

Coming Soon

Theme Groups

Community Safety

Monday 14th April 10.15—12.15 Havelock Street
Community Centre
Speaker— Shirley Courtney-Sinclair from Nacro

Economy & Environment

Wednesday 16th April 10.30—12.30 Havelock Street
Community Centre
Speaker—Katie Purves from the Canine Rehoming
Centre at Sadberge

Transport

Friday 25th April 2.00—4.00 Wesley Court
Community Centre

Health

Monday 28th April 10.15—12.15 Havelock Street
Community Centre
Speaker—Ken Greenfield, Chair of Darlington
Primary Care Trust

Positive Images

Wednesday 7th May 10.30—12.30 Havelock Street
Community Centre

Green Fair

There will be a Green Fair in the South Park on 27th
April from 12 until 4pm. This is being organised by
the Countryside Team to promote Darlington's
countryside and sustainable living. There will be lots
of stalls and many interactive activities for all ages.
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Why not come along and spend a
pleasant afternoon finding out
about out how you can help the
Environment?

AGE Darlington
Concern

**Let's get
surfing!**

As part of a national campaign to
give older people confidence to
use computers and the Internet
Age Concern, Bradbury House,
Beaumont Street, is holding a
SILVER SURFER'S event which
starts on Monday 19th May until
23rd May.

These sessions will be held in
Bradbury House on Monday (p.m.),
Wednesday (a.m.) and Thursday
(p.m.) and also at a number of
outreach venues throughout the
week.

Beginners are particularly
welcome. Sessions last an hour
and are free. If you would like
more information or want to book a
place telephone Jean or Gill on
01325 362832 or you can call in at
Age Concern reception and book a
session.

This document will be made available on request to Adult
Social Services in Braille, large print, and on audio cassette,
also available in other languages. Telephone 01325 346200



گر آپ کو انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی دوسری زبان میں یہ معلومات درکار ہیں تو سوشل سروسز ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں
اس ٹیلیفون نمبر 01325 346200 پر رابطہ قائم کیجئے۔

如您需要本出版物除英文以外的版本，请与社会服务部联系：
01325 346200。

আপনি যদি এই প্রকাশনার কপি ইংরেজি ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় চান তাহলে সোশাল সার্ভিসেস বিভাগের সাথে
01325 346 200 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।



Newsletter 32

April 2008

Shaping the future for older people in Darlington

The consultation on the final draft of the strategy for later life 'All our futures' has now closed. Members of the public, representatives from organisations and agencies have all been given the opportunity to make their views and suggestions known about how they would like to see services and life in Darlington in the coming years.

At the open consultation meeting on Thursday, 27th March, people who will be affected by the Strategy also raised some points of concern directly with Miriam Davidson, Director of Public Health, Steve Rose, Chief Executive of Darlington Partnership, Warren Tweed, Commissioning Manager for Older People's Services and Geoffrey Crute, Chief Executive of Age Concern Darlington. Many of these concerns were addressed at the meeting and issues raised will be taken into account in the finished Strategy.

As mentioned in the March newsletter it is very important for people to make their contribution to the Strategy and the organisers of the consultations wish to thank all those who gave their time to help shape the future of services in Darlington for older people.

One of the most important points to come out of the consultations was that there is a great need for the right information to be made easily available at the time when people need it.

The new Strategy will be launched on Tuesday, 22nd April 2008, at the Dolphin Centre with an event which will have information stands and many other attractions. There will be a Talk Time session with representatives from the Police, the Primary Care Trust and Darlington Borough Council Officers— please come along any time between 3pm and 6pm.

Update on the GOLD Trolley Dance

Following all the press coverage of the trolley dance in February the DVD was put onto 'Youtube' and over the last few weeks has received over 73,000 hits (which means an lot of people were keen to find out what had been happening).

