Don’t lose your right to vote - the deadline is looming

People in Shildon and Mid-dridge who have not yet registered to vote or who have recently moved are being reminded that they have less than two weeks left to sign up.

The introduction of Individual Electoral Registration means people are now required to register to vote individually, rather than by household.

The new system also allows residents to register online at www.gov.uk/registertovote, using their National Insurance Number.

Being on the electoral roll can help organisations verify your identity so as well as being able to vote, registering helps you get bank accounts, car finance and phone contracts, loans and tenancy checks.

The deadline for receiving applications to register to vote in the Parliamentary General election is Monday, 20th April.

Jubilee Fields Community Centre, along with local fundraiser and keen baker Heidi Cronin, have organised a ‘Help For Heroes Bake Off’ on Saturday 25th April, from 10am until 4pm.

On the day there will be an array of cakes and pastries for sale, along with refreshments. There will also be a Help for Heroes pop up shop, selling official merchandise to raise further funds for the charity, which helps servicemen and women who have been injured in conflict.

Sally Ann, from the Community Centre, commented, “We are asking residents to donate homemade cakes or pastries which can be either dropped off at the centre or collected by the staff the day before.”

Organiser Heidi is even offering a special prize for the best donation.

In conjunction with the aforementioned, the Community Centre is also selling tables at a cost of £5 each to people who are looking to hold their own ‘Table Top Sale,’ with sellers having access to the Centre from 9am to set up their stalls.

“Please note due to the nature of the ‘Bake Off’ we are unable to take bookings for a cake stall,” continued Sally Ann. “Thank you in advance, let’s make this a fantastic event and show our support for our troops!”

The Mayor of Shildon, Councillor Henry Nicholson, will be attending the fundraiser.

For further information regarding the event, or to book a table, contact either Barbara or Sally Ann at the Centre on 01388 775425 or Heidi on 07583 413681.

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Just remembering our Dad, Granda & Great Granda, who we lost a year ago.

How time flies by and yet life stands still, when our hearts are still raw off losing a man who was our hero.
The day he closed his eyes, a flicker of light went out.
A year has passed but you are, and will be, forever in our hearts.

Dennis Tomlinson
14th April 2014
A dear Brother-in-Law
Loved and remembered every day
Christine & family

Israel Alderson
10.4.2012
The rolling steam of life rolls on
But still the vacant chair
Recalls the love, the voice, the smile,
Of the one who once sat there
Rembered always,
John & Christine, Neil & Debbie, Rae & Sandra, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren

Dennis Tomlinson
14th April 2014
Gone from our home but not from our thoughts.
Remembering our beloved and much missed Husband, Dad & Grandad.
A year has passed but you are, and will be, forever in our thoughts.

With love always,
Susan, Vicky, Damien, Amy, Steve, Rebecca, Luca & Liam

Dennis Tomlinson
14th April 2014
A year ago today
You were taken up above
And every day since then
Has always increased our love

Forever loved and remembered,
Tony, Sharron & family

Allotment break-in

Overnight between Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April, a shed was broken into on All Saints Allotments and a number of items were stolen, including a gent’s chrome coloured mountain bike with a red and black seat; a ladies pink mountain bike; a child’s black BMX bike; a yellow coloured chainsaw and two rechargeable power drills, one of them Dewalt.

If you have been offered any of these items for sale or know anything about the incident, you are urged to contact Shildon Police on 101.

Identity sought

Shildon Police are appealing to residents to help identify the person who has been dangerously riding an off-road scrambler motorbike at excessive speeds around the town.

The bike has distinctive orange mudguards.

“If you do know the person please contact us on 101 before a member of the public gets hurt,” said a spokesperson.

Lotto rollover

The latest Shildon AFC Supporters Club lotto numbers were drawn on Sunday evening during the half time break in the Supporters Club Quiz Night. The six numbers drawn out of the bag were: 1, 6, 8, 12, 16 and 18. There were no winners, and the consolation prize of £25 went to C Johnson. Next week’s jackpot rolls over to £450 with players required to choose 6 numbers from 19.

The next meeting of Shildon Supporters’ Club will be taking place on Sunday 12th April from 11.30am at the Clubhouse on Dean Street.

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People’s Question Time

General Election candidates standing in the Bishop Auckland constituency will be challenged to explain how their parties would help communities tackle social deprivation, in a hustings debate organised by the Revd David Tomlinson.

