

RENT FREE WEEK FOR SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH

Get your rent account up to date by making the most of your non-payment weeks and you will be entered in to a prize draw – that's the message Sedgefield Borough's Housing Department is sending out to its tenants. Janice Hall acting Head of Housing Management said, "We are urging all tenants who owe rent to continue to pay as normal to help cut their debt. "We are working with a number of organisations including the Citizens Advice Bureau and Age Concern to try and ensure that our customers are able to get the right advice to help tackle their debt problems." As an incentive to encourage tenants to clear their arrears, all accounts that are up to date

by Sunday, January 4th, will be entered into a special prize draw for £100 worth of shopping vouchers for Tesco or Asda. "We want to reward those tenants who pay their rent on time, and we hope this incentive will also encourage anyone who owes us money to pay a little extra each week to catch up," continued Janice. Tenants have five rent-free weeks a year. These are in the summer, at Christmas and New Year, and the first week of the financial year. Having a clear account means that tenants are eligible for other prizes through our incentives scheme during the year. Because of this, Sedgefield Borough Council takes a firm

line with tenants who refuse to pay their rent despite doing everything we can to help. Unfortunately we have to evict some tenants who refuse to pay their rent. Tenants who have been evicted for rent arrears will not normally be re-housed until the arrears have been paid in full. All tenants in arrears will receive letters advising them how much they owe. If you need any advice on paying your rent or dealing with debt, contact your local housing team.

kids korner

Q: What goes "oh, oh, oh?"
A: Santa walking backwards!

UNPAID WORK FOR ALCOHOL THEFT

A Ferryhill man was ordered to carry out unpaid work in the community by local Magistrates last week after he admitted stealing whisky from a local Off-Licence. Appearing at the South Durham Magistrates' Court in Newton Aycliffe was 20 year-old Grant Fletcher, of Helmsley Close in Ferryhill,

who was currently subject to a Suspended Sentence Order. Fletcher entered a 'Guilty' plea to a charge of 'theft', the offence being committed on August 20th this year. Mrs. Alison Nunn, appearing on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service, told the court that Fletcher had entered in the Broom Off-Licence Ferryhill and had stolen a bottle of Jack Daniels Whisky worth

£9.50. Represented in court by Mr. Rory Todd, Fletcher, initially, was ordered to carry out 20 hours of unpaid work in the community in respect of the breach of the Suspended Sentence Order. The sitting Magistrates then handed Fletcher a Conditional Discharge and ordered him to pay compensation of £9.50 to the Broom Off-Licence.

FERRYHILL YOUNGSTERS ON TOP FORM!

Ferryhill Town Youth Under 9's played Primrose Hill on Sunday, December 14th, in the Quarter Final of the League Cup.

The team will now progress to the Semi-Final thanks to a single goal from top scorer, Joe Richardson. It was a good team effort by all team players in a well-fought game. The Under 13's went on another goal blitz at home to Wolviston at the weekend, winning with an outstanding eleven goal margin, the final result being 13 - 2. The first goal came after only 25 seconds when Connor Dunlavy scored the first of an incredible eight goals. The Ferryhill boys are enjoying a great run of form and kept pouring on the pressure with another excellent team performance and masterclass of finishing. The scorers were Dunlavy 8, Carr 3, Callum Walton 1 and Jordan Stannard 1. Man-of-the-Match went to Nathan Carr.

NOTICE OF PLANNING APPLICATION

Permission is being sought from Sedgefield Borough Council for the construction of a Double Garage in Red Brick with a Tiled Roof at 1, Rookery Gardens, Rushyford.

