Adventurer visits Thornhill to open new bike shed

Youngsters at Thornhill Primary School were visited by Joe Spedding on Friday 14th March, a representative of the FEAT 1st project (Families Enjoying Active Travel). Accompanying Joe was adventurer Alastair Humphreys, who went along to the school to give an inspirational talk about his 4 year cycle trip around the world. Alastair, 37, now from Kent, was born in Yorkshire, and he started his mammoth adventure from his front door in Skipton. He cycled through Europe to Istanbul, through the Middle East to Africa, travelling south to Cape Town. He then sailed across the Atlantic to South America and continued his journey from Patagonia (at the bottom of South America) to Alaska, then across Asia from Siberia and finally back home to England.

Alastair travelled 46,000 miles on a regular mountain bike, through 60 different countries on a budget of just £7,000. After his interesting talk, Alastair cut the ribbon to the school’s new bike shed, which was funded by Durham County Council’s Local Motion. The FEAT 1st project aims to have a positive impact on travel habits amongst kids, teachers and families.

Joe explained, “The whole point of the project is to encourage the children to walk, cycle or scoot to school and to encourage regular exercise”. To find out more details on Alastair’s cycle adventure visit www.alastairhumphreys.com.

The Crier coach trip to flower show

The Crier is proposing a coach trip to Southport Flower Show on Saturday 16th August. With the pending World Cup in Brazil, this year organisers of The Southport Flower Show have opted for a Brazilian themed show with entertainment, events and garden designs all taking their inspiration from Brazilian styles and culture.

There will be a host of celebrities in attendance from celebrity chefs, to gardening experts and TV stars.

In addition to show gardens, and over a million blooms on display, there will be more than 350 independent stalls and shops, live music and entertainment.

The show also boasts the North West Food Festival which will feature more than 60 gourmet producers who offer the opportunity to sample and buy produce in the food marquees. There is also a full working kitchen where celebrity chefs will be demonstrating their skills and signature dishes.

The show can be enjoyed whatever the weather, thanks to the variety of covered marquees, and Victoria Park’s purpose built drainage system and level surfaces.

Last year thousands of people visited the flower show, which was opened by Carol Vorderman. The £30 cost will include fare and ticket to the flower show (subject to minimum bookings), and the minimum stay will be 5 hours.

If you are interested, contact Les on 01377 885896 to reserve a place. Departure times to be confirmed at a later date.

