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'Anna's Army' Raises £1000's in Paris Marathon



'Anna's Army' of 12 long-distance runners raised almost £14,500 for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign through sponsorship in the weekend's gruelling Paris marathon. "It's great that people have given so much money for such a worthwhile cause but it would be even more wonderful if we could actually hit the £15,000 landmark," said cancer victim Anna at her Newton Aycliffe home this week. There was special praise for one member of the 'Army' - Sarah Hargreaves from York, a friend of Anna's mum, Linda - who tackled the Paris marathon and then got on her bike and rode the 277 miles to Rotterdam where she will run in the city's weekend marathon. Sarah (photo right) has raised £3,700 of the £14,431 pledged in sponsorship money from the Paris Marathon. (See <https://www.justgiving.com/two-marathons-and-a-bit-of-a-bike-ride>)

Since Anna Swabey from Newton Aycliffe was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour 15 months ago, she has raised more than £65,000 for the charity and has also helped attract more than 100,000 signatures for an on-line petition calling for the government to boost its funding for brain tumour research. A Parliamentary debate on the issue is scheduled for later this month. Anna's non-stop efforts recently won her a prestigious Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland 'UK Young Citizen of the Year' honour which brings with it a cash award of £500 which will boost the coffers of the charity even further. 'Anna's Army' (with Anna and soon-to-be-husband Andy Bell centre) is pictured in the French capital before the start of the run. Their eye-catching purple vests were provided by



Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club where Anna is an honorary member. Anyone wishing to contribute to Anna's appeal can do so via <https://www.justgiving.com/InsideMyHead> by Ron Eyley

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IS IT WORTH HOLDING A BY ELECTION?

Yet another Council By Election may be called following the resignation of a Town Councillor, this time on

health grounds. With just one year to the next Full Council elections it seems a shame to have to have another election at a cost of over £9,200 to the Council Taxpayer. Newton News has checked on the law and if the resignation had taken place within 6 months of the next elections the seat could have remained vacant. But because it is over six months there are two choices - call a By Election by getting 10 signatures or leave the Council to simply co-opt someone for the remainder of the term. Whoever wins the Election would only serve a year incurring a large cost and a school closure for polling, coming at the same time as the Police & Crime Commissioner elections and EU Referendum. A co-option is probably in the public interest and Labour who control the Council would co opt a Labour Party member to replace the Labour Councillor standing down.

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Police Appeal

Police are appealing for information after a fence was damaged on Windsor Place, Newton Aycliffe. The incident occurred at around 9pm whereby a group of 5 youths were believed to have been hanging around the area and have broken the bottom of a fence panel before making off from the area. Anybody with any information should contact PC 2687 Jamie Pitt on 101. Alternatively you can contact the Independent Charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Tel: 101 or 999 in an emergency jamie.pitt@durham.pnn.police.uk

Micro-Chip Your Dog or be Fined

From Wednesday 6th April new laws mean it will be compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped

- More than one in ten dogs (14%) are currently not microchipped meaning their owners face a hefty fine of £500 if caught.

- That amounts to £580 million worth of potential fines currently at stake. UK dog owners could face fines totalling more than £500m, after new laws on dog ownership came into force this week.

The legislation affects all dogs aged eight weeks and older in England, Wales and Scotland – Northern Ireland introduced a similar law in 2012.

Recent figures suggest 1.16m dogs still aren't microchipped, despite a 70% increase in the number pets being microchipped in the last



month. "Any dog owner with an un-microchipped pet now faces a significant fine, but it is our advice to avoid this completely and comply with the law," said Dr Huw Stacey, director of clinical services at Vets4Pets. "Inserting a microchip is an easy and simple procedure, and is nothing for the owner or pet to worry about. It's only about the size of a grain of rice. "Every microchip has a unique 15-digit code to identify the

dog's owner and is designed to last the lifetime of the pet.

"The details are stored on one of seven microchip databases and are accessible to relevant professionals, including vets, dog wardens and the police.

"The importance of a microchip shouldn't be underestimated. It can be the difference between a lost dog being returned to their owner or simply being lost forever. It is also designed to encourage responsible dog ownership."

Petlog, the UK's largest lost and found database for microchipped pets, which is managed by the Kennel Club, found that more than 60,000 dogs were reported missing over a ten year period and 75% of dogs were reunited thanks to their microchip.

But pets will only be reunited with their owners if they keep their contact details up-to-date "Pet owners need to treat their pet's microchip information with the utmost importance, if the contact details are not updated, the task of returning a pet to its owner becomes almost impossible. Moving house, changing a mobile number or changing an email address are common ways a lost pet can lose permanent contact with its owner," says Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club Secretary.

Local authorities and welfare charities spend around £57 million per year on kennelling costs, but more than 50% of stray dogs cannot be returned because their owners cannot be identified.

Sadly this means approximately 6,000 dogs are put down each year because their owner cannot be found. Figures from Northern Ireland suggest microchipping has had a positive impact, since being introduced four years ago, with the number of stray dogs being reduced.

Great Community Occasion



Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club are organising a **GRAND SPONSORED COMMUNITY WALK** along the 2 mile new tarmac path installed by the County Council, alongside the railway, linking Shildon with Newton Aycliffe.

Monies raised from the walk will be shared between the participants' own group or chosen charity and the NSPCC.

The walk will unite Shildon - the birth of the railway and Newton Aycliffe the re-birth of the railway with Hitachi who will be involved. The walk will end at the Locomotion Museum where numerous activities will take place arranged by Shildon Town Council Mayor Trish Pemberton and will include entertainment and refreshments.

Groups who would like to offer their services to showcase their talent are invited to get in touch.

It is hoped all sections of the Newton Aycliffe community will take part in the walk and there is already great interest from walkers, runners, cyclists, charities and schools.

This is an opportunity for

every organisation in Newton Aycliffe to be part of this great community occasion helping themselves and the worthy charity, NSPCC.

The walk is on Saturday 1st October starting from 2pm. It takes on average 20 minutes to reach the Locomotion, so everyone should be at the Museum for 3pm.

Every group or individual

needs to be registered and be issued with official Sponsorship Forms which will be provided by the Rotary Club.

If you need more information or want to be involved other than taking the walk, contact Syd Howarth at Newton News on 300212 (or 320901 after hours), email contact: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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Saturday 9th April - "Fizzy Fish"

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We try and pick songs that you will know, but not ones that every other band plays. We're not really a club, wedding or Bar mitzvah band, you may find some parts of our set a bit anthemic, a bit serious, you may find the humour a bit off the wall, the imagery a bit surreal, you may find you have a damn good night, a daaaaamn good night.

The first set is designed to listen too, while you get comfy in your surroundings, the subliminal messages gradually turning you to drink, loosening your resolve, you may want to get up and dance and that would be great, but stick around for the second set as we know you will definitely feel the need to dance as the energy ramps up. We will then send you out into the world having journeyed through time and space, faced some demons and come out the other side full of fabulousness a humming and a smiling. The list of acts we cover evolves through time, most stuff is post punk, we could do classic rock, but there are other bands that cover that area really well and we suspect that we are a bit different.

Saturday 16th April - "Revenant"

Sunday 17th - "Bon Jovi Forever" (4pm)

with special guest support "THE KILL" - £4 cover charge, sorry no tickets, pay on the door only.

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

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ELVIS AT THE SCOUT HQ

"Are you lonesome tonight?" "It's now or never", so "Put on your blue suede shoes" and make your "Waydown" to the Scout Centre on Bluebell Way,

Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 16th April at 7pm to Party with Andrew King as ELVIS, one of the best Elvis tribute artists around.

This is for one night only, You've got a lot of livin' to do so. Don't forget to buy your tickets and be a Devil in disguise. Don't think twice tickets are selling fast. They are available at £4.00 each from the bar during opening hours: Friday 7-11pm, Saturday 1-11pm, Sunday 1-11pm and Monday 8-11pm. Or they can be reserved on our Facebook page, Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters Association, by leaving a message. We hope to see you there. Let yourself go and enjoy this excellent entertainer, until it's time for you to go and we go our separate ways.

If you would like a quick preview of what you can expect there are a couple of clips on our Facebook page.

On the 7th May the Scout Supporters Association are hosting an over 18's disco and Karaoke in the hall with the fantastic Crazy Howie Starlight Disco and Karaoke with music and songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Tickets are £2.00 each and will be on sale soon. We would like to thank Howie and everyone who came to the Karaoke on the 27th March and made it such a success.

All profits from our events are used to maintain the centre and we are hoping to raise the funds required for an extension to the hall. This will be to provide separate washroom facilities for the groups that use the premises.

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Honest John's Community Kitty has made donations to the following local organisations:

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club for equipment, repairs and ground maintenance to benefit junior and adult sport sections - £700.

