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More Girls' Football Teams Formed in Aycliffe



As a result of the Primary School Coaching Programme, delivered by coaches from Newton Aycliffe Youth FC, two new teams have been set up covering the under 10 age group (Yr 5/4) and under 11 age group (Yr6). These girls have worked hard

during the winter months and were ready for their first competitive games against teams from Bishop Auckland Girls.

Although the experienced opposition were better on the day, it was all about progress for the players of Aycliffe. The coaches also had the opportunity to play the girls in several different positions throughout each of the games.

Girls Head Coach, Berni Borsberry commented "we are very pleased with the progress the girls have made throughout the winter and with a few more friendlies they will be ready to join the league in March".

Newton Aycliffe Youth now have 4 girls teams playing regular league football but have opportunities for more girls to join us from School Years 4 to 8. If you want more information ring Berni 07939 045242 or check out our website: www.naycafc.co.uk

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£250 RAISED FOR BUTTERWICK

A big thank you to all who attended the Exhibition of Art in Dots Craft Room at Whitehouse Funeral Service last weekend. The sum of £250.00 was raised for Butterwick Hospice. Thanks to the Artists and all who baked cakes and helped make the weekend a success.

The Royal British Legion

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FREE COURSES

The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe is the Hub for the Colour Your Life project which provides access to creative and informal learning activities for the improvement of mental health and the development of emotional resilience. PCP uses professional experienced tutors to deliver these and new exciting free courses. Details of new courses coming soon are as follows:-
Healing Voices starting 13 February 1 - 3pm for 10 weeks. Use your voice freely and confidently in a fun and informal singing group with a relaxing sound bath beforehand to help you unwind and de-stress!

FAMILY HALF TERM ACTIVITY:

Green Finger Fun Workshop Thursday 19 February 1-3pm. Indoor fun activities making nature art, story stones and wind chimes. Find out more about, explore and get involved in PCP's secret garden plans.

Mixed Media starting soon on Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30pm. Adults can create their own 'feel good' masterpiece using collage, printing, drawing and painting techniques.

Colour and Gemstone Therapy starting soon on Saturdays 10am - 12noon. Learn about the energies and healing properties of multi-coloured crystals, minerals and gemstones.

Growing Together Gardening starting Monday 2 March 10am-12noon. A hands on gardening course for adults. Learn about and take part in wildlife and organic gardening and growing your own vegetables.

Walking, Photography starting in March. Develop your photography skills whilst exploring the local countryside and meeting new people.

Keep up to date with new courses online at www.colouryourlife.org.uk Twitter@CYL_CoDurham and Facebook: ColourYourLife. LearnCreateDevelop.

To register an interest or to book your place on any of the Colour your Life courses get in touch with the Colour your Life team at PCP on 01325 321234 email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net or call into the Pioneering Care Centre. Please book early as places are limited.

Police Notice

Aycliffe's Neighbourhood Police Team continues to run its Community Safety Project funded and supported by GAMP. For those not aware, this project has seen the team purchasing various items of crime prevention equipment (such as shed alarms, magnetic window chimes, 24 hour segment timers) and distribute them to local residents as part of their aim to make the community safer. If you wish to enquire as to what items the team have please contact them via e-mail at mark.edwards@durham.pnn.police.uk or via private message on Facebook.

£3 Lunch @ 'Lizabeths

On Wednesday 4th February and every first Wednesday of the month! For only £3 you can enjoy a two course hot lunch and refreshments at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham.

No pre-booking required just turn up at 12.30am.

Coffee Morning at St Elizabeth's - 10am Saturday 7 Feb - and every first Saturday of the month.

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Saturday 31st January - "WitchKraft"
REVIEW: "First appearance this year for old favourites WitchKraft saw them playing with last minute dep drummer Mick Kerrigan, ex Force and currently bashing the skins for Blitzkreig. The band played a solid 2 hours, eventually coming off as the witching hour approached - sort of appropriate really. True to form, it was a different set from what we've had in the past but the good crowd still sang along and had a great evening. We hadn't met Ray, their new Darrass Hall bassist either but he fitted in a treat and knocked out a canny rendition of 'Mr Big' which I've seen Free tribute bands mess up. Up front and central, Mick, belted out the vocals with humour and aplomb whilst Mal dazzled us with his dexterity on the fretboard. As always, an excellent show and we look forward to their return next year."
Saturday 7th February - "StraightShot"
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HEIGHINGTON PARISH LITTER GROUP HOLD AWARDS COFFEE MORNING

A Coffee Morning will be held in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday, 7th February between 10.00am and 12noon and at 11am Darlington Mayor, Gerald Lee, will present the 2014 Heighington Parish Environment Awards. We will also be launching the Heighington Parish "PALS" where we hope to encourage people to agree to pick up a piece of litter a day. The Litter Group has been doing regular litter picks for 10 years and in that time have collected 3,800 bags. We will continue with our regular litter picks on the second

Saturday of each month, but we realise that not everybody can devote two hours a month to pick up litter. However, we can all pick up the odd crisp packet or drinks can as we walk along the road. One person picking up one piece of litter each day will not make much difference, but if we all signed up to pick a piece of litter a day it could make an enormous difference. If you would like to know more about the scheme come along to our Coffee Morning. Coffee or tea and a homemade scone will be available for £1.50.

Students to Coach at American Summer Camp



Four lucky year 11 students from Woodham Academy are off on the summer of a lifetime this year as they travel to Camp Cody in New Hampshire, USA as part of the school's Coach USA programme. The students, who were selected from a strict application and interview process, will work on the American Summer Camp for three weeks. The group will fly out to Boston and will stay on the camp with the American children for a month. Camp Cody is a traditional log cabin style American summer camp set in a stunning lakeside location. The four students will help coach a multitude of sports including traditional

American sports as well as a range of exciting water sports on the adjacent Lake Ossipee. The programme at Woodham Academy is believed to be the only one of its kind in the UK for 16 year olds. Liam Clough, Director of Woodham Sports Academy, said "Our students will have an incredible experience in America. They have shown fantastic leadership in both school and the community giving them this fabulous opportunity. The life skills that they will develop whilst being away from their families will be invaluable to them in the future". The students will be recording a daily video diary from Camp

Cody which can be viewed via the Woodham website www.woodham.org.uk

Valentine's Poetry Evening

St Clare's Church is holding a Valentine Poetry Reading Evening on Saturday 14th February. If you like poetry there should be some to suit every taste, and if you like to read it then this is your chance to read it to fellow poetry lovers. Be sure of two things though; no-one HAS to read and it will NOT be dry stuff. There will be folk there who love to read, so if you just want to listen then that's fine. It won't be boring either; along with some classics there will be a lot of laughs from Pam Ayres, Stanley Holloway and the like, plus dramatic stuff from the WW1 poets. If you don't want to read but would like to hear a poem then just let me know in advance. The event will include an evening meal; bring your own drink and enjoy a stimulating, fun evening for £4. For further details please ring Ric Hargreaves on 01325 316755.

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MEYNELL'S SEMINAR



Members of staff at Defoe Court enjoyed the generous and kind hospitality of John Meynell Funeral Services whilst attending a seminar entitled "Dispelling the Myth" at their premises in Newton Aycliffe. Everyone found the course interesting and informative and we would like to thank staff at John Meynell for their kind invitation.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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Staff & Volunteers Enjoy Night Out at Planet Leisure



Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre staff and volunteers enjoyed an evening out at Planet Leisure to welcome in the New Year on January 3rd 2015. Great fun was had by all when the team arrived to bowl, and despite splitting into two lanes and good scores all

round, the champion bowler of the day was Lisa Harrison, Finance Assistant. The team then became one and entered the Laser Combat Zone as 'Vince's Angels' where Christine Askew showed her skill by being the highest scorer and with the least lives lost.