The Labour, Conservative, LibDem, UKIP and Green parties have confirmed their attendance at the event at St John’s in Church Street, Shildon on Monday 13th April, beginning at 7pm. The event will be chaired by the Revd David Tomlinson, vicar of the church.

Each candidate will be invited to speak for five minutes on ‘why I deserve your vote’. This will be followed by questions from the floor for 45 minutes to an hour.

The formal part of the evening will conclude by 8.30pm, and the candidates will then have the opportunity to mingle with the audience over refreshments with the event finishing at 9pm.

News of the debate comes just a few weeks after the House of Bishops of the Church of England expressed the hope for political parties to discern ‘a fresh moral vision of the kind of country we want to be’ ahead of the General Election in May.

Revd Tomlinson said, “This is one of the most deprived areas in the country and a lot of the issues arising from austerity and deprivation present themselves on our doorstep on a daily basis. As a church, we work to tackle some of these problems and it is right that election candidates are challenged to say what their government would do to help. It is also right that the church should be involved in this political debate.”

St John’s is a key driver in the Shildon Alive project based at St John’s Church, which runs community gardens and a food aid service among other projects.

Revd Tomlinson continued, “Shildon Alive is about breathing life into a struggling community. We are making our contribution and election candidates should be challenged to say what they are doing.”

His comments echo the pastoral letter from the House of Bishops to the parishes of the Church of England, in which the Bishops urged Christians to consider how we can ‘build the kind of society which many people say they want but which is not yet being expressed in the vision of any of the parties.’

The letter encouraged church members to engage in the political process ahead of the General Election and to put aside ‘the common good’. The letter defends the right of the Church to enter into political life and to discern how their parties would help communities tackle social deprivation.

Council to discuss Rest House plans

April’s meetings of Shildon Town Council will take place on Monday 13th, from 6.30pm in the Council Chambers, Civic Hall Square.

Among the items to be discussed is a planning application for the proposed alterations to the Rest House in Hackworth Park. The plans have been submitted by Health Express and propose the inclusion of a first floor study and meeting room, and the insertion of 4 dormers in the existing roof space.

The plans follow the decision by the Town Council to rent the building to Health Express for a ‘peppercorn rent’ on a 25 year lease.

Other planning applications that will also be reviewed include the erection of an externally illuminated fascia sign at Nisa Local on Jubilee Road and the erection of a storage and distribution building on land to the east of Unit 5, Future Business Park, Shildon.

Parish meeting

The next meeting of Dene Valley Parish Council will be taking place on Monday 13th April, from 6.30pm in Prince Bishop Primary School, Dene Valley. Members of the public are welcome to attend.
The Premier Line

A recent shunt at Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon, has produced perhaps the longest and most complete London & North Western Railway train for decades. “Hardwicke” now stands at the head of the LNWR Royal Train and gives an impression of what a train, on what was known as “The Premier Line,” looked like. The display is currently in the Collection Building at Locomotion. The museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm, and parking and admission are free of charge.

Mammoth jumble sale

Shildon Salvation Army on Cross Street is holding its regular monthly Jumble Sale on Tuesday 14th April from 10am. In addition there will also be a ‘Mammoth Jumble Sale’ on Saturday 18th April, again from 10am. Admission to both is free and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Getting into the Easter spirit

With Easter Sunday dawning fresh and bright, the sun was greeted by a flaming brazier outside of Saint John’s church. This was just the beginning of a day of celebration as the community came together to mark the most important day in the Christian year.

An Easter egg hunt in the vicarage garden filled the afternoon and, as the adults took advantage of the spring sunshine, thirty children raced around in search of the seventy eggs hidden amongst the trees and shrubs.

Some of the kids arrived in Easter bonnets reflecting the seasonal themes, and as they hunted, the garden was filled with laughter.

“Thi,s” said Revd. David, “is what Easter is about, life in all its abundance. Resurrection was not merely a historical event, it is a living reality.”

The day ended with a quiet service of reflection back in the church before a game of hide and seek as dusk began to fall.

Skate Park design chosen

Overnight between Friday 27th and Saturday 28th March, thieves have attempted to gain entry to a parked car on Dryborne Avenue, Shildon, using a flat, bladed object. The attempt triggered the car’s alarm, which caused the suspect to flee without entering the vehicle.