Under 15's Newton Aycliffe Water Polo Club towards funding their entry in the International Tournament being held in Spain - £400.

John thanks all donors, customers and DISC who give generous support in providing space within their Furniture Store for John's Shop.

MBE for 'Mr Newton Aycliffe'

Words and Pictures by Ron Eyley

A lifetime of service to the community in and around Newton Aycliffe has seen local printer and newspaper publisher Syd Howarth honoured with the award of an MBE. The Citation also recognizes his tireless support for charities and deserving causes in the UK and his health and life-saving work in Africa with some of the world's poorest people.

But few people were surprised when Syd turned down the opportunity to receive the medal from a member of the Royal family at Buckingham Palace. ... Instead, he opted to have the



Our ladies had an exciting meeting in March holding our annual 'Silent Auction' raising funds for our group. Must say sometimes it was not always silent!! We then had a supper of Pies and Peas and went home with our new purchases and a good evening was had by all! Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th April 7.15pm at St Clare's Church Hall. For more information please contact Helen on 01325 315017.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE

Residents in County Durham are reminded that they must be on the electoral register in order to vote in the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections.

The PCC election for the Durham police area will be held on Thursday 5 May. Poll cards will be delivered to those who are already registered between Friday 1 April and Monday 4 April. Poll cards will provide details of where you should vote.

Anyone who is not registered to vote is encouraged to register online at www.gov.uk/

register-to-vote by Monday 18 April.

Registered electors can also request a postal or proxy vote.

The deadline for applying for a postal vote in the PCC election is 5pm on Tuesday 19 April. Applications for a proxy vote in the PCC election must be submitted by 5pm on Tuesday 26 April.

To request an application form for either a postal or proxy vote contact the County Council's electoral services team on 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk

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presentation at Woodham Golf Club surrounded by members of his family and a host of friends and supporters.

"I'm not one for a lot of fuss. Local people made the award possible and I thought it would be appropriate to share the occasion with them," said Syd. Guests at the investiture also learned that Syd had twice previously declined an official honour and that the first he learned about the MBE was when a letter from the Cabinet Office dropped through his letterbox.

"Family and friends had secretly arranged the nomination and I didn't feel able to refuse the award this time," said Syd.

Durham's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Sue Snowdon, presented Syd - more properly styled Sydney John Howarth - with the MBE after praising him for his 'most extraordinary record of achievement'.

At one time, Syd was chairman or a committee member of eleven organisations in and around his adopted home town (he moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1963). He has given long and dedicated service as a Rotarian and former District Governor to local and national causes and has helped provide life-changing health and safety facilities for the very poor in several African countries.

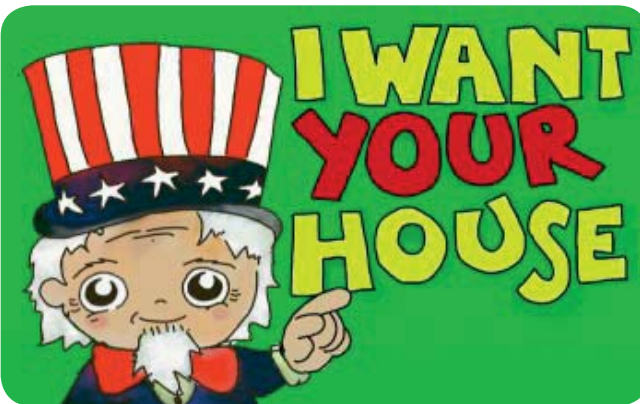
Newton Aycliffe Mayor Mary Dalton commented: "To many people in this part of the world, Syd is Mr Newton Aycliffe."

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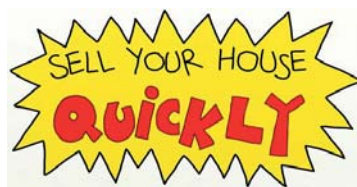


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Bishop Trains, which operates an independent national and international rail travel centre based at Bishop Auckland Railway Station, has announced the launch of their new excursion trains programme.

The business which has operated the ticket office at Bishop Auckland station for the last three years will be running their first special train in November from Bishop Auckland to London, the train "the Festive Capital Express" will be the first direct train to leave Bishop Auckland for London in over 50 years.

Tickets are now on sale for the festive trip which is ideal for Christmas shoppers and will feature on-board carol singers, Santa visiting the children on board, gifts for the children and of course, mince pies!

The train will pick up passengers at Shildon, Newton Aycliffe and Darlington stations. For more information, or to make a booking visit www.ba-rail.co.uk/london

Bishop Trains are already working on a programme of destinations around the UK, details of which will be available via their website and on Facebook.

David Million, Business Partner for Bishop Trains said "we are very excited at the launch of our new excursion trains which will all run from Bishop Auckland Railway Station, giving the local community some fantastic day trip destinations by rail. Seats on our first train to London in November are selling fast so we expect this to be sold out very quickly"

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Support for People in Hardship in the North East

Despite the Treasury's pledge of no further welfare cuts, a number of significant benefit changes are already in place under this Parliament, with many due to start this April. The national charity Turn2us is encouraging people in financial hardship in the North East to check how they could be affected by the changes and see what other support could be available.

As announced in the Summer Budget 2015, April will see the start of a four-year freeze to working-age benefits and tax credits. Whilst not a direct cut, the freeze essentially erodes the value of the benefits, and for those already on tight household budgets, there is a risk it will add to the pressure of meeting everyday costs. Pensioner, disability, carer and maternity benefits are excluded from the freeze.

There will also be changes to tax credits and Universal Credit.

Despite the government's U-turn on tax credit cuts last November, there will still be a reduction in the tax credit 'income disregard' – the amount a claimant's income can increase in-year without seeing a reduction in tax credit entitlement – from £5,000 to £2,500.

This brings the income disregard back to the same level as when tax credits were first introduced, and according to the Treasury, it is estimated that 800,000 people will see

their tax credit entitlement reduced by an average of £200-£300 per year as a result.

The Universal Credit Work Allowance – the amount you can earn without your benefit being affected – will also be reduced. It will come down to £2,304 for those with housing costs, and £4,764 for those without, and will be removed altogether for non-disabled claimants without children, meaning the benefit will be reduced as soon as they start earning.

Other welfare changes are set to take place from April – the same month that sees the introduction of a National Living Wage and a Single Tier Pension. The Turn2us website – www.turn2us.org.uk – features a benefit changes timetable with further details on all of the changes so that people can see how and when they might be affected.

The website also features a free Benefits Calculator that will reflect the latest welfare changes from April so that anyone can check their latest benefits entitlements. Alison Taylor, Director of Operations said: "The welfare benefits system has been the subject of huge debate over the past few weeks, and it's likely that these latest changes will bring further confusion and concern. "We would urge anyone who is worried about their situation to visit our website where they can find further information on the changes and check their

current benefits entitlements. Anyone who thinks they might see a reduction in their income as a result of the changes can check if they're entitled to any extra help through our Benefits Calculator, and also use our Grants Search to see if they might be eligible for a charity grant or other support."

Turn2us works with charities and organisations across the UK to help reach more people in financial hardship. The charity will be running a programme of work funded by Comic Relief in the North East of England to help alleviate poverty in the area.

Over the next 3 years, the charity will run a number of workshops to support staff and volunteers working for charities and local community groups in how to use the Turn2us Benefits Calculator, Grants Search and other online help to support their service users in financial need.

The charity estimates the workshops will result in 50,000 people in hardship being supported. To find out more, please visit or contact training@turn2us.org.uk.

The Turn2us workshops are a core part of the charity's work and each year aims to train intermediaries who support some of the most vulnerable groups in the UK.

Karen, a Foodbank volunteer, who attended a Turn2us workshop in Durham in 2015 said: "It was very informative and brilliantly presented."

Calling All Classic & Vintage Vehicle Owners



Butterwick Hospice will be staging a series of vintage and classic vehicle exhibitions over the Spring and Summer 2016. Owners of vehicles are invited to display their vehicles from a bygone era at a series of locations. 5.00pm - 8.30pm. To register your vehicle: Tel 01388 603003. Entry is just £3 minimum donation per vehicle with all proceeds going to the Butterwick Hospice.

All events are open to the public: Tuesday May 10th Wolviston Village: Tuesday 17th May Stanhope The Dales

Centre: Tuesday 14th June Sedgfield Hardwick Country Park: Tuesday 21st June Grounds of Auckland Castle Bishop Auckland.

