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FINLEYS WIN AYCLIFFE COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Family business. Finley Structures was named Company of the Year at Aycliffe Business Park's Make Your Mark awards ceremony, held at the Xcel Centre last week.

The fabrication firm beat off competition from Hitachi, Gestamp Tallent, Samwon, Baltic Training Services and Caring Caretaker to scoop the top prize.

The company was formed by John Finley in 2000 based at the former NCB Works in Tursdale with 20 staff. It was during a chance drive-



John Finley, daughter Julie and son Gary are presented with their Company of the Year award by Durham County Council's cabinet member Cllr Neil Foster (left)

by in 2002, the opportunistic John spotted the 87,000 sq ft factory, once home to British Steel, being emptied by its tenants at the time, Alexander-le-Skerne, that he stopped to have a look.

"We were outgrowing our site at Tursdale and were looking to relocate," says John. I went in for a look around, and remember thinking to myself 'I can see Finley Structures thriving here'.

"We did the deal to buy the building and moved investing £250,000 in 2003 which was a lot of money for us back then, but the business started to grow.

"I initially thought we would rent part of the building out to help pay the bills but we quickly started to fill it out and before long we were looking to expand again. We then bought other adjoining buildings in 2010 and our sister company, SCH Site Services, relocated there to grow and is now thriving in its own right."

Finley Structures is a family-run firm. John's wife Valerie is a company director and was part-time receptionist until retiring in December. Daughter Julie is joint-managing director and son Gary is joint-managing director of SCH Site Services.

The two companies employ 104 people, and the new venture, ROF 59, an activity centre named 'Newcomer of the Year' employs 30 staff. John said "Picking up both awards is a career highlight, and I'd like to thank all our staff, because we wouldn't be where we are now without them and the brilliant work they do. It is a team effort, so we're absolutely thrilled for all our employees to win these awards. It's testament to many years of hard work, endeavour and determination.

"I'd also like to thank HSBC for the fantastic support they have given us over the years. Today we're virtually debt-free, but previously we were turned down by a bank we'd been with for 10 years, when we needed cash to invest in property to expand. If it wasn't for HSBC we wouldn't have been able to invest in the buildings and new machinery, and wouldn't be where we are today.

"Winning big contracts is an achievement and getting the Hitachi project from Shepherd Construction was, a major boost for the company in terms of profile. In all my years in business these are our first awards, so I am very proud."

The Company of the Year award, sponsored by Business Durham, was presented by Councillor Neil Foster, Durham County Council's cabinet member for economic regeneration. "I'm delighted for Finley Structures as a local family firm which has achieved a lot not only in the last year but

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GREAT FIRST YEAR FOR AYCLIFFE RECRUITMENT COMPANY

A recruitment agency established from square one, is celebrating a successful first year in business. Fleet Recruitment based in Newton Aycliffe was set up by Neil O'Connor after he became disheartened with the industry during his time as a sales director.

Having been made redundant and with practically not a penny to his name, Neil took the plunge and decided to start up his own business from the very beginning.

Much to his delight, in the first 12 months, Fleet Recruitment has already expanded into a larger office and strengthened its team.

Talking about this last year, Neil said: "It really has been amazing to see what we have already achieved and so quickly as well."

"To start a company from scratch and to have to expand into a larger office and add staff members after a few months of trade, is something I'm really proud of and it just goes to show the need for our very different service."

Fleet Recruitment



Left to right: Michelle Spinks, Chris Lawson, Nicky Findlay, Neil O'Connor

specialises in recruiting candidates for jobs in sales and marketing, engineering, automotive, commercial and the legal sector, currently employing five, highly experienced consultants.

The company prides itself on understanding its clients and the impact new employees need to have, either operationally or financially. This is achieved by carrying out robust fact finding with its clients and

by thorough screening and in-depth interviews with candidates, where they drill into competencies and any claims made on a candidate's CV. This helps to manage expectations on both a candidate's and client's side.

Neil believes this vigorous process and its straightforward approach, has resulted in the agency's successful first year.

He said: "Fleet Recruitment

was founded from nothing and has quickly become a trusted, highly regarded business built around core values of honesty, transparency, fairness and great communication. We make no promises other than our four values.

"This simple and honest approach has been very well received and we have secured contracts with some outstanding UK national brand names, as well as many local businesses."

Fleet Recruitment expanded into its current office after just six months of trade and plans to use the space to continue to grow.

"The new office is ideal, as it gives us the option to expand within the building – something we definitely envisage in the future," said Neil.

"Our aim is to be regarded as a business that is honest, transparent, fair and easy to do business with, with a team of people who love what they do and who all share the wealth and success."

To find out more about Fleet Recruitment, visit: <http://www.fleetrecruitment.co.uk/index.html>

Valentine's Visit from Elvis



Residents at a Newton Aycliffe care home were feeling the love after the King of Rock and Roll stopped by for a special Valentine's performance.

Residents at Rose Lodge care home on Cobblers Lane, a residential care home which also offers specialist care for those living with dementia, couldn't help falling in love with Elvis impersonator 'Mike Memphis' who performed all the King's classic tunes before handing out roses to the lovely ladies of Rose Lodge to the tune of 'Love me Tender.'

Nicola Wheatley, Home Manager at Rose Lodge, said: "Many of our residents are big Elvis fans and the live

concerts from Mike Memphis are always a big hit.

We thought that we would ask him to present our ladies with a rose as a special Valentine's Day treat. They absolutely loved the surprise. It's been a really memorable day for all

involved."

Rose Lodge, owned by care provider Countrywide Care Homes, was named as the 7th highest recommended care homes in the North East in a poll by carehome.co.uk last year.

Company of the Year

Continued from Front Page

over several years," said Cllr Foster.

"It's important that we celebrate our success stories with business awards like Make Your Mark and it's brilliant to see Aycliffe Business Park thriving. It's really leading the way for County Durham."

Other Make Your Mark winners included Baltic Training (Apprenticeships), Formula Plastics (Engineering and Manufacturing), Lostbox (Innovation), Beaumont Grounds Maintenance (Service), Tekmar Energy (Export), Luke Reynolds, Gregg Little Testing Centre (Apprentice), ROF 59 (Newcomer), Workshop Supplies (Small Business), Caring Caretaker (Employer) and Newton Press who were pleased to win "Heart of the Community" award.

The Xcel Centre proved to be the perfect venue for this occasion catering for large numbers with an excellent three course meal, efficiently served.

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The atmosphere was great as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to "Sweet Child Of Mine", they did "Welcome to The Jungle". How long have FM been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome.

Saturday 27th February - "Mugshot"

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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"Mission Possible" £50 Challenge puts the Fun into Fundraising

In January Staff at Durham County Carers Support (a local charity supporting unpaid family Carers), were split into teams and challenged to turn a £20 stake into as much money as possible over a four week period. Now businesses and staff teams are needed to launch the big £50 challenge County Wide.

A range of simple ideas showed that it doesn't have to take up too much time or effort and without any expensive initial outlay. Ideas ranged selling home baking, dog biscuits, bacon sandwiches, luxury hot chocolate, nearly new

clothes, and hampers of food and pamper products, a cash raffle and unwanted Christmas presents.

There were car washes during their dinner hour and Car boot sales to declutter homes. A fabulous £950 has been raised and the winning team raised over £300.

The charity is now looking for businesses and staff teams to take part in a "Mission Possible-£50 challenge" to have fun and raise money for this vital charity.

Between March and June teams will be given £50 to turn into as much as possible with awards for the most raised and the most innovative idea. Jenni Wood, Chief Executive said "Caring is not something that affects other people, it affects everyone's families, colleagues and friends.

We know how much fun and how easy it has been for us. We challenge staff teams to get behind us and come up with their own ideas. All money raised will go back to local people struggling with transport in their caring role."

