

Welcome to the AAP e-bulletin



Better for everyone

As always, please feel free to share this information with family and friends and encourage them to add themselves to our mailing list if they find it useful.

To contact us, email weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk

Weardale Action Partnership funds Agricultural Training in Weardale

UTASS are delighted to announce that Weardale Area Action Partnership will again be offering part funding to Weardale residents and/or those employed in Weardale.

Training already got underway at Frosterley, utilising WAP part funding for two trainees to attend the two day NPTC Rough Terrain Telescopic training, followed by assessments, with another two trainees coming to UTASS to gain their NPTC Certificate of Competence for the Transport of Livestock and NPTC Safe Use of Sheep Dips qualifications earlier this month.



Two days of British Wool Shearing training will be held on 24 & 25 June at Woodland with trainees from Weardale already booked on. Quad bike training is now available and, as previously, so is First Aid training. A Lantra Chainsaw course is arranged for later in the month and an Introduction and Improvers' Hedgelaying course will run in the Autumn.

Please check out our Training Opportunities page for details of what courses are coming up <https://www.utass.org/training-opportunities/> and contact Julia on 01833 641010 or e-mail julia@utass.org to discuss any training requirements you may have, even if it's not on our website as she may be able to help. A copy of the WAP application form has been sent along with this e-bulletin.

Durham charity supports community groups re-emerge from 'COVID hibernation'

As COVID restrictions continue to ease, Durham Community Action are working with the Ballinger Charitable Trust this Summer to distribute a small number of grants across Derwent Valley, Teesdale and Weardale to support community groups to re-emerge from 'COVID hibernation'.

The Ballinger Charitable Trust approached Durham Community Action to facilitate the delivery of the small grants programme to community groups with eligible project ideas. Shortlisted groups will be invited to present their projects to trustees of the Ballinger Charitable Trust during an online event.

Durham Community Action is a well-established charity that provides support to communities across County Durham. They offer impartial advice, promote better health, support volunteering, enable enterprise and get voices heard.

The event scheduled for July will see a small grant of £500 go to 12 shortlisted community groups or small charities within Derwent Valley, Teesdale and Weardale Area Action Partnerships, with four organisations selected from each area.

The online event will give shortlisted groups the opportunity to chat with Andrew Ballinger and John Flynn, Trustees of Ballinger Charitable Trust, about their organisation, how they benefit the community, what they will use the grant money for and how the grant will help the development of the group.

Expression of interest forms for community groups are to be completed by 18th June [here](#). If you would prefer to discuss your idea with a member of the team at Durham Community Action, please email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk and a member of the team will be in touch.

What could you community do with £500?



The Ballinger Charitable Trust would like to distribute small grants of £500 to community groups or small charities within the Derwent Valley, Teesdale and Weardale AAP areas. These grants are to help groups come out of 'COVID hibernation' and can be for revenue or capital expenses; any project costs to which a grant is awarded must be no more than £1000. Groups need to be constituted or working towards being constituted.

There is no application form; eligible groups will be shortlisted and invited to pitch their idea to the Ballinger Charitable Trust at a virtual event on 7th July.

To submit your project idea please complete the Expression of Interest form [here](#)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NOBZXCN>

by Friday 18th June or if you would prefer to discuss your idea, please telephone Isla Ballard at Durham Community Action on 07496 461986.

Support available following the loss of a loved one

County Durham residents are being reminded of the help and support available following the death of a loved one. Following a particularly difficult year in which more people have sadly lost family members, Durham County Council is raising awareness of the welfare benefits that may be available to surviving partners, with its Welfare Right Service on hand to offer advice and assistance to those needing support to claim.

A Bereavement Support Payment, which is not means-tested, can be claimed by those under state pension age, whose husband, wife or civil partner had paid some national insurance contributions in any year. The payment is not affected by income, savings or lump-sums such as insurance payments or funeral cover and is made up of an initial lump sum followed by up to 18 monthly payments.

This can be claimed up to 21 months after a death, by phoning the Department for Work and Pensions Bereavement Service helpline on 0800 731 0469 or by downloading a BSP1 form from its website.