Please note it is essential that you register your vehicle prior to the event, especially for the Sedgfield Country Park venue, priority will be given to registered vehicles, to avoid disappointment register NOW. Check out our website for precise locations and entry of vehicles, as the Wolviston and Dales site do not allow heavy plant/machinery/haulage



Youth Centre Changes

Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre have recently employed a Centre Manager, Rebecca Metcalfe and she took up the role on Monday 4th April 2016.

Rebecca's role will be to manage the Centre and everything will now go through Beki (as she is affectionately known).

Vince Crosby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "things needed to change as we move towards Asset Transfer from Durham County Council and the aim was to create the position of Centre Manager. The process was not taken lightly and the board paid for an external consultant to conduct a full staff review. It was not an option to stay the same with DCC having to shed £1m from the youth service and this is not negotiable".

The full impact of these cuts is not yet known but our aim is to keep the youth service operating as normally as is possible, and it was for that reason we had to carry out the staffing review and make some members of staff redundant. Those members of staff that we have had to lose were valued members of staff, and the whole process of redundancy has been quite emotional. Again we engaged our HR qualified Trustee to see that the Centre adhered to set guidelines through the process. We will miss the people we have lost and wish them luck and good fortune in their next

endeavours.

It was also important that we got the right person for the job and to that end the services of a trustee who is qualified, and works in HR, along with two external managers including the Manager of Tesco, to whom we are extremely grateful.

The Board of Trustees has also been reduced and the new trustees have been voted on by a democratic vote. It is recognised that the board needed to become more professional, hence the need to reduce our membership base and make changes.

For further information please address your comments to Centre Manager, at info@naycc.org.uk

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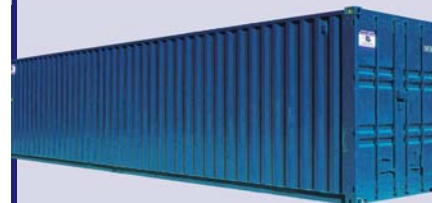
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County Newsbits

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

- My report on this week's DCC Cabinet meeting: bit.ly/DCCCabApr16
- Exciting plans for County Durham's Cycleway Network – and Newton Aycliffe is the next town to be audited: bit.ly/DCCCycleVisit
- Cessation of DCC Consumer Advice Services from 1 April 2016: bit.ly/DCCCA010416
- DCC Countryside Service newsletter – summertime guided walks: bit.ly/DCCCN0316
- DCC's Help4Teens website for information about GCSE Options, Further Education and apprenticeships: bit.ly/DCCH4T
- Getting a house through Durham Key Options: bit.ly/DKOhelp
- Report on this week's GATC Environment and Recreation Committee meetings: bit.ly/GATCEandR6416
- Latest Aycliffe area roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks080416
- Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD030416
- You must be on the electoral register to vote in the PCC elections on 5 May. Register by 18 April: bit.ly/PCCregister

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Local hero honoured: bit.ly/SydHowarth
- The Police will not now be at the Drop-In at 10am, Tuesday 12 April, Woodham Community Centre, but County Councillors Joan Gray, Mike Dixon and John D Clare will be there to pass on any concerns.
- Exciting planning application approved for Beamish: bit.ly/DCCBeamishApp
- Hardwick Park April newsletter: bit.ly/DCCHP0416
- HealthWatch County Durham April newsletter: bit.ly/HWCDapr
- The Care Quality Commission want to hear about experiences of health & social care for older people: ow.ly/1087jD
- Northern Bygones Rally, FREE at Shildon Locomotion Museum, 10 April: bit.ly/NRMloco100416
- From 11 April you will have to register your vehicle in-store to park in Aldi's car park, or face a fine: bit.ly/AldiPark
- EPW American Wrestling, featuring TNA superstar Bram, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, Saturday 7th May, 7pm: bit.ly/NALCEPWA
- Learn British Sign Language – 27-week course starting 4 June: bit.ly/VBSL040616
- Scheme needs furniture: bit.ly/MoreTimeFH

Media Activity at Greenfield Entertaining Shoppers in the Town Centre

The Easter holiday programme is going strong with all activities booked up now! We have lots of great sessions on offer for young people and families, including some new additions: 'Film Club' and 'Star of the Show'.

There is the well-loved 'Family Cooking' with Jan Hodgson; as well as our 'Crazy Crafts' workshop making mosaics to take home, with artist Anna Harding.

Our first art workshop 'Exploring the Web', has had the young people looking at how we can all help to keep each other safe online. They have created some wonderful badges and banners, with artist Vicky Holbrough, to promote safety online and you can come and collect your own badge here in the Arts Centre. Please help to promote their brilliant work by sharing this story and seeing their work on display in the centre.

'Film Club' and 'Star of the Show' have also been a great success. Everyone had a lovely time in our chill out zone watching quirky film 'Napoleon Dynamite', about a boy who just doesn't fit in until he decides to triumph over adversity. This was the basis for our film in a day. Film maker and writer Laura Degnan worked with the young people to choose specific scenes from the film to recreate with their own acting and creative direction, each taking on a role as a real crew member.

Still to come next week is 'Family Cooking', don't forget your Tupperware for all those wonderful recipes, and 'Crazy Crafts', making decorative mosaics which can be used indoors and outside. For information on all future holiday activities check out our website or speak to one of our members of staff on 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk



Local entertainer David Sanders took his mobile magic Show including Punch & Judy into the Town Centre over the Easter Holidays to promote his business "Magicalzone". Boys and girls had great fun hissing, booing and cheering this traditional free show - the parents enjoyed reliving their past also. He is available for parties, weddings, fetes and outdoor events. and also provides music, games, prizes and balloon modelling.

If you want to hire David contact him on 01325 310194. Email: davidsanders11@sky.com



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Starting from **Wednesday 11th May** between 6-7pm

OR

Starting from **Saturday 14th May** between 12-1pm

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JUNIORS

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Going for Black Belt Care Home Launch 'Share a Skill' Club



On 24th March Kim Chung Do Kwan held the first of their 2016 grades. Matthew Thompson, who trains at the new club based in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre with Master Hannah, was promoted to red belt and will now begin his black belt training programme. Promoted to yellow belt were Blake Etherington, Jennie Etherington and Ryan Griffiths, who also train with Master Hannah at the Faverdale club. The Best of Grade award was presented to Katelyn Davidson of the Dolphin Centre Club, for an excellent performance in her first grading. The evening consisted of an opening demonstration, a video round up of our 2015 adventures and a presentation of certificates. The most important part of the evening was the grading itself. With 5 students from Aycliffe and Darlington taking to the floor in order to upgrade. Congratulations to all those who were graded. Keep up the hard work. Also big thanks to everyone who helped in the organisation of the evening, it wouldn't have been possible without you. For anyone wishing to get involved in traditional Martial Art please contact Master Hannah on 07775 333 168. Email: kimchungdokwan@gmail.com. Alternatively we can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

STOP PRESS

Anna Swabey (see front page story) has been awarded the Chairman of Durham County Council's Medal, the highest civic honour that the Council can bestow and is awarded "to encourage ambition and success. It is presented to young persons, individuals, groups and organisations throughout the County of Durham to recognise significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life". Anna was given the news this week and is delighted. The latest bulletin from Anna regarding her team in the Paris Marathon is that 'Anna's Army' has now raised over £15,000 - with the prospect of more to come.

Care Home Launch 'Share a Skill' Club

A local care home has launched a new club which aims to get people of all ages sharing, swapping and learning new skills. The new club, dubbed the 'Share a Skill Club', will meet monthly at Rose Lodge Cobblers Hall and will offer the chance for attendees to socialise, learn a new skill and share their knowledge with others. The home is appealing for individuals and community groups to get in touch to register their interest in attending the club, or in offering a skill or talent they can share with the group. From playing an instrument to knitting, the club organisers are interested in hosting a wide variety of activities and creating community links. As well as inviting people from the local community to attend, the team at Rose Lodge is also extending an invitation to community groups, organisations and charities who would like to get involved with the monthly club. Socialising and taking part in

clubs can not only be a good way of maintaining friendships and hobbies as we get older, but can also be beneficial for our health too. Diane Tweddle, Activities Coordinator at Rose Lodge, Said: "No matter your age it's always fun to try something new. We thought that launching 'Share a Skill' would be an excellent way for our residents and those in the local community to make new friends and socialise while sharing or developing a new hobby or skill." For more information or to get involved please contact Activities Coordinator Diane Tweddle on 01325 271301, or call into the home on Carers Way, Cobblers Lane.

