



# UTASS

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Supporting our Communities in the Durham Dales



LOTTERY FUNDED

Spring 2016



### Spring Newsletter...

Hello everyone,  
Welcome to the Spring community newsletter.

As usual, there's lots of updates in this edition from some great fundraising events planned for 2016, to great opportunities for

young people and information about services available in and around Teesdale and the Durham Dales.

I do hope you enjoy the newsletter, if you have anything for the next newsletter, which will

cover June, July & August; it could be a story, an event or an advertisement. please email details to me at [emma@utass.org](mailto:emma@utass.org)

Best Wishes,  
Emma

### H&H Group and UTASS launch a new initiative to attract and encourage young people to establish themselves on the business ladder ....

'The Young Rural Entrepreneur Programme' offers free business accommodation for a young business person for the period of one year. Applications are open to dynamic young people aged between 18 and 30 who can demonstrate a clear business vision for the future.

The programme, which is worth £3000 per year, includes BT telephone and broadband; the only additional utility cost would be for the electricity.

The criteria will require all potential candidates are located

within the Teesdale area, application forms must be submitted, and all applicants will be required to attend a 'panel' interview.

H&H Group and UTASS have a shared synergy, with both organisations supporting and helping a range of rural businesses as Peter Hull, Director of H&H Land and Property explains:

"This is a superb opportunity for someone who is currently working from home who would like to further develop their business, or alternatively for an enterprise just starting out and wishing to set up an office base."

Located in one of the four business units, which were

opened in August 2014 in The Aspire Building within Middleton Auction Mart, the successful applicant will have use of a self-contained office or business space. They will also benefit from mentoring support covering business strategy, accountancy, marketing and promotions. A selection of workshops and training will also be available throughout the year.

H&H Land and Property are keen to engage with the local community and as one of the largest firms of chartered surveyors and specialist rural advisors; they offer an extensive range of expertise throughout the north of England. The deadline for applications is Monday 11th April.

Application forms can be found on the UTASS & H&H websites or call 0191 3708530 / 01833 641010 or you can e-mail [emma@utass.org](mailto:emma@utass.org) / [charlotte@utass.org](mailto:charlotte@utass.org)



### Development Worker Pursues A Pottery Challenge

Hayley Bell, our Enterprise Development Worker who managed the build of Middleton Hub and who has helped small businesses in the upper dale grow is leaving to pursue a new challenge.

Hayley, was the driving force in the creation of four start up business units at Middleton Auction Mart as well as a unit here at UTASS, which were funded by Rural Growth Network.

The units, which were opened in August 2014 and created with the collaboration of UTASS, the auction mart and community interest company Durham Dales Enterprise, have had 91% occupancy, and hopefully with the Young Rural Entrepreneurial Programme should be back up to 100% occupancy.

It was thanks to Hayley's hard work and determination that the

success of the hub led to Teesdale Action Partnership providing funding to extend the her contract for another year.

Hayley worked her last shift earlier this month, to take up a full time position as assistant manager at Center Parc's pottery studio, however, Hayley has said she would be a regular visitor and would continue to offer help and support on a voluntary basis.

We would be grateful if you could please inform us as soon as possible of any changes to the email address you submitted on your membership form. This is to minimise us exceeding our deferred limit of failed email attempts on our server. Any changes and updates can be emailed to [ann@utass.org](mailto:ann@utass.org)

From everyone at UTASS we'd like to wish her every success for the future, she has been a real driving force; her passion, optimism and enthusiasm will certainly be missed.



Photo taken by Martin Paul, Teesdale Mercury



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)

We'll be saving a spot in every newsletter for a poem written by our member Desmond Collinson...

**Desmonds Poem...**

*TUP TALK*

*A hiker walking out one day  
On a cool and clear June morn.  
Two tups were sheltering behind a wall,  
For they'd been newly shorn.*

*The old tup said to the shearling,  
"It's nut ower het tiday,  
It's a bit of a shock ti yan's system,  
When they tak all thy wool away.*

*Ivery year they tip me ower  
And tak all'd wool off mi back,  
So now I've started tipping them,  
Ti see how they like that."*

*Shearling replied "it wasn't this hiker,  
Thou car'd gi him a thumper".  
"Ah will when hi hez the neck ti come,  
Sweating, in a sheep wool jumper."*

*Desmond.*

**SALES, WANTS & SERVICES**

Here at UTASS we have a notice board, full of Sales, Wants & Services.

