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COBBLERS HALL PARK GETS GO-AHEAD

This exciting project – which will cost £150,000 + renewal of the derelict play area south of Burn Lane (across from Carer's Way) – has been under discussion for the past year, with people updated via the Newton News's County Newsbits column.

It has long been recognised that there is a lack of quality play provision in the north-west area of the town, and last year GATC put aside £75,000 towards a possible scheme there. DCC has offered a 99-year lease on the land and funding for the path, and there have been substantial contributions from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, and from the three local County Councillors John D. Clare, Joan Gray and Mike Dixon. Last week, Great Aycliffe Town Council's Recreation Committee agreed to proceed



with the project, and the play park can now go ahead. The park and play areas will be maintained by GATC, a substantial commitment, but one which will ensure top-quality provision in the area. A broad initial proposal for the site design (see map) would be:

- Access from the main current entrance, with a tarmac path across to the activities.
- Two activity items are suggested, subject to consultation – a medium sized MUGA and a play area with inclusive equipment aimed at the 6-14 age group.
- Both features, along with the path, will be raised to keep their surface as dry as possible.

- The intention would be, however, to have more than just a play area, and to create a park area. There will be some initial planting, which will be added to over the years; the concept will be for a 'decorative environmental' park, not for formal gardens.
- The unofficial entrance at the north-east corner from Burn Lane will be used for access during construction, but then stopped up to prevent access (and increase road safety).
- Subject to budget, GATC will explore the potential for some simple drainage to see if we can begin to dry out the main field.

These proposals will of course be subject to a public consultation in the coming weeks which will ask people to comment on the design of the site.

Thanks are due to GATC and GAMP for their generosity, and to the officers at GATC and DCC who have framed the project.
Cllrs John D. Clare, Joan Gray and Mike Dixon

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Aldi's New Car Park Rule

Aldi have imposed a new rule on shoppers using their car park. In future Aldi shoppers must register their car number plate when they enter the store. Following concerns by our readers Newton News contacted Head Office for an explanation:

An Aldi spokesperson said: "Due to the heavy use of the car park at the Newton Aycliffe store our customers are finding it increasingly difficult to park. We have therefore put new measures into place to resolve this problem."

"Customers using the car park will be required to register their vehicles in store. We appreciate that some customers use the car park to drop off and pick up shoppers and a sensible time period will be provided to allow them to do so."

Laura Poole
Aldi Account Executive

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MEMORIAL CHARITY NIGHT AT SPORTS CLUB

On 28th January 2015 Joanne McCourt a loving, bubbly person, an amazing Mum to Michelle, Susan, Neil and Katie, loving wife to Steve McCourt, and a family woman who loved all her grandchildren, was rushed into Darlington Hospital where she was diagnosed with Meningitis B. With her husband and children by her side, all wishing she would pull through, Joanne took a turn for the worse as the horrible disease took over. The family didn't leave the hospital all night and on Thursday 29th January 2015 the doctors broke the bad news that it was not looking good for Joanne and advised

them to alert the family. Neil (son of Joanne) said "At the moment you find out your Mum is not going to pull through, your body feels numb, the heartache is unbearable and you wish it was just a nightmare. Seeing my Mum laid there through my tearful eyes I begged her to wake up, to just squeeze my hand, telling my Mum I loved her and to just wake up - please". Later that day Joanne's brothers and sister, and other members of her family came to take saying their goodbyes. Friday 30th January was the day Joanne's machines were to be turned off and it would be the last time the family

would see her. It was about 10.30 when the doctors began the final tests turning off the drugs being pumped into Joanne, and she passed away. As a result of this heartache and pain Neil Turner (son of Joanne McCourt) is organising a charity night in her memory at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club, Moore Lane on Saturday 14th May at 7pm - Admission £5.00. The event will feature live band "Midlife Crisis". There will be food, auctions and raffle prizes to be won. All proceeds from this event will be going to Meningitis Now. Contact Neil for tickets on 0780 2781252.

TV Antiques Expert at Town Rotary Club Fundraiser



Roger. Many remarked on the quality of the food and service provided by Woodham Restaurant.

Eldon Whins Development

An application for permission to build 266 houses at Eldon Whins has been submitted to the County Council. The development is adjacent to existing houses and will include a new roundabout access on Greenfield Way. This land is within the parish of Middridge and will resurrect the controversy over boundaries which Great Aycliffe Town Council wish to change, bringing the new houses into their parish. This was the original intention under the Newton Aycliffe master plan and was taken for granted until recently Middridge Parish Council insisted on keeping their boundary. Moves will be made soon to ensure the new development becomes part of Great Aycliffe on the basis the residents of Eldon Whins will be a natural part of Newton Aycliffe, enjoying its facilities, and quite separate from the parish of Middridge.

THE TURBINIA

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Saturday 16th April - "Revenant"

Sam Hauxwell Review: "The blistering set takes in AC/DC, Saxon, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Ozzy, Scorpions, Metallica, Rainbow, Guns 'n' Roses etc. Not always the usual choices but a mixed bag of METAL mayhem! The Frigate is a fantastic bar to see any live act, but when Revenant come knocking at the door, it's a different experience altogether. What makes Revenant stand out from the rest is the years of experience and musicianship put into play during their live performances. Arguably one of the greatest local bands I've ever seen, they never disappoint their audience which is full of bikers and a loyal following. Revenant have a fantastic set-list, which is even enjoyed by those that wouldn't consider themselves metal fans, I personally wouldn't have ever thought of myself as a metal fan but coming from the Frigate on Saturday night, I found myself singing their set-list long after they'd finished their mind blowing performance. Black Sabbath, Rage Against the Machine, and Metallica are just some of the bands they cover. Wherever they go Revenant create an atmosphere like no other, and it's often hard to find a band with music skills as high as theirs, with the ability to get the audience pumped and feeling like they own the world. Revenant own the current local music scene, for no other band has yet managed to reach their live music experience, it's a phenomenon that is only understood by those who have seen them, my only advice is to watch out, for when Revenant change your world".

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

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

Saturday 23rd April - "Gatecrashers"

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Celebrity antiques expert David Harper has helped Newton Aycliffe Rotarians raise more than £1000 for local charities. The BBC television personality spent an evening with the Rotarians and their friends at Woodham Golf Club where after a Carvery Dinner he answered questions on antiques ranging from the value of a pottery bowl and a first edition of Byron's poems, to the law regarding the purchase and sale of jade and ivory items. David is pictured above (third left) with (l-r) Rtn. Roger Curtis, Rotary Club President Denese Cartwright

and Rtn. Mary Waine. The event was organised by Roger and Mary.