ORPHAN ANNIE MUSICAL

After completing another successful show, the C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre Group are about to start their next production, which is everyone's favourite little orphan - - - ANNIE (Musical) to be performed later this year. A spokesperson said "we are looking for young people aged 9 to 15 years of age who would like to take part in the musical Annie, either Singing, Dancing or Acting, it would be their choice. If you are or have a young person who might be interested, but is a bit unsure about joining the group, don't worry, we invite them to come along to a rehearsal to see what the group does with a no commitment to join policy". For further information ring 01325 313363 / 01388 774838 www.cats-theatre.co.uk

Brafferton Village News

Plans are being finalised for the 'Everything English Evening' which will take place on Saturday 23rd April in aid of Alzheimer's Society. Doors will open from 7.30 with The Rockroses kicking off the live music from 8pm. They will play to around 10pm with an interval for a chippy supper. The band will be followed by a light hearted, fun quiz and hopefully bingo too hosted by professional quiz master Dave Tucker. There will be a raffle and magic money numbers, along with face painting(*tbc) and sweet cones for the children by Sweet Memories NE Parties & Events (addition cost) who will also be decorating the hall. The evening is shaping up to be a great, not-to-be-missed night! Tickets are available now from Cozy Coffee or can be bought at the door. These are £7.50, which does not include the optional chippy supper; children go free! More details can be found on the Facebook page: search BraffertonVHA or by contacting Sam on 07710478583.

FULL STEAM WITH NEW DEAL FOR HITACHI

Hitachi's £82m Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility at Newton Aycliffe has received another major boost after landing a lucrative deal with TransPennine Express. The deal sees TransPennine Express and Angel Trains order 95 Inter-City rail carriages from the manufacturer which has brought rail manufacturing home to the North East. The contract is the first to be finalised by TransPennine Express, which will operate the Inter-City franchise as of April. The majority of the carriages will be assembled at Hitachi's Newton Aycliffe plant with the new trains being introduced in 2019, supporting hundreds of jobs. Transport minister Andrew Jones said: "This will help support jobs and the economy of the north, as the majority of the vehicles will be assembled at the facility in Newton Aycliffe in County Durham. "It is deals like this, supporting this government's record investment in transport in the north, that are helping to build a Northern Powerhouse."

Karen Boswell, managing director of Hitachi Rail Europe, added: "Hitachi is thrilled to be delivering a fleet of new Inter City trains for TransPennine Express, connecting cities and people with greater speed, comfort and capacity across the Northern Powerhouse region. "Last September, Hitachi brought rail manufacturing back to its birthplace in the North East of England and so it is entirely fitting that our facility at Newton Aycliffe is where these new AT300 trains will be built. "Building on our contracts to deliver new IEP trains for the East Coast and

Great Western Main Lines, commuter trains for Scotland, Inter City trains from London to Devon and Cornwall, as well as our existing HS1 'Javelin' services operating from London and Kent, Hitachi is on track to transform rail travel for millions of fare-paying customers throughout the UK." Simon Goon, Business Durham managing director, said: "This prestigious new order is further confirmation of the world-class manufacturing capability of Hitachi Rail Europe's facility in Newton Aycliffe. "It is superb news for the business and its workforce.

The contract will see their skills deliver state-of-the-art carriages for this important rail network linking many of the great cities of the Northern Powerhouse. "This latest contract win for Hitachi Rail Europe will support jobs at Newton Aycliffe, boost regional economic growth and help to transform rail travel for passengers on this economically vital transport link." The initial trains will be built at Hitachi's Kasado Works in Japan, with the majority to be assembled at Hitachi's Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in Newton Aycliffe. Source: BusinessDurham

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 20th April 2016

Council Meeting - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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



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- Colin Jackson CBE



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FLOWER BEDS FOR WILLIAMFIELD WAY



Funded by Aycliffe West County Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper, the installation of two flower beds on Williamfield Way offer a welcoming outlook to residents and visitors alike. Constructed and initially planted by DCC, the beds will be managed by Great Aycliffe Town Council on an annual basis.

Kate and Eddy continue to work within a partnership involving local community groups; social housing provider living; GAMP, and the

local Neighbourhood Police and the DCC Neighbourhood Warden teams to investigate practicable solutions which will improve the general appearance of both the built and managed environment; expand the range of locally-delivered activities, and exploring measures to reduce instances of sporadic antisocial behaviour in the locality.

Aycliffe West is a pleasant, harmonious and safe place to live. Let's all work together to keep it that way.

Blood on Board Saved 18 Lives

ROADSIDE blood transfusions have helped to save 18 lives in the North-East and Cumbria since being introduced just over a year ago, according to those behind the service.

Air medics from the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) have performed 60 blood transfusions since the Blood on Board project launched last year, with a third of those deemed to have been of critical importance to survival.

Dawn Horniman was left critically injured after a collision in Spennymoor town centre.

Mrs Horniman was in the front passenger seat of a stationary Citroen C3 car in Spennymoor, County Durham, while waiting for her husband at the cash point, when a speeding Vauxhall Corsa lost control and crashed into their car.

Her husband, Mark Horniman, said: "I heard a bang and I knew instinctively that our car had been hit. The

car slammed into ours and knocked it back around 15ft. I ran to Dawn and after then it's all a bit of a blur really. Lots of people came out to help."

The 60-year-old, from Spennymoor, suffered a bleed on the brain, two collapsed lungs, five broken ribs and two broken wrists when the incident happened on June 9 last year.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) flew to the scene and Mrs Horniman was anaesthetised by the aircrew before they performed advanced surgical procedures and administered one unit of blood while en route to hospital.

Mrs Horniman was airlifted to James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough within nine minutes where she arrived in a critical condition.

She spent one week in intensive care and a further two weeks in hospital. Now, she continues to recover.

Mr Horniman said: "They saved her life. I don't even want to think about what the other outcome may have been."

"Without GNAAS and their expertise, Dawn may not have survived and made it to hospital."

"Blood on Board is a critical life-saving procedure and it is a credit to the North-East."

"I want to thank the emergency services and members of the public for their swift response after the crash that day."

Tackling Underage Sale of Tobacco and Alcohol

An enforcement action plan aimed at keeping children safe from the harm caused by products including tobacco and alcohol is to be considered by councillors.

Durham County Council's Cabinet will be asked to consider an enforcement programme for 2016/17 which aims to prevent alcohol and cigarettes being sold to children.

As well as targeting shopkeepers who sell age-restricted products to underage people, the enforcement plan will also focus on how the county council, working with partners, will tackle the problem of illicit products which are often more easily sold and passed on to children.

The report to Cabinet also sets out actions which have been taken over the last 12 months, including test purchasing and operations to shut down sales of illegal

alcohol and tobacco.

Cllr Brian Stephens, DCC Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships said: "We are committed to working with our partners to reduce the risk of children having access to harmful products."

"This report shows how, through an intelligence-led approach and using both education and enforcement, underage sales and supply are being tackled, especially in relation to tobacco and alcohol."

"Our proposed enforcement programme for 2016/17 is aimed at ensuring we continue to address these issues in order to protect young people and tackle the wider criminal issues surrounding these products." Cabinet was asked to note the enforcement activity during 2015/16 and approve the proposed enforcement plan for 2016/17 when they met this week.

GINGER NINJAS AT FOOD FESTIVAL



Carol with a wide range of her Gingersnits products

A Teesdale foodie who is a self-declared 'slave to gingerbread' will be showcasing her 'Gingers of the North' and 'Ginger Ninjas' at this year's Bishop Auckland Food Festival (BAFF) next month.

Carol Cowie who bakes at her farm near Hamsterley admits to cooking from dawn till dusk on a regular basis to keep customers happy! This year Gingersnits of Teesdale will be back at BAFF on April 23 and 24, for the fourth time with everything from karate kicking ninjas to a ginger Angel of the North and jars of ginger babies on sale. Alongside this mouth-watering array of biscuits will be Carol's home-stitched retro 1950's style kitchen aprons.

But why is BAFF so special? "I do a lot of festivals and markets but Bishop Auckland Food Festival is the one I like best. I like the fact that it's a showcase for people who live in the local area. It's the

best festival I do for business because of the high footfall and my products are reasonably priced so appeal to lots of the families that come," says Carol.

Cabinet member for culture and economic regeneration, Cllr Neil Foster, said: "Local producers are at the heart of Bishop Auckland Food Festival and we pride ourselves on having a really broad offer for the tens of thousands of people who come, so this year we have 150 producers on site. "Last year's festival was worth more than £570, 000 to the local economy which was up £50,000 on the previous year. I really hope we can keep this upward trend, so come along and show your support for this great family event."

BAFF is a Durham County Council event which is partnered by Bishop Auckland Town Council and The Auckland Castle Trust.

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NOTICE OF VACANCY

In the office of Councillor

West Ward of Great Aycliffe Parish

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that due to the resignation of Raymond Bowman, a vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Parish Council.