EX SMOKER FINDS FACEBOOK FAME

Like many others when Fiona quit smoking it resulted in her gaining weight and she was devastated! On discussing her problem with the nurse at her doctor's surgery she was surprised that her prescription was a course of Slimming World classes. "I didn't want to struggle to lose the weight on my own, I'd done that before and it had been so hard to stick to a diet, so joining a group seemed like a great idea". She was a bit nervous not knowing what to expect, but after losing 2 stone 2 pounds in just 12 weeks Fiona is one of the most enthusiastic members. She couldn't believe it when Ann said she could eat lots of everyday foods without weighing or measuring, as well as enjoying her favourite treats in moderation. Fiona also found a whole range of recipes on line which have excited her taste buds, and have led to the whole family enjoying Slimming World



meals. Her favourite takeaways have been replaced with Fakeaways, but she still enjoys curries, burgers, soups, stews, roasts and plenty of puds too! Fiona is rightly proud of her achievements and used social media to show her friends what an amazing transformation there has been. Imagine her delight when her before and current photos on Twitter were selected by Slimming World and used on their Facebook page as an inspiration to others! "It's almost as good as being on the front page of the magazine, and who knows, I might get there next!" said Fiona. Ann Miles, who runs the Navy Club Slimming World group that Fiona attends, says she's extremely proud of what Fiona has achieved. She says 'Fiona is proof that if you make small, manageable changes to the way you cook and eat, and get the right support, it is possible to make your dreams come true. It makes me sad to think that so many people will start on an unhealthy, restrictive plan this January because I know they won't be able to stick to it. I hope Fiona inspires the people of Newton Aycliffe to choose Slimming World, and everyone is guaranteed a warm welcome at the Navy Club group. To join just pop along on Wednesday at 9.30 am, 5 pm or 7 pm or call Ann on 07724 467517 for more information.



PACT Meetings will be held at the following venues. **Woodham Ward PACT** will be held at Woodham Village Community Centre, St Elizabeth's Close at 6:00pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2015. For more information on whats going on visit the Police Facebook and Website www.durham.police.uk

The next **Shafto St. Mary's Ward PACT** meeting is at 6pm on the 26th February at the Library on Central Avenue, Newton Aycliffe. PCSO 7430 Gavin Laycock Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team. Email: gavin.laycock@durham.pnn.police.uk

After a quick stop at the bar, they all sat down to a delicious meal, tucking into various well priced meals that were extremely well cooked and delicious. It was a great evening, everyone had a great time and are already looking ahead to the next outing. "It was brilliant, really enjoyed myself and I can't wait to do it again" said Lisa Harrison.



Abbie Finn found her cat "Charlie Butons" hiding in the shrubbery down the garden path.

Helping People with Dementia & Loneliness

"New Pathways Together" the first meeting of a new group raising awareness of Dementia and tackling loneliness is on Wednesday 4th February at 11.00am at the Youth & Community Centre opposite Tesco's. There will be a memory café for people with dementia and carers, friends and family wanting to learn about the condition are welcome. We are also wanting people to become "Dementia Friends". This is hopefully going to be a weekly group for people to socialise, have fun meet new friends and gather information. Coffee/tea/cooked food at reasonable prices will be available. For further details ring 01325 308094

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I WANT YOUR HOUSE

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Well what a year that was!! I want to say a big thank you to Newton Aycliffe for making me feel so incredibly welcome in your town. As someone from down south, it has been great to feel like one of the family. We've had a busy but exciting 12 months; meeting some really interesting people and helping many people move into their dream homes. On top of this we have introduced 'Rent Now Buy Later' into the North East, with great success.

I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce Ray and Miriam Turnbull, originally from Sunderland, who have joined me to help take the business forward. They bring a warm, caring, family atmosphere to the shop and also mirror my values, which are to go the extra mile or 10 to get the job done. As far as business goes, I couldn't be happier with the progress that we have made in 2014. Rightmove statistics show that, after only one year, we are the **fastest selling Estate Agent in Newton Aycliffe**. To top off a fantastic year, we had a magic month in **December** where **we sold an amazing 22 properties**. Not bad for what is supposed to be the slowest month of the year!

So once again, thank you for your support and I am really looking forward to helping many more people realise their property ambitions in the coming months ahead.

Best Wishes, Lindsay.

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Catering Opportunity at The Work Place

The Work Place is a purpose built training and conference centre on Aycliffe Business Park. It opened in June 2008 and houses a number of tenants who rent space on the first floor of the building. In total there are 50 staff with a permanent base in the building. We have extensive car parking facilities to accommodate the visitors who book the ground floor spaces for meetings, training and conferences. In total the car parking spaces total 120. The training/conference facilities on the ground floor are regularly rented to local and regional organisations and we get many repeat bookings. We also offer a range of well attended training courses.

A café area is present toward the rear of the ground floor area which is served by a well appointed kitchen. The kitchen comprises:

Fridges, Microwave, Dishwasher, Soup Kettles, Potato oven, Panini grill, Pots and pans, Warming oven, Preparation areas, Cooker, Crockery, Cutlery etc

We are looking for a company willing to run a café service for The Work Place. We envisage that the successful organisation will be a catering operation who has already built a customer base (possibly in the external catering market) and who will utilise The Work Place facilities to run/expand their business.

In return The Work Place require a café service 5 days a week (Monday to Friday) which will be run

for the benefit of the tenants and visitors to the building. The successful company may also wish to market the café in the local area for the benefit of other businesses and residents. The Work Place expect that the caterer provides a range of quality food and drinks which are well presented and reasonably priced.

This is an ideal opportunity for someone wanting to grow their catering operation with minimal risk and offers the opportunity to expand into a new market.

For more details of this opportunity please contact angela.wilkinson@durham.gov.uk or 01325 375900

Closing date for expressions of interest is 20 February 2015.

UA3 Book of Memories

Members of the South Durham U3A have recently compiled a book of their childhood memories, a copy of which is available to read at the Crown Street Library in Darlington.

If you are interested in learning more about our South Durham U3A and the activities we enjoy, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Ring Brenda on 01325 401155 or Joan on 01325 358247

Greenfield & Sunnydale Light up to Celebrate Merger

Monday 26th January is often described as a difficult day of the year, with post-Christmas blues, dark nights and colder weather – but not at Greenfield! Greenfield Arts develops a range of programmes to enhance wellbeing, and we hope that “Winter in Bloom” will bring light and sparkle to the new year with a fabulous light installation, which has recently formed part of the Kew Gardens Winter Festival.

This year on 26th January the first of many events and activities celebrating the merger of Greenfield Community College to include a campus at Sunnydale in Shildon took place and we brought some light and sparkle to Shildon and Newton Aycliffe! “Winter in Bloom” is an installation of lights from Kew Gardens, at Greenfield Community College’s two campuses. Activities and display will be mirrored at each site, including students at each campus in their development, creation and installation.

