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ROF 59 Applies for Zip Wire & Bungee Jump

Another Exciting Amenity for Aycliffe

An award-winning family entertainment venue is set to bring a range of exciting new outdoor activities to its Newton Aycliffe site including a 180-metre zip line and 38-metre high bungee tower.

ROF 59 activity centre has applied to Durham County Council for permission to install the new facility at the rear of its existing building on Aycliffe Business Park.

Two zip lines will enable thrill-seekers to glide 180 metres across a stretch of land between Cumbie Way and Beaumont Way on to landing zones. The venture,



The ROF 59 team (left to right): Valerie, Gary, Julie and Gary Finley with their Newcomer of the Year award.

could create up to 12 new jobs and would open in the summer if approved.

As well as the zip lines and bungee tower, ROF 59 also hopes to include an outdoor army-style assault course and "tough mudder" type exercise area as part of the new development.

ROF 59, which was named Newcomer of the Year at Aycliffe Business Park's Make Your Mark awards last week, has already seen

footfall double in recent months.

John Finley says the latest addition to ROF 59 will be another first for Newton Aycliffe. "We've always wanted to bring unique attractions to Aycliffe, not copy what other people do."

"When we first had the idea of a trampoline park, the nearest to us are in Castleford and Edinburgh. I knew they were going to be big and, sure enough, we're now seeing them crop up in various areas of the region."

"It was a first for Newton Aycliffe and we've seen footfall at ROF 59 increase over the last few months, and has now doubled."

continued on Page 2

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Labour M.P.'s & M.E.P. Visit Gestamp on "IN" Campaign



EU key to North East's prosperity says Alan Johnson MP, during visit to Gestamp Thousands of North East jobs would be under threat if Britain severs ties with the EU, warned Alan Johnson MP, former home secretary and chair of the Labour IN campaign, during his visit to the Gestamp plant in Newton Aycliffe.

Mr Johnson, accompanied by Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson and North East MEP Jude Kirton-Darling, was given a tour of the expansive Gestamp plant before sitting down with workers for a question and answer session on all matters EU. During the tour Plant Director Clive Wheeler and Gestamp's



UK Director Peter Gallone discussed the importance of EU membership to the Newton Aycliffe plant, which exports more than two thirds of their products to Europe. The second biggest employer in the North East, Gestamp a Spanish owned firm, employs

1300 people directly, and hundreds more indirectly through the supply chain. Mr Johnson said "There is no doubt in my mind that continued membership of the European Union is the best way of helping companies like Gestamp succeed and

to improve this region's economic prosperity."

Mr Wilson firmly agreed, commenting "UK membership of the EU is vital in attracting businesses and jobs to the region. Our membership played a key role in bringing Hitachi into Newton Aycliffe, and is fundamental in ensuring companies like Gestamp remain competitive, enabling them to grow their workforce and provide jobs for my constituents."

Following the tour, Alan, Phil and Jude, sat down with 40 workers to discuss their views on EU membership. Workers asked Mr Johnson questions on a range of issues from sovereignty, cost of EU membership, and how staying in the EU would be a benefit to smaller businesses.

In addition to answering questions, Mr Johnson explained how the EU not only brings jobs and prosperity, but protects workers' rights, entitlement to annual leave, maternity and paternity leave, and equal rights for agency workers.

Speaking to one worker Mr Johnson said "Reforming Europe is a process not an event and I believe that David Cameron has gone about it in the wrong way." MEP Jude Kirton-Darling informed workers how the North East in particular benefits from UK membership. Being a net beneficiary of the EU, means pound for pound the North East gets more out of the EU than we put in.

Speaking after the event Mr Johnson told the Northern Echo "We strongly believe that leaving will damage our security, prosperity, and influence in the world. It would be a retrograde step that would have a negative impact right here in the North East."

"I am confident of our argument but the referendum is a democratic process and could go either way. We will do what we can to defend the rights of working people."

Zip Wire & Bungee Jump

Continued from Front Page

"We want to bring a truly unique, all-round family experience to the people of Aycliffe and surrounding areas. The bounce, climb and relax elements of ROF 59 already do that, but these new attractions will bring something completely different."

ROF 59 underwent a £1.1m redevelopment in 2015, rejuvenating the old Presswork Metals building and former World War II munitions factory into a 21st Century entertainment and leisure venue.

The 70,000 sq ft centre, which created 30 new jobs when it opened last August. It now includes the Blitz restaurant as well as the Bunker bar/lounge, a huge park of 75 trampolines and a series of adventure climbing walls for climbers of all abilities – including Rock Antics, which has one of the biggest walls in the country, 20 metres tall.

For all enquiries and bookings at ROF 59, call 01325 728222 or email hello@rof59.co.uk



Zip Wire and Bungee Jumping are popular outdoor activities

Events, Weddings and Music Festivals at Blacksmiths Arms

After over 13 years at the helm, Bev Blackstock and business partner Brenda Whear have sold the Blacksmiths Arms, Preston-le-Skerne, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham to husband and wife team Peter and Rachel Walton together with Rachel's brother Neil Skinner. The Leeds office of leading leisure property specialists Fleurets acted on behalf of Bev Blackstock and Brenda Whear.

A popular food-led country inn, the Blacksmiths Arms has been developed and nurtured by Bev and Brenda during their ownership resulting in it attracting regular and repeat trade from a large catchment area, assisted by the proximity of the A167 and the A1 (M). The Blacksmiths Arms briefly comprises a traditionally appointed public bar (20), lounge bar and adjoining dining room, which can seat up to 50. Ancillary accommodation includes a commercial kitchen, cellarage and storage. A particularly attractive and valuable feature of the property is the spacious and self contained 5 bedroom private accommodation.

The Blacksmiths Arms is situated within a well proportioned site which extends to around 5.1 acres overall incorporating a good sized car park, enclosed lawned beer garden and patio with outbuildings incorporating a boiler house, private lawned gardens and adjoining fields which extends to around 3.6 acres.

The purchasers are no strangers to the licenced hospitality trade; Neil Skinner has 30 years experience of cheffing, running restaurants and pubs; whilst the Walton's have experience

in events. They plan to continue the success that the Blacksmiths Arms has enjoyed and look to develop the outside areas for events, weddings and music festivals and ultimately to develop the adjoining unused field for a caravan site.

Nick Thomas from Fleurets commented: "Peter, Rachel and Neil have acquired a very successful and profitable

business, and with the plans they have for the business it will certainly develop moving in to the future. The sale of the Blacksmiths Arms is further confirmation of the improved market conditions on the back of an increased purchaser demand."

The Blacksmiths Arms was sold for an undisclosed price off a freehold asking price of £399,500.

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Saturday 5th March - "The Queens of Noise"

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Disabled Boy Being Bullied Goes Viral



Photo reproduced from The Sun Website

Dear Sir,
I was disgusted to watch a video of a one sided fight at Greenfield College of a young disabled boy being bullied, watched on by a number of children. Within 24 hours the video had gone viral with over 845k views. The video initially posted by "New Age Origins" shows how the victim is taunted and set upon, with the perpetrator being encouraged by his pals, until a young man steps in and removes his friend from the situation. As a parent of a child at the school, I would like to hear a statement from the school which should explain in detail how the incident is being dealt with and what methods will now be implemented to ensure this behaviour is not repeated. Hopefully the statement will be a little more detailed than "We do not tolerate bullying and all pupils involved will be dealt with accordingly". The victim Callum and his friend Adam should both be recognised for their actions. Well done guys. Name & address supplied.

Head Teacher Responds . . .

David Priestley, Headteacher at Greenfield Community College, said: "We are taking this incident very seriously. We have carried out a thorough investigation and have spoken to the students involved and their parents. "We are taking action in line with our policies against those who played a key part in this incident and we have also been in contact with the police. "I would like to thank those who have contacted the school about this and wish to reassure parents and the wider community that we do not condone bullying or fighting at Greenfield Community College."

NEW AYCLIFFE JOB CLUB WOWS LOCAL M.P.

Our MP has welcomed the launch of a new job club, based in Newton Aycliffe. Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson met members of the new WOW Club which has started up at the headquarters of Northern charity, DISC. Mr Wilson said: "It's great to visit a project like this and talk to local people about the help and support they are receiving. "By helping to secure training or employment, the WOW club will lead to improvement in the lives of individuals and families."

The new World of Work (WOW) club is open every Friday between 10am and 1pm at the DISC head office at Sapphire House in Newton Aycliffe, which is next to the Blue Bridge landmark.

DISC education and employment services hold the nationally recognised Matrix quality standard for its information, advice and guidance.

Paul Townsley, Chief Executive of DISC, said: "We are very grateful to Mr Wilson who continues to take a keen interest in the work we do here to further the lives of people in this area.

"The WOW Club is here to help everyone break through barriers to employment. It supports people to secure work, but is also designed to help those already in work look for new jobs.