More information can be found at <http://www.dccarers.org/ways-for-businesses-to-support-us> or by contacting Jenni Wood on 01833 600570, jenni.wood@dccarers.org

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The Blacksmiths Arms Changes Ownership

Popular local Restaurant and Pub, The Blacksmiths Arms, Preston-le-Skerne changed ownership on 1st February into the hands of Peter & Rachel Walton. Rachel's brother Neil has joined the team as a director and Head Chef. Peter and Rachel live at Middleton St George on the family farm where Peter works full time. Rachel has been running an events business for the previous 2 years as a half partner of TipiChic. Rachel has now left TipiChic to concentrate on running

the pub with Neil and has plans to use her Tipis in the large pub garden for events. Previously Rachel has worked as a book-keeper, a nurse and for a period produced free range eggs from 3500 chickens! Neil is a chef with over 30 years of experience. After starting out and working for several years at The Rose and Crown, Romalldkirk, Neil and his parents purchased 'Brambles' coffee shop and restaurant on Grange Road in Darlington. After 5 years of building up the business they decided to

sell up and Neil moved onto new challenges at Pierre Victoire and then The Blue Bicycle in York. Following marriage and children, Neil and his wife owned and ran a restaurant in Peterborough and a pub in Northborough. Rachel and Neil teamed up early in 2015 to provide outside catering for several weddings and other events during 2015 with the intention of starting an outside catering business that would work alongside TipiChic.

However the plans changed in September when a chance meeting with Martin, husband of one of the former pub owners who told Peter that the pub was up for sale. A visit was speedily organised and the rest as they say is history! Rachel told Newton News: "The first two weeks have been very hectic, we did have plans in place initially for a Chef to come in and help Neil from the start however this fell through at the last minute which left us with no time to plan menus, speak to the existing staff or re-organise anything beforehand.

As a consequence we have had to change the menu sooner than we planned. However in retrospect the changeover has gone very smoothly and the feedback from our customers so far has been fantastic.

A lot of credit has to go to the brilliant kitchen/waiting and bar staff who have been so helpful and supportive. They have all worked extremely hard which has helped us to quickly find our feet".

They are continuing with the popular offers and events at the pub. Golden Years lunch, Tuesday and Wednesday 2 for £8.50, Tuesdays Steak night, 2 meals incl. wine for £25, Thursdays Curry night £7.50 incl. a drink and Friday Fish & Chips lunch deal £6.50.

The Classic Motorbike Society meets on Wednesday, Darts on Thursday and a Quiz on Friday evenings in the bar. A new main menu, an Early Bird special offer menu are available lunchtimes and evenings, 6-7pm Monday - Friday. Traditional Sunday lunch served from 12 - 2pm. Opening hours and telephone number remain the same as before 01325 314873.

Future plans for the pub include extending the usable outside space, a new beer garden is planned for the front of the pub, the garden at the back will hopefully be used occasionally to site the Tipis for events. The new owners will soon be applying



New owners Peter, Chef Neil & Rachel

for planning permission to turn the 3½ acre field into a touring caravan site with 20 pitches.

They would also like to create a vegetable plot and orchard to use their own ultra-fresh produce in the kitchen and maybe have some chickens. The directors wish to become more involved with the local community.

"Our top priority at the moment however is to concentrate on providing excellent customer service with top quality food and beer in a warm and friendly atmosphere" said Rachel.

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Roy "Chubby" Brown is coming to Spennymoor Leisure Centre. The first night Saturday 2nd July has completely sold out, so a second night is on Sunday 3rd July. To book your ticket contact the box office on 03000 261161. Tickets are priced at £20 each. **Please note: This show is for adults ONLY. Please do not attend if you are easily offended.** For your chance to win a pair of tickets as well as "meet and greet" with Roy, simply answer the following question:

Where was Roy "Chubby" Brown born?

- A - Manchester
- B - Middlesbrough
- C - Milton Keynes

Send your entries to "Chubby", c/o Newton Press, Blue Bridge Centre, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS or email your answer along with your name, address and contact number to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

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Residents Praise Care Home in National Survey

Residents at Rose Lodge care home, Carer's Way in Newton Aycliffe, are celebrating after it performed strongly in a nationwide survey of care home residents. The results, launched today, show Rose Lodge was given an overall performance rating (OPR) score of 910 out of 1,000. This compares favourably to the national average of 878.

Now in its fourth year, the Your Care Rating survey is the country's largest and most authoritative survey of care home residents. The nationwide survey gives residents a voice, putting their care at the heart of understanding more about how well care homes perform. Over 20,000 residents in 963 care homes across the UK took part.

Each care home was given an overall score based on resident feedback across four broad themes; Staff and Care, Home Comforts, Choice and Having a Say, and Quality of Life. Rose Lodge achieved scores of 916 for Quality of Life and 917 for Choice and Having a Say, meaning the residents of Rose Lodge highly rate the standard of care they receive involving quality of life, from being able to take part in hobbies and activities they enjoy to having their privacy respected and feeling safe and secure, and also feel they have a real say in their care and freedom of choice.

Nicola Wheatley, Home Manager at Rose Lodge, said: "It's great that our residents value the care they receive at Rose Lodge. Most of our scores across the four themes are really positive, which shows that life for our residents is happy and fulfilling. While we're really pleased with our scores, we obviously want to get even better and the survey helps us do that by giving us direct resident feedback. Families can also see at a glance which care homes are committed to raising standards and



being transparent as they take part in the survey. Every care home resident should be able to speak up about their care and this is what the Your Care Rating survey does - it gives them a voice."

Rose Lodge offers residential and dementia care for the elderly and is operated by Countrywide Care Homes. This is the third year in a row that the home achieved an above national average rating in the national survey. All of this year's results for every care home surveyed are displayed on the Your Care Rating website (www.yourcarerating.org). The website also

shows how homes that took part in the survey last year performed. All of this helps families who are choosing a care home for a loved one by giving them vital information on what the residents actually think of each home and the standard of care.

The survey was compiled by leading research company Ipsos MORI with input from the care home operators taking part, plus the National Care Forum and Care England. This means the survey is the most authoritative of its type, and is also the country's largest, capturing more views of residents than any other.

AYCLIFFE COMPANY'S WARNING ON SECURITY RISKS

A highly decorated international security and risk management specialist, based in Aycliffe, has issued a warning to business owners, after a recent survey demonstrated that the vast majority of corporate risk managers failed to recognise the importance of addressing security risks.

Andy Davis, managing director of Trident Manor, who has more than 25 years' global security experience, including protecting notable UK political figures, has slammed the oversight of bosses following a recent survey by insurance provider Clements Worldwide. 22% of the risk managers questioned in the Clements Worldwide Risk Index cited terrorism as their main concern, which although doubled from the previous year, is still a very small number, and only 16% would be prepared to address the concerns.

The research, which surveyed 420 organisations from a number of different sectors, including oil and gas, logistics and global humanitarian aid, also highlighted the gap between risk concerns and losses and the capabilities to manage them.

Mr Davis said: "While the results have improved from the previous year, the oversight from risk managers is still very worrying. Given the recent attacks, particularly in Europe and the UK, risk management should be at the forefront of every business decision - whether



it is cyber security, terrorism or protecting assets from potential thefts.

"It is also a major concern that the research highlighted the lack of capabilities to deal with security risks, as they can occur anywhere, so it is vitally important that individuals and business leaders are aware of the potential threats to their assets and workforce, particularly when working abroad or outside of their usual work environment."

Based in Aycliffe, Trident Manor works with global clients to identify, reduce and manage the security and crisis management risks they face whether in the UK or internationally.

Andy added: "Sadly, there are always going to be certain risks to businesses - whether it is a multinational corporation or regional company - that need to be addressed and managed correctly. We help clients understand the real risks that exist and develop strategies and procedures to minimise these life or business threatening events." www.tridentmanor.com



Compiled by County Councillor John Clare

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

COUNCIL

- My report on this week's Cabinet meeting: bit.ly/DCCCab17Feb16
- What do Aycliffe's Youth think about DCC's Youth Budget consultation: bit.ly/NAYCCYC
- Call for Evidence from VCS groups: DCC Scrutiny Review of Take Up of Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger: bit.ly/DCCCYPreview
- DCC's gritting policy and routes: bit.ly/DCCgrit
- This month's GAMP ebulletin: bit.ly/GAMP216
- Latest roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks12Feb
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD14Feb

COMMUNITY

- Ron Hogg, Durham's PCC on Legal Highs: bit.ly/PCCLegalhighs
- February's Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group newsletter: bit.ly/DDESCCGFeb16
- Local people, especially unemployed or not in work, please complete the Building Better Opportunities - Reaching Out Across Durham (ROAD) Programme Survey: bit.ly/PCProad
- Have you served in the armed forces? HealthWatch County Durham want know your views on NHS mental health services for veterans: bit.ly/HWCDvets

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Honest John's Community Kitty has donated £1,000 to Horndale Residents' Association and £460 to Messy Play & Toddler Group which meets at St. Clare's Hall.

