

GATESHEAD council news

Mar-May 2011



**The budget:
your feedback**

**Town Centre
development**

**Sports Club of
the Year**

**Contact us: 0191 433 3000
www.gateshead.gov.uk**

"I'm going to hospital - will you look after my cat?"

Gateshead Council's customer service team try to answer all your questions... from bin collections to the bizarre - we'll do our best!

"... and by the way No, but we could help find someone who can look after it!"

For queries about council services phone us on:

0191 433 3000

Email: customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk

or drop into one of our customer services centres:

- **Birtley** - 16 Durham Road, Birtley,
- **Blaydon** - 5 Wesley Court, Blaydon,
- **Dunston** - Dunston Activity Centre, Ellison Road, Dunston
- **Leam Lane** - 129 Cotemedede, Leam Lane Estate
- **Town Centre** - Gateshead Civic Centre



Other dedicated numbers:

- 0191 433 7131 (automated switchboard)
- 0191 433 7000 (refuse collection/street services)
- 0191 433 7007 (pest control)
- 0191 433 4646 (benefits)
- 0191 433 3600 (Council Tax)
- 0800 408 6008 (Council house repairs)

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Pic: Peter Atkinson.

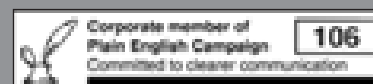
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Councillor Mick Henry

Leader of Gateshead Council

WELCOME FROM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR MICK HENRY

Welcome to our Spring edition of Council News. Like local authorities up and down the country, we have been faced with the need to work within the financial settlement allocated to us by the Government. This has been very challenging, as we strive to balance the needs of local people while at the same time having to reduce our budget by £60 million over the next two years.

In this issue we update you on the budget consultation we carried out - and want to thank the thousand-plus

residents who fed back their views to us. Our two-page budget feature highlights the key service areas affected and what these cuts will mean to you.

On a more upbeat note, we look forward to the opening of Dunston Leisure Centre, celebrate the achievements of volunteers, find out how Birtley Boxing Club were inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and take pride in our bid to become a City.

Mick Henry
Mick Henry



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Happy 107th!

POLLY ADDS ANOTHER ROYAL BIRTHDAY CARD TO HER COLLECTION

Getting a birthday card from the Queen isn't something that happens every year – unless you're Polly Simpson from Crawcrook!

Polly recently celebrated her 107th birthday, making her one of Britain's oldest women, and one of the few people older than 105 who now receive a card in the post from Her Majesty on every single birthday. Royal birthday cards are sent to those celebrating their 100th and 105th birthdays and then every year thereafter, which means Polly now has four sitting on her mantelpiece.

Her latest birthday on January 18 this year was spent with her family of four children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren, including her latest new great grandchildren William, who's four months, and Daisy, who's just two months old.

Amongst the other visitors who dropped in to help her celebrate her day was Gateshead's Mayor, Councillor Michael Hood who



Polly Simpson with her latest great grandchildren Daisy and William. Pic courtesy of Evening Chronicle.

delivered a huge bunch of flowers from the Council. In addition to this year's card from the Queen, Polly also received messages of congratulations from friends, relatives and other wellwishers in places as far away as The Bahamas and New Zealand.

And those messages and gifts and flowers are one thing that Polly can't

get enough of. "She loves all the attention," said her daughter, Mary Summers, 74. "With four children to take care of, my mum hasn't had an easy life, but she's tried hard not to let anything get in the way.

"Now she's really enjoying being the one who's spoiled for a change, and at 107 I think she deserves it!"

Improvements on track

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS AT STADIUM

Improvements to Gateshead International Stadium are right on track, with the completion of the large two storey extension last month.

Housing a new café, classrooms and hospitality facilities, the extension will be complemented by refurbishment work to existing changing rooms and the already completed new canopy to the stadium's East Stand.

The multimillion pound extension and refurbishment works are all part of a plan to improve Gateshead International Stadium's position as a leading sporting venue. The innovative design allows spaces to have many uses with classrooms for Gateshead College's Academy for Sport transforming into hospitality

facilities with space for over 500 guests and improved catering facilities. Work is also being carried out to make the stadium more accessible for visitors.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Councillor Linda Green said: "The expansion and redevelopment of Gateshead International Stadium is an important part of our £36 million investment in leisure and sporting facilities in Gateshead. The stadium is already an important venue for athletics and other events and this work enables us to offer additional facilities that will benefit students and the local community."

The final phase of works at Gateshead International Stadium will be completed in Summer 2011.

75,000 books and more!

NOW OPEN: REVAMPED CENTRAL LIBRARY

Whether you want to borrow a book (we have 75,000), have a coffee (in our upgraded café area), take in an exhibition (in our dedicated gallery space), or get tourism advice (from our new tourism information centre) - Gateshead Central Library won't disappoint.

The £2.5 million revamped library opened its doors at the end of January, with the Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Michael Hood, and children's favourite, The Gruffalo, doing the honours.

They also welcomed young bookworms to the new children's library. One of the biggest in the country, it includes a teen library – complete with a Wii console.

Gateshead children's author Simon Bartram and local schoolchildren were instrumental in the library's massive redesign. Images from his books, 'Man on the moon' and Bob's best ever friend', were chosen by the children from St Joseph's RC primary school to adorn the walls of the new children's library.

The Big Lottery Fund provided £2 million for the work



A 'Gruffalo' welcome to the new library.

which also includes new spaces for use by local people. The original grand entrance has also been restored and reopened.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Councillor Linda Green said: "Not only is the library a book lover's paradise, it provides an amazing resource for learning and information on almost everything from health to local history.

"The whole rebuild has been designed with local people to meet

the needs of their communities. Whether it's looking for a new job, reading up for exams or simply keeping tabs with friends and family online, the help and facilities are all here."

Gateshead Central Library is also home to a range of borough wide resources including the extensive Sound Gallery music lending service and an extensive reference library.

■ **For more information phone:**
■ **0191 433 3000.**

A guiding hand

NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD iPHONE APP



Visitors to our region can now download the official NewcastleGateshead City Guide to their iPhone.

This groundbreaking app is one of the first to be developed and used by a tourism organisation in the UK.

It combines an abundance of interactive features, giving the

visitor a wealth of tourism information – all in the palm of their hand.

You can search for hotels, restaurants and bars, or browse what's on for festivals, shows and events. The app also allows you to visualise where you are in relation to top attractions, activities and restaurants.

Noteworthy

Already appearing on the iTunes

App store's new and noteworthy list, the official City Guide iPhone App has received five-star-ratings from users eager to get to grips with the new innovation.

The app can be downloaded from the iTunes App store for just £1.19.

■ **For further information on NewcastleGateshead and the iPhone App go to:**
■ **www.NewcastleGateshead.com**

Repairing potholes

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

After one of the worst winters on record, our highways maintenance staff have been working flat out trying to repair the damage caused by ice and freezing temperatures – mainly potholes and uneven pavements.

Potholes come about when water freezes and expands in cracks in the road surface – causing it to break up. But damage can also be happening under the road surface which can't be seen until the road surface itself breaks up, sometimes months after the cold weather has gone.

While we could do little to prevent the damage, we quickly set about repairing the higher than normal number of problems with roads and footpaths. Extra vehicles, machinery and staff were drafted in, with priority given to streets and pavements near shopping centres, schools and public buildings, along with busy and high speed roads.

One of the areas that saw the worst damage from potholes was the southbound exit from the Tyne



Ongoing work to repair our roads.

Bridge. It was decided that complete resurfacing was required, carried out overnight to minimise disruption.

Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor John McElroy said: "Our staff cleared roads of snow and ice around the clock during the bad weather, but what the thaw uncovered meant even more hard work ahead.

"We experienced a huge increase

in the number of potholes, over 100 per day. Their size and depth made it particularly difficult to return streets to their normal state so we brought in all the resources we can, at a cost of over £10,000 per day to put things back in order as soon as possible."

■ You can report potholes online at: www.gateshead.gov.uk or by calling: 0191 433 7000.

Benefit update

CHANGES TO HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

If you are currently getting help with your rent or council tax, or apply for help after 1 April, there are a number of changes that you need to be aware of. A general guide is given below.

What has changed from April?

Non-dependent deductions If another adult lives with you – but is not your partner – their financial circumstances are taken into account when we work out your housing benefit. There are changes to how we do this from April which could mean benefit will be reduced.

Renting from a private landlord There are changes

to Local Housing Allowance which could mean that your housing benefit will go down at some point between 1 April 2011 and 1 December 2012.

Overnight stays If someone stays overnight to care for you or your partner, you may get more help with your rent. Please tell us if this applies.

How will I know if these changes affect me?

We will send out more information to people who already receive benefit.

■ Visit the Benefits section of the Council's website: www.gateshead.gov.uk, or call: 0191 433 4646. Leaflets are also available at our offices.

Enter the dragons

BREATHING LIFE INTO LOCAL BUSINESS IDEAS

Against a background of rising unemployment and falling numbers of job vacancies in the North East, Gateshead Council is offering ambitious job-seekers a helping hand out of the increasingly crowded jobs market and into self-employment.

We have recruited some of the region's most prominent local entrepreneurs and business people to act as guides and mentors for people who are longing to work for themselves, as part of a programme to help local people realise their dream of working for themselves.

Called 'Not all Dragons Bite', the programme has already helped to set dozens of local people on the road to business success.

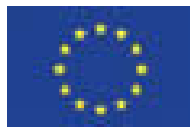
Now, it's the turn of people from Birtley and Lamesley in the south of the borough. They have already undergone our free 'one-to-one' and group training sessions to help them build confidence, develop their business ideas and perfect their selling techniques – before

they pitch their ideas to the dragons in May.

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Malcolm Graham said: "We have created a partnership between people looking to start up their own business but are not sure how to do so, and some of the brightest business brains in the region – and it's a partnership that works.

"The success of this project in the past has shown how practical help and support from experienced business people can really make a difference to people setting out on the road to self-employment."

The project benefits from £525,000 of European Union investment from the ERDF Competitiveness Programme 2007-13, managed by regional development agency One North East.



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional
Development Fund
2007-13



For further information please contact the Council's economic development team on: 0191 477 3747 or email: dragons@gateshead.gov.uk

Exam excellence

GCSE RESULTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

It may be a while since pupils took their GCSE exams, but the final figures on how well Gateshead schools did, show they are performing pretty well!

Achieving

For the fifteenth year in a row, the number of pupils achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE has gone up 3.3 per cent to 84.5 per cent. It is also the sixth year in a row that the number of students achieving 5 or more A* - C grades including English and Maths has increased, up 1.9 per cent on last year.

Credit

Cabinet Member for Learning and Children, Catherine Donovan said: "Young people in Gateshead are continuing to achieve results far above the average, both regionally and nationally, at GCSE level.

"The results are proof that teachers, students and parents in Gateshead are consistently working hard to make sure that young people are getting the best possible GCSE results and they all deserve real credit."

Slow down

Gateshead's main shopping centre, including Charles Street and High West Street, is one of the first areas to have its speed limit reduced from the customary 30 mph to 20 mph under a road safety scheme approved by the Council last year.

Speed limits will be reduced over the next few years at a further 155 separate locations, mostly near to schools, residential estates and shopping centres. Local businesses and town centre residents were consulted on the proposal and over 88 per cent of people who responded said they were in favour of the new speed limit.

A healthier business

APPRENTICES BOOST PRODUCTIVITY IN MEDICAL PRACTICE



Apprentices Lynn Hutchinson and Emma Keerie.

Apprentice push

With youth unemployment figures continuing to grow, Gateshead Council has agreed to a new plan that will see an extra 600 apprentices at work by 2014.

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Malcolm Graham said: "There is no doubt that it is a very tough jobs market at the moment. Despite that, we were on track to increase apprenticeships by 500 so we've decided that the time is right to increase our efforts again and deliver 100 extra apprentices on top of that."

Gateshead Council and its partners such as Gateshead Collective and North East Apprenticeship Company have already worked with several local businesses to help them through the entire process of taking on an apprentice.

These days, running a successful medical practice isn't much different to running a business.

And Gateshead Council has helped one north east surgery create two apprenticeships to help them meet their targets.

Lynn Hutchinson and Emma Keerie from Happy House Surgery in Sunderland, have taken a step up the career ladder from receptionists to health care assistants via Gateshead Council's Apprenticeship Training programme.

Partnership

Our training programme is led by experienced tutors with courses designed in partnership with businesses so apprentices can build the skills and knowledge that are actually needed.

And the training Lynn and Emma have received has seen the surgery increase the services it offers, provide better access for patients, and pick up more Quality Outcomes Framework points, which measure how well practices care for their patients.

Brilliant

"With our training the surgery can now offer services like blood tests on the spot," said Lynn. "Before, patients would have to wait and there was often a big backlog."

"The apprenticeships are great for us too," continued Lynn. "Once we've completed our Health Level 2 qualification we'll be able to do Level 3, which is a brilliant stepping stone for anyone who wants to go into nursing or work in a hospital."

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Malcolm Graham added: "The apprentices working for Happy House really demonstrate how we can tailor our apprenticeship service to work for any business. By taking on apprentices, businesses are making the best possible preparations for a successful and growing future. Our service is entirely on a not-for-profit basis so our only interest is helping north east companies take on the best people to aid that future prosperity."

To find out more about our apprenticeship training programme, contact the Council's vocational learning co-ordinator Claire Ritson on: 0191 433 8780.

Fishing for compliments

PUPILS' ARTWORK ON SHOW AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

For one lucky Gateshead school, the compliments are about to really start flowing.

Lingey House Primary School is one of just 20 UK schools selected to display their work as part of the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' project in May, and visitors to the prestigious London venue will be able to view a range of coloured Perspex fish made by the children.

Each year, the project selects one of the gallery's paintings and invites schools to use it to inspire their own pieces of art.

This year's picture was Tobias and the Angel from the workshop of 15th century Italian Renaissance painter Andrea del Verrocchio.

It depicts the archangel Raphael accompanying Tobias who is holding a small box containing a cure for his father's blindness. The cure was made from the heart, liver and gall of a fish.