The remaining funds for the project were secured from Durham County Councillors’ Neighbourhood budgets in the sum of £7,000 and £23,000 from Shildon Town Council. Five tenders were submitted with two of the companies not meeting the criteria. The remaining three companies were invited to a Consultation Event, held at Shildon Civic Hall on Thursday 26th March, to which young people and residents were invited to attend to discuss designs, amendments and to vote for their preferred option.

Skate Park design chosen

Shildon Town Council has been awarded £50,000 through the Inspired Facilities Fund (Sport England) to refurbish the existing skate park in Hackworth Park, which will include the replacement of obsolete steel ramps, rails and tarmac surface with new concrete ramps, rails and surface.

The winning skate park design, submitted by Freestyle Skate Parks.

Thirty four members of the public attended the event and the overwhelming preferred choice was designed by Freestyle, who is one of the oldest and largest skate park firms in the UK. The company has also offered complimentary assistance with an opening event. Work on the project will begin in the summer, pending the approval of Shildon Town Council at their meeting on Monday 13th April.

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A&R ELECTRICS GROUP

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Friday 10th April 2015 Issue 710 Shildon & District Town Crier
Residents and staff at Holly Lodge Care Home on Maddison Street, Shildon, were delighted to receive a visit from Barbara Bates and Jenette Sisson from the Co-operative Funeralcare last week. The ladies kindly delivered packets of hot cross buns to the residents and staff at Holly Lodge Care Home.

On Sunday afternoon, 5th April, a pressure washer was stolen from an open garage on Robson Street, Shildon. The owner and his friend saw a man make off with the item, and so got in a car and gave chase. They quickly lost the man but vigilant members of the public helped direct them to the exact location where the man had made off. The 32 year-old man was eventually arrested by Shildon Police in St John’s Church yard. The man has been charged with burglary, assaulting a police officer and a public order offence. He is to attend South Durham Magistrates on 23rd April. A spokesperson for Shildon Police stated, “We would like to thank all the people who assisted the victim by directing him to where this man had ran off with the stolen pressure washer. “This is also a big lesson for people to be mindful when leaving garages open during the warm weather. Please try not to leave your property unattended.”

Big spring clean

Young people from the Jubilee Fields Community Centre Junior Club, Shildon Alive/Kids in the Garden Club and Shildon Ignite took part in a Big Spring Clean as part of the Litter-free Durham Campaign on Wednesday 1st April. With the help of volunteers, Shildon Town Council and livin, the youngsters set off from the Community Centre to collect litter. Twenty bags of rubbish were collected by all involved and the day was finished off with a fun Easter Egg Hunt. “A big thank you goes to all the young people, volunteers and Durham County Council who supplied the litter pick equipment,” said an organiser of the event.

The group collected 20 bags of litter during their Big Spring Clean.

Residents using a van, pickup, minibus or towing a trailer to dispose of their household waste must use a waste permit. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc or call 03000 261 000 to apply for a waste permit. For further details on household waste recycling centres visit www.durham.gov.uk/commercialwaste.

Vigilant public helped to catch thief

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**Breathe Easy musical evening**

Breathe Easy Durham Dales, the local support group for the British Lung Foundation, is to hold a musical evening with song and brass on Wednesday 22nd April. The concert will be held at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church on Cockton Hill Road, (opposite the general hospital), from 7.30pm when the VIVO choir and Fishburn Academy Band will perform.

Tickets are available from Harry Brown on 01388 773652 (or on the door) and cost £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and are free for under 16s. Light refreshments will also be available.

All money raised will be donated to the British Lung Foundation.

Breathe Easy groups provide support and information for people living with a lung condition, as well as for those who look after them. People can meet and talk to others, share their experiences and learn from each other. Regular speakers can also share information about living with their condition and coping with the emotional aspects of having a lung condition. The groups also enjoy meals and days out, concerts, quizzes and fundraising evenings.

The local branch meets on the first Thursday of the month, from 2pm - 3.30pm at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church. The group is free to join, and friends and carers are welcome. If you are interested in joining, simply go along, or for more information call Marie Anderson on 0300 3030 253 or Harry Brown on 01388 773652.

**Stationary Engine Rally**

Don’t miss the Stationary Engine Rally at Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April, where a record 12th April, where a record 12th April.

