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Week Ending 11th March 2016

Newton News

Incorporating "The Newtonian" - Aycliffe & District Community Newspaper
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First Published in 1948 and still FREE

Newton Press, Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS • Tel: (01325) 300212
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Newton Aycliffe Dementia Support Group, "New Pathways Together" are offering a weekend or 7 day breaks for a second season at Holiday Home Caravans at Whitburn near to South Shields/Seaburn/Sunderland. This is a place where people suffering from Dementia or life threatening /long term illness can go with their loved ones /carers for a few days.

The site is quiet, peaceful with toilets and shower blocks, but due to location a car is needed.

The Caravan has two bedrooms Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and shower/bath with patio etc. The people that have used the caravan last season enjoyed the tranquility of the site.

For further details ring Dorothy on 01325 308094.

"TEA HOUSE" FOR THE DEAF OPENS IN TOWN CENTRE



Founder Margaret Bain (standing) with customers taking afternoon tea at only £7 each including cream scones etc.

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank the "Secret Millionaire" for his donation to The Silent Tea House for use of the deaf community in the area. The Tea House is in "Love Thy Cupcakes" opposite Poundworld and is there for them to meet and communicate with each other, relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

The Tea House would like to thank the people who have supported the venture. We are also open to the general public who would like to enjoy the atmosphere of a quiet, relaxing space to enjoy a coffee and home-made food. Wednesday, Friday, Saturdays from 10am - 4pm, available on request.

Mags (Margaret Bain) Tel: 07951 138314
E-Mail: thesilentteahouse@outlook.com

Famous T.V. Antique Expert Visits Aycliffe



David Harper, Antique Dealer from Barnard Castle and regular expert and valuer on popular TV Antique Shows is the guest speaker at a Rotary Club charity event next month.

A special three course Dinner followed by a talk by David is to be held at Woodham Golf Club Restaurant on Friday 8th April and is sold out.

The proceeds from the evening are for Rotary Charities supporting good causes in the Aycliffe area and abroad.

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Holiday Activities Easter 2016

Exploring the Web
FREE
Tuesday 29th March, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Using arts and creativity helps us create a campaign that can help keep people safe online.
Suitable for ages 8 and up.

Film Club
FREE
Wednesday 30th March, 3:30pm
Join our weekly Film Club and watch a great film in our chill out zone. Check out our Facebook page to see what film we will be screening each week.
Suitable for ages 8 and up.

Star of the Show
FREE
Friday 1st April, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Join us to make a short film and work behind the lens or even in front of it.
Suitable for ages 8 and up.

Family Cooking
£9.50 per family
Tuesday 5th April, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Make tasty seasonal dishes as a family with Season to Taste! Don't forget your Tupperware! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please highlight any dietary requirements when booking.

Please note in order to confirm your booking for Family Cooking you will be asked to pay a deposit of £3, which is non-refundable if you cancel less than 2 days before the workshop.

Crazy Crafts
FREE
Thursday 7th April, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Bring family and friends and get crafty with artist Anna Harding, making crazy mosaics out of recycled materials to take home.
Not suitable for under 3's, under 8's must be accompanied by an adult.






Advance booking is essential for all activities as places are limited. Call us on 01325 379048, email us on info@greenfield-arts.co.uk, or pop in during opening hours to book a place. Please cancel if you can't attend.

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Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm, Fridays 10am - 4pm

Councillors' Surgeries

West Ward Councillors will be available to meet residents from 11.00am to 12 noon on Saturday 26th March at Burnhill Methodist Church.

Councillors are keen to be proactive in the West Ward and will be holding surgeries in various parts of the Ward on a monthly basis.

It is often said that councillors are only seen whilst electioneering, we therefore want to be more visible to residents by using local venues and attending meetings where possible.

Shafto, Central and Neville Ward

Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 12 March from 11.00am - 12 noon.

Smooth Sheet Move by Darlington Hospital Nurse

A nurse has designed a ground-breaking new slide sheet, the ReDi Slide, to assist clinical staff in moving patients who are unable to move themselves.

Diane Hindson, part of the back care advisory team at Darlington Hospital recognised that existing slide sheets were far from ideal either for patients or staff so set about finding a solution.

Diane said, "Slide sheets are an essential piece of equipment used by nurses to reduce the risk of injury to patients when they are being moved, in particular from skin damage caused by friction.

Patients include those who have just had surgery or suffered a stroke, may not be mobile and we also use them to gently move patients nearing the end of their life, whilst maintaining their comfort and dignity.

"There are a range of slide sheets available, which can be confusing for staff trying to decide which to use. I wanted to create a one-size fits all solution to reduce the risk of injury to patients and those moving them, and thought long and hard about the ideal design.

Needlework was my favourite subject at school and I even won the needlework prize! Once I reached the stage of developing prototype ReDi Slides, my sewing kit spent more time at work than at home.

"Slide sheets are made from nylon with a special coating to reduce friction and make moving patients easy and safe. My final design is essentially two slide sheets stitched together, leaving splits, making a large partial tube shape which covers the whole bed or trolley area.

I worried that it was too simple, but when we tried it out on our wards the feedback was excellent. Staff felt the ReDi Slide protected patients very well, whether they were being transferred between bed and trolley or being repositioned in bed. Staff also felt less at risk of injury themselves, which is so important because musculoskeletal injuries are



the main cause of sickness absence in the NHS.

"Following feedback we added pictorial labels indicating the 'head' and 'feet' ends, as well as a small loop of fabric, so the ReDi Slide can be hung up when not in use."

"My daughter came up with the name, which is a combination of the slide sheet colour and my name - 'Red' and 'Di'!"

The Trust has supported Diane in developing the ReDi Slide as a commercial product, which she doesn't believe she could have done on her own because of the complexity of the processes

involved.

The Trust recently took delivery of its first supply for use on their wards.

The ReDi Slide has been shortlisted for a prestigious Royal College of Nursing RCNi award and Diane will have to wait until May to find out if she's a winner.

Trust director of nursing, Noel Scanlon, said, "This marvellous innovation will enable patients to be moved with much less discomfort to them and a much reduced risk of injury to nursing and other care staff. We are very grateful to Diane and her colleagues who have developed the ReDi slide and go the extra mile for their patients."

Film Show

"THE DECOY BRIDE"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 15th March will feature the British romantic comedy "The Decoy Bride" starring David Tennant, Kelly MacDonald and Alice Eve.

A film star and a writer wanting to marry without paparazzi interference escape to a little Scottish island, use a decoy bride and end up in all sorts of mix-ups. You are invited to the craziest wedding for lots of laughs. 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 real fun film in friendly company. Everyone is most welcome. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Police Appeal

Police are appealing for information after a property was burgled in Lockyer Close, Newton Aycliffe.

The burglary occurred between 8pm on Thursday 3rd March and 7.30am on Friday 4th March in which unknown person(s) have accessed the property by an insecure back door and taken the occupants handbag and purse before making off from the scene via the front door.

PC Jamie Pitt from Newton Aycliffe Police stated: "This appears to be an opportunist burglary in which the suspect has taken advantage of an unlocked rear door enabling them to enter the property and steal items inside. We would like to re-iterate to the local community to ensure their properties are locked and secured at all times and report any suspicious persons to police."

Anybody with any information should contact PC 2687 Pitt on 101.

Alternatively you can contact the Independent Charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

PC 2687 Jamie PITT
D2 Relief Newton Aycliffe
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jamie.pitt@durham.pnn.police.uk

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Saturday 12th March - "SkinFlint"

Twice stars of the main stage at 'STORMIN'

Previous review from the Turbinia: Skinflint's first blast in the Tub last night, and what a first blast! I love Skinflint, because they've got the only two guys I know who get their hair out more than me. Absolutely ace. Everyone has said how good the lads were, and with an alternative venue just over the road having a band on again, some of the folk who came over from there said they were well pleased they had done so. The lads had the sound bang on for us, they sounded excellent! (I loved "the soundcheck song"). Opening tune was "Paranoid", swiftly followed by "For Whom The Bell Tolls". Thin Lizzy's "Cold Sweat" was top notch as was "Cat Scratch Fever", I heard that one at Crook and it's fast becoming one of my faves. Chris Isaac's "Wicked Game" and Ozzy's "Bark At The Moon" were followed by "Rosalie", (which took away one of our lad's shout for his encore straight away), AC/DC's "Whole Lotta Rosie" removed Keith's second encore shout so he was stuck for what to shout for when the time came. Bit of Foo Fighters and Sabbath, The Cult's "L'il Devil" had me and some of the lasses on the floor with the hair out and Status Quo's "Sweet Caroline" rocked. "Whisky In The Jar" totally ruined Keith's chances of shouting for anything at all for an encore. "Highway Star" and "Smoke On The Water" and the lads rounded off with my all time fave "Rebel Yell", which guaranteed me whiplash this morning. Saw these guys at Stormin' last year, was looking forward to them coming to the Tub and they did themselves proud. I hope they enjoyed the gig as much as the punters did, and look forward to them coming back for another round!

