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Aycliffe Businessman Raises £4,500 for Air Ambulance



Left to right: Pilot Keith Armatage, Pam Royle, John Wade, paramedic Andy Mawson, Sheila Summerson, Maria Myco, Dr. Dion Arbid.

An Aycliffe businessman and racehorse owner has donated £4,500 to the region's air ambulance. John Wade raised the funds at a horse racing event, the South Durham Hunt's Point-to-Point, held at his home at Howe Hills, near Sedgfield as well as through a number of car boot sales.

Mr Wade owns and runs John Wade Group Ltd, which specialises in waste collection, plant hire, recycling and aggregates from its base at Aycliffe Quarry, Aycliffe Village. He also owns a string of racehorses which compete around the country.

Mr Wade visited the Great North Air Ambulance Service's (GNAAS) airbase at Durham Tees Valley Airport on October 28, alongside friends Sheila Summerson and Maria Myco who helped to raise the funds. GNAAS patron, ITV Tyne Tees presenter Pam Royle, accepted the cheque on the charity's behalf.

Mr Wade said: "I think

GNAAS is a good cause and I love to support the charity. Being part of the racing community, the air ambulance can be needed at any time and any one of us might have to call on its services someday. It plays an important role in the North East."

Mandy Drake, head of fundraising at GNAAS, said: "John is a long-term supporter of GNAAS and is always keen to help. Without support such as this, we would not be able to continue to fly and so it is credit to him, and others like him, that we're able to do what we do."

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Xmas Fair

St. Michael's Church hold their Christmas Fair in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 26th November from 12 noon until 4pm. Entry is £1 and includes a performance by Gainford Community Choir led by their Musical Director, Gary Griffiths.

Refreshments are available along with various stalls, tombola and face painting. The fair will be followed at 7.30pm by a 1950's themed party, also in the Village Hall. 50's dress encouraged.

Tickets £10 include a pie and pea supper with dancing to the Baldy Holly Band. Bar facilities available. For tickets phone 07854 302181.

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Aycliffe Business Park's 3rd Annual Awards Competition

Aycliffe Business Park companies are being urged to enter the third annual awards competition. "Make Your Mark 2016" will single out the business park's shining stars and recognise outstanding performances during a black-tie dinner at the Xcel Centre in March. Last year's winners encourage fellow Aycliffe businesses to get involved. Family-run steel firm Finley Structures beat off competition from Hitachi, Gestamp Tallent, Samwon, Baltic Training Services and Caring Caretaker to scoop the top prize. Managing Director John Finley said: "It was an honour to pick up the Company of the Year award after a fantastic year in business. The Make Your Mark awards is a great way to celebrate all our successes on Aycliffe Business Park, to not only win recognition for ourselves but also to

congratulate our neighbours. The 2016 awards ceremony, is on Wednesday 1st March and the first to be organised by the new Aycliffe Business Park Community (ABPC) formed earlier this year. The company's chair, Kerina Clark, said: "Even though the previous two Make Your Mark awards events were hugely successful, we're now in a much stronger position, as an official entity with 11 board members, to present an even better awards event this time around. "We look forward to receiving the entries from the many successful companies we have on the park, celebrating our collective successes at Aycliffe's business event of the year." An independent panel of judges will decide on ten awards for this year's Make Your Mark event, including Apprenticeships, Employer of the Year, Engineering and Manufacturing, Export, Heart

of the Community, Innovation, Newcomer, Service Business, Small Business and Company of the Year. The Make Your Mark 2015 winners included Finley Structures (Company of the Year), Baltic Training (Apprenticeships), Formula Plastics (Engineering and Manufacturing), Lostbox (Innovation), Beaumont Grounds Maintenance (Service), Tekmar Energy (Export), ROF 59 (Newcomer), Workshop Supplies (Small Business), Caring Caretaker (Employer) and Newton Press (Heart of the Community). The deadline to enter the 2016 Make Your Mark is 20th January 2017, and businesses can enter online easily at www.aycliffeawards.co.uk Tickets for the evening have been subsidised priced at just £29.95 each. Sponsorship packages are also available from www.aycliffeawards.co.uk or by emailing hello@aycliffeawards.co.uk

Aycliffe Masons Help 12 yr old Tumour Victim



Left to right: Godfrey Bennett Gareth Wilson, Terry Green and Robbie Davison.

Freemasons of Aycliffe Lodge presented a cheque to Gareth Wilson for the appeal to help 12 year old Brain Tumour victim Emily Cook Nicholson from Newton Aycliffe.

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Saturday 19th November - "Fizzy Fish"

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

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The Finley family after receiving the award

Alopecia Support Group

Alopecia Support County Durham are a growing group for ladies aged 16 years and over who have been diagnosed with Alopecia. The meetings are held at Pioneering Care Centre and offer support, advice and tips based on the members own experiences.

We also provide activities and to help members feel good and rebuild their confidence. The group would like to thank Amanda Christer, www.amandachristerwellbeing.co.uk for providing communal auricular (ear) acupuncture at our August meeting, which helped everyone to relax and de-stress for an hour, then float home in a happy mood! Our Treasurer, Angie Cooke, recently completed the Great North Run to raise money for the group and we would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who sponsored her. Thank you to Newton Press for their support by printing her running top free of charge! We raised £280 and this will enable the group to continue to provide free support to members for another year. Our meetings are held bi-monthly and the next meeting is on Wednesday 21st December 7-9pm as this meeting is a celebration member's family are also invited as they also provide vital emotional support. If you would like to us contact for more information please call 07933 030 290 or email alopeciafriendscodurham@outlook.com: alopeciafriends@outlook.com and alopeciasupportco.durham

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PCP CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AND FAMILY DAY

PCP's annual Christmas Craft Fair is taking place on Saturday 19 November 10am-1pm in the Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe.

This craft fair has something for everyone and captures the community spirit of Christmas. As well as a special guest appearance from Santa Claus, enjoy browsing the many stalls selling unique, handmade items.

Confirmed exhibitors include jewellery, handmade cards, textile products, wood turned items, festive candles and decorations, unique children's gifts and homemade edibles treats. There'll also be activities to enjoy with the whole family. Children will love the Christmas biscuit decorating and you can have a go making your own natural decorations in the festive foliage workshop. Have a seasonal snack in the Mall Coffee Shop and enjoy the magical sound of the Carol singers.

The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) are attending as they will have more than £100,000 to spend on Newton Aycliffe and Middridge. And visitors can tell GAMP where they want that money spent.



For further information visit the Pioneering Care Centre, tel: 01325 321234, email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre.

AUTUMN TOY FAIR

Check out the Autumn Toy Fair event at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon on Saturday November 19 & Sunday November 20, 2016. Visitors will have the chance to browse a wide range of trade stands offering modelling, railway, die cast, collectables and more.

The Autumn Toy Fair event is open from 10am to 4pm daily, and parking and admission are free of charge. For more information, please call the museum on 01388 777999.

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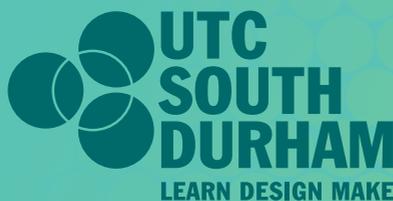


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- 19th November- Year 10 and 12 Open Day 11:00am - 1:00pm

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TO BOOK A SPACE CONTACT

Leyanne Pennington-Foster
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TURNING IDEAS INTO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS



AN acclaimed competition that turns schoolchildren's creative flair into market-ready business ideas has launched, with judges looking for a product or service which could change the way we live or work.

Future Business Magnates (FBM) – run by Business Durham, the economic development company for County Durham working on behalf of Durham County Council - has put the world of commerce under the spotlight and brought it to life for dozens of schools, pupils and businesses over the past decade.

More than 30 leading lights from the business world including Thorn Lighting, Dyer Engineering, Ebac, Hydram, Steelcraft, Atom Bank and Durham University are supporting this year's competition, partnering the 20 school teams and judging the six challenges of the programme.

Launched on November 3rd at Newton Aycliffe's Xcel Centre, the theme for this year's FBM competition is Connecting County Durham, whether it's thinking how County Durham connects to the rest of the world or connecting up ideas to come up with amazing inventions. Over the next eight months, pupils aged 12 and 13 will work with their business mentor to turn their bright ideas into producing a service or product, with a glittering prize ceremony awaiting the winners in July next year.

Sarah Slaven, Business Durham Business Development Director, said: "We want to get

across the idea that connections are really important in business – sometimes connecting up ideas in different ways or applying them to different scenarios can lead to great inventions. We also want to demonstrate how businesses operate in a global marketplace and encourage teams to think about how County Durham connects to the rest of the world.

"We are looking for the teams to fuse ideas together to come up with a product or service that could change the way we live and work and we look forward to seeing the end results."

CLr Neil Foster, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic development, said: "Future Business Magnates is a brilliant scheme that sees some of County Durham's globally recognised companies help to inspire, and shine a light on the talents of, the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs in our schools. We'd like to wish the pupils the best of luck in this year's competition and look forward to seeing another crop of amazing new ideas."

FBM focuses on the skill sets demanded by the STEM subjects as the basis for pupils' ideas. Last year's FBM theme was 'The Home of Manufacturing' with two eco-friendly ideas taking the top prizes. The winners were from Durham Johnston School with their wheeler bin docking station and were closely followed by King James I Academy, in Bishop Auckland, and their plastic recycling shredding device.

Aycliffe's Front Line NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By T/Inspector Mark J Edwards

Hello again Newton Aycliffe, As I draft up this latest entry the weather has taken a turn for the worse and I rather suspect it won't be long before we see the onset of snow (it's certainly cold enough and that's what the weather reports would have us believe). In the event of bad weather arriving I would strongly request that readers take great care out there when driving around on our roads. As we approach the season of festivity (aka; Christmas!) I would hate to see the good will and cheer offset by unnecessary road traffic collisions.

Our new Inspector – Sarah Honeyman, has taken like a duck to water and has immersed herself into the waters of neighbourhood Policing effortlessly. Many of you may have already met her as Sarah is 'getting out there' and very keen to introduce herself to local residents, partners, businesses etc. In other news, our former town centre beat cop – Paul Rogers, has returned to us at Newton Aycliffe after leaving us some time ago to go off on secondment elsewhere. He's back and has brought a wealth of acquired experience in other arenas with him. Also, as I type this a number of our PCSOs have recently found out they've been successful at the ongoing Police Constable recruitment and at some point in 2017 we will be wishing three of them 'good luck' as they set sail on a new adventure. More on that at a later date..

Community Engagement - It's the town's annual Remembrance Day Parade this Sunday and – as usual, the NPT will be in attendance showing their support. Feel free to say hi to anyone from the team!

The Mini-Police programme continues to go from strength to strength in Newton Aycliffe and again, readers may have seen posts on the NPT Facebook page highlighting some of the activities that our 'youthful' colleagues have been engaged in. The Mini-Police are funded by GAMP and the programme sees



students from across four of our local schools assist the Police with a number of tasks.

Crimewise – you may have seen recent appeals either in the media or on the NPT's social media sites concerning an attempted robbery that took place at the Caygill Store on Greenlea Garth recently. This incident happened around 4.35 pm on Sunday October 30th when the suspect has entered the premises and made demands for the till to be opened before going on to assault a member of staff. The attacker subsequently left the shop empty handed after staff continued to challenge the male. I have attached an image of the suspect below whom we are naturally keen to identify.

60 Aycliffe Families Affected by Benefit Cap

A new, reduced cap on benefits is being rolled out from 7 November. The changes reduce the benefit cap from £500 a week to £384.62 for a couple or person with children; and from £350 to £257.69 for single adults. This is a Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) cut, not a Council cut. The change will save the government £1.4 million a year.

Claimants affected were warned by the DWP in May/June, and again in September. 653 households in County Durham will be affected. Of those, 361 households (55%) are facing reductions in their housing benefit of up to £49.99 and the remaining 292 (45%) face the loss of the majority of their Housing Benefit. 33 families will be losing between £100-£150 a week.

60 of the affected families live in Newton Aycliffe. 33 families are livin tenants. DCC's Housing Solutions welfare reform officers have been contacting tenants affected by the changes and undertaking the County Durham Triage with them, ensuring they are adequately housed, maximising their income, and helping them find employment.

The Housing Providers and Housing Solutions Team will be completing Discretionary Housing Payment applications with customers where relevant

and these applications will be considered as a priority.

119 families affected in the County by the benefit cap are on the "Troubled Families" Programme; they are being offered additional support.

If residents have any queries or think the cap should not apply to them they should call the DWP Benefit Cap helpline (open Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm) on 0345 605 7064.

