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Famous Craft Company Moves HQ to Aycliffe

Fast-Growing craft business Crafter's Companion is set to move its corporate headquarters to a new site as part of its ongoing expansion plans that will also see the creation of several new jobs in the North-East.

The company, which was founded by Sara Davies a decade ago, has been given the go-ahead by Durham County Council to convert a former car showroom at Aycliffe Industrial Park into its new home.

Crafter's Companion required planning permission due to the 'change of use' to office space. Approval has been granted, £100,000 earmarked to invest in the new office along with a recruitment drive to fill at least six imminent new posts in marketing, customer services and administration. Located near the company's existing packing and warehouse operation, the head office will provide the firm with new space to accommodate its near 50-strong team from March. Excited by the prospect of the move, Sara said: "As we've expanded over the last 10 years, we've struggled to accommodate increasing staff numbers at our site in Coundon so it made sense for us to look for a new location nearby."

"Our new home is a stunning, modern glass-fronted building that will no doubt feel huge to our team on day one but also gives us plenty of room for expansion over the next decade as the business continues to grow and recruit."

"The move is part of our wider expansion plans to take the business to the next level in terms of new product development and international growth in the US and Europe."

Crafter's Companion specialises in manufacturing and distributing crafting tools and products, which are sold online via its website, on TV shopping



channels across the world and by independent retailers. Its new space will accommodate the company's UK management team, sales, marketing, customer service, product development and design departments.

Last year marked several milestones for the craft business including its 10th birthday and the official unveiling of the Downton Abbey paper-crafting collection.

In a year of personal success for the company's founder, the Durham-born entrepreneur picked up several high profile business awards, launched the Signature Collection by Sara Davies and she starred as a presenter in national TV show Be Creative. For information visit: www.crafterscompanion.co.uk



Founder Sara Davies

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NEW LUNCH CLUB AT OAK LEAF

Age UK County Durham is thrilled with the success of their new lunch club at the Oakleaf Sports Complex held on the 1st Friday of the month at 11.00am. For £5 people get an hour to try an appropriate activity with support from a dedicated instructor, followed by lunch chosen from the menu. Louise Haymer, Development Worker with Come Eat Together said "Everyone has told me how much they enjoy trying something new. Last month we played indoor bowls and one gentleman is now joining the club at the centre. We also tried gentle archery and table tennis. It is informal and friendly – a great chance to make new friends." Menu choices include mince and Yorkshire pudding, Cumberland sausage, fish and chips and corned beef pie with vegetarian options available. There is plenty of time to socialise after lunch with a cuppa afterwards. The next session takes place on 11.00am on Friday 5 February. For more information and to book your place please contact Come Eat Together on 0191 374 6577 or e-mail cet@ageukcountydurham.org.uk. For the latest news, videos and to follow our blog please go to www.comeeattogether.org. Come Eat Together is funded by Big Lottery Silver Dreams

W.A.S.P.S.

Simpasture Residents Association



Our next meeting will be held on
Tuesday, 9th February, 2016 at 7.30pm
Simpasture Court (follows PACT meeting)

New committee members are needed to help carry on what has been achieved over the last 12 months and to take the association forward during 2016.

All are welcome

For further details contact Alan 07754 094946

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NEWTONIAN FULFILS TWO AMBITIONS



Beth in Disneyworld

It took nineteen years for Newtonian Beth Maybury to achieve her life's dream to meet Mickey Mouse and friends in front of that gorgeous castle she had always read about. The first time it happened Beth had to pinch herself multiple times – it couldn't be real – was she really meeting my one true love, Aladdin, in his home city of Agrabah?

It's not all about a dream coming true as she did have to work too! It all started in October 2014 when Beth received an email from the university placement team at Leeds Beckett University, where she was studying. The email stated that Yummy Jobs and the recruitment team from Walt Disney World Resort were recruiting for the Disney Academic Exchange Program, part of the Disney International Programs. This was perfect for an event management student like herself! "I did not believe it when they invited me to the Disney Head Office in Hammersmith, London and

even more so when I got that "congratulations" email that I had been selected!" said Beth.

Her first role in the show at Walt Disney World Resort was in merchandise, in the most perfect store "Mouse Gear" in EPCOT and now she works in Outdoor Vending, also in EPCOT! "Both these roles allow for guest interaction and I get to make magic for boys, girls, princesses, pirates and everyone in between!" said Beth.

Her placement is an academic exchange for one year, meaning she has plenty of time to experience anything and everything, but knows there's always going to be more.

"I would definitely recommend the Disney International Programs to anyone interested in hospitality and tourism roles, just be prepared to work hard and deliver that magical guest experience!" said Beth.

Beth's second ambition was to have her photograph in her local newspaper the "Newton News" and Newton Press were happy to oblige with the above story about Beth's success in Disneyworld.

Beware of Computer .micro Virus

Rob from Aycliffe Computers asks everybody to read & share the information below.

A new virus is doing the rounds called ".micro virus". This virus is a ransomware virus that locks every document and picture in your computer. Once this has happened you are forced to pay an extortionate fee to get them unlocked so you can view them. (Paying the fee is not a guarantee that you will get the files unlocked).

SO PLEASE BACKUP YOUR FILES NOW!

For more information visit: <http://howtoremove.guide/remove-micro-virus-extension-rans.../>
Contact Rob at Aycliffe Computers on 01325 310737 or 07841 867170 for any PC repairs or upgrades.

Head Boy & Girl Elected



Students at Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School have recently elected a Head Boy and Head Girl for the first time.

Callum and Tilly, along with a shortlist of 4 other hopefuls, have been busy canvassing support from the rest of the pupils. After making a written application and giving several speeches to different groups Callum and Tilly were elected to their posts by children of all ages from across the school.

Parents were invited to the assembly where results were announced, and the school presented the two successful pupils with their cherished Head Boy and Head Girl badges. On receiving her badge, Tilly said 'I want to help make our school the very best it can be'. Callum stated that he wanted to encourage all the children to concentrate on their work to get the very best grades possible. Also appointed at the same time, were four prefects, Aaron, Ellie,

Charlie and Maisie.

All six children will have an important role in school, including meeting with visitors and governors, representing the school at events and of course setting the best of examples for other pupils to follow.

The school said that they were delighted with the pupils' choice for Head Boy and Head Girl, and that all six children will do a brilliant job in their roles.

Free Central Heating from County Council

The County Durham Central Heating Fund (CHF) scheme is now up and running. This scheme can provide a totally FREE* central heating system (gas or oil or an air source heat pump) where the occupants have a gross income of less than £26,000 (including benefits) and do not have any central heating OR have partial solid fuel heating OR electric storage radiators.

The scheme is open to private and private rented properties. However it is on a first come first served basis and the scheme is expected to be very popular and will end in Autumn 2016.

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Help Others in 2016

Dear Sir,
For those struggling with their resolutions or who've yet to make any, I'd like to make a suggestion. Why not do something for charity in 2016 and make a real difference to the lives of others?

I work for a charity called Revitalise, which provides much-needed respite breaks for disabled people and carers up and down the UK. The breaks they take with us enable them to regain their strength and restore their ability to cope. Our own research has shown that respite is hugely important in giving disabled people and carers a decent quality of life and without regular time off, the relationship between carers

and the loved ones they care for is put in very real danger of breaking down. What we do is vital.

But we couldn't do what we do without the energy and generosity of our supporters, who take part in fundraising events, volunteer at our centres and donate to our cause. There are so many ways you can support Revitalise and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that every ounce of your energy, every minute of your time and every penny you raise will make a difference. Resolve to support Revitalise in 2016! Find out how at www.revitalise.org.uk or call 0303 303 0147.

Colin Brook, Revitalise

Mayor Marks Holocaust Day



Our Town Mayor, Mary Dalton, made a very poignant visit to the Anne Frank Exhibition at Greenfield on January 27th - Holocaust Memorial Day. The Frank family were Jews and became victims of German persecution when they occupied the Netherlands in World War 2.

The family hid behind a bookcase in a building in Amsterdam where Anne wrote her famous diary. They were betrayed after 2 years and sent to Concentration Camps. Anne and her sister died in Belsen in 1945 just a few weeks before the camp was liberated.

Mary Dalton was born in Holland where she met her husband Reg who was an Army Tank Driver

liberating her country at the end of the war. They married later and settled in the north east eventually retiring to Newton Aycliffe where Mary has served on the Town Council and been elected Mayor for the fourth time at the age of 90. She is a remarkable lady who enjoys serving the town she adopted in 1999.

Mary told Newton News the exhibition brought back fearful memories of the German occupation and the Nazi extermination of innocent Jews.

"We lived in fear with restricted movement and no means of communication and radios confiscated. Acts of sabotage resulted in local prominent people shot in reprisal. Teenage boys

were taken away to work in German factories as slave labour," said Mary. Mary's father risked being shot by hiding a teenage boy and neighbours radios in his loft.

Whilst the exhibition contained disturbing images for Mary it also brought back fond memories of her late husband and their life together in England.

Care Home Burns Night



Residents at Defoe Court celebrated Burns Night by enjoying Arthur, local Scottish Piper, piping in the haggis and reciting the well-known Robbie Burns poem "Address to the Haggis". They also enjoyed a Scottish themed lunch of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties and homemade steak pie.

