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Giant Wind Farm Near Aycliffe Cancelled

Delight as Eon Withdraws Application

Eon made the announcement this week they were cancelling their wind farm project near Aycliffe, much to the elation of many local people including those living next to the proposed site in Morden and Bradbury villages.

They have been fighting for over three years to stop the intrusion of the largest turbines in the country in a region already with more than its fair share of this supposed renewable energy source.

The Government's decision to axe subsidies for onshore wind farms has obviously led to the cancellation but it is also thanks to the fierce local campaign that first changed the proposal from 45 turbines to 24 and then caused the delays through planning procedures and efforts of our MP.

Phil Wilson said: "Eon's announcement is excellent news. County Durham has played its part in windfarm development. I am not opposed to such development in principle, but the Isles Windfarm was a step too far, and was inappropriately placed. I'm pleased EON has finally listened to the arguments put forward by local campaigners and have now withdrawn their planning application." TICTAC the local anti Isles Windfarm campaign group sent the following letter to Newton News.

Dear Sir,
I am delighted that Eon have withdrawn their application to erect 24 wind turbines on the Bradbury, Morden and Preston Carrs. (The Isles) Whilst the reductions in subsidies and the changes in government policy no doubt influenced the decision, I am certain that the campaign coordinated by TICTAC and supported so strongly by local communities also had a part to play. If TICTAC and their supporters had not held EON to account and delayed their plans, highlighting the flaws in their application, the turbines would have been erected 2 years ago and recent government policies would have come too late to help us. There are so many people to thank but on behalf of TICTAC, I especially want to thank the people of Newton Aycliffe and surrounding communities who supported us. If you came to one of our meetings or our exhibitions. If you helped us out financially or did some work for us. If you put a poster up in your



window. Thank you. I should also mention Phil Wilson and the many councillors who supported us. Thanks to all of you, we have stopped the vandalism of an historic landscape. We have protected both the wildlife of the area and the health of residents who would have had to endure the effects of flicker and noise. We have also kept our roads safer from the huge amount of construction traffic and massive loads that were going to be needed to build the turbines. This campaign was always about protecting the communities surrounding the Isles and focussed on why it

was the wrong place to build turbines. From the outset Eon behaved as if this application was a done deal and that any objections from those affected were irrelevant. They underestimated the people of this County and I am very proud to say that they were proved completely wrong. Susan Fox

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Film Show

"IT'S A MAD MAD MAD MAD WORLD"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church, on Tuesday 26th January, features the hilarious, zany, side splitting Laughfest "It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World" starring Mickey Rooney, Phil Silvers, Edie Adams, Ethel Merman, Spencer Tracy, Milton Berle, Terry-Thomas, Dorothy Provine, Jack Benny and dozens more stars, as nutty motorists speed off on a mind-bending, car-crashing race to find a fortune in lost loot.

It's mad mad mad mad but it is sure to lift your spirits too.

Tea, coffee and juice will be served at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1.15pm.

A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company.

Everyone is most welcome. Further info from Ric Hargreaves on 01325 316755.

Students Give MP Tour of Anne Frank Exhibition

Greenfield Arts are excited to be hosting the Anne Frank Outreach exhibition at Greenfield Community College – Sunnydale Campus and Aycliffe Site, in The Greenfield Gallery.

This exhibition, which is a travelling outreach display and has come especially to Greenfield Community College from the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam, includes a display of photographs and text, as well as a response from the students of Greenfield Community College and local primary schools in Shildon who have taken part creative outreach sessions.

We were very honoured to give a private tour at The Greenfield Gallery to Phil Wilson MP who talked in depth with the students about his visit to the Anne Frank Museum, Amsterdam, and asked the Ambassadors lots of great questions about the exhibition.

Commenting on the exhibition Phil said "It is important to keep the memory of what happened all those years ago alive.



The students have done a tremendous job, I was very impressed with their knowledge around the subject and their confidence. I would advise anyone who hasn't to visit the exhibition." Students from both campuses have had the opportunity to train as Ambassadors for the exhibition, in which they have been leading tours of the display, highlighting key areas and engaging students. It is so important to share this history so it doesn't get lost or forgotten.

The Ambassadors trained with the Anne Frank Trust for two days, looking at how they can explore the Second World War, prejudice, compassion and respect through the story of Anne Frank and how they can pass this onto their fellow students. This has been a great educational tool, giving the Ambassadors a sense of responsibility and skills in presenting to their peers as well as sharing the important information. Students said they feel they wouldn't have engaged as well without the Ambassadors and have learnt so much about prejudice within society. The Ambassadors also noted how much they have learnt about managing a group of students.

Our Director of Arts and Creativity commented "this exhibition opportunity has given us the chance to develop a wide and varied high quality programme of activities that have reached all young people at both campuses and extended to local primary schools and the wider community. We are really pleased to help share Anne's story and the important lessons which stay with you."

From the 7th – 27th January 2016 the exhibition is at The Greenfield Gallery and is open to the public. In addition to this we are hosting a celebration of all the work

the Ambassadors and young people have achieved on Holocaust Memorial Day Wednesday 27th January at The Greenfield Gallery and live performance of The Tin Ring. To find out more about the exhibition or to book a group visit, please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk. Thank you to the many people involved in this exciting programme.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

STUBBING OUT SMOKING IN BUS STATIONS

A crackdown is being launched on smoking in County Durham bus stations. Durham County Council officers are teaming up with bus companies Arriva and Go North East to send out the message that smoking will not be tolerated in the county's stations.

The campaign, which runs until February, will see our staff visiting bus stations and issuing fines to anyone caught smoking. Since 2007, almost all indoor public places and workplaces, including vehicles, have been required to be smoke free by law.

Smoking is also prohibited in all enclosed or 'substantially enclosed' public places and workplaces, including bus stations. But despite the law, some people continue to smoke in and around county stations.

We recently carried out a survey at some of the county's bus stations which revealed that over 71% of people surveyed have seen smoking in or around the



sites.

Our Public Protection Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens will be visiting stations at Durham, Consett, Stanley, Peterlee and Bishop Auckland. They will be reminding people that it is against the law to smoke in bus stations, issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone caught doing so and providing advice and guidance on smoke free issues. Information posters will also be displayed in the stations.

Arriva and Go North East are supporting the campaign by spreading the message among their staff, especially those who work in county stations.

Joanne Waller, our head of environment, health and consumer protection, said: "Smoking in bus stations is illegal and yet some people continue to do it.

"It is a health hazard and a nuisance to other station users and we will be taking action against anyone we catch flouting the law."

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Rockermouth review: "Great band! Still haven't seen the Bon Jovi Forever set, but it's the same line-up as the Kill... and they rock! Talented lads, the lot of them. A great set of musicians and Gregg has frontman skills and stage presence to back up his excellent voice. Then add to that a cool and interesting set list, a quality P.A. rig and you've got a superb package. Can't wait to see the lads play again. But maybe next time at the Office".
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Have a Say on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership meets later this month.

The GAMP Board will be meeting on Tuesday 26 January 2016, between 6pm and 8pm, at Oakleaf Sports Complex, and members of the public are invited to go along to observe proceedings. Local people can also raise any neighbourhood issues that they would like the Board to address. These need to be put in writing and sent in advance of the meeting.

The Board will be receiving update presentations in relation to the Fire Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan, and the Council's Poverty Action Plan.

