

Coming Soon

Theme Groups

Transport

Friday 27th June 2.00—4.00 Wesley Court Community Centre—Mark Ellis from Arriva

Positive Images

Wednesday 2nd July 10.30—12.30 Havelock Street Community Centre

Health

Monday 7th July 10.15—12.15 Havelock Street Community Centre
Speaker—Amanda Dexter of Darlington Primary Care Trust, consulting on changes to G.P.-led Services

Community Safety

Monday 14th July 10.15—12.15 Havelock Street Community Centre

Economy & Environment

Wednesday 16th July 10.30—12.30 Havelock Street Community Centre
Speaker—Claire Owers from D'ham & D'ton Fire Safety Team

Get Together

Tuesday, 22nd July 2.00—4.00 Havelock Street Community Centre

Joke of the Month

Did you hear about the man who drank a glass of varnish—he thought it was Guinness! It killed him but he had a lovely finish.

(Continued from page 3)

has identified that the area of greatest need is the town centre.

For this reason it is proposed that the GP-led health centre should be integrated and co-located with the Walk in Centre at Doctor Piper House. The PCT is keen to hear feedback from the public about this proposal and a representative is attending a meeting with GOLD, for the public to attend and express their views, on Monday 7th July, 10:15am - 12:00 noon at Havelock Community Centre in Katherine Street.

If you would like a copy of the Public Consultation document and questionnaire please contact GOLD and they will send the information to you. You can also complete an online questionnaire, which can be downloaded from the PCT's website – www.darlingtonpct.nhs.uk. Alternatively, people can email their views to Amanda.Dexter@darlingtonpct.nhs.uk or write to Amanda Dexter, Partnerships, Patients and Public Engagement Manager, Doctor Piper House, King Street, Darlington, DL3 6JL. **All your views and opinions are important and we would appreciate your comments.**

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।

If you have comments or suggestions about this newsletter please contact Lesley Compson on 388845



Newsletter 34

June 2008

Darlington Community Carnival Saturday, 28th June 2008

This year the theme for the annual Community Carnival is 'Festivals of the World' and GOLD members have been invited to take part in the procession and the events in Stanhope Park.

To prepare for the carnival there are a series of workshops for GOLD running throughout June at the Arts Centre on Vane Terrace, every Friday afternoon from 2pm until 4pm. These workshops are both interesting and fun (as you can see from the photographs below of last year's preparations) and anyone is welcome to come along, even if you are unable to attend the Carnival itself.



We are also having a cake stall and bottle tombola stall in the park and would like to ask for donations of bottles (any unopened bottle—wine, pop, shampoo or bubble bath, etc) to help to raise funds for events like the Positive Health Day and the Christmas Party. We are also looking for volunteer bakers. This year we can offer to pay for the ingredients for anyone wishing to help by baking cakes, biscuits, scones or pies. We can also arrange collection of any donations. Please ring Claire or Lesley on 388845 if you are able to help.

GOLD Office move and new contact details.

As we informed you in the last newsletter the GOLD Team have moved. The new office is in 13 Horsemarket, Darlington, DL1 5PW, Telephone 388845, as part of the Connecting with Communities Team, who have been very helpful and welcoming.

We will be moving again soon, within the same premises, to a ground floor office which will be more accessible.

The 'Fancy a Dance?' event is being held on Thursday, 17th July, from 11am until 3pm. Why not come along to the Market Square and listen to the mini-dance orchestra and have a cream tea and a dance?

Feedback

Readers Group

For some years a group of GOLD members have been involved in a review group which looks at information aimed at older people in Darlington.

The group look at whether the information is easy to read with the correct size font, not written with too much jargon, current, and easily understood.

They have been asked to review documents for Adult Services, Supporting People and the Primary Care Trust, and Housing Benefits.

The work they do is valued and appreciated by the organisations and groups who ask for their advice. Their input has been acknowledged by Help the Aged, who invited some of the members to become part of their national readers group.

If anyone is interested in becoming part of this group please contact Lesley for more information.

Consultation on the 'All our Futures' Older Persons Strategy Action Plan

Gold members were invited to give their opinions and comments on the Draft Action Plan for the Older Persons Strategy on Tuesday, 3rd June, at Wesley Court Community Centre.

Some very relevant comments and suggestions were made. These will be typed up and passed on to Miriam Davidson, the Darlington Director of Public Health, to be incorporated into the final Action Plan.

If you were unable to attend the meeting but would like to have a copy of the comments and suggestions made on the draft document please contact Lesley or Claire who will send you one in the post.

Macmillan 'Toddle in the Park'

A sponsored 'toddle' has been arranged in North Lodge Park on Sunday, 29th June 2008, starting at 11am. Why not come along with your children or grand-children and join in? To register or for more details please contact Michelle on 07877673030.

Success at last!

Many residents in Hurworth with mobility problems found it difficult getting around with wheelchairs and pushchairs as there were no dropped kerbs in the village.

Members of GOLD wrote to the Highways department and several Councillors explaining the need for the kerbs. One member in particular, Albert Burton, not only worked alongside other GOLD members, but also independently canvassed local residents. He then took his petition to Councillors in person and re-enforced the urgent need for dropped kerbs. His perseverance and persistence eventually paid off as dropped kerbs have now been installed.

Albert is now able to go out with his wife, Flo, for walks in her wheelchair and they regularly go to their local club for a drink, where they have made many new friends. Well done Albert and the GOLD groups who helped and supported his quest.

Contact details

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What's on

A short story competition is being run by Darlington Council as part of its 'Making Waste Work' campaign, which aims to get everyone in Darlington to think about the waste they produce and to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible.

As part of the campaign, the Council is inviting writers to pen a short story, of no more than 2,000 words, on the theme of Making Waste Work. The story could look at what will happen if we don't all recycle, suggest new ways we can go green or feature Darlington's own superhero Street Scene Man – as long as it fits the reduce, reuse, recycle theme. There are two categories – one for children up to the age of 16 and one for adults.

The winning story in each category will be read at the annual Darlington Story-Telling Festival at Drinkfield Nature Reserve on Saturday August 2 and will be published on the Council's Making Waste Work website. The authors will also receive a goody bag of green products. Entries should be sent to Story Competition, Darlington Council, Room 112, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT, by Tuesday July 1. To help reduce the amount of paper we all use, stories can also be e-mailed to town.crier@darlington.gov.uk

CAN YOU COMPUTE?

The IT Centre hosts classes in Bradbury House and in the community to enable older people to acquire basic IT skills, (e.g. using a keyboard and mouse), across a range of software packages. Older learners can take classes in word processing, e-mail, internet technology and digital photography. For further information or to register for one of the classes, starting in June and July, please contact Jean Raby or Gill Watson on 362832.

Consultation launched on new GP-led Health Centre for Darlington

Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) is launching a public consultation exercise to gather views on how it should implement the government's recommendations on GP-led health centres.

The consultation, which runs until 4 August 2008, will focus on PCT plans to deliver extended and improved access to GP services in Darlington as part of 150 GP-led health centres across England.

Government guidelines state that the centres must reflect local need and circumstances, and maximise the scope for co-location with other community-based services, such as minor injuries, contraception services and alcohol misuse.

The main features of the development include:

- That it is GP-led
- Any member of the public can access GP services from 8am until 8pm seven days per week
- There will be both bookable appointments and walk-in services
- There will be significant opportunities to improve patient care and reduce health inequalities through the delivery of specialist and outreach services

This national programme is intended to address inequalities and improve health in the areas with most need. Although there are a number of areas in Darlington with high levels of need, the evidence of a rigorous 'Health Needs Assessment' (continued on page 4)