

Around Teesdale's clubs and organisations

TEESDALE CREDIT UNION

by Danielle Barnes
VOLUNTEERS from Teesdale Credit Union (TCU) have recently attended training events at Newcastle and London.

All volunteers went to these events totally free of charge thanks to the funding given by County Durham Foundation, SRB and Teesdale District Council. TCU is a non-profit making organisation set up in 1999 to offer the people of Teesdale an alternative means of saving and borrowing money.

Governed by the same bodies as all high street banks and building societies, TCU offers its members loans charged at just 1% per month on a reducing balance. For example if you borrowed £100 from the Credit Union and paid it back over 12 months, the interest you would be charged would amount to £5.50. This is better than anywhere else. As the business is non-profit making, volunteers play a major part in its success and training is at the top of the list of priorities.

Danielle Barnes, the Credit Union's Development worker, explained the importance of good quality training for volunteers.

"Training is very important to an organisation like this, especially as we deal with people's finances. As volunteers make up the vast majority of TCU they need to be trained effectively. It is also an important fact that a lot of people volunteer for such as this to learn new skills and gain confidence which, for example, may help them to enter employment in a similar field or hopefully in the future within the Credit Union."

Brenda Armstrong, Izzy Gibson and Danielle Barnes attended the 'Getting the Grips' conference in London. The aim of this conference was to teach volunteers and people involved in Credit Unions how to deal with the forthcoming changes that are going to be made by the FSA (Financial Services Authority). As the Credit Union deals with people's money, it is overseen by the FSA just the same as banks and building societies on the high street.

Izzy Gibson, a volunteer from Barnard Castle, recently attended the training event in London. She said: "I found that the training I received and the advice I was given has made me a lot more comfortable with the changes which are going to be incurred in the near future. I am confident that TCU will benefit from any changes made, as will the members who already know we offer a valuable service to the community."

As the Credit Union is growing, not only in its membership, but its geographical coverage, more volunteers are being recruited. This is the case with hundreds of Credit Unions across the country. Therefore, top quality training is highly sought after. One of the largest events specifically for Credit Unions is the ABCUL (Association of British Credit Unions Ltd) training weekend in April. This was a whole weekend of training provided for Credit Unions of all types and from all over the country.

I found the whole weekend valuable; there were dozens of workshops which could be attended and it provided me with a lot of information which has since helped the Credit Union. I think it is most important that we get funding for as many volunteers as possible, so a wider range of workshops can be attended. This way

our Credit Union will be able to benefit from a larger range of information.

Funding is currently being sought after with the help of Durham Rural Community Council for all of this to become possible.

TCU are always on the lookout for new volunteers, by becoming part of the team you will be able to meet new people, learn new skills, gain confidence and experience new things. Full training will be provided.

For details on how to become a volunteer or how to join the Credit Union either call into one of our Collection points or telephone Danielle Barnes, 01207 529621. Mondays: Evenwood Community Centre 10am-11am. Tuesdays: St Mary's Presbytery, Wycliffe 10-10.30am.

Thursdays: Cockfield Community Centre 10-11am. Fridays: Citizens Advice Bureau, Barnard Castle 11-12.30noon. Saturdays: White Swan, Startforth 8.15-9pm.

DURHAM COUNTY TIDY VILLAGE COMPETITION

by Margaret Gibbon

THE presentation of the Tidy Village Awards will be held in County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, November 7 at 2pm. I would like to thank the efforts of all our competitors and judges who give freely of their own time to make Durham County a pleasant place for everyone to enjoy.

The competition was set up in 1959 and the first competition was held in 1960. 59 entries were received and there was one trophy donated by the Northern Echo. In 1961, it was decided to introduce three groups of villages and a trophy for each group, the Northern Echo, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and the Durham Division of the National Coal Board kindly donated the new trophies. Later trophies were donated by Norman Richardson in the 1960's for First Time entries and Wear Valley District Council in 1993 for Hamlets.

In 2001 a new category for medium villages was introduced, as some of the smaller villages had new developments and larger populations.

Mr Harry Eggleston, a local haulier, has donated this trophy.