John thanks all his supporters and donors and especially DISC who allow him to run his stall from their premises free of charge.

"This means I can operate the charity without any overheads or expenses leaving more money for good causes in Aycliffe. DISC is a wonderful organisation!" said John.

You will find Honest John's shop inside More Time Furniture Scheme run by DISC who offer used household goods at bargain prices. Open 9am - 4.30pm Monday - Saturday, when you can also access great food at reasonable prices from the Cafe. John is open Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm. Located off Horndale Avenue by car, next to the Blue Bridge.

(LONG TENS WAY, NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

The Council proposes in not less than 7 days from the date of this notice to make an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close to all vehicular traffic a traffic 260m length of Long Tens Way that extends northwards from its junction with the access to Unit 2 to the access to the Excel Centre; and also a 40m length of Grindon Way that extends eastwards from its junction with Long Tens Way, Newton Aycliffe by reason of new drainage installation to be undertaken. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 06.03.16 and for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 3 weeks. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. **Alternative route:** from the southern side of the closure from Long Tens Way, easterly along Grindon Way, northerly on St Andrews Way and westerly on Heighington Lane to the northern side of the closure, and vice versa.

Dated: 19 February 2016



Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

New County Council CEO Supports Children in Care

Putting families first is the approach the new chief executive chooses for his first personal project.

Newly appointed chief executive of Durham County Council, Terry Collins, has chosen to focus on two key areas. The first is a new scheme to support care leavers and the second is to encourage the people of Durham to become foster carers.

The chief executive aims to help care leavers settle into adult life by securing work within the council and with other organisations, by providing work experience placements, traineeships, apprenticeships and offering mentoring support for young people who have been in care. Terry Collins said: "I want to use my care leavers support scheme to offer the best possible chance in the work place for young people we have looked after, just like any other parent would do for their own children."

"I also want to focus on fostering. I've had my



eyes opened to some of the amazing work we do and I'm inspired by the dedication of the foster families. They're transforming lives and are giving life changing opportunities to some of the young people who need this help the most."

Over 600 children are in care in County Durham; however 430 carers are still needed across the North East, which is why Terry is encouraging people to attend a fostering open event at County Hall on Saturday 5th March 2016 between 10.30am to 1.00pm. This is an opportunity for people to find out more about fostering, who can foster and what it takes, the help and support they'll receive and also the chance to talk to foster carers.

Ian and Alison Cummings, a couple from Durham, have fostered three children after adopting three. Mrs Cummings said: "We had an extra space and we said let's make a change, let's make a difference."

"The thing we're most proud of is helping to move kids out of the care circle. We're helping them break away from the care system so they become rounded, mature adults."

Terry adds: "If I can encourage people just to come and talk to us and help make a difference, I really want to do that."

People can find out what it's like to foster with Durham County Council by watching our video at https://youtu.be/NIMh7xjQ_tM which features first-hand accounts of people who are already working with children in care.

For more information about fostering, visit www.durham.gov.uk/fostering or call 03000 269 400



Police are appealing for information after an air vent was broken on the roof of the Oak Leaf Sports Centre. The incident occurred between 6pm and 10pm on Sunday 14th February, 2016. The Sports Complex are currently experiencing issues with local youths climbing the roof of the premises and police are requesting anyone with any information to contact them on 101. PC 2687 Jamie Pitt
D2 Relief Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 101
or 999 in an emergency
jamie.pitt@durham.pnn.police.uk

Green Party Late in Supporting Turbines

Sir, I read the recent letter from members of the Green Party that was published in your paper with complete astonishment. There are so many points to be refuted that I hardly know where to begin. Given that your paper does not have enough pages to print all that I would like to say to the authors of the letter, I will contain myself to a few key points. The most important being, that in the course of 5 years of meetings and exhibitions throughout the area, not one person from the Green Party made any attempt to discuss the application or to understand the concerns of the residents.

They did not feel the need to come down from their sanctimonious perch to look at the realities of the application to build wind turbines on the Isles. Luckily, Phil Wilson, local councillor and the local

press (including the editor of this paper) took the time to talk to us and to look at the details of the proposal. As a result, they made up their own minds on hard facts rather than convoluted ideologies.

It is a shame that members of the Green Party did not feel the need to talk to mere "middle class, noisy inhabitants" as I would have loved to ask them (among other things) how their green credentials allowed them to support a scheme that would have seen the wholesale destruction of precious Carrs land by sinking huge concrete foundations.

Their dismissal of people's genuine concerns and fears as "moaning and nostalgia" is both patronising and insulting to the people of this community. Their completely ridiculous claims of lost jobs and investment show them to be woefully ill informed.

Susan Fox

R.A. TAYLOR

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Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY will feature the 2014 comedy drama "THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL" Starring Ralph Fiennes. The film won widespread critical acclaim, a Golden Globe Best Picture award and four Oscars. Tea and coffee 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 lovely film in friendly company. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

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Fire Service Budget

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority agreed its 2016/17 budget and council tax at a meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held today (Thursday 11th Feb).

The 2016/17 budget was set at £28.608m, which represents a reduction of £10,000 from the current level.

The amount of funding the Authority receives from central government continues to fall and will reduce by a further £0.9m (7 per cent) in 2016/17.

In order to produce a balanced budget, members of the Fire Authority unanimously agreed to increase council tax by 1.9 per cent from Friday 1st April 2016. This will generate £300,000 per year of additional funding, which will partially offset the cut in government grant and help to protect front line services.

The increase in council tax amounts to £1.80 per year for a property in council tax band D or £1.20 per year for a property in council tax band

A. As the majority of properties in County Durham and Darlington are in council tax band A, this will mean that residents will be asked to pay an additional 2p per week to protect their fire and rescue service.

Councillor Michele Hodgson, Chair of the Combined Fire Authority, said: "We have again been able to set a budget that does not increase risk in our local communities. The increase in council tax helps us to balance the budget and means that there will be no increase in risk and no change to our emergency response standards in 2016/17. The increase in council tax represents £1.20 a year for the majority of our council tax payers, the equivalent of 2p per week. The risk of not increasing council tax is that the Authority would need to find more savings to balance the budget now and in future years against a backdrop of already significant and sustained government cuts to our funding."

Greenfield Arts at International Event



Greenfield Arts recently took part in the Thinking for Learning Symposium in The Netherlands, which is a national platform aimed at finding new ways in which we can develop learning. Our Director of Arts and Creativity, Katy Milne, attended in order to share the practice of Greenfield Arts, in

partnership with Greenfield Community College, and gain insight in the developments happening in other countries. "This is a great way to build on our existing knowledge but also share the amazing work going on right on our doorstep with the students and local people from our community." Katy said "It was a great experience and we were very proud to be invited for the second time, due to the work we are achieving here at Greenfield."

Katy brought back some wonderful insights and made yet more international friends. We also shared our SOLE (Self Organised Learning Environment) research project which sees its second birthday of Room 13 this month. For more information or to work with us contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in to speak to us.

Aycliffe Students Produce Sculpture for Cathedral

Students in Newton Aycliffe are carving out a lasting reminder of their work on an award winning course by creating a sculpture for Durham Cathedral.

The youngsters on the Steps 4 Success training course which is run by North ern charity DISC, are working with local artist David Gross.

The oak panel art piece will be on public display as part of a rolling exhibition programme in the cathedral's upcoming £10m Open Treasure exhibition - which opens later this year - and will be included in the cathedral's permanent collection of treasures.

DISC project worker Lewis Musonda, said: "We're delighted we're able to work with David to give the students this experience and we're very grateful to Durham Cathedral. "The students are designing and carving eight oak panels which will form a sculpture they are creating with David. It's great that the young people know they're producing a work of art which will be seen by so many."

DISC partnered with Durham Cathedral's Recreating the Community project which invited the students firstly to visit the landmark and gain inspiration from designs inside it.

Philippa Coad, the cathedral's Learning and Outreach officer, said: "The Recreating the Community project is commissioning work to be



done around the county, as part of our Open Treasure Project

"We're really pleased to be working with the Steps 4 Success students at DISC. The sculpture is going to be amazing."

The woodworking was undertaken at DISC headquarters in Horndale Avenue, Newton Aycliffe after comprehensive health and safety instruction.

