

GAZZA TO BE STAR GUEST AT CIVIC



Gazza will be making a guest appearance at the Civic in October.

Football legend, Paul Gascoigne, will be the guest speaker at Shildon Railway Cricket Club's Sportsmen's Dinner, to be held at the Civic Hall in Shildon on Saturday, October 24th. "We are expecting tickets to go like hot cakes," said a spokesperson for the club, who sees this as their main fund raiser of the year. Tickets for the event cost £30 and are available from Norman Nash on 07929956473 or Gary Davis on 07798835376.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

A Job Hunters' Club takes place every week at Henderson House on Coleridge Road, Chilton for people who would like help and support with training and job searches. For more information, or to arrange an appointment, call 01740 651639.

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TOWN YOUTH PREPARE FOR NEW SEASON

Ferryhill Town Youth is getting ready for the new season and is looking for players for its Under 11's, Under 12's, Under 13's and Under 15's teams. They teams are now playing their games at Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College. The Club also runs a development squad at under 8's level and is looking for more players. If anyone is interested, get in touch on 07976897788 for more details.

REFUSE COLLECTION BANK HOLIDAY

Following the August bank holiday some, residents will have their domestic refuse, recycling and garden waste collected one day late this week. This enables collections to return to the normal day next week. These arrangements are the same as with previous bank holidays and Durham County Council has expressed its thanks to everyone for their cooperation.

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USEFUL CONTACT LIST

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Durham Constabulary to report quality of life issues or incidents of crime 0345 60 60 365

Neighbourhood Wardens deal with dog fouling - fly tipping - rowdy behaviour - stray dogs 01740 654907

The Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Unit
If you are suffering from acts of Anti Social Behaviour contact 01388 816 166 Ext 8824 / 8854

Fire and Rescue Community Safety
Your local fire-fighters can provide a Free fire safety check in your home, contact 0191 332 4222

Special Collections To arrange collections contact 01388 816 166

Neighbourhood Manager Issues in relation to the regeneration of Dean Bank, Ferryhill Station & Chilton.

Confidential Answerphone Leave local police a message on any issues or intelligence you may have 01325 742759

Ferryhill Town Council 01740 652157

Chilton Town Council 01388 721788

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email: ferryhill@evans.co.

Email: thechapter@talk21.com
Issue No 435

Ferryhill and Chilton CHAPTER
www.thechapter.org
Ferryhill, September 4th, 2009
At the heart of this wonderful community
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Tel & Fax: 01388 775896 Duty Journalist: 0790 999 2731

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RESIDENTS VOTE ON 2010 TRIP DESTINATION

Ferryhill Town Council recently circulated a questionnaire to all local residents who attended the Aged People's Trip on Thursday, July 23rd. For the last few years, York has been the destination for the trip, and the response from the questionnaire has signalled that the majority of residents would like the trend to continue in 2010. Other comments made by residents were that the coaches should leave Ferryhill earlier and return home earlier. Also, that the trip should be taken during school term time. The Council Committee decided to take residents' views into consideration when planning next year's outing.

DANGEROUS DOGS

Durham Constabulary has applied for an order that Anne Catterall's dog be kept under proper control or be destroyed after it had been dangerously out of control in Ferryhill on June 3rd. The 61 year-old dog owner, of Richmond Close, did not attend the hearing and was believed to be on holiday. Matters were adjourned until September 16th. Derek Jackson, formerly of Davy Street, was so concerned by his dog's behaviour that he signed it over to kennels to be retrained and re-homed after a series of incidents in Hackworth Close, Ferryhill, on July 7th. The Staffordshire cross had escaped from the back yard and attacked a number of dogs, including that of Alan Nelson, whose dog needed stitches and who himself was bitten on the finger. Jackson, who has severe alcohol problems, admitted that he couldn't control the dog, was handed a 12 months conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 compensation.

GALA DAY A SUCCESS



Aycliffe and District Pipe band lead the way at Chilton Gala.