A number of groups from both campuses of the school were involved in creating additional work for the installation, working together to improve wellbeing and creating something to be proud of. The groups include a men’s



Executive Head Teacher David Priestley with the Mayor Wendy Hillary and her consort Jed

Cree group, art clubs for young people at both sites and other after school clubs. Their hard work will be showcased at the two campuses over the 2 weeks of “Winter in Bloom.”

In his speech to mark the switching on of the lights, Mr Priestley, Executive Head Teacher at Greenfield, said “January can be a difficult time of year but not at Greenfield. We have lots of exciting things going on and are looking forward to a bright future in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon.”

Greenfield Arts and Greenfield Community College would like to say a big thank you to all staff and students at Greenfield and

members of the community who joined us and the Mayors of Newton Aycliffe and Shildon to switch on the lights at both campuses on Monday.

A special thank you to Richard Agar of Bravura, and Philip Clark one of our Cree volunteers for installing the trees and making sure everything worked on time – well done all!

You can see the installation at Newton Aycliffe campus during Arts Centre opening hours (Monday – Thursday 10am – 9pm, Friday 10am – 4pm), and those in Shildon after school hours if you are using the neighbouring leisure centre.

Sponsored 24 Hour Swim for Charities

A fundraising swim has been organised in memory of 14 year old Hannah Leigh who died from a stroke last November. Her Uncle, Graham Hall, has brought together 40 supporters and staff from the Leisure Centre to raise money for Ronald McDonald House and Acorn Hospice.

Both charities were fantastic and a real source of help to the family during that terrible time. The swimathon will highlight the hard work and dedication the two charities provide on a daily basis and a way for family members to show their gratitude.

“I would like to thank my work colleagues and the wonderful people of the town and surrounding areas for kind donations received.” said Graham. If you would like to take part or donate please

contact Graham on 07584 624882. The swim is on Thursday and Friday 5th – 6th February from 12 noon to 12 noon.

To Park or Not to Park?

Dear Sir,
I’m writing after reading the article ‘named and shamed’. As far as I am aware there are three spaces running alongside the walk on the car park, opposite the Leisure Centre, which are not disabled bays.

The other bays are clearly marked out in yellow with disabled notices. The three, above mentioned bays, are marked in white and have no disabled markings. I believe the black BMW is doing nothing wrong.

Amanda Robinson

Dear Sir

In reply to the article on parking in the car park opposite the Leisure Centre. I was told by a Parking Warden that the three spaces where the car in question was parked, are in fact not Disabled Parking, and are not marked on the tarmac as such. They do not have the required space for them to be for the disabled.

Although I do agree that the sign on the outside wall is misleading, and in my opinion this sign should be changed to avoid confusion.

Vince Burke

Dear Sir,

With reference to the letter entitled ‘Named and Shamed’ in last week’s edition of the Newton News, we have investigated this matter and found that while there is some confusion around the disabled parking area and the spaces allocated, we will ask our staff not to park there in future.

Nonetheless we would like to apologise for any issues this may have caused.

Stephen Howell

Durham County Council

Editor: This car park was designated by the Town Centre owners for disabled at the time the refurbishment was taking place. It was a temporary measure which perhaps now needs re-evaluating.



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Film Show Aycliffe Fell Walkers in Asby REDWORTH HALL TREAT

St Clare's Church FEEL GOOD FILM SHOWS on Tuesday 3rd February will feature one of the most feel-good film musicals of all time "MY FAIR LADY". With a Star cast of Audrey Hepburn, Rex Harrison, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Stanley Holloway and Jeremy Brett, and songs including "Wouldn't it be Lovely" "With a Little bit of Luck" "I Could Have Danced all Night" "On the Street Where You Live" and so many more, it is a sheer joy from start to finish. Tea and coffee served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are set out for your comfort, and tables too so you can bring a spot of lunch to eat. Everyone is most welcome to join us and watch this pure feel good film in friendly company. Details from Ric Hargreaves 316755.



The Asby Hills west of Kirby Stephen are less frequented than

their loftier Howgill neighbours, but are nevertheless in a beautiful corner of the northern Pennines. Aycliffe Fell Walkers headed there last weekend to walk and explore the area, which is criss-crossed by the long-disused railway route that once linked Barnard Castle with Tebay & Oxenholme and the 'resurrected' Settle to Carlisle railway. Numerous limestone pavement outcrops pervade the area, being visible on the skyline wherever one looked.

Club members alighted the coach at various points along Lunedale and headed up towards the frost-covered hills and beyond, intent on visiting the areas of greatest interest: Raisebeck Stone Circle, Great Asby Scar, Middle Busk & Little Asby, Crosby Garrett, Smardale and eventually Kirby Stephen itself. The sun shone for much of the day but not strongly enough to thaw things out. The local roads and limestone pavements were ice-covered and waiting to catch the unwary and there were several fallers during the morning. All club members stood to observe a minutes silence out of respect for long-serving and much-loved member Rob Turner, who had died during the week previous; it was fitting that he should be remembered in such pleasant yet dramatic surroundings. Later, several walkers were fortunate to witness a steam train crossing the viaduct that straddles beautiful Smardale. The locomotive, belching thick black smoke, came thundering over the viaduct as walkers passed beneath. Dozens of photographers were there to catch the moment too. Afterwards at the Black Bull in Kirby Stephen, the landlord was astounded when so many thirsty walkers entered his bar – and the fish & chip shop next door did quite well too!

I have just experienced a short stay at Redworth Hall our local luxury hotel and the visit proved to be memorable and satisfactory. The staff were courteous and attentive, the ambience suitably grand for the former stately home with a rich history and beautiful grounds. The room we occupied, in the old part of the building, overlooked the front lawn and was spacious, well appointed and very comfortable. Dining was enjoyable with a rich selection of dishes, efficiently served by staff who tended to your every need. To complete our lovely evening we took coffee in the front lounge next to an open fire before retiring for a restful sleep. We were offered breakfast in the room, but chose to sample the wide choice of food at the buffet which included everything imaginable to suit guests who visit Redworth from all over the world. A full "English" was our choice and this was really enjoyable with plenty of staff around to ensure we had plenty of fresh coffee and tea. To complement the stay the hotel offers use of the swimming pool and other spa facilities including beauty and health treatment. It was a memorable break and one to recommend to others looking for that special treat.



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IMPORTANT EVENT FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR TOWN

Aycliffe's future is in your hands! The Neighbourhood Plan needs your input. Are you interested in helping to plan the future of Aycliffe and be part of this exciting project? If you are 14 years old and over and can spare a few hours a month for a short period, we need your help to plan the future of your town in specific areas covering housing, retail and the environment. The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan team would like to invite you to a special event being held at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre on Saturday 21st February from 10am - 12noon. You will have the chance to meet the Team where you can find out how you can get involved in planning the future of Great Aycliffe. This is important for you, your family and the town.

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Puppies Thrown into Rubbish Bin to Die



On Friday the 23rd of January 2014 we received a call from a member of public who found some puppies abandoned in a plastic carrier bag.

A gentleman was walking his dog on Woodham Way when he witnessed a pick-up truck pull up and throw out a carrier bag. The carrier bag was thrown into the bin next to the bus stop near the Agnew Community Centre. Curious what was in the bag the dog walker approached the bag to find it contained 5 puppies.

The puppies were collected by RSPCA Animal Collection Officer

Dave Dawson and taken straight to a veterinary practice. The puppies were kept in overnight for observation and were placed into a foster home the following day.

The puppies were only approximately 3 weeks old on the day they were abandoned and were very lucky the gentleman was walking past. With the cold weather there would have been a good chance the puppies dying if left overnight.

