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Building Site Mess & Disruption

Residents near to new house building sites are complaining of muddy roads, damaged grass verges and general disruption. Sites include Gleeson's Clarence Court development and the Agnew 5 large housing project. Gleeson's response is: "It is inevitable there will be some disruption to local residents when our building activities take place and we apologise for this." "As the site proceeds the disruption will significantly reduce and we have taken a number of corrective actions that will lead to less disruption for local residents." The same message comes from the Agnew 5 site.

What's Happening in Our Town Centre?

UPDATE FROM CENTRE MANAGER



The owners of Aycliffe Town Centre are pleased to confirm that following substantial design work on securing the future of the much loved and iconic Town Centre Clock Tower we can now restart the demolition works of Churchill House, which is currently supporting the tower, and the creation of a new access point to the Town Centre from Stephenson Way. On completion of the demolition works in the summer of 2016, part of the

site will be handed over to Durham County Council for a contractor's compound in order that they might commence the alterations and extension of the Leisure Centre to create a new Library. All the works are expected to be complete by the end of the year.

TOWN CENTRE TREES

Substantial investigatory works have been carried out find out why we were having issues with supporting trees in the mall and this has led us to believe that the water level tables have changed resulting in the tree pits flooding at a level that destroys the tree roots I am now in progress of preparing a report for the owners with recommendations of how to resolve this.

MARKET

We have spent a lot of time with various market operators to look at the possibility of a market for the centre however each of them has come back with the view that currently the demand is not there and that any market would not be viable and this is supported by national evidence that markets in general are declining. Bryan Haldane
Town Centre Manager

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THIRD GENERATION JOINS FAMILY BUSINESS

This year's winner of the 2015 Small Business Awards have recently introduced a third generation into the business, which was established in 1997. The two founder members of Workshop Supplies Tony Harrap and son Darren, have been joined by Darren's son Lewis.



Lewis, Tony and Darren Harrap

Lewis has joined the business following in the footsteps of Darren to learn about tools and engineering products to keep the family business moving forward.

Lewis was educated at Woodham Academy and has recently spent 18 months at telephone network EE on customer service & sales. He joins Workshop Supplies at the age of 19, the same age as his father did when Tony Harrop ran Motalink on Aycliffe Industrial Estate. He joins Mark, Phil, Elaine and Jaki which make up the family business.

The latest report from Workshop Supplies shows Darren is making good progress and everyone

wishes him a successful future in his new career. He joins a sales team that collectively have over 150

years sales experience. Workshop Supplies can be found on St. Cuthbert's Way next to the Post Office.

Debate on In or Out?

Dear Sir,
The visit by "Stay in Europe" MP's and MEP's to the staff at Gestamp plant in Newton Aycliffe recently was well recorded.

I wonder if a similar visit is being planned or initiated by appropriate people who will

have the same opportunity to put forward opposing views and participate in a question and answer session?

Is anyone in a position to let us know if such an event is planned for the near future? A balanced and fair meeting would be welcomed. PC

Co. Durham Votes for Devolution Proposals

Nearly 82,000 County Durham residents have taken part in a household poll asking for feedback on regional devolution proposals. Durham County Council held the poll of all electors - which had a response rate of 21.7 per cent - to help inform its decision on whether to sign up to a final North East devolution agreement.

The agreement would see more decisions made locally and £30m a year additional funding made available to help bolster the region's economy. It would also see the introduction of a regional elected mayor.

Feedback from the household poll shows that there is support for devolving some power and resources to the North East and a view that we should wait to see how further devolution could be achieved in the future.

Analysis of the results show that a clear majority (59.5 per cent) of those who took part believe that devolving some power and resources to the North East would be a step in the right direction.

Just under half of those who took part in the poll (47.8 per cent) thought that the mayor should have limited powers while 40.3 per cent of people felt the mayor should have quite a lot of power and influence.

In relation to whether the

North East should seek further devolved powers if the agreement goes ahead, 42.9 per cent preferred a cautious approach of waiting to see how things develop. Cllr Simon Henig, leader of Durham County Council, said: "I am delighted that so many people have taken the time to tell us their views on the devolution proposals."

"The proposals would mean some significant changes and it is right that residents have had the opportunity to have their say."

"There have been concerns raised nationally about the level of public consultation regarding devolution, but in County Durham we have a strong track record of engaging with our residents on major decisions such as this."

"The fact that nearly 82,000 people in County Durham have responded to our poll shows that residents do want to have a say on issues that affect the local area."

"I would like to thank all those who have shared their views with us. They will be taken into account when we make our final decision about the devolution proposals."

The full results from the poll and an update on other issues associated with the proposed devolution agreement was reported at a meeting of the full council on Wednesday 24th February 2016.

Try the Beveridge Cafe

Do you live in Newton Aycliffe and are looking for a new place to meet friends or family while you have a hot drink or something to eat? If the answer is yes, The Beveridge Café at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community may be the new place for you to go.

The Café is open Monday to Friday from 10am - 2pm. If you would like a buffet having hired a room the café can cater for your event - all the food is freshly prepared.

Food ranges from panini's, jacket potatoes, burgers, omelettes, build your own breakfast (from the list on the

menu) and much more. Also at The Beveridge Café you can take advantage of our take away option so if you do not have time to sit and eat your lunch in the café you can take it away.

To see the full menu of The Beveridge Café check www.naycc.co.uk. Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre and Age UK will be holding their next Monday Carvery on 14th March for just £5, then each second Monday of every month.

Blow away the Monday blues and treat yourself to a delicious two course carvery followed by a fun social activity. Anyone over 50 welcome. For more information and to book your place call 0191 374 6577.

AGM of Great Aycliffe Residents Association

The Annual General Meeting of Great Aycliffe Residents' Association will take place on TUESDAY 15th March 2016 Starting at 7.00pm at SIMPASTURE COURT.

(parking available in the Iron Horse Car Park opposite. The meeting is open to the residents of Great Aycliffe). Each Residents' Association is automatically entitled to one representative, as is any other organisation and body on the town. Anyone, committee or members of the public who wishes items to be considered for the Agenda please let me know. Refreshments will be available.

Arun M Chandran
88 Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DN
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Saturday 5th March - "The Queens of Noise"

Review: "They play a wide range of songs that spans Blondie, Pat Benatar, Lita Ford and Lady Gaga, as well as the tribute stuff. And, if you doubt their playing and singing, do not! These gals appear to have paid their dues and deliver an entertaining performance: Great vocals, good stagecraft and excellent musicianship. They present themselves very well and looked comfortable and assured in everything they played. But what really knocked me out was their sound. This was provided using top class gear and with the help of their sound man, Matt, who worked as hard as anyone to give the band's skills the best possible balance, crispness and clarity throughout their performance. In short, Queens of Noise are a very professional, entertaining and great sounding band."

Review 2: "By the time we got to the pub it was absolutely packed and within the first few tracks it was apparent as to why, because The Queens Of Noise are excellent. The all girl band, comprise a bunch of talented musicians who play with energy and more importantly with a smile on their faces, which shows just how much they enjoy putting a show on, and it was a cracking show."

The girls were asked to play the massive 'Christmas Rocks' gig at the Newcastle 02 Academy in 2013; they went down that well they have been asked back every year since.

Saturday 12th March - "SkinFlint"

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

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Refurbished Pioneering Care Centre Re-opens

The newly refurbished Pioneering Care Centre has welcomed back visitors, service users, tenants and staff as it re-opened its doors on Monday 29 February.

The Centre was closed for a fortnight to carry out essential works to ensure a safe and modern environment for the whole community.

The transformation includes fresh décor, new furniture and flooring, a modern reception area and coffee shop. An impressive new Mall floor design runs through the Centre reflecting the organisation's community roots. Greenfield school pupils helped with the inspiration behind the design.

CCTV and other security measures have also been improved following a couple of petty crime incidents, significant steps have been taken to ensure that this cannot re-occur.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said "The Pioneering Care Centre is incredibly popular with over 320,000 visits each year and we are committed to providing the best possible facilities for our visitors. This is the biggest renovation project we've had since the Centre opened its doors to the community 17 years ago. We are pleased to see the greatly improved Centre open for business and would like to welcome even more



people to access and enjoy the range of activities and services to improve health, wellbeing and learning for all."

