

Get out, get active!

Summer's here, and now's the time to get out an about in North East Derbyshire.

There are a whole host of activities, attractions and events on offer across the district to keep people of all ages entertained – whatever the great British weather has in store!

We've picked out a few here, but for more information about what's on in NE Derbyshire contact Chesterfield Tourist Information Centre on (01246) 345777 or visit www.visitchesterfield.info

Holmewood and Ashover Audio Trails

Take in the sights of some of North East Derbyshire's most beautiful countryside and villages by stepping out on the Ashover or Holmewood Audio Trails.

The two podcasts are available to download on to your iPod, MP3 player or mobile phone from the Council's YOURspace website.

Follow the Ashover Trail, which guides walkers on a 1.5-mile route around some of the prettiest spots of this picturesque parish - with plenty of chance to stop off for refreshments along the way.

Meanwhile, local flora, fauna and wildlife make good company along the 1.9-mile Holmewood Trail, which takes in part of the Five Pits Trail, while capturing the history of one of the district's former mining centres.

Visit the website at www.neddc-yourspace.org.uk and follow the instructions to download the podcasts.



Pictured left to right: Richard Felton and John Bown, both Ashover residents: and Cllr Graham Baxter.

Get fit with dance!

From the Charleston to street dance, people are invited to step to it by joining a dance-based fitness project aimed at women.

The ten-week Dance Fit programme is now running at venues in Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Staveley and Dronfield.

www.chartlsp.co.uk, email: dancefit@live.co.uk or call 07543 099721

Hardwick Road Race

Join the six-mile route, which starts and finishes at Pilsley Primary School and passes historic Hardwick Hall, on 16 July. Find out more at www.geocities.com/hardwickroadrace

Swim for free

If you're over 60 or 16 and under you can swim for free at the Council's leisure centres, as part of the Derbyshire Swim 4 Life initiative. Find out more at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/swim4life

Participants over 14, and of any ability, are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Admission costs £2 per session. For a full class timetable visit

Hit the high notes for charity!

Residents can help hit the high notes for charity by coming along to the 2009 Annual Brass Band Festival.

This year's event, which will be raising money for the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, will be held on 12 September from 7.30pm at Dronfield Sports Centre.



Dance Fit instructor Ruth Carr with participants Debbie Bacon and Cheryl Bates

Braille ID badges launched

Residents with visual impairments can more easily check the identity of Council employees visiting their home, thanks to the launch of new Braille ID badges.

All NEDDC officers who may come into contact with members of the public are now being issued with updated identification badges which read: "To confirm the identity of the holder of this card, please ring (01246) 231111."

Leading the way

Two new faces are leading the way at North East Derbyshire District Council.

Cllr Lilian Robinson has accepted the official chain of office as the new Chair of the authority, while Mike Goodwin took up his seat as the new Chief Executive in April.

Cllr Robinson, who represents the Killamarsh East ward, took over the reins from outgoing Chair Cllr Norma Dolby last month.

The mum-of-two has lived in Killamarsh since 1972 and has always been active in the community. Her roles include Governor at Killamarsh County Infant School, Secretary to Killamarsh Community Trust (Association) and Treasurer for the Killamarsh Branch of the Labour Party.

Cllr Robinson has chosen Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice as the charity which will benefit from this year's Chair's Appeal

She said: "I have worked with children and young people all of my life, in various roles, which is why I chose the children's hospice – a very worthy cause.

"It's an honour to have been elected as the Chair of the Council and I will endeavour to represent the people of NE



Mike Goodwin, Chief Executive



Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice is the chosen charity of Cllr Lilian Robinson, NEDDC Chair

Derbyshire to the best of my ability." Meanwhile, Mike - who joined the authority in the 1970s as an accountancy assistant – is now in the top post following the departure of former Chief Executive Lee Adams to Sheffield City Council.

Mike said his key priority is to continue to build on the progress of recent years, adding: "I have worked for North East Derbyshire most of my career, having joined over 30 years ago, and so I feel privileged to be the Council's new Chief Executive."

Council receives commendation in top awards

Big improvements in the services delivered by North East Derbyshire District Council have earned the authority a commendation in a prestigious national awards ceremony.

NEDDC narrowly missed out on the top spot in the 'Most Improved Council' category at the annual Local Government Chronicle awards 2009 – which praises councils that

'demonstrate their progress through genuine service improvements.'

The positive views that local residents have about NEDDC were taken into

account in the short-listing for the accolade, which had more than 600 entries nationwide.

Cllr Graham Baxter, Council Leader, said: "Winning through to the final in this category recognises the big transformations that have happened at NEDDC, and

the improvements that continue to be made. "We pride ourselves on providing good quality, value for money services for our citizens and we are now receiving national recognition for our efforts."