If by 21st April, 2016 (14 days after the date of this notice) a request for an election to fill said vacancy is made in writing to:

The Returning Officer
Electoral Services
Room 1/104-115
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

by TEN electors for the said Parish (Ward), an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. If an election is called, it will take place not later than 27th June, 2016.

Dated 1st April, 2016

Andrew Bailey
Clerk to the Parish
Great Aycliffe Parish

Car Wash for Firefighter's Charity



All at Newton Aycliffe Fire Station would like to say a big thank you to all that helped make our annual charity Car Wash on Saturday 26th March such a great success.

Tesco very kindly allowed the fire crew to use the store car park and their customers generously donated as the crew washed cars over the course of the afternoon. The event managed to raise a fantastic £118.34p which will go to the Firefighters Charity which does sterling work to support injured firefighters and their families in times of need.

The support of Tesco and the good people of Newton Aycliffe was very much appreciated.

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Spring Steam Weekend

The National Railway Museum at Shildon
Saturday 30th April to Monday 2nd May, 2016

Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon will be delighted to introduce its new guest steam locomotive at the Spring Steam Weekend event from Saturday April 30 to Monday May 2.

Peckett No. 2012 'Teddy' – one of the smallest standard gauge steam locomotives ever built – will be used on the museum's steam service until early August, and the Spring Steam Weekend will be the first chance for visitors to see the locomotive in action! Visitor favourite Furness Railway No. 20 – the oldest standard gauge locomotive still working in the UK – will also be in steam for the event. Passenger steam train rides will be available – a small charge applies.

Plus heritage vehicles from the National Collection will be on outdoor display throughout the weekend – including SR No. 34051 Winston Churchill.

What's more, there will be a range of trade stands to browse – with railway and modelling traders in attendance from Saturday April 30 to Monday May 2, and a great range of craft, gift and collectables stalls available on Sunday May 1 and Monday May 2. Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is open daily from 10am to 5pm, and parking and admission are free of charge. For more information, please call 01388 777999.



Does Chimney Smoke Cause a Nuisance?

Dear Editor

I am concerned about the number of industrial size stainless steel chimnies sprouting up on houses around the town. For people

living nearby, or walking past, they are not only an unpleasant nuisance, but also a danger to health. The smoke and fumes they produce can cause lung problems, including COPD and lung cancer, and even if you go indoors they can still filter in.

I thought the 'Clean Air Acts', from the 1950s onwards, were meant to do away with dangerous smoke and fumes, so I was flabbergasted to discover (from the DCC website) that Aycliffe is not in a 'Smoke Control Area', which means these chimneys are permitted.

However, if the fumes are causing a nuisance, usually because the chimney has been wrongly installed, or the wrong fuel is used, the Environmental Health Dept. of DCC can act.

If anyone else is concerned about this, the Environmental Health Department can be contacted by phone, letter or via the DCC website. They will ask you to keep a diary of dates and times of the nuisance. Meanwhile, shouldn't DCC be thinking again about Aycliffe's 'Smoke Control Area' status? (Name and Address supplied)

Shildon Spiritualist Church

Shildon Spiritualist Church invite you to their Services at the church on Middleton Road, Shildon.

The church has just recently had a lot of work done. Inside it has all been redecorated, the heating and lighting overhauled and a new rostrum installed. We give everyone a warm welcome to all our Services and there is always tea and coffee afterwards in a relaxing atmosphere.

Our Divine Service is on every Sunday and starts at 6pm, this Sunday 10th April, we have Linda Bland, as guest speaker. Our Open Circle is held every Wednesday and starts at 7pm. Every month we have a special Service on a Wednesday, details of which can be found on our facebook page. This month's special is on Wednesday 20th at 7pm and is taken by our President Olga Johnson.

GACAP MEETING REPORT

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership met last Monday, but due to holidays, organisation staff shortages and with the AGM due in two weeks the numbers dropped to 10 following the record 24 at the March meeting.

Business concluded in 15 minutes with a new partner welcomed, Eddy Wood chairman of Horndale Residents Association. Steven Mitton, Chairman used the time left for a networking session which included Dorothy Bowman from Western Area Community Centre, Geoff Bachelor from Rotary Club, Val Fawcett from DASS, Ken Robson from Acorn Residents Association, Liane Taylor from DISC and our Host, Claire Johnson from Veterans at Ease, Margaret Bain from The Silent Tea House and Steven Mitton from CDFHS.

So if you belong to a organisation that would be interested to know more about Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership then why not come to our Annual General Meeting on Monday 18th April at 4 pm at the DISC offices near the Blue Bridge and next door to Newton Press, or contact me on secretary2.gacap@gmail.com or on 07749236853.

Ron Mitchie
Assistant Secretary

COMMUNITY POD



A new 'Community Pod' is available for groups and organisations to use to promote their services and activities to visitors at the Pioneering Care Centre. The pod is ideally located next to the reception in the Mall of the Pioneering Care Centre and it is available to book, for free to organisations aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said "The aim of the 'pod' is to promote health and wellbeing and to encourage participation in local activities to improve lifestyle.

PCP's mission is to improve 'health, wellbeing and learning for all'. We envisage the pod showcasing the activities of local clubs and associations as well as raising awareness of health campaigns and providing a market place of

information." If you are a local group needing to generate funds or publicity why not enquire? The pod area has a good sized table, chairs and electricity points. It's available throughout the daytime, evenings and a Saturday morning.

The pod has already been used to promote the Wellbeing for Life service and to generate funds through the sale of cards and scarves for Hope for Justice, who help people who have been trafficked into the UK. Upcoming bookings also include Cancer Research, Alopecia Awareness, a Growing your Community plant sale and a Type 1 Tea Party!

For further information pop into the Pioneering Care Centre, call 01325 321234, email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

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NEWTON AYCLIFFE JUNIOR FC UPDATE HEALTHY HEART HUB

It was back to league action for Aycliffe Juniors after an Easter break for most teams. Over the bank holiday weekend teams from the **Under 8's** and **10's** played in the Easter Tournaments hosted by the Alun Armstrong Centre at Shildon. Teams reached the knock out stages but no trophies this time round.

Under 7's played a determined Darlington RA Locomotives team and they were under pressure throughout each game. The Aycliffe team played really well and gave 100% in both games. It was difficult to break down the opposing defence but goals were created for Kai however these were not enough to secure victory. It was a great team effort so well done to all the players.

Under 8's have a series of

friendlies before their final league match in a few weeks time and this week they enjoyed two games against Spennymoor and the star men were Connor and Lucas. The **Under 9's** completed their league programme last week in a derby game against Aycliffe Youth, with players away there were just the minimum required seven on show. They put in a good performance but lost out 3-0. **Under 10's** Russell Foster League game was cancelled at the last minute so it was just the TJFA league team in action against Leven. This was always going to be a tight game against one of the only two sides to have beaten Aycliffe this year. It was Leven who started brightly and Tom made a great save early in the match to keep the score at 0-0. A goal was conceded though

as reward for Leven's bright start. Going a goal down seemed to push Aycliffe in to action and a minute later they were level as Lucas converted Harry's cross. They then took the lead after Lucas held up Charlie's pass and fed Zack who put a strong strike past the home keeper, half time and a 2-1 lead. Early in the second half Zack met Jake's through ball and scored his second to open up a 3-1 lead. Further chances were created but the game ended with no further score and a well earned 3-1 away win.

Under 11's saw a fine goal from Charlie Cayless but could not overcome a strong Saltburn team.

Under 12's made the short trip to face Darlington Spraire Lads. They started brightly moving the ball well and creating chances. Ethan, James and Conlan were strong at the back with Nathan calm in goal. A lapse in concentration though saw Spraire take the lead and

a chance to equalise was missed a little later so half time came with Aycliffe 1-0 down. Spraire had gained confidence and added two more goals before Jermaine, Harry and Zack all had attempts on goal saved. The game ended with a 4-0 loss, Nathan was man of the match for his calm decision making and fine saves in goal.

Under 14's hosted South Park Rangers and it was their dangerous front man who opened the scoring. The rest of the first half was scrappy but there was some great goal keeping from Stoker and the half time score remained 1-0. Aycliffe got on top in the second half and a superb Pattinson free kick saw the scores draw level. The game ended 1-1 and the man of the match was Billy Dunn with notable performances from Jayden Pattinson and also Stoker in goal.

Under 18's Black won at home against Thirsk Falcons this weekend which added to a great midweek victory over third placed Spraire Lads. They are keeping the pressure on the league leaders as they maintained their impressive record of only losing once in the league all season.

Under 18's Red played away at Northallerton with only ten available players. They went down 9-4 after staging a second half fightback when 6-0 down at the break.



