



# UTASS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Supporting our Communities in the Durham Dales



Winter 2016



GEORGE F. WHITE

Winter 2016

### Winter Newsletter...

Hello everyone,  
Welcome to the Winter community newsletter...

As usual, there's lots in this edition, from news on exciting events which have put Teesdale on the map and training update, to upcoming events and

mart dates as well as information about services available in and around Teesdale and the Durham Dales.

If you have anything for the Spring newsletter, which will be out at the end of February and will

cover March, April and May; it could be a story, an event or an advertisement, please email details to me at

emma@utass.org

Best Wishes,

Emma

### Dale hosts spectacular 'Waterfall' illuminations...

For six nights in October over 1800 people came to Bowlees to view the spectacular light installation created by Teesdale based artist, Steve Messam.

Over the summer, Steve had filmed Teesdale's famous waterfalls of Cauldron Snout, High Force and Low Force and the slow motion, high definition footage was projected onto all four sides of three whitewashed Raby Estate barns, transforming them into

dramatic cubes of cascading water. Stunning night-time conditions saw a glowing Hunters Moon on the first weekend and starlit skies the following weekend, complete with Milky Way.

Visitors came from far and wide some travelling from as far as Hull, Leeds, Newcastle and Oxford especially for the installation, having seen it on BBC News.



Their comments reflect the atmosphere of the event -

"a treasure of a visit showcasing all that's wonderful about our county, from the art and culture to our natural beauty, with a most welcoming of hosts and volunteers",

"something different – good family activity – outdoor fun"

and

"mint, awe inspiring, better than Corrie!"



### Friends of UTASS £100 draw

This year, Helen Fothergill, from Durham County Carers, kindly drew the winner of the annual draw.

Brian Howson is this year's Friends of UTASS Cash Draw winner.

The Friends of UTASS is an annual membership which helps to support the work UTASS does. The 2017 Friends of UTASS membership forms will be available in the New Year. If you would like further details please contact the UTASS office.



### 4th Middleton Mart Christmas Fair... Best Yet!

Over 550 people turned out on a beautiful Saturday in November to enjoy and support 47 local businesses, charities and crafters.

The 4th Middleton Mart Christmas Fair was again a huge success.

47 stalls were booked out, selling a huge range of goods from photographs and bunting, to cakes, hand-made bags and honey.

The weather was much kinder this year, however it did lean itself to being much, much, much colder.

Thankfully Middleton Scout group kept everyone well fed and watered by selling a delicious array of hot sandwiches, cakes, hot drinks and festive mulled wine.

Both sellers and buyers commented on such a well organised event.

It was great to see such a variety of locally produced goods showcased.

The day was suitably ended by the switch on of the Village Christmas lights, complete with carols around the tree, mince pies and mulled wine and a visit from Santa, arriving in the village on the back of a pick-up.



### SUPPORTING UTASS

YOU CAN NOW SUPPORT UTASS VIA VIRGIN MONEY GIVING.  
YOU CAN VISIT [WWW.UTASS.ORG](http://WWW.UTASS.ORG) AND IN THE "SUPPORT US" TAB YOU'LL FIND A LINK TO OUR VIRGIN MONEY GIVING PAGE.  
ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN USE THE QR CODE OPPOSITE.





## Mart Sale Days

<b>TUESDAY</b> 06/12/2016	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - Christmas show and sale of Prime and lightweight lambs, cast and feeding ewes and store lambs.
	<b>MIDDLETON MART</b> - Christmas show and sale of store cattle and suckled calves.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 07/12/2016	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Christmas Prize Show and sale of prime lambs ( Pens of 5 ) please advise entries
<b>MONDAY</b> 12/12/2016	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - OTM Cattle
<b>TUESDAY</b> 13/12/2016	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - Sale of prime and lightweight lambs, cast and feeding ewes and store lambs.
	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of Breeding Cattle, Feeding Bulls, Store Cattle, also OTM Cattle. Entries close Wednesday 7th December, 9.30am
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 14/12/2016	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of Prime Lambs and Cast Sheep EVERY WEDNESDAY at 1.30pm
<b>TUESDAY</b> 20/12/2016	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - Sale of prime and lightweight lambs, cast and feeding ewes.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 21/12/2016	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - Rough plucked and dressed poultry
	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of Prime Lambs and Cast Sheep EVERY WEDNESDAY at 1.30pm
<b>TUESDAY</b> 27/12/2016	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - Sale of prime and lightweight lambs, cast and feeding ewes and store lambs.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 28/12/2016	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of Prime Lambs and Cast Sheep EVERY WEDNESDAY at 1.30pm
<b>SUNDAY</b> 01/01/2017	<b>KIRKBY STEPHEN</b> - Special sale of breeding sheep.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 04/01/2017	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of Prime Lambs and Cast Sheep EVERY WEDNESDAY at 1.30pm
<b>TUESDAY</b> 10/01/2017	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of OTM & Breeding Cattle, Feeding Bulls and Store Cattle.
<b>TUESDAY</b> 24/01/2017	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of OTM & Breeding Cattle. Also feeding bulls and store cattle.
<b>TUESDAY</b> 07/02/2017	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of OTM & Breeding Cattle, Feeding Bulls and Store Cattle.
<b>TUESDAY</b> 21/02/2017	<b>BARNARD CASTLE</b> - Sale of OTM & Breeding Cattle. Also feeding bulls and store cattle. Also Prize Show and sale of Show Potential Cattle.

