

ISSUE
11
Autumn
2010

The Voice

of older people
in Gateshead

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Gateshead
Older People's Assembly



Chris Barker

Assembly
Coordinator



Kerry Pattison

Finance
&
Information
Officer



Stephen Scullion

Generations
Together
Volunteer
Coordinator



Helen Cowlyn

Receptionist and
Administrator

Chairs Foreword



Dear Member

Once again it is almost time for our Annual General Meeting. We have booked the new Gateshead Leisure Centre for the 1st October from 10am to 2:15pm and look forward to seeing you all again.

We are hoping to have a very exciting programme for the day. The Annual General meeting will be officially opened by His Worshipfulness, The Mayor of Gateshead Councillor Michael Hood we will also have two guest speakers in the morning – this is yet to be finalised.

After lunch we will be entertained by the Platinum singers from the Sage, Gateshead . You will have all received further information with this newsletter. Please let us know whether you are able to attend as this helps with the arrangements etc.

Our Intergenerational worker Rachel left us on the 23rd August for a position in Newcastle. We would like to thank her for the work she did setting up the project. Stephen Scullion will continue the work for the Intergenerational Project from 19th August. Stephen will be holding many intergenerational events in the next few months and if you have any ideas about themes for these let him know.

We now have lots of things happening in our meeting room at our office in Felling. Why don't you come along and join in. We hold a regular bimonthly Coffee & Computers morning, a men's Reminiscence Group and a weekly Jobshop.

We will be attending many local events in the next few months, look out for information about these. If you would like to get involved then contact our office, I am sure they can give you something to do.

The Assembly ensures your 'Voice' is heard throughout the region and I have recently been offered a place on the Board of 'Years Ahead' The North East Regional Forum on Ageing, and we co-chair the Older People's Partnership in Gateshead.

We are very sad to announce the death of one of our members who was the oldest person in the country, Eunice Bowman. Eunice was 111 years old. We extended our sympathy to her family. Take care of yourselves

Esther Ward (Chair)

Bonjour Madams et Monsieur's

I wonder how many of you are aware that Gateshead is twinned with Saint Etienne- du- Rouvray in France? I did some research to find out a bit more about our continental kinfolk. Saint Etienne- du- Rouvray is a town situated in Normandy in the North of France. Almost adjoined to Rouen, a much larger city, very similar way to how Gateshead is associated with Newcastle.

The similarities don't end there. Saint Etienne has a past rich in industry which has diminished over the last few decades, and this has led to local unemployment. Like Gateshead, the town is undergoing a major regeneration programme, and hopes to attract jobs to the town centre, where at present most residents work in Rouen. Interestingly both St Etienne and Gateshead have large pockets of rural land within the boroughs, each providing transport challenges to the local communities.

Delving a bit deeper I thought it might be interesting to look at what issues affect older people there. One of the biggest campaigns is around the right to retire at 60 years of age. The French government are facing similar economic challenges to our own, and feel the need to raise retirement ages to a level that would help protect their economy. They face great opposition from older people to this, and the older people themselves are ensuring they have their voices heard on the subject.

The Town Council is committed to looking after its older population and following the heat wave they experienced in 2003, which resulted in many deaths, the town now operate an annual "heat wave plan". This ensures that older people have adequate supplies of cold water and access to transport and shelter in extreme temperatures.

I have yet to find out if the town supports an older people's forum. If it does then perhaps we could organise an exchange of views between our two towns, who share a lot in common. Watch this space!

Chris Barker, Assembly Coordinator

Help Us Keep Our Mailing List Up To Date

If you have received this newsletter through the post, it is because the person named on the envelope is on our membership list. Like all charities, we want to make sure we do not waste valuable funding, so if you have received this mailing and you know the named member no longer lives at the address please let us know.

If you are a member and would prefer to receive a copy of The Voice via email instead please contact admin.assembly@btconnect.com and you will be added to our electronic list.