Feel free to pop into the office to view them, or you can see them all on our new website:

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

**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 BELOW.



**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. The insurance cover would pay off any outstanding loan as well as doubling the amount of savings for those aged up to 65. For those aged between 65 and 75 any outstanding loan would be paid off. The next 10 people aged between 18 and 25 years who open a credit union account via UTASS will benefit from a deposit of £4 from NE Credit Union.

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.

**Satellite Broadband Scheme**

We have been updated by Digital Durham that County Durham residents with speeds of 2Mbps or less, not included in any current fibre broadband plans, may be eligible to apply for the scheme. It allows residents to apply for up to £350 towards the hardware and installation costs to get connected. Eligible residents will be required to pay the monthly charge after the broadband connection has been set up.

Further information can be found at <http://www.digitaldurham.org/>

**Sheep & Goat Movement Reporting Service**

Movement documents now need to be directed to:

**Animal Reporting & Movement Service (ARAMS)**

**South Western, PO Box 6299, Milton Keynes, MK10 1ZQ**

**Helpline: 08445 730137 and FAX: 01908 664433 for the ARAMS forms**

All Animal Health enquiries 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**

**27 Years of The Ralph**

**Gowland Trust...**

The Ralph Gowland Trust was formed in December 1988, specifically to benefit residents of the parish of Middleton in Teesdale, aged 60 years or over, who are in need, suffering hardship and or in situations of distress, who receive only a low income.

They make grants of money or can pay for items, services or facilities to help reduce the hardship and distress.

Examples of help given in the past include payments for or towards fuel or electric bills, furniture replacement, kitchen equipment and assistance with holidays.

If your total income is less than £275 per week for a couple, or £180 per week for a single person

The trust may be able to help you purchase some item(s) that you need but cannot afford.

To access and apply to the fund please write to the trust, explaining your problem.

Any application/correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The Trustees are eager and anxious to help and provide any necessary assistance from the fund.

Address your sealed envelope to:

**"The Ralph Gowland Trust"**

Barclays Bank, 7 Market Place, Middleton in Teesdale, County Durham, DL12 0QF



# 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.

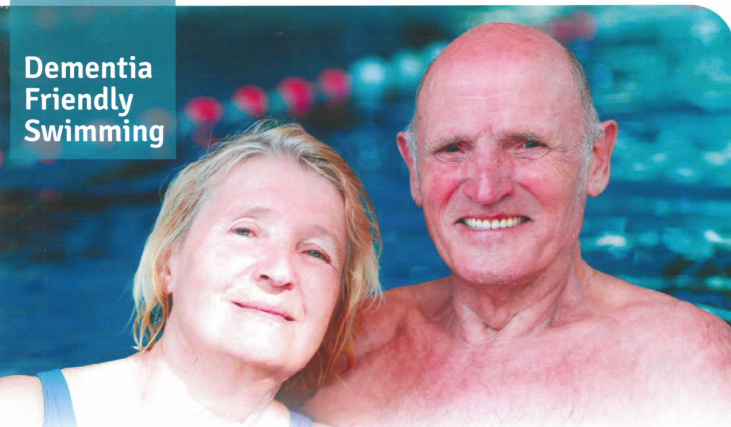
The booking in system is easy.

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

Take a look at our website

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

Dementia Friendly Swimming



## Dementia Friendly Swimming

If you're living with dementia, or care for someone who does, come and try one of our new Dementia Friendly swimming sessions.

With accessible equipment and facilities, and assistance from specially trained staff, you can relax and enjoy your swim in a safe and supportive environment.

Join us for a session at:

**Teesdale Leisure Centre**  
Strathmore Road, Barnard Castle, DL12 8DS  
10:45am - 11:45am every Tuesday

Free refreshments available from 10:00am

£2.60 - free to carers supporting someone living with dementia.