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<th>In Memoriam</th>
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<td><strong>Linda Ward</strong>&lt;br&gt;9th March 1957 - 25th March 2008&lt;br&gt;Never forgotten&lt;br&gt;Love Tim&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
<td><strong>Stuart Boddy</strong>&lt;br&gt;23.3.11&lt;br&gt;Treasured memories of a loving Brother/Uncle&lt;br&gt;Not a day goes by that we don’t think of you&lt;br&gt;Love and miss you millions&lt;br&gt;Love from Beverley, Gavin, Callum &amp; Kate&lt;br&gt;xxxx</td>
<td><strong>Rhian Alicia Parker</strong>&lt;br&gt;Love and miss you baby Sister&lt;br&gt;Love Daniel &amp; Brogan</td>
<td><strong>Alan Spears</strong>&lt;br&gt;Born 22nd March 1953&lt;br&gt;Died 1st Jan 2014&lt;br&gt;Thinking of you on your Birthday&lt;br&gt;From Mam &amp; family</td>
<td><strong>Evie Grace Dunn</strong>&lt;br&gt;Happy 2nd Birthday Evie&lt;br&gt;Have a fantastic day&lt;br&gt;All our love, Mammy &amp; Daddy&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
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<td><strong>Stuart Boddy</strong>&lt;br&gt;23rd March&lt;br&gt;Make sure you tell your Daddy you love him, you may not always have the chance. We know you always hear us.&lt;br&gt;Love you millions, Ellie, Olivia &amp; Thomas&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
<td><strong>Kevin Pedelty</strong>&lt;br&gt;23rd March&lt;br&gt;A year today you went away&lt;br&gt;We miss our Brother&lt;br&gt;More than words can say&lt;br&gt;The memories we shared&lt;br&gt;So true, so tender&lt;br&gt;We will always remember your sense of humour, your generous heart&lt;br&gt;Our love for you will never part&lt;br&gt;Also, Birthday Remembrance for 28th March&lt;br&gt;Loved and missed by all the family</td>
<td><strong>Rhian Alicia Parker</strong>&lt;br&gt;Happy 4th Birthday ‘Riri’&lt;br&gt;Our star in the sky&lt;br&gt;Love always, Brian, Sarah &amp; Cousin Lacy&lt;br&gt;xxxx</td>
<td><strong>Cathleen Elizabeth Scaife</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Nee Costello)&lt;br&gt;March 20th 1954&lt;br&gt;Precious memories Cath, on this special Birthday&lt;br&gt;May the wind of love blow softly&lt;br&gt;And whisper for you to hear&lt;br&gt;We all love and miss you&lt;br&gt;And wish you were still here&lt;br&gt;Loved and missed every day&lt;br&gt;Mam &amp; Brother Gordon</td>
<td><strong>Geoff Carrick</strong>&lt;br&gt;22nd March&lt;br&gt;The Big 65th Birthday&lt;br&gt;Happy 65th Stretch&lt;br&gt;Very old today!&lt;br&gt;Loads of love&lt;br&gt;Sarah &amp; Brian&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
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<td><strong>Stuart Boddy</strong>&lt;br&gt;23.3.11&lt;br&gt;We think of you with love today&lt;br&gt;But that’s nothing new&lt;br&gt;We thought about you yesterday&lt;br&gt;And the days before that too&lt;br&gt;Just to let you know Son&lt;br&gt;We love and miss you so&lt;br&gt;Loved and missed always, Mam &amp; Dad&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
<td><strong>Doris Nicholson</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Nee Box)&lt;br&gt;24th March 2013&lt;br&gt;In our hearts your memory lingers&lt;br&gt;Sweetly tender, fond and true&lt;br&gt;There is not a day, dear Mother&lt;br&gt;That we do not think of you&lt;br&gt;Love from the family</td>
<td><strong>Rhian Alicia Parker</strong>&lt;br&gt;26th March&lt;br&gt;Our darling Granddaughter&lt;br&gt;You’d have been four&lt;br&gt;We send our love and cuddles for you, to the Angels that took you away, as presents we can’t give to you today&lt;br&gt;Love Nanna &amp; Grandad&lt;br&gt;Chapman&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
<td><strong>Cathleen Elizabeth Scaife</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Nee Costello)&lt;br&gt;March 20th 1954&lt;br&gt;Treasured memories of our Mam, on this special Birthday&lt;br&gt;Memories of you will never grow old&lt;br&gt;To be with you in the same old way&lt;br&gt;Would be our dearest wish today&lt;br&gt;Loved and never forgotten,&lt;br&gt;Sons - Antony, Kevin, Stephen &amp; Grandson Stewart</td>
<td><strong>Geoff Carrick</strong>&lt;br&gt;Happy Ancient Birthday&lt;br&gt;Grandad&lt;br&gt;A huge 65!&lt;br&gt;Love Ethan, Kyle &amp; Ella&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stuart Boddy</strong>&lt;br&gt;23.3.11&lt;br&gt;Memories are a gift to treasure&lt;br&gt;Our’s of you will last forever&lt;br&gt;Loved and missed by Nanna &amp; all the family&lt;br&gt;xxx</td>
<td><strong>Rhian Alicia Parker</strong>&lt;br&gt;26.03.10&lt;br&gt;Today darling you would have been four&lt;br&gt;We love you baby, more than you could ever know&lt;br&gt;Love always, Mammy &amp; Daddy</td>
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Reverend shows charity starts at home

For the congregation of Saint John's, charity most definitely begins at home! Each month a special collection is made for a good cause and, in February, the good cause was Jubilee Fields Community Centre. "When you are a part of a community," said Revd. David, "you care about that community, and caring is not just a nice feeling it is practical support, doing something good." Presenting the cheque to administrator Sally-Ann outside the Community Centre on Thursday 13th March, David described it as ‘a small token to support a centre that does so many big things.’