If you know of someone who is aged over 50 and lives in Gateshead and would like to become a member (it's free!!) please ask them to complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter and post it to the address stated.



Local Event

Community safety is an issue that The Assembly, The Police, Gateshead Council and the public take very seriously.

To help local residents in Gateshead become more informed about just what is being done to tackle crime and improve safety, The Assembly in partnership with Gateshead Council Neighbourhood Management Team are holding two Community Safety events in the east of Gateshead.

The first event will take place at:

Windy Nook Methodist Church Hall, Stone Street, Windy Nook on Thursday 9th September. Doors open at 11am until 2pm

The second will take place at:

Leam Rangers Football Club, Whealcroft, Leam Lane on Thursday 16th September. Event starts 11am to 2pm

Come along and find out just what is being done to reduce crime, pick up some helpful advice and information, have a chat to people such as The Police, Tyne and Wear Fire Service, The Probation Service, North East Council on Addictions and Gateshead Council Community Safety Team

For more information contact:

**Kerry Pattison on:
0191 483 1721**

Listening to The Voice 2010

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who completed and returned the survey included in the last edition of 'The Voice'. We have received almost 260 replies to date. A full report will be published in time for our AGM in October, but we thought we would let you read some of the comments that we have received.

About volunteering

- Established organisation board members discourage the new volunteer to join the organisations or never give them any task to do or avoid to share with them.
- I want to meet new people and make more friends I do venture outdoors a lot for this obvious reasons
- Gateshead Council discourages volunteers by red tape and throws of withdrawing funding. They also want volunteers to do more with less.

About Community Safety

- Community safety can be improved by being made aware of crime in the area and what has been happening lately to make the area safer
- I stay at home in the evenings
- I find the community police very useful and helpful. These days I feel you have to be aware all the time of the dangers of having to go through dark places so I think it's essential to have good lighting and not to allow groups of characters to hang around

About Health

- I have not received any after care. I cannot comment on the whole my hospital treatment has been very satisfactory
- Phoning Doctors for appointments is very unnerving. Why can't there be elderly clinics like baby clinics.
- I listen to the many problems while out and about and feel that's what people need - tea and someone to listen to them. Even yesterday a lady told me of the excellent ways she was helped in Bensham (she was of the care from a young Irish doctor)

About Transport

- Older people NEED public transport the Bus Pass system must be protected. Without our FREE BUS PASS where would we be?
- Personally I'm very active but I do think public transport has done a lot to accommodate wheelchairs, buggies etc. in the last few years



New Look for The Assembly

Here is a sneak preview of our new logo that will be launched at our next Annual General Meeting on Friday 1st October 2010 !!!

We hope it will be more recognisable than the old logo



Unsure how to use a computer?

Due to the success of our 'Coffee and Computers' sessions we have set up an additional new group. The new group will meet monthly at our office at 65 High Street, Felling, starting from Friday 24th September from 10:30am to 12:30pm and then continue on the last Friday of the month thereafter .

No experience is necessary. We can start from the basics from switching on to switching off !!, or if you would like to learn a little more to add to what you already know then that is ok too. Tuition is based on individual needs.

