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SPORTS FACILITY TAKES £10,000 STEP NEARER REALITY

Plans for the provision of new sports facilities in Ferryhill took a step closer to reality this week with the announcement that the Town Council are applying for a £10,000 grant.

If successful, the money will come as a result of negotiations with the Borough Council's "Local Improvement Programme" and the Football Playing Fields Foundation.

It will be used for a technical study into the provision of sporting facilities in Dean Bank.

The technical study, in turn, could lead to the provision of a further bid for £1.5 million to develop sporting facilities in the Dean Bank area.

The technical study will investigate the feasibility of providing eight changing rooms, four new football pitches and an artificial floodlit playing surface in the town.

The plans are also to provide a new football pitch, meeting the stringent standards of in the Non-League-Football



Dean Bank Park will be the subject of a technical study

pyramid, including the Unibond League, Northern League and Wearside League. That would allow local teams to compete at that level on pitches in Ferryhill, instead of going to nearby pitches at

Shildon and Spennymoor. The technical study will also examine plans to also include the building of a recreational area and a building to house sports machinery and storage facilities.

CONTAINER WILL PROVIDE YOUNGSTERS WITH CHANGING ROOM

Ferryhill Town Council are to create temporary changing rooms for youngsters using the pitches in Dean Bank, by cleverly utilising unwanted lorry containers.

Members of Ferryhill Town Council's Recreation Committee heard that there was a desperate shortage of changing facilities at Dean Bank Park.

The Council intend to convert a container into a fully functional changing room, by putting on a front door, panelling it out and providing electricity.

Councillors heard that, when the container door was closed, the changing room would be totally secure.

FREE BIKE MARKING IN CHILTON

The Neighbourhood Wardens and Sedgefield Community Safety Partnership are offering to protect bikes from thieves by marking them free on Thursday 22nd February at Henderson Community House, Coleridge Road Chilton between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

More information on bike marking is available from Neighbourhood Warden, Kimberley Elleanor on 01388 722718.

FERRYHILL SCOUTS WILL HOST CENTENARY CELEBRATION

1st Ferryhill Scout Group will be the proud hosts to a special Service to mark the Centenary of Scouting this weekend.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be joined by others from across Bishop Auckland Scout District for a special Service to recognise that Scouting began in 1907 and is about to start its second century.

Although Scouting has been around for a century, it continues to thrive; locally the number of members has increased by a third since 2000 and waiting lists are forming at some of the local Groups.

Ferryhill's Vicar, the Rev. Keith Lumsdon, is the County Chaplain for the Scouts and will lead the Service this Sunday afternoon at St Luke's in Ferryhill.

The youngsters from Ferryhill will be taking a very active part and have been busy rehearsing, particularly over the last few days.

As well as the centenary of Scouting, they will also be

remembering the founder of the Scout Movement as the 150th anniversary of Lord Baden-Powell's birth falls on the 22nd February.

"We will be focusing on the youngsters celebrating the century at this Service" said the District Commissioner, Ian Johnson.

"Later in the year, we will be inviting all those who have been previously involved in the Movement, as youngsters or Leaders, to renew their promise at a Sunrise Ceremony in August."

Immediately after the Service, the youngsters will find out which balloon travelled the furthest from the balloon launch held at Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College last month.

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 bishopauckland@durhamscouts.org.uk

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TUESDAY 20th FEBRUARY

SOCIAL EVENING

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Friday March 2nd TWISTER

Friday March 9th THE FALLEN

Friday March 16th THE 4 KINNELLS

Friday March 23rd NO FUN.



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The Chapter is published by the Ferryhill and Chilton Community Newspaper Association, a non-profit making community enterprise with charitable aims.

In Memoriam

ETHEL MADDISON



February 18th 2006

A year ago today, Mam, God gave you your wish to be in Heaven with our Dad.

We miss you both but now you're back together with each other.

We will never forget you both, Love,

Loving Daughter Mary, Allan, Grandchildren Marie, Jeff, Leigh, Angela, Kevin, Kirsty and Great Grandchildren.

xx

ETHEL MADDISON

Died 18th February 2006

It's a year today since you went away.

You are loved and remembered, everyday.

So many things have happened we wanted you to share,

So many times we've needed you and wished that you were there.

