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Week Ending 9th December 2016

# Newton News

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## Pre-Christmas Fun in Aycliffe Town Centre



A glittering Aycliffe Town Centre celebrated the start of Christmas with a star studded event including tribute acts for Bruno Mars and Robbie Williams. Star Radio broadcast live and there was children's fairground rides and free face painting. Star of the event was Santa Claus who along with our Mayor Jed Hillary distributed free gifts to children. "Everyone who attended had a great time and I would like to wish all the townspeople of Newton Aycliffe a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year" said Town Centre Manager Bryan Haldane.



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# Which PANTO?

For your convenience Newton News has put together a selection of Pantomimes for the coming festive season:

Billingham Forum - 01642 552663  
www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

## JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Saturday 3rd December to Sunday 8th January 2017

Newcastle Theatre Royal - 08448 112121  
www.theatreroyal.co.uk

## CINDERELLA

Tuesday 22nd November to Sunday 15th January 2017

Gala Theatre, Durham - 0191 332 4041  
www.galadurham.co.uk

## JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Monday 24th November to Saturday 7th January 2017

Majestic Theatre, Darlington - 01325 482848  
www.darlington.gov.uk

## ALADDIN

Friday 9th December to Monday 2nd January 2017

Sunderland Empire Theatre - 0191 566 1040  
www.sunderlandempire.org.uk

## SLEEPING BEAUTY

Friday 9th December to Saturday 31st December 2016

# Back from Oz to Visit Family & Run Workshops

Ex Newtonian Joseph Douglas has lived in Perth, Australia for 20 years. He was a mechanic/fitter in the Air Force first then the railway works in Wolverton, where he became a charge hand and foreman. He had a young family of 4, aged 1, 3, 5 and 7; and Perth seemed a good option, great climate and the prospect of a new start. Unfortunately his marriage failed within a year, but he was determined to stick it out.

At times he was tempted to come home, being in a new country with 4 kids, working full time. He later remarried and moved to a house big enough for a family of 7. His wife got him started on personal growth and he took many different courses and workshops. In 2007 he went to University as a mature entrant, studied psychology and education, but couldn't face life as a teacher or a

psychologist so began running his own workshops. He is a graduate of the Hakomi method of psychotherapy and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology.

"I have run 36 'New Leaf' workshops over 4 years with between 6 and 12 people on the course. I am a skilful, compassionate and pragmatic psychotherapist with a singular vision for helping people build the capacity to live and love by taking responsibility for their own lives" said Joseph. His approach is dedicated to equipping you with the awareness and tools you need to remove the obstacles preventing you from being the person you wish to be. "In simple terms I seek to wake people up to the truth that whilst we all may sometimes feel broken or believe we are suffering from disease or disorders these are usually the adverse effects of becoming disconnected from our true selves". said Joseph.

He has extensive experience in helping people deal with anxieties and issues in areas such as addiction, anger, trauma, anxiety, relationships – including couple counselling and parenting. He will run workshops at the Agnew Community Centre, Friday 7pm to 10pm, and Sat and Sun 9am to 5pm, on the 6th, 7th and 8th January.

"I'm keen on all types of personal growth and taking personal responsibility for emotions and behaviours and as I used to live in Aycliffe I thought it would be a good place to do one of my New Leaf Workshops. I have a few friends still there, one of them found the venue for me.

Joseph told Newton News: "I have fond memories of Aycliffe. I used to play badminton for the Recreation Centre when I was 15 and 16. My Nan lived with us in Lowery Road and died when I was 15. We lived in Burdon



Close, Priestman Road, and Whinlatter Place. I attended St Joseph's, St Mary's then St John's in Bishop Auckland" "I seem to be getting more nostalgic as I get older and may end up moving back to Aycliffe one day as I can feel the pull. I miss the smell of English woods and the sound of seagulls and the bracing North Sea air. I loved sledging down the hill at the Burn - my daughter is really keen to see some snow too. I also miss being around folk that sound like I do, or like I used to sound". Joseph's Dad, in Shiney Row, isn't very well, so he is bringing his 9 year old daughter to see her Gran and Grandad.