If anyone has any further information regarding the origins of the puppies could they please contact (RSPCA DCI Lawson 10356) on 0300 1235 999.

SEVEN WAYS THE GOVERNMENT HAS TARGETED NORTH EAST

Before the 2010 election, David Cameron announced he was going to target the North East, and the following facts shows he has been as good as his word:

1. The government's 2013 transport infrastructure plan scheduled £4,893 to be spent for each resident of London compared to £245 for each person in the North East. The Coalition Government will go into the next General Election with just one major North East road project under way.
2. None of the extra £235m allocated to be spent on hospitals for last winter was allocated to the North East. The recent £2 billion funding to help the NHS cope with increased pressures for 2015-16 gave just 0.24% more to Trusts in the North East, while parts of London and the South East will get funding increases of more than 3.5%.
3. Of the 44 planned new Pensionwise advice centres, there are just two in the whole of the North East.
4. Government insistence that funding is directed through the

non-elected LEPs is delaying £500m of EU funding to the North East.

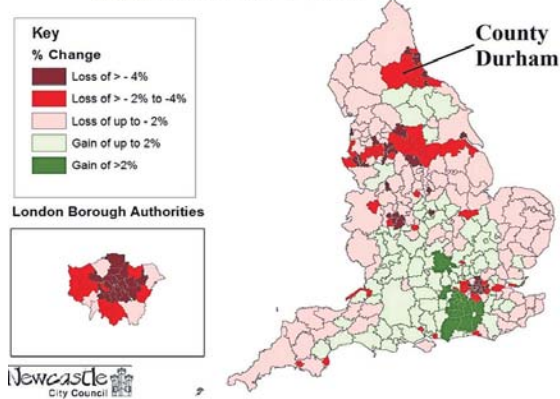
5. The UK economy is growing, but for every 12 new jobs created in the South only one has been created elsewhere. The North East continues to bear the country's highest unemployment with 13.6% of the working age population on out-of-work benefits.

6. Benefit reform has damaged the North East disproportionately. A 2013 study found County Durham to be the seventh-hardest-hit district in the country, with a loss equivalent to £560 per working age adult. The loss per adult for the south east was £370.

7. Local government cuts have impacted disproportionately on our region, as the map of next year's Local Government Settlement shows. The North East will see a 3.4% decrease in funding (equal to £78 less per household in spending power); but in the south east there will be a 0.5% increase, or £9 more per household.

John D Clare

2015/16 Area change in spending power



3M Appoint First Female Boss

3M, which has a manufacturing site at Aycliffe, has appointed its first female managing director for the UK and Ireland region.

Christiane Gruen was previously managing director of the diversified technology company's Alpine region covering Switzerland and Austria.

KEEP WARM INFORMATION

Dear Editor,
With the recent winter temperatures dropping in the North East, people are struggling to keep warm. Whether they struggle to pay their energy bills, or their property is not equipped to cope with the cold weather, people need to be aware that there is help out there.

I would urge anyone who is worried about keeping their home warm to contact the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 33 66 99, or visit www.homeheathelpline.org.uk to see how the Home Heat Helpline can offer free support, help and advice. Helpline advisors are able to put callers in touch with services such as supplier trust funds and schemes that offer financial support towards a new boiler and better insulation, as well as energy saving tips for homes.

More than 1 in 10 households in Britain are eligible for this kind of help, so they've got nothing to lose and possibly lots to gain by getting in touch.

Lawrence Slade,
Home Heat Helpline

3M is a strong supporter of the UK Government's 'Your Life' campaign to encourage greater participation among women in the career choices of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Christiane Gruen's own career embodies that spirit.

After graduating as an engineer in food technologies, she joined 3M in 1984 as a technical assistant in her native Germany and went on to hold a number of positions of increasing responsibility in the drug delivery systems and health care markets businesses.

As managing director for the UK and Ireland, she now leads 2,900 employees across 19 locations, including nine manufacturing sites. Among the products manufactured at its Heighington Lane plant at Aycliffe are respirators for worker safety and a range of products for the vehicle aftercare market.

"I spent part of my earlier career at the company's Loughborough site working



in inhalation drug delivery and I'm very pleased to return to the UK," she said.

"The UK and Ireland one of the largest 3M subsidiaries outside the USA and I am looking forward to playing a full role in the ongoing success of the business."

Christiane Gruen has taken over as managing director from Paul Keel, who has moved to another senior role with 3M based in the USA.

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Marie Curie Fundraisers



The Bishop Auckland Fundraising Group for Marie Curie Cancer Care celebrated its 1st birthday recently. To date the group has raised in excess of £16,000 - thanks to the generosity of the people of South West Durham.

All monies raised goes towards providing 'end of life care' in the Bishop Auckland area.

In addition to supermarket collections to support Daffodil Month in March, the group has a full programme of interesting events lined up in the coming year including Curry Nights at the Spice Lounge, Blooming Great Tea Parties, Strawberry and Champagne Garden Open Days, Vintage Fashion events and, looking ahead to Christmas, a Sing-along-Carol Concert.

We aim to have a good time whilst raising money for this excellent cause and would be delighted to welcome new members to our monthly meetings at 1.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Community Fire Station on Watling Road, Bishop Auckland. For further details contact Elizabeth Varley (01388) 606075

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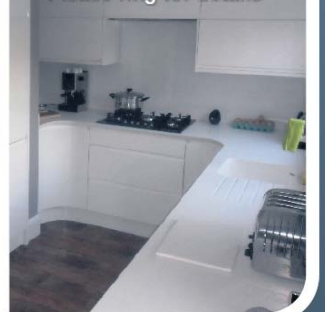
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10 Day Old Puppies Dumped in Rubbish Bin

Dear Editor,
 Last Friday night some lowlife dumped a bag of approximately ten day old black and white puppies in the rubbish bin on Woodham Way next to the Morrison Close bus stop. Fortunately they were discovered by a dog owner before they froze to death and they were collected by the RSPCA.
 Hopefully the poor little things will survive and find loving homes after their dreadful start in life. The poor bitch will be in a lot of pain as she will be lactating, or possibly is already dead and with such a caring owner it would probably be a blessing!
 If anyone knows of an animal that fits this description I would call on them to inform the RSPCA and this moron could be prosecuted and prevented from keeping a dog, as they are not fit to do so!
 Dog Lover

Free Children's Party at Neville Community Centre



Town Mayor Wendy Hillary and her consort Jed attended the Free Children's Party at Neville Community Centre last Saturday. A number of children attended along with their parents who were able to enjoy a Pie and Peas meal

while their children took part in the fun, games and party provided. Don Walker of Simpasturegate supplied the catering which was much

appreciated. The event was sponsored by Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary. The children enjoyed bouncy castle, face painting, tattoos, balloon making with fantastic prizes. Thanks to sponsors and helpers for making this such a wonderful afternoon. The Centre is looking for a volunteer Treasurer to help with bookings and banking. Please ring Peter Beaty on 313924 if you can help. On Sunday 15th February Ferryhill Operatic Society will present Songs from the Shows. Tickets £4 for adults, £3 for Seniors and children free. To book and collect tickets at the door ring 313924.