We think about you always and talk about you too,

We have so many memories, but we wish we still had you.

We will love and miss you always.

Son, Jim and Joan.

Also loving memories of a dear Dad, Jim,

Died January 2nd 1986.

Gone, but never forgotten.

ETHEL MADDISON

Died 18th February 2006

It's one year since you left me, Nan.

I miss you every day.

The heartache of losing you, will never go away.

Goodnight and God Bless, Nan.

James

MAUREEN FISHER

20th February

To a wonderful Mam and Nana.

A year has gone by,

Many a tear we cry,

Miss you each day,

In our hearts you'll always stay.

Love

Jason, Sarah and family

xxx

Birthdays

FISHER

18th February

Happy 7th Birthday

HARRY

Lots of Love,

Mam, Dad,

Thomas and Sadie

xxx

CAMPBELL

(nee Richmond)

Happy Birthday

AUNTIE OLIVE

Love from Shirley,

Peter, Joan and Hannah

20th February

BRIAN SHEPHERD

Happy 70th Birthday

DAD

All our love,

Carole, Francis,

Pearl, Stephen, Matthew,

Kyle and Alex.

xx

Birthdays

SHEPHERD

Happy 70th

BRIAN

With love,

Margaret

xx

CAITLIN BROWN

Becomes a teenager

on February 17th.

All our love,

Mam, Dad

xxx

Samantha & Charlotte

Liam

BROWN



Happy 13th Birthday

CAITLIN

on 17th February

Lots of Love from Nana and

Grandad

xx

CAITLIN BROWN

A teenager at last.

Love from Auntie Keeley,

Uncle Colin, Alannah and Mia

xx

ANGELA TAYLOR

Happy 40th Birthday

ANGELA

Love from Mam and Dad

ANGELA TAYLOR

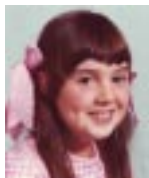
Happy 40th Birthday

ANGELA

Love from

Louise, Mark, Beth and Jack

GUESS WHO'S 40?



Happy Birthday

AUNTIE ANGELA

Lots of Love,

Amber and Dylan.

Happy 40th Birthday

February 14th

ANGELA

Love from

Neil and Kay.

Acknowledgement

BRADSHAW

Martin's Mother and family would like to say thank you to everyone who attended his funeral, for their kindness and sympathy at this sad time shown by many cards and floral tributes we received.

We would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations made to St. Aidans Church to the sum of £427.68

Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs

MARY AND TOMMY MUMFORD

15th February 2007



Congratulations on your 60th

Wedding Anniversary

Mam and Dad

From Lesley, Joe, Vivien and Paul,

Grandsons Vince, Lee and Peter, and Great Grandchildren Cameron, Libby and Johnny, Not forgetting Betty, Ray and family.

LOCAL HISTORY EVENT

Ferryhill Library will be hosting a local history event on Thursday 1st March, entitled "Ferryhill, Then and Now".

The event takes place from 2.00pm until 4.00pm and there is a maximum of twelve places available.

Readers wishing to attend the event should contact staff at the Library as soon as possible to book a place.

The Library at Ferryhill can be contacted on 01740 651236

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BURGLARY FIGURES DROP

Local police say they realize that a house burglary can be one of the most distressing crimes to fall victim to and are actively tackling the perpetrators of these crimes.

In 2006 they launched Operation Darc to address a predicted increase of house burglaries during the winter months.

Police in the South of the County now say they are pleased to see a reduction of over 10% in house burglaries with 116 reports throughout the whole area during January.

"We would still like to see a further reduction in the number of reported incidents," says a police spokesman.

"Properties in Dean Bank at Ferryhill are amongst those still experiencing problems and residents are urged to report anything suspicious."

The Police are working in partnership with local councils, community groups and major retailers to deliver crime prevention advice to residents, promoting some simple solutions and distributing time switches, low energy light bulbs and door alarms. Hot spot areas targeted by burglars have been given extra police attention by patrolling officers and intelligence led operations have resulted in the arrest of over 200 suspects since the launch of the operation.

These arrests have resulted in a number of people being charged with offences of burglary, and related offences of handling stolen goods and theft, with the most prolific offenders being remanded in custody.