With lunch clubs, children’s activities, fitness and health events and much more the centre is a tribute to the strength of the community in which it sits. Sally-Ann expressed her gratitude on behalf of the staff and centre users. “Those who use this centre are the people we are here for” she said, “and those people are everybody really.” To find out what’s going on at the Centre, call 01388 777425.

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Shildon & District Town Crier Issue 656 Friday 21st March 2014
Letters

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my pleasure for a very nice Sunday, an early Mother’s (Grandmother’s) Day at the Civic for the theatre production of Hairspray by C.A.T.S. theatre troupe.

Once again the youngsters delivered a great show. The youngsters were quiet on stage but everyone gets stage fright or nerves. My hands were sore from clapping and my shoulders ached from going with the music. Derrick, with back stage and front helpers have done it again.

It’s a pity though, it’s a small hall and it was nearly empty. The children deserve better support. My husband and I travel to see the show and it was brilliant, well done C.A.T.S. Look forward to the next one. Derrick, you do a good job with the youngsters, they think you are great (their words).

Thank you to everyone, Sheila and Geoffrey Carrick.

Dear Editor,

Shildon Jubilee Jazz Band would like to say a huge thank you to all for their support in their recent fundraising events to help keep the jazz band running.

Three Tunes Shildon for their ongoing support, Tesco Tindale for the recent bag pack, raising £308, Morrison’s Shildon, Thirteen Tattoos, Andy Graham, Barrier Surveillance Director, when told of the charity’s work was immediately interested in the projects the group were involved in, He also gave advice to the group and the local Police Community Team on tackling thefts from allotments.

“If you need any security items that may help you in keeping you and your property safe, check us out, we should be able to help,” said Neville Crook. All items offered by the Community Safety Group are at cost or below cost price. They still have a supply of GSM house alarms, which telephone you if an Intruder is in your property, costing a mere £16 inc vat.

The charity is based in Shildon Town Council Offices and is open between 10am and 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call in or ring Neville on 01388 778300.

Dear Editor,

Shildon Jubilee Jazz Band would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended the hypnosis - Hair by Louise and Brewsters. Express, Pizza Figaro, Valentino’s, Red Alligator, Shildon Sunbeds, Play Shack, Bella Italia, Pizza Bower’s Spray Tan, Supreme Nails, King’s Balti, Jasmine Garden, Jo Rigatoni, Saffron Indian, Diane Domino Pizza, Barbers, Spice Lounge, Pizza Zone, McDonald’s, Flossy’s Spray Tan, Allison’s Flowers, Photography, Rouge Hair and Beauty, Beverley’s, Morrison’s Shildon, Thirteen Tattoos, Lee Dawson Tindale for the recent bag pack, raising £308, Three Tuns Shildon for their ongoing support, Tesco their recent fundraising events to help them keep thank you to the following for all their support in Shildon Jubilee Jazz Band; would like to say a huge thank you to everyone, Sheila and Geoffrey Carrick.

Have your say...

Letters

Community Safety Group

The Shildon Community Safety Group have expressed their appreciation to Barrier Surveillance of Shildon, for their very generous donation of £500, which will be of enormous help to continue the charities work.

Andy Graham, Barrier Surveillance Director, when told of the charity’s work was immediately interested in the projects the group were involved in. He also gave advice to the group and the local Police Community Team on tackling thefts from allotments.

“If you need any security items that may help you in keeping you and your property safe, check us out, we should be able to help,” said Neville Crook. All items offered by the Community Safety Group are at cost or below cost price. They still have a supply of GSM house alarms, which telephone you if an Intruder is in your property, costing a mere £16 inc vat.

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PACT MEETINGS

Police & Communities Together

Eldon, Close House, Coronation and Auckland Park

Tuesday 25th March, 6pm, One Stop Community Shop

Previous issues - Individuals are causing general nuisance in Edward Street. The street is untidy with litter.

Byerley Ward

Wednesday 26th March, 6.30pm, Shildon Civic Hall

Previous issues - Drug related activity in Hackworth Street, St Johns Road and the Black Path.

Thickley Ward

Thursday 27th March, 6:30pm, Jubilee Community Centre

Previous issues - Anti-social behaviour in Jasmine Avenue, especially in the cut leading from Jasmine Avenue onto Jubilee Road.