"It was a very successful evening in every respect. The money we raised will enable us to continue supporting many Rotary charities and deserving causes," said

Queen's 90th Birthday Tea Party

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

New Parking Rule Welcome

Dear Sir,
I feel I must reply to the letter in this week's Newton News about a mobility challenged 68 year old being fined for overstaying her time in the Aldi car park. I am 70 years old with a life time of disability and have changed my time to shop at Aldi's because of bad parking in their car park. Young, fit people are parking in disabled bays and work vans park in mother/toddler bays. People park who are not going into Aldi but using the town centre. This is a car park for shoppers who use Aldi and hopefully the new rules will help.
John Redden

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VARIETY NIGHT FOR MARIE CURIE CHARITY

The Darlington Fundraising Group for Marie Curie is holding a Variety Night on Monday 13th June, from 7pm, at the Darlington Club and Railway Institute, North Road. The line up includes the fantastic comedian Patrick Monahan, winner of ITV's Show Me The Funny; Oli Patto, local singing star; Joe, a mind reader, and Circus Stars on Tour. All of the proceeds will go to the Darlington Fundraising Group to contribute to funding the 'round the clock' Rapid Response Nurses, who work out of St Theresa's Hospice, Darlington. This service ensures that people in the Darlington area, living with a terminal or life limiting illness, receive nursing care in their place of choice. The Darlington Community Rapid Response Team, developed by Marie Curie Cancer Care and St Theresa's Hospice, provides palliative nurses who can respond to patients in the community to manage their care and prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. The service also provides discharge support for patients from hospital or hospice and ensures a speedy transfer to their preferred place of care, with the support they, and their families, need to remain there. Knowing that it cost £20 an hour for a Marie Curie Nurse to offer vital care and support, buying tickets for this great night out can make a real difference to people living with a terminal illness. Tickets are £8 available from Catherine Hutchinson on 07941 738299 or through our Facebook page- Darlington Marie Curie Fundraising Group (or on the door: £9).

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Aycliffe Brewers Feature the Science of Beer Making

Masterclasses at Bishop Auckland Food Festival

From a refreshing California-style lager to a smoked porter infused with lapsang souchong tea leaves – no two beers taste the same! That's the promise from a former science teacher – turned master brewer – about his specialist beers which are bound for Bishop Auckland Food Festival (BAFF) this month.

Established by husband and wife Nick and Gulen Smith The Steam Machine Brewing Co., based in Newton Aycliffe, produces bold flavoured beers which are engineered in the heart of the industrial North East.

As well as exhibiting alongside 150 other producers at BAFF on April 23 and 24, the pair will be delivering master classes. With tickets available now at just £5 each Nick's keen to give would-be brewers a taste of what's on offer: "We are running three master classes - 'The Science of Craft Beer', 'Designing a Craft Beer', and 'How to Start a Brewery'.

"They'll appeal to anyone with an interest in beer, applied science, business startups, entrepreneurial spirit, or budding home brewers. There'll be time for questions and a few beers too! "We love interacting with the public and it's a chance to meet like-minded passionate individuals and hear about their own projects."

But what does Nick think is special about exhibiting at the Food Festival? "Whilst one half of Steam Machine is from Istanbul, the other went to school in Bishop Auckland and it's exciting to be sharing the festival with other unique producers."

"There's a fantastic artisan movement happening around the North East at the moment and it's great to be part of it. As well as the cracking venue, we can't wait to interact with the public!"

Cabinet member for culture and economic regeneration, Cllr Neil Foster, said: "This year we have a wide range of master classes from cheese making to Nick's beer crafts and wine tasting to charcuterie. They offer the chance to have some foodie fun but they are also an opportunity to learn from people who have started up their own businesses and take inspiration from these experiences."

Nick Smith again: "Inspiration can literally come from anywhere! We have been inspired by international brewers, from food, historic extinct beers, and just strange ideas that pop into our heads. The brewing process is a beautiful marriage between complex science and art. It never gets dull."

The following master classes



Newtonians Nick and Gulen Smith in their Aycliffe brewery

are available to book at £5 per person: Kid's chocolate workshop, adult's chocolate workshop, wine tasting, pizza making, Ginstitute, charcuterie, knife skills, cheese tasting and making, the science of craft beer, beer making and building a craft brewery.

Full details of all the master classes can be found at <http://www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk> and tickets can be booked in person at Gala Theatre in Durham or over the phone on 03000 266 600.

More info on <http://steammachinebrew.com>

ROADWORKS

• From 18-28 April there will be two-way lights on Woodham Way for a sewer installation.

• Until 22 April there will be closures along Long Tens Way and Grindon Way on Aycliffe Business Park for a sewer installation.

• Until 24 April there will be traffic management on Heighington Lane, Aycliffe Business Park, for cycleway works.

• April - October, on the A167 at Newton Park Service Station by the motorway, there will be traffic management as required for construction of a new junction.

• June - September, on the A1(M) between junctions 60 and 61 (Bradbury to Bowburn) there will be occasional contraflow and road closures for resurfacing and bridge works

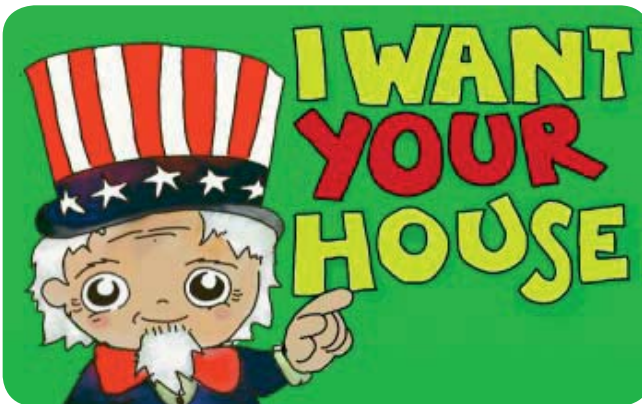
Note that you can check up on roadworks throughout the county on the DCC webpage: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/roadworks>.

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School Produce Artwork for Doctors' Surgery

Greenfield Arts announce the installation of new artwork by students of Greenfield Community College and artist Vicky Holbrough at Bewick Crescent Doctors Surgery. Greenfield Arts have been working with Bewick Crescent Doctors Surgery in Newton Aycliffe to create a new art work which will be displayed in their waiting room, to improve the surgery environment and promote positive well-being. This is a great opportunity for the students of Greenfield Community College to explore their own creativity to aid health and well-being. Students have worked with artist Vicky Holbrough to explore smart materials, which have ever changing properties. They also investigated how light can affect them and how their ideas can be displayed successfully. They are particularly interested

in how materials can change their state whilst on display, therefore interacting with the patients and changing people's perceptions. This has been really exciting for the students who are keen to investigate, play with materials and experiment, developing their discussion and team work skills. There will be a celebration of the installation on 15th April 2016. This will include the young people, doctors and patients from the surgery as well as a few VIP visitors. The Youth Cree project is funded by Public Health and GAMP, developed and led by Greenfield Arts designed to promote positive well-being which will be specially communicated in this particular commission. It is a project where arts and science comes together to make people feel good.

