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Aycliffe Cheerleaders Placed in GB's Top Three



On the 28th of May Newton Aycliffe Competitive Cheerleading group, "Nemesis Allstars", travelled to the Metro Arena in Newcastle

for the British Cheerleading Competition. This is one of the biggest Competitions held in the UK with Judges from America.

Nemesis Allstars entered five sections including: Junior Cheer, Senior Cheer, Senior Coed Stunt Level 4, Senior All Girl Stunt Level 4 and Junior Stunt Level 3.

The team were placed in the top 3 in every section and two were first place trophies against some really tough competition from teams all over the country and Ireland. The weekend before, a local businessman and MMA fighter Dave Cunliffe, did a sponsored skydive to raise funds for the group for which we are very grateful.

The team have been fundraising for tumbling equipment and would also like to thank Tesco store at

Newton Aycliffe for letting us do a bag pack where we raised £800. We even received a donation from a local man, Mr Kennedy for £100.

We would also like to thank Great Aycliffe Middridge Partnership (GAMP) for their donation which has helped us greatly and anybody else that has kindly helped us in our fundraising activities.

The group are now working hard to compete at the Nationals but are still taking on new members. Competitive Cheerleading is open to males and females from the age of 7 upwards and is a mixture between Stunts, Acrobatics, Tumbling and Dance. If you are interested in joining Competitive Cheerleading (no pom poms) please email Sarah or Andrea at sarahbee83@gmail.com or andreaburke1@hotmail.co.uk or ring 07808 504132 or add us on facebook. Andrea Sarah Burke.

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Livin Reply on Grass Cutting Problems

Dear Sir,
We are in the early stages of a new grounds maintenance contract and are experiencing some teething problems in response to which temporary additional resources have been put in place and extra cuts are underway to catch up on the programme.
To help resolve problems quickly we have set up a dedicated contact point.
For a prompt response we would ask residents to contact openspaces@livin.co.uk

Kynren - A Spectacular Experience for All

The UK's most spectacular open-air live action night show since the opening of the London 2012 Olympics opens in Bishop Auckland this summer. It is listed by Rough Guides as one of the world's top 10 must-see tourist attractions to experience in 2016.

'Kynren - an epic tale of England' is an exciting family show, taking you on a spellbinding journey through British history. Taking place on a landscaped open air stage (equivalent to five football pitches with a full-size lake at its centre) against the backdrop of Auckland Castle, you will be immersed in 2,000 years of history, with a movie-like, fast-paced and action-packed journey from Roman times to the Second World War, through the Viking invasions, the splendour of the Tudors, the Industrial Revolution and the Roaring Twenties. As the story unfolds you'll be treated to ships and a steam train, mass choreography, combat, dance, dazzling pyrotechnics

and grandiose lighting and water effects.

More than 1,000 volunteers are involved as cast and crew, with an accompanying cast of animals comprising performance horses, sheep, goats, cattle and even ducks. Our volunteers having been professionally trained by top performance experts, including teams who have delivered the mass choreography of London 2012 Opening Ceremony.

The 90-minute show takes place once darkness has fallen, to create the best possible backdrop for the special effects that will bring the action-packed story to life. The evocative sound track which accompanies the performance is the work of the award-winning composer Nathan Stornetta, which you will experience in superb surround-sound quality.

To ensure your Kynren experience is as seamless and enjoyable as can be, please read information below to help you plan your journey



and ensure you are aware of the security measures in place at each show to ensure the comfort and safety of every member of the audience, cast and crew.

As Kynren is a night show, the timing of each performance varies as the season progresses



and the days get shorter, to ensure each performance takes place in darkness so that the special lighting and pyrotechnics are set off to greatest effect. Please check

the specific start time of your chosen show, and arrive at security and ticket check a half hour before the start. Due to the size and scale of the show, it is important to arrive at your designated car park in plenty of time before the performance is scheduled to start, to allow time to walk from the car park or drop off area, for security and ticket checks and for settling in to your pre-allocated seats. If you require assistance in getting from the car park or drop off area to the entrance, please let them know in advance. Parking spaces should be booked in advance - please contact the Parking Section. Allow plenty of time as local roads and transport networks are likely to be congested. If you arrive later than the recommended arrival time and miss the start of the performance, you may be asked to wait until a suitable break before taking your seat.



Aycliffe Cancer Group Charity Fun Event

There will be a charity event in aid of the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group on 2nd July, 2016. The venue is the Sports Hall at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. Doors open to the public from 10am until 2pm.

Grab a bargain at the Table Top Jumble Sale or if you're feeling lucky have a go at the Tombola, Guess the weight of the cake where the closest guess will win the specially made fruit cake. For those who have a sweet tooth there will be a Bake Sale that will be selling all kinds of homemade goodies.

To keep the young ones entertained, Professor Nincompoop will be joining us from 10am until 1pm to do some balloon art. Face &

Nail Painting available. Also a large Teddy Bear is up for grabs to whoever chooses his/her name correctly. There will also be a large inflatable slide from 10am until Noon. As if that was not enough there will be live music performed by a local band called Wayward Sons at Noon until 1.30pm.

So come along and join us to raise some vital funds for our group members that are or have been affected by cancer. I'd personally like to say a huge thank you to all those who have helped me to organise the event as well as everyone that has donated items or prizes. I hope that it will be a massive success.

Sharon Parkinson,
Secretary GACSG.

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Covering tracks by Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satiani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, U.F.O., ZZ Top and much more

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Senior Citizen's Thanks for Trip

Dear Sir,
I would just like to say how much my friends and I enjoyed our trip to Blackpool on June the 16th. We had an excellent meal at the Imperial Hotel on the sea front as well as two comfort stops there and back. Weather was great. The coach driver and the rep were brilliant. Thank you
Christine Clarke

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Parking Improvements at Simpasture Shops



Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper (centre) with GAMP officer Adam White (right) and Don Walker local shopkeeper who said the scheme has relieved traffic congestion

Funding from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) has been used to help alleviate parking problems at Simpasture Shops in Newton Aycliffe.

The shops were built in the 1950s and were in much need of additional parking improvements. Supported by GAMP, the scheme included increasing the number of parking spaces by constructing a new lay-by, building of a new footway and the installation of bollards to improve pedestrian safety. GAMP supported the project with £40,542 from Durham County Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper's Neighbourhood Budgets.

The work was carried out after businesses and the local residents association raised their concerns. Their concerns highlighted

that parking, especially during peak times was causing conflict within the area. Similar issues were also raised at local PACT meetings.

Acting on these concerns, both Councillors worked with Durham County Council's Highway Services to deliver the project.

Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said: "The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership, through the Neighbourhood Budgets of Cllr Adam and Cllr Hopper have funded this project as a direct response to issues identified by the community and local businesses."

Cllr Kate Hopper and Cllr Eddy Adam, commented: "Parking problems were identified as an issue around the shops, with many residents and businesses

becoming aggrieved that motorists were sometimes not being considerate to others when parking their vehicles".

"It is hoped that the additional parking will help alleviate the issues around the shopping area at peak times."

Vet's Climbing Staff Raise £3225 for Charity



A number of staff from Wilson's Veterinary practice including a few from Newton Aycliffe surgery, recently took part in a National Three Peaks Challenge to raise much needed funds for a local animal charity 'Ark on the Edge', based in Woodland near Hamsterley Forest.

They raised £3225 for the charity and a further £280 for the Great North Air Ambulance.

New Centre for People with Learning Disability

A new Drop-in Centre has opened for people of all ages with learning disabilities at Neville Parade Community Centre.

It will be open each Wednesday from 10.30am till 3pm with hot and cold meals served at very affordable prices.

The sessions are run by Craig Lee who previously worked for Pathways at the Oak Centre for 20 years. The day care group will be encouraged to take part in various enjoyable activities

including drama. Admission is just £2 so come along, make new friends and learn new skills.

REME Meeting

The REME Association South West Durham Branch, monthly meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 29th June at the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PW. All serving and ex-serving military personnel welcome.