Sunnydale Ward

Wednesday 23rd April, 6.30pm, Garbutt Close Community Lounge

Previous issues - Speeding vehicles on Eldon Bank top and Cheapside
Supporters’ Club issues over £1,200 in community grants

Seven local community groups were joined by Shildon AFC President, John Atkinson (centre) as they collected their grant funding cheques from Shildon AFC Supporters Club.

It was a very special day for Shildon AFC Supporters’ Club on Saturday 15th March, as they welcomed several local community groups to Shildon’s home Northern League match against Morpeth Town. The Club launched the Shildon AFC Supporters, Club Lotto, which is drawn weekly, at the beginning of the 2013-14 season. Since its introduction it has distributed over £3,000 in prize money and last week it distributed its first grant funding to local community groups.

Shildon AFC Supporters, Club Chairman, Russell Henderson said, “Saturday was a special day and we were delighted to be able to give financial grants to seven local community groups, who all successfully applied to our small grants fund.

“Putting money back into the local community is our top priority and this is the first time we have been able to distribute money from the grant fund, although it won’t be the last. The lottery runs every week, all year, and the more players there are, the more money we will be able to re-invest back into the local community.

“When new funds are available we will let the community know through local press outlets, but we hope to be able to announce an additional round of funding to coincide with when the lottery jackpot is won.

“The fund is open to all small local groups and we are especially interested in helping groups who don’t have access to other means of funding such as the National Lottery. Anyone who runs a small group and needs funds for items such as equipment or to fund a group trip, for example, or any other reason is very welcome to apply. The maximum grant a group can apply for is £200 in one year.

At Saturday’s match, the lottery distributed over £1,200 in total grant funding to the following local community groups: Shildon Community Garden, Auckland Hospital Radio, Prince Bishops Primary School Community Garden, Shildon Community Garden The Monday Club and Jubilee Community Centre. The lottery manages a Facebook page which contains full details of how to participate and includes a weekly draw announcement. Visit facebook.com/safclotto.

Teen found in possession of knife

In the early hours of 22nd February, Christopher Mark Lee Sowerby of Teesdale Walk, Shildon, was stopped by Police who discovered he was armed with a large kitchen knife. At Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court on Wednesday 12th March David Bryson, prosecuting, stated that the 18 year-old had been worried about a friend’s safety after the man’s girlfriend had posted a concerning message on Facebook.

“He went out looking for that friend and he did take with him a knife, which he hid up his sleeve,” said Mr Bryson.

District Judge Martin Walker requested a probation report be carried out and stood down for 30 minutes. The probation officer concluded that although Mr Sowerby believed his friend to be in trouble when he was actually asleep, she said, “He had involved himself in a situation he did not need to be involved in” and spoke to Mr Sowerby about making better life choices. Mr Sowerby, who had no previous convictions, was sentenced to a 12-month community order and was given a six-week curfew of 7am - 7pm and was ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge.

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www.thecountrymanbolam.co.uk

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Two meals for £10.95

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Wednesday Carvery - 12 - 2pm from £5.95

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crier@talk21.com or www.shildontowncrier.com

By post or in person:
Town Crier, First Floor, Town Council Offices, Civic Hall Square, Shildon. DL4 1AH.

By telephone or voicemail:
(01388) 775896 or 07909 992 731.

Leave items for the paper at:
Our offices, Civic Hall Square.

How to advertise:
We can design an eye catching advert tailored to your specific needs. A breakdown of costs is available online at www.shildontowncrier.com.

The Shildon & District Town Crier is delivered free of charge to homes and businesses in Shildon, Midhope, Eldon, Eldon Lane and Ridsworth.
96 year-old wins singing competition

Cllr Quinn and consort Shirley with Care Home Idol winners, Gladys Stephens and Bev Temple.

The mayor of Shildon Peter Quinn, and his wife Shirley, visited Rose Lodge Care Home in Newton Aycliffe on Friday 14th March to present a lovely bouquet of flowers to former Shildon resident Gladys Stephens, who, with care home worker Bev Temple had just won a national competition. ‘Care Home Idol’ is a yearly competition by carehome.co.uk and is designed to showcase the talent and fun that exists in the UK care homes and to challenge ageist stereotypes.