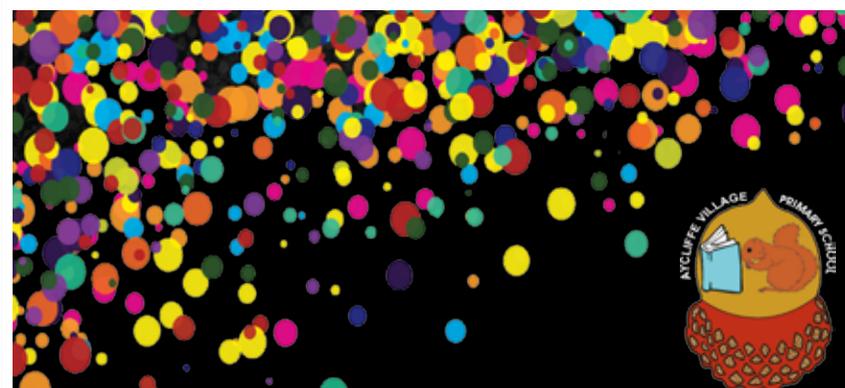
If you fear the changes will leave you in danger of losing your home, phone DCC's Housing Solutions' Housing Advice line on 03000 268 000. John Clare

Beware HMRC Phone Scam

Dear Sir,
Yesterday I received an automated call when a recorded male voice announced HMRC is about to file a case against me.

I was told to speak to a case officer and press 1. Obviously I did not and hung up immediately. Checked 1471 to find the number withheld. I reported this to the Fraud Office who were aware of this scam. I hope this is of interest to readers, particularly elderly people who could be extremely alarmed.

PC



Do you have a child born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 and due to start school in September 2017?

Aycliffe Village Primary School will be holding an open afternoon on **Thursday 17th November 2016**

You are welcome to call in anytime between 3.30pm and 6pm. This will be an opportunity for you and your child to visit the school, meet the staff and have a look around. You will have the chance to ask any questions and see what we can offer. Childcare is available from 7.30am to 6.00pm (including school holidays) at our on-site facility managed by The House of Eden Group.

If this above date is not convenient please contact the school to arrange a time to suit you.

Please come along to meet our friendly team.

"We are like one little family" parent comment, Ofsted 2014
"This is a Good school" Ofsted 2014

Should you have any questions please call us on **01325 300227** or visit our website **www.aycliffevillage.durham.sch.uk**

Head Teacher: Mr JP Gargan BA (Hons) - Deputy Head: Mrs A Brown BEd, NPQH
Tel/Fax: 01325 300227 - aycliffevillage@durhamlearning.net
Durham County Council, Aycliffe Village Primary School
Aycliffe Village, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6LG

water babies

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Wage paid according to age and experience

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Closing Date: 25th November 2016



Let's teach your baby to swim!

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 15th NOV features the musical comedy film "THE BAND WAGON". The fabulous dancing of stars Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse, a host of songs such as "By Myself" "Shine on Your Shoes" "You and the Night and the Music" and "I Guess I'll Have to Change my Plan" and loads more, and then add triplets singing "We hate each other very much" and it's a film made to make you feel good.

Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

New Senior Manager Welcomed by PCP



As the dark nights approach Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) are celebrating this part of the year with a bright new appointment at its office in Newton Aycliffe. Paul Stafford has joined PCP as a Senior Programme Manager building on his background in further education and the commercial sector.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP's Chief Executive, said: "We have made significant progress this year with the support of our enthusiastic, dedicated staff and volunteer team, including opening additional sites and new projects and services. I'm delighted to welcome Paul to the team and with his support I have no doubt we will be in a really strong position with a team of extremely talented people. It's a little while away but plans are afoot for our 20th year anniversary and Paul will play a key role in planning a wide range of events and activities for the community."

Paul will support Sunderland Healthwatch, County Durham Healthwatch, Social Prescribing County Durham, and also explore the opportunities for health, wellbeing and learning opportunities surrounding the continued growth of the Pioneering Care Centre. Paul said: "Joining PCP is a huge opportunity and I am looking forward to working with the team and supporting the work and development of provision for our communities. I am keen to grow the use of the Pioneering Care Centre, it already has a wealth of services including the hydrotherapy pool and the coffee shop but I would welcome contact from organisations who may be interested in supporting our delivery themes of lifestyle and health, mental wellbeing, independence and choice, employability and learning or empowerment and voice."

Flower Demo

Paul can be contacted by email paul.stafford@pcp.uk.net if you are interested in organising a visit or discussing joint working opportunities. For more information on any of the projects mentioned visit www.pcp.uk.net email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or call 01325 321234

The Open Meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club takes place on Monday 28th November at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall when National Demonstrator, Michael Bowyer from Salisbury presents an evening of flower arranging under the heading A Classical Christmas. Get into the Christmas spirit early and enjoy browsing the colourful stalls prior to being entertained by one of the best flower arrangers in the country. Tickets: £8. Contact Terry Hall (01388) 763430 to reserve tickets or pay on the door.

Careers Event Gives Pupils a Taste of Life at Work

Supermarket giant Sainsbury's joined forces with Bishop Auckland College and regional charity Auckland Castle Trust to give more than 200 school pupils a taste of working life. The Year 8 students from Greenfield Community College's Newton Aycliffe and Shildon campuses enjoyed an action packed careers and enterprise day at the college. The group, aged 12 and 13, were tasked with cooking up a special menu prepared by Auckland Castle Trust's Head Chef Luke Orwin, with ingredients supplied by the Bishop Auckland branch of Sainsbury's.

This kitchen-based class, designed to teach about cooking and nutrition, was one of a number of similar activities taking place throughout the day, with others including workshops in business and finance, enterprise and photography, advertising and radio, and marketing and social media. They were held across the college's Woodhouse Lane campus, including its Ambition restaurant, recording studio and print room. The event was opened by Rebecca Coates, HR and Corporate Services Director at Auckland Castle Trust, who talked about opportunities for young people and the exciting plans under development in Bishop Auckland. She said: "Getting hands-on experience is an important part of career development, especially for young people who are just starting out. Auckland Castle Trust is delighted to be working with Bishop Auckland College to offer such opportunities for the local community."

The college already works closely with Auckland Castle Trust on the creation of high quality apprenticeship opportunities. Earlier this year the duo launched the Auckland Academy partnership project, designed to offer a range of high-quality apprenticeships in areas such as catering, horticulture, business, tourism and customer service. Lynn Bennett, PR Ambassador for Sainsbury's Bishop Auckland, said: "Being a part of the careers day, and providing all the food that the children used to create a stunning Spanish Menu, was a joy. There was a constant buzz in the kitchen, and watching some very quiet children becoming very animated as they progressed throughout the day to give a presentation at the end of the workshop, is all part of the community spirit that Sainsbury's love to be involved with."



Students in the College kitchen (photo by Angela Carrington)

Natalie Davison-Terranova, Principal and Chief Executive of Bishop Auckland College, added: "We were delighted to welcome the pupils from Greenfield Community College and are very grateful to Sainsbury's and Auckland Castle Trust, as key local employers, for their support. "Giving children an early opportunity to visit the college and hear from local employers, as well as enjoying tasters in different curriculum areas, is very beneficial to them as they consider their GCSE options."

The event was supported by the Gatsby Foundation's 'Career Benchmarks' national pilot being run by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Ryan Gibson, National Facilitator for the career benchmarks pilot at North East LEP, said: "By working in partnership, schools and colleges are able to ensure students have the skills, enterprising attitudes and experiences that businesses are looking for. Events like the careers and enterprise day at Bishop Auckland College give students experience of the world of work, which is so important when thinking about future career goals and ambitions." Angela Carrington

LOCAL CHARITY SEEKS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

A County Durham based charity is appealing for volunteer drivers. Supportive, formerly known as the Social Resource Centre, was established in 1994 to deliver quality, people centred social care services.

At present the organisation has two primary areas of delivery – domiciliary care and volunteer driver transport. The third scheme is its health appointment car scheme to provide subsidised transport to health related establishments. To help the organisation continue to meet the needs of the communities it serves, it is now looking to recruit 150 new support drivers. The volunteer drivers transport service was established in 2010. All drivers receive training and support and a mileage allowance of 40.55p a mile from the moment they leave their front door. To join the team in County Durham, Teesside, Sunderland, Redcar, Cleveland and Darlington you will need a full driver's licence, two references and will be subject to a DBS check (free of charge) So if you can help your community, have some spare time on your hands now and again or on a more regular basis, you want to maintain a routine and make some new friends then we need you. Anyone interested should call Debbie for an informal chat on 01740 658872. Further information please contact Debbie Brown on 01740 658872. email debbie.brown@supportive.org.uk



Teaching Assistants Strike



Teaching Assistants at Horndale School joined others on strike over the County Council's new pay structure which will leave many to lose £1,000's a year. They explain their jobs are essential and include speech therapy, emotional support, first aid, playground duty, breakfast club, trips, phonics etc. 37 of the county's 243 schools – mainly nurseries and special schools – were closed during the walkout, with 76 informing parents that some classes would see some interruption. DCC say it is not fair that the vast majority of teaching assistants are paid for working 37 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, but actually work only 32.5 hours a week and only during the 39 weeks of term-time. This means other council staff can work up to almost six and a half weeks more, as well as more than half a day more every week, for the same money.



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LOCAL PHARMACIES AT RISK OF CLOSURE

Figures revealed on 2nd November show six pharmacies across Sedgfield constituency are at risk of closure as a result of the Government's proposed 12% cut to pharmacy funding. With only 22 pharmacies across the whole of the constituency, the number of pharmacies at risk of closure is high.

Having campaigned to protect community pharmacies, Phil Wilson, MP for Sedgfield was dismayed to discover the number of pharmacies at risk in his constituency. He has however praised the relentless campaigning of local communities and the Labour opposition, which has resulted in up to 9 pharmacies across Sedgfield constituency receiving continued government help through the Government's Pharmacy Access Scheme.

Whilst 9 pharmacies may be entitled to this support, many more will be left worrying about their future, with 13 receiving no additional help of which 6 are at risk of being closed.

Speaking in the House of Commons debate on the future of community pharmacies, Phil Wilson MP for Sedgfield said:

"Community pharmacies are an integral part of the social fabric of many of our towns and villages. The government wants to cut the pharmacy budget by £170 million or 12%. The cuts mean that each pharmacy will lose £14,500 or over £300,000 in Sedgfield. For the Durham, Darlington and Tees area the figure is



about £4 million. At least 155 pharmacies are at risk of closure in the North East. This will put more pressure on those

that remain, GP surgeries and A&E. This is a backward step for communities, the ill and the elderly."

Dogs off Leads - Foolish

Dear Sir,
The recent letter from George Osborne (not a name I associate with veracity after Brexit and Project Fear) a retired Police Inspector, about his dog was astonishing. He has a Staffordshire Bull Terrier/half Labrador which he walks in public, off the lead. He seems to be offended that not everyone is happy about this, as he himself is confident his dog is under control. He may be right about his dog but when it is off the lead how are we to know? He stated: "I have met some real fools, many of whom I am

ashamed to say are fellow dog owners." Does it not occur to him that others may look upon him too as a "real fool"? How many people, nervous in the company of dogs, have heard their owners say "He won't hurt you he just wants to play?" That a former Police Officer can be so lacking in common sense he criticises others, is beyond me! Come on Mr Osborne, show some compassion for the rest of us and who knows, you too might become one of those better human beings. W. K. Winters

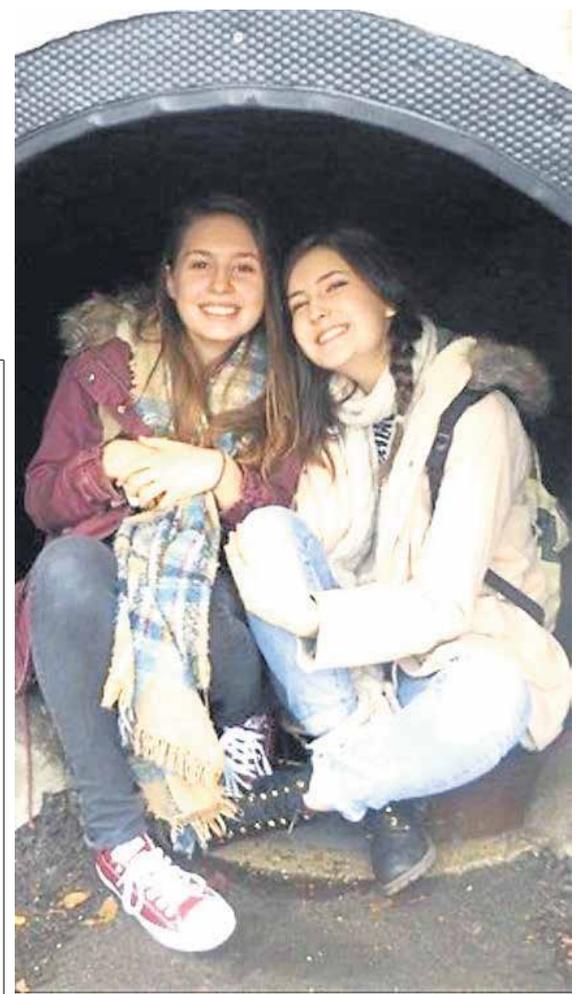
Conservation Fundraising by Ex Greenfield Student

Bethany Howe, former student at Greenfield and now studying at Bangor University in Wales, is charity fundraising with a group, for the Atlantic Whale Foundation.