## Teaching Assistants Dispute - Update

Durham County Council's corporate director of resources, John Hewitt, said: "I am pleased to say that positive and productive talks are continuing and as a result Unison has called off industrial action by its teaching assistants planned for this week. In return, to allow this to take place, we last week agreed to suspend the dismissal and re-engage process and undertake a review of the teaching assistants' role. "We remain clear that an equal pay risk exists, and that needs to be addressed, but it is also important to properly examine aspects of the employment of teaching assistants which merit further review given some of the information which has come to light recently. "The review, which will look at function, job description and activities, to establish whether current job descriptions adequately describe the role, will be completed by 1 September 2017. This will not however re-open the single status agreement currently in place. "This is a very complex situation and it has also resulted in us having further discussions with other recognised trade unions. "We look forward to working with these trade unions and are grateful for Unison's announcement today."

# Xmas Lunch for a Fiver! SENIOR CITIZENS INVITED TO "EAT TOGETHER"

Traditional Christmas Lunch and Festive Fun at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre. Older people in Newton Aycliffe are being invited to come along to enjoy some festive cheer and a delicious two course traditional Christmas lunch at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre.

At an affordable price of £5.00 the meal will be freshly prepared and after lunch they'll be some festive fun with a Christmas Quiz and Bingo. Louise Haymer the project Development Worker said, "Come Eat Together is all about good food in good company. This lunch club enables people who live alone or are carers to enjoy dining out with others in pleasant surroundings. As well as Christmas lunch we will be

continuing our monthly lunch club throughout January 2017. The Christmas Lunch will be held at 12.00pm on Monday 12th December 2016 and the lunch will then continue regularly on the third Monday of every month thereafter. Aycliffe Shoppers will also be running fortnightly on a Friday, throughout the festive period. Your chance to take advantage of a door to door service, a wider variety of shops, help with heavy bags as well as plenty of time to stop off for a cuppa and a chat for only £4.00. Booking is essential for the lunch and shopping, for more information and to book your place please contact Come Eat Together on 0191 374 6577 or e-mail cet@ageukcountydurham.org.uk. Come Eat Together is funded by Big Lottery Silver Dreams.

# Student Workshop on Medical Careers

The future NHS could be in the hands of a number of inspired Woodham Academy students after they recently took part in a Medical Careers day.

Year 10 and 11 students spent the day at New College Durham learning about the medical profession and what it takes to become a doctor. Throughout the day, students took part in workshops including how to conduct CPR, how to deal with someone who is choking and how to diagnose an illness.

Current Health and Social Care students from the college gave the young visitors a presentation on what their training is like and how their careers will progress after training. The day was an opportunity for



Woodham Academy students to understand the process of a career in the health sector and to consider options for further education.

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### Saturday 17th December - "Assassin"

For more information on bands go to  
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# COME ALONG TO THE FREE COMMUNITY XMAS CONCERT



This is the final notice for the Free Community Christmas Concert to be held in the Leisure Centre on Tuesday 13th December from 1pm - 2.30pm.

In addition to being entertained by our local schoolchildren the audience will be able to join in singing popular carols and Christmas songs.

Schools taking part include Woodham Burn, Vane Road, Horndale, Aycliffe Village, Byerley Park, Sugar Hill, Stephenson Way and our two senior schools Woodham and Greenfield.

We have a special guest appearance of Shanaya Atkinson, a local talented teenage singer, currently preparing to compete in a national contest.

This is a lovely community event organised by our town's Rotary Club for nearly 30 years and everyone is warmly invited. Please bring an elderly person(s) with you to share in this joyful occasion.



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## MINI MOTO MENACE

Dear Sir,  
the collision between a mini motorbike and a pedal cycle was inevitable due to the total disregard for the public shown by riders of these machines.

