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Aycliffe Business Awards Event Popular

More than 200 people have booked their places for Aycliffe Business Park's Make Your Mark event at the Xcel Centre on Wednesday 10th February. Sales have already equalled the turn-out for last year.

The judging panel is busy deliberating on who will be crowned 2015 Company of the Year, along with nine other awards which will be presented on the night.

The judges include The Northern Echo's business editor Andy Richardson, UTC South Durham principal Tom Dower, South Durham Enterprise Agency business support manager Ian Coull, Business Durham's business development director Sarah Slaven and Kerina Clark, from Aycliffe Business Park steering group.

Each category will be shortlisted down to three or four, with the winners revealed on the night. Tickets for the evening itself have been subsidised price £29.95 each and are available from www.aycliffeawards.co.uk

Council Divided on Devolution Package

Durham County Council Officer Andy Palmer, attended the Town Council meeting last Wednesday to address members on devolution, the subject of a referendum in our county. He started by stating that NECA the North East Combined Authority was not another Council. It is a statutory authority consisting of seven councils in the North East pooling resources to benefit our region.

Co. Durham is the only one of the seven conducting a referendum to assist our County Council in their decision, although the preference will be made by the cabinet and not the whole council.

It was clear from what the officer said and the mood of the Town Council that opinion was divided following the government ruling on the devolution conditions which required the election of a North East Mayor by 2017 with each of the leaders of the seven authorities becoming his or her cabinet with their own portfolios.

Andy Arnold outlined the so-called benefits of devolution which brings a

North East Investment Fund which would hand over Euro money, improve road, air and rail travel, tourism, skills, housing, public services, business development and enterprise zones, with integration of health and social care. There would be £30 million of government money each year for 30 years.

There was much discussion and dissent over the question of government cash when the north is facing bigger cuts than elsewhere. The £30 million offered came nowhere near the money taken from this region in recent cutbacks.

Leader Bob Fleming congratulated Durham on consulting the public but had his doubts on what was proposed. He pointed out that on transport alone the difference spent per head in the north was £22 while in London and the south it was £5,600 per head.

Council. Chandran had no confidence in NECA and devolution as there was no extra money coming north and he wanted to know how much would be left after the office of the Mayor and his cabinet was paid.

Council. Blenkinsopp was more cynical and believed the decision had already been made. However, Council. Adam (County Councillor) assured him the matter had not been discussed or decided by the Labour group. Council. Raw said she had no confidence in the proposal following the results of Manchester where devolution was in a complete mess.

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Knit & Natter

A Knit and Natter group will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church at 1.30-3.00pm on Tuesday 16th February.

All are welcome to come for a chat and a cuppa. Thereafter it will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. E-mail for more details: sheena.stephenson@btinternet.com

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"Dance City" Workshop at Woodham Academy



On Wednesday 15th January 2016, the prestigious dance school, Dance City, delivered a contemporary workshop for Woodham Academy students. The students who are part of the school's own Dance Academy took part in a range of taster sessions at the Dance City studios in Newcastle. The session included exercises that allowed students to perform contemporary pieces while adding their own flare. The students were also

able to show their creative side by choreographing their own short dances to express their personality and individuality. Miss Kent, PE Teacher at Woodham Academy, said: 'Everyone that attended put in an exceptional amount of effort and had an extremely positive attitude. They really were an asset to the school. The high level of skill on the night was evident in the number of students who were invited to extra sessions.'

The Dance City coach leading the session expressed how impressed she was with the work rate and attitude of the students and some students have been included on a list to audition for Dance City's Centre of Advanced Training. Well done to all those who attended: Esther Young, Emily French, Jessica Cherrie, Katie Leadbitter, Jaycee Latue, Georgina Thelwell, Kira Watson, Charlotte Lough and Lisa Robinson.

GAMP Funding Priorities Agreed

Boosting the local economy, providing activities for young people and crime and community safety have been chosen by the people of Newton Aycliffe as their priorities for the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) to address from April 2016 onwards.

More than 800 local people voted on the issues they thought needed the most development in 2016/17. The voting also included young people from both Greenfield and Woodham schools.

A public vote identified the following three areas as priorities, which were later formally agreed by the GAMP Board:

- Activities for young people
 - Crime and community safety
 - Employment, enterprise, education and training
- Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator, said: "We are grateful to the town's residents for setting GAMP and its partners challenging priorities for the forthcoming year. It is now up to the board, task groups and the GAMP team to take these priorities forward throughout 2016 and into 2017."

Cllr Brian Hall, GAMP Chair, said: "Since it was set up in 2009, it's been a busy time for the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership. Through working with its partners we have brought about a great number of projects that have benefited the area."

Over the last couple of years GAMP and its partners have achieved a number of notable successes, these include:

- Supporting over 200 local residents into employment through the flagship Employability and Discretionary fund project managed on GAMP's behalf by Bishop Auckland College;
- Working in partnership with South Durham Enterprise Agency, 41 local residents have been supported into self-employment;
- Since 2015, 42 local community groups have benefitted from GAMP Small Grants Funding;
- Part funded a new 3G Pitch at Greenfield Community College;
- Woodham Village Community Centre now has a new extension to help meet the needs of the local community;
- Working with partners a 'What's on Guide' has been

produced to promote local activities for young people; an Employability Information Network has also been established.

A number of projects are also planned for 2016, these include:

- In partnership with Great Aycliffe Town Council a new Scooter Track will be built at Horndale Park;
- A Buddies Befriending Service will be developed to help engage and support older isolated residents within the GAMP area. This initiative will be delivered in partnership with the Pioneering Care Partnership and Cornforth Partnership;
- Working with Durham Constabulary a 'Mini Police' project will be delivered in some local schools;
- Sponsor a Grown Up project will be delivered to encourage young people and their relatives or carers to participate in free sporting/physical activities along with supporting local sports clubs.

Cllr Brian Hall, GAMP Chairman, said: "The GAMP Partnership continues to go from strength to strength, and I feel we are now established as an asset to the local community, making a real difference in the area. We are always looking for new people to get involved with GAMP." To find out more about GAMP or get involved in its work call Facebook at: Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership-GAMP

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AYCLIFFE TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS

Following an amazing show last year with Aycliffe's Got Talent, Deborah Taylor-Smith and team announce "Star Factor 2016".

All ages and talents are welcome to perform in front of judges and auditions are to be held in Neville Parade Community Centre in Newton Aycliffe County Durham on Sunday 7th of February 12noon - 3pm.

All auditions entries are £2.50 per act. Deborah is working with a wonderful team including Josh McCartin, Judge and co-host Andy Oliver, Judge and singer Wendy Hindmarch, Impersonator and Judge Calum Dunn, with musical theatre star Sam J Scott.

The final will take place also in Neville Parade Community Centre on Saturday 20th of February 2-5pm - tickets are £5 to watch and are on sale now! All proceeds are going to a new charity called "Beyond Limits" whose founders are based in Butterknowle where they will be hosting free holidays for local people struggling with poverty. They are also looking to offer holidays for children from underprivileged families and offering support to families to enable them to get back into employment. If you would like to know more about the auditions and book your slot please call 07771 874391.



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Davys Rock Page Review: "All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock '1 0 1' deliver."
Saturday 13th February - "Wayward Sons"
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The STEAM MACHINE - Newton Aycliffe's own craft brewery - is continuing to make its mark in the world of good beer. Their latest achievement is to be featured

in BrewDog's Newcastle Bar. Nick Smith, one of the brewery's founders said, "We couldn't be happier at the moment. BrewDog is one



Founders Gulen (4th left) and Nick Smith (2nd right)

of the top craft breweries in the UK, and their exclusive bars are famous for only selling the best of the best." STEAM MACHINE was selected from over Sixty Northern breweries to represent the area for a "North East Tap Takeover" along with two other craft breweries from around Newcastle. "On the bar is our NEW AGE BROWN, which has been very popular since its autumn launch, along with SAN FRANCISCAN STEAM - a craft alternative to mass-produced lagers." When asked about the continuing popularity of STEAM MACHINE Nick said: "We are in the very

best craft beer bars of the North East now, including the popular Head Of Steam

group, but we will always be proud that our modern beers are available in some great places locally.

To celebrate our local support we are hosting a pop-up bar event in Aycliffe Village Hall, featuring live music from the Jig Doctors, and local gourmet burgers with all the trimmings. People with tickets will be able sample our beers on craft keg - just like they can in BrewDog."

Those wishing to attend the local event, or other retailers wanting to sell the local product, should contact Nick on 07415 75 99 45 or info@steammachinebrew.com

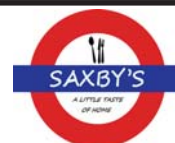
Pancake Lunch and a Movie

Tuesday 9th February is Shrove Tuesday! - No need to sit at home on your own, come along to share a Pancake Lunch at St. Clare's Church from 11.30am in our pancake cafe.

You can enjoy a hot, sweet pancake with toppings AND a cup of tea/coffee for just £2.50. Stay and enjoy the afternoon movie 'Lilies of the Field', a comedy drama starring Sidney Poitier from 1pm, usually £2 or if you are enjoying both events, a reduced price of £4.

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The Inner Wheel Club of Newton Aycliffe have held some successful events recently and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported them.

The Wedding Dress Parade held was a great success, enabling them to donate funds raised to various cancer charities throughout the region as was their coffee morning held this month which supported Parkinson's UK to celebrate World Inner Wheel Day in January.