The money will go to communities to help with conservation of whales and other animals. If they manage to raise £2000 they have the chance to go to Sri Lanka for two weeks working with the local community on conservation projects for

those under threat including elephants and other animals as well as whales and dolphins. More fundraising events are being organised to be posted on our just giving page and facebook - some in Newton Aycliffe: *Squad Swaleg Sri Lanka Expedition, with names of the team, Jessica, Bethany, Jess, Amy, Chakorn, Sam, Ryan.*

Photo shows Bethany on the right with team member Jessica Holmes.



County Newsbits
Compiled by County Councillor John Clare

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

The Economy Scrutiny Committee was an important meeting this week, and you will be interested in what DCC is doing to help retailers. Interesting winter events are taking place at Middridge, the PCP, Shildon, Beamish and the Oriental Museum. Things-to-do include the GAMP Priorities survey and the USDAW Thunderclap campaign.

- COUNCIL**
- This week's DCC Economy Scrutiny meeting: bit.ly/DCCES31116
 - Durham County News Winter Edition is now available: bit.ly/DCN416
 - As the nights draw in & the weather turns cold, find out about DCC's winter services: bit.ly/DCCWS16
 - DLI storage facility in Spennymoor officially opened: bit.ly/DLISS
 - What has DCC ever done for retailers? bit.ly/DCCRetail
 - What have our Aycliffe North Ward county councillors ever done for us? bit.ly/DCCANW16
 - GAMP Priorities Survey: bit.ly/GAMPPS16
 - This week's Middridge Parish Council meeting: bit.ly/MPC71116
 - Council Motion against Prejudice and Hatred: bit.ly/CDALCPH
 - Latest local roadworks information for the Newton Aycliffe area: bit.ly/Roadworks111116
 - Latest report from our MEP

- Jude Kirton-Darling: bit.ly/JKD71116
- COMMUNITY**
- Durham Constabulary keeps its accolade as country's best performing force: bit.ly/DCfirst16
 - Ron Hogg keeps his promise to support victims of crime: bit.ly/PCVC1116
 - North East Ambulance Service rated 'Good' by Care Quality Commission: bit.ly/NEASRG
 - Keep Warm Keep Well this winter - Public Health England advice: bit.ly/PHEKWKW
 - Food Durham Annual Report: bit.ly/FDAR16
 - Join the USDAW Respect Week Thunderclap: bit.ly/USDAWRWT
 - Ask for Angela: bit.ly/AfAdc
 - The Pioneering Care Partnership November newsletter: bit.ly/PCPN1116
 - Hardwick Park newsletter: bit.ly/HPN1116
 - Middridge Christmas Fayre, Saturday 19 November, 10am-noon: bit.ly/MCF1116
 - PCP Christmas Craft Fair Saturday 19 November, 10am-1pm: bit.ly/PCPCCF1116
 - Toy Fair, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 19-20 November, 10am-4pm: bit.ly/LMSTF1116
 - Christmas at Beamish, 19 November-24 December: bit.ly/CABM16
 - Durham Oriental Museum 'Hooray for Hieroglyphs' (5-11 year-olds), drop-in Saturday 19 November, 1-3pm: bit.ly/DOMHFH
 - Durham Oriental Museum different faiths 'Touch Tour' Special, Saturday 19 November, 3-5pm: bit.ly/DOMtt

Lego at Loco

Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is delighted to be hosting Brick Alley LEGO User Group's LEGO Show on Saturday November 12 & Sunday November 13, 2016. There'll be something for all the family at this fun, free event. Check out the five largest LEGO sets ever released on display, and view a great range of displays of LEGO sets and "my own creations" by members of Brick Alley LEGO User Group and other clubs. Browse the LEGO trade stands, offering everything you need to enjoy your LEGO hobby at home. Plus get hands-on with brick pits and colouring stations for creative kids to play with! The event will run from 10am to 4pm on both days, in the museum's Collection Building. Admission to the museum and the event, plus parking, are free of charge.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 23rd November 2016

Environment Committee
Recreation 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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Woodcraft for Christmas



Linda Weldon and Gary Pickering with the wooden products they have made.

Endeavour Woodcrafts CIC hold their annual Christmas Open Day on Saturday 19th November 10am-2pm. Come and join us and start your festive shopping. We have handcrafted gifts for the whole family along with raffles, mulled wine and cake galore! We are based in The Old Fire Station, Darlington Road, Ferryhill, Co. Durham, DL17 8EX. Tel: 01740 657676

Endeavour Woodcrafts is a day service for adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues. We provide training and education in woodwork, painting, crafts, customer service skills, life and social skills.

Our service users are fully involved in the production of our products and have all been working really hard to prepare for our Christmas open day. Many of our service users live in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas and would love to welcome customers to this fun filled day.

Aycliffe Water Babies Make a Splash at NEAS Pool

Babies as young as just a few weeks will soon be able to take part in multi-award winning swimming classes starting at the North East Autism Society Pool in Newton Aycliffe. The specialist classes, designed to make the most of babies' natural affinity with water, teach confidence and safety, using expert techniques that have been enjoyed by children from just two days old!

Christine Dempster, Director of Education for North East Autism Society said: "NEAS are focused on building stronger links between the centre and local community. The North East Centre for Autism is not only a fantastic environment for our learners, but a hub for the local community with a range of facilities available for public hire. We are delighted to host the Water Babies swimming lessons in our pool at Newton Aycliffe".

Classes are run by Penny & Paul Gordon, who were



originally introduced to the concept of baby swimming through taking both their children to Water Babies classes. 'Swimming was a big part of my life growing up,' Penny explains 'so when our first daughter, Abigail, was born I was determined to get her swimming as early as possible. We are so excited to offer even more local Water Babies and their parents the chance to bond and gain skills through swimming, when

we start classes at NEAS this November."

While Water Babies lessons are fun for both parent and little one, the course also has an extremely serious added benefit. "Worryingly, research we commissioned this year revealed that 75% of parents are unaware drowning is the third highest cause of accidental death in children in the UK", Penny explains.

"In most cases it's the shock of sudden submersion that causes children to panic. We passionately believe by introducing babies to water as early as possible, they'll be less likely to experience fear if they do fall in. Our research also showed that the average age children start swimming lessons is four, despite the fact they can start from birth."

"With progressive training, babies can be taught lifesaving skills very early on such as turning onto their backs or, following a sudden submersion, swimming to the nearest solid object. In the last few years at least ten tiny Water Babies pupils have saved their own lives, five of whom were just two years old at the time. It's fantastic what vital skills children can learn, and it's so important they do so as soon as possible."

Another key focus of the half-hour sessions is bonding and generally having great fun together. Penny adds: "With research showing that new mothers are less likely to suffer from post natal depression if they can gain support from their peers, that's another reason why we're very proud of what we do."

Water Babies classes have started at NEAS (former Aycliffe School across the A167). For more information, please phone Penny and her friendly team on 01325 728 728, email splash@waterbabies.co.uk or visit www.waterbabies.co.uk.

Funds for Marie Curie

A volunteer group in Newton Aycliffe raised £730 for Marie Curie when they held a Ladies Night in the town. The Fundraising Group organised the event, which saw female harmony group Quartz perform to more than 80 attendees on Friday October 21 at the Moore Lane Sports Ground.

Hayley Revell, Community Fundraiser at Marie Curie, said: "The Aycliffe Group organised an event to be proud of, and while having lots of fun, raised a fantastic amount of money for Marie Curie. This money goes towards the vital funds needed to support Marie Curie Nurses, who provide free care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes."

The Group support Marie Curie's major fundraising campaigns such as the Great Daffodil Appeal and Blooming Great Tea Party, as well as promoting fundraising within the local community and encouraging new supporters to help the charity. To join the local Fundraising Group for Marie Curie, or to find out more about the group and other ways to support the charity, please call Hayley Revell on 07711 387976 or email hayley.revell@mariecurie.org.uk.

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Pudsey Gets Disney Spells

At the Civic Hall, Shildon Saturday 19th November at 7.30pm, there will be a Charity Show all in aid of BBC's Children In Need appeal.

A spokesperson for the event said "Each year when we put on a show for Children In Need we choose a different theme. All the Entertainers this year will be singing nothing but Disney songs throughout the evening.

So why not bring the family along, and dress up as your favourite Disney character if you want to, and who knows your favourite song may be sung. It should be a great night out with something for everyone. There will be Raffle prizes to be won too." Tickets are priced £3-50 each payable on the door.

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Expanding Aycliffe Marketing Agency Moves to Xcel Centre

A growing marketing agency is proving it's on the right track after expanding into larger offices previously used by Hitachi Rail Europe.

Thrive Marketing has relocated a short distance from starter offices, based at the HUB Workspace on Aycliffe Business Park, to the nearby Xcel Centre. The inbound marketing experts have taken up offices vacated by Hitachi staff who worked there for two years before the Japanese firm's £82m train-building factory opened a year ago.

Its team of eight can now enjoy a larger, open plan office on the first floor of based at Aycliffe Business Park's well-known business hub.

After four years at the HUB's Enterprise House offices on Welbury Way, the company's directors chose to move the whole team to open plan offices to encourage growth, team development and improved creativity and communication. Director Rachel Townsend Green said: "We have so many great memories of our team after many years in Enterprise House and the offices were ideal, enabling us to develop."

"Now that we have grown larger, we realised that we needed to realign our office space with our business goals and that meant an open plan office with room to grow – the Xcel Centre provides that and more!"

"We're delighted with our new office space and we look forward to welcoming our



Thrive Marketing directors Rachel Townsend Green and Johnny Woods (right) with their team (left-to-right) Rachael Farley, Sarah Burns, Tom Armstrong, Reza Snowdon, Scott Foreman and Tom Mather.

clients to the Xcel Centre over the coming months and years." Thrive is already looking to grow the company, with two new staff members on board in the last month alone.

Rachael Farley, 18, joins as the agency's newest inbound marketing assistant on an apprenticeship with Baltic Training.

She follows fellow new recruit, Scott Foreman, 22, who is the company's latest graphic designer, following his degree completion at New College Durham.

The company's creative director Johnny Woods: "The last few months have been incredible – with the move, new staff and all-round changes in the business and our future goal-planning."

"We're excited for our

upcoming plans for the end of 2016 and 2017 and it's great to have our team thriving under one roof!"

The Xcel Centre is a multi-function building, including Jackson's Coffee House, the Xcel Church services, a nursery and office space, as well as fantastic business conference and meeting facilities.

The centre's managing director Kerina Clark, who's also chair of the Aycliffe Business Park Community, added: "We're delighted to welcome Thrive to the Xcel Centre."

"Thrive is another success story on the Business Park and we look forward to seeing their continued growth here."

Thrive Marketing Limited is an inbound marketing agency. Their new website is now live at www.thriveability.co.uk

Santa on a Motorbike

Butterwick Hospice are inviting fun loving supporters to join us on their motorbikes, scooters or trikes, to take part in our "Santa on a Motorbike Event" on Sunday 20th November.

Bikers will meet at the Wellington pub in Wolviston Village (near Billingham TS22 5JY). Bikers will arrive from 10.30am for a Santa breakfast of tea/coffee and bacon sandwich, before setting off for their festive ride to Bishop Auckland Market Place.

To enter Tel: 01388 603003 Mon-Fri 9.00am – 4.30pm or enter on line via our website www.butterwick.org.uk/santamotorbike. Entry is just £12.50 and includes full Santa suit and all refreshments, as well as a Santa medal upon completion.

As well as wearing your festive Santa suit, bikers are encouraged to apply their festive flair by decorating their bikes.

AYCLIFFE LEUKAEMIA VICTIM CAMPAIGNS FOR BLOOD DONORS

A charity champion from Newton Aycliffe who's undergoing chemotherapy is urging people to sign up to the bone marrow register. Maths teacher Paul McGeary was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APML), earlier this year, having been in remission from an initial diagnosis back in November 2014.

The Freeman Hospital is currently conducting a global search to find a match for the 34-year-old to improve his chances of a full recovery, while he continues chemotherapy treatment at James Cook hospital. Finding the perfect match could take months or years – and may never be found.

Sporting a 'Stand Up To Cancer' hoody, Paul said: "It's a massively under-subscribed database and we desperately need more people to register – not just for me, but for the many others out there who need a transplant. "We want to raise awareness of the donor register and dispel some myths that the general public has about being a donor."

"I naively assumed a donor had to be one of your nearest kin, and if I couldn't find a match then unlucky. Since this has happened, I've learned a donor could be my next door neighbour, or it could be someone on the other side of the world."

"Many people are put off donating bone marrow thinking it a bone marrow extraction, but that's not the case - you simply give blood. Whilst it might not be a perfect match for me, they could be a match for someone elsewhere in the world."

"If a match is found then the donor gives more blood and that is then farmed by the experts and transplanted into the patient, so it's not as harrowing a process as people think."