When villages are placed first, second or third in their categories, they compete for the Premier Trophy for three years. The categories are: Large Premier Villages - The Northern Echo Trophy, population 2,000 to 6,000. Large General Villages - The British Coal Trophy, population 2,000 to 6,000. Medium Villages - The Harry Eggleston Trophy, population 1,000 to 2,000. Small Premier Villages - The CPRE Trophy, population 250 to 1,000. Small General Villages - The Northern Echo Trophy, population 250 to 1,000. Hamlets - Wear Valley District Council Trophy, population under 250 without commercial facilities. First Time Entries - The Norman Richardson Trophy. Children's Competition - This is to encourage children to take an interest in and care for the environment. Prizes are awarded in age categories with different subjects each year, eg painting design and photography.

The school with the most winning entries is awarded the School Cup, kindly donated by Durham County Council.

The aim of the competition is to encourage villages to be tidy and present a well-cared for and high quality environment so those residents can be proud of their surroundings.

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regeneration and an essential ingredient to achieve the County's mission statement, to make County Durham the best place to live and bring up a family.

FOREST-IN-TEESDALE DISCUSSION SOCIETY

by John Clarence Beadle

FOREST-IN Teesdale Agriculture Society held a meeting at High Force Hotel, arranged by Phillip Holden of Barnard Castle.

Catherine Sayer, Territory Manager of Livestock PMI Pfizer, supported by Lori Gillette, outlined Dectomax products.

Dectomax, Tm Doramectin is a sheep scab treatment and control. Dectomax does it in one injection, treating scab, worms, pre-tupping, GI roundworms and lungworm.

A survey has indicated that sheep scab outbreaks are running at the highest level since 1992. It may be difficult to detect whether the sheep are carrying the scab mites.

Treatment will kill any sheep scab mites within the flock, whether they have visible signs or not. To eradicate all sheep scab, every sheep must be penned and injected.

Field-based studies of sheep with natural infections of sheep scab have demonstrated a single injection of Dectomax was 100% effective and there is no need to prevent sheep from going into the same pastures. All tups need injecting as well.

One injection treats scab even if the infection is not visible. Treats GI roundworms, including those which are benzimidazole (white drend) resistant and lungworm at the same time.

Are there any incompatibilities between injecting endectocides and sheep vaccines? Only in Moxidectin, which is not to be used in sheep which at any time previously have been vaccinated with Foot Rot vaccine.

Ivermectin seven days apart; Moxidectin 10 days apart. Dectomax breaks the scab life-cycle. At each stage the mites need to feed; by treating with a single injection, the life-cycle can be broken.

The life-cycle of the Psoroptes ovis is as follows: adult lives 40 days, lays one or two eggs daily. After 10-14 days the eggs hatch in 1-3 days. Nymph lives approx two days and the larva lives for approximately two days.

Dectomax produces a pour-on for cattle, to kill the lice throughout the winter housing period-guaranteed.

Control of lice at housing time is important to reduce skin irritation and improve productivity. Research has shown that cattle infested with lice may have decreased weight. Heavy infestations may predispose cattle to stress-related illnesses, such as respiratory disease. Ensuring good condition throughout the winter also gives your cattle the best start when turned out for the next grazing season.

Lice can cause major defects in hide quality. Rubbing against barbed wire and walls causes reductions in hide quality for leather which forms part of the slaughterer payments.

Dectomax pour-on can be used up to five weeks before housing and will still give you lice-free cattle all winter.

STAINTON & STREATLAM WI

by Joyce Lewis

AT our October members night meeting there were 'Bunnies' galore. We arrived to find the hall converted into a Bunny Club and were greeted by 'Bunny Girls' complete with rabbit ears and fluffy tails.

The energetic members night committee not only provided a meal consisting of home-made soup, buffet table and sweet table, but also entertained us in song.

A brown hairy rabbit also popped up and presented the main committee with boxes of chocolate rabbits.

Marjorie Nelson introduced Mr Trevor Wood as guest artist, an

excellent choice for this type of evening, as his humour and musical ability was outstanding.

The 'Bunnies' then continued in song joined by Trevor, ending with 'Run rabbit run', during which the door burst open and a rather unusual farmer arrived with shotgun ablaze, looking for pesky rabbits.

The members committee was warmly thanked by Gill Gibson, president. Rosemary Barningham was also thanked for making a beautiful card for the county meeting. Marjorie Nelson and Vera Carter were congratulated on being the All England Townswomen's Guild bowls champions.