Care Homes were asked to send in videos of their residents singing and the general public were asked to vote for their favourite online. The winning video belonged to Gladys and Bev, who sang Elvis’s ‘Are You Lonesome Tonight’. A spokesperson commented, “The video is a touching display of a strong bond between a member of staff and a resident, and it is not surprising that visitors to carehome.co.uk were touched by their performance.”

Gladys, 96, has been a resident in Rose Lodge for nearly a year, previously living in Dalton Crescent since the houses were built. She was married to George Stephens, who had a bakery in Bishop Auckland. Her son, Brian, is a well known county councillor. Davina Ludlow director at carehome.co.uk said, “I would like to congratulate everyone who submitted a video. It has been great fun for us here to watch everyone’s videos; some of which have been heart warming and some funny, but which have all showcased some excellent talent. To the overall winners Gladys and Bev, a special well done!”

Rose Lodge are holding a presentation on Wednesday 9th April at 11.30am, with a big party open to everyone.

Great Goodbye DVDs

The Crier’s souvenir DVDs featuring over 140 photos from ‘The Great Goodbye’ event at Shildon’s Locomotion Museum have been selling like hot cakes. This was the final event of a series of celebrations called ‘Mallard 75’ which saw Mallard joined by its sister locomotives Sir Nigel Gresley, Bittern, Union of South Africa, as well as the Dominion of Canada and Dwight D Eisenhower. ‘The Great Goodbye’ captures all the locomotives together, which will never be seen again. The DVD is only £5 and from the Town Crier offices in Shildon Town Council Building, Civic Hall Square, or we can send you a copy through the post for £6.50. We also have for sale a selection of fantastic photographs from the event in a range of sizes starting from just £2. Call 01388 775896 for details or in to the offices to take a look.

This week in History

21 March 1999
One of Britain’s most loved and most successful comedians, Ernie Wise, died aged 73.

22 March 1963
The Beatles’ first album, Please Please Me, is released in the UK.

23 March 1983
US President Ronald Reagan makes his initial proposal to develop technology to intercept enemy missiles.

24 March 1953
Majesty Queen Mary (the Queen’s grandmother) died peacefully in her sleep.

25 March 1979
The first fully functional space shuttle orbiter, Columbia, was delivered to the John F. Kennedy Space Center to be prepared for its first launch.

26 March 1999
Ex-miners suffering from lung diseases won the biggest industrial injuries case in British legal history.

21 March 1959
Majesty Queen Mother died aged 81.
All things Easter at Co-operative Funeralcare

The Co-operative Funeralcare in Church Street is appealing to the community for help with collecting Easter eggs again this year. Staff are hoping to collect eggs to share between local groups for children and adults with learning disabilities, as well as children staying with their mums in women’s aid refuges.

Jenette Sisson, Divisional Manager of The Co-operative Funeralcare said, “As a business at the heart of the community we want to put a smile on as many faces as possible again this year.”

Eggs and Easter gifts will be gratefully received at the Shildon funeral home until Friday 11th April (opening hours 10am – 2pm weekdays). The funeral home is also holding an Easter Egg Competition and would like to invite members of the community to paint, dye or decorate a paste egg and take it along before Wednesday 16th April. There are four age groups; 5-7 years-old, 7-11 years-old, 11-16 years-old and adult. There will also be a special prize for a family effort. If mum, dad and kids all paint, dye or decorate a paste egg and enter as a family, they could win an Easter hamper donated by Class A florist, fruit & veg next door (next door to Co-operative Funeralcare).

The winning eggs will be chosen at the Co-op’s coffee morning on Maundy Thursday, 17th April, at noon. All entries will be displayed in window until the day of judging. For more information call 01388 774853 during office hours.

