



Issue 1.



## In Focus

- Councillor Forum - Whats happening politically.
- Focus on outdoor spaces. This edition we look at the cow plantation.
- Have your say. Spennymoor is a town where people **matter. Let's hear your voice.**
- Focus on local businesses and business issues.

## #IndependentsInAction

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

## The Independent Community News

### Community Matters

This is the first and last time, as editor I will be political in the eyes of some. One thing I have learnt from standing in the latest by-election is the need to communicate with everyone, to be accessible to everyone and to stand up for the rights and concerns of everyone. Spennymoor, whilst being a small town has a big heart. The amount of things going on and the amazing community participation is there for all to be a part of but we need to promote it. We need to get the word out for all these organisations, groups and the people who we can see

do so much .for the town, have so much commitment to the organisations **they work for. Let's also** acknowledge that things can always improve. People need a forum to ex-



press those concerns, be respected for their opinions and even when they are not liked, they are still part of and integral to our communities.

For too long the communi-

ty news has come from a single source. In listening to our communities, it seemed sensible to talk directly with you and offer you an alternative forum to interact.

## YUILL/BELLWAY ADOPTION OF ROADS, FOOTPATHS, AND OPEN SPACES

County Councillor Kevin Thompson, has been engaged with DCC and Yuill/Bellway to speed up the adoption process for the footpaths, roads, lights, and open spaces on your estate; the process has been complicated by Yuill going into administration. The current situation is that Money set aside by Yuill has now been made available to DCC, and within the next four weeks the work should start on upgrading the footpaths, roads, and lights to an adoptable standard. The grass verges and open spaces is still an unre-

solved situation as a plot of land has yet to be landscaped. Bellway have three options for the maintaining of Grass Verges and Open Spaces 1) They can transfer it to DCC by paying them a commuted sum of money who then will take over the maintenance. 2) Transfer them to a land management company; again for a commuted sum. 3) Bellway may choose to continue to maintain them through their own contractors. DCC are not legally bound to take over the maintenance of grass verges and open spaces. Progress is still

being made in regards to the completion of roundabouts on Carr Lane at the junctions of Studley Drive and Rosedale; this should result in the taking out of at least two chicanes. **Barret's are responsible for** the construction of the roundabouts.



Cllr Kevin Thompson.

## The Outdoors

### Spring is coming.

Spring is just around the corner. **Of course that's a chance to get out with the family to explore the Nature reserves and where better to start than in the Cow Plantation.** A solid tarmac path that opens out some fabulous woodland. To keep the interest of young children the Spring Watch campaign from the woodland trust offers an opportunity to search and record for national records all that you find.

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/natures-calendar/big-spring-watch/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/natures-calendar/big-spring-watch/)

The Sunday afternoon walk or the trip to school gives children a special



chance to see nature close at hand. The information boards show the main tarmac routes but if you're planning on searching for frog spawn or newts in the ponds or a sneaky peak for a hiding fox, squirrel or deer, then a good pair of boots or wellies will be needed. The major advantage of this local space is there is not a car to be found. Easily reached from all areas of Spennymoor, **I'm sure many have not** been down to explore or experienced the natural beauty on our doorsteps.



## Spennymoor Cycling Club

Spennymoor Cycling Club – a friendly club based in Spennymoor. We have a diverse mix of members both male and female with interests covering all aspects of cycling whether it be Club/Social Rides, Time Trials, Mountain Biking, Cyclo-Cross or Triathlon.

The ethos of the club is very much about getting people out on the bike and enjoying the sights and scenery the local area has to offer.

Weekly club runs leave the Town Hall on a Sunday morning at 9am. Distance and difficulty varies from week to week to cater for those who are riding.

To find out more, contact us via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/507565922725690/>

Or alternatively, you can drop the club secretary an email for more information:

[spennymoorcycling@gmail.com](mailto:spennymoorcycling@gmail.com)



# THE SPENNY INDEPENDENT

## What's On in Spennymoor

This is a monthly publication. Tell us what you are putting on that is regular or planned for next month and we'll add them all for you, for FREE. Email address on the last page.