Saturday 19th March - "Whole Hog"

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LIVIN TENANTS 'LIKE' DIGITAL SERVICES



Alison Paling, housing and community co-ordinator presenting Karen Hannah with her iPad mini.

BEST EVER MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Enthusiasts from across Britain will be making their way to Newton Aycliffe on 19 March for the 7th annual exhibition organised by the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe to be held at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane Newton Aycliffe (opposite Tesco) on Saturday 19th March 2016.

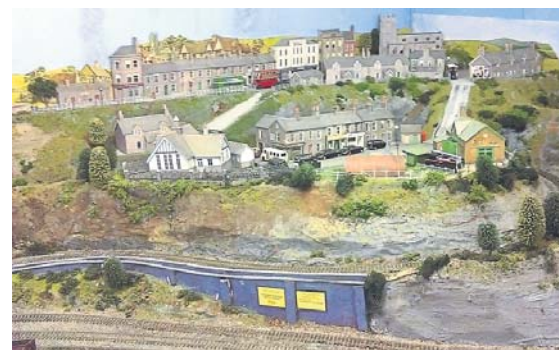
Nineteen layouts, including several never before seen in public, have been confirmed in a variety of scales from "n" to "1" depicting railways from Great Britain and Europe and from Edwardian splendour to modern image. A special visitor will be a "Thomas the Tank Engine" layout. Visiting layouts

will have travelled from as far away as Spalding and Whitchurch (Shropshire) to be at the event. Teen trade stands selling new and pre-owned models, books, photographs and die-cast vehicles will be present along with presentations from three preservation societies.

Doors open at 10.00am. Refreshments will be available all day and there will be a tombola, free car parking and full disabled access will be provided.

Entry is £4 for adults, 50p for accompanied children and £3 for concessions.

"We are looking forward to our best exhibition ever



" said Exhibition Manager, John Burrows this week.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the "Heel and Toe" charity caring for children suffering from

Cerebral Palsy across County Durham and Darlington. Further information is available from John Burrows 07870-210269 or Email: jandeburrows@gmail.com

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Housing and communities business livin is working hard to drive forward their range of easy to use online services for customers.

My livin 'Space' and 'Livechat' are amongst the online services now available through livin.co.uk in addition to social media channels. These provide a portal for tenants to pay their rent, report repairs and give customers instant access to services whether they are at home or 'on the go'.

A number of customers are regularly using the online facilities and engagement through social media continues to rise. This month livin's facebook page (facebook.com/wearelivin), which posts daily information including property of the week and local community news, reached over 1000 likes. Karen Hannah from Newton Aycliffe was identified as the 1000th person and received an iPad mini.

Karen said "this is a great way to keep up to date with livin's news and until now I did not know I could manage my tenancy through the website. We have lived here for 13 years and like to keep up to date with matters in and around our community". Racheal Swales head of housing and customer services said, "We recognise customers want to get in touch with us in ways that suit them and at convenient times.

Through our online services we are offering our customers convenient and easy ways for them to manage their homes. The success of these digital channels gives us a firm foundation to offer more services in this way".

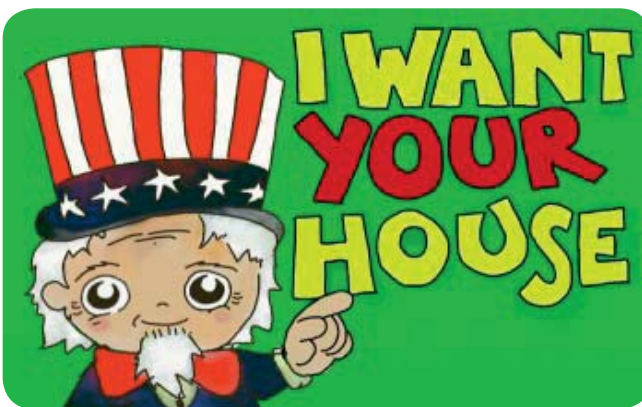
If you are interested in our digital services or our Digital Me programme, which offers help to customers who would like to get online, please visit livin.co.uk, follow us on Facebook at wearelivin, Twitter at weare_livin or contact Customer Services on 0800 587 4538.

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County Newsbits

Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

Type the shortened bit.ly and ow.ly links into your internet browser to go to the relevant webpages and find out more.

COUNCIL NEWS

- How does DCC help small businesses? bit.ly/DCCES040316
- People really should respond to DCC's Youth Service consultation: bit.ly/DCCYouthConsultation
- Lay members needed for DCC safeguarding boards: ow.ly/Z40SV
- Tree Inspection recommends substantial works in the Rope Moor area: bit.ly/DCCTrees0216
- Aycliffe North ward updates:
 - o Cobblers Hall Play Park Renewal Project update: bit.ly/CHPP020316
 - o King's Drive project update: bit.ly/DCCKDMar16
 - o Horse in the SuDS update: bit.ly/SuDShorse
 - o Ryder Court broadband update: bit.ly/Ryder080316
- My report of Monday's Middridge Parish Council meeting: bit.ly/Midd070316
- Latest roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks050316
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD050316 – and see her discuss Brexit on the BBC Sunday Politics: bit.ly/JKDSPEU (start at 40mins 30secs)

COMMUNITY NEWS

- LOCK YOUR DOORS! – burglars about: dlvr.it/KjkPtd
- Healthwatch County Durham March bulletin: bit.ly/HWCDMar16
- Breathewell Long Term Condition Support Group, Wednesdays, Bluebell House: bit.ly/BHLTCSG
- County Durham Archaeology Day, County Hall, Saturday 12 March, 9:50am-4:20pm: bit.ly/DCCAD12Mar
- Join the Middridge 'Big Spring Clean' on Sunday 13 March: bit.ly/MIDDBSC16
- The Friends of S&DR are 'Walking the Line' on Sunday 13 March: bit.ly/SDRWtL130316
- Easter holiday activities at Greenfield Arts: bit.ly/GAEaster
- Beware of deadly diet pills: bit.ly/DNPDIEt

Notice Board for Use of Town Organisations



The Town Centre Notice Board, donated by the Rotary Club a few years ago, is available to all town organisations to advertise their forthcoming events. Just take your A4 posters to the Town Centre Manager's office next to Stephen Russel hairdressers up the spiral staircase and they will place them on the board..



Aycliffe's Front Line NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By T/Inspector Mark J Edwards



Hello all, Mark Edwards here again from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

As we suffer from heavy rain, cold icy mornings, and strong winds I have to report that it's not just the bad weather that's hit Newton Aycliffe hard of late. At this time we have seen a rise in the number of burglaries reported to Police.

Between 8pm on Thursday 3rd and 7.30 am on Friday 4th March 2016 an unknown suspect has entered a property on Lockyer Close via an unlocked rear door. Once inside a number of items have been stolen by the person responsible who has then exited the house after unlocking the front door and making his escape. Amongst items stolen were a baby changing bag containing various essentials, a grey handbag, a wine shaped money box and contents, and a beige and black purse. The baby changing bag was subsequently found by a member of the public after

it had been discarded in the nearby underpass.

Between 11.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd March and 7.30 am on Thursday 3rd March 2016 two garages were entered at neighbouring addresses in Ashfield. At one location the suspect has pulled up the metal shutter door which was insecure and a 21" black flat screen television was stolen, in the other garage a box of DVD's were taken.

A garage was also entered by force at a home on Hamsterley Road. The roller shutter door was forcibly opened and a red child's electric quad bike valued at £500 was stolen. This crime took place sometime between Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd March 2016.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team at Newton Aycliffe are progressing a number of active enquiries at this time - including visiting known locations where CCTV exists and trawling through extensive footage, conducting house to house enquiries, liaising with our Crime Scene Investigators regarding forensic opportunities, and tapping into a variety of other information sources. As usual I make the appeal to any reader/local resident who may have information (no matter how irrelevant they may deem it to be) to contact either myself or my team either via 101 or through our various social media forums.

You may have picked up on a key theme running through some of the crimes referenced above, namely that on a large percentage of them the suspects entered the premises through unlocked doors. We repeatedly try to educate homeowners as to the importance of keeping doors and windows locked secure at all times and – yeas, I get it, we shouldn't have to check that our doors/windows are locked constantly – especially when we are at home, unfortunately modern society isn't the same as it was back in the day. Many criminals are cowards and act on opportunity (not all

granted) so every little thing that you can do to make their felonious activities all the more difficult well, that's gotta be worth something, right?