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS AND CHAPERONES NEEDED

Could you spare a couple of hours once every 2 months – particularly on a Thursday evening? If so we'd love to hear from you. Volunteer Drivers would need to be aged over 25, with a clean driving licence. Appropriate Criminal Records Bureau (DBS checks) will need to be undertaken.  
**Contact Jen on 01833 641010 or email [jen@utass.org](mailto:jen@utass.org)**



## FREE Festive Christmas Lunch at The Kings lodge Inn

If you're over 65, living alone (or perhaps you know someone who is) and fancy some seasonal cheer in the run up to Christmas, then you are invited to come and enjoy a delicious three-course festive fayre lunch at The Kingslodge Inn in Durham, completely free of charge for a Christmas party with the Dean of Durham Cathedral.

You are invited to come to a special festive Christmas Lunch at The Kings lodge Inn for company, Christmas cheer & delicious food...

When: Monday December 19th

Time: 11am – 2.30pm

Where: The Kings lodge Inn, Waddington Street, Flass Vale, Durham, DH1 4BG

This lunch is being provided by the charity Abbeyfield working in partnership with The Kings Lodge and Age UK County Durham.

If you would like to attend please call The Kings Lodge on 0191 370 9977 or Abbeyfield on 01727 734167 to book your free place.

They can help with transport – just let them know when you book.

### The Rodenticide Stewardship Regime



Information on the Rodenticide Stewardship Regime will follow in the New Year. Meanwhile you may like to look at the AHDB website <http://www.ahdb.org.uk/projects/RodentControlHub.aspx> and downloadable "Rodent control on farms" booklet which is also available at UTASS. Please contact Julia and Charlotte for further help.

Winter 2016

# GEORGE F. WHITE

*The George F. White Group provides property and business consultancy services on a regional basis from Southern Scotland down to North Lincolnshire.*

*The roots of our business are firmly planted in the agricultural and rural sector and we have extensive knowledge and experience on all issues relating to property.*

*We are a business that provides innovative solutions for our clients. Using our breadth and depth of knowledge we provide clarity, direction and support to help people make the right decisions and achieve the best outcome. We have a team of 120 people (and growing!) that operate from our seven offices. We have a culture of innovation, inspiration, honesty and commitment. We work collaboratively to bring excellent people together to deliver the right solutions for our clients.*



# OUTREACH FACILITIES AT UTASS

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

**MOBILE BEAUTY**  
By Emma

TEL: 07555 685228

COVERING SUNDERLAND & SURROUNDING AREAS. AVAILABLE IN MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE ON FRIDAYS

Mobile Beauty Therapist Emma Richardson of Tranquil Treatments works from UTASS every Friday.

Her treatment menu and price list is on the UTASS website, [www.utass.org](http://www.utass.org)



Nicky Tulloch from the Alzheimer's Society will be based at UTASS on Fridays, with a remit to help people living with Dementia, their carers and families, by providing information, advice and support.

For further details contact her on 07484 040630 or email: [Nicola.Tulloch@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.Tulloch@alzheimers.org.uk)

**RACHEL LOGAN**  
MCFHP MAFHP

Foot Health Professional

Telephone: 07825314487  
e-mail: [rachy87@hotmail.com](mailto:rachy87@hotmail.com)

Rachel visits UTASS every 6 weeks, offering nail trimming & correction, skin conditions, heel pain, removal of hard skin, corns, callus, verrucae, blisters, athletes foot, fungal infections, diabetic foot assessments, ingrowing toenails and general foot care advice.