Find out more: 03000 264572



Free microchipping offered on a drop in basis.  
No appointment required.  
All puppies (up to the age of six months old) should be fully vaccinated and must be carried. We reserve the right to ask for proof of vaccination.

#### Local Events

23rd March - 11am - 3pm - Evergreen Hall,  
Penrith, CA11 7LQ

29th March - 11am - 3pm - Langridge Initiative Centre,  
Middlesbrough, TS3 7LU

30th March - 11am - 3pm - Mole County Store,  
Piercebridge, DL2 3TJ



## The Aspire Building

Call 01833 641010 Middleton-in-Teesdale

## Business Units TO LET

250 sqft / 23sqm  
£250 inc VAT per calendar month  
which includes phone & broadband\*

Workshop for office and light manufacturing use, targeted at new or expanding small enterprises.

One available immediately  
One available from April

\* up to defined limits

Durham Dales Enterprise  
C. I. C.

## UTASS Christmas Cards & 2017 Calendar

It may only be March, however spring seems to be knocking on our doors, which I am sure will lead to many an opportunity for some stunning photographs.

If you've have any photographs you'd like to for the 2016 Christmas card or the 2017 calendar please email them to

[emma@utass.org](mailto:emma@utass.org)

## Exmoor Legion 30:30 comes to Teesdale

In the last edition of the newsletter we published that the Teesdale 30:30 would take place in May, however, we have since been informed that it will now take place on Saturday 10th September.

The 30:30 is a race which sees 5 person-teams complete a distance of 30 miles be it 30 'military' miles, 30 'civilian' miles or 30 kilometres, having made a commitment to raise at least £250 for the benefit of The Royal British Legion, whilst carrying a 30 pound rucksack.

The event is run exclusively in aid of the Royal British Legion (poppy appeal) and all profits/ sponsorship will be used to help veterans in one way or another, it pays neither fees, nor salaries, nor remuneration of any kind.

Further information and registration details can be found at [www.exmoor3030.org.uk](http://www.exmoor3030.org.uk), or you can contact Gary Bevan on 07870797839 or email [garybevan@mc.com](mailto:garybevan@mc.com)



Photo taken by Anne Scott

### Margaret Bradshaw, turns 90 as she's putting plans together for an Upper Teesdale 1/4 Marathon Walk event.

In September last year Margaret Bradshaw, completed the Great North Run in the amazing time of 4 hours raising in excess of £2100 for both The Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue and UTASS.

In January she enjoyed a wonderful 90th birthday, beginning the day with horse riding, followed by lunch at UTASS and afternoon tea at Clarendon's with friends. It was while having lunch with her UTASS friends that she announced she

was going to plan and arrange a 1/4 marathon walk in Upper Teesdale.

The 'MEB's Upper Teesdale 1/4 Marathon Walk' will take place on Saturday 3rd July and is open to those aged 55 years and over (Full and Half Marathoners excluded.)

Anyone interested in assisting Margaret and those interested in taking part can get in touch with her on 01833 650589 or email her on [mehilltop@btinternet.com](mailto:mehilltop@btinternet.com).

## The EU Referendum

David Cameron has “successfully” renegotiated the UK’s membership of the EU so we are now on course for the promised “in out” referendum. There are however a lot of unanswered questions about how things would look if the UK left Europe: in fact so many questions that nobody is in a position to make an informed decision. This is particularly true in relation to Agriculture. The Yorkshire Agricultural Society has just published a report and the NFU has commissioned a study of the various possible scenarios from a Dutch university which specialises in the workings of the EU.

The issues that will influence popular voting:

There is a real fear that many people will see immigration as the big issue and vote to leave the EU to enable the UK to take charge of its borders again.

A lesser number will be keen to re-establish our sovereignty and protect British cultural identity from a tide of European standardisation (multi-cultural society).

A lot of people, including many politicians, see leaving the EU as an opportunity to redeploy our budget contribution to the EU. The UK is the third largest net contributor and receives back just less than half of its overall contribution of £19.23billion and that includes the UK rebate. Most voters perceive the Common Agricultural Policy as an unnecessary handout to rich farmers and landowners.

Among farmers (0.6% of the population) 50% currently want to stay in and 25% get out because they think that Cross Compliance and bureaucracy will cease!