Shildon residents hopped on board

Shildon residents hopped onto the Check4Life bus to get tips on being healthier when it visited the town recently. Residents were able to access free health checks, discuss the results with trained Check4Life advisors and receive personal advice. The bus visited Shildon in partnership with the Shildon Health Express, which is an initiative that aims to help the people of Shildon to live longer, be healthier and lead happier, more fulfilled lives. Working with a wide range of partners including Durham County Council, South Durham Enterprise Agency, Irvin, Bishop Auckland College and Durham University, it is hoped that a model can be developed that proves a community can be enthused to live healthier lives and that agencies can make practical changes to provide a better service for local people. If successful, it is hoped the scheme will eventually be rolled out across the county.

Councillor Brian Stephens said, “The Shildon Health Express is an exciting health initiative and bringing the Check4Life bus to the town is just part of the package to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Shildon.”

For more information contact Lyndsey Thomason, Health Express Coordinator on 03000 267206.

Off-road bikes stolen

Police are appealing for information after a garage was forcibly entered in Yew Tree Avenue between 23rd February and 11th March. A blue quad bike was stolen together with a child’s white off-road bike (pictured). Anyone with information as to the person(s) responsible for this crime, or with knowledge as to the whereabouts of the stolen items, is urged to contact Shildon Neighbourhood Police Team on 101.

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Disabled Friendly and baby changing facilities

This off-road bike was stolen from a garage on Yew Tree Avenue.

Pictured with Cllr Stephens are Lyndsey Thomason and Check4Life Health Advisors Tracy Farnaby and Nicola Bell.

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30th YEAR ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

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Two Meals for £10 in the Restaurant between 11:30am and 7:30pm Monday to Saturday

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Get composting this March

Residents in Shildon are being encouraged to turn their household waste into compost. Durham County Council is promoting home composting to help reduce the amount of waste people dispose of. The council is working in partnership with national supplier getcomposting.com to offer compost bins at a discounted rate for County Durham residents. The current discounted prices, which start at £16.98 for a compost bin with a £5.49 delivery charge, are available until the end of March. Prices will increase from 1st April. More than a third of household waste is made up of organic material which can be made into compost.

Grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, unwanted plants, fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags and even the contents of the vacuum cleaner are all ideal for composting. Paula George, projects and campaigns team leader in Strategic Waste Management at Durham County Council, said, “We want to encourage residents to reduce their waste and compost as much as possible. “Composting the right kitchen and garden waste is an easy and effective way of reducing and recycling some of the daily waste we produce while providing significant benefits for the garden and the wider environment. “It’s simple to do and, once you get started, people will be surprised at just how much daily household waste can be recycled in this way.”

Compost bins are available via www.getcomposting.com or by calling 0844 571 4444. A ‘buy one, get one half price’ offer is also available, which is ideal for people with larger gardens or those clubbing together with a friend or neighbour to buy a compost bin.

Family devastated after car is vandalised

A Shildon woman has been left distraught after vandals covered her car in gloss. Julie Kemp, from Scott Street, awoke on Wednesday 19th March to discover her vehicle’s windows, roof, bonnet and doors had been splattered with the light blue/grey gloss. The police were informed and it will cost a lot of money to repair the damage. Paint was also found in the back of South Street. Julie has lived in the street for 25 years. She said, “I cannot understand who would do such a thing, I have no enemies here!”

Julie was so distressed over the incident as she relies on the car for her 16 year-old daughter Jade, who has a serious heart condition and is awaiting a major operation. She is often poorly and is regularly taken into hospital. Julie said, “When Jade goes into hospital I need my car to bring her back home when she is well enough to come out.”

The incident was doubly upsetting for the family, as it occurred on the 7 year anniversary of the death of Jade’s dad, Alan. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or who may have seen people acting suspiciously in the vicinity overnight between Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th March, is urged to contact Shildon police on 101.

Sea Cow in Shildon

Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon, has welcomed the arrival of a railway wagon made in the town 41 years ago. The bogie ballast hopper, number DB 982896 was built at Shildon works in 1973 and was designated for preservation by the Railway Heritage Committee in 2008. It finally reached its retirement home on 14th March and is currently displayed on the sidings at Locomotion before a full conservation assessment is carried out.