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L to R Kevin Openshaw Chairman, Peter Smith retiring Treasurer, Neal Cockburn retiring Auditor, John Gibson President, Ian Wiggett Secretary

The Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society held its AGM at Locomotion Shildon which was well attended by members and friends of the Society.

The President of the Society and former resident of Newton Aycliffe, John Gibson, gave an upbeat report on the activities of the Society during 2015 and in particular the current restoration project that of the 1940 Ex United tow truck presently in the Society's workshop. In 2015 volunteers spent in the region of 1400 hours working on this unique local vehicle.

John Gibson, an accomplished amateur photographer and artist of the buses of yesteryear, presented framed pictures of north eastern scenes, to the outgoing Society Treasurer and Auditor in recognition of their service to the Society over the last 12 years.

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BUSINESSES RALLY BEHIND CANCER CHARITY CRUSADER

Local businesses are rallying behind a charity which is helping families in their fight against cancer. Aycliffe firm SCH Site Services is the latest company to support the Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust, set up by charity crusader Mark Solan.

Mark raised £22,000 for Cancer Research UK from a charity boxing match last July after losing family and friends to the disease, and was later nominated for a Pride of Britain Award, narrowly missing out in the regional finals.

The 42-year-old has since raised another £20,000 and is already helping families from Newton Aycliffe, Spennymoor who are dealing with cancer.

Mark lost his mother and grandmother to cancer and is appealing to businesses and individuals to get behind his new trust to support ambitious plans for the charity.

Steel firm SCH Site Services has donated a number of family days out for children at Aycliffe leisure venue ROF 59. Mark says donations like this are ideal in his quest to make life easier for local cancer sufferers.

"Everyone is willing to



SCH Site Services managing director Gary Finley (left) with charity fundraiser Mark Solan at ROF 59 in Aycliffe.

donate money, but what we're really looking for at the moment is time and services, what individuals and businesses can offer us to help us grow," says Mark. Mark has been helping families in all kinds of ways, including buying new beds and mattresses, mobility scooters, new TVs, taxi fares to hospitals, food, holidays and short breaks, as well as cash for those who are struggling.

to open a charity shop as well as a cancer drop-in centre, which would offer support and training for families as well as a food and clothes bank and ongoing support after illness.

He has the support of Aycliffe firm Lucite International as well as well-known companies

including Audi UK, Aldi, Asda, Weatherspoons, Halfords, Smiths toy shop, Woven, Team Cycles, Great Annual Savings, CV Motors. Local football clubs are also involved including Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Spennymoor Town, as well as a number of local small independent businesses.

Mark, who juggles a full-time job as manager of the Woven fashion shop in Durham, added: "I'm seeing people every day who are dying from cancer, which drives me on. I've had no training for this, apart from seeing my Mam and Gran go through it.

"I have no intention of leaving my full-time job because that pays my bills, and balancing both means

every single penny we raise goes direct to those who are in need.

"All levels of support play a big part and these days out at ROF 59, paid for by SCH Site Services, will offer families some valuable time out."

The Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust is inspired by three family names, after Mark's mum and gran as well as Billy Connor and Margaret Fawcett, who all died from cancer.

SCH Site Services managing director Gary Finley and his wife Lynsey lost Mrs Fawcett to the disease in 2015. Gary said: "Mark is an inspirational person who has really pulled a lot of families together. "What he's doing with the charity is fantastic and Lynsey and I were honoured when Mark asked to name his new trust partly in Margaret's name – it's a wonderful legacy for her and for all families involved and we're delighted to offer our support."

Any businesses or individuals willing to offer their time or services to the Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust can email Mark at mark.solan1@gmail.com, or search for the trust on Facebook.

Devolution Shake up for County Council?

Devolution and Elected Mayors are topics of the day and residents are currently being asked questions to help Durham County Council make up its mind.

Is there a hidden agenda in the Government's insistence that we elect a Mayor? Is the whole idea to restructure local government in the future and create greater efficiency and savings?

It does state in the devolution document that if we decide against an elected Mayor we would have to accept fewer County Councillors.

Not many like the cabinet system at County Hall or the large numbers of councillors Durham elects via the current ward system.

126 councillors is far too many and most people have the view that officers run everything anyway, and sometimes show scant regard for councillors.

Even with scrutiny and other safeguards who can honestly say we are truly democratically represented? A revised ward system with just 30 elected Councillors is enough and ordinary Joe Public would notice no difference anyway.

Thames Centre Helps Town Charities



Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership with the kind co-operation of the Landlord and Ronnie the caretaker have arranged for partners to have regular charity stalls in the Thames Centre to fundraise and raise awareness of its members.

The first to take advantage of this offer is Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group on Saturday 6th February starting at 10am until 3pm. As well as informing our Community on what the group is about they are also running a Tombola, Face Painting with entertainment provided by Professor Nincompoop. He has kindly offered to make balloon characters for children from 10am until 11.15am.

Committee Members are

on hand for those people wanting to talk or requiring information about the group. It is not all doom and gloom and you can see on their website that it's all about getting the right help and support and not facing cancer alone.

The group have regular monthly meetings at the Youth & Community Centre and enjoy outings and other social occasions.

If you are interested in becoming a member of GACAP which unites all statutory and welfare organisations in the town in helping disadvantaged people please E-mail: secretary.gacap@gmail.com GACAP meets monthly to discuss ways to help each other, help those in need.

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I CAN Annual Pre-Schools Sing-Along

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Clare Geldard
I CAN Director

TESCO DONATES FOOD TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS



Joe Riley with Greenfield Teacher Alison Dixon

Breakfast Clubs at some of our local schools have been kindly donated some Fresh Fruit and Cereals from Tesco in Newton Aycliffe. Joe Riley, Customer Experience Manager and Shirley Cormack, Community Champion delivered the fresh fruit and cereal on Thursday which was gratefully received from pupils and teachers alike. Tesco kindly donated fresh apples, Satsuma's and kiwi fruits and Weetabix cereal all aimed at giving the children a healthy breakfast while at the breakfast clubs around Newton Aycliffe. Schools visited were, St Josephs Primary, St Mary's Primary, Stephenson Way, Greenfield, St Francis and Woodham.

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church, on TUESDAY 2nd FEB, features the hit British comedy-drama "THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL" With a star cast of Dev Patel, Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Penelope Wilton, Celia Imrie and Richard Gere. 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.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE STREET LIGHTS ALONG C35 MIDDRIDGE LANE

Dear Sir,
Durham County Council intend to remove street lights along the C35 Middridge Lane - between Byerley Park and Middridge (9 columns), between Middridge and Thickley (17 columns), and along Walker Lane (10 columns). DCC approved a policy of street light reduction in housing areas, and of removal in non-housing areas, in 2012. As engineers survey

different roads, proposals for removal are being brought forward throughout the county. As proposals are made, they are put out for consultation. There is always (understandably) local anger.

Having been through a number of these now, I have to say that they are very difficult to stop. There are always comments that the removals will be dangerous. However, before making the proposals, DCC uses an independent firm of consultants to conduct a safety analysis on a column-by-column basis, and they have already identified the columns which are not safe to remove, and have proposed mitigation safety measures. Set and very clear rules are used to determine whether columns should be retained.

Therefore, in my experience, lighting along these country lanes can only be 'saved': (1) where the local council does a deal with DCC to pay for the lighting - thus GATC saved its lighting along the A167; this was not quite as expensive as was feared. (2) for individual columns where it can be proved that the consultants 'got it wrong' - e.g. where they are unaware of something that local residents know

about. Thus it is worthwhile looking in close detail at the safety reports.

Accusations of corruption, complaints about the methodology, appeals to history, and anecdotal assertions etc. (justifiably in my opinion) fall on deaf ears. Rather less sensibly, imho, the engineers do not take into account future developments - when we were fighting the A167 cuts, and pointed out that Copelaw was going to be developed and they would have to put back in columns they were proposing to take out, we were told that this was not a relevant argument. (Thus I fear that arguments that Eldon Whins is going

to be developed will not cut much weight.)

I have posted the key documentation to the interweb and you can read the covering letter here: <http://www.johndclare.net/Community/MiddridgeSLERP.doc>. You can see the detailed proposals/ safety reports/ mitigation measures here: **for Byerley Park to Middridge:** <http://www.johndclare.net/Community/48C35b.pdf> **for Middridge to Thickley:** <http://www.johndclare.net/Community/49C35a.pdf> **for Walker Lane:** <http://www.johndclare.net/Community/50U42> John Clare

Civic Dinner at Woodham Golf Club

Town Mayor Mary Dalton holds her Charity Civic Dinner on Friday 19th February at Woodham golf club at 7pm. There will be a 3 course dinner followed by coffee or tea with dancing provided afterwards. There is valuable raffle and Tombola prizes to be won and this promises to be an enjoyable evening. Tickets are £27.50p each available from the Town Council offices on School Aycliffe Lane. Tel: 300700. Dress: Evening wear, Dinner Jackets or Lounge Suits.

