

In With the New, but Keep the Old



L-R: Mrs Noeline Foster, Jean Cross, Mrs & Mr Donald Foster

Benefits Take-Up Campaign

Allerdale Borough Council is urging residents to come along to the Carnegie Theatre on 23 March to find out if they may be entitled to housing and council tax benefits as well as other welfare benefits.

It is estimated that the average amount of unclaimed council tax benefit is £9.30 per week (£483 per year) and unclaimed housing benefit is £36.50 per week (£1,898 per year). Nationally, this could be as much as £1,400 million. In Allerdale, it is estimated that up to 1,644 people are not claiming housing benefit and up to 7,241 people are not claiming council tax benefit.

The event at the Carnegie Theatre at 1:30pm on Thursday 23 March sees the launch of a new project to tackle this issue. The aim of the project, called the Cumbria Initiative, is to ensure that as many people as possible within Allerdale are receiving all of the housing and council tax benefits to which they may be entitled.

A range of organisations, including the Council's benefits team, will be on hand at the event to offer

advice. CFM Radio will be broadcasting live from the Theatre. Refreshments will be available. Elizabeth Kelly, Allerdale Borough Council's Senior Benefits Officer, said: "This initiative is a real opportunity for those people in Allerdale to find out whether they are entitled to help with paying their rent or council tax. It's surprising how many people do qualify when they thought they would not be entitled. I would encourage everyone who is interested to call in to the open day and see what help we can give them."

The Cumbria Initiative is a partnership of Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Copeland Borough Council, Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council, with a firm of private consultants. The project is jointly funded by Central Government and the five local authorities.

For more information about the event and possible entitlement to housing and council tax benefits contact the Cumbria Initiative by telephone on 0845 3005023.

Report by: Bill & Winifred Allan

Lent Lunches gave the Abbey volunteers their first chance to use the newly installed kitchen facilities. The old Range has been left as a feature. Moving the kitchen will allow for a new toilet with Invalid facilities in the future.

Grant for Playgroup

Allerdale Community Fund grant for play group. Tots and toddlers in Silloth will be having a lot more fun thanks to a grant from the Allerdale Community Fund. The Tots 'n' Toddlers playgroup was awarded an Allerdale Community Fund grant of £250 towards new toys and equipment.

The Tots 'n' Toddlers group was formed when two of Silloth's toddler groups, Mums 'n' Minis and Stay & Play, joined together. Beckie Molyneux of Tots 'n' Toddlers said: "This grant is very much appreciated. It will be used to replenish toys and equipment and to let the children have great fun."

Other Allerdale Community Fund grants allocated by the panel at their meeting on 25 January 2006 included: £200 to Wigton Youth AFC for coaching courses for volunteers; £171 to Pennine View Sheltered Housing for purchase of new crockery; £250 for youth bands to play at Silloth Vintage Rally; £250 to Wigton Bowling Club to purchase of a turf iron.

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