During his ordeal, Paul's rock has been his wife, 33-year-old Becky who, like her husband, puts on a brave face.

"Every now and then those dark thoughts do creep in – that I could be a widow and Niamh could be fatherless," she says. "The whole process has completely changed our life. We just take it day to day. We can't look too far ahead, and it is hard to be a wife and a mother when you don't have plans for the future."

After being diagnosed with leukaemia two years ago, Paul and Becky embarked on a fundraising campaign, dubbed "Not One Inch", which has hit a new milestone with Paul's fundraising has reached £23,000.

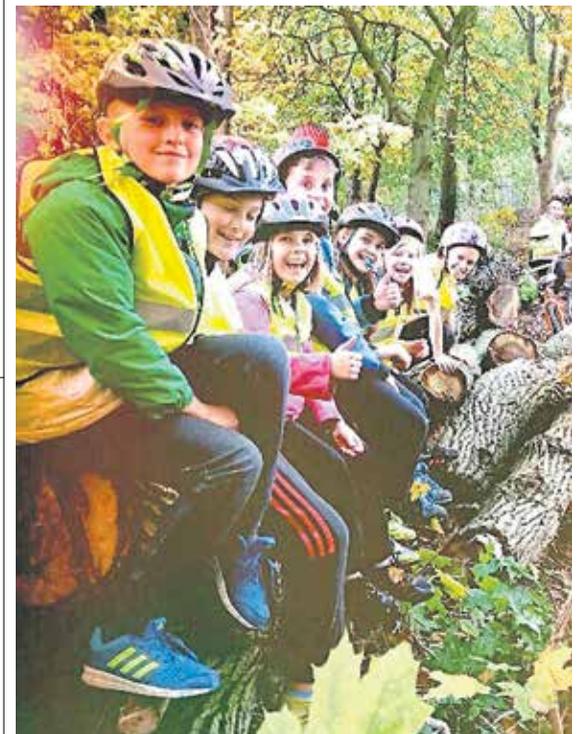


Paul McGeary, wife Becky & their 3yr old daughter Niamh

Paul added: "We're trying to lead a normal life as much as we can, and the fundraising has given us something to focus on – to raise awareness and cash for research into this disease." "It takes our minds off things, but also serves as a reminder as to why we're doing it."

The majority of people between the ages of 16-55 can find further information and sign up to various registers at www.anthonynolan.org and www.dkms.org.uk/en

Year 5 & 6 Bike Ride



In October, Year 5 and 6 from Aycliffe Village School went on a bike ride around The Great Aycliffe Way. The ride was led by Rio who works for Wheel Education and helps us keep fit and healthy on our bikes. Mrs Vest and Mr Gargan our teachers came with us.

At round about 12:30pm we walked onto the yard with our high visibility jackets and we rode our bikes into the middle of the yard to get some practice. When Rio said, "Let me put you all into groups with an adult," this was the signal for each group to begin their journey.

We rode through Little Lane then along-side the A167. We cycled on a woodland path and soon after arrived at the Blue Bridge. Afterward, we approached a conker tree,

conkers were lying on the leaves. We collected them up and headed towards Rio's favourite place to play games. One of the games involved picking up leaves from the ground and throwing them in the air while Rio took a picture which looked like we were on fire. We rode back through the rain and when we got back, we realised that we'd had an amazing time.

Scarlett Liddle said, "I loved it – especially when it began to rain!" Laura Flinders was in the leading group with Rio and thought that being a leader was brilliant.

We would like to thank Rio, Mr Thompson and all of the parents and teachers who made the event so successful.

By Mollie, Scarlett and Grace (Year 5)

Aycliffe Landscape Firm's Hat-trick of Contracts

County Durham firm Beaumont Grounds Maintenance has signed a three-year deal with leading Teesside independent commercial property surveying practice Dodds Brown.

Beaumont, based on Aycliffe Business Park in Newton Aycliffe, is now maintaining 11 Dodds Brown-managed properties across the region, including its flagship site, Hudson Quay, next to Middlesbrough FC's Riverside Stadium, which is home to Thirteen Group and Hertel.

The Aycliffe firm has also won two new school maintenance contracts with Thornaby Academy and Our Lady and St Bede's Catholic School in Stockton.

The hat-trick of contract wins has led Beaumont to taking on two new operatives, boosting staff numbers to 15.

It comes after the award-winning company, which specialises in general grounds and sports pitch maintenance, reported a 36% increase in turnover earlier this year.

Managing Director Alex Lineton said: "It's been another exceptional year for Beaumont Grounds Maintenance and naturally we're delighted to win these three major contracts. Dodds Brown previously had five different contractors looking after



different sites and they wanted to amalgamate it all into one. It was a competitive tender which we won, so we're now their grounds maintenance provider for all their properties, and it's certainly a big feather in the cap for us."

Senior associate Richard Wilson said: "We were looking for a dedicated landscape maintenance contractor who could provide a quality service at a competitive price and be able to respond quickly to our needs. What impressed us about Beaumont was their attention to detail and customer service ethos. As a Tees Valley based business ourselves we were delighted to be able to place the contract with a local company"

Beaumont, which earlier this year was named Service Business of the Year at the annual Aycliffe Business Park

"Make Your Mark" awards, invested £120,000 in new machinery during its 50th year in 2015.

It now has more than 150 sites on its books, including a range of public and private sector contracts as well as more than 50 schools around the North-East region.

Lineton added: "Although we're growing as a company, we're still very much family-run so we still pride ourselves on that family ethos."

"Our clients like the fact they can call us and speak to one of the family members. We're very responsive and personal and it's important we keep it that way."

You can find out more about Beaumont Grounds Maintenance at www.beaumontgrounds.com or give them a call on 01325 301379.



FeastLand

TEL: 01325 321123

Christmas Day Dinner

Sunday 25th December 2016

Christmas Dinner Only - £14.00

Turkey Breast, Beef, Mash, Peas, Carrots, Broccoli, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing Balls, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy.

4 Course Christmas Meal - £19.50

Home Made Vegetable Soup & Bun

~~~~~

Turkey Breast, Beef, Mash, Peas, Carrots, Broccoli, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing Balls, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy

~~~~~

Iced Mince Pie

~~~~~

Home Made Trifle

LIMITED MEALS AVAILABLE: We can only make a limited number of deliveries on Christmas Day, due to staffing levels and time. Once we have taken enough orders to fill our available delivery slots, we will stop taking orders. Book Early To Avoid Disappointment

TO BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Contact Lesley on 01325 321123

Lesley will call at your home to take your order and payment  
Payment can be made via cash or credit/debit card

## Demolition Makes Way for New Homes



Work is due to commence this week on a former sheltered housing scheme to make way for much needed new homes. Homes and communities' organisation livin is investing £500,000 to convert The White House at Aycliffe Village as part of its £6 million two-year affordable homes development programme. Plans were approved earlier this year to construct two, two bedroom bungalows on the site as well as converting the existing building to offer three new two bedroom bungalows. Wayne Harris, executive director, property and development said: "Demand for the White House had been falling for a number of years. We knew the location was popular but the accommodation was no longer fit for purpose. "The development project has enabled us to breathe new life into this building as well as providing much needed new homes to the local community." The development is due to be completed in June 2017 and the properties will be available for affordable rent through the Durham Key Options, choice based lettings scheme for people aged 55 years and over. For more information about livin's development programme or to register for Durham Key Options visit [www.livin.co.uk](http://www.livin.co.uk)

## New Road into Woodham from A167

It would seem the Highways Authority are making a "U-Turn" on their original policy in not allowing further access routes off the A167 into Woodham. For years Bob Porter, former owner of the Equestrian Centre at the bottom of Stag Lane, wanted to put a new road into Woodham off the A167 to service his development and proposed putting in a roundabout. This never succeeded and other individuals since have tried without success.

The current developer of 450 homes on the Woodham site appear to be getting their way from a report issued by the Highways Authority. Residents are alarmed by the proposal which will have a significant impact on vehicle access to Woodham

*Extracts from Highway comments: Whilst these proposals are for residential development with a notable increase in expected traffic flows it would be difficult to raise a highways objection to a new vehicular access being created onto the A167 similar to that approved in 2005.*

*The main vehicular access route*

*into the site would be via a new signal controlled junction onto the A167*

*The internal road design will be a reserved matters issue, however the applicant has appeared to show a 7.3 metres road link onto the A167, which is welcomed as this would need to continue through the proposed development to terminate on the eastern side of the Woodham Burn opposite the end of the 7.3 metres wide road in Cheltenham Way.*

*The Highway Authority would not suggest the applicant completes the 7.3 metres wide road link onto Cheltenham Way by bridging the Woodham Burn at this stage, but the Highway Authority would need to have the comfort that such a link could be created in the future should the traffic demands in Woodham dictate that such a link should be created.*

*Cheltenham Way was clearly over-designed when it was constructed with a 7.3 metres wide carriageway, on the basis of sometime in the future linking onto the A167, if not it would have been constructed at a maximum width of only 4.8 metres as it only serves 19 existing dwellings".*

## P.C.P. Equality Award Winners



The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is delighted to have won an award for embracing equality in the workplace and championing diversity, at the recent North East Equality Awards 2016. PCP were recognised in the category of 'Organisations between 51 and 250 employees' for embedding inclusivity through equality and diversity in day to day working practices leading the way to a fairer future for all.

The presentation took place on 20th October 2016 at Ramside Hall Hotel. The event, now in its 13th year, is organised by Equality North East and celebrates outstanding equality and diversity practices across the public, private and not for profit sectors.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive says "At PCP we are committed to recognising and celebrating individuality. We know that good equality and diversity practice within the workplace is an essential part of creating fulfilled and successful staff and clients, because people need to be valued for who they are as well as what they do.

In 2010 we won the 'Employers up to 50 staff award' which shows how much we've progressed over the past 6 years! This is a brilliant achievement acknowledging the hard work of staff and volunteers and the outstanding work embedding equality in our practices."

PCP is a leading third sector organisation working in the North East, with a focus on health improvement and reducing health inequalities through building capacity and life chances with disadvantaged communities. The organisation's purpose is to improve health, wellbeing and quality of life for people disadvantaged by disability, age, ill health and/or caring responsibilities and reduce inequalities in health.

For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF. Tel: 01325 321234 email: [enquiries@pcp.uk.net](mailto:enquiries@pcp.uk.net) website: [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net). Or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre

## FREE TREATMENT FOR PETS

Between 10am and 2pm on Tuesday the 15th of November 2016 the RSPCA will be hosting a community action day at the Rest House, Hackworth Park, Central Parade, Shildon.

The RSPCA will be supported by the Aycliffe Wilson Veterinary Group and will be offering health checks for your pets, flea/worm treatment and microchipping for dogs and cats.

There will be no cost for any of the services offered, there will be donation tins on-site so any money you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

**swdt**  
South West Durham Training

[www.swdt.co.uk](http://www.swdt.co.uk)  
01325 313194  
[recruitment@swdt.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@swdt.co.uk)

## Open Evenings 2016

### 15th November & 13th December

Come along from 5-7pm to find out about full-time courses and apprenticeships in:

**Fabrication | Welding  
Toolmaking | Machining  
Maintenance | Electrical**

**South West Durham Training**  
Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AT



## NFNP AGM

New Friends, New Places AGM will take place on Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 2pm in The Navy Club on Burnhill Way. You are all invited.

**WHEN YOU WAKE UP!**

**STAR RADIO BREAKFAST**  
WITH WES STAKES

**WEEKDAYS FROM 6AM**

[starradio.co.uk](http://starradio.co.uk)

**STAR RADIO**

**PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

**Frequency: 102-107FM**

**Friday 11th November**  
0600-1000 - Star Radio Breakfast with Wes Stakes  
1000-1400 - Craig Andrews  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1900 - Star Radio Drive with Michael Weadock  
1900-2200 - Dancing Through The Decades  
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

**Saturday 12th November**  
0600-0900 - Wes Stakes  
0900-1400 - Michael Weadock with "The Mystery Years"  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1800 - Craig Andrews  
1800-0000 - Dancing Through The Decades

**Sunday 13th November**  
0600-0900 - Easy Like Sunday Morning with John Clayton  
0900-1400 - Dave Sherwood with "The Mystery Years"  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1900 - Wes Stakes  
1900-2200 - Non-Stop Star Radio  
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

**Monday 14th to Thursday 17th November**  
0600-1000 - Star Radio Breakfast with Wes Stakes  
1000-1400 - Craig Andrews  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1900 - Star Radio Drive with Michael Weadock  
1900-2200 - The Evening Takeover  
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

**Radio House - Woodland Road - Darlington - DL3 7BJ**  
Telephone: 01325 341801

## AYCLIFFE AID HAITI HURRICANE VICTIMS



Families battling to rebuild their lives after Hurricane Matthew devastated large parts of the Caribbean island of Haiti have been given a helping hand by Rotarians in Newton Aycliffe. The town's Rotary club has funded the cost of supplying two emergency Shelter Boxes to provide temporary accommodation, warmth and comfort for families affected by the major disaster. Each large plastic box costs £590 and contains, among other items, a 10-person tent, thermal blankets cooking

pots and a life-saving water filtration kit. Rtn. John Burrows, who proposed the aid suggestion, said: "Hurricane Matthew battered the island with 145mph winds and torrential rain. Rotary International has now supplied thousands of Shelter Boxes to help those in urgent need of somewhere to live and we felt it was important for us to lend a helping hand." Recent reports suggest that 60,000 people are still struggling to survive in makeshift camps.

## Students Raise Cash for WaterAid

650 million people around the world do not have access to safe water. 2.3 billion people do not have access to a working toilet. Both amenities we take for granted every day. Students at Woodham Academy have been learning about the devastating impact the lack of such provisions can have, such as the spread of disease and even death.

English class, 7J, have been reading the novel Millions, written by Frank Cottrell-Boyce which tells the tale of brothers, Damian and Anthony who set about spending their sudden windfall on good deeds such as building wells in third world countries. The class decided to take their own action and after presenting their ideas to Head teacher, Mrs Forsyth, organised a WaterAid day to raise money for the charity. The day included non-uniform for staff and students as well as a cake sale. Students planned the day with precision, costing any expenses, promoting the fundraising activities and collecting money.

The day raised over £400 for WaterAid. The class were thrilled to receive a letter from WaterAid, thanking them for their hard work in raising the money and detailing how the money will help children like Degie from Ethiopia. Degie has to walk an hour each way before school, just to collect water. With money donated by similar events, Degie no longer has to trek for water; a water point has been installed in the village meaning Degie's family will no longer become ill from parasites, transforming their quality of life.

## Town Badminton Club Has Selection Policy

Dear Sir  
As an Aycliffe resident of 40 years I always look forward to reading the Newton News at the end of the week to see what was going on around the town. Even now that I have lived in Darlington for the last 2 years I still make time to check up on local news. In the past and certainly in the last couple of weeks I have seen an article I just had to respond to, which has really got my goat. Aycliffe Badminton Club who play at the Leisure Centre on Friday nights have advertised for new people to join their club and have a game. Four years ago I did just that, because as a school kid I always enjoyed a game of badminton and although I wasn't world class, I wasn't that bad either. I saw this club as an opportunity to get back into a sport that I enjoyed playing as a youngster, whilst meeting new people and socialising so I purchased a couple of rackets and joined. At first I was made to feel welcome as was most of the new participants. The system was good and everyone got to play maybe 2, 3 or 4 games throughout the 2 hours. I had been taking part for about

10 weeks when this particular night I was approached by one of the more competent team players. He took me to one side and explained that I was no longer welcome at the club as the old timers and senior players had assessed my ability and decided I did not cut the grade as a player and would never make the team. My subs were just short of £5 a week, but now when I think about it and especially since they have a certain time of the year for recruitment, the money I paid, like everyone else, probably went into paying for hall hire and shuttlecocks. It seems when they have acquired enough money they start turfing people out! I would discourage anyone wishing to join this club and find it disgusting they have the nerve to advertise themselves as a fun place to "come and have a game of badminton". I would really like the organisers of this club to explain why they treated me the way they did. I would also like other people, that have had similar experiences to come forward and give their thoughts. PK.

## Badminton Club Reply . . .

Dear PK  
Thank you for your letter, as a club run by volunteers we are always grateful to receive feedback. We were pleased to read that you felt welcomed at the club and enjoyed attending. We welcome this opportunity to reply to your letter and give further explanation. We are one of the few clubs in the area that play throughout the year (some others close during the summer). Because of this we don't have a 'certain time of the year for recruitment' - this means that members are able to join throughout the year, and membership fees are pro rata accordingly, ensuring value for money. So your comment of 'acquired enough money together they start turfing people out the door' is inaccurate. As a Badminton England registered club and for insurance reasons, the club can only allow players six guest visits before a decision has to be made whether they join full time or leave. During this time the guests can decide whether they enjoy the club, before committing to pay any annual fee, and the committee has a chance to assess both ability and attitude. Regrettably, as we are primarily not a beginners' club, if the committee considers a player does not have the required skills and does not seem to be improving, it has to suggest that the player should gain a little more experience elsewhere before joining. The committee is sorry that you were put in this position and that maybe this was not clearly explained to you at the time. As a club, we are currently unable to run any formal coaching sessions, but as you pointed out we are a friendly club that make visitors feel welcome, and would encourage people to 'come and have a game of badminton'. If you would like to discuss your problem of several years ago further, please feel free to contact the club directly to either the Club secretary or by dropping in on a Friday to speak to a member of the current committee. Ian Boyd

Please support your local foodbank this Christmas, and help feed people in need. Volunteers needed for the next Neighbourhood Food Collection at Tesco stores, in support of the County Durham foodbank. Come along to your local store and help collect food donations. Volunteers needed for 2 hour shifts: 9am - 11am / 11am - 1pm / 1pm - 3pm / 3pm - 5pm Why not come along and volunteer as a family? All ages welcome! Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd December 2016 at Tesco Store in Newton Aycliffe. To sign up, email volunteer@durhamfoodbank.org.uk or call 0191 3037559. Local organiser Ernie Temple: 01325 313449

## Help Your Foodbank

Please support your local foodbank this Christmas, and help feed people in need. Volunteers needed for the next Neighbourhood Food Collection at Tesco stores, in support of the County Durham foodbank. Come along to your local store and help collect food donations. Volunteers needed for 2 hour shifts: 9am - 11am / 11am - 1pm / 1pm - 3pm / 3pm - 5pm Why not come along and volunteer as a family? All ages welcome! Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd December 2016 at Tesco Store in Newton Aycliffe. To sign up, email volunteer@durhamfoodbank.org.uk or call 0191 3037559. Local organiser Ernie Temple: 01325 313449

## Who Should Pay for Autumn Leaves?

Dear Sir,  
I read with great interest in The Northern Echo (Thursday 3rd that Middlesbrough Council are extending their Garden Waste (Green Bin) collections up to Friday November 25th. This apparently is due to the recent warmer temperatures and extended growing season. Nice to see at least one Council taking the initiative. As a resident of Woodham, whose property is bordered by one of the old Bridle Paths, and overhanging trees, the leaf fall at this time of year is absolutely horrendous. It has become a daily task to keep them all swept up and under control. Consequently my garden waste bin is now brimming over with leaves. Wouldn't it be nice if our own Council, Durham County Council could take a leaf (no pun intended) from Middlesbrough's book and extend their collection dates, especially as we have to pay for this service. Correct me if I am wrong but I don't think Middlesbrough residents have to pay? Yes, I know the DCC have already done so this year, by "one" extra collection from last year, but personally I don't think they have gone far enough. Come on DCC let's not be followers, let's be leaders for a change. Alan Elders, Woodham Resident  