## GEORGE F. WHITE

George F White Partner, Robyn Peat, is 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](mailto:info@utass.org)) or by phoning George F White's on 01388 527966



Helen Fothergill, a carer support worker from Durham County Carers Support visits UTASS every other Friday, supporting carers in our local community.

You can find out more information by visiting [www.ddcarers.org](http://www.ddcarers.org) or contact Helen on 01833 600 577.



Teesdale Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) offer a drop-in service at UTASS fortnightly on Mondays. 1pm - 4pm.

**If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch with [jen@utass.org](mailto:jen@utass.org)**

We champion ourselves upon the youth sessions working, because they are what the young people want.



## UTASS Youth Sessions

**Monday's**

Girls Group  
6pm til 8pm  
8 - 14 year olds

**Wednesday's**

Off Site visits  
6pm til 8pm  
8 - 16 year olds

**Thursday's**

Youth Club  
6pm til 7.30pm 8 - 11 year olds  
7.30pm til 9pm 12 - 19 year olds

All Sessions £1 per child per session

# JOE SIMPSON

**ABATTOIR**

**BUTCHERS & FARMERS**

Our team of butchers have been trained in all aspects of butchery.

Animals arriving at our abattoir are treated with kindness and respect. Animal welfare is one of our top priorities.

We provide a full service cutting, wrapping, labelling and boxing.

The booking in system is easy.

Ring to discuss your requirements on **01388 718264**

Take a look at our website

[www.joesimpsonsbutchers.co.uk](http://www.joesimpsonsbutchers.co.uk)

### Have you changed your email address?

Please keep us up to date & let us know of any change to your email address. This will help UTASS minimise exceeding our deferred limit of failed email attempts on our server. To update any of your contact details please send amendments to [ann@utass.org](mailto:ann@utass.org)

### NE First Credit Union Opportunities at UTASS

#### Did you know you can join NE First Credit Union and pay in to your account via UTASS?

Adults can join the credit union for a £1 fee and can now apply immediately for a loan up to a maximum of £15,000. Loan interest rates are calculated daily on a reducing balance basis. There is also free life insurance with every loan. Young people can also save with the credit union and they do not pay any joining fee. Young savers aged under 8 years also receive a free piggy bank.

Information about NE Credit Union and application packs are available from UTASS during office hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and the collection point service is available on Thursdays between 4pm and 5pm.

## Buiness Unit at UTASS

Middleton in Teesdale, DL12 0SN

### Pip - Unit 5 - Steve Messam

An environmental artist based in the North of England. With his site-specific installations, he sets visual accents in rural or urban settings, which include historical relics and vacant architecture that make us perceive the familiar environment in a new way.

Steve's next project will be to transform three simple whitewashed barns into a unique and stunning artwork called Waterfall which will run across 14-16 and 21-23 October.

Waterfall is part of Durham County Council's fresh approach to visual arts and this remarkable artwork will draw on the rich history, geography and characteristics of the area around it. Steve will film each of the waterfalls of the River Tees – Cauldron Snout, High Force and Low Force – in high definition, slow motion video. The films will then be projected onto all four sides of three whitewashed barns that cascade down the hillside to the east of Bowlees Visitor Centre, effectively wrapping them in mesmerising slow motion pulses of water.

Waterfall has been organised by Durham County Council in association with North Pennines AONB Partnership and is produced by kind permission of Raby Estates.





# Business Units at The Aspire Building

Middleton in Teesdale Auction Mart, DL12 0NG



## Yan - Unit 1 - H&H Land & Property

H&H Land and Property - Our team can assist with AMC applications and valuations of property, estate management, landlord & tenant and dispute resolution and compulsory purchase. We have an extensive farm business management service which includes a broad range of issues from farm budgets and entitlement trading to name but a few. We also have a dedicated sales and agency team who can assist you with a sale, purchase or letting of land, farm and equine property – whatever the size. Our Middleton-in-Teesdale office will be permanently open on weekdays in September 2016 from 12th September to 26th September and we hope to be able to service local farmers professional needs. Out of those dates the office is open during sale dates or at a convenient time for clients. We hope to be of service.

## Tyan - Unit 2 - Olwen Williams - Fine Art

Olwen Williams is a local artist, Olwen mainly works on large oil paintings but does create small preliminary studies in water colour and they are available to purchase with all monies received being donated to charity.