What do we know will change if we leave?

Nothing will change immediately: it will be a negotiated exit that could take place in 2020 when the current CAP regime is due to finish. It should mean that the benefits of the CAP will continue to go to farmers till 2020.

If we have a trade agreement with the EU which would be essential for trading agricultural commodities (especially important for lamb with 38% of UK production going to the EU) we would still be subject to most EU directives (Nitrates, Water Framework, Sheep EID, animal welfare etc.). Norway is currently in this position and pays £106 per head to the EU compared to the UK’s £153. It is unlikely that a UK outside of the EU could afford not to have a trade agreement.

A future UK government is unlikely to continue supporting UK agriculture to the same level. Political priorities are the Health Service, Education, Housing, Transport, defence: food security is not currently on the agenda.

Few sectors could continue production at current commodity prices without CAP support.

Result for UK farmers: the same regulatory burden (Cross Compliance) but no basic universal support payment. On past history the only support likely would be through buying public goods using compensatory environmental schemes: these would be unlikely to make a significant contribution to farm incomes. It is therefore essential that the farming industry ensures that the debate running up to the referendum is fully informed, that the general public understand the limited financial and bureaucracy changes/gains that would ensue and that Food Security issues for the future are properly understood. The big supermarkets have already demonstrated that they buy on price (New Zealand lamb at the height of the UK lamb season).

The lessons of “Horsegate” seem to have been very quickly forgotten.

- Richard Betton

## Durham County Carers Support At UTASS

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



The support can vary from simply having someone to listen and talk to, help with getting carer related benefits, assistance to access grants and funding as well as training courses, and much, much more.

Helen holds regular coffee mornings, for existing carers and also for any carers who have not already registered with the Carers Support. The next one will

be on Friday 8th April and it is an ideal opportunity for people who are unpaid carers for family/friends/neighbours to pop in and have an informal chat.

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



Healthwatch is the new independent consumer champion created to gather and represent the views of the public. Healthwatch will play a role at both national and local level and will make sure that the views of the public and people who use services are taken into account.

We gather the views and experiences of local people and see what is good and what is not. We tell providers what

you think about their services. We tell commissioners what you say about the services they are paying for. We pass on our findings to the Care Quality Commission and Healthwatch England.

You can find us at [www.healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk) or there are comment cards and a box to post them in, in the reception at UTASS.



## The Aspire Building

Middleton-in-Teesdale

## Middleton Hub

UNIT 1 - H & H Insurance  
Tel - 01833 641022

UNIT 2 - Available to let  
Contact Diane on 01388 641010

UNIT 3 - Farm, Pet & Equine Store  
Tel - 01833 641111

UNIT 4- Hotch Potch House Upholstery  
Tel - 01833 640518

UNIT 5 at UTASS - Steve Messam  
Tel - 07713 196583



## Easter Holiday Activity Days at Teesdale School

Activity Days for 9 - 13 year olds.  
Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March  
and Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th April.

Activities, which will include sports, art and cooking, will start at 10am til 3pm. and will include sports, arts and cooking.

Costs £12 per day.  
Parents wishing to drop off early can do so from 8.30am and collect at 3.30pm for £15 per day.

## 2016 Trashion Show

The 2016 Teesdale Trashion Show is being hosted at the Hub on Thursday 31st March. Doors open 7pm and cat walk starts at 7.30pm. Free to those taking part and those under 16, others £3 contribution requested.

**Eve Galloway**  
Extended Services Co-ordinator  
Teesdale School and Sixth Form Centre  
Prospect Place, Barnard Castle, DL12 8HH  
07522 034171  
[eve.galloway@teesdaleschool.com](mailto:eve.galloway@teesdaleschool.com)

# March 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2 Allflex Eid info session 4pm-8pm	3	4	5	6
UTASS CLOSED						
7	8 MiT Farmers Lunch UTASS AGM, 7pm	9 St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch	10	11 DC Carers Support Tranquil Treatments	12	13
14	15	16 Pilates	17 Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch Chiroprapist	18 Tranquil Treatments	19	20
21	22	23	24 DCC drop in	25 UTASS CLOSED	26	27 Tranquil Treatments
CAB	Music & Memories	Pilates				
28	29	30	31			
UTASS CLOSED						