The Annual Gala at Chilton, organised by the Gala Committee and Chilton Town Council, was once again a huge success. With the sun shining, large crowds turned out to watch the Gala Princess and runners up lead the parade, along with the Aycliffe and District Pipe Band onto the field where the fun commenced. There were also those who took part, saying "Well done to everyone who participated in the arena events". For motor enthusiasts, there were a number of classic/vintage vehicles to browse around. There were also a number of stalls where people simply browsed or made purchases. Many of the stalls were for charity or local organisations. Throughout the gala, a number of stalls were open for people to browse (continued on page 3)

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WEEKLY EVENTS
Every Thursday - Quiz Night (Open The Box)
Monday Night Darts And Dominoes
1st Sunday Of Every Month - Folk Night
Every 2nd Saturday Sing A Round
Every Other Wednesday Jamming Session
Last Sunday Month Golf Day Out All welcome
Ship Inn Out Club Once A Month
Regular Brewery Trips
Monthly Ramble 4-6 Miles All Welcome
Regular Theme Nights

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Letters to the Editor

This Chilton residents feels excluded from being able to use the new toilet facilities in Ferryhill town centre....

Dear Editor,
People (not residents of Ferryhill) who shop in the 'Village' and who are registered disabled who require to use the toilet are being victimised by not being able to, either through their registration or by purchasing a key from the Town Hall, because they are not residents of Ferryhill!
I would have thought that purchasing keys from the Town Hall would be beneficial to the

coffers. After all, these non-residential people are good enough to shop in Ferryhill throughout the year and boost the economy.
Come on Ferryhill, show some appreciation to all disabled citizens, 'Villagers' or not. I live in Chilton - we haven't had public toilets here for years. Good job we have a large plantation!

*K Sowerby,
Chilton.*

Councillor Brian Avery responds to a letter in last week's Chapter....

Dear Editor,
In reply to Mr Moffatts letter in last weeks edition, can we inform Mr Moffatt, and all ex council house tenants, that both Councillor Potts and Councillor Avery have nothing to do with fixing rents.
This is done purely by the

government and the board of Sedgfield Borough Homes, and neither of us are on the board.
This was well documented when the survey was done and the vote taken, and I am surprised Mr Moffatt didn't notice this.

Councillor Brian Avery.

Ferryhill and Chilton CHAPTER

*Why not make a special day that little bit more special?
Classified ads are a fun surprise for loved ones celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, births or any special occasion.
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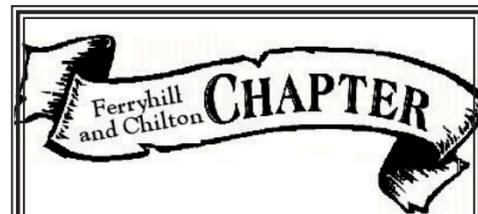
LETTERS & POEMS

Send Your Letters & Poems To

3 - 4 First Floor Offices,
Shildon Town Council Building, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, DL4 1AH,
Or Email thechapter@talk21.com
You can also leave them in Ferryhill or Chilton Library.
Remember to include your full name, address and telephone number.
Names and addresses can be withheld at your request, however letters will not be printed if they do not contain these details.

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3 - 4 First Floor Offices, Town Council Offices, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, Co. Durham, DL4 1AH.
If you prefer, you can also leave your classified advert at Ferryhill or Chilton Library in an envelope addressed to The Chapter and we will pick it up. You can make payment for your adverts either by placing the correct amount of cash in the envelope, enclosing a cheque made payable to The Chapter, or include your Credit or Debit card details.



CLASSIFIED FORM

**Hand this form into Ferryhill or Chilton Library or post it to
3 - 4 First Floor Offices, Town Council Building, Civic Hall Square, Shildon, DL4 1AH.**

OCCASION: (Please tick)

- Birthday
- Anniversary
- Birth
- Congratulations
- Appreciations
- Memoriam
- Obituary
- For Sale / To Let
- Birthday Memories
- Services Offered
- Other (Please State)

NUMBER OF SEPARATE MESSAGES.....

