Butcher on 0191 226 7304.

Deadline for applications is 11 November 2005.

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 alanhedley@ccn.org.uk.

Copy deadline for the next edition is Tuesday 20 September 2005.

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

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NORTHERN AREA

Sandi Downing (Assistant Director - North) 01665 606578
Julia Sharpley, (CDO Alnwick), Colette Barker, (DO Clayport) 01665 605540
Neil Wilson, Dawn Brodie-Clarke (Leader+) 01668 283898
Mark Shipperlee, BizFizz 01665 605977
Ian Bell, NNVA Alnwick 01665 605772
Kelvin Rushworth, Terri Bearhope (NNVA Berwick) 01289 308338
Els Nicol (CDO Berwick) 01289 304141
Ken Walters, (CDO Rothbury), 01669 621770

WESTERN AREA

Richard Powell, (Assistant Director - West), Judith James, (Admin. Asst), Hexham 01434 607871
Jane Hart, (CDO Bellingham) 01434 220154
Lesley Allen, (Bellingham Community Trust) 01434 220714
Chris Barker, (CDO Haltwhistle) 01434 322766

SOUTH EASTERN AREA

Bill Carr, (Assistant Director - South East) 01670 791773
Mervyn Anthony, Melanie Greenwood, REALL 01670 823706