For more information telephone **Stephen Scullion** on:
0191 438 1721



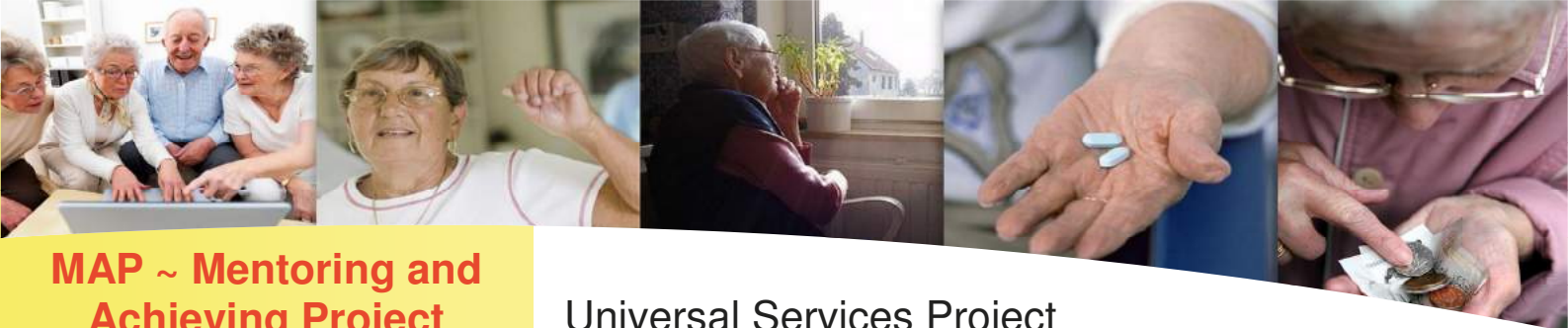
Hello everyone.

My name is Stephen Scullion and I have joined 'The Assembly' to replace Rachel Norman as the new Generations Together Volunteer Coordinator. Rachel leaves us to work as a Mental Health Advocacy Worker, and I would like to take this opportunity, as I am sure you all will, to wish her the best of luck in her new role.

I personally am very grateful to her for all the help and support she has given me, since I first came here as a volunteer, working on the 'Generations Together' Project. With Rachel's support, I helped set up a Jobshop aimed at providing support for the over 50's, as I was aware of the lack of provision in this area as I myself was looking for employment after being involved in an accident.

I have had a variety of roles in my career, from being a former lecturer at Newcastle College, Ex British Forces Member, to Football Coaching for a variety of professional football clubs, but also my experience within the voluntary sector, with: SSAFA / Forces Help Society, Gateshead Hospital Chaplaincy Services, and many others, over the last 20+ years.

I hope that this experience, coupled with my sense of humour, will help me to settle in quite quickly. If you do happen to see me, then please introduce yourself to me, with any ideas that you feel may help improve the services that we provide, as after all, it is **your** assembly.



MAP ~ Mentoring and Achieving Project Volunteers Needed

Action for Children's MAP project provides individual support for children and young people aged 8 to 17 living in the Central, Inner West and East areas of Gateshead, based at St Chads in Bensham.

MAP recruits, trains and supports volunteers to establish and maintain supportive, nurturing relationships with individual children and young people.

Volunteers can give practical help, such as with social skills and healthy eating, as well as motivational support and guidance on anything from learning and employment to managing the transition to adult life.

The volunteer and young person usually meet once a week, mostly at a community venue. The relationship is expected to last for approximately one year.

As a volunteer your expenses will be paid within an agreed budget.

For more information please contact the Action for Children team at:

Action for Children MAP Mentoring and Achieving Project, Angus Hall, 21 Liddell Terrace, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 1YN or telephone them on 0191 490 1032 or 0191 4901059 or email@ map@actionforchildren.org.uk

Universal Services Project

Who can tidy my garden?

How can I find out about local groups and clubs?

Who can help me with my housework?

Ever had a problem but didn't know where to turn?

The Universal Services Project is about making it easier for people to find information, advice and services.

The aim of the project is to help people stay independent, improve their health and wellbeing and give them more control over their lives by making it much easier to find information about services available to them in Gateshead.

Universal Services will give people access to advice and services including housing, leisure, culture, voluntary organisations, transport, employment, education, groups, community centres, social care, health care, public health care, community safety, community development and financial inclusion.

From October there will be a new site on Gateshead Council's website that will make it easier for people to find information, advice or services under a easy to follow theme, (for example education and learning)

Secondly a new referral scheme will be launched. Staff and volunteers who have direct contact with older people will very quickly be able to assess if there is a need for further help or advice from other services or organisations, such as installations of smoke alarms from Tyne and Wear Fire Services. Referrals will then be forwarded to the relevant service or organisation.

The group helping design this service include Gateshead Older People's Assembly, Age Concern, Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau, Sight Service and Crossroads. The service will initially be ran as a pilot by these organisations.