Editor: We have received questions asking whose responsibility it is to pick up leaves blown from trees on "Council" land and is it fair householders be charged for doing so, via their brown bin collection?

## Aycliffe Chef in Final of T.V. Competition



A chef from an Aycliffe Takeaway has cooked his way to the finals of a reality TV show competition. Syed Marjan Haque (41), chef and owner of Masala Tandoori, in Newton Aycliffe, is delighted to have made the final in Channel 1's Reality Show 2016: "The Chefs". He prepared classic Indian dishes in five rounds making it through to the finals and Mr Haque, from Darlington, said: "As a fan of the show I am very happy. I watch the TV show and it's a good organisation all about good food."

Thirty chefs from the North-East competed and were shortlisted to two rounds held in Newcastle. Syed cooked Chicken Korma, Lamb Shank, Chicken Korai and King Prawn Dopiaza. He recently participated in a workshop held by a Magazine's Curry Life Chefs Club earlier this year. Syed is among Ten chefs who made it through to the finals of the show and only one will be crowned overall winner in December. The show is to be broadcast on Sky channel 833 afterwards.

## LOCAL SOLICITORS HELPS NORTH-EAST WORKERS

Hewitts Solicitors is urging workers who have lodged a compensation claim for occupational noise-induced hearing loss through a legal firm, which has entered into administration, to get in touch. Hewitts is keen to hear from former clients of Isaac Abraham Solicitors, a personal injury firm that was based in the North West of England. The firm, which entered administration last month, had been representing a number of clients from areas including Darlington, Aycliffe, Catterick and Teesside. Some have been left with substantial claims for costs after their cases were struck out or discontinued. Hewitts has already stepped in to help a number of these clients and partner Ben Green is appealing for



Ben Green

others to get in touch. Mr Green explained: "Where a case has been struck out or discontinued there may be claims for legal costs from the defendant, even in the case was funded by a no-win, no-fee agreement." Mr Green urged people not to panic and said they should get in touch with Hewitts as soon as possible.

He added, "We can offer advice and assistance to help those individuals affected by the closure of Isaac Abraham Solicitors. Our aim is to ensure that those individuals are reimbursed for any losses they have incurred, such as by way of adverse costs orders, and ultimately that they are compensated for the injuries they have sustained." Hewitts is one of the largest and most well-established law firms in the North-East covering Darlington, County Durham and Teesside. It has offices in Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe, Darlington and Stockton. Mr Green, or a member of the Hewitts personal injury team, can be contacted at Hewitts' Bishop Auckland office on 01388 604691 or via e-mail: enquiries@hewitts.co.uk



### Newton Aycliffe Junior F.C.

**U13's 2016/17 SEASON ARE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS**

With the winter fast approaching, our current U13's are on the look out for some more players. Are you wanting a new challenge?? To be part of a great set of lads and a great club?? Perhaps you are not getting the game time you deserve to showcase your enthusiasm and skills?? If this is you or you know of anyone in this age group looking to join a U13's team get in touch with us, you won't regret it. We have great coaches and a fantastic squad mentality, not win at all costs!!!

For more info, please contact the team manager/secretary for the team;

**Addison Forster.....07968 288232**  
or  
**Sharon Shaw.....07593 091476**

All coaches hold a minimum level 1 FA coaching qualifications and all are fully DBS checked.






[www.najuniorfc.co.uk](http://www.najuniorfc.co.uk) - [info@najfc.com](mailto:info@najfc.com)

# KIDS COMPETITION AT THE "GRETNA" JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

A local pub is celebrating the countdown to Christmas by giving children in Newton Aycliffe the opportunity to take over Christmas for one day only – as well as free festive meals for kids.

The Gretna Green Hotel Hungry Horse pub on Great North Road is searching for five local children to take charge of this year's festivities, which will include decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping presents, and putting up the seasonal decorations.

As well as taking the starring role in their very own Christmas video, each lucky winner will also bag themselves an extra special treat just in time for Christmas – a £250 Toys R Us voucher for them to buy an item from their Christmas wish list. The pub will also be celebrating the season of goodwill with a free Christmas meal from the new festive menu for every child who enters the competition.

Alex Mackenzie, general manager at the Gretna Green Hotel, said: "Christmas time is all about giving, so this year

we wanted to give five lucky children the opportunity to take charge of the season's celebrations at our pubs, as well as offering free meals from our festive menu.

"From decorating the Christmas tree to icing cakes, we've got loads of fun and festive activities in store, so we can't wait to see what Newton Aycliffe's most creative kids come up with!"

To enter your child into the 'Kidsmas' competition for the chance to win the £250 prize, visit [www.hungryhorse.co.uk/kidsmas](http://www.hungryhorse.co.uk/kidsmas) and explain in 100 words why you think they deserve to take the starring role at Hungry Horse this Christmas.

The competition is open to children aged between four and 10 years old. The winning child will join four other winners from across the UK to take part in the Kidsmas video filming on Saturday 26th November at the Beekeeper Pub in Nottingham. Winners will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian and travel expenses will be provided.



## Best Results Ever for Aycliffe Swimmers

North Eastern Regional Swimming Championships were held at the Aquatic Centre Sunderland on the 5th and 6th November. This event was made up of two short course gala's running at the same time. There was such a demand for seats that many spectators were unable to access the event.

Hannah Featherstone competed in the Senior Gala winning five gold medals all in new best times. The events were the 200 and 100 FS, the 200 and 100 Backstroke and the 200 Individual Medley. These are the best results any swimmer from the club has achieved at this level and will influence events she will choose to compete in at the Winter Nationals to be held in Sheffield in December.

Niall Coulthard and Leah Smith competed in the Age group Gala in fifteen events. Niall swam in the 200 100 and 50 FS. The 200 100 and 50 Butterfly. The 200 and 100 Individual Medley

and 100 Butterfly and silver medals in the 200 FS and 100 Individual Medley and bronze medal in the 200 Individual Medley. A truly stunning overall performance with the 200 Fly the best of all. In this event he went from an entry time of 2:30 to win in a time of 2:22 in what is accepted as one of the hardest events of all.

Leah swam in seven events. The 200 100 and 50 Breast Stroke The 100 and 50 Back Stroke the 50 FS and the 100 Individual Medley. Despite posting best times on most of her swims she just missed out on the medal placing. Her best swim was a new event for her, the Individual Medley in which she gained 5th place in a time of 1:13:66.

Elisabeth Yaneski travelled a little further from home to defend her Scottish National Masters 1500 meter title in Glasgow. She had a comfortable swim to take gold in a time of 20:05

As always are sincere thanks to the staff at the Leisure Centre who make all this possible.

It was a wet weekend of action for Aycliffe Juniors with one game later on Sunday not beating the weather but the rest going ahead.

The Under 9 Russell Foster league team started their winter league playing Dalton Park Rangers. Kenzie got the first two goals before Charlie finished the third well. After Dalton scored one in reply Kenzie completed his hatrick and then also got his fourth and the sides fifth before half time. There were no more goals for Aycliffe in the second half and the match ended 5-3 with Kenzie named as the man of the match.

The Under 9 TJFA league team were in the second round of the challenge cup and played Redcar Athletic. They battled to get on top then scored through Niall's shot this was the first of four first half goals for him with Dom and Jayden also on target so it was 6-0 at half time. Jayden then added a brilliant goal before Rhys' hatrick made it 10-0, a second goal for Dom went in as did one at the other end and the game ended 11-1. The second friendly game saw Aycliffe get another win, the mornings men of the match were Jayden and Aidan.

The Under 11 Russell Foster league team played away at Seaham in some very windy conditions. Aycliffe's possession was not rewarded early in the game and some direct play from the hosts caught Aycliffe out. After the first goal was conceded confidence dropped and the score was 5-0 by half time. The second half performance was much better with Reuben, Noah and Sam all having shots saved. Isaac and Tom A played well in midfield but the score remained the same. Alex was named as man of the match for

yet another good game at left back.

The Under 11 TJFA league side played in the third round of the cup and were too strong for Kader FC. They did go a goal behind before Charlie and Lucas scored two each to open up a 4-1 half time lead. It was the same two players creating chances for each other and scoring in the second half with Charlie ending the game scoring five goals, Lucas completing his hatrick and then Jacob chipped in with the last goal in a 9-2 win.

The Under 12's travelled to play Dormanstown, in the first half two goals were given away with a couple of mistakes. A penalty from Hillman got Aycliffe back in the game and they then pushed for the equaliser. There was some good pressure and chances but the game went away from the visitors and this one ended in a 4-1 defeat.

The Under 15's faced Whinney Banks in the fourth round of the league cup. The opposition are currently the top team in Division One. Brilliant defending in the first half kept the game at 0-0, the hosts added two goals after half time before Stoker scored to keep Aycliffe in the game at 2-1. This fantastic effort and work rate though took it out of the Aycliffe side. They did a superb job limiting a very



good side as they slipped to defeat but should be very proud of their efforts.

By the time of the Under 17's game on Sunday afternoon the rain had left standing water on their pitch so they were not able to play. The Under 23's did face Consett and were in a confident mood after three successive wins. A Jack Slatcher free kick was finished by Fitzgerald and Aycliffe were one up after only five minutes. At half time the score had moved to 3-0 with goals from Raisbeck and Howe. Further scores from Slatcher, Scott and Bowes moved the score along to 6-2 and earned a solid win. It was pleasing for Aycliffe to field two young new signings in George Slatcher and Harris as the game came to its close. The games man of the match was Michael Howe who had an excellent all round performance.

## 9yr old Squash Star

Joseph Billany continues to improve at Squash competing in U11 National & County events. In August and September he picked up a 2nd and two 1st places at National events in Harrogate, Carlisle and Manchester. This was followed up by finishing runner up in the County Championships in October.

Last weekend he finished 4th in a Regional County Closed event in which the best players from Yorkshire, Northumbria, Durham & Cleveland battled it out. Great achievement for a 9yr old



 **The Village Pharmacy**  
Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe  
Pharmacist: **Alisdair McConnell** MRPharmS

Pioneering Care Centre, Burn Lane  
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4SE  
Telephone: **01325 311297**  
Email: [thevillagepharmacy@intrapharm.com](mailto:thevillagepharmacy@intrapharm.com)  
[www.thevillage-pharmacy.co.uk](http://www.thevillage-pharmacy.co.uk)

### OPENING TIMES

Monday-Thursday 8.30am-5.30pm

Friday 8.30am-6.00pm

Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon

(Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm for Lunch)

We provide a wide range of services including:  
*Minor Ailments Scheme - Emergency Contraception*  
*Free Contraception on production of a 'c' card*  
*Chlamydia Screening - Pregnancy Testing*  
*Advice on Stopping Smoking & Healthy Living*  
*and much more*

*A Collection and Delivery Service for all the surgeries in Newton Aycliffe*  
*Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions from Pease Way, Bewick Crescent and Cobblers Hall Surgeries*

*Use our FREE DELIVERY SERVICE - Prescriptions delivered to your door*

*Please do not hesitate to contact Alisdair and his friendly staff who are always available to speak with anyone who would like help and advice.*

**FLU JABS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**  
Please ask for more information

## Youth Football Round-Up

This weekend saw weather change and temperatures drop. Thankfully a few games eluded the dreaded "waterlogged pitch" and were played.

**Newton Aycliffe Youth U/8s** Brilliant start to the winter league for the Under 8's Eagles. Weather was awful up at Farringdon on Saturday but that didn't stop our kids. The difference between us and the other team was the way our kids worked as a team. Trystan pulled off some fantastic saves in goal. Edwin, Adam, Will, Nathan, and Faith were brilliant and the team spirit was great. Well done guys 4-1 is a great result in our new league you should be all very proud. Also thanks to the parents for your fantastic support.

**Under 9s** started the Russell Foster winter league on Saturday. In horrendous weather, Aycliffe set off really well and were playing some good Football. A couple of goals from Will Houllahan and 1 from Tyler Percival had Aycliffe 3-1 up with 10 minutes to go. However things started to go against them including the weather and Washington Whites to their credit had a bit more heart and desire in the very cold conditions and turned things round winning 5-3.

A good game from both teams but with the weather being freezing, windy and everyone soaking wet to lose from 3-1

up was very unfortunate. Great support from the parents as usual.

**Under 10** Falcons 0 v 1 Stokesley FC Reds Cup action today saw Aycliffe face a tough game against a 1st division side. The kids held their own today, did everything well and gave the opposition a great game. Aycliffe tested Stokesley's keeper a number of times but couldn't beat him as he played really well with some great saves and he definitely made the difference. Aycliffe were very unlucky to concede the only goal of the game with an own goal. The Falcons pressed and pressed for an equaliser and had Stokesley on the back foot but as the clock ran down it never came. MOTM Dylan Stewart.

**Under 17's** 10 v 3 Durham Athletic. Tough conditions for both teams. The rain was heavy but the pitch was in perfect condition.

Aycliffe got off to a great start when J Bateman tapped home after only 5 minutes of the game. Aycliffe should have scored a second soon after, but Durham broke and Aycliffe conceded a penalty which Durham tucked away 1-1.

Aycliffe could not get themselves going, leaving big gaps for Durham to get into as they were much the better team. But it was Aycliffe that scored the 2nd goal when S

Thompson scored his first of the game but again Durham went more or less straight up the other end and equalized! Things got worse when Durham added their 3rd to take the lead in the game. With 5 minutes to go of the first half, S Thompson scored his second with a great header. Half time 3-3. Aycliffe made 2 subs and changed the formation going 4-3-3 to try and peg Durham into their own half and did it work? It sure did.

Second half was all one way traffic with J Bateman adding his 2nd with a good turn and finish from 30 yards out. M Maguire followed that up with a great run and finish from midfield from 25 yards out. D Godfrey soon added his name to the score sheet with a tidy finish. M Maguire added his 2nd followed by J Bateman's hat trick. By this point Aycliffe were back to what they do best, and working hard, chasing everything down. J Bateman added his 4th of the game and 17th of the season with another great move.