Artist David said: "The young people have been really enthusiastic. I think the Students were surprised by how quickly they could see good results, and this encouraged them to do more. And they know they're creating something that will be around for ever."

PHOTO: DISC project worker Lewis Musonda with Steps 4 Success trainee Nicole Mckee and sculptor David Gross.

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Visit of Grand Martial Art Master



We are hugely honoured to have Grand Master Kim Yong Ho visiting to teaching us the Mudo system. Grand Master Kim Yong Ho has spent 50 years developing this system of Martial Art, along with the Venerable Kim Sang Tae and a basis of Korean traditions.

Grand Master Kim Yong Ho, 9th Dan, is currently the President of the World Mudo Academy, President of Chungdokwan worldwide and President of Kim Chung Do Kwan. This visit comes off the back of a course of seminars Grand Master Kim Yong Ho delivered to the Mudo Academy in Paris, France.

We at the Mudo Academy are extremely humbled to have Grand Master Kim Yong Ho visiting and look forward to this huge educational opportunity.

Venue: The Education Village, Salters Lane South, Darlington, DL1 2AN

Friday 1st April 6.00-8.00pm - Open to all grades
Saturday 2nd April 10.30 - 2.30pm - Open to all grades
2.30 - 4.30pm - Black belts only

Sunday 3rd April 10.00 - 1.00pm - Open to all grades.
Kim Chung Do Kwan has clubs in Darlington, Faverdale and Newton Aycliffe; with plans to expand in the near future.

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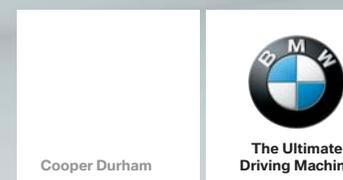
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Join Aycliffe's Free Healthy, Heart Hub

Would you like to learn how to learn to look after your health and the health of your family? Lifeline Community Action will be running their very successful Healthy Heart Hub programme again shortly and places are now available.

The Healthy Heart Hub programme will give you the knowledge and skills needed to prepare, cook and feed balanced healthy meals to improve your diet in their fun and informal sessions. You will learn all about nutrition, fats, salts and cholesterol and for those of you who are no Jamie Oliver in the kitchen, they offer practical cooking sessions on how to cook a healthy meal without breaking the bank.

Their sessions are more than just taught sessions, they also arrange organised 'Walk and Talk' and 'Family Activity' sessions to encourage people to be more active. Getting out and about on walks as a family or in an arranged group with others on the programme

can be fun and also is a great way to meet new people and make new friends.

People on their last programme have successfully lost weight just by following the healthy eating plan and exercising by joining in their family activity sessions. The Healthy Heart Hub aims to show you that you can eat healthy on a budget and exercise for free.

When you sign up to the Healthy Heart Hub programme you will be entitled to come along to a Dip & Dine session on the group at the Eden Arms Hotel free of charge. The Healthy Heart Hub trainer will arrange for all our participants to have a free swim and a sandwich at the hotel as a special treat.

If you would like to sign up for the next Healthy Heart Hub programme please email lifeline.action@gmail.com or text with 07936 431262 your name, address, date of birth and they will get back to you with confirmation of your place.

Messy Family Baptisms



Saturday's Messy Church celebrated a Messy Family Baptism in a fun and informative way. This was a hugely popular Service seeing 114 people attending and a record breaking 49 toy baptisms.

We saw teddies of all shapes and sizes, dolls, monkeys and even a crocodile being brought to the font for baptism. Everyone received a special certificate and all toys behaved very well!

We celebrated the baptism of Messy member Evan, who supported by his elder sisters as Godmothers and

his parents Tina and Andrew making the baptismal responses as a whole family supporting each other in this loving, welcoming, active church. Reverend Elizabeth played her guitar with everyone joining in with actions and sounds to 'The wise man built his house upon the rocks'. All families were prayed for and encouraged to support one another.

Messy Church has themed activities to help support the main focus of the Service, so children were then able to make their own baptism candle to eat! Make painty foot-prints and observe the print they produced - each one unique. Everyone could decorate their own naming pebble to take home and create a sparkly cross.

Sand and water play proved very popular as always and the toddler area was kept very busy too. More photographs are available to view on St. Clare's Messy Church Facebook page. Ending with a buffet tea and Christening cake everyone left knowing a little bit more about the elements of baptism and we hope you all come back next time for MESSY MOTHERS DAY on March 5th at 4pm.

EU Reform is a Fantasy!

Dear Sir,
Mr Wilson asserts that "over 80% of local businesses want the UK to remain in the EU." Can he provide evidence of this claim beyond the anecdotal? I am not aware of any poll with the businesses of Aycliffe to support such a specific claim.

"Membership gives UK businesses access to the largest market place in the world." The ONS data from June 2015 states that the UK's trade with the EU is diminishing: However by adopting FELXCIT as a roadmap we can still access this market.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/international-transactions/outward-foreign-affiliates-statistics/how-important-is-the-european-union-to-uk-trade-and-investment/sty-eu.html>
He states: "I will be voting for the UK to remain a member."

That is his democratic right, but unlike the lobby of Westminster where he mostly votes how his party whip decides, irrespective of what his constituents say, he should remember we all will have the right to exercise our own say on what will be the single most important decision in a generation, namely Britain's sovereign right to govern itself not by unelected officials in Brussels.

He claims that if "we left the European Union" it would be harder to export goods. Not true: That is addressed by FLEXCIT.

"Those who say we should leave the European Union have the moral duty to tell the British people what 'out' looks like. Those campaigning to leave the EU cannot answer that question."

I will exercise that moral duty and destroy the only tactic the 'remain' lobby has, namely FUD (Fear Uncertainty, Disinformation) that we cannot survive outside the EU: I would direct readers to a comprehensive 'out' document called FLEXCIT which has been available for some months now which is intellectually robust, factual, accurate and is a credible roadmap for a Britain outside the EU. I would add that we have seen for the last 40 years what 'in' looks like so I would challenge Mr Wilson that he now has the moral duty to read and digest this document and if possible provide intellectually robust critique and evidence to refute such a vision of Britain 'out' without reversion to the use of clichés, platitudes and FUD

FLEXCIT link:
<http://www.eureferendum.com/documents/flexcit.pdf>
"Of course the EU needs reform, but we need to be in it to change it"

Mr Wilson strikes me as

an educated and intelligent man, so I have a question: has he read the intellectual foundation of the EU commonly known as the *acquis communautaire*. For the benefit of readers this simply means that once a power or 'competence' has been acquired by the commission (the government of the EU) it will never be given back.

And to assert that the EU can be 'reformed' is a fantasy. Witness Mr Cameron's recent pathetic attempts to 'reform' and traipse round the EU with his Oliver Twist bowl begging "please sir can I have some more".

It simply will not happen nor will reform so my final message to Mr Wilson would be "Reform" may be "a process" but it will never be an "event" whether we choose to 'leave' or 'remain' within such a political construct. <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05944/SN05944.pdf>
Titan Ananke
titan.ananke@gmail.com

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Residents' Concerns



WORD ON THE STREET

By Councillor Ken Robson

As a newly elected Councillor I want to engage as much as possible with residents of the West Ward listening to your concerns and aspirations. With this in mind I would like to attend as many groups as possible.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending a crowded meeting of Williamfield Residents' Association in the Western Area Community Centre (Silverdale House), where I met some lovely people who expressed concerns about local issues. Chair Dorothy Bowman introduced our local PC Mike Welch, Neighbourhood warden, Livin rep and County Councillors who reported on issues which affect the local community. Items of concern included anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, fencing around homes and the poor visual state of the local shop which some felt denigrated the area.

I am really looking forward to meeting more residents as I involve myself in your neighbourhoods. Your local councillors are going to be holding regular monthly surgeries beginning with Silverdale House on Saturday, 27th February from 11pm till noon.
Ken Robson, 01325 321471

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Aycliffe snowy, woodland lake scene, sent in by Mike Baker



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Beaumont Grounds Maintenance Service Business of the Year

AYCLIFFE BUSINESS PARK MAKE YOUR MARK AWARDS 2015



Newton Press - Heart of the Community



LostBox Innovation Award



Luke Reynolds - Apprentice of the Year

On Wednesday, 10th February, Aycliffe Business Park hosted the Make Your Mark awards at the Xcel Centre for the second year running. The ceremony celebrates the businesses based on the business park and all the great work they do! So, for those of you who couldn't make it, here's a recap of which businesses won which award at the ceremony.