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PUBLIC NOTICE BRITISH COAL COKING PLANTS DEADLINE - 24 APRIL 2016

The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Coal. Specifically:

- respiratory disease
- temporary exacerbation of asthma
- lung cancer
- squamous cell skin cancer

A closing date for the group register has been set by the Court as 24 April 2016.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell by 24 February 2016 who will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

If you instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, it is their responsibility to submit notice of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell.

Call Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell:

0808 271 4407

Or visit:

www.hughjames.com/cocomp or

www.irwinmitchell.com/cowb



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New Law - All Dogs Must be Microchipped

Every year thousands of families introduce a new pet to their home, with puppies and kittens being two of the most popular additions. But with new legislation on dog ownership coming into force this year and a number of common illnesses affecting dogs and cats alike, vets are offering guidance on how owners of new puppies and kittens can help give their new pet the best care during their life.

"In April all dogs will legally require a microchip from the age of eight weeks, something that many people may not yet be aware of," said Dr Huw Stacey, director of clinical services at Vets4Pets. Microchipping kittens and cats is strongly advised as they tend to roam, although it is not yet legally required.

"While it may sound like a major procedure, microchipping a puppy or kitten is a quick and painless procedure, taking seconds to complete. A sterile microchip, which is smaller than a grain of rice, is inserted under the skin between the pet's shoulder blades and is designed to last the lifetime of the pet."

But pet health isn't limited to just microchipping. According to figures from MSD Animal Health, 55.5 per cent of dogs (4.99 million) and 77.5 per cent of cats (6.97 million) in the UK

are not vaccinated against common diseases.

Dr Stacey is encouraging all new puppy and kitten owners to give their pet a healthy start to life by providing suitable vaccinations and treatments; along with microchipping dogs and cats.

He added: "Vaccinating your pet provides it with the best level of care possible and helps to prevent millions of puppies and kittens catching some particularly nasty diseases that can have very serious consequences."

"Puppies and kittens should also receive regular treatments for common parasites, including fleas and worms, for their entire life."

"To help new owners we're providing advice and support to help make the UK one of the healthiest countries in the world for pets."

"At www.vets4pets.com/pet-advice/puppy-and-kitten/owners-of-puppies-and-kittens-can-find-out-how-best-to-care-for-their-new-arrival-from-the-moment-their-tiny-paws-step-into-their-new-home, Worryingly, half of pet owners think vaccinations are not necessary or haven't even thought about inoculating their pet, while 86 per cent of pet owners would only vaccinate their pet if a disease was present in their local area, which in many cases could be too late."

Worryingly, half of pet owners think vaccinations are not necessary or haven't even thought about inoculating their pet, while 86 per cent of pet owners would only vaccinate their pet if a disease was present in their local area, which in many cases could be too late.

Blue Bridge Cafe Offers Meals for Slimmers

Newton Aycliffe café based at the DISC charity is helping customers tighten their belts by providing a selection of slimming meals that are out of this world.

Café MoreTime, has developed a range of healthy eating options as part of the charities commitment to the Better Health at Work Awards, where it has already achieved silver status.

The introduction of the café's new menu is part of a wider drive by Newton Aycliffe-based charity DISC to help foster health and wellbeing at home and in the workplace. The great thing about the café offer is that it's open to everyone, so the general public, as well as DISC employees can benefit. The MoreTime café at DISC's offices next to the Blue Bridge in Newton Aycliffe, has developed a menu of healthy foods that not only taste great but are also low in calories - something that many of us are looking for after the over indulgence of the Christmas period.

Delicious option such as Chicken and Potato Curry, Beery Barley Beef Stew, as well as salads with fat free

cottage cheese and fat free dressing are all available and are fantastic value and virtually sin free for those on a controlled diet.

Mel Evans, café manager at MoreTime, is absolutely delighted by the early success of the low-calorie offers. She said: "Most people come back to work after the New Year looking for ways to cut down on calories. We wanted to provide everyone with the opportunity to eat healthily for less, that's why we've developed a special menu for January that concentrates on healthy and wholesome food that is compatible with a slimming lifestyle. However, the food tastes that good, you don't need to be on a diet to enjoy it!"

As well as providing eat-in services, the MoreTime café, also provides take-out

options and will be happy to deliver outside catering. It's open between 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

MoreTime is owned by DISC and as a not for profit organisation places an emphasis on the creating employment pathways for DISC service users, as well as offering volunteering opportunities for people to develop skills and improve their work experience. Alongside the catering operation, MoreTime provide an affordable furniture scheme, repairs and maintenance work and contract cleaning.

The menu options can be enjoyed by everyone, and has been developed for use with Slimming World's Eating Plan.

For more information, please call 01325 731350.



School Reunion

Students who left schools in the Bishop Auckland area between 1940 and 1965 are invited to a reunion at Cockton Hill Club on April 30th at 7pm.

The schools include Eldon, Close House, Auckland Park and Coronation and it is known some former students live in Aycliffe.

Tickets are £10 and include Pie & Peas and Disco. Please ring to book on 01388 766400.

Half Term Holiday Activities

February Half Term Holiday programme now available for bookings! Greenfield have lots of great sessions on offer for young people and families, including our infamous Family Cooking with Jan Hodgson; Science Mission Impossible which is completely new to our programme joining science with art; as well as our craft workshop designed to highlight the best of Greenfield Arts to go on display in our foyer area.

Activities are suitable for all ages, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult, except Science Mission Impossible which is age 8 and up. For full details and to book your place please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in and speak to one of our friendly team.

Please see website for all holiday programmes as well as lots of other opportunities we offer, www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

AIR CADET AWARDS



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron ATC recently held their annual presentation evening. The squadron continues to perform excellently, as highlighted by the number of awards and certificates gained by the cadets during 2015. The evening began with badges being award for the cadets' academic studies, Provisional Radio Certificates and Method of Instruction Course certificates. Nationally recognised awards including Entry Level Awards in Workplace Hazard Awareness, BTEC Diplomas in Aviation Studies and Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards were also presented.

The second half of the evening saw the awarding of the squadron's trophies for 2015 by Deputy Wing Commander; Sqn Ldr John Scott and our squadron's Commanding Officer; Flt Lt Karin Scott. The recipients were:

Scott Trophy for Citizenship: Cpl J Hastie
Crabbe Cup for Aircraft Recognition: Cdt A Colledge
Wings Appeal Cup: Cpl G Stewart

Laverick Memorial Trophy for Shooting: Cpl J Tinkler
Sedgefield Veterans' Trophy for Attendance: Sgt Addison
Inter Flight Competition: A Flight

Tom Downs Cup for Endeavour and Service: Cdt J Tinkler
Scott Shield for Most Improved Cadet: Cpl P Hastie

Best Junior Cadet: Cdt G Bain

Boddy Trophy for Best NCO: CWO T Lowe

Fryer Shield for Cadet of the Year: Cdt K Newbery

Certificates of Merit were also awarded to Cpl J Hastie for the highest score in the IF Competition and Cpl J Tinkler for showing excellent improvement through the year. Cpl P Hastie, Cpl J Hastie and Cdt K Newbery were also awarded certificates for their high attendance.

The night was an excellent celebration of the achievements of all the members of 1407 squadron. The range of awards on offer and the high caliber of the cadets goes to show why we are among the top squadrons in Durham/Northumberland Wing. The squadron's Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Karin Scott, would like to thank all of the staff and civilian committee for their hard work and commitment to the squadron.

If you're in year 8 or above and under 17 years old and are interested in fun and adventure then see our website www.1407aircadets.org or find us on Facebook.

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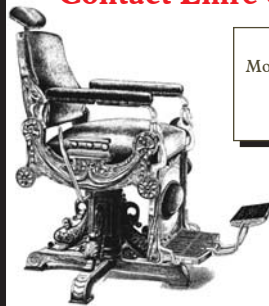
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Hot Chocolate at the Flicks

Come in from the cold and settle down to watch a great movie with friends. That's exactly what you are invited to do on Saturday 6th February at 2pm, in the main movie hall based in St. Clares Church, Newton Aycliffe (opposite Bewick Crescent surgery).

Although the film has a snowy theme we can promise a warm hall and hot chocolate! The Snow Queen 2 - Magic of the Ice Mirror - is the perfect tale for all Frozen fans this winter. Featuring Sean Bean as Alfida and Isabelle Fuhrman as Gerda, this adventure shows that friends, happiness and true love cannot be won through deceit.

The film is family rated and we welcome children with their grown-ups or simply their friends to come and join us. All seats are £1 and hot chocolate is 50p with a newly stocked tuck shop selling sweets from 10p, this is a Saturday treat that won't break the bank. Doors open at 1.30pm, come early for a good seat.

By Election Victory for Independent

Ken Robson won a stunning victory in the recent By election in West Ward last Thursday. Winning 55% of the vote and actually increasing voter turnout.

Peter Lewis Davies the Labour candidate gained 268 votes while Ken Robson Independent polled 334 votes to win the election. The turnout was 14.3% up from 13.4% last time.