Members were reminded about the group fun evening at Whorlton and also that our next meeting on November 22 will be for fund raising. Goods for this to be given to a committee member in advance. Cakes, etc to be brought on the night.

BARNARD CASTLE & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

THE story of '1346 and all that,' told to society by Mr Ray Naylor, really began a year earlier when Edward III appointed Thomas Hatfield Bishop of Durham.

The Bishop of Durham was tremendously powerful and ruled as a prince, thus making this part of the country unique in the history of Britain. Hatfield had been guide and mentor to the young Edward and was trusted by him, so when the king decided to invade France in 1346 he took the Bishop with him, officially as spiritual adviser, but Hatfield was also a clever tactician where welfare was concerned.

It was on the expedition to France and the Battle of Crecy that the English longbow proved to be such a successful weapon. A good bowman could have three arrows in the air at once and a superb practitioner up to five. Edward's archers wore helmets beneath which they carried their bowstrings, keeping them dry in a downpour and so making sure they worked properly when required.

The English army was mainly one of foot soldiers in the centre with bowmen on the flanks whilst the French had their own horsemen, and Genoese mercenaries who used the less efficient cross-bow. At the height of the Battle of Crecy, Edward's bowmen routed the Genoese who fled only to meet the French horsemen coming into battle and in the ensuing muddle these two forces attacked each other.

Alliance between Scotland and France resulted in the Scots invading the North of England some eight weeks after Crecy and the Scots were defeated - again with the help of the longbow. Their King, David II, was captured and it was 11 years before the Scots raised the necessary ransom for his release.

The English forces were led by the Nevilles and Percys and the cruelty meted out by the Nevilles was bitterly remembered for centuries by the Scots following the battle of Nevilles Cross.

Mr Naylor sought to show that the proficiency of the English longbow maintained because the string was kept dry, and the painful memory of Nevilles Cross meant that a heavy shower of rain led to no Scot being called Neville.

The society's next meeting will be in the United Reformed Church Hall on Monday, November 12, at 2pm, when Mr Eric Barnes will speak about the arrival of the railway in Barnard Castle 1832-1861.

BARNARD CASTLE LADIES CONTACT GROUP

by Anne Bell

ON October 22, members and friends met to enjoy an extremely interesting talk by Mr Frank Ash.

Frank is a hobbyist bee-keeper of many years' experience. He told us of the effect of the changing seasons on the bees' life and activities and the part the beekeeper

has to play in keeping the bees fed, in adverse weather. Mr Ash described the hive, the organisation within it and the types of bees. The queen is the most important and the mother of the hive, laying up to 3,000 eggs a day. The drones fertilise the queen, but do no other work and are finally stung to death by the workers. The workers feed and nurture the queen and produce new queens as the old one fades. They clean the hive and guard the entrance to repel interlopers.

Our next meeting is in the Methodist Church Hall at 7pm, on November 12. This is an evening of entertainment with songs from the 40's by Mrs Jean Bird. This promises to be a most enjoyable event and everyone is most welcome. Admission is £1.50 including tea and biscuits, or tickets can be purchased from members.

BARNARD CASTLE RAMBLERS

by Liz Lamb

DUE to the adverse weather conditions, ie, thunder, lightning and torrential rain, only the leader and one other walker turned up at Reeth for the latest outing.

What should have been an exhilarating nine mile walk was shortened, so in true Ramblers spirit, they set off for a walk in Arkengarthdale, taking in Boose and Langthwaite. This being the popular area during the filming of the 'All Creatures Great and Small' series.

With plenty of mud to tackle on route, our two walkers managed to get round without any mishaps.

No walk this weekend as the group are away from Thursday, November 1 until Monday, November 5, at Cold Keld, near Ravenstonedale, with the prospect of some walking in the Howgills.

BUTTERKNOWLE OVER 50/60 CLUB

by Gladys Sparks

THE October meeting was the annual Bring and Buy Sale. It was well attended and the sum of £60 was made.

Instead of having entertainment the members enjoyed playing Bingo.

Again a lovely supper was served by the ladies which made it a really enjoyable evening.

The raffle prizes were won by Mrs N Todd, Mrs R Blackett, Mr T Ewin and Mrs M Bramley.