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Youthy AGM Shine Choir's Brilliant Show

The Youth & Community Centre hold their AGM on Wednesday 29th June 2016 at 6pm.

Agenda items and points for discussion include a welcome and apologies for absence by the Chairman Vince Crosby.

Minutes of the Last AGM and Chairman's Report. A Finance Report will be given by the Treasurer / Centre Manager.

Notification of New Board of Trustees.

The Guest Speaker Cllr. Jed Hillary Mayor of GATC will be followed by questions from the floor.



Super Lunch for only £3

St Elizabeth's, Woodham hold their Summer Fayre on Saturday 2nd July at 10.00am.

Featuring a seasonal raffle with a summer hamper to be won, plus a bottle tombola and various other stalls including home baking with delicious baked goods!

Entrance is free and refreshments are available.

SUPER LUNCH on Wednesday 6th July at 12.30 A two course delicious lunch followed by refreshments all for just £3

Aycliffe Artist Paints for Celebrity Chef



Local artist and business owner Dan Walls of Illumination Wall Art received a commission from a TV Celebrity Chef. On 22nd of June 'The Bird at Birtle', a high-end gastro pub in Rochdale owned by celebrity chef Andrew Nutter was launched.

Nutter commissioned Illumination Wall Art to paint two murals after buying one of Dan's paintings at an exhibition last September.

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A massive well done to the Children's Community Choir SHINE who entertained family and friends over last weekend in their musical production 'Pirates Versus Mermaids'.

The 50 strong choir is made up from children aged between 4 - 15 years from our local community. The Mermaids dazzled and the Pirate Crew shone as they delighted the packed hall at St. Clare's, with sea shanty's and catchy songs. The boys and girls had worked very hard

learning all their lines and perfecting their acting skills, their confidence and enjoyment was commented on by many who came to watch. A huge thank you to all who came along to help on the night too and who helped with the scenery and sound to make everything go so well.

The children will be rewarded with a party in the next few weeks before they break for the summer. Well done to the whole of the SHINE family who put everything they have to help this choir succeed.

HORNDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Residents enjoyed a trip to York recently and the Association's next meeting is on Wednesday 6th July at 6pm at Greenfield Community College.

Refreshments available from 5.45pm. We welcome everyone from Horndale, Greenfield, The Chase and Byerley Park.

Town and County Councillors will be in attendance to help with any questions.

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Universal Credit Injustices

Dear Editor,
Universal credit is a Tory initiative to bring together a number of benefits paid at different intervals into one monthly payment. It is currently being trialled in our area for single people made unemployed and single people previously claiming sickness benefit, found fit for work by the Department for Work and Pensions. I have advocated for a significant number of people on our town bewildered by the complexity of the new benefit, and found a number of injustices built into the new universal credit system for single people. Where unemployed people previously waited two weeks for their first payment of jobseeker's allowance, those forced onto universal credit typically wait 8 weeks to receive their first payment. And in the interim, the claimant must supply proof of earnings and other information to multiple agencies, mediate between those agencies to tie their benefits together into one package, and speak to representatives of those agencies who are just as bewildered by the universal credit system as the claimant themselves. The intention of universal

credit was to make it easier in a climate of decreasing job security, for people working zero hours contracts and short periods of temporary work to top up their earnings with in work benefits. But the amount of earned income the claimant can keep has been whittled away under universal credit. One worker, who works one week in every four, who would previously be entitled to full unemployment premiums for every other week out of work claiming jobseeker's allowance, now finds that, the one week he does work is taken into consideration for the full month, and 80% of his earned income in deducted from his monthly universal credit. Another worker, received a letter from the Department of Work and Pensions stating that, the first £110 he earned in any month would be his to keep. This encouraged him to accept the few hours of work per month he was offered by an employer, only to find that, the disregard doesn't apply to single people, and he keeps nothing of his earnings. I've spoken to a number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance who now cannot afford to sign off and take a temporary job, because when that job ends, they cannot

afford to survive for 8 weeks while their universal credit claim is processed. And thereafter, unless they secure full time work, casual and part time workers will see 80% of their earnings in any given month taken towards in work benefits. Equally, vulnerable and marginalised people who are less able to represent themselves on the telephone or in writing, give up trying to communicate with the relevant agencies who have no more understanding of universal credit than they do.

It is of no surprise that a Tory government would implement a system that further demonizes and berates the poor into insecure work of increasingly dwindling hours and wages, rather than invest in full time jobs for decent pay. But, given their mantra of 'make work pay', they've shot themselves in the foot by making the poorest workers even poorer still. Universal credit was the brain child of Ian Duncan Smith, he resigned after he could no longer daily defend the shame of this unjust strategy, but I don't imagine that he's had to spend 8 weeks using foodbanks while he waits for his first payment from the system he inaugurated. Warren Saunders

Children Design Banner for Mothers' Union



On May 31st members of Great Aycliffe Mothers' Union attended a Banner Service in Durham Cathedral. Their Branch Banner was carried in a

procession alongside dozens of others from throughout the Diocese. This year celebrated 140 years of the Mothers' Union being formed, and the Bishop of Durham Rt. Revd. Paul Butler asked if children from our parishes could design a banner depicting this event. The children from our Messy Church, along with children from Shine Community Choir made the banner shown in the picture.

A lovely and enjoyable day and it was a wonderful sight seeing all of the many different banners carried in procession in the Cathedral. We were warmly welcomed by the acting Dean Revd. David Kennedy. The Mothers' Union Chaplain Revd. Val Sheldon took the Service. Hymns were strongly sung and members from "Open the Book" team acted out the gospel reading. The purpose of the Mothers' Union is primarily to uphold Christian care for all families, and to uphold marriage and family life. We hold our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of every month.

The branch is taking a summer break and re-opens on Thursday September 8th for our AGM. Our meetings start at 11-00am with varied speakers and film shows, closing with a buffet lunch. Anyone is more than welcome to come along to any of our meetings. Further details can be had by contacting the Branch Leader Pam Lovelass. 316841



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

• County Durham Plan: 'Issues and Options' stage – your chance to comment on the underlying principles: bit.ly/CDPIOfb
• DCC wins Municipal Journal Achievement Award for engagement and governance: bit.ly/DCCMJAA
• DCC approves £20 million investment fund to grow local businesses: bit.ly/DCC20M
• DCC sets aside £1/2m to help people hit by welfare reforms: bit.ly/DCCWRF
• DCC's Care Connect: bit.ly/DCCCC16
• Durham set to shine again with Lumière 2017: bit.ly/DCCL17
• DCC asked to fly the Battle of Orgreave flag: bit.ly/DCCBOF
• Chuggers: bit.ly/CHUGGERS
• Latest Aycliffe area roadworks information: bit.ly/Roadworks24616

COMMUNITY NEWS

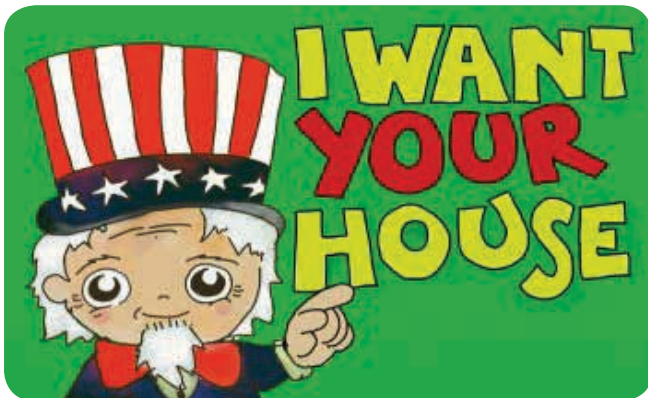
• Great Post Office news for Aycliffe Village: bit.ly/MPOAV

• NHS Better Health Programme – stakeholder forum, Wednesday 29 June, 5:30-7:30pm: bit.ly/NHSBHP; and public engagement, Thursday 7 July, 1-3pm: bit.ly/NHSBHE
• Darlington Memorial Hospital SOS rally, Darlington Town Centre, Saturday 2 July from 10:30am: bit.ly/DMSOS
• DCC Lifeline Substance Misuse Services newsletter: bit.ly/Lifeline616
• Northern Powergrid June newsletter: bit.ly/NPNJUN16
• UTC 'Girls Making The Future' event, Wednesday 29 June, 4:30-6:30pm, Xcel Centre: bit.ly/UTCGMTF16
• Middridge Village Fête, FREE, Saturday 2 July, 1:30pm.
• Toy and Train Collectors Fair, Locomotion Museum, FREE, 2-3 July, 10am-5pm: bit.ly/NRMLSC
• PCP Summer Fun Day, Saturday 16 July, 11am-2pm: bit.ly/PCP16716
• Dementia Durham fundraiser: bit.ly/BrookesDD

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C.C.P. PAVING

Contact Karl Hobbs 07563 161878

Cafe's 2nd Birthday

The Sandwich Box Cafe at the former Newton Press factory have just celebrated their 2nd Birthday. Heather would like to thank all her customers, new and old for their support. "We have made some really good friends over the two years and look forward to continuing our service." said Heather.