Ken who is well known among other things for his work as Chairman of the ACORN Residents Association, Chair of the West Ward PACT Meetings, and Vice Chairman of the Great Aycliffe Residents Association, managed to overturn Labour's previous huge majority in the Ward. Voting in the Ward was actually up on last time. Ken managed to not only hold the previous combined opposition vote but captured new voters and swayed Labour voters by gaining 103 votes on the last by election in that Ward. This is quite an achievement and reflects on his quality as a hard working, outgoing and cheerful individual trying to improve things in the Town.



Ken is generally pro Labour but values being Independent so he can speak out freely in the public interest without being fettered by any party whip.

In a statement to Newton News Cllr Ken Robson said: "I would like to personally and sincerely thank the residents of West Ward for their support and the many messages of congratulations received by email, phone and social media. I am honoured and privileged to be able to represent you on the Town Council which I will to the best of my ability.

It is not easy to beat the Labour Party machinery, but the people of West Ward have shown that there is room for good quality hard working, non Labour people on the Council.

I would also like to thank Cllr George Gray and Cllr Billy Blenkinsopp for their advice and assistance.

I share the same values as many Labour voters, but feel it is important to be able to speak freely in the public interest without being ruled by the Party whip.

I look forward to serving you and thank you once again.

Cllr Ken Robson
35 Priestman Road
Tel .321471 Mob. 07743
046804. Email: ken_robson@lineone.net

Residents' Meeting

Dear Sir,
On behalf of Horndale Residents Association may I wish all Newtonians joy and peace in the New Year.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd February at 6pm at the Evangelical Church, Ladybower, with refreshments available from 5.45pm.

The Police are checking the way PACT meetings are run and asking the community for their views in order to come to the right decision. Until further notice our meeting and the PACT meeting will be held on the same night with the PACT meeting first followed by residents business.

We are trying to secure funding to run coach trips and other events this year but accessing cash is getting harder as more groups are applying for the same pot of money, due to cuts in local council budgets. However we are hoping to succeed and continue our good work in the community.

Hope to see you at the meeting.
Eddie Woods, Chairman

Friends AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Friends of West Park is on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7pm in the upstairs lounge in the Pheonix Club, formerly British Legion.

All Officers and Committee members are standing again for re-election, but anyone wishing to submit their nomination may do so by notifying the Secretary no later than 6pm, Monday 8th February.

All Residents welcome
Arun Chandran, Secretary
arunmchandran@aol.com
Tel 313224

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

Quality Mark for Sugar Hill



The school has been awarded the Basic Skills Early Years Quality Mark, one of very few schools to receive this award. The school was assessed against 10 elements, including planning and assessment, relationships with parents, outcomes and staff training.

Mrs O'Rourke, Head Teacher at Sugar Hill, has praised the work of the Early Years team: "The team have worked incredibly hard to improve outcomes and ensure the children get the very best start to their education in both Nursery and Reception".

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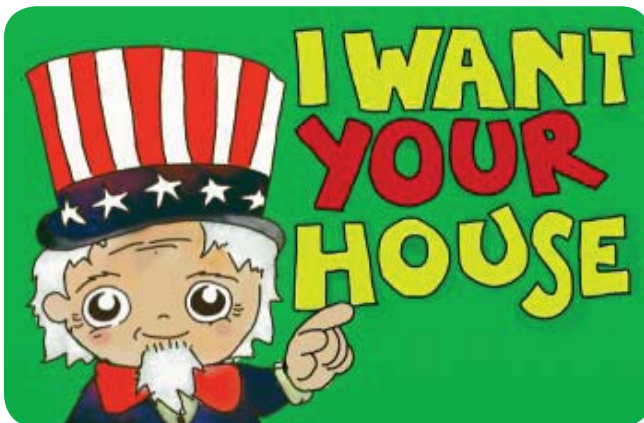
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Funding >> Opportunities

GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund (UK)

Food manufacturer, Mars has announced that its GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund 2015-16 has re-opened for applications. Every week, until 28th February 2016, the Fund will be looking to help local community groups, school groups and charities across the UK and Ireland by awarding five £300 cash awards a week. Organisations and groups can enter online via galaxyhotchocolate.com. Each organisation can only enter once. Four of these will be awarded by a judges' panel. There will also be a People's Choice Award every week which will be awarded to the entry with the most votes in any given week. Projects supported in the past include:

- The Ear Foundation, a projects that offers free service to hearing aid users to check their hearing aids are working effectively, provide batteries, re-tubing and cleaning their equipment. The funding from the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund enabled the group to purchase items such as batteries and tubing for this service;

- Little Miracles is a parent led support group and charity for families with children who have special needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions. The funding from Galaxy Hot Chocolate enabled the group to expand the range of multi-sensory toys that they have available for the children.

<http://www.galaxyhotchocolate.com/>

One of UK's Youngest Head Teachers at St. Joseph's

A teacher who started his career in Tyneside has become one of the UK's youngest Head Teachers. He began his school career in 2011 in Gateshead, before moving to St Wilfrid's Primary, in Blyth.

Aged 27 Mathew Atkinson has taken the reigns at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, in Newton Aycliffe and is already making his mark in introducing new ideas to enhance educational opportunities for his pupils. Mr Atkinson studied town planning at Newcastle University before going on to complete a PGCE course at the University of Cumbria. He said: "Teaching has always interested me as a



career, but I decided to put it off to do a degree as I still was not completely sure what I wanted to do.

"Town planning was quite a nice open degree that encompassed geography, maths and everything I really enjoyed.

"But I got half way through that and wondered why I was still studying it. I love spending time with children and making a difference so I decided to go into teaching."

St Joseph's has 154 pupils, seven teachers and eight teaching assistants. The school will accept 2 year olds

into their Nursery provision from April 2016 on an afternoon five days a week. Sessions will start at 12.45-3.45 and is free for families who meet certain criteria.

They can contact the school for more details or visit the school website. We will be holding an open morning on Friday 12th February between 9-11 where parents can be taken on a tour of the school and see what we have to offer.

If you are unavailable on this date alternative appointments can be made by contacting the school on 01325 300337.

Labour Speak with One Voice and No Heart

Dear Sir,
Can I assure readers that the December meeting of the County Council did discuss cutting the wages of Teaching Assistants. A proposal to cut wages in January by up to £5000 a year failed because a Lib Dem Councillor objected.

A full report of the meeting was in the Northern Echo where it was agreed Council officers would brief School Governors on the proposal. No decision was made because Labour councillors did not get their own way.

Labour are obviously dodging the issue by passing the decision to unions and schools. It is the same with DLI Museum where the Labour members speak with one voice and no heart! Aycliffe councillor, Mike Dixon said the museum was in the wrong place. Has he no respect for Durham's proud regiment? Once again only Lib Dems listened to supporters while Labour ignored them.

It would be nice if Councillor John Clare in his County Newsbits in Newton News let residents know what Aycliffe Councillors do and don't support in the Council Chamber.

Maud Gray, Stephenson Way

Worrying Town Topics

Dear Sir,
I am informed that a plan is to be carried out by DCC to remove lighting along the C35 Middridge Lane area. I cannot recall any consultation with the public on this matter but assume members of the public who use these areas will be less than chuffed.

It has been DCC policy since 2012 to remove lights in non-residential areas where deemed safe to do so.

Readers will recall the furore last year when DCC tried to remove lighting from the A167 when business and public alike campaigned to retain lighting. This was only saved by intervention by Councillors of Great Aycliffe Town Council who negotiated a deal whereby funding was found to save the lights from GATC coffers. This solution resulted in a case of double taxation whereby DCC were paid in our rates to supply lighting yet rates we pay in Newton Aycliffe were then spent on saving the lighting. Clearly we cannot keep adding to the costs of GATC to subsidise the much larger Durham County Council who are hoarding vast reserves of cash therefore I believe that our County Councillors should try to fight these cuts and keep the public informed.

In a similar vein livin housing are discontinuing garden services to the elderly due apparently to austerity measures imposed by the government.

A further communication from livin has been published detailing changes

to the board. It is of course the groups own business who it appoints to its governance board. I have to note that the members to be removed are tenant board members.

It seems to me that as the stakeholder which supplies the revenue should be represented on the board and the 4 Durham County Councillors should instead be reduced. Working in the community I am hearing complaints from across our area about standards of repairs in livin properties. Particularly of concern are complaints of damp in Simpature court which despite the intervention of WASPS residents association has still to be resolved.

Ken Robson
Town Councillor



P.A.C.T. (Police and Communities Together) meeting Wednesday 3rd February 6pm Evangelical Church Ladybower, covering Greenfield Byerley Park and Horndale Areas.

PC Mike Welch, PCSO Chris Noble, Park Wardens, Neighbourhood Wardens and County Councillors will be in attendance. Everyone is welcome to attend

This meeting will be followed by Horndale Residents' Association meeting

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Husqvarna Raise £1895 for St Teresa's School Hold Reading Cafe

The Husqvarna Group is the world's largest producer of lawnmowers, chainsaws and tractors and incorporates the brands, Husqvarna, Flymo, McCulloch and Gardena.

The company's modern manufacturing facility is based at Newton Aycliffe and manufacture product types including the Automower, which is new generation robotic lawnmower.