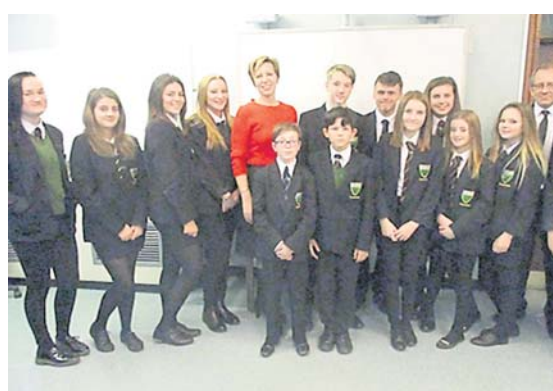
In addition, Mr Ron Hogg (Police & Crime Commissioner) will be available at the meeting venue from 5.30pm, for people to have the opportunity to comment on the Police & Precept Council Tax for 2016-17 before the main meeting starts at 6pm.

Anyone who would like to attend the Board meeting should register in advance by ringing 01325 327441, or by emailing gampaap@durham.gov.uk - Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009.

Award Winning Entrepreneur Visits Future Business Magnates



Pupils who have been involved in the Future Business Magnates Enterprise programme received a visit from Nicola Cook, an award winning entrepreneur, on Friday 15th January. She is renowned for her engaging, energetic



Ryder Court Broadband

Dear Sir,
Although I was correct to state that a line had been connected from Cabinet 23 to Ryder Court, the subsequent news has been hugely disappointing. Fourteen houses are still unconnected to the new line, and no residents can receive the superfast service because Cabinet 23 has no spare ports. I have contacted BT requesting a prompt resolution of these problems, but have had no response to date. I recommend residents to contact Digital Durham at the Education Development Centre, Enterprise Way, Spennymoor, DL16 6YP. Cllr John D Clare

FROM BT

A BT spokesperson said: "We are currently trialling a new solution to increase capacity on fibre cabinets where demand for services outstrips the number of available connections. This trial is due to conclude in February and, if successful, we believe this solution could work in Aycliffe. In the meantime we are still reviewing other options and will do all we can to resolve the situation as quickly as possible."

"We are very sorry for any inconvenience this is causing to those people in Aycliffe currently unable to upgrade to a fibre broadband service."

and passionate style which has inspired audiences around the world. Nicola was visiting Greenfield Community College as part of the Speakers for Schools programme and she talked to the pupils about her journey from being "a fairly average Consett lass" to Chief Executive Officer of Company Shortcuts, a business devoted to improving business results by injecting skills, passion and strategy to help improve sales.

She gave the pupils an insight in to her top ten tips for being successful in business and encouraged them to work harder, work smarter and offer more in order to be winners.

Students asked a range of questions ranging from "how do you achieve a work-life balance?" to "have you ever encountered sexism on your journey to become a successful business woman?" Nicola is also an international author and her books on professional selling and personal & business growth have been best sellers in the business field.



POLICE APPEAL ON DRIVING CONDITIONS



The Neighbourhood Police Team in Newton Aycliffe are aware of a number of concerns that have been raised in relation to parking and the manner of driving of motorists – particularly the excessive speed of vehicles, in the Peaseway and Stephenson Way areas of the town. I wish to acknowledge that we share those concerns, take those concerns seriously, and are working with our partner agencies to look at ways to alleviate the issues, such as the implementation of traffic calming measures.

Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team will be conducting community Speedwatch activities in the area and I would ask for anyone who resides in the local area, who may be affected by these matters, and would be interested in volunteering to contact ourselves and to work with us when performing such initiatives.

All I would say is that whilst we can take enforcement action, environmental factors and education are key to successfully tackling these issues and the Police cannot do this alone. The answer lies in partnership working and community cohesion.

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CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Parents, children, staff and councillors are all to be asked their views on the future of Durham County Council's youth service.

Across the county the council funds a range of activities, groups and youth centres - but where that support goes has been based on historic agreements and not where it could have the most benefit.

Now, following a review of the service, a consultation is to be launched on proposals that would see money and resources targeted towards those young people who need it most, stronger links with the voluntary and community sectors, and youth centres transferred into the hands of local people.

Councillor Ossie Johnson, the council's cabinet member for children and young people's services said: "At a time of continuing financial pressures, with £124m in savings to be found across the council by 2020 on top of the £153m we have already found, it is more important than ever that we make every penny count.

"I believe these proposals to develop a targeted approach, which aims to ensure we reach those who are most in need, are long overdue.

"I hope as many people as possible will take part in this consultation and help us to modernise the service and make it fit for the 21st Century."

Overall it is hoped the

proposals would lead to improved school attendance and grades, and fewer exclusions; fewer young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET); fewer referrals to children's services; and fewer teenage pregnancies. Councillor Lucy Hovvels, cabinet member for adult and health services said: "I believe the proposed new way of providing these services would be the right thing to do.

"An awful lot of time and energy has been put into these proposals because people recognise how important it is to keep providing for young people, who are our future. "Hopefully when this process is all finished it will be better for the people we represent."

The council's Cabinet discussed the review at its meeting on Wednesday January 13 2016, and agreed to conduct a public consultation on the plans, which will run from 1 February to 27 April 2016. Following feedback from that consultation, final proposals will then be developed and presented to cabinet in autumn 2016.

Carole Payne, Durham County Council's head of children's services, said: "Across County Durham there are nearly 18,000 children living in areas that are among the most deprived in the country.

"Yet currently, despite

prioritising and protecting youth services for as long as possible, the service is in regular contact with only 7 per cent of all young people and 9 per cent of those in the most deprived areas.

"Other authorities in the North East have cut their budgets for youth services, in some cases by over 70 per cent, while Durham has reduced its funding by less than one fifth.

"However, with continued budget pressures we face some difficult decisions and it is important that we ensure every penny we spend has the greatest benefit.

"With this in mind a review of youth services has been carried out and a series of proposals have been drafted that would see a new approach introduced to identify and help the young people and families who would gain the most from our support.

"No decisions have yet been made. The results of the review will be presented to the council's cabinet on January 13 and, subject to approval, the recommendations it contains would be put out for a full 12 week public consultation beginning in February."

In County Durham there are 17,987 13 to 19-year-olds living in households in areas that are among the top 30 per cent most deprived in the country.

There are also 7,670 children from homes whose income is at least 60 per cent below the national average.

Only 9 per cent of young people from the least well off areas have regular contact with the council's youth service.

It is believed that - despite the council having to find £1m of savings from its £8.67m One Point budget - the service can have a bigger impact by redistributing funding across the service's 10 areas, and targeting services to young people who need them most.

The consultation is also looking at the funding given to more than 50 youth projects through the Youth Work Support Grant.

Currently groups receive grants ranging from £430 to £27,768, but again this is based on what each organisation historically received and not on where needs are greatest.

In 2015/16 the budget for the Youth Work Support Grant is £194,684, but after meeting savings targets that will be reduced to £138,000. It is proposed to reassess where grants are made, and to transfer control of this funding to the council's Area Action Partnerships, which are better placed to identify local priorities.

As well as this, discussions are already underway over the possibility of transferring youth centres in Fishburn, Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor and Stanley to community ownership through the Durham ASK programme.