MESSAGE(S) - (Please write in clear block capitals and continue on a separate piece of plain paper if necessary)

NUMBER OF WORDS =

AMOUNT (x 35p)

PHOTO INCLUDED? (£5) Yes No
(If yes, please include a stamped addressed envelope if you would like your picture returned to you.)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CONTACT NO.....

In Memoriam

MARY WILSON
September 6th
Precious memories of my dearest friend, Mary. Never forgotten, Joan.



PAUL JOHN NEWELL
2006
My dear Son Paul. Never a day goes past But I am missing you, You will be close to my heart As long as my life shall last. God keep you in his care.
Loving Mam, Theresa, Sisters, Brothers, Nephews, Niece.
Remembering also my dear Husband John, Grandson Darren.
xx

Birthdays

LEANNE TAYLOR
September 3rd

Happy 21st Birthday.
Lots of love, Mam, Dad & Liam.
xx



STEPHANIE RIDLEY
August 25th, 1991
Congratulations sweetheart on your 18th Birthday. Love you always.
Mam, Dad, Chris, Grandma, Grandpa & Ben.
xxx

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Birthdays

ALICE BEER

Happy 90th Birthday on the 7th September. To a special Mam and Nana. Lots of love, from Ann & Derek, Lee & Suzanne.
xxxx



BECKY LAMB

Happy 13th Becky. From Gran Lamb and all the family love.
xxxx



NATHAN WALL
September 5th, 2009

Happy 13th Birthday Nathan. Have a great holiday. Love you loads, Mam & Dad.
xxx

Birthdays

NATHAN WALL
Happy 13th Birthday Nathan. Love from Auntie Vicky, Uncle Paul, Stevie & Vinnie.
xxx

NATHAN WALL
Happy Birthday Teenager. Love from Nanna Ann.
xxx

NATHAN
Happy 13th Birthday Nathan. Love and best wishes, Nana & Grandpa.
xxx



MASON WALL
Happy 1st Birthday. Lots of love, From Mammy & Daddy and big Sister Caitlin.
xxx

Births

ANDREW & LOUISE BROWN
On the birth of your Daughter **RUBY FREYA** on the 26-8-09. Congratulations from both families.

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This year is a very important year in the history of the service as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. In February, 1959, the small advice agency was started in Newton Aycliffe and, over the years, has grown as it combined forces with Spennymoor and Sedgfield bureaux to become the service we now all know. Many of the residents of the area have relied on this service over the last 50 years for advice and guidance on anything from a faulty washer to bankruptcy. However, advice can be as life-changing as the work of disaster relief or medical research charities. The service is given to anyone in the area irrespective of their origin, work status, colour, religion or any other difference, completely free of charge. The service is now making steps towards securing their future in the area by looking at purchasing a property. A property has been identified and needs some refurbishment however, funds are needed to assist in both the purchase and refurbishment of this building. In addition to being the main bureau where clients would be able to access advice 5 days a week, it would provide a back office for the majority of the staff, ensuring they

still have room to house the ever-growing staff who deliver advice right across the former borough. It would also provide a training facility which could be accessed by community groups. In real terms, the service only has security of tenure for a six month period on the properties that the service rent in Spennymoor. Clients may remember back to the period in 2004 -2005 when the service operated in a variety of temporary premises in the Spennymoor area when they found themselves without a permanent base. Additional space has been needed due to the recruitment of new volunteers and additional staff to address the constant increase in demand on the service. Back-office premises have been leased in Spennymoor but this is for a limited period of time and alternative arrangements need to be made as soon as possible. Whatever happens there are no plans to end either of the leases of the main bureaux in Spennymoor High Street and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. With year-on-year increase in demand, a shortage of premises would be catastrophic for not only the service but also for the clients who use it. Last year alone, Sedgfield & District CAB handled £13million worth of debt for residents of the former Sedgfield Borough. The Health Advice Project, which is funded through the PCT from this bureau, recorded an increase in income of over £1million to families in the area, which is also good news for our local economy. However, as an independent charity responsible for raising its' own funds to be able to function it now needs help from you! Pauline Chambers, Service Manager, said, "We are not asking our clients to pay for advice, that goes against everything we stand for, but if residents are involved in groups or organisations or have employers that are in a position to make a contribution towards this project or to raise funds for us that would be amazing" Many employers have benefitted from the advice provided by the service in times of trouble. When Fujitsu closed, teams of advisers were posted in the factory to provide employment and debt advice to those affected. Similar activities have been done for many others.