The company has a core permanent workforce of approximately 300 employees and recruits approximately 600 temporary employees during its peak production period of January until May. Husqvarna is doing its bit for charity and has adopted St Teresa's Hospice as its charity for 2016. Picture shows (left) Linda Purdie, HR Manager receiving

the adoption certificate from Alison Marshall of St Teresa's Hospice.

St Teresa's Hospice is based in Darlington and is very close to the hearts of colleagues at Husqvarna UK as over the last 2 years sadly two colleagues had been admitted to the hospice before passing away.

Husqvarna have carried out various events including a cake bake day in September, 2015, where employees made and sold cakes and pastries to raise money for the hospice. All employees very much enjoyed the day and it raised a total of £1200 for the hospice!

The bottom picture shows (left) Sarah Gray from the Manufacturing Division and (right) Linda Purdie, HR Manager, with the cheque for

the hospice.

Employees within the company also submitted money they had donated from their Tea Fund which raised a total of £360 and more recently, employees took part in December, 2015, by participating in a Christmas Jumper Day. Everyone got in the Christmas spirit and a total of £335 was raised for the Hospice.

So far, Husqvarna UK has

raised a total of £1895 for St Teresa's Hospice. This is a fantastic effort from all employees at Husqvarna who will be holding lots more events to raise money for the St Teresa's Hospice.



On Monday 18th January 2016, Reception and Nursery at St Joseph's Primary School held a Reading Café.

Children invited their families in to read with them and take part in a carousel of activities which included making stick puppets and writing a book review of their chosen story. The children in Reception had also made a price tags, cutting out different coin images to make 20p, for the cake and juice that were sold. Feedback from families was that they really loved the idea and would come for another session.

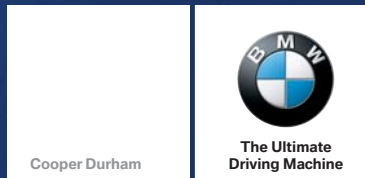
We will be holding Stay and Play in our Foundation Unit on Monday 8th February



2016 9am-10am for Nursery and 2.30pm - 3.30pm for Reception. The staff and children look forward to

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Aycliffe's Wembley Dream Continues

Newton Aycliffe's incredible season continues with a convincing 2-0 win over Marske United in the FA Vase. The victory sees Aycliffe through to the last 16 of the competition with the Wembley dream very much alive. Aycliffe now travel to Surrey side Camberley Town for the Fifth Round tie.

It is a sign of the strength in depth of the current squad that none of the goal scorers in the midweek 9-0 thrashing of Hartlepool FC featured in the starting line-up.

Peter Dixon's side were on the attack from the start against the Northern League champions. With just over a minute gone the home side had a free kick just outside Marske's penalty area but Ashley Coffey's shot flew over the bar. Shortly after Aycliffe came close again when a Stuart Banks cross looped over keeper Robert Dean's head & hit the base of the post.

Both sides battled hard in



the first half on the heavy Moore Lane pitch, staging its first game after five weeks of wet weather. Marske's attack included former Aycliffe player Jamie Owens who caused problems throughout. However, the home defence held firm. As has often been the case this season former Darlington played Brian Close dominated the midfield.

The breakthrough for Aycliffe came on the stroke of halftime. Matty Moffat took the ball on his chest & calmly

fired a low shot into the net. The second half began as the first had finished with Moffat having a shot deflected over. After 55 minutes Stuart Banks tricked his way past the defence & played the ball to Dennis Knight who shot wide.

The second goal came with quarter of an hour left to play. Once again Moffat was instrumental. This time the

centre forward found himself on the right wing. Beating the Marske defender he placed a cross in the path of Banks who made no mistake with his finish. There was no way back for the visitors although they continued to press & the game finished 2-0.

Aycliffe make the 550 mile roundtrip to Camberley on Saturday 30 January & despite the long journey several loyal supporters are planning to follow the team to Surrey. To book a place on the supporters' bus contact Yvonne Wood on 07500 866535.

The next home game at Moore Lane Park is Tuesday 2 February when Aycliffe entertain Norton & Stockton Ancients (KO 7:30pm). This will be followed by a home game against Jarrow Roofing on Saturday 6 February (KO 3:00pm).

NAYFC BACK IN ACTION

Great to be reporting on plenty of grassroots football over the last weekend as the weather was kinder to a few of our teams! Plenty of goals and a few long unbeaten runs came to an end, but I'm sure everyone was just glad to get some games on.

Under 7 Eagles were home to Humbleton Town Reds at the Mini Russell Foster league and their unbeaten run came to an end losing 2-4. Excellent defensive football with all players looking to get onto the score sheet. Humbleton were a very well organised team giving them the win..

Under 9 Falcons were involved in an exciting 0-0 game against Billingham Utd Wasps with their keeper in outstanding form. Two headers hit the bar and a shot off the post just wasn't going to be their day. MOTM was joint: Dylan Stewart and Louis Parnaby.

Well done Travis Dixon for another clean sheet. Second game was a thriller, a hat-trick from Aidenlee Peacock and a goal a piece from Alex Beattie and Ryan Usher. 5-3 to the Falcons. MOTM was a joint one again Jacob Bailey-Thompson and Aidenlee Peacock.

Peterlee Youth U17s 0-8 Under U17s. 1st round of the Cup. First half saw Josh Reay score. Lewis Scott then rose above everybody to head home another Ben Lowthian cross.

After the break Jimmy Cameron thumped home two powerful shots and Kieran Mcwaters headed home a pinpoint cross from Zac Smith. Zach Barrigan

returned from a long lay off to score the 7th and Corey Denton finished off the scoring, FT 8-0. MOM was Lewis Coatsworth.

U13 Falcons 3-6 Norton & Stockton. The unbeaten run in the League came to an end but no complaints as the away team wanted it more and deserved their win. Three quality finishes from Freddie Cockburn, Jack Birbeck and Cameron Cook. Memorable performances from Jay Williams and Hal Stephenson but Man of the Match went to Charlie Hirst for a quality display.

The Under 10s flipped the game against Ferryhill and played on their pitch. Two well matched sides making some great runs and both sides had some good chances. Final score a 5-1 to Ferryhill. Work rate was fantastic MOTM Matthew Mitchell. Second game started the same with a tired bunch of Aycliffe lads who soaked up some early pressure, work rate was superb, with Matty confidently slotting it home. Ferryhill threw everything at Aycliffe, but the lads were having none of it, Charlie hit the crossbar with a screamer of a free kick and Aycliffe were relentless in their pressure resulting in Matthew Mitchell breaking through the middle and smashing into the top of goal. Final score 2-0 to the Under 10s. Goals: Matty J, Matthew Mitchell MOTM: Harry Smith

Under 11 Eagles played away to a very good Boro Rangers. Unfortunately lost 8-1 but played very

well with the result a little flattering. Well done guys great performance. Keep it up and you are sure to win the longer game.

U12 Eagles finally got a game away to Stockton West End. The lads were so pleased to get out there and get their new boots and goalkeeper gloves dirty. Unfortunately we were playing a very good side who knew how to take their chances and have only been beaten once this season.

The Eagles were always in the game and competitive with some really good spells of possession and movement but were unable to compete for the whole 60 minutes with only 1 substitute. Final score was 10-3 which flatters Stockton but they were still the better team on the day.

An important day at Peterlee on Saturday for the penultimate games of the season for the **Under 11 Girls** against St Cuthberts and Washington. Goals from Kate 5, Hattie 4, Alex completed a 10-0 win. Up next, Washington Lionesses, the winners would all but guarantee the league runners up spot.

Hattie slipped the ball to Kate who glided passed the defence to smash the ball into the back of the net. Then with Washington pushing forward a swift break for Aycliffe ended with a corner, from which Kate eventually slots for her second of the game as the girls secured a valuable 3pts FT 2-0.

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AYCLIFFE'S 7 TRIES IN 30 MINUTES

After not playing a single game in 2016 and the last game being pre-Christmas NARUFC Firsts found themselves at home to Hartlepool BBOB on Saturday 23rd January 2016. For the first ten minutes of the game Aycliffe were in total disarray the top of the league side were totally clueless. BBOB were awarded a penalty under the posts and they took a three nil lead. From the restart Aycliffe took charge of the game and began to dominate every aspect of the game. The scrumage which had previously been a problem area became a great source of good ball so much so hooker Jamie Whelan and his forwards colleagues were winning ball against the head constantly. Aycliffe's ball handling was an absolute delight to watch the interplay between forwards and backs was incredible. NARUFC began to create try scoring opportunities which was obviously going to happen with that amount of quality possession Dom Ridley making his home debut was first to cross the line then Adam Gascoigne followed closely by Niall Kelly. The crowd barley had chance to catch their collective breath when more tries were scored Matty "The Winger" Wiper crossed the line twice Warren Parsonage and his twin brother Gareth each scored tries.

The 1st XV scored a total of seven quality tries in a thirty minute period and James Cocks even managed to convert three of his kicks. Half time score 41 - 3.

Aycliffe appeared to be up for more of the same in the second period. The domination continued for a further twenty minutes, Dom Ridley completed his hat trick of tries and then scored another (four in total) Adam Gascoigne scored his second and converted two kicks and James Cocks also kicked a conversion.