Recycling Scheme Raised Over £200 for Charity



On 9th January 2016 Bishop Auckland Rotary Club teamed up with Butterwick Hospice volunteers to collect the many real Christmas Trees in the area to recycle for residents whom had donated to the Butterwick Hospice in order to use this service.

Throughout December leaflets advertising the recycling scheme were available from various outlets selling real trees, Bill Robson, from the Rotary Club said, "We would like to thank those businesses in the area that agreed to hand out leaflets for us which detailed how you could have your tree collected and recycled as well as Graham Holmes and Son whom provided a van for the day. This is a great way to save you trying to dispose of your tree yourself and supporting a great cause. Those outlets were; Tesco, Asda, B & Q, Homebase,

Beech Tree Nurseries, Windlestone Nurseries, Toronto Allotments, Peel Street Warehouse, Oliver's Units, Low Etherley, Harry's Farm & Raby Castle."

Helen Kirby from Butterwick Hospice said "we hope this scheme grows year on year, this was our second year in partnership with Bishop Auckland Rotary and we have already seen an increase in bookings for tree collections. Special thanks must go to the collectors were Ian Clark, Butterwick Volunteer & John Yeomans, Tony Sanderson, Bill Robson, Keith Black Bishop Auckland Rotary Club and Robbie Izat (San Jose, Evergreen Rotary Club). I would also like to thank Bishop FM for also supporting the scheme and inviting us on air to talk about it."

We hope to run the recycling scheme again next year.

UGLY URBAN STREET LIGHTING ON AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HISTORIC GREEN!

Dear Sir,
My jaw dropped when I saw workmen directly outside my house over Christmas erecting new street lights for the Village Green. My jaw dropped even further when I realised that the lights are, what can only be described as suitable for the Industrial Estate, and not for Aycliffe's much revered Village Green. Please tell me I am dreaming and when I wake up I will see traditional street lighting columns fit for a beautiful and most charming English Village Green.

To add to the ugly sight that bestows me each time I look out of my windows, not only do we have to suffer these monstrosities of urban ugliness, but there are additional ones too!!! Why??

Aycliffe Village is not an Industrial Estate. It is not Blackpool illuminations. It is our Village Green and we are proud to flaunt it to people from all over the world.

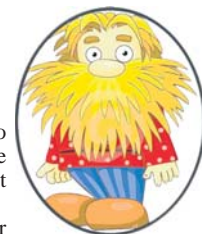
Without any prior consultation with the people who live in Aycliffe Village, the Council have taken our money and just bulldozed ahead to do what "they think fit". It is a disgrace, and I know many of my fellow Villagers are outraged at the lack of planning and design when it comes to "conserving" our Green. Naturally, I am aware that we have to move forward

when it comes to eco lighting but I am 100% certain that a village in, say the heart of England, would not allow their Council to erect such eyesores - they would do what they do in France and knock them down!

PS: I would welcome any communication from the Council and invite them to put their case forward to the village as to why our money was spent on this street lighting and why we were not consulted beforehand.

Lesley Hislop
The Green
Aycliffe Village

Honest John Latest News



Recent donations include £865 to provide a Heart Defibrillator for the benefit of all who train or rehearse at Acorn House, Aycliffe Business Park. £400 to Heighington Junior FC Under 10's team to supply new strips for the upcoming season. Fundraising is now taking place for another Heart Defibrillator to be placed in a suitable area in Newton Aycliffe. Thanks for all the donations of items to sell and to customers for your continued support.

Honest John

THE BowenClinic



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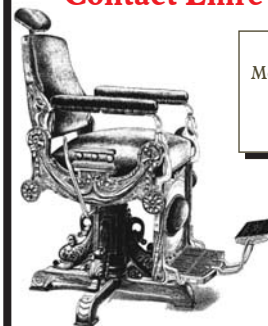
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Sunday: Closed



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Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS
Mobile: 07738 066 723



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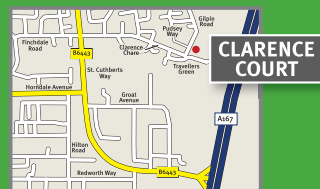
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Prices Correct at time of going to press. Images for illustration purposes only. Schemes subject to terms and conditions. Ask Sales Negotiator for details. *Eligible applicants will be offered an equity loan of up to a maximum of 20% of the purchase price [based on the open market value] for a maximum term of 25 years. Applicants are required to fund at least 80% of the purchase price by means of a conventional mortgage, savings and any deposit where required. For the first 5 years there is no charge on the equity loan component. If you have not repaid the equity loan after 5 years you will be required to pay interest at 1.75% of the equity loan rising annually by the increase in the Retail Price Index plus 1%. The equity loan is provided by the HCA and is held as a second charge. The repayment sum will reflect the 20% of the market value when the property is sold. This offer is subject to selected sites and plots in England only. Applicants will be required to use a mortgage broker from Gleeson Homes panel who will act solely for the applicant. The Example assumes a purchase price of £99,995 with Gleeson Homes offering the "Help to Buy" shared equity arrangement of 20% (£19,999) and a personal deposit of 5% being your share (£5,001) therefore the basic mortgage debt is £74,995. The rate is fixed at 1.59% fixed until 30th November 2017. After the fixed rate period the mortgage will revert to the lenders standard base lending rate (currently 5.69%). There is an early repayment charge on the mortgage of £2,245.44 until 30/11/2016 and £1,563.29 until 30/11/2017. This charge is payable if all of the debt is repaid. A proportionate charge is payable for partial repayment. You are free to move the mortgage to another lender after the fixed rate term has ended. The APR for this mortgage scheme is 5.1% and the total amount payable of the 25 year term will be £134,878.43. This means that every £1 borrowed will cost £1.78 to repay. There is a booking fee of £799 charged by the lender which is added to the loan. There is a redemption fee of £199 payable when the mortgage is redeemed. There is no valuation fee payable on this deal and a cash back of £200. The monthly mortgage payment currently would be £306.34 until 30/11/2017. Additional costs for life insurance cover and insurance of your contents may need to be added to the above monthly figure. For apartments the insurance in the building is incorporated into the service scheme. The mortgage is subject to status and credit scoring by the lender, the example does not represent any form of mortgage offer and does not oblige the lender to provide a mortgage. Not all mortgages are regulated by the Financial Services Authority. YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. Written illustrations are available upon request. **Average cost of running a 2 bedroom semidetached Gleeson home based on customer survey 2015.

Don't be Nipped by Jack Frost

With temperatures due to take a plunge this week, the AA is encouraging drivers to check their car is in shape for the coming weeks.

Max Holdstock, AA patrol of the year, says: "The arrival of more typical winter weather will have many of us reaching for the thermostat but it's not just us who feel the chill. The cold can cause problems for your car too, and in more ways than many people realise.

"Breakdowns can double in very cold weather but up to half are potentially preventable through regular servicing and maintenance checks. The most common call to the AA for help is a flat battery."

He advises keeping an ear out for local traffic and weather reports and driving in severe winter weather only if it's essential.

"The vital thing is to drive smoothly, keep your speed down and avoid sharp acceleration, braking or cornering as far as possible by keeping plenty of space between yourself and the car in front. Be alert to black ice particularly on unsalted roads – it's difficult to see as the road will simply look wet. On an icy road, start in second gear or engage winter mode if an automatic and keep in as high a gear as possible.

