

Celebration planned to mark the union of two parishes

A celebration is being planned to mark the coming together of Barnard Castle and Whorlton as a single parish. The event, which will last for four days, begins on 8th September, the feast day of St Mary the Virgin, the patron saint of both churches. The festivities will start with a festival service by the Dean of St Alban's Cathedral, the very Rev Christopher Lewis, who was curate at

Barnard Castle 20 years ago. The following evening there will be an audio-visual presentation about Elgar's Worcester by Tony Hollingsworth of Hereford. Tickets cost £3 and include wine and savouries. They are available from Margaret Raw Fashions in Barnard Castle. Three local historians, Margaret Watson, Alan Wilkinson and Angus Forsyth, will give talks on the history of the church, the town and the Victorian restoration of the church the next day starting at 2pm. Durham County Youth Choir will give a concert at 7pm. They will sing a varied programme. Tickets are priced at £2. Programmes are available from the vicarage or from church members.

More family fun on the Scar Top

Another family Fun Day will be held on the Scar Top in Barnard Castle on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August. Audiences will be treated to a Punch and Judy show by Brian Llewellyn and be entertained by the Bibs and Braces comedy performance duo who include stilt-walking, unicycle riding and fire-juggling among their antics. A bouncy castle, mini-roundabout and face-painting are also on the programme, and the Black Sheep Morris dancers will be touring the town. Organiser Rosie Cross, Teesdale's arts development officer, said the last Fun Day was a huge success and she is sure the next will be well worth going along for. The Fun Days are funded by Barnard Castle town council, Startforth parish council and Teesdale district council.

No excise licence

David Alan Parkin, 25, of Bruce Glazier Terrace, Shotton Colliery, failed to appear at Teesdale Court on Wednesday when he faced a charge of having no excise licence. He was fined £150. He was ordered to pay back duty of £106.25.

£100 for the RAFA

A coffee morning held at the home of Mr Ken Stannard, chairman of Barnard Castle branch of the Royal Air Force Association, raised £100 for Association funds. The organisers wish to thank everyone who took part.

Snappy career move takes Diane and her photographs to Japan

A change of career that came late in life has been a door way to success for Mrs Diane Wesson. She is making plans to jet off to Japan for the opening of an exhibition of her work. Diane, who lives with her husband David and their dog Freeway at Heild House, Holwick, has been a professional photographer for five years and it will be the third exhibition she has had staged in Japan's capital, Tokyo.



Diane at home in Teesdale with one of her pictures

She worked in clerical and office positions for 16 years, but had a change of career after taking a two-year photography course.

She went on to study for a degree in the subject at Derby College. Three years later she gained a BA honours degree and earned her living from her artistic creations since then.

"I always enjoyed taking holiday snaps," she said. "But it wasn't until I did the course that I became really interested."

She has converted a bedroom at her home into a dark-room/studio. All her prints of still life. She uses mirrors and natural light to create her interesting prints, then filters different colour light when printing them.

"One photograph could take a couple of hours to set up and five minutes to print, depending if I get the mix of light right," she said.

All Diane's pictures are

named after the place where she found the focus of the print. She is pictured holding one called Ings, which is priced at £150.

Some of her work has been hired out to companies for their office buildings. The exhibition is to be held in an exclusive Ginza shopping district and will last nine days from 17th-25th September. Diane has been invited to fly over and attend the opening.

It has been arranged to coincide with the publication of a collection of 100 of her photographs compiled on a CD-Rom, a book for computers. It will be published in both Japanese and English.



Alistair demonstrates his program at the Music Shop

Computer ace Alistair's system will help shops

The days of shopkeepers running out of items on their shelves could soon be over if a young Barnard Castle computer enthusiast's latest venture is a success.

Alistair Young, a 19-year-old former Barnard Castle School pupil, has set up his own business, Arkane Systems, to market a computer program which he says could revolutionise stock control in small retail businesses.

The program, called the Chimera POS Management System, does away with the conventional cash register. In its place is a computer which not only handles payments for sales but simultaneously keeps track of stock as it is sold and warns the shopkeeper when items are running out. "The idea is to make the retailer's life a lot easier by cutting out all the laborious work of stock-checking," says Alistair.

He says the program is "extremely user-friendly" and can cope with all the day-to-day transactions of a small business including discounts, payments by cash or cheque, credit card operations and even gift tokens.

Alistair, who set himself up as a computer consultant

working from his home in Bede Road after leaving school in 1993, has spent the last year developing the system. He has been given support by the County Durham Training and Enterprise Council's Enterprise Allowance Scheme, helped by Teesdale Enterprise Agency which has provided business and marketing advice.

He first started working on the program at school, producing a prototype as part of a GCSE computer studies project. A later version has been given a thorough testing at the Music Shop in Galgate, Barnard Castle, where his mother Fiona works. "It's been very successful," she says.

Alistair believes his program, which costs £199, is better value and simpler to operate than similar ones on the market. "Most of the alternatives are either very specialised, working only with one particular kind of shop, or far too complex for the average small business," he says.

"Mine can be set up for any kind of operation and will run on the kind of small personal computer many people already have for word processing and so on."