The western area has been plagued in recent years with noise and dangerous riding of these vehicles which may or may not be insured or taxed. Using footpaths as race tracks both the public and animals are at risk.

Failure to stop after an accident which injured a young child coming home from school illustrates just how dangerous these vehicles are.

As far as I am aware the police have been taking a light touch regarding the riders of these vehicles with a warning being issued as an interim reaction followed by the seizing of the bike.

With these bikes changing hands for less than £100 and so easily replaced it is no wonder our police are frustrated.

I am suggesting that anyone who has a neighbour who owns one of these should make a note of licence plate or distinguishing marks and colours and log them with the police.

As an example, the rider of the bike which knocked the child off the bike is described as around 5 foot 9" wearing a black tee shirt and a black bikers helmet. The bike is described as green and black in colour with black numbers on the side.

As reported in last week's Newton News if anyone has any information please contact PC Jamie Pitt quoting incident number 0321 on Tel number 101 or any member of our local beat team.

Independent West Ward Town Councillor  
Ken Robson

# Temporary Closure While Library Moves to New Home



that the new facility will be well worth the wait."

The new library will include sections for children and teenagers, a study area and updated computer facilities offering internet and email access.

Residents will also be able to make an appointment to discuss revenue and benefits enquiries with customer service staff.

For further information and to find out more on the progress of the scheme, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/NALibraryrelocation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/NALibraryrelocation)

Newton Aycliffe Library will temporarily close later this month in preparation for a move to a new location.

The library is set to reopen in refurbished premises within the town's leisure centre in late December.

In the meantime, the existing library building, on Central Avenue, will be closed to the public from 12.30pm on Saturday, 10 December. The last day for revenue and benefits appointments at the current site will be Tuesday, 6 December.

The library move is part of a £1million scheme, being carried out by Durham County Council to help regenerate the

town centre.

The initiative will see the transformation of a number of shop units adjoining the leisure centre, in Beveridge Way, and the creation of a new shared entrance and reception for the centre and library.

Cllr Maria Plews, Cabinet member for leisure, libraries and lifelong learning, said: "This is a very exciting time for current and future library users in Newton Aycliffe."

"We are working to keep the transition period between the closure of the current library and the opening of the new location to a minimum."

"There will be a short wait for customers but I'm confident

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## Wine & Mince Pies at School Xmas Concert

The local community are invited to attend Woodham Academy's Christmas Concert on Wednesday 14th December 7pm – 9:30pm. The event is sure to get you in to the festive spirit with Christmas songs and well know hits performed by Woodham Academy music students.

As well as music, the audience will be wowed by routines performed by Dance Academy students who have been working on their routines for several weeks. Doors open at 6:30pm with mulled wine and mince pies served from 6:45pm. Tickets are £3 for adults/students and £2 for concessions. To reserve your tickets, please call the school on 01325 300328.

## Getting a Taste for Business



Students from Greenfield Community College had a great experience recently when they had the opportunity

to be involved in a project with Bishop Auckland College, Auckland Castle, and Sainsburys. As part of Rights Respecting Day the students were given the chance to learn new skills and get a flavour of college life giving them inspiration and advice for the future.

Bishop Auckland College provided the venue and their staff delivered an excellent hands-on experience. The students were set the task of making and promoting a tapas menu for a Spanish Restaurant. The students in their houses were split into groups and given a set of tasks to do.

Some were charged with making a tapas dish, other students were asked to

promote and market their products. At the end of the morning each house team had the opportunity to prepare a presentation to be delivered to a panel of judges.

It was a tough decision as all the presentations were excellent but in the end Yellow house won. Well done!

Greenfield Community College would like to thank: Bishop Auckland College for the venue and delivering the sessions, Sainsburys for their support and the ingredients, and Auckland Castle who provided the focus, support and generous pages for our students.

The day was a huge success and all the partners are here to develop our partnership next year.