"Prepare for the worst but hope for the best: keep warm clothing in your car, first aid kit, personal medication, high energy refreshment such as chocolate, drinking water, torch, keep your phone charged and take a

traditional map as well as your sat-nav and download the AA App.

The AA also offers winter essentials packs with useful kit such as a shovel, de-icer, salt, emergency beacon, tow-rope and other useful items

AA patrol of the year Max Holdstock's winter tips are: Battery: keep it charged up and if its old, get it checked and changed
Short, stop-start journeys especially during winter when the battery is under additional strain and doesn't get a chance to charge up is a recipe for an electrical 'coronary'.

If your car has been having problems starting and the battery's more than five years old, get it tested by a garage and replaced if necessary. Cold weather reduces battery efficiency so it it's already tired, it might not start your engine. Coolant: check and make sure it has correct anti-freeze mix

Engine coolant also needs checking. It should be a 50/50 mixture of water and antifreeze but people make the mistake of topping up with plain water over the year, so it gets too diluted and can then freeze in winter. This can lead to the engine damage and a very large repair bill.

On most cars the coolant shouldn't need topping up, so if you're losing coolant, you know you have a problem. If you are concerned, a garage can quickly check the concentration.

Windscreen wash and wiper blades: keep them sparkling

clean

During the winter, with low sun and dirty roads, it's obviously very important to maintain clear vision. Top up the windscreen wash with a good quality, purpose-made additive to reduce the chance of freezing. While you're at it, run your finger down the wiper blades to check for nicks and tears. If they are two years old or more they should be replaced, a quick and easy job on most cars. Also give the windscreen a thorough clean, inside and out, as a layer of grime quickly builds up and you'd be surprised what a difference it makes at reducing dazzle.

Lights: keep them clean and replace blown bulbs

Walk round the car and make sure you have no cracked lens or blown bulbs and don't forget to check full beam headlights, fog lights and indicators. Keep spare head- and tail-light bulbs in your glovebox and make sure you know how to change them – check your car's handbook.

Tyres: check tread depth, tyre condition and pressure. Think about winter tyres

Check all tyres for condition, pressure and tread depth. The AA recommends at least 3mm of tread for improved grip during winter, so if the treads are getting low seriously consider buying new tyres.

Consider winter tyres, particularly if you live in a rural area, as they offer significantly better grip and braking performance on snow, ice and on wet roads in cold conditions.

Some drivers believe reducing air pressure gives better grip in snow and ice – it doesn't and can adversely affect performance and braking, as well as more quickly wear your tyres

Screen chips and bodywork damage: repair chips on glass and body

In cold weather windscreen chips can grow and become irreparable, so it's important to act quickly. Also, the salt deposits on the roads will attack any bodywork chips, so touch them up to avoid bigger problems later.

Be prepared

Max Holdstock says: "Winter is a punishing time for your car, so it's important to make sure it's up to the job. If your car is due its annual service, get it done sooner rather than later and get into the habit of doing these regular maintenance checks.

"For additional peace of mind, many garages offer free or cheap winter car checks, which are good for flagging up potential problems. Best to get them sorted now than at the side of the road on a cold, dark evening."

Max concludes: "Not only is keeping your car in good working order essential for its continued reliability and safety but it also helps protect its resale value, so it's something you can't afford not to do this winter."

Unique Apprenticeship Academy Plugs Skills Gap

Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland College Join Forces

An innovative educational training partnership between the North East's newest heritage attraction and a college is set to create scores of highly skilled jobs for young people.

Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland College have joined forces to launch a new apprenticeship academy to equip students with the expertise needed for the planned £60m redevelopment of the former palace home of England's only Prince Bishops.

The Auckland Academy is believed to be the first time an independently run heritage attraction and further education college has teamed up in this way.

The ground-breaking initiative has grown from an existing affiliation with Bishop Auckland College which has already seen four apprentices join Auckland Castle's rapidly expanding workforce over the past six months.

With more than 100 new full and part-time posts predicted to be generated at Auckland Castle alone by the exciting restoration and expansion plans set to get underway this year, the charitable trust behind the Bishop Auckland-based tourist destination, is keen to nurture the area's young talent.

Between 15 and 20 students are expected to sign-up for the inaugural academy course starting this September, which will offer work experience, training, and apprenticeship opportunities at not just Auckland Castle but other local employers, alongside academic qualifications.

Not everyone who wins a place on the two year academy programme will be guaranteed a final job.

But Rebecca Coates, Auckland Castle Trust's Human Resources Director, who is leading on the partnership with Bishop Auckland College, said: "What we will be able to give the students is a better opportunity to find other skilled jobs.

"The academy is as much about the castle and Bishop Auckland College working together to better equip young people to go out into the wider community to gain a skilled, full-time job, as us being able to offer full-time employment.

"The idea is not just for the castle to be creating jobs, but about setting a benchmark for excellence that we hope will be supported by other employers in the area.

"We want to create a pool of properly trained, confident, able and ultimately employable people to go out into the wider community who can make sure Bishop Auckland town, not just the castle, is ready for the massive developments about to get underway here.

"The castle may be the initial attraction, but the

vision has always been for local people to be at the heart of its wider success.

"That's why we are creating training and volunteer opportunities, apprenticeships and jobs, and providing openings for local businesses and enterprises to be able to take advantage of the expected influx of visitors, which will in turn create further possibilities."

Camilla Race, Bishop Auckland College's Employment Services Manager, who is in charge of the new academy, said: "The existing apprentices we have at Auckland Castle are a credit to themselves' and are progressing brilliantly.

"They have been the inspiration for the partnership. It is a fantastic chance for both organisations to support local young people into the many apprentice opportunities that will be forthcoming as the Auckland Castle project develops."

Auckland Castle needs to fill a variety of jobs, from horticulturists to business administrators, maintenance staff, trainee chefs, customer service and hospitality workers, and events and promotions.

Among those who will be taken on will be 34 apprentices over three years supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which last year awarded £9m towards the total £17m cost of conserving Auckland Castle's state rooms, and the building of a new two-storey museum wing to house an exhibition exploring the impact faith of all denominations has had on the nation's history and people.

Preparations for the start of interior work on the castle and the museum extension

begin this February.

Other developments planned for the castle include the reworking of the historic walled garden, a new visitor information building, and an institute of Spanish art and culture in Bishop Auckland Market Place.

In turn, new business and job opportunities will be created as visitors are attracted to Bishop Auckland, helping drive economic growth in this part of south west Durham.

The new apprenticeship academy will work with young people between the ages of 16 and 20. Participants will start on a Level 2 apprenticeship qualification, moving on to Level 3 in their second year.

As an employee, the apprentices will earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain skills while staying in education, returning regularly to Bishop Auckland College – rated the top performing educational establishment of its kind in the region for overall success rates for 16-18 year olds – for further training.

Auckland Castle will pay the apprentices it takes on, with others placed with additional employers in the area. Rebecca Coates said: "All will be on the Auckland Castle pathway. The apprentices will hit the ground running through this partnership and the flow of skills into the wider community will be increased.

"It's an alternative route into employment offering different qualifications and training. There's this myth that apprentices are not the highest academic achievers and that it's an easy option. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Chelsea Challenge Winner at Shildon Flower Club

The winner of BBC2's Great Chelsea Garden Challenge – the amateur garden designer whose garden was built at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show – Sean Murray - is the guest demonstrator at the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 1st February at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall.

