

Tow Law Town Council News

newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk

JOHN PARKIN MEMORIAL FUND PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS

In 2016 our family decided to set up the John Parkin Memorial Fund with the aim of providing the Tow Law community with Public Access Defibrillators (PAD).

Our late father John Parkin suffered for most of his life with heart problems resulting in a heart transplant in 2004. Nearly three years ago he passed away with sudden cardiac arrest.

Although Dad had a history of heart problems it should be remembered that, **CARDIAC ARREST CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE AT ANYTIME!**

In rural areas like Tow Law it can take time to get medical assistance so – **THESE MACHINES DO SAVE LIVES.**

We began raising funds last summer with our Dad's annual darts memorial tournament and a poker tournament.

The CO-OP kindly chose the fund to be one of the beneficiaries of their fun day. The staff did an amazing job and a whopping £1000 was raised. Unfortunately due to a policy change the CO-OP



Defibrillator at the New Market Public House in Tow Law

was unable to house the PAD. Luckily the New Market Public House came to our rescue and the PAD is now housed on the front of the pub. We have sited another of our defibrillators at the Tow Law Millennium Primary School and hope to add more locations in the future.

Our fund raising efforts have received wide support from family, friends and the local community; Philp Slater donated £200 from his coast to coast sponsors, the Town Council donated £250, Pinkney's kindly donated £100 and we received £500 from Velocity. We intend to continue fundraising to provide more defibrillators and to maintain the existing

ones. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the defibrillators by:- making a cash donation towards the fund, providing a possible site for the equipment, by attending an awareness course or helping in any other way, could you please email leanneparkin@hotmail.com or jamie.wightman@hotmail.co.uk or visit The John Parkin memorial Facebook page for the latest information.

Jamie Wightman and Leanne Parkin.

Editors Note

We hope to have an update on this story in a future edition.

THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council is based at the Community Centre at Ironworks Road. The office is manned most weekday afternoons but may be closed occasionally so the Clerk can attend to other business.

The Town Clerk Geoff Smith can be contacted by telephone on 01388731444 or you can email him at towlawtc@hotmail.com

Town Council meetings are normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm in the Community Centre.

The public are welcome to attend the non-confidential part of the meeting but must provide at least 3 working days notice of any issues to be raised at the meeting. Failure to comply with the 3 day rule may lead to the Council not being able to hear the issue due to not having sufficient time to investigate and provide answers to the issue(s) raised.

Upcoming meetings are 21st March and 18th April.

Agendas are available on the notice boards at the Community Centre, on North Point Hotel in the High Street, opposite the Co-Operative store in the High Street (near Church Lane/Highfields) and at the entrance to Pennine View. In addition the latest agenda is available on our website which is at www.towlawtowncouncil.org.uk as well as minutes from previous meetings.

Report by Councillor Ashleigh Lamb

I recently popped in to see our local MP Pat Glass at her surgery in Tow Law Community Centre. I raised some minor concerns the main one being litter on the Millennium Green where our young people are congregating.

Subsequently I received a visit from PCSO's Steven Hawman and Mike Gracey. We had a long and interesting conversation about the work they are doing to help make Tow Law a better place to live. We exchanged ideas on how we could get our kids more involved with their community; I then asked if I could attend the next PACT meeting, which I intend to do.

Further to this, I received a letter in the post from the Head of Direct Services for Durham County Council, Mr Oliver Sherratt. He has increased the number of patrols carried out by neighbourhood wardens on the green. Also there have been arrangements made to clean the area three times a week.

There have been a number of small grants given by the AAP to children and young people's groups in our area and a consultation has taken place regarding developing an internet café.

Editors Note

As this issue goes to press Councillor Lamb has resigned from the Council. We would

like to thank her for her service and wish her all the best for the future.

TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

On 15th February Children from Tow Law Millennium Primary School enjoyed an outdoor lesson at the Millennium Green with Russell Bell and Jenny Mountain. The Children learned about the importance of trees before planting Fruit Trees and Willow Trees. A very big thank you to years 5 and 6 Children who did such a wonderful job with the planting.