Free Piano

St Clare's Church has an upright piano in need of a good home. Admittedly it is no longer young, but it is in good working condition and free to anyone who would like it. If you are interested please ring Ric Hargreaves on 01325 316755

HORNDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

Angela Corner Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator GATC is giving an update on the first phase of the Neighbourhood Plan for our town on Wednesday 4th February 5.45pm at the Evangelical Church Ladybower. There is also an invitation for everyone to join her at an Open Morning on the 21st February at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre 10.00am - 12 noon. This gives us the chance to

plan the future of our town. Our trips are filling up fast and if you want more information please email horndaleresidentsass@outlook.com and we will forward a full list to you. As normal, representatives from the local Police beat team, Councillors and Livin will be in attendance to discuss any ideas or problems you may have. Our meetings are very relaxed and we welcome anyone to join us and make our great

neighbourhoods better places to live.
 Philip Clark Chair

FLORA DEMO

On Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm Area Demonstrator, Pam Greenhill from Crawcrook presents an evening of flower demonstrating entitled 'Gardener's Delight' at Shildon Civic Hall. Free to members - Visitors £5.

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 Closing date: Friday 13 February 2015
healthwatchcountydurham.co.uk

More Get on the Band Wagon


The Town band would like to thank the residents of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas for the great response to our recent request for members to join our new training band. If anyone else would like to join us we still have instruments available and if Mr. Beswick could get in touch it would be much appreciated as we have misplaced your contact details. Contact numbers for the band are, Mike on 01325 718521 and Paul on 0797 0077657 or facebook at Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band.


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Wildcats Suffer 2 Defeats YOUTH FOOTBALL ROUND UP

The Wildcats suffered two straight defeats over the weekend, first on the road against Leicester Riders then at home against the Glasgow rocks. The two losses drop the Wildcats to 10th place in the BBL Championship with a 7-14 record.

Durham faced Leicester on 24th January on BBL TV and found the going tough from the start. After trailing 19-13 to start the second quarter, the Wildcats would be outscored 66-32 throughout the rest of the match. Chris Jones led the squad with 10 points and three assists.

Durham's shooting overall was 28.8 percent, the lowest single-game average of the season. The 45 points scored is the lowest game total in club history.

Returning to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre the next day, Durham were looking to bounce back strongly against the Rocks. Though again trailing 19-13 after the first quarter, the Wildcats found their rhythm behind Fran Urli's three-point shooting and worked their way to a 33-28 halftime lead.

After stealing the momentum in the second quarter, Durham continued to extend the lead after the break. Captain Ralph Bucci contributed two three-

pointers to help extend the Wildcats' lead to 44-37, their largest advantage in the game. But Bucci's double-double of 17 points and 10 rebounds, his second double-double of the season, was not enough to hold down the Rocks, who chipped away at Durham's lead in the early minutes of the fourth quarter. Glasgow, who lead the BBL in three-pointers made per game, began to connect on their deep shots in the final stages of the match to give them a 79-70 lead.

Durham fought back to within three with two minutes left, but Glasgow maintained their edge by converting late free throws, cementing their 81-75 victory. Urli led the Wildcats with 19 points, shooting 6-11 overall including three three-pointers. Jones repeated with 10 points and was the game leader with six assists. He also had six rebounds and two steals.

John Puk scored eight points in both matches over the weekend along with six and eight rebounds versus Leicester and Glasgow, respectively.

Against Glasgow, Sam Martin, Joel Madourie and David Buchberger all scored seven points. Martin and Madourie were both 3-4 shooting overall and Buchberger was 5-5 at the free throw line.

The Wildcats will return to

action on 1st February when they host Surrey United. With the series against Surrey tied at 1-1, a win would give the Wildcats the tie-breaker advantage. Tip-off is set for 4:00pm on Sunday 1st February at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Tickets are now available for purchase on our website.

Ex-Employees Get-Together

It is thirty years this year since the Spennymoor transport company W. H. William went into liquidation, and we are searching for ex-employees to arrange a get-together. We would like as many as possible to attend the event to be held on Saturday 14th March 2015 in Ferryhill Workingmen's Club from 12.00 o'clock Midday. Please make the effort to attend and to assist with catering numbers please let me know if you intend to be present ring mobile number: 07796 908347 or email: watsoncolin69@gmail.com

The U16's sit top of the League after an excellent away performance at Stockton Town and a win was vital to maintain their challenge. A brace from Corey Denton gave Aycliffe a half-time lead with good work from Jimmy Cameron for the second. Stockton soon pulled a goal back to make it 2-1 and the response was instant as Corey Denton volleyed in for his hat-trick with a lobbed through ball from Kieran Mcwaters.

A great save from Bradley Cloughton kept hosts at bay - they then made it 3-2 with a couple of minutes remaining, but Aycliffe held on for a great result! Man of the Match was awarded to Lewis Coatsworth.

Game of the season so far for the **Under 15 Falcons** away at Egglecliffe. Adopting a 4-2-3-1 system the Falcons were very hard to break down at the back and had numbers going forward.

The first half was mainly competed in the midfield area of the pitch and Aycliffe hit the bar from 25 yards. Corra and Liam had a couple of good chances when played through, but Egglecliffe's keeper pulled off a couple of Superb saves. At the other end James only had two saves to make thanks to the boys in

front of him.

Second half was very similar with both teams battling hard in the midfield. A fine save from James denied the hosts late on. Final score 0-0.

The Under 14's played host to Greatham 'B' and started the game very slow without playing the football they can. At half-time we were 0-2 down. Second half was a lot better and the lads got back into the game with a couple of goals from C. Smith and T. Steed, unfortunately pushing on and a slight change of formation left us short at the back and Greatham grabbed a couple more goals. Final score 2-4.

The Under 13's welcomed Seaton Carew Tigers to the Oak Leaf after a difficult run of results recently. The game started with the opposition on the attack creating a chance in the first minute. Aycliffe settled into a rythmn and took the game to the Tigers. New goalkeeper Declan Crowe's long route kick found Chloe Ryan who raced through to finish well for 1-0. The Tigers levelled within two minutes for 1-1 at half-time. After weathering early pressure Josh Richardson pounced after a fine save from the keeper for 2-1. Then some great link up play from midfield saw Chloe hit the post, Josh followed up only to be denied by the keeper who then pushed it out to Chloe who made it 3-1.

Chloe then completed her hat-trick for a final score of 4-1. Fantastic performance all round. Man of the match went to Josh Batey.

Under 12 Eagles enjoyed a fine 4-2 win over Fishburn Park. Goals from Adam Moffat (2), Lucas Hay and



James Pallister with the Man of the Match going to Iain Jex.

Under 10's Eagles were away to Stockton Town Blues. Straight from the off Aycliffe passed the ball early and accurately and it really was breath taking stuff. With this the goals came, Brennan Fitz slotting home then Leo Umudi finishing off another great move.

The lads kept passing and moving until the ball fell to Calum Whitfield's feet, and from 25 yards scored what must be a contender for goal of the season! Half-time 0-3. Good football continued after the break with Brennan Fitz and Leo Umudi finishing some more great moves. Final score 1-5 with Brennan Fitz getting Man of the Match.

Under 10 Falcons had a lunch time kick off against Durham. Great first half with defending from Jai and Ryan. Strong in midfield with Leon, Leo and Hayden. 0-0 at half time. After a good start to the second half, scrappy goals saw the boys go 2-0 down but Aycliffe got it together as a team and battled on! Great play by Leon creating chances and fine goalkeeping

by Ben. Full time 2-0. Man of the Match to Ben for some great goalkeeping!

Under 8's Eagles took on Darlington Spraire Lads and are playing some really great football for kids so young.... and keeps our unbeaten run in the league going. Final score 5-0. Well done boys.