An exciting timetable of activities has been arranged to encourage people to access the Centre and include:

- Live Life to the Full - 5 week confidence building course starting Wednesday 2 March 10.00am-12noon
- Introduction to Counselling and Listening Skills - 4 week course starting Wednesday 2

March 6.00 - 8.30pm

- Making Mosaics - 10 week course starting Friday 4 March 10.00am-12noon
- Nia - Tone and tune your mind and body, free session on Monday 14 March 6.30-7.30pm

- 'Shine' - improve body image an increase self-esteem, free session on Thursday 17 March 10.00am-12noon
- Dig-in Gardening - Mondays 10.00am-12noon
- 'Healing Voices' Sound Bath - Fridays 1.00-3.00pm

For more information please contact Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234, email enquiries@pcp.uk.net.

HANDBAGS & SANDBAGS COFFEE MORNING

The Aycliffe branch of North-East based charity Veterans at Ease is delighted to be returning for its monthly 'Handbags and Sandbags' Coffee Morning event.

Veterans, serving military personnel and family members in the community are invited to join us for a cuppa and a chat with a representative of the charity about the one-to-one therapy services we offer to those dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other combat stress related issues.

The event will take place on Friday 24th March between 9:30hrs and 11:00hrs at The Phoenix Club, Macmillan

Road (formerly known as the Royal British Legion). All are warmly welcome. For more details, please contact Therapist and Events/Volunteer Co-ordinator Clair on 07557 989 416.

Talk on Local History

On Wednesday 9th March at 7pm in Aycliffe Village Hall. The local History Society will host a talk by George Dixon on "The Battle of Britain in the North East". All welcome - members £1.00, non-members £3.00 includes tea/coffee. More Details on 01325 301093.

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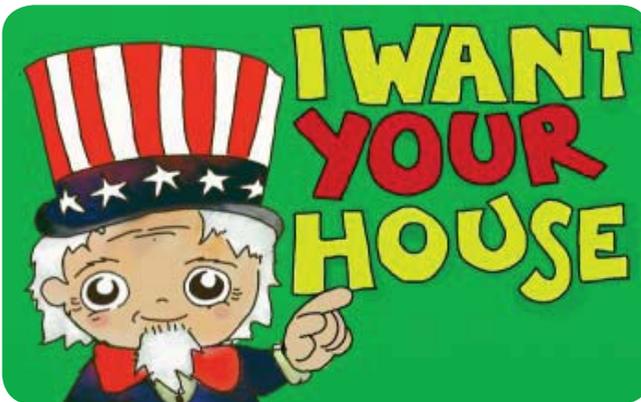


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Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 8th MARCH will feature "TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD" starring GREGORY PECK. Following the death of author Harper Lee, it seems to be the right time to show this film once again. If any film deserves the description of Modern iconic classic it is this one.

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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Changes at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre

Over a year ago Durham County Council invited the trustees of the Youth and Community Centre to submit an expression of interest with a view of taking over the asset of the Youth Centre building and all its liabilities. This was done in June 2014. On the 13th January 2016 the Cabinet member for Children and Young People submitted a report to describe a Strategy for Youth Support. This is based on the review and the resulting strategy the report sought permission to consult on the following priorities:

1. A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham.
2. Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Target Youth Support Service.
3. Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and the allocation of funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

The review also considered the existing stock of the six council maintained youth and community centres it is the intention, as part of this strategy, to progress options regarding the potential transfer to local community ownership under what is called

the Durham ASK programme. The purpose of this would enable the Council to realise £116,517 savings at the same time the facilities being retained in the community. The 6 centres are:- Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Peterlee Youth Centre, Seaham Youth Centre, Spennymoor Youth Centre and Stanley Youth Centre. Should the current management groups of these centres decline the opportunity to asset transfer; alternative uses for the centres will be explored to ensure that universal services continue for young people, their families and the wider community. It is anticipated that this review will result in a £1m savings from the current youth support budget. Given the level of cuts in money from Central Government there will be less money so it is even more important that every pound is well spent. I can now report that my Board of Trustees are fully committed to ensuring that services in Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre continue and the needs of both the young people and the wider

community are met. There are however changes that need to be made to ensure that funding is available, which has resulted in changes to the way we do things, to make those savings (normally called efficiency savings). Any malicious rumour that readers may hear are totally incorrect and we are not closing any of our services, in fact we will continue to develop and improve what is on offer now. We are just having to deliver things differently and are currently developing a partnership with Fishburn Youth and Community Centre. We need to engage with the people, and Durham County Council is inviting you to take part in a consultation about the proposals as to improving how Youth Support Services are delivered. The consultation is between now and the 27 April 2016 so we need your views. The consultation document is available online at www.durham.gov.uk/youthsupportconsult or you can pick up a copy at One Point Hub or the Youth Centre. It is important you respond to this consultation exercise and if you have any questions please call in the Centre and if I am not available one of the officers should be able to help. Vince Crosby Chairman, Board of Trustees Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre Tel: 01325 307522 email chairman@nayc.co.uk

St. Mary's Students Visit Seven Stories Museum



On Tuesday, 23rd February, the children in Year 3 at St. Mary's R.C Primary visited the Seven Stories Museum in Newcastle. We have been learning about traditional stories and this trip was designed to celebrate our learning. We learnt about different rhymes across the world and got to see what it was like in different exhibitions. When we got there we were met by Professor Charlotte and Professor Aaron who took us down some amazing spiral stairs. This led us into a workshop where we worked in teams to do lots of fun activities, from drawing shapes, to the final aim of illustrating a Nursery Rhyme that we enjoyed. We were allowed to choose how we could do this, from

painting to collage to pencil drawings. Before lunch we took another trip down the stairs and explored one of the Galleries; the first of these we explored was called 'Rhyme across the World'. There were lots of interactive areas for us to explore. We even got the chance to dress up. We had to explore different areas of the gallery, by us all being given a jigsaw piece that we had to find where it belonged in the room- it was fun! After lunch we explored another amazing Gallery- this was all about the Illustrator Michael Foreman - we saw some beautiful artwork. We now know why the museum was called Seven Stories, as we were kept fit by walking up the seven flights of stairs during

COMBATting ISOLATION

For many of us February was the month of love. With the warm afterglow of Valentine's Day still fresh in the air, I'd like to take a moment to tell your readers how for some of our guests a break with our charity has been so much more than a holiday - it has been the road to love. I work for Revitalise, an amazing national charity that provides respite holidays for disabled people and carers. To mark Valentine's Day, we made a video entitled 'That's Amore'. It is an unabashed celebration of love and affection, documenting the heart-warming story of how lovebirds Carl and Tracey met and fell in love at our Southport centre, Sandpipers. While the pair perfectly encapsulate the romanticism of 14 February, it's a sobering thought that for some, Valentine's Day only serves to deepen feelings of loneliness. Our research shows 46% of disabled people and carers have feelings of apprehension about being isolated and stuck in one place. That's why we work extremely hard to provide our guests with a truly meaningful holiday experience, one in which they are able to have fun, build friendships with one another and most importantly, create

memories that we hope will last a lifetime. We rely on the generosity of individuals to make these breaks possible. If you would like to find out more about Revitalise and ways that you can support us, please call 0303 303 0147 or visit www.revitalise.org.uk. Stephanie Stone, Revitalise www.revitalise.org.uk

Commonwealth Flag Raising

Great Aycliffe Town Council have registered to take part in the marking of Commonwealth Day by raising and flying the Commonwealth Flag at the flagpole outside St. Clare's Church. The Mayor, Councillor Mary Dalton, will raise the flag on behalf of the town and anyone wishing to attend should meet at St. Clare's Flagpole prior to 11 a.m. on Monday, 14th March 2016.

COLLECTING PIE FUNNELS

Newton Aycliffe WI met on Tuesday February 9th at St Clare's Church Hall, and what a treat we had that evening as our very own Vivienne (Secretary) shared with us her passion for collecting 'Pie Funnel's'. Vivienne showed only a very small part of her collection from all over the world and she enlightened us on some of the background of her hobby, as to where she had purchased them or how she came across the funnels. We are all now looking out for pie funnels to add to her collection. It was a very delightful evening with an interesting discussion on just a plain old simple kitchen tool! For more information on Newton Aycliffe WI please contact Helen on 01325 315017.



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Aycliffe Road Resurfacing

Dear Sir,
We would like to inform residents of Ashfield and Barrington Road about the planned asphalt resurfacing which has been scheduled into the 2016/17 Durham County Council works programme. This work will be completed before the end of October 2016 and should be welcome news to its long suffering residents who have endured a poor road surface. Full details of the works will be provided in due course. Cllr Eddy Adam
Cllr Kate Hopper
Aycliffe West Division
Durham County Council

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Nominations Sought for Community Champions

There's still time to nominate your local community champions and big-hearted people as the search goes on for nominees to be considered for County Durham's top award.