Interested?

Do you have links or information that you think would be useful? Do you want to know more about it?

Please contact **Paul Gertig** on: **4332143** at Gateshead Council, Adult Care Services or e-mail: paulgertig@gateshead.gov.uk

 **Gateshead**
Council
www.gateshead.gov.uk

Disability Benefits

Although many people continue to enjoy good health well into old age, some people find that they need help with daily living.

You may have difficulty walking or getting about, or with personal care such as dressing or washing, or with your hearing or sight. You could get extra money to help you.

The two main benefits for disabled people are Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance

You might be able to get Disability Living Allowance if you are under 65. There are two components to Disability Living Allowance : care and mobility which can be paid at different rates depending on the level of difficulty you have.

Attendance Allowance

If you are over 65, and you aren't already getting Disability Living Allowance, you may be able to claim Attendance Allowance if you have difficulties with personal care. Attendance Allowance is paid at two different rates.

Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are tax-free. They are not means-tested and receiving them will not reduce your other benefits. In fact, Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance getting might mean that you are entitled to more benefits.

You don't have to have someone caring for you in order to claim, and you can spend the money however you want. It is a great help for many older people who want to stay put in their own home for as long as possible.

If you would like to talk to somebody about your entitlement to benefits call Age UK Advice free on **0800 169 6565** or The Department for Works and Pensions free Enquiry Line on **0800 88 22 00**

Job Shop

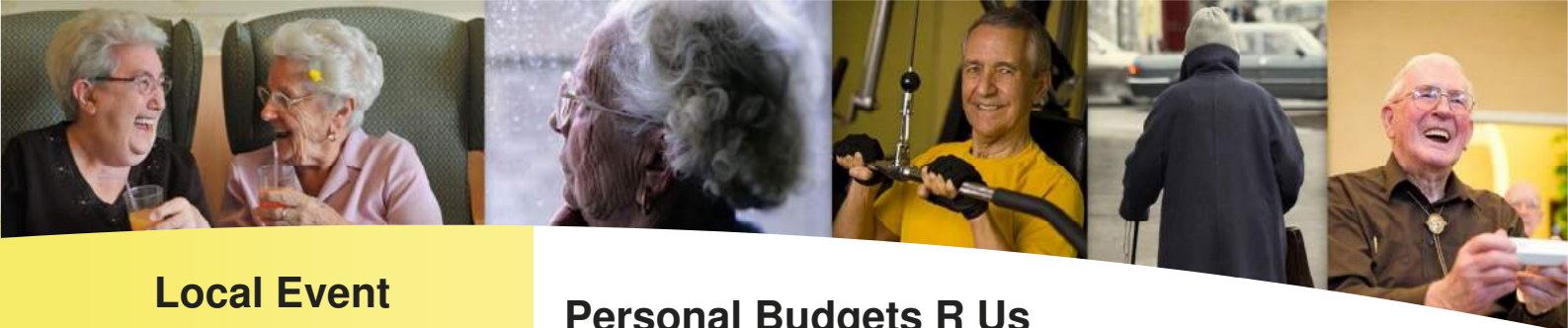
Job Seekers Support for the over 50's

Are you or is someone you know over 50 and looking for employment?
Would you like help to apply for jobs or fill in application forms?
Would you like the support of people in the same position as you?

If your answer is yes then come along to our Job Shop for a cup of tea and some support in an informal environment. Free access to computers, printers, internet and email.

**Every Wednesday
2pm to 4pm**

At Gateshead Older People's Assembly, 65 High Street, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 9LU
For more information contact Stephen Scullion on 0191 438 1721



Local Event

Carnival on The Hill

Come along and join in the community fun for all ages!!

From Dance Troop Demonstrations to DJ's, Bouncy Castles to Bands, Police Dog Handling, Planting and Pot Painting to Pamper Corner, Face Painting to Fire Services even Jugglers, Street Theatre, Kettle Drums, Gymnastic Displays and Bucking Bronco, there will be something for everyone.