Her studio is open Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays 9am – 5pm

## Tethera - Unit 3 - Farm, Pet & Equine



Stock a complete range of Farm, Pet and Equine supplies including:

- Stable Supplies
- Tack and Horse Rugs
- Saddles, Bridles and Ropes
- Livestock Health Products and Supplements
- Equestrian Wear
- Outdoor Clothing
- New products include Dog and Horse Feed
- **And much more ...** The price you see is what you pay (includes VAT and free delivery to UK mainland).

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm and Sunday 10am-2pm  
If you require further information about our products, please contact Mike on 01833 641111 or 07747002184  
Email: [mike@farmpetandequine.uk](mailto:mike@farmpetandequine.uk) or visit the website: [www.farmpetandequine.uk](http://www.farmpetandequine.uk)  
Farm, Pet and Equine will be attending Bowes and Eggleston Show

## Methera - Unit 4 - Sweet Tooth

Ali Collinson, owner of Sweet Tooth is the first 'Young Rural Entrepreneur' to take up the offer of a programme provided by H&H Group and UTASS. Sweet Tooth offers sweet treats for any occasion, from party bags to wedding favours, other specialities include sweet trees and gift boxed treats. You can contact Ali at Sweet Tooth on 07891173729 or email [ali\\_tarn\\_116@hotmail.com](mailto:ali_tarn_116@hotmail.com) or visit her Facebook page [SweetToothAli](https://www.facebook.com/SweetToothAli)



## December 2016

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### December Events Listings:

- Citizens Advice are at UTASS every other Monday, 1pm - 4pm. (12th)
- 'Mobile Beauty By Emma' is at UTASS every Friday.
- Durham County Carers are at UTASS every other Friday, with a Christmas coffee morning happening on Friday 16th.
- Nicky Tulloch from the Alzheimer's Society will be here every Friday.
- Pilates - every Wednesday, 9.30am.
- 11th - 'Village Christmas' 6pm at The Pathway, Middleton-in-Teesdale Methodist Chapel.
- 13th - Middleton in Teesdale Farmers Lunch.
- 14th - St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch.
- 15th Rachel Logan, Chiroprapist at UTASS. (contact details on page 5)
- 15th - Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch.
- 16th - Energy Saving Event (see page 9)
- 20th - Music & Memories at UTASS the 4th Tuesday of every month, 2pm - 3pm.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF UTASS OFFICE CLOSURES

Thursday 22nd December,  
re-opening Tuesday 3rd January 2017

All ARAMS / BCMS enquiries  
will be dealt with on a daily basis

## January 2017

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### January Events Listings:


- Citizens Advice are at UTASS every other Monday, 1pm - 4pm. (9th & 23rd)
- 'Mobile Beauty By Emma' is at UTASS every Friday.
- Durham County Carers are at UTASS every other Friday, with a coffee morning happening on Friday 21st.
- Nicky Tulloch from the Alzheimer's Society will be here every Friday.
- Pilates - every Wednesday, 9.30am.
- 3rd - UTASS Office Re-opens.
- 10th - Middleton in Teesdale Farmers Lunch.
- 11th - St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch.
- 19th - Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch.
- 24th - Music & Memories at UTASS the 4th Tuesday of every month, 2pm - 3pm.

## February 2017

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### February Events Listings:

- Citizens Advice are at UTASS every other Monday, 1pm - 4pm. (6th & 20th)
- 'Mobile Beauty By Emma' is at UTASS every Friday.
- Durham County Carers are at UTASS every other Friday, with a coffee morning happening on Friday 18th.
- Nicky Tulloch from the Alzheimer's Society will be here every Friday.
- Pilates - every Wednesday, 9.30am.
- 8th - St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch.
- 14th - Middleton in Teesdale Farmers Lunch.
- 16th - Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch.
- 28th - Music & Memories at UTASS the 4th Tuesday of every month, 2pm - 3pm.



**the witham**  
Culture • Community • Commerce

**Date:** Thursday 8th  
December until  
Tuesday 20th  
December  
**Time:** 10am - 4pm  
**Price:**  
Free admission

## Teesdale Christmas Art Fair

The inaugural Teesdale Christmas Art Fair at The Witham arts centre in Barnard Castle is an exhibition of painting, printmaking and sculpture by artists working in or inspired by County Durham, Cumbria and Yorkshire.

The Teesdale Christmas Art Fair will present an exciting opportunity to buy unique works of art created by some of the most exciting, regional fine artists just in time for Christmas.