There's a different look to this year's Chairman's Medal Awards with a new category introduced, which sees special emphasis placed on honouring the county's outstanding young people.

The Chairman's Medal is awarded by the Chairman of Durham County Council in recognition for significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life.

The Chairman has introduced a new Young Person's Chairman's Medal to rank alongside the Chairman's Medal and nominations can be made for both categories in each of the 14 Area Action Partnership (AAP) areas.

But it is time to act quickly for both categories, as the closing date for the receipt of nominations is Monday 14 March.

Cllr Jan Blakey, Chairman of Durham County Council, has a strong affinity in supporting young people, highlighted by her two charities during her year in office.

As Chairman her charity is the North East Autistic Society while in her capacity as Mayor of Durham City, Cllr Blakey is supporting Trinity School, Durham.

Cllr Blakey, said: "I am

looking forward to strong nominations from across the county and I am certain we will obtain many outstanding entries for both categories.

"There are some wonderful people throughout our county who richly deserve recognition for the selfless work they do - work that very often goes unnoticed, but is so vital to the individuals or communities it helps.

"To those thinking of nominating someone, don't leave it too late as time is running out."

Completed nomination forms should be forwarded to: The Chairman's Office, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL. For more information, call 03000 267 202, visit www.durham.gov.uk/article/7250/Chairmans-Medal or email chairmansoffice@durham.gov.uk

Charity Quiz Raised £1547



On Saturday 13th February we held our 2nd Annual Charity Quiz night to raise money for The British Heart Foundation at Newton Aycliffe Scout Hall. We wanted to raise funds for this great charity as my husband had received life-saving treatment at James Cook Hospital, 3 years ago after suffering a heart attack.

We beat last year's total and raised a brilliant £1,547. Everyone enjoyed a Pie and Pea supper supplied by Walkers Butchers and we had a great quiz led by brilliant quiz master Ian Banks. Congratulations to the winners, 6s+7s, Dorothy Blackbourne's team.

We received raffle prizes/donations from Aycliffe Fabrications, Darchem

Engineering, JAJECS Electrical Services, The Olive Garden, Occasions, Julie's Pets, Emre's, Wilkinsons, Stuart at Derek Wards, Tesco, Workshop Supplies, Gestamp Tallent, Jewsons, Edmundson Electrical, UPEX Electrical, Knaptons Insurance and friends and families. Thank you to Paul Mather and John Howsen for their donation of prizes for the raffle and Denise, Christine, Susan, Mary and families for help setting the room up, organising raffle and tombola, marking quiz and dishing up pie and pies Jon, Bernie and Joshua Patchett would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, helped on the night and those who came and

made it such a great night, without you we couldn't have done it. Hopefully it will now become an annual event!

ACORN MEETING

The Acorn Residents' Association will meet on Thursday 10th March in the British Legion Club, (Phoenix Club) upstairs at 6pm. Liz Charles from Durham County Council will be our guest.

She will try to help to reduce your energy bills. Bring your last bill and your annual statement for an individual assessment. Enjoy the company, have a cuppa and a chat and catch up with what is happening in our area.

PD Ports to Handle Hitachi Rail Car Imports Destined for Durham

North East-based PD Ports has announced that it is to handle the majority of Hitachi Transport System Europe's (HTSE) rail car imports, which are destined for manufacturing facility based in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

The train body shells are coming into Teesport, owned by PD Ports, via a new service direct from Japan. Some body shells are also being brought into the Port by road, where they will be stored prior to onward transportation by road vehicles to the facility.

The service, which started in September 2015, saw global shipping provider "K" Line's newly announced 7500-unit Ro-Ro vessels ship the body shells from the Port of Tokuyama-Kudamatsu, Japan to Teesport. The journey covered some 12,000 nautical miles over 35 days; the equivalent of travelling from John O'Groats to Land's End more than 16 times.

Once at Teesport, the body shells are towed from the vessel in a specific order and then manoeuvred using bespoke lifting equipment designed by PD Ports in partnership with HTSE. The body shells, which measure 26 metres in length, are then placed onto vehicles before being transported to a secure storage area at the Port. Each vessel will carry five or nine car trains with a maximum of 18 body shells imported per shipment.

Geoff Lippitt, PD Ports' business development director, said: "To be an integral part of the Hitachi supply chain is a role we are very proud to undertake. The importance of Hitachi Rail in the wider economic context of the North-East is of tremendous significance and will provide a much needed boost to the region."



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Can you, or someone you know, donate a wheelchair to St. Clare's Church? From time to time a wheelchair is required to transport a member of the congregation out of the church.

They may have fainted or feel ill and need to be assisted to get some fresh air, to gain first aid or be transferred to hospital.

Thankfully this does not happen too often but when it does, carrying them or dragging them in an ordinary chair along the ground is not a good method.

If you can help by donating or suggesting someone or an organisation that can assist us please TEXT 'Wheelchair' and your name and telephone number to 07904 321987 and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Many thanks
Noel Bennett

TESCO WEEKEND HEROES

Tesco colleagues from stores throughout the north east of England will bring out their superhero alter egos over the weekend of 11-13 March when they take part in the nationwide Superheroes fundraiser challenge for the National Charity Partnership between Tesco, Diabetes UK and the British Heart Foundation (BHF). The three year partnership aims to raise £30 million to support millions of people to eat better and get active, as well as funding the vital and ongoing work of the BHF and Diabetes UK.

The Superheroes fundraiser challenge will see Tesco colleagues complete various superhero themed activities over the weekend, with many likely to take on challenges such as silly superhero sports and superhero skills. Colleagues at all stores will log every £25 they raise on

their in-store Cape Target-o-Meters for customers to see. The more they raise, the more the shrunken cape of fictional superhero Tescoman will grow, enabling him to resume his superhero activities.

There are currently thousands of people in the north east who are at increased risk of developing heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. Having Type 2 diabetes puts people at a greater risk of later developing heart and circulatory disease. Being active and eating well are key steps people can take to reduce their risk of developing both conditions. Half of the money raised through fundraising for the Partnership is split between Diabetes UK and the BHF to fund their vital and ongoing work. What makes the National Charity

Partnership unique is that the remainder of funds raised are being invested in projects specifically designed to inspire millions of people to eat better, get active and reduce their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and heart and circulatory disease.

Tesco colleagues raised millions of pounds across the five key fundraising events last year, which will help a great deal with the National Charity Partnership, and the work of both Diabetes UK and the British Heart Foundation. Customers from across the north east are encouraged to pop along to their local Tesco store over the weekend and support staff as they work hard to take these fundraising totals to a super new level.

To find out how the National Charity Partnership can help you with your health goals, log on to lets-dothis.org.uk

Holiday Inn Support Aycliffe Down Syndrome Group



Holiday Inn near Macdonalds, are delighted to name the Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome (ECCDS) as their nominated charity for 2016.

Pat MacInnes, General Manager, commented "We have invited the children here today as the Pioneering Care Centre is undergoing refurbishment and we wanted to make sure the group could still get together and at the same time treat them to lunch."

ECCDS is close to our heart as team member Kevin Clark's daughter Lily has been attending the centre since she was a baby.

The Hotel already have various activities planned in throughout the year to raise funds which include a sponsored indoor bike ride and the donation of prizes for the centre's annual ball on the 24th September. Additionally, 21st March is World Down Syndrome

Day and the hotel team will be taking part in their LOTS OF SOCKS campaign to help raise awareness.

For more information

on the ECCDS please contact 01325329939. For information on Holiday Inn Darlington North please visit www.hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk

National Award for County Durham

A council initiative designed to support the local economy in County Durham has netted a top award from the Cabinet Office.

The Social Value Leadership Award recognises Durham County Council's drive to ensure that local businesses benefit from its spending; keeping money in the local economy, helping the county's businesses grow and ensuring jobs for residents.

After the Government's Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force in 2012 to increase spending by authorities within their own area, the council set up a Social Value Taskforce. Made up of the council - led by its Business Durham team - the Federation of Small Businesses and other local partners, the taskforce was the first of its kind in the region when it was created.

Although the council already championed local spending, the taskforce worked to maximise the opportunities for local businesses and ensure that Durham was at the forefront of adding social value through council spending. This saw the council going beyond the legislation by ensuring local firms could tender for the supply of goods and to carry out works outside of the scope of the act.

The council's approach has been recognised by the Government's Social Value Awards with the County Council taking home the Award.