Fishy tales at the National Gallery.

After visiting The Angel of the North, BALTIC and the Tyne's bridges, the children were eventually inspired by a stained glass version of the painting at Durham Cathedral.

They went on to create beautiful Perspex windows of their own, which are shaped like the fish in the painting and coloured like the Cathedral windows.

"We've taken part in the project for a number of years, but this is the first time we sent our work to the gallery," said deputy headteacher, Catherine Ritchie. "We were delighted when we found out we'd been selected!"

To find out more about the project, visit:
www.takeonpicture.org

Carter Art

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

The final days before the demolition of the 'Get Carter' car park have been captured in an intriguing and fascinating exhibition by Gateshead based architectural photographer Sally Ann Norman.

For almost 40 years the car park was part of the Gateshead landscape until it was finally demolished last year. In 2007, Sally Ann Norman was commissioned by the Council and Spenhill (Tesco's trading arm) to record images of this iconic building and Trinity Square Shopping Centre. This exhibition of photographs is the result.

No Parking: Trinity Square Car Park is at the Tyneside Cinema Bar until 25 March.



OWN A PIECE OF THE CAR PARK

We've got the last remaining seven pieces of the iconic car park to give away! Just answer the following for your chance to win. **Which famous 'Michael' appeared in the film 'Get Carter'?**

Caine Jackson Angelo

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

To enter, return this coupon to: **Gateshead Council, Council News, FREEPOST NEA 3381, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 1BR**, (you don't need a stamp). You can also email your answer and address details to: councilnews@gateshead.gov.uk Closing date for entries: **Monday 11 April 2011**. Good luck!

Budget news

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND BUDGET UPDATE

Gateshead Council has to reduce its spending by about £60 million over the next two years as a result of significantly reduced funding from central government.

To help us make the difficult decisions about where these cuts should fall, we asked you for your views on the services you wanted to protect, and those which could be reduced.

Over 1,200 of you responded by completing our Council News survey or going online. We also consulted community groups such as Gateshead Youth Assembly, Gateshead Older People's Assembly and the Gateshead Diversity Forum, head teachers, trade unions, the voluntary and private sectors and other partners.

Good news

The good news is we are freezing Council Tax levels so you will not pay more on your bill.



Gateshead Civic Centre.

What you said

You said you wanted less money spent on office-based functions. Our budget will see less money spent on administration, including reducing the number of buildings, reducing senior management and exploring shared services.

You said you were prepared to see less money spent in areas such as horticulture and libraries. So, our budget reduction plans reflect this. We are looking at how we can reduce costs relating to grass cutting, planning and library opening hours.

Protected

You said you wanted services such as care for vulnerable people and schools protected as much as possible, and we agree. Where we can, we will save money by delivering services in different ways. But where we can no longer provide some services to everyone, our aim has been to

continue them for those vulnerable people and communities who most need them.

Additional suggestions you made included charging for parking and the introduction of fortnightly refuse collections and these are areas we are looking at for the future.

Impact

Leader of Gateshead Council, Mick Henry, said: "The reality is that everyone will feel the impact of the cuts. £60 million is 26 per cent of our net expenditure. This is not just about the numbers, but about the very real impact on some of the most deprived communities in the country.

"Next year alone, Gateshead will be losing over £88 for every man, woman and child in the borough. And sadly, we will have fewer people working for the Council in future – over 1,000 posts will be lost.





“But whatever the challenge, we are focused on doing what is in the best interests of local people. We’ve taken a planned approach and our strong record of good budget management means that we are in as strong a position as any Local Authority in the area.”

Despite these efforts, the speed and scale of the cuts mean that there will have to be changes to service provision. And sadly, some activity will have to stop altogether. The views of local people have been absolutely fundamental in helping us make these very hard choices

■ Full details of the budget breakdown can be found at: www.gateshead.gov.uk



Positive proposals

It’s very easy in the current climate to focus on the negative, but that is not what we are about. So despite the challenging times ahead we are also putting in place some positive actions that will make a difference to people in Gateshead. These include:

- Additional support for voluntary groups through the Gateshead Community Fund with an annual investment of over £1 million
- Continue our investment in recycling
- Supporting vulnerable people through targeted and specialist services

And where the government has cut funding in relation to housing renewal and schools we will:

- Invest £14 million in schools;
- Provide £5 million to continue the vital programme of housing renewal in Bensham and Saltwell; and
- £10 million to complete improvements to council housing to the Decent Homes standard.

New Trinity Square

£150 MILLION TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT TAKES OFF

A new chapter in the history of Gateshead is set to begin this year – as work on our new £150 million town centre development gets underway.

The paperwork, permissions and planning application have all been given the green light by the Council for a new Trinity Square development - with work on site expected to start later in the year.

The development scheme was submitted by Spenhill, the regeneration subsidiary of Tesco – and is designed by 3DR Reid. Highlights includes a new town square, a student village with over 950 beds, underground parking and a Tesco store as well as a range of 'green' features.

New jobs

Over 1,000 new jobs will be created, including those in construction. The new Tesco store alone will offer 750 jobs of which 400 are new, and up to 400 jobs could be available in the new retail stores. The new Tesco will also be a regeneration partnership store, which focuses on the long-term unemployed, those seeking flexible local employment and school leavers, who have the most to gain from the employment opportunities created.

Opportunities

Council Leader, Mick Henry, said: "Gateshead Town Centre has been in need of regeneration for many years and we've considered carefully how we should go about delivering a town centre that will offer more than just retail - a town centre that will offer real employment opportunities and meet the expectations of people who live and work here."

Sustainable features such as bird boxes, environmentally friendly brown and green roofs, a combined heat and power plant, carbon reduction technology and rainwater harvesting are also part



Artists impression of High Street looking North.

of the mix. There's even the potential for an artificial nesting platform for peregrine falcons.

Doug Wilson, Corporate Affairs Manager for Spenhill said: "Trinity Square is a major, long-term investment in the Gateshead and North East economy that will generate thousands of job opportunities for local people and businesses. We have worked closely with Gateshead Council on the design of the scheme to ensure that it meets the high aspirations of local people for their area. We believe our proposals for Trinity Square will act as a catalyst for future growth and employment in the area."

For more information on Trinity Square go to: www.gateshead.gov.uk/centre A website providing more details on the scheme is also available at: www.yourtrinitysquare.co.uk

Trinity Square

The scheme promises to deliver:

- Over 45 new retail units for high street chains, independent shops and banks
- Provision for cafés, bars and restaurants
- A new town square
- A 993 bed student village
- A Tesco Extra Superstore
- Approximately 38,000 sq ft of office space
- The potential for a 120 bed hotel
- Pedestrian links to the rest of the town centre
- Approximately 700 parking spaces
- New public artwork

Live Gateshead, Love Gateshead

NEW LICK OF PAINT FOR SALTWELL ROAD SHOPS



Fresh green paint on JD Barbering Co.

Shops are getting a free makeover as part of a Gateshead Council scheme to improve the appearance of Saltwell Road.

Many shops will have a new lick of paint on their doors, windows and stonework, while others will be having general repairs to spruce up their entrances.

Susan Ainsley, who had the front of Tasty Bake repainted from brown to cream, said: "The new paint has really brightened up the shop. It was very generous of the Council to offer to do the work."

JB Barbering Co. has also been transformed with a fresh coat of green paint on its shop front. Owner Jan Day said: "I absolutely love the new paintwork. It only took a few days to do. I'm very pleased with the results."

More than 25 shops are taking part in the scheme and will be having their own makeovers over the next few weeks.

Funding update

Bridging NewcastleGateshead, the organisation responsible for funding much of Gateshead's recent housing improvements, is being wound up after the Government withdrew funding for Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder programmes in the UK.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Angela Douglas, said: "We have achieved a huge amount since we started this programme in 2002. We have worked closely with local communities to develop real and achievable plans to improve their area, and we've succeeded in making a positive change in the lives of those who live there.

"The results speak for themselves - thousands of homes and dozens of streets improved, parks and green spaces improved, and sites made ready for new housing development.

"The cancellation by the Government of the Housing Market Renewal programme leaves us with much still to do, but we remain absolutely committed to continue working with local people and the Council's partners to realise that vision we collectively agreed for our neighbourhoods."

DISCOVER FELLING



Brandling Station is one of Felling's historic gems

Did you know that Felling is home to one of the oldest rail passenger stations in the world? Or that an explosion at Felling Colliery inspired the creation of the Davy Lamp?

These are just two of the fascinating facts you can learn about Felling from a new guide of things to see and do in the neighbourhood.

'Discover Felling' has lots of interesting information about local history, buildings, parks and leisure facilities in Felling and Sunderland Road.

■ **Download a copy now from www.gateshead.gov.uk/livelove or pick up a copy from local Gateshead Council buildings.**

For more information go to: www.gateshead.gov.uk/livelove

Prince's Trust winner

LOCAL INSPIRATION, NATIONAL AWARD

For one inspirational Gateshead resident, 2010 was one of the best years of her life. But what's more exciting for Samantha Foster, 17, from Deckham, is that 2011 could be even better as she's found herself in the running for a prestigious national prize!

Sam was recently awarded the Gateshead Council and North East Apprenticeship Company Educational Achiever of the Year Award at the Prince's Trust Celebrate Success Awards ceremony at The Sage Gateshead. She collected her trophy on stage from TV presenter Kim Inglis and will now be put forward for the national finals.

The regional award was down to her work as part of the Prince's Trust xl Club which supported nearly 4,000 disadvantaged young people in the north east last year.

Sam was selected as a finalist for her efforts in succeeding against the odds, improving her chances in life, and making a positive impact on her local community. This is a huge achievement for Sam who was permanently excluded from school when she was just 12 years old.

Successful

The xl Club was designed to encourage young people to work together outside of mainstream schooling to gain education and training, and Sam worked hard on her social and communication skills to successfully complete a variety of courses.

She now has four GCSEs, AQA Unit Awards, a Health and Beauty qualification, and ALANS and Star Pupil Awards, not to mention a place on a Hospitality and Catering course at Gateshead College.



Inspirational Sam Foster.

So, not only has she laid the foundations of a great future, she's fast becoming a genuine inspiration to other young people in the borough.

■ You can find out more about the Princes Trust xl Clubs at: www.princes-trust.org.uk

The big match

FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT PROJECT

Up to 250 Gateshead people are being given the chance to build their skills through volunteering thanks to the Big Lottery Fund.

Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council (GVOC), which promotes volunteering across the borough, has been awarded funding for an exciting five year project that will recruit volunteers with learning disabilities - and a number of buddies to support them.

The amount of support each buddy offers will depend on circumstances, and could include day to day activities like helping volunteers travel to their volunteering opportunities.

Plans also include one-off group volunteering opportunities such as environmental work and fund raising events which will be organised and developed by the volunteers and their buddies.

Volunteers will be offered the chance to complete a level 1 qualification in volunteering, and buddies will be further trained by project staff in mentoring skills. But the ultimate aim of the project is for buddy support to be slowly withdrawn, so that the volunteers can become more involved in their community and continue volunteering independently.

Rebecca Leary, Volunteer Centre Manager, said: "We are thrilled to have been awarded this funding to run this project for people with learning disabilities. It will allow us to encourage more people to volunteer and get involved in their local communities."

The project will employ two new members of staff who will start in April, and training for volunteers and buddies will begin in the summer.

■ To find out more, contact Rebecca Leary on: [0191 478 4103](tel:01914784103) or email: rebeccaleary@gvoc.org.uk

Making a splash

SPORTS CLUB OF THE YEAR'S MODERN DAY ROWING CHAMPIONS

Tyne United Rowing Club has won the Council's first ever Sports Club of the Year Award – established during our role as 'European City of Sport 2010'.

Champions

The sport of rowing was once huge in the North East with three of its biggest names hailing from the region in the 1800s. Now, with £1 million spent on three new boathouses, a purpose built clubhouse and several sets of steps leading to the water, Tyne United Rowing Club are creating some modern day champions of their own.

Team GB

In fact, club members Will Fletcher and Kieren Emery have already represented Team GB at Under 23 level. And Finn Scherczer, 15, finished 5th in the final of the National Junior 15 Single Sculls just a year after taking part in the club's Learn to Row programme.

Partnership

"We wouldn't be here without the unique partnership we've formed with Gateshead Council and Durham University," said Barbara Millns, the club's Chair. "We've made a huge impact in such a short space of time, and we've helped hundreds of kids and adults across the borough who might never have considered the sport to get involved."

Alongside Clubmark accreditation, Tyne United has also secured a further £150,000 to build an indoor rowing tank this year, and with new members joining the club every day, they're certainly putting rowing firmly back on the map.

■ **Anyone interested in joining the club can find out more at: www.tyneunited.co.uk**



Oresome! Tyne View Rowing Club junior members Josh Pringle, Finn Scherczer, Adam Kelly and Patrick Cree

Rowing on the Tyne: how it all began

Rowing has always had a place on the Tyne, and we've produced a trio of rowing legends.

Born in Dunston on 5 July 1812, Harry Clasper pioneered the racing shell, outriggers, and spoon shaped oars.

He died in 1870 and there is a statue on his grave in Whickham overlooking the Tyne. The first public performance of 'The Blydon Races' by Geordie Ridley was on June 5, 1862, at a testimonial for Harry held at Balmbra's Music Hall in Newcastle.

Robert Chambers was born on 14 June 1831 at St Anthony's. Coached by Clasper, he went on to become the Tyne, Thames, English, and World Sculling Champion. He died in 1868.

James Renforth moved to Gateshead in 1842 when he was one year old. He won his first race in 1866 and became the World Sculling Champion in 1868. He died at 29 with 100,000 mourners attending his funeral. A statue of Renforth is outside the Shipley Art Gallery.



Use your vote

MAKE YOUR MARK ON MAY 5 2011

On Thursday 5 May, local council elections take place where you vote for the person you want to represent you on Gateshead Council. As usual, a third of the councillors are up for re-election.

Postal vote

In order to vote, you need to be on the electoral register. If you aren't already registered you have until midnight on 14 April to register to be able to vote in this election and future elections.