### SPENNYMOOR SETTLEMENT EVERYMAN THEATRE

O'Hanlon Street, Off King Street  
Spennymoor DL16 6RY

From GERMANY

#### Variations of Pointe - a triple bill -



Bringing  
Ballet  
To New  
Audiences

2016  
UK  
Tour



- \* Petrouchka
- \* 'Allo 'Allo
- \* Transitions of (I)denity

**SUNDAY 26TH JUNE 2016**  
**2PM MATINEE AND 7PM EVENING**

Doors open 30 minutes prior to start

**Tickets £12 Adults,**

**Concessions (under 16s and over 65s) £8**

Available from Hybrid Multi-media, 30 High Street, Spennymoor

On-line at [www.spennymoorsettlement.co.uk](http://www.spennymoorsettlement.co.uk) or at the Theatre weekly

Coffee Mornings 10-1130 am on Saturdays, or Contact 01388816430

FIND US ON  <https://m.facebook.com/SpennymoorEverymanTheatre/>

A special one not to be missed. Coming to the Everyman Theatre. Variations of pointe, a triple bill — Sunday 26th June shows at 2pm and 7pm Tickets are 12 pounds for adults. And concessions (under 16's and over 65's) only 8 pounds. Check out our webpage for more info

<http://www.spennymoorsettlement.co.uk/>

and to purchase tickets

<http://www.spennymoorsettlement.co.uk/purchasetickets.html>

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# THE SPENNY INDEPENDENT

## Spennymoors Little Gems

### #ShopLocal

Spennymoor has some fabulous independent retail outlets and top quality small businesses that can supply just about anything and everything. Of course being a small business, it means small budgets when it comes to promotion and advertising. What I would like to do here is to give this space over to our little gems where people can email in and tell us about what, who and where is something special and for business owners themselves to get in touch and have a little space to promote themselves. Being realistic, it would be impossible here to list and promote every business in the town all at the same time so we will need to be selective in our totally free space. I **don't think people would** want see a list as long as it would be in adverts but a single page selection with a few photos will certainly go some way in the wider world to showing what great things this town has to offer. As with every first

edition, we are looking for more contributions so if your business is running something different, an event, a fundraiser or anything we could sit with you, take a few photos and so a little write up that gives business in the town a little bit more exposure then the website link for us is on every page and our phone and email is the last page.

Now this first edition is out we hope that you the readers would be kind enough to spread the word around about what we are trying to do. We ourselves will also be introducing ourselves whilst we are out and about so we can get to know the needs of the business community.

You have no need as a business owner to worry about cost or artwork. Yes, what we have is simple and raw but hopefully will, because of that will be appealing to a wide range **of people. We don't want** to be a newspaper. We want it to be about our communities and for our communities.



### Spectacles and Love Grace



1 Festival Walk, Spennymoor. 01388 810408



## Something different.

In this section we'd like to appeal for something that has not to our knowledge been done before. You, the participants, the supporters and the enthusiast of so many different sports have a great opportunity to promote your club or group.

We would like to try is for you to send us a photo and **a few words. It doesn't** matter how many words as this is online so we can just add another page or few. Tell us about that match, that fight, that competition — win, lose or draw.

From world class winners to the community team that always loses. It is about sport, getting people involved and telling the world about the great clubs we have here in Spennymoor.



### Wolf Thai Boxing & Fitness

16 High Street, Spennymoor  
07976 596634  
Opening times are  
Monday - Thursday 9.30am-9pm.  
Friday 9.30am-8pm.  
Saturday 9am-1pm.

**CHIKARA DOJO**

**KYOKUSHIN KARATE**

Find us on Facebook  
Search for Chikara Dojo Spennymoor

Unit 2, Low Grange Road, Spennymoor, DL16 6DT  
**Tel : 07713 411198**

Kyokushin Karate for Children and Young People

Unfortunately our society has helped to grow some disruptive, undisciplined youngsters who cause misery to young and old alike.