The next meeting will take place on November 15, at Butterknowle village hall at 7.30pm.

The Christmas Party is on December 8, starting at 4pm. A warm welcome is extended to all members, who are asked to bring a small present, but only to the value of £1.

This will be the last meeting, but if all goes according to plan, they will commence again in March 2002.

ROMALDKIRK WI

by Maureen Lind

THE meeting on October 11 was members night, so business was very short.

We were all transported back to 1942 and invited to dine with Huges le Grandbutte at Casa Blanca. French wine and French food was provided and served by the members. During dinner we were all invited to help solve a murder mystery 'Who killed the French mime artist The Black Cat?' Doreen Braithwaite, president, thanked the members ably led by Dorothy Bainbridge for a wonderful evening, also for the thank you gifts for the committee members of plants and sweets.

Next meeting is on November 8, in the Romalldkirk Reading Rooms. Christine Hutchinson will demonstrate 'Christmas Arrangements.' New members and visitors welcome.

TEESDALE HERITAGE GROUP

THE speaker at the last meeting was Mr Percival Turnbull who posed the question 'who were the Romano-Britons?'

Mr Turnbull began with a description of the native population, its life, work and art forms, before the Romans came and explained how the resident population's first contact was with the Roman Army. To a great extent the native population continued as it had previously and in the North of England the Romans built forts rather than towns, this region being at the Roman frontier.

Further south, Roman standards were more evident in their influence on the native population. Archaeological research continues to trace the differences between one part of the country and another and to reveal the extent of Roman influence on the native people.

The Group's AGM will take place in Middleton-in-Teesdale village hall on Wednesday, November 14, at 7.30pm and will be followed by a pie and peas supper and a display of the Group's equipment.

2D (SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR OF TEESDALE & WEAR VALLEY)

AT last week's AGM of 2D, Stephen Downs from Government Office North East spent out the government's increasing commitment to the voluntary and community sector. In a speech that commended the work of 2D, Stephen highlighted the increasing recognition by the government of the importance of the sector.

Brian Myers, 2D's new chair, said the management committee had been nominated and elected by the fast growing membership and represents organisations

from both Teesdale and Wear Valley. Organisations and individuals will benefit from the work of 2D.

For information on volunteering or organisational support, contact 2D on 01388 762220.

The Manor House Hotel, West Auckland, sponsored the AGM.

COTHERSTONE 50/60 CLUB

by Jack Addison

THE fortnightly meeting was held in the village hall on October 18.

After business, the chairman, Mr Nixon introduced the Barnard Castle Youth Band, who gave a wide selection of musical items, which were well received and appreciated by a very large audience of members and friends, with every seat in the hall filled.

The next meeting is on November 1, when entertainment will be provided by the Lynesack Handbell Ringers.

This will include a pooled supper. New members and visitors are always welcome. For further information ring Jack Addison on 01833 650288.

The club are also holding a coffee morning in the Methodist Schoolroom on November 3, from 10-12noon. Everyone welcome.

GLAXO RETIRED STAFF CLUB

by June Peters

AT the meeting held on Tuesday, October 23, there was a great deal of laughter when Dulcie Lewis gave a talk titled 'Down the Pan.' A subject she has researched and also written books on.

There are still some seats available on the coach trip to York on Wednesday, November 7. Would anyone wanting a seat please contact me on 01833 690394.

The next meeting will be held on November 6, when the speaker will be Mr Bob Garton of GSK 'care' committee.

1st BARNARD CASTLE SCOUT TROOP

by June Kneller

A PRESENTATION of slides from the recent Sweden visit will take place on Sunday, November 4, in the scout hut at 7pm.

Entrance will be £1 to include tea/coffee. Tombola tickets and hot dogs will be on sale. Everyone is welcome, including beavers, cubs and scouts, parents and families.

The slides will be a good indicator of what beavers and cubs could do in the future when joining scouts. The money raised will go towards the Thailand Jamboree Fund.

TEESDALE COMMITTEE CANCER RESEARCH

by Pam Ashmore

THE Committee would like to thank Mrs Geraldine Carter for holding a 'Pink Evening' on Friday, October 19, to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The sum of £520 was taken on the evening. Thanks to all who supported the event in any way.

* WOULD correspondents always include their name and a daytime telephone contact number (in case of queries). Thank you.

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