## Events

- 2nd - Allflex RS420 Stick Reader and iLivestock software information session at UTASS, 4pm - 8pm.
- 8th - Middleton in Teesdale Farmers Lunch
- 8th - UTASS AGM
- 9th - St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch
- Durham County Carers are at UTASS every other Friday.
- Tranquil Treatments are at UTASS every Friday (Except 4th & 25th) They will be at UTASS on Saturday 26th March.
- 17th - Rachel Logan - Chiroprapist at UTASS.
- 17th - Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch
- Citizens Advice are at UTASS every other Monday, 1pm - 4pm. (Not on 7th March)
- Music & Memories at UTASS the 4th Tuesday of every month, 2pm - 3pm.
- Durham County Council come to UTASS 10.30am - 11.30.

**Farmers Lunches:**  
 UTASS manages men's CREE lunch sessions for retired / semi-retired farmers or men associated with agriculture:  
 The **Middleton-in-Teesdale** CREE lunch, at Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart.  
 The **Barnard Castle** CREE lunch, at Barnard Castle Farmers Auction Mart.  
 The **St John's Chapel** CREE lunch, at St John's Chapel Town Hall.  
 If you would like to attend, please call UTASS (Mondays/Thursdays/Fridays) on 01833 641010 and speak to Anne Scott

# UTASS Youth Sessions

**Monday's**  
 Girls Group  
 6pm til 8pm  
 8 - 14 year olds

**Thursday's**  
 Youth Club  
 6pm til 7.30pm 8 - 11 year olds  
 7.30pm til 9pm 12 - 19 year olds

All Sessions 50p per child per session

If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch.

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

# April 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
						Tranquil Treatments
4	5	6	7	8 DC Carers Support Coffee Morning Tranquil Treatments	9	10
CAB						
11	12	13 St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch	14	15 Tranquil Treatments	16	17
18	19	20	21 Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch DCC	22 DC Carers Support Tranquil Treatments	23	24 Farmers market & Craft Fair
CAB	MiT Farmers Lunch					
25	26 Music & Memories	27	28	29 Tranquil Treatments	30	

## Events

- Citizens Advice are at UTASS every other Monday, 1pm - 4pm.
- Durham County Council come to UTASS the 3rd Thursday on the month.
- Tranquil Treatments are at UTASS every Friday.
- Durham County Carers are at UTASS every other Friday.
- 13th - St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch.
- 19th - Middleton in Teesdale Farmers Lunch.
- 21st - Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch.
- 24th - Farmers Market & Craft Fair in Middleton.
- 26th - Music & Memories at UTASS the 4th Tuesday of every month, 2pm - 3pm.

## 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 with D1 (mini bus) category held and appropriate Criminal Records Bureau checks will need to be undertaken.  
**Contact Jen at either 01833 641010 or jen@utass.org**

Events get updated regularly on our online diary, which can be found at:  
[www.utass.org/events](http://www.utass.org/events)

## OUTREACH FACILITIES at UTASS, 9-11 Chapel Row

Teesdale Citizens Advice Bureau : Fortnightly on Mondays - 1pm – 3pm

Durham County Council : 3rd Tuesday of the month [10.30-11.30]

Environmental issues;

bus passes; any council services

Durham County Carers : Fortnightly on Fridays

Robyn Peat, Partner, George F White 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) or by phoning George F White's on 01388 527966

# May 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31					1
UTASS CLOSED						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
UTASS CLOSED				Tranquil Treatments DC Carers Support		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch		Tranquil Treatments		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
CAB	MfT Farmers Lunch		DCC Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch	Tranquil Treatments DC Carers Support		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Music & Memories			Tranquil Treatments		Farmers market & Craft Fair

## Events

- Citizens Advice are at UTASS every other Monday.
- Durham County Council come to UTASS the 3rd Thursday on the month.
- Tranquil Treatments are at UTASS every Friday.
- Durham County Carers are at UTASS every other Friday.
- 11th - St Johns Chapel Farmers Lunch.
- 17th - Middleton in Teesdale Farmers Lunch.
- 19th - Barnard Castle Farmers Lunch.
- 24th - Music & Memories at UTASS the 4th Tuesday of every month, 2pm - 3pm.
- 29th - Farmers Market & Craft Fair in Middleton.