LOCAL POOL CLOSES FOR MAINTAINENCE WORK

Improvements and essential maintenance work will start next week at Spennymoor Leisure Centre pool, which will be closed for around eight weeks.

The current barrel-vaulted roof pool will be replaced, and the pool will be closed from Monday September 7th. During the closure, all swimming lessons will be temporarily relocated to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Contact Spennymoor Leisure Centre reception for more details on 01388 815827.

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ON THIS DAY..... SEPTEMBER 4TH

1894: In New York City, 12,000 tailors went on strike against sweatshop working conditions.

1939: World War II: Japan declared neutrality in the European war.

1944: World War II: the British 11th Armoured Division liberated the Belgian city of Antwerp.

1949: The Peekskill Riots erupted after a Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, New York.

1951: The first live transcontinental television broadcast took place in San Francisco, California, from

the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference.

1956: The IBM RAMAC 305 was introduced; it was the first commercial computer that used magnetic disk storage.

1963: Swissair Flight 306 crashed near Dürrenäsch, Switzerland, killing all 80 people on board.

1964: Scotland's Forth Road Bridge near Edinburgh officially opened.

1967: Vietnam War: Operation Swift began with U.S. Marines engaging North Vietnamese forces in battle in the Que Son Valley.

1975: The Sinai Interim

Agreement relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict was signed.

1995: The Fourth World Conference on Women opened in Beijing with over 4,750 delegates from 181 countries in attendance.

1996: Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) attacked a military base in Guaviare, starting three weeks of guerrilla warfare in which at least 130 Colombians were killed.

1998: Google was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, two students at Stanford University in America.

YOUNGSTER CUT FREE FROM BIKE

Fire fighters recently came to the rescue of a Ferryhill youngster last week, after he got his leg stuck in his bike.

The 11 year-old had to be cut free from the spokes of his back wheel in Barrington Terrace on Friday, August

28th. The youngster was taken to hospital following the incident at around 8.00pm, but suffered only bruising.

POLICE APPEAL AFTER PUB ATTACK

Police are appealing for witnesses to an assault which occurred over three months ago.

The incident took place in the Black Bull pub in Ferryhill in the early hours of Sunday, May 31st. A bottle or weapon of some description was used,

causing a man to suffer a cut to the head.

It is believed the assault took place inside the pub. Anyone with information is being urged to contact PC 2498 Lithgow at Spennymoor Police Office on 0345 60 60 365.

DVD DELAY

The case of Harold Shaw, which was due for committal to Crown Court, was adjourned until September 9th at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court in order that a DVD could be

made available to the Defence. The 54 year-old, from Market Street in Ferryhill, is charged with driving dangerously in Market Street on April 14th this year.

STAMP CLUB MEETING

Ferryhill and District's Philatelic Society will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, September 8th, from 7.00pm in St Luke's Parish Centre, Ferryhill.

This month's meeting is entitled '60 Years of stamp collecting.' For more information, contact the club Secretary on 01740 651294.

LADDER CENTRE AGM

Ferryhill's LADDER Centre's Annual General Meeting is to take place on Saturday, September 12th. The AGM has been previously

advertised as taking place at 10.00am, however, the time has now been moved forward to 9.30am due to others needing the room.

SERVICE STATION POP THEFT

A Ferryhill man faced a charge of stealing two cans of pop valued at £1.17 on July 29th from Dean Road Service Station, but was unable to attend the hearing at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court as

he was already in custody on another matter. The case was adjourned and 22 year-old Kyle Mawson, of Faraday Street, will appear in Court via video link on September 28th.