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Tel: 01740 652697
Great Young Vocalist
'MARK WILSON'
Saturday, December 20th, 2008
£1.00 Cover Charge
Admission For Members and Bona Fide Guests.
8.00pm early Bingo

USEFUL CONTACT LIST
Durham Constabulary 0345 60 60 365
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
Neighbourhood Wardens have now been given new powers to combat dog fouling, littering and fly tipping as well as the removal of abandoned vehicles, contact 01388 816 166 Ext 8850 / 8808
The Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Unit
If you are suffering from acts of Anti Social Behaviour contact 01388 816 166 Ext 8824 / 8854
Fire and Rescue Community Safety
Your local fire-fighters can provide a Free fire safety check in your home, contact 0191 332 4222
Special Collections To arrange collections contact 01388 816 166
Domestic Abuse No. 31 and SODA (Survivors of Domestic Abuse) is a Women's Centre developed in the borough to provide information and support for victims of domestic abuse. Call 01325 317 903.

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Every Thursday
4.00pm to 6.00pm.
Appointments available, but not necessary.
3 Durham Road, Ferryhill.
Tel: 01740 657 444
email:ferryhill@evansco.co.uk

Email: thechapter@talk21.com
Issue No 399
Ferryhill and Chilton CHAPTER
www.thechapter.org
Ferryhill, December 19th, 2008
At the heart of this wonderful community
Contact The Chapter at the Council Offices, Shildon.
Tel & Fax: 01388 775896 Duty Journalist: 0790 999 2731

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SPORTS FACILITY AWARDED £320,000 GRANT

Sedgefield Borough Council has recently awarded Ferryhill Town Council £320,000 from its Local Improvement Programme Fund (LIP). This is the biggest grant made under the scheme anywhere in the Borough. The money is to be used for the new sports facility adjacent to Dean Bank Park, which is being developed to provide much-needed new facilities for Ferryhill Town Youth Football Club and other local football teams. The new facility will include a cafeteria area, 6 changing rooms, public conveniences, upgrading of the four football pitches in the park as well as completely renovating the former Ferryhill Athletic football ground to create two new pitches there. This follows several years of determination by the Town Council and Ferryhill Town Youth to achieve this success. Before the funding can be spent, however, the Town Council has to be successful



Ferryhill Town Youth show just how much Sedgefield Borough Council has awarded the town.

with its bid for £770,000 from the Football Foundation. This bid recently cleared the first hurdle and was recommended for approval by the assessment panel, the final decision being taken by the Football Foundation in late January. Council Leader, Pat McCourt, said, "I am delighted with this award of

£320,000 and sincerely thank Sedgefield Borough Council for supporting us in this very worthwhile project. It is a significant achievement for the Town Council and our partners, Ferryhill Town Youth. It means that of the original ten major targets highlighted in the Ferryhill Appraisal, all of them will have been achieved by next year". Club President of Ferryhill Town Youth, Rita Foster, said, "Our club are grateful to Sedgefield Borough Council for their most generous donation; this will allow young people of Ferryhill to have this special place for football in Dean Bank Recreation Ground. Our thanks must extend to everyone who has helped to achieve this success to help the young people. "It has been a dream of the Ferryhill Town Youth Junior Football Club for 14 years and, thanks to everyone involved, our dream is starting to become a reality." A planning application for the new facility has been submitted to planners in the expectation that planning permission will be approved in January. If the Football Foundation bid is successful in January, work will begin on site in the Spring of 2009.

providing behind-the-scenes help. "There is a perception that being involved is a massive job – it's not. Volunteering to help is just that, and any amount of time you can put in can be used effectively," continued Mr Johnson. After the New Year, there will be an open meeting for all to find out more about the Cubs. The meeting will be for youngsters to have a taste of what happens at a Cub meeting, for parents to understand what their youngsters will do and for anybody else interested in finding out more. Once the details have been finalised, they will be in The Chapter and on the web at www.communicate.co.uk/ne/1stchilton. More information on the Scout Movement, including opportunities for young people and adults alike, can be obtained locally from Ian Johnson on 0845 0944 084 or from 1stchilton@durhamscouts.org.uk.

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IN FULL COLOUR ON THE WEB: See us at www.thechapter.org



It's all about local people and local events. It's your very own Community Newspaper

In Memoriam

TOMMY SIMPSON December 26th, 1999. Treasured memories of a dear Husband, Dad & Grandad. Love you, Joyce & family.