Tesco Help "Hug in a Bag"



Staff colleagues in Tesco Newton Aycliffe have been working hard to fund raise with local charity, Hug in a Bag which started in 2006 and supports ladies diagnosed with breast cancer during their treatment.

The bag contains gifts and leaflets costing over £60. The volunteers from Hug in a Bag, helped by Tesco staff, raised over £500 which was presented to the charity last week. Tesco staff would like to thank customers for their generosity, and if you would like more information on Hug in a Bag and the work they do, please visit www.huginabag.com

In the photo: Joe Riley - Customer Experience Manager, Shirley Cormack - Community Champion, Gwen Porter - Checkout Team Support with Judith Wright from Hug in a Bag.

SUMMER COMMUNITY LEARNING PROGRAMME



The new Summer Term Community Learning Programme at Greenfield Arts is now available with lots of opportunities for everyone.

We offer various sessions for young people, including after school clubs in art, music and yoga, specifically designed to suit young people. We also host the South Durham School of Dance which is a constant fixture at the centre and a great opportunity for young people to develop their passions.

Our specialist art courses this term show the return of familiar faces due to brilliant feedback and high demand. They include a one off 'Digital Textiles' workshop with SHED Head Rebecca Hayman, learn how to turn your drawings into patterns and print them onto fabric using specialist equipment in The SHED artist's hub, with three available dates; and 'Drawing Techniques' by Elena Zeniou, this introduces the basic principle of drawing and how to blend colours, create shades and tones, with an added 5 week course for artists wanting to develop their skills further.

We offer many other courses for adults, which run for 10 weeks at a time in various arts and well-being disciplines

MEGA MESSY EGG HUNT

The sun shone at the Mega Messy Egg Hunt at St. Clare's Church where lucky youngsters hunted for chocolate eggs. There was great excitement as over 800 eggs were hidden by the Easter Bunny and friends! A big thank you from the Messy Team to all who donated eggs for this special Messy Church afternoon.

Next time we will be jumping for joy on a super indoor bouncy castle at the May Messy on Saturday 21st May at 4pm, more details to follow.

PCP's THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY PROJECT IS GROWING VERY NICELY

PCP's Growing our Community Project is funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Aycliffe Area Partnership (GAMP) and launched last October. It provides social and therapeutic activities for the local community to promote health and wellbeing. Community activities include weekly gardening workshops at the Pioneering Care Centre and a monthly activity and lunch club takes place at Woodham Community Centre.

The gardening workshops are ideal for those who love being outdoors amongst nature. Recent work in PCP's community garden has improved access and provided low maintenance solutions, so whatever your age or ability there's something to enjoy and benefit from.

A horticulturist expert builds activities for each gardener to improve their health needs and to work on goals they want to achieve.

Anyone is welcome to take a look around the garden, and join in with the group on: Mondays 10am-12noon Wednesdays 10am-12noon Fridays 1-3pm

PCP is also hosting a Growing Durham Network 'Seed and Seedling Swap' on 4 May 10am - 12 noon. Come along to the Pioneering Care Centre to find out more about the Growing our Community project. Or if you are already a budding gardener, bring along your surplus seeds and seedlings to swap with other local gardeners



and organisations. This is the ideal opportunity to get ready for a productive summer of fruit, vegetables and flower cultivation and connect with like-minded gardeners to share ideas. PCP's mission is 'health, wellbeing and learning for all' and this project follows the philosophy that taking part in social activities, being active, exercising, learning and achieving is beneficial to all. For further information pop into the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF, call 01325 321234, email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

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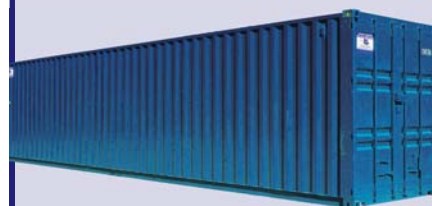


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HOWZAT FOR WORK EXPERIENCE



Connor Steadman (right) and Adrian Hodge (left) with John Brennan (middle) from Shildon Railway Cricket Club

A local Cricket Club has been bowled over by the hard work and dedication of four local teenagers as it gets ready for the new season. Four learners

from Aycliffe DISC's Steps 4 Success Study Programme have carried out painting jobs and helped with repairs during a week-long placement at

Shildon Railway Cricket Club on Hackworth Street. John Brennan, Club Secretary for Shildon Railway Cricket Club, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the work carried out by the learners and hope that we can support DISC in the future. It has been a pleasure to help these young people and wish each of them every success in the future". And he added: "Our club has been pleased to support the excellent work that DISC does with young people in our community."

The learners completed a range of jobs including repairing and painting the boundary fence, painting benches, screens and the score box as well as preparing the ground for the new cricket season in April. Janeen Colville, a Coordinator for DISC, worked with the Cricket Club to develop the work experience opportunity. She said: "Our learners declared an interest in the painting and decorating or ground maintenance industry, and the cricket club immediately agreed to support us, which was fantastic."

"Our programmes are designed to bridge the gap between education and employment and by taking part, young people are able to learn the skills and behaviours needed to secure employment. DISC work placements are a vital part of a learners programme and we are grateful to Shildon Railway Cricket Club for helping us nurture our learners' interests and talents".

Aycliffe's Front Line NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By T/Inspector Mark J Edwards



Hello to one and all. Mark Edwards here again giving an update from the world of Policing in Newton Aycliffe.

THE TEAM - First off we have a couple of new additions to the Neighbourhood Policing Team (more affectionately known as The NPT) - PCSO Daniela Jones recently joined us and her delegated areas of responsibility are Woodham and Shafto St. Mary's. We also have an Officer who has joined us on a lengthy secondment from the arena of Response Policing, namely Pc Becky Ruck. Chris Noble will remain with the Team over summer before departing to take on his new role as 'Pc' at the back end of the year.

BURGLARIES UPDATE - In my last report you may recall I attempted to fill readers with dread by highlighting a rise in burglaries across the Newton Aycliffe area. I also went on to report that a 42 year old male had been arrested on suspicion of being connected with these crimes. That male was subsequently charged with seven offences ranging across the town and into Shildon and - after appearing before Magistrates, was remanded into custody pending trial later this month. There was a lot of determination put into achieving this outcome and I would like to thank everyone who supported our investigations - whether that be from CCTV assistance, or providing Officers with information.

Whilst we may have seen a cessation in crimes of this type I still urge local residents to be extra vigilant and to keep doors, windows, garages and sheds locked. I hate to sound like a broken record but failure to take precautions such as these makes the job of the cowardly criminal easier.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Our 'POP IN PACT' venues continue with forthcoming events at Woodham Community Centre (3rd May between 10.30 and 12 midday), and the old Select Unit within the Town Centre (23rd April between 2pm and 5pm). These are events whereby members of the public can come along and chat to members of the NPT about any queries/concerns they may have (or simply to chat!).