Cabinet member for economic regeneration and chair of the Social Value Taskforce in Durham, Cllr Neil Foster, said: "Our social value taskforce has seen County Durham lead the way in making sure local businesses and residents benefit even more from council spending so we're delighted that our hard work has been recognised with this award."

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& Newton News

FIND A DOG a home

Double The Love

Dogs Trust Darlington is hoping to find a perfect ending for a 'pawsome' pair. Two inseparable nine-year-old homeless hounds are looking for a new home to spend their retirement in.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier sisters, Honey and Poppy, arrived at Dogs Trust Darlington three weeks ago, and although other pairs of four-legged friends have headed off to their forever homes since then, the devoted doggie duo have sadly been overlooked.

Supporter Relations Officer at the Sadberge centre, Rebecca McKeown, says: "They have seen other two-somes including two pairs of West Highland Terriers head off with their new families and it's quite unusual for us to have a few pairs at the centre at the same time, so it makes it even more sad that Honey and Poppy are still waiting to catch someone's eye."

The two found themselves homeless following a sudden change in family circumstances which meant they could no longer stay in their loving them. So many dogs arrive here through no fault of their own and are handed over by loving owners who just want to do the very best for them," says Rebecca. "That's certainly the case with Honey and Poppy. They are used to lots of cuddles and whilst they are not missing out on lots of love whilst they are with us, we know nothing beats cuddles with a forever family. We're hoping, especially as they are older age pooches, that's what they'll be able to enjoy once again very soon."

Honey and Poppy can live with other dogs and would suit a family with children aged six or above. If you think they could be the two for you, please visit them at Dogs Trust Darlington at Hill House Farm, Sadberge, DL2 1SL. The centre is open Thursday-Tuesday 12pm-4pm, closed Wednesdays. Or to find out more, go to www.dogstrust.org.uk or call 0300 303 0292.



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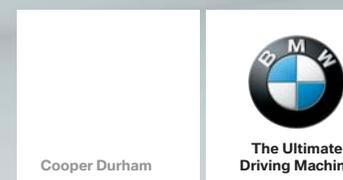
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Police & Employers Combat Crimes Against Businesses

A landmark Agreement to work together to combat crime against businesses has been signed by the North East's three Police and Crime Commissioners, and the Institute of Directors.

The Agreement says that businesses and the Police will work together to:

- share information that will highlight trends in crime
- explore how to investigate fraud jointly
- provide comprehensive advice to businesses about preventing crime
- engage employees in combatting crime

Speaking at a joint PCC/IoD event in Durham this week, Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington said "This Agreement will really help the Police support businesses in the fight against crime, and we hope that other organisations which represent businesses will also become involved in this joint-programme of work". Barry Coppinger, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland added "Business



(left to right) Graham Robb, Chair of Institute of Directors Board North East, Ron Hogg, Vera Baird, David Cliff, Vice-Chair of Institute of Directors Board North East, Barry Coppinger,

crime is often seen as a victimless crime, which it isn't. The signing of this agreement is therefore important to prevent and combat crime from occurring. The use of reporting tools such as Action Fraud UK, the national fraud and internet

crime reporting centre is an example of what can be used to support businesses experiencing fraud". Vera Baird, Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, said: "Businesses have a responsibility to recognise and support victims of crime such as hate crime and domestic abuse. It's a phrase regularly used - 'domestic abuse is everyone's business' and research shows that 75% of domestic abuse victims are targeted at the workplace. Employers are therefore in a position where they can provide tremendous help and support by adopting our workplace policy and training domestic abuse champions to raise awareness, spot the signs and help those in need." A joint working group will be established to develop and implement new practices that will reduce the risks of crime.

Magical Musicals

There will be a kinda magic going on at the Civic Hall, Shildon this month, when the CATS Youth Theatre Group perform their latest production "Magical Musicals".

There will be music from musicals and films such as Wicked, Matilda, Beauty and the Beast, Frozen, and many more in the two hour show. Amongst the young people's cast are Amelia Thistle (Jane Banks), Dylan Goddard (Gaston), Elizabeth Timmiss (Prince), Kenzie Chester (King Triton), Sienna Birkett/Connor Usher (Geppetto), Kodie - Leigh Wilson (Dorothy Gale), Cain Harrison/Eleanor Browning (Pinocchio), Bradley Lewis (Caractacus

Potts), Bobbie-Jay Banks (Truly Scrumptious), Ellarae Bower (Ursula), Ameer-Li Nicholson (Munchkin), and Katherine Bogg (Fairy).

In the dance troupe are Sophie Hodgson, Rose Stenger, Poppy Walker, Evie Tenwick, and Erin Clarke. Andrew Timmiss will as usual keep an eye on the sound and lighting side of the show.

There will be four performances starting on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th, and Saturday 19th March at 7-30pm with a final show Sunday 20th March at 2pm. Tickets £5 Adults and £3 Children, can be prebooked by ringing 01325 313363 or 01388 774838. www.cats-theatre.co.uk

Caretaker Retires After 30 Years Service



Children, staff and parents at Woodham Burn Primary School took time out on Friday 26th February to celebrate the remarkable career of Marjorie Scott, their caretaker. Marjorie, or Marji as she was fondly known, worked at Woodham Burn for over 30 years.

The day began with a special assembly during which children from each class read poems and showed pictures and cards which they had made. Mrs Short, Foundation Stage leader, had everyone in fits of laughter when she reminded everyone of the time when Marji was tricked into believing that she would be forced

to keep pigs and sheep on the school field in order to provide fuel for an 'organic' boiler!

The catering staff provided a party lunch for everyone and Marji was guest of honour at a special table complete with waiters and waitresses provided by the children. The day ended with a final get together in the staffroom to celebrate thirty happy years.

Marji now intends to spend lots of time in her garden but has promised to come back and visit everyone who will miss her very much! The photo shows the oldest and youngest children from Woodham Burn presenting her with flowers.

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

The Council, on 26.02.16 made an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close to all vehicular traffic a 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 to enable new drainage installation works 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: 4 March 2016



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



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

COUNCIL NEWS

- How an Electrical Substation is vital for our future: bit.ly/DCCPC1Mar
- DCC's Civil Contingencies Unit drop-in session, Monday 7 March, 3-6pm, at Henknowle Community Centre, DL14 6TJ, for people to discuss any issues about flooding
- DCC Autism Service User and Carer Forum, 14 March: bit.ly/AF140216
- DCC Countryside Service March newsletter: bit.ly/DCCSMar16
- Latest roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks27Feb
- Last month's Neighbourhood Protection Report: bit.ly/NPRJan16
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD280216

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Durham Constabulary wants you to *Keep In The Know* about crime prevention: bit.ly/DCKITK
- PCC Safety Fund grants (up to £10,000) available: bit.ly/PCCMar16
- Crafter's Companion recruitment and community engagement day, 7 March: bit.ly/CC070316
- Bishop Auckland College Open Evening, Tuesday 8 March 5:30-7:30pm: bit.ly/BAC080316
- Sensory Processing Disorder Parent Support Group, 11 March 2016, 7-8:30pm, Tree Tops Children's Occupational Therapy, Eldon Road, Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6UL: bit.ly/SPDSG110316
- British Championship Roller Derby, Saturday 12 March, 11am-6pm, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre: bit.ly/LCRDMar16
- Greenfield Arts Latest Exhibition, 2 March-27 April: bit.ly/GA020316
- WWT Washington LEGO brick animal trail and workshops, 24 March-6 April: bit.ly/wwtLEGO
- Pearl Izumi cycling event returns to Durham, Tuesday 31 May: bit.ly/PC310516

HORNDALE PRIDE



Councillors Mike Dixon, John Clare, Vice Chair of Governors Carol Hardy & GAMP Co-ordinator Brian Riley.

Pupils at Horndale County Infant and Nursery School have been busy designing their own brand new sports kit. Pupils were given the opportunity to design the strip in order to show great pride and self-esteem of not only the school but the local

ward of Horndale when attending local sporting events.

Councillor colleagues Mike Dixon, Joan Gray and John Clare have funded a brand new the sports kit for Horndale County Infant & Nursery School and the councillors were 'delighted to form the judging panel along with Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership - GAMP coordinator Riley Brian and the schools Vice - Chair of Governors, Carol Hardy, to choose a shortlist of 5 finalists. John said 'It was a hard task to choose just 5 entries to take forward to the vote. My criterion was PRIDE - that I wanted the school team to sport a strip which would make them proud, not just of their team and their school, but of the lovely Horndale Estate which they will be representing. Pride is the true foundation of high standards. I had my favourite, but I will stay very quiet and let the pupils choose what *they* want! The final entries will now be put to a school vote as part of the British Value of Democracy. Head Teacher Craig Brown said "I was amazed at the quality of entries from all of the young students. I am excited to see which strip the pupils vote for. The winning design will be professional reproduced and pupils for many years will be able to wear it with pride. We look forward to announcing our winner later this week who will not only get to see the kit produced and worn but the winner will also receive a free, full, named strip as their prize!"