Sean, 51, is an occupational therapist and nurse who lives with his wife Eileen and 21-year-old daughter Ellen in Northumberland. He was chosen from hundreds of entrants to become one of six would-be designers who were mentored by Joe Swift of BBC2's Gardeners' World. The participants had only four days and a limited budget to build show gardens in different styles – including cottage gardens, formal gardens and conceptual gardens – in order to impress RHS Judge James Alexander Sinclair and Gold medal-winning garden designer Ann-Marie Powell. The prize was the opportunity to create a Show Feature at Chelsea inspired by the RHS Greening Grey Britain campaign.

The would-be designers were judged on how well they met the brief, their horticultural knowledge, design skill and their garden's sense of theatre. The BBC's Great Chelsea Garden Challenge competition was filmed at gardens across the country, including RHS Garden Harlow Carr, while the finale took place at RHS Garden Wisley.

Sean's flower demonstration is entitled 'Hortus Expostus' Intrigued? Then why not come long and find out more whilst enjoying an evening of first class flower arranging with this inspirational garden designer?

Free to members, Visitors £5 (pay on the door)



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

TUESDAY, 26th JANUARY, 2016

commencing at 6.00p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

At this meeting the following items will be discussed:-

1. Finance Update
2. Works and Environment Update

(The newly appointed Works and Environment Officer will be in attendance)

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting – we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700 or e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting.

DogsTrust & Newton News FIND A DOG a home

Home wanted for Harrier Hound

Harriet is an 11 year old Harrier Hound who originally came to the Dogs Trust Darlington Rehoming Centre following being found as a stray. She has been in a home for the last 3 years but sadly has recently returned.

Since arriving back at the centre Harriet has been spending most of her time relaxing in an office, as she isn't overly keen on kennel life.

Harriet is used to living in a quiet home with another dog. She loves to have company so would prefer her companions to be around for most of the day to give her plenty of cuddles. As Harriet is an older girl she may be best placed in a family with children over 8 years old. Harriet would make a fantastic friend for someone who likes a dog who is quite happy snoozing for most of the day and taking short strolls.

Harriet's carers hope that she now finally finds her forever home so she can leave kennel life behind her and enjoy the rest of her retirement.

If you think you could give Harriet the loving home she deserves please visit Dogs Trust Darlington at Hill House Farm, Sadberge, DL2 1SL. The centre is open Thursday-Tuesday 12pm-4pm and closed on Wednesdays, or please call 01325 333114 to speak to one of her carers.



No Decision on Teaching Assistants' Terms and Conditions

Dear Sir,
May we assure residents and Teaching Assistants of this: the Labour Group at Durham County Council has NOT voted, neither have we the seven Aycliffe Labour County Councillors voted, to "cut teaching assistants wages" as Maud Gray alleged in last week's Newton News. The accusation is unjustified and totally untrue.

Local Authorities throughout the country have been for a number of years moving to review TAs' terms and conditions, and Durham is one of the last authorities to visit this issue. A consultation was held last year which ended on 7 December. The returns are currently being considered, and the Council is speaking with the Unions. At the moment, we must stress, **NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.** Readers will appreciate, given the personal, complex and legal nature of the matter, why we have been careful not to comment. When the issues have been resolved, and after a full report, a final decision will be made by the County Council; then, of course, we will be happy to explain how we have voted.

Yours,
County Councillors Eddy Adam, John D Clare, Mike Dixon, Joan Gray, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper and Sarah Iveson

Gallery Room Dedicated in Memory of Norman Cornish MBE



Mike Thonton, former head Teacher at Greenfield and son-in-law of the late Norman Cornish

In January 2015 Spennymoor Town Council approved a proposal to designate a room in The Bob Abley Gallery to be called the Norman Cornish Room in memory of Norman Cornish MBE. The purpose of the room will be to exhibit the Permanent Collection of work by Norman Cornish with additional support from The Permanent Collection of his work at The University of Northumbria. Northumbria University's Associate Dean of Business and Engagement for Arts, Design and Social Sciences, Dr Heather Robson, said: "The University has a strong relationship with the Cornish family - through its collection of Norman's work, which has a permanent home at Northumbria - and

we're delighted that this will continue into 2016 and beyond, starting with this first-rate exhibition.

"We're excited to be discussing future opportunities to support the legacy of the Cornish collection - including a PhD studentship; work with Beamish Museum and other partners; conservation and heritage research linked to the University's Northernness programme; forensic support; and the ongoing care, stewardship and impact of Norman's work - which will mark a new and exciting phase in our partnership."

The dedicated space provides an opportunity to exhibit the work by Norman who spent his entire life living and working in Spennymoor. It is quite possible in the history of art that no other town has received so much attention by one artist in his lifetime. Norman Cornish is Spennymoor's most famous son and he has taken the cultural landscape of Spennymoor to a global audience, not only via his paintings but also in the many TV documentaries which have spanned his lifetime.

John Cornish: As an artist, my father's vision was only focused on Spennymoor; to him it had everything he needed. He was able to record every aspect of Spennymoor life with great skill and empathy because it was the community in which he lived and worked - a world he knew well. The town's rich social, cultural and industrial heritage can never be forgotten now. This 'slice of life' has been captured perfectly in his artwork and the Cornish family is indebted to Spennymoor Town Council who have provided an exhibition space in his honour to display his exemplar work.

The development is also part of his legacy which has also been supported by Beamish Museum, Durham County Council and The University of Northumbria.

It is hoped that the feasibility study of the Norman Cornish Trail by Durham County Council will also enable replicas of his iconic work to be shown to visitors in their actual locations as well as visitors also seeing the other

cultural attraction across County Durham including The Mining Museum at Spennymoor Town Hall.

Brafferton Village News

ACTIVITIES LAUNCHED

We are very pleased to be able to introduce an ever-growing timetable of regular classes coming to Brafferton starting **Monday 25th January** (please keep an eye out for new activities being added!):

Monday 11.30-12.30 - MokyFit (Dance fitness)

£3 (*25th Jan free!*)

Tuesday 7-8pm - AHM-Fitness (Cardio-combat)

£3.50

Saturday 10.30-11.20 - Little Learners

£3.50 taster class

*Little Learners is a fun and engaging mark-making class for ages 5 months - 5 years and needs to be booked in advance. Email: jessica@littlelearnersuk.com - Full five week course starts w/c 8th February.

And we have some dates for your diaries:

February Half term - Various activities

Sunday 13th March, 10-12 - Nearly New Sale

baby & child items (to book a stall contact info. windmillevents@gmail.com)

Saturday 19th March - Children Earth Hour event.

Saturday 23rd April - St George's Day Charity evening (in aid of Alzheimer's Society).

Sunday 15th May - National Children's Day UK events

Details of these will be available in due course.

There will be a full timetable of half term activities announced separately and if you'd like a sneak preview go to our Facebook page [Facebook.com/BraffertonVHA](https://www.facebook.com/BraffertonVHA)

On the Facebook page you will also find details of the new chat group we have recently launched where people from Brafferton and the surrounding areas can chat about all things relevant.

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Email: thevillagepharmacy@intrapharm.com

www.thevillage-pharmacy.co.uk

OPENING TIMES

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Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

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friendly staff who are always available to speak with
anyone who would like help and advice.*

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Please ask for more information

HILARITY BITES COMEDY CLUB RETURNS

Top joke-slingers will warm you with wit this January as the Hilarity Bites Comedy Club returns to Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

The monthly show starts again on Friday 22 with Eddy Brimson, Tom Lucy and MC Danny O'Brien bringing the funny.