Littering on the Green

It has been reported to us that bottles and cans have been deposited in the bushes down by the green also there has been graffiti sprayed on the seat (see photographs below).



Could anyone with any information on who may be responsible for this vandalism please contact the Town Clerk or the Police on 101.

The Big Spring Clean

Millennium Green Volunteers will be taking part in The Big Spring Clean in April (time and date to be announced). Anyone wishing to take part can contact Michelle on 07999006125 or follow the Facebook page Tow Law Millennium Green.

A possible new Playground for the Millennium Green

It is hoped that a new playground will be built at the Millennium Green in the near future.

Finance is in place from the Neighbourhood

Budget of County Councillor John Hart and plans have been drawn up (see the bottom of this page) and a contractor (Proludic Ltd.) chosen.

If the project does go ahead the Town Council will be responsible for insuring the play equipment and for any maintenance that may be

required.

The whole project is now dependent on permission from Natural England to build the new play equipment on the green which has been sought but not yet granted.

We hope to have the latest news on this project in the next edition.



The proposed area for the new Playground

Toddler Area













Plan of the proposed new playground for the Millennium Green

THORNLEY WOOD COMMUNITY DAY

On the 11th March Durham Wildlife Trust are having a community day to help plant 500 trees.

The day will start at 10.30 am and finish at 2 pm. This will be a drop in session for the community to stay for as long or as little time as they want.

For more information on this event please contact Durham Wildlife Trust on 01388 488740.

TOW LAW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tow Law Community Association is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and some of our Councillors as well as The Friends of Tow Law and Tow Law lunch club were invited to attend a brainstorming session with members of the association.

The goal was to come up with ideas for a huge summer events timetable to mark the anniversary. We had a lot of fun and by the end of the session had made some grand plans! The Community Centre Staff were grateful for the input and we have all realised there is a need to get our community groups working more closely together for the benefit of everyone in our town.

The centre will be undergoing a refurbishment before the event and will have a new lease of life breathed into it.

We agreed that the Facebook page needed more administrators and so a few of us have been added. Messages are now being answered more quickly so if you have any queries please get in touch!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events on the Facebook page, in the community centre itself, in shop windows around Tow Law and on the Tow Law Past and Present and What's on in Tow Law Facebook pages.

You can also contact the community centre direct on 01388 731444. The best days to do this are Tuesday's and Thursdays.

CCTV UPGRADES FOR TOW LAW

As this issue goes to press work is underway upgrading the CCTV coverage around Tow Law.

Work commenced on the 2nd March and is expected to last about two months.

All three of the current cameras situated at Castlebank Nursing Home, Roberts Newsagents/General Dealers and North Point Hotel will be replaced as will the wireless links connecting them.

The work is being financed from the Neighbourhood Budget of County Councillor John Hart.

Contractors include DTA Consulting Engineers, Baydale Control Systems Ltd,

British Telecom and the system is controlled from the Durham County Council CCTV Control Centre.

Tow Law Town Council will be responsible for insurance and ongoing maintenance costs

FRIENDS OF TOW LAW EVENTS

Friends of Tow Law Fun Day - Fundraising for Christmas Lights 2017

This is taking place on Saturday 3rd June 2017, from 2 pm onwards.

Attractions include a Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Stalls and Refreshments

There is a knockout competition at 3.30pm so please register your teams at friendsoftowlaw@aol.co.uk

Friends of Tow Law Fireworks Display

This will be taking place on Saturday 4th November 2017. Ticket sales will be advertised shortly.

For further information, email friendsoftowlaw@aol.co.uk

To submit an article for the next edition of this newsletter email:
newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk

Alternatively you can leave it at the Tow Law Town Council office at Tow Law Community Centre. The closing date for articles for the next edition is June 30th 2017.

All articles should be in Microsoft Word format and any accompanying photographs should be separate from the article and not less than 300 dpi resolution.