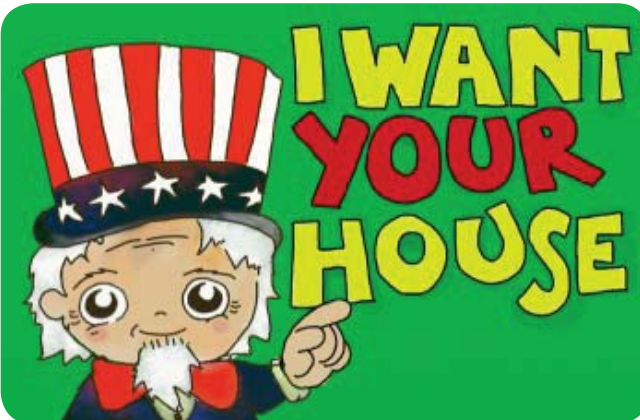
Their regular quiz sheets have proved to be very popular, the latest proceeds were given to the North East Air Ambulance Service, as was the home made ginger wine, the proceeds of which appropriately went to Dorothy's Wells turning wine into water!

Other fundraising events are being organised to continue to support charities wherever possible but, just as importantly, social events are arranged to continue friendship and support within the club.

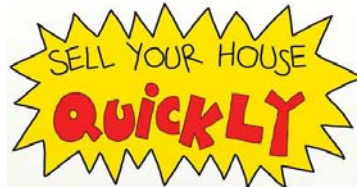
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Handbag Auction at Hall Garth Hotel



The 5th annual Handbag Auction event will be held at Hall Garth Hotel on Friday 26th February and this year will be raising valuable funds for The Great North Air Ambulance.

Handbags have been flying in from generous donors, - old, new, pre-loved and unwanted - all to be auctioned from just £1. The event last year raised just under £2000.

The event is part of a year-long fundraising campaign undertaken by Carrie Wilson and Liz Cook, who are soon to be undertaking their annual fundraising trek, this year across Vietnam and

Cambodia.

Carrie who is Sales Manager at Hall Garth hotel said: "This will be the fifth trek that we will undertake for charity and we are always thinking of new and unusual ways to raise funds. These handbag auctions are hugely successful and a great kick off to our fundraising year. We are still looking for donations of handbags and will gladly collect. Please contact Carrie for further details or to arrange collection of those unwanted bags - sales@hallgarthdarlington.co.uk or 07738 097679.

OUR M.P.'s STANCE ON EURO VOTE QUESTIONED

Dear Sir
Please see e-mail I sent to both Hitachi Rail, Newton Aycliffe and Nissan at Sunderland and the reply received from Hitachi.

I refer to an article in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle in which the MP for Sedgfield, Mr Phil Wilson says "HRE (Hitachi) are here because of our membership of the EU and the access to the single market that allows them to sell to Europe".

Nissan in Sunderland: "Speaking recently, Nissan's Chief Performance Officer, Trevor Mann, hailed Britain as a 'bridgehead to European markets' - that was the reason Sunderland was chosen as the location for the new luxury Infinity Q30 models to be manufactured".

There is an implication by MP Phil Wilson in the above referenced article that the management of Hitachi and Nissan were not aware of the likelihood of a Referendum on Britain's continued membership of the EU when Hitachi chose to locate their Plant in Newton Aycliffe and Nissan chose Sunderland as the location for building the new Infinity Q30 Models.

Please would you advise if this was indeed the case in respect of your Company. Also, please advise if your Company anticipates any downturn in its sales with the rump of the EU, should Britain leave the EU.

Regards,
Alastair Welsh.

Below is the reply received from Hitachi Rail:

Dear Alastair,
Many thanks for your email. We have noted the comments in the Newcastle Chronicle attributed to Phil Wilson MP, which are his own.

A draft EU Referendum Bill was introduced as a Private Members Bill in June 2013, following the PM's speech in January 2013 stating that an EU renegotiation would take place followed by an in-out vote if the Conservative Party was able to secure a majority in 2015.

Hitachi Rail Europe has, therefore, been fully aware of the prospect of an EU referendum. Whatever the outcome of this, our company retains a long-term commitment to manufacturing trains in the UK at its Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility at Newton Aycliffe.

Kindest regards,
Paul Barker.

From the above exchange of e-mails it is clear that the newest and potentially the biggest employer in Phil Wilson's Sedgfield Constituency does not fear a 'Leave Europe' Referendum result. Indeed, they took the possibility into account prior to locating here. It's a pity he chose to misrepresent them!

The International Banks, and Financial Institutions are now allied to The Labour Party and your MP (strange bedfellows) in the fear campaign to get a 'Stay In' vote. Tony Blair did not even want a democratic referendum

on Europe. Remember also, Labour blame the Banks for the financial collapse while the Banks blame Labour. They both can't be right!

Is it not time for us to say "a plague on all your houses" and to exercise our free and democratic right to LEAVE EU and govern ourselves? Those who want us to stay in the EU are the same people and organisations who wanted us to join the Euro.

That has proved to be a disaster that could yet bring down Europe and Britain with it. Current EU member countries want us to stay in the EU, not to benefit us but to try and prop up their failed enterprise.

Alastair P.G. Welsh
Millfields, Aycliffe Village

MP Replies

"The European Union is important to the UK for jobs, prosperity and security. Dozens of Aycliffe businesses on our industrial estate either trade with the EU or supply companies that do. Over 80% of companies in Aycliffe want the UK to stay in the EU.

Over half of the 10,000 jobs employed on the industrial estate are linked to trade with the European Union. I do not want any of this jeopardised. We must remain a member. Membership gives UK business access to the largest market place in the world. Hitachi Rail Europe, which has brought 730 jobs to the town has stated publicly that they want the UK stay in the EU. The company wants to manufacture trains in Aycliffe and export them to Europe creating many more jobs. If we left the European Union that would become harder to do. The same goes for Gestamp, which employs 1300 local people. They know membership is important for jobs and growth.

Those who say we should leave the European Union, now have the moral duty to tell the British people what 'out' looks like. Those campaigning for the UK to leave the EU cannot answer that question. They know what they are against, but not what they are for. I'm not prepared to put at risk the jobs, prosperity and security of the people in Aycliffe and indeed the North East.

In the coming referendum on our membership of the EU I will be voting for the UK to remain a member. Of course the EU needs reform, but we need to be in it to change it. Reform is a process not an event. We need to be outward looking and not pull up the drawbridge on the rest of the world. For our jobs, prosperity and security we need to remain in Europe. Phil Wilson M.P.

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For further information about the Open Evenings, call in to the training centre on Durham Way South, Telephone 01325 313194 or email Kirsty at khaden@swdt.co.uk See ad on Page 8

DEMOLITION OF CUBBY

Durham County Council has given notice that The Cubby is to be demolished, with works expected to commence on 8 February.

The site was an eyesore, and had to be regenerated if Newton Aycliffe is ever going to have a smart, modern town centre. It was a much loved, long-standing Aycliffe institution, so it is good that it managed to relocate to Neville Community Centre.

Air Ambulance in Aycliffe



The Great North Air Ambulance Service was called to Newton Aycliffe at 8:59am on Monday January 25th where a man was suffering from a heart attack.

The 58-year-old was assessed and treated by the GNAAS aircrew before being flown to James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough for further treatment. The flight took eight minutes and he arrived in a serious but stable condition.

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Bewick Crescent Surgery are pleased to announce that from **17 February 2016** an additional nurse-led clinic will run at **Heighington Branch Surgery on Wednesday afternoons.**

Most appointments will be by invitation only, primarily for COPD, CHD and Diabetic review. However, Heighington patients may also pre-book blood tests or blood pressure checks.

Starts: Wednesday 17 February 2016
Time: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

For further information please contact Bewick Crescent Surgery between 8.30am and 5.30pm on 01325 316637.



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WHEN YOU PRESENT THIS VOUCHER

Newtonian Heads Marketing Office at Woodham Academy

Woodham Academy has appointed a Media and Marketing Office to fulfil a new role within the school. The ambitious school recognise that media and marketing is an important aspect in any organisation and that a school is no different. Deputy Headteacher, Danny Morgans said: 'We want to showcase what we have to offer at Woodham; the fantastic facilities and quality of teaching are just some of those things. We understand that we are in a digital age and everything is moving online. We want to keep up with that demand and go above the expectations of our students and parents.'

Interviews for the position took place at the end of last year and Newtonian, Gemma Porter, began her role in December. Previously Events Organiser at livin, Gemma has maintained a community focussed role since graduating from Newcastle Business School with a Marketing degree in 2011, and is keen to continue to build partnerships



within the town.

Gemma also sits on the board of the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, helping to designate funding for a variety of projects and activities taking place. Speaking of her new role, Gemma said: 'I've grown up in Newton Aycliffe, I have an invested interest in the town

not only from the school's perspective but also as a resident.

'Woodham Academy has great vision and ambition and it is an exciting role for the school. I'm looking forward to working on some new initiatives and events as well as introducing fresh communication channels for parents and students.

'If you're a local business or stakeholder and would like to work with the school on a new project or idea, we'd love to hear from you. We're also on Facebook (@WoodhamAcademy) so please take a look at our page for news and events taking place at school.'