DVD of Addicted to Sheep can be ordered from our brand new online shop [www.addictedtosheep.com/shop](http://www.addictedtosheep.com/shop)



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

- Tuesday 22nd March
- Tuesday 26th April
- Tuesday 24th May

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.



## TRAINING UPDATE

### Funding for Weardale Rural Skills Training

From Weardale Action Partnership, over two years, funding is being made available to farmers living or working in Weardale, towards the cost of a wide range of rural skills, with a First Aid course being free of charge. Mostly accredited, this training includes Artificial Insemination for Cattle, Emergency First Aid at Work (outdoor related); British Wool Marketing Board shearing training, Car + Trailer driving lessons; NPTC Safe Use of Pesticides; Telescopic Handler, Chainsaw & Drystone Walling. Funding can be accessed by completing an application form, available from UTASS. The application process establishes eligibility and asks prospective trainees to prioritise the courses they are interested in, as training places will be limited. (Please see our website <http://utass.org/training-available/> for application details.)

### Minibus Training

We hope to arrange some Midas (Minibus Driver Awareness) training over Easter, for those with D1 already on their licence. This is funded by Teesdale Action Partnership as part of a two year project to increase the number of trained drivers for voluntary organisations in Teesdale (please see our website <http://utass.org/minibus-training> for further information). The possible dates are either **Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March & Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, or Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**. The certificated training will consist of one morning for Standard Minibuses and one morning for Accessible Minibuses with a short assessment, driving a minibus included and a handbook provided to keep. (Trainees can still achieve the qualification without doing the second morning's theory covering Accessible minibuses.)

### The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust

This is another potential source of funding to younger applicants throughout County Durham, again via an application process with forms available from UTASS. It covers a range of driving courses including 13-16 Lantra Tractor Driving, car driving lessons, car + trailer lessons and quad bike training. If anyone is currently interested in applying for the **13-16 Tractor Driving** please contact us for an application form, otherwise we are hopeful that there may be further funding for the whole range of courses again from June onwards.

### Other Training

Recent training activities during February & March include 4 educational visits to Middleton Mart & a visit to the British Wool Marketing Board in Bradford, funded by The Heart of Teesdale project. We are also most grateful to Durham Telly for granting us rights to show their video of Middleton Ewe Sale last year to the Green Lane School children to bring their visit to life (available to view on YouTube).

Five days of Safe Use of Pesticides/Grandfather Route training and assessments have just been completed. We are most grateful to Middleton Mart, Barnard Castle Mart & UTASS for providing venues free of charge and to all those who loaned equipment for free to make this training possible. Another course is planned for late August.

Two classes of Getting Online training have been delivered by Sarah Peart, with farming topics as learning material and Sarah's expertise will also be available for VAT Training later on in the year, if we are able to get funding.

If you would like any information regarding any of this training, details are on our website, or you can contact Julia Stephenson, on 01833 641010 or email her at [julia@utass.org](mailto:julia@utass.org)

#### UTASS 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.

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

UTASS gratefully acknowledges the support and financial contributions from Volunteers, The R H Woods Charitable Trust, Esmee Fairbairn North East and the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Durham County Council, The ASDA Foundation, The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust, The Andrew Martell Fund, The Ernest Cook Trust, The Lloyd's Bank Foundation for England and Wales, The Barbour Foundation, East Durham Community Trust, The Sir James Knott Charitable Trust, HSBC Agriculture, County Durham Community Foundation, The Heart of Teesdale, Sponsors and Service Users.

**CALL TO ALL VOLUNTEERS & VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO APPLY FOR... FULLY FUNDED MINIBUS TRAINING FOR THEIR VOLUNTEERS!**

The aim is to overcome current barriers for rural isolated residents and by increasing minibus use, give greater access to a wide range of events, activities, facilities and services.

**GO ...TALK TO UTASS**

Julia Stephenson  
e: [julia@utass.org](mailto:julia@utass.org) t: 01833 641010  
Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Limited  
9-11 Chapel Row, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle DL12 0SN