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Amazing Tributes at Funeral of Local Businessman



Wayne Mark Seal was killed in a car crash on May 29th on the Cockfield Road. His Funeral Service was conducted by a humanist on 16th June at Wear Valley Crematorium where his many friends and family gathered

to pay tribute to a very popular man. Wayne was born in 1970 in Scarborough the third of four brothers Tony, Garry and Matty. The family moved to Birtley and then to Newton Aycliffe in 1972.

Over 200 mourners attended to pay their respects, many joining the funeral cortege in their VW's Beetles, campervans, Karmann Ghias etc honouring Wayne and his business as a VW specialist, operating from premises near Windlestone Hall.

The procession, led by an old VW Campervan hearse, left Whitehouse Funeral Directors on St. Cuthbert's Way through the town to pick up Wayne's parents Sandra and Wally from Skirlaw Road, travelling by Woodham Golf Club and along the A68 passing by Wayne's business premises to the Crematorium.

Ironically the hearse had just been re-built by Wayne the week prior to his death. Everyone met afterwards at The Navy Club for refreshments taking the opportunity to reminisce on Wayne's life and his sad loss.



Wayne Seal

New Healthwatch Seeks Board Members

A newly formed consortium comprising of the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), Durham Community Action (DCA), and Citizens Advice County Durham (CACD) has secured the contract to deliver Healthwatch County Durham. Healthwatch County Durham is the independent consumer champion for health and social care. Healthwatch is responsible for gathering the opinions of local people and using feedback to influence the design and planning of health and social services in the area. Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said "We are thrilled to have won the contract to develop Healthwatch in County Durham. Partners will draw on their vast experience and knowledge of the area to successfully deliver a robust, highly visible, credible Healthwatch locally. Giving people a voice to shape local health and social care services is very important. Those who use or access services and their carers are often best placed to describe and suggest improvements

Local Crafter's Hat-trick of International awards

A North-East crafter is celebrating after scooping three global awards after competing against some of the most respected personalities in the industry.

Sheena Douglass, from Blaydon, was awarded gold for 'Best Painting Range', gold for 'Best Rubber Stamping Range' and silver for 'Best Overall Designer' at the International Craft Awards in Birmingham.

A crafting expert and regular TV shopping presenter, 51-year-old Sheena is a well-known face in the craft world and has helped bring art to the masses. Over the last 10 years she has built-up a loyal following of crafters who have been inspired by her rubber stamp creations and art products to help with papercrafting. Over 17,000 crafters voted for their industry champions at the International Craft Awards and Sheena did her region proud. Speaking about her recent success, she said: "I am truly honoured to receive these awards as I was contesting against some of the biggest names in the industry. "I've been fortunate enough to build up a really strong following from people over the years as a result of me helping them realise their creative potential and become artists by using the stamps we have developed. It is very humbling to be recognised on this scale and the awards are on display at my home in Gateshead for all to see!"

Sheena recently appeared at the grand opening of Crafter's Companion's first UK retail outlet in Newton Aycliffe to help celebrate the launch of the store as a destination for all crafters. Now in its tenth year, the International Craft Awards ceremony is nominated and voted for by consumers to celebrate the world's best creators, producers, designers and retailers within the creative sector.



Sheena added: "Being nominated by my fantastic and loyal customers makes the awards extra special. "I'm always delighted to hear that my products are inspiring and educating people all over the world to become

artists, and this is something I will continue to develop, particularly in the North East, to get even more people into crafting."

Sheena sells her stamp and stencil ranges online through the award-winning Crafter's Companion and on TV shopping channels broadcast across the world. For further information visit: www.sheena.tv

Flower Demo

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club, is on Monday 4th July at 7.30 pm at Shildon Civic Hall. National Demonstrator, Bob Harris from Longhope, will present an evening of flower arranging under the title 'Memories are Made of This' Free to members. Visitors £5 - pay on the door.

New NECA Chairman

Speaking during today's AGM for the North East Combined Authority (NECA), The Chairman, Cllr Simon Henig has announced he will stand down after more than two years at the helm. Cllr Henig has chaired NECA since its inception in April 2014 and before this he led the North East Leadership Board through its transition from shadow to statutory body from November 2013. Cllr Paul Watson from Sunderland has been elected as the new Chairman.

STANDARDS DROPPING

Dear Sir,
I write with both annoyance and surprise at what is happening to the grassed areas not now being cut by Sedgefield Borough Council. I understand they transferred communal land to Livin who is responsible for grass cutting. Was it not part of every householder's Council Tax that a portion to cover the grass cutting was taken from their Council Tax? And if so, and they have now passed it on as a cost cutting exercise, then where is the rebate to each Council Taxpayer as they no longer fulfil this obligation?

The place is becoming more like a jungle each day, and clearly Livin have neither the means or the facilities to

We have a bridge in the West Park which has not been repaired as no-one can or is willing to take the financial responsibility to pay for it. If the Council are so cash strapped and are trying to cut down on costs why do they then embark on building flower plots at various sites around the Town complete with wooden surrounds?

They cannot have been cheap to set up! I for one would rcut well than a colourful jungle that we will shortly be fighting through the undergrowth - simply to go for a walk. The same goes for the paths where grass is cut in places and they leave mounds of cuttings to be trailed into people's houses. There is a noticeable decline in the way the Town is looked after.

D. Blackett

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COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING AT CARE HOME OPEN DAY



Tea and cake fit for Royalty was served up at Rose Lodge care home as they hosted a coffee morning as part of a nationwide campaign to encourage care homes to build links with their local communities.

Residents, staff and guests of Rose Lodge enjoyed tucking into a traditional High Tea of cakes, snacks and refreshments as part of the home's open day. In true patriotic fashion it was decided to give their party a Royal theme to tie in with the home's recent celebrations of The Queen's 90th birthday, which included live musical entertainment, quizzes and themed coffee mornings. The event was held as part of National Care Home Open Day, a nationwide initiative which provides an opportunity for the UK's care homes take centre stage and invite members of their local community into the home for a host of entertainment and activities. The aim is to enrich the lives of residents, build links with the local community and offer a chance for local people to mingle with residents and staff.

Home Manager Nicola

Wheatley, said: "We feel the message of National Care Home Open Day is a really important one. As a home we believe it is very important maintain close relationship with people and organisations in the local area to make sure that our residents remain an active part of community life." The Care Home Open Day is now in its fourth year. Each year is themed and this year was 'celebration' – something Nicola and her staff were keen to follow.

Rose Lodge, operated by national care group Countrywide Care Homes, offers residential and dementia care for the elderly. Thousands of care homes across the UK take part in the National Care Home Open Day each year, welcoming the public and arranging events and activities that help to create lasting links between care home residents and their local communities.

The event aims to show people what excellent care homes are really about and how they can be at the centre of local communities, developing relationships across generations.