"With our partner organisations, we can also offer potential training solutions that may help someone find a new job."

The free, impartial and confidential service will enable members to use a specialist computer suite to assist in job hunting and CV writing. The WOW club provides specialist support for individuals' needs, allowing them to gain qualifications to create a work record and develop the skills needed to get into work.

For more information on the WOW club, please telephone 01325 731160, or visit www.disc-vol.org.uk.



Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson (left) and DISC CEO Paul Townsley meet 18 year old Newton Aycliffe jobseeker, Callum Savage at the WOW Job Club.

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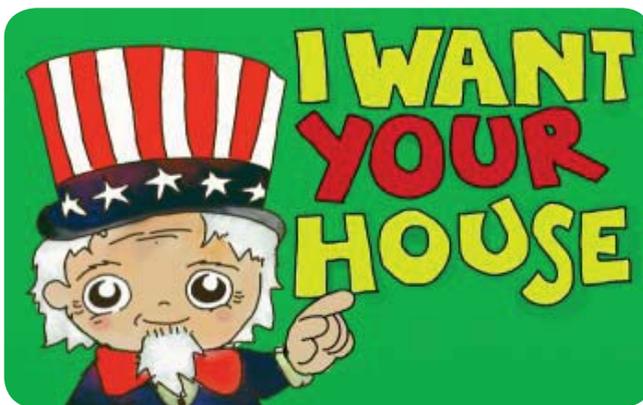


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Thanks to Honest John

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank Honest John on behalf of the Horndale Residents Association for John's kind donation of £1000 towards our trips for 2016. This money will be used to provide trips for members of our community, our trips are open to every one of all ages and backgrounds. They provide a great platform to build a better society and make new friends. Our first trip for this year is to Skipton on Saturday 9th April £5 each with 3 pickup points across town. The places are booked on first come served basis. Ring Martin 01325 316148 All money raised is used to fund further trips so John's donation goes further than the original donation. John's Community Kitty is a great asset to our town and helps many groups across our great town so please keep John in mind when getting rid of household goods and bric a brac. Eddie Woods, Chairman

DISABLED ACCESS DAY at LOCOMOTION



Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is offering a range of free activities for the whole community to enjoy – as their contribution to the nationwide Disabled Access Day initiative on Saturday March 12th. Visit on the day, and you'll be able to take a closer look at the cabs of the museum's two operational diesel shunters – Class 03 D2090 and Class 08 13079 – as these locomotives will be positioned on the

platform at the Collection Building to allow wheelchair access. You'll be able to get hands on with some of the smaller items from the museum's collection in object handling sessions, and you'll be able to join in with tours of the 'star' vehicles on display throughout the day. Disabled Access Day is a nationwide initiative to encourage disabled people to try something new! The initiative is sponsored by Euan's Guide, a listing and review site that helps disabled people and their families know which venues are truly accessible. Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is open from 10am to 4pm daily. Tours, cab access and object handling sessions for Disabled Access Day will be available at selected times throughout the day. Parking and admission is free of charge. For more information, please call 01388 777999.

AYCLIFFE COMPANY TO OPEN FLAGSHIP STORE

FAST-GROWING Crafter's Companion has unveiled plans to open a retail outlet in County Durham, which will be the first of its kind in the UK.

The craft supplies company will invest £500k in the store that will include themed shopping sections covering papercraft, arts, sewing, home décor and haberdashery.

Focused on education, inspiration and enjoyment, it will also house a coffee shop, two dedicated demonstration areas and a central hub for workshops and group sessions.

Located next to the company's new corporate headquarters at Aycliffe Business Park, the flagship store will give craft enthusiasts the chance to learn about craft, experience the brand and socialise with a like-minded community.

To help with a recruitment drive to staff the store with craft enthusiasts, the company will be holding a job open day on March 7th to give the region's crafting public a chance to apply and show off their skills.

Sara Davies, founder and sales director at Crafter's Companion, said: "We are delighted to be opening our flagship store in the North-



Sara at the new Horndale Avenue HQ



East and are inviting anyone interested in working for us or with us to book a slot at the job open day.

"The new centre is intended to be a destination outlet, where people can come and enjoy a day out, take a class, learn something about craft,

visit the café and get involved with the demos.

"The idea behind the concept is to give Crafter's Companion a physical presence and give our customers the chance to interact with our brand, staff and products and experience

what we're all about. "Along with engaging with avid crafters and craft groups from across the UK, we're also hoping that it will attract people outside the crafting community to get involved in craft."

The 7,000 sq ft site, which is set to open in around eight weeks, will also house a 'Retail Centre for Excellence' intended to support retailers from across the UK with training and consumer insight.

Crafter's Companion specialises in manufacturing and distributing crafting tools and products, which are currently sold online via its website, on TV shopping channels across the world and by independent retailers. The opening of the new store in Newton Aycliffe will be of significant benefit to the local economy and will coincide with a move to the company's new corporate headquarters, which will be situated next door.

The leading papercraft supplier was founded by Sara in 2005 and its new HQ and store will be located near the company's existing packing and warehouse operation. Those interested in the job open day, please call 01388 663251.



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

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

TUESDAY, 8th MARCH, 2016

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

The meeting will be to give an update of the Council's Aims and Targets.

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

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

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

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

Guide Volunteers to Work in Switzerland



Newton Aycliffe Guide, Abi Barnett, is embarking on a new adventure this week - 3 months volunteering at "Our Chalet" in the mountains of Switzerland.

It is an International Guiding Centre with adventures for girls from around the world. Abi is no stranger to volunteering as she was a Gamesmaker during the Paralympics in London 4 years ago and recently was awarded the Sir Jack Petchey Volunteer award in London for her contribution to Guiding in the city. This involved her leading Guiding sessions for sick children at Great Ormond Street Hospital as well as a local Guiding unit at St Pancras. Locally Abi has been involved with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Sections across the county, leading activities, taking part in hill walking, leaders course and updating the Guiding web site. She has promised to bring back chocolate for her trip! More information on Guiding can be found at: www.girlguiding.org.uk Abi is funding the flights and travel costs herself, receiving free board and lodgings whilst volunteering.

Woodham Village AGM

The Woodham Village Community Association Annual General Meeting for Year ending 31st December will be held at St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham on Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 7pm.

AGENDA

Review of Accounts
Election of Officers and Committee
To consider Resolutions
Update of Constitution
Membership

Copies of Agenda are available at the Centre or from Secretary via Email woodham.community@gmail.com
Any other proposed Resolutions must be submitted in writing two weeks before date of AGM

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NEWTONIAN OPENS NEW TANNING SALON



Newtonian Daryll Hall has opened a Tanning Studio "New-Tan" at Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe. Opening offers included £15 - 100mins; £20 for 120mins and £25 with unlimited time. Daryll also offers beauty treatments and has a Nail Bar, Eye Brow Waxing and Eye Lashes, etc. When he heard the shop was for sale he was immediately interested as he knew Aycliffe needed a new salon with up-to-date equipment and a new modern look. Daryll told Newton News: "After selling my old tanning shop in Spennymoor my partner and I took it on. It needed a lot of work doing to get it how it is today and it's

still not 100% finished". He is always looking for better things and upgrades to keep old and new customers happy. The tubes in the beds make you tan really quickly and are the best you can get with only a few shops in the UK who have them. The salon also offers very reasonably priced creams - trying to keep the cost down as much as possible to help everyone out. "We don't want our customers paying over the odds" said Daryll. The shop is open from 10am - 8pm, Monday till Friday. Saturday 10am till 5pm. Find New Tan on Facebook for special offers and treatments including Teeth Whitening.

Town Brewery Offers Pop-Up Bar Evenings

The STEAM MACHINE BREWING COMPANY's first Pop-Up Bar event was hailed as great success by attendees.

The Aycliffe's brewery diverse craft beers featured prominently from a customised mobile bar. Nick Smith, one of the founders said, "We've had nothing but fantastic feedback for the evening - for the food, music, and craft beer. It was great to see the hall so packed. We'll definitely be doing something like this again!"

Guests of the event held at Aycliffe Village Hall last Saturday were treated to a gourmet burger from local caterers / food producers the WHOLE HOG, in addition to an energetic foot-tapping performance from local folk roots band the JIG DOCTORS.

"We are really enthusiastic about teaming up with such talent. We want to offer what we did last Saturday as an event package in the future. Where else can you have a craft beer bar from the brewer, gourmet rare meats straight from the producer, with great live music to top it off?"