ANNUAL LEEK SHOW

Ferryhill Station Royal British Legion Club will be holding their annual Leek Show on Saturday and Sunday,

September 5th and 6th. For more information about times and how to take part, contact the Club on 01740 651731.

SHILDON GARDENS' GUILD

Re-opens on Sunday morning at 9.00am.

Now in Stock:

S B Plant Invigorator at £6.00 Bottle (As used by growers of the Channel Islands)

Civic Hall Square, Shildon

CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Hutton House, Durham Road, Chilton, DL17 0EX

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Tuesday, 8th August, 2009 at the above Office at 6.30pm Members of the public are invited to attend

CHILTON GALA (Continued from page 1)



A winning entry in the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show.

football tournament was ongoing with eight teams participating.

Redcar Town Juniors, the winning team, were presented with a cup and shield and they happily showed off their prize. The runner up team was Greatham Blues.

A council spokesperson expressed gratitude to those who made the tournament possible, saying, "Thanks to everyone involved, including the referees, for making the football tournament such a massive success. Special thanks to the St John Ambulance who, once again, were on hand if needed to administer first aid." Prior to the Gala, the 1st Annual Flower and Vegetable Show was held with exhibitors benching the evening before. The show was then opened to the public on Saturday. There were 33 classes and the

top three winners of each one were awarded cash prizes, ranging from £10 to £3.

Overall winners were Gordon Hodgson, who won the silver National Dahlia Society Award for his vase of giant semi cactus, and bronze for semi cactus, and Jimmy Howard, who won the National Chrysanthemum Society's silver award for a vase of intermediate Chrysanthemums. Bronze went to Peter McNeillie for three stems of spray chrysanthemums. The town council expressed its thanks to all those who entered.

During the gala weekend there were two evening events, a family disco and a Country and Western themed evening. "Many thanks to everyone who attended, performed and assisted with both events," commented a Council spokesperson, who went on to say, "Thanks to everyone who

assisted and participated in the Gala, in particular, Chilton Primary School and Durham County Council for allowing us to use their facilities and to the staff at the school who assisted. Special thanks go to Dave Allanson, Jimmy Houlihan, Tony Campbell, Paul Gray and Peter Davies who worked tirelessly throughout the entire gala weekend to ensure the smooth running of the event". Meetings will start again shortly to discuss the 2010 gala. Anyone who wishes to join the committee, or who simply has a suggestion, call into the Town Council or telephone 01388 721788.

Ring The Chapter on

01388 775896

or email thechapter@talk21.com

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JUST A FEW SEATS REMAIN

Onlu eighteen seats remain on The Chapter's coach trip to Bury Market, taking place on Saturday, October 31st. To book seats, contact us on 01388 775896.

Anyone wishing to go on the trip can leave their fayre of £10.50 per person at either Ferryhill or Chilton Library in an envelope marked 'The Chapter.'

LADDER CENTRE OFFERS TRAINING PROSPECTS

Ferryhill's LADDER Centre has recently become successful in securing funding from The Office of the Third Sectors Targeted Support Fund through the Cuncy Durham Foundation. Staff at the Centre are now looking to provide training opportunities to people in the

Ferryhill area, with courses available in First Aid, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety, IT, Child Protection, Health & Social Care and more.

Anyone interested in these, or other training opportunities, should contact the LADDER Centre on 01740 651639 for further information.

BARBECUE NIGHT AT HENDERSON HOUSE

Henderson House, on Coleridge Road, Chilton, is holding a Quiz Night on Thursday, September 3rd, from 7.00pm. Entry costs just 50p. The following day, Friday,

September 4th, a barbecue will be taking place. The event will begin at 6.30pm and costs £1 per person. For more information, call 01388 720152.

LIGHTS COMMITTEE SAY THANKS

Members of the Chilton Christmas Lights Committee have expressed their sincere thanks to everyone who kindly donated items for their stall and purchased tickets.

"Special thanks to both Michelle and Ann who have given so generously to this

appeal," said a spokesperson for the Committee. All monies raised were in aid of an LCD Christmas Tree. The appeal is ongoing and the Committee is still holding its weekly tombola each Thursday or Friday from 10.00am outside of Hutton House.