Aycliffe's MAD Choir Launch into Gospel Singing

MAD Community Choir celebrated the Queens 90th birthday in style last week by hosting a Cream Tea Supper. Tickets were snapped up and approximately 100 people turned up ready to sing along with the choir and enjoy the sumptuous cream tea supper. The evening was a great success with a great mix of songs from across the last 90 years. MAD would like to thank Louise McAnaney for the catering and the Xcel Centre for providing the seating. Also a big thank you to those who came to our party.

MAD Choir is a community choir whose intention is to make a difference in people's lives, not only in the local community but each others. We consider ourselves a family and to become a member all you need is to have a heart for singing and a heart for the community. We don't hold auditions. If you love singing and would love to be part of this amazing community choir then please come along to Woodham Community Centre, Wednesday nights 6.45pm. We are holding New Member Nights every Wednesday night from 22nd June until 10th August.

BREAKING NEWS: MAD Productions is now launching Aycliffe Gospel Choir for those who love to sing Gospel music of all kinds and would love to join a great bunch of people. Launch is Wednesday 22nd June 2016



at 8pm – 9pm at Woodham Community Centre. You are welcome to join in

both choirs or just one. All welcome. It is £2 per choir session.

Honest John Donations

Honest John's Aycliffe community Kitty has donated £550 to the Newton Aycliffe Under 17 Football Team to buy new strips. Another £550 went to the Under 23's team

also for new strips. The Pop-in social club at St. Elizabeth's Church received £400. John thanks DISC who kindly provide premises, Val his assistant and all who donate and buy.

Beware of Seagulls

Dear Sir,

On 19th June around 5.30pm I was walking my dogs along St Cuthbert's Way past Gestamp towards the town. On the old part of the building before reaching the bus stop on the other side of the road a large seagull landed on the roof and began a series of threat warning noises.

It had already done this at 7 am today, but now the bird left the roof and flew directly towards myself and missed my head by about a foot. The bird turned flew high over myself, and again swooped down at my head. I ducked and fortunately, keeping an eye on the bird, with talons extended and loud shrieking noise it missed my head by about an inch. I turned to walk in the opposite direction, when the bird returned and again flew straight towards the top of my head. On reaching the end of the green wire fence the bird returned to the roof. I rang Durham Police for advice, they said it's not their problem so I asked at the gate reception desk at Gestamp and was told it would be passed on, but there was nothing they can do.

Someone needs to do something and I do understand the Gull is protecting it's nest and territory, but someone could be seriously hurt.

Michael Simmons

TRIBUTE TO PHIL JOSS



L-R: Brother-in-law Tony Norton, Philip's wife Lydia, Harriet from the Air Ambulance and Graham, Philip's brother

A 12 hour Northern Soul event was held on Saturday the 4th June at Newton Aycliffe Workingmen's Club in memory of Philip Joss. Phil was passionate about his music along with his love for football and Golf.

Philip's wife Lydia along with his brother in law Tony decided to arrange the fundraiser after Philip was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident last year. Lydia and Tony where overwhelmed by the response to the event and over 275 tickets were sold in just two days. There was also a raffle and auction at the event and over 65 prizes were donated by friends, family and local businesses.

Lydia said "The response has been overwhelming and just goes to show how much Phil meant to so many people. I feel truly blessed to have such great friends and family who have supported me through a very difficult time.

The event was a great success and raised £3,280 for the Air Ambulance Service.



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Cystic Fibrosis sufferer
Hollie, now 11 years old,
was in Tesco, bag packing
last Saturday, raising
money for the charity that
supports victims of this
awful condition.

Hollie from Aycliffe was
accompanied by her parents
Michael and Angela with
help from friends, Olivia
and Emily Jones, Thomas
her brother and Taylor.

Tesco generously donated
£100 and the total raised
was £453.08p. The
fundraisers wish to thank
Tesco for holding the event
in their store and for the
nice cheque. "A special
thanks to the people of
Aycliffe for all their support
- well done to everyone and
thank you so much" said
Angie

Councillors' Surgeries

WEST WARD Councillors
will be holding a public surgery
at The Phoenix club (formerly
British legion) on July 2nd.
From 11am till noon Councillors
will be available to offer help
and advice to residents, please
feel free to come along and meet
your representatives on Great
Aycliffe and Durham County
Councils.
Ken Robson, Independent

Hitachi Rail Europe HR Team Success

The HR team at Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd. (HRE) in Newton Aycliffe is celebrating after being crowned the HR&D team of the year at the North East of England CIPD awards.

The Hitachi team was recognised at an industry event for its recruitment and training processes that have seen over 500 new people recruited from over 16,000 applications last year.

Head of HR (Manufacturing) Julia Potts said:

"I am so proud of our team and it's fantastic that our efforts have been recognised by such a prestigious body. The team has worked tirelessly to make sure the entire recruitment and

training experience is a positive one for every single person involved."

"Hitachi Rail Europe has brought train building back to the birth place of the first steam locomotive in the North East and, with our new workforce, will be making trains in the UK for many years to come."

Prime Minister David Cameron opened the Hitachi Rail Europe Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility (RVMF) in September 2015. When at full production, the state-of-the-art rail manufacturing facility will employ 730 people in engineering, technical and semi-skilled roles and will build a train car a day.

GAMP COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED



Nine local groups ranging from sports clubs to older peoples groups in the Newton Aycliffe area have been supported by a community grant fund.

The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) Community Grant Fund has proved to be a major boost for a number of local groups and in some cases has provided essential funding to help them develop their services.

The Community Grant Fund allowed local community groups to apply for grants between £250 and £750 after GAMP allocated £5,146 of its Area Budget towards the initiative.

This unique fund has helped a wide range of groups, including NEMESIS ALLSTARS Cheerleading Squad, who received funding to help with the purchase of a tumble track. The specialist track will help squad members improve their skills. The ever popular cheerleading squad is based at Greenfield School and has 60 members who compete nationally throughout the year. Louise Brass, from the NEMESIS ALLSTARS, said: "The funding we received from GAMP will help our squad members be better prepared for competitions. Currently we get deducted points at competitions because we compete on sprung floors, but as we don't have one ourselves this puts us at a disadvantage. Thanks to GAMP and the efforts of our members to raise additional funding the club can now purchase a specialist tumble track."

The Community Grant Fund has focused on trying to help a wide range of groups, and has attracted over £6,829 worth of match funding.

Other groups who have benefitted from the grants include: Knit and Natter Group (St Elizabeth's Church), Woodham Community Centre, Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society, Aycliffe Running Club, Sedgefield Water Polo Club, JAFFA Club, Neville Community Centre and SHINE Children's Community Choir.

Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said: "The success of the fund means it is now fully allocated and has proved to be of immense benefit to a wide range of local groups, who work within our community. As Coordinator of GAMP, I was really pleased to see that a number of new groups who haven't received funding from GAMP in the past benefitted on this occasion."

Less Litter if Bins Were Emptied!



Dear Sir,

Further to the article in the Newton News on litter in the town centre.

These pictures illustrate that some residents are trying to keep their town tidy by using the bins provided, but if the bins are not emptied frequently enough then litter will spill out and blow around.

The pigeons also seem to be using this as a source of food which is another problem in itself.

Kath Pinner



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Woodham Summer Fair

It's that time of year again when Woodham Academy opens the gates for it's annual Summer Fair. This year, visitors to the event can expect a whole host of exciting attractions including an inflatable assault course, smoothie making, a football tournament, trampoline fun and face painting, with more great activities still to be confirmed.

As well as the above there'll be the 'A Day At The Beach' workshop in Technology where visitors can make their own windmills to take home.

Mum and Dad can also enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake whilst browsing the selection of stalls in the main hall. It's a great event for all of the family so come down and see us on Saturday 9th July 10:30 – 12:30.

Foodbank Collection



A Neighbourhood Food Collection from the 27th June to the 3rd of July is to be held at Tesco Newton Aycliffe. Staff will be taking donations from the 27th and local volunteers will be in store to help with the collection from Thursday 30th June 9am.