The final twenty minutes was a disappointment for the crowd and home players alike. Aycliffe could do nothing right in the eyes of the referee and this helped BBOB turn their game around.

The Hartlepool team showed a great deal of character and in particular their scrum half fought for every inch of territory. They gave a very good account of themselves and hopefully this positive attitude will help them for the rest of the season. In this final period Aycliffe showed a real quality in defence the tacking by the back row and in particular Shaun Tomlinson was excellent. The last few minutes of the game were camped deep into the home sides 22metre area but the resolute defending kept BBOB at bay. Score 67 -3.

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Heighington Under 15's Top the League

Under 15s

At last a football match is played, thanks to the weather easing and the help of Mark Pat Stapleton, to cut the pitch. Home to Fishburn Park, and with the home side shooting down the hill with the wind at their backs it wasn't long before an opening was made, and Roman A. Vilanova finished well.

It was to get even better when the same player scored directly from a corner. It was all one way traffic, and the Fishburn keeper had to be alert to keep it at two. Although top scorer Adam Scott was a constant threat, and after neatly beating a couple of defenders, he finished well.

Just before half time, the home side were treated to a Jack Emmerson special, after the ball was cleared he accurately hit a cracking shot to find the net, leaving it at 4-0 at half time. Shooting up the hill in the second half against the wind, and with a few substitutions to adjust to, it took 5 minutes or so to settle into any kind of rhythm, and it was also a while before the home side added to their lead, this time Adam Scott finished well after being put in 15 minutes from time.

Roman A. Vilanova, grabbed a deserved hattrick, after Jamie Stapleton, took a short corner and found Roman who leathered the ball home to make it six, without reply. A very satisfactory performance, with all players putting in a shift. MOM was shared between hat-trick hero Roman Alves and Sam Thompson, who worked his socks of both in midfield and defence when called upon.

This result leaves us top of the league, and hopefully the change in the weather means the games will start to come thick and fast, to keep up the momentum. Well done everyone.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL RESULTS



The Juniors season continued with a string of games spread across the weekend and some notable results, particularly for the Under 10's and 18's Red.

The Under 7's faced a strong Leven team who had only lost once so far this season. Aycliffe got a lead after Harry scored from a well worked piece of play. There were plenty of chances for both teams but it was Leven

who managed two further goals to win this game 2-1. In the second game despite some great efforts Aycliffe couldn't break the Leven defence and missed out on a win in this one. The standard of play from this team continues to be high, rewarding the hard work the boys are putting in during training.

The Under 8's started well against Mount Pleasant with

some nice passing from the back creating several chances. Lucas made a great save to keep the score 0-0 before a move featuring Connor, Harvey and Rhys was finished well by Jayden, 1-0. Mount Pleasant equalised before half time then in the second half Rhys finished off Jayden's pass to restore the lead. The match ended 2-2 after a corner led to the visitor's equalising goal. The second game was also a 2-2 draw with Aycliffe's goals scored by Niall. The morning's men of the match were Jayden and Niall.

The Under 9's were at home against Seaton Carew a great start was rewarded when a good move involving Parker and Lewis was squared for Thomas to score for a 1-0 lead. Seaton equalised in the second half but Aycliffe had chances to re-gain the lead and the final move of the game led to Jake's headed shot hitting the bar and the line before being cleared. The game ending in a 1-1 draw.

The second game saw a goal from Jake seal a 1-0 win. Thomas was this morning's man of the match.

The Under 10's TJFA league side made the short trip to Bishop Auckland to face their 'Aces' team. A disjointed first half performance was enough for a 2-0 lead before Bishop struck back to level the game at 2-2 early in the second half. Aycliffe though then hit their stride and put away some fine goals to race to a 7-2 win. The Goals came from Zack (2), Lucas (2), Charlie, Jacob and Evan. The second game saw a double from Evan added to by Zack and Jake in a 4-0 win.

The Under 10 Russell Foster League side lost 2-1 in an exciting game sealed by a superb goal from Wrenkenton Nou Camp. It was Wrenkenton who scored first and this shocked Aycliffe in to raising their efforts.

The equaliser came when Ted headed Evan's corner in to the net and at half time it was all level. Aycliffe went behind when a superb counter attacking move was finished in to the top corner of Herbie's goal. Despite applying pressure Aycliffe could not draw level a second time, Ted was the players man of the match on this occasion.

The Under 18 Reds faced Spraire lads at Sunnydale, they put in a really strong performance and a hat trick from the man of the match Ryan Peart was added to by Nathan Acuna Ocana in a 4-3 win.

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(Fixed term until 31st March 2017)

The aim of the County Durham Workplace Health programme is to create workplaces that both protect the health and well-being of employees and optimise the opportunity to help people improve their own health and well-being. PCP is seeking to recruit a dynamic and experienced Co-ordinator to lead on the development and management of this service.

Key skills and qualifications required include:

- Level 4 Management qualification or equivalent
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- In depth knowledge of workplace health issues and solutions in County Durham

The successful candidate will also have:

- At least 3 years' experience of project and people management
- At least 2 years' experience of working with industry, with business or in the commercial sector
- Experience of applying evidence-based health improvement theories and models and supporting people/groups to appreciate the wider determinants of health
- Professional, friendly and courteous manner with the ability to effectively manage partnership arrangements

For an application form and further information please contact the HR Department on:
Telephone: (01325) 313133
Email: hr@pcp.uk.net
Fax: (01325) 301129
website: www.pcp.uk.net

Closing Date:
12 noon, Tuesday 9th February 2016

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The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is an award-winning North East charity whose mission is 'Health, Well-being and Learning for All'. We are currently seeking a motivated and focused self-starter to join our successful team as a:

Health Trainer Co-ordinator

Location: Meadowfield, Durham
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Fixed Term Contract until 30th June 2017
37.5hrs per week

Job Purpose:

- To co-ordinate the delivery of Health Trainer interventions across a range of project services.
- To manage a caseload of clients, to enable individuals to make changes to their behavior to achieve a positive impact on their health.
- To provide support to Programme Managers and assist with developing new projects, to assist with the overall development of a range of Health Trainer services.
- To support project staff to implement and measure key performance indicators in-line with specific contract specifications.
- To support the development and delivery of the NHS Health Trainer Service

Key tasks:

- To work with partners and existing groups to develop and co-ordinate PCP projects and services including referral pathways for support.
- To manage a caseload of individuals and support them to develop a personal action plan, set their own behavioral goals and manage their own behavior.
- To line manage a team of health trainers and develop their skills and confidences by providing them with any necessary support.
- To manage volunteer recruitment and source relevant training
- To collate and present verbal and written reports when required
- To assist with marketing and promotion activities, including supporting events and publicity campaigns
- To be responsible for data management of clients including inputting information onto databases and creating reports

Key skills required:

- Health Trainer qualification with core competencies completed
- Minimum of 2 years experience of managing staff and volunteers
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Fax: (01325) 301129
website: www.pcp.uk.net

Closing Date for applications:
Thursday 11th February 2016 @ 12 noon

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Best Business 2015 for Durham

More companies were registered in Durham last year than in any year previously, according to new figures. There were 3,834 new companies formed in the region in 2015 - up from 3,793 the year before. This represents a 1.1% growth and means there are now a record number of firms in the area. The statistics were compiled by www.informdirect.co.uk, a provider of online company formations and secretarial software, using data available from Companies House and the Office of National Statistics. Its report - The Inform Direct Review of UK Company Formations in 2015 - includes a league table of company formations county by county as well as statistics on firms registered and dissolved and percentage growth. It has revealed that for the 12 months ended 31st December 2015, there were a record-breaking 612,565 firms formed across the United Kingdom - up from 586,784 the year before. Of those, 551,886 companies were in England, 34,711 in Scotland, 14,689 in Wales and 7,254 in Northern Ireland. Henry Catchpole, managing director of Inform Direct said: "Our dynamic economy and business-friendly environment are the reasons there is a 'Great' in Great Britain. "All around the world, governments are spending time and money to figure out the best way to foster an entrepreneurial culture that helps boost the economy. "But here in the UK, our politicians can nurture this business mentality that has established itself organically. "London has always stormed ahead but our figures from 2015 demonstrate that the rest of the UK is also displaying a growing confidence in entrepreneurialism. "Durham has had a very successful year and the figures indicate a surge in entrepreneurialism in 2015 for this region." Of the new companies created last year in Durham, 1,993 were in County Durham, 700 in Stockton-on-Tees, 619 in Darlington and 522 in Hartlepool. Inform Direct used its software to identify not only start-ups, but also the number of UK companies dissolved in the same period. This has created an accurate picture of firms now registered county by county in the UK. There are now a total of 24,091 firms in Durham. The total figure for the UK at the start of 2016 stood at 3.76 million.

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BIGGER FINES FOR USING MOBILE PHONE WHILST DRIVING

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) has welcomed the Department for Transport opening up a public consultation on stricter penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone whilst driving.

The DfT's consultation is looking for feedback on proposals for increasing the fixed penalty notice level from £100 to £150 for all drivers.

It also invites views on increasing the penalty points from three to four points for non-HGV drivers, and three to six points for those that hold a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) licence and commit the offence whilst driving an HGV.