The deadline for anyone wanting to have a postal vote is also 14 April. We would need your completed postal vote application form by 5pm in order for you to get a postal vote.

Proxy vote

If you can't get to a polling station yourself because for example, you are on holiday or in hospital, you

can ask for a proxy vote. This is when you nominate someone else to vote for you – the deadline to send in your completed application form to sort this out is 5pm, Thursday 21 April.

130 polling stations will be up and running on 5 May for people who prefer to vote in person – they are open from 7am to 10pm.

Parish elections are also scheduled for 5 May in Lamesely.

Alternative Vote' Referendum

This year's election will also be combined with the 'Alternative Vote' Referendum. This is the government's referendum on how we might vote for Members of Parliament in the future. You will be given this referendum ballot paper to complete at the same time as you vote – either at the polling station or with your postal vote.



Your vote, your voice.

■ For more information on the forthcoming elections or the electoral register phone the helpline on: 0191 433 7001, email: electoralregistration@gateshead.gov.uk or visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk/voting

Good and improving

OFSTED APPLAUD GATESHEAD'S SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

OFSTED have given the thumbs-up to the services the Council provides to children and young people.

Inspectors concluded that we were 'Performing well', and that 'Outcomes for children and young people in Gateshead are good and improving'. They said:

- most of early years, nursery, primary and secondary education is at least good;
- arrangements for keeping children and young people safe are good; and
- initiatives such as 'Team Around the Family' and children's centres ensure that local services work well together to protect children at risk of harm.

- further education was described as 'outstanding'
- special schools and pupil referral unit are 'good'.
- Council children's homes and the local fostering agency are also 'good'.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Councillor Catherine Donovan said: "Local authorities look set for a period of significant upheaval and change, so it is reassuring that OFSTED's report has set our benchmark so high.

"Their conclusions demonstrate that the services for children we offer in Gateshead are well above average. Overall, we are doing a good job competently – long may we be allowed to do so."

Leap into the past

LOCAL HISTORY MONTH

May is local history month, and as always, there's a lot going on in Gateshead.

This annual showcase of all things

nostalgic reveals the hidden secrets of Gateshead's past, bringing to life long forgotten stories and characters. Always



popular with local people, this is your chance to step back in time guided by expert story tellers and local history buffs.

Around 100 events are planned – including walks, talks, and a local history fair – all designed to get you excited about the past! The fun starts on Sunday 1 May until Sunday 29 May. Most events are free but please book in advance to make sure you don't miss out.

A full programme of what's happening for Gateshead Local History Month 'A Leap into the Past', will be available in all libraries in Gateshead from April onwards, and you can see details of what's happening nationally by visiting: www.history.org.uk

■ **For further information contact Anthea Lang, Local History & Heritage Manager on: 0191 433 4699, email: heritage@gateshead.gov.uk or visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk**



Footballers in Redheugh Park, Gateshead, 1953.

Meeting veterans' needs

NORTH EAST COUNCILS REPORT

A report by councillors from all 12 north east local authorities calls for better understanding by Councils, the NHS and others, of the needs of those who have served in the armed forces and their families.

The army recruits strongly from our region and it is estimated that around one million ex-service personnel live in the North East.

The report was produced after discussions with the armed forces, ex-service charities, NHS and other public and voluntary organisations. It concludes that ex-service personnel have a range of unique needs ranging from housing to health and calls for action in a number of areas including:

- Having an armed forces champion to push forward improvements in services for ex-service personnel;

- Closer working between councils, the armed forces, ex-service charities and other organisations;
- raising awareness amongst ex-service personnel about the wide range of support available; and
- ways to improve the take up of low-cost housing.

Gateshead Councillor, Stuart Green, who led the examination of social and economic needs said: "Many of those who have served in the armed forces have made tremendous personal sacrifices for their country. It is important that all councils work in partnership with relevant bodies to meet their needs and ensure they do not fall through the cracks."

■ **For more information or to see the full report visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk or phone Angela Frisby on: 0191 433 2138.**

D-Day for Dunston

LEISURE CENTRE OPENING DATE CONFIRMED

Dunston Leisure Centre is to open on Monday 11 April, bringing to an end a year of work that has completely transformed the former 1960s building.

You can see the changes immediately, even before you go inside as you enter via the new step free glazed and illuminated entrance.

And once inside, there's even more to whet your appetite including the large state of the art gym and two studios, one complete with interactive technology. Improved swimming pools, steam room, sauna and squash court access all add to the mix, making the leisure experience even more enjoyable.

The most challenging of three rebuilding schemes taking place as part of Gateshead Council's £36 million investment in leisure facilities, Dunston Leisure Centre is also set to continue to be a favourite with a variety of clubs from synchronised swimmers to sub-aqua fans.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Councillor Linda Green said: "The building may have its roots in the sixties but you'd barely believe it.

Absolutely everything is geared up towards an active and healthy future in the 21st Century. This investment is providing really first class facilities for local people as well as a great base for competitive swimming in the borough as a whole."



Dunston Leisure Centre's new entrance.

Birtley Swimming Centre is also undergoing improvements and work continues on the new facilities at Gateshead International Stadium. Brand new Blaydon Leisure and Primary Care Centre and Heworth Leisure Centre have already opened as has the transformed Gateshead Leisure Centre.

■ **For more information on leisure facilities in your area phone: 0191 433 3000, or visit the website: www.gateshead.gov.uk**

Dunston Leisure Centre

FREE EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW WEEKEND, Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 April, 9am-4.30pm. Be one of the first to try the new facilities at Dunston Leisure Centre by booking one of our FREE 90 minute preview sessions and choose from a range of activities* on offer including swimming, gym tasters and fitness classes.

Previews are available Saturday & Sunday at 9am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

To book your FREE exclusive preview sessions and activity* call: **0191 433 5757**. For a full list of activities visit: **www.gateshead.gov.uk**

*Limited availability, allocated on a first come first served basis.

GO for it

Get that spring back in your step and start shaping up today with GO, our sport & leisure membership scheme that helps you get back on track to a healthier, more active you!

Membership gives you unlimited access to our gyms (excluding Birtley Leisure Centre), swimming, fitness classes, sauna/steam room and track. With our new GO Joint membership two people living at the same address can use the facilities for just £50 per month, saving you over £80 per year!

■ **To get your membership head to your nearest Sport & Leisure facility or visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk/go to sign up online and get ready to GO!**

City bid

GATESHEAD GOES FOR CITY STATUS

Here in Gateshead we believe we have the credentials to be named a city – and are proud to be bidding for city status as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations next year.

Of the 66 UK cities, three are already in our region – Durham, Newcastle and Sunderland – while a third, Middlesbrough, will be bidding like us this year.

The bid will be submitted to the Government in May and only one place will be named as a city – we want it to be Gateshead.

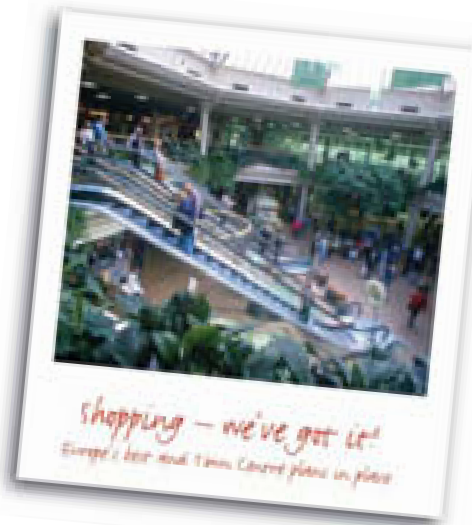
Council Leader Mick Henry said: "Gateshead is a place we can be proud of – we just need to remind



ourselves of the assets we have. We believe we are a city in all but name – and will do all we can do to make that a reality. Our bid will not cost the taxpayer anything, but achieving city status will increase the profile of Gateshead and attract more investment and tourism to the area. I hope local people and businesses will support this bid because it could bring great things in return."

What makes a city?

In the past having a Cathedral was what defined you as a city. But that has all changed – and cities are as diverse as the communities they serve.



Take Truro, Salford, Dundee, Preston and Peterborough. All are cities, but they are all different and varied in what they offer. The same is true of Gateshead. We have a lot to be proud of now with great ambitions for the future.

Gateshead has become internationally recognised for the cultural regeneration that has taken place in recent years. Gateshead Millennium Bridge, BALTIC, The Sage Gateshead, and the Angel of the North attract thousands of visitors to our area.

We also have a strong reputation for hosting world class events such as the Grand Prix, Great North Run and Evolution Festival and offer fantastic sporting facilities, including Gateshead International Stadium.



City pride

More reasons to be proud of Gateshead

- The Shipley Art Gallery – North East's leading gallery of design
- Our £150 million town centre development plans
- Largest shopping and leisure complex in Europe – MetroCentre
- Home to over 300 listed buildings including Gibside Chapel
- Excellent transport links to air, rail and road networks
- A developing creative quarter of digital and creative businesses and a new Northern Design Centre. We can support some businesses with super fast broadband
- Superb green spaces including Saltwell Park, Chopwell Woods and Derwenthaugh Park
- Home of the Open University of the North and Gateshead College which has invested over £60 million in four state-of-the-art campuses
- A vision to become the volunteering capital of the UK.



Made in Gateshead

RELOCATION OF MAJOR HEALTHCARE BUSINESS

A Gateshead Council grant scheme has helped a major regional healthcare business to relocate into Gateshead – creating new jobs and safeguarding dozens more.

Neuro Partners, who provide a range of bespoke support services for people living with specialist conditions or disabilities such as multiple sclerosis and brain injury, has established its new head office on Gateshead's Team Valley Trading Estate.

The Council provided support from its Enterprise and Innovation Fund which allowed the company to move from its previous cramped premises in Newcastle to a more modern base in Gateshead.

The move will help the company to create an additional 20 full-time and two part-time jobs, as well as preserving a further 74 full-time staff and 109 part-time posts.

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Malcolm Graham said:

"The investment which Neuro Partners are making – with a little help and support from the Council – has not only brought new jobs to the borough, it has given the company the chance to invest in



Emily Dunn of Neuro Partners.

their own future, and both they and Gateshead will benefit from that.

"Our Enterprise and Innovation Fund was always meant to help companies who were serious about investing in the area. These are the firms who will be best placed to take full advantage of any future economic upturn, and that's the kind of business we want in Gateshead."

Emily Dunn, Director of Corporate Services at Neuro Partners, added: "We are delighted to have relocated our business to Team Valley Trading Estate, and to be working in partnership with

Gateshead Council. During the move and the short time we've been here, the help and support from the Council has already proved invaluable.

"Neuro Partners has doubled in size in the past two years, despite the current economic climate. In October 2010, we were delighted to receive a Star-Ship Enterprise Award in recognition of our success and we plan to continue our growth during 2011.

"We are committed to investing in our staff and take pride in being a local business providing jobs for local people."

Kids are quids in

YOUNGSTERS LEARN KEY LESSONS IN MANAGING MONEY

When it comes to managing your money, it pays to get good advice. And if that advice is from an award winning service – all the better!

The Council's Connexions service and raising achievement service have been awarded 'Centre of Excellence' status by the Personal Finance Education Group, an independent charity, whose aim is for all young people to leave school with confidence, skills and knowledge in money matters.

The accolade recognises the innovative work we have done to get almost three thousand young people, including those who are unemployed, thinking about money issues.

As well as practical exercises that including shopping for essentials on a budget the young people were taught about opening bank accounts, understanding tax and interest, paying bills, rent and mortgages, setting up a pension and avoiding debt.

AlcoPop Idol

TALENT COMPETITION WITH SERIOUS MESSAGE

Singer Maisie Kirtley has been crowned winner of an innovative X Factor style talent competition AlcoPop Idol. The 12-year-old from Heworth was victorious in front of an audience of over 160 in the final of AlcoPop Idol, held at the Little Theatre recently.

The four month long competition was organised by young people from the Central Area Youth Forum who meet regularly at Deckham Community Centre. It showcased 42 young singers, musicians, and dancers from across Gateshead.

But the competition was not just about the youngsters' skills as performers – it was the vehicle for a much more serious message around young people and drinking.

Between acts at the final and each

of the audition venues, experts on alcohol abuse from the Council and SMART (Substance Misuse Awareness Raising Team) helped the youngsters learn more about the dangers of drinking. The auditions were also held at times when they may have been tempted in to drinking.

Maisie, who sung Rhianna's Russian Roulette in the final, won a professionally produced recording of her singing courtesy of The Soundroom in Gateshead. Singer Amber Wilson and dance troupe Dysfunctional also made it into the top three.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Catherine Donovan said: "Combining fun activities to give youngsters a credible alternative to drinking or causing trouble with education about the effects that



Maisie Kirtley.

alcohol can have really seems to be getting the word across. It's a real success, and huge credit must be given to the young people from Central Area Youth Forum who organised it."

PoSBOs not ASBOs!

AWARD FOR GATESHEAD YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Young people from across Tyne and Wear have been awarded Positive Social Behaviour Orders (PoSBOs) for their achievement and dedication in promoting a positive image of young people.

The award ceremony, at the Centre for Life in December, was organised entirely by young people from Truth About Youth - North East, as part of The Co-operative Foundation's £280,000 Truth about Youth project.

Dedication

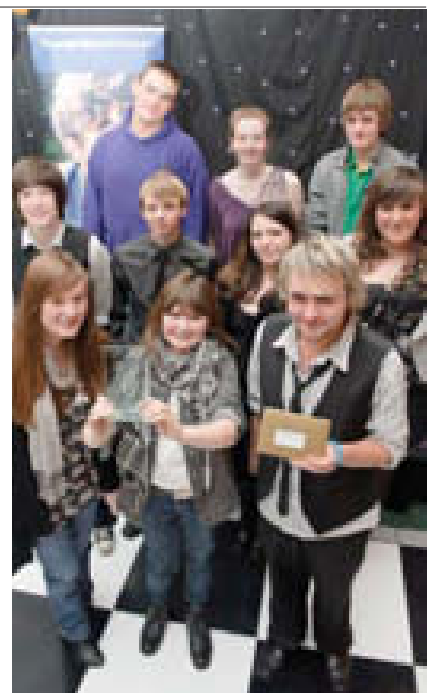
PoSBO celebrate young people's dedication to community projects and putting others first.