Lifeline Community Action's Healthy Heart Hub funded by Heart Research UK & Subway held an Easter event which was very well attended. 21 participants attended the

Teddy Bears picnic, all bringing along their favourite bear. Everyone enjoyed an organised walk and spent time on the swings and exercise equipment that is readily available in the park. After the fun filled group exercise session everyone sat down to enjoy a picnic of healthy foods and treats and then took part in some Easter inspired games such as the Egg and Spoon race and Musical Bunnies, which was an adaptation of musical chairs but using bunny feet instead of chairs.

The Healthy Heart Hub programme is designed to encourage people to eat a healthier diet and to exercise more and gives advice on how you can do this on a budget.

The Easter Event was a huge success and everyone who attended said they had had an EGGCELLENT time.

PAPERWORK REQUIRED

To the former members of Newton Aycliffe Over 60's Club. . . The Charity "Newton Aycliffe Over 60's Club" based at Neville Community Centre was closed with the Charity Commission's agreement on the 21st April 2005, when it amalgamated with the Charitable Trust "Friends of Senior Citizens".

Solicitors, Close Thornton, urgently require copies of any minutes or resolutions recorded by the members of the Newton Aycliffe Over 60's Club relating to its decision to close the charity and amalgamate with the Charitable Trust aforementioned.

If you still have copies of any of the paperwork please contact David Lewis, Trustee of Friends of Senior Citizens, on 01325 319196.



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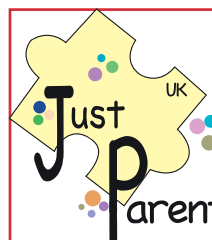
Easter Road Race for Aycliffe Runners



(left-right) Ste Smith, Rob Young, Michelle Jane, Mark Wade, Rob Jayne

Aycliffe runners attended the Mermaid 10K in Marske on Good Friday. 228 runners took part in the race, with five runners from Aycliffe Running Club, all recording impressive times, and two runners achieving personal bests.

The runners set out in perfect sunny conditions and Mark Wade was first home for the club in an impressive time of 37:04. This was a personal best over the distance and he placed 14th overall. He was followed in by Ste Smith in a time of 43:34 (87th). Next was Robert Young completing the course in 44:06 (92nd), who was closely followed by Michelle Jane in 44:34 (98th), which was a personal best for her over this distance. Bringing it home for the club was Rob Jayne in a time of 45:40 (111th).



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CRICKET SCOREBOARD

NEW SEASON STARTS

The 2016 cricket season gets underway this Saturday when Newton Aycliffe CC 1st team travel to Northallerton 1st team this Saturday (9 April) for a pre-season friendly. Start time at Northallerton is 12.30. The season then gets underway in earnest for the first team on Saturday 16 April when we entertain Guisborough in the league at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club at 12.30. This is a tough opener for Newton Aycliffe as Guisborough were relegated from division 1 last season and will be looking to make an immediate return. The second team do not get their league fixtures underway until 30 April but will travel to Northallerton 2nds on 16 April for a pre-season friendly. Newton Aycliffe have been busy during the close season bringing in two new signings. Experienced Australian all rounder Mark Woodhead has joined the Club from Marsden while young opening batsman Ryan Dawson has re-joined the Club from Mainsforth after previously playing for Aycliffe under 11's.

Newton Aycliffe CC have also had a major restructure of the junior academy during the winter, bringing all of the teams under the NYSD. The under 15's and under 18's have now moved to the NYSD, although the under 18 age group now become under 17. The Club have also entered an under 19 team in the ECB T20 national competition. The under 19's will be managed by Adam Gittins who has also taken on the role of Junior Development Manager. The Club are delighted that Frank's the Flooring Store have agreed to continue as the main kit sponsor for the third consecutive year. Innovations will also continue as the main ball sponsor. Newton Aycliffe have also signed sponsorship agreements with AC Door Systems and Elvet Estates which will see the players carry their logos on match day polo shirts. Jetchill and Fat Buddha are sponsoring players' caps. The Club would like to thank these sponsors as well as player sponsors, perimeter board advertisers and advertisers in the new 2016 club programme which will be available free of charge, on Saturday match days, from Newton Aycliffe Sports Club and other selected outlets.

For more information on Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club or sponsorship/advertising opportunities please visit the Club's website at www.newtonaycliffe.play-cricket.com



Hat-trick Wins for Youthful Girls

U10 Girls v Deerness, a depleted squad arrived at a wet Peterlee and a heavy pitch, with no subs it was going to be difficult. However the girls started brightly and were rewarded with a fortunate goal from a shot from Brooke that squirmed underneath the keeper. This spurred on the girls as Georgie regularly found space out wide but just couldn't get in a perfect cross. Ebony battled and won a tackle and slid the ball to Brooke who lobbed the keeper for her second. Alysha was a spectator when a slip at the back let in Deerness to give HT 2-1. The second half continued with both teams looking tired but Niamh, pushing up was causing problems. When Deerness probed forward Eden and Keira looked calm and the girls held out for the 3pts FT 2-1.

U11 girls v Leam Rangers, this was a top team performance today as the front 3 of Hattie, Alex and Kate kept the ball moving from side to side around the opposition box, and when the opening was made Kate slotted the first, a wonderful shot from Hattie gave the keeper no chance for the second. This was followed by a drive into the top corner for Hattie's second HT 3-0. Faith watched from her box as she was well covered by the outstanding Macy, Olivia now switched up front and her pace got her behind the defence to set up Kate for her second. Emily then makes an important tackle slides the ball to Olivia who gets a deserved goal. Neve then played her part setting up Hattie who slots for hat trick FT 6-0.

Under 13 Girls v Birtley Town, a great team performance from the girls as they dominated play, 2 goals from Meg set us on our way HT 2-0. Into the second half and the girls continued to create chances and were rewarded with a great effort from Ellie Jo, Birtley did get a consolation goal but the girls took the 3pts FT 3-1.

Under 8s. What a performance securing their first win. The boys took an early lead through a great strike from Will before the opposition levelled 1-1. However Aycliffe went straight back up the pitch and quickly went 2 then 3-1 up. Will scored 5 and was outstanding using the ball really well but also making chances for Tyler who once he relaxed slotted home. The final goal scored by Moore Swainston was well deserved as he worked really hard. A fantastic team effort FT 7-1.

Under 7's v Farrington Detached, a great game with lots of goals and entertainment for those watching. Aycliffe scored 5 goals from Imogen, Edwin(2), Harvey(2), but the opposition managed to grab the win FT 5-6.

Under 10's v Darlington Spraire Panthers, the first half started brightly with both sides playing good football. Aycliffe were playing really well moving the ball around nicely. Charlie was superb in goal which gave the lads confidence. Half time came 0-0, Our striker Oliver was pressing but just needed some better chances. Spraire then brought on a player who changed the game. He scored a hat trick and made the Fourth. Final score 0-4 MoM - Charlie

Under 16's Eagles v Billingham Synthonia, The boys started strong again and played some good football, moving the ball early. We took the lead after around 20 minutes and continued to press but couldn't build on that in the first half. Second half was an open affair with both sides creating a number of chances without any more goals being scored with the final score ending 1-0 with our goal being scored by Harrison Johnson. Good performance, a clean sheet and another 3 points.

The club are now developing more girls sides, if you are in year 3/4/5 and interested in playing football contact Berni 07939 045242. More information on our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit www.naycafc.co.uk

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G.A.C.A.P. Annual General Meeting

Please be advised that the 2nd AGM of the Great Aycliffe Community Action Partnership will take place at the DISC offices next to Newton Press near the Blue Bridge on Monday 18th April 2016 to start at 4 pm prompt.

All welcome to attend and see and hear the progress of GACAP.

If you are a organisation within Great Aycliffe and not a partner who not attend to see if you would like to join the Partnership which has more than 30 partners or as a member of the public to see and meet the various organisations who help the needy, vulnerable in our community. Come along and take the opportunity to meet and talk to officers and partners over a cup of tea or coffee at the end of the meeting.

Any questions before the meeting please contact Ron on 07749 236853. We look forward to partners and interested residents of our Town attending this Meeting.

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Aycliffe's Sweet Revenge

Newton Aycliffe 2nds played host to Richmond 2nds in a return fixture at Moore Lane. A match that was eagerly waited for by the hosts after Richmond beat them at home 54-0 only 3 weeks ago.