Celebrities! Some of you may have seen a 'cameo' appearance by Newton Aycliffe NPT on TV's Police Interceptors: Rookies and Raids recently when the celebrity cops came along to assist with my Team with the execution of a magistrates Search Warrant at an address in Van Mildert Road earlier this year. I've tried to ensure that the five minutes of glory hasn't gone to their heads!

That's all for this edition folks. Not much doom and gloom this time! Mark J Edwards
Aycliffe NPT Temp Inspector
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING: Use your postcode to get access to local news and events from your Neighbourhood Policing Team, at <https://www.durham.police.uk>

NEWTONIAN BUILDS BIKE FOR CHARITY



Graeme Parry (44) from Newton Aycliffe builds custom bikes as a hobby and is employed as a qualified fabricator for a local firm. He recently finished building the bike above with the intention of auctioning through eBay.

A substantial part of the sale price will be donated to the charity helping soldiers injured or left homeless after leaving the service. The bike is based on a Suzuki 600cc and has been modified to look like a cafe racer/bobber which Graeme has achieved after months of work on the bike. Her wishes to thank NEILZ Spray in Newton Aycliffe for donating the paintwork on the bodywork and Wheel Tech in Darlington for donating the powder coating on the wheels. If you need any more info please contact Graeme on 07762 590943.

JOB FAIR

At Trimdon Station Community Centre



Friday 22nd April
10am - 1pm

FREE
REFRESHMENTS!

Where:

Trimdon Station Community Centre
Station Road East
Trimdon Station
TS29 3BS

For more information contact Angela Watson on 01429 882200

MAD Choir's Charity Concert



Aycliffe's MAD Choir gave another of their popular Charity Concerts last Friday at the Phoenix Club led by their Musical Director Evelyn Lodge. It was a well supported event with fine entertainment and a Pie & Peas Supper.

The proceeds were for Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership. Syd Howarth the founder was present and thanked everyone for helping this organisation which brings together voluntary and statutory welfare organisations in our area to help disadvantaged people. The MAD Choir are a wonderful group of people who enjoy singing to bring pleasure to listeners and assistance to those who benefit from their charitable work. If you wish to join, the choir meets at Woodham Community Centre.
Tel: 01325 495219
E-mail: info@madchoir.co.uk



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SATURDAY 23RD APRIL
10am TO 2pm
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- ★ NEARLY NEW STALL ★
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- ★ BALLOON MODELLING ★

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

FREE ENTRY

EVERYONE WELCOME

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 07710 478583.

HORSE IN THE SUDS



Life in the Cobblers Hall area of town has been enlivened recently by the appearance, then removal, then reappearance of a horse (or horses – opinion is split) in the Nature Reserve area surrounding the SUDS pond.

Especially the first horse – which people thought had been abandoned – became a celebrity, visited by families almost as a tourist attraction, and fed endless apples and carrots. On the second occasion, when the horse appeared complete with trough and bale of hay, public opinion was more hostile, as people realised

that a valued public facility was being wilfully misused. I have been of the opinion that we MUST establish very firmly that this is a Nature Reserve. A great deal has been spent on landscaping and seeding. It is our hope that, as it grows and develops, it will become a small water fowl sanctuary, and that birds will nest there as well as visit. That is why it is fenced off – it needs to be closed and protected to achieve its potential, and it is most certainly *not* for illegal grazing.

I was therefore glad to see that the latest horse's owner removed it last Saturday, responding responsibly to public demand and resolute council action. We have to be determined about this, or we may find our long-sought Nature Reserve is continually being wrecked by unscrupulous horse-owners who see it as an easy touch. And I have to applaud the residents of Cobblers Hall, who have shared heart-warming care for the horse(s) with concern about their Nature Reserve. Cllr John D Clare

STUDENTS REDESIGN PCP FLOOR

Greenfield Arts were asked to design the new floor for the Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe (PCP), as part of their exciting new refurbishment programme.

Year 8 students from Greenfield Community College, Sunnydale Campus were given a brief and created a fantastic design that was chosen as the final flooring for the public community space.

The design was based on the concept of community, the links we have with others and how we are connected. They took inspiration from cells in the body that multiply, rejuvenate and grow, which was inspired by the positive health and well-being work that takes place at the Pioneering Care Centre.

The students were very proud of their work and to be invited to the launch in March 2016. David Priestley, Executive Head Teacher said: "We are very proud that our students could contribute to the new work that has been done at the PCP. It is wonderful that they see their work realised and were able to receive feedback from the visitors and staff."



Carol Gaskarth (right) CEO of the PCP welcomes Greenfield students.

Raffle Winners

Last Saturday the Aycliffe branch of the Durham Alcohol Self Support group held a fundraising stall in the Thames Centre courtesy of the Landlord and with the help of GACAP.

Thanks to all who supported the stall by donating prizes or buying tickets. The raffle was drawn by Bridie from nearby shop Petals. Winning numbers 5, 90, 33, 57, and 91. Please contact Val on 07921 816549.

If alcohol has become a problem in your life ring Val for information on how DASS can help.

POT HOLE CAR DAMAGE

THIS WEEK another massive pot hole appeared in School Aycliffe Lane resulting in the suspension on cars being damaged.

Newton News reported the problem to Darlington Borough Councillor Gerald Lee who acted immediately. The road was repaired the same day and inspected the following day.

Traffic management was installed for safety and further investigation is to be carried out later to see where the water is coming from and what can be done to re-route water into drains.

Party for Superheroes

You are invited to a party for all SUPERHEROES on SATURDAY 23RD APRIL, 4-6pm at St. Clare's Church Newton Aycliffe. Enjoy party games, a disco and a hot dog tea for only £2 per child.

A sweet shop and superhero tattoos for an extra 50p will also be available. Great prizes in our games and for the best costumes - so come along the fun is for all children aged 5 and over, parents can stay too or collect children when the party ends at 5pm. Have a go at superhero corners, chase the villain, pass the kryptonite and lots more..... Spiderman, Hulk, Batman, Catwoman, Elsa, Anna or a sporting hero - use your imagination - Everyone is welcome - just pay on the door. Call 01325 319002 for more information.

BYERLEY PARK SPRING CLEAN

The Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve are inviting local residents to come along to the reserve and help give the site a little spring clean. Various tasks such as cutting back, tree planting and litter picking will be on offer. Anyone who is interested can meet to the rear of Jesmond Court at 10am on Sunday 17th April. All tools and equipment will be provided.

Steve Cooper, Works and Environment Manager
Great Aycliffe Town Council
01325 300 700 or 07970 559520

Mayor Visits Cancer Support Group



GREAT AYCLIFFE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP had another fun filled night last week at our meeting when it was great to welcome our Mayor Mary Dalton and Consort Michael (her son). Thanks to all for joining us and it was lovely to see old and new members.