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Hat-trick Sealed Aycliffe's Win Heighington Football Results

Aycliffe regained third place in the Northern League with an impressive 4-0 win over 2012 FA Vase winners Dunston UTS on Saturday. A hat-trick from Matty Moffat sealed the win, Aycliffe's fifth in the last six games.

Two goals in the first half from Moffat proved decisive with the Dunston defence unable to cope with the Aycliffe centre forward. The home side pressed from the start with Ashley Coffey playing a fine ball through after just 6 mins but finding Moffat just offside. Coffey came close himself ten minutes later. Stuart Banks threaded his way into the box but Coffey couldn't direct his powerful cross onto the goal.

The first goal came after 22 mins. A misdirected header from a Dunston defender fell to Moffat who rounded keeper Andrew Clark and scored from a very tight angle. Moffat got his second with five minutes remaining before half time. Controlling the ball inside the penalty area he again beat the keeper & carefully placed the ball between two defenders on the goal line.



Dennis Knight clears a Dunston attack

Aycliffe continued the form into the second half with the pressure paying off as the hour approached. A handball in the penalty area had the referee pointing to the spot & Moffat completing his hat-trick.

The last goal of the game came on 65 mins when Dennis Knight took a free kick from the right wing. His long ball in found Coffey whose header beat the keeper. It might have been five with five minutes to go when substitute Jordan Laidler's long ball forward was headed down by Banks but the keeper got his foot to it.

The final whistle brought another valuable three points to Aycliffe with keeper James

Winter rarely troubled. The hat-trick brought Moffat's goal tally to 18 in all competitions this season.

The team now return to cup action with a trip to Division Two leaders South Shields in the semi-final of the Durham Challenge Cup on Tuesday night (1 March). The winners will face either West Auckland or Whickham in the final.

The next home game is Tuesday 8 March against Whitley Bay. Aycliffe took the points in the reverse fixture last month & Bay will be looking for revenge. Kick off at Moore Lane is 7:45pm, admission £6 adults, £4 concessions with accompanied under 12's free.

Heighington Under 8's continued their march towards the title with a tough 2-0 win at home to all star colts. Goals from Jay Bulch and Tyler Woodward were enough to see the visitors off. Joe Neild was awarded man of the match. The second game saw Heighington win 4-2 goals from Tyler Woodward, Layton

collier, Thomas Graham and Oliver Paylor. Under 15's made the short trip to Ferryhill Town, on a glorious Sunny afternoon. The home side took the initiative from the start, and were ahead after 2 minutes when Heighington struggled to clear their lines. After that the away side settled down, and were making chances, and before too long they levelled

through Jack Emmerson, who then added a second, both of which were assisted by Max Errington Coates.

It was a ding dong battle, with not a huge amount of football being played from either side, and Ferryhill were to level just before half time, opening up the Heighington defence again. The Ferryhill striker Tyler was

causing all sorts of problems the Heighington defence and was always a threat. Into the second half and Heighington took the lead when a disguised run by Liam Wright allowed Sam Butterfield to find space in the box and he finished in the corner to make it 3-2.

The games was to swing one way and the other, and Tyler grabbed his second, to draw level, before good work from Liam Wright put a cross over for captain Jamie Stapleton to head home to take the lead again. It was becoming like Groundhog Day, when yet again Ferryhill broke free and Tyler finished for his hat-trick.

It was to get worse for Heighington when the best player on the field after shrugging off a tackle in midfield broke through on the right hand side unchallenged and scored his fourth to give Ferryhill the lead with 10 minutes to go.

Heighington then started to press again, and after some neat interplay, Liam Wright grabbed what turned out to be the leveller to make it two games in a row, ending 5 a piece, so more work to do on the training field to cut out the defensive errors and improve our man marking

YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

Good to see another weekend full of action for Newton Aycliffe Youth FC. A fine win for our Under 17 lads at home to Millfield & Pallion. After a scrappy start Corey Denton netted then Kieran Mcwaters scored for 2-0. Reece Barras made it 3-0 at the break. Corey Denton made it four and Jimmy Cameron slotted home a fifth for Aycliffe.

Under 16 Eagles were away at Normanby Orange. Great passing and moving saw them take the game to Normanby in the first half and come in at half time winning 3-0. Second half saw Normanby come at them, getting a goal back to make it 3-1. The boys continued to work hard and took control of the game again and ended up winning 4-1 with goals from Ryan Harris 2, Harrison Johnson and Nile Rutter.

Under 16 Falcons 3 - 5 Middleton Rangers. Brad Dixon and Cameron Copland (2) were our scorers in a very entertaining game against a team with a real star player and a goalkeeper in fine form. Great effort by the lads.

Under 14 Boys travelled to Cargo Fleet and despite going ahead ended up trailing 3-2 at half time. Second half was a lot better but conceded another 2 goals. Their play was a lot better, they just need to trust in their abilities and the results will follow. MOTM went to D. Crowe with a string of superb saves. Goals from J. Richardson & K. Todd.

Under 14 Girls made the trip north to Annfield Plain to face Beamish who have strung a few good results of late. The girls' impressed with a great 1-5 away win. Four goals for Chloe Ryan and one for Matilda Weir.

Under 13 Girls went down 4-1 to Spraire Lasses. A great effort and well done girls. Meg scored for Aycliffe. Well done. Under 13 Eagles drew 2-2 with Guisborough Whites. Lots for chances came and went for the Eagles but they battled well.

Under 13 Falcons 2-1 Hardwick Youth. Another win for the Falcons as Freddie Cockburn and Jack Birbeck found the net with impressive and well taken goals. The game had a tense and exciting

end with McKenna Longstaff and Jack Ewin literally putting their bodies on the line to record another Falcons win. MOTM went to Jack Birbeck. **Under 12 Falcons** 8 - 0 Redcar. Dylan Redpath, Tom Jasper, Kane Hopwood (3), Sam Peat, Jacob Race & Aaron Lloyd ensured a fine win against a depleted Redcar. Well done lads!

Redcar Town 2-1 Under 12 Eagles. The Eagles were unlucky but gifted Redcar 2 goals against the run of play. Kian Cook was the scorer. Aaron Ross hit the post and things just didn't go their way.

Under 12 Hawks v Hemlington Juniors. The Hawks were fantastic and showed passion, determination, skill and organised and encouraged each other and the opposition. The game ended 8-4 to Hemlington Juniors. Jack (2), Luke (1) and Jayden E (1). Ben in goal made some great saves. MOTM was James in midfield.

Under 11's played TIBS and were soon 3-0 down. 2nd half started as the 1st half finished. A stern team talk saw good aggressive football, the will to win. Some good passing found Calum Whitfield who passed the ball into the goal. Great finish. FT was 1-3 but the last 20 minutes was positive. Kieran Walton MOTM.

Under 10's won 3-0 against

Trimdon in the first game. Goals by Isaac, Anthony, Oliver. MoM: Charlie. They were defeated 4-0 in the second game. MOTM Harry.

Under 9 Falcons defeated Spraire Lads 1-0 with Aidenlee netting. MOTM went to Jordan McBride and also Travis Dixon. 2nd game was tough, losing 2-1. Aidenlee Peacock scored in a 2-1 loss. MOTM went to Oliver Bellwood.

Under 7 Eagles recorded a great 5-2 win Durham Federation Lions. Will scored another hat-trick and Edwin produced two well deserved goals.

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Huntsman FC in Cup Quarter Final



Following last week's win against The Sports Club, the Huntsman were back in action this weekend at home to West Auckland Club who before the game topped the league above in the Darlington Charity Cup. Manager Neil Dodds chose to make five changes to the line-up as Jamie Herd, Ryan Mercer, Carl Bates, Ollie Gell and Shaun Sproates were all recalled to the starting eleven, with regulars Michael Sproates, Reed Molloy, Lee Redpath and Andrew Richardson all dropping to the bench. The Huntsman got off to a great start, and set the tempo from the off with a

high press never given the West backline a second on the ball, this resulted in some early chances and a couple of penalty appeals which were turned down. They finally rewarded when they got the break through just before half time, as Ryan Durr broke down the left hand side and his arcing ball enabled Shaun Sproates to nod back across goal to give Ollie Gell a tap in for his first goal of the season.