It's not all doom and gloom however – all UK Police Forces are regularly subject to inspection and assessment by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) which look closely at each Force individually and assess their effectiveness at keeping people safe and reducing crime. You may have seen it publicised elsewhere but here it is again – Durham Constabulary is the only one to receive an overall grade of 'outstanding'. The reason why – we believe, is down to a little thing we like to call the #DurhamDifference which consists of simple principles that underpin all we do. That might not reassure you if you've been a victim of crime similar to those described above but I can assure you that in County Durham (and more importantly to yourselves – Newton Aycliffe!) you have a group of people working together who do care and will put the graft in to trying to solve those offences for you.

Our POP IN PACT forums continue in the Town Centre, Woodham and Greenfield areas. Details of all upcoming events will be advertised accordingly.

Over the coming months you will hear more and more about a project coming to the town that's been successfully rolled out across the rest of the County Durham and Darlington area – an initiative named the 'Mini-Police', which will involve a number of schools in the area. In short, this project engages with children aged 9-11yrs, in Years 5 & 6 in a fun and interactive way, with the emphasis being that the children have fun whilst learning about the police. More details will follow as we move closer to the launch date in July.

So, in closing, take care, be safe, lock up, and be good.

Mark J Edwards
Newton Aycliffe
Neighbourhood T/Inspector

Councillors Working for You

Boosting the local economy, providing activities for young people and supporting improvements to highways and the environment are just some of the initiatives that your local County Councillors have helped develop, in response to issues that have been identified by the local community.

Working with Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) each County Councillor receives a Neighbourhood Budget to spend on local projects. The Neighbourhood Budget is an annual allocation of £20,000 which is made to Durham County Councillors to support the improvement of social, economic and environmental wellbeing activities in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area.

Over the last couple of years County Councillors Eddy Adam, John Clare, Mike Dixon, Joan Gray, Jed Hillary, Kate Hopper and Sarah Iveson have supported GAMP and its partners to achieve a number of notable successes, including:

- Part funding of a new 3G Pitch at Greenfield Community College;
- Woodham Village Community Centre now has a new extension to help meet the needs of the local community;
- Supported over 200 local residents into employment through part funding of GAMP's flagship Employability Skills and Discretionary Fund project;
- Funded parking improvements at Aycliffe Village Primary School;
- Helped Newton Aycliffe Junior Youth FC with their pitch hire costs for the season;
- Part funded new gymnastics flooring at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre;
- Funded a new IT Suite at the Hub of Wishes;
- Supported Horndale Infants School's Breakfast Club and Sports Kit.
- Provided funding to help towards refurbishment works and the asset transfer of Aycliffe Village Hall.
- Supported projects at both Middridge Village Hall and Middridge Allotment Association.

However, work won't stop there as a number of projects are planned for 2016, these include:

- Kings Drive Estate will benefit from a number of environmental improvements;
 - A major scheme to improve parking problems in and around Simpasture Shops will start in the next couple of months;
 - Gilpin Road will also benefit from off street parking improvements.
- Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said: "The GAMP Partnership continues to go from strength to strength, and we feel that the efforts of the Durham County Councillors in their capacity as Community Champions is an integral part of the partnership". "We encourage members of the community to contact their

local County Councillor if they have any neighbourhood issues or ideas to improve their local area".

If you want to discuss any issues within your community, your local County Councillor can be contacted as follows:

Eddy Adam (Aycliffe West) email: eddy.adam@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268670

John Clare (Aycliffe North and Middridge) email: john.clare@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268696

Mike Dixon (Aycliffe North and Middridge) email: mike.dixon@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268706

Joan Gray (Aycliffe North and Middridge) email: joan.gray@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268713

Jed Hillary (Aycliffe East) email: jed.hillary@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268723

Kate Hopper (Aycliffe West) email: kate.hopper@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268727

Sarah Iveson (Aycliffe East) email: sarah.iveson@durham.gov.uk or phone: 03000 268730



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PSCO School Visit Dressed for World Book Day EU & Businesses



PSCO Neil Stonehouse visited St Joseph's this week to talk to the children in year 4/5 and 6 about the British Value of Law. He talked about laws of communities and why we have them. What age a child can be arrested and what age a child can receive a caution. How crimes can go on records for jobs. It was a very interesting discussion which helped the children gain a better understanding.



Children and staff at St. Joseph's School dressed up as book characters to celebrate World Book Day last Thursday. A beautiful engraved wooden box was delivered to Nursery on the morning, with instructions for them to start a story. This box then travelled to every class so the children could write the next chapter. Nursery to Year 6 joined in. Head teacher Mr Atkinson gathered all the school together in the hall at 3pm and read every one their special story.

Opportunity in Newton Aycliffe to Volunteer

Marie Curie is looking for enthusiastic individuals raring to engage with the local community in Newton Aycliffe.

The charity are encouraging local people to join the Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group and make a difference, all while meeting new people in the area, having fun and helping to secure the on-going support delivered by Marie Curie.

As a Fundraising Group Member volunteers will become a key component in a passionate team, devoted to raising crucial funds and as much awareness as possible. With other group members, they will organise collections, fundraising events and other awareness activities. Fundraising Groups will also promote the work of the charity and encourage support for Marie Curie within their local community.

Community Fundraiser Hayley Revell said: "Joining the Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group is a wonderful way to play an important role in the work of a national charity at a local level, make new friendships and engage with your community. "We're really excited and it will make a huge difference locally by helping to raise awareness of the free care Marie Curie provides to people with terminal illnesses in the local area."

A meeting where people can find out more will be held on Thursday March 17 at 6.30pm in Tesco Superstore. Anyone interested in joining the group to make a positive difference to the work of Marie Curie in Newton Aycliffe can attend the meeting or contact Community Fundraiser Hayley Revell on 0191 219 1242 or at hayley.revell@mariecurie.org.uk

MACEY'S DESIGN WINS SCHOOL SPORTS KIT COMPETITION



In last week's issue we shared how pupils at Horndale County Infant and Nursery School have been busy designing their own brand new sports kit.

Councillors 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 with Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership - GAMP coordinator Brian Riley and the school's Vice-Chair of Governors, Carol Hardy, to choose a shortlist of 5 finalists.

This week we are pleased to announce the winner is Macey McLean aged 5. Her creative multi-coloured design has been sent to the designers and printers at BlueMoon Sports and will be ready to wear to upcoming competitions soon! Macey was chosen by her

fellow pupils in a vote as the school promotes the British value of Democracy. Headteacher Craig Brown said: "These are purpose made one of a kind sports kits with an original and eye-catching design. No-one else in the world will have anything like it. Everyone loved the design because of the bright colours, it's very catching and stands out and will allow us to show great pride in our area of Horndale and in our school."

Cllr Clare said: "The winning design was actually my favourite! Macey was very proud that the sports teams would be wearing the strip she had designed for years to come. I liked the design because it speaks of inclusivity, and because it will certainly cut a dash on the sports field. It is a strip of which the children and parents will be able to be proud - "Our team - our community".

Dear Sir,
I'm not surprised that local businesses are circa. 85% in favour of Britain remaining in the EU (Phil Wilson MP's 'straw poll'). However, I would be surprised if this is the wish of the majority of their employees. Businesses want Britain to remain a 'low-wage' economy and need unfettered EU migration to achieve this. The Workers would be better served by immigration control, full employment and higher wages. What I am surprised by, is the fact that the Labour Party and Trade Unionist are siding with big business on the matter of remaining in Europe when Exit from the EU and controlled borders are the only way that we can achieve full employment and the upward pressure on wage levels which will follow. An aim which any good socialist should identify with! The Labour Party, Big Business and Trade Unionists are, indeed, strange bedfellows in the matter of the EU. Today we have seen the first 'Leave Europe' martyr; The Director of the Confederation of British Industry was suspended (and has now resigned) for expressing the view that there was a bright future for Britain outside the EU. Not only are the 'Stay-In' campaign conducting 'project fear', they are now denying 'Brexit' supporters free speech! I trust that all reasonable 'Remainers' will condemn the CBI's action and that none of the businesses polled by Phil Wilson will suspend or dismiss any employees who express

the view that Britain would be better-off outside the EU.

The latest 'Stay-In' fear campaign now says that, should Britain leave the EU, there could be a 'domino' effect that will lead to the collapse of the EU. However, history tells us that we cannot change the EU from within:

- We told the EU that the Euro was such a bad idea that we would not join it; the Euro has turned into a disaster, so bad, that the EU tried to get Britain to help bail out Greece!

- We told them that their Schengen open borders was a bad idea and that we would not join; there is now an unprecedented migration crisis in the EU, that the EU are now looking to Britain to help resolve!