Our next outing is on Saturday 16th April for our first mystery trip. If you would like to know more please call Allison on 07762 258696 or visit

www.greataycliffecancersupportgroup.co.uk

If any company or businesses would like to donate or fund raise for our group funds please call. We now have 57 members and every bit helps. If anyone would like a visit from one of our Committee Members to talk to your employees or club about what our group does and who we help, please feel free to contact us.

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Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

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

COUNCIL NEWS

- My report on this week's DCC Council meeting: <http://bit.ly/DCC130416>
 - DCC consultation on changes to financial assessments for non-residential care services: bit.ly/DCCconsultNRCS
 - YEI – EU funding targets youth unemployment: bit.ly/DCCYEI
 - Latest Neighbourhood Protection Report: bit.ly/NPFeb16
 - Make sure you go to a legal tattooist: bit.ly/DCCtattoo
 - HCA is seeking planning permission for the Eldon Whins site: bit.ly/HCAEW
 - Latest Aycliffe area roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks150416
 - Last week's report from our MEP: bit.ly/JKD100416
- ### COMMUNITY NEWS
- Health in County Durham – some facts: bit.ly/CoDHealth
 - From 6 April, all dogs must be microchipped: bit.ly/DogChip16
 - Acle Burn has got a Post Box! bit.ly/ABPOBox
 - Upcoming FREE courses at the Pioneering Care Centre: bit.ly/PCPApr16
 - Greenfield Arts Summer courses – most start last week in April: bit.ly/GASummer16
 - Friends of S&DR walking the line event – the Shildon circular – 21 April, meet Locomotion Engine Shed, 1:30pm: bit.ly/FSDR210416
 - Jobs Fair, Trimdon Station Community Centre, Friday 22 April, 10am-1pm: bit.ly/TSCCJF

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JUNIOR FOOTBALL RESULTS HUNTSMAN CRASH OUT OF CUP

With midweek games needed to make up for the fixtures postponed earlier in the season there was lots of action for Aycliffe Juniors this week. On Thursday the Under 12's recorded a 3-1 win against Mount Pleasant with goals from man of the match Dylan (2) and Conlan. Both Under 18 teams got victories as well, the Reds winning 6-5 against Seaton Carew after coming back from 5-3 down and the Blacks winning 8-2.

On to the weekend and the Under 7's were away to Darlington Spraire Lads, in the first half Aycliffe looked the better team but an unlucky deflection in the second half saw the Darlington team take the lead. Goals were then exchanged with Josh scoring for Aycliffe in a 2-1 loss. The second game was a great team effort but no goals were scored and this one ended 0-0.

The Under 8's enjoyed a friendly against the Under 9's on the Friday evening then a game at Coulby Newham on Sunday in which they drew twice, 0-0 then 2-2.

The Under 10's just had the TJFA team in action and they gained a resounding 10-0 win against Stockton Town Blues. Charlie got the first goal before Zack got a first half hatrick to open up a 4-0 half time lead, Lucas provided assists for each of these goals. In the second half Zack added another two to end the match with a superb 5 goals, Jacob got 2 and there was one each for Lucas and Harry. The second game saw Lucas score all the Aycliffe goals in a 4-2 win.

The Under 11's faced Darlington TSC but just missed



out, losing 3-2. The Under 12's could not back up the great midweek win when playing Whitby at Sunnysdale this was always going to be a tough game against a team only beaten once this season. Aycliffe defended well with Adam calm in goal and Curtis making a goal line clearance. Towards the end of the first half Whitby attacked well and scored three goals to open up a 3-0 half time lead. In the second half Nicholas and Harry went close for Aycliffe but Whitby added three long range strikes to win 6-0. The man of the match was Adam for a great job in an unfamiliar position.

The Under 14's had a fantastic 4-0 win against Kader FC they started the game with some great passing, determination and brilliant team play. Plenty of chances created but there was no way past the Kader keeper, until Hynes poked one home in a goal mouth scramble just before half time. The start of the second half saw some great defending and a couple of brilliant saves from Stoker in goal protect the lead. Hynes was then played in on goal and scored his second to double the lead.

It was Hynes again who completed his hatrick when curling a shot in after rounding the keeper. Cayless intercepted and passed forward to Hynes to get his and Aycliffe's fourth goal. This was a great performance which pleased the coaches who gave special mention to Marcus at the back, Hynes for his scoring feat and Dunn who in improving with every game.

The Under 18 Blacks put in a great performance but narrowly lost their top of the table clash at Ferryhill Town.

The Huntsman entertained Division 1 leaders and current cup holders Witton Park on Sunday in the quarter final of the Darlington Charity Cup and pushed their illustrious opponents to the death in an evenly contested affair. Manager Neil Dodds made 4 changes from the side which lost too Coundon with Carl Bates, Calum Farley, Andrew Richardson and Jamie Herd coming into the side.

It was Witton who settled quickly and had a lot of possession but were limited to long range shots, as the half wore on the Huntsman grew into the game. It looked set to be 0-0 at half time but a set piece undid all of the Huntsman's good work when a long throw found its way into the box and squirmed in past the helpless McDonald in goal. 1-0 half time.

The second half saw the introduction of more pace up top for the Huntsman to try and

stretch the Witton back line on the counter attack. This tactic almost proved dividends early in the second half with Molloy forcing a smart save with Herd just missing the rebound. Witton rallied and went 2-0 up when the impressive central midfielder drilled home in the bottom corner from 18 yards.

Huntsman head didn't drop and they soon clawed a goal back when a Molloy free kick was swung in onto the head of David Neale who glanced home from 12 yards. However the joy was short lived when Witton went 3-1 up with the midfielder doubling his tally drilling home once again from the edge of the area.

The Huntsman once again got back on the front foot, with the impressive Richardson winning possession in the middle of the park before slipping in Reed Molloy who raced away from the defence to slot home to put the Huntsman back in the game. Witton were reduced to 10 men for an awful tackle on Richardson which killed the game as they banked up and defended their lead.

Anthony McDonald was awarded man of the match for a superb display with a number of fine saves which kept the Huntsman in the game. Overall plenty of positives for the Huntsman going into next season in the top division.

Next up the Huntsman travel to Willington for a league game on Tuesday 12th of April, before welcoming Bishop Auckland Snooker Club to Simpature on Sunday April 17th in the Invitation Cup quarter final.

Heighington Under 8's 3rd Division Champs



Heighington clinched the 3rd Division title in Glorious sunshine at Home to Shildon this week. The first Game saw Heighington run riot winning 9-1 with some exceptional Football played, Joe Neild Bagged 5 Goals, Theo scored Twice Whilst Layton Collier and Ty Woodward scored a goal a piece. Jay Bulch further established his "Mesut Ozil" credentials with an amazing 5 assists.