A recent High Court decision means that as well as those who were married to or in a civil partnership with the partner who has died, unmarried parents of children may also now qualify for a payment. The council's Welfare Rights Service would be able to advise on how to use this ruling or provide support to challenge a decision.

Meanwhile, residents who are receiving a means-tested benefit can also qualify for a Funeral Expenses Payment if they are taking responsibility for a funeral. The council has written to all local funeral directors to highlight the available service. It is also including a 'Benefits after death' factsheet with all new death registration certificates.

People should call the Welfare Rights Advice line on 03000 268968 or email welfare.rights@durham.gov.uk

More information on benefits available following a death can also be found on the council's website: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3605/Benefits-available-after-a-death>

Weardale Tuesday Walks

Our remaining walk for June is:

29th June This is a challenging but beautiful walk which follows the narrow Feldon Burn valley to Feldon Linn waterfall, pictured, returning along the parallel Eudon Burn, which is crossed near the end and may need crocs/wellingtons. Meet at the Punch Bowl pub in Edmundbyers DH8 9NL. Possible short return along the B6278. 10.00am to 1.00pm, 5.25 miles 600 feet of ascent.



Our walks for July are:

6th July From opposite the Weardale Bus Garage DL13 2YQ at the east end of Stanhope we climb up to Fatherley Hill Currick for panoramic views. The descent is initially over rough pathless ground then on grassy tracks down to and along the lively Shittlehope Burn. 5 miles and 850 feet of ascent. 10.00am to 1.00pm

20th July This is a beautiful walk around peaceful countryside starting from Muggleswick, nearest postcode DH8 9DW. We climb onto Muggleswick Park for views over the Derwent valley. Rolling farmland then leads to two fine woodland trails. We cross the River Derwent without a bridge (bring crocs and a walking stick) to view the remains of Muggleswick Grange. Directions to the start on website. 5.5 miles, 800 feet of ascent. 10.00am to 1.15pm.

Full details of these and other local guided walks are on our website www.weardale.uk. Everyone walks at their own risk. Walks cost £1 to cover costs. Walks are subject to change, rescheduling or cancellation so check the website on the morning of the walk from 8.00am. All enquiries to Alan on 01388 517522.

Wolsingham Methodist Church Information

Wolsingham Methodist Church extends a warm welcome to join them for worship on Sunday June 27th at 10:30 am. All precautions still in place. No booking required.

Stanhope Parish Council Vacancies

There are vacancies to co-opt Councillors onto Stanhope Parish Council for:

- Frosterley Ward,
- St Johns Chapel Ward
- Stanhope Urban Ward
- Stanhope Rural

Anyone interested should send a written application to:

Susan Anderson, Clerk to the Council, Shieldhurst Farm, Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 2EY

Closing date 19th June 2021

Volunteering Opportunity – MS Society Shop, Stanhope

“Would you like to meet new people, be part of the community and help fund the Stanhope and Weardale MS Society? If so, we are look for volunteers, especially for:

- Saturdays 10am till 4 pm
- Sundays 11am to 4 m

Can be for part of full days, we would really like to hear from you. Contact Ross 07468 854 865

Are you or someone you know vulnerable due to health?

Community Wellness Coordinator, Lisa Turnbull, can help get you the support you need. Call Lisa on **07766 239434**. All calls are confidential.

Lisa has now returned to home visiting when required and appropriate but continues with telephone contacts as well.

Find funding for your Community Group

There are hundreds of funding schemes available for voluntary and community groups in County Durham from EU, national, regional and local sources.

If you are looking for funding for your community group, including sports clubs; local charities; school fundraising groups or credit unions.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/communityfunding to find out more.

CONTACT US



The Weardale AAP is still working hard although we are no longer situated in Weardale as we follow government guidelines to work from home.

Please contact a member of the team if you would like any help or information on 07753 779975 (Angelina), 07747 486733 (Tracy) or 03000 268507 (Fiona) or at weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk

Your area, your action, your partnership

Weardale AAP, Durham County Council, Unit B10, Durham Dales Centre, Castle Gardens, Stanhope, Weardale, County Durham, DL13 2FJ. Telephone 03000 268507

Email: weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk Web: www.durham.gov.uk/aap