## Do You Have a Co-op Membership Card??

Co-op Local Community Fund

Every time Co-op members buy Co-op branded products and services 1% of the spend goes to a local good cause.

The local good causes receiving support from the Middleton-in-Teesdale branch between September 2016 and March 2017 are UTASS, Friends of Middleton-in-Teesdale School and St Mary's Church Middleton-in-Teesdale.

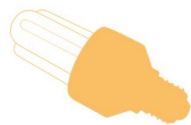
If you do not nominate one of the 3 local good causes to receive the 1% your membership earns - it will automatically be shared evenly between the 3 local good causes.

You can choose to nominate one of your local good causes to receive the full 1% of your spend, and this can be done either by telephoning 0800 023 4708 or online at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/sign-in>.

### COULD YOU SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ON/ OFF GAS ENERGY SUPPLY?

ONE LOCAL RESIDENT SAVED OVER £1000!

Could you save more?



#### FREE ENERGY SURGERY

UTASS 9-11 Chapel Row

Middleton in Teesdale

**16 December 2016 11.30am**

Phone UTASS on 01833 641010 to arrange an appt

Remember to bring your most recent bill or statement!



UTASS will be offering FREE monthly music and memories sessions between 2pm and 3pm.

Tuesday 20th December  
Tuesday 24th January  
Tuesday 28th February  
Tuesday 28th March

The aim of the session is to provide a warm, welcoming and caring setting where people can come together for a singalong, socialise, cup of tea and a cake.

The Monday Night Girls Group at UTASS will bake the cakes for participants to share, at the music and memories sessions.

Transport to and from UTASS may also be available if required.

If you want to come along please contact UTASS on 01833 641010.



Events get updated regularly on our online diary, which can be found at:

[www.utass.org/events](http://www.utass.org/events)

## TRAINING UPDATE

Please contact Julia Stephenson or Charlotte Fletcher on 01833 641010 or email [julia@utass.org](mailto:julia@utass.org) / [charlotte@utass.org](mailto:charlotte@utass.org) for more information (Please remember UTASS is closed on Wednesdays)

Pictured opposite are the two trainees during their Lantra 13-16 Tractor Driving on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and Julia along with Lantra trainer, Terry Maw, who has been delivering this excellent training for over 9 years at UTASS.

We would like to express our most grateful thanks to The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust for funding over the last 3 years to cover the cost of training courses for young drivers, which has been of enormous benefit to our community, improving knowledge and skills and enhancing job prospects.

This training can now continue, thanks to one year's funding from The Wellesley Trust Fund at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and will again provide for car & trailer lessons, car driving lessons, quad bike or pre-test tractor training and Lantra 13-16 tractor driving. An application form for future applicants to complete can be downloaded from our website or posted out from our Office, although currently there is only an odd space left for Lantra 3-15 Tractor Driving & Quad Bike training. Please see the "Training Opportunities" tab on our website.

For this course the tractor & trailer was kindly loaned by Lloyd Limited, Bishop Auckland and venue kindly provided by Barnard Castle Auction Mart, with assistance from John & Fay Hutchinson and other UTASS Members.



Young People's Driver Training  
Image courtesy of The Teesdale Mercury



Weardale Rural Skills Training  
Venue courtesy of P & M Hennessy

So far 9 trainees have been part funded by Weardale Action Partnership for their NPTC Safe Use of Pesticides training & assessment (March & August); 2 more for the Semex DIY Artificial Insemination for Cattle (June); 2 for British Wool Marketing Board Sheep Shearing (June); 7 for Lantra Chainsaw training (June & November) 1 for trailer lessons; 3 for NPTC City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Land-based Forklift Truck Operations (September) pictured opposite at Westgate.

Two trainees have also been fully funded for an Emergency First Aid Course (23 November); with relevant modules for "Emergency First Aid for Farmers" and "Emergency First Aid for Sport and Exercise".