STEAM MACHINE's themed pop-up bar is already expected to make some other appearances this year at speciality food and drinks festivals around the region, but locals can always enjoy their products in many of the area's drinking establishments, with Aycliffe Village's Royal Telegraph

recently added to the ever-growing list. Those looking for more information can find STEAM MACHINE on facebook, twitter, or www.steammachinebrew.com

RESPECT FOR THE CUBBY

Dear Sir
Councillor Clare's letter in Newton News two weeks said The Cubby was an eyesore. I wish he had respected the length of time the Cubby has been operating - approx 36 years and the much loved and reliable service it gave the people of Newton Aycliffe. Like any other building it did deteriorate, but was always kept clean and tidy. I do agree the site surrounding the cubby was an eyesore and still is!
Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp
Chairman of The Cubby
now at Neville Parade.

Concerts in the Throne Room



Bishop Auckland Music Society is delighted to announce its concert series for 2016. Once again musicians of international standing will be bringing a rich variety of classical concerts to entertain in the Throne Room at Auckland Castle.

Ranging from The Villiers Quartet, (violins and cello) playing Beethoven and Mendelssohn, to tuba player Ross Knight with a wide-ranging repertoire; The Ellis Ensemble, (clarinet, bassoon and piano), performing a medley to include works by Elgar, Glinka and Bruch to The Acacia Duo (harp and flute).

The series culminates with Schubert, Ravel and Debussy performed by the dazzling pianist, Mami Shikimori. Season tickets £55 Single concert tickets - purchased in advance from Brothertons Music Shop or Brian Varley (01388) 606075 £13.50 or pay on the door- tickets £15.00

100th Birthday Celebration



Elsie Eastham's 100th birthday celebration took place at Aycliffe Care Home this week with many of her family present. Elsie was born in Metal Bridge and lived most of her life in Tow Law and then Preston for 19 years before moving in with her daughter and then retiring to Aycliffe Care Home where she has lived for the last 14 years. Elsie is the last one of

nine children. She has six grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren. Elsie had a busy working life as an auxiliary nurse, lolly pop lady and post lady between having her two children. She outlived four husbands. Elsie went on her first aeroplane flight at the age of 70 with her nephew John. She took the long journey to New Zealand for a month

to celebrate her brother Albert's 80th birthday. The visit included a helicopter ride over Fox Glacier. On her birthday she was visited by 5 generations, and the Care Home provided a party, special birthday cake and an entertainer. Our Mayor, Mary Dalton, attended to deliver a bouquet of flowers along with congratulations on behalf of the townspeople

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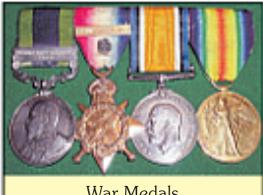
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Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 1st March will feature "Love Me or Leave Me". A biographical musical drama based on the life of Ruth Etting, played by Doris Day; a singer who rose to movie star. A whole host of songs such as "Ten Cents a Dance", "You Made me Love You", "I'll Never Stop Loving You" and "Mean to Me" make it a timeless film.

James Cagney plays her gangster first husband who helped her to stardom in a tempestuous marriage. 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.

Aycliffe Company Helps Town Food Bank



Local company Perry Process, based on Aycliffe Business Park, recently made a donation to their local food bank. The donation included various non-perishable food items and over 300 unused carrier bags.

Susan Jardin, part of the marketing department at Perry, said: Perry recently re-branded and had lots of left over carrier bags. We knew our local food bank would appreciate them so decided to do a food collection too. It felt great to help out the local community and this is something we would like to do more often.

Durham food bank opened in late 2011 and since then has grown rapidly both in the areas served and the number of people fed. There are 28 distribution points across the North East.

The food bank takes non-perishable, in date food. Our local distribution point is St Clare's Church, Wednesday and Friday between 1:30pm - 3:30pm.

UK Award for Aycliffe Cancer Campaigner

Anna Swabey has been honoured by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland with a prestigious 'UK Young Citizen of the Year' award.

It not only recognises her outstanding work to raise both awareness and funds for greater research into brain tumours while fighting a personal battle against terminal brain cancer but also earns her a £500 donation for her chosen charity - the Brain Tumour Research Campaign.

A delighted Anna said this week: "I really am surprised

but delighted that Rotary should think I'm worthy of such a wonderful award."

Close on the heels of her UK triumph came news of a second honour for Anna. She was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe and presented with her membership certificate by club president Denese Cartwright.

Just over a year ago, Anna (24), was found to be suffering from a particularly aggressive form of brain tumour and was given as little as three months to live



SECOND LITTLE FREE LIBRARY LAUNCHED



Greenfield Community College students from both the Sunnydale Campus and Aycliffe site, have been working with writer Andy Croft to create their own short stories and flash fiction which will be published and be the start to the second of the free Little Libraries, this one held on the Sunnydale Campus and launched on World Book Day on 3rd March 2016.

The first of the Little Free Libraries is on the Aycliffe Site and has been a great asset to the school and community. Both library containers have been created by our students with guidance from the Cree men and they include a variety of books which anyone can borrow or swap for another

in its place.

The work of the students was created after a workshop with writer Andy Croft, in which he showed how writing and story-telling can inspire others and provoke all sorts of emotions, so much so they have created their own stories. This will be published and placed in the Sunnydale Little Library for all to read on World Book Day. The students will also receive a copy each to show how far their hard work has reached.

World Book Day will also see the launch of the Suitcase Library workshop by the Youth Cree alongside artist Nicola Golightly for Greenfield Community College students. This is something they have been working on for the past couple of months and is a progression on their previous work which included the sharing of their kindness manifesto through gifts of kindness to inspire positivity through creativity.

On World Book Day the Little Library on the Sunnydale Campus will be officially opened along with a primary school workshop and readings by Andy Croft, with thanks to GAMP AAP for their support. Students throughout both campuses will also be gifted a book voucher each and be tasked with a reading for success activity. This event is a great way to celebrate World Book Day throughout the school and understand the importance of stories as well as help students to find new ways to enjoy reading and writing.

- 36 months at most. Anna's response was a simple: "I'm not going to roll over and die. . . . There's still too much I have to do for other people like me. . ."

She began to write a regular blog on Wordpress shared on Twitter and Facebook (she called it 'Inside my Head') and to organize a major awareness and fund-raising campaign to enable more brain tumour research. Her enthusiasm proved infectious and brought support from people throughout the UK.

In just over a year, Anna's backing for an online petition calling for a government debate on the need for more cash for

brain tumour research has attracted 120,000 signatures and so will now be debated at Westminster. At the same time, her fund-raising projects have generated over £40,000.

Though brain tumours are now the biggest cancer killer of people under 40, research into their cause and treatment attracts only one per cent of the national research budget. Anna says: "That's got to change".

Footnote: Later this year, Anna will have another cause for celebration. She and fiancé Andy Bell are to be married. Rotary President Denese commented: "Words cannot describe how delighted we all are".

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Lunch at Lizzies, (St. Elizabeth's Church Hall, Woodham on 2nd March at 12.30. Join us for a delicious 2 course luncheon. No booking required - just turn up. Only £3 for lunch and refreshments

Coffee Morning 5th March at 10am.

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Mothering Sunday 6th March at 9.30 am

We would like to invite all those and their families who have been baptised at St Elizabeth to join us for this joyous and celebratory occasion

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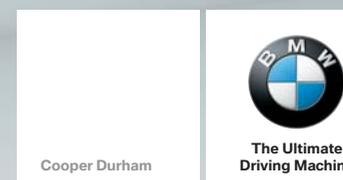
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Durham PCC Awarded National Transparency Quality Mark



L-R PCC Ron Hogg, N Johnon, Bernard Rix and Alan Reiss (L-R): PCC Ron Hogg, N Johnon (staff member), Bernard Rix and Alan Reiss (Chief of Staff)

Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has received national recognition for transparency.

PCC Ron Hogg was awarded with the Transparency Quality Mark from Bernard Rix, Chief Executive of the independent body CoPaCC earlier this month.

CoPaCC is an independent organisation which monitors policing governance nationally, to ensure PCCs are accountable to the public and that they publish information about their work.

Ron said: "I am delighted that we have been granted the Transparency Quality Mark. It is important to me that the public are kept informed of the work I do as PCC, and since taking up office I have tried to be as open and transparent as possible.

"As well as providing a range of information on my website, such as key decisions, events, expenses and freedom of information requests, I ensure my office is very active on social media. This provides more opportunities for people to find out other areas of my work, such as local projects, funding opportunities and services to support victims of crime."

Bernard said: "Many congratulations to the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's team for their work to ensure they meet legal requirements on transparency. I am delighted to present this award to Durham and look forward to what I trust will be continued excellent work in this area."

To find out more, visit: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk or search for Durham PCC on Facebook or Twitter

Pupils & Staff Go 'Plank' Crazy!

Greenfield PE Department recently set a challenge for both pupils and staff to see who could hold the fitness related plank position for the longest amount of time. The competition ran throughout January and up to the February half-term as part of a new year fitness related challenge.