- David Cameron negotiated for substantial reform of the EU on the basis that if they did not allow substantial reform then we could vote to leave. The EU did not allow any substantial reform. They are incapable of doing so.

The facts of the matter are that the EU is bent on self-destruction, the EU Commission is undemocratic and the Member States have lost the support of their populations. Now is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for the British electorate to repatriate the government of Britain to Westminster. In 2020 you will then get a chance to elect a truly democratic British Government which represents the wants of the British electorate and not self-seeking big business and banks.

Alastair P.G. Welsh

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Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER

11th March 2016



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“YOUR TOWN COUNCIL IS IN A HEALTHY FINANCIAL POSITION WITH NO CUTS TO SERVICES PLANNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.”



*Councillor
R.S. Fleming
Leader*

“Sound Finances and Financial Management”

The Town Council is pleased to report that its finances remain in strong health, with a balanced budget in place, efficiency savings continuing to be achieved in the current year, and sound levels of balances and reserves.

This has been independently confirmed by the Council's external auditors, who have given the Council a clean bill of financial health for many years now, and confirmed that the Council has sound arrangements in place to deliver value for money to local taxpayers.

“Services Protected”

The Town Council has worked hard to deliver savings each year and to spend the limited resources available to it as efficiently as possible, whilst striving to keep any increase in the Town Council Tax to a minimum.

As a result of this careful and prudent financial management, the Town Council has been able to protect and maintain the many important local services that it provides to the local community, including:-

- A pre-school learning centre;
- Oak Leaf Sports Complex providing indoor bowls, multi-use sports hall, squash courts, and bar and catering facilities;
- Oak Leaf Golf Complex comprising an eighteen hole golf course, golf shop, changing rooms, and driving range;
- Eight football pitches including junior football and six a side pitches;
- Eight parks, all with play equipment, four further play areas, four multi-use games areas, a skate park, BMX track, and outdoor fitness equipment;
- Stephenson Way and West Cemeteries and the provision of burial services;
- Five allotments sites including some with pigeon and poultry facilities;
- A community events programme including Aycliffe Festival, Senior Citizens Trips, Fun in the Parks, Santa Tours and the Fireworks Display;
- Grounds maintenance of Council owned land and facilities;
- The environment centre at Moore Lane;
- Environmental management of a number of nature and conservation areas, the Great Aycliffe Way and other green open space across the Parish;
- Civic events and functions and the Town Mayor;
- Park Patrol Service and Town Pride Team; and
- Provision and maintenance of public seating, bins and bus shelters.

This protection of services comes at a time when other local authorities such as Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council have been forced, by substantial cuts in government funding, to cut back

on services including care homes, adult care and independent living services, support to community and voluntary organisations, leisure centres, museums, libraries, markets, highways lighting, Christmas lighting, grass cutting and flower beds.

“Funding Cuts and Budget Pressures Absorbed”

Whilst the Town Council has not cut back on services, this does not mean that it has been immune from the public sector funding cuts by central government.

The Council has seen its Council Tax Support Grant funding cut by more than £130,000 since 2013, as well as seeing the £38,500 Double Taxation Grant withdrawn by Durham County Council. The Council is also expecting the Council Tax Support Grant to be cut by at least another £100,000 over the next five years.

The Council has also faced upward pressure on its spending budgets as a result of inflation, pay awards, pension automatic enrolment, and the introduction of the National Living Wage, as well as downward pressure on the income receivable from fees and charges for services as a result of the economic situation.

The Council is also seeing increasing requests for financial assistance from community and voluntary organisations facing funding cuts of their own and increasing pressure to take over local services at risk of being cut by Durham County Council.

“Council Tax Increases Minimised”

However, despite the funding cuts and other budget pressures faced, the Town Council, through a combination of good financial management and delivery of year on year savings, has managed to shield the local taxpayers from the worst of this.

As a result the Town Council has only increased the

Town Council Tax by 5.5% in the seven years since 2010, aided by a four year freeze between 2010 and 2013.

“Investment in Services and Community Assets”

The Council has also invested in new services and facilities wherever possible using a combination of savings, use of reserves and securing external grant funding.

Examples of investment in the town in recent years include:-

- The employment of a town pride team and park patrol service;
- Securing the future of the A167 highways lighting;
- Various environmental initiatives including taking over the maintenance of environmental areas and the planting of new woodland;
- Installation of multi-use games areas and new play equipment at Simpature, Horndale, Woodham and Moore Lane Parks;
- Improved play areas at St Oswald's Park, Moore Lane Park, Town Park, Horndale Park, Byerley Park and School Aycliffe;
- Outdoor fitness equipment in West Park; and
- A BMX track adjacent to Woodham Park.

The Council also has plans for further investment in the coming year including:-

- A new scoot park at Horndale;
- A replacement play area at West Park;
- Taking over the woodland at Woodham bridleway;
- An event to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday; and
- The investigation of a major new park development in the Cobblers Hall area.

PLAY EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Following an extensive public consultation process there is a proposal to re-develop the junior play area within West Park as part of a £40,000 investment by Great Aycliffe Town Council.



Aycliffe Festival

'Elvis' to perform at the Aycliffe Festival

The Festival Working Group is currently considering event applications with 'Elvis' as one of the more famous personalities! As well as Elvis, Kinexus and Betcha By Golly Wow are scheduled to perform at Neville Parade Community Centre this year.

The concept of the Festival is to involve local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations, encouraging them to organise an 'event' within the time-frame of the Festival. Neville Parade (incorporating the Cubby) has taken the idea on board 'big style' with applications for 12 events to take place this year.

So far, the events organised by the local community seem to be providing a wide variety of experiences and activities for children and adults in the Parish.

Additionally, the Festival Working Group has booked a 'Party in the Park' with bands from the Durham Brass Festival in attendance. More information on this is to follow.

Aycliffe Village Hall Association's music night will run again in 2016, buy your tickets early as it was a sell out in 2015!

Another immensely successful event in 2015 was the Music Night at the Working Men's Club and this too will run again this year.

Currently, there are 15 events scheduled to take place over the Festival period, Saturday 16th July until Saturday 30th July.

We are still looking to continue the Festival's success of 2015 and will be taking applications from anyone who would like to organise something for the Festival. It doesn't have to be something the size of Glastonbury, it can be something really simple that would appeal to the people of Aycliffe.

Even if your organisation doesn't need a grant, you can still benefit from our advertising campaign by letting us know when it is on as long as it is in the Festival period.

Any event will be considered, large or small, indoor or outdoor but it must be held in the Festival period in Aycliffe. If you are thinking about organising an event or just want to talk it through with us, contact Marie Robinson on 01325 300700 or festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31st March 2016.



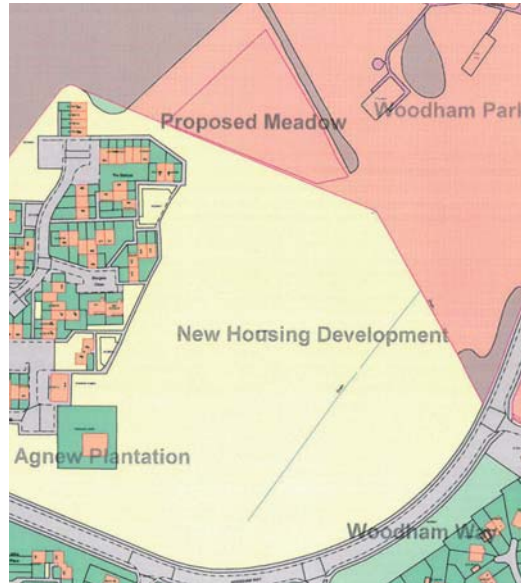
PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN REGARD TO MEADOW AT AGNEW

Plans are progressing to create a meadow on land just north of the new development near the Agnew, off Woodham Way. The land in question is owned by Great Aycliffe Town Council and the council are keen to sow a flower rich meadow to compliment the natural feel of the area.

The creation of a meadow will mean that the area will have substantial investment in the selection of a flower rich wildflower mix which will tolerate the locally damp conditions. Species should include oxeye daisy, field poppy and knapweed to name but a few.

The proposed variety of flowers to be sown will provide an attractive visual display over the summer months and also attract important insects and creatures that feed on them. Once established, the meadow will be maintained by allowing the flowers to develop over the summer months and seed in early Autumn, this will be followed by an annual cutting of the vegetation, all cuttings will be baled and removed from site to help promote the ongoing development of the flower meadow.

To discuss the meadow please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.



SUCCESSFUL MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER

The Annual Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mary Dalton, on Friday, 19th February 2016 at Woodham Golf Club. The 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.

Barclays Bank were, once again, kind enough to match fund the event to a sum of £1,000. The total amount raised was £2,273.