## 'Battling Budget Cuts' Talk by NHS Trust Chief

Some of the 'huge' challenges currently facing the NHS at large, including County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, and the determined efforts to find answers to them were outlined to members of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club last week by Trust Chairman Professor Paul Keane OBE who lives in Woodham.

In a no-punches-pulled presentation, he detailed some of the initiatives taken to offset the effects of cuts which have required an efficiency of £37 million from the Trust's £500 million annual budget and described efforts to lessen the impact of fewer resources on patients and services at the 83 sites for which the Trust is responsible.

He praised the dedication, compassion and commitment of the Trust's 8000 staff.

Finance, said Prof. Keane, was a 'huge, huge problem' when there was increasing demand to meet the needs of the elderly, support those with dementia, provide services to keep children active and mobile, tackle child obesity and ease pressure on Accident and Emergency departments at a time when there was a shortage of 250



Paul Keane (left) with Rotary Club President Nora Scott and Rtn Syd Howarth

qualified nurses and medical staff.

Planning for the future, said Prof. Keane, had already seen the provision of a simulation centre to help train doctors and the introduction of new technology on wards to help nursing staff reduce the amount of time spent on administration.

Plans were also in hand to create a centre of excellence for orthopaedic surgery at Bishop Auckland, new

theatres at Darlington, a new Accident and Emergency department at Durham and the implementation of mobile technology for community staff.

"There has to be change. We cannot continue as we are", said Prof Keane. "Resources are limited and we need to work together with all our partners in health and social care so that collectively we can continue to enhance our services for the public."

**STAR RADIO'S CHRISTMAS Toy Appeal 2016**

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## ★ STARRADIO PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

**Frequency: 102-107FM**

### Friday 9th December

0600-1000 - Star Radio Breakfast with Wes Stakes  
1000-1400 - John Clayton  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1900 - Star Radio Drive with Craig Andrews  
1900-2200 - Dancing Through The Decades  
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

### Saturday 10th December

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 11th December

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 12th to Thursday 15th December

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

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

## Know Your Rights Buying Christmas Presents

Citizens Advice County Durham is reminding residents to go back to retailers if they are sold faulty electrical goods this Christmas. The call comes as part of National Consumer Week which focuses on what people should do if something goes wrong with electrical goods such as laptops, TVs and mobile phones.

Research from the national charity released today reveals that two thirds (66%) of people had a problem with a faulty electrical item in the last two years.

However, 1 in 4 (28%) people were initially turned away by retailers when they tried to get a repair, replacement or refund, despite the retailer having a responsibility to offer a solution.

The survey also showed that persistence paid off, with 61% of those who were turned away eventually getting some form of solution from the retailer. Every year, Citizens Advice County Durham helps in excess of 1000 people with queries around consumer rights.

The survey findings suggest that both shoppers and retailers may not be aware of their rights and responsibilities around faulty electrical goods. As Christmas shopping gets underway, the charity is sharing top tips to help shoppers to get "switched on" to their consumer rights, so they can get problems with electrical goods solved.

Dawn Kirsopp, Deputy Chief Executive of Citizens Advice County Durham said: "This Christmas people don't need to be stuck with electrical goods that don't work. Knowing your rights means that if something goes wrong, you can approach the retailer for a repair, refund or replacement confident in the knowledge that they should help you find a solution. "We would encourage shoppers to have a quick read of our top tips so they know where they stand, or contact us if they need further advice."

### ELECTRICAL GOODS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Don't put up with broken electrical goods - if an item breaks and it's not your fault, you have a right to a free repair, replacement or refund depending when

and where you bought it.

Use the Citizens Advice faulty goods tool to work out what you're entitled to. What to do when an item is faulty

- Don't attempt to fix it yourself - this could stop you getting redress because it will make it harder to prove you did not cause the fault. You may also risk injuring yourself.

- Return it to the retailer - It's the responsibility of the retailer to help you resolve the problem, not the manufacturer. They should cover the costs of returning the item - contact them first to check the best way to do this and to negotiate an option that's most convenient for you.