Ground conditions were excellent for rugby despite the persistent drizzle that plagued Aycliffe all morning. With a much strengthened side from the previous encounter Aycliffe set out

their intentions by scoring an early try by flanker Craig Holmes. Despite the missed conversion by Tommy Cooper there was a buzz in the air and the spectators could sense it. The early set piece encounters were well battled by both sides and debutant Andrew Tonkin showed his class and work rate with some awesome tackling. Richmond gave as good as they got but once scrum half Mikey Dunn took possession of the ball his distribution of the ball in the first half allowed both forwards and backs to share the try tally, loose head prop burst over to score as did the tighthead prop Jeff Hodgson. Not to be out done winger JJ Rudge scored with a dazzling run and centre Mark Wilson memorised the opposition by jinking through to score. Richmond did manage to counter with some ferocious forward play and were eventually rewarded with a penalty try under the posts, unfortunately the Richmond kicker was not on form even from close range. Cooper manage to find his aim after the fourth Aycliffe try and converted. The kicking duties were passed on to fly half David Gibson who slotted a lengthy conversion to finish the first half with Aycliffe leading 29-5. The second half continued for Aycliffe much the same and having plenty of subs on the bench allowed players to rotate and recover at will. Mark Wilson scored his brace, converted by Gibson. Richmond were not giving up and started to put pressure on Aycliffe for a while and eventually scored yet another unconverted try.

Andrew Parkin replaced stalwart old boy Stuart McIvor in the wing with his fresh legs helped himself to a brace if tries. Richmond again countered with 5 points but there seemed to be a thread within Aycliffe's scoring prowess as Batley and Rudge also helped themselves to a brace each. Gibson scored 4 more conversions to finish the score 62-15 to the hosts sweet revenge for the defeat they suffered away from home. This Saturday Aycliffe 1st XV return to action at home versus Yarm and Aycliffe 2nds venture up the dales to face Wensleydale 2nds.

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CAR PARK IMPROVEMENT WILL AID BISHOP AUCKLAND AS TOURIST ATTRACTION

More than 100 extra spaces have been created by Durham County Council in Bishop Auckland's North Bondgate car park. The additional parking will help support the influx of visitors expected to be attracted by major heritage and tourist-led developments underway in the area.

These include a £60m programme of preservation, development and reinterpretation at Auckland Castle to turn it into a world

class visitor destination. In addition, the Eleven Arches Trust's Kynren live open air night show will open this summer, taking audiences on an epic journey through 2,000 years of British history. As well as the extra parking, the council has improved access to North Bondgate and installed new barriers and lighting. With this work complete the ongoing operation and management of the car park has, from April 1, been passed to the Auckland Castle Trust. Cllr Neil Foster, added: "The amazing plans that both the Auckland Castle and Eleven Arches Trusts are putting in place promise to massively increase the number of visitors to Bishop Auckland, as well as create jobs and boost the local economy."

"By expanding and improving the car park, as part of our ongoing support for the array of projects, we hope to help make sure that residents and businesses benefit just as much as these very welcome new visitors." Liz Fisher, Auckland Castle Trust's Operations Director, said "It is a clear and positive sign of the Auckland Castle Trust's intent going forward, and that the ambitious multi-million pound works planned are on track."

"The transformation of Auckland Castle into a world class faith-led arts and cultural centre is about to forge ahead in earnest, bringing many more people into Bishop Auckland, providing a positive boost for businesses. If we can provide an easier parking experience

then that has to be good for everyone."

For its part, the Auckland Castle Trust has installed new signage and launched a free to use volunteer led 'car to castle' shuttle service from 1 April for visitors with mobility problems wanting to reach the former palace home of England's only Prince Bishops.

The Trust has also put measures in place to ensure spaces are available for residents and local shoppers and is using volunteer car park attendants to greet visitors with information on everything Bishop Auckland has to offer.

The transfer of the management, operation and ongoing maintenance of the North Bondgate car park from Durham County Council to the Auckland Castle Trust follows a consultation programme held last summer which saw overwhelming support for the new set-up from the public.

A second phase, which could see the car park expanded further into adjacent land, is currently being considered with any potential work taking place later in the year. Ms Fisher said: "We will continue to listen to local views, and take those into account as we move forward with the exciting developments at the castle." These include a new welcome building with viewing tower, museum extension to house a Faith exhibition, the preservation of the state rooms, and the revival of Auckland Castle's historic

walled garden to include landscaping and a series of dramatic and futuristic freeform glass and steel structures in the shape of giant bubbles that will house a restaurant, event areas, and exotic fruit trees.

Alongside the Kynren night show, the projects are expected to create the equivalent of 200 full time jobs, 500 indirect posts, 300 training opportunities and 800 volunteering openings, as well as provide a huge boost to the local economy.

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HUNTSMAN TITLE HOPES ALL BUT OVER

Following the disappointing 5-4 loss to Tow Law two weeks ago, The Huntsman entered Sunday's home game against Coundon Durham Ox level on points with the visitors, in what looked to be a shootout for the title.

Anthony Macdonald was again forced to play in goal, while Stuart Ord and Ryan Mercer were both recalled to the starting eleven, with two big players missing in Andrew Richardson and Calum Farley. The game got off to a frenetic start, with few opportunities for either side. However on the 20 minute mark, Coundon broke down the Huntsman right, and their striker made no mistake, calmly slotting home. Coundon then didn't allow the home side a chance to get back into the game, as

a quick counter attack saw the Coundon midfielder hit an unstoppable effort past Macdonald to make it 2-0. The Huntsman tried to rally in the 2nd half, and looked to be given a lifeline when the Coundon centre forward who has been a real thorn in their side all day saw a straight red in an off the ball incident. Ultimately though, even with the one man advantage, they failed to create any real further chances of note, and Coundon ran out deserved winners to pull 3pts clear.

A disappointing performance from start to finish but a third successive promotion is still within their grasp needing only one win from their two remaining league games however they will be hoping for 6 points to push Coundon all the way with goal difference in the Huntsman's favour. The Huntsman play reigning division 1 holders Witton Park Rose and Crown in the Darlington Charity Cup quarter final on 10th April 10:30am at Simpasture Park.

Obituary

Eleanor Mary Logan



A long standing resident of Newton Aycliffe, sadly died on Saturday 26th March 2016, aged 89 years. She leaves a Daughter Pauline and Son Ian. The family would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the staff of Lindisfarne Care Home for their care and kindness shown towards Eleanor in the last year. A private family funeral will be held.

Valerie Graveling

I am devastated to announce the death of my Mum, Valerie Graveling, who passed away very suddenly on 29th March 2016 in hospital. Funeral Service will take place on Monday 11th April 2016 at 11:45am at Darlington Crematorium. "Sweet are the memories, that will never fade, of the best mother in the world, that God ever made."

NORTON, Peacefully on 31st March, Cockney Alan, aged 76 years. Loving Husband of Caroline; devoted Dad to Tony, Lydia and Stephen; Grandad to Hayley, Katie, Emily, Tom and Sophie and Great-Grandad to Isla. He will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends. Funeral to take place on Tuesday 12th April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 1.00pm followed by private interment. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu would be much appreciated and will be shared between Bishop Auckland General Hospital Stroke Unit and Defoe Court Care Home and may be given afterwards at the Big Club.

Former Teacher Exhibits Art Work



A well-known local teacher has been back to school to exhibit his unique paintings for an art exhibition in his name. Tony Middleton, who headed the Art and Design department at Woodham

Academy until his retirement in 2009, returned to school to display a variety of paintings focussing on landscapes. The exhibition was open to all with a keen interest from former colleagues and past students. Tony said; "I was thrilled to host an exhibition at Woodham Academy, it was great to be back after spending 33 years there and lovely to see so many faces." Many of the paintings were inspired by local scenery including views of Darlington and Heighington, where Tony particularly enjoyed capturing his observations using pastels, oils and acrylics. There are still a number of paintings in the art gallery at Woodham Academy, please contact info@woodham.org.uk if you would like to visit.

Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on **Tuesday 12th April** will feature the drama "Sky West and Crooked" starring Hayley Mills, directed by her Father John Mills and co-written by her Mother, Mary Hayley-Bell. It also stars Ian McShane, Annette Crosby and Laurence Naismith. This 1965 drama has Hayley Mills at her most appealing as a young country girl. Years after a tragic shooting accident she is a traumatised free spirit, happiest with the village children and their unusual pastime. Then enter the handsome gypsy boy, Ian McShane! It is a beautiful British film with wonderful British actors; poignant, sad, funny, warm, feel-good. 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 great film in friendly company. Everyone is most welcome. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Indoor Model Flying

On Saturday 16th April, Shildon Model Flying Club will be hosting an "Indoor Model Flying Event" at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre starting at 12pm till 4pm. Flying is open to all B.M.F.A. members at a charge, there will be a range of different disciplines: free flight, lightweight, radio control, under 100g, heavyweight over 100g. There will also be demonstration flights from competition and amateur flyers and we welcome spectators.

At 1pm there will be talk on the history of flight by B.M.F.A. Education Officer and a build and fly workshop competition for a local scout group.