And the award for Best Community Group went to....Gateshead Youth Assembly

(GYA) (pictured). The Assembly actively encourages young people to get involved in the democratic process – giving young people a say about the decisions made by the Council and its partners on children and young people's services.

They were delighted to win the award. Youth Assembly member Matthew Spry, 14, said: "People, well adults, often think we just hang about and do nothing of any value, this award shows that actually, we do care about our communities and when we are helped to volunteer, we do!"

■ **For more information call:**
0191 490 1900 or visit:
www.gatesheadyouthassembly.org.uk



Winners! Gateshead Youth Assembly.

CONSUMER CORNER

Scammers are targeting vulnerable people in our area.

In one scam, you may get a phone call from someone who claims to be from Microsoft, alerting you to virus problems on your computer. They claim they can sort the problem – at a cost of somewhere between £30-£100. If you pay, you are directed to a website to download various programs that give the appearance of resolving the problem.

However, the reality is that you have paid money for nothing. Do not respond to any call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft. Microsoft's advice is as follows:

"Microsoft does not make unsolicited phone calls to help fix your computer. If you receive an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft, hang up."

Other residents have received unsolicited calls from people claiming to be from BT or OFCOM advising that they need to pay for a digital upgrade of their phone line. The caller claims that if this work is not done they will cut the phone line of the householder. This again is a scam.

Please be aware of these scams, and do not pass on personal or bank details to unsolicited callers. These scams are often targeted against vulnerable people, so make sure that any friend or relative is made aware of the potential of receiving such telephone calls.

■ **For further advice or information on scams please call John Herron or Jayne Waters in the Council's fair trading team on: 0191 4333987 or 433 3930 or email: scamnesty@gateshead.gov.uk**

Carer to sharer

GATESHEAD CARERS SHARE THEIR VIEWS



Michael Hall and his daughter Lauren.

Carers in Gateshead are being given the chance to share their views in a major new piece of research by Gateshead Carers Association, the charity that supports and represents carers across the borough.

The survey aims to find out who our carers are, what issues they face, and what services they value in order to attract the funding needed to make a positive difference to their lives.

One carer who will certainly be sharing his experiences is Michael Hall who cares for his three children with his wife Maria. "I've been a full time carer for 16 years," said Michael. "Gateshead Carers Association has provided me with someone to talk to when I've needed it, and they've supported me with an individual budget so that I could go back to college. Their help has been invaluable.

"Anyone involved in caring should take part in the survey because it will highlight the financial issues that carers face, and make it easier for them to

get the support they need," continued Michael.

Vital support

Judith Dunn, Gateshead Carers Association's Campaigns and Development Officer, said: "Over 20,000 people in Gateshead alone are carers like Michael, and many of these are hidden carers who don't identify themselves formally but who provide vital support to a relative or friend.

"The only way we can provide the services carers need is to talk to them. What we really want to do is influence the policy makers – and that's vital when public spending is being reduced."

■ **If you're a carer who would like to get involved in the survey, contact Judith Dunn on: 0191 490 0121 or email: judith.dunn@gatesheadcarers.com or visit: www.gatesheadcarers.com Carers who complete the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 of shopping vouchers.**

Sing with us

HILL TOP COMMUNITY CHOIR

If you like singing and performing, why not join the newly formed Hill Top Community Choir?

Currently 30-strong, the choir is based at Hill Top special school in Leam Lane. Staff, pupils, former pupils, parents and local people are currently rehearsing for their first public performance in April.

Judith Thompson, director of arts specialism at the school, formed the choir following the schools designation as a specialist art college last year as a way of increasing arts opportunities for pupils and local people.

Talented

She said: "We have some very gifted and talented young people and I wanted to provide something for them. Also, as a lot of our pupils move on to college where there may be fewer opportunities to take part in singing, I decided to create something that could benefit them too."

Judith leads the choir alongside Gary Griffiths, who is also musical director of the Inspiration choir at The Sage Gateshead.



Judith Thompson and Gary Griffiths with Hill Top Community Choir.

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Catherine Donovan said: "This is a great activity to bring different members of the community together in a positive way. Fun, extra-curricular activities are extremely beneficial for young people. I look forward to hearing great things from the choir."

The choir's first concert will take place on April 12 at Gateshead Old Town Hall, where they will also be accompanied by the school singing group. Rehearsals take place at the school every Wednesday during term time from 3.45-5pm.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Judith Thompson at Hill Top special school on 0191 469 2462.

Foster carers rewarded

GATESHEAD'S CARERS GET THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE

It is often said that foster carers don't receive enough recognition for the commitment and personal qualities they bring to their roles.

This year, Gateshead Council will change all that by holding a prestigious event on 14 March at Cardinal Hulme School that celebrates the difference they have made to the lives of children across the borough.

The event will honour everyone who has given 15, 20 and 30 years' service, together with those who have completed CDWC and NVQ awards.

There will also be a special award for foster carers who have gone the extra mile.

Andrea McCartney from the council's Fostering Team said: "We plan to make this an annual event to recognise the remarkable work our foster carers do, and the vital role they play in supporting Gateshead Council's Looked After Children Agenda."

Gateshead Council are always looking to recruit new foster carers. Please contact the fostering service on: 0191 433 8333 for more details.

Full speed ahead!

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF GIVING

Gateshead's biggest and most popular heritage attraction is celebrating 40 years since it was taken over by volunteers.

Since 1971 the Tanfield Railway at Old Marley Hill has grown from a handful of friends who wanted to save historic steam engines, into a fully functioning steam railway carrying 30,000 passengers a year.

Now numbering over 120, the railway's volunteers have rebuilt enough track, stations, carriages and locomotives to offer passengers a three mile journey through impressive countryside.

"When we started we had nothing. We had to have a whip round to pay for diesel to go in the electricity generator and coal for the engines," said Peter Weightman, one of the founding volunteers. "We turned a derelict shed and three miles of empty, long closed railway into a showcase of the regions heritage using not much more than hard work, determination and millions of hours of free time!"

Economy boost

A new Local Enterprise Partnership for the north east has been approved by the Government. This brings together seven local authorities (including Gateshead), businesses, universities and colleges and the voluntary and community sector. One of its key aims is to make sure our area becomes Europe's premier location for low carbon, sustainable private sector jobs.



The way we were - 40 years of volunteering.

Work never stops, with everything from driving the steam engines, to repairing carriages and track all carried out by volunteers.

A very successful youth group caters for 11-15 year olds who want to join in with the restoration work.

Historic

Originally built in 1725 to carry coal from collieries to the River Tyne, the Tanfield Railway is the world's oldest railway. Steam trains run every Sunday throughout the year and on extra

dates during the summer school holidays. As well as the train ride, visitors can take a look around Europe's oldest working engine shed and see the world's oldest railway bridge at Causey Arch.

Council Leader Mick Henry said: "Tanfield Railway has huge historic significance and is one of the most well visited tourist attractions in our borough. Without the dedication and commitment of these volunteers over the last forty years, an important part of the world's transport history would be lost. This is an inspiring example of how volunteers can make a real difference to Gateshead."

■ **Special events are planned through the year to celebrate the 40th anniversary including the Tyneside Locomotive Festival on May 28 and 29. More information on these and volunteering is available at: www.tanfieldrailway.co.uk**



Current volunteers.

Step it up

SEVEN STEPS TO HELP SAFEGUARD YOUR CHILDREN FROM SMOKE

A new initiative to protect children from the dangers of cigarette smoke has been launched in Gateshead.

The Seven Steps pledge urges parents to keep their homes smoke free by taking at least seven steps outside whenever they want to light up.

Last year, it was shown that children as young as 13 who have been exposed to second hand smoke have visibly thicker arteries. It's also widely known that smoking can make children's asthma symptoms worse and

increase the chances of ear infections, breathing difficulties, and even sudden and unexpected deaths.

The Council is working in partnership with The Gateshead Housing Company and FRESH, the North East's regional tobacco strategy group, to deliver the initiative which targets Wrekenton, Felling and central areas of Gateshead where up to 46 per cent of the local community are smokers.

Cabinet Member for Health, Councillor Mary Foy said: "A lot of people think that simply opening a window, sitting on the opposite side of the room or smoking before children come home prevents the harm that second hand smoke can do. The only way to ensure that children are not harmed by second hand smoke in their own home is to make the house a totally smokefree one.

"What's more aside from the direct health impact that taking seven steps outside will make, children will be far less likely to take up smoking themselves if they are not brought up with smoking being a normal part of life inside their home."

To find out more and sign up for the Seven Steps pledge, visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk/stopsmoking



The myths - If you think that opening a window, standing at the back door, or using air freshener protects your children from the invisible chemicals in cigarette smoke, you're wrong.

The pledge - Keep your home smoke free by taking at least seven steps outside whenever you want to light up.

The benefits - It can improve the health of your children and reduce the chances of them being tempted to start smoking, and it will keep your home smelling and looking fresh.

100 per cent

Seven local pupils were presented with certificates by Gateshead's Mayor Councillor Michael Hood to mark their 100 per cent attendance records. Robbie Scorer, (pictured), attends Lord Lawson of Beamish School. He said: "If you're not ill I don't see why you would want to miss it. I'm proud of receiving this certificate and think it is a good achievement – although I have had a bit of ribbing at school."

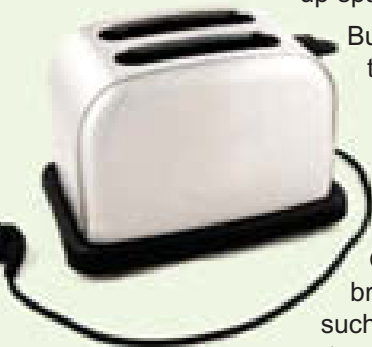
Joining Robbie were Daniel Scott, formerly of High Spen Primary School, Abigail Connor, Nathan Howlett and Veronica Bradley who all achieved their 100 per cent record at Kingsmeadow School and Daniel Anderson of Cardinal Hume School.



Don't bin it, bring it!

SPRING CLEAN AND RECYCLE WITH US

Spring is a great time to have a good look through all your cupboards and get rid of all those electrical items that are just taking up space.



But don't just throw them out – lots of them can be recycled and we want them! Old or broken items such as phones, remote controls, video recorders, digi boxes, electronic toys, kettles, hairdryers, printers, small electrical DIY tools, irons, radios, torches, toasters, electronic toothbrushes and shavers can all be recycled.

Our free battery recycling points are also proving a hit with huge numbers of batteries dropped off at sites such as the Civic Centre and Gateshead Leisure Centre.

Household Waste & Recycling Centres

Bring your unwanted electrical items to the Household Waste & Recycling Centres at Campground, Wrekenton and Cowen Road, Blaydon. Both centres are open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday, 8am-6pm from October to March, and 8am-8pm from April to September.

■ **For a full list of battery recycling locations visit:**
www.gateshead.gov.uk/recycle

Making the most of your bin

We are continuing to make improvements to our waste and recycling services, but there are also ways you can help.

- Make the most of your inner box: By folding your magazines/newspapers you can fit in around 85 copies!
- If your refuse bin is only half full – consider putting it out the following week instead. This can help us speed up our collections and reduce our impact on the environment.

For Bank Holiday collections see our advert on the back cover.

Home composting

YOUR GARDEN'S SECRET INGREDIENT

Home composting can have many benefits and is an inexpensive, natural process that can transform your kitchen and garden waste into valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden.

By doing it for just one year, you can reduce the same amount of greenhouse gases produced by using your washing machine in just three months.

To order a compost bin visit: www.gateshead.getcomposting.com and select which items you wish to purchase, or call: 0844 571 4444.

■ **For more information about home composting visit:**
www.gateshead.gov.uk/recycle

Home compost facts

- Flowers, herbs and vegetables will all flourish in soil mixed with home compost
- Put your bin on bare soil in a reasonable sunny site. If this isn't possible, put a layer of paper, twigs or existing compost underneath your bin.
- Fill your bin with a 50/50 mix of 'greens' such as grass and nettles, and 'browns' such as leaves and twigs
- It takes around 9-12 months for your compost to be ready for use.



Home grown compost is best.

New start

INDEPENDENCE MADE EASIER

A new service from Gateshead Council is helping vulnerable people in the borough regain their independence following a period of illness – as well as saving a lot of staff time into the bargain.

Called New START, this free short term service aims to reduce the number of people having to go into long term care – which can be expensive.

It does this by helping people regain the skills and confidence to do everyday tasks and activities that have become difficult following a period of poor physical or mental health.

People like Margaret Hurst, 96, who was referred to the New START team by her doctor following two falls in her home.

Team member Heather Taylor helped Margaret with daily tasks like getting dressed, making cups of tea and doing light cleaning. But even after the first week, she could

manage much better on her own.

Margaret's son Tony said: "After my mam's falls I wanted her to get some extra support but I was really keen for her to stay as independent as possible, because that's what she wanted. The New START service was the perfect solution to this."

Since it started in November 2010, over 200 people have been helped, with 38 per cent avoiding long term care, and 13 per cent needing a reduced care package. This has meant a reduction of 1,000 hours of staff time.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Councillor Michael McNestry said: "We are aware that sometimes people just need a bit of a helping hand to regain their independence. New START helps to fill the gap between no support and more permanent support that may not be necessary, meaning people are less likely to depend



Margaret Hurst with New START carer Heather Taylor.

on longer term services."

New START offers free support for around six weeks. People can continue to receive support for longer, but this may be chargeable following a financial assessment.

■ **For more information phone Adult Social Care Direct on: 0191 433 7033.**

Thieves beware

POLICE WARNING TO SHOPLIFTERS

If your idea of shopping is to go out and help yourself – your days of shoplifting are numbered.

Nine out of ten people who steal from shops in Gateshead are caught. And thieves who walk out of shops and think they've got away with stealing should think again. So far this year, 385 arrests have come about due to good police work, sophisticated CCTV systems and partnership working with retailers.