There will also be information available from a variety of service providers in Gateshead

Organisers Home Housing hope the event will help to promote community cohesion, neighbourliness and build good relationships with the community and organisations which we believe is an excellent idea and one which we will be supporting by attending the event with our own stand, so hope to see you there.

**Elgin Centre
Elgin Road
(Off Carr Hill Road, next to Carr Hill School)
Deckham
Saturday 4th September
10.00am to 3.00pm**

Personal Budgets R Us

Have you heard about Personal Budgets and Direct Payments?

What are they?

Personal Budgets and Direct Payments are a new way of delivering and paying for social care services.

If you or someone you know needs help, your first point of contact should be Adult Social Care. An assessment will be carried out to assess any needs. After the assessment, if it is agreed there are eligible needs, a personal budget will be offered.

This is an upfront allocation of money available to meet the assessed and eligible social care needs. It is called an indicative amount because it is just an estimate of the money.

One of the ways that you can choose to receive your personal Budget is as a Direct Payment. A Direct Payment is a means tested cash payment made to you, in place of regular social care services. This gives you more choice and control as you can use it to buy the support you want.

Gateshead Older People's Assembly are part of the partnership which is working with the council to increase the take up of Personal Budgets and there will be an information stand for people to find out more at our AGM on 1st October.

Some Quotes from people receiving Personal Budget

"We look forward to getting our Personal Budget to give us more control of our lives and the way we receive personal care."

"It has given me a new lease of life: my independence returned! It was missing for too long!"

"My Personal Budget has given me the freedom and independence to live my life and plan my days the way I want to and the way I believe everyone has the right to."

"Having direct payments has helped me be independent and able to be socially active. This has helped my family know I am well looked after, by people who care for me. Has given me my life back."

"Direct payments in allowing me to employ a Personal Assistant has greatly improved my quality of life. "

To find out more information contact Adult Social Care on: (0191) 433 7033 or email: adultsocialcaredirect@gateshead.gov.uk

Gateshead Health Trainers Working for a healthier Gateshead

Sport and Leisure's Health Trainers service work to promote the health of local residents.

all

The service was introduced in 2007 to help meet the health needs of local communities throughout the borough and to work with people one to one to support their healthier lifestyle choices.

Often people want to improve their health but find that there are barriers in the way that prevent them. Working with a health trainer you will have the opportunity to discuss these barriers and work out a plan of support that will help you achieve your goals in improving your health and lifestyle.

The Health Trainer service can support you in many ways; sometimes you may want some information about services in your area or need someone to talk to about an issue that is concerning you. This service can support you to make those initial contacts and sign post you on to the people who are most able to help.

They can help with: • Stop smoking • Lose weight • Become more active • Help you to be fitter and healthier • Sensible drinking • Meet people

The health trainer service could be the first step to improving your health and getting a more positive outlook on life. They also work with people who want to 'do it themselves'. If you want to start attending classes or go to the gym, give up smoking yourself or just need a little bit of support the health trainer service can help you identify your goal and support you to achieve it.

They offer the opportunity for members of the public to get a mini MOT or health check. If you would like to know more about this please contact the service on **0191 433 6953**.

**Know
Your
Number**

From the 13th to the 19th September is Know Your Numbers Week. This is a national campaign to promote the need for regular blood pressure checks. If you would like to get a free blood pressure check you will find the following Pressure Stations open during this week:

Monday 13 September

Dunston Activity Centre, Ellison Road, Gateshead, NE11 9SS

Times: 9.00am to 1.00pm

Wednesday 15th September

Saltwell Park, East Park Road, Gateshead, NE9 5AX

Times: 9.00am to 1.00pm

Birtley Library, Durham Road, Birtley, DH3 1LE

Times: 9.00am to 1.00pm

Thursday 16th September

Leam Lane Community Centre, Colegate, Leam Lane Estate, Gateshead, NE10 8PP

Time: 9.00am to 1.00pm

Chopwell Pioneer Centre, Derwent Street, Chopwell, NE19 7HS

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm



Sight North East

Sight North East is the largest exhibition of equipment, technology, services and information hosted annually in the North East by Sight Service, for people of all ages who are blind or partially sighted.