WILLIAM & MARY HEAVYSIDE

December 10th, 1983. My dear parents, who died 25 years ago. Love & miss you always. Margaret & family.

JOHN BENSON 'Benny'

A much-loved and missed pal. Love Geordie & Andria.

Birthday Memories

AUDREY LAVERICK

December 16th. Remembered everyday Mam, but especially today, which would have been your 80th Birthday. Love always, Christine, Geordie, Shaun & Rhys.

Birthdays

MAVIS MALPAS Happy 50th. Love you forever, my Darling Wife. Love Nigel.

MAVIS MALPAS Happy 50th Mam. Love Adele, Kim & Marc.

MAVIS MALPAS Happy 50th Nanna. Love Tia, Sky & Marc.

KERRY LOUISE THOMSON

20.12.87 Happy 21st Birthday Kerry Louise Thomson. Love & hugs, Mam, Neil, Flint & Hendy.

KERRY LOUISE THOMSON

20.12.87 Happy 21st Birthday. Lots of love, Auntie Sue, Colin, Lauren, Hannah & Jonathan.

Birthdays

KERRY LOUISE THOMSON 20.12.87 Happy 21st Big Sis. Love Daniel & Codie - Lee.

KERRY LOUISE THOMSON Happy 21st Birthday to a special Granddaughter, Kerry Louise Thomson. Love always & with you in spirit on your special day, Nanna Betty & Grandpa Jim.

Anniversaries

60th Anniversary JEAN & BOB BELL Ferryhill, December 23rd, 1948.



Congratulations Mam & Dad, on your Diamond Anniversary. Love & Best Wishes, from Sue.

JEAN & BOB BELL Ferryhill, 23.12.1948.

Congratulations Jean & Bob, on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Love and Best Wishes on your special day, from Ray.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary. BOB & JEAN BELL December 23rd. Congratulations.

Love and Best Wishes, Edna, Christopher, Deborah & Great Granddaughter Emily Lauren.

To Let

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL Move in before Christmas - No Deposit Required! 2 & 3 Bedroomed Houses in Ferryhill DSS Welcome Call Mark on 0191 4789222

Fully re-furnished 2 bed houses. Faraday / Davy Streets Double Glazed, Combi Boiler, New Carpets. From £60 per wk. Phone: 07760 22 5555

See us on the Web Our on-line copy is exactly the same as the one which drops through local doors. You can also contact your Chapter via the web site www.thechapter.org.

WHAT'S COOKING IN FERRYHILL?

Age Concern is holding a six-week course on preparing cheap, healthy and easy-to-make meals. The best part is you get to eat what you make at the end of each session! The course will begin at the end of January at Dene Bank Community Centre. For more information, call 01388 720064.

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EXTRA CHRISTMAS SHOWS!

Sunday, December 21st - Top Local Band

THE ZOO CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY BOXING DAY - 8 TILL LATE

Saturday, December 27th - Sports Day

POOL - DOMINOES - POKER

Sunday, December 28th - Fantastic Duo

DEUCE

Monday, December 29th

RACE NIGHT

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tickets now on sale!

An Enrolment session for all courses listed below will be held on Thurs, 15th Jan 09, 1-3pm and 5-7pm Ferryhill Library Further information, including details of course fees, can be obtained by telephoning the venue direct

COURSES IN YOUR COMMUNITY FROM JANUARY 2009

Chilton, Ferryhill

Learning Partnership

& West Cornforth

Take the first steps to success!

Table with 2 columns: 4 Week Courses and Venues. Courses include Card Making, Digital Photography, Jewellery Making, Matting. Venues include Ferryhill Library, Cornforth Library, Chilton Library, Cornforth Library.

Table with 2 columns: 5 Week Courses and Venues. Courses include Holistic Therapies, Basic IT, First Steps into Computing, Basic Computing Taster, Intro to Counselling. Venues include Chilton Comm Coll, Cornforth House, Henderson House, LADDER Centre, Cornforth House, Cornforth House.