There has also been interest in drystone walling training. All training is arranged when there are sufficient numbers coming forward to run a course, so please get in touch to let us know of your training requirements. Please check out our website for further information about part funded training for farmers in Weardale. <http://utass.org/training-available/>

### Educational Links

A Big Thank You - when the final funding from the Heart of Teesdale was used as Woodland School visited Middleton Mart on 20 September. Over 2 years, 11 primary schools and 357 children have visited with transport arranged, plus funding for four educational banners (pictured in Open Evening images). Funding for these visits has enabled primary school children in Teesdale to study curriculum related aspects of the farming year - thanks go too, to Middleton Mart. HOT have subsidised by 50% trainees' costs to attend the British Wool Marketing Board Shearing Courses for 2015+2016. Funding in February covered transport costs for shearing trainees & UTASS members to visit the BWMB Depot in Bradford where they learned about grading, saw a live Auction, as well as visiting the nearby Harworth Scouring Plant to see scouring, carding and combing processes and Enco Global Testing Services at the site.

### Open Evening at Middleton Mart & Minibus Celebration

Held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at Middleton Mart from 6pm till 8pm, with activities mostly evolving from requests from the young people from outlying areas who attend the UTASS Drop In on Thursday evenings - we offered a warm welcome to many community members too. Activities for all ages - including a kids corner!! Trainees who have passed their D1 Minibus Test so that they can drive a minibus like our "Asda Minibus", thanks to the two year Teesdale Action Partnership funded project, were invited to attend as special guests.





**Pictured left:** Successful minibus test trainees, Vince Sewell (left), Staindrop Scouts & Chris Elstob (right), Teesdale YMCA.  
**Pictured centre:** Young people from Teesdale YMCA who came with Chris in the Teesdale Community Resources' minibus.  
**Pictured right:** Members of Staindrop YFC sample Lamb burgers to celebrate Love Lamb Week. (All photos courtesy of Gordon Jones)

The two year Minibus Project, delivered by UTASS, has been funded thanks to Teesdale Action Partnership and 7 trainees have now got D1 on their licence and another 3 have passed their Theory Test and are ready to progress to lessons. The Minibus Safety Awareness qualification (Midas) has also been achieved by 14 volunteer drivers who already had D1 on their licence.

UTASS's new, smaller, 10 seater "Dot Minibus" (funded by the Department of Transport) arrived on 14 October!! Unlike our existing 15 seater minibus, it can be driven by younger drivers, using their normal car licence, who passed their test after 1.1.97.

Our Asda minibus, driven by volunteers, also did the usual route up the Dale to collect and return passengers for the Open Evening and if your community organisation would like to use of either of our minibuses to transport your members, please view our website for a Vehicle User Form to download outlining requirements <http://utass.org/minibus-training/> We would be delighted to hear from you and answer any queries!

Over 90 community members attended the Open Evening and enjoyed the evening's activities .....



Drop In member's display of rare breed poultry on show to visitors, A Nail Bar was in operation for young people wanting to spruce up their nails, Drystone walling activity with Bobby Shann, The Business Units at the Mart were open for attendees to visit during the evening, Farm Safety Awareness sessions with Deepdale Offroad, S & A model of their Roundhouse for cattle, Kids Corner activities, Display of antique veterinary equipment and quiz with Richard Matthews, BWMB information about shearing and fleece wrapping, Defibrillator and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) demonstrations from Sue Bainbridge, Inspirational Training lifesaving techniques relating to water sports and outdoor activities, Local Fire Brigade targeted response vehicle, Local policing team for the Dales, The Better Health Programme re proposed reconfiguration of hospital provision - Durham & Tees Valley.



Refreshments & hot food were provided – delicious Lamb Burgers from McFarlanes, appropriately using local lamb, to celebrate "Love Lamb Week". Thanks to everyone who attended and especially those who brought along information, displays and equipment, opened up their Units, or demonstrated their skills and knowledge. Thanks especially to The Heart of Teesdale and to Middleton Co-op for their contribution towards the refreshments and to Middleton Mart & H & H for the use of facilities.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS & 2017 CALENDARS**

**Pack of 10 Cards** £3.50  
**Calendars** £5.00

For Friends of UTASS  
 £3 for Cards and £4.25 for Calendars

UTASS Christmas Cards and Calendars are **now on sale** from the UTASS Office.

Many Thanks to all those who kindly offered photographs.

Thanks must also be given to all the businesses who very generously sponsored the card and calendar.

## Thanks to Middleton & Barnard Castle Auction Marts

We are enormously grateful to the Marts for allowing us to use their facilities free of charge for events.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

Tuesday 7th March 2017  
 At 7.30pm, At the UTASS Office

For catering purposes please let us know by **FRIDAY 3rd March 2017** if you will be joining us.

To confirm attendance please contact UTASS on 01833 641010 or email [info@utass.org](mailto:info@utass.org)

**UTASS disclaimer**

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