NEW DISPLAYS AT CHILTON LIBRARY

Chilton Library has an array of new books on display this month.

There are a range of books in the Historical Collection, from authors such as Tim Severin and Barbara Erskine.

"If you enjoy 'a tumultuously epic story of valour, treachery and derring-do' then we could have the book for you," said a library spokesperson.

The second display is a selection of poetry, which has a

range of the nation's favourite poems, as well as free poetry sample cards.

Pick and Mix is the library's third new display, which has a sample of adult non-fiction, including the book 'My llife with George' by Judith Summers, which is described as 'funny, touching, tender and true.'

For more information, contact Chilton Library on 01388 720251.

The Wheatsheaf

What's on in September

Sunday Lunches are back

6th September, 11.30 - 2.30.

Kids' Fun Day

Thursday 3rd from 12noon-6.00pm

Karaoke & Bouncy Castle, fancy dress optional.

Burgers & hotdogs available.

Friday 4th - Holly C.

Sunday 13th - Lisa's Karaoke

Friday 18th - Twister

Friday 25th - Mark Howells

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COUNCIL LEADER GAINS SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN

The leader of Ferryhill Town Council, Pat McCourt, was handed a boost in his campaign to become the Labour Party's parliamentary candidate for the constituency of Darlington when one of the other candidates threw their weight behind him.

The position of Labour's parliamentary candidate became available when Alan Milburn, the town's current MP, announced his decision not to stand for re-election at the next General Election.

Neil Foster, who was the first person to show interest in filling Alan Milburn's position, said, "I had been encouraged to put myself forward for the Labour selection contest by a number of members in the area, which of course, was very flattering."

"However, I am now offering Pat McCourt my wholehearted support. He is a County Durham man through and through. Within his national role as a trade union representative, Pat has had great success in campaigning for high-quality new social and council housing. I believe



The Leader of Ferryhill Town Council, Pat McCourt, is hoping to become MP for Darlington.

that Pat's national record, his local roots and unspun style make him the right candidate for Darlington." No other candidates have

formally announced their interest in succeeding Mr Milburn, although there is still time for challengers to register their interest.

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WEDDING NOTIFICATION

SHARE YOUR WEDDING WITH THE CHAPTER

Simply fill in this form and leave it at Ferryhill or Chilton Library along with a photo.

Date..... Time.....
Venue..... Reception.....
..... Groom.....
Bride..... Occupation.....
Occupation..... Address.....
Address.....
..... Best Man.....
..... Ushers.....
Bridesmaids..... Page Boy.....
..... Flower girl.....
..... Honeymoon.....
Given away by.....
Dress (description).....

Other Information (location/guests/contact details/etc.)

CARE CENTRE OPEN DAY

Chilton Care Centre will be holding an open day on Thursday, September 3rd, between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. There will be refreshments available and consented care plans will be open for viewing. For more information call 01388 724011.

ANNUAL LEEK SHOW

Ferryhill Village WMC Leek Club's Annual Leek Show will be held on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th September. The show will be open the following day from 12 noon to 2.15pm and 6.00pm to 8.50pm. For more information, call between 9.30am and 1.00pm 01740 654094.

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POEMS & LETTERS

Please send your poems & letters to 3 - 4 1st Floor Offices, Shildon Town Council Building Civic Hall Square, Shildon, DL4 1AH or email thechapter@talk21.com

You can also drop them in at Ferryhill or Chilton Library in an envelope addressed to us.
Remember to include your name, address and full contact details.

Your name and address can be withheld on request.



You can place adverts and classifieds over the phone, by email, or by simply dropping them off at Ferryhill or Chilton Library.

You can pay by cash or cheque, or you can even pay over the phone with your card details.

Call us now on 01388 775896 or email thechapter@talk21.com

LOCAL THEATRE GROUP TO PERFORM AT MAINSFORTH

Shildon Centre Stage are about to embark on one of their biggest productions, since the adult group were formed over a decade ago, with this winters panto, "Cinderella".