Last Chance to Enrol at Aycliffe's New UTC

Things are going well at the UTC with the building work on track for opening in September and over a hundred students signed up to join next year already. They are now recruiting staff and working on programmes for visits, placements and projects. The second deadline for student recruitment is 1st March and the UTC might be a very good opportunity to get a head start to a fantastic career.

This is an exciting opportunity for teenage children from September. UTC South Durham will open on the Aycliffe Business Park and is a technical school set up by Hitachi. Gestamp Tallent and the University of Sunderland. Here's how you can find out more.

See the website at www.utsouthdurham.org where you will be able to find a prospectus, sign up for events and apply for a place. Recruitment for September 2016 for Years 10 and 12 is open now with a deadline of 1st March.

It is important that you understand what UTC offers so come to one of the events; you can sign up via the link <http://www.utsouthdurham.org/news-and-events/events>. If you prefer, you can meet Tom individually during an after-school slot at his office at the Xcel Centre, just over the road from the site, or at a time convenient to you.

Please email Sarah Bishop (Recruitment Manager) at sarah.bishop@sunderland.ac.uk if you would like to make an appointment.

Top Duo at NASSA

On Saturday 27th February at 8pm NASSA is hoping this Duo will have something for everyone. "YEARS GONE BY" are one of, if not the premier duo in the North of England. They bring the very best in hits from the 60's to the 90's, along with audience participation and a sprinkling of real cabaret comedy.

Featuring tributes to Elvis and Freddie, they also include props and costume changes and an excellent light show to deliver classics from the biggest acts to go on stage. The Beatles to Bryan Adams, The Shadows, Meatloaf and many more.

We think this duo will provide a fantastic night's entertainment. Tickets are £4 and are available in advance at NASSA Social Club, The Scout Centre, Bluebell Way Newton Aycliffe. Or if there are any left, on the door.

All proceeds will be going towards the Hall extension to provide separate toilet facilities for users of the hall.

New Restaurant Opens at Moore Lane



Saxby's Restaurant hopes to serve a little taste of home when it opens on the 14th February at the Moore Lane Sports Club. The brainchild of Kathy Young who after 20 years working at PlayDays Nursery decided to take the plunge and become her own boss.

Kathy's experience and qualifications meant that she has had the opportunity to cook for Princes Diana at the Golden Heart awards, and for distinguished guests at Mansion House and the Guild Hall in London.

She is also familiar with cooking at sports grounds having previously worked at some of the London's largest football clubs and The Oval cricket ground.

Kathy has been overwhelmed and is very grateful for the support she has received from family and friends and in particular her niece Donna Sowels who will be working alongside her.

If you are interested in booking a table for Sunday dinner on the 14th please ring the club on 01325 312768 or 07729 727979

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History Talk

Aycliffe Village local history society meets on Wednesday 10th February when Gordon Morris will speak at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall on the 3rd Marquis of Londonderry. All welcome, members £1, non-members £3 includes tea, coffee and biscuits. Further details on 01325 301093.

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church, on TUESDAY 9th FEB, features "LILIES OF THE FIELD". In this film SIDNEY POITIER became the first African-American male ever to win a competitive Oscar. He plays an itinerant handyman driving through the Arizona desert who stops at a run-down farm for water for his car.

The German and Hungarian nuns who run the farm see it differently; he has been sent by God to build them a chapel. What follows makes for a beautiful, gentle Feel-Good-Film. 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 wonderful film in friendly company. Everyone is most welcome. Further info from Ric Hargreaves on 01325 316755.

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:

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Or visit:

www.hughjames.com/cocomp or

www.irwinmitchell.com/cowb



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Compiled by County Councillor John Clare

The bit.ly links are shortened URLs. If you want to know in any more detail about any of these headlines, type them into your internet browser to go to the relevant webpages. Or stay informed by following my blog at bit.ly/JDClare

COUNCIL

- 5pm Monday 8 February is your last chance to vote in the devolution poll. Vote online – for ease, and to save DCC money – here: bit.ly/DevoPollURL
- Take part in the consultation on the proposed changes to DCC's youth services: bit.ly/DCCYouthConsult
- How can residents find out what DCC councillors are deciding? bit.ly/DCCdecides
- What can residents do if they spot a broken streetlamp? bit.ly/DCCBrokelamp
- Half term Leisure Centre offers: bit.ly/DCCNALCFeb16
- Latest roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks29Jan
- Broken streetlights on the A167 reported for replacement: bit.ly/A167Lights
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD310116
- National Voter Registration Drive – deadline to register for May's PCC elections is 18 April: phone 03000 261 212 or register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

COMMUNITY

- PACT drop in session, 2-3pm, Wednesday 10 February at Bluebell Close – crime and anti-social behaviour report, bike-marking, crime prevention advice and free equipment.
- Half-term activities in Aycliffe: bit.ly/DCCHTFeb16
- Advance notice of Healthwatch County Durham's AGM, 5pm, Wednesday 24 February, St Catherine's Centre, Crook, DL15 8NE. Phone 01325 375960 to register.
- Hardwick Park February newsletter: bit.ly/HPFeb16
- UTC South Durham is starting its second round of recruitment for September 2016 for Years 10 and 12 with a deadline of 1 March. See the prospectus, sign up for events and apply for a place at www.utcsouthdurham.org
- Age UK's 'Come Eat Together' Monday Carvery for the over-50s, 12-2pm, Monday 8 February at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. Phone 0191 3746577 to book your place.
- See John Godber's Shafted – a play about the legacy of the Miners' Strike – at the Gala Theatre, 15/16 February. Call the box office on 03000 266 600, or book online at bit.ly/GalaBox

French Style Breathalyser Law Could Save Lives

Following the debate of a Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords on Friday 29th January, which sought to lower the drink-drive limit in England and Wales to the same as Scotland, alcohol safety experts say more lives could be saved with the introduction of a breathalyser law.

In France, where the drink-drive limit has been the same as Scotland's for many years, a legal requirement for all motorists to keep a breathalyser in their vehicle was introduced in 2012. Following its implementation the breathalyser law has made a significant contribution to road safety in France. Figures released last year by France's road safety board the CISR [comité interministériel de sécurité routière] reported an 8% decrease in road deaths in 2013 – just one year after the breathalyser law came into force and the lowest level of fatalities on French roads since 1948.1

In comparison, in 2014 alone alcohol accounted for 5,650 accidents and 8,320 casualties on UK roads and figures for fatalities have remained static since 2010 with an increase in deaths even being recorded between 2012 and 2013.2 Suzannah Robin is an alcohol safety expert at AlcoDigital. She works with corporate and governmental organisations and has helped dozens of local authorities and councils to implement their alcohol testing policies for staff. She said:

"The introduction of a lower drink-drive limit in England and Wales to fall in line with Scotland will save hundreds of lives. However, as results in France have shown, there is the opportunity to save dozens of more lives through the introduction of a similar breathalyser law across the UK."

There is increasing support for drink-drive safety in the UK with the latest AHA (Alcohol Health Alliance) poll revealing that 77% of people would support a reduction in the drink-drive limit.

Sales of breathalysers in the UK to individuals wanting to ensure they are alcohol-free before they drive have also quadrupled since the introduction of the French breathalyser law in 2012 and the reduction in the drink-drive limit in

Scotland in December 2014. Most recently retail giant Tesco introduced single use morning after breathalysers into their UK fuel stations with sales increasing five-fold in the first six weeks of trading revealing that there is a growing understanding amongst drivers of the devastating effects that drink-driving can have on lives.

Suzannah added: "We wholeheartedly support a reduction in the drink-drive limit in England & Wales however more needs to be done to address issues such as drivers who are unaware that they may still not be safe to drive the morning after drinking. We would actively encourage a debate on introducing a breathalyser law to the UK so that even more lives can be saved."

For AlcoDigital, please visit www.alcodigital.co.uk

Baby Briannah Dies Peacefully at Home

We are sad to inform readers of the death of Briannah Rae Watson who died peacefully at home in her Mammy's arms on Friday 29th of January. The Funeral was held today at St Clare's Church followed by burial at Stephenson Way Cemetery.

Rachel would like to thank the nurses from Bishop Auckland Hospital, Maria Cooke, Lindsey Soakeld, Debbie Mattison, Shelly Rowell, Sue Lewis and Doctor Sue Haves for their support over the last year with Briannah's care.

Rachel thanks all those who have supported her, and sent messages of sympathy.

Briannah was born on the 25th of March 2015 following many difficulties through her mother Rachel's pregnancy. She was born by emergency section eight weeks early when her heart rate dropped. She was in the Special Care Baby Unit at Darlington Hospital for three weeks



before being allowed home, a perfect, beautiful girl.

32 hours later, however, she stopped breathing and was 'blue lighted' back to Darlington Hospital and placed on Continuous Airway equipment. Briannah worsened over the next two hours and was then ventilated and transferred to James Cook Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

At that point no one had a clue what had gone wrong. At James Cook Hospital Briannah had to be resuscitated three times and her brain was starved of oxygen, but the hospital staff saved the baby girl.

They turned the machine off and amazingly Briannah began to breathe on her own! Briannah had Group B Strep, secondary to meningitis, cerebral palsy, brain damage and epilepsy.

Briannah was fed through a Nasogastric tube and was expected to only have days or weeks left to live but survived almost a year.

Rachel has shown immense courage throughout her ordeal and insisted her baby would live at home until she died. She has raised money for the hospital that saved her daughter's life and hopes that Briannah's condition will be detected earlier in other babies.