Our local Food bank are looking for UHT Milk, Coffee, Teabags, Tinned Tomatoes, Jam and Tinned fruit in particular. We are aiming to collect over 15,000 meals for use in our local area. Please join us over this weekend and donate what you can for this fantastic local cause!

Play Area Opened by Mayor & Olympian



Town Mayor Jed Hillary and Olympic swimmer Chris Cook officially opened the new West Park play area this week during a fun ceremony which was to encourage the young people of the town to use the new equipment correctly.

Steve Cooper Environment Officer told Newton News: "Many elements of the play equipment are designed to improve fitness while having fun. We therefore thought as a local sports personality, Chris was ideal to come along to engage the children and inspire a little competitive spirit. The play equipment providers, Proludic were on hand to explain a little about each part of the equipment and also came along to provide a few promotional goodies as prizes".



"The improvements are part of Great Aycliffe Town Council's continued commitment to provide top quality play facilities and

equipment within the town. It is great to see how popular the equipment has been since it has been completed, attracting people from across the town."

Students to Learn About Crime & Prison

On Friday 8th July, Year 9 pupils at Woodham Academy will play host to a team of volunteers from "Prison! Me! No-Way!" as part of a Crime and Safety Awareness Day, funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP).

Originally set up by prison officers, "Prison! Me! No-Way!" is a national charity which aims to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of becoming involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour.

The Crime and Safety Awareness Day will be delivered by qualified and experienced professionals through a number of hard-hitting, factual and engaging presentations, workshops, dramas and role playing activities, which will encourage the pupils to make positive decisions and to stay safe.

Whilst at Woodham Academy pupils will attend a number of workshops, these will include:

Prison Life – delivered by long-serving prison officers, this session will cover the realities of prison life and the general impact of the loss of freedom of choice. Pupils will be given the chance to visit a life size replica and fully furnished prison cell to get a real feel for an inmates' living conditions.

Street Scene – through a role playing activity on 'Confrontation Street' pupils will look specifically at the

impact of antisocial behaviour.

Choices and Consequences – pupils will meet with 3 serving inmates from HMP Askham Grange near York, to talk about the reality of life inside a prison. Pupils will hear a first-hand account of being locked in a prison cell, the lack of freedom and the impact a prison sentence can have on family and friends. During the day the pupils will be taken from their normal daily school routine and are treated like offenders to ensure maximum realism.

A Crime and Safety Awareness Day has recently been delivered at Greenfield School, thanks to GAMP funding and along with Woodham Academy the project will engage with a total of 353 pupils across both schools.

John Palmer, Ambassador for Prison Me! No Way! said: 'The core aim of Crime and Safety Awareness Days is to enhance the understanding among young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime.'

The workshops assist in redressing the exaggerated, and often incorrect, images of prison life portrayed through television and the media, and any myths or misconceptions young people may have.

These days encourage participants to respect the value of their freedom whilst experiencing the restrictive regimes of a real day in the life of an offender.'



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SCHOOL'S CHARITY FUN RUN CELEBRATIONS FOR INNOVATIONS



On Friday 17th June, children and staff from Vane Road Primary took part in their very own "Race for Life" in aid of Cancer Research UK. They were cheered on by the enthusiastic mascot Flames, the Schools Sport Partnership torch. It was a fun event for a very worthwhile cause and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience whilst raising money for charity.

To complement the event, 14 members of staff had also taken part in a 5K colour obstacle run just the previous week. Many thanks should go to Teaching Assistant, Mrs Beaton, for successfully organising and coordinating these two events.

Anyone still wishing to donate to this charity can visit our Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/vane-road-run-2016.

Housing Scheme Wants Access off A167

The Willmot Partnership Homes consultation for a new 450 housing development at Woodham at the bottom of Stag Lane, brought a large turnout of residents to the Agnew Community Centre last week to express their concerns.

One of the main fears was access to the new estate where the developers are requesting a new road from the A167. Most people are aware the County Council will not allow a new road into Woodham off the A167 and that would mean accessing the new site from Stag Lane which is totally unacceptable to residents.

The increase in traffic to 450 homes would be intolerable and unlikely to receive permission as there would be

a massive outcry from local residents.

Willmott Dixon will be submitting their application for 450 homes consisting of a mix of house sizes and affordable properties. It includes public open space, an ecology park with a linear green belt alongside the A167.

Feedback was requested by people at the consultation and the general consensus was that the application was unwelcome as a number of developments are already in the pipeline elsewhere in the town, sufficient to meet current demand.

Aycliffe is in danger of being over-developed if the infrastructure is not in place to cope with an increased population.



Innovations who specialise in providing a day service for adults with learning difficulties throughout County Durham recently gathered together at Sunnyside Stadium, Shildon in celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday. The range of stalls, entertainment and the weather made this a fantastic day.

Brew up for Blooming Great Tea Party

The Newton Aycliffe Marie Curie Fundraising Group will be enjoying a spot of tea and cake to encourage local residents to get behind Marie Curie's summer fundraising campaign.

The local fundraising group will be opening the doors to their own Blooming Great Tea Party on July 9, 2016 from 10 am until 12noon at Heighington Village Hall.

Entry is £2, which includes a hot drink and scone, and there will be an opportunity to enjoy more tea and cake and catch up with family and friends inside. The Blooming Great Tea Party encourages everyone to get together with friends and family to hold a tea party. Tea parties across the UK have raised over £4.5 million since the campaign started in 2008. The funds raised from

Blooming Great Tea Party will help Marie Curie Nurses care for more people living with a terminal illness in their own homes in Newton Aycliffe.

Hayley Revell, Community Fundraiser for Marie Curie said: "We are very excited to be welcoming the local community in to Heighington Village Hall for the Blooming Great Tea Party. There will be lots of tasty treats on offer and it's a fun way to supporting our local Marie Curie Nurses."

If you're an aspiring Mary Berry or prefer to let someone else do the baking, getting together with friends and family to hold a Blooming Great Tea Party is a fun and easy way to support Marie Curie. To register or for tea party inspiration visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty or call 0800 716 146.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store lost easily by seven wickets at home to top of the table Barnard Castle 2nd XI in the NYSD 2nd division. Asked to bat first, Aycliffe were skittled for just 55 after 15.4 overs with only Sam Telford (20 runs), Michael Howne (sponsored by Kezia Howne Photography) (14 runs) and Luke Telford (10 runs) reaching double figures. In reply, the visitors cruised to victory after just 9.2 overs despite some good bowling from Colin Myers, who finished with 2 for 14 from 5 overs. This defeat, their sixth in ten games, sees Aycliffe slip into the 2nd division relegation zone.

A drastically under strength second team also lost heavily away at improving Northallerton 2nd XI in the NYSD 3rd division by a club record margin of 284 runs. The home side decided to bat first and scored an impregnable 367 for 2 declared after 49.3 overs. The highlight of a difficult period in the field was when Aycliffe's 56 year old club Chairman, who was forced out of retirement to help out

the team, took his first wicket for Aycliffe when he cleaned bowled the Northallerton captain for 59. Aycliffe were bowled out for 83 after 19 overs and the main contributors were Elliott Holt (32 runs), Dylan Tribley (14 runs) and Tony Travis who remained unbeaten on 12 at the close.

The U17's team lost by 10 wickets at home to Hartlepool after posting a disappointing 47 all out after 15.3 overs with only the in form Jack Lowery reaching double figures with 18 runs. The visitors easily reached their target after only 8 overs.

The club's Under 11's team (photo attached) had an outstanding 19 run victory away at Wolviston in the NYACC league. During the Aycliffe innings there were good performances from both Charlie Cayless, who top scored with 9 and Josh Imerson who scored 8. When Aycliffe took to the field there was an extraordinary performance from 9 year old Thomas Dearden, the talented youngster finished his three over spell with the remarkable bowling figures of three maidens and four wickets.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 6th July 2016

Policy & Resources Committee, 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been 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.