Despite the success, Police urge residents to remain alert and keep their home secure, even whilst at home.

"The golden rule is 'If you can get into your home without your keys - so can a burglar'" says the police spokesman.

Crime Prevention advice can be obtained from Crime Prevention officer, PC Neil Langthorne on 01325 742714, whilst fellow officers across the area will continue to send out the message 'Crime - let's bring it down'

Anyone with information regarding a crime can contact the Police on the non emergency number 0845 60 60 365 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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QUARRY EXTENSION COULD AFFECT HARTLEPOOL'S WATER SAYS AGENCY

Environmental watchdogs over in Hartlepool say a quarry company's plans to extend its operations in the Ferryhill area could pollute their town's water supply. French company Lafarge Aggregates has lodged plans to extend its limestone quarry at West Cornforth.

It wants to dig for high-quality limestone in a 225-acre extension from near Ferryhill to east of the A1. The Environment Agency has objected to the proposals saying they could have an impact on the water supply to Hartlepool which comes from an underwater reservoir

near the quarry expansion site. The Environment Agency has officially objected to the company's planning application over concerns about the methods used to pump out water while quarrying. An agency spokeswoman

said: "We would deem this technique to be potentially hazardous and it may have an impact on the quality of the water in Hartlepool."

A spokesman for Hartlepool Water said it shared the Environment Agency's concerns.

A Lafarge spokeswoman said the company was negotiating to put new techniques in place if planning permission was granted.

"As is normal under these circumstances, the company is talking to the agency about revising its water management scheme so that this will not be a problem," she said.

The company's plans will be considered by Durham County Council's planning committee in the coming months.

Durham County Councillor, Len O'Donnell, who campaigned against the landfill plans, said: "We cannot afford to take risks with our drinking water."

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Two local children's centres are planning a feast of family fun next week.

On offer is a magician, juggler, puppets, face painting, crafts, refreshments and a children's show.

All the entertainment is free and there will be a sale of baby/toddler clothes in aid of Cancer Research.

The events takes place from 10am to 2.00pm at Chilton Children Centre on Monday 19th February and Ferryhill Station Sure Start Centre on Tuesday 20th February.

Children must be with an adult.

Following the meal, Painter drank one more glass of wine at a friend's home and, thereafter, waited some time before driving home, again to ensure his fitness to drive.

Ms. Passfield added that the Defendant co-operated fully with the Police and that his driving licence was a vital tool for him to carry out his work. She explained that Painter's father and brother, who were also involved in the family firm, were both unable to drive, his father through ill-health and his brother through a lack of a Driving Licence.

The Court heard that a driving ban on the defendant would have a 'catastrophic affect on both his family and the family business'. The sitting Magistrates however, after some deliberation, disqualified Painter from driving for a period of 20 months, fined him £350 and ordered him to pay Court costs of £43. A place on the Drink-Drivers' Rehabilitation Scheme was also offered to Painter and successful completion of the Course would reduce the length of the driving ban by 5 months.

MARGARET WAS AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER

The members of Ferryhill Village Women's Institute all agreed that Margaret Foxall, from the Ferryhill Methodist Church, was an excellent speaker when she addressed them at their monthly meeting on Wednesday 7th February.

The news of the meeting comes, as always, on a picture postcard, this month depicting Durham Castle Gates on a winter's day.

The W.I.'s Social half-hour consisted of a "Go as you please" which proved enjoyable with lots of members contributing.

Next month, the W.I. concentrate on "Silk

Painting" and there will be a fashion show by members.

"New members are always welcome," says the W.I.'s President, A Dent.

ENTERTAINMENT AT ST AIDAN'S ON SHROVE TUESDAY

St. Aidan's Church at Chilton will be the venue for an entertaining evening on Shrove Tuesday, February 20th

The duo "TAC - YA - BACK" will be entertaining with 'Songs old and New', something for everyone at 7 pm in the Hall.

Because of the date, the organisers will also be serving up traditional Pancakes.

Tickets for the event are £3.00 each, from the Social Committee or over the telephone on 01388 721174 "Please come and join us," say the organisers of the Shrove Tuesday social event.

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DRINK-DRIVING ADMISSION WILL HAVE CATASTROPHIC EFFECT ON FAMILY FIRM

A 25 year-old, who drives 12,000 miles a year for a family firm, admitted being over the legal drink-driving limit, when he appeared in Court recently.

