

UPPER TEESDALE AGRICULTURAL
SUPPORT SERVICES LTD.
WINTER 2013 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



LOTTERY FUNDED



UTASS Office closures in November & December'13

Our office will be closed for two separate weeks:-

Monday 4th November to Friday 8th November inclusive

Monday 16th December to Friday 20th December inclusive

UTASS's Christmas & New Year Opening Times

During the Christmas period UTASS will be open, as normal, up until:-

12 noon on Tuesday 24th December'13.

We return to normal opening times on Thursday 2nd January 2014

If your need is URGENT, support can be gained anytime by contacting:-

Diane Spark on 07968 874 968 or 01833 640 320

**** UTASS Christmas Cards 2013 ****

We have a collection of our own lovely UTASS Christmas cards for sale at
our office.

They can be bought for just £3.50 per pack of 10

or £3 for Friends of UTASS

All proceeds further support the work of UTASS

Friends of UTASS update

Well we are fast approaching the end of our "Friends of UTASS" second year and we would like to take this opportunity of sending our Friends a massive thank you for your support this year.

Our Annual £100 draw for our registered Friends will take place in December.

We will have a "neutral" person to make the draw and the lucky winner will be contacted and presented with their £100 prize.

LOCAL COMMUNITY & CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVENTS CALENDAR

Village Christmas Carol Service	Sunday Dec 15 th 6pm	Middleton Auction Mart
Christingles Service	Christmas Eve Dec 24 th 5pm	St Mary's Church, Middleton
Christmas Carol Service	Christmas Eve Dec 24 th 8pm	St James the Less, Forest
Christmas Day Service	10.00am	St Mary's Church, Middleton
Upper Teesdale Churches		
Together United Worship	Dec 29 th 10.30am	Holy Trinity, Eggleston

UTASS's YOUNG PEOPLE's Information

What's on at our Drop In during November & December'13

NOVEMBER'13

Monday 4 th	Girls Night
Wednesday 6 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 7 th	Youth Club and Drop-in
Monday 11 th	Girls Night
Wednesday 13 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 14 th	Youth Club and Drop-in
Monday 18 th	Girls Night
Wednesday 20 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 21 st	Youth Club and Drop-in
Monday 25 th	Girls Night
Wednesday 27 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 28 th	Youth Club and Drop-in

DECEMBER'13

Monday 2 nd	Girls Night
Wednesday 4 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 5 th	Youth Club and Drop-in
Monday 9 th	Girls Night
Wednesday 11 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 12 th	Youth Club and Drop-in
Monday 16 th	Girls Night
Wednesday 18 th	Cookery [Healthy Eating]
Thursday 19 th	Youth Club and Drop-in [Christmas Party!!!]

Break up for Christmas and New Year till Monday 6th January 2014

All enquiries to either jen@utass.org gina@utass.org theo@utass.org

or to 01833 641010

A full range of services on offer for Young People at UTASS

Girls Sessions: Mondays 6-8pm 8-13 yr olds

Mixed Gender Drop In sessions:

Tuesdays occasional off-site visits

Wednesdays **[Cookery]** 6-8pm 8-19 yr olds

UTASS Youth Club:

Thursdays 6-7.30pm **8-11** yr olds

7.30-9pm **11-19** yr olds

Durham County Council Animal Health Office

All Animal Health enquiries & movement documents now need to be directed to:
Durham County Council, Environment, Health & Consumer Protection
EHCP [Animal Movements], PO Box 617, Durham, DH1 9HZ

General enquiries to -Tel 03000 261016 and Fax 01388 766660 (for AML1's)

A Home or at Work Chiropody service for Upper Teesdale

Rachel Logan MCFHP, MAFHP, a fully qualified foot health professional has set up her Visiting Practice in Teesdale providing foot health treatments [corns, calluses, verrucas, warts, fungal infections and routine nail care]. We have arranged sessions here at UTASS where we can get the price reduced to £15 per person [as opposed to £20/£25]. To book an appointment contact Rachel directly on 07825 314487

Our next booked day at UTASS is Thursday 21st November 2013 from 9.30am till 12.30pm.

Digital by Default

Defra are building a new IT system which will be used for submitting applications and claims for all CAP schemes from 2015.

Over the next year Defra would like to offer many customers the opportunity to view, test and comment on the system as it is being developed, so they can ensure that customers' needs are properly taken into account in the design and operation of the system. Defra are looking for farmers, rural business leaders and agents to volunteer to take part in some interviews.