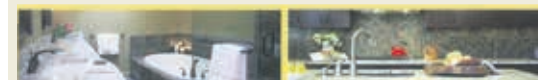
If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas/Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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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Introducing our new Breakfast Show Presenter!
WES STAKES

We had a chat with Wes to find out more about him:

You can catch Wes 6-10AM weekdays!

Most embarrassing thing I've done on air?

I once fell off my chair mid link! All you could hear was the sound of silence as I fell on the floor - this is why I sometimes stand up when I do the show.

Favourite artist/song and why?

I find it hard to answer this because I like so many different types of music, I used to love Oasis when I was in college, so I'd say them but their early stuff.

What do you love about your job?

I love getting out and meeting people, playing songs and entertaining (trying to anyway).

Favourite place across Durham, Darlington & North Yorkshire?

I really like Durham Cathedral, it's just one of the things I love about the city. I love a bit of shopping in Darlington, it has great independent specialist shops. In North Yorkshire I like to spend a sunny day at Richmond Castle.

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MUDDY MAYHEM - BIGGER AND BETTER!



Adventure seekers are invited to take on the North East's ultimate obstacle course as Muddy Mayhem returns.

The annual challenge, at Hardwick Park, near Sedgfield, is back this October – and it's bigger and better than ever before.

Cllr Maria Plews, Durham County Council's cabinet member for leisure, libraries and lifelong learning, said: "Muddy Mayhem is always a popular event and from cargo nets to climbing walls, tunnels, freezing open water and lots of other surprises this year promises a real test for everyone taking on our tough 5km or 10km courses." Registration is already open

for the Sunday 2 October event, with waves of runners setting off between 11am and 3pm.

Places are priced at £35 to tackle the 5km course and £40 for the 10km run, are selling well and anyone who wants to take part is advised to sign up as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Runners must be aged 16 and over to enter and have a reasonable level of fitness.

And participants can go it alone or with friends and colleagues – with discounts available for groups.

For more information and to sign up visit www.durham.gov.uk/muddymayhem or call 03000 262 899.

Coast to Coast in a Day!

Early on the morning of June 11th, 14 local cyclists from Newton Aycliffe's oldest and largest cycling club, set off for the epic adventure of riding coast to coast in a day. The route took them 120 miles from Silloth to Seaton Carew and took only 8.5 hours of cycling. Many of the riders had only turned to cycling in the last year and had trained hard for the event by gradually building up their mileage.

The first 50 miles were gruelling with over 4,000ft of climbing. Hart Side and Yad Moss are rated some of the toughest climbs in the region, but the more experienced riders, such as Ian Neale and John Meade, guided

the others to the top. The welcomed sight of the support vehicle, driven by Andy Plews, was like an apparition at the summit of Hart Side!

The rolling countryside and wonderful views kept many of the riders going, many of whom had never cycled that far in one day. Peter Smith's family met him on route, about 25 miles before the finish.

They gave encouraging words to help him on his way, and he, along with 8 other first timers, couldn't stop smiling as they crossed into Seaton Carew. Marathon runners, husband and wife team, Michelle and Jason Dixon looked like the Cheshire cat, once they had dismounted

their bikes! All the riders supported each other and are part of the friendly cycle club VC167. Formed since 1993, the club has just over a 100 members spread over a wide geographical area from Tyneside, through most of Yorkshire and Lancashire. The Newton Aycliffe section has over 40 members in the cycle club.

It is a modern day cycling club, with something for everyone. Usually 4 rides per week starting from Newton Aycliffe Railway station catering for novice to experienced riders. If you would like to try cycling then contact us and check out what we have to offer. Contact gordonvc167@talktalk.net



Whole School in CRUK Race for Life Charity Event



Dear Sir,
The whole school at Woodham Burn took part in the Race for Life for Cancer Research UK and I have to say all the children put in a fantastic effort and were a credit to their parents and the school.

The staff were also very supportive and several of them ran along with their pupils. It was a marvellous effort all round. Phil Wilson MP being there for the whole event was the icing on the cake as it showed his support for their

efforts. I'd like to thank you, Mr Wilson all the staff at Woodham Burn and the children and their parents for making the event so successful. The sponsorship money will be collected and sent to CRUK in approximately two weeks time. Anyone reading the Newton News who would like to donate should contact the Headteacher Mrs Rowe at the school.
Lynne Phillips, CRUK

Head Teacher Visits Town's Rotary Club



David Priestley, Executive Head Teacher at Greenfield College and Sunnydale College at Shildon, was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday 21st June.

He spoke passionately about his role in educating today's students and the responsibility all teachers had in developing the minds of the next generation.

He told the club that Greenfield was a successful school and its ethos was held as a model for others to follow.

Tri Club Represent Aycliffe Far & Wide



Members from Aycliffe Tri Club travel far and wide for competitions and 3 of them going went to Nottingham on Sunday 29th May. With 6 months training behind them to get them ready for the start they began their epic adventure on the road for the middle distance tri event know as The Outlaw. Holme Pierrepont.

The race consisted of a 1.2-mile lake swim, 56-mile bike ride and a half marathon run. For Penny Johnson it was her second year running and although she had lost training through injury, she was delighted to knock 36 mins off her previous attempt.

She was spurred on by raising money for her local primary school, in Aycliffe Village, where she is a teacher. Her finishing time of 6.03.26 placed her 7th in her age category out of 46.

Tracey Warrior and her partner Stuart Rimmer had stepped up to the middle distance for the first time. The weather

on the day was overcast and the lake was choppy but they both proved strong swimmers leaving the water in only 40mins.

The bike section was windy in the first 20 miles, but the return leg allowed the triathletes to race to transition ready for the gruelling 13.1 miles run. The 2 lap run course was a tough challenge but supported by their own cheerleader Diane Savage, the team was encouraged all the way to the glorious red carpet finish.

Stuart was delighted to see the finish and whizzed across in 6.08.30. Tracey was amazed to smash her personal goal of under 7 hours achieving an outstanding time of 6.24.06 placing her 13th in her age category.

The triathletes train regularly with Aycliffe Tri Club and if you would like to try some thing different check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aycliffetriclub/>



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Frequency: 102-107FM

Friday 24th June

0600-1000 - Star Radio Breakfast with Tim Lichfield
1000-1400 - John Clayton
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Star Radio Drive with Dave Sherwood
1900-2200 - Dancing Through The Decades
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Saturday 25th June

0600-0900 - Tim Lichfield
0900-1400 - John Clayton with "The Mystery Years"
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1800 - Craig Andrews
1800-0000 - Dancing Through The Decades

Sunday 26th June

0600-0900 - Easy Like a Sunday Morning w/ John Clayton
0900-1400 - Dave Sherwood with "The Mystery Years"
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Tim Lichfield
1900-2200 - Non-Stop Star
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Monday 27th June

0600-1000 - All Day Breakfast with Wes Stakes
1000-1400 - All Day Breakfast with Wes & Craig
1400-1500 - Everything 80's with Wes Stakes
1500-1900 - All Day Breakfast with Wes & Tim
1900-2200 - The Evening Takeover
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Tuesday 28th – Thursday 30th June

0600-1000 - Star Radio Breakfast with Wes Stakes
1000-1400 - Craig Andrews
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Star Radio Drive with Tim Lichfield
1900-2200 - The Evening Takeover
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

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BRIGHT FUTURE FOR LOCAL BUILDING

Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association is celebrating the completion of refurbishment works and taking ownership of the ever popular Village Hall as part of Durham County Council's Community Buildings Asset Transfer Programme.

Aycliffe Village Hall has provided a centre for the community for over 100 years, firstly as a school and then since 1970 as a community centre.

Durham County Council's Community Building's Asset Transfer Programme has provided funding to improve the Village Hall to meet the needs of its users and the Association has secured match funding from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership via the Neighbourhood Budget of County Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary.