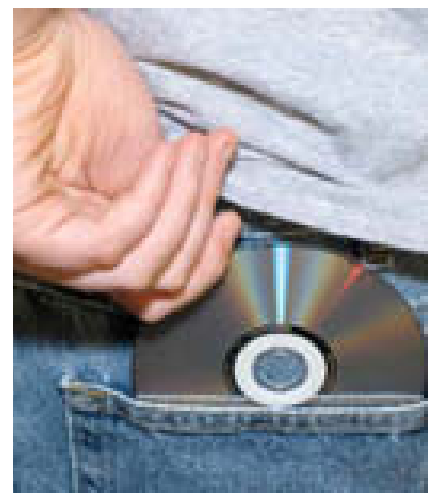
In the run up to Easter and beyond, the police will continue to target thieves with high visibility patrols blitzing the town centre to deter and catch shoplifters.

Officers are working alongside retailers and store security staff to

target known offenders and combat thieves. There is also an effective town centre Shopwatch scheme where retailers share information with police.

Peter Storey, Neighbourhood Inspector for Gateshead town centre, said: "Shoplifting is not a minor crime; it has serious consequences for the person committing it as well as financial implications for the rest of us. Since the operation started, my officers are arresting at least one shoplifter every day.

"Our message to thieves is simple - you'll be caught and we won't hesitate in making an arrest and putting you before the courts."



Crackdown on shoplifters.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Peter Mole added: "With plans in place to regenerate our town centre, we welcome the actions of the police to crack down on thieves who think they are above the law. This kind of operation sends a clear signal to those intent on stealing and is reaping very positive results."

Police Cadets

POLICE PILOT PROVES A HIT WITH TEEN CADETS

Northumbria Police's 12-month pilot volunteer scheme for young cadets is well under way with eighteen young recruits from Gateshead taking part.

The youngsters, all aged 14, will learn about the history of the British Police Force, First Aid training, problem solving techniques and the importance of partnership working.

Last month the ten boys and eight girls took their oaths at a formal ceremony in front of family, and friends and senior police officers.

Cadet Bethaney Stokoe - is one of the young cadets taking part. She said: "I really enjoy being a cadet, and I particularly enjoyed helping at Kingsmeadow School on their community day."

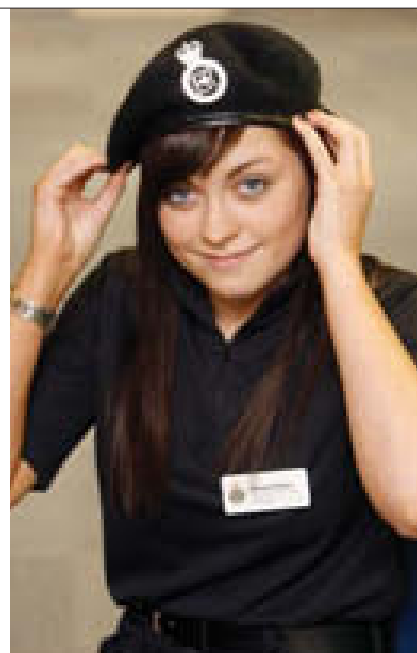
Bethaney and her fellow cadets have already achieved a lot since starting the course in November.

So far they have completed equality and diversity awareness training, navigated the force's website and are currently doing the Duke of Edinburgh personal development scheme.

They have also started police problem solving exercises in preparation for community-based work they'll complete with Neighbourhood Policing Team officers covering the Dunston, Sunniside, Swalwell, Teams and Whickham areas of Gateshead.

Enthusiastic

Sergeant Alan Parks who is leading the volunteer cadet programme said: "The volunteers have been enthusiastic and shown a strong interest in policing. We're optimistic of their abilities to develop transferable skills in team working, communications and good citizenship. Being a volunteer cadet is all about



Cadet Bethaney Stokoe.

teamwork and developing them to become the best they can be."

■ **For more information visit:**
■ **www.northumbria.police.uk**

Web wise

GETTING INFORMATION IN GATESHEAD

The Internet can be a great source of information; but trying to find your way through a whole range of websites to find exactly what you want can be frustrating.

To make it easier for Gateshead residents we have launched 'Getting information in Gateshead'. This mini website on the Council's website brings together information and links from our partners' websites. By simply visiting



www.gateshead.gov.uk/gig you can find a whole range of advice, information and services to help you manage your life - all in one place.

Instead of having to trawl through a range of websites to find what you need, the new site is split into handy categories like housing and your home, care and health, staying safe, money matters, things to do and living with a disability. Each category has handy links to pages on the Council's website, local websites like the police or the fire brigade and national websites like directgov and Age Concern.

■ **So whatever you're looking for go just go to**
■ **www.gateshead.gov.uk/gig - it's a one stop shop for everything you need.**

A VIEW FROM Inner West Gateshead

• DUNSTON HILL & WHICKHAM EAST • DUNSTON & TEAMS • WHICKHAM NORTH • WHICKHAM SOUTH & SUNNYSIDE •

DUNSTON ROCKET GIVES ONE LAST BOOST TO LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

You'll probably already know that the skyline of Dunston is about to change forever with the demolition of the Dunston Rocket.

But what you might not know is that once the tower has gone, it will be immortalised as the first winning image in our new photography competition that challenges local snappers to show what Dunston means to them.

But first, that building. Love it or hate it, Derwent Tower has divided opinion since it was completed in 1973. Noted for its individual style and designed by the same architect who created the infamous 'Get Carter' carpark, it was even featured in a 1970s TV ad for Tudor Crisps.

For local resident Ken Fitzpatrick however, it was the subject of his stunning photograph entitled 'Lift Off Derwent Tower'. His winning entry won him £100 of photography vouchers.

And for the rest of the community, the Ravensworth Road site itself will eventually be boosted by a

range of new homes, shops, open spaces, and a doctors' surgery.

The demolition will take around 18 months to complete and the shops and car parking on Tower Court will stay open until the new

facilities are finished.

■ To find out more, contact Hannah Heinemann on: 0191 433 3812 or email hannahheinemann@gateshead.gov.uk



Winning entry, 'Lift Off Derwent Tower'



Ken Fitzpatrick.

LAUNCH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY HOBBY

Now that Dunston's skyline is about to change, we're challenging budding local photographers to join Ken Fitzpatrick in capturing the character and spirit of Dunston.

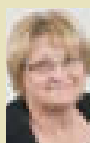
The contest runs four times a year and we'll be judging the next entries at the end of March.

■ For more information on rules, entry criteria and prizes, check out Gateshead Council's website: www.gateshead.gov.uk, or contact our Neighbourhood Management Team on: 0191 433 2454.



Dunston & Teams
Cllr Brenda Clelland
Labour
Tel: 0191 413 8227

Email: cldr.bclelland@gateshead.gov.uk



Dunston & Teams
Cllr Pauline Dillon
Labour
Tel: 0191 460 7715

Email: cldr.pdillon@gateshead.gov.uk



Dunston & Teams
Cllr Gary Haley
Labour
Tel: 0191 420 6427

Email: cldr.ghaley@gateshead.gov.uk



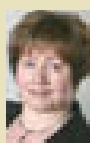
Dunston Hill & Whickham East
Cllr Allison Chatto
Labour
Tel: 0191 461 1280

Email: cldr.achatto@gateshead.gov.uk



Dunston Hill & Whickham East
Cllr Peter Maughan
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 488 6218

Email: cldr.pmaughan@gateshead.gov.uk



Dunston Hill & Whickham East
Cllr Yvonne McNicol
Labour
Tel: 0191 493 2616

Email: cldr.ymcnicol@gateshead.gov.uk

Local council elections take place in May – for an up to date list of councillors after this date check our website: www.gateshead.gov.uk

GATESHEAD PUPILS ASK THE EXPERTS

Year 11 and sixth formers in Inner West Gateshead are being given the opportunity to put a series of burning questions to representatives from the police, Nexus, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Gateshead Council and The Gateshead Housing Company.

In a series of Question Time style debates at schools in the area, pupils have been quizzing a panel of experts on topics, ranging from the public services that are aimed at them to what it's like to work

at each of the organisations.

The two-way sessions have been developed to help the police and their partner organisations to better understand the issues facing young people in Gateshead, while giving young people a lively, safe and fun way to air their views and concerns.

The most recent sessions at Kingsmeadow Comprehensive School in December and Emmanuel College in February covered issues as diverse as underage drinking, making public transport greener, and the skills you need to join the police force.

Both events were hailed a success by organisers and by the students who participated, and the panel will next visit Whickham School during April.

“This is a great way to get young people involved in their neighbourhoods,” said Councillor Peter Mole, Cabinet Member for

Inner West Gateshead. “But what makes these debates really important is that it also gives them an opportunity to contribute to how their communities are policed.”



Street reps getting a great 'rep'

Right across Gateshead, our Street Representatives are building a great reputation for getting involved in community projects, and for helping us improve everyone's quality of life.

Here in Inner West, we're building a team of local Reps to be our 'go to' people for a wide range of exciting issues from consultations

on the future of the area, to innovative ways to reduce crime.

We already have over 20 Reps and we're looking for more. So, if you'd like to be our eyes and ears on the streets of Inner West Gateshead, get in touch with Paul Cairns on: **0191 433 2816** or email: paulcairns@gateshead.gov.uk

MAKING AN IMPACT



The boxing gym is a big hit for Stacey Thompson, Rachel Baldwin and Chantelle Richardson.

It's been an exciting few months across Inner West Gateshead as new developments supported by the Council's pilot Local Community Fund are really beginning to make their mark.

One of our bigger projects is the new boxing gym at Teams Community Centre. The fund not only paid for a selection of new equipment, but meant the centre could recruit and train five local people as ABA qualified trainers, and help other staff gain valuable ASDAN awards.

"Our non-contact boxercise classes and fitness sessions have been a massive success," said John Allen from the community centre. "The gym itself is better than most people could dream of."

The Fund provides financial support for all kinds of projects, and encourages local people, councillors and others to work together to improve their community.

Projects are nominated by ward councillors.

Other projects include the Whickham Festival and a wide range of play-focused initiatives such as improvements to Swalwell and Chase parks.

We are helping to continue the Local Community Fund in the future.

For more information on the Local Community Fund, contact Paul Cairns on: 0191 433 2816 or email: paulcairns@gateshead.gov.uk

Big plans for Teams and Racecourse States

Teams and Racecourse Estates are one of the first 50 local areas in the UK to win funding from the Big Lottery Fund Big Local Trust.

Providing £1 million over the next 10 years, it will help make these neighbourhoods better places to

live in, and the Council has partnered with Gateshead Voluntary Organisations Council (GVOC) to advise community groups on how to apply for funding. So if you'd like to get involved, call GVOC on: **0191 478 4103**.



Whickham North
Cllr Peter Craig
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 488 0787

Email: cllr.ptcraig@gateshead.gov.uk



Whickham North
Cllr Christopher Ord
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 488 6801

Email: cllr.cord@gateshead.gov.uk



Whickham North
Cllr Mary Wallace
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 488 6054

Email: cllr.mwallace@gateshead.gov.uk



Whickham South & Sunnyside
Cllr John McClurey
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 496 0816

Email: cllr.jmclurey@gateshead.gov.uk



Whickham South & Sunnyside
Cllr Marilynn Ord
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 488 2873

Email: cllr.mord@gateshead.gov.uk



Whickham South & Sunnyside
Cllr Jonathan Wallace
Liberal Democrat
Tel: 0191 488 3190

Email: cllr.jwallace@gateshead.gov.uk

Local council elections take place in May – for an up to date list of councillors after this date check our website: www.gateshead.gov.uk

A VIEW FROM Inner West Gateshead

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PUT THE SPRING BACK INTO YOUR GARDEN

It's that time of year when we all start thinking about getting our gardens in order. But if you're stuck for ideas this spring, why not visit the award winning Hermitage Gardens in Whickham?



Hermitage Gardens, pic by Victoria Bell.

Originally built in 1790, it now boasts extensively restored features including a lake and pagoda, and will soon have fully accessible facilities such as raised flower beds – thanks to a team of volunteers and funding from the Council. And with recent commendations from The Institute of Horticulture and Northumbria in Bloom, it could be just the inspiration you need to create your own hidden horticultural gem.

■ **Open between 10am-4pm daily. To find out more about the garden and how to volunteer visit: www.whickhamhermitagegarden.co.uk**

INNER WEST AREA FORUM

The Inner West Area Forum meets every six weeks. It is chaired by Councillor Peter Mole, Cabinet Member for Inner West Gateshead (pictured), supported by Councillor Angela Douglas. The next meeting is on 30 March.



■ **For details phone: 0191 433 2816.**

PARK UPDATES

We're always working hard to improve all of our parks and community spaces, and here's just a taste of what's happening in the area.

- Friends of Chase Park will be undertaking a feasibility study for the improvement of Chase Park.
- We'll soon be installing 10 new seats in and around St Mary's Green in Whickham.
- Plans for new fencing around Dunston Drop-In Centre will be in place shortly.

If you want more information on any of these improvements, get in touch with Paul Cairns on: **0191 433 2816** or email: paulcairns@gateshead.gov.uk

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT TEAM

Inner West:
Paul Cairns 0191 433 2816

West:
Gary Carr 0191 433 2043

Central:
Dave Andrew 0191 433 3824

East:
Stephen Ward 0191 433 3148

South:
Craig Malcolm 0191 433 2042

email:
neighbourhoodmanagement@gateshead.gov.uk

Recycling Bring Sites in Inner West Gateshead

	paper	glass	food & drink waste	textiles	plastic bottles	carbons	cardboard
Dunston Ravensworth Road	Yes	Yes					
Swalwell Bourgogne's Pub	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Teams Eslington Court	Yes	Yes					
Whickham Somerfields, Oakfield Rd	Yes	Yes			Yes		
Whickham St Mary's Green	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		

New Freeman

LEADING LIGHTS HONOURED BY GATESHEAD

Five of the most famous, dedicated and prominent figures in Gateshead's modern history were awarded Freedom of the Borough in a special ceremony last month at the Shipley Art Gallery.