Owner chased youth taking mountain bike

A youth who took a mountain bike from outside a shop in Barnard Castle Market Place was chased by its owner, Teesdale Court was told.

Mr Philip Bolam, prosecuting, said Ray Keller, 19, had taken the Raleigh mountain bike, worth £150 and belonging to Andrew Rathbone, from outside Boots chemist.

He pedalled it away, unaware he was being followed by the bike's owner. When he tried to put it into the boot of his friend's car Mr Rathbone struck him and he ran away.

Mr John Turner, defending, said Keller, of Spencer Street, Eldon, was a hard working young man, who had no social life. He had lived alone since falling out with his family. Most of his time was taken up with studying and he had taken a trip out to Barnard Castle with some friends as a break.

He saw the bike and decided to take it without thinking about what he would do with it. When he tried to load it into a friend's car he was hit by Mr Rathbone.

As a result of the blow he collapsed two days later suffering from shock, said Mr Turner. He had cut his right eye where he fallen and spent a night in hospital. He now had a scar over his right eye.

Keller, who had admitted stealing the bike, was ordered to do 40 hours' community service.

Mr Donald Raper, chairman of the bench, said he thought any financial penalty would push him in the wrong direction, but if he failed to complete the community service he could end up back in court. No order for costs was made.

Members hear talk on jewellery worn by Queen Victoria

Members of Arthritis Care enjoyed a talk about Victorian jewellery given by Miss Watson, which was illustrated with slides, at their July meeting. She explained how beautiful piece in gold coral and silver filigree work, jet and black enamel become popular as Queen Victoria wore it as mourning jewellery. She was thanked by Mrs Joan Hooper.

Forthcoming events were announced. Phil Tempest is to give a concert on 29th September. Tickets are available from members or Liz Bowman, telephone Teesdale 690190.

Best wishes were expressed to our president, Robert Swan and his wife Nicky on the birth of their son Barnaby.

Thanks were expressed to the following for donations they gave: Bryan Atherton, Freeman Johnson and the Hinchcliffe family for the £120 they donated from a birthday party, the Rotary Club, who gave £50, and Julie and Matthew Robson and Mrs Bayles, who collected £68 from a sponsored walk.

The next meeting on 15th September is the birthday party.

Association seeks first share-owners

A housing association is looking for the first people in Teesdale to take part in a shared-ownership scheme.

Cleveland and Teesside Housing Association is building eight new homes in Staindrop, five for rent and three to be part-bought and part-rented. These are designed for people who want the benefits of home ownership but do not want to take on the cost of a full mortgage.

The scheme is the first to be carried out in the dale and has been welcomed by Teesdale planning officer Ken Hughes. He said the need for this kind of low-cost housing for local people had been identified in a village survey, and his department would be watching to see how successful it proved.



Miss Amanda Chantill Jones, only daughter of John and Heather Davidson, of Montalbo Road, Barnard Castle, was married at St Mary's Church, Barnard Castle, to Mr Ian Collinson, younger son of Geoffrey and Evelyn Collinson of Harker Springs Farm, Mickleton. The service was conducted by curate Verity Brown and the organist was Mrs Joan Johnson. The church was decorated by ladies of the Flower Guild.

Given away by her step-father the bride walked on a silver sapphire. She wore an ivory satin dress and carried a bouquet of ivory roses and ivy.

Chief bridesmaid was Miss Louise Robinson, the bride's cousin. Other bridesmaids were Mrs Julie Hayton, the bridegroom's sister, and Mrs Yvonne Jones, the bride's sister in law. They wore fuchsia ballerina length dresses and carried bouquets of ivory and fuchsia roses and ivy. Small bridesmaids were Miss Amy Hayton, the bridegroom's niece, and Miss Leanne Jones, the bride's niece. They wore ballerina length floral dresses and carried baskets of flowers.

Best man was Mr Steven Hutchinson. Groomsmen were Mr Stuart Collinson, the bridegroom's brother, Mr Tony Jones, the bride's brother, Mr Christopher Davidson, the bride's brother, and Mr Christopher Hayton, the bridegroom's brother in law. Page boys were Andrew Hayton, the bridegroom's nephew, and Daniel Hughes, the bride's cousin.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Zante and are making their home at Sunnyside Cottage, Mickleton.

Picture: John Robinson



Miss Joanne Larter, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. D. Larter of Harmire Road, Barnard Castle, was married at St Mary's Church, Barnard Castle, to Mr Gary Hall, only son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Hall of Hartburn, Stockton. The service was conducted by curate Verity Brown.

Given away by her father, the bride wore her mother's white satin wedding dress. She wore a headdress of silk flowers and she carried a bouquet of fresh flowers.

Chief bridesmaid was Miss Clare Larter, the bride's sister. Other bridesmaids were Miss Rebecca Hardy, the bride's cousin, and Miss Julie Pattison. They wore full length claret coloured dresses. Miss Stephanie Henderson, the bridegroom's niece, was a small attendant. She wore a white dress with claret ribbons. They all wore fresh flowers in their hair.

Best man was Mr Paul Metcalfe. Ushers were Mr Michael Hall, the bridegroom's cousin, and Mr Edward Hardy, the bride's cousin.

The couple spent their honeymoon in the Gambia and are making their home in Leeds.

Picture: John Robinson

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