If you are interested, there are some opportunities coming up:

19 November at UTASS office – some one-to-one interviews with participants trying out the latest screens. These last an hour each;

20 November at Middleton-in-Teesdale village hall – between 9.00 – 13.00 Defra are hosting a drop-by coffee morning to demonstrate the system and get your thoughts (there will be coffee, tea & cake)

If you would like to participate or just be kept informed, please email
capdeliveryprogramme@rpa.gsi.gov.uk.

Following on from the meeting held in UTASS recently covering Cross Compliance and RPA Inspection issues, you may find the following link on the subject of interest (last updated on 9.8.13).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/229455/pb140_22-farm-inspections-guide.pdf

Over the past year Jennie Stafford & Julia, with funding provided by The Ernest Cook Trust & UTASS, have delivered 20 educational visits (mostly at the Mart) for schools from around the County. Over 400 children have learned more about farming throughout the year, enhancing their understanding of Farmers' roles in preserving the countryside and maintaining a traceable food supply.

On 1st October we arranged for a group of Youth Workers from Bulgaria, Denmark & Turkey to visit a hill farm in Forest-in-Teesdale as part of the Youth In Action Project, facilitated by Eve Galloway from Teesdale School Extended Services. They really enjoyed Teesdale and during their stay at the Langdon Beck Youth Hostel, they came to the Drop In at UTASS for a couple of hours to meet our young people.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving is organised over Half Term, with funding kindly provided by The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust. Thanks also to Barnard Castle Auction Mart, Middleton-in-Teesdale Auction Mart and Harrison & Hetherington staff, for assistance with the venues, as well as to Richard Hodgson, Steven Hunter, Andrew Teward and Geoff Wilson for the loan of a tractor and other equipment to make this training possible.

Other funding from The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust is still available for Pre-Test Tractor Driving, Car Driving Theory Test and Car & Trailer lessons. Forms to apply for this training are available from UTASS for young people living in County Durham, with training to be completed by the end of August next year.

Uplands funded training has been running recently in our area, such as BORDA Quad Bike Training and Car & Trailer training and Spraying (registration & assessment costs apply to Spray training). It is anticipated that more funding will come through shortly to continue this training.

VAT using Excel with Sarah Peart delivering training to use her specially designed VAT spreadsheet + **Spreadsheets for Farmers** covering Cash Flows etc. delivered by Simon Britton of Strutt & Parker will be coming soon, subject to sufficient trainees coming forward.

Contact UTASS [VAT & Spreadsheets]

or Strutt & Parker - 01609 780306/ helen.stahl@struttandparker.com

If you are interested in any other training courses such as Chainsaw, NPTC Sheep Dip or Heritage Craft Alliance training previously advertised, please contact Julia on 01833 641010 or e-mail julia@utass.org

Free workshops in November

The North East Rural Growth Network Business Support Program will be hosting some free workshops in the South Durham area this November. They are aimed at local new and existing businesses. They have already been piloted in other regions and have proved very popular. We are expecting a high demand for places, so book early to avoid disappointment!

Starting an eBay business – Friday 15th November, Durham Dales Centre, Stanhope, DL13 2FJ, from 10.30am – 1.30pm

Presented by George Kinghorn from the Bay Academy, this half day workshop is aimed at people or businesses who would like to start trading on eBay. Amongst the topics covered there will be an overview of ebay, how to raise funds using eBay as well as how to set up and manage your account and improve your listings. Tea and coffee provided.

Social Media Workshop – Wednesday 20th November and Friday 29th November, Enterprise House, Barnard Castle, DL12 8XT – two day workshop

Presented by Pascal Fintoni who runs his own online marketing training agency, this workshop is aimed at existing businesses who are eager to use social media to their advantage. An in depth hands on course that will cover every aspect of social media, from how to set things up, getting people to visit your page and dealing with negative comments. Light buffet provided.

For further information, or to confirm eligibility and book a place please contact John on 07702 475 222 or Marzia on 07825 589 479, or email john@theenterpriseagency.co.uk or marzia@theenterpriseagency.co.uk . **Places are limited!**

Volunteers needed (with appropriate requirements i.e. D1 on licence, over 25, clean licence etc.) for mini bus driving on Thursday evenings. Chaperones also needed. Contact Gordon or Jen at UTASS.

The pink Ribbon Sheepdog Trial fundraising for Research into Cancer.