The event will feature a range of stationary steam engines, which were used as farming and industrial power sources in the early-mid 20th Century. What’s more, younger visitors will also have the chance to enjoy free family arts and crafts activities as part of the Freight Train themed Easter school holiday programme at Locomotion, available every day until 12th April.

**Work starts on business park expansion**

Work has started on the expansion of a Shildon business park, as owners The CreateCity Group begin additional investment of at least £4 million in the site. The Future Business Park has already seen £5 million of investment from CreateCity. The new investment, which follows planning consent from Durham County Council, will take the site to around half a million square feet of warehousing, logistics, office and retail space.

Ground has been broken on the first phase of the latest work, which involves 40,000 sq ft of space, comprising four multi-purpose industrial units. North Yorkshire-based Randall Orchard Construction Ltd has been appointed to lead the project. The first four units are scheduled for completion in the autumn. The CreateCity Group, which includes Frank’s Flooring Store, last year invested in major landscaping of the site to create an increasingly attractive place of work for those employed there. CreateCity worked with two local companies Cre8ive Graphics and Wilkinson’s Landscapes on the signage and refurbishment of the site, which was rebranded in a project involving Sunnydale Community College last year. David Stubbs of The CreateCity Group said, “This is the start of an exciting new phase in the life of the Future Business Park. The CreateCity Group is committed to investment in Shildon, with £5 million of enhancements completed and in excess of £4 million more to come, including these four new units.

“This is an important site for Shildon, and we are grateful for the support not only of Durham County Council and Business Durham, but also local politicians here in Shildon and partners including the North East Chamber of Commerce.”

Graeme Newton, Managing Director of Randall Orchard Construction, said, “We are very happy to be involved in the development of this important site for Shildon, as the CreateCity Group invests in the area’s future.”

**TV star Robson Green films at Brusselton**

TV star Robson Green recently visited Brusselton Incline, just outside of Shildon, where he filmed scenes for a new ITV documentary. The show will follow the current refurbishment of the Flying Scotsman locomotive at Bury, and will be aired once refurbishments are complete later this year.

At Brusselton, Robson witnessed some of the work being undertaken by local volunteers to bring Brusselton Incline back to life. Robson met a few of the volunteers, Alex Tighe – Group Founder, Gerald Slack and John Rottgardt. Anthony Coulls, Senior Curator of Rail Vehicles at The National Railway Museum was also on hand to speak to Robson. Filming took around one-and-a-half hours to complete and Robson then invited everyone to the Locomotion museum in Shildon for a drink, where he signed autographs and took photographs with everyone.

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Furnace Industrial Estate, Shildon
Easter egg recycling scheme

Following the success of last year’s trial, customers can now recycle their Easter egg packaging at Sainsbury’s Bishop Auckland until the 14th April.

The specially designed Easter recycling facility allows customers to recycle the elements of Easter egg packaging - including plastic, card and paper. The scheme makes it even easier to recycle the packaging from eggs, taking in materials like rigid plastic, which not all local kerbside collections accept. The recycling facilities will be available at 400 stores across supermarkets in the UK.

The Christmas card recycling scheme collected 88 tonnes of cards which amounted to a donation of £12,276 to the Forest Stewardship Council, helping to protect the world’s forests.

Shildon & District Town Crier

Think before you park!

As the schools head back following the Easter break, the town’s police are reminding parents of pupils at Timothy Hackworth School to ‘Think Before You Park’ and to remember to use the one way system around the school.

PCSO Michael Robson commented, “The voluntary one way system is still proving to be a success - a big thank you to all parents who have cooperated.”

Easter service is taken into the town

Shildon Churches together were not dampened by the wet Good Friday weather as they gathered under the bandstand in the town square.

Revd. David brought out the large wooden cross from Saint John’s, whilst the Salvation Army Band accompanied the singing and Revd. Emma Morgan from the Methodist Church read a poem. With members of each church contributing something to the day of solemn remembering, passers-by were treated to a gift of an Easter egg and a copy of the Easter story.

After the songs were sung and readings heard the crowd moved out of the wet and into Saint John’s Church where hot cross buns were devoured and chilled fingers warmed around a cup of tea.

Car break-in

At approximately 11pm on Monday night, 6th April, a man broke into a car on Middleton Road.

The owner of the car heard the attempt, and so disturbed the man who then made off. If anyone has any information about this incident they are urged to contact Shildon Police on 101.