The panto will be first performed at the end of November in the Civic Hall, Shildon, before being taken down the road to the Mainsforth and Ferryhill Community Centre for a further run of four performances at the beginning of December.

"We are doing the shows in Ferryhill due to a request for help from the Community Centre to help preserve their annual panto in the local press," commented a spokesperson from the drama group.

The spokesperson went on to say, "The group are now beginning a promotion drive to get new members to join the group. We are looking for people to help us put this exciting production together, so we are looking for new members for the group, both on and off the stage."

"So if you fancy doing some singing, dancing or acting or even all three, then we are the group for you. We are a friendly group and would love to see more members."

"If you don't fancy treading the boards, I know I never fancied it years ago, then maybe you can help backstage with many activities which all help put this production together, backstage

staff, front of house, sound and lights, scenery or even helping with the making of many costumes which we will need. We like to think we are more than just a drama group, and more of a community group." Anyone who would like to take part should go along to the Civic Hall in Shildon on a Thursday evening.

The group currently have members from Shildon, Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe.

More information can be obtained on 01388 774838 or 01325 313363.

The group also has its own Facebook page on and website at www.freewebs.com/centrestageattheatre.

THE 'FERRYHILL FIVE' STRIKE AGAIN!

The "Ferryhill Five", a quintet of local ladies who a constantly fundraising, were delighted to present a cheque for the Children's Diabetes Fund to Dr Lamb at Bishop Auckland Hospital recently.

The group raised £1050 by selling plants, cakes, chutney and marmalade and holding a tombola stall at Ferryhill Gala. The money will be used to buy insulin sensors for children with diabetes - each sensor costs £750.

One of the ladies expressed her thanks, saying, "We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising. Special thanks to Harry Whitehead and Len German, also Joan Leighton, Joan Blamire, Gladys and Maurice Hall, Bernie Lamb, Jean Brown, Brian Gibson, Billy Dawson, Joy and Wally Anderson, Doreen Davies, Margaret Collinson, Billy Ridley, Joan Dinning, Avril Hudspeth, Pauline Hunter,

Sadie Rutter, Brenda Dargue and Susan Wayman. With thanks, we think Ferryhill Folk are the best!

Audrey, Doreen, Enid, Joyce and Zena also held a tombola at Ferryhill Market on Friday, August 27th.

The five ladies raised £250, which has been donated to the "Legs for Lyndon" appeal through Councillor Brian Myers D.C.C.

"Thanks to everyone who visited the stall," said Zena.

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CANNABIS CULTIVATION

David Steven Britton pleaded guilty to producing 35 cannabis plants, which he had grown from seed, at his home in Hollyhurst Road, West Cornforth, when he appeared before Magistrates recently. The 20 year-old's home had been visited by police on the morning of May 21st on an unrelated matter, but officers' suspicions were aroused by the

smell coming from the house and they returned later in the day. Britton was adamant that it was grown for his own use as he was a heavy user and had "got sick of buying it." The case was stood down for a full report by the Probation Service with magistrates indicating that they had a community order in mind for the defendant.

OFFICERS RESISTED AND ASSAULTED

Police were called to an incident in Kirk Merrington on May 25th, and it was whilst officers were dealing with the matter that 42 year-old Ivor Miller intervened.

P.C.Wilson was in a kneeling position, restraining another man, when Miller ran out from the crowd and kicked him in the face. Miller then

compounded matters by resisting P.C.Oliver, who was trying to arrest him. The case was adjourned until September 17th and a full report from the Probation Service requested, as there are health issues relating to the defendant and his parents. Miller was released on unconditional bail.

ALLOTMENT FUNDRAISING EVENT

Bertha Street Allotment Association is holding a fundraising event for Broom Cottages Primary School on Saturday, September 12th at 10.30am.

The event will take place

on the allotments opposite Magdalene Place. On sale will be flowers, vegetables, cakes and pies. "Come early for a bargain," said a spokesperson for the event.

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