Table with 2 columns: ESOL and Venues. Course: ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Study Skills Group. Venues: LADDER Centre, Dean Bank Children's Centre & Ferryhill Station Outreach.

Table with 2 columns: Other Courses and Venues. Courses include Cookery On A Budget, Dyslexia Support, First Aid, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety in the Workplace. Venues include Henderson House, Chilton Comm Coll, Cornforth House, Cornforth House, Dean Bank Institute, Cornforth House.

Table with 2 columns: 10 Week Courses and Venues. Courses include Basic Admin, Belly Dancing, Counselling Level 1, Customer Service, Digital Photography. Venues include LADDER Centre, Cornforth House, Cornforth House, LADDER Centre, Chilton Comm Coll, Chilton Comm Coll, Cornforth House, Cornforth House, Dean Bank Institute, Chilton Comm Coll, Chilton Comm Coll.

Table with 2 columns: 12 Week Courses and Venues. Courses include DIY Plumbing Level 2, Internet and email, Keep Fit, Painting and Drawing, Sugar Craft, Yoga, Beginners Desk Top Publishing. Venues include Cornforth House, Dean Bank Institute, Cornforth House, Chilton Comm Coll, Dean Bank Institute, Chilton Comm Coll, Chilton Comm Coll.

Table with 2 columns: Skills for Life and Venues. Courses include English, Mathematics, National Test English/Maths. Venues include Cornforth House, LADDER Centre, Chilton Comm Coll, Ferryhill Station Outreach.

For advice on learning and work, contact your local nextstep service on 0800 027 7944

To find out the steps that are needed to start up a business take part in 'Enterprise Game' at LADDER Centre, Cornforth House and Chilton Community College

Table with 4 columns: Venue, Tel No, Contacts. Venues include Chilton Community College, Cornforth House, Dean Bank Children's Centre, Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute, Henderson House, LADDER Centre, Libraries.

FAMILY LEARNING

There are a wide range of activities available where parents, grandparents, children, carers, neighbours and friends are involved in learning together. To find out more about Family Learning activities and courses in your area, contact Carol Neville or Hillary Hawkins (LEAP) on 01833 690281, Rana Coates (Education in the Community) 01388 721853 or Sharon Proud (Bishop Auckland College) 01388 443133

Please note all courses will run subject to sufficient numbers enrolling on an individual course

THE CHAPTER CLASSIFIED FORM Hand this form into Ferryhill or Chilton Library or post it to 3 - 4 First Floor Offices, Town Council Building, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, DL4 1AH. OCCASION: (Please tick) [] Birthday [] Anniversary [] Birth [] Congratulations [] Appreciations [] Memoriam [] Obituary [] For Sale [] To Let [] Services Offered [] Other (Please State) NUMBER OF SEPARATE MESSAGES..... MESSAGE(S) - (Please write in clear block capitals and continue on a separate piece of plain paper if necessary) NUMBER OF WORDS = AMOUNT (x 35p) PHOTO INCLUDED? (€5) [] Yes [] No NAME..... ADDRESS..... CONTACT NO.....



Letters to the Editor

This correspondent writes from Cornwall to say how proud she is of her Ferryhill roots.....

Dear Editor,
In 1967 I spent a coach holiday in Austria. Otto, the Austrian courier, a lecturer in England, claimed to recognise from speech the region of England where any passenger hailed from. Nine challenged him and he said my roots were in Bishop Auckland. When I answered 'Ferryhill', he exclaimed, "Ferryhill, where the Brass Bands come from!" We have recently received a

C.D. of Ferryhill Town Band, 'Pastime with Good Company,' from my sister, Nancy Hardy. I am proud of my Ferryhill roots and feel I must express, on behalf of my husband and myself, our joint appreciation and repeated enjoyment of a wonderful musical presentation.
Yours sincerely,
Mary Wright,
Pendeen,
Cornwall.

This Ferryhill resident was extremely concerned about her son, after a fall on the ice last week.....