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Winner: Baltic Training Services

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Aycliffe Business Park Community

Winner: Luke Reynolds from Gregg Little Testing Centre

COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Business Durham

Winner: Finley Structures

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by DH Personnel

Winner: Caring Caretaker

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Sponsored by Ebac

Winner: Formula Plastics

EXPORT

Sponsored by Mantis Media

Winner: Tekmar Energy Ltd

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Sponsored by Star Radio

Winner: Newton Press

INNOVATION

Sponsored by Gregg Little Testing Centre

Winner: Lostbox

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Xcel Centre

Winner: ROF 59

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by South Durham Enterprise Agency

Winner: Workshop Suppliers

SERVICE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Finley Structures

Winner: Beaumont Grounds Maintenance



Baltic Training - Apprenticeships Award

So there you have it, those are the lucky businesses who won an award, not to forget all the other very amazing businesses that were nominated for each category.



ROF 59 - Newcomer Award



Caring Caretaker Employer of the Year



Formula Plastics Engineering & Manufacturing



Tekmar Energy Ltd - Export Award



Workshop Suppliers - Small Business of the Year



Finley Structures - Company Of The Year

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Half Term Fun and Discovery at Greenfield Arts



There was a fantastic turnout activities. Children had for our February half term the chance to get creative

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Policy & Resources Committee, 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, and its Committees.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

Cash for Coins & Medals

The team of expert valuers from the medal centre have been asked to return to County Durham, to run another series of their ever-popular Coin & Medal valuation days to help raise funds for the Royal British Legion

The experts from the Medal Centre are visiting six different venues over six days during the first week of March and they will be found at St Clare's Church on Central Avenue on Wednesday 2nd March.

Open to the public from 9.30am to 4.30pm, everyone is welcome to be offered a free, no obligation valuation of their items and an immediate cash payment should they wish to sell.

The owner of the Medal Centre, Andrew Jukes is an expert in all forms of British campaign & gallantry medals and is a member of the Orders & Medals Research Society. He also has expertise in all forms of militaria with a passion for pocket watches and vintage watch chains

He is assisted by two members of his team of valuers who are experts in coins and bank notes, postcards, Masonic & R.A.O.B regalia along with swords, daggers & edged weapons, cloth & enamel badges & gold & silver coins. Mr Jukes says he never fails to be surprised at the treasures that can be found in the attics of County Durham or at the back of sideboard drawers. After many years of valuations and making offers he is still thrilled at the amount of good quality items that can be found hiding in old tins and boxes.



People should never be afraid to contact him or a member of his team for advice or a cash offer as often people are amazed at just offers for inherited or unwanted items. No item is too big or small for his team to handle and people are welcome to come along on the day with anything from a single medal to a complete collection. It is always important to remember to bring any original documents, paperwork, photos or boxes

that came with the item as these can sometimes help to increase both the value and interest.

At the last series of events Mr Jukes was thrilled to be able to purchase a small box of gold and silver coins along with a group of war medals and bravery medals from a local DLI soldier. However he was probably not as thrilled as the lady owner of the items who walked away from the event with a four figure sum!

Why not call in and see if you can raise some much need extra cash and help the Royal British Legion in the process. No appointment is necessary and all you need to do is come along to be offered a no obligation immediate cash offer.

If you cannot attend on the day the Medal Centre is always happy to arrange a home visit or house-call to see you at your convenience. All you do is ring one of the telephone numbers on the advert for the event printed in next week's edition.

REME Meet

REME Association South West Durham Branch, monthly meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 24th February at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PW. All serving and ex-serving military personnel welcome.

Office & Workshop TO LET

St. Cuthbert's Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DX
The property comprises workshop and stores with ancillary office accommodation. The principal construction is brick and block work walls beneath an apex roof. The exterior has been updated and over clad with metal sheeting.

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Contact Stuart on 01325 300212 for more details



Come for a Free Cuppa with Honest John

Honest John and the staff at More Time's Furniture Scheme would like to invite you to join them on the 25th February for a free cuppa.

Honest John has his bric-a-brac stall next to the More Time Furniture scheme and More Time Cafe at Sapphire House, the headquarters of the charity DISC in Horndale Avenue, next to the Blue Bridge Centre. All proceeds go back into local charities and good causes in Newton Aycliffe and he has raised thousands of pounds over the years.

More Time Furniture is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of the charity DISC (Developing

Initiatives for Support in the Community). It is a not for profit organisation who creates employment pathways for DISC service users.

The furniture scheme provides good quality, pre-loved affordable furniture that has been donated to the scheme. They have something for everyone, and for those creative types, there is also furniture suitable for up-cycling projects.

Come and have a look around the store and see the amount of bargains that are available to you, and enjoy free tea and coffee when you visit on 25th February between 9am-4pm.

Heighington Football

Heighington Under 8's made the trip to Yarm on Sunday to Face Leven AFC Juniors. Leven made a quick start to the game and forced Heighington on to the back foot before Theo Callaghan scored for the visitors against the run of play.

That goal settled Heighington and also made the home sides head drop and a second from Jay Bulch put Heighington in cruise control. Tom Graham captain for the day was magnificent at the back alongside Tyler Woodward. Jay Bulch smashed in a free kick to make it 3, before super sub Layton Collier rifled in a 4th.

The second game Tyler Woodward opened the scoring for Heighington from the edge of the area, before then going in goal in the second half. Leven equalised and pushed for a winner but a battling display saw Heighington grind a draw out. Heighington Under 15's welcomed local rivals Darlington RA to the village, and despite only having 11 available due to injury, sickness and vacation, had to dig deep today. Early exchanges were fairly even, although the home side just edged it in terms of chances, it took a while until the opener from Jack Emmerson came. Darlington RA came back strongly and capitalised when a fumble in defence

gifted them the equaliser, and it stayed that way until half time. In the second half Heighington started brightly shooting down the slope, but failed to add to their lead.

This was to be costly as Darlington RA stepped up a gear and opened up the home defence twice to go 3-1 up deservedly so. The home side were not to be undone though and came back strongly, with a couple of goals from new signing Liam Wright and a second from Jack Emmerson to draw level, only for Darlington to open up the home defence again, and take the lead.

At this stage it was end to end, and after good work from Jamie Stapleton, Liam Wright grabbed his second to draw level. With just under 10 minutes to go, another twist, when Luke Prescott on for injured captain Jamie Stapleton, grabbed a rare goal to take the lead.

It looked like it may be the winner, but the RA were always a threat especially down the right, and with 2 minutes to go, they grabbed an equaliser, to make the final score a 5 each draw, which was probably a fair reflection on the game.

MOM, was a joint affair between Jack Emmerson and Jamie Stapleton, although there were many others who put a shift in today, well done from Jim, Mark and Sean.

AYCLIFFE FC STRONG



Two wins in a week for Newton Aycliffe keeps them in a strong position in the Ebac Northern League Division One. After a 4-1 midweek win over Norton & Stockton Ancients Aycliffe travelled to Sunderland RCA on Saturday. In a match at times played in a hailstorm Aycliffe ran out 2-1 winners thanks to a brace from John Campbell.

The first half was goalless with the visitors having the better of the play but failing to turn the advantage into goals. Illness & injury forced manager Peter Dixon to shuffle his team with Dennis Knight finding himself at left back while Neil Pattinson moved to the centre of defence. Both had outstanding games in their unfamiliar roles.

Knight & Zak Boagey both saw shots go close in the first

half but didn't require a save from the RCA keeper. The traffic was certainly not all one way with Aycliffe keeper James Winter forced into action with a good save in the first fifteen minutes.

Winter was called on again shortly after the second half got under way stopping a shot from outside the box. Within a minute Aycliffe took the lead.

A mis-kick by the home keeper gifted the ball to Campbell who fired home comfortably. RCA fought back & Aycliffe's defenders were fortunate to scramble away a corner. They equalised on 68 mins with Aycliffe losing the ball in midfield. It was played forward to Larkin who slotted a shot past the keeper.

Within five minutes Aycliffe had restored the lead with Campbell netting his second from close range, connecting with a ball across the box. The last fifteen minutes were end to end but Aycliffe hung on to their lead & Campbell came close to a hat trick in the closing minutes. A long ball from defence found the forward on the half way line. He ran on to the edge of the penalty area & unleashed a shot which just cleared the crossbar.