British Railways wagon-types built during the 1970s were all given names based on a sea life theme. Names such as ‘Sea Cow’, ‘Dog Fish’ and ‘Walrus’ were given to each type of wagon being produced. Senior Curator of Rail Vehicle Collections for the NRM, Anthony Coulls said, “Wagons like these do not have the glamour of the express engines like Mallard which came to Shildon recently, but they kept the railways running through their role as maintenance vehicles, often working through the night on track renewal and repair projects. “We are sure that the wagon’s return to the town where it was made is bringing a little bit of Shildon pride back to the museum and look forward to the wagon’s restoration in due course”.

Window smashed

Sometime after 12.30am on Sunday 16th March, a pool ball and bottle of alcohol were used to smash the front window at a premise in The Oval, Shildon. Police are asking anyone with information concerning the identity of the perpetrator(s) of this offence to contact Shildon NPT on 101.

The car was covered in a light blue/grey gloss paint.

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Cycle theft

Police are investigating the overnight theft of 2 child’s pedal cycles from a rear garden in Stephenson Court, Shildon, between Wednesday 12th March and Thursday 13th March. The first is a black and white Vertigo bike with a skull pattern, and the second is a Stunt King red, white and blue cycle. The same night a separate garage was targeted in Stephenson Court, though no entry was gained.

If you have any information regarding these incidents, contact Shildon NPT on 101.

Spring Fayre

Middridge Village Association will be holding a Spring Fayre on Saturday 5th April in the village hall from 10 until 12.30pm. Decoupage, in the village hall from 10.

Lotto results

Shildon AFC Supporters’ Club held its latest lotto draw on Sunday 16th March. The numbers drawn on the night were: 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12.

There was no winner of the £650 jackpot, which now rolls over to £700.

One ticket, entered by Sunita Williams of Shildon, was drawn from all entries and won a £25 consolation prize.

The numbers reduce by one, so players must select the winning six numbers from just 14 remaining (1-14).

Tickets for the lottery can be bought from various local outlets: Main Street News, the Grey Horse pub, Elm Road Club on a Friday night only, the One Stop Shop on Byerley Road, on match days at Shildon Football Club and from members of the Supporters’ Club at any time.

Players can also play online via Paypal. Instructions on how to play online are available on the lotto Facebook page at facebook.com/safclotto.

Next week’s draw will take place at the usual venue, the Shildon AFC social club during the break in the Supporters’ Club quiz night, which begins at 8pm. New quiz players are always welcome.

Zumba is a great way to get in shape and meet new friends.

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) are delivering a new Zumba class at the Jubilee Fields Community Centre in Shildon, and residents are being encouraged to get in shape for the summer with this popular Latin American dance and social exercise.

The class starts Wednesday 26th March, from 1.30pm - 2.30pm, and will run for 8 weeks at only £2 per session. If the class is popular it may continue.

Zumba is dance fitness for any level; it helps improve your fitness, gives you energy and is great for meeting new people and making you feel good. Why not give it a try whilst the kids are at school?

PCP has a huge range of activities, support and classes aimed at improving your health and making you feel better. Activities run from the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe and at various outreach venues in the County Durham area as part of the Move4Life programme.

PCP Health Trainers organise friendly, low cost exercise sessions for all ages and levels of fitness which are delivered by fully qualified instructors. For further information contact a PCP Health Trainer at the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234, email healthtrainers@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net. Or find details on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: /PCPandCentre.
Shildon man grew cannabis in attic

Neal Gallagher, 44, of Cooperative Street, Shildon appeared at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 12th March after he was caught with 29 cannabis plants in his attic. Police had searched Mr Gallagher’s home on 20th December last year after his neighbours reported a strong smell of cannabis. District Judge Walker said, “He is a single man and has admitted in the report he has been smoking cannabis for 20 years. He has a number of medical problems and he feels taking cannabis alleviates those problems. He now accepts this is not the way forward.”

Gallagher had no previous convictions and so was sentenced to a 12-month community order with probation supervision. He was also ordered to pay £85 costs and a £60 victim surcharge after pleading guilty to producing the class B drug.

Smart allotment scheme

Funding has been secured by police from the Area Action Partnership to assist with crime prevention at allotments in Shildon. Each allotment site will be issued with signs - to be erected around perimeter fencing to deter thieves, along with smart water and spray paint, which will be colour coded for each allotment site. If tools are stolen, this will make it easier to identify them. The Smart Allotment Scheme is to be launched at 10am on Friday 28th March at All Saints Road Allotments, New Shildon.