Tips from Local Artist at Club Painting Session



The Hub of Wishes (formerly MIND) is an independently run mental health charity based in Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place.

We have recently begun art therapy sessions on a Monday afternoons from 1-3pm with a small charge of £1.50. We had a guest speaker this Monday, Stephen Bainbridge, a local artist for 40 years, and we would like to thank him for giving us his time and professional tips on art.

We offer many activities Monday – Thursday including: Lunch Club, Bingo, Walking Group,

Gardening group, Healthy eating and weight management, alternative therapies, bus trips and smoking cessation.

Starting on the 7th March we are launching a basic computer course – teaching internet access, emails and basic computer skills.

Everybody is welcome to attend and operate an open door policy. We are based at 10-11 Silverdale House, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DZ. Telephone no: 01325 300121. Email: thehubofwishes@gmail.com.

You can visit our website at <http://www.thehubofwishes.co.uk/>

TEARAWAYS ROCK

Local theatre group The Tearaways have not only increased their membership age limit from 11 to 19 years, to 11 to 25 years, but are embarking on a whole new venture when they present their musical adaptation of the musical / film "Rock of Ages".

A spokesperson said "This rock musical is something that the young people have voted for and are up and ready for auditions in the next week or so.

A lot of people may not know the musical, but will certainly know a lot of the music in it. Don't Stop Believing, The Final Countdown, Here I Go Again, We Built This City, I Want To Know What Love Is and many more.

Young people, aged between 11 years and 25 years, who would like to take part in this production either Singing, Dancing or Acting should contact myself as soon as possible please". For more information ring 07747 826324

Valentine's Day

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specialist women's and offender services." Paul Townsley, Chief Executive of DISC - Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities - said the merger would benefit existing service users and create the potential to help more people. He said: "To fully achieve the strategic ambitions of both organisations and whilst in a strong position, it was felt a good time to merge." The organisations have worked with funders of the services to ensure their views were fully considered in the plans, and consultations are on-going with affected staff. Both charities have been working since the mid-1980s to provide services for the vulnerable and disadvantaged in local communities. DISC currently employs 450 staff from its headquarters in County Durham, and in service provision across the North East, Yorkshire, the Humber and the North West. Services include those for children and young people, LGBT support, housing services, offender rehabilitation and drug and alcohol misuse programmes. The Cambridge Centre has a twenty nine year history of providing high quality drug, alcohol, women's and offender services to the community within North Yorkshire.

The Tanning Shop with an upstairs sewing business at Simpasture gate shops suffered a break in during the early hours of Monday morning this week.

The burglars first broke away an iron bar gate covering the back door before using a jemmy to gain entry to the shop premises.

Once inside they stole the £70 float from the till, valuable face creams and other cosmetic items, but then the heartless thieves took charity sweet money and three collection boxes on the counter.

Andrew and Karen, the owners, are disgusted the heartless thieves would steal charity money.

The damage to the property is estimated at £600 and the total value of goods stolen amounts to approximately £200

The Police are investigating after taking fingerprints, and foot prints made by trainers. Anyone who can help the Police are asked to contact the Police on 101.

interactive group. ACORN are often found to be leading the way with protests and campaigning, also many of our members take part in training sessions such as first aid, food handling, governance and trusteeship. ACORN are a very proactive group with events such as Easter egg hunts, Petting Zoo, animal inspired fun days, and parties for Halloween etc., already being planned for this year. ACORN also arrange outings to educational establishments and seaside trips throughout the year. ACORN events and outings are often featured on our Facebook page

We welcome new members to come along and get involved with our activities that are helping to build a more inclusive community.

Ken Robson - 01325 321471

ACORN Residents are supported by the Big Lottery fund



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We have lined up some special guests for the first four playgroup sessions, these introductory sessions will be free with a small charge being made for refreshments. There is also a special jungle crafts workshop during the half term (additional charge and open to all).

We will be welcoming Melissa Lane and her Rhyme Time Music and Dance class on 5th Feb, then Dot & Zooky will bring us some circus skills the following week. After half term we welcome Rock Totz on 26th Feb followed by Joanne Weston with her Step in to Story time class.

If you are interested or need more information you can contact Sam on 07710 478583 or find details at Facebook. [com/BraffertonVHA](https://www.facebook.com/BraffertonVHA)

We have a full schedule of activities during half term, to be announced next week, or can be viewed on Facebook

Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 13th February from 11am - 12 noon.

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

Strong Public Support for Increase in Police Budget

A proposal to apply a small increase to the police element (precept) of Council Tax has been supported by the Durham Police and Crime Panel, at the Panel's meeting earlier today. As a consequence the precept will rise by 1.98% from April, equivalent to 4p a week for households in Council Tax Band A.

Ron Hogg, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner, sought views from residents about the proposed precept increase, as part of his annual consultation, at events in shopping centres and community meetings, online

and by telephone throughout January. Residents from across all twelve neighbourhood policing teams gave their views, spanning age groups from 18 - 75 + years. From the 332 valid responses to the consultation, over 84 per cent were in favour of Mr Hogg's proposal to increase the precept by 1.98 per cent from April 2016 (an increase of 6 pence per week for a Band D property).

Mr Hogg said: "Despite the fact that there will be a small increase in Council Tax there is a decrease in Government grants that must be managed

carefully. I remain committed to ensuring the police have the resources they need to ensure the public receive the police service they deserve. This small increase will maintain at least ten Police Officers in post."

"I am very conscious of the challenge that people face in terms of their household finances. The Panel today agreed that there was a clear public endorsement to the increase, from the residents who had taken the time to give me their views. Their support has convinced me that introducing the increase from 1 April 2016 is the right thing to do."

Cllr Joy Allen, Chair of the Panel said: "These are very challenging financial times as policing budgets continue to be squeezed. Public opinion is extremely valuable in shaping the proposed plans to maintain an efficient and effective police service that meets the needs of our local communities. Therefore I am pleased to hear that the Constabulary are proposing to recruit additional PCSOs later this year."

Mr Hogg continues to monitor the work Durham Constabulary has undertaken to increase value for money and to protect community policing.

New General Manager at Hall Garth Hotel

Michael Livingstone-Evans MIH is proud to be appointed the new General Manager of Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club.

He is originally from North Yorkshire and after leaving Scorton Grammar School followed Norman Tebbit's famous 1970's advice and "got on his bike."

A Swallow Hotel's management development

programme took him first to Scotland then throughout the country in their well-regarded hotels.

A sign of the times was that he was referred to as Mr. from the age of 21 onwards, a fact his parents could never comprehend. This culminated with him becoming Swallow's youngest GM. He was so young he felt obliged to grow

the mandatory moustache to gain credibility.

Hotels have taken him all around the UK and saw him mainly with Swallow & S&N Hotels with whom he racked up 30 years of service.

A career hotelier who has lived in 9 counties he has worked extensively in commercial and leisure businesses. The late 90's saw a conscious decision to move back north and this appointment confirms his commitment to this part of the world. He is married to a hotel general manager and has two grown children.

North of England Estates have invested heavily in the hotel, and continue to do so, since their takeover of the property in 2013. Under the skilful management of the outgoing GM Pam Mooney, the hotel now sits



in a very good position in the marketplace. Michael sees his role of carrying on the good work. Michael is an avid follower of sport, usually of teams who fail to win! This is in complete contrast to the team he has joined as they are winners.

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MINDFUL THINKING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Greenfield Arts have been hosting Yoga for Young People since May 2015 as a result of a small grants bid, from GAMP AAP, by our Engineheads earlier in the year, as the group found it was something that isn't currently offered to local young people and is a great way to increase positive well-being, increase flexibility and reduce stress.

They decided Dru yoga was the best style for this particular project as it is suitable for all abilities and ages. It works on mind, body and spirit; improving strength and flexibility, building a heightened feeling of positivity, and deeply relaxing and rejuvenating the whole body. It is a great way to decrease stress for young people and help them find an alternative outlet.

Young people reported to be feeling less stressed and this year they have even devised their own sessions to see how else it can benefit them. They have had tasters in lessons and they have led assemblies for others to try yoga too. One student said "I feel really relaxed and calm when I come out of a yoga class."

Complementing our programme developing well-being and resilience we have been one of the first schools, as part of the living mindfully mindfulness schools programme, to deliver Mindfulness for young people. The young people have developed a greater self-awareness and therefore greater choice to respond rather than react to whatever life or school throws at them. We are delighted with the results of these two programmes as well as our Youth Cree project which has supported young people to cope with difficulties and enjoy the positive moments. We are developing and extending this work with Woodham Academy.

Yoga is on offer to young people from across the area from 11 + and will continue at Greenfield Arts until Wednesday 16th March 2016. Blankets and mats will be provided by the centre. No experience necessary.

Contact us to book a place at info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or call us on 01325 379048.

Roadworks Information

• On Travellers Green the road closure for a sewer installation continues

• 8-20 February, on the A1(M) at Junction 60 (Bradbury) there will be road closure / lane closure as required (8:00pm-6:00am) for roundabout resurfacing and A1(M)/A689 approaches

• 15-26 February, on the A689 east of Rushyford roundabout, there will be 2 way lights (9:30am - 3:30pm), as required to manage deliveries for the Pumping station upgrade

• 5-6 March, on the A1M between junctions 58 and 59 (Burtree to Coatham Mundeville), there will be overnight closures and diversions for motorway maintenance.