We have also arranged for a radio control flight simulator on large screen projector so everyone can have a chance to try and fly.

For further information and cost, please contact Mark Shipley on 07934 196361 or email: hawkman1@live.co.uk

Tea Party for Queen's 90th Birthday

April 21st 2016 is Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday. You are cordially invited to celebrate her birthday at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham at 2.30pm.

To commemorate this momentous event we're hosting A Great British afternoon tea party!

Featuring sandwiches, cakes and scones HRM would be proud of - Feel free to wear your best party frock and hat! Families and friends welcome to celebrate this joyous occasion and tickets are only £5 per person

To book your ticket or for further information please call 01325 789344

Thank You

MADDOCK We would like to thank our families for the lovely cards and presents on our Golden Wedding Anniversary. To Michelle and Matthew, Louise and Vincent for putting on a smashing party. A special thank you to Michelle and Matthew for letting us all share their beautiful lodge for the occasion and to Marnie for another cake! Love to all. Jennie and Jimmy
A BIG "thank you" to Ronnie Graves and helpers of Woodham Removals. Lovely people and an unbeatable service at an unbeatable price. Mrs Wallis and family

NEWTON NEWS

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Birthday Remembrance

Lillias R. Smith

Birthday Remembrance
9th April

Our thoughts are with you on this day,
Happy memories come to mind,
Of one we loved with all our hearts,
And will till the end of time.
A Mum holds her children's hands for a while
Their hearts - forever.

Loving and missing you always.
Valerie and Michael, Elizabeth and Kathryn,
Allan and David, Jacob, Bronwyn, Theo and Dylan

GEORGE SMITH 9th April. Wish I could pop to see you George and bring you down a card. Living life without you is so very hard. But I will send my special wishes and blow them with a kiss, to you up I Heaven George, your birthday I'd never miss. Love and miss you so much. Loving Sister Margaret, Tommy, Nephew, Nieces and families
ADA & DICK HUTSON Mam 4th April 1927; Dad 19th April 1928. We cannot send birthday cards, your hands we cannot touch. But God will take our greetings to the ones we love so much. From all your loving family xxx
GEORGE SMITH Thinking of you Dad on your birthday, 9th April. Never far from our thoughts. Steven, Graham and John xxx
GEORGE SMITH 9th April. Happy birthday Grandad George. Love from Millie and Bradley xx
GEORGE SMITH 9th April. Thinking of you today and every day George. Irene xx

Freda Kilburn



9th April 1936

Today would have been your 80th birthday Mam. No cards, no phone calls, just our happy memories of you. Have a couple up there Mam and we'll do the same down here. Love and miss you "Super Mam". Tracey and Dave xx
Sending you love on your special day. Walter xx
Good Lord up above, please find our Grandma and give her the biggest hug and tell her we love and miss her. Tyler and Millie xx

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Congratulations

Belton

Happy Birthday
It's my two boys birthdays

April 7th Russell is 59
and Duncan is 58

Both my boys doing very well in life.
So proud of you both.
All my love forever,
Mam and Ernie xxxx

Jack Strain

Congratulations
on passing your
driving test first time.

Love, Dad

Reed Molloy



Happy 18th Birthday

To our wonderful Son and Brother. You make us so proud. Love you so much, from Mam, Dad, Ross and Robyn xxxxx

Happy 18th Birthday

To a lovely Grandson and Nephew. Love you all the world from Nana, Auntie Lynne, Uncle Peter, Yolanda and Ricky xxx

Happy 18th Birthday

To a lovely Nephew. Lots of love from Auntie Aly and Uncle Andrew xx

Happy 18th Birthday

Hope you have a great day. Love Uncle B, Auntie Karen, Curt, Brad and Megan xxxxxxxx

Mark Walton 30



14th April 2016

Happy birthday, enjoy your party. Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Katherine, Arron and Zoe xxxxxxxx



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CHOCOLATE HEAVEN

Chocolate Heaven is the theme for April Messy Church at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 9th April. We can promise lots

of springtime crafts with chocolate playdoh, card making, seed planting, egg and spoon races and biscuit decorating as just some of the activities.

Doors open at 3.30pm for registration and colouring packs given, then we will begin by sharing a Happy Day story at 4pm followed by the activities. A chocolate heaven tea for everyone to share at 5.15 ending with the MEGA EGG HUNT to finish. The Easter Bunny has gone crazy this year with over 300 eggs hidden for you to find, gluten and dairy free ones also. All children must be accompanied by an adult and a £2 contribution will be collected.

We will also be starting to collect names for our July trip to the seaside! No need to book but for more info, please contact Helen McCormick on 01325 319002.

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England Cap for Aycliffe Footballer

Newton Aycliffe Youth FC's Chloe Ryan received her first international cap at a ceremony in South Wales on Saturday evening watched by her proud parents. Chloe, from Darlington and her England Schools Under 15 team mates were competing in the Bob Docherty Home International Tournament, where they faced Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland. After defeating the hosts' in the opening game 2-0, the girls took on the favourites Scotland in a cracking encounter, and came away with a famous 2-0 win! The final at Dragon Park, Newport on Monday, saw the girls lift the trophy with a hard fought 1-0 win over Ireland. Jubilant scenes at the final whistle brought an end to the short international



programme and gave the team a memorable and fantastic taste of representing their country. A very proud Chloe, County Durham's only representative in the squad, will be back playing for the Youth Under 14 Girls' at the weekend.

Aycliffe Put 5 Past Vase Finalists

Three goals in four minutes just before half time paved the way for a comfortable victory for Newton Aycliffe over Wembley-bound Morpeth Town on Saturday. The win took Aycliffe to 54 points from 31 games in the Ebac Northern League Division One where they now lie 7th in the table.

Morpeth's cup exploits have left them with a daunting fixture schedule but despite that they remain contenders for the League title. However, they have little room for error if they are to finish top.

Aycliffe manager, Peter Dixon, made changes to his side as his injury list continues to grow. Andrew Green came in at left back but was himself injured within the first 30 minutes. This forced a reshuffle which saw Dan Mitten move over to full back & sub Thomas Marshall slot into the centre of the defence. The first half saw good attacking football from both sides. The first chance came after 6 mins when a Matty Moffat shot was blocked by Morpeth keeper Karl Dryden's legs. Morpeth also came close with Aycliffe keeper James Winter denying Steven Anderson.

Aycliffe took the lead on 38mins. An interception by



Aaron Brown was played to John Campbell whose run down the right led to a cross into the box. Matty Moffat met the cross & flicked it past Dryden into the net.

Within two minutes Campbell was on the run again, this time firing off a shot himself. Dryden blocked the shot but the ball fell to Dennis Knight who was following in & scored from close range.

The third goal came after another two minutes. A long ball forward gave Campbell the opportunity to beat the defence running through & firing past the keeper.

Morpeth sought to recover in the second half & for a time had the Aycliffe defence under severe pressure. It took

two good saves from Winter to keep Keith Graydon off the scoresheet, tipping the first onto the crossbar.

However, it wasn't long before Campbell was back in action, taking advantage of a mis-kick by the keeper to win the ball & return it past Dryden into the net. Campbell completed his hat-trick just before the final whistle having been involved in all five goals.

The result was perhaps a welcome surprise for the Aycliffe fans but a just reward for the team's hard work. Next up is a very tough proposition, league title favourites Shildon, on Tuesday 5 April. Aycliffe then host Durham City on Saturday 9th April KO 3pm.

ON YER BIKE - MALTA



Andrew Sedgwick Aycliffe Tri club coach decided this year to take on a new challenge, entering the International Tour ta' Malta, a four day bike race held on this beautiful island. Being a triathlete and a bike team member, it was only natural that one day he would take his cycling passion further. It seemed that completing the challenging Alpe d'Huez Triathlon some years ago wasn't enough. (That particular race is unique because during course of the bike race, the triathletes ride the 3 mountain passes included in the Tour de France.)

Supported by Aycliffe Tri club members Michelle Scott and Dan Halladay, the team set off for warmer climates in the sunny Mediterranean for a week. (But racing wasn't just the focus of the trip. For Michelle and Dan, when their

support services weren't needed, they were training, preparing themselves for this year's Brecca Run/Swim race, held in the Lake District.) Against some very tough opposition containing semi-pro cyclists from around Europe, Andrew was able to maintain and finish in an amazing 9th place overall. He thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but not one to sit on his laurels, he'll be off to race in the Tour of Northumberland two stage race on the 5th, 6th of April. If anyone would information regarding membership to the Aycliffe Tri Club, don't hesitate. You can either search for our website on line, or pop down to our regular swim session held at the Woodam Academy on a Wednesday evening between 7 and 8 o'clock, and have a chat with one of our friendly coaches.

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