The entrepreneurial genius behind MetroCentre, Sir John Hall and his wife Lady Hall; the world famous multi-award winning author David Almond; dedicated long-serving MP David Clelland; and tireless community leader Ezriel Salomon were all awarded the highest honour that we can give.

Vision

Leader of Gateshead Council, Mick Henry said of the new Freeman: "Gateshead would not be the place it is today without them - from the vision to create the biggest indoor shopping centre and a major source of employment that the Hall family brought to the borough, to the literary genius of David Almond, the impressive range of



Our new Freeman of the Borough.

community work that Ezriel Salomon has spearheaded and the years of dedicated service by David Clelland."

Sir John and Lady Hall were delighted to receive the honour saying: "This honour will be cherished by both of us for the rest of our lives and we are delighted to be part of the

Gateshead family."

Fellow Freeman, Ezriel Salomon added: "I am honoured and humbled to become a Freeman. Gateshead means everything to me as I have lived all my life here. I am proud to live in Gateshead and be part of everything it has achieved."

Gateshead Toy Library

BORROW THE BOREDOM AWAY!

Are the Christmas toys you bought for your children already relegated to the cupboard? If so, you might be wondering whether it's possible to prevent the boredom without spending a fortune on new toys!

Join Gateshead's Toy Library at Chowdene Children's Centre and you can stop wondering. It works just like a normal library and gives busy parents – and their children – access to a catalogue of over 6,000 high quality toys ranging from sensory toys for babies to outdoor activities for older children.

Anyone joining the Toy Library can hire up to three items for four weeks and you can also use the play room which has a reading corner, seating area, and a wide choice of games and toys on tap.

If you can't get to Chowdene, it offers an outreach service at various Children's Centres.

The Toy Library also provides childminders with a regular change of toys. Isobel Parker, a

childminder from Low Fell, added: "The library has a good variety of toys which means the children I look after have something new to play with every month."

■ **The Toy Library is open at Chowdene Children's Centre from 9am-4.30pm Monday-Thursday, and 9am-12.30pm on Fridays. Phone: 0191 433 5055 or visit: www.gatesheadearlyyears.org/toylibrary**



Star car

ISTANBUL AND BACK - ZERO EMISSIONS

Gateshead Council's two zero emission electric cars have already clocked up a staggering 7,000 miles in their drive to deliver key services to residents – and reduce our carbon footprint.

The mileage is the equivalent of driving from Gateshead to Istanbul and back – but the impact of these environmentally friendly vehicles is closer to home. Similarly sized petrol alternatives to the two cars would have produced almost one and a half tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions to cover the same distance.

The pair of four seat cars are part of our efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce fuel bills and accelerate the introduction of electric vehicles into regular use.



A clean, green, electric car.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Martin Gannon said: "These two cars have proved how electric vehicles can take over from petrol or diesel powered

cars. They have reduced our carbon footprint in the process of delivering council services to residents and that is something we all welcome."

Check it out

A new service to help people who want to apply for British citizenship is now available.

The Nationality Checking Service is run by staff at the Register Office at the Civic Centre, and aims to help reduce unnecessary delays in the application process. They will check, copy and certify your passport and other original documents, make sure that you have enclosed the correct payment and then send your application safely and quickly to the Home Office by guaranteed next day delivery.

Note: They don't offer any advice on nationality, or any other matters such as visas, immigration or asylum.

■ **To make an appointment call: 0191 433 3000. For more information visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk/ncs**

Goal!

TEAM UNITED

A football tournament that brought together 16-25 year olds from all ethnic backgrounds proved so successful, three more were organised – with the final one kicking off at Gateshead Leisure Centre on 19 March.

The Gateshead Together Football Tournament is organised by the Council with partners including Northumbria Police, the Bangladeshi Outreach Project, the Gateshead Muslim Centre and other voluntary and community organisations.

It aims to reduce cases of anti-social behaviour and to promote cohesion among the diverse Gateshead community through sport, education and advice services.

Mohammed Aslam, Chair of the Gateshead Muslim Centre said: "Research shows that opportunities for 16 to 25 year olds from different



Members of the winning team from the pilot Gateshead Together Football Tournament in September: Muzzafer Ali, Farrakh Aslam, Rizwan Ashraf, Yousef Ali, Omar Farooq, and Abjal Mian.

faiths and backgrounds are particularly sparse, so a football tournament is an excellent way to get this group of young people together and engaged in a relaxed informal setting.

"It provides them with the chance to make friends and mix with people in the spirit of competition and fun as we saw with the pilot event in September with many of the teams comprised of people from different ethnic backgrounds."

Tyne Bridge Tower

BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE BRICK BY BRICK

The demolition of one of Tyneside's most prominent eyesores began last month as work began to remove Tyne Bridge Tower.

Investment

For decades the 13-storey Tyne Bridge Tower has been a blot on the Gateshead skyline. Built in the 1960s, it was used by the Inland Revenue until 2005, but its days are numbered, thanks to investment from regional development agency One North East.

The demolition work will take around seven months. The building will be brought down brick by brick rather than using explosives, due to its closeness to other properties. Local company, MGL Demolition, are undertaking the work.

One North East Head of Capital Programmes, Neil Graham, said: "This is a high profile site capable of supporting and improving links from Gateshead Town Centre to Gateshead Quays. It is an unattractive building of low architectural merit and many

would consider that it detracts from this important and prominent gateway site.

"We consider its removal a priority for the continued excellent regeneration of NewcastleGateshead Quayside."

Transforming

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Martin Gannon added: "We welcome the demolition of Tyne Bridge Tower. We've invested a great deal of time and money into transforming Gateshead Quays from an industrial wasteland into one of the region's cultural gems. As a result, Tyne Bridge Tower has been looking increasingly out of place.

"This area is at the heart of Gateshead's expanding Creative Quarter and its removal will not only rid us of one of the last remaining blots on this area's skyline, it will also provide space for future development and, hopefully, yet more jobs in the creative sector."

The demolition is likely to cause



Tyne Bridge Tower.

some disruption to traffic in the immediate area, especially at peak times for traffic using the Swing Bridge, and a temporary loss of parking spaces.

Full details are available on the Council's website: www.gateshead.gov.uk

Calling the Council

IMPROVEMENTS FOR CALLERS

A change to the way we answer your telephone calls is set to make getting through to us a lot easier and quicker.

Thanks to a new, easy-to-use menu that you'll hear when you call us you will spend less time queuing to speak to someone. It should make getting to speak to the right person, first time, easier too.

You'll still be able to speak to an advisor though – we won't be getting rid of our personal touch. The new system just ensures that advisors can spend more time speaking to you about your query. This will make us much more efficient in a time when we need to make significant savings.

The new system - which will be introduced soon - will give you five options when you call 0191 433 3000 which are:

- Press 1** - to be transferred to an individual
- Press 2** - Benefits enquiries
- Press 3** - Council Tax enquiries
- Press 4** - The Gateshead Housing Company (repairs, lettings & general enquiries)
- Press 5** - to speak to a Customer Services advisor.

YOUR REGULAR PRESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEWS AND ADVICE

Free NRT frees Bill from 50-year smoking habit

A Gateshead grandad has quit smoking after half a century with the help of free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) – courtesy of NHS South of Tyne and Wear.

Bill Logan quit with the help of nicotine patches, which are currently being offered for free to smokers who sign up to quit with the help of the NHS Stop Smoking Service. Now the 62-year-old is encouraging others to take advantage of the scheme, which runs until the end of March and offers quitters a potential saving of up to £86.40.

The grandad-of-four, of Colepeth, Felling, said: “This is my fourth time trying to quit smoking and this time it’s really worked.

“I used to use a cigarette as a safety guard – it was just second nature to have a smoke when I was talking to someone. But with the patches I didn’t feel like I needed a cigarette, they just took the edge off. I think it’s great that you can get them for free – they are normally quite expensive and it can soon add up.”

Bill had been smoking since he was 12, but he finally decided to quit for good after being diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a condition which restricts the airflow to the lungs making it difficult to breathe.

Bill, a former pit worker who is now a full-time carer for his wife Elizabeth, 63, said: “After I was diagnosed, my wife was adamant that I should quit smoking, and I knew she was right.”



Bill Logan with nurse assistant Ann Nardini.

After signing up with the Stop Smoking Service at Beacon View Medical Centre, Bill met with Stop Smoking Advisor Ann Nardini. Ann helped him to prepare for quitting, gave him weekly carbon monoxide monitoring and supplies of free NRT.

Bill, who now hasn’t had a cigarette since September, said: “I feel much better now – I’m able to breathe more easily, I can walk much further, and generally I’m just enjoying a better quality of life. Plus my wife is over the moon!”

The forms of NRT which are free under the scheme include nicotine gum, nicotine lozenges, microtabs, nicotine patches,

inhalators and nasal spray.

Alyson Learmonth, Director of Public Health for Gateshead, said: “If you want to quit smoking, there’s no need to struggle alone. With the help of NHS Stop Smoking Services, you are four times more likely to quit than trying to do it by yourself.

“Partner this with free NRT, which can double your chances of quitting, and you have a winning combination - as Bill found out.”

To take advantage of this offer, text SMOKE FREE and your postcode to 60003 or visit: www.sotw.nhs.uk Available until the end of March!

Health award success

Gateshead health staff enjoyed success at an awards ceremony celebrating excellence in primary care and the efforts made by health professionals to improve service design and delivery.

In the NHS Alliance's Acorn Awards, the Service Redesign and Improvement category was won by NHS South of Tyne and Wear Community Health Services' Substance Misuse Service for a project in Gateshead aimed at ensuring that they meet their responsibilities to local children of substance misusers.

Work included: a systematic review of existing recording systems, with specific emphasis

on safeguarding children; a review of existing organisational systems and structures relating to the management of child wellbeing issues and the development of a robust partnership with local children's services.

David Henderson, Head of the Substance Misuse Service, said: "As a result of the work we did, we are now aware of a much greater number of children of our service users, who were previously a 'hidden' population to us.

"Consequently, we can now ensure that we meet our responsibilities to disadvantaged and vulnerable children in need. We've developed our service so it



David Henderson and Clinical Lead Gerry McIntyre receive the Service Redesign and Improvement award from the president of the NHS Alliance, Professor Chris Drinkwater.

is family-friendly and can more easily support parents who are substance misusers, and their families, to reintegrate into society and aid their recovery."

If you become unwell or are injured make sure you choose the right NHS service.

A&E or 999
NHS Urgent Care Centre, NHS Walk-in Centre or NHS Minor Injuries and Illness Unit
GP
Pharmacist
NHS Direct
Self-care

Choose well.

NHS

Primary care organisations across the North East

Useful Contacts

Minor injuries and illnesses

Blaydon Minor Injury and Illness Unit, Blaydon Leisure & Primary Care Centre, Shibdon Road, Blaydon, 0191 283 4600.

Gateshead Walk in Centre, Bensham Hospital, 0191 445 5454.

GPs (Family doctors)

To find or register with your nearest GP ring the NE Primary Care Services Agency on: 0191 275 4200. www.nefhsa.nhs.uk For GP out of hours medical services ring your surgery and follow the instructions on the answerphone.

PALS

Patient Advice and Liaison Service - Mon to Fri 9am-5pm. Freephone 0800 953 0667.

Accident and Emergency

If you have a severe injury or a serious accident, you should call 999. Accidents that cause severe injuries will be dealt with in the Accident and Emergency (A&E) units at:

- Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sheriff Hill, Gateshead 0191 482 0000.

Gateshead Primary Care Trust • South Tyneside Primary Care Trust • Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust

From shops to homes

DEMOLITION MAKES WAY FOR NEW GATESHEAD HOMES



Work has started on a £600,000 scheme to build five new three-bedroomed terraced homes at Birtley.

Representatives from The Gateshead Housing Company and Gateshead Council visited Portobello Way, on the Portmeads estate, to see contractors begin to demolish a block of empty shops to make way for new homes.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Angela Armstrong said: "Like many local authorities, Gateshead has a real shortage of three-bedroomed family homes, so we know we'll have no difficulty finding tenants for the homes we are building here."

The Gateshead Housing Company's Acting Director of Property and Technical Services, Paul Proud, added: "The development at Portobello Way will



Councillor Angela Armstrong, with The Gateshead Housing Company's Acting Director of Property and Technical Services, Paul Proud, at the Portobello demolition site.

provide high quality sustainable properties for local people." The new homes are being built by

the Council's Local Environmental Services and should be completed by the end of summer.

Bogus callers

ALWAYS, ALWAYS ASK FOR ID, SAYS COUNCIL

Gateshead Council is urging residents to always, always ask for identification from anyone visiting their home purporting to be from the council.

This warning follows a report last month of two men who tried to extort money from a pensioner for what was claimed to be 'unpaid Council Tax'.

They then threatened her and told her they would be back in seven days to collect the money. No formal identification was shown.

When the lady queried the amount with us, it became obvious that the men were not council employees but were bogus officials.

Councillor Peter Mole, Cabinet Member for Community Safety,

said: "We are urging local people to be extra cautious. If someone does visit you, then you should always, always ask for identification.

"Genuine council employees will generally show their identification at your door as a matter of course, but you should always ask for this if it is not immediately offered.

The ID card also contains a Gateshead Council phone number which can be used to further confirm who they are. We urge people to examine it very carefully and if you have any doubts, close the door and ring the number.

"If someone refuses to show you their ID card, or stops you from taking it from them to examine it



No ID? No entry!

more carefully, then shut the door immediately and phone the police."

Anyone who suspects that they have been visited by a bogus official should contact Northumbria Police on 03456 043 043, or if it is an emergency dial 999.

Inspired!

BIRTLEY BOXING CLUB

In the run up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, one club has proved a knock out when it comes to inspiring and encouraging young people to get involved in sport.

Birtley Boxing Club, part of Birtley Young People's Club, recently received a London 2012 Inspire Mark for its Liberty Project making it the 50th project in our region to be acknowledged in this way.

Part of the London 2012 Inspire Programme, the Inspire Mark celebrates those projects that have been inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, but which have a lasting legacy both for the young people who take part and for their communities.