SPECIAL ADMISSION OFFER

After a midweek trip to Whitley Bay, Aycliffe will play three consecutive home games at Moore Lane Park. Second placed Guisborough Town visit on Saturday 20 February, followed by Seaham Red Star on Tuesday 23rd & Dunston UTS on 27th.

The fixtures are coming thick & fast thanks to the weather postponements over the last couple of months. The club recognises that asking fans to fork out for three home games in a week is a big ask. We are offering, therefore, a discount for fans buying a ticket for all three games. A three game ticket will be available on Saturday 20th for £15 adults, £10 concessions representing a 20% discount on usual match day prices. Accompanied under 12s get free entry. That's three Northern League games for £15, approx half the price of the average cost of a single Premier League match. Get yourself along to Moore Lane Park to support our team in what is already the most successful season in our history.

AYCLIFFE ATHLETE GAINS TOP 5 STATUS



Newton Aycliffe runner Rachel Bennett (right) has been competing for Shildon Running Club over the last couple of weekends. On 7th February Rachel competed in the U13/15 Northern Championships in Sheffield where she went into the Championships as reigning U15 girls 60m Northern Champion and easily got through her heat in 8.03 seconds.

In the semi-final Rachel again eased to victory in 8.03 seconds setting up a real challenge for the final against an athlete ranked above her nationally. In the final, despite a valiant effort, the race went to form with Rachel having to settle for an excellent 2nd place in 8.02 seconds.

The following weekend on Sunday 14th Feb Rachel was running again in the U15 girls 200m and was hoping to build on her recent successes. In her heat Rachel sauntered through to the semi-finals winning in a time of 24.46 seconds.

Her semi-final race turned out to be very competitive with Rachel showing superb fighting spirit narrowly finishing 2nd in an excellent 25.59 seconds which earned her a new PB and club record and a place in a scintillating final line up.

With further words of wisdom from her coach, Rachel went into the race in a confident mood and this showed as she put on a remarkable performance displaying both grit and a determination to succeed which earn herself 3rd place in 25.65 seconds and a bronze medal.

Rachel should be proud of her achievements over the past month, which have resulted in achieving a top 5 status in her event in the UK rankings. The club, their coach and parents are proud of Rachel's achievements and a special thanks to Darren Hirst for his commitment dedication and enthusiasm towards all runners within the Sprint Squad.

DARTS COMPETITION

JOE EWIN MEMORIAL TROPHY
Saturday, 27th February, 2016 at The Turbinia
All Entry Fee's Added To Prize Fund

+ £250 Added By Sponsors Trident Taxi's & Heineken UK

It's the 4th year of the 'Joe Ewin Memorial', the venue once again is The Turbinia, Newton Aycliffe. Doors open 10.30am, register £5 by 12.45pm, toe to oche by 1pm.

I am pleased to say that we are being sponsored by 'Trident Taxi's' & 'Heineken UK', so we have £200 added to the men's & £50 to the ladies prize fund, let's see if we can have some new champions to take Keith Gowland and Carla Boyes crowns.

If there is enough time we will have another 'Winner Takes All' blind pairs competition. Raffles and fund raising will take place throughout the day with ALL the proceeds going to the 'Wishing Well Club' here in Aycliffe, a charity that was very close to Joe's heart, and he was very involved with. Trident Taxi's will do a 'Special Offer' for anyone travelling to or from The Turbinia that day so phone Andrew on 01325 319999

Huntsman Top League

The Huntsman were back in action again this Sunday, away to fellow unbeaten side Coundon Durham Ox FC, knowing a win would see them leapfrog their rivals and go top on goal difference.

Manager Neil Dodds was forced into three changes, Jake Johnson deputising in goal, Ryan Durr returned at left back while David Neale was restored to the side in centre midfield.

The Huntsman got off to an ideal start, as Andrew Richardson clipped a lovely ball over the top which Reed Molloy met before rounding the goalkeeper to make it 1-0 after 5 minutes.

The home side then enjoyed a period of good pressure, and

were rewarded when Nathan Plews got free down the right hand side and calmly slotted the ball into the bottom left corner to make it 1-1 at half time. An even half which showed just why the two teams were challenging up the top of the league.

The Huntsman came out with a renewed purpose in the second half however, as they pressed forward seeking a winner. Sproates, McDonald and Molloy all went close to getting the all-important second goal but were denied. The Huntsman were beginning to dominate the game and they were finally rewarded when a scramble on the edge of the box saw the ball fall into the path of substitute Anth Harrison, whose left footed shot across the goalkeeper gave the away side the advantage once again. Rather than sitting back and defending their one goal cushion, the away side continued to dominate with Harrison and Neale both having very good penalty shouts, but they were further rewarded as Dave Neale's delicate lob made it 3-1 sparking wild scenes of celebration on the Huntsman sideline, and round out a very gutsy performance. Andrew Richardson was awarded man of the match for a superb performance on the Huntsman left wing.

Next up for The Huntsman is a short trip to Moore Lane this Sunday where they will play local rivals The Sports Club 10.30 kick off.

This year we are raising valuable funds for Great North Air Ambulance

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Blackheart are multi-instrumentalists Chrissy Mostyn and Rick Pilkington. Their unique music has been described as "A heavenly fusion of acoustic folk, intelligent pop and classical music", "Utterly magical" by the BBC's John Gilmore and "One of the best things to come out of England in recent years." by Fatea Music Magazine.

As always with our events bring your own drinks and snacks; we do not have a bar nor licence to sell alcohol. This will be preceded earlier in the day by Dementia UK's 'Make time for a cuppa' from 12.30-2 where you're welcome to join us for a hot drink and cake, with all proceeds donated to Dementia UK.

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Pedestrian Danger in Town Centre

Dear Sir,
 When visiting our town centre this on 13th February, I parked in the lower level area of the multi storey car park, using the ramped area to access the town between Wilkinson and Boyes.
 On returning to the car, I used the same route, but when accessing the covered area (where the lifts, disabled access to the upper levels are), I noticed the floor was incredibly slippery. There were children skidding on it like ice and whilst walking I skidded myself on the slippery floor falling awkwardly and hurting my knee, back and foot. I appreciate that the rain is beyond the control of the town centre and this had contributed to the problem, however when I returned to the centre using the same route (to report the problem-no answer when attempting to contact the town centre management). I noticed the entire floor, including the steep disabled ramp is covered in a glossy, paint surface. This surface instantly makes walking in any inclement weather safely, almost impossible, and a particular concern for anyone who is

disabled or elderly. Fortunately I am a young person who can bounce back from such incidents, but had I been elderly I fear the outcome could be very different. I support making the town centre a more pleasant place to be but surely patrons' safety should be a primary concern. Thank you, Anonymous (name & address supplied)

Reply from Manager

Thank you for your letter to the Newton News regarding your query about using our entrance to the town centre from the car park. I'm sorry you felt the surface area was not suitable for you, however, I can advise that the area in question is tested bi-annually by a specialist slip test consultant and has been since 2013 with no issues reported by them, however, I will advise of them of your concerns during their next visit in April of this year. The safety of our town centre visitors is paramount to us, and I will, following your raising of this issue, ensure that this area is checked by our maintenance team on a regular basis, although we do already do this as part of our cleaning regime, and request they feed back to me any issues. Regarding contact of the Town Management Team we are onsite Monday to Saturday from 7.00am to 6.00pm however the office may not be open as we may be elsewhere onsite, otherwise the office does have a member of the team available between 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday available by telephone on 01325 300 605. In addition I can be contacted directly on 07854 084942 at any time and if not immediately available please leave a message and I will come back to you. Bryan Haldane, Town Centre Manager.

Police Dogs Visit St. Joseph's School



Police Dogs Jet and Ben with Jack and Amy

On Tuesday last week PCSO Claire Kerr and PCSO Steven Gill visited St. Joseph's School to deliver an assembly to all the children about "stranger danger". They were joined by police dogs Jet and Ben. Claire educated pupils about stranger danger and children developed an increasing awareness on how to stay safe. They were also told how to stay safe whilst online and keeping personal information safe. It was a brilliant session enjoyed by all.

Pets

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ELACHI require a part time waiter and a weekend delivery driver. Please contact 01325 316516 for more details.
COOK needed 4 days a week for busy farm shop near Walworth Castle, must have own transport due to location. Please ring 07760 424822 for more details.