Dear Editor,
On Friday morning, December 5th, our son went for his morning walk. He slipped and fell on ice and has dislocated and broken his ankle in two or three places. My husband and I would like to thank the number of people who passed him in their cars, and the policeman who said he would let us know and then didn't. This happened about 10.30 in the morning, it was 7.30 at night when our son phoned us from the hospital to let us know what had happened. He lives on his own, so we see or phone him everyday, so you can imagine we had been panicking anyway

because we couldn't get an answer on the phone. If we had been informed sooner, we could have been with him and supported him as parents do. A young man on his bike stopped, phoned for an ambulance and stayed with him until it arrived. We cannot thank our NHS enough, they have been great. And the man from Chilton, we don't know your name but we know who you are, thank you very much. Things could have been much worse if you had not stopped. Thanks again to everyone who helped our son when he so needed it.
Yours gratefully,
Mr & Mrs D Woodhull,
Hackworth Close,
Ferryhill.

LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE HANDED TO BISHOP MIDDLEHAM DIESEL THIEF

A 22 year-old Leeholme man apologised in court to the family of a grandmother who died as he raided their farm in Bishop Middleham for diesel. The lady suffered a fatal heart attack whilst she was telephoning the police to report the theft and to request assistance in apprehending 22 year-old Tony Aaron Blair, who was being pursued by her husband, two sons and grandson. The farmer and his wife returned to their farm on June 22nd this year to discover Blair helping himself to their fuel. Whilst the farmer pursued Blair, his wife telephoned the police, during which call she collapsed and died. At Teesside Crown Court last week, Mr. Christopher Baker, mitigating on behalf of Blair, said, "He is genuinely sorry for what happened that day and I would like to offer a public apology on his behalf to the family."

member was injured as Blair drove a Mitsubishi L200 - into him causing a fractured hip and head and hand injuries. Blair did ultimately escape, however he was duly arrested by police in Coundon 48 hours later. At an earlier Hearing at the Teesside Crown Court, Blair admitted six offences, including thefts of the Mitsubishi, a caravan and the diesel from the Bishop Middleham farm before asking for 15 further offences of stealing vehicles to be taken into consideration, the total value of the vehicles being more than £100,000. Sentencing Blair, Judge Briggs told him, "Your record is a

long one, one which shows quite clearly that you are irresponsible and selfish and conduct yourself with total disregard for the safety of others." The Judge went on to say that a particularly upsetting aspect of the case was that the farmer, whilst pursuing Blair, was unaware of his wife's fatal heart attack. As well as the prison sentence, Blair was disqualified from driving for seven years and was ordered to pass an extended test before reclaiming his Licence. Mr. Baker told the court that following his release from prison, Blair wished to work as a tree surgeon and live a "lawful and productive" life.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

Chilton and Ferryhill St John's Ambulance Christmas Raffle, which was held on Monday, December 8th, raised a total of £485 for the charity. Members of the St John's Ambulance would like to thank Chilton Workingmen's Club for its help and co-operation in running the raffle. The winning ticket holders were;

- Sid Longstaff, 1111 - 15in LCD TV / DVD Combi.
- Margaret Iveson, 993 - 8mb Digital Camera.
- Chris Wilkinson, 1482 - Digital Photo Frame.
- Lenny (Chilton Club), 2124 - Christmas Cake.

• Enid Edwards, 713 - Bottle of Whiskey.
Congratulations go to all the winners.

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Ferryhill, December 19th 2008

APPEAL LEADS TO RETURN OF STOLEN GOODS

An appeal in last week's Chapter following a burglary, has resulted in the return of some of the stolen goods. Lynne and Gordon Robinson had a fantastic response from the public, almost immediately after the paper came out. Lynne said, "Within minutes of the paper coming out we had dozens of calls." About 18 of their son's Xbox 360 games have now been returned, however the police are holding on to them for the time being as evidence, while they check them for fingerprints. The flat that the family occupy above their business, shop '24' in Main Street, Ferryhill, was burgled in broad

daylight on Saturday, December 6th. The thieves targeted their son, Lewis' bedroom, stealing his laptop, mobile phone, Xbox 360 and 35 games, all of which Lewis had bought himself from money he earns working at McDonald's when he is not at Durham School, studying for his A'levels. Lynne and Gordon have put up a reward for the return of their son's property. Lynne said, "The response has been great. The people around here are good. If they know anything they will come forward." Anyone with information can call the couple on 01740 655503, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT ASDA!