Under 8's Falcons were away to Billingham Synthonia and a excellent performance by the whole team was rewarded with a 3-1 win. Both teams started really well but it was Billingham who took the lead at half-time. Second half saw an early goal from Travis Dixon. The Falcons proved too strong for Billingham as goals from Dylan Stewart and a second from Travis Dixon ensured the win. Travis was awarded Man of the Match.

The second game was neck and neck all the way until the last 5 minutes. We then scored 2 goals to end the game 5-3. Goals from Cole Gaskarth, Thomas D, Jacob Bailey-Thompson, Dylan Stewart and a debut goal by Alex Beatie who was voted Man of the Match. Well done to all the boys. Check out our website www.naycafc.co.uk for all the latest news.

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Terry and Vikki Anderson, owners of "CrossFit All Out" in Newton Aycliffe said: "The Athlete Games is a major CrossFit event held in the UK. To see such awesome athletes competing, yet still supporting each other is so inspiring. Some competitors were cheering each other on to finish their gruelling workouts and others were congratulating each other on their fantastic achievements.

It's such a supportive community of all ages, we couldn't think of a better way to celebrate our 1 year anniversary than sharing this experience with 20 of our members. We look forward to seeing what 2015 holds for us."

For more information about "CrossFit All Out" please contact Vikki on 07788 123321 or check out their website: www.crossfitallout.co.uk

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Aycliffe Win Cup Match but Lose League Game to Markse



Newton Aycliffe played two games against Marske last week, winning one and losing the other. The highlight was the home win on Tuesday night which saw Aycliffe progress to the quarter-finals of the Northern League Cup where they'll meet either Team Northumbria or Washington. Aycliffe started the Cup game well finding the net after just 10 mins. Threading his way through the defence Zak Boagey fired past Marske keeper Robert Dean. Within a minute it might have been two had Dean not been able to tip over a 30 yard free kick from Liam Henderson.

As half-time approached Marske applied pressure on the Aycliffe goal and in the 45th minute the resistance crumbled as Reece Kelly advanced on goal. The challenge on him might have led to a penalty but the referee allowed play to continue & Austin Johnston put away the equaliser.

As the second half began Aycliffe looked to retake the lead. On 51 mins Jack Gibson had a good shot from long range saved by a flying Dean, who again rescued his side with another stop from the corner that followed. Boagey scored from the penalty spot after 68 mins. 17-year-old Man of the Match Jack Gibson made a good run into the box before being bundled over. The referee pointed to the spot and Boagey did the rest.

Marske applied themselves to seek another equaliser but the tie was put beyond their reach after 87 mins when Gibson played a perfect ball through to Liam Henderson who only had the keeper to beat. The same two players combined just a minute later to score Henderson's second and Aycliffe's fourth.

Not surprisingly Marske were determined to exact revenge when the two sides met again a few days later in a league

Forthcoming Fixtures
Saturday 31 January - Sunderland RCA (home) 3:00pm
Saturday 7 February - Penrith (away) 3:00pm
Saturday 14 February - Celtic Nation (home) 3:00pm

match. Aycliffe began this game in much the same positive fashion that they finished the cup match. As in that game they had the ball in the net in the first ten minutes. This time, however, the goal was ruled out for offside. A couple of minutes later a 20 yard shot from Paul Garthwaite had the Marske keeper leaping to his left making an excellent save. Marske responded to the early pressure well and the first goal came after 28 mins. A free kick by Craig Gott from just outside the box took a heavy deflection and found its way past James Winter and into the

Aycliffe net. Three goals in the second half gave Marske the points to put them five points behind leaders West Auckland with three games in hand. Aycliffe's next three games are against teams in the lower half of the table. They'll be looking to return to the form which has seen them score 14 goals and take 9 points so far in 2015.

Next up at Moore Lane Park is Sunderland RCA on Saturday 31 January @ 3:00pm. We'd love to have your support to cheer our town's team on. Admission is £6 adults, £4 concessions & free for accompanied under 12's.

F.C. TURBINIA BOUNCE BACK

After last week's unfortunate 2-1 defeat by Bishop Auckland Hogans FC, The Turbinia were knocked off the top of the Crook and District Division 2 Table. This week FC Turbinia were visited by Wearhead United, one of the longest serving teams in the league. FC Turbinia were straight out of the blocks, and were ahead within 2 minutes after a powerful run from Luke Williams, saw him link up with Daniel Keane who finished with power, into the back of the net. Turbinia's second came 3 minutes later from Daniel Dixon after he took the ball around the keeper and finished calmly, further goals from Keane and Dixon gave FC Turbinia a healthy half time 4-0 lead.

The second half saw changes to the Wearhead team, not only to the team, but to their overall attitude, they applied more pressure, trying to force mistakes, despite "The Tub"

scoring again with a goal from Luke Black to make it 5-0. Wearhead battled back with 3 goals of their own during the second half, but the Aycliffe team did have the last say when Black slotted the ball past the keeper for his second of the game. With the final score being 6-3, FC Turbinia keep the pressure on West Auckland WMC who are currently top of the table. In other news, FC Turbinia have been drawn against Wearhead United in the Semi-Final of the Colin Waites Cup, in a game that is to be played at Simpasture Playing Fields, Newton Aycliffe on a date yet to be confirmed. FC Turbinia are still looking for a Shirt Sponsor. If there is anyone interested in sponsoring the front of the shirts, whether it be the home shirt, away shirt or both, please get in touch with Paul Soakell on 07848 932989 or p.soakell@sky.com

A Hat Trick, 6-0 Win and Ninth Winning Game

Last week's bad weather saw the Derby against The Huntsman put on hold for now, but another win this weekend saw the Sports Club extend their winning streak to nine in a row in all competitions.

Bottom of the league side, Bishop Auckland Station, came to Moore Lane Park looking for a share of the spoils after holding the Sports Club to a 1-1 draw earlier in the season. The only change from the team that defeated league favourites Darlington Rolling Mills, was between the sticks with Sean Redpath returning to replace the unavailable Andy Hartley in goal.

The home side clearly had revenge on their minds and on 8 minutes Connor Hughes had a one on one with the keeper but dragged his shot wide. Just moments later Anthony Campbell struck the bar with a fierce shot from just outside the box after leaving two defenders in his wake. This was a sign of things to come as the home side continued to dominate.

On the 20 minute mark, Chris Jones opened the scoring after drawing the keeper wide and slotting home. It looked like he got his second just moments later after rounding the keeper and shooting towards an empty net, only to see the ball stick in the puddle in the goalmouth after everyone else had started celebrating. Jones was unlucky again moments later after terrorising the defence again, rounding the keeper, but had to watch as the last defender slid in and cleared his effort off the line.



Hat Trick Hero Postle

David Teder then had a goal disallowed for offside on the half hour mark, but the lead was soon doubled when substitute Tom Postle, on for the injured Connor Hughes, superbly lobbed the oncoming keeper to make it 2-0.

The second half shaped up pretty much as the first with the Sports Club continuing the onslaught on the away side's goal. Half Time saw Carl Robinson replace David Teder, who had endured numerous tough tackles, on the right side of midfield. Anth Campbell picked out Tom Postle again on the 55 minute mark who

slotted home his brace to make it 3-0. Chris Jones then turned provider for substitute Ryan Stonehouse (on for Paul Cook) with a cross field pass that Stonehouse hammered home to make it four.