Appearing before the South Durham Magistrates sitting at Newton Aycliffe last week was 25 year-old David Michael Painter, of Church Close in Kirk Merrington.

He entered a 'Guilty' plea to the charge of 'driving with excess alcohol', the offence occurring on the A167 road at Rushyford in late January this year.

Mr. Jonathan Bambró, for the Crown Prosecution Service, told the Court that a patrolling Police Officer observed a vehicle ahead of him weaving across the road. He said that after pursuing the

vehicle, during which it reached a speed of 80 m.p.h. in a 60 m.p.h. area, the police officer stopped the vehicle and the driver, Painter, was subsequently arrested.

Mr. Bambró concluded by informing the Court that Painter was a man of previous good character.

Mitigating, Ms. Zoe Passfield told the Court that Painter drove for a family firm, involving travelling to meet Clients and to make deliveries.

Ms. Passfield stated that Painter had been out with friends for a meal, with which he drank two glasses of wine. In order to ensure his ability to drive was not impaired, Painter interspersed the glasses of wine with glasses of water and soft drinks.

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<p>NEW PRICE</p>  <p>CHILTON • PENNINE WAY 2 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE. Well presented, Refitted kitchen, Well appointed bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Heating, Viewing Essential.</p> <p>£79,950 Spennymoor</p>		<p>WEST CORNFORTH • POPLAR TERRACE 2 BEDROOM LINK HOUSE. Two reception rooms, Gas Central Heating, Well presented, Re appointed Bathroom, Two good sized bedrooms, Early Viewing Essential</p> <p>£56,950 Spennymoor</p>	<p>NEW</p>  <p>WEST CORNFORTH • CEDAR TERRACE 4 BEDROOM HOUSE. Exceptionally well presented & extended family property, 2 Rec rooms, fitted kitchen, 4 double bedrooms, 2 Garages/workshops, Gardens, Viewing Essential</p> <p>£112,950 Sedgefield</p>
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ATTACK WITH POKER DENIED

A Chilton man denied two charges relating to an alleged attack with a poker when he appeared before the Durham Crown Court last week.

31 year-old Lee Adams,

originally of Ford Terrace in Chilton but currently living at the home of a cousin in Eaglescliffe's Talisman Close, entered 'Not Guilty' pleas to charges of 'grievous bodily harm with intent' and an alternative charge of 'inflicting grievous bodily harm'.

One of the conditions of bail was that the defendant should live in Eaglescliffe.

Because Adams denies the charges, the case was adjourned until the 15th of May when a trial, expected to last four days, will take place.

When Adams originally appeared at the South Durham Magistrates' Court in Newton Aycliffe in connection with this matter, the Court heard that, at the time, the injured party was in a critical state in Hospital although he had been taken off a life support system.

The alleged attack was said to have left the injured man with a poker embedded in his head.

Adams was granted an extension of his conditional bail, which says he should reside in Eaglescliffe, be excluded from entering either

Chilton or Ferryhill, is subject to a curfew and must report to a Police Station regularly.

Later in the week, Adams was listed to appear at the South Durham Magistrates' Court in Newton Aycliffe in order to be sentenced for two offences of 'theft'.

He had previously admitted stealing two 'Rock & Roar' Dinosaur Toys valued at £74.98 from a store in Bishop Auckland and a large quantity of meat worth £140 from George Bolam Butchers in Sedgefield.

The Probation Service had been asked to prepare a Pre-Sentence Report upon Adams and this was due to be presented to the Court last week, after which sentence would be passed.

The sitting Magistrates at the Newton Aycliffe Court heard Adams' Solicitor, Mr. Michael Clarke, say that his client had not attended Court.

The Probation Service reported that he had not attended for the Report to be prepared.

In consequence, the Magistrates issued a Warrant for Adams' arrest, not backed by bail.

FREE FAMILY LEARNING COURSES

Following a successful family fit course, Chilton Primary School and the Chilton Community College are starting two new family learning courses.

The first, "Jewellery

making," starts on Wednesday 28th February from 6pm to 7pm and runs for 5 weeks.