The Huntsman continued to press after the break and had several chances to extend their advantage, and ultimately West Auckland did little to trouble Anthony McDonald in the Huntsman goal as the match finished 1-0 to take the Huntsman into the quarter final. A special mention to MOTM Stuart Ord who along with the rest of The Huntsman back four were excellent.

Next up for The Huntsman is a league game at home game against Willington Queen's Head 10:30KO at Simpature where victory will see them open up a 3 point gap at the top of the table. Photo's courtesy of Tom Clegg.

By Craig Woodhead

Flower Demonstration

Gosforth Area Demonstrator, Heather Curry, presents an evening of flower arranging entitled 'A Basket Case' at the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 7th March at Shildon Civic Hall at 7.30pm. Free to members, Visitors pay £5 at the door.

Rugby Team Lose at South Shields

This week's fixture saw top of the league and unbeaten Aycliffe travel to Harton Technology College to play second in the table South Shields. What was novel or intriguing about this game was the pitch, not many of the Aycliffe side had ever played a game of rugby on artificial grass the new 3G type pitch. To be fair the players and coaches were looking forward to the experience and the general consensus of opinion was the surface would suit the Aycliffe speedy backs.

A large group of Aycliffe supporters travelled to watch the game and their backing for the players was tremendous. This game was always going to be a tricky one for the league leaders after beating their hosts at home earlier in the season 55-0 South Shields were desperate to get their own back on their close rivals. The match kicked off on a near perfect surface, in bright sun light and little or no wind to have any effect. NARUFC drew first bloody after an infringement at the ruck and Luke Tinkler stepped up and slotted the penalty home from 30 plus metres. Shields roared back with some aggressive play in and around the tackle area which resulted in one of their big forwards crashing over the line to score after breaking through several tackles. The conversion was kicked to give them a 7-3 lead much to the excitement to the home team. Luke Tinkler again kicked another penalty to get Aycliffe back to 7-6. The game ebbed and flowed, neither side totally dominating every aspect of the game in the early stages.

The referee took a dislike to John Whitehouse (back row player and Club Chairman) play at the tackle area which resulted in several penalties against him leading eventually to a ten minute sin binning. Shields kicked two penalties to lead 13-6. Aycliffe's backs were desperate to run the ball but on many occasions, the unbelievable fast defensive South Shields line thwarted them. But eventually after securing great ball at the line out the backs attacked with speed and great skill Dom Ridley making the decisive break linked with Luke Crossen who crossed the line taking the defender with him and eventually fought the ball to the ground for a great try. Half time score 13-11 in favour of South Shields

The second half saw Shields dominate the scrummage and the break down area of the game their big forwards enjoying good ball to run at the visitors who manfully tackled the waves of attacks. John Whitehouse and Matty Wiper continuous tackling was a pleasure to watch. Mark Affleck put in a great shift propping against lads three four or even five stone heavier than him. The amount of tackling being made against the aggressive strong runners from Shields began to take its toll. Several injuries saw the Aycliffe bench all on the field within quarter of an hour into the second half. Aycliffe's defence began to break down and three tries were scored a total 19 unanswered points seeing the score reach 32-11. The attitude of the Aycliffe players was excellent and their total commitment could only be praised. Andrew Littlefair, Aycliffe's inspirational captain was hit by one of the hardest but fair tackles many seasoned campaigners had ever seen.

Andrew battled on for a further ten/fifteen minutes with what appeared to be a whiplash injury but despite not wanting to leave his players was forced to come off leaving his team with only 14 players to finish the last ten minutes. The jubilation from the home team and supporters was only matched by the total disappointment of the visitors. Final score 31-11

Aycliffe rugby are sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Services and Honest John.

RESIDENTS MEETING

The Williamfield Residents Association meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd March, 6pm at the Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place.

We had an excellent attendance of residents and our new Town Councillor Ken Robson attended intent on helping us to bring this area back to top standard again. We hope Neighbourhood Wardens and LIVIN will attend these meetings. We are hoping to be able to give information on trips etc. during the Easter Holidays.

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Ben Smith is hoping to break the world record for back to back marathons having completed 170 so far. He is travelling around the country to take in different courses. Aycliffe Running Club welcomed Ben last Friday at the Oakleaf Sports Complex with a prepared route and members to join him on his daily marathon.

Ben is undertaking a World Record attempt which will see him run 401 marathons in 401 consecutive days around 309 different locations in the UK. The challenge aims to raise both awareness of the issues of bullying in our society along with raising £250,000 for two amazing charities dedicated to tackling bullying. The two charities 'Stonewall' and 'Kidscape' work tirelessly to support award winning initiatives which really get to the heart of bullying in our schools and society in all its forms.

Read Ben's inspirational story on Facebook and Twitter and see how being bullied affected his life to the extent he was suicidal. He overcame his problems by taking up running and the 401 challenge was born.



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 Both my father and

grandfathers fought in two wars to keep these islands safe from the very people who want to take it all away for the pleasure of us paying them to do so. I am a "Leave Europe" supporter, as there may never be another chance to get back our WHOLE sovereignty.

We were doing great until we joined this bunch of leeches, but I do agree we do need to have compassion with regards to migrants. BUT, I mean a few asylum seekers that really do need help, not the rampant get money-for-nothing scroungers that I see when I'm on holiday on the continent with my motor home, and have been attacked by these morons. I see them in this country, dressed up to the nines, as "Big Issue" sellers. Yours and my taxes go to their family in their country and they live here at the taxpayer's expense. This is fact as I have actually spoken to one and he voluntarily afforded me this information. I agree with Mr Whittaker - let's get out of the EU while we can.

In this week's issue Maud Gray has a letter on the same page headed: "Stop blaming the Tories". Her first paragraph says the Labour government was responsible for the big crash in 2007, and she is incorrect, as it was a combination of greed from bent bankers in the USA! As a consequence of this our banks crashed, and the government was at fault for a small part, but the main instigators were the Americans. Name and address supplied.

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of Warm Up North, a partnership with eight other North East local authorities and British Gas, will begin installing free central heating systems into qualifying properties.

The £6.5m funding was awarded to a scheme involving nine North East local authorities - Northumberland County Council, Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, South Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council - with the emphasis on rural areas.

A number of residents in County Durham who may be eligible for the fund will shortly receive a letter with full information. People can find out more information by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/freecentralheating or by calling Warm Up North on 0800 294 8073.

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Paralympian Visits Greenfield

Craig McCann, a Paralympian athlete in wheelchair fencing and a British National Champion Paracyclist, came into school to work with Mr Butterworth's year 10 GCSE PE class last week. The Paralympian's visit, who is hoping to make the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, coincided with an initiative, Sky Sports Living for Sport, that Greenfield Community College are loyal advocates of that uses sport as a tool to motivate and inspire 11-16 year olds.

Craig and Mr Butterworth team taught a pre-planned theory lesson on diet in sport. It proved to be a fantastic opportunity for the Greenfield pupils as it isn't everyday

they get to interact with a Paralympian in the classroom. During the lesson there were a series of engaging tasks focused around the key nutrients. Craig reflected on his commitment and dedication towards a balanced diet in order to help realise his dreams of becoming a professional athlete including the sacrifices he had to make along the way. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and were keen to inquire into Craig's expertise and first-hand experience of maintaining a balanced diet by asking a series of questions throughout.

Craig McCann also worked with English Teacher, Mrs Robson, and spoke to a group of year 9 pupils. The year 9 class had begun to look at newspapers and the media. The class acted as journalists and spoke to Craig about his life and career. Craig spoke to the group while they took notes, after, they held a question and answer session, where students asked a range of questions. The year 9 class then sat and began to draft their articles, either in the style of a broadsheet or tabloid newspaper. During this time Craig was able to sit with the students on a one to one basis and give quotes and answer further questions. The students will be using computers this week to create their articles.

This visit was Craig's second in as many months into Greenfield. He spent a full



morning working with Mr Butterworth's Year 9 AC group. The first hour consisted of a theory-based session focusing on Craig's story. Thereafter, Craig led a session in the sports hall where the pupils would complete a series of practical challenges that embedded Sky Sports Living for Sport '6 key skills to success' message. It proved to be a truly inspirational few hours as the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activities that saw them work in teams competing against one another to develop skills such as 'mental toughness' and 'planning for

success'.