Despite a look which often sees him cast in acting roles as a thug, Eddy Brimson's super-friendly delivery and warm personality have seen him sought after the world over, with tours of China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and an appearance at the first ever Punchline Comedy night in Myanmar.

At just 18, Tom Lucy is one of the youngest comedians on the UK circuit, but he won the prestigious Comedy Store King Gong in 2014 and has gone on to support Jack Whitehall and Harry Hill.

And the accomplished compere for the evening is Danny O'Brien, the host and owner of one of Ireland's busiest comedy clubs, The Comedy Crunch in Dublin.

The Hilarity Bites Comedy Club takes place at Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Friday 22 January at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the door. To book call the BATH box office on 03000 269 524.

PAGEANT SUPPORTS NORTH EAST CHARITIES



The search is on for entrants from across the region to enter the Miss Great Britain 2016 beauty pageant. Regional finals will take place in May and June this year to select the winners of four local titles, namely: Miss Teesside GB, Miss Durham GB, Miss Sunderland GB and Miss Newcastle GB.

The lucky winners of the local competitions will win automatic entry into the Miss North East GB competition later in the year and many other exciting prizes and opportunities such as a contract with competition sponsors, modelling and casting agency, Headline Models!

Miss North East GB Director, Simon Robertson, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing this event back to the North East."

"After the huge success in 2015 we wanted to do something different, so in 2016 we will be holding two finals by splitting them into regions but still crowning our four winners once more. The finals will be spectacular events with catwalk shows, dinner and entertainment and our theme of Moulin Rouge promises to make it another superbly exciting event."

"We are also very excited about this year's competition to find the most beautiful young women in the North East because the eligibility criterion for entry to the competition has changed to become more inclusive and

Butterwick Hospice Care

...because every moment counts

representative of the modern woman."

This year's competition is open to women aged 18 to 27 years who may be single, married, divorced or be mothers.

There is a fundraising element to the competitions and funds this year are being raised for Butterwick Hospice Care and Capital Radio's charity 'Make Some Noise'.

Clair McGregor, Events Team Lead for Butterwick Hospice said: "Butterwick Hospice is really excited to be one of the chosen charities of the Miss North East GB competition. It is a fantastic opportunity for all of the

contestants and the funds raised will really make a difference to our patients and their families."

Giles Tanner, Managing Editor, Capital & Heart North East said: "We are really excited to be partnering Miss North East GB, it's a fantastic opportunity for real women across Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham and Teesside to become the face of our region and at the same time to raise money for a fantastic cause Global's Make Some Noise, to help change young lives." Further details and entry to the competition is via the website www.missnortheastgb.co.uk



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by County Councillor John Clare

The bit.ly and ow.ly links are shortened URLs; type them into your browser to go to the relevant webpages.

COUNCIL

- My report on Wednesday's DCC Council Meeting: bit.ly/DCC200116
- Despite double the normal rainfall, DCC's flood defences coped well in December: bit.ly/DCCFloodDef
- If you cast your devolution vote online, it will significantly reduce the cost of the Poll for the County Council.
- DCC/Dog's Trust free microchipping and health check event, Spennymoor Leisure Centre, 8 February, 11am-3pm
- GAMP Board meeting, Tuesday 26 January, 6pm, Oakleaf Sports Complex. Ron Hogg (PCC) will be available from 5.30pm for comments on the Police Funding consultation
- Latest roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks15Jan
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD15Jan

COMMUNITY

- Groundwork North East launches a scheme to help communities/groups improve local 'grot spots': bit.ly/GNEgrots
- Energy Advice Day, St Clare's Church, Friday 29 January, 10am-4pm - to book an appointment please 01325 313449: bit.ly/EA29Jan
- Healthy Living Course, Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. Twelve FREE sessions starting Thursday 4 February, 10:30-11:30am. Phone 07826884687 to register an interest
- A new Apprenticeship Academy has been set up by Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland College: bit.ly/AppAcad
- PACT report, Greenfield & Middridge: bit.ly/GMPACTJan16
- Cars left unattended to warm up send out a clear message: STEAL ME!

Free Healthy Living Course at NAYCC

New Year, new you! Want to make achievable changes to your health & wellbeing? If the answer is yes then Wellbeing for Life are running a FREE Healthy Living Course at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre from Thursday 4th February 10:30am - 11:30am.

In the healthy living course wellbeing for life will deliver a free NHS health check, look at the eat well plate, portion sizes, food labelling, fluids, physical activity, alcohol, stress management, adapting meals to be healthier and meal planning.

The sessions will be fun and interactive and each individual will receive 1:1 time with a health trainer every week where they will receive personalised support in order to help them reach their goals.

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Fine Wins for Youthy Teams Newton Aycliffe Running Club News

The U12 Falcons and parents had an early start and a road trip to Whitby to face unbeaten Whitby Fishermen U12s.

The pitch was frosty so kick-off had to be delayed to allow the ground to soften. The Falcons started well, and looked solid from the off. The bobbly pitch made flowing football and good passing very tricky, it was going to be a day for tackles, working hard and keeping positions.

Falcons took the lead when a cross from Dylan went straight into the net 0-1.

Straight from kick off Dylan nipped in and poked a short back pass beyond the keeper and into the net 0-2.

Whitby, being a good team showed their class with a well worked goal, cutting inside past 2 or 3 defenders and slotting the ball past Cameron 1-2.

The match was played in a decent spirit considering how competitive both sets of boys were.

Man of the match award going to Kieran Gillham for a strong defensive display, with a couple of very important tackles at key times in the game. FT 1-2

It was back to winning ways for Under 9 Falcons against a tough Barnard Castle team. A game that was full of excitement and plenty of goals.

Three excellent well

worked goals in the 1st half from Louis Parnaby in the top corner then Dylan Stewart did exactly the same with his 2 efforts! Barney pulled a goal back and the game was far from over at half time 3-1

Barney had nothing to lose in a tough 2nd half. We defended really well but Barney were coming at us more and more and got the goal they deserved. Going in to the last 5 mins it was very close and nerve wracking but the boys held on to win 3-2. MOTM Louis Parnaby - well done boys great game great win!!! The second game was hard work as it was getting colder and colder. After going 1-0 down in the 1st half so had it all to do but heads never dropped.

Second half saw Travis Dixon taking it round the keeper and slotting it home 1-1. Alex was fouled in the box, the ball fell to Louis Baxter, he was fouled, it then fell to Jack Allen who took the advantage of the loose ball and scored his 1st goal for the club. Well done Jack for getting the winning goal. Game ended 2-1. Big well done to the Falcons on a brave display and getting both wins!

Two teams visited Greenfield to play the Under 11 Girls' as the Leagues venues continue to be cancelled.

First up against Leam

Rangers, currently in 4th place, Leam always compete and with a very good keeper, the girls' knew only their very best would do. Both teams started brightly but it was Aycliffe who created the early opportunities with 2 goal line scrambles but still no opener, Aycliffe then stepped up a gear and as the ball zipped from player to player the opening was created for Hattie to smash home, another phase of quick passing found Hattie to calmly slot home 2-0. Then as our defence were caught flat a ball over the top finds the striker to give Faith no chance. A foul just inside the opposition half and Hattie steps up and fires goal wards, the ball misses everyone and ends up in the net HT 3-1. The second half was comfortable with little opportunity for Leam to get back into the game and the girls played out the final whistle FT 3-1.