The second game saw Heighington win 5-1. Ty Woodward scored 2 great goals in the early stages, before Shildon pulled a goal back from the spot. Maddox Marcus rifled a beauty in to the top corner to make it 3, Theo made it 4, before Harvey Yale blasted home his first goal for the club to cap a magnificent day for the whole squad. The boys lifted the Trophy at the end, and now look to go through the season with a 100% record record by winning their last 3 games Under 15s

Heighington U15's welcomed Redcar Athletic on a glorious

afternoon to the Parish Fields. In what was a competitive match, the home side again squandered several great chances early in the match to take the lead, but it eventually came after Jack Emmerson nodded a header into the path of Liam Wright who finished neatly at the far post. Although they didn't have a huge amount of possession Redcar carried a threat and their two strikers carved out some decent chances.

It was only a matter of time though before Heighington added to the lead, and again striker Liam Wright clinched it to make it 2-0. In the second half, it was a more even game in respect to chances, with Redcar hitting the bar, and the defence clearing off the line on a couple of occasions. After having been denied a penalty, one was awarded and Lucas Thompson dispatched it with aplomb to make it 3-0, which is how it ended, MOM was a split decision between Sam Thompson, and Broden Forster. Jim, Mark, and Sean

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Anne Frank Exhibition

Woodham Academy would like to invite community partners to attend the Anne Frank Exhibition hosted within school during April.

The exhibition, which has been touring the UK as part of a national programme to educate young people about damage caused by all forms of prejudice and discrimination, is open from Monday 18th April. Woodham Academy students, having received training from The Anne Frank Trust, will lead groups on a guided tour.

Tour bookings are limited so those interested are urged to contact school as soon as possible. A further evening tour will be available on Wednesday 20th April from 3:30pm.

Media and Marketing Officer, Gemma Porter said "We would like to invite all local schools, community groups and interested parties to take this fascinating tour. Our students have worked hard to be able to deliver these tours and we are thrilled to be able to host the exhibition."

The exhibition uses Anne Frank's life and diary to explain the value of democracy in a civil society. The thought provoking tour encourages visitors to focus on issues of identity and moral issues we face in 21st century Britain. Visits can be made to school by contacting Gemma at g.porter@woodham.org.uk or ringing 01325 300328.

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TABLE TOP SALE at Simpature Court on Saturday 16th April from 9am to 2pm. Lots of items at bargain prices. Free tea and coffee and a selection of cakes and pies will also be on sale.

Woodham's Four New Teachers

Woodham Academy has welcomed four new members of staff to join their thriving teaching team.

Assistant Headteacher and teacher of History, Sarah Dickinson, joins the school from a previous position in Hartlepool. For Sarah, teaching is her absolute passion and she enjoys making learning relevant, fun and engaging.

Robert Gales, the schools new Head of Music, grew up playing in a number of ensembles around the North East including the North Tyneside Concert Band. Robert then began conducting and went on to be the musical director of productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience and Queen's We will rock you. He is looking forward to using his knowledge and experience to teach the students to the

best of his ability.

The Geography department has been joined by teacher, Rebecca Woolley. Rebecca who studied at Northumbria University and completed her PGCE at Durham University brings a hands on approach to the classroom including building earthquake-proof structures from spaghetti and marshmallows.

Michelle l'Anson is the schools new Second in English, bringing a wealth of knowledge from her previous roles in Sunderland and Peterlee. Michelle said: "I am really looking forward to working at Woodham Academy, getting to know the students and building on the excellent work of the English department."



Left to Right: Rebecca Woolley, Michelle l'Anson, Robert Gales and Sarah Dickinson

Headteacher, Christine Forsyth, said: "Woodham Academy is fortunate to be able to recruit such well-

qualified specialist teachers. I am sure that our students will very much enjoy working with our new staff."

Newton Aycliffe Rugby News

This week's fixture saw Newton Aycliffe RUFC welcome visitors Yarm to Moore Lane. The pitch looked superb and the newly erected fencing which displays the club's sponsor boards looked resplendent. The weather was bright and sunny with very little wind - a beautiful day to play rugby.

The squad selected looked strong, despite being unable to call upon over ten regular first team players. Yarm arrived with a very youthful looking squad many of whom gave some of Aycliffe's veterans twenty plus years.

Tommy Cooper, Newton Aycliffe's oldest ever player at well over sixty, suggested that youthful exuberance could play a massive part in the result. Taking into consideration Tommy's age it is believed he was talking about the players on both sides. The sidelines were packed with many old ex-players watching the match along with the players' wives, girlfriends, children, mums and dads. It was a real family atmosphere and a joy to be a part of. #Aycliffefamily.

The match kicked off and in no time at all it appeared the youthful exuberance of the Yarm team was going to play a massive part in the result. Yarm forwards drove Aycliffe back towards the home team's try line and they were eventually awarded a scrum. Yarm hooked the ball back well and their big number eight picked up and smashed his way over the line to score. NARUFC 7-0 down within ten minutes and not looking good at all.

Thankfully the vocal home supporters never lost faith and they were repaid with the inevitable James Thacker try which was followed quickly by Gareth Parsonage dancing over for one of his own. 10-7 to Aycliffe and the players began to settle down and play a more controlled game as advocated by the Club Coaches. The forwards began to regain control of the ruck area and several pick-and-drives saw the visitors struggling to contain them. So much so the Aycliffe big lad Jeff Hodgson crashed over from the base of a ruck to score a try: James Cocks, back from his sojourn in foreign lands, kicked the conversion to take a 17-7 lead.

More good forward play from the resulting kick off saw Aycliffe's backs running the ball from within their own half; a very clever kick behind the Yarm backline saw the ball bounce awkwardly within the 22 metre area. The defensive fullback, seeing the large bulk of James Thacker bearing down on him at lightning pace, took his eye off

the ball at the crucial moment allowing Thacker to collect the ball, bulldozer the defender and crash over the line for the final score of the half.

Half time score 22 - 7
The second half appeared to be a mirror image of the first; Aycliffe forwards dominated the rucks and the mauls, the big runners carried especially well and broke tackle after tackle. Three quick tries were reward for their efforts - Captain Andrew Littlefair smashed his way over the line dragging defenders with him, Craig Holmes pirouetted his way over from twenty metres out and after several thwarted attempts Warren Parsonage ran his maximum sprinting distance to force his way over from less than a metre out to make the score 37 - 7.

Shaun Tomlinson, who travels from Colchester every week to play (!), picked up the ball from the back of a maul to run through

the tiring Yarm defence to score from 22 metres out. James Thacker soon completed his hat-trick with a beautiful 40 metre run which combined deft running and brute force which left the Yarm defence in tatters; James Cocks kicked the conversion to make the score 49 - 7. Adam Gascoigne, with fifteen minutes to play, scored the try his hard work and skill deserved. James Cocks completed Aycliffe's scoring with another conversion 56-7.