"Girls growing up" includes beauty tips, nail art, health and well being, make-up tips etc and starts on Saturday 3rd March from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and runs for 5 weeks.

FURNITURE CHARITY NEEDS DRIVER

The number of families requesting the services of the Chilton-based County Durham Furniture Scheme has greatly increased, so much so that they urgently require another voluntary driver.

Volunteers need a full clean driving licence and should be over 25 years old.

"It would help if they had experience of home deliveries so that they would know how to load the van efficiently," says Chris Palmer from the Charity.

The Charity can be contacted on 01388 721509 and is on Chilton Industrial Estate.

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UNPROVOKED ATTACK CHILTON TEENAGER – THREE FACE CHARGES

A Ferryhill teenager and two 17 year-olds, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared before the South Durham Magistrates sitting at Newton Aycliffe last week in connection with an unprovoked attack on a Chilton teenager.

18 year-old Michael Herron, of Dean Road in Ferryhill and the two younger Defendants face charges of 'assault occasioning actual bodily harm' and 'violent disorder'. The offences are alleged to have been committed in Chilton in mid-September last year.

Mr. Jonathan Bambro, for the Crown Prosecution Service, asked the sitting Magistrates to decline jurisdiction in the case.

He stated that due to both offences being 'group activities' and also because one of the charges was 'violent disorder', then the Crown Court was the only suitable venue for the case. Mr. Bambro told the Court

that the alleged offences occurred when a group of teenagers were walking home in Chilton in the early hours of the morning.

He said they came across Herron and one of the 17 year-olds who began to pick on one of the group. He was punched, threatened and attempts were made to goad him into a fight.

Herron and the 17 year-old then departed and the group continued on their way. The Court heard that the two lay in wait for the group of teenagers and waylaid them once again.

The teenager who was originally the object of their attack was in the 'firing line' again.

Mr. Bambro said that numerous punches were thrown and a screwdriver was produced and used to stab the victim five times.

At this point, the other 17 year-old appeared and the group hoped that his arrival would cause the two assailants to desist.

This was not the case however, as he joined in the attack with Herron and the other 17 year-old, culminating in all three raining kicks upon the victim's head and body.

In all, Mr. Bambro told the Court, the whole unprovoked incident lasted some 45 minutes.

As well as the attack, one of the 17 year-olds carried out a serious sexual assault upon a 15 year-old girl who was amongst the group which was set upon.

After a short discussion, the sitting Magistrates declined to accept jurisdiction in the matter and agreed that the two 17 year-olds should be dealt with alongside Herron at the Crown Court.

As a result, the Committal Hearing, when the case will be sent to the Crown Court, will be held on the 21st of March at the Newton Aycliffe Court and all three Defendants were granted unconditional bail until that date.

LIVING WITH A LONG TERM CONDITION?

Readers who live with any long-term condition, such as arthritis, asthma, back pain, multiple sclerosis, depression or anxiety will be interested in a course offered at a Care Centre down at Newton Aycliffe.

The Pioneering Care Centre is offering places on "The Living With a Long Term Condition Course /NHS Expert Patients Programme", a national initiative offering courses to help people manage their condition much more effectively.

Designed to run alongside current medical treatments, some of the benefits could bring about less severe symptoms, less pain, greater self-confidence and a better quality of life.

Twenty one courses held in the past have been a great success, with over 170 people with long-term conditions completing the course.

The completely free 22nd course is due to start on Wednesday 21st February at the Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe from

5.45pm to 8.15pm.

Topics covered during the six weeks include finding information, making action plans, pain management, communicating with health professionals and coping with depression.

Readers who would like to attend the course should contact the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234.

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GIGGLING DEFENDANTS TOLD TO LEAVE THE COURT

Three female defendants giggled as they entered a Magistrates' Court last week resulting in the Chairwoman of the Bench ordering them to leave the Court.

She then suggested to their Solicitor that he speak to them prior to their return for a Committal Hearing.

Appearing before the Magistrates at Newton Aycliffe last week were Katrina Elvira Ellen Manson, Amanda Rona Norman and a 17 year-old youth who cannot be named for legal reasons.

They, originally, faced a

charge of 'assault occasioning actual bodily harm,' allegedly committed in West Cornforth in June of last year. When the three finally came back into Court, Mr. Jonathan Bambrö, for the Crown Prosecution Service, stated that a further joint allegation of 'affray' was to be added.