### GETTING A REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR REFUND

- Bought within the last 30 days - you can get a refund on a faulty product.

- Bought within the last 6 months - you are entitled to have it repaired or replaced once. If the item still doesn't work you should get a full refund.

- Bought more than 6 months ago - you may still get a repair or replacement but you will only get a partial refund to reflect the use you've got out of the item. You'll need to prove you didn't cause the fault which may make it harder to get redress.

- Repair doesn't work? If you have one repair and it doesn't succeed, you can ask for a full or partial refunding, depending on when the purchase was made.

- Replaced with something different? The retailer should try to replace the item like-for-like. This may not always be possible, so if you're offered something you don't want you can ask for a refund.

What to do when an item is unsafe

- Stop using it - and unplug it if applicable.

- Inform Trading Standards - report it via the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06, or 03454 04 05 05 for Welsh speakers.

- If it gets recalled, follow the manufacturer's guidance - this could include not leaving the item unattended when in use. For peace of mind you may want to stop using it altogether.

Contact Details – Dawn Kirsopp, Deputy Chief Executive, Citizens Advice County Durham, 0191 3726701, dawn.kirsopp@cdcab.org.uk

**WOODHAM BURN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Do you need a school or nursery place which can also offer wrap-round care every week of the year?

**Woodham Burn offers educational places from 2-11 years, and out-of-school facilities from 7.45am - 6pm every day, including school holidays.**

**10% off the cost of childcare offered to children attending Woodham Burn Primary School.**

**Tel 01325 300230**  
for more details or email [r.rowe100@durhamlearning.net](mailto:r.rowe100@durhamlearning.net)

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Specialists in all aspects of Mens Hair Design. Special Packages for Groom and Groomsmen.  
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**OPENING TIMES**  
Monday to Thursday: 9am - 6.30pm  
Friday: 9am - 7pm  
Saturday: 8.30am - 5pm  
Sunday: Closed

Unit 1 Blue Bridge Centre  
Aycliffe Business Park  
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS  
Mobile: 07738 066 723

**f FACEBOOK**

**I will be closed from Saturday 3rd December, re-opening on Monday 12th December**



# Taste of Life in the Army

Engineering Look at Life at 124 Recovery Company REME, Army Reserves on Wednesday 30th November. Our local Army Reserve unit, with support from JobCentre Plus Newton Aycliffe and UTC South Durham opened its gates to 24 local students and residents who were keen to have a taste of what life as an engineering Army Reserve soldier was like.

After an initial walk around and being organised into small teams. They were introduced to the subject matter experts who took them through an interactive experience looking at military vehicle recovery methods, weapon inspection and repair, automotive engineering considerations plus general military skills and hardware.

As the only electrical and mechanical engineering Army

Reserve unit for Durham/tees Valley, 124 Recovery Company is at the heart of Combat Service Support of a vast range of other part time Reserve organisations. They also assist the Regular Army on exercise and operations in the UK and abroad. This year alone has seen REME Reserve soldiers from Newton Aycliffe deployed to Kenya, Nigeria, Falklands, Belize, Germany and have even found time for Adventure Training in Spain and a Battlefield Study in Gallipoli, Turkey.

The aim of the 'Engineering Look at Life' was to introduce Year 12 students from UTC and to the JobCentre Plus clients to the rewards, professional development and pride that are part of being an Army Reserve soldier, and how the potential to gain leadership and management skills work

positively with employers who recognise the benefits of employing Armed Services personnel.

The Army Reserves represents an opportunity for anyone aged 18-49 to make a positive contribution to the UK Armed Forces while at the same time enjoying the opportunity to learn, make friends for life and be sent to places that would otherwise be out of some people's reach.

In early 2017, 124 Recovery Company will run a Physical Readiness Look at Life which will allow candidates to prove to themselves that they are fit enough to apply for an Army Reserve role, as by far this is the biggest barrier people must overcome and the reason a lot of them don't apply in the first place. Further details will be published in Newton News and on our Facebook page.