• 6 March, on St Cuthberts Way, Durham Way North

and Redworth Way, Aycliffe Business Park, there will be 4-way lights for cable maintenance.

• 21-23 March, on the A1(M) between junctions 59 and 60 (Coatham Mundeville to Bradbury) there will be a road closure (northbound, 8pm to 6am) for patching

• April - October, on the A167 between Junction 59 and the B6444, there will be traffic management as required for construction of a new junction

• Throughout the Sedgefield area there will be traffic management as required for minor maintenance and patching works.

You can now check up on roadworks throughout the county on this new webpage: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/roadworks>

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Secret Honeymoon



Michael Holton will marry Marie Morton at Derwent Manor Hotel on the Saturday 6th February 2016.

Mike teaches computer games design at Teesside University and is also Manager of Durham Spartans Baseball Club based in Aycliffe.

Marie, formerly in media sales and awarded sales person of the year in Scotland, is now working towards a new career (with Michael) as a foster parent.

The Best Man is Joshua Holton with Maiden of Honour Ashton Morton. Ushers will be Jacob and Ethan Holton. The couple will leave for a Secret Honeymoon destination and will return to begin their married life in School Aycliffe.

Learn Circus Skills at Half Term



Dot and Zooky will be teaching Circus Skills throughout the Half Term at Brafferton Village Hall. on Tuesdays There will be two sessions: 10am-12noon for ages 4-7 (infant age) and 1pm -3pm. for ages 8+ . Sessions will cost £4 per child. Names are being taken to keep track of numbers and to put your child's name down please call 07772 893211 or find us on FB at Facebook.com/DotandZooky.

The local Circus Performers who have recently set up classes to teach children Circus Skills went into St. Joseph's School to help promote Half Term activity at Brafferton Village Hall. Children are taught how to use Diabolo, Hula Hoops, Spinning Plates, Chinese Ribbons and juggling. To find out more on what is on offer for Birthday's or event's check Facebook.com/dotandzooky or call 07772 893211

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's Have Wind Farms

Dear Sir,
I am disappointed, but not surprised, to see this paper and our MP have both taken a line against investment in the region simply because that investment happens to be wind power.

Renewable energy is marked as one of the growth industries of the 21st century. Renewable energy investment has increased six-fold globally since 2004, and present analysis indicates that growth trend shows no signs of stopping. However, the word from our MP is that Co Durham has "done its share" of being involved in that growth. I wonder what other growth industries Mr Wilson would consider us to have "enough" of, such that we don't want any more investment in Co Durham, thank you very much?

With the North East suffering from low wages and high unemployment what use is a local leadership so unimaginative and lacking in drive that they would work against internal investment in the region because of the aesthetic concerns of a few middle class but noisy inhabitants?

Rather than moan about wind farms and indulge the concerns of astro-turf pro fossil fuel campaigns, why is our MP not looking to take Durham's position as a

current leader in wind farms and leverage that into further investment, jobs and growth? Let's install them. Let's go further and build them here. Let's export them to other people who want to install them. Let's get involved with an industry that Bloomberg forecasts will have £8.5 TRILLION invested in it over the next 25 years, rather than protest against windfarms because some people don't think they look pretty enough. That presumed ugliness is to beg the question in any event. Are they more disruptive to the landscape than a cooling tower or a smokestack? Are they more dangerous than fracking for gas? Even if they were monstrosities, which they palpably are not, they still wouldn't be as ugly as the county's unacceptable unemployment rate and its declining real wages.

We need local leadership with the imagination and vision to see what the industry of the future will look like. At present all our local grandees seem able to do is look fondly to the past and loudly complain because the future frightens them. Nostalgia is a pleasant evening's entertainment in the pub, but it's no basis for a system of government.

Kathryn Beetham
Phil Roberts
Newton Aycliffe Green Party

SPARTANS RECEIVE 2016 CALOR SPONSORSHIP

Newton Aycliffe, County Durham- 3rd February 2016

The County Durham Spartans Baseball Club are very pleased to announce the continuing support of Calor into the 2016 season as their primary home shirt sponsor, echoing the successful partnership formed last year for the 2015 season.

Calor, the leading UK supplier of LPG offers a range of energy solutions to domestic & business properties, including the Daikin altherma hybrid heat pump which is up to 35% more efficient than a gas condensing boiler and is also eligible for the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (RHI), which could generate payments in excess of £600 per annum, for 7 years. Please visit www.calor.co.uk for more details. Formed in 2011, the Durham Spartans (formerly Newton Aycliffe Spartans) have been competing in the British Baseball Federation's AA league (north division) since 2012 and are still the only North East club competing. The Spartans have developed a brand new website for this season; www.durhamspartans.co.uk which is regularly updated with photos, team news, training & game schedules, game reports, contact info and much more.

Durham Spartans are members of the British



Baseball Federation. 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.

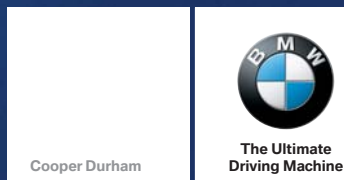
Although not officially confirmed yet, it is likely the Spartans will welcome Hull Scorpions in the season opener on April 10th at their home diamond in Shildon, County Durham. Please visit the website for updates & directions.

Adult training takes place on Tuesday evenings (indoors during the winter) from 7-9 at Woodham Academy, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham (Juniors beforehand from 6-7), and on Sunday's during the off season at their home field (weather permitting). All are welcome to come and give baseball a try. For more details and information, please go to www.durhamspartans.co.uk

Secret Donor

Burnhill Way Ladies Group. received a visit from the Secret Millionaire to present their cheque last Thursday. Although no publicity was required we would like to record our thanks in the Newton News. Margaret Scott

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Boot Camp Exercise Class



Boot Camp instructor Stuart Furlonger has opened a new exercise class at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. Want to get fit? Looking to lose weight, build body strength all whilst enjoying friendly, fun atmosphere. If the answer to the above is yes then this new exercise class may just be for you. Kettlebell Training will start at 6:30pm – 7pm every Monday evening and is the

exercise class that burns calories and melts fat fast! It will be first come first served as there are only a limited number of kettlebells. If you have your own then you've got a place. Quick warm up and we launch into 30 minutes of swings, squats, presses, targeting the whole body. Kettlebell Training will be followed by Stuart's regular Boot Camp at 7:15pm – 8:15pm every Monday

evening. The Boot Camp classes are based around simple but effective training ideas. Using bodyweight exercises to provide a workout that can burn up to 800k calories in one hour. Pay as you go - Local - No joining fees - The right kind of workout promises results - Meet new friends and lose weight. £3 for Kettlebells workout and £3 for Boot Camp or £5 for both.

AYCLIFFE F.C. WEMBLEY DREAM ENDS AT CAMBERLEY



Newton Aycliffe's Wembley dream came to an abrupt end with a comprehensive 5-0 defeat at Camberley Town on Saturday. Aycliffe made the 550 mile round trip to Surrey with high hopes of being able to progress to the Quarter Finals of the FA Vase. However, a very below par Aycliffe side proved no match for the Combined Counties team.

Aycliffe were playing a last 16 tie in the FA Vase for the first time in their history & were delighted to see how many loyal fans had made the long trip south. Not many among the 460 strong crowd could have predicted the final score & certainly for most of the first half Aycliffe held their own.

Indeed, Aycliffe came quickest out of the blocks with Matty Moffat latching onto a long ball in the first minute. Unfortunately his shot was blocked. The visitors continued to apply pressure with Dennis Knight & Stuart Banks both causing difficulties in the first ten minutes.

Camberley soon fought back with a move down the right leading to a cross which was cleared by Dan Mitton. That was followed by an inswinging corner which was punched clear by James Winter. Further pressure came from Camberley centre half Chris Ellis, a long throw-in specialist, who caused problems for Aycliffe at every opportunity. With five minutes to go before half time Camberley

got the breakthrough. Perry Coles just beating Winter to the ball which looped over the keeper & into the net. The home side doubled their lead within two minutes of the second half kicking off. A ball from midfield was played out to the left with Rob Lazarczuk firing past Winter. Aycliffe tried to battle back with shots from Banks & Knight but neither could beat the Camberley keeper.

The third goal came after 54 minutes with Coles bagging his second from a rebound after Winter had made an excellent diving save from an initial shot. If that was not enough to put the game beyond doubt a red card for Ashley Coffey with 15 minutes to go sealed Aycliffe's fate. Camberley weren't finished though with two more goals in the last ten minutes. Both came from corners. The first was a header from substitute James Hubbard & then with five minutes to go Lazarczuk scored his second direct from a corner.

This loss was a massive disappointment for Aycliffe who had played so well in the earlier rounds of the competition. However, there were no complaints & Camberley thoroughly deserved to progress on the day. On reflection though we must congratulate the team on achieving the best runs the club has had in its 50 year history in both the FA Cup and FA Vase. The team must immediately pick itself up & visit

Washington in the Quarter Finals of the Durham Challenge Cup on Tuesday 2 February. That game will be followed by a return to Northern League action with Jarrow Roofing visiting Moore Lane Park on Saturday 6 February. Aycliffe remain 7th in Division One despite having games in hand on teams above them. Kick off Saturday 3:00pm with admission £6 adults, £4 concessions & under 12s free if accompanied by an adult. The cup runs and bad

weather has resulted in a fixture backlog meaning that Aycliffe will now need to play twice a week for the rest of the season. Full details of fixtures are available at www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Marie Curie Charity Thanks

Dear Sir,
May I, through the Newton News, say thank you to the staff and customers of Tesco Extra in Newton Aycliffe for their warm welcome when I recently held a recruitment stand for Marie Curie volunteers in the store. As part of my ambition to set up a Marie Curie Fundraising Group in the Town it was excellent to see how many people were keen and enthusiastic to support the charity and raise vital funds.