Shildon Councillors to hold surgery

Durham County councillors Trish Pemberton, Henry Nicholson and Brian Stephens from Shildon and Dean Valley, will hold a surgery at Eldon Community Centre on Tuesday 25th March at 6pm.

100 years of Shildon Brownies

The 4th Shildon St John’s Brownies are celebrating 100 years of the Shildon Guiding Movement. In celebration, the group will be taking part in a Great Brownie Sleep Over and a 100th birthday party at Wetherby. The group will also be completing 9 challenges before they can proudly wear the 100th birthday badge.

The challenges work in three sections ‘you’, ‘community’ and ‘world’; activities which will help members to understand and carry out the new words of a new promise.
Shildon AFC throw away vital points

Once again, Shildon threw away two more vital points in their quest for the league title when they could only manage a 1 - 1 draw at home to Morpeth Town on Saturday 15th March.

In windy conditions this was a very scrappy and poor game with very few scoring opportunities from either side. Early on Shildon's Mark Walmsley cleared a Paul Connor shot off the line. Just before the break Shildon went 1 – 0 up when Connor shot off the line. A cross from Mark Hudson was slid in by Paul Connor.

Morpeth Town 0.

Half Time: Shildon 1

With one minute left a left wing corner was palmed out by Shildon keeper Lewis Graham straight to Scott Swanston for him to fire back in for the equaliser.

Final Score: Shildon 1 Morpeth Town 1.

Another below par performance. The team only had 3 shots on target the whole afternoon. That sums up their performance.

With Celtic Nation, West Auckland and Spennymoor all playing draws, a win would have kept up the pressure at the top.

Girls get muddy for charity

Susie, Lisa and the girls from Aspire Fitness are preparing to take on the Muddy Mayhem challenge at Hardwick park and raise funds for the Butterwick Children's Hospice.

Shildon girls Susie Bird and Lisa Coleman, along with 34 members of Aspire Fitness Studios in Newton Aycliffe, are stepping out of their comfort zones to take part in Muddy Mayhem to raise much needed funds for the local Butterwick Children’s Hospice.

The Aspire team will complete a seriously tough obstacle-filled mud run where they will come up against cargo nets, climbing walls, tunnels, freezing open water, muddy ditches and lots of filthy surprises along the way at the event, which takes place on Sunday 23rd March at Hardwick Park, Sedgefield.

The group were inspired to participate in this event was, to make every second count with our loved ones and to help support other families.

The response from our members at Aspire to participate in this event was truly overwhelming. The nerves and excitement are kicking in but I know that together, we will all make it such a great team event whilst raising essential funds for our chosen charity.

Last year the team raised over £800 for the a Butterwick Adult Hospice by participating in the Midnight Walk at Stockton and they would love to exceed that amount from this event.

If you would like to show your support, you can sponsor the team online at www.justgiving.com/aspiromuddymayhem or text ASPI73 followed by your donation amount, e.g. £2, to 70070. Alternatively, call into Aspire Fitness Studios at Durham Way North, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6HP.

Tigers first win of the year

Saturday 15th March saw the Durham Tigers Under 14’s team away in their first pre-season friendly. After a hard fought match against the Winlaton Warriors The Tigers came away with a 52-28 win.

The club’s secretary said, “This year’s under 14 squad are really strong and I think they are going to win the Tigers a lot of games this season. They have been training really hard over the winter and their work has paid off, a good win at this stage gives the team great motivation that they can use in the upcoming season.”

The Tigers open age squad was also in action last weekend at home against Gateshead Storm, which saw the Tigers defeated 62-28.

Their coach Steve Morley said, “It was a disappointing result, but the Tigers fought a tough game against a very good opponent, we hope that the boys can build on their performance and improve for the upcoming season.”

If you would like to get more information on fixtures get in touch with Phil Selby on 01833 641143 or like “We Are Durham Tigers” on Facebook.

If you are interested in playing for the Tigers feel free to go along to training on Saturday mornings between 9.30am and 11am or on Tuesday nights between 6.30pm and 8pm.