Huge indoor car boot

A Huge Indoor Car Boot and Table Top Sale will take place at Eldon Community Centre this weekend.

There will be retro and vintage clothes, Herbalife, bric-a-brac, recycled furniture, linen & curtains, toys and collectables. There will also be yummy home-made refreshments and collectables. The event will take place from 10am on Saturday 11th April.

For more information, call 01388 775960.

Divine service

The Church will also hold an Open Circle on Wednesdays from 7pm till 8.30pm. “A warm welcome awaits everyone,” said Church secretary, Angela.

Shildon Spiritualist Church on Middleton Road will open for Divine Service on a Sunday, between 6pm and 7.30pm, from Sunday 12th April.

Shildon Churches together were not dampened by the wet Good Friday weather as they gathered under the bandstand in the town square.

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Mr Andrew Todd reads the story of the crucifixion.
Shildon AFC retain the Durham Challenge Cup after a comfortable 2-0 win in the final against Gateshead FC, played in front of a crowd of 618 at the Hetton Centre on Friday 3rd April.

The Railwaymen’s defence were comfortably dealing with Gateshead’s isolated attacks. A right wing cross from Ben Wood just failed to find the head of Billy Greulich-Smith, and just before the break a Wood left foot strike was punched out by the Shildon keeper.

On 11 minutes when Ben Wood burst through and squared the ball to Mark Doninger for him to sidefoot past keeper Alex Baird. No 10 Jake Orrell in the 6 yard box, but Kyle Hayes pulled off a great save. Minutes later, the same player Jake Orrell beat the off-side trap and was through, but once again the Shildon keeper made a tremendous stop with his feet, injuring himself in the process.

On the hour Bobby Moore missed a good opportunity to increase the lead, before Mark Doninger’s long range strike hit the post. On 71 minutes Gateshead were down to 10 men when No 4 Dean Briggs received his 2nd yellow card. For Shildon both Jack Taylor and Billy Greulich-Smith fired wide, and at the other end Gateshead’s Tom Marshall’s great point-blank header from 10 yards brought an equally great save from Kyle Hayes.

Final Score: Gateshead FC 0 Shildon AFC 2.

After the match manager Gary Forrest said, “This was a good team performance. We had some good chances and maybe could have scored a few more, nevertheless we got back to what we do best, that is pass the ball about. It was a comfortable win”.

Shildon then went on to reach their second cup final of the season with a hard fought 1-0 away victory to Dunston UTS on Tuesday 7th April in the semi-final of the Brooks Mileson Northern League Cup.

The Railwaymen had the edge of a non eventful first half, before they broke through just 3 minutes into the second half when a left foot shot from outside the box from Mark Doninger hit the post and rebounded off the keeper into the net. After Shildon’s keeper Lewis Graham saved from captain Dave Coulson and Carl Jones blocked brilliantly from Lee McAndrews, Shildon nearly made it 2-0 with a Billy Greulich-Smith header going just wide.

Dunston pressed forward for the equaliser but Shildon held on with Lewis Graham punching over a shot from Dale Burrell in the last minute.

Final Score: Dunston UTS 0 Shildon AFC 1

Manager Gary Forrest said, “The character and the attitude of the players tonight was first class. Considering how many players were missing through injury, this was a great result. Our only subs were Adam Rundle, Jack Taylor, Danny Richmond (who hasn’t kick a ball for months) and Keith Finch. The team did us proud”.

Shildon Railway Cricket Club commences a new life in the North Yorkshire and South Durham Premiere Cricket League this weekend with the second team leading the way, playing their first game on Sunday at Stokesley. The first team start their fixtures the following Saturday with a trip to Wolviston. The Club is looking for someone to act as scorer for the second team for which reasonable expenses are paid. Anyone interested in the position should contact John Brennan on 01388 777184. The two junior teams at Under 18 and Under 15 level are expecting their fixture lists to be issued by the weekend. Anyone interested in sponsoring the club should also contact John.

Shildon AFC with the Durham Challenge Cup, which they won for the second year in a row (photo courtesy Tom Clegg).

Shildon AFC Fixtures

Saturday 11th April
Home v Whitley Bay

Wednesday 15th April
Away v Morpeth Town

Saturday 18th April
Away v Celtic Nation FC

Tuesday 21st April
Away v Sunderland RCA

Saturday 25th April
Home v Durham City

Wednesday 29th April
Away v Bedlington Terriers