It's a very exciting time for Marie Curie, especially in the run up to our 30th Great Daffodil Appeal and if anyone would like more information on how they can get involved, I would love to hear from them.

Hayley Revell
Community Fundraiser
Marie Curie, 0191 219 1242
hayley.revell@mariecurie.org.uk

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Aycliffe Fish Firm Sponsors Hartlepool Swimming Club



Aycliffe-based Collins Seafoods has agreed a splashing sponsorship deal with Hartlepool Swimming Club. The UK's top Frozen At Sea Fish supplier has pledged to support the local club with brand new swimming kit for the children. Collins will also be helping with marketing and PR support, which includes the redesign of its website and overall promotion of HSC - highlighting news and success stories. It will also ensure the swimming club receives help with its social media accounts from

Darlington-based agency, Harvey & Hugo. Collins Seafoods has always prided itself on being involved with the local community and supporting local clubs in as many ways as possible. Owner, Richard Collins, knows all too well about how important it can be to receive help along the way to achieving your dreams. He founded Collins Seafoods on his own in 1980 and through hard work, and a little help, has seen his company grow into a multimillion pound business. Richard - whose children used to compete as part of the swimming club - said: "When I was starting my business, I was given a helping hand and I really appreciated it, so I know how important it is to give back and help the local community.

"The swimmers at the club are very talented, dedicated and motivated and this is why I'm so proud to be part of this sponsorship deal, which will help them in their swimming careers. "I strongly believe that lack of funding should never stop anyone from accomplishing their dreams." Hartlepool Swimming Club has served the local area for over 90 years and has produced several Olympic athletes, including current Olympian, Gemma Lowe. The club continues to train talented swimmers with some of the current squad hoping to make it to the 2020 Olympics - which will

also be the club's 100th year anniversary. Head coach for HSC, Ian Bullock, is very honoured that Collins Seafoods has chosen to help the club out in such an important way. He said: "It means a great deal, not only to myself and the swimmers, but the club as a whole to have this fantastic sponsorship from such a distinguished company. "What makes the deal even more perfect is that fish, such as cod, is an essential element of a swimmer's diet because the valuable protein it provides can help the body to repair muscle damage and it's also great for replenishing your energy." For more information about Collins Seafoods, please visit: <http://collinsseafoods.co.uk/> Twitter: @collinsseafoods

RESIDENTS MEETING

Williamfield Residents' Association will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 10th February at 6pm in Silverdale House. Our new Town Councillor Ken Robson will be present along with LIVIN. Cllr Robson has promised to help us to bring this area to a pleasant tidy place for all the people to enjoy. He has spent many hours walking round and talking to residents. We have a lot of good residents in this area, but it is spoilt by just a few who don't care. We hope you will attend. For more details please ring Dorothy Bowman on 01325 308094

AYCLIFFE RUFC IN DOMINANT MOOD

This week's home game saw 1st XV entertain West Hartlepool Technical Day School Old Boys (to give them their full title) at Moore Lane. A cold and bitterly strong wind blew for the full game and the playing surface was heavy underfoot. Another large home crowd attended hoping for the First XV to put on a display of attacking rugby and for the boys to continue their unbeaten run in the league.

Aycliffe took charge of the game from the kick off and within minutes took the lead through an Adam Gascoigne try Centre James Thacker crossed the line twice in a short period of time. More tries followed first by Matty Wiper wing forward turned winger and then captain and number 8 Andrew Littlefair. Luke Tinkler who took over the kicking duties from the Welsh wizard James Cocks at the request of both players and spectators alike converted three out of the five conversions on offer. All in all though the first half was totally dominated by a really strong Aycliffe side. In defence NARUFC are really hitting big and hard so much so that TDSOB felt the need to kick away most of their possession as breaking through Aycliffe's defence line was never going to happen. Aycliffe's small and relatively mobile front row consisting of Mark Affleck, Jamie Whelan and Ryan Milford who were much lighter than their opponents held their own and won several balls against the head. The First's scrummage looked really solid and many

great first phase opportunities arose from this new found strength. Lineouts as usual created plenty of good ball to run at the TDSOB back line. Rucks and Mauls all worked well, Aycliffe's ability to judge how many players to commit to each individual situation improving week by week these difficult departments have seen massive improvement as the season goes on. Half time 31-0

The second half was very much the same as the first. Niall Kelly and Neil Morgan in the second row, where again very dominant in the rucks and mauls and covered all of ground working tirelessly. Veterans John Whitehouse and Warren Parsonage both gave a whole hearted performance in both attack and defence despite their combined ages reaching the nineties. Adam Gascoigne scored soon after the kick off Dom Ridley followed up a try soon after, Adam then went on to complete his hat trick of tries. Wing forward Shaun

Tomlinson scored the ninth try of the game and his first for the club, Luke Tinkler kicked two out of the four second half conversions. The two veterans were replaced by Paul O'Donnell and Ben Walton who both got to grips

with the game quickly and continued with the high work rate of the team. Final score 55-0 Next week the 1st XV are again home hosting bottom of the league side Jarrovians kick off 2.15pm

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Aycliffe FC Return to Form with Cup Win

Newton Aycliffe quickly picked themselves up from Saturday's FA Vase disappointment with a win at Washington in the Durham Challenge Cup.

Aycliffe immediately returned to form earning a place in the semi-final of the County Cup competition. Both sides were recovering from heavy defeats at the weekend Aycliffe having conceded 5 & Washington 7. However it took almost half an hour before the sparse crowd saw the first goal of the

game. It was worth waiting for with Mark Davison unleashing a fine shot into the top corner giving Lewis Brass in the Aycliffe goal no chance.

Aycliffe came close to equalising with 37 mins gone. John Campbell ran on to a ball played over the defence. The Washington keeper raced out of the box & handled the ball. The referee awarded a free kick but to the surprise of most waved only a yellow card.

The visitors came out in positive mood for the second half & caused more problems for the Washington defence. However the pressure didn't take effect until the 69th minute. Zak Boagey's dribble into the box was ended with a trip. The referee pointed to the penalty spot & Campbell converted with ease.

A few minutes later, Campbell was in action again providing an excellent cross which Ashley Coffey headed wide from close range. With 4 minutes to go Boagey grabbed the winner as the defence failed to clear a cross. The ball fell to the Aycliffe player who fired home.

Aycliffe now return to league action at Moore Lane on Saturday 6 February. Kick off is 3pm. Admission £6 adults, £4 concessions. Accompanied under 12s free.

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E.ON STATEMENT ON WIND FARM PROJECT

After careful consideration E.ON has made the decision not to progress with the proposed Newton Wind Farm project near Newton Aycliffe.

During a detailed review of the project a number of long standing environmental and technical issues have been re-assessed. These include the long-standing objection from the Ministry of Defence, the high level of bird activity on the site, investor uncertainty and changes to Planning Law.

The combination of these issues has resulted in E.ON's decision to withdraw from the project.

While onshore wind remains one of the cheapest low carbon technologies available, the Isles Wind Farm project, located approximately 1.5 km east of Newton Aycliffe and 12km north of Darlington, has been affected by a number of objections, since it was submitted to Durham County Council in April 2013 and is no longer technically or economically viable.

E.ON continues to invest in onshore wind and believes it has an important role to play in meeting the UK's 2020 renewable targets.

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GACAP EXPANDS AND SHOWS ITS WORTH

Dear Editor,
Wow! I am blown away, and privileged to be secretary of GACAP (Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership), who held their first meeting of the new year at DISC next to the Blue Bridge this week. In February last year 2015

seven partners met together and then on Monday 1st February 2016, 22 partners met to share the progress being made by the partnership, formed to help those on our town who are in need of assistance. Three new partners joined the throng, working

together to signpost people to different partners who were able to deal with people's needs. A call for assistance was made for a recently bereaved family who had found themselves not only in mourning, but also in desperate need.

A rally to arms had partners offering support from several groups showing the true purpose of GACAP. What is my point Mr Editor? Well it is this, the people of Newton Aycliffe are most generous and not only do they have their own needs, they are still drawn to meet the needs of others. Well done the people of our town. If you are in need of help contact: secretary. gacap@gmail.com

Anyone interested in joining GACAP all you need to do is turn up at the next meeting at 4pm on 7th March at DISC Offices by the Blue Bridge. The meeting will be an ideal forum for new members to come to the meeting as we will be holding a networking event giving all partners the opportunity to share experiences and marketing literature and help all know what other partners can bring to GACAP.

If you want any further information email gacap001@gmail.com or telephone 07597 915378. Joan Clark Secretary GACAP

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NAYFC MATCH REPORTS

The Under 16s entertained TIBS Yellow's and scored a goal within the first 5 minutes. The rest of the first half was close with not too many clear chances. Second half saw the boys start strong and score another 2 goals with TIBS getting one back with 20 minutes to go. Final score was a 3-1 win with goals from Daniel Hewitt 2 and Harry Fisher.