Free

PALLETS FREE - collect from Newton Press at the Blue Bridge Centre (goods inward)

Health & Beauty

MOBILE beautician. Contact Sandra on 07463 651621

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2 BEDROOM top floor apartment for rent in Bede Crescent. Excellent condition. £495 pcm including heating. Tel 07540 256364 for details

Dogs Trust & Newton News FIND A DOG a home

Home wanted for Charlie

The Dogs Trust Darlington is hoping that love will be in the air for Charlie, a five-year-old Labrador cross who is awaiting a loving home after spending almost a year in kennels. Having originally arrived at Dogs Trust Darlington as a young puppy, Charlie found himself back at the rehoming centre last year when his owner became unwell. Whilst he has made so many friends during his time there, including best canine chum Bambi, Charlie has so far been unlucky-in-love when it comes to finding that special human someone. Charlie has become a firm favourite with staff at the Dogs Trust rehoming centre and they cannot understand why visitors aren't queuing up to offer him the home he desperately wants.



Dogs Trust Supporter Relations Officer, Rebecca McKeown, comments: "Charlie is a beautiful boy with so much love to give - he has certainly won the hearts of the staff here and we hope he'll soon get a second chance at happiness in a new home. We are all so fond of him and really want to see him find a new home. This adorable boy is looking for a new home with patient owners who will give him plenty of time to settle in. Potential owners will need to visit a few times to build up a bond but once he gets to know you, he will be a lifelong friend."

If you are interested in rehoming Charlie, please call Dogs Trust Darlington on 0300 303 0292 or visit the team at Dogs Trust Darlington, Sadberge, Co Durham, DL2 1SL. www.dogstrust.org.uk

GREENFIELD PROJECT IMPROVES LITERACY



Greenfield Arts in partnership with Greenfield Community College and funded by GAMP AAP, have been working with students on a new Story Makers project to improve literacy and communication skills in young people. The project, which uses STEAM qualities, has been devised to be intergenerational and use storytelling as a way to capture the imaginations of the young people involved. The students are currently

working with production manager Richard Agar to create mechanical puppets of animals devised from their own imaginary design. These mechanicals will then be brought to life by artist Anne Curtis, who will help children from local primary schools to create stories based on these characters. The young people will be taking their mechanicals and wonderful stories to local primary schools to present their work and see how they can encourage a love of

stories in others. This will then inform the next step of the project which is to create an app for smart phones and tablets, which young people can access to create their own stories. The app will be made up of the various characters and stories and locations so that anybody can pick and choose the elements of a story to create their own. This is a great chance for the students involved to shine and see how they can impact on their wider community. We are still recruiting adults to work on the project so if you would like to get involved please contact us on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in. Also, as part of our further commitment to digital development, our 5 week digital photography for beginners course starts Wednesday 24th February 6pm - 7pm. Got a DSLR? Don't know how to use it? Come along and learn the basics and how to get creative with your camera. Places are limited so don't miss out, booking essential.

Western Area CC Trips and Activities

Western Area Community Centre at Silverdale Place is the venue for Newton Aycliffe Junior Neighbourhood Watch, Williamfield Residents' Association and Newton Aycliffe Shopping Club (restarting 4th March.) Activities include Newton Aycliffe Dementia Awareness Support Group meeting Tuesdays 10.00am until 1pm with a Coffee Morning followed with a hot lunch. Every Thursday a bus trip is arranged, using the Aycliffe Community Bus. A Dementia Cafe is to be held on Tuesday 23rd February, 10.00am until 1pm and the last Tuesday of every month. The Alzheimer's Society will be in attendance. We now have table tennis and a pool table. Carers are welcome to bring their clients to share our activities. On a Friday night we have an under 13 years Disco/Activity session from 4pm until 7pm. We would like young people to put their views forward for future activities at the Centre. There was a Bus trip this week to South Shields with parents and youngsters. All the youngsters took scooters

and skate boards. Several of our elderly ladies went with them, they did not take their scooters, but we think it is good for them to link up with young people. During the summer there will be many more family trips.

For Sale

"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare's Church is open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On sale is a huge selection of bric-a-brac, toys, household goods, jewellery, electrical goods . . . the list is endless. All items are perfect and at low prices. All money raised will continue to be given to good causes. All Sorts is a charitable project run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett. **MAGNETIC** exercise bike with hand pulse, colour silver, excellent condition, £95 ono; Electric treadmill, 2ft wide a 4ft high, excellent condition, £115 ono. Tel 01325 321744 **LIGHT OAK** extendable dining room table and 4 matching chairs, fire retardant, excellent condition, first to see will buy, £50 ono. Tel 01325 324962 **REVELLO** neutral coloured swivel, rocking, reclining chair. As new, 9 months old, bargain for less than half price, £160. Tel 01325 315472 **BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113 343 **ORGAN** free to good home (must collect), double keyboard with bass pedals. Tel 07876 544106 **32" LG TV** compatible DVD player and surround sound system. No Freeview. £50. Tel 07776 404195 **BEAUTIFUL** mahogany extendable dining table and 4 chairs, £150 ono; 2 x mahogany corner cabinets £100 ono; 3 piece leather suite, £100 ono; Job lot, offers welcome. No delivery available. Tel 07815 814942 **FRONT** facing shopping trolley/walking aid, swivel wheels, new condition, used once. Was £29.99, will sell for £20. Tel 07543 557907 **COFFEE** table, oval glass top, good condition, £35; Free standing electric fire, coal effect, never used, £40; Glass chandelier, 5 bulbs, £15. Tel 07756 597774

Congratulations

18 at Last! Mackenzie Jackman



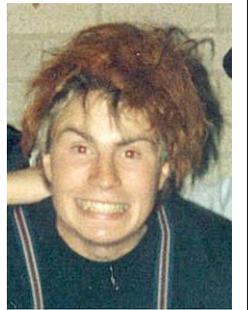
24th February 2016 **Happy 18th Birthday Son** Hope you have a great day and enjoy all your celebrations! Lots of love from your proud Mum and Dad xxxx Happy 18th little Bro and Uncle MacMac, love from Madison, John and Cayden

Darren Ross



THE BIG 50 25th February 2016 Happy birthday Darren. Have a great weekend. Love, Mam, Dad, Julie, Megan and Mitzy xxxxxxxx

Darren



Happy 50th Birthday Darren Lots of love from Irene x **Happy 50th Birthday Dad** Love from Mark, Ashleigh, Anthony, Tor, Shannon and Paige

Darren



Happy 50th Grandad Love from Maisun, Cohen and Austin x

MICHAEL LEONARD. 23.02.66. Happy 50th birthday to a fab Husband, Dad and Grandad. Love, Trisha, Jed, Mel, Nick and Alexander. **MICHAEL LEONARD.** Congratulations on reaching the big 50. Love, Tony, Amanda, Luke and Jessica.

In Memoriam

KATHLEEN HILLARY 21st February 2015. The girl I loved hasn't gone away, she walks beside me every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. John. **KATHLEEN HILLARY** 21st February 2015. Mum/Nana. Loved and missed every day. Caroline, Michael, Ryan and Luke xx **KATHLEEN HILLARY** 21st February 2015. Mum/Nana. Miss you every day, growing up fast. Jillian, Jordan and Jack xxx **PETER RODDEN** 24th February. The gates of Heaven opened wide, the angels lined up side by side. A special guest is on his way, this is the day they took our best friend Peter away. Love always from Ann, Gary and Darren xxx

Obituary

JOHN DENNISS CAMERA died peacefully on 10th February 2016 surrounded by his family. Sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral Service at 9.15am, St Clare's Church followed by Cremation at Darlington on Friday 19th February. Friends please meet afterwards at The Huntsman in Woodham Village. **MARY SIM** on 5th February, of Hullock Road, aged 87 years. Wife of the late George and much loved Mother, Nana and Great Nana. Would family and friends place meet for Funeral Service at Darlington Crematorium on Monday 22nd February at 11.45am. All welcome to the RAFA Club, Barrington Road, Newton Aycliffe afterwards for refreshments. Family flowers only please. Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be given for Redworth House Care Home, c/o Seaton Leng & Son Ltd., 59A Bondgate, Darlington DL3 7JR