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Feedback

Railway Museum Mosaic

The mosaic of tiles made by a group of GOLD members and GOLD and Museum staff is finally on show to members of the public at the Railway Museum. Many of the members involved had a preview the week before the opening and were incredibly pleased at the finished result and the overall effect. Several members spent time during Summer 2007 making the tiles before glazing them in different colours and they have been put together by the artist into the beautiful mosaic pictured here with some of those who took part. The picture can't do it justice so do go along to the Railway Museum and take a look!



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Alan Milburn came to meet and have lunch with the dancers and even tried out a few moves with a trolley himself! The DVD will be shown at the launch of the 'All our futures' strategy on 22nd April.

GOLD Transport Group

Sue Dobson, who is the Council's Principal Transport Policy Officer came to the meeting on 28th March to answer some of the questions that the members had put together about transport in Darlington. Sue explained at length about why some of the decisions were made and what had influenced them.

It was a very informative and interesting meeting and members had the opportunity to share their concerns and ask about issues such as the new bus passes—when they were being issued and where they can be used.

Mark Ellis, the Commercial Manager from Arriva North East, was unfortunately unable to come to the meeting but is hoping to attend the next one. He did, however, give answers to many questions that were concerning the group.

The group is currently looking at holding a Listening Event for transport issues later in the year. The next meeting of this group is on Friday, 25th April, at 2pm in Wesley Court Community Centre.

Visit to CCTV Unit

We are planning another visit to the CCTV Control Room, to see how it all works and ask questions. The visit will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 17th June. If you'd like to come along please telephone Claire or Lesley to get your name down. People who took part in the last visits found them very interesting and were pleased to learn about how the equipment helps to enhance safety in the town.

Contact details

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What's on

Help is at hand

Times are tough money wise for most people so it really is very important that you put in a claim for any allowances that you may be entitled to.

Every year huge amounts of money go unclaimed. Please remember that you worked hard all your life and so do your family, and these allowances are your entitlement—not a handout! This may be the rainy day that you tried to prepare for. BUT you do have to make a claim for the allowances. Making a claim helps to ensure that the money goes to the people it is intended to help.

Forms can be very complicated and intrusive, especially those for Attendance Allowance. It can be very hard to put onto paper the details which are needed about intimate tasks such as washing, feeding and toileting which are needed for these claims.

If you are looking after someone at home, the extra money will not solve the difficulties, but it will help with extra heating, special diets, transport costs and just to make life a little more comfortable.

A sensitive 'outsider' can be very helpful. Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern both offer real help because they deal with these forms on a regular basis and know what type of information needs to be given to support the claim.

GP surgeries, community nurses and social workers are good sources of information about allowances. Do please talk to them and find out for yourself. Just because someone you know does not get an allowance, does not mean that you will not. Every person is different and in a unique situation.

Local Telephone Numbers:
 Age Concern: 01325 362832
 Citizens Advice Bureau: 01325 249842
 Welfare Rights: 01325 388656 or 388868

Here's one to make you think! What made the parishioners think that there was something going on between the vicar and the cook? They found her pants in his vestry and his vest in her pantry.

Townswomen's Guilds

The Townswomen's Guild is a national organisation for women from all walks of life, who want to try different activities, get involved in current issues and make new friends, something we hope for everyone. Guilds usually meet once a month and have a variety of speakers from different organisations or enjoy activities and socialising.

Townswomen's Guilds, which are within the Darlington and District Federation of Townswomen's Guilds, are keen to recruit new members and also welcome visitors to their meetings. There are four Guilds within Darlington urban area, i.e. West End, Hummersknott, Mowden Park, and Salutation.

For further information on any of these Guilds telephone 01325 265745.

Did you know....

Sylvia from Age Concern organises short walks on the second Monday of every month? These walks start at 10.45am and are 2—3 miles long. The next one is on Monday, 14th April, meeting outside ASDA at 10.30am. If you are interested and would like more information ring Sylvia on 362832, on Thursdays or Fridays.