# Credit Union GAMP Funding Will Help You Save



Councillors and Credit Union volunteers at St. Clare's Hall

Residents of Newton Aycliffe, Spennymoor and the East Durham Rural Corridor area are being encouraged to start saving and borrowing from their local Credit Union.

NEFirst Credit Union has recently been boosted by the news that three of Durham County Council's Area Action Partnerships have contributed funding towards the recruitment of a Credit Union Development Officer. Once in post, the worker will engage local residents and businesses to promote the benefits of saving and borrowing from the Credit Union.

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) contributed funding from the Neighbourhood Budgets of Durham County Councillors Eddy Adam, Kate Hopper, John Clare, Joan Gray, Mike Dixon, Jed Hillary and Sarah Iveson. Spennymoor Area

Action Partnership and East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership also contributed funding from their Area Budget allocations towards the initiative.

Members and supporters of the Credit Union came together to celebrate the news at the St Clare's Church collection point.

Speaking on behalf of NEFirst Credit Union, Sid Rooke, said: 'I'm grateful for the support we have received from the three Area Action Partnerships. It is hoped that once in post the Credit Union Development Officer will help promote the virtues of saving and borrowing from a Credit Union, instead of using other

high interest loan providers'.

Residents of County Durham are being encouraged to save and borrow from their local Credit Union, especially in the run up to Christmas. The benefits of saving and borrowing from a Credit Union can be far-reaching, for example, the Money Charity states that; 'using a Credit Union loan rather than a high cost furniture provider saves on average £900-£1,200 per item, also £500 borrowed from a doorstep lender, for a school prom, could cost more than £2,000 to repay'.

NEFirst Credit Union can be contacted via: [www.nefirstcu.co.uk](http://www.nefirstcu.co.uk) or by calling 0330 055 3666

# T.A.'s Let Down by Labour Councillors

Dear Sir, Councillors spend the majority of their Election campaigns trying to understand the electorate, often winning their seat on the back of promises. This never happens, as not one of them spoke up for the Teachers Assistants, or any other facilities that the County Council has done away with. They also seem to absent themselves, from voting, or just stay away from the meetings. All those Labour councillors who voted against the T.A. ought to lose their seats.

We have lost a lot of facilities and the County Council blames the government cuts, yet they wrote off £millions in a loan to Durham County Cricket Club.

By not supporting the Teaching Assistants in their cause is a betrayal of Labour's proud tradition. I wonder if it was suggested that D.C.C. cut back councillors expenses, just what the decision would be? A long serving courageous Labour councillor had the guts to quit his seat over all of the cuts that do not need to happen - at least he has principles and is standing up for the people not the party.

Name and address supplied

## Christmas Holiday Super Sports Skills

**Oak Leaf**  
Sports Complex

School Aycliffe Lane  
Newton Aycliffe  
DL5 4QZ  
Tel 01325 300600

### Mini Activity

Monday 19th December

10:00am until 11:30am

4-7 Years

£2.40 member

£2.90 non member

### Archery

Tuesday 20th December

9:30am until 11:00am

8-15 Years

£3.20 members

£3.70 non members

### Dodgeball

Tuesday 20th December

11:30am until 12:30pm

8-15 years

£2.40 member

£2.90 non member

### Mini Arrows

Wednesday 21st December

10:00am until 11:00am

4-7 Years

£2.40 members

£2.90 non members

### Mini Fun with Balls

Friday 23rd December

10:00am until 11:00am

4-7 years

£2.40 member

£2.90 non member

Booking is Essential



## Carol Concert

Bishop Auckland Choral Society present. "Carols from around the World" at St. John's Church, Shildon on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm. Entrance £3 to include refreshments.