Neil Greig, IAM director of policy and research said: "Forcing all drivers

caught using a hand-held mobile for the first time to attend a re-education course would be a really positive step.

"For many, smartphone use has become an addiction that we can only start to cure through some form of therapy. The IAM does not object to tougher penalties but we do believe that the

real deterrent is fear of being caught. That fear can only be increased by increasing the numbers of traffic police on our roads."

The DfT's report launching the consultation (reference 1) cites the IAM's survey in July 2015 on drivers taking selfies at the wheel (reference

2) The IAM found that 9% of drivers surveyed admitted taking a selfie whilst driving within the previous month - a figure that increases to 19% of 25-35 year olds.

The survey also discovered 8% of drivers admitted to driving while using a video-calling application such as FaceTime and Skype to make and receive video calls, rising to 16%

among 18 to 24 year olds. Neil added: "Technology has caused this issue and technology offers one route towards reducing the distraction effect of mobile phone use. It will not be easy to retrofit many of these solutions but the IAM is supportive of trials and pilots to show whether automatically switching off phones when moving can deliver safer roads."

Diet Club Lose Total of 1500 Stone in 2015



Weight Watcher Leader Danielle was recently married

Danielle Stout is celebrating this month after helping her members to shed over 1,500 stone in 2015 and change their relationship with food for good. Having lost 4 stone herself, Danielle became a Weight Watchers Leader in 2011 and has since helped hundreds of residents towards a healthier weight and lifestyle. Now, Danielle is encouraging more local residents to develop healthier habits in the New Year.

"Over 70 members have successfully shed 5% or more of their body weight. Danielle said: "Not a day goes by when obesity or

obesity-related illnesses aren't in the news. Losing just 5% of your body weight can dramatically improve your health and wellbeing and help prevent serious diseases. For 2016, I'm encouraging as many local residents to set a new year's resolution - get involved and spend the new year feeling the benefits of shedding those excess pounds and learning healthier habits!"

One of our members Kirsty Murray says: "Having the support of Danielle throughout my weight loss journey has been the key to my success. She is an inspiration and each week gives us all great tips, tricks and support to help us achieve our weight loss goals. I have lost over 5 stone with Danielle and I've never felt better! Kirsty says, weight loss has changed her family's way of living. "We eat healthy homemade meals each night, we go out for walks and are a lot more active. As well as losing weight and becoming more confident I'm also teaching my 5 year old a healthier way of living, but we still enjoy our treats."

To find out more about Danielle's Weight Watchers meetings call Danielle Stout on 07510 758720, or visit www.weightwatchers.co.uk to find out about other meetings in County Durham.

For more details, strong local success stories and photo opportunities call Danielle Stout 07510758720 or email dstout@weightwatchers.co.uk

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Vote YES to Devolution

Dear Sir,
Devolution means having more local say over our economic future. The Scots and Welsh have seized it. All over the country cities and regions are claiming it. The six other councils in the North East look set to take it. Many in the business community are clamouring for it. It would seem a no brainer that we should want it too.

THE ARGUMENT FOR A DEVOLVED AUTHORITY GOES LIKE THIS:

1. We are the second-poorest region in England; we MUST grow our economy.
2. The Adonis Report (2012) concluded that, to do so, the seven local Councils had to cooperate better. This was why the North East Combined Authority (NECA) was formed – not an extra layer of government, just the 7 local councils coordinating their policies on economic growth, transport and employability skills. This was GOOD.
3. The government has offered NECA certain limited devolved powers. The most important ones are over EU grants, trade, transport and skills. This is GOOD.
4. To refuse devolution, we must leave NECA. That in my opinion would be a disaster. We would not just be OUT of the cooperating Councils, we would be in competition with them, without the extra powers they will be getting – it would damage our economy.
5. The government is insisting we have a separately-elected Mayor

as an independent chair for NECA. But the Mayor will not be able to force the seven Councils to do something they do not want to do. So this is not so bad. 6. The government will be giving NECA a £30million a year grant. Devolution will not cost the ratepayers a penny.

THEREFORE: I believe that we must move forward, engage and grow. A 'No' vote – a vote to go back – is a vote to stay poor. Therefore I will be voting:

- OPTION ONE to question 1 – YES devolution will be good.
- OPTION TWO to question 2 – I want a Mayor with limited powers.

John Clare
County Councillor

Obituary

MAVIN, On 19th January, peacefully in Aycliffe Care Home, Eva Elizabeth (Betty), aged 83 years of Newton Aycliffe. Precious Wife of Alan; much loved Mam of Jeff and Mandy and a dear Nana of Nicola and David; also Great Nana to Eva. Funeral to be held on Monday 1st February. Would family and friends please meet at 12.15pm for a Service at St. Clares Church, Newton Aycliffe prior to burial at the West Cemetery.

DAVID TRON, died suddenly on 19th January. Loving Husband to Joy; Father to Steven, Beverly, Michelle and Linda; also a dear Grandfather. Cremation Service to be held at Darlington Crematorium on 2nd February. Friends please meet at 1.15pm at the crematorium.

WADDINGHAM, 21st January. Peacefully in the care of St. Teresa's Hospice, Darlington. David (Dave) of Newton Aycliffe, aged 81 years. A loving and devoted Husband of Dorothy (Mollie Jackson); a much loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad; a very dear Father-in-Law; also a dear Brother-in-Law, Uncle and good friend to many. Will family and friends please meet to celebrate the life of Dave at Shildon Methodist Church on Tuesday 2nd February at 12.15pm, followed by committal at the Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Dave, may, if desired, be left in church for St. Teresa's Hospice appeal at Dave's request. Guests are encouraged to wear bright, colourful clothing. "Simply the Best"

BRAITHWAITE, Stanley. Died 25th January 2016, aged 88. Beloved Husband of Martha; loving Father and Father-in-Law of Stephen, Joanne, Jean and Joe; fantastic Grandad of Emily and Jack

SYD STEBBINGS Our beloved Brother and Brother-in-Law sadly passed away on 23rd January 2016. You will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. Till we meet again. Love, Peter and Carol xxxxx
SYD STEBBINGS 23rd January. Dearly loved Husband of Gill; a special Dad, Brother, Grandad and Great Grandad. All welcome to attend Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 5th February at 11.45am. Family flowers only, donations for the Air Ambulance may be left on a plate provided

SPECSAVERS WANT OLD GLASSES FOR ETHIOPIA

Helen Sewell, optometrist at Specsavers in Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe, is travelling with charity Vision Aid Overseas to Ethiopia for 2 weeks from 19th February to work with students at Hawassa University. She will be training and providing support to final year Optometry students in the clinical aspects of eye testing.

Many people in Ethiopia are "blind" from not having spectacles. This has a huge impact on their lives, but



can be easily corrected with an eye test and appropriate glasses. Unfortunately, until only a few years ago, there were no qualified opticians in Ethiopia so

accessing this care was extremely difficult. Vision Aid Overseas supported the set-up of the first optometry degrees in Ethiopia about 10 years ago and every year provides training from voluntary UK professionals to the students. This is important so the country can develop its own eye care system and in the future won't have to rely on outside aid. There are now about 200 trained opticians in Ethiopia. VAO has also helped set up 5 Vision Centres in Ethiopia including one at Hawassa University Teaching Hospital. They provide low cost spectacles to the public, but don't have access to the same products we have in the UK. One of the major problems this causes is availability of lenses in high prescriptions. Some patients still cannot have their vision fully corrected. Specsavers are donating a supply of lenses for Helen to take with her, but she is also asking if anyone has any old spare glasses in high prescriptions (over 10DS) that they bring them in to Specsavers so she can take them out to Ethiopia. All donations of old glasses are welcome anytime. Monetary donations can also be made to VAO in store.

In Memoriam

MELVILLE PARKIN 4th February 1984. So much time has passed by. I will always remember you. Dearly loved and sadly missed from your Son Anthony
JOANNE McCOURT 30th January 2015. It's been a year since we lost you and you got your wings. Words can't explain how much we miss you, you are forever in our hearts. Thinking of you everyday. We love you so very much. Michelle and Colin
YAYA McCOURT 30th January 2015. We miss you so very much. We will never forget you. Love always, our bright star. Cameron and Amelia

BEN BENNETT (31st December 1941 to 1st February 2015). To a very special Dad and Grandad on your first anniversary in Heaven. They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal. But neither time nor reason will change the way we feel. For no-one knows the heartache that lies behind our smiles. No-one knows how many times we have broken down and cried. We want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt, you are so wonderful to think of, but so hard to be without. Love and miss you always, Helen, Sandy, Ben and Sam xxxxxx

BENNY BENNETT Treasured memories of a dear Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Never to be forgotten. Love from Trish, Dave and all the family xxxx
SHEILA TWOHIG 29th January 2011. Remembering you every day. Mike xxxx
SHEILA TWOHIG 29th January 2011. Miss you so much. Mam. Carol and family xxxx
JOHN GLASPER 1st February 2009. A much loved and missed Husband. Thinking of you always. Your Wife Doreen xxx
JOHN GLASPER 1st February 2009. A very much loved Dad and Grandad. Always in our thoughts. Thinking of you every day. Love, Viv, Chris and Jess xxx

JOHN GLASPER 1st February 2009. Remembering you Dad is easy we do it every day, it's the heartache of losing you that will never go away. Your loving Daughters, Sharron, Son-in-Law Colin, loving Grandchildren Cheryl and Sean, Great Grandchildren, Maisie Thomas and Tyler xxxxxxxx
THOMAS TOMLINSON (Tot). 29th January 2014. Deep in my heart your memory is kept to love and to cherish and never forget. All my love, Ann xxx
THOMAS TOMLINSON Dad and Grandad. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day. Love, Sharon, Tony, Lyn and the grandchildren xxx

Thank You

THE FAMILY of Stanley Braithwaite would like to thank all of the people who came to assist him when he collapsed in the Town Centre on Monday. Special thanks to Gillian who came to our house and helped contact and inform everyone of what was happening. Also to the staff of the Recreation Centre who tried to resuscitate him. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations

Sam Gibson



Happy 18th Birthday
28th January 2016

Lots of love from Mam, Roy and Sophie

Happy 18th Birthday
Congratulations on your special day. Love from Beth and Ryan.