Under 12 Falcons travelled to Coulby Newham and applied themselves very well, pressing high and playing at a good tempo. Declan Scott, Kieran Gillham and Joseph Birchall made it 3-0 at halftime. Second half saw further goals from Kieran Gillham, Jacob Race and a fine team goal finished off by Joseph Birchall. 2-6 final score.

Under 16 Falcons were away at local rivals Ferryhill and soon found themselves 2-0 down. Cameron Copland reduced the arrears, 2-1 at half time. Ferryhill added a third and fourth before being awarded a very soft goal for 5-1. The boys then created 3 or 4 very good chances grazing the post twice. Ferryhill added a late 6th goal.

U13 Eagles v U13 Falcons local derby!. The Falcons started strong but the Eagles defended well with Ellis controlling his defence. We then went one goal down but heads stayed up and continued to battle hard defending and attacking and we got a well-deserved equaliser before half time. Second half saw Liam get on the score sheet with a lovely cross from Baileigh and Tyler heading the ball in the back of net, but the falcons didn't give up and continued battling with good shots on goal with lovely saves from Owen Baker who knocked his 2nd goal in and 4-1 was the final score. Great all round team performance with all playing their part. Another bad day at the office for the Under 11 Eagles as they lost 3-2, but should have won 9-4 on clear chances alone. Onwards and

upwards.

The weekend game saw the Under 10s visit the Allstars at Darlington. Just before half time Allstars netted via an awkward corner then the second half was dominated by the boys and showed the Allstars how football is played. Our usual problem again - we just couldn't get it in the back of the net. Final score 1-0. Well done boys. MOTM: Charlie.

Second game against the Allstars was much the same, very exciting and some fantastic performances from a couple of our new players William in goal and Archie on the right wing, both great prospects for the future. The game ended score 2-2. Breathless stuff.

Under 12 Eagles 2-4 Normanby Utd Oranges. The Eagles were fantastic and gave their all without any substitutes. Goals by Kian Cook and Joe Halford as they led 2-1 at the break. Second half the Eagles were tiring and gave away their lead following 2 penalties scored. The last Normanby goal was a good goal but on the run of play, we certainly deserved a share if not all the points. The boys played

some really good football and even the opposition manager said his team were very lucky.

Under 7 Eagles were in action in the Russell Foster Mini League. Excellent team performance from Will the captain, Edwin, Aaron, Jack, Trystan and Adam. All the team put into practice their defensive training session on Thursday evening with great results on how our kids are developing. Back to our winning way with a 3-0 victory over a very good Easington team. Goals from Will 2 Adam 1. Keep up the good work.

Under 11 Girls v Bishop Auckland, local rivals and unbeaten baggies were first up, only Aycliffe have taken points with an early season draw. Kate and Hattie were the scorers in a well deserved 2-1 win.

Next up Velocity Devils, the wind spoilt any rhythm Aycliffe attempted to get into, but a Kate double secured the points - FT 2-0. The season finished for Aycliffe having played 24 games, won 21, drew 2 and lost 1, scoring a fantastic 160 goals. A huge well done to every player.

JOIN THE DRIVE AND REGISTER TO VOTE

Durham County Council wants to encourage anyone not yet registered to vote, to take advantage of National Voter Registration Drive this week and go online now to register. On Thursday 5 May 2016 voters will go to the polls to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham. Anyone who isn't registered to vote won't be able to take part and have their say. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Monday 18 April 2016. Whilst there is still time, it's running out quickly. The good news is that it

only takes a few minutes to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. It's a chance to join the thousands of people across the UK being encouraged to register this week.

Durham County Council is running a number of activities this week to encourage residents to register. These include registration drives for students at Durham University on Wednesday 3 February and Friday 5 February, and politics workshops for A-Level students at Consett Academy on Thursday 4 February.

Colette Longbottom, electoral registration officer for Durham County Council, said: "Anyone not yet registered to vote should do so as soon as possible so they can have their say on issues that affect their day-to-day lives. I'd urge people living in County Durham to use National Voter Registration Drive to spread the message amongst family and friends that it only takes a few minutes to complete the form and register to vote online." Ben Brook, head of performance and English regional teams at the Electoral Commission, said: "National Voter Registration Drive exists because it's important that anyone who's eligible, but has not yet registered to vote, does so. It's easy and quick to do online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Young people, students and people who move frequently are much less likely to be registered to vote so #NVRD is as important as ever." Local residents can get a paper copy of the registration form by contacting the electoral registration office on 03000 261 212.

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Removal of Street Lights on C35 Middridge Road

Dear Sir
I can appreciate the County Council has to make cut-backs due to the decrease in Government funding however, it does worry me that public safety seems to be very much side-lined in their decision making when to my mind other cut-backs should come first.

For example, in these days when the majority of people can access the DCC website for Council services via telephone, tablet, computer or in the library (if they still have one) why are we still receiving booklets on a regular basis giving us this already readily accessible information? The latest booklet to arrive by post yesterday, Your Guide to Council Services 2016, informs us that they have produced three different versions of the guide for different areas of the County. They said they were going to cut back on these booklets some time ago but that doesn't appear to be the case. There are no adverts in the booklet to offset costs so it must be fully funded by DCC.

The Durham Devolution Survey is, according to the DCC website, costing between £200,000.00 and £230,000.00, haven't we been down this road before? Doubtless it looks good giving residents a say however, will they take any notice of the results at the end of this expensive exercise? The majority of the electorate when they voted on whether to change to one large Unitary Authority, which in our case meant getting rid of Sedgfield District Council, said they did not want one big unitary Council it would be too remote etc. etc. The public voice was ignored they went ahead and we have yet to see an explanation of how they are using the supposed millions of pounds of savings. Decisions are made on many occasions by Councillors who do not know our area so what chance do we have for sensible decision making if Councillors from as far afield as Newcastle, Sunderland and

Alnwick are making decisions affecting a town they probably have no real knowledge of and have probably never even been here? Should the consultation be ignored this time, if there is a no vote, it is yet another great waste of public money. If they have to cut back on street lighting why not start with the Durham City Lumiere? We have now had four of these admittedly spectacular events. They have been commissioned by DCC and SUPPORTED by the Arts Council and a raft of sponsors. (Note that is supported by not fully paid for by). What our County Councillors should be asking is how much does it actually cost us the council tax payers including Officer and clerical time in the preparation of the event and extra street cleaning during and after the event and how much money comes back into the Council coffers from the event. Of the twenty nine street installations one has to ask how many were run by electricity coming from

the National Grid via street lighting? Even though LED lighting must be used in most cases how does this event impact of the Council's street lighting bill?

Four nights of electricity for twenty nine installations plus rehearsals would I imagine go a long way towards paying for the thirty six street lights which they are intending to remove between Byerley Park and Thickly and Walker Lane not to mention the already removed lighting columns on the A167. The four events would probably have kept them lit for years.

How much are they paying the independent consultants to conduct a safety analysis on a column by column basis? Consultants don't come cheap. If they are doing this County wide how many lights could be retained and for how long instead of expensive consultant costs? What price public safety?

Andrea Bergg.

ORD AT THE DOUBLE AS HUNTSMAN PROGRESS

Following last week's postponed league fixture, The Huntsman were back in action at home to Barnard Castle FC in The Darlington Charity Cup. Manager Neil Dodds made several changes from the defeat away to Gainford, as Nathan Wintour, Dave Neale, Stuart Ord and John Jamie Herd were all recalled to the starting eleven.

The opening exchanges of the game were fairly even, with Reed Molloy having a goal disallowed for what looked a dubious offside decision, and Wintour making a couple of fine saves from the Barnard Castle Centre Forward.

The home side finally made the break through around the 25minute mark however, as a deep free kick found the head of centre half Stuart Ord who bulleted a header off the bar and resulted in a goalmouth scramble where Andrew Richardson was on hand to tap in.

The Huntsman then doubled

their advantage just before the break, and it was another set piece which the opposition failed to clear and this time Stuart Ord was on hand to slot home at the far post from a Steven Williams cross.

However, The Barnard Castle half time team talk certainly appeared to have paid dividends when they pulled one back a minute after the restart, a near post flick looping over Wintour in the Huntsman goal. The come back was complete with 20 minutes remaining when they counter attacked from a Huntsman corner to

devastating effect to make it 2-2; game on.

Just as it appeared as though the game was heading into extra time, another Huntsman set piece resulted in that man Ord firing home his second of the game when he met Williams outswinging corner to fire the Huntsman into the next round.

Next up for The Huntsman is Bishop Bay Horse at home in the league as they seek to maintain their 100% record for the season. 10.30 kick off at Simpature Park.

By Craig Woodhead

Acknowledgement

MAVIN The family of the late Eva Elizabeth (Betty), wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their sympathy, and cards of condolence, during their recent sad bereavement. Also for support from the carers of Aycliffe Care Home. Special thanks to Reverend Elizabeth Bland for a very comforting Service and sincere thanks to Dr Ruth Hewitt of Bewick Crescent Surgery. Our gratitude to Andrea Todd and all the staff of the Co-op Funeralcare team for their support and guidance. Generous donations for the Alzheimer's Society realised a total of £200.