The Asda store in Spennymoor will be playing host to Spennymoor Youth Band between 12 noon and 1.00pm on Saturday, December 20th, and from 2.00pm to 3.00pm on Sunday, December 21st. The store will also be hosting a number of school groups who will be singing Christmas Carols. Spennymoor School will be performing at 2.00pm on

Wednesday, 17th, Spennymoor Youth Group will be providing entertainment on Thursday 18th at 1.30pm, and Middlestone Moor School will be singing on Friday 19th from 10.30am. Several groups and charities, including Stray Aid and the Ferryhill Falcons, will be bag-packing in the store throughout the festive period. All donations will be gratefully received.

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Now available Greenfire Heat Logs - £3.50 for 20kg
CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES
Close Tues, 23rd Dec, 5pm
Mon, 29th Dec, 9am - 1pm
Wed, 31st Dec, 9am - 1pm
Sat, 3rd Jan, 9am, - 11.30am
Re-opening Mon, 5th Jan, 2009, 9am
Season's Greetings to all of our customers

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Call Carl on 01388 774774
Ferryhill, December 19th 2008

COMMUNITY HOUSE IN THE RUNNING FOR A FACE LIFT

Henderson Community House in Chilton is currently in the running to receive a facelift, after a building contractor has shortlisted it to receive a grant. Five community projects in the area are competing for the makeover from Mears' Sedgefield branch, however the final decision lays in the hands of the public. Mears would work with local people, addressing any issues they may have. All areas of potential improvement would be identified and managed within an allocated budget. The project would include the complete refurbishment of the building, allowing the Centre to host more activities for young people. Disabled access would also be



Facilities at the Community House would be improved.

improved. Others chasing the grant include a car park at Spennymoor Football Club, which would be landscaped, and a sheltered housing scheme for older people in Newton Aycliffe, which would get a revamp of its

community garden. In order for the Chilton site to receive the grant, residents must vote for it to win. You can do so by texting 'Henderson Community House' to 07894 494798 or emailing david.walters@mearsgroup.co.uk

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS!

Ferryhill Community Partnership are currently in the process of compiling an up-to-date list of the contact details of all community and voluntary groups in the area. "If we don't have you listed it could mean that you are not on the radar and could lose out in all sorts of ways, like having your voice heard and having the representation available to

community and voluntary groups," said a spokesperson for the Partnership. If you would like your group or organisation to be included in the list, send the following details to Councillor Brian Gibson, 7 Magdalene Place, Ferryhill; Name of organisation, contact telephone number, email address, postal address, a little of what you do and if you are looking for

volunteers. A meeting has also been organised and will be held on January 5th from 7.00pm at Chilton Workingmen's Club. "You are invited to this meeting and we would ask you to help spread the word to other interested parties," continued the spokesperson.

Call us on 01388 775896

Lawsons

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The Wheatsheaf

Durham Road, Chilton.
ENTERTAINMENT
Friday 19th December
TREVOR SEWELL
Sunday 21st December
SPITTIN' VICARS 4.00pm
Friday 26th December
ALAN KNIGHTS
Sunday 28th December
Monday 29th December
STEVE FOTHERGILL 4.00pm
JAMES PATCHETT 4.00pm
Tuesday 23rd December
CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS CHRISTMAS PARTY, DISCO & SANTA
SUNDAY LUNCHESES - Excellent Value
Served from 12 noon until 3.00pm
Sweets always available



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De'Longhi Metropolis • Max. heat 4.2kW • 790mm(h) x 430mm(w) x 480mm(d)
*Package price includes De'Longhi Metropolis heater, 15kg gas refill, cylinder refill agreement charge and delivery. Items sold separately total £137.13 based on Calor's suggested retail price as at 01.12.08. Offer ends 01.02.09



A better choice

LOCAL WOMAN FACING CROWN COURT TRIAL

When a West Cornforth woman appeared before the local Magistrates last week, the Bench declined to deal with her and, therefore, she will ultimately face a Crown Court trial.