## Film Show

The last "Feel Good Film Show" of 2016 at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 13th December features "Hans Christian Anderson" The film describes itself as "Not the story of his life, but a fairytale about this great spinner of fairytales" Starring the genius Danny Kaye singing songs such as "The Emperor's New Clothes" "The Ugly Duckling" "Thumbelina" and "The Little Mermaid".

This is just about the most feel-good film ever, sure to warm you up on a cold Winter's day. 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.

**water babies**

**Weekly Local Classes**

**Fun and skills that could save your child's life**

We feel incredibly proud that we've helped save a number of very young children's lives after they've fallen into water and survived - thanks to the skills they learned with us.

Our world-class teachers could have trained as private pilots - five times over - in the time it takes to fully qualify with us. You can trust us to take the very best care of you and your little one.

To give your baby a splashing start call

**01325 728 728**

Let's teach your baby to swim!

[www.waterbabies.co.uk](http://www.waterbabies.co.uk)

**classes held...**  
Durham, Darlington, Brandon, Northallerton, Bishop Auckland, Shotton, Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.



## Xmas Fair at Woodham



Hoping to catch a glimpse of Santa and his Elves this year? Woodham Academy are hosting their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 10th December, 10am – 1pm where you can visit Santa in his grotto and meet some of his elves.

Also attending the festive gathering are a number of former students who will be selling arts and crafts, jewellery, hampers, homeware, confectionary gifts and much more! One former student, and local author and illustrator, Ruth Ellen Parlour, is hoping to meet some young readers to promote her range of children's books, The Water Dragons. Another student stepping back through the school gates is Kathryn Moore who is raising money for a trip to Fiji next year where she will be volunteering with local schools.

The event is free of charge with a variety of workshops taking place and fun for all the family. Little ones can enjoy biscuit decorating or chocolate lolly making whilst Mum and Dad browse the stalls with a glass of mulled wine. Stalls include Thames Centre

Fruit and Veg who will have some of their fantastic fruit hampers available to buy as well as taking orders for their Christmas deliveries.

Pop in before 12pm to watch Aycliffe Dance Academy perform their routines and hear local vocalist, Sarah Dee, perform her debut single 'Lost' which is released on the 28th December.

### Councillors' Surgeries

#### Aycliffe North & Middridge

County Councillors Joan Gray, Mike Dixon and John D. Clare will be holding a Councillor Surgery on Tuesday 13th December, 10.30-11.30am in Woodham Community Centre, at the same time as the PACT drop-in there. Alternatively, please inform us of issues by emailing:

• joan.gray@durham.gov.uk  
• mike.dixon@durham.gov.uk  
• john.clare@durham.gov.uk  
or bit.ly/JDClare

## Newtonian Returns as New Drive Host for Star Radio

Emil Franchi – currently network presenter on the Wireless groups Late Show is packing his suitcases and heading home to Newton Aycliffe.

Emil is set to take on the drive show on Star Radio. Star Radio's MD – John Clayton said "it's unusual that someone of Emil's talent become available and for him to be a local lad is an even bigger advantage. Combine his local knowledge with his undoubted ability and creativity – the North East is set to get its most exciting Drive show for some time! Newly appointed Content Manager Craig Andrews went on to say "these are exciting

times for Star Radio, and given my own longevity at Star – I can honestly say I can't wait for the new year to begin, with the new schedule in place and an even greater emphasis on making truly great local radio" Emil is set to join the radio station for his first show on Tuesday 3rd January. He mentioned "I will be in situ at the station well before the new year and spending the Christmas period gathering some great content and planning the new show. To return home is going to be something special. Star Radio was the station I listened to when on my way to school in Aycliffe and I cannot wait to get started!"



## Methodist Church Christmas Services

A Christmas "Messy Church" will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Wednesday 14th December from 5pm - 6.30pm. There will be Christmas crafts, singing, a DVD and food.

On Sunday 18th December we will be holding a Candlelit Carol Service at 6pm followed by seasonal refreshments. Our Christmas Day Service will be held at 10.30am led by Rev Andy Bryer.