What followed was quite bizarre. Mark Sylvester and Connor Blakey who had both been on the field a matter of minutes got yellow carded for what could be called "professional fouls" and Aycliffe finished the game with thirteen men. Yarm took full advantage to score a consolation try which was brilliantly converted. Final score 56 - 14. Away to Richmondshire on Saturday 16th April, 3pm KO.

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Congratulations

BRADLEY SMITH Stax of love to a precious little Grandson on his Christening Day, Sunday 17th April, 2016. Lots of love and kisses from Nan xxx
BRADLEY SMITH Lots of love and hugs to my gorgeous little cousin Bradley. From your big cuz Millie xxx

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New Era for Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre CRAFT & GIFT FAYRE

The career of Vince, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (standing) is built on the trade union movement with firm beliefs in protecting the vulnerable and the young, fighting for social justice. He has a vast knowledge of local government, having been an elected member. He holds a Diploma in Social Studies, but feels his main achievement is his Fellowship Diploma (with Distinction) of Paralegal Practice in the Voluntary Sector. He was a Director Trustee for CAVOS which provides support services for the

voluntary sector. Vince has also been a Governor with the TEWV NHS Trust providing Mental Health services. He attends many courses relevant to assisting the Voluntary Sector. The staff and fellow trustees are aware of Vince's numerous achievements over the years and have put his name forward for consideration for the Chairman's Medal which recognises the work people do for others. Lisa, (left) Finance Assistant, started working for Newton Aycliffe Youth

and Community Centre on a voluntary basis in October 2012 and was made a permanent member of staff in February 2013. As Finance Assistant, she draws on her previous experience working in a bank to collect outstanding debts on behalf of NAYCC. This results in lowering the amounts owed to the Centre, to date (since January 2015) and has managed to cut the aged debtors by 95%. Lisa also works on Reception and has sound Customer Service skills, proven when she achieved NVQ Level



2 Customer Service and more recently successfully completed a BTEC Level 2 in Business Administration. The majority of Lisa's role is carried out 'behind the scenes' but this does not lessen the impact she has in completing her role. She has also taken on a larger job with regard to the Centre's finances which is expanding her knowledge and skill set to a higher level.

Rebecca, (middle) Centre Manager, has been with NAYCC for a little over two years now and in that time has proven her worth. She has implemented new and robust job descriptions for all employees; has also implemented new and relevant policies and procedures for all employees. All the work put in on behalf of the Board of Trustees has assisted the Investors In People Standard, for which she is quite proud. Rebecca believes she is a real asset to NAYCC now and in the future, as she has found somewhere to belong and where to achieve success. She believes very passionately in NAYCC and the staff and volunteers within. All this came from starting in the Tuck Shop. Rebecca has almost completed studying towards the BTEC Diploma Level 3 Management qualification, which has enabled her to put what she is learning into practice with Line Management of the staff and volunteers within the Centre. Her successful application for the role of Centre Manager enables her to see the Asset Transfer through to fruition and beyond.

A lot of hard work went into the production of the Business Plan and part of her new role is to seek funding to ensure the financial wellbeing of the Centre and to be able to implement new plans the Centre has with a view to grow as an organisation. More on what is planned for the Centre will be released as it happens. Rebecca is very excited to take the Centre forward. Christine (right) Café Supervisor, has over 30 years' experience in catering, running large kitchens and managing and training staff which has always been an ongoing process due to the constant changes in Food Hygiene legislation. Having worked in both military and civilian kitchens, working to schedules has been key, so time keeping is of the utmost importance when others have to keep to their schedules.

Enthusiasm for the job is a starting point to keep others motivated in what they do. Happy staff equals a happy work environment and this results in happier customers. Christine has a willingness to learn new skills that she is keen to pass onto others, and with this in mind is currently studying towards the BTEC Diploma Level 3 in Catering Supervision for which NAYCC hope to put to good use when they run some catering courses in the future.

In Memoriam

Stephen Paul Ibinson (Ibbo)



Silent thoughts of times together, hold memories that last forever. It does not need this special day, to bring you to our mind, for days without a thought of you are very hard to find.

Forever young.
Mam, Dad and Family
Also family in Nth. Ireland

Derrick Nelson

18th April 2015

A cherished Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Remembered always by Valerie and Michael, Elizabeth and Kathryn, Allan and David, Jacob, Bronwyn, Theo and Dylan.

Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through. We will forever love and remember you

JOAN NICHOLSON 16th April 2007. It does not need this special day to bring you to our minds. For days without a thought of you are very hard to find. Loved and missed by all of your family. Also birthday wishes for 22nd April. TONY THOMPSON 21st April is our 60th anniversary. We made plans, but God took you too soon. So no cards or plants. Lots of memories. Love, Grace xxxx

On Saturday 23rd April we are holding a Craft & Gifts Fayre at Neville Parade Methodist Church from 10am -2pm.

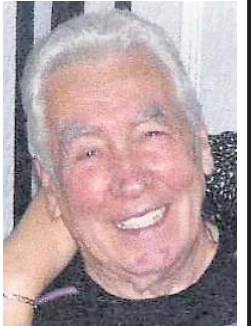
There will be over 20 stalls displaying a variety of goods to tempt you to spend. Bacon sandwiches and pies & peas will be on offer as well as delicious desserts all at great value prices.

Admission is 50p which includes a free drink. We look forward to seeing you. If you don't want to shop just stop by for a snack and

a chat. You will be very welcome. Another date for your diary is Saturday 7th May when the Cockerton Silver Band will be playing at Neville Parade. For more details tel 07733 210845

Obituary

Cyril Hankins



Peacefully on 8th April, in hospital. Cyril, aged 86 years. Much loved husband of Betty, loving dad of Natalie and Phil and Step Dad to Kim and Debbie also a much loved Grandad of Heston, Carter and Joe. Will family and friends please meet for Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 22nd April at 2.00pm. He will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Thank You

A BIG "thank you" to Ronnie Greaves and helpers of Woodham Removals. Lovely people and an unbeatable service at an unbeatable price. Mrs Wallis and family

Acknowledgement

WINTRELL, The family of the late Steve Wintrell wish to express their gratitude for all of the help and kindness shown at this difficult time. They would especially like to thank the staff of Ward 14 at Darlington Memorial Hospital, the staff at Seaton Leng, the staff at Woodham Country Club and Durham Constabulary. Thanks to all friends, relatives and colleagues for their kind condolences, support and donations towards Cancer Research UK, which totalled £545.42

Congratulations

Lacey Linda James



Happy 1st Birthday
Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy xxxxxx

Belton

Russell is 49 not 59
Duncan is 48 not 58

Sorry to my two lovely sons

Mother got it wrong.
Added 10 years to your birthdays this year.