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Births

Maddison Chatha



Born 1st February 2016

After all the anticipation, our beautiful baby girl "Maddison" is here at last. Love from Mummy, Daddy and big Brothers Fletcher and Rhys xxxxx

Congratulations

Lesley Clark



Happy 50th Birthday

All our love, Andrew, Craig, Rachel, Lynsey, Andy, Miles, Jake, Joel and Ellis xxxxxxx

Happy 50th Birthday

To a special Sister and Aunt. Love and best wishes, Joanne, Andrew, Matthew and Jamie xxxxx

Happy 50th Birthday

Love and best wishes from Mam and Dad xxxxxxxx

LINDA BURNISTON Happy 60th birthday on 10th February 2016 to my wonderful Wife. All my love, Terry xxx

LINDA BURNISTON Happy 60th birthday to my loving Sister. Love, Peter xxx

In Memoriam

BLINKINSOPP, Margaret. 12th February 2011. Gone but not forgotten. Brother Bill

DAWN ELLIOTT 6th February 2014. They say it is a beautiful journey from the old world to the new. Someday we'll make that journey which will lead us straight to you. And when we reach that garden, in which there is no pain. We'll put our arms around you and never part again. Lots of love, Dad and Kathy

DAWN ELLIOTT 6th February 2014. We've sent a dove to Heaven for you with a parcel on its wings. Careful when you open it, it's full of beautiful things. Inside are a million kisses, wrapped up in a million hugs. To say how much we miss you and send you all our love. Love always, miss you so much. Mam, Bill and Brother Stephen

DAWN ELLIOTT 6th February 2014. Two years have gone so quickly, will this hole in my heart ever close? Will love and miss you forever. Jacky, Darren, Louis and Owen

TONY DOBSON. Can't believe it's been a year already, hope you are partying hard up there. Still sadly missed by everyone. Love, Jenna, Craig and the girls xxxx

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. A year ago we had to part with a son we loved with all our hearts. One million times we've thought of you, one million times we've cried and every day that passes we speak your name with pride. We think of you with laughter, but can't stop the flow of tears. For a Son we'll love forever and will always hold so dear. Your broken hearted Mam and Dad. Ride with the wind our Son

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. Through tears I saw you sinking, I watched you fade away. My heart was almost broken, you fought so hard to stay. When I saw you sleeping, so peaceful free from pain, I could not wish you back to suffer that again. Always my Brother, always my hero. Bryan x

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. Thinking of our Brother Tony, not just today but every day. John and Andrew

UNCLE TONY 1st February 2015. We miss you loads, it doesn't feel real that it's a year since you left us to be with Grandma Ray and Grandad Jack. Not a day goes by when we all don't think of you. Sleep tight, we love you. Kathleen, Jason and Kieran

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. Dobbo. Gone but never forgotten mate. Tommy

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. Thought of you with love today, that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. Now all we have is memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our heart. Miss you Dad. Never forgotten. Love, Amber (your crazy Daughter)

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. Can't believe it's been one year since you left us. A thousand times we needed you, a thousand times we cried. If love along could have saved you, you never would have died. A heart of gold stopped beating, two twinkling eyes closed to rest. God broke our hearts to prove he only takes the best. Never a day goes by that you are not in my heart and my soul. Love, Leanne

TONY DOBSON 1st February 2015. Your battle is now over, no more tears flowing down your cheek. No more pain, no more suffering, you are no longer weak. I still do not understand why this had to happen. But I am proud to say you are my Dad, the greatest man I ever knew. Love, Courtney

BILLY HAILES Treasured memories of a loving Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. We think about you and miss you so much. You were one in a million and no one could ever take your place. Loved and remembered every day. From Doreen and all your loving family xxxx

WILLIAM WILSON REID 6th February 2000. Thinking of you Son, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday and the day before that too. I'll think about you tomorrow and as the years come and go, I'll think about you forever because I loved you so. Lots of love, Mam

Obituary

BELL. On 1st February, peacefully, Wilf aged 86 years of School Aycliffe, formerly Newcastle. Beloved Husband of the late Mary; much loved Dad of Val, Ange and Paul; adored Grandad of Shaun, Jamie, Jason, Lewis and Erin. Funeral to be held on Tuesday 9th February. Would friends please meet at 11.00am for a Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe prior to interment at West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. Donations, if desired, can be made to the British Heart Foundation.

FORREST. On 31st January, peacefully. Gordon, aged 72 years of School Aycliffe. Dearly beloved Husband of Anita; much loved Dad of Andi; loving Father-in-Law of Liz; adored Grandad of Ewan. Funeral to be held Friday 12th February. Would friends please meet for a Service in Darlington Crematorium at 10.15am prior to cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu if so desired, to The Alzheimer's Society.



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Heighington Junior Football Results

Under 8's
 Travelled away to Hartlepool Pools Youth, in what was only our second games since the start of November. This was to show in the early stages as Heighington Fell 1 down to a well taken Pools goal. Theo Callaghan came on at

the start of the second half and instantly changed the game with a sensational touch with the outside of the boot to take it past the impressive home keeper before slotting home 1-1. Heighington took full control with Man of the Match Ty Woodward

scoring Twice as did the ever impressive Jay Bulch to run home 5-1 deserved winners.

The second game was a thriller Heighington lead both 3-1 and 4-2 but finally lost 5-4 after an inspired comeback from the home side. Goals From Thomas Graham (2) Theo Callaghan (1) and a first for the club for Kenzie White, much to all the parents delight. Man of the match was Harvey Yale who is fast becoming known as "the wall". Home game against Billingham next week to try to keep our 100% league form going

Under 11's

Away to Greatham in tough conditions, Heighington took the lead midway through the first half with a good goal from Brandon Pape. Owen Evans doubled the lead a sublime chip from the edge of the box. In the second half Heighington took control with 2 more goals from Brandon Pape to complete his hat trick. A late goal from the home side made it 4-1 and a well deserved victory for Heighington

GAMES ON AGAIN FOR JUNIORS

Aycliffe Juniors continued their season with most teams now enjoying regular games again with the drier, although now cold and windy conditions. Not much travelling this week with most of the teams playing at Sunnydale.

The Under 7's played at home against Hartlepool Youth. In the first game they managed to level the score 2-2 after going 2-0 down with goals from Ashton and Kai, unfortunately conceding again whilst chasing the winner. Harrison was fantastic in goal with two saves that needed to be seen to be believed. The second game saw the high quality continue and two goals each from Josh and Harrison as well as keepers in both halves, Lennon and Ethan, being in fine form saw them through to win this one. The visiting manager awarded Harry and Roman men of the match awards.

The Under 8's were also at home facing Barnard Castle they were on fine form. Harvey, Jayden and Rhys scored in the first half. In the second half they were exceptional and Rhys completed a double hat trick, Harvey with two more, for his hat trick, and Jayden adding his second in a comprehensive win. Conor stayed solid in defence and Lucas did well in goal. On to the next game and another bright start saw goals from Jack and Niall (2) giving another 3-0 half time lead. Barnard Castle came back in to the game before Jack finished his hat trick with Aidan and Jake also scoring in another good win. Men of the match were Harvey and Jack.

The Under 9's travelled to face top of the league Spraire Lads. They fell behind early but dug in for the rest of the first half to reach half time only one goal down. The



home team scored again in the second half but Cody remained solid in defence with Jude pulling off the saves to keep the score at 2-0. Reece was the games man of the match.

The Under 10's TJFA league side put in a great effort to get their game on with the parents cutting the grass and marking the pitch on Saturday so all was ready for the Sunday morning visit of Norton and Stockton. The home team dominated the game and created chances on goal right from the start. They opened up a 2-0 half time lead with goals from Charlie and then Lucas, who finished after Jacob's shot rebounded in to his path. The second half was much the same with Aycliffe on top after Thomas had made a great fingertip save to deny the visitors. Lucas and Charlie both scored again before Jake and Evan added one each in a 6-0 win. The Under 10 Russell Foster League side had no scheduled fixture this weekend.

The Under 12's played

and Harry was noted to have enjoyed a great game by the visiting manager.

The Under 14's went down 4-1 facing Cargo Fleet at home whilst the Under 18's played out their inter club derby Reds v Blacks. The Blacks took the bragging rights with a 3-1 win, the Reds goal was scored by Jack Mitchell and their man of the match was Morghan Claydon. The Blacks awarded their whole team as men of the match due to a fine all round performance, Dragan, Craggs and Scotty provided their goals.

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Win for Aycliffe 2nd XV

Another new page was turned when Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club 2nd XV played a home match at Greenfield Community College against Stockton 3rds. Aycliffe, despite the 1st team playing at Moore Lane having a full squad, were able to field 19 players for the match. The ground was very soft underfoot and this dictated that it would be a forward dominated game. The opening exchanges were very close, but it was Aycliffe who scored first when Craig Holmes was able to break the defence and score a try that Tommy Cooper converted. Both sides fought manfully, but Aycliffe further increased their lead when Connor Blakey went over in the corner. At half time the home side lead 12 - 0.

The forwards still dominated and there were many scrums due to difficulties handling the wet ball. Phill Sangster was the next to score for Aycliffe and Cooper again converted. Stockton scored a deserved try to give them hopes of a comeback as the pitch deteriorated.

But it was Aycliffe who had the last say as Adam Batley broke clear and Cooper's third conversion of the day completed the scoring to leave Aycliffe 26 - 5 victors.

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