At the end of the morning they were asked to set targets in relation to the '6 key skills to success' and focus on improving a couple of these in the coming months which would impact upon their future achievements. Many thanks to Craig McCann and Sky Sports Living for Sport for another inspirational visit to Greenfield.

Influence Conference at Xcel Centre

This weekend Xcel Church will be hosting their 6th Influence Conference at the Xcel Centre. Hundreds of people from across the Country will join together for 3 days of teaching from this years guest speakers. They are delighted to be hosting Mal Fletcher, a global speaker, social futurist and commentator and author, highly regarded for his entertaining, challenging and content-rich sessions. Their second speaker is Pastor Vicki Simpson from C3 Oxford Falls in Sydney, Australia. She is a dynamic preacher and trainer with a breakthrough anointing that releases people to new levels of faith. She is enjoyed by people of all ages with a transparent style of ministry and warm humour. Add to this all the usual music that is part of a service at Xcel Church, a full Kids Conference and this weekend promises to be a highlight for all who attend.

Both speakers will be with Xcel over the weekend and speaking at their normal Sunday morning service at 10.30am and their United at 5pm. Everyone is invited to join, with Jacksons coffeehouse available before and a full kids programme for all aged 0-11 years old. For more information check out www.xcelchurch.com

Most Businesses Wish to Stay in the EU

Dear Sir,
Further to a recent correspondent I would like to clarify the origin of the statistic of 'over 80%' used by the MP Phil Wilson regarding local businesses who want the UK to remain in the EU.

Last summer Mr Wilson carried out a survey across Aycliffe Business Park, NetPark in Sedgefield and the industrial estate in Chilton in a bid to find out the opinions of businesses in his constituency towards the EU, and the potential impact of withdrawal.

The results of this survey, which was sent to over 200 businesses, revealed 86% of respondents favoured remaining in the EU (which is the statistic Mr Wilson is quoted as using).

Mr Wilson's quote is therefore factual and can be substantiated by the results of the research he conducted.

This clear support by local businesses of EU membership however, isn't confined to one survey.

The North East Chamber of Commerce recently revealed that 63% of businesses across the region want to remain in the EU, with only 29.3% planning to vote leave in June.

Moreover, the EEF released a report which stated only 5% of manufacturers backed leaving the EU. The independent research shows that 61% of manufacturers want to stay in the EU, and 82% believe it does not make sense for the UK to cut itself from its major market and consider the UK to have a key role in helping the EU deliver greater value and efficiency.

Over the coming weeks and months Phil will further outline his position on Europe, dispelling the myths and misconceptions that are being put forward by those advocating for the UK to leave the EU.

Paul Trippett
Office Manager to
Phil Wilson MP

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FOUND gold wedding ring in Tescos. Tel 01325 317958 to describe and claim

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Recruitment Shop Opens in Town Centre for a Month



The Town Centre landlords have kindly given the use of the former Select Shop to the local T.A. (Army Reserve) for a recruitment campaign. The shop is open for a month and anyone interested is invited to call in for a chat and to receive all necessary information.

WOULD YOUR BUSINESS LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

For the past five years Newton Press have organised the Year 11 awards for Greenfield College and Woodham Academy. These awards recognise the hard work that Year 11 pupils accomplish in their final year of school. The prizes are awarded in the

form of PC tablets at the end of year Prom. Newton Press are looking to recruit another sponsor (or two) to provide cash towards this project.

If your company would like to get involved, please contact paul@newtonnews.co.uk Ideally the project requires another £200 from one or two sponsors and in return you will be invited to attend the Prom and help present the prizes to the winners. You will also receive free publicity for your business through Newton News.

For Sale

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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.

BLACK Wrought Iron Gates. 1 x 98 cm x 188cm @ £50; 1 x 82cm x 117cm @ £25. Gates are new and unused with the fittings. Will sell separately, must be collected. Please contact Susan on 01388 720247.

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Acknowledgement

THE FAMILY of the late June Iveson wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, floral tributes received and generous donations left for The Alzheimers Society and The Stroke Association. Thanks also to Doctors and staff of Bewick Crescent Surgery, Staff at Lindisfarne Nursing Home. Thanks to Father Michael Whalen for a comforting Service and to Gibson's Funeral Services for their care and guidance.

In Memoriam

JOHN ARRAN HUGHES Forever in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. You were our Son, Brother and Dad for 21 years. You've been our angel for 24 years. Loving you forever, Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul, Vicky and Maxine xxxxx

JENNIE TARVIT Mum, you were so gentle, so supporting and so kind and how I cherish memories that so softly lie behind. Amongst those treasured memories are all the lovely things you've done, and every day my heart still aches for my one in a million Mum. Thinking of you on Mothers Day. Love always, Kathy, Martin and family xxx

MARY BELL 5th March 2015. 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. Thinking of you always. Love, Ang, Stu and Jason

DERICK YOUNG 2/3/05 - Always in our thoughts. Love, David, Louise, Thomas, Joseph and Stan xxx

GLADYS HARBOTTLE Died 7th March 2013. Three years have gone by without our dear Mother, who is constantly in our thoughts and missed every day. Vera, Lavinia and Andy xxx

RON RUSSELL 5th March 2013. Three years have gone since I cared with you, I shared with you the special things in life and found how precious love can be between Husband and Wife. Your loving Wife Dot xxxxx

GEORGE SMITH 5th March 2009. Softly the leaves of memory fall gently, we gather and treasure them all. Unseen, unheard, you are always near. So missed, so loved, so very dear. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts. Loved always. Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fiona and Great Grandchildren Charlie and George xxxxxxxx

VIC & SYLVIA BLOWES (24th February and 5th March). Today is full of memories of our parents - the very best! Because every single one of them is filled with happiness. You both were someone special, such a joy to know. That's why there was so much pain, when it was time to let you go. Not forgetting little Christopher, who sadly passed away on 30th January. Hope you find peace Son. We will all miss you. From all the family xxxxx

MARGARET ROSE THOMPSON 07/03/16. No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. For part of us went with you, the day God called you home. From your loving family xx

MAUREEN WRIGHT 6th March 2015. It is a year today and I think of you every day. My heart is full of memories of the time we had together. Love you always Grandma. Love, Lucy and Emily xxxxx

BARBARA SUTTON (1932-2015). Number one Mother and Nana. Remembering a very much loved Mother and Nana on this special day. So angels up above give her a hug and all our love from all of us. All the family

Mothers Day

CARRIE HOWARTH Happy Mother's Day to my wonderful Mummy. Have a great day. Lots of love, Sebastian xxxxx

SIMONE TAYLOR Happy Mothers Day Mammy. Thank you for everything you do for me, big hugs from your little fella. Joshua xxx

SYLVIA SPENSLEY Happy Mother's Day Mammy. Hope you have a lovely day, because only you deserve the very best. Love always, Julie and Den xxxxx

DEBBIE LIVERMORE. To our wonderful Mam. Loved and cherished every day. Love, Curt and Cloe xx

JULIE HOWEY Happy Mothers Day. You are the best Mam in the world. Have a good day. Love you, from Ste, Mick and Paul. PS: So proud of you for stopping smoking xxxxx

Mothers' Day Remembrance

FREDA KILBURN This is our first Mothers Day without you Mam. It's been 10 months since you left us with heavy aching hearts. Not a day goes by we don't speak your name. Love and miss you so so much Mam. "Happy Mothers Day". Love always, Tracey and Dave xx

FREDA KILBURN Happy Mothers Day Granma. Love and miss you loads, Tyler and Millie xx

FREDA KILBURN To my wonderful Wife Freda on our first Mothers Day without you. Love always, Walter xx

PATRICIA FISK. (Pat). Mam, you are missed so much today, Mothering Sunday and every day. Cherished always, Susan and Michael R.I.P. xx

FEATHERSTONE Eleanor. So sadly missed. R.I.P. with Pat. Loved and cherished always, Tony x

Obituary

HARRY COX, former Aycliffe businessman, died 29th February 2016, aged 90. He leaves Wife Maureen May Cox, Son Richard, Daughter Barbara and three Grandchildren Emma, Victoria and Alex with four Great Grandchildren. Funeral is at Harrogate Stonfall Crematorium, Wetherby Road on Tuesday 8th March at 3pm.

JOHNSON, Newton Aycliffe. 28th February, suddenly but peacefully, at home. Michael, aged 73 years, much loved and respected Dad to Michael and Christopher; Brother to Pam and Barbara. Sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Wednesday 9th March. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only please.