Mr. Bambrö asked the Court to decline jurisdiction stating that it is alleged that all three were involved in a 'horrible fight' in which another girl suffered injuries.

After the sitting Magistrates agreed to decline jurisdiction,

Mr. Warren Ridley, the Defence Solicitor, informed the Court that no plea would be entered.

Manson, aged 20, of Hawthorne Terrace in West Cornforth, and the 17 year-old were both granted unconditional bail, however Norman, aged 18, of Tanfield Village, Stanley, had conditions imposed upon her bail which were that she resides at the address in Tanfield Village, reports regularly to the Police, observes a curfew from 9.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. and does not, in any way, interfere with prosecution witnesses.

The three females' next Court appearance will be at Durham Crown Court on the 5th of March.

CASE ADJOURNED

A case against a Chilton man charged with offences of 'driving whilst disqualified' and 'having no Insurance', was adjourned by the South Durham Magistrates sitting at Newton Aycliffe last week. 19 year-old Jonathan Andrew McKenzie, of Prospect Terrace, is alleged to have committed the offences in late January on the B6288 road at Kirk Merrington. McKenzie will return to Court on the 22nd of February.

HALF-TERM ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOUNGSTERS

Ferryhill Library is laying on a half-term show for the youngsters during the forthcoming school holidays. Thursday 22nd February sees "Mr. Olly" and his "Kreepy Crawlle Puppets" appearing in a family show at the Library in the Village.

The puppet show will be followed by a 'workshop' in puppet making.

A maximum of 20 children can be catered for at the event, which runs from 10.00am until 11.30am.

Readers and their children

LOST CAT GETS NEW HOME

A friendly grey and white which 'adopted' a reader after getting himself lost, has a new home.

Attempts at reuniting the puss with his owner through The Chapter failed but a kindly cat-loving reader has offered the friendly feline a new home.

interested in the show should book through staff at the Library. All children must be accompanied by an adult for the event

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JOIN IN THE FUN AT LOCOMOTION

Readers are being invited to join in the fun next week down at the National Railway Museum at Shildon.

From 21st - 25th February, Locomotion: the National Railway Museum at Shildon is offering the chance for families to be creative and take part in the "Fun Train" art and craft activities.

Families will be able to take part in free drop-in activities that include arts, crafts, and collage bookmark making. Locomotion will also be running a steam train over the weekend 17th and 18th February, giving rides to passengers on the Museum

site.

The Museum is a partially open-air site with a number of buildings that include over 60 vehicles from the national collection and a multitude of family interactives that explore the themes of transport and railways.

There's also a children's play area, gift shop and a café and is an ideal venue for a fun-packed family day out.

Admission to the "Fun Train" art and craft activities is free while steam locomotive rides are £1.00 for adults and 50p for children while senior citizens and under-5s go free..

OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG POOL ENTHUSIASTS

Youngsters in the Ferryhill and Chilton area who enjoy a game of pool are being invited to take part in a national Competition hosted by the English Pool Association.

Region One of the Pool Association hosts the 2007 Youth Pool Competition at the "Q Club", Station Road, Chester-le-Street this Sunday, 18th February.

There is a trophy and prize

for the winner and the runner-up but all entrants must live in County Durham. Entry to the Competition which is organised by the English Pool Association and "Clubs for Young People", costs £3.00.

To enter, ring Amanda Speight on 07970 787060 or Peter Bragg on 07789 225538.

Entries are also being taken

on the day, depending on the number of advanced registrations.

Registration is from 12 noon with a 12.30pm start.

There is no dress code and the matches will be played to World 8-ball Pool Rules.

The English Pool Association is recognised by the Sports Council as the Governing Body for Pool in England.

FERRYHILL DISABLY FORUM TO BE LAUNCHED

Disabled readers and those who know someone who is disabled are invited to the launch of a new forum in Ferryhill in March.

The Ferryhill Disability Forum will be launched on Thursday 15th March in the Dean Bank & Ferryhill Institute, starting at 1.00pm until around 4.00pm.

Light refreshments will be made available at the launch

and transport for disabled people to and from the venue has been arranged.