The last goal of the game came from S Thompson, who chipped the keeper from 30 to 35 yards out to cap off a great second half from the team. More information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club, visit [www.nayfc.com](http://www.nayfc.com) or telephone our club secretary Berni on 07939045242.

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Thank You, Emre!

# FEMALES & JUNIORS NEEDED TO JOIN TOWN'S LABOUR PARTY

Dear Editor, In the last year, along with hundreds of thousands of others nationwide, including hundreds in Newton Aycliffe, I joined

the Labour Party. I would like to share my personal experiences as a new member with other new and potentially new, Labour members in Aycliffe. Under Corbyn the Labour Party has now become the largest political party in western Europe and has re-established itself to become not just a political party, but a grassroots people's movement, ready to bring real change to benefit ALL the people of the UK, not just a few.

Already we have seen the political narrative change drastically in the last twelve months in response to an effective Labour opposition, with the Tories u-turning on some of their most cruel, disastrous and divisive policies. The changes to modernize the party have not been easy and are far from over, but as well as the new leadership and direction,

the party needs those that have joined to actively contribute and help push forward the campaign to get us into government, so we can make those radical changes needed that can take the us forward and make that new positive vision of the future possible. If like me, you are a new member, then please contact your local party representative to make sure they have your correct details so they can inform you of meetings and events in the area. As it can be a bit intimidating for some people to join well established groups, I can reassure new members that as a new member myself, I have been warmly welcomed at meetings and my contributions well received. Personally I would like to see more female members and young members come

along to meetings so their views and opinions can be reflected better at the grassroots level. So, if you are a new Labour Party member, please come along to meetings and have your say, we need to hear your voices, and if you don't want to come alone, get a friend to join too and come along together! I look forward to seeing you all at the next meetings. Kathryn Beetham.

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Byerely Park Year 6 were the grateful recipients of Rotary Club dictionaries last week when Rtn. Mary Waine presented the books to students. The project, run nationwide by Rotary, aims to improve literacy among young people.

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**PROF. NINCOMPOOP** Children's entertainer making birthday parties special. Balloons, magic and tomfoolery, midweek discounts. Tel Gary on 310 646 or 07952 244 404. Website: www.professor-nincompoop.com - FB Prof Nincompoop  
**THE BALDY DJ** Karaoke/ Disco for all occasion, weddings, birthdays etc. Over 35000 karaoke songs. Music from 1930's to present day. Tel 01325 321651 or 07525 479 536  
**OZDJ - DJ SERVICES** for all special occasions, birthday parties, weddings and kids parties 07702 345 869

## Computers

### AYCLIFFE COMPUTERS

Computers Built to your own Specification  
**PC, Laptop & Mac Repairs**  
iPad/Tablet Set Up & Sync  
Upgrades - Data Recovery  
**Windows 10 Installation**  
Broadband Installation  
Networking - Anti Virus

Call out within 24 hours, usually same day

~ NO CALL OUT CHARGE ~

Contact **Rob**  
**01325 310737**  
**07841 867170**

aycliffecomputers@googlemail.com

WE ARE NOT CONNECTED TO ANY OTHER COMPUTER BUSINESS IN N/AYCLIFFE

## Photography

**EYE DREAM** Photography for weddings, portrait and event photography. Telephone: 07595 023 823 or email paul@eyedreamphotography.co.uk or visit www.eyedreamphotography.co.uk

## Property Sales

### BUTLER ROAD

Two bedroom terraced, new kitchen, good condition, front patio, rear garden, quiet area, near town centre

Call Stu for details/view

**07930 557330**

## Hairdressing

**JULIE** Mobile Hairstylist for all the family, competitive prices, perms £40 inc. cut and finish. Tel Julie on 07801 192 417

**HAIR DESIGN** Experienced mobile hair dresser. Senior Citizens reduced rates. call Lynn on 07904 219997

**CLAIRE'S** Hairdressing, cut and blow dry £10 - until the end of November. Tel 07736 905185

## Autos

### Stigs Motor Factors

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Wiperblade, Bulb +

Battery fitting available

OPEN SIX DAYS A WEEK

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## Personal

### BVA Foundation

**FREE Confidential Post Abortion Counselling available**

Telephone: **01642 616077**

**SAMARITANS** - 13 Woodland Road, Darlington. We are here for you 24 hours a day. Telephone 08457 90 90 90

## Tuition

### GUITAR LESSONS

Acoustic and Classical

Beginners to Advanced

Learn to play fast!

Call **Chris** on **07771 231 727**

morethancovers.info

**ENJOY LEARNING** Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local.

## RESIDENTS' MEETING

The **Williamfield Residents Meeting** is to be held on **Wednesday 16th November** at **Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place.** Ring **01325 308094** for further details.

## Chiropody

### CHIROPODY

Mr P. Oliver  
BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S

for a Home Visit call

**01325 320126**

## Weddings

**CLASSIC WEDDING CARS** offer a superb collection of cars for your special day including Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars, Beaufords, Daimler Limousines and VW Campervans. View our cars at our Aycliffe showroom. www.classic-wedding-cars.co.uk 01325 789 291 (Aycliffe) mob 07721 771 113.

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### Mobile K9 House of Style



Professional mobile Dog and Cat Groomer that comes to you in a salon on wheels. From full grooms to bath onlys, even just nail clipping.

Darlington and surrounding areas  
7 days a week. OAP discounts  
Call **Shane** on **07789766516**

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**SCRANIMALS** Pet Care Services. Dog day care vacancies available. Pet home boarding, home visits and walking services. Tel 07817 622051 or 01325 496065 email scranimals1@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/scranimals  
**DOG WALKING** Insured and experienced. Tel 07756 825637  
**DOG WALKING** Tel 07971 115754

# Greenfield's Farewell to Class of 2016



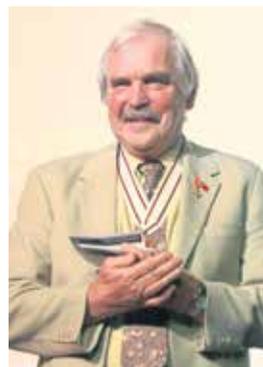
## Greenfield Class of 2016 AWARD WINNERS

**Design & Technology** Hannah Day  
**English**: Abbey Warburton  
**Geography**: Thomas Stocks  
**History**: Lucy Farrer  
**Digital Skills, Business & Computing**: Dylan Findlay  
**Mathematics**: Adam Boyes  
**Modern Languages**: Owen Wallbanks  
**Dance**: Holly Sanderson  
**Drama**: Kieran Berry  
**Music**: Declan Ballan  
**Physical Education**: Becky Adams  
**Religious Education**: Sophie Holmes  
**Science**: Lucy Ryans  
**Visual Arts**: Lili-Mae Lonsdale  
**Attendance Award**: Curtis Craggs / Jordan Kent  
**Respect Award**: Blake Reed  
**Progress Award**: Owen Wallbanks  
**Highest Academic Achievement**: Lucy Ryans  
**Social Contribution**: Hannah Day  
**The Outdoor & Adventurous Award**: Sophie Hayes  
**QE Trophy**: Ryan Wall

Greenfield Community College held their annual Presentation of Awards Evening and Celebration of Achievements, to the Class of 2016, on Thursday 3rd November.

The Guest of Honour was local celebrity **Dr. R. McManners OBE** who presented the awards and gave a truly inspirational talk to the past students who had returned to the college to collect their awards and receive a final farewell.

It was an emotional occasion as teachers paid tribute to the nominees before announcing



Dr. R. McManners OBE

## iTunes Gift Card Scam

We have had reports in the last few days from a number of people targeted by fraudsters pretending to be from HMRC. Victims are being contacted in a variety of methods - which can include voicemails and text messages - and being told they owe an outstanding debt. They are then informed that the payment can be made quickly and easily by using an iTunes gift card voucher code, which can be purchased online or in store.

The fraudsters claim that failure to clear the 'debt' will lead to a fine or even an arrest. Once the conmen have the serial code they are then free to use it, at the victim's expense. One such case in our area has led to the victim being out of pocket by £2,500 with another victim in another part of the country losing £15,000.

Stores are being contacted to put them on their guard if they have any suspicions about large purchases of iTunes vouchers, and a few days ago quick thinking by staff at the Durham branch of WH Smith prevented a woman in her eighties buying £250 worth of iTunes gift cards after she received an automated voicemail.

"Fraudsters are now moving onto iTunes gift cards to

collect money from victims because they can be easily redeemed and quick purchases can be made with them. The scammers don't need the physical card to redeem the value and instead get victims to read out the serial code on the back over the phone," said Det Con Tony Murray, from the force's economic crime unit.

"They are putting the victims under real pressure by stating if the debt is not repaid swiftly then the police will be sent to arrest them. These types of criminals are expert in what they do and very skilled at sounding plausible."

Watch out for cold calls using the number 0300 200 3300 - this is being used by the 'HMRC' conmen.

"We would urge people to hang up on fraud. Official bodies such as HMRC, banks and the police do not carry out their business in this way. If you have any concerns about a call, a text or a voicemail you have received then simply say that you do not do business on the phone and hang up," said DC Murray.

For further information on how to protect yourself from fraud visit [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk) or follow [takefive-stopfraud](https://www.facebook.com/takefive-stopfraud) on facebook



the selected winner. Greenfield recorded its best grades ever in 2016 and the sense of pride in the achievement of the students was palpable.

Photos of the young people were shown on a large screen when they first entered Greenfield as Year 7 students, and to see them walk up to the stage grown up and confident, gave everyone a warm feeling, with hope for continued success in their chosen careers. Before the awards ceremony members of the College Dance class gave a spectacular performance based on the Pit Painter Norman Cornish

whose Exhibition is currently running in the Greenfield Gallery. The school has some connection with the artist, who died recently, as his son-in-law Mike Thornton was the previous Head Teacher at Greenfield. Mike was present to see his own award for Outdoor and Adventurous Activities presented to Sophie Hayes.

It was a pleasant evening when teachers, parents and students became steeped in nostalgia, making a happy and final goodbye to past students on a truly memorable community occasion.

## Accommodation

### ALL LANDLORDS

We need 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses and apartments in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas for our clients on our waiting list. For further information call

**PROPERTY EXCHANGE ESTATE AGENTS**

**01325 778 775**

ARLA registered agent

**PROPERTY AVAILABLE** to rent in Aysgarth Close, Newton Aycliffe. The property is spacious and has 3 bedrooms. There is an enclosed garden to the rear and open plan grassed area to the front. If you are interested then please contact Lucy on 07826 925 652 for further details, (please note we do not accept DSS).

**2 BEDROOM** Butler Road available to let in November. Tel 07930 557330

**3 BEDROOM** house in Reeth Place, totally refurbished, £475 plus deposit. Tel 01325 319842 or 07970 201841

**2 BEDROOM** house to let, separate dining room and kitchen in old part of town, refurbished. Tel 07519 376870

**2 BEDROOM** Langdale Road, Darlington. Bond £395, Rent £395. 2 double bedrooms, newly decorated. Move in before 12th November and get two weeks free rent. Tel 07732 502252

**3 BEDROOM** house to rent in Sharp Road, Newton Aycliffe. Tel 07486 468625

**3 BEDROOM** semi-detached house in Fawn Close, Woodham. £475pcm in advance. Guarantor required. Tel 07780 333398

### 2/3 Bedroom

Detached Bungalow in Woodham available to rent £600.00

### Three Bedroom

house, perfect family home, old part of town. Available - £565.00

**01325 351212**

## Opticians



Town Centre  
Newton Aycliffe

**Tel: 316600**

# Co. Durham Ready for Winter

With more than 42,000 tonnes of salt in stock, a fleet of vehicles on standby and hundreds of salt bins in place, County Durham is ready for winter.

Preparations for the cold weather have been underway for some time but Durham County Council's winter maintenance programme for 2016/17 is now all set. The budget for this year's programme is £5.2 million, which will once again enable the council to treat 1,700km of roads during normal winter conditions. Representing 45 per cent of the network, these roads are known as priority 1 are mainly A and B roads, bus routes and locations where there are known to be specific problems.

While more minor routes are not normally treated during normal winter conditions, in times of prolonged bad weather a secondary network of priority 2 routes will be treated when resources are available. Gritting is carried out by a fleet of more than 70 vehicles including 37 large power gritters, 33 trailer gritters and six snow blowers. The council also has access to a network of local farmers who are able to help clear roads in rural areas if required.

Meanwhile, residents around the county have access to more than 2,300 salt bins to treat local roads and pavements when needed.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "With the weather now turning cold, it's important that we are ready for the drop in temperature."

"Our overall aim is to keep the county moving whatever the weather so that people can get to where they need to be and access any services they require." This year, members of the public can track the gritters as they make their way around the county's roads using an online map. Tracking devices on-board the gritters enable the map to be updated when gritting is complete on each route.

People can also keep up-

to-date with the council's winter weather programme in the following ways: Follow @DurhamCouncil and #twittergritterNE on Twitter. Follow Facebook/durhamcouncil. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/winterinfo for details of the council's winter service operations including a list of priority gritting routes, online gritter tracking, roadside weather cameras, and information on which roads are affected by adverse weather. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/weatherwarnings for weather warnings from the Met Office.

Members of the public can also access a range of winter services online, including requesting a salt bin be refilled, reporting a pothole and asking for sandbags, by visiting www.durham.gov.uk Problems with roads and footpaths can be reported by calling 03000 261 000.

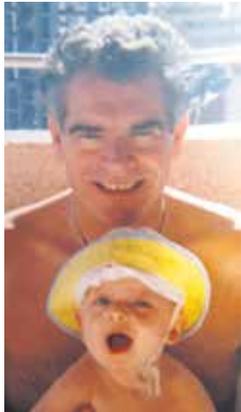
John Reed, Durham County Council's head of technical services, said: "Providing a countywide winter maintenance service is clearly one of our key responsibilities as a council. "However, we appreciate that it's also just as important that we keep people up-to-date with road conditions and our gritting work. Each year, we offer the public updates on our winter maintenance programme in a number

of ways and I'm pleased that this year we have been able to expand that range of information with our online gritting map."

## Birthday Remembrance

### Brian Magee

2/11/1936 - 5/12/2015



Today would be your 80th birthday. I still cannot believe it is nearly a year since you left us. Not a day has gone by that I have not thought about you. I miss your laughs when I tease and wind up Grandma. She will say "your Grandad would be laughing at that". Bella still looks for you when we go round and goes straight to your room. I hope you are somewhere warm, enjoying your Friday night Fish & Chips and a pint of John Smiths. Much love always Grandson Ross xxxx