Mrs. Denese Cartwright, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe gave an excellent response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests.

Councillor Mrs. Dalton would like to take this opportunity to also thank Ebac (Norfrost) Ltd. for their generosity in supplying a Chest Freezer for her fund raising. The Mayor thanked fellow Councillors and friends who have supported her during the year by donating gifts for her various fund raising events.



PUBLIC EVENTS

Great Aycliffe Town Council are again providing a series of free family events over the Easter break to keep the children entertained. Booking is desirable by contacting Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

POND DIPPING

Wednesday 30th March, 10.30am-12.30 pm

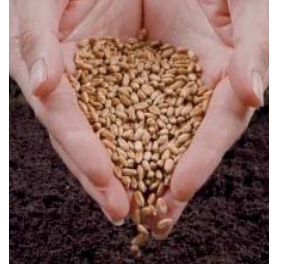
Visit the ponds at Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve to welcome spring to the reserve and discover if the many animals such as frogs and toads have returned. Bring along your nets and wellies if you have them and meet at the sign behind Ranulf Court.



ANYTHING EARTHLY

Thursday 31st March, 1.00pm-3.00pm

Come along to Moore Lane Eco Centre and take part in an Earth Walk lead by Durham Wildlife Trust before returning to the centre and taking part in a wildflower planting session; participants will be encouraged to take their newly planted seeds home with them to look after for a few weeks before taking part in a second session where the plants will be planted to help establish a new meadow within the town. Meet at Moore Lane Eco Centre.



SENIOR CITIZENS' EXCURSIONS

Each year, the Council organises a series of free excursions for the senior citizens who live in our Parish. It is one of the most popular events organised by the Council.

Application forms will be available on Tuesday 19th April from the Library in Central Avenue, Recreation Centre in Beveridge Way, Oakleaf Sports Complex or Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 4th May 2016.

To be eligible, you do not have to be drawing your pension or have a bus pass, but you do have to be a resident of the electoral parish and 60 years old (applies to both men and women) by 1st April in the year of travel. If you are in any doubt, please telephone 01325 300700 and we will check your eligibility.

This year, residents will be able to choose from Northumberland, Scarborough, Edinburgh, Blackpool, Lake District or South Shields.

Our 'trippers' have the choice of venue for the day with a three course meal and tea or coffee provided in a good quality establishment usually with disabled facilities. Most of the excursions also call in for a comfort stop with refreshments provided on the way to or from the main destination.

The coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. There is also a 53 seater executive coach with a wheelchair hoist to each destination. This ensures that even people with severe mobility problems can enjoy a day out. The hoist can be used for loading wheelchairs for those residents who need to travel in their wheelchair, or for use by people who cannot manage the steps on the coach.

Each person who qualifies is entitled to one 'trip'. To qualify you must be aged 60 or over and must have lived in the electoral parish by 1st April in the year of travel.



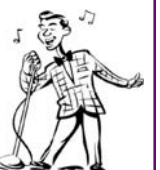
Langley Castle, Northumberland

MAYOR'S CHARITY CABARET NIGHT

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe will be holding a Cabaret Night in the Phoenix Club (formerly the Royal British Legion) on Thursday, 21st April 2016 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The event will be in aid of her nominated charities:- The Renal Unit at James Cook Hospital, Neville Community Centre and Scouts/Guides of Great Aycliffe.

Tickets are £5 each and will be on sale from the Council Offices and the Phoenix Club. Pie and peas will be included in the ticket price and there will be a bingo session. A fund raising raffle will also take place in aid of the charities. Tickets are limited and will be on sale on a first come first served basis.



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www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/pre-schools



Although things have been a bit quiet of late work is still continuing on the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan. Planning policies are being researched and written which will help us **deliver** the priorities for residents. This is proving to be a little tricky as we **still** have to comply with national and local planning policies so the correct **wording** is critical.

Pre-Submission documents are being finalised and residents will have the opportunity to **comment** on these before a final proposed Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan is presented to the external **examiner** and Durham

County Council to ensure **everything** is in order and complies with all the required **legislation**.

The final piece to the process, and yes, it has been a very lengthy one, is a **referendum**. People on the electoral register will be **entitled to vote in the referendum**. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', then the **local planning authority** will bring the plan into force and it will then become a **statutory development plan for the parish**.

The GreatAycliffeNP Facebook page and Town Council website provides a large amount of information. Please join our Facebook page or check out the website for further information.



The Youth Council continues to go grow. This year there are 22 members whose ages range from 12 to 18.

The **Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Youth Council** placed a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday following a request from the Youth Council to be represented at such an important occasion.

The young people took part in the TFM Christmas Toy Appeal with some Youth Councillors donating their allowance and others collecting toys and gifts with **fantastic** results. They **managed** to collect **nearly 80** individual gifts which

filled two sacks and three **large bags** for children of **all ages**. A **great effort** all round.

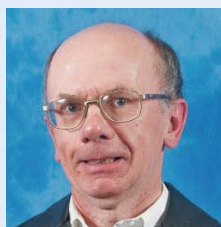
Work is commencing on the **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Event, which will be led this year by GoAhead Training, planned as part of the Aycliffe Festival. The format for the STEM event will be similar to last year and a number of local companies have already indicated they want to take part.

Four **grants** have been given to local organisations totalling £975. You can find the grant guidelines on the **Town Council website** @ www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/community-engagement/aycliffe-youth-council

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Lab - Tel. 313770



Brian Hall
Lab - Tel. 314105



Paul Kjenstad
Lab - 07814 777212



Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Peter J. Bergg
Lab - 07432 070717

WOODHAM WARD



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Lab - Tel. 318333



Neil Collinson
Lab - Tel. 300072



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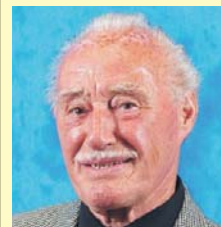
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Raymond Bowman
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Little Library Launch

World Book Day at Greenfield Community College saw a hive of activity including: the launch of the second wonderful Little Free Library, the published work of students from both the Sunnydale Campus and Aycliffe Site, with thanks to GAMP AAP for their support in partnership with Greenfield Arts, and the launch of the Suitcase Library full of creative ideas and positive prompts.

The work of the students was created after a workshop with writer Andy Croft, in which he showed how writing and storytelling can inspire others and provoke all sorts of emotions, so much so they have created their own flash fiction stories. The first published copy was placed in the Sunnydale Campus Little Library for all to read and each student also received a copy each in recognition of their hard work. 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.

World Book Day also saw the

launch of the Suitcase Library by the Youth Cree alongside artist Nicola Golightly. 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.

Writer Andy Croft returned to inspire the whole school to develop their love of stories with his book reading and we were joined by St John's Primary School for a workshop with the writer himself. Students throughout both campuses were gifted a book voucher each and tasked with a reading for success activity.

Both staff and students had a great day celebrating World Book Day across campuses. Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield Arts said "it is wonderful to come together to share our love of reading and to celebrate the achievements of our students. The Little Free Library, the published flash fiction and the suitcase library are all fantastic pieces of work created by students that will inspire others to explore ideas and respect themselves."

Please pop by either campus to use the Little Free Library.



Greenfield Powerful Poetry



Young people from the Sunnydale Campus of Greenfield Community College thrilled staff and parents with powerful recitals of poetry on the evening of Thursday 25th February.

Covering a wide range of themes, the students worked tirelessly to commit to memory each of their poems. The evening was planned as part of a national initiative encouraging young people across the country to discover the joy of learning and reciting poems. Poetry was learnt, memorised and recited in English lessons over the course of a half term of intensive study.

After a school competition held in January, two year ten students from Sunnydale qualified to represent the school in the County stage of the competition at Queen Elizabeth College in Darlington. Megan McTeam and Charlotte Rowley both performed poems from the 'poetry by heart' anthology

in front of a judging panel which included The Editor of the Northern Echo and children's author Peter Barron as the Chair of Judges, Anne Caldwell, Deputy Chair of the National Association of Writers In Education, and Dr Alex Niven, Lecturer in English Literature at Newcastle University.

Poetry by Heart co-ordinator Kath Lee commented the girls' performance was 'stunning, and so fantastic to see Shildon young people taking part.'

Following on from the school competition which was aimed at Y10 students, the English department at Sunnydale decided to organise a special evening whereby KS3 students could showcase their talents. Over 20 students from years 7, 8 and 9 performed poems they had themselves selected in front of an audience including parents and staff.

All talents were showcased, including dance set to poetry and the musical numbers performed by Leah Mundy

and Rebecca Fish from year eight.