Happy 18th Birthday
To a special Grandson on his 18th birthday. Love from Nanna Bug.
Have a great day. From all your friends and family xxx

Lynsey Shields



Happy 30th Birthday
Love, Mam, Dad, Andy, Joel, Ellis, Gran, Granda, Craig, Rachel, Miles and Jake xxxx

SPENSLEY (Vic and Sylvia). Happy Wedding Anniversary Mam and Dad for Tuesday. Love always, Julie, Den and the gang xxxxx



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.

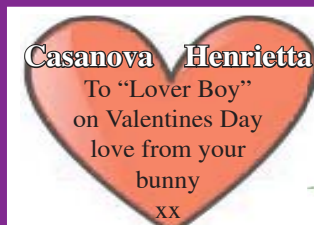
COUNCIL

- My report on DCC's Environment Scrutiny meeting last week – litterfree Durham, isolated bin collections, performance report: bit.ly/DCCEnSJJan16
- This month's GAMP Board meeting: bit.ly/GAMPJan16
- My report on GAMP's Employment Task Group meeting last week: bit.ly/GAMPETJan16
- Proposal to Remove Street Lights along the C35 Middridge Lane: bit.ly/C35SLERP
- Of 7086 actionable defects on Category 1 roads last year, DCC addressed 6691 within 24 hours.
- Just 4.9% of County Durham sites have unsatisfactory accumulations of litter (a 15% improvement on last year); for comparison, the average for England is 15% unsatisfactory.
- Two members of staff from the County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) have won a prestigious Butler Trust Award: bit.ly/CDYOSBT
- The Big Spring Clean is back, 29 February to 17 April – you can help: bit.ly/DCCBSC16
- County Durham Central Heating Fund (CHF) scheme can provide a totally FREE* central heating system where income is less than £26,000 and you do not have any central heating: bit.ly/DCCCHF
- DCC is running a campaign to stop smoking in bus stations: ow.ly/Xmhd2
- Last month's Neighbourhood Protection Update: bit.ly/NPDec15
- GATC's Policy & Resources Committee last week agreed a 1.98% Council Tax rise: bit.ly/GATCPRJan16
- Consultation on the Fire Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan: bit.ly/IRMP16-17
- Latest worklessness figures: bit.ly/OOWJan16
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD24Jan

COMMUNITY

- StepChange Debt Charity launches its '7days7ways' Debt Awareness Week to help people feeling the pinch after Christmas: www.stepchange.org/7days7ways.aspx
- Kynren will be amazing: bit.ly/VCRKynren

Place your VALENTINES DAY Greetings in your local community newspaper, "NEWTON NEWS"



Write out your copy in the box below, add up the words, put the total cost and hand in to:

NEWTON PRESS
St. Cuthberts Way
YOUNGS NEWSAGENT
Town Centre or
WALKERS BUTCHERS
Simpasturegate

Above example:
£12.00 (inclusive)
(maximum 15 words)

ANTHONY To my "squidgy widgey" on Valentines Day, love from Cleopatra xxxx

JANE To my honey bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from Tarzan xxxx

Above examples:
15p per word

ADAM
To my "squidgy widgey" on Valentines Day, love from Eve xxxx

JULIET
To my honey bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from Romeo xxx

Above examples:
30p per word

Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, 10th February
Published: Friday 12th February 2016

Telephone:

No of words @p = £
Heart advert is required YES/NO = £12.00

Birthday Remembrance

MARILYN BAKER Tears instead of wishes, flowers instead of cards. You left us precious memories, that will stay in our hearts. Happy birthday Mam and Nanna, from all your kids and grandkids xxxxx

For Sale

"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare's Church is open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On sale is a huge selection of bric-a-brac, toys, household goods, jewellery, electrical goods . . . the list is endless. All items are perfect and at low prices. All money raised will continue to be given to good causes. All Sorts is a charitable project run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett.

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WHEELCHAIR £50. Tel 07956 089630

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113 343

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SPARTANS BASEBALL TEAM NAME CHANGE Derby Win for 2nd XV

The Newton Aycliffe Spartans Baseball Club, formed in 2011, has been competing in the British Baseball Federation's AA league (north division) since 2012 and is still the only

North East club competing. This year, the club starts the new season with a new name: County Durham Spartans Baseball Club. To complement the name change, the Spartans

have developed a brand new website; www.durhamspartans.co.uk which is regularly updated with photos, team news, training & game schedules, game reports, contact info and much more. It is the first stop for information about anything Spartan.

The Spartans joined the British Baseball AA North Division for their inaugural season in 2012. Going up against much more established teams, they finished at the bottom of the division, but did score their historic first win (an emphatic 21-10) at home against Oldham late in the season. 2013 saw a much more competitive Spartans move to their permanent diamond in Shildon, County Durham, and continue to travel across the north of England to move away from the bottom of the table with many more wins to their name. The following 2014 season was one to remember as an almost perfect run of victories saw the Spartans take the AA North League title, beating the likes of Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield to the crown.

Durham Spartans are members of the British



Baseball Federation, with many different leagues and levels of players coming together on summer Sunday's across the country to play competitive baseball. For the 2016 season, the AA North league will be split into three divisions, West, Central & East, with Hull Scorpions, Sheffield Bladerunners and Harrogate Tigers joining the Spartans in the Eastern division. Teams across all three divisions will play each other once too, resulting in a busy schedule, with the regular season starting on April 10th, continuing through until the end of August and the playoffs for national honours taking place in September.

The Spartans are always looking for new members male or female, regardless of skill level, wanting to try this different and fun sport. If it's to compete, keep fit, or just enjoy being part of a team, a warm welcome will await. Training takes place on Tuesday evenings (indoors during the winter) from 7-9 at Woodham Academy, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, and on Sunday's during the off season at their home field (weather permitting) which is part of the Sunnydale Leisure complex at Shildon, County Durham.

For more details please go to www.durhamspartans.co.uk Mike Holton, 07969 240494.

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club 2nd XV finally managed to play a game after weeks of inaction due to bad weather, and they did it with a local derby at Bishop Auckland against the home club's 3rd XV. With a number of players unavailable, Aycliffe welcomed 4 Darlington Mowden Park stalwarts to make up the 15.

With the weather fine for running rugby and the pitch in good condition, Aycliffe began the game by using their backs to good effect and centre Doug Thompson crossed for a try under the posts which Phill Sangster converted. Aycliffe were trying to use the speed of their backs to chase down kicks and Peter Hewlett added to the score when he pounced on some momentary indecision in the home defence to touch

down in the corner. Bishop now began to use their bigger forward pack to some effect and only superb tackling from the Aycliffe team kept them out as they stayed in the 22 for long periods at half time the score was 12 - 0 to Aycliffe.

Aycliffe were able to get on the front foot again in the second half and guest Carl Trotter used his strength and power to force his way over for a try which Sangster converted. Connor Blakey topped another fine back-row performance with a try. Bishop had the last word when they fed the ball quickly wide from a tap penalty and scored a try in the corner. The final score was 24 - 5.

Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by The Mortgage Advice Centre and Whitehouse Funeral Services

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BARGAIN BUYS

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Aycliffe Running Club

On the 24th January members of the Aycliffe Running Club travelled to Ripon to take part in the Jolly Hog Jog. The conditions were excellent for running with temperatures hitting a maximum of 12 degrees throughout the day with some very muddy and slippery parts around the course which consisted of grass field and single-track road.

At 5k the runners reached the highest point of the route before making a strong sprint for the finish line. Times are as follows; Peter Milburn 43:25 Michelle

Zamir; 49:40 Sandra Collins; 53:02 Michael Brunskill 54:40 Susan Milburn 54:45 John Young 55:07 Martha McBarron 56:29 Vivianne Pow 1:00:28 Kevin Greenall 1:02 Anne Kellett 1:04 Alan Kellett 1:05.

Peter Milburn put in a great performance ranking 26th out of 525 runners whilst Michelle Zamir was first lady back for the club in 85th place. All runners received a finishers t-shirt at the end.



Michelle Zamir

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