ARTHUR STURT In loving memory of Arthur who sadly passed away on 1st March 2016, at home, aged 58. Funeral on Friday 11th March at 12.30pm at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations may be made in lieu to Cancer Research

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Congratulations

Garry West



Happy 40th Birthday to a wonderful Husband and a special Daddy. Love you to the moon and back. From Sarah, Harry and Jack xxxxx

Garry West



BIG 40 Congratulations on your 40th birthday Garry. We are really proud of all you have achieved and hope your success continues! Love and best wishes, Mum, Dad and all the family xxxxx

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Birthday Remembrance

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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. Paula, Brett, David and Christine xxxxx

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

Martin and Lisa Shires



Pearl Wedding Anniversary - 8th March 2016 Congratulations to Martin and Lisa on your Pearl Anniversary. Love from Mam and Dad xxxxx
Congratulations Martin and Lisa on your 30th Wedding Anniversary. Love, Karen and Rob xx
Congratulations Martin and Lisa on your Pearl Anniversary. Love from Ian, Kathryn and family xx

Happy Birthday Lisa on 6th March, love from us all xxxxx

Jack Mitchell



Happy 18th Birthday 10th March 2016
Lots of love from all of your family xxxxx

Bethany Jade Clarkson



Happy 18th Birthday 10th March 2016
From a cutie little girl to a beautiful and amazing big girl. Lots of love on your special day and congratulations on passing your driving test and your Uni place. Enjoy your night out. Ma, Da, the Boys, Arastus, Nana P and all the family xxxxx

Shannon Heslop



Happy 18th Birthday 5th March 2016

To our amazing girl Shannon. You are our world and we love you with all our hearts. Happy 18th birthday sweetheart. Love you, Mam, Grandma, Grandad, Daniel, Megan, Demi, Lola and Gran xxxxxxxxxx

AIMEE PARKIN 10th March. Happy birthday Mimi. Lots of love from A Jules, U. Kev, Beth, Arastus, Nana P and all the family xxx

JULIE ANN MAVIN Happy birthday to our lovely Daughter on her 40th birthday. Have a nice time. Lots of love from Mam and Dad

JULIE ANN MAVIN Happy 40th birthday to the best Mum ever. Lots of love and kisses from Zach

JOSH RAINE 5th March. Happy 18th birthday. Have a brilliant day. Love from Dad and Mam xxxxx

JOSHY BOY RAINE 5th March. Happy 18th birthday. Love from Nick, Chloe and Alana xxx



Alex Mackenzie



Happy 30th Birthday Son 3rd March 2016
Love from Mam, Ian, Calumn

CALUMN MACKENZIE Happy 32nd Birthday Son
Love from Mam, Ian and Alex



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Aycliffe in Durham Challenge Cup Final

Newton Aycliffe FC have made it to the final of the Durham Challenge Cup for the first time in their history thanks to a thrilling semi-final win at South Shields. The Mariners are top of the

Northern League Division 2 and boast former Sunderland star Julio Arca among their ranks.

It was Arca who made it to the score sheet first calmly firing a penalty past James

Winter after 15 minutes. Five minutes later Dennis Knight scored another of his spectacular long range free kicks which gave former Aycliffe keeper Scott Pocklington no chance.

Aycliffe took the lead after 52 mins with an excellent first time strike from Zak Boagey outside the box.

South Shields pressed hard for an equaliser and the goal came with ten minutes of normal time left. A powerful header from a corner found the Aycliffe net.

Extra time saw efforts at both ends but no goals from two tired sides but was most notable for a straight red card for Arca.

The penalty shoot-out got off to a good start for Aycliffe with Winter saving the first effort. John Campbell, Stuart Banks and Zak Boagey all scored winning the shoot out for Aycliffe.

An historic win for Aycliffe who now play Whickham in the final, expected to be at Easter.

Aycliffe now return to league action with an away game at Washington on Saturday and a home game against Whitley Bay on Tuesday night.

30th Anniversary of Wurlitzer Centre

The North East Theatre Organ Association (Mighty Wurlitzer) are proud to celebrate their 30th Anniversary of brilliant professional concerts and events at the New Victoria Centre, Howden-Le-Wear, Near Crook.

The redundant Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Bradford was saved and transported to the former historic Trinity Methodist Chapel which was converted and refurbished as a fine concert and music hall keeping the integrity of the Chapel. To mark the 30th Anniversary NETOA have redecorated the Centre, and made further enhancements to the magical organ experience have been installed to give a brilliant musical and visual pleasure in a very friendly venue. This highlights one of the best WURLITZERS in Europe and the only one in the North East.

Throughout 2016 the 30th Anniversary will continue with a presentation of fantastic concerts and events commencing 7.00pm Saturday 19th and 2.30pm Sunday 20th March with a double bill featuring two World Class Organists. Playing in both concerts.

"NIGEL OGDEN" Presenter of BBC Radio 2's The Organist Entertains and "JOE MARSH" from Newcastle upon Tyne one of the finest Organists in the country.

Tickets £8.00. Telephone David Kirkbride on 01388 762467. Full information on: www.netoa.org.uk or Facebook: North East Theatre Organ Association

JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

Newton Aycliffe Juniors footballing weekend came round again with a series of game across the age groups. Our development squad for 4-7 year olds enjoyed their first match on Friday with Thomas starring as man of the match in a great performance. The Under 8's won their game 4-3 against Spraire Lads in Darlington. They initially went 2-0 down but Rhys scored to get a goal back before the equaliser came via a home players head. Harvey volleyed in the third goal before Lucas made a good save to keep the score at 3-2.

Spraire did equalise but Rhys got the winner with two minutes to go. In the second game Aycliffe started brightly with Niall in particular catching the eye. Spraire scored against the run of play then took control of the game to win this one. Men of the match this week were Jayden and Aidan.

The Under 9's faced Darlington All Stars at Sunnydale and started well with lots of possession and good passing play between Reece, Charlie and Thomas providing chances but no goals. It was all square at half time then All Stars got a goal early in the second half and despite chance after chance Aycliffe could not get the equaliser. A good performance from all and the team, who were unlucky not to



take any points from the game. The Under 10's Russell Foster league side completed their winter league season with a 1-1 draw against HFC United Hoops. Aycliffe competed well and created chances on goal which were not converted in the first half which ended with the score at 0-0. A strong driving shot beat Herbie in the Aycliffe goal as United went a goal up, then with the last kicks of the game Josh assisted Noah to score the equaliser. The TJFA league side tasted defeat for only the second time this season as a penalty was the difference between them and Leven in a 1-0 loss. They were off key in the first half and conceded the goal before a spirited second half display could not see them score against determined and well drilled opposition.

The Under 12's were away at Whitby but their trip to the

seaside was not victorious as goals from James and Zack not proving enough to take the points as they lost 4-2. The home team had only lost once so far this season and it was clear why this was the case as they opened the scoring.

Aycliffe were in good form and James equalised five minutes later. Whitby got the second against the run of play before adding the third with half time arriving and the score was 3-1. The second half was evenly matched and there was a goal each for the teams with Zack on hand to score for Aycliffe. James was rewarded for a great game in defence by being named man of the match.

The Under 14's went down 3-2 at Kader FC whilst the Under 18 Reds and Blacks both won this weekend and amassed plenty of goals. The Reds winning 8-3 at home against Leven and the Blacks completing a 5-0 win at Redcar. The Reds suffered with players unavailable but turned

on the style to score through Ryan Peart (4), Lewis Race (2) and one each for Morghan and man of the match Kieran.

The Under 23's hosted league leaders Guisborough at Sunnydale with only 12 players available. They kept their shape well and held the strong opposition for most of the first half but Guisborough scored in the last minute of the opening period.

The lead increased to 2-0 in the second half before Aycliffe pulled one back via Jack Oliver's smart finish. As the hosts pushed for the equaliser a third goal was conceded and the game ended at 3-1. Jack Slatcher was named man of the match by the referee.

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THREE TEENAGE AYCLIFFE WATER POLO PLAYERS SELECTED FOR ENGLAND



Sedgefield Water Polo Club members Kris Egginton, Connor Keeble and Michael Cousins all 15 and who have been members of Sedgefield Water Polo Club for over 8 years, have all been selected to play for the England under 17 team in Vienna at Easter.

The three young men are tremendously dedicated and for the Sedgefield club to have three players out of the 13 in a water polo team is a great achievement.

Sedgefield WPC dominate water polo in the North East and have won three National Championships in the last two years and have produced 17 International players.

Anyone from 6 to 13 years old who are competent swimmers and interested in trying this tough but fun and exciting sport can get more details on 07818 554449.

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