Exhibitors include major suppliers and specialist organisations who will showcase a range of products, equipment and services and who will also provide information and advice.

Sight North East 2010 will take place on Wednesday 8th September at St. James' Park Football Stadium, Newcastle.

There will be sighted guides from Gateshead's Emmanuel College and visitors will be offered free tea and coffee. Doors open at 10am and close around 4pm.

Confirmed exhibitors include Pamtrad, Enhanced Vision, Nexus, the Force Ten Company, Professional Vision Services, The Belmont Hotel, Dolphin Computers, Queen Alexandra College, Action for Blind People, Sight and Sound Technology, the Macular Disease Society, AIRS, Tyne Sound News, Optima, The Royal National College for the Blind, Guide Dogs, the RNIB National Library Service, Humanware, Aspire, Visual Eyes and Sight Service.

If you would like more information about the exhibition or advice about public transport or car parking, please get in touch at

contactus@sightservice.co.uk

Free Telecare Service

For 12 months for those aged 85 and over.

Telecare is a system that allows you to live independently in your own home by providing you with reassurance and a direct line to people who can assist you if you need help. It gives you peace of mind at the touch of a button, helping you to feel safer, more secure and confident. It provides a 24 hour response service for whenever you feel unsafe or unwell, with mobile response support if required when you need help.

What is the free Telecare for 12 months offer?

If you're 85 or over and live in Gateshead then you could get free Telecare for 12 months*. The offer includes:

A special alarm unit that connects you directly to our 24-hour response centre when you press your pendant alarm button.

A waterproof 'pendant' alarm button which can be worn around your wrist or neck and used anywhere in your home to activate your alarm unit.

24 hour response services if you feel unsafe or unwell at home, including mobile responses when you need help.

* **Please note:** the free trial applies to people who do not currently use Telecare or a community alarm service, or live in sheltered accommodation or other care-based / supported accommodation. It is also subject to some eligibility criteria.

What happens after my free trial?

You are under no obligation to continue using the service once your 12 months are up, but if you want to there will be a small weekly charge if you are eligible to pay (if you are receiving housing benefit you may continue to receive the service for free).

How can I get a free trial?

For further information on Telecare contact **0191 478 7665** or call any member of our admin team on **0191 433 2648**. or write to us at **Care Call, Community Based Services, Gateshead Council, Civic Centre, Regent Street, NE8 1HH.**

CARING WITH CONFIDENCE' BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Carers from across Gateshead can make a positive difference to their life and that of the person they care for by attending free, local group sessions. If you are a carer, Caring with Confidence can help you build on your strengths, gain useful information, ideas and tips about looking after someone and help you to decide how to make positive changes to your caring role. It is also an excellent opportunity for carers to meet other carers and share experiences and support each other and possibly make new friends all in an informal friendly atmosphere.

98% of carers who have attended the sessions would recommend them to other carers.

Sessions are being held at Gateshead Carers Association, 11 Regent Terrace, Gateshead (opposite the civic centre) on Fridays throughout September, October and November 2010. The introductory 'Finding Your Way' session is being held on Friday 10th September 11am – 2pm, but if you are unable to attend this session you are welcome to attend any of the follow on sessions which run every Friday until the end of November.

If you would like to book a place or find out more information please contact Gateshead Carers Association on 0191 4900121.

New Advocacy Service for Carers

A new service has been launched at Gateshead Carers' Association for Carers of Adults with Learning Disabilities. The Advocacy Service aims to support carers to speak up about issues that affect them as a consequence of their caring role.

The range of issues could be as varied as the carers who live in Gateshead. For example, a carer may need support to make a complaint about a service or the way they have been treated or spoken to. They may disagree with the care plan offered by local health and social services and want to express their views. A carer could be thinking about the future and what will happen to the person they care for when they are no longer able to offer support.