At the South Durham Magistrates' Court in Newton Aycliffe, 23 year-old Stacey Ord, of Village Farm in West Cornforth faced two charges, with the offences allegedly being committed in Newton Aycliffe at the end of September this year.

The charges faced by Ord, who was represented in court by Mr. Ben Pegman, are 'assaulting a Police Officer occasioning actual

bodily harm' and 'using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to Police Officers'.

Following the sitting Magistrates' decision to decline jurisdiction in the case, the matter will consequently be dealt with by a Crown Court, with the date and venue to be determined.

DAY CARE CENTRE RECEIVES SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

All Saints' Day Care Centre, based at All Saints' Church Hall in Dean Road, Ferryhill, has recently become the recipient of a CAVOS Special Achievement Award, 2008.

This was the first 'Christmas Celebration Event' to be held by CAVOS, (Community and Voluntary Organisations Sedgefield), which was organised in order to celebrate the achievements of some of the community groups.

The Centre provides day care for the elderly and the physically and mentally disabled. It arranges various activities such as bathing, hairdressing and chiropody, as well as providing three course meals, bingo and day outings.

The Centre was one of eight community organisations in the area to receive an award, which was presented at a ceremony held at Spennymoor Leisure Centre on Wednesday, December 10th.

Other winners included East Durham Play and Community Network at Trimdon Grange and Jubilee Fields Community Association in Shildon.

Gillian Fortune, Chief Officer at CAVOS, said, "It was wonderful to have this opportunity to celebrate the partnership working between the CAVOS team and the voluntary groups that have been supported. It has been a great promotional opportunity and a good night was had by all."

The Development Team is hoping to repeat the Awards Evening in 2009.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

A Christmas Raffle, held by Ferryhill Catholic Club in aid of the Butterwick House Children's Hospice North Tees, raised £150.

"Special thanks to Tony Charles for his hard work," said a spokesperson for the event.

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KEEPING YOUR NEW BIKE SAFE

Many young people in Chilton and Ferryhill will be getting shiny new bikes off Santa this Christmas, but their joy and delight can quickly turn to heartache if their pride and joy is stolen.

Therefore, Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership is introducing the Pedal Safe initiative, which aims to reduce bicycle theft and also increase the safety of young people.

There are 500 free front and rear lights to give away to assist in increasing the visibility of cyclists to drivers while additional safety advice will be given on the day.

Each person will have their bike security marked and be given a heavy duty chain to secure their bike.

"By making the bike identifiable, it makes the bike less attractive to thieves while

the lock will increase the effort and time needed to steal it," said a spokesperson from the Safety Partnership.

Parents and children can protect their bikes from thieves and increase their safety by going along to Cornforth House in Chilton on Tuesday, January 20th, between 5.00pm and 7.00pm, or to Ferryhill Leisure Centre on Saturday, January 24th, between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

Glyn Hall, Partnership Chair, said, "This is an excellent project and gives young people the opportunity to be pro-active in reducing crime and at the same time increase their safety."

Equipment will be provided on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call Diane Maughan on (01388) 722718 or (01388) 816166 Ext. 8850.

THE ADVENTURES OF SINBAD IN FERRYHILL STATION

Ferryhill Stage Society will be performing 'The Adventures of Sinbad' on Thursday, 18th, Friday, 19th and Saturday 20th December. There will be three performances, with Thursday's and Friday's shows taking place at 7.15pm, and Saturday's at 2.30pm. There will not be two performances per day, as

printed in the last issue of The Chapter. The production will be staged at Mainsforth and District Community Centre in Ferryhill Station. Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £3 for children and are available from Joan Harker on 01740 652551 or from any Stage Society member.

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