At the Chikara Dojo we aim to teach our students

the moral values too often missing in today's society. We place great emphasis on respect for parents, family and friends, teachers, the law, senior citizens, peoples' property and perhaps most importantly for themselves.

We teach the threats caused by modern social



issues such as substance abuse, bullying, strangers, unsafe play areas etc. We aim to make our students aware of the dangers that exist today and give them confidence to try and deal with situations if they can not be avoided. Perhaps most importantly, the students are taught that fighting is only ever the last resort and that it is better to avoid danger in the first place.

Our aim is to provide a safe, disciplined, fun way of learning Kyokushin Karate as a true Martial Art to help our students grow into mature, well mannered individuals with the hope that we can help build a better community.

For further details contact Chief Instructor Adam Walker on **07713 411 198** or email [spennykarate@hotmail.com](mailto:spennykarate@hotmail.com)

## The advantage of Sport

Sport England on their website has **this to say ...**

**“There’s strong evidence that taking part in sport improves health, with associated economic benefits.**

Whatever our age, there is good scientific evidence that being physically active can help us lead healthier lives. Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.”

Here in Spennymoor we have a unbelievable number of sports available for all ages producing world class competitors.

With children and adults coming from all over the district to take advantage of the facilities and opportunities available in the town, we

are proud to offer these clubs and groups all the promotion they could ever want within this publication. We are more than happy to meet with group leaders to make the good people of the town aware of the choices on offer.

We see sport a great opportunity especially for young people to learn valuable life skills and build community spirit. We also feel that in making sport available for all, the social advantages are there for all to grasp.



Spennymoor Sports +  
zone supplements

24 High St. DL16 6DB

Established in  
Spennymoor in 1975

Opening Times  
9.30 till 5.00

Contact: Kev Hutchinson  
& Keiran Cain

01388 8149951

Spennymoor  
Sports.com.



Spennymoor Youth Theatre Group was formed in 1995 to meet the needs of Young People in the Spennymoor area within the remit of Musical Theatre, this has now expanded and we have members from across the Northern Region.

Performing in a variety of Professional Venues throughout that time, to over 10,000 people, it is a well respected organisation. Musical Theatre experiences are offered both on stage and behind the scenes with weekly workshops to develop skills and

knowledge together with public performances regularly offer Young People from the age of 7 years old a superb theatre experience.

The testament to the group is that many of our workshop supporters and trainers began their career as Young People performing with the group and many have moved into professional careers. The ability to gain confidence, be part of a great team of people and develop personally as well as

within performance and as part of the wider group is something that the Committee are very proud to say is a key strength of the group.

At a fee of £16 for half a term SYTG remain one of the most affordable options for theatre training. For more information please contact Ian Patterson on 07999 601100 or admin@spennymooryouththeatre.co.uk

In Our Community

## stpaulscentre SPENNYMOOR

[www.stpaulscentrespennymoor.org.uk](http://www.stpaulscentrespennymoor.org.uk)

The St. Pauls Centre is packed with different groups and activities — something for all ages.

Below is taken from their website .. “

Welcome to the website for the St Paul's Centre Spennymoor – a vibrant community centre right in the heart of the town.

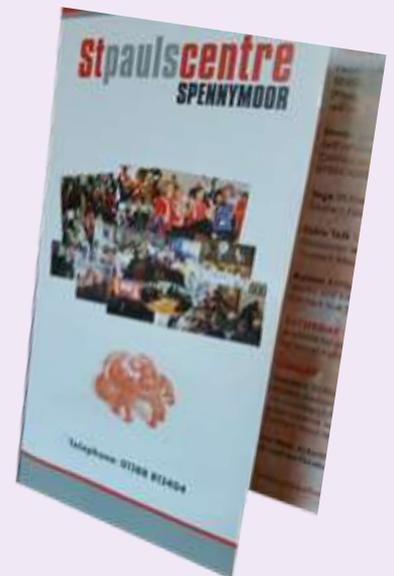
The Centre boasts great facilities including the Divine and Delicious café open Monday to Friday, a large function hall available for hire and a smaller meeting room.