Advocacy is all about speaking up and advocates will only represent your views and wishes. They will also explain information, find other resources that may be helpful and help you build your confidence.

The service is based at Gateshead Carers' Association on Regent Terrace, just opposite the Civic Centre. The Advocacy worker is Paul Forster and his contact details are below. Paul is able to visit people at home or somewhere local to the carer. Paul is also happy to visit local groups around the borough to explain more about the service and how advocacy may be of help. For more information contact **Paul Forster at: Gateshead Carers Association, 11 Regent Terrace, Gateshead, NE8 1LU, Telephone: 0191 4900 121 or email Paul at paul.forster@gatesheadcarers.com**



The Giant Angel

There's a greet big rusty angel
on a hill in Gateshead Toon.
It stands there doing notw
just blotting oot the moon.

There are some who think it's
beautiful
and some who disagree.
But the pigeons and the
seagulls
knaa exactly what ti' dee.

The Geordie population
'ave been shaken to the core.
We've 'ad Roman waals and
Lambton Worms
But nowt like this before.

Noo angels are God's
messengers
aa've always understud.
They sit on the clouds and play
their 'arps
And tell us to be gud.

They say Heaven's full of
angels
superior to man.
But if this is what they look like
Aa divvn't want to gan.

Poet's of the future
will sing the Angels praises.
Men like Geordie Ridley who
gave us Blaydon Races.

Just a part of Geordie history
like stotty cake and Broom.
And the world will pay homage
To a canny Gateshead Toon.

Useful Contacts in Gateshead

AIRS: 0191 433 8450

Offers a comprehensive transcription service which includes Braille, large print, audio formats and talking newspaper service.

Alzheimer's Disease Society: 0191 477 7490

Provides information and support on Alzheimers and other dementias.

Arthritis Care: 0191 420 1302

Provides support and information on matters relating to arthritis.

Citizens Advice Bureau (General Services): 0191 477 4922

General advice and information on a wide range of topics including welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment, consumer advice, family issues and immigration.

Gateshead Branch Diabetes UK : 0191 477 2667

Regular meetings and information to provide self help and education.

Gateshead NECA: 0191 490 1045

Offers a comprehensive service to anyone experiencing problems with drug, alcohol, other substance use and to people who have problems around gambling related issues, their family members and friends.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): Free phone 0800 328 4397

Offers confidential advice and support regarding the care provided by NHS services.

Shopmobility: 0191 477 9888

Provides disability access in Gateshead by hiring out powered scooters and wheelchairs.

Sight Services: 0191 478 5959

Offers services and support to anyone living with sight loss including provision of information and equipment sales.

Stroke Association Regional Centre: 0191 487 9988

Provides support to stroke patients, their carers

Gateshead Older Peoples Assembly can signpost you in the right direction, just give us a ring on (0191) 438 1721

Radio and TV Stations for you.

A recent comment regarding the lack of radio station aimed at people over 50 made by one of our members got me thinking. So I have done a little research and unearthed some little gems.

Angel Radio is a community radio station based in Hampshire ran by older people, for older people. Transmitted on **101.1 fm** and online at **www.angelradio.co.uk** they specialise in playing pre 1960 music.

Vintage Radio Produces a wide range of programmes for, but not exclusively, the over 50's including conversation, information, soaps, drama, music, entertainment and lots, lots more . Currently the station is only broadcasting via the internet at **www.vintageradio.org.uk**

TV Station for the over 50's to open

A digital television channel aimed at viewers aged 50 and over will launch later this year. Vintage TV will focus on music and popular culture from the 1950s to 1980s and feature some original programming.

The station, due to begin broadcasting on Sky on 1 September, will also show new music videos for 500 songs recorded before the video age.

The station will also broadcast rare concert and performance footage and revisit news and entertainment shows from numerous TV archives as well as showing new programmes.