It also coincided with the PE department's health related fitness units of learning that pupils were involved in. Pupils and staff alike attempted the position in and out of school and would regularly send times into the PE twitter page. Several staff members got involved and this only proved to spur pupils onto want to beat their teacher's even more.

The competition culminated in a 'Plank Off' on the last day of term with all the most successful pupils and staff on stage at lunchtime in front of a packed audience. With well over 200 watching, 16 pupils and staff lined up to try and take the Greenfield 'Plank off' crown for 2016. Pupils, both male and female, from all year groups took part with teacher's such as Mrs Robson, Mrs Gibbs, Mr Butterworth and Mr Allison also in attendance.

For some, the added pressure of spectators was too much and soon crumbled out of the competition. After four and a half minutes holding the position the team of 16 soon became 6 (Max Hunter, Danielle Ord, Brandon Graham, Daniel Wilkinson Mr Butterworth



and Mrs Gibbs). With the crowd of pupils and staff watching and chanting for various different people to win it, it proved added extra motivation for everyone to compete for the title. However, those 6 slowly became 3 when the time went beyond 9 minutes. Mr Butterworth was the first to bow out of the three, with a time of 9 minutes 20 seconds leaving Mrs Gibbs to take the accolade for the staff with a time of 9 minutes 22 seconds.

There was to be no beating Max Hunter of year 10 though, who seemed determined from the offset and became the Greenfield 'Plank off' champion for 2016 with a time of 9 minutes 24 seconds. What a fantastic effort! Max has set the standard for all to aspire to for next year's competition, perhaps we all best start training even earlier next year! Well done to everyone who took part from all of Greenfield PE Department.

Goods for Food Bank



17th February, 2016 was Random Act of Kindness Day and relatives, residents and staff from Defoe Court Care Home donated items to the local Food Banks in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon Alive. Ernie Temple (right) collected items on behalf of the community in Newton Aycliffe. Everyone agreed that they would like to support the community again later in the year with further acts of kindness.

2016 Exhibition of Open Art at Greenfield



Thursday 3rd March – Wednesday 27th April
Greenfield Arts, Newton Aycliffe

Greenfield Arts invites you to latest exhibition by a fantastic range of artists from across the local area. This exhibition always provides a superb range of work in different media and contains a range of subjects. It is an excellent opportunity for developing artists to experience exhibiting their work in a professional gallery with the support and guidance of the Arts Centre as well as promote their work for further commissions.

It is a great place to come and be inspired by the work of others as well as see the great talent we host in the North East. Gallery Opening Times: Monday – Thursday 10am – 9pm, Friday 10am – 4pm

For more information check out the website or speak with one of our lovely team members on 01325 3790048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk.

Situations VACANT



Holiday Inn Darlington North at Newton Park is recruiting for a **HOUSEKEEPER**

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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

- Durham Votes 'Yes!' To Devolution: bit.ly/DEVOYES
- My report on this week's County Council meeting: bit.ly/DCCFeb16
- My report on this week's DCC Economy Scrutiny committee meeting: bit.ly/DCCESFeb16
- DCC wins Social Value Leadership Award: bit.ly/DCCSVLA
- DCC has secured £31,000 promote the national 'Good to Know' recycling campaign locally: bit.ly/DCCGtKRC
- Latest roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks19Feb
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD190216
- This month's unemployment figures: bit.ly/UnemploymentJan16
- NECA wants your views on its 20-year 'Transport Manifesto' for the North East: bit.ly/NECATrans20

COMMUNITY

- Durham Constabulary is the ONLY 'outstanding' police force in the country: bit.ly/DCOutstand16
- Durham PCC Ron Hogg has been awarded the national Transparency Quality Mark: bit.ly/PCCTQM
- How to avoid Universal Credit helpline phone costs: bit.ly/UCphone
- Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership – 2015 Annual Report: bit.ly/BLCRP15
- The first 'Growing Durham' newsletter: bit.ly/GDFeb16
- 'This is Durham newsletter': bit.ly/TiDFeb16
- Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership 'Traditional Farm Buildings Survey' Project. Talk: 7pm, 11 March. Exhibition: 10am-4pm, 9-16 March (not Sun & Mon) at The Witham in Barnard Castle: bit.ly/HoTFarms
- Model railway event, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm, Sat-Sun 5-6 March.



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Election for Police Commissioner

PROSPECTIVE candidates, for the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election, can find out more about what is involved at a Candidates Briefing event. The event is being held on Wednesday 24th February, 2pm-5pm at County Hall in Durham.

Candidates will hear about the arrangements for the election, the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and their Office, information about Durham Constabulary and information about working in partnership with other organisations.

The briefing event is open to anyone interested in standing as the PCC in the election on Thursday 5 May for the Durham Constabulary area.

If you would like to attend the free event, please telephone 03000 264631 or email: enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk to register your attendance.

A new webpage has been made available containing information for candidates at: www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/election2016.

STUDENTS VISIT NISSAN



For fourteen Year 9 Woodham Academy students the normal school day hasn't been quite so normal this week as they spent the full week working with engineers at Nissan in Sunderland. The students had the opportunity to discover the world of manufacturing and industry by attending the course delivered by Industrial Cadets, an initiative that aims to inspire young people by bringing industry to life.

Over the week the students had a number of challenges to complete including working on their own production line, resolving quality concerns and demonstrating skills in problem solving, team work, communication and critical thinking. The course included meeting graduates and having a tour of the company's flagship plant. At the end of the week, students were awarded a

Certificate of Recognition as they achieved Silver Award Level 2 which is an industry led accreditation.

As well as inspiring the next generation, the national programme aims to open young eyes to the variety of careers available and raise aspirations within an integral industry.

In a recent interview, Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne said, "Backing Britain's car industry has been a priority for this government and today we see the industry going from strength to strength. I am hugely encouraged that manufacturing is at a 10-year high and exports are at a record level."

It is hoped that some of the Woodham Academy students will go on to have careers within engineering and manufacturing locally.

GAMP Supports CAB with Digital Money Coaching



Residents living in Newton Aycliffe will soon be able to receive one-to-one support to help them increase their confidence and digital literacy skills, thanks to a Digital Money Coach project run by Citizens Advice County Durham.

The project, funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), will engage with residents, increase their confidence and improve their digital literacy skills on a one-to-one basis. The project will specifically target individuals who require support to complete the present Universal Credit Benefit application process, in particular those who are digitally excluded.

The project will also recruit and train a team of 6 volunteers who will help support clients on a one-to-one basis with everything from comparing energy suppliers, online banking

and completing online benefit applications.

Neil Bradbury, Citizens Advice County Durham, said: "Over 10 million people in the UK lack basic IT skills, leading to digital exclusion. The Digital Money Coaches will help alleviate this problem in the GAMP area".

As part of the project anyone accessing support will also be able to speak

confidentially with specialist CAB advisors.

The Digital Money Coaches project is funded through the Neighbourhood Budget allocations of Cllrs Eddy Adam, John Clare, Mike Dixon, Joan Gray, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper and Sarah Iveson.

For further information on the project, please contact Citizens Advice County Durham on 01325 316 637.

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Flicking the Flicks

As Messy Church is celebrating Mother's Day on the 5th March, KIDSFLICKS Children's cinema club will be on the following Saturday - 12th March at 2pm.

The film of choice is TRANSYLVANIA 2, featuring the occupants of this spooky high-end hotel up to more fun and games. A value sweet shop selling mix-ups and drinks will be available and we have plenty of seats for everyone.

Hot chocolate if it's cold - ice-cream if it's warm! Who can guess? Come along, doors open 1.30pm. Admission is only £1, super value and everyone is welcome.

The club is run by the Youth and Children's Team at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe and the film club runs monthly in the main hall.

Flower Demo

Enjoy an evening in the company of Gosforth Demonstrator, Heather Curry, as she delights with her expertise in flower arranging at an evening demonstration entitled "A Basket Case" at the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 7th March at 7.30pm in Shildon Civic Hall.

The event is free to members.

Visitors £5.00 (pay on the door). New members are always welcome at this friendly club. For further information contact Chairwoman Pauline Wadge (01388) 834293

Easter Egg Collection

The Co-op Funeralcare is appealing for help with collecting Easter eggs again this year. Staff at Co-op funeral homes are asking their communities to donate the eggs for local organisations for adults and children with learning difficulties.

Jenette Sisson divisional manager said, "We always have such a wonderful response to our Easter egg appeal and look forward to delivering them in the week before Easter." Easter eggs and gifts will be gratefully received at Oakcliffe Cottage in Macmillan Road until Friday 18th March (between 9am - 5pm weekdays) for more information please call 01325 300510

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 9th March 2016

Council Meeting - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also 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.

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-Ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

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".