I'll get it right next year.
"I promise"

Love you both lots.
Mam and Ernie xxxxx

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SMALL caravan. Tel 07851 447430

MAYOR VISITS LITTLE ACORNS PETTING ZOO



Friday 8th of April brought the excitement of the 4th annual Little ACORNS Petting Zoo to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Graciously opened at 10am by Mayor Mary Dalton and consort Michael Dalton, the doorways were swiftly filled with excited children accompanied by parents and grandparents eagerly seeking out the cuddly and exotic creatures.

With a hall full of attractions, it was difficult to know where to head first, Crazy Critters, Animal story supplied bugs, snakes, spiders, prairie dogs, tortoises, rabbits, rats and loads of other creatures for the children to gawk at and pet. Adding to the fun the Leisure Centre had kindly supplied a bouncy castle which was swiftly filled with laughing, raucous kids burning off energy. Top quality local entertainers were on hand to add to the frolics with Harry Potty providing the face painting to a queue of clients that lasted the length of the event and beyond, transforming little faces into fairies, pussy cats, and a myriad of other designs. Meanwhile Professor Nincompoop delighted children and adults by providing balloon sculptures of swords, flowers, animals and hats.

Newcomers to the community entertainment scene Dot and Zooky enthralled children and parents with circus tricks, spinning tea plates and juggling diabolos. This may have been the first time Dot and Zooky have worked with us but it certainly won't be the last.

ACORNS very own Sarah Picken and daughter Ellie, Secretary of little ACORNS

were kept busy painting nails with lovely designs and exuberant colours. Spotty Dog and Sid the Squirrel appeared for photos with the kids and parents. Newton Aycliffe neighbourhood Police beat team were as usual to be found building relationships with locals in a fun and friendly environment. Many other local organisations were also represented including local dog trainers K9 Pursuits giving demonstrations of good dog behaviour.

Dorothy Bowman from Western Area Community House had a stall representing Williamfield Residents Association, the community bus, her Dementia Group and New Friends New places. Other groups had stalls representing organisations such as Horndale Residents Association who had a tombola stall, Busy Bees had a jewellery stall, Maggie's Silent Tear house, Katy's got It Covered, Ark on the Edge, Dog's Trust,

The Durham Alcohol Self Support Group, A body shop at home stall and Love Thy Cupcakes.

Jillians Cakes supplied a beautiful chocolate cake for a raffle which tasted absolutely wonderful. Specialist health trainer Andy Stewart from Wellbeing for Life, based in the South West Durham Hub unit, Health improvement service was on hand to promote healthy lifestyles. Mike Greener attended on behalf of DISC a great organisation based at the Blue Bridge Centre.

Of course this magical event would not be possible without the financial support of the Big Lottery Fund "Awards for All" which has supported the ACORN group from its inception.

A great big thank you to vice chairman Keith Lovejoy for organising this very popular event with the support of many of our members.

Ken Robson
Chairman
ACORN Residents Association



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Aycliffe Running Club News

On Sunday 3rd April, Aycliffe Running Club competed in the Northumberland Half Marathon and Hartlepool Marina 5. Runners enjoyed great success with many gaining new personal bests (PB's) and also being placed in their categories.

Three club runners participated in Northumberland Half Marathon. It is a challenging 13.1 mile course over undulating (hilly) rural roads. It started and finished at Kirkley Hall near Ponteland.

Running conditions were good, cool with an occasional slight breeze. Wendy Bake was first to finish for the club in 1:45:22, placing 2nd in her category (female over 40). She was closely followed by Trish Kay in 1:48:32 and 2nd in her age category (female over 50). She was followed by Susan Clark with a time of 2:17:35 and 3rd in her category (female over 60). All three runners were pleased with their times.

18 Aycliffe runners turned out for Hartlepool Marina 5. This is a 5 mile flat



race which goes along the seafront. 10 runners in total recorded personal bests. First home for the club was John Surtees in a time of 28:20, a PB. He was followed by Mark Wade (28:45, a PB), Stephen Smith (33:53, a PB) and John Burnside (34:17). First lady home for the club was Michelle Jane in a time of 34:45, a PB.

She was followed by Robert Jayne (35:17, a PB), Dave Blewitt (36:10), Sandra Collins (36:23), Peter Smith (37:28), Michael



Brunskill (37:30), Angela Barrett (38:00, a PB), Rob Nicholson (38:33), Amanda Heywood (41:30, a PB), Natalie Dufferwel (42:32), Heather Fenwick (43:45, a PB), Denise Evans (43:45, a PB), Judith Porter (44:40) and Ray Todd (51:39).

AYCLIFFE'S CENTRE FORWARD NETS HIS 22nd GOAL



Newton Aycliffe FC took their points tally to 57 thanks to a 75th second goal on Saturday. However, they were made to work hard by a Durham side threatened with relegation. With more rain last week forcing the midweek Shildon game to be postponed there were anxious moments at Moore Lane ahead of the game. Fortunately two days of drier weather assisted by a liberal application of sand was enough to get the game on.

Within two minutes of the start Aycliffe had the lead. A misdirected header from a Durham defender found Matty Moffat. The Aycliffe centre forward had little difficulty making it 22 goals this season with a carefully placed chip out of the reach of the keeper. Less than 5 minutes later Aycliffe came close to a second when a John Campbell run down the right finished with a shot across goal which ran just wide of the post. By that stage Aycliffe were playing with confidence and a comfortable win looked on the cards. Jordan Laidler came close to scoring with a volley on 20 mins but was denied.

Durham fought back and just before the half hour had a

good chance to equalise when a powerful run down the right by Samuel Norris resulted in a shot being blocked by James Winter's legs. The Aycliffe keeper was, as ever, in fine form, playing against his former club.

The second half saw a determined effort from Durham to take at least a point from the game. However, despite their domination there were few real threats to Winter's goal. Durham's best opportunity came after 52 mins when a careless ball from the Aycliffe defence found their former team-mate Ritchie Archer.

He attempted to put Norris through but the Aycliffe keeper was alive to the danger and got to the ball first. The final whistle came as a relief to the home supporters as Aycliffe hung on for the three points. With most of the top sides winning on Saturday the Blues remain 7th in the league with 10 games to play.

Aycliffe now face an Auckland double header this week with Bishop visiting on Tuesday 12th April while West arrive at Moore Lane on Thursday 14th April. Both games are rearranged fixtures following earlier postponements.

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From the Editor

syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Dear Readers

I wish to thank all those who have sent cards, letters, text and facebook messages following my award of the M.B.E. It has been a humbling experience and I am extremely grateful for the honour my family, friends and the townspeople have bestowed.

The latest was being called to take photos of the MAD Choir Charity Concert at the Phoenix Club last Friday night, only to be singled out to receive a collage of congratulatory notes specially framed and presented by Sonia Scott the choir's founder.

I truly didn't expect so much fuss and I am deeply grateful for all the good wishes received. The award was for



work in the community which I will continue to do as long as I am able, encouraged by this wonderful gesture. Your Editor and friend Syd