Prestigious Award for Atma

A MAN who has dedicated himself to helping ethnic minorities in the North-East has been awarded an **MBE** for services to the region's community.

Atma Singh Gill, 72, is vice-chairman of the Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group, which was set up in 1990 and whose volunteers were recognised through The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. As well as helping people from ethnic minorities who live in the North-East, the group organises events to promote cultural awareness and understanding. Through the Patient and Public Involvement Forum, Mr Singh has specialised in advising on the faith and cultural needs of people using the NHS.

Mr Gill, who was born in India and came to Britain in 1960, is married with two grown-up children. He said of his award: "I am very surprised. I never expected it that a person like me could get an honour like this. It is amazing, it is unbelievable."

Atma also gives his time to volunteer as part of The Assembly's Generations Together project which aims to promote the exchange of Technology skills between the under 25's and over 50's.

Source : The Northern Echo





Some of their memories..

Recently we remembered the Newcastle Town Moor Hoppings and recorded some of the groups memories.

“I won a gold fish on the ‘Hook The Duck’ and we called it Guinea.....because that’s how much it took to win it” [Raymond]

“I remember the stall with all the goldfish bowls....you had to get a ping pong ball in the bowl to win a prize” [Tom]

“I worked on the hoopla stall for a week ... But during that time no one won a prize!!” [Stephen]

“Many of the stalls involved a game of chance....some with no chance of winning” [George]

Can you remember the rides?

e.g. The Ghost Train, The Big Wheel, The Helter Skelter, The Carousel, The Shuggy Boats

and the entertainment?

The Boxing Booths, The Wall of Death, The Hall of Mirrors, The Flea Circus or even the Freak Shows with Man Eating Fish, and chatting the girls up in The Waltzer!

A photo taken of The Hoppings taken in 1964 (Source BBC)



Down Memory Lane

Our men’s Reminiscence Group has been running successfully for a few months now, meeting at our office in Felling every Thursday

The group provides a social setting, giving men opportunity to:

- Create common bonds through shared experiences
- Establish trust with others
- Develop friendships

Tutor Ray Wildsmith says:

“Reminiscence by one person usually encourages others in the group to reminisce and so broadening knowledge of past events, as well as establishing a degree of group identity through shared experience”

Some of the topics the group have talked about include:

- Family Life
- House & Home
- Work & Employment
- Play
- School days
- Traditions & Customs
- Holidays & special events

The group has also been on several local history walks including:

- Gateshead Town Centre
- Gateshead / Newcastle Quayside
- Saltwell Park
- The Discovery Museum in Newcastle

The group is open to all men over the age of fifty and the only qualification you need is the experience of life — so come along and enjoy it.

Reminiscence sessions are free and refreshments are provided.

For further information about the Reminiscence Group please contact us on:

0191 438 1721



Some of the group on a visit to The Discovery Museum in Newcastle courtesy of Tom Wood

Did You Know??

There is an old London pub which used to have gallows adjacent. Prisoners were taken to the gallows to be hung. The horse drawn dray, carting the prisoner was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "One last drink". If he said 'Yes' it was referred to as "One for the road", If he declined, that prisoner was "On the wagon".

In the sixteenth century, those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leech onto the food, causing lead poisoning & death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. They were often taken for dead and prepared for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "Saved by the Bell " or was considered a "Dead Ringer", and that's the truth...now, whoever said history was boring !!

Supplied by Mrs C Lannen

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LET'S HEAR YOUR VOICE

Would you like to submit a piece for our next newsletter?
If so, we would love to hear from you.

Would you like to share a life story, maybe you spent time in the services or have a precious memory to share. It may be a family recipe or old photographs of places or people.
Do you have any tips or advice, poems, jokes, or points of view to share?
Whatever it may be, please contact:

Kerry Pattison
Gateshead Older People's Assembly, 65 High Street, Felling, Gateshead,
Tyne and Wear, NE10 9LU or Telephone: 0191 438 1721

Should you require this newsletter in an alternative format such as Braille, large print, audio description or alternative language please contact us.

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