

# Coming Soon

## Theme Groups

### Community Safety

Monday 14th January 10.15—12.15 Havelock Street Community Centre

Speaker— Nigel Green, Trading Standards

### Economy & Environment

Wednesday 16th January 10.30—12.30 Havelock Street Community Centre

Speaker—Andrew Carter, Planning Officer for DBC

### Transport

Friday 25th January 2.00—4.00 Wesley Court Community Centre

### Health

Monday 4th February 10.15—12.15 Havelock Street Community Centre

Speaker—Caroline Dowell from the Stroke Association

### Positive Images

Wednesday 6th February 10.30—12.30 Havelock Street Community Centre

### Sockburn Hall

Following a very interesting visit to Sockburn Hall in November another visit is planned for later in January.

The owners of the hall are keen to get interested people to help with ideas and as volunteers.

Anyone who is interested in seeing the work currently being done to restore the building to it's former glory as a gothic style building, should contact Claire on 380719.

### Get Together

The next Get Together is on Tuesday, 15th January, at 2pm in Havelock Community Centre.

Why not come along for a catch up session and have the chance to see the 'Blinking Ballet' - a short film made by people over 50 in Newcastle.

You are invited to a consultation about The Sustainable Community Strategy with John Bosson from the Council's Policy Unit. The meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 22nd January, from 10.30am, at Havelock Street Community Centre.

This will be your opportunity to give your opinions about the draft strategy which is about the vision for Darlington over the next 15—20 years and will give you the chance to ask questions about it. Remember—**this is your opportunity to pass on your views.**

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 29

January 2008

## Best wishes for 2008!

We, at GOLD, are looking forward to a very busy, but hopefully successful, New Year. There will be lots of opportunities for our members to become involved in helping to shape the future of Darlington and finding ways to promote both Darlington and the positive input people over the age of 50 can make.

These opportunities will include consultations with various Council Departments on issues such as the Planning **Core Strategy Issues & Options** which seeks views on how planning Darlington should develop over the next 15 years. This consultation will take place on Wednesday, 16th January 2008, at 10.30am in Havelock Street Community Centre on Katherine Street. Anyone who is interested in the future of Darlington is very welcome to come along. Watch this space for news of more consultation exercises.

Members are also involved in making a short film, which will be shot in the Town Centre at the beginning of February. The purpose of this film is to raise awareness that people over the age of 50 have a lot of enthusiasm, energy and skill which they are willing to share and make use of, and that they still enjoy life to the full. If you are interested in finding out more about the making of this film and how you can get involved please contact the GOLD Team on the number at the bottom of page 2. Once completed the film will be shown at a variety of venues and events, including the theatre at the Arts Centre.

### The GOLD Christmas Party

The Christmas party was once again a great success with well over 100 people coming along. There was plenty of music to dance to or just to sing along with, a quiz, a raffle with a wide selection of prizes and a tasty buffet.

Thanks must be given to the staff at the DSRM Social Club who were all extremely helpful and friendly and helped to make it go so smoothly.

Everyone who attended received a small gift to take home with them. We hope to see you all again next year and wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.



# Feedback

## Economy and Environment Group

Over the last year this group have look at a wide variety of issues which members felt were very important to everyone in the town, but especially to people over the age of 50.

Throughout the year we have had speakers to tell us about Fair Trade, Let's Get Cracking (the scheme where residents chose which areas of highways they felt needed attention), The Pension Service, Warm Front and EAGA Partnership, NHFA ( who explained about charges for Nursing and Residential Homes and the implications involved), Environmental Health, and Equity Release. All of these proved very interesting and informative, as was the November talk by Mr Archer, a farmer from Walworth Gate. He explained how he had diversified as a result of Foot and Mouth and now runs a very successful ice cream parlour. Members were lucky to be given some tasters of Mr Archer's wares. Many thanks to the Archer family.

This group also used one of their meetings to find out some of the history and see the results of the restoration of the South Park from a Park Ranger. It was fascinating to find out how the park has become what it is now and to see how many improvements have been made recently. As a result of this walk several members have been on subsequent walks—the 'Bat Walk' and the 'Tree Walk'.



The first speaker for this year will be Andrew Carter from the Council's Planning Department who is going to seek the views of our members about the Planning 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' Document. He is keen to hear to views and opinions of people about the future of Darlington and anyone interested is very welcome to come along to the meeting being held at Havelock Street Centre on Wednesday, 16th January, at 10.30am.

The Social Group comprises of a group of like minded people who meet once a month to chat and find out what kind of things they would like to do. Things such as trips to the theatre, going out for a meal or just going for a good walk are often difficult if you live alone, and this group have enjoyed a couple of trips together since starting up.

Several members went to the Civic Theatre together to see a musical and a party of 10 members went to the Darlington College for a special lunch just before Christmas which they very much enjoyed. More outings are being planned by this group.

If you are interested in joining the group they meet on the first Tuesday morning of each month at Havelock Street Community Centre and you would be very welcome.

### Contact details

**Unit 1D**  
**Enterprise House**  
**Valley street North**  
**Darlington**  
**DL1 1GY**

**Telephone: (01325) 380719**  
**Fax: (01325) 488634**  
**Http://gold.darlington.org.uk**  
**Email: gold@darlington.gov.uk**

# What's on

## CAB at Enterprise House

Did you know that you can now access Darlington Citizens Advice Bureau at Enterprise House? The Bureau is holding Outreach sessions every Tuesday morning. These take place in the Darlington Association on Disability offices, and appointments can be made by ringing Pauline Gill of DAD on 01325 489999 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, or 01325 357533 on Wednesday and Friday.

Darlington Citizens Advice Bureau sees around 6000 clients every year, helping them to resolve their legal and other problems. It provides information and advice, and influences government and organisations to bring about change in policies and laws. Advice provided by the Citizens Advice service is free, independent, confidential, and impartial, and available to everyone regardless of race, sex, disability, sexuality or nationality. Areas that advisers are most often asked about are benefit entitlements and debt. However, they deal with a wide range of queries, including housing problems, consumer issues and family and personal matters.

**Have you had any problems with...?** ...A mobile phone contract? ...A holiday which has gone wrong?

**Would you like to know...?** ...how to stop junk mail? ...if you have won the Spanish Lottery? ...**Then why not call Consumer Direct?**

Consumer Direct is a Government funded telephone and online service offering information and advice on consumer issues. We are part of the Office of Fair Trading. We can advise you on a number of topics regarding goods and services and we can also give you pre-shopping advice, handy for when shopping or returning Christmas presents! We can:

- \*Provide pre-shopping advice before you buy goods or services.
- \*Explain your consumer rights and how to make a complaint if you have a problem or disagreement with a trader.
- \*Provide general advice on how to avoid unscrupulous traders or 'cowboys'.
- \*Explain consumer-related issues such as warranties, buying on credit, internet shopping, refunds and replacements etc.
- \*Provide advice on avoiding trading scams and rip-offs.

Friendly trained advisors provide advice who are ready to offer tailored guidance. Consumer Direct will deal with each caller's problems or questions individually recommending clear course of action to follow.

### Opening Times:

Call us on 08454 040506 8am—6.30pm Monday-Friday and 9am-1pm Saturdays  
 8 am - 6.30 pm

## Services at

**50plus Age Concern**  
 Holistic Therapies are now available at 50plus Age Concern in Bradbury House along with regular hair-dressing and Chiropody services.  
 For more information or to book please call into Age Concern at Bradbury House or telephone 01325 362832.

## Social Club

The next meeting of the social club is on Tuesday, 5th February at Havelock Street Community Centre at 10.30am.