

UPPER TEESDALE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES LTD

(Supporting our Communities in the Durham Dales)

Glaxo SmithKline IMPACT Awards 2011 – Highly Commended



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*Benson DL, The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne,
and Lady Nicholson*

Dr Patrick Lavery and Sir Paul

Dear Member.
2014

Tuesday 28th January

I hope that this letter and enclosed information finds you well.

UTASS CALENDAR 2015: We are creating a UTASS calendar for 2015 and are looking for topical Durham Dales photographs for inclusion in the calendar. Please contact Emma at UTASS (Mondays and Fridays) or email to emma@utass.org if you would like to offer photographs.

FRIENDS OF UTASS: The annual prize draw was won by W P Williamson, who kindly gave the £100 prize money back to UTASS. Friends of UTASS 2014 membership is now available.

MIDDLETON'S MAGICAL MEMORIES: An exhibition of John Wilkinson's photographs depicting carnivals in Middleton – in – Teesdale between 1979 and 1988 will be held at UTASS on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th March. Entrance costs £1 for adults and is free for children. Refreshments will also be available.

WOMEN IN RURAL ENTERPRISE: Is a new Teesdale Networking Group. Building on the success of the National Women in Rural Enterprise (WiRE) Network the Teesdale branch has been launched. The first meeting of the Teesdale WiRE will take place on **Thursday 30th January 9.30am to 11.30am at TCR Hub in Barnard Castle**. For more information contact Alex Nicholson at wireteesdale@gmail.com

UTASS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Will take place on Tuesday 18th March at 7.30pm in the UTASS building. Andrew Rowbotham, local restaurateur (The Crown – Mickleton) and advocate for local food will give a short talk on his work and his passion for using and promoting local food. A hot supper made from local produce will be available. More information to follow.

Thank you for continuing to let us know about things that we may be able to help with.

Sincere best wishes

Diane Spark - UTASS Project Manager



Please Turn Over.

UTASS Briefing: 28th January 2014

TRANSPORTING AGRICULTURAL WASTE.

From January 2014 all businesses that carry waste as part of their business will need to register as a waste carrier. Lower Tier registrations transporting a business's own waste are free and will last for life while Upper Tier registrations require a licence fee. Registration is easiest done on line at www.gov.uk/register-waste-carrier or through UTASS. There is a helpline 030708506506 available for those that need it.

CAP REFORM.

The EU Commission has agreed that the existing entitlements in England, because they are already at a flat rate, can be rolled over and used to make claims under the new CAP regime in 2015. However, any claimant who has unused entitlements after submitting a claim in 2015 will automatically surrender them to the national reserve. The regulations have provision for member states to create a National Reserve. At the moment there is no indication as to whether DEFRA will create a National Reserve or indeed if one is actually needed. Any claimant who has spare entitlements and no prospect of obtaining additional eligible land prior to the 2015 application date may need to consider trading those entitlements for use during the 2014 scheme year. RLE1 forms trading any surplus entitlements need to be lodged with the RPA by 2nd April 2014 to be eligible to be used by the purchaser on their 2014 claim.

Defra have announced that the minimum claim size will be increased to 5 hectares.

The Minister of State Owen Patterson has been keen to "move money up the hill". Defra have announced that under the new CAP regime the Lowland and non-moorland SPS rates will be the same. A decision on the Moorland rate is expected by the end of March. While this redistribution is welcome it is unlikely that in the long run it will fully compensate for the loss of UELS.

MIDDLETON ENTERPRISE HUB.

Anyone interested in starting a business is invited to drop in to an Open Evening at UTASS Tuesday 4th February 2014 5.00-8.00pm. Refreshments will be available. For more information please contact Hayley 01833 641010.

CAP REFORM

Hear the latest developments from H&H at Middleton Mart 7.00pm 19th February 2014. To book a place phone 01228 406260 or 0191 370 8530 or e-mail fiona.cumming@hhland.co.uk

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.

Richard Betton.

TRAINING UPDATE



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Wednesday, 5th March - 7.30pm - Compiling your Animal Health Plan + Information on Topical Diseases at Middleton Auction Mart Castle Vets will be advising on your Animal Health Plan and discussing treatments. Ben Strugnell from the AHVLA at Thirsk will be discussing livestock diseases and explaining how post mortems will shortly be available for very fresh fallen stock, by arrangement with Warrens. **Please contact UTASS to book your place – supper will be provided.**

Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering / Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work - 25th February/ 11th March – 9am-4.30pm @ UTASS UTASS is the only venue in Teesdale offering this one day accredited course, partly/wholly funded by Durham County Council's Adult Learning & Skills Service, Community Learning Fund, via Bishop Auckland College. Eligibility requires trainees to be aged 19+ and living in County Durham. The cost for the each day is £17.50 (a 50% discount/free course fee is available to those in receipt of certain benefits – please contact Denise Hopps, Project Officer – denise.hopps@bacoll.ac.uk - 01388 443078 for further details). **Please contact UTASS urgently to book, stating course required and giving preferred date.**

Uplands Funded Training Simon Britton of Strutt & Parker has just started training at UTASS on Business Monitoring & Cash Flows using Excel, initially for 3 weeks. "An Introduction to using IT to submit Farm Records", is also available. Funding from DEFRA is still briefly available for all "Management" training - **please contact Strutt & Parker on 01609 780306 for further details.** We have been advised that sadly Defra have withdrawn Uplands Skills funding for "Technical" training and therefore PA1, 2 & 6 Spraying; Trailer & ATV funded training is no longer available.

Free Community Learning Courses to develop IT Skills for Employment (at UTASS)

For further details please contact Nigel Brough on 07752 767 567 – nigelbrough@yahoo.co.uk if you are aged 19+ and live in County Durham. Nigel offers help in small groups with creating a targeted CV, Internet use for Job Search & other services, developing your financial capability, preparing for a job interview and improving skills and confidence.

Friday 21 & Saturday 22 February, 9.45am-4pm – Barningham - AN INTRODUCTION TO HEDGE LAYING Places are filling up quickly for a variety of training courses sponsored by the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership & Heritage Lottery Fund. The Introduction to Hedge Laying is a 2 day course with Burt Hunter teaching the basics of hedge laying (further course at this level on 6 & 7 October). Also coming up on **7 & 8 March** are **Intermediate Hedge Laying, Drystone Walling Taster** course in May, and on 5th & 6th June, **Stone-faced Hedge Bank Restoration** all at Barningham. A free place will be confirmed on receipt of an application form & £30 refundable deposit. To book please contact Rebecca.Beeston@durham.gov.uk or phone 03000 267 143 (Monday-Thursday).

Growing Crops for Game and Wildlife – Friday 21 Feb – 10am-12.30pm @ Cross Lanes Organic please ring 07432 562198 – yorkshirenortheast@cfeonline.org.uk for further details of this free event.

TEESDALE SCHOOL EXTENDED SERVICES have informed us of a range of activities for various ages: **18/20 Feb "Cook & Dine"** (9-12yrs) & **Wed 19 Feb "Make & Bake"** (families of school age children). Further details from Eve Galloway (0752 203 4171) – eve.galloway@teesdaleschool.com

Please contact Julia Stephenson on 01833 641010 –julia@utass.org regarding training requirements. We will do our best to help.



Please Turn Over.