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AYCLIFFE RUFC NEWS

The new found strength this season of Newton Aycliffe RUFC was put to the test with the unavailability of at eight regular first team players. Saying that, on paper the team still looked extremely strong. Captain Andrew Littlefair was unavailable through injury the responsibility of leadership went to Luke Tinkler. Aycliffe's front three dominated the scrummage from the very first to the last, an excellent performance throughout the game from Adam Batley Jamie Whelan and veteran Mark Affleck. Aycliffe's forwards played really well Neil Morgan dominated the line out creating great ball for Gareth Parsonage and his backs to run at every opportunity. Seven tries were scored in the first half with both James Thacker and Luke Crossen each getting a brace. Jonny Griffiths Craig Holmes and Warren Parsonage each scored tries. And Captain for the day Luke Tinkler converted three. Half time 41 - 0 In the second half veteran Ronnie Gilyeat entered the

affray and Warren Parsonage took over at 9. From the kick off Seaham fought their way back into the game. Their big forwards put their bodies on the line to win ball after ball driving deeper into Aycliffe territory time and time again Aycliffe's defence held them out with some manful tackling from Jeff Hodgson and Matty Wiper. After ten solid minutes of aggressive rugby most of which time was spent camped on Aycliffe's line Seaham final crashed over to score and a fantastic kick saw Seaham's point tally at 7. The resulting kick off saw Aycliffe regain the upper hand and to be fair Seaham despite their best efforts never really looked like getting anything else out of the game. Tries again began to flow Luke Crossen scored a further three tries to take his tally to five for the game. James Thacker scored another brace for four tries on the day. Andrew Parkin scored a try and Matty Wiper ran sixty yards sell more dummies than Boots the chemists to score a cracking try in the corner. Luke Tinkler converted twice to give a Final Score of 80 - 7 This Saturday the 1st XV are away to South Shields k.o. 2:15 and the 2nd XV are away to Richmond 2nds. Aycliffe Rugby is sponsored by The Shred Centre and Screentech Darlington. Prior to the match there was a fitting tribute to a good friend and supporter of the club for many years, Ainsley Adams, 27yrs old who sadly passed away this week. Both teams stood for a minutes silence in his memory. Our thoughts and prayers go to Ainsley's family.

NAYFC Match Reports

Under 7 Eagles defeated Trimdon FC 4-0 with a fantastic performance from all the players. Adam (captain) Will, Harvey, Nathan, Charlie and Lucas were fantastic. Will added 4 more goals to his tally for the season. Under 9 Falcons won 1-0 against Darlington Allstars with the only goal of the game coming from a well taken chance by Dylan Stewart. Great effort by all the players. MOT Dylan Stewart. Game two was won by an impressive 7-1. Goals from Louis Parnaby 2, Aidan Lee Peacock, Jacob Bailey-Thompson, Cole Gaskarth, Jordan Mcbride and Ryan Usher who was also awarded MOTM. Under 9 Eagles won 2-0 against St. Mary's with goals from Owen Robertson and John Taylor. A strong defence and some fantastic saves from Daniel Heaton meant a clean sheet. Under 10s had a home game against Darlington Spraire Panthers who were soon 3-0 up and it could have been a lot more if it wasn't for some fantastic saves from Charlie. Second half saw the boys start to wake up and put some good moves together and put pressure on to the visitors culminating in a breakthrough with Oliver striking into the bottom right corner making it a final score of 3-1 to Darlington. MOTM went to Charlie. The second game much the same, effort was a lot better and some great defending from Harry and great performances from William in goal and Archie on right wing. Darlington scored 6 and a great effort from Finn



got us one back. Final score 6-1 to Darlington. MOTM went to Harry. Under 11's played Hebburn Town as a Noah Richerson double ensured the win. Great team performance all round Under 11 Eagles got back to winning ways with a fine 6-1 win. Hat-tricks from Brennan Fitzpatrick and Leo Umudi did the damage. Kieran Walton had a superb game at the back, supported well by Louis Airey. A great team performance from everyone. Under 12 Eagles were away at Eaglescliffe and were slow out of the blocks and found it difficult to get into the game. Final score 8-1 to Eaglescliffe. MOM was Jamie Cockfield. Aaron Ross netted with a great free kick. Under 12 Falcons 4-2 Spraire Lads. Tom Jasper and Dylan (3) were the scorers in a very good team with the lads battling hard against a good, physical Spraire team. Man of the match was Dylan for his 3 goals and a further assist. Under 13 Falcons 14-1 Skelton Utd. Memorable and enjoyable performance and victory for the Falcons. Excellent team football and they got their rewards. Goals Owen Bickford (4) Cole Harrison (3), Jack Birbeck (3), Cameron Cook (2) and Jay Williams (2) MOTM: Jack Birbeck Under 14's put in an outstanding home performance against South Park Rangers with only 9

Aycliffe Pool Closure Didn't Affect Results

Two Gold Medals for Sedgefield 75 at Northumberland and Durham Swimming Championships held at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on 6th & 7th February. The swimmers were Mathew Bradley, Flynn Leybourne, Niall Coulthard, Jamie Darnton Daniel Hall, Hannah Featherstone. Rebecca Hall, Leah Smith, Jessica Hall. Between them they made 13 finals over the weekend. Saturday morning was a great start with seven finals from five swimmers. Hannah took gold and silver in the open 200 and 50 FS. Mathew took the bronze in the 100 Open Breast Jamie and Niall both made the final of the 13 years Boys Breaststroke Daniel competed in the 1000 and 50 Back. Flynn put in a great performance in the 50 FC Sunday saw Niall Coulthard take double gold in the 200 and 50 FC with outstanding swims and replicating his wins of 2015. Mathew took the bronze in the 100 Back and was placed 4th in the 200 FC and 7th in the 50 FC Hannah was placed 5th in the 800 FC Jessica made the final of the 100 Breast and the 50 Back. Rebecca swam in the 100 Breast and the 50 Back. It was a big day for Leah as this was her first N&D Championship swim in the 100 Breast stroke posting a PB and just missing the final The swimmers performed really well when one considers the lack of training and the subsequent loss of fitness due to the pool closure at NALC

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New Year Fitness Winner NAJFC MATCH REPORTS



A hairdresser is hoping to go from her couch to running 5k after winning free use of Newton Aycliffe's newly refurbished leisure centre.

Sophia Langan, 27, entered Durham County Council's New Year fitness contest, with the prize being three months free membership for her and a friend.

Now, with husband Anthony, 36, she has visited her town's freshly re-opened facility to start a journey to fitness she hopes will inspire others.

"I entered the competition as I decided that I need to do more exercise and get myself fit," said Sophia, from Newton Aycliffe.

"In the past I have had severe back problems and haven't been able to run, but now they are fixed, with my husband, I'm aiming for the NHS recommended 'Couch to 5k'."

"I am very excited to have won this competition as it will really get us in the exercise groove for the long term."

"I'm hoping to increase my core strength and

fitness levels and the goal for us both is, by the end of the trial, to be able to run 5k with ease." Sophia and Anthony, an IT trainer for the NHS, visited the centre earlier this week for their gym inductions and over the coming weeks the council will be tracking their progress in an effort to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

Councillor Maria Plews, Durham County Council's cabinet member for leisure, libraries and lifelong learning, said: "The council is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all its residents and their families."

This is a great opportunity for Sophia and Anthony to make a real change to their lives, and I hope others will follow their lead and make the most of the fantastic facilities we have at our council-run leisure centres."

For more information about gym memberships at Durham County Council leisure centres visit the website:

www.durham.gov.uk/fitnessmemberships

Newton Aycliffe Juniors players have been reaping the reward of the club investing their subscription fees in winter jackets. The players have been particularly grateful in recent weeks as the cold or wet weather (or both!) has been quite evident. Pictured are the Under 8's in their new jackets - thanks to all at the club involved in helping keep the players appropriately kitted out!

This week the games continued and the Under 7's faced Darlington RA Spitfires and came away with two wins after outstanding performances in both games. Due to the previous cancellation of fixtures both of the day's games counted towards league standings. First up Aycliffe dominated showing determination and great football with goals from Kai, Ashton, Josh and Ethan leading to a 4-0 win. The second game ended 4-3 with Aycliffe goals this time round for Kai, Harry, Josh and Harrison. Each of the players used in goal over the two games were great these were Harrison, Roman, Ethan and Ashton and the nature of the team effort saw every player named man of the match.

Under 8's made a great comeback from 3-0 down to win 5-3 against Middleton Dragons. They conceded the three goals in the first ten minutes and it could have been more if it wasn't for some great saves from Lucas in the Aycliffe goal. Harvey then finished a move involving Rhys and Jayden to claw a goal back before Rhys rounded the keeper to reduce the deficit to one goal at 3-2. Rhys added a free kick then Harvey followed up and scored from Jayden's deflected shot to take the lead, the win rounded off when Jayden added the final goal. In the second goal two goals from Niall gave the home team a good start and Jake scored to provide a 3-3 lead. Middleton got two goals back and the game ended 3-2. The whole team are showing great improvement week on week.