Next up, Washington Wildcats, who were short of players we had to play 6v6 but the girls controlled the game, and the goals came along on a regular basis, with a full squad of 11 girls it was good to see different names on the score board. As Olivia grabbed a brace and Hattie and Kate each completed hat-tricks, the final goal went to the hard working Ocean Tia. FT 9-0.

It was a fantastic day for Aycliffe Running club as they braved the wet and windy conditions for the Gerry Kearsley 10k handicap race at Sedgfield. It was a tough course over a multi-terrain route through Fishburn and Bishop Middleham. In first place overall was Peter Smith who has just come back from injury after fifteen months with a handicap time of 51:23.00. Peter has just started back cycling and running and has become a great inspiration for the club.

Following on ahead was Mark Wade in 38:40 John Surtees 40:17 Peter Milburn 43:00 John Burnside 47:43 Michelle Jane 49:59 Susan Milburn Kelly 54:04 and Rob Nicholson 57:50 respectively.

On the 17th December the club took part in the Durham Cathedral Relays. It was a cold and icy day with minus temperatures which meant all runners had to battle to make it around the 1.8 mile route. All the teams did very well with the veteran men setting a high standard.

Jason Dixon 13:16, Dez Fielden 11:12, John Heywood 13:26 72nd. Alan Nikles 13:33 (3rd over 65), Gary Minns 14:56, Dave Blewitt 13:48 82nd: Jimmy Wilson 17:00, Rob Nicholson 15:27, Geoff Miles 16:54.

This was then followed



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by the senior and veteran women who all managed to get under the 16 minute marker; Michelle Scott 13:16; Michelle Zamir 13:31; Michelle Jane 13:30; Natalie Duffelwier 15:55; Jodie McMaster 15:32; Mandy Heywood 15:49; Susan Cranswick 13:56; Eve Doe 22:12; Penny Johnson 15:26 respectively.

The last of the teams were the fast and furious senior men who took the course by storm with excellent results; Shane Doe 12:30, George Dixon 12:13, Ste Smith 12:37

Rob Smith 13:20 Craig

Robinson 18:00, Mark Wade 10:31.

Meanwhile other members bravely took part in the Brass Monkey half marathon. This was quite a bright day but still cold and icy. Trish Kay arrived over the finish line in a time of 1:46:23 while Sandra Collins was first lady back for the club in a time 1:44:19

Ropner Park was also on the agenda for three other members. Everyone did extremely well on one of the coldest days of the year to achieve times of John Burnside 21.53. Cyd Denise 23.38 Ray Todd 32.11.



AYCLIFFE HIT 9 IN CUP GAME

Aycliffe warmed up for Saturday's crucial FA Vase clash at home to Marske Utd. with an emphatic win over Wearside League side Hartlepool FC in the Durham Challenge Cup. The win earns them a Third Round tie against either Washington or Shildon.

This was another "home" game at New Ferens Park in Durham as Moore Lane continues to recover from the wet spell.

Zak Boagey set the tone for the game with a goal in the first two minutes. A low corner from Dennis Knight rebounded to Boagey whose shot hit the net via the underside of the bar.

With 22 minutes gone Boagey combined with Ashley Coffey to provide a cross for John Campbell to score. Within a minute Man of the Match Campbell secured his second with a solo run & shot from the edge of the box.

With five minutes to go to half time Coffey embarked on a strong run down the left wing & put an excellent cross into the box. Hartlepool FC's centre half had the misfortune to put the cross into his own net.

Aycliffe started the second half in determined fashion with Boagey scoring his second after 50 minutes. The goal came with a superb chip



from the edge of the box. Kieron Watson replaced Knight after an hour & found himself on the scoresheet

with 14 minutes to go. Shrugging off a defender Watson slotted his shot past the keeper into the net.

With five minutes left central defender Grant Hickman powered a header into the net. Two more goals came before the final whistle with Boagey completing his hat-trick & Watson netting a second.

Despite the score-line Hartlepool did have chances & Lewis Brass, deputising in the Aycliffe goal for James Winter, pulled off two fantastic saves. Winter was one of several regulars on the bench as Peter Dixon rested some of his key players.

Attention now turns to the FA Vase. Aycliffe play Marske Utd on Saturday 23 January at Moore Lane KO 3:00pm. Admission is £6 adults & £4 concessions. The winners travel to Camberley Town in the last 16 of the competition.

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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With the start of 2016, many people have made their New Year resolutions and are planning to make a difference, either for themselves or for others. Whatever the reason – be it getting fit, participating in a sporting event, signing-up for a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, like a trek to Everest base camp, or taking up voluntary work, The Children's Trust would love to hear from you. The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury and by taking part in one of our many fundraising events you will be helping to make a difference to some very special children and their families. The Children's Trust has lots of fundraising activities to appeal to all – with the ever popular National Doughnut Week in May, the fabulous Supercar Event in July and Humphrey's Pyjama Week in October – as well as other regional and local activities taking place.

And, if you are planning to take on a new challenge to get fit, we have available places in many famous running events – including full and half marathons - and would



love to hear from runners who would like to join-up to The Children's Trust team for the Virgin Money London Marathon, the Great North Run, Brighton Marathon or the BUPA 10K.

Alternatively, if you are looking for a new venture, perhaps you would like to start a local supporter group to help raise funds. If so, we can offer help and advice to get you started. For more ideas on how you can support The Children's Trust, including becoming a volunteer at one of our charity shops, which I have enjoyed doing myself, please contact us via the website at www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk, email: enquiries@thechildrenstrust.org.uk or phone 01737 365020.

With very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling New Year,
 Yours sincerely
 Amanda Burton
 Ambassador
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Lost & Found

PLEASE NOTE if you find something, Newton News will print the notice free of charge.

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BABYSITTER wanted for occasional weekend work. Must be reliable, trustworthy and be good with children. Tel 07742 353908

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REME Association South West Durham Branch, monthly meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 27th January at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe. All serving and ex-serving military personnel welcome.

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Council Tackle Nuisance Issues

Dozens of nuisance problems which damage the environment and affect people's lives were tackled last month (November). Neighbourhood wardens from Durham County Council handed out 77 Fixed Penalty Notices throughout November for offences such as littering and untidy back yards.

The council's neighbourhood protection teams work with police and other partners to improve the environment and promote safer communities.

Using powers under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, they tackle nuisance issues that affect people's quality of life, including persistently straying dogs or anti-social behaviour.

In November, 66 Fixed Penalty Notices were handed out for littering, one for dog fouling, nine for untidy yards and gardens and one following a waste carrier stop and check operation.

A further 64 Community Protection Warnings were issued to properties with untidy gardens or yards.

Wardens removed 110 stray dogs, a total of 173 anti-social behaviour incidents were investigated and the council's Civic Pride team educated more than 500 children and young people about caring for the environment.

Meanwhile, as part of Operation Stop It, a multi-agency taskforce set up to tackle flytipping, six people were prosecuted for offences around illegally dumping waste.

More than 560 flytipping incidents were reported and investigated in November and 12 CCTV cameras were deployed in areas known to attract flytips.