Carol Scott has asked us to advise you of the availability of a 2014 Calendar, with Jill Fairweather's drawings of collie dogs, costing £8.99. All proceeds will go to research into Cancer through the Humane Research Trust. A small book, also on a collie theme, costing £2.50 can also be purchased via Carol or UTASS.

Carol has also requested that a big thank you be conveyed to all who gave, bought and took part in the money raising for the Pink Ribbon Sheep Dog Trial raising £1,565.

For further information please contact Carol on 01833 622291, or view the websites detailed below.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/pinkribbonsheepdogtrials>
<http://www.humaneresearch.org.uk/> and <http://www.amateursheepdogsociety.co.uk/>

OUTREACH FACILITIES: UTASS, 9-11 CHAPEL ROW

Teesdale Citizens Advice Bureau, Tracey Wills – Fortnightly on Mondays - 9.15am – 1pm

Durham County Council – 1st TUESDAY of the month [10.30-11.30] environmental issues; bus passes; any council services

Robyn Peat, Partner, **George F White** available on the first Monday of every month for professional and business advice at UTASS. Free appointments can be made through UTASS (01833 641010 or info@utass.org) or by phoning George F Whites on 01388 527966

Sales / Wants & Services

Sales & Wants: We have a wide range of these on our website and Office notice board

Services: Molecatchers; All aspects of Tree Surgery; Cattle Foot Trimming; Accounts and Record Keeping, computerised or manual; Plumbing & Joinery Work; Combs & Cutters sharpened; Catering; DIY Livery; Mobile Sheep shower; VAT & Book Keeping/ Financial advice; Dry Stone Walling; Farm & Garden Services; Animal Minding; Creative cakes; Fencing, tree planting, hedge laying; Sign work; Leatherwork; Stone Crafts; Wool Crafts, Spinning & Weaving Class; Computer & Additional Services; Larch Wood Gates made to order; painting & decorating

Please call in, check our website www.utass.org or ring 01833 641010 for more information

Middleton-in-Teesdale & Newbiggin Parish Council

Vacancy For Parish Councillor

Are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

Could you make a difference?

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and would like to know more about what's involved please contact Parish Clerk on 01833 640957

UTASS website disclaimer

Please Note: UTASS cannot take any responsibility and makes no warranties, representations or undertakings about the individuals advertising their services, the items for sale or content of any website accessed by hypertext link and links should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind.

UTASS has no control over the availability of the linked pages.

ADDICTED TO SHEEP DOCUMENTARY

Filmed over 18 months on the Raby Estate by Magali Pettier who comes from a third generation farming family, the Addicted to Sheep team are now in post-production with their first independent feature length film.

They are working hard to make the most beautiful, authentic and heart-warming film possible, whilst remaining true to the lifestyle and the realities of being a tenant hill farmer.

They have a new website where you can follow their progress and you can also sign up to receive occasional updates. Visit www.addictedtosheep.com to find out more. You can also follow them on <https://twitter.com/addictedtosheep> and <https://www.facebook.com/addictedtosheep> or contact Magali direct at info@provenancefilms.com

Vote for TAP funding: Forest Methodist Chapel Young Families Group.

Forest family group was formed earlier this year and has quickly grown into a fully-fledged family get-together. It is helping unite people living in remote parts of Teesdale. Now more than a dozen children and their families regularly meet at Forest Methodist Chapel to play and have a chat.

The group have applied for TAP (Teesdale Action Partnership) funding and have successfully made it through to the last round. The funding is to alter the WC facilities at the Chapel, changing the toilet to become internal with hot running water. On Saturday 9th November voting takes place at The Witham from 10.30am until 3.00pm. Results will be announced at 3.30pm. Anyone wishing to vote will need to register, yet people can just turn up on the day and register but it would be helpful if people could pre-register as this will save time and cut down the queues. Copies of registration forms are available from Craig and Hayley, details below.

TAP are providing a free bus service to and from The Witham if you would like to use the bus please contact Craig at tap@durham.gov.uk 03000 260 817 or Hayley at UTASS hayley@utass.org 01833 641010.

Extra' at the Hub on Friday 1st November FREE Circus Workshops,

Where? In the dance Studio at The Hub, Shaw Bank ,Barnard Castle

When? Friday 1st November 2013 10am-12 and 1pm-3pm

Who can attend? These sessions are open to young people aged 9-12 years living in Teesdale.

There are limited places available so booking is essential to avoid disappointment

you can reserve a place now by calling or texting Eve Galloway

(Extended Services Co-ordinator at Teesdale School) on 075220 34171.