Funding has been used towards refurbishment of the Village Hall and providing new internal fire doors. The Council also supported the

group through the programme to develop a business plan, strengthen their governance and respond to the needs of the local community.

Keith Johnson, Chairman of the Association, said: "The committee have worked hard over the last couple of years to take ownership of the building through the Council's Asset Transfer Programme and to secure additional funding to further improve the building. It is hoped that we can now encourage more people to use the village hall."

Brian Riley, GAMP Coordinator, said: "Supporting the town's voluntary organisations remains a priority for GAMP and assisting Aycliffe Village Hall Association with funding has allowed the volunteers to raise their contribution towards the refurbishment works so they could progress their plans and fully benefit from Durham County Council's Community Buildings Asset Transfer Programme."

Major New Investment Fund for Businesses

A £20 million investment fund to grow local businesses that aims to create thousands of jobs for County Durham went before Cabinet this week. If approved, the scheme will see

Durham County Council create Finance Durham, a standalone investment fund, which will make financial investments in local businesses based in the county.

Although designed as an ongoing scheme, Cabinet will hear that the modelling of the fund predicts the creation or safeguarding of 2,000 jobs, support for 500 businesses and direct investment in up to 70, all within the first 10 years. As well as supporting companies already based in the county it is hoped that the fund will make County Durham an even better prospect for businesses looking to relocate, further boosting the economy through the creation of more jobs.

The scheme will make similar investments to those of a traditional venture capital fund meaning that not only will companies benefit from the support but, by targeting businesses with potential for high growth, Finance Durham is estimated to make a return of around £6 million in its first 10 years. The council will have the option to realise these profits or keep them within a growing fund to invest in even more businesses. This will be in addition to a dividend of over £500,000 for the council over the first 10 years.

The proposal of Finance Durham comes on the back of the council already taking direct action to support business and create jobs such as the recent investments in both Atom bank in Durham City and NETPark based Polyphotonix. Cllr Neil Foster said: "Finance Durham will allow the council to take direct action to improve the economic prospects of our county, creating potentially thousands of jobs."

"Not only will we be backing our county's businesses but with the fund on offer we hope to see even more companies relocating to County Durham."

Queen's Birthday Party



This week Defoe Court Care Home celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday with a special party with entertainment. You will see Her Majesty admiring the cake made in her honour and also joining in with the Darlington Morris Dancers.

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STORY MAKING & FAMILY FUN AT GREENFIELD

Half Term at Greenfield Arts was a great hit with all

Obituary

Walter Kilburn



Passed away peacefully on 21st June 2016, aged 81 years.

Dad, you have left us with a huge emptiness, but we know you are reunited with our beloved Mam.

We will all love and miss you. Sleep tight big fella. Love always, Alan, Barry, Steven, Tracey, Angela, Jayne, Margaret and Dave. Loved by all his Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 1st July at 1.00pm and afterwards at the RAFA Club

ARCHER. Frederick Dodds. Peacefully on 12th June in Memorial Hospital Darlington, aged 90 years. Beloved Husband of Margaret and devoted Father of Dennis, David and Kenneth. Special thanks to his Great Granddaughter Samantha for helping to look after him in his latter years. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service to take place at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe at 2.00pm on Friday 1st July. Followed by family committal at the Crematorium. Friends all welcome to meet at the church at 2.00pm. Followed by reception at Newton Aycliffe British Legion Club. Family flowers only, donations in aid of Cancer Research and Great North Air Ambulance can be made at the church or reception.

LOFTUS. Suddenly, at home on 11th June, Helen, aged 85 years. Much loved Mother of the late Mary Kelly; Mother-in-Law of Brian; loving Grandma of Leanne, Sarah and Angela; also a much loved Great Grandma of Tia and Isla. Will family and friends please meet for a Service in St. Mary's R.C. Church, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 29th June at 1.45pm. To be followed by interment in Chilton Cemetery.

WILSON. 21st June, peacefully at home, surrounded by those who loved and cared for her. Mary, aged 94 years. A loving Aunt who will be sadly missed by all her family, carers and friends. Funeral on Thursday 30th June. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 10.45am followed by Interment in the West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. Floral tributes if so desired will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6RN. Tel: 01325 318600.



the family, offering story making and craft sessions that everyone could get stuck into. Our Family Fun Day offered everyone the chance to experience a 'story' with a difference alongside talented storyteller Ken Patterson; using props and musical instruments they recreated fairy tale classics with enthusiasm and delight and were inspired to create new stories of their own.

Families had great fun making 'mechanimal' puppets with the help of our fabulous Cree volunteers, bringing the puppets to life and creating original characters. The children were also able to try out our Story Makers app with artist Anne Curtis which takes story making online and gives users the chance to create characters and stories using their own 'mechanimals'.

The day was part of a wider project funded by GAMP AAP which aims to encourage story making and

improve literacy. The app can be accessed via the app store, just search 'Greenfield Arts StoryMakers' to make your own creature and bring it to life!

Greenfield Arts was also at some new venues this holiday, as part of our plan to expand our holiday offer. The popular 'Crazy Crafts' hit the road and could be found at The Foundations Building, Shildon and the Eco Centre at Moore Lane, where Dawn Belshaw conjured up her usual magic by helping children create fairy houses and fabulous wind-chimes from recycled and natural materials. The young people enjoyed getting messy and creative and were able to take some fabulous pieces home with them.

If you would like to know more about our new app or are interested in our holiday activities, please give our friendly team a call on 01325 379048 or visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

2nd CONSULTATION ON COUNTY PLAN

A major consultation on the County Durham Plan gets underway on 24 June and there are a series of events people can attend to find out more and share their views.

Known as the 'Issues and Options' stage of the process, Durham County Council is seeking views on the amount of new development needed for housing, potential job creation and future retail spaces up to the year 2033. The plan will also cover what infrastructure is needed to support these, such as transport, schools and green spaces.

As well as asking how much and what type of development is needed to help local communities, the council is also seeking views on how the development can be best used to grow the economy of the county and promote tourism.

To guide the consultation, the council has suggested four possible options for future housing development. These include one with a focus on the larger towns and particularly Durham City as the county's biggest in terms of both population and economy, one with a balance of housing closely matching existing demand and that is near to established employment locations, one where the focus is widened out to the villages surrounding Durham City and a further option with the development more widely spread across the county.

With each of the options there are different positives and negatives that people responding to the consultation are asked to balance when making their decision. People are also free to suggest a different option of their own.

The options are part of a range of questions that make up the six-week consultation. People are being asked to not only answer as many questions as they feel relevant but suggest any other issues or opportunities that they want the council to consider. As well as being able to respond online at www.durham.gov.uk/CDP people are also being invited to sessions around the county where they can find out more, talk to officers and ask any questions, and have their views heard.

The Aycliffe session is on Monday, 25 July at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre between 4pm and 7.30pm.

Other sessions are listed on the Council website.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member said: "The County

Durham Plan will set the future of our county so we're urging everyone to get involved so we can move forward with a plan that helps everyone across the county. "With the plan guiding development of the county to 2033, it's vital that people let us know what they think of the options we've identified, or if there's anything else that they would like us to consider to make sure it meets the needs of their communities."