ONLY BY LEAVING EU CAN WE REGAIN SOVEREIGNTY

Dear Sir, When Phil Wilson was re-elected as MP for Sedgfield, he stood up on a platform and said he wanted to stay in 'reformed Europe', since then he has not said how the European Union should be reformed. Instead the Phil Wilson and Labour party in general have descended into 'project fear' if United Kingdom voted to leave the EU. Another line Phil Wilson used during the general election campaign was if we left the EU, Nissan would leave the UK. Recently as September

last year, Nissan Europe chairman Paul Wilcox said on the 'Today' program "our position in terms of competitiveness is driven by not only the situation in Europe in terms of whether we're in or out of the EU, but more importantly the commitment of the people in the North East and supply chain. Focus really should be in that area because that is why we have such a great success story - the combined impact of our investment but also supply chain and a great workforce". With eggs firmly on Labour's

face and indeed Phil Wilson, they're still scaremongering voters into voting to stay in the European Union. Why should we continue to pay £55 million a day into an organisation which hasn't had its accounts signed off for the last 20 years. Freed from the Shackles of the EU, we will be able to reoccupy our seat on the World Trade Organisation and sign new trade agreements with the rest of the world to build a more sustainable economy for the long term, that would provide the revenues necessary to help reduce taxes and provide additional spending for important public services such as the NHS. Only outside the European Union can we make our parliament sovereign again, where we elect MP's to make laws on our behalf and if we're not satisfied we can kick them out after 5 years. We want Britain to be an independent, self-governing democracy. John Grant

Thank You

Joan Hull

A very BIG thank you to family and friends for all cards and gifts received for my birthday. Special thanks to the Golden Girls for my surprise party.

LINDA BURNISTON would like to say abig thank you to all my family and friends who helped me celebrate my 60th birthday. Everybody made it memorable. Lots of love, Linda xxxx **I WOULD** like to say "thank you" to the kind people in Newton Aycliffe who found my Husband's keys and phone and returned them to us. Thank you, Mrs N Piggott

Acknowledgement



The family of the late Winnie Crossen wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind words and cards of condolence, during their recent sad bereavement. Sincere thanks to Premier Care, Jeannie Reid and ward 2 of Durham University Hospital. Thank you to Fr. Michael Whalen, the volunteers at the Thursday lunch club and all of St Mary's parishioners for the continued care you gave Mam. Our gratitude also to John Whitehouse and his professional team for their support and guidance. God bless you all

New Addition to Eden Arms Management



General Manager Laurie Simpson (right) and the rest of the staff at the Eden Arms Hotel would like to introduce and welcome our newly promoted Assistant Manager Daniel McDonald. Daniel is looking forward to a very busy 2016 at the hotel. Edens Arms Hotel Rushyford Co. Durham 01388 720541

Opticians

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Town Centre
Newton Aycliffe
Tel: 316600

Birthday Remembrance

BERYL RICHARDSON (nee Kelly). 25th February 1949 to 13th November 2015. For one lovely lady, the gates of Heaven opened. No one knows the bitter pain without you, though I miss you more because it is your birthday on the 25th. I miss you so much and I will never forget you and your love. Grumpy Old Joe **CUNNINGHAM** 21st February. Birthday memories of a wonderful Son and Brother, Jimmy. Loved and missed every day. Mam and Susan





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AYCLIFFE JUNIORS RESULTS

There was a bit of a search for suitable pitches with the overnight freeze on Saturday but most of the Juniors teams were in action.

Under 8's hosted Barnard Castle Tornado's in the morning snow. All the efforts on goal were from

Aycliffe early on with Rhys and Jayden going close but Barnard Castle made their effort count and went 1-0 ahead before half time.

Rhys had two free kicks saved before getting the equaliser and then Jayden quickly added the second



Newton Aycliffe Junior Under 14's Team

to put Aycliffe in front. In an end to end game first Barnard Castle equalised and then Rhys put Aycliffe 3-2 ahead. Finally a superb volley from the Tornado's number 9 finished the game in a 3-3 draw.

The second game saw Niall hit the post and Jayden's shot being saved in the opening exchanges. Jake then made two good saves to keep the score 0-0 at half time. In to the second half and Niall set up a goal for Jake before scoring the second well himself. The 3-0 win was sealed when Niall again got forward and scored

the game's final goal, the mornings men of the match were Harvey and Niall.

Under 9's were away to Leven and played in blizzard like conditions. Aycliffe found themselves two goals down early in the first half as the home team were on top. Lewis finished a good move involving Reece and Charlie to get a goal back in the second half. A few injuries saw the visitors needing to finish the game with six players and despite their brave efforts they could not get anything from the game. Lewis was man of the match on a day when it felt like all was against Aycliffe.

Under 10 TJFA fixture did not survive the sub-zero temperatures. However the Under 10 Russell Foster league team played their game against Durham County FC Colts in better conditions on Saturday. Their opponents set themselves up in a robust formation and were difficult to break down but Aycliffe got the first goal as Ted got on the end of a loose ball after good work from Noah. Durham equalised before half time and at the mid-point of the game it was 1-1. In the second half Taylor and Sam were dominant in midfield and it was Sam's effort on goal that was saved with Bo on hand to tap in to regain the lead. Isaac added the third to seal a well-deserved 3-1 win with Sam as man of the match.

Under 11's lost 5-2 playing away at Wynyard whilst the Under 12's game did not survive the weather. The Under 14's put in a great performance after a difficult game last week to earn great praise from manager Adam and a 4-1 win. They were facing Cleveland Juniors at Sunnydale with the visitors sitting pretty near in the top four of the league and it was Cleveland who got the first goal. Brilliant team play from the Aycliffe side in the rest of the first half though secured a 3-1 lead with Burrows scoring well first and then Hynes adding two

good finishes. In the second half Stoker remained solid in goal and Pattinson added the fourth. Even a penalty miss did not dampen the spirits on a day when the whole team were named men of the match as all 16 players involved were fantastic.

Under 18's Red went down 4-2 away at Ferryhill Town whilst the under 18 Blacks continued their fine goal scoring form in a 9-2 win against Stranton at a snowy Sunnydale. Valentines Day depleted the squad but the players available put on a great show and they stormed in to a 4-1 half time lead. The positive approach continued in the second half which saw Dagan and Scotty complete hat tricks, Pughy, Leevan and Teddy were also on the score sheet and Patrick Howe was man of the match.

Under 23's played away at Wolviston on their 3G surface as the grass pitch was unplayable. A bright start led to a 2-0 lead with both goals from Martin who was only denied a first half hat trick by a wonder save from the home keeper. All the hard work was undone by half time as Wolviston scored twice to draw the game level. In the second half the hosts continued the stronger team and added two further goals with the game ending in a 4-2 loss for Aycliffe.

Aycliffe 2nd's Lose to Wensleydale

Newton Aycliffe 2nd XV featured in a highly entertaining game in muddy conditions when they hosted Wensleydale 2nds at Moore Lane. Despite calls to the 1st XV and a number of players being unavailable, Aycliffe were able to field a squad of 17 for the match. The Wensleydale team were young and athletic, while many of the Aycliffe players were more mature, but the sides proved to be very well matched.

Wensleydale made a number of sniping runs, but Aycliffe tackled well. It was Aycliffe who took the lead with the first try of the game. The returning Lewis McCormick's powerful run put Wensleydale on the back foot and the ball was quickly fed to the backs by scrum-half Mikey Dunn, JJ Rudge kicked the ball through the defence and was quick enough to pounce for the try. Tommy Cooper converted. Wensleydale now had a long period of pressure in the Aycliffe half and eventually the pressure told and they scored converted try. Wensleydale continued to apply the pressure as the forwards from both sides looked to keep the ball alive.

After two missed penalty kicks, the visitors finally put one over to take the lead and scored another converted try just before the break to turn around 17-7 in the lead.

Aycliffe, ably led by captain Ronnie Gilyeat came back into the match with the best try of the game when a finely weighted pass by David Gibson found Rudge cutting back against the grain and he touched down beneath the posts.

Cooper again converted. With the game moving into the final quarter, Aycliffe tried hard to get the score that would put them into the lead, but it was the visitors who added the final score with a converted try as the game reached its closing stages and it was too late for Aycliffe to recover. Wensleydale won a fine match, played in good spirit by 24-14.

While disappointed at the defeat, Aycliffe were not downhearted after a very good display against this much younger opposition. Next matches are this Saturday 20th Feb, 1st XV at home to Seaham and the 2nd XV travel to Seaton Carew. **Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by Redworth Hall Hotel and Emre's Barber Shop.**

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