**BRIAN MAGEE** 2/11/1936 - 5/12/2015. To my darling Husband on your 80th birthday. Wish you were here with me. I miss you so much. I will never stop loving you darling. Your loving Wife Joan  
**BRIAN MAGEE** 2/11/1936 - 5/12/2015. To our lovely Dad. Your nature was loving and giving. Your heart was pure gold and to us who truly loved you, your memory will never grow old. Love you Dad. Daughters Susan and Julie; Sons-in-Law Dennis and Billy; Grandsons Tony and Wife Maddie, Ross and Luke  
**BRIAN MAGEE** 2/11/1936 to 5/12/2015. Today is your 80th birthday. I wish I was giving you your card, giving you a big kiss and saying I love you Dad. I know when you choose your birthday cards for us you look at the verse, take your time picking the right card. As you love giving and receiving them. I still got you a card for your birthday to say I hope the angels are giving you a dance and a pint. I miss your nice happy face when you see the family. I have not had a good cup of coffee, meaning not perfect, like yours. Billy keeps trying and will say it is as good (never). The garden is still kept nice, when I pull up in the car I want you to be in the garden and see your smile. Then come in the house and say "cup of coffee love?" All our love forever to the most kind Dad, Grandad, Father-in-Law in the world, who we miss so much. We send you love, prayers and kisses from your Daughter Julie, Grandson Ross, Son-in-Law Billy and your special little girl Bella who still looks for you. We love you xxxxx

## Wanted

**WANTED** Household furniture. Tel 07860 560 295  
**CASH FOR FURNITURE** Cookers, Fridges, Freezers, Houses cleared for cash. Tel 07754 261 443

## For Sale

**RENT** a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321 678  
**"ALL SORTS"** Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare's Church is open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On sale is a huge selection of bric-a-brac, toys, household goods, jewellery, electrical goods . . . the list is endless. All items are perfect and at low prices. All money raised will continue to be given to good causes. All Sorts is a charitable project run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett

**ORIGINAL** framed watercolour "Cobblers Hall Farm" by R W Smith. 54cm x 45cm. £50. Aycliffe 317332  
**MEDIUM/DARK** solid wood TV and media unit with shelf for sound box, Sky box etc. and two drawers. Two years old, in excellent condition. 1200mm x 450mm x 550mm high (47" x 17" x 21" high). £60. Tel 01325 307744

**NEST OF TWO** medium/dark tables, two years old and in excellent condition. 580mm x 430mm x 550mm high (23" x 17" x 21" high). £60. Tel 01325 307744  
**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113 343

**SMALL TV**, excellent condition, silver, £20. Tel 01325 366956

**ROB OLIVER** 70 years young. Happy 70th birthday Rob. All my love, Barb xx  
**ROB OLIVER** 14th November. Congratulations on your 70th birthday. Enjoy your celebrations. Love, Pauline, Bruce, Michael, Stephen and Danielle xxxxxxx  
**AMBER PARSONAGE** Happy birthday on 14th November. Hugs and kisses. Love, Mam, Nana, Jane and Grandad Bryan xxxxx  
**MARTIN CARTER** (The Egg Man). Happy 70th birthday on 9th November. From Ann and Alan

## Births

**CLARE & WAYNE** congratulations on the birth of your beautiful baby boy "Harry Gäwen Richardson" on 6th November 2016. We are all so proud. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Leigh, Dale, Nana and all the family xxxxxxx

## Acknowledgement

**DOUBLE** Mrs Joan Double and family of the late Stan would like to thank everyone for the support, flowers, cards and condolences given at this sad time. Thank you to Ward 2, University Hospital, Durham; Co-op Funeralcare and Mandy & Co. for the catering. Thank you for the generous donations of £240 forwarded to Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (registered charity). Stan will be remembered by many for a long time and loved by his family always.

## In Memoriam

**BERYL RICHARDSON** (nee Kelly). 25th February 1949 to 13th November 2015. One year has passed, no one knows the bitter pain without you. For one lovely lady the gates of Heaven opened. I miss you so much and I will never forget you and your love. Your face will always be hidden deep inside my heart. Each precious moment you gave me shall never, ever part. Love you, Grumpy Old Joe  
**FLETCHER**, Earle Raymond (Ray). Sadly passed 10-11-2007. In memory of a cherished Husband, Dad and Grandad. Lonely is our home without you. Life to us is not the same. All this world could be like Heaven, if we could only have you back again xxx. And Dad, if ever we needed you, you never turned your back. You'd pick us up whenever we fell and put us back on track. Since you've gone we miss you so and certainly realise what we had, a parent with a heart of gold. The world's most special Dad and Grandad. Your Wife Bea and family xxxxx

**MOUNSEY**, Fred & Edna, formerly of The Oak Tree, Neville Parade. Passed away 12th November 2004 and 13th November 2015. Always remembered with love and affection by all the family.  
**NATHAN SOWERBY** 16th November 2006. A daily thought, a silent tear. A constant wish that you were still here. Dad and Joanne  
**GRIFFITHS**. Peacefully on 2nd November, at home amongst family and friends following a long illness borne with great courage. Linda, aged 62 years. Loving Wife of Raymond; much loved Mam of Leanne, Mark, Alistair and Simon; Mother-in-Law of Simon Bowron, Diane and Shelley and a much loved Grandma. She will be greatly missed.

**ROBERT DOUGLAS** 12th November 2011. Dear Husband, your presence I miss, your memory I treasure. Loving you always, forgetting you never. Loved and remembered every day. Your loving Wife Grace.

**ROBERT DOUGLAS** 12th November 2011. Deep in our heart your memories are kept, to love and to cherish and never forget. Miss you always Dad. Alan, John, Tracy and Rob  
**JULIE REED** 8.11.99. Those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Loved and missed always. Dad, Steven, Lara and families xxxxx

**GEORGE SMITH** 11-11-2011. Darling George, five years since you left us and not a day goes by when I don't stop and think of you. As I look up to the sky I know you are in Heaven and are looking down on me and the bond goes on forever. That's how it's meant to be. Miss you so much George. Darling Brother and Uncle. Your ever loving Sister Margaret and family xxx  
**GEORGE SMITH** 11-11-11. Treasured memories of you Dad. Loved, missed and never forgotten. Steven, Graham and John xxx  
**GEORGE SMITH** 11-11-11. Love you Grandad George. Millie and Bradley xx  
**GEORGE SMITH** 11-11-11. Never far from my thoughts George. you are greatly missed. Irene xx

## Congratulations

## Congratulations

### Elizabeth Worthington

(nee Coglan)



**Happy 70th Birthday Mam**  
We love you loads and hope you have a wonderful day on Sunday. Chris and Gillian xxx.

### Elizabeth Worthington



**Happy 70th Birthday**  
13th November  
You are the best Nan I could have ever wished for. All my love, Amy-Lou xxx

### Thomas Williamson



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
11th November 2016  
Thomas Williamson is 21 today! Happy birthday to our amazing Son and Brother. Have a wonderful weekend celebrating your special day. All our love and kisses, Mam, Dad and Jack xxxxx

### Thomas Williamson



**Happy 21st Birthday**  
11th November 2016  
To our Thomas on your 21st. You are a massive part of our lives and we love you lots. From Nan, Crag, Nic, Fin and Dexter xxxxx

### Nichola Simpson



#### Happy 40th!

Old in age, old in appearance (LOL), but very young at heart!! Payback for that photo you put in of me in my Morrison's outfit 7 years ago, HaHa!. Lots of love, Paul, Liam, Morgan, Grace and Charlie xxxxx



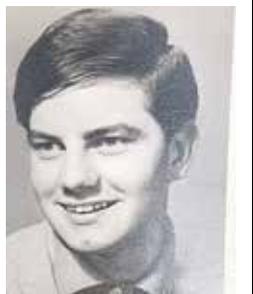
### Jasmeen Vasey



#### Happy Birthday Sweet 16

19th November 2016  
Lots of love, Mam, Tomas, Shawn, Gran, Calvin, Shaun, Kurt, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins

### Tom Turnbull



#### Happy 70th Birthday

10th November 2016  
Happy birthday Tom, Dad, Grandad. Enjoy your celebrations. Love 'n' hugs from Elaine, Leigh, Jo, Craig, Lisa, Thomas, Sarah, Joseph, George, Benjamin, Matthew and Martha xxx



## Accountancy

**KBN BOOKKEEPING** - Require Assistance? Contact Keith (FCCA - 20 years qualified) on 07905 298029

## Situations VACANT

## STILLER

www.stiller.co.uk

Ridgeway, Aycliffe Business Park  
Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 6SP  
Tel. 01325 313 140 Email. info@stiller.co.uk

www.stiller.co.uk

## VACANCY

Stiller Warehousing & Distribution currently has an opening for a Vehicle Wash Operator. This role is outdoor based and involves manually washing vehicles and trailers within our fleet. Full training will be given to enthusiastic applicants for this role.

Minimum Wage rates will apply to the vacancy and it is expected that 30 hours per week will be worked over 5 days.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please email your information to:

info@stiller.co.uk

Please mark the email:

Vacancy - Vehicle Wash Operator.

## Support Town Football Club in FA Vase Match

Newton Aycliffe FC begin their Buildbase FA Vase campaign this Saturday (12 November) with a home tie at Moore Lane. Last year's fantastic efforts, which saw Aycliffe reach the last 16, mean that they have been exempt until the Second Round Proper of the national competition. The game will kick off at Moore Lane at 3:00pm with admission £6 adults & £4 concessions.

Our visitors on Saturday will be Worksop Town, claimed to be the fourth oldest football club in the world. Worksop play in the Premier Division of the Northern Counties East League which is the equivalent level to the Northern League Division One.

They won at Malvern Town in the First Round Proper to earn them their first game against a North East side since they played Bishop Auckland in the FA Cup in 2001.

Saturday is undoubtedly Aycliffe's most important game of the season so far. They are hoping that Newtonians turn out in force to support the team to see if they can emulate last season's efforts in the FA Vase. Meanwhile Aycliffe reached the halfway point in their Northern League season with a 3-0 over Ryhope Colliery Welfare. Both these teams went into this match on the back of 6 consecutive league defeats. Aycliffe's confidence received a boost after only 4 minutes when Jordan Laidler received a short free-kick from John Campbell, beat 2 players and chipped Ryhope keeper Chris Rookes for 1-0.

There were few chances created until the 26th minute when John Campbell scored direct from a free-kick 22 yards out, for 2-0.

Both sides then had a chance each in quick succession, but keepers Rookes and Brass made good saves.

It was Aycliffe who found the net again on 45 minutes when Campbell hit a long-range shot into the corner of the net, giving Rookes no chance. Half-time 3-0.

The second half was a cagey affair with both sides seeking a breakthrough but without really troubling the keepers.

Aycliffe now face an away league game at Bishop Auckland on Tuesday 6 November before turning their attention to Saturday's cup game.

## ATHLETICS NEWS

### Aycliffe Running Club

Aycliffe runners participated in Morpeth to Newcastle events on Sunday 3 October. There was a choice of full marathon or cycle sportive from Morpeth to Newcastle or the half marathon from Spanish City Whitley Bay to Newcastle.

Sandra Collins completed it in 4 hours 33 mins. The route followed coastal paths from Whitley Bay to North Shields and finished at the Quayside in Newcastle. First to finish the half marathon for Aycliffe was Rob Young in 1 hour 40 minutes, followed by Angela Barrett in 1 hour 57 minutes and Rob Nicholson in 2 hours 02 minutes. Trish Kay, who was injured cautiously jogged the half marathon route completing the course in 2 hours 11 minutes.

Club runner Roger Haslett participated in the Striders Trail 5 in St Helens, Merseyside, the race of his former running club St Helen Striders. It's a five mile multi-terrain trail race. He completed the race in 41 minutes 09 seconds.

Judith Porter took part in the New York marathon on the 6th November and she completed the course in 4 hours 56 minutes commenting it was "an amazing experience".

## Karate Gradings at Woodham



Zanshin Kai Karate based at Woodham Community Centre held their final coloured belt grade test for 2016 & the Instructors & assistants were pleased with the spirit, enthusiasm and effort shown by all the students, who went on to successfully gain their

new belts. Congratulations to the following people: Janet Hutton, Glen Cochrane & Pawel Wilczynski 9th Kyu Red Belt, Jodie Macmaster 8th Kyu Yellow belt, Josh Pinder 7th Kyu Orange belt, Charlotte Dunn, Mati Wilczynski &

Jagoda Socha 6th Kyu Green Belt & Tom Haden 5th Kyu Blue Belt.

If you have always wanted to try karate, then we would like to invite you to come and give it a try, all newcomers get a four week Free Trial. Come down, keep fit and have fun alongside the rest of your family, everyone welcome from 4 years upwards. Thursdays: 6.00pm - 7.00pm Red Dragons (Cadets) & Juniors, Adults 7.00pm - 8.00pm Sunday: 4.00pm - 5.00pm Adults, Senior Grades 5.00pm - 6.00pm.

Contact: Zanshin-Kai Karate or Zanshin-Kai Red Dragons, Woodham Community Centre or telephone an Instructor on 07917203421 / 07746204064 or email zanshin-kai-karate@hotmail.co.uk. Face book (zanshin kai karate newton aycliffe).

## Aycliffe Bikers Win Record Breaking Hero Award

A team of Aycliffe endurance cyclists has been recognised with a 'Hero Award' thanks to its record breaking success!

Blood, Sweat and Gears - the brainchild of Mark Stephenson, CEO of PWS successfully undertook a 500km cycling challenge across South Africa which it was hoped, through sponsorship, would raise £250,000 for Help for Heroes of which Mark is a long-term supporter.

However, thanks to generous supporters, the tally grew to an incredible £314,000, making it the highest amount of any singular, third-party fundraising challenge ever donated to Help for Heroes.

In recognition of this phenomenal achievement, Blood, Sweat and Gears has received the Charity's Hero Award for Extraordinary Teams.

The money raised by the team will fund three additional psychological wellbeing advisors over three years for the charity's psychological wellbeing program; Hidden Wounds. The programme delivers early intervention mental health support for wounded, injured and sick veterans and their families.

Melanie Dickinson, Interim Centre Manager at Phoenix House said, "We never doubted that Mark, PWS and all their supporters would reach their huge target of £250,000 but for them to surpass it, and by so much, is simply outstanding. It will go a long way to supporting beneficiaries with their mental wellbeing, enabling us to help change, and in some cases save, lives."

Among the cyclists were PWS staff, four veterans being supported by Help for Heroes, and ex-rugby international Will Greenwood, who described the challenge as one of the most incredible experiences of his life.

"We did it for all the right reasons, with generosity of spirit, warmth and - in no small way - funding to help do so much in Catterick," he added. "I've had the opportunity over many years to work with some great people and many great teams but Blood Sweat



& Gears, no question at all, goes right to the top of that list for integrity, humility and downright blooming courage." Mark Stephenson said he was extremely proud to have made the record-breaking donation to Phoenix House, adding: "I extend my heartfelt and sincere thanks to our suppliers, customers and the truly great British public who embraced my 'pie-in-the-sky' idea. They were behind us all the way and ensured that Blood Sweat & Gears exceeded all expectations."

The Hero Award were launched in 2010 by Help for Heroes co-founders Bryn and Emma Parry, as a way to say thank-you to extraordinary supporters for voluntarily going above and beyond and giving up their time to assist the charity in delivering lifelong support to wounded heroes.

Bryn Parry, CEO and Co-Founder of Help for Heroes said: "For those suffering an injury or illness due to service, their recovery can last

a lifetime. Knowing they have remarkable organisations like PWC standing beside them, willing to do amazing things, makes a huge difference on their recovery journey. Together we are rebuilding lives, so thanks and please keep doing your bit for 'the blokes'."

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## Cricket Club Appoints 'Beefy' as Chairman

The Leader of Durham County Council has welcomed Sir Ian Botham as the new chairman of Durham County Cricket Club.

Following the cricketer legend's appointment as Chairman on Thursday, Cllr Simon Henig hailed the move as a step towards a brighter future for the club.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "We're delighted with the appointment of Sir Ian Botham as chairman and would like to wish him the warmest of welcomes to his new position. "To have an international cricketer icon taking on such a major role can only be a positive step towards a new, brighter future for the club.

"With its importance to the local community, County Durham and the region as a whole, it is vital that we now move forward, working closely together with the cricket club, the new board and the ECB to



get Durham County Cricket Club back where it belongs." In October, the council agreed to convert the outstanding balance of loans to the club, totalling £3.74 million, into redeemable preference shares in the newly formed Community Interest Company to run the club going forward.

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