The event was a huge success, and the English Department were delighted with the engagement of all students who were inspired to take part. Mr Dover, teacher of English at Sunnydale commented 'Developing skills in poetry analysis is a key part of the new English curriculum and this initiative has certainly contributed to students love for poetry. We can't wait to do it again next year.'

Christine Stonehouse, Head of School at Greenfield Community College, was immensely proud of everyone who took part. "It was wonderful to see both students and staff reciting their chosen poems with such passion, confidence and fluency. The original vision for the event came from Mrs Robson who not only inspired the young people to take part but got everyone on their feet to sing Jerusalem for a powerful and emotional finale."

SKYDIVING TO HELP AYCLIFFE CHEERLEADERS

Local Champion martial arts fighter Dave Cunliffe has offered to raise funds for our local cheerleading team Nemesis All Stars who are in desperate need of training equipment.

Dave who holds 4 titles in is due to fight for another British title in 3 weeks was given a skydive by his family and he thought he would get sponsorship to help Nemesis.

He visited their training hall which is very basic with limited equipment, but that hasn't stopped them becoming very good at what they do! The team train several times a week and enter various competitions, but really need a tumbling mat for safety and to develop skill.

Both Dave and the team joined in on a mixed session

combining his training with some of their own which was great fun! The target for the equipment needed is £3,000 and his skydive will take place in April.

Any help would be greatly appreciated by every single person involved! There is a just giving page set up for the fund which can be found both on Facebook and the justgiving website! Dave will answer any questions via email Davidcunliffe656@aol.co.uk



Death of New Town Pioneer Barber



Harry was born in Marsk, the 11th child of twelve. The family barber business was in Station Road Redcar. He gained a scholarship to Redcar Grammar School and started work as an industrial chemist.

The war changed things and he trained as a fighter pilot. This was never completed and he was transferred to the army on his way to the far east where his actions in Palestine led to a promotion to Captain.

On return he became a barber in the family business then ran his own business in Grangetown. A relative Harry Bilton who was involved in running the new town of Newton Aycliffe encouraged Harry to move to open a business here. Harry and his young family set up home in Ann Swyft Road opening a Barbers shop near the old library.

Harry then opened a shop near the Iron Horse, as a Newsagents, Post Office, converting the garage to a barbers shop.

Fourboys made an offer for the shop and Harry moved to the town centre with a Ladies and Gents Hairdressers which became Sylvia and Demitris'. He had a shop in Shildon with hairdressing contracts at Aycliffe Hospital and Aycliffe School.

In 1970 he and his wife Maureen decided to change direction, sell house and business and have a few months rest. Harry worked for Rediffusion and made quite a few friends some of whom came to support him in his next venture the Pub in Byers Green.

An association with Mike Amos of the Northern Echo helped publicity and various

ideas flowed to encourage people into the pub.

The formula was simple, good beer, good food and the opportunity to meet people and friends. Harry rarely served behind the bar, concentrating on welcoming and acknowledging people introducing people so they might come back and meet again.

Several Pubs followed on after the sale of The Marquis of Granby. The Brown Jug, The Royal George and The Crown, Great Ouseburn which was run by his son in law and daughter Barbara with their children Alex and Victoria.

Between and during Pub life Harry and Maureen lived at Whiley Hill, Coatham Mundeville, Barmpton Lane and a bungalow near Cockerton which they renovated

The Crown had a house adjacent which was converted to accommodate Barbara and her family and a retirement home for Harry and Maureen which was where Harry died on 29th February 2016 aged 90.

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and overwhelming vote to back the IN vote. 82,000 papers issued, 21.7% returned out of 82,000, only 17,794 were returned, this means **64,206 didn't get returned**, keep this number in mind. So, the percentages are based on the 17,794 returned papers. 59.5% of this is 10,591 who voted YES, which means 40.5% of this is 7,209 who voted NO! Which is only 3,471, the Magic majority. NOW LOOK AT 82,000 papers sent out, is this SUPPORT for yes? This is only 4.2% of that total. We have an EU referendum coming up, so what happens to the 30m if we vote out? Name and Address supplied

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The Easter Holiday programme is now available for bookings! We have lots of great sessions on offer for young people and families, including some new additions: 'Film Club' and 'Star of the Show', come and chill out watching a film or even star in your own film made in one day. There is the well-loved 'Family Cooking' with Jan Hodgson; as well as our 'Crazy Crafts' workshop making mosaics and our arts workshop 'Exploring the Web', which will look at how we can all help keep each other safe online. Activities are suitable for ages 8 and up, except 'Crazy Crafts' which is age 3 and up and 'Family Cooking' which is any age with families, all children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. For full details and to book your place please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in and speak to one of our friendly team. Please see website for all holiday programmes as well as lots of other opportunities we offer, www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Opportunity in Newton Aycliffe to Volunteer

Marie Curie is looking for enthusiastic individuals raring to engage with the local community in Newton Aycliffe.

The charity are encouraging local people to join the Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group and make a difference, all while meeting new people

in the area, having fun and helping to secure the on-going support delivered by Marie Curie.

As a Fundraising Group Member volunteers will become a key component in a passionate team, devoted to raising crucial funds and as much awareness as possible. With other group members, they will organise collections, fundraising events and other awareness activities. Fundraising Groups will also promote the work of the charity and encourage support for Marie Curie within their local community.

Community Fundraiser Hayley Revell said: "Joining the Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group is a wonderful way to play an important role in the work of a national charity at a local level, make new friendships and engage with your community

"We're really excited and it will make a huge difference locally by helping to raise awareness of the free care Marie Curie provides to people with terminal illnesses in the local area."

A meeting where people can find out more will be held on Thursday March 17 at 6.30pm in Tesco Superstore.

Anyone interested in joining the group to make a positive difference to the work of Marie Curie in Newton Aycliffe can attend the meeting or contact Community Fundraiser Hayley Revell on 0191 219 1242 or at hayley.revell@mariecurie.org.uk

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RAFA AGM The Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd March in the Canopus Club, Barrington Road, Newton Aycliffe. Doors will close at 8pm prompt. All members are invited.

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COOK needed 4 days a week for busy farm shop near Walworth Castle, must have own transport due to location. Please ring 07760 424822 for more details.

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GUIDE DOG VISIT RECRUITING SOLDIERS



Sue visited every class at St. Joseph's School this week with her guide dog Toby. Sue had a brain tumour which caused her to have a stroke and as a result she has limited double vision. She was matched to Toby based on her walking speed, height and weight.

She talked to the children how Toby keeps her safe, how they train the guide dogs and that it costs £5.00 per day to support each working guide dog partnership. The School Council will be raising money in the summer term to support this worthwhile cause.

Under 8's Footballers Wanted at Heighington

Heighington Under 8s have been playing in their first league campaign this season in the TJFA league on a Sunday morning as well as training on a Thursday Night at Heighington Parish Fields. The boys have done incredibly well at 5 a side level winning every game this year. Next season we move up to 7 a side and are therefore on the lookout for 2 additional players to improve our already fantastic squad. With this in mind Heighington will be having

an open training session on Thursday April 14th up at Heighington Parish Fields. This is ideally for children with a little experience in playing the game, however not essential.

Your child must be 8 Years old between the 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 to be eligible for our team. If you and your child would be interested in coming along please get in touch with Heighington's Coach Dean Marcus on 07713577364

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LOST Male Albino Ferret, very friendly, his name is Snowy. If seen please call Vicky on 01325 495284
GENTS gold signet ring, engraved on face. Sentimental value. Reward if found. Contact Newton Press 01325 300212

"Aycliffe Shopping Centre have approved the temporary use of one of its empty retail units in support of a joint effort by local uniformed services. Positioned on the same side of the High Street as Wilkinson's and Barclays the Army Reserves from Northfield Way have created an information hub for visitors to learn more about the opportunities available at 124 Recovery Company REME, as well as D Rifles Company in Durham and 50 Signals Squadron from Darlington.

The empty unit has been loaned for a month at no charge, thanks to the Shopping Centre Management Board and Bryan Haldane the Centre Manager and is open from 1000-1400 Tuesday - Friday. Gavin Laycock, the local PCSO on the Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team is also planning PACT and anti-theft and anti-vandalism activities, so keep an eye out on their Facebook Page (Newton Aycliffe Police) for more details.

Support for the information hub is growing, and the key purpose is to raise awareness that the Army Reserves is actively recruiting for part time positions, available for eligible applicants aged between 18 and 49. With a minimum commitment of just 27 days per year and with qualifications such as B and C driving licences or BTECs in Engineering or Communications technology at no cost to the individual it can prove really useful in the search for a better paid civilian job.

The shop is manned by qualified recruiters who are on hand to discuss the application process and arrange a visit to one of the local Army Reserve

units so you can meet our Army Reservists and have a look at the equipment and facilities.