The Liberty Project was developed by the Club to encourage, inspire and enthuse young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to get involved in boxing.

Ron Rowe, Senior Coach and Club Secretary explained:

We wanted to reach those young people who feel marginalised and give them a sense of purpose and direction. Boxing can be a very positive force not only improving fitness but encouraging discipline and respect.

"And with London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games only a year away, we wanted young people to feel part of it. So far over 1,000 young people have come forward directly as a result of our Liberty Project, which is fantastic."



Jonathan Edwards joins Bazak Omar and Callum Pearson of Birtley Boxing Club.

Working with the Council, Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service and police, the Liberty Project went out into the community to encourage young people to get involved. An action bus visited community centres and other local venues to run taster sessions. And young people were signposted to the project by police and other agencies. Women's only boxing sessions were also held.

Former Olympic Champion and member of the London Organising Committee Jonathan Edwards visited the Club to present them with their Inspire Mark certificate. He said: "They have done a fantastic job at Birtley. Projects like this are exactly what we want to promote in the lead up to the Games."

Birtley Young People's Club is also about to enter a new chapter in its 30-year history. With funding from Sport England and others including £50,000 from Gateshead Council, they are set to build a brand new £1.3 million sporting facility off Station Lane in Birtley.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Councillor Linda Green said: "Birtley Young People's Club has taken its inspiration from the Olympics, but they are an inspiration themselves. I am

delighted that they have achieved the Inspire Mark and look forward to work starting on their new facility – which is not only good news for their members but the whole Birtley community."

For more information on Birtley Young People's Club phone Ron Rowe on: 07863 1455401.

Charity ball

A charity ball held by Gateshead Mayor, Councillor Michael Hood, raised over £5,000 for local and national charities Aquila Way, FACT (Fighting all Cancers Together), Mencap and Help for Heroes. Over 350 people attended the ball at the Hilton NewcastleGateshead.

The Mayor said: "I'm so pleased that we raised such a large amount for some really worthy causes. The turn out was great and the support from all of our guests was fantastic – I would say thank you to them all."

Your Countryside



NEW LOOK FOR WINDY NOOK

Take a walk through Windy Nook Nature Reserve and you'll discover that this year's spring flowers aren't the only things that are new.

The Council's Natural Environment Team are busy installing features and facilities that will make visiting the reserve even more enjoyable.

Among the projects being tackled on site involves reinstating a pond to benefit wetland plants and animals, and installing a dipping platform so that schoolchildren and other visitors can get as close as possible to the action above and below the water's surface.

New information panels will also document the rich industrial heritage of the area and illustrate the plants and animals that now live in the enhanced woodland, hedgerow and heathland habitats.

Finally, the reserve's footpaths are being improved and a series of health walks will be designed so local residents can get fit in a greener way.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Martin Gannon said: "The site is a valuable community resource that is rich in wildlife and provides excellent opportunities for local people to improve their health and well-being and their understanding of the natural environment."

■ If you'd like to get involved in helping care for the reserve, contact Peter Shield on: 0191 433 3441 or email: petershield@gateshead.gov.uk



Pupils from Windy Nook Primary and Furrowfield School at Windy Nook Nature Reserve.

Know your onions?

If you like to know where your food comes from, The Green Fleece Café at Bill Quay Community Farm will soon have all the answers!

Recently refurbished, the café has just been awarded a further Local Food grant. This Spring, the money will be spent on a series of 'Local Food Connection' initiatives including the development of a community kitchen, a communal eating space, training courses, and a farm shop selling locally produced food.

To find out more, contact the farm on: 0191 433 5780.



KITTIWAKES CELEBRATE ANOTHER YEAR AT SALTMEADOWS

This year one of the country's most unusual nature reserves celebrates its 15th birthday.



The recently improved Kittiwake Tower at Saltmeadows was home to over 100 pairs of breeding Kittiwakes in 2010. Late spring is the best time to check out the tower and find out how many birds have ignored their usual cliffside haunts again and ventured an incredible 10 miles inland to nest.

Check out the fascinating history of our Kittiwakes on the interactive panel on the hill overlooking the Tower, or join our Saltmeadows Summer Stroll on Saturday 4th June and ask the experts themselves!

■ Call: 0191 433 3441 for more details.

Outdoor fun

GET READY FOR ADVENTURE

An open day celebrating the services and activities on offer at Tyne View Children's Centre and Clasper Towers Adventure playground will take place on Friday 15 April from 10am.

A variety of activities are planned for children and adults alike in a fun-packed day that includes:

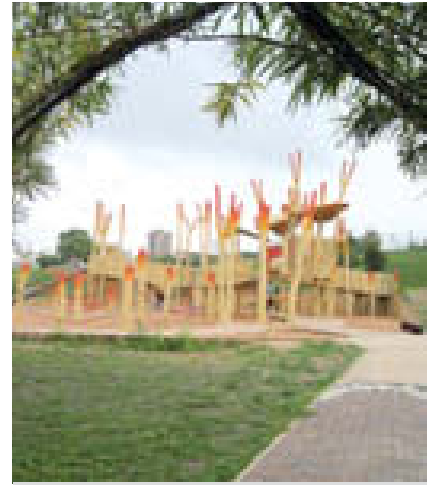
- A tour of the children's centre
- Music by Kingsmeadow School's Steel Band
- Information stalls
- Weigh and stay sessions

For the more adventurous, a

range of outdoor activities on Clasper Towers Adventure Playground will test your team building and den building skills!

Recently opened, the playground offers children and young people the chance to play and learn with equipment designed to fire their imaginations. From climbing boulders to a structure featuring towers, nets, ladders and slide – it's a great place to learn while you play.

The open day kicks off at 10am when the Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Michael Hood, and local Gateshead MP Ian Mearns will



Clasper Towers Adventure playground.

officially open the children's centre by unveiling a plaque. Events and activities will run until 5pm.

■ **For more information phone: 0191 433 5100. Tyne View Children's Centre and Clasper Towers Adventure playground are on Rose Street in Teams.**

Good neighbours

GATESHEAD AND NEWCASTLE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Like all good neighbours, you achieve more together than apart, so Gateshead and Newcastle Councils are working in partnership to make sure that both areas are attractive places to live and do business.

We've come up with a plan called the 'One Core Strategy' that shows how we want the area to develop over the next 20 years.

Focussing

One of the key aims of the strategy is to put in place the infrastructure to attract and retain people and businesses to our area – focussing on:

- improving transport and access
- addressing the challenges of climate change and
- promoting economic growth and prosperity

The strategy also aims to improve health and wellbeing, promote sustainable neighbourhoods and create strong locally distinctive places.

Specific action plans have been developed where we're looking to make major changes and these are set out in our 'Urban Core Area Action Plan'. In

Gateshead, these areas include Trinity Square and Gateshead Quays. In Newcastle, these include the Stephenson Quarter and East Pilgrim Street.

Consultation on the plans has been taking place during February and March and the plans will be reviewed with a further opportunity for feedback later in the year.

Complement

Council Leader Mick Henry said: "Tyneside is increasingly evolving as a single entity, so it makes sense for us to plan together.

Working in partnership on major developments will help us to maximize our resources and ensure that future developments stand a better chance of commercial success because they will complement each others plans and not compete with them."

■ **For more information on the One Core Strategy please visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk/haveyoursayonplanning or email: LDF@gateshead.gov.uk or phone: 0191 433 3000.**

Are you sitting comfortably?

SIT DOWN: SEATING FOR KIDS COMES TO GATESHEAD

Sitting still isn't normally something that kids want to do, but the latest exhibition at the Shipley Art Gallery in Gateshead might just change their minds.

Sit Down: Seating for Kids, a touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood, puts all kinds of kids' seats on display, from school chairs to armchairs, saddles to swings, and highchairs to potties. And just like the classic children's story Goldilocks, it encourages youngsters to find the chair that's 'just right' for them.

The seats and chairs in the exhibition span 350 years and include a wide range of quirky and fun models designed for eating, learning, snoozing and much,



much more. Visitors can try out designer seating, vote for their favourite seats, learn more about chair design and play chair-themed games.

Amy Barker, curator of the Shipley Art Gallery said "We are delighted to welcome such a fun and varied exhibition to the Shipley. We hope that it will appeal not only to families who may actually use

some of the chairs in the exhibition, but also to design enthusiasts who can really appreciate the beauty and skill of the chair designs."

■ **Sit Down: Seating for Kids runs until 5 June 2010, Monday – Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 2-5pm. Entry is free. Call: 0191 477 1495 for more details.**

Sit Down: Seating for Kids calendar of events

Thursday 24 March, 7.30pm Shipley Friends introduce Sit Down: Seating for Kids - after hours viewing and expert tour. £1 entry fee for non-members.

Tuesday 19 April, 10am-12 noon and 1-3pm Giant Junk Chairs - make chairs using junk materials £2 per child.

Thursday 21 April, 10am-12 noon and 1-3pm Cardboard Constructing – build and customise a cardboard stool. £2 per child.

Tuesday 26 April, 10am-12 noon and 1-3pm Sit Down Storytelling – listen to old favourites and invent your own. £2 per child.

Thursday 28 April, 10am-12 noon and 1-3pm Miniature Chairs - make miniature chairs for your dollshouse. £2 per child.

Saturday 14 May, 7-11pm The Late Shows - Celebrate the 5th birthday of The Late Shows. Free entry.

Tuesday 31 May, 10am-12 noon and 1-3pm Constructing with cardboard - build and customise a cardboard chair. £2 per child.



WIN TICKETS to see Cleo Laine at The Sage Gateshead

We've a pair of tickets for the hottest jazz show in town. Legendary jazz singer Cleo Laine is one of the stars of this year's Gateshead International Jazz Festival and she'll take centre stage at The Sage Gateshead on Sunday 27 March at 8pm. **To win a pair of tickets to go and see her simply unscramble the following to reveal a musical instrument:**

M T U R T P E □ □ □ □ □ □ □

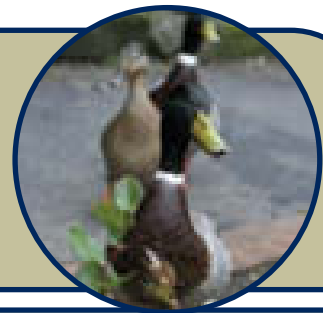
Name

Address

Postcode

To enter, simply return this coupon to: **Gateshead Council, Council News, FREEPOST NEA 3381, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE8 1BR**, (you don't need a stamp). You can also email your answer and address details to: councilnews@gateshead.gov.uk Closing date for entries: **Monday 21 March 2011**. Good Luck!

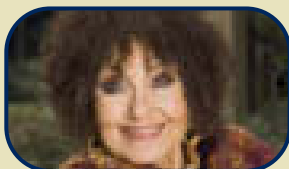
What's On?



Farm Club at Bill Quay Farm - With baby animals to meet and feed, and lots of new things growing, Spring is the best time of year to grab your wellies and help out down on the farm. Saturday 19 March & Saturday 16 April, 10am–12noon. Must be booked in advance. Cost £1. Call: 0191 433 5780.



Vintage Launch at Gateshead Old Town Hall - If funk, soul and R&B are your thing, check out the launch of brand new monthly club night Vintage on Saturday April 2 at 9.30pm. Nationally acclaimed local groovers Smoove & Turrell will be debuting their second album Eccentric Audio on the night. Over 18s only. Tickets £10. Call: 0191 433 6965.



Gateshead International Jazz Festival - Catch the queen of jazz Cleo Laine at this year's Gateshead International Jazz Festival at The Sage Gateshead. Also taking part this year are Debbie Harry, The Jazz Passengers and the Mike Stern Band. From 25 – 27 March. Phone 0191 443 4661 or visit: www.thesagegateshead.org Picture courtesy of Sven Arnstein.

■ EXHIBITIONS ■

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art

South Shore Road, Gateshead.

Tel: 0191 478 1810.

Mon-Sun 10am-6pm. Free.

www.balticmill.com

Until Sunday 15 May

George Shaw – 'The Sly And Unseen Day' presents familiar yet unnerving photographs taken of and around the childhood home of this contemporary British artist.

Until Sunday 15 May

Jesper Just – don't miss this New York-based Danish artist's short films which have the feel and gloss of Hollywood productions – with a difference.

Until Sunday 12 June

Lindsay Seers – the complex and unsettling 'It has to be this way2' installation investigates the occult, the subconscious, and the fragmentation of personal memory.

ShIPLEY Art Gallery

Prince Consort Road

Tel: 0191 477 1495. Mon-Sat,

10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free.

Until Sunday 5 June

Sit Down: Seating for Kids - spanning four centuries, this touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood features fun and quirky examples of children's seating.

■ MUSIC ■

The Sage Gateshead

St Mary's Square, Gateshead Quays

Ticket Office: 0191 443 4661.

www.thesagegateshead.org

March, April and May highlights:

Wed 16 March, 7.30pm

Iron & Wine – now produced through a full band, Sam Beam continues his softly-spoken, sombre storytelling against a backdrop of rich textures and arrangements. Tickets £16.50.

Fri 25 – Sun 27 March

Gateshead International Jazz Festival

– now in its seventh year, this year's festival hits all the right notes featuring artists such as The Jazz Passengers, Joe Lovan and Mike Stern Band, Debbie Harry, and the queen of jazz, Cleo Laine. Ticket prices range from £4-£27.50.

Sun 17 April, 2pm

Massed Brass Bands – the next instalment in the Massed Brass Band concerts features The Leyland Band from Lancashire, the local Reg Vardy Band, and the Fishburn Band. Tickets £14 & £7.

Friday 20 May, 7.30pm

The British Pink Floyd Show – this extravagant new tribute show includes world-class musicians and road crew, cutting edge animations, and a new stage production. Tickets £37.50 & £27.50.

Mon 6 June, 7.30pm

Masayuki Hirahara Piano Recital

- regarded as the next Frederic Chopin in Japan, Masayuki Hirahara performs the music of Beethoven, Brahms, Liszt, Chopin and more. Tickets £15 (concs apply).