Whether you are looking for a venue to host a wedding reception, children's party or a conference, the St Paul's Centre has it all.

And there's a wide range of activities taking place every day offering something for everyone of all ages - so come and see us - you will be guaranteed of a warm welcome! “

As well as the website, the centre produce a little brochure and are on social media.

01388 813404



### Trinity Youth Project

Back in September 2015 **Typ opened it's doors** to the drop in centre. The project is growing from strength to strength offering a safe place for the youth of the town instead of street corners. People may remember last year the group of volunteers were out in the town with a shopping trolley bringing hot drinks and talking to young adults in order to build trust and persuade them that youth centres

are there for them. Long may this and all the other youth projects in the town continue. As DCC cuts back on youth workers, the charity and church sector are even more important to helping the youth in our communities.



With other community centres at Tudhoe, Middlestone Moor, Kirk Merrington and at Byers Green, Church Halls at St. Davids, St. Andrews and others all with lots of things going on, in time we will be able to get round and promote all that is going on in the area. If there are any persons out there that fancy doing a bit of a write up to get the word out faster than please email. **We'd be more than happy** to take all that is offered.

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# THE SPENNY INDEPENDENT

## Around Our Town



## Beautiful Spennymoor

For people visiting or looking to move into the area, what a fabulous way of showing what is on offer that to have a whole page associated to the stunning local street scenes and local scenic views. As an old market town full of history with surrounding

countryside that is some the best on offer in the country. As local we become accepting of just how great it is to live in the town.

Here we can create a showcase of the very best. **Please email you're great Spennymoor Photos.**



14A High Street  
Spennymoor  
07719 889120

*Beautiful Brides*

All because two people fell in *love*



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**Chip likes...** walks in the countryside to feel the grass between his paws (and being a natural in front of the camera).

**Chip also likes being microchipped.**

“  
If I'm lost, or get stolen,  
I can be returned to my  
rightful owner as I'm  
microchipped.  
”

**Is your dog like Chip?**

From 6 April 2016, it is law that all dogs must be microchipped.

**#BeLikeChip**

Take advantage of **FREE** microchipping in County Durham.\*

(\*T&Cs apply)

Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/microchipping](http://www.durham.gov.uk/microchipping) or call 03000 261 000 for details



*Memories*  
Cards and Gifts



36 HIGH STREET,  
SPENNYMOOR  
MON-TUES:  
09:00 - 17:00  
WED:  
09:00 - 13:00  
THURS-FRI:  
09:00 - 17:00  
SAT:  
09:00 - 16:30

Mums across the County are being offered the chance to get fit for less with free leisure discount cards this Mothers' Day.



Instructor Helen Tones teaches yoga. From Sunday 6 to Sunday 13 March - a week which includes International Women's Day on 8 March - all women who visit the 10 Durham County Council run centres can receive a Thrive leisure card for free.



The Thrive card - which usually costs £5 - gives holders up to a 20% discount on a range of activities including group exercise classes, swimming sessions, squash court hire or time in a sauna and steam room.

But no one is being left out and from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 March the centres will also be offering free access to their gyms and group exercise classes. During these three days all visitors - male and female - will be able to sign up for a Thrive card free of charge.

## Spennymoor Independent

A social project, promoting Spennymoor

2 Beech Avenue  
Spennymoor  
DL16 7SU

Phone: 01388205722  
Mobile: 07917654311  
Email: SpennySpectator@Gmail.com

# **BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES**

# **#IndependentsInAction**



**Spennymoor Independents**  
People before Politics

**WWW.SPENNYMOORINDEPENDENTS.ORG**  
**SELFLESSNESS - INTEGRITY - OBJECTIVITY**  
**ACCOUNTABILITY - OPENNESS - HONESTY - LEADERSHIP**

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