If you would like to email us before popping down we can be reached at aycliffeserves@gmail.com or you can call 01325 375000.

It is hoped that the town finds

the information hub useful and would support us coming back later in the Spring and Summer to run activities on the High Street.

Please drop by at our Facebook Page and give our pop up shop post a like, search Facebook for 124 Recovery Company REME."

Aycliffe Village School World Book Day



Aycliffe Village School celebrated world book day, by coming in as their favourite characters from a book. All the children looked really good dressing up as characters such as Percy the Park Keeper, the Gruffalo, Goldilocks and many more. The children got lots of learning done today through the books they brought in from home. We'd like to thank all the parents for contributing to today's event.

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Free

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

Tigers Ready for Season

Spring is almost upon us and it is time for people to shed their winter clothes (or maybe not!) and participate in sport. Durham Tigers in particular are gearing up for the beginning of another rugby league season which starts in April and runs throughout the Spring/Summer.

Durham Tigers is the only rugby community club for the South Durham area and has been established since the 1990's, with Sunnydale Leisure Centre being our base for the past 6 years. The club has experienced a lot of success over the years, winning several league and cup competitions.

"This season we intend to build on last years successes and break new ground, with new teams hopefully being established at Under 12 age group as well as introducing an entirely new form of the game for both boys and girls at primary school ages" said Andy McGregor-Taylor, the recently elected Club Chairman who is also one of the established coaches for the Under 14s team for this season. Last year, this team swept all before them throughout the North East, winning both the League and Cup competitions despite some fierce competition. As a result of their success the players regularly train and play at the Newcastle Falcons

and Newcastle Thunder home at Kingston Park, Newcastle which is a fantastic opportunity and experience for young rugby league players.

"We will have to work hard to stay at the top of this age group," said 1st coach Paul Grey "but this is a challenge that we all relish. Our young players can look to the success of older players from the club and take inspiration from them".

He was referring to the fact that several Tiger players have gone on to achieve greater things. In a recent game at Kingston Park where Newcastle Thunder played Super League club Widnes Vikings, no fewer than four former Tigers players played in the Thunder team.

Confidence is also high in the Open Age team where the new coach is keen to see the Tigers back where they belong as the dominant club in the North East.

Some of the Tigers coaches are now going into local schools to introduce the game of rugby league to a whole new audience. "We are initially looking to recruit players from Years 5, 6 and 7" said Andy McGregor-Taylor "so that we can get our Under 12s team up and running and introduce the game to younger players."

Durham Tigers is a recognised "Embed the Pathway" club by the sports governing body, The RFL (Rugby Football League) which means that the coaching staff have been recognised as having the skills to prepare players to reach the very top of the game".

The Tigers are keen to welcome all new players with or without experience of either code of rugby and anyone who is interested are encouraged to contact Phil Selby (Club Secretary) on 07949 706546 (for junior players) or Jen Egglestone (Admin) on 07933 658153 (for Open Age).

Training is now taking place every Saturday morning at 10am at Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon for players age 8-16yrs and the open-age training takes place on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm till 8pm at Sunnydale Leisure Centre.

Further information can be obtained via the club website www.pitchero.com/clubs/durhamtigers.

So come along and give it a go; it's a great way to get fit and you get to be a part of a great club!

N.A.J.F.C. UPDATE

The Mothers Day weekend saw some fixtures lost to the heavy rain and others going ahead as the Aycliffe Juniors football season continued in to March.

The Under 7's played away at Billingham, they faced a two goal deficit early on but got back on terms with goals from Ashton and Kai. The home team were strong and scored again to win the first game 4-2. In the second game Aycliffe created lots of chances but could not score due to the great efforts of the Billingham keeper, chances were though taken against them and the game was lost.

Great effort from the whole squad and the opposition manager chose Harry and Roman as men of the match. The Under 8's played Leven at Middlesbrough Sports village, in the first game their performance was the best of the season so far. They pressed their opponents and passed the ball really well. Jayden got the first goal before Lucas made fantastic saves either side of the second goal which came off a Leven defender after pressure from Rhys, half time and it was 2-0. In the second half Jayden finished from a corner and Harvey scored from a header to secure a 4-0 win. The second game began with Niall shooting just wide and Aidan making a great save in the Aycliffe goal. Niall then scored the opening goal but Leven added two of their own to lead 2-1 at half time. Leven then were the better team for the rest of the game and won this one 4-1. The morning's men of the match were Rhys and Aidan.

The Under 10 Russell Foster league team played the first game in a series of spring cup fixtures. They lost out to a good Washington Juniors side 1-0 despite playing some fantastic football at times. The TJFA League Cup quarter final draw brought together two of the area's strongest Under 10's teams as Aycliffe faced Boro Rangers. The first half was dominated by Aycliffe with some lovely passing football. Jake was dominant in midfield, Charlie and Aaron got the team moving forward well from the back and Lucas, Jacob and Zack were on the front foot in attack. However half time came with the game all square. In the second half Boro Rangers scored a counter attacking goal and Aycliffe could not find the equaliser despite the added effort of



Harry and Evan off the bench and Thomas staying solid in goal. Sadly the League cup defence ended for Aycliffe with a 1-0 loss.

The Under 11's lost 4-2 away at North Ormesby, the team was depleted by late withdrawals but the available players all worked hard. Had they converted their chances could have won the game. It was a day when everyone gave 100% and the goals were scored by Lewis and Sammy. Teams from Under 12 to Under 23's didn't have much luck with the weather and a series of waterlogged pitches saw only the Under 18 Blacks in action but they certainly did not disappoint. Their stunning goal scoring form continuing with a 11-2 home win against Seaton Carew Lions.

Obituary

MIDGLEY, John of Aycliffe Village on March 6th aged 77 years. After a long battle with Parkinsons Disease bravely passed away. A dearly beloved Husband of Mary; a much loved Dad of Karen and Kathryn; also a treasured Grandad; a dear Father-in-Law, Brother and Uncle. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 18th March for 11.00am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to Parkinsons UK. Plate provided at Crematorium

ROBINSON, 6th March, peacefully surrounded by her loving family, Elizabeth (Betty), dearly loved Wife of the late Bob; much loved Mam to Diane, Christine and Jill. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Monday 21st March. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Durham Crematorium at 2.00pm.

RON "Ronnie" ELLIOTT 9th January 1938 to 3rd March 2016. Daughters Gillian and Lorraine sadly announce the death of their lovely Dad, Ron (Ronnie to some). Once, such a proud RAF Corporal, hard working, funny, life and soul of "any" party, fun loving man . . . "locked" in the body of a dementia and Parkinsons sufferer for the last three years. He is now at peace after passing away at Rose Lodge Care Home with his beloved dog Zena at his side. Funeral to be held on Monday 14th March, 1.15pm at Darlington Crematorium. Followed by a gathering for anyone who knew Ron at the RAFA Club, Newton Aycliffe. Flowers welcome OR donations to Dementia UK (collections at the crematorium or Whitehouse Funeral Services). Proud of his Geordie roots and love for NUFC - there is a "black and white" optional theme

them aware of the dangers to motorbikes and cyclists. May I suggest to the town centre manager that the town clock is loathed by some for the noise it makes during night time. I once lived 200 yards from it and heard every chime. A sensible request would be to mute the clock chimes from midnight until 06-00 hours.

I now live on Oakfield but it still keeps me awake me and it intrudes into our home and as such is classed as a noise nuisance. I envisage most Newtonians would back my request, but I do not want it removed or demolished, it is iconic, but common sense has to prevail, G. Thompson,

Dirty Building Sites and Noisy Clock

Dear Sir,
May I respond to the correspondence on building works and other contract work being carried out on the town and the site of the solar panel installation near to Ineos at School Aycliffe.

These builders need to look at Walter Thompson who are erecting the care home on the site of the old Police Station. I am there twice a day and the road is always cleaned and there are several large trucks there every day. It is where there is a big development it is an offence to leave rubble, clay, and other debris on the highway, as it is dangerous to other vehicles. I think the police should call and make

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.