In Memoriam

GONE ARE the days we used to share, but in my heart you are always there. Love always, your friend Barbara and family **YVONNE SWEENEY** In loving memory of my Wife Yvonne. Passed away on 26th June 2011. Always remembered by her Husband Jim, Sons Kevin and Sean, Grandchildren Connor, Caitlin, Eve and Liam. Forever in our thoughts

KAREN LOUISE FREER 27th June 2015. Much loved Daughter, Mother, Grandmother and Partner. We can't believe a year has passed already. We all think of you and miss you every single day. Love from all the family

Congratulations

Dorothy Percival



Happy 80th Birthday Happy birthday to my beautiful Wife. Lots of love, Derek xxx

Happy 80th Birthday Mam

Looking amazing. All our love as always, Denise, Derek, Julie and John xxx

Happy 80th Birthday Gran

Have a wonderful party. Lots of love, Billy, Claire, Daniel, Aimee, Sophie, Danny, Sarah and Scott xxxxx

Happy 80th Birthday Great Grandma Dot

Happy Birthday, love and kisses from Oliver and Abigail xxxx

Michael Hannah



Happy 18th Birthday 25th June 2016

We wish you a very happy birthday on 25th June. Love, Nan, Grandad and Bonnie xxx

Gary Fraser



Happy 50th Birthday

Happy birthday Son, hope you have a good one, you deserve it. Lots of love, Mam and Dad xxx

Happy 50th Birthday

Baby Brother. Lots of love, Caroline, Jack, Michael, Olivia, Jack, Laura and Josslyn xxxx

Happy 50th Birthday

Little Bro, have a great one!! Love from Linda, Dave, Lauren, Chris and Kate xxxxx

Amber May Suffield



Happy 18th Birthday 26th June 2016

Have a great day. Lots of love from Mam, Geoff, Dan, Uncle Stu and Ted xxxxx

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Paul and Lynne Arnold, Directors of Fangdale Financial Ltd from School Aycliffe set out from Melrose in the Scottish Borders to walk the 67½ mile St. Cuthbert's Way which ends on Lindisfarne.

"We decided to give up some time and take the opportunity to raise money for charity. Sponsor forms were produced and circulated." Paul's chosen charity was Redcar and Cleveland MIND Group who have been supporting many of the workers who lost their jobs when the steel works closed last year. They offer counselling and advice to those affected by the closure and much needed



DEMENTIA CAFE

Newton Aycliffe Dementia Awareness Support Group meets Tuesday 28th June from 10.00am till 1pm at the Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place, (behind Lindisfarne Nursing Home) DL5 7DZ.

Members of the Alzheimer's Society will be in attendance to give help and support. Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477 for further details.

support to those struggling to come to terms with the loss of their livelihood.

Lynne's chosen charity was Bunny Burrows Small Animal Refuge in Richmond which is run by Gwen Butler. As a lifelong animal lover, Lynne has been impressed with Gwen's devotion to animal welfare since taking

some guinea-pigs a number of years ago which were awaiting re-homing. Paul and Lynne raised a total of £1,000 enabling them to give each charity £500. They would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored them enabling them to give much needed funds to these worthwhile charities.

Birthday Remembrance

Anthea Scott-Atess

We have a gift you cannot see of heartfelt love and memories. This special gift, the angels bring is priceless, though weighs not a thing. Carried through the sunlit skies on wings of doves and butterflies. A loving wish wrapped tight with love, to our Anthea we love, living above. Happy birthday to our beautiful Mam, Daughter, Sister and Aunt. Caring thoughts of all our loved ones xxxxxx

DAWN ELLIOTT 29th June. You are the kind of person who leaves loving memories behind and special days like your birthday bring fond memories to mind. And memories are possessions that time can never destroy. For it is in happy remembrance the heart finds it's greatest joy. Lots of love, Kathy and Dad

DAWN ELLIOTT 29-6-1965. A birthday wish we send to you, not on a card like we used to do. But written in gold on a cloud up above and sent to you with all our love. All our love, miss you so much. Mam, Bill and Stephen

DAWN ELLIOTT 29-6-1965. Happy birthday Sis. Love and miss you so very much. All our love always, Jacky and Darren xxxxxxxxxxxx

DAWN ELLIOTT 29-6-1965. Wishing you a happy birthday Auntie Dawn. With love from Louis and Owen xxxxxx

WYN ATKINSON 21st June 1928. The happy hours we once enjoyed, How sweet their memory still, But losing you has left a space, This world can never fill. Husband Jack, Alan Kevin Elaine Lynne and Grandsons

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3M Aycliffe 10k Proves to be Another Winner



Hundreds of competitors from across the North East joined in this year's 3M Aycliffe 10k road race on Sunday. Spectators lined the streets to cheer on the 354 runners, who were taking part to challenge their personal best times, to raise money for charity, or simply to enjoy the occasion. The event was organised

by Aycliffe Running Club and sponsored for the 15th consecutive year by the 3M Aycliffe site, together with Great Aycliffe Town Council. As well as the 10k, there was also a 3k family fun run which attracted another 141 entrants. The 10k run was officially started by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Jed



Hillary and the winner of the men's race was James Askew from Durham City Harriers & AC in 33 mins 21 secs. In second place was Tristan Learoyd from New Marske Harriers Club in 33 mins 37 secs and third was John Clifford from Evenwood Road Runners in 33 mins 57 secs. First woman home was Alex Sneddon from Jarrow & Hebburn AC in 37 mins 49 secs. In second place was Laura Lee from Durham City Harriers & AC in 39 mins 41 secs and third was Alison Matthews from Darlington H & A in 40 mins 39 secs. Race director Trevor Needham said: "The club first organised this event in 1998 as a way of encouraging people of all ages across the community to think about taking more exercise. We're delighted with how it has grown over the years with so many people now taking part."

"We'd like to thank our sponsors and our many helpers on the day – without whom we couldn't have staged the event – and especially thank all those runners who came along to compete. We hope they all had a really enjoyable and fulfilling day." 3M site manager Colin MacLeod added: "It's always been a great event and this year was no exception. Aycliffe Running Club did a brilliant job. We started sponsoring the event in 1992 to mark 3M's centenary year and 2016 is another special one for us as we are celebrating 50 years at our Heighington Lane site. Sponsoring this event was a very fitting way to share our celebrations with the wider community."

AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB UPDATE

Aycliffe Running Club participated in a range of races over the past few weeks, including a 5k, 10k and a 23.2 mile fell race.

On Sunday 5th June club runners competed in the Run Middlesbrough 5k. John Surtees was first back for Aycliffe with a time of 17.07, a new personal best for him. Then came Richard Campbell in 18:25, Tom Porter in 18:48, Tracey Surtees in 20:30, Dave Blewitt in 21:24 and Ste Smith in 22:09.

On Thursday 9 June Trish Kay participated in the Blaydon race; it was a really warm evening and there was a great atmosphere. The 5.7 mile course went from Newcastle to Blaydon. Trish completed the course in 43:29 and was pleased with her time.

On Saturday 11th June club runners participated in Swaledale marathon. This fell race takes runners and walkers over 23.2 miles with 1258m of ascent. First home for the club was Matt Heron in 04:51,

then came, Susan Cranswick and Sandra Collins both in 05:14, Michael Brunskill in 05:20, Matthew Phillipo in 05:36, Beverley Phillipo in 05:53, Rob Nicholson in 05:54 and Judith Porter in 06:19. Other club runners turned out to support and enjoy a walk around parts of the course, including Trish Kay who walked 10 miles of the route. On Sunday 12th June three club runners participated in the Bedale 10k event hosted by Herriot Hospice Homecare. There was also a 5k event and participants could either run, jog or walk on a section of the bypass which is currently undergoing works.

The 10k route was all on the road apart from the end section which was round a field. Trish Kay finished in 60th position with a time of 50:33, Angela Barrett finished in 84th position in 53:39 and Susan Clark finished in 156th position in 1:04:18. There was a field of 207 runners at this friendly event.



L-R Trish Kay, Angela Barrett and Susan Clark

PCP NOTICE OF A.G.M

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 18 July from 11.30 am until 12:30 pm at the Pioneering Care Centre.

For over 18 years PCP has proudly delivered high quality accessible projects and activities aimed at improving the health, providing access to services and reducing social isolation.

As well as managing the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe PCP delivers a wide range of projects across the North East supporting the Charity's mission of Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All.

If you would like to come along to discover the impact PCP has locally and hear about some of the key achievements, please contact Kath Ferry on 01325 321234 or email: kath.ferry@pcp.co.uk no later than 6th July, 2016.

If you would like to support the work of the Charity by becoming a member please contact Carol Gaskarth on 01325 321234 for an informal chat.

PCP services and projects are

developed to meet the needs of our communities so we actively encourage local people and stakeholders to become members and help shape our future direction.

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