After the opening remarks, discussion and questions, the format of the launch will be based on a number of workshops and publicity sections, designed to enable those present to make contact with service providers who may be of additional help to them.

The aim of the forum is to

encourage, facilitate and assist disabled people to become more socially integrated and to have their own organisation within which they can seek to influence service providers and become more involved in the decision-making procedures that are available in the Sedgefield Borough Council area.

Readers requiring more information should ring Brian on 01740 652743.

WARNING OVER ONE WAY THOROUGHFARE

A warning goes this week to drivers in Ferryhill who may be ignoring a set of no entry signs. Councillors sitting on Ferryhill Town Council learned that eight drivers had received £60 fixed penalty notices recently for ignoring the 'no entry' signs on Church Lane outside St. Luke's.

Short distances of Church Lane are one way outside the Church, with traffic having to go up Church Road into the on-way system round the Market Place.

Some drivers are ignoring the no entry signs on Church Lane at the Church Road junction to drive towards Darlington Road.



Church Lane outside St. Luke's. Drivers are risking a £60 fine and three penalty points by going the wrong way through the one-way system.

The fixed penalty also carries an automatic 3 points on the driving licence. Councillors heard that it was

vitaly important to adhere to the one way system, not only for safety reasons, but to avoid the £60 fine.

HALF TERM FUN

"For some family fun this February Half Term look no further than Ferryhill" says a spokesperson for the Borough Council. Very young families should head to Ferryhill Station's Sure Start Centre on Tuesday 20th February for a performance of "Old

Macdonald and the Three Pigs,".

The entertainment also includes 'Marvin the Magician' from 10.00am to 12 noon and it's all free!

And, says the spokesperson, "for all ages, Ferryhill Leisure Centre is hosting a Mobile Movie Fun Day on Wednesday 21st February from 1.30pm until 5.00pm.

For just £1.50 per person readers can take part in an arts and crafts session which will be followed by a big screen movie and a buffet for all.

CHILTON MAN FACES SEX OFFENCE ALLEGATION

The case against a 41 year-old Chilton man, charged with a sex offence, has been adjourned by South Durham Magistrates until the 1st of March.

Albert Henry Colville, of Ford Terrace in Chilton faces a charge of 'intentional sexual touching of a girl aged 14'. It is alleged that the offence was committed in Chilton last October.

DEAN BANK MAN RODE 'OFF-ROAD' MOTORCYCLE ON ROAD

A Dean Bank man admitted riding an 'off-road' motorcycle in Durham Road, Ferryhill, without wearing suitable headgear when he appeared in Court last week.

20 year-old Kyle Mawson, of Faraday Street, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £35 Court costs by local Magistrates. His Licence was endorsed with six Penalty Points.

EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD SENTENCED TO UNPAID WORK AFTER HURLING RACIAL ABUSE AND ATTACKING YOUTH

A Chilton youth who purchased alcohol for a 13 year-old boy, took him by the throat after the boy drunkenly slavered on his jeans.

Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court heard that at the time the offence was committed, the 18 year-old was staying with the boy and another male at a farmhouse in the Ferryhill area.

Liam Goodchild, of Pennine Way in Chilton, heard Mr. Jonathan Bambro, for the Crown Prosecution Service, tell South Durham Magistrates that a row had erupted and that the boy had said that he had accidentally slavered on the jeans

Goodchild had maintained that the boy threw an item of furniture at him.

Mr. Bambro stated that, as a result of Goodchild strangling the boy, the victim was left with red marks.

On behalf of Goodchild, Ms. Claire Coates told the Court that the Defendant only had one hand on the boy's neck and that strangling would require two hands.

She added that it was certainly a serious matter but with different connotations.

Mr. Bambro then told the Court that, on a separate occasion, Goodchild was in Ferryhill town centre with a friend and he shouted racial abuse at a man.

In mitigation, Ms. Coates stated that on both occasions Goodchild was drunk and could not remember who he had insulted.

She added that when he discovered what he'd done, he sought out the man, apologised and shook his hand.

Having already entered 'Guilty' pleas to charges of 'assault' and 'racially aggravated affray', Goodchild was handed a 12 month Supervision Order and ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work in the community. He was also ordered to pay £75 Compensation for the racial abuse, £50 Compensation to the boy and £60 Court costs in each case.

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