What's On?



Gateshead Old Town Hall
West Street, Gateshead
Box office: 0191 433 6918
Online ticket sales:
www.gateshead.gov.uk

Thursday 17 March, 8pm

Disassembler – Trevor Warren is back from Spain for a short UK tour with his talent-packed quintet. Tickets £7.50.

Saturday April 2, 9.30pm

Vintage Launch with Smoove & Turrell – local funk outfit Smoove & Turrell debut their second album at the launch of new funk and soul club night Vintage. Over 18s only. Tickets £10.

Saturday 9 April, 7.30pm

The Sounds of Felling, Charity Concert – includes The Felling Band and Felling Male Voice Choir. Tickets £10 (concessions are available).

Friday 20 May, 8pm

Band of Heathens (USA) + Damascus – catch the magnificent live show from this Texas based supergroup. Tickets £14.00.

Gateshead Heritage @ St Mary's

Oakwellgate, Gateshead
Tel: 0191 433 4699
Email:
heritage@gateshead.gov.uk

Friday 25 March & Friday 29 April 12.30pm

Outstanding – a stimulating and eclectic mix of music from different eras, supported and encouraged by tutors and mentors from the Gateshead Music Service. Free.

Thursday 7 April, 7.30pm

Dave Shaw, The Music of the Northumbrian Small Pipes – the local pipe maker and virtuoso player provides a rare opportunity to hear his traditional solo work. Tickets £5.

■ COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS ■

Swalwell Visitor Centre

Swalwell
Tel: 01207 545212
Email:
countryside@gateshead.gov.uk

Sunday 13 March, 1– 3pm

Bird Box & Feeder Making – help birds thrive in your garden by making nest boxes and feeders. Countryside Rangers are there to help. £3 per box/feeder.

Bill Quay Farm

Hainingwood Terrace, Bill Quay
Tel: 0191 433 5780. Email:
billquayfarm@gateshead.gov.uk

Sunday 13 March, 1– 3pm

Piggiwigs and Whirligigs - Make and decorate a wind powered spinner. Cost £1. Contact the farm to book.

Saturday 19 March & Saturday 16 April, 10am–12 noon

Farm Club - Grab your wellies and help out at Bill Quay Farm. Cost £1. Limited places so please book in advance.

Monday 18 - Friday 29 April, 9am–5pm

Easter Trail - Explore in and around the farm, with activities along the way. Cost £1. No booking required, just turn up.

Thornley Woodlands Centre

Derwent Walk Country Park, Rowlands Gill.
Tel: 01207 545 212. Email:
countryside@gateshead.gov.uk

Sunday 20 March, 2-3.30pm

Sunflower Club - Plant sunflowers, decorate pots and labels, and take your creations home. Cost £2. Limited places so please book in advance.

Saturday 4 June, 1pm

Saltmeadows Summer Stroll - Saltmeadows Riverside, South Shore Road, Gateshead, NE8 3AF. A short, gentle, circular walk along the riverside. Free. Phone 0191 433 3441.

■ OTHER EVENTS ■

Daily, 9am-3.30pm

Gateshead Active Kidz – is an inclusive play scheme for children aged 8-14 years and is delivered in various schools and leisure facilities across Gateshead. It offers a wide variety activities including arts and crafts, games, sports, dance and drama. To find out what Active Kidz stuff is on offer in your area contact us on: 0191 433 7117 from 14 March, or visit: www.gateshead.gov.uk/play

Tuesday 22 March, 7pm

Gateshead – A Victorian Boom Town – Find out what it was like to live in rural Gateshead at the beginning of the 19th century. Talk by local historian, Anthea Lang at Gateshead Central Library. Free, but pre-booking essential. Call: 0191 433 4696.

Sunday 24 March, 7pm

An Evening with Janet MacLeod Trotter – Join the local author of travel mystery novels and historical novels about North East England. At Gateshead Central Library. Cost £3. Call Dot Cameron on: 0191 433 8404.



Upcoming Events in 2011

Tuesday 12-Saturday 16 April

Oklahoma – by Gateshead Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society. At the Dryden Centre, Evistones Road, Low Fell.

Stalls and balcony £7.50, Tiered stalls £8.50 (Concs Tues/Wed £6.50). Parties of 15 get one free seat. Tickets from Mrs M Hall: 0191 477 6924.

Tuesday 19 April & Thursday 21 April, 1pm-3pm

Easter Chicks & Easter Ducks – Fun, Easter craft making sessions and treasure trails for little ones. At Saltwell Park Training Centre. Cost £2. Limited places so please book in advance. Tel: 0191 433 5918.

Tuesday 19 April, Thursday 21 April, Tuesday 26 April & Thursday 28 April, 10am-4pm

Easter Fun – Decorate Easter tiles, hunt for chicks, and make Easter souvenirs to take home. At Gateshead Heritage @ St Mary's. Cost £2 per child.

Friday 22 April, 10am-5pm & Sat 23 April 9am-4pm

Rosecarpe Horticultural Society Spring Bulb Show – at Silverhills Nurseries, Gateshead. Admission and car parking free. There are a range of horticultural displays to tempt all you green fingered gardeners out there. Visit www.gateshead.gov.uk or contact Morris Robinson on 0191 413 8026.

Sat 23 April, 11am-3pm

Daffodil Extravaganza – Hunt for Easter eggs, make a bonnet and decorate a cake at Bensham Grove Community Centre, Sidney Grove. Free. Refreshments available. Phone: 0191 433 6450.

Wednesday 27 April, 1.30pm and 4pm

The Way Back Home - Big Wooden Horse present The Way Back. Home by Oliver Jeffers, an inter-galactic adventure tale. At Gateshead Old Town Hall. Co-presented with Theatre Royal Winchester. Suitable for ages 3 + and their families. £7/£4. Contact: Box Office on 0191 433 6965 or buy online at www.gateshead.gov.uk

Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May

The Late Shows 2011 - across NewcastleGateshead, The North East's fantastic Museums at Night event returns in 2011, with over 25 popular venues in NewcastleGateshead opening their doors to revellers on this legendary culture crawl.

Have you got an event for Council News?

Contact Laura Straker on:
T: 0191 433 2071
laurastraker@gateshead.gov.uk
For latest events visit
www.gateshead.gov.uk
What's on entries for June - Aug 2011 must be received by 30 April 2011.

Mon 9 – Sat 14 May

Billy – Musical based on Billy Liar, presented by the Caprian Theatre Company, at the Little Theatre, Gateshead. Phone for information and tickets: 01207 270596 or 07941 705024.

Council Diary

All meetings listed below are open to the public and are held in Gateshead Civic Centre unless otherwise stated.
Please check details of meeting before attending on: 0191 433 2128

17 March, 19 & 26 April	1.30pm	Regulatory Committee
17 March & 7 April	1.30pm	Children & Young People OSC*
21 March	4pm	West Area Forum**
23 March	4pm	East Area Forum**
24 March	4pm	South Area Forum**
28 March	10am	Corporate Vitality OSC*
28 March	3.30pm	Central Area Forum**
29 March	1.30pm	Healthier Communities OSC*
30 March	10am	Inner West Forum**
4 April	1.30pm	Sustainable Communities Place OSC*
6 & 27 April	10am	Planning and Development Committee
11 April	10am	Looked After Children OSC*
13 April	1.30pm	Sustainable Communities People OSC*
14 April	2.30pm	Council
15 April	10am	Rights of Way Committee

* OSC - Overview & Scrutiny Committee

** venue to be confirmed, please phone number above for details.

What's On?



■ CENTRAL ■

Saturday 19 March, 12 noon–5pm

Gateshead Together Football Tournament - free football competition for 16-25 year olds from all backgrounds. At Gateshead Leisure Centre. Call 0191 433 6946 or email seanrobson@gateshead.gov.uk

Thursday 24 March, 6–8pm

Film and Music Night - films made by young people on the dangers of knife crime and anti-social behaviour, plus decks, open mic. Elgin Centre, Elgin Road, Deckham. Contact 0191 477 9210 or email ashleekennedy@gateshead.gov.uk

Saturdays 12.30–3pm

Dysfunctional Dance Group - street dance tuition for young people aged 11-19. Bensham Grove Community Centre, Sidney Grove, NE8 2XD. Contact 0191 478 6983 or kirkyle@gateshead.gov.uk

■ WEST ■

Mondays 6.30–8pm & Saturdays 12.30–4pm

Jazz Band - music and fun for young people aged 7yrs and over. Blaydon Youth Club. Call 0191 414 4964.

Wednesdays 6.30–8.30pm & Saturdays 10–12 noon

Inclusive Club - for young people aged 13 – 25yrs with learning or physical disabilities. Blaydon Youth Club. Call 0191 414 4964.

Fridays 4.15–5.45pm

Triple B - boards, bikes and blades. Meet new friends, plan trips and learn new skills. Ryton, Crawcrook & District Youth Centre. Call 0191 413 2053.

■ EAST ■

Thursdays 7–9pm

Senior Drop In - pool, table tennis, information and advice. Costs 50p. Leam Lane Community Centre. Contact Ann Connelly on 0191 433 6430.

Fridays 5–6pm

Health Drop In - free and confidential drop in for young people with sexual or physical health concerns. Leam Lane Community Centre. Contact Mandy Wheeler on 0191 433 6430.

Fridays 6–9pm

Senior Youth Café Drop In – jive to the Juke Box or have a relaxing chat in an American style café. Free, food 50p - £1. Leam Lane Community Centre. Contact Ann Connelly on 0191 433 6430.

■ INNER WEST ■

Mondays & Thursdays, 5.30-6.30pm & 6.30-7.30pm

Non Contact Boxing – learn the sport and get fit with other young people. £1.50 per session. Teams Community Centre. Contact John Allen on 0191 478 1003.

Wednesdays 6–8pm

Young Women's Group - crafts, sports, trips, fun and friendship for ages 12 and over. Teams Community Centre. Contact Lucy or John on 0191 478 1003.

Mondays 6.30 till 8.30pm

Senior Youth Club - decks, pool, football, trips out for ages 13 and over. Teams Community Centre. Lucy or John on 0191 478 1003.

■ SOUTH ■

Tuesdays 4-5pm

Junior Club - arts, crafts and games for 8-12 year olds. Allerdene Community Centre, Trafford, Allerdene. Costs £1. Call 0191 491 5332.

Fridays 6-8pm

Street Cheer - dancing skills for 13-19 year olds. Barley Mow Village Hall,

Vigo Lane, Barley Mow. Call 0191 410 5334.

Thursdays 4.30-7pm

Remote Control Car Project – help build remote control cars. Springwell Community Centre, Lanchester Avenue, Springwell Estate. Costs 50p. Call 0191 487 0169.

Tuesdays 6-8pm

Decks Night - experiment with music and make your own CDs. Whitehouse Lane Youth Centre, Whitehouse Lane Playing Fields, Wrekenton. Call 0191 491 0632.

Find out more about what's happening in Gateshead for young people click onto:

www.gateshead.gov.uk (for info on your local leisure centre or events info)

www.gbyoc.org.uk (packed full of info from Gateshead Youth Council)

www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk (for details of services and other useful stuff)

www.solutionfinder.org.uk (for details of services and other useful stuff)



Saltwell Park Show

Enjoy a great family day out including displays by local horticultural societies, children's activities, a selection of stalls to buy from, a top entertainment programme and more!

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 April
10am - 4pm

FREE
including free park & ride every 15 mins from Gateshead Civic Centre



For further information contact the Events Team
Tel: 0191 433 6900
Email: events@gateshead.gov.uk

BUSY B'S MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 3 April 2011 / 11.00-13.00 & 13.30-16.00 / FREE / Quay, Level 2

This year for Mother's Day, come down to BALTIC and create fantastic miniature books to give to someone you love. No pre-booking required.

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

Sunday 3 April 2011 / Two sittings 12.00 & 14.00 / £12.00 Two courses - £16.00 Three courses

Children under 10 years eat for half price. Booking is essential. Contact Fresh Element on 0191 440 4948.

BALTIC MAGICAL GARDEN

18 April - 2 May 2011 / 14.00-16.00 / FREE / Quay, Level 2

Come to BALTIC's Magical Garden during the school holidays and help transform Quay into a magic daylight and moonlit garden with glowing butterflies, crawling bugs and many more fantastic creatures. Working with our artist team you'll get the opportunity to make your own creepy crawlies and let them fly or crawl around Quay.

FREE ACTIVITY



BALTIC

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
Eastwood Quay, South Shore Road,
Gateshead NE8 2BA United Kingdom
www.balticart.co.uk/familyfun



Easter and Bank Holiday Household Waste & Recycling Collection Arrangements

Household waste and recycling collections for residents will be affected in April and May as a result of the Easter break, Royal Wedding Holiday and May Bank Holiday.

Week beginning 18 April 2011

Residents who normally have their bins emptied from Monday to Thursday will have no disruption to their service. Residents who normally have their bins emptied on a Friday will have their bins emptied on the following Tuesday (26 April).

If you are scheduled to get your green-it bin or blue recycling bin (or both green-it and blue bin) collected on Friday 22nd April put it (them) out for collection with your household waste bin on Tuesday 26th April.

Week beginning 25 April 2011

Scheduled collections of household waste, green-it and blue bins will not take place this week.

If you are scheduled to get your green-it or blue recycling bin (or both green-it and blue bin) collected this week your next collection of this/these bin(s) will be week beginning 9th May 2011. The only exception will be the catch-up collection for Friday 22 April (Good Friday) which takes place on Tuesday 26 April.

Week beginning 2 May 2011

This week all residents will have their normal collections delayed by one day. Monday collections, for example, will be made on Tuesday and the week will end with Friday's collection made on Saturday 7th May.

If you are scheduled to get your green-it bin or blue recycling bin (or both green-it and blue recycling bin) collected this week put it/ them out for collection with your household waste bin one day later than your usual collection day.

Week beginning 9 May 2011

Normal collection services will resume this week.

Check www.gateshead.gov.uk/binchecker for up-to-date collection information.

0191 433 7000

Thank you for recycling

 recycle for Gateshead

 Gateshead Council