With the home side now cruising Jones again showed his teamwork ethic by pulling the ball back for Postle to get his hatrick on 75 minutes. Jones was not finished there though, scoring his second with 10 minutes to go to cap his Man of the Match performance and finish the game off with a 6-0 win, the sports clubs first

clean sheet of the campaign. Next week it's a return to cup action with The Masons Arms, top of the Second Division, coming to Moore Lane for the 2nd round of the Darlington Charity cup, a huge test for the Aycliffe side.

Team: Sean Redpath, Jonathan Clegg, Mark Craggs, Craig Hannant, Darren Bossomworth, Anthony Campbell, Paul Cook, Gareth Boyes, David Teder, Chris Jones, Connor Hughes. Subs (used): Tom Postle, Tommy Young, Ryan Stonehouse, Carl Robinson, Shaun Grant.

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Aycliffe Water Polo Junior in GB Squad



In October 2014, Woodham Academy student, Ben Stephenson, became a National Champion representing Sedgefield Water Polo Club Under 15's at Manchester Aquatic Centre.

After playing in the Under 14's Inter Regions competition for the North East in December, Ben was awarded The Most Valuable Player Award, following which he was invited to the GB trials in January 2015. The trials were held at Cardiff International Pool and were spread over a weekend where Ben spent 9 hours in the pool being assessed alongside all the major under 13's water polo players from England, Scotland and Wales.

On Monday 19th January, Ben received confirmation

of his place in the GB squad and the training camp schedule for the year ahead starting with the Great Britain Talent Water Polo Training Camp on 7th and 8th February at Cardiff. Ben will also be attending a week long GB training camp in August at Millfield School in Somerset. Ben spends 14 hours a week attending training as well as attending sports academies and completing school work. Ben is a member of Woodham Water Polo Academy, which trains every Monday in the school's swimming pool. Last year he was the first player to ever be chosen 3 times in one year to represent the North East district, playing for the Under 18's, Under 16's and Under 14's teams.

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KEY ELEMENTS OF BUDGET AGREED BY NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY

Regional leaders have agreed the key elements of the first budget for the North East Combined Authority.

This agreement is an important step in paving the way for the authority to deliver on its ambitious economic aspirations for the region.

Highlights include:
• A transport revenue budget of £89m to protect critical transports services and concessionary travel for the people across Durham,

Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

• A £1m saving in the Transport levy for Tyne and Wear. This has been achieved through efficiency savings and use of reserves which have been made while at the same time services protected and improved. This brings the total level of savings to over £10m in the last four years.

• A capital investment programme of £119m which will bring in a further £26m of investment from partners, making a total investment of more than £50m in capital investment next year. This will include £93m of investment in new highway and transport projects and £52m of economic development and skills projects next year. Major schemes will include further investment in the

Metro system as well as:

• Infrastructure improvements at Merchant Park in County Durham - to support inward investment and supply chain development adjacent to the future home of Hitachi Rail Europe.

• Improvements to the A19 at Lindisfarn Roundabout to provide improved connectivity to the Port of Tyne and South Shields town centre and also at Silverlink to facilitate economic development and address capacity issues at Cobalt Business Park.

• A skills improvement package with investment in education and training facilities at five sites across the North East to support increased skills in key economic sectors including advanced manufacturing, offshore wind and low carbon energy technologies.

• A North East innovation programme to support technological advances in key industries and drive innovation in the area. For example, Sunderland Enterprise and Innovation Hub, which will provide the first 'Fab Lab' in the North East.

• Infilling of the redundant wet berth within the Swans Enterprise Zone to create development land with quay frontage and increase the supply of commercial land and premises linked to the offshore and renewable energy sector.

• NE Rural Growth Network infrastructure - a programme across Durham, Northumberland and Gateshead to address infrastructure gaps in key rural market towns and to grow the innovative, community-led network of rural enterprise

hubs to support rural business growth.

• A package of junction improvements to the A1 corridor at Scotswood Bridgehead to ensure access for all modes of transport over the river Tyne to the employment opportunities in Newcastle and Gateshead.

• Match-funding of £1.1m to be made available to operate a Mental Health and Integration Trailblazer over the next two years.

Two elements of the budget - the proposed grant to Nexus and the resources for inward investment - require further consideration and a special meeting of the Leadership Board to discuss these issues will be held in the next few weeks.

CLr Simon Henig, chair of the North East Combined Authority, said: "This signals the start of the journey which will deliver a better, united and stronger North East, where business can thrive and young people get the skills they need to succeed in life.

"Whilst it is set in the context of a national position of austerity and so has to be realistic, it also makes available additional capital funding to help deliver investment in transport and infrastructure and to provide incentives to help secure economic growth."

Paul Woolston, chair of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), added: "The North East LEP was successful in securing £289m as part of the Government's Growth Deal. The first tranche of funding is due to be released in April.

"It is a hugely positive step for the North East that we are able to push ahead with these ambitious schemes.

This progress underlines our commitment to delivering the strategic economic plan working closely with the Combined Authority and to creating a region in which there are more and better jobs for everyone."

Key aspects of the budget were agreed by the leaders of the local authorities at a meeting on Tuesday, 20th January.

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AVOIDING PROBLEMS AT ROUNDABOUTS

Road safety charity the IAM is offering tips from Britain's top advanced driver, Peter Rodger. This week he is advising on avoiding problems at roundabouts.

- **INFORMATION:** Look well ahead; check your mirrors so that you know what other traffic there is around you. Give any signals in plenty of time. Try and identify a gap in the traffic before you reach the roundabout, but keep an eye on the car in front – they may not go for the gap you would
- **POSITION:** Approach the roundabout according to which exit you're taking. Keep to the left lane to turn left or go straight and the right lane when taking an exit on the right. Watch for any road markings guiding you and try to give other

vehicles plenty of space.

- **SPEED:** Slow down smoothly to a speed that's appropriate for the roundabout, taking into account the position of other road users
- **GEARS:** Once you're at the right speed, and before turning, select the correct gear. Do a final mirror check, especially the mirror on the side you are turning towards
- **ACCELERATE:** At a roundabout choose a gap in the traffic and accelerate smoothly into it – the same applies to any other junction

Rodger said: "At roundabouts, it is useful to try and consider the whole thing as one manoeuvre – that way you have a plan about which lane to be in, when to move into that lane, and what signals you expect to use. But you need to prepare to be flexible – other road users don't always behave as we'd expect them to."

Champions Support Chairman's Charities



Sedgefield's all-conquering national water polo champions have put their names to the chairman of Durham County Council's charity appeal. Members of Sedgefield Water Polo Club's under-15 team, who won the British Gas Amateur Swimming Association's (ASA) National Water Polo Championships at the end of last year presented the Chairman, Cllr John Robinson, JP, with a signed club t-shirt for his charity auction.

Cllr Robinson is raising funds for the Great North Air Ambulance and

Butterwick Hospice and visited the club to receive the signed shirt and to see the boys train. He also met the club's coaches, officials and volunteers.

Cllr Robinson said: "I was gobsmacked at how committed everyone was – the boys, their coaches and all the parents and volunteers who together have made the club such a success."

"It was great talking to the lads and to receive the shirt."

Cllr Robinson made a small donation to club funds and pledged to replace the club's 'roll of honour' banner, if its under-16s team wins the ASA national championships for their age group later this year. Sedgefield offers water polo coaching for boys and girls from six years old upwards. For further information, call 07818 445 559 or visit www.sedgefieldwaterpolo.com. To put in a bid for the signed shirt or to make a donation to the Chairman's charity appeal, email chairman@durham.gov.uk.