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Mothers' Day Remembrance

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

In Memoriam

CAROL ANN REED 13th March 2015. If roses grow in Heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for us. Place them in Carol's arms and tell her they're from us. Tell her that we miss her and love her every day and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Remembering her is easy, we do it every day. But there's an ache within our hearts that will never go away. Love always, Roy, Steven, Lara and families xxxxx

CAROL REED In loving memory of a dear Sister-in-Law. We miss you Carol. Love, Yvonne and George xxx

CAROL REED In memory of Carol. Just a thought away. From Mam Reed and Edith SOULSBY, Peter Elliot, died 10th March 1999. Silent thoughts of times together, special memories last forever. Love, Valerie xx

MARILYN BAKER There's a place in our hearts no one can ever fill. We miss you Mam and Nanna and always will. Love from all your Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxxx

FRANK REED 17th March 1997. Our Dad takes no remembering, we are proud that he was ours. We just weren't ready to let him go to the world beyond the stars. In our dreams we see and hear him, just wish we could roll back the years and give us all a cuddle. Priceless are our memories, family his life. Music was his passion and Vera his Wife. St Patrick's Day he passed, we didn't know it was meant to be his last. Let the music play on Dad, Mam's listening. Miss you always. All your family far and near xxxxx

JOAN STOKER 10th March 2015. A year has gone by so quickly Mam. We still can't believe you've gone. I miss our chats, our laughs and more. The list goes on and on. It will never be the same without you Mam. There will never be another you. But we will cherish our memories forever and send all of our love to you too. Forever loved and missed. From loving Daughter Marie and Son-in-Law Ray; Loving Son Paul & Fiance Amanda xx

NANNA JOAN We miss you so much. From your ever loving Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. God Bless xxxxxxxxxx

RICHARD MILLER Died 11th March 2001. Loved and missed. From Peter, Sheila and Lisa xxx

MARY HIND 15th March, 2009. We miss you so much. You are always in our thoughts and our hearts. Never forgotten. All our love, Janet, Tony and David xxx

Lost & Found

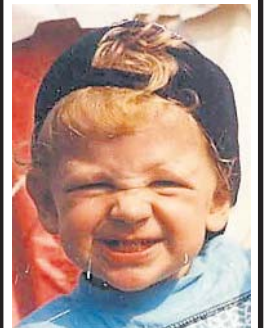
Missing Cat



Missing Wednesday 2nd March. "Dixie", 10 month old lean black tom cat. Neutered, micro chipped, very friendly, no collar. Lives in Bousfield Crescent area (near Tesco). Please check sheds and garage. Reward if found. Tel Home 01325 319276 (work 01325 305270)

Congratulations

Jack Mitchell



Happy 18th Birthday
10th March 2016

All the best.
Loads of love, Dad.
Leigh and family xxxxx

Abbie Dunn



Happy 18th Birthday Abbie
9th March 2016

Hope you have a great weekend celebrating. Love from Mam, Dan, Erin, Lewis and all the family xxxxx

TONY BREWER Happy 50th birthday to my amazing Husband and best friend. I love you so much. Amanda xxx
TONY BREWER Happy 50th birthday. Hope you have a fab day. Lots of love, Luke and Jessica xx
TONY BREWER Happy 50th birthday. Love from Michael and Trisha xxx

NEWTON NEWS

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Local Pub Helps Wishing Well Club



A massive thank you to everyone at the Turbinia Pub from the members and volunteers of the Wishing Well Club. They raised a whopping £320 for the club at this year's Joe Ewin Darts Memorial which was held at the pub on Saturday 27th of February. Congratulations to our own club winners, Stephen Greenwell and Natalie Haack (seen holding their trophies), who participated in the event. It was all made possible by Gary Soakell (pub landlord) and his team who always ensure everyone feels very welcome. Special thanks to Turbinia's fundraiser in chief Julie Whitfield, who worked hard all day and David Armstrong for coordinating

both events. The club is very grateful for any financial help and it's things like this that keep them going. If you can help contact stephen.patterson@oswaldhouse.co.uk

Honest John Donations

Honest John has donated £400 to Newton Aycliffe Under 14's Girls Football Team, and £400 to the town's Boys Brigade. Funding continues to provide equipment repair and ground maintenance for the Sports Club junior and adult sections.

YOUTHY FOOTBALL RESULTS Heighington Football

The Russel Foster league teams started the weekend on Saturday with a debut for our newly formed under 8 Eagles with a new strip sponsored by Nettworx Power Services under the guidance of Peter Robinson. An exciting end to end game but the boys were never behind against NE Sports United, A hat trick from Will and one each from Josh and Tyler, but our 5 goals were matched by the opposition FT 5-5. Great start for these young lads.

The under 7 Eagles started their Spring league were they left off in their very successful Winter League. Consett Avengers took an early 2 goal lead as the Aycliffe started slowly, however once we got our first goal the lads played some excellent attacking football backed up by a solid defence. Goals from Will 3 Harvey & Edwin give us a deserved 5-3 win

Under 10 Girls v Hebburn Town with only one game possible in the last 3 months the girls lack of football showed in our opening game of the League Shield. Despite a battling performance from all 10 girls the opposition proved too strong with a final score 0-5

Under 11 Girls v Hartlepool Pools Youth was the opening fixture of the League cup and

despite early pressure it was Pools Youth who grabbed the opener. However these girls just carry on playing football. Emily, Neve and Macy tightened at the back with superb passing and movement the equaliser soon arrived from a cool finish from Alex. A goal each from Hattie and Kate and HT arrived 3-1. Faith in goal dealt with the odd attack but the pressure on Pools continued with a through ball from Macy leaving Hattie one on one with the keeper, no contest, 4-1, then Olivia picked up the ball wide left and made a surging diagonal run and shot to make it 5-1. Hattie then completed her hat trick before a rare break and pools pulled one back. It was left to Hattie for the final word with a 25 yd drive FT 7-2

Under 14 Girls v Durham Cestria. This semi Final of the league shield was always going to be a close game, the opening goal was scored by Ella as she hit the ball from inside our own half and was delighted to see it bounce over the keeper and take a 1-0 lead into half time.

Within minutes of the restart Cestria equalized. Then an Aycliffe free kick on the edge of the box was converted by Lottie. The defence battled but were undone in the final 5 mins as Cestria once again equalized. The game was now heading fast towards the dreaded Penalty shoot out, when from a Cestria Corner the ball was bundled into the net to give a FT 2-3

Onto Sunday and all home fixtures were once again cancelled due to the water logged pitches but we managed to play several away games

Under 9 Falcons v Billingham Hornets, the boys carried on their superb season with a controlled performance taking charge of the game from the first few minutes

with a brace from Dylan. He then completed his hat trick converting a free kick. A penalty just before half time was coolly converted by Cole HT 4-0. The second half was about keeping a clean sheet and with Travis making some excellent saves the boys played out the game FT 4-0

Under 12 Falcons v Darlington All Stars Colts in the Q/F of the cup. Both teams created early chances but it was the Falcons who took the lead with a volley from Tom Jasper closely followed with a great individual effort from Sam Peat. All stars were creating chances but Cameron Vaudrey stood firm and after a goal mouth scramble Kane Hopwood made it 3-0. As the half time approached All stars scored from a breakaway HT 1-3.

The second half commenced and all stars started to find space and created chances, stretching the Falcons and it was 4 goals without reply that sealed the win for the home team FT 3-5 to all stars. MOM went to our GK Cameron Vaudrey for a string of excellent saves

Under 12 Hawks v Boro Girls Reds, The fixture was played on a 4g Pitch to ensure the game went ahead. Boro were on top form and as the boys started slowly the opposition raced into a 4-0 lead. With a few minutes to go Boro added a 5th for a final score 0-5

Under 13 Falcons v Fishburn Park, our visitors travelled the long distance from Whitby to play this important league game. The lads played some of their best football of the season to secure a great win 5-3. MOM for his 4 goals went to Cole Harrison with Spencer O'Sullivan grabbing the other

If you want more information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit the website www.naycafc.co.uk

Heighington U15's made the long trip to Redcar Athletic on a blustery Sunday afternoon, needing to get back on track after two successive 5-5 Draws. Shooting with the wind in the first half, it wasn't long before Heighington capitalised when direct from a corner, Roman Alves guided in a cracking goal. It was to get better shortly afterwards when Jack Emmerson neatly finished off a move after good work from Sam Thompson. The home side had not even made an attempt on goal, and it was against the run of play when they were gifted a goal, only for Heighington to go up the other end and Jamie Stapleton finished off with a shot from a corner again.

It was one way traffic at this stage and it was no surprise when from a next cross Jack Emmerson headed a fine goal. 4-1 at half time and in the second half shooting against the wind Heighington took the match to Redcar and battered the goal, with the keeper making a string of great saves to keep the score down, with Liam Wright making him work hard throughout.

About 15 minutes into the second half Heighington extended their lead when Jack Emmerson scored from a corner to grab his hatrick.

Shortly afterwards it was 6-1 after a mix up in the Redcar defence led to Liam Wrights shot being deflected in. Captain Jamie Stapleton finished off a good move down the right side before rifling it into the roof of the net to make it seven. Redcar grabbed a consolation goal when a speculative kick from the goalkeeper caught out the Heighington defence, but all in all a very satisfactory team performance from everyone. MOM was a difficult one as there were lots of fine performances, but Jack Emmerson's hatrick just edged it for him

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