Why are they FREE? Because these are part of 'Teesdale Extra', a Big Lottery funded programme of out of school activities being organised by Teesdale School Extended Services.

The sessions will be supervised by Claire, an experienced member of the Circurama Team.

A youth worker and First Aider will also be on hand.

Refreshments will be on sale at the hub café.

Middleton Rural Growth Network Hub (Business Units/Offices)

The Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers' Auction Mart development in 2012 set out to generate significant benefit from the creation of a facility, based at the Mart, which complements the current range of community facilities in the wider Middleton-in-Teesdale area. Now, the Rural Growth Network Hub will be a new extension of a similar character to offer new workspace for office and light manufacturing use, targeted at new or expanding small enterprises.

- This pilot, small scale facility will create workspaces to serve the community.
- Will suit support start-up businesses and small businesses graduating out of a home environment.
- Lease arrangements will be flexible to encourage small businesses to grow and to move on.
- Will host enterprise training/workshops supported via the RGN (Rural Growth Network) Programme.
- Flexible by-the-hour space rental.
- Suitable for Homeworker's who are wanting to expand, Agribusinesses, Tourism based businesses, women-led businesses and creative industries.
- Four offices available from Spring 2014. Each office is approx. 250sqft.
- A truly unique place where new and small businesses can grow and thrive.

In Middleton, the Programme is planning to support the development of small 'enterprise' hub facilities, as one of several, distinctive and locally developed hubs planned across the rural North East.

The Farmers' Auction Mart offers a suitable new-build space with physical and organisational ties to rural business networks. As such it will offer good opportunities for start-up or growth enterprises that want to benefit from or enhance local supply chains, offer services or support to industry, or make use of community retail opportunities.

Current regional and local strategies were set in place in July 2012 with the launch of the Rural Growth Network Fund. Active partners such as UTASS, the Farmers' Auction Mart board, and South Durham Enterprise Agency have worked to bring forward the programme.

A package of intensive business support, mentoring and facilitated networking for businesses located in and around the hub will be provided by RGN.

Contact Hayley Bell on 01833 641010 or hayley@utass.org

Plans are available to view at UTASS or Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers' Auction Mart Meeting Room (on Mart days).

Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival Committee

The Middleton-in-Teesdale Carnival Committee require a
Treasurer/Vice Treasurer.

If anyone is interested could you please contact me at my contacts below
Shaun Andrews (Chairperson)

Middleton in Teesdale Carnival Committee 07771272698

Credit Union Opportunities UTASS.

UTASS has been a contact point for Durham County Credit Union and is now a contact point for NE First Credit Union after the amalgamation of Gateshead, and Cestria Credit unions with Durham County Credit Union.

NE First CU is participating in the ground breaking developments under the governments' Credit Union Expansion Programme.

The initial NE First CU Teesdale initiative has been to enrol sixteen junior savers from the UTASS youth groups enhancing their savings with an initial £5 incentive. This £5 offer remains as an incentive up until the end of 2013

In the wider community, developments already include new expanded loan products to attract a much wider borrower base, with competitive interest rates on much larger loans which match or are better than high street banks, and at the other end of the scale, smaller loans at low interest rates available from no other lender.

The new loans are governed purely by the ability to repay the loan with minimum risk to the member. They not only reflect the NE First CU commitment to fairness to its customers, but also the wider range of products will contribute to the establishment of the awareness of Credit Unions as the 'first port of call' for finance within the community. The credit union is a community cooperative mutual company owned by its members. It keeps money within our community, and the unpaid volunteers keep costs to a minimum.

NE First CU is looking for all sections of the community to support its aim to make NE First CU the premier vehicle for community finance, as the income from larger loans to people who can afford them, helps support the uneconomical small loans that the credit union uniquely makes at affordable interest rates to people excluded from normal banking arrangements. To this end NE First CU has the exciting prospect of central on-line loan application in the very near future, giving very quick decisions on loans and bank transfers. NE First CU has adopted prepaid cards to make payments to other members not only more efficient and economical, but also coupled with the PayPoint facility members have efficient and convenient access to saving and borrowing. In Teesdale NE First CU will soon have facilities for small business needs, and those of community and church groups and organisations, and plans have been made to give alternative finance facilities to the farming community.

NE First Credit Union welcomes new members in Teesdale and Application Packs are available from the UTASS offices, Barnard Castle CAB offices or directly from www.durhamcountycu.co.uk

**Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Ltd [UTASS]
is a Registered Charity 1120120 and Company Limited by Guarantee 6054331.**

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