Under 9's were away to league leaders Barnard Castle and started playing



in to the strong wind which proved to be a challenge as they went down 3-0 by half time. Lewis scored in the second half after the home team had added their fourth goal. Parker made a couple of good saves with Cody and Jason doing well in front of him but the fifth goal could not be stopped. The game ended 5-1 with Aycliffe losing out to a good passing team on the day. Man of the match was Thomas who had his usual solid game.

Both Under 10 teams secured wins over the weekend. The Russell Foster side were first up on Saturday and Taylor's goal secured a 1-0 win against Fulwell Juniors. Fulwell were determined opposition and had the first real chance on goal but Herbie was in excellent form in goal to keep them out. Josh came on at half time to make his debut, Taylor struck a great goal in to the bottom corner to take the lead. Further chances came but the score stayed at 1-0, Herbie was both the players and parents man of the match. The TJFA league side faced a strong Middleton Rangers team who were the only side to beat them in the league last year. It was a keenly contested match with Jake rewarding a great display with a goal and Lucas finishing Charlie's through ball for the winner after Middleton had equalised.

Under 11's won 1-0 away at Thirsk and the Under 12's played Brompton Juniors at Sunnydale with the Aycliffe team on top in a fast paced first half, but the visitors had a well drilled defence who were hard to break down. Nathan made a good save and Curtis a goal line clearance to keep the visitors out and the game scoreless. Zack then finished a cross from Dylan

and Burrows scored after ten minutes to get the lead. The conditions made the game scrappy but the defence was only breached when Kader scored from what seemed like an offside position to level the game. It ended in a draw and Lewis Hynes was man of the match for his performance in an unfamiliar position.

Under 18 Blacks game was postponed and the Reds game was abandoned however the Under 23's completed their fixture at West Auckland after the same game at Sunnydale had been abandoned due to a serious injury a few weeks ago. Aycliffe found themselves 3-0 down after 35 minutes and this remained the score at half time after what was felt to be a penalty kick for Aycliffe was not awarded. In to the second half Liam Tallentire pulled a goal back and the improvement continued with chances created but not taken. The game finished 3-1 and the team will need to pick themselves up for a game against league leaders Guisborough next week.

The Phoenix Club News

Dear Sir,
The Phoenix Club Restaurant is now under new management with a new owner Louise McIntock.

Louise is well known in the club for her friendly attitude to people as she was one of the club's bar staff. When the opportunity for the license to the restaurant arose, Louise jumped at the chance to have her own business.

After careful consideration, and taking into account other applicants, the committee decided to award the license to Louise. Her qualifications speak volumes with City & Guilds levels 1,2 & 3 in catering hospitality, food safety & hygiene certificates. Louise has travelled to gain experience, she went to Jersey from 2004 to 2009 to become "chef de partie" in a busy hotel industry.

Louise climbed the ladder to "sous chef", working in The Cristina, The Somerville and The Golden Sands Hotel, all of which are sister hotels in the Dolan Hotel Chain in the Channel Isles.

If you want fine food in a friendly atmosphere please come along and enjoy the cuisine. Louise opens her restaurant on Sunday 28th February from 12noon to 3pm with lunches served throughout the week at the same times. Eventually her plan is to serve breakfast from 10am to 11.30am and hot sandwiches etc. on Friday and Saturday nights. News of the club itself is that

although we now have almost 1600 members, since pulling away from the Royal British Legion, we still are not getting bums on seats, so to speak, as we had hoped for.

So, come on you new members - pop in, just for one drink, or maybe two, once a week as this would help the club immensely.

Since our last article, where I tried to explain about the Branch being the Royal British Legion and we are a separate club using their name, which we pay for. The branch have now left the building and we are restructuring our upstairs offices, needing the branch office for our own business.

We offered the branch alternative accommodation and also allowed them to sell pint check draws etc. to help their own finances. We have always strived to work with the branch and did not want them to leave and we hope no one believes we kicked them out! They left of their own volition saying, "Head office told us to move because the club has nothing to do with the Royal British Legion anymore".

They are now in the Workingmen's Club in a big office with no privacy and The Workingmen's Club has nothing to do with the Royal British Legion. We still wish the branch the best of luck for the future and it was regrettable we had to disaffiliate from the Legion organisation, but it was necessary for us to keep our heads above water financially. Tommy Palmer (Secretary).



Police Appeal

Police are appealing for information after a BT telephone kiosk was tampered with at Aysgarth Close, Newton Aycliffe. The incident happened around 7.15pm on 14th Feb, 2016 whereby a male described as white, medium build, around 50 years old wearing a cream jacket was tampering with the terminal causing damage. The male allegedly got into a dark coloured hatchback vehicle which made off towards Burnhill Way. Anyone with any information should contact PC 2687 Pitt on 101. PC 2687 Jamie PITT Tel: 101 or 999 in an emergency. jamie.pitt@durham.pnn.police.uk

Big Scores for Heighington Juniors

Heighington Under 8s faced a big test on Sunday and they passed with flying colours, against Seaton Carew Tigers. The game was played at a fast pace from the off. Heighington blew their opponents away with a devastating first half performance going 5-0 up at the break with four from Captain Joe Neild and one from Tyler Woodward. Heighington took their foot off the gas in the second half but still added two more through Theo Callaghan & Layton Collier.

Oliver Paylor in the Heighington goal also saved a penalty and was awarded man of the match after a great display. The second game Heighington battled to a 2-2 draw thanks to goals

from Tyler Woodward and Joe Neild. Only a last minute penalty rescued a draw for the visitors. Tyler Gibbon in the Heighington goal made some incredible saves and him and Layton Collier shared the Man of The Match award.

Under 11s were home to Stranton which started with a real fast pace. Heighington took the lead early on and continued to grow as a team, playing some great football with great team spirit. The goals kept coming and ended up 9-1 to Heighington with a hat trick from Leyton Falconer, two goals each from Callum Fraser and Curtis Wright and one from Brandon pape. Caleb Nicholson was awarded MOM

Street Map of **NEWTON AYCLIFFE** Up to date version **NEWTON PRESS** Blue Bridge Centre, St Cuthberts Way Aycliffe Business Park, Co. Durham DL5 6DS including Heighington, Middridge, Aycliffe Village and School Aycliffe. A to Z street index with schools, churches and shop areas identified. Map also shows full business park.

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Democratic Right to Rule Ourselves

Dear Editor
I support your reader APG Wright in calling 'a plague on all your houses' and most especially in exercising our free and democratic right to

govern ourselves. The right to make up our own minds on whether to 'Go or Stay' but without being subject to the scaremongering is now being spread among us. The common cry is "if we leave we don't know what we are letting ourselves in for". The real truth is the exact opposite. Currently it is the EU which is facing an unknown, uncertain future.

Teetering on the edge of a black hole with most member states in faltering economies, high (sometimes massive) unemployment, uncontrolled immigration and massive debts yet still bound to the euro, which is a well proven totally impractical common currency. Gordon Brown did at least one good deal for Britain in his adamant refusal to join that.

Exchange

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Germany is the strongest economy yet it is less than steady under the burdens placed on it and now has an extra million mouths to feed and huge problems with law and order. This does not bode well for the rest, each of which have grave concerns. Greece, well we are all aware that it has monstrous debts and little hope of resolving its problems within a generation

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What we also know KNOW, as a fact, is that Britain is exporting increasingly more to the rest of the world - something for which we have a proven track record. It's in our history. It's in our blood and it is those countries outside the EU who are making far better economic progress than this closed community with its horrendously expensive, burdensome, undemocratic dictates. It is an attack upon my Country, our traditional

democracy, our historic and hard won freedom. I want none of it. I simply want the free trading area falsely promised by Heath in the one and only Referendum this nation has ever been allowed. We will do better without it. For once at least, deGaulle got it right when he said 'Britain is an island off Europe but not of it' I guess he learned something from his stay here between 1939 and 1945
J D Whittaker

What we do KNOW is that Britain, while not yet booming and still with massive debts, is one of the better economies around. We also KNOW, as a fact, that we buy more - nearly 90 billion more - from the EU than they buy from us and, despite the hype, there is no way in the world the EU could afford to lose such a net income or such employment, so essential to

Heighington A.G.M.

Heighington Village Hall Association hold their AGM at the Village Hall on Tuesday 8th March from 7.00pm for 7.30pm and are keen to welcome villagers who would like to hear about what has been done to improve the hall over the past year and about the activities of our regular users.

Drinks and light refreshments will be served at 7.00pm prior to the commencement of the AGM at 7.30pm.