Obituary

MILLER. Peacefully on 22nd January. Eddy, aged 77 years. Beloved Husband of the late Irene; devoted Dad of Mandy, Eddy and Andress; Father-in-Law of Gary, June and John; much loved Grandad of Darren, Samantha, James, Danny and Chloe and their partners; loving Great Grandad of Zack and Ethan; a friend to many who will be sadly missed. Funeral Service to take place in Wear Valley Crematorium Chapel on Friday 6th February at 12.30 pm prior to private family burial. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, to Dementia UK

MacMURRAY (Nee Tully), 21st January, peacefully. Margaret of Newton Aycliffe, formerly Bishop Auckland, aged 78 years. Devoted Wife of Charles, a loving and much loved Mam of Susan, Vivien, John, Chris and the late Charles, a beloved Nana and Great Nana, also a very dear Sister, Aunt and good friend to many. Will friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Wednesday 4th February at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Margaret, may if desired, be left at the Crematorium for the Alzheimers Society.

In Memoriam

DICKINSON, Walter James. 25th January 2012. Wonderful memories of the best Brother and Uncle ever. Our thoughts are always with you as we love and miss you more than words can say. Lots of love, Denise, Steve and all your Bairns xxxxx

THOMAS TOMLINSON 29th January 2014. To our Dad and Grandad. We know that you are still with us, especially today, because we shared a closeness even death can't take away. You always had a smile to share, time to give, time to care; a loving nature, kind and true, is the way we will remember you. Miss you loads. Sharon, Tony, Lyn, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxxxxxxx

THOMAS TOMLINSON 29th January 2014. Memories are like strands of gold, they never tarnish or grow old. Mine of you too will last forever, until the day we are together. Always loved, never forgotten. I love you Tot. Ann xxxxx

JOHN GLASPER 1st February 2009. Miss you and love you always. From your Wife Doreen

JOHN GLASPER 1st February 2009. Treasured memories of a loving Dad and Grandad. Thinking of you today and always. Love and miss you. From Viv, Chris and Jess xxxxx

JOHN GLASPER 1st February 2009. Dad. Our love for you will always be in our hearts. Memories of you in our thoughts. We all could not have wished for a better Dad and Grandad. The heartache of losing you Dad, will never go away. We all miss you so much. Your loving Daughter Sharron, Son-in-Law Colin, your loving Grandchildren Cheryl, Natalie and Sean; Great Grandchildren Maisie, Tyler and Thomas xxxxx

Congratulations

Stacy Rhian Richardson



Happy 21st Birthday

To our wonderful Daughter, congratulations on your 21st birthday on 29th January. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxxxx

Happy 21st Birthday Stacy

Lots of love, Stephen and Caera xxxxx

Happy 21st Birthday

To our lovely Granddaughter Stacy, congratulations on your 21st birthday. Lots of love, Grandma and Grandad xxx

Happy 21st Birthday Stacy

Lots of love, Ian and Leigh xxxxx

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Boxing Champion Visits Greenfield OPTIMISTIC DURHAM WILDCATS



Amanda Coulson, an ex-Great Britain Boxing Champion came into Greenfield Community College to work with Mr Butterworth's Year 8 boys PE group last week. The retired boxer's loyalty visit coincided with an initiative, Sky Sports Living for Sport, that Greenfield Community College have signed up to for the fifth year in a row that uses sport as a tool to motivate and inspire 11-16 year olds. It proved to be a fantastic opportunity for the Greenfield students as it isn't everyday they get to interact with one of Britain's leading female sports stars. She is a gifted and exciting fighter who spent almost a decade at the top of the women's national and international boxing scene – and is now a GB boxing coach.

The first hour consisted of a theory-based session focusing on Amanda's story and Sky Sports Living for Sport '6

key skills to success' message. Within the next lesson, Amanda and the pupils planned a boxing circuit that built upon previous fitness work completed by the students in the weeks leading up to her visit. It was evident that when the pupils took part in the boxing circuit that they had impeccable attitudes and worked incredibly hard pushing their bodies to the limit. Our students enjoyed the new element of boxing within their fitness work, and were keen to learn new skills associated with the sport.

At the end of the session they were asked to set targets in relation to the '6 key skills to success' and focus on improving a couple of these in the coming months which would impact upon their future achievements. Many thanks to Amanda Coulson and Sky Sports Living for Sport for another inspirational visit to Greenfield.

Durham Wildcats have an opportunity to get back on the winning track this Sunday when they host Surrey United, who are in last place in the BBL at 4-16. Four straight losses for the Wildcats has put them on a more difficult path to return to the playoffs, but the team remains optimistic on their chances for success.

Even with their 7-14 record, the Wildcats are not too far from quickly jumping up the table. Above them, four teams have either eight or nine wins. Combine a Durham winning streak and multiple losses from either Manchester Giants, Bristol Flyers, Glasgow Rocks or the Sheffield Sharks and Head Coach Lee Davie and his squad can again find themselves in a relatively comfortable position heading towards the end of the season.

Despite Surrey United being in last place and not seeming to be threatening anyone for a playoff

position, the Wildcats would very much enjoy owning the tie-breaker advantage over them with a repeat impressive home win.

Surrey United have undergone a significant roster transformation in the past two months since their 101-57 loss. After beating the Wildcats in the second go-around, Surrey was able to sneak past EBL foe Essex Leopards in the BBL Trophy. New additions to the squad have benefited Surrey's defensive capabilities by a small, yet noticeable, margin. In the teams' first meeting, The Wildcats want to continue to use their highly efficient two-point field goal shooting to their advantage. Behind only the Newcastle Eagles, Durham shoots 53.31 percent from the field. Davie and the Wildcats recognise that this strength of theirs needs assistance from the defensive end of the court, and they have since made adjustments to help

give them more opportunities to score. The new defensive formula was implemented versus Worcester in the BBL Trophy match up and provided the Wildcats plenty of scoring opportunities as they battled toe-to-toe with one of the league's best teams. It held Glasgow Rocks in check last Sunday before they began drilling three-point shots late in the game.

The Wildcats continue to show optimism and poise through each practice. As they welcome Surrey United to the Leisure Centre this Sunday 1st February, Durham will be eager to get another win in the column to boost their position and confidence. Tickets are now available through the Wildcats' website www.godurhamwildcats.com or when the door opens at 3:00pm. Tickets for the 4:00pm tip-off this Sunday are £8 for adults and £6 for children with £20 family options available.

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Gymnasts Qualify for National Finals



Woodham Gymnastics Academy made an excellent start to their competition season on Thursday 22nd January. The regional Milano competition, held at the University of Cumbria, was the first competition that the Gymnastics Academy has taken part in this academic year. Woodham had 3 girls' teams in the under 16 category, where gymnasts were required to perform an individual floor routine, a vault and a trio sequence.

All the students were a credit to Woodham Academy with their professionalism, dedication and superb performances throughout the day. All the students worked incredibly hard and all supported other gymnasts from both Woodham and other teams in the region. One team came second in the under 16 category and another came third, therefore the

podium was dominated with the black and green Woodham colours! The team who came second will go on to represent the North of England at National Finals in Stoke on Trent in March. A massive well done to all the students involved as their hard work is building the reputation and success of Woodham Gymnastics Academy.

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