Seven stop and check operations were carried out – one failed to produce waste transfer notes and was issued with a notice, known as a producer, requiring them to provide the documents, one person was referred for prosecution and two people were prosecuted.

CLlr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, Durham County Council, said: "It has been another busy month for our neighbourhood protection teams who have been working hard to tackle those issues that cause a nuisance in people's everyday lives.

"When enforcement action is needed we will not hesitate to use the powers available to us but our aim is always to educate people from an early age about the importance of looking after the environment.

"We live in a beautiful area and we will continue to do our best to keep it that way." Find details about Household Waste Recycling Centres at www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc or call 03000 261 000.

Environmental crimes can be reported at www.durham.gov.uk or by calling 03000 261 000.

Businesses can find a licensed waste carrier

at www.gov.uk/find-registered-waste-carrier or arrange a council trade waste collection at www.durham.gov.uk/commercialwaste or by calling 03000 262 660. Unlicensed waste carriers and waste crime can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers at www.

crimestoppers-uk.org or by calling 0800 555 111.

Free dog microchipping is available for County Durham residents at Stray Aid in Coxhoe and by The Dogs Trust. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/microchipping for more information or call Stray Aid on 0300 999 4247.

Funding Opportunities

Funding for Project that Support Children and Young People (UK)

Registered Charities that work with young people have the opportunity to apply for grants through the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People (formerly the Hilton Foundation) Central Grants Programme. Registered Charities can apply for grants ranging from a few hundred pounds up to £30,000 per year for up to 2 years that are working in the areas of education or health with one of the Foundation's four chosen focus groups. These are:

- Children and young people with disabilities
- Children and young people who are sick in hospital
- Children and young people who are homeless
- Children and young people who are life limited (requiring palliative care).

There is approximately £150,000 available to distribute each quarter. Grant applications for up to £10,000 can be approved by the Committee, and applications for more than £10,000 are recommended to the Trustees for final approval. There is no limit on the amount of money that a charity can request. However, the Foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £30,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for up to 2 years for any particular project. The next closing date for applications is 5.30 pm on the 9th February 2016.

https://dmthomasfoundation.org/

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AYCLIFFE PREPARE FOR BIGGEST GAME EVER



Newton Aycliffe FC returned to Moore Lane Park last weekend for one of the biggest games in their history. The club has reached the Fourth Round (last 32) of the FA Vase & play Marske United on Saturday. Aycliffe beat Atherton Collieries in the repeatedly delayed Third Round match last week. That game was switched to Durham's artificial pitch at short notice to beat the weather. Unfortunately it

meant that many Aycliffe fans missed out seeing the team's victory. They now get their chance with the all Northern League clash on Saturday. The two sides last met on the opening day of the season with Aycliffe beating the current league champions, Marske, 2-1 with Dennis Knight netting the first of the 12 goals he's scored so far this season. If Aycliffe win this Saturday

their reward is a 550 mile round trip to Camberley Town in Surrey the following weekend. 572 clubs started out on the road to Wembley in this season's FA Vase & for our town's team to make it this far is a great achievement. However, the management & players are determined to keep going. Kick off on Saturday 23 January is 3:00pm. Admission: £6 adults, £4 concessions.

NAJFC Update

Aycliffe Juniors enjoyed a mixed weekend of games with some exciting encounters enjoyed by the young players.

The Under 7's braved the icy conditions to play Bishop Auckland St Mary's. In both games the lads put in 100% but were under a lot of pressure from the off with the cold also affecting their game. St Mary's came away winners in both games, despite goals from Isaac and Ethan. Aycliffe had lots of chances but some goal line heroics prevented them from gaining an advantage. Man of the match awards this week went to Isaac and Ashton.

The Under 8's switched the venue of their planned away game at Billingham Synthonia to play on the 3G pitch at Sunnysdale facing a team who had beaten them earlier in the season. Great passing football in the first half was not enough to stop Aycliffe going down 2-0 before half time.

The quality though improved in the second half and 3 great team goals were finished off by Harvey (2) and Rhys to put Aycliffe 3-2 up. However the final kick of the game resulted in a Billingham goal to end the contest 3-3. Lucas pulled off some brilliant saves throughout the game with Connor and Aidan excellent in defence to earn a draw against strong opponents. An entertaining second game saw goals from Jacob and then Jack, from a free kick, put the team 2-0 ahead. Billingham got 3 quick goals to lead 3-2 before the away keeper pulled off a couple of great saves to deny Aycliffe's attacks. Rhys added a third for Aycliffe put two further Billingham goals gave them the edge in this one. Jake, Jayden and Niall stood out in this game and the men of the matches for the morning were Rhys and Jack.

The Under 9's were also at home to Billingham Synthonia, they played some great football in the first half and had several chances at goal. Before the break Charlie scored twice and Thomas added another for a 3-0 lead. The visitors though were up for the game and battled back with 2 early second half goals with their keeper stopping any Aycliffe efforts on goal. Just as in the Under 8's game a late goal was conceded and the game ended 3-3. Man of the Match was a shared awarded this week for Thomas and Reece. The second game was time for debutant Jake (pictured) to make his mark and he set up a few goals in a 6-1 win. Under 10's Russell Foster League side got back to



winning ways with a 5-2 win over Washington Juniors Orange. Sam returned to the team as captain and led an entertaining team display in cold and icy conditions. Bo was first on the scoresheet and he also doubled the lead with a close range finish after a wonderful passing move involving Sam, Taylor, Evan, Noah and Isaac. 2-0 was the half time score and this was soon added to as Evan finished off his own re-bounded strike to make it 3-0. Washington got one back before a clinically finished double from Ted extended the lead further, a late consolation goal ended the game 5-2 to Aycliffe. The Under 10 TJFA league side had no scheduled fixture and hope to play their first league game since Nov 1st next week at Bishop Auckland. Teams from Under 11's through to Under 23's were all thwarted by the weather and all hope to be back in action soon.

Exciting Programme at Greenfield Gallery

This season's Gallery Programme at Greenfield Arts is now available showcasing lots of wonderful work from local artists of all disciplines. We begin with a joint exhibition by Sharron Bates and Alexa Batty who are both textile artists. Sharron works with silks and recycled fabrics and has a background in illustration creating wonderful imagined spaces, whereas Alex is a surface designer and mixed media artist who is influenced by Polish Folk Art. Both coming together to create a space for escapism.

We also have our annual Open Art exhibition - featuring a fantastic range of work from across the local area! This exhibition always provides a superb range of work in different media and contains a range of subjects. It is an excellent opportunity for artists who aim to sell their work, would like to promote their work for commissions, or simply would like to be inspired by the work of others. Please contact us.

Other artists featured this season include Chris Carr is an artist who works in pastel and acrylic creating landscapes, many of which verge on the surreal. For Chris it's about the overall effect and feeling. Again Rosi Thornton, who runs our Re-Jig sessions on a Monday night, has turned the focus on her own work to look at the memories she finds in the materials she uses. Contact us for information about the Re-Jig textile sessions.

We also offer the SHED facility which is a creative hub space for artists, who can pay a one off membership fee and use the various facilities on offer to develop and produce their own creative work for sale or display.

If you would like to find out more about any of the exhibitions or how you can display your own work in the gallery please check out our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk, contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in and speak to one of our team.

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