There will be election of Officers and Members of the Management Committee. New Committee members are always most welcome. The Village Hall is the hub of the Heighington community and a lot of hard work is put into the day to day running of the building so it can be there for ALL villagers to enjoy - without the hard work of the Committee, who are all volunteers, the village hall would not be open - so every bit of support they can get is greatly appreciated.
Karin Allison
Hon Secretary

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Huntsman Win Derby

Following last week's victory against title rivals Coundon, The Huntsman were back in action away to The Sports Club on Sunday, aiming to maintain their 100% league record.

Manager Neil Dodds was forced into three changes, with Anthony MacDonald forced to play in goal and Paul Barnes and Callum Farley both recalled to the starting eleven.

After a lacklustre start, it was the home side that seized the early advantage, as Anthony Campbell's long range effort took a deflection leaving MacDonald helpless in the Huntsman goal to make it 1-0.

The Huntsman then pressed forward in search of an equaliser, and were rewarded after a good piece of play between Ste Williams and Mike Sproates, freed up space for Dave Neale to lob

the keeper from the edge of the box to make it 1-1 at halftime.

Having started the second half much brighter, The Huntsman took the lead as a long range shot hit the post, and Andrew Richardson was on hand to stab home from the resulting goalmouth scramble.

The Sports Club got back into the game forcing The Huntsman to sit deep and defend, however substitute Ryan Mercer broke free into added time and calmly dispatched his one v one to put the game beyond all doubt. N.A Sports Club 1-3 Huntsman

Next up for the Huntsman is a home tie against West Auckland The Club in the 2nd Round of The Darlington Charity Cup this Sunday at Simpasture Park
By Craig Woodhead

Brafferton Village News

Regular bookings this week:
Monday 11.30am - 12.30 MokyFit Dance fitness class £3

Wednesday 8pm - 9pm BootCamp by Stu FitLonger £3

Thursday 5 - 6pm Minecraft Club £2 subs

Friday 10 - 11.30 Brafferton Community Play Group, donations for refreshments

Saturday 10.30-11.30 Little Learners £7 pre-booking essential via jessica@littlelearnersuk.com

Special events happening soon:
Monday 29th Feb 1-4pm Baby & Child First Aid for parents, grandparents and carers,

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Saturday 5th March 12.30-2 "Make time for a Cuppa" coffee and cake session, raising funds for Dementia UK

Saturday 5th March 7.30-10pm Blackheart, an acoustical folk duet are playing as part of their "Candlelit Village Halls" tour. £7.50 adults £3 children. Tickets via Heather on 01325 312161

Monday 7th March 6-9pm Baby and Child First Aid for parents, grandparents and carers, £29 book via caroline@tumblesandgrumbles.co.uk

Stop Blaming Tories

Dear Sir,
How can the local Labour Party say they are protecting us from the Tories when it was a Labour Government who left us with so much debt from which we are still trying to recover?

Durham County Council first started selling off Care Homes and other establishments and blaming Tory cuts. Now they are claiming to save footbridges in Aycliffe when it was their responsibility to maintain them in the first instance.

Aycliffe residents are having to pay for street lighting on the A167 which we are already paying for through County Council rates. Our 7 County Councillors are claiming to have saved

the Leisure Centre and the Library when this development was already budgeted for long before they were even elected.

Are we getting value for money from the DCC? Not when you look around and see the state of roads and verges. Cuts do not seem to affect those on high salaries at County Hall and we could certainly save on Councillor allowances by cutting the large number of representatives we elect to County Hall.

It is time the Government sent in an Inspector to protect the interests of residents and the Labour group started working with opposition members to ensure fairness.
Maud Gray

Rotary Club Award for Town Mayor



A Paul Harris Fellowship has been awarded to Town Mayor Mary Dalton by the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe. The award, one of the highest in Rotary International, was awarded to Mary who has served our community well as a Councillor and is on her fourth term of duty as Mayor of Great Aycliffe at the age of ninety. Mary, who is Dutch, met her late husband Reg when he was a tank driver helping to liberate the Netherlands from the cruel occupation of Nazi Germany. They later married and Mary made England her home, eventually moving to retirement in Newton

Aycliffe near her family. Mary wasn't ready to retire and filled her life by seeking election to the Town Council along with Michael her son, who also served a year as Mayor. Mary involved herself with the community, supporting local charities and gained the respect of all she met. The award was presented by the President Denise Cartwright in recognition of her service to the Council and the community.

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Charity Civic Dinner at Woodham Raised £2,273

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Ball was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mary Dalton, on Friday, 19th February 2016 at Woodham Golf and Country Club. Music for dancing was provided by John Melvin. Fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor's nominated Charity during her Year in Office and this year the Mayor has chosen the Renal Unit at James Cook Hospital.

A special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening's fund raising of £1,273 making the total amount raised to £2,273. Mrs. Denese Cartwright, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, gave a response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests and presented a cheque for £500 for the charity from the town's Rotarians.

Councillor Mary Dalton would like to take this opportunity to thank Ebac (Norfrost) Ltd. for their generosity in supplying a Chest Freezer to be raffled on this occasion.

The Mayor also thanked the following for their support of gifts to be raffled:- Sardies Restaurant, Darlington - Occasions Card Shop - Thames Centre Butchers - Sainsbury's at Cobblers Hall - Tesco Extra - Creations Hair Salon - Village Pharmacy - Don Walker Butchers - Wilko - Sue's Florist - Redz Fish & Chips and fellow Councillors and friends who have also supported her during the year by donating gifts to help the fund raising.



Top Table guests with Mayor and consort



Rotary President with Mayor Mary and Consort Michael



Mayor and Consort with the staff of Barclays Bank

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

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LOST DOG FOUND

Friendly black and white male neutered Collie-X type dog found in the Rushyford / Windlestone Hall area on February 14th.



Two ladies jogging there said that he followed them from the Woodham area of Newton Aycliffe. A gentleman picked him up and tried to find the owner, but couldn't so he is now at Stray Aid in Coxhoe, as of 15th February. The reference at kennels for this dog is DU1055 15. Please contact kennels direct on 0300 999 4247 if this is your pet or you know who is the owner.

Patricia Ann Walker

26th February 2015

I thought of you today, but that is nothing new, I thought of you yesterday, and days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name. Now all I have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part. God has you in His keeping, I have you in my heart. Love always, Husband Colin xxxxx

PATRICIA ANN WALKER (Pat). 26th February 2015. There's not a day that goes by that we don't think about you. Love you always. Marina and Denise xx

PATRICIA ANN WALKER. Died 26th February. We love and miss you Mam. We wish you were here today. Just to say these words to you, we love you in every way. **Ever loved, Ever remembered**, Lisa and Dennis xxxxx

PATRICIA ANN WALKER Died 26th February 2015. Three little words, "forget me not". As we will never forget you Nana. Love always, Gavin, Vanessa, Gareth, Gregory, Evie and Summer xxxxx

BILL TILLEY 2nd January 2021 to 1st March 2015. One year has gone since you passed away. We tried to keep you safe and well but you got weaker and slipped away. You left an empty space within our hearts which nothing will fill. We love and miss you still and always will. God bless from all your family.

BILL TILLEY. To a very special Uncle Bill, I love and miss you. Your Niece Brenda **MARY GALLAGHER** 25th February 2011. They say time heals all sorrow and helps us to forget, but time has only proven how much we miss you yet. Love always, Vince, Clare, Paul, Victoria, Amanda and Flynn

MAUREEN WRIGHT 6th March 2015. A year has gone, the pain is still here. Miss you so much. Cliff xxx

JOE WHARTON 2nd March 1988. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Jessie xxxxx

JOE WHARTON 2nd March 1988. God bless Grandad. We love and miss you. Mark, Vikki and David xxx

DERICK YOUNG 2nd March 2005. Thinking of you every day with love. Sadly missed. Michael, June and all the family xxxxx

PETER REDDEN 20/8/1971 - 24/2/2013. Our hearts are full of memories, with pride we speak your name. Although life goes on without you, I will never be the same. Lots of love from all the family

SAVAGE, Edward Ralph (Ted). In loving memory of my Husband. 15/5/1930 to 29/2/2012. We thought of you today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and the days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name, now all we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts. Love Maureen and all the family

EDWARD HUBERY (Eddie). 17/6/1938 to 25/2/2011. Loved and sadly missed by his Wife Gwyn, his family and his friends.

Obituary

BRADLEY. Fell asleep peacefully on 13th February, at home. Paul Andrew, aged 59 years. Much loved Dad of Tim and Helena; a much loved Grandad of Keisha-Leigh, Gabriel, Bobbie-Jo, Keo, Alexia, Ellie-Jay and Maria-Rose. Will family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday 29th February at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, if so desired, may be left in a contribution box at the crematorium for the work of The Kingdom Hall.

IVESON (nee Bennett), 19th February. Peacefully in Lindisfarne Care Home, Newton Aycliffe. June, aged 79 years. Devoted Wife of Bill; cherished Mam of Lynn and Paul, also dear Mother-in-Law, Gran and Great Gran. Will friends please meet for Service in St Mary's R.C. Church, Newton Aycliffe at 2.30pm on Tuesday 1st March. Followed by Cremation at the Wear Valley Crematorium. The family will be making donations to Alzheimer's Society and Stroke Association. A plate will be placed in the church should anyone wish to make a donation to the above charities

Thank You

A **HUGE** big thank you to my boss Don Walker and my work colleagues, friends and family for all the support over the last year. Love, Lisa xxxxx

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In Memoriam

Birthday Remembrance

John Robert Farmer

26th February

I know you are looking down on me every single day. I will always love and miss you as much as words can say. Although you are not here with me, your memory still lives on. In person you are not here, but in my heart you will never be gone. Happy birthday John. Love you, your loving Wife Mary xxxxx

DAD If we could write a story it would be the greatest ever told, of a kind and loving Father who had a heart of gold. We could write a million pages, but still be unable to say just how much we love and miss you on your birthday. Happy birthday Dad. Paul, Brett, David and Christine xxxxxx

GRANDAD It's your birthday again Grandad and we know the brightest star in the sky tonight is our Grandad saying good night. Love you. Jack, Jayden, Harry and Oliver xxxxxx

Catering

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Congratulations

Lionel (Leo) Musgrave



Happy 80th Birthday
28th February 1936
"Leo is everyone's friend"

Lots of love from Mavis, Jacqui and Iain, Mandy and Brian and Grandchildren Rebecca, Charlotte and Isabel xxxxxxxxxxxxx

BRADLEY RACE Happy 18th birthday Son. So proud of you. Love, Mam and Dad xxxxx
BRADLEY RACE Happy 18th birthday to my gorgeous Grandson. Have a fab weekend. Love, Nanna xxx
BRADLEY RACE Happy 18th birthday to my little duck. Lots of love, Nanna Mary xxx
BRADLEY RACE Happy 18th Bro. Have a great day. Love, Katie, Sean and Alfie xxx
BRADLEY RACE Have a great day "Snug". Love, Pinky xxx
BRADLEY RACE Happy 18th birthday. Love, Auntie Gill, Andy and boys xxx
BRADLEY RACE Happy 18th birthday. Lots of love, Auntie Carol, Uncle Tony and all the Stubbies xxx

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG "The Special One". Happy 21st birthday Son. on 26th February 2016. All our love xxx

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

BOBBY MORRELL 29th February 1932. On your birthday what once was such a happy day, brings many painful sorrows. Happy birthday Granda. Lots of love, Andrew, Kieran, Jodie-Leigh

BOBBY MORRELL 29th February 1932. Another birthday, another year, with precious memories of one so dear. Thoughts today of our lives together, hold a love that will live forever. Happy birthday Bobby. Love from your loving Wife Agnes xxxxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29th February 1932. Another birthday has come around and there is nothing I can do, but sit for a while and picture your smile, just like I always do. Happy birthday Dad. Love, David and Brogan

BOBBY MORRELL 29th February 1932. Thinking of you on your birthday. But that is nothing new, for no day dawns and no day ends, without a thought of you. Happy birthday Dad. Love, Roberta and Reggie xxxxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29th February 1932. No birthday cards today. A heartache, a tear, a memory so dear. Every day of our lives, we wish you were here. Happy birthday Granda. Love, Robert, Hayley, Anne-Marie, Andrew, Adele and Orin xxxxx

BOBBY MORRELL 29th February 1932. Thinking of you on your birthday. We talk of you still. We haven't forgotten you and never will. Happy birthday Great Granda. Lots of love and kisses, Kaitlyn, Jodie, Jack, Rhys, William, Ava and Ella xxxxxxxxx

PAUL GIBSON Missing you on your birthday Son. Love, Dad

PAUL GIBSON Birthday wishes Bro. Love, Mandy, Dad and kids

JOHN LAMBERT (birthday 25-2-1933). My darling John, life is a mirage, a game, that's being so, then a time must come when our souls will unite to walk together again. Gone fishing, Duchess

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Aycliffe Footballer Scores 2 For England Aycliffe Third in League

Newton Aycliffe footballer Chloe Ryan has just returned from a Half Term trip of a lifetime in Valencia representing England Schools FA Girls Under 15. One of only two Northern based girls in the squad, Chloe, 14 and her team mates enjoyed a tour of the

famous Mestalla Stadium, home of LA Liga's Valencia, managed by Gary Neville. The girls were joined on the trip by Rachel Yankey OBE, the Arsenal Ladies and former England International star who acted as mentor to the squad, helping with advice and



encouragement. The highlight of the trip was two matches against Valencia CF Under 15 Girls and Provincial side, Meslata. The England Girls' triumphed 2-0 and 7-0 with Chloe scoring two goals in the second match despite playing with a perforated eardrum caused on the outward flight! Up next for the ESFA girls are The

Republic of Ireland on Sunday March 6 in a friendly at Bury FC's Gigg Lane Ground.

A dominant second half display saw Aycliffe take the points from second placed Guisborough Town. The win, Aycliffe's fourth in a row, takes them up to third place in Ebac Northern League Division One. The Priorymen came to Moore Lane on an eight game unbeaten run. However, goals from Matty Moffat & John Campbell put an end to the run. The first half saw chances at both ends but neither side could convert those chances into goals. Aycliffe keeper James Winter was called into a ction after half an hour pulling off a good save, diving to his right, from a shot by Peter Bulmer. Within five minutes it was Guisborough keeper Nick Liversedge performing the heroics with two saves within a minute, first from Moffat, then from Campbell. As the halftime whistle approached Guisborough had another chance but Curtis Round's shot was fired straight at Winter who saved



comfortably. Aycliffe came out of the blocks fastest in the second half & opened the scoring on 51 minutes. Moffat latched on to a through ball down the left. Taking it in his stride he slid the ball across the goal out of Liversedge's reach & into the net. Five minutes later Campbell made it 2-0. Winning the ball in midfield he ran on & fired past the keeper. Guisborough came close to pulling a goal back just after the hour when Danny Earl found himself through on goal. However, the former Aycliffe striker's shot went straight to Winter. Aycliffe's forwards continued to cause problems but without

further reward with the best chance falling to Moffat in the last minute. Once again the visitors' keeper came to the rescue. This was an excellent result for Peter Dixon's side & the 3 points were well deserved. Aycliffe now play two more home games, Seaham Red Star on Tuesday 23rd & Dunston on Saturday 27th. Those games will be followed by our Durham Challenge Cup Semi-Final at South Shields on Tuesday 1 March. It will be over 40 years since we got this far in the county's premier cup competition. Hopefully many Newtonians will make the trip to cheer the team on.

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NINTH AWAY WIN FOR AYCLIFFE F.C.

Newton Aycliffe moved to fourth in the Ebac Northern League Division One with a 1-0 win over Whitley Bay. This was Aycliffe's ninth away win in the league this season, more than any other team. The game was played in awful conditions with rain falling on an already heavy pitch. A late afternoon inspection confirmed the game as on, a relief to Aycliffe who reached the half way point in their season. The first half of the match saw a strong Aycliffe performance with numerous chances. Dennis Knight, again playing at left back, was instrumental in the early pressure. After 13 minutes he took a free kick from 30 yards which rebounded to John Campbell on the edge of the penalty area. His shot was saved, the resulting corner headed over by Alex Kitchen. Three minutes later a Knight interception was played through to Campbell who again saw his shot well saved. Another Knight free kick, from the right side of the box, sailed just wide. With half an hour gone Whitley Bay came close to a goal when an Alex Kitchen back header left James Winter stranded but fortunately missed the goal. The Aycliffe keeper pulled off a good save from the resulting corner. As halftime approached Aycliffe continued to press for the elusive goal with Campbell especially stretching the Bay defence. His persistence was rewarded on 45 minutes with an excellent goal scoring from 18 yards with a first touch shot beating the keeper. The second half saw a determined effort from the home side to pull level.

However, the Aycliffe defence played well keeping the Bay attack at bay. There were few opportunities for Aycliffe to extend their lead & they had their leading scorer, Matty Moffat, limp off with 15 minutes to go. Despite the pressure Whitley Bay failed to equalise & Aycliffe had the better of the last few minutes with Zak Boagey hitting the crossbar from 35 yards & Cambell having a shot saved. Aycliffe now return to Moore Lane for three consecutive home games in a week. Second placed Guisborough Town visit on Saturday 20th, followed by Seaham Red Star on Tuesday 23rd & Dunston UTS on Saturday 27th. The club are offering a special 3 game ticket for £15 adults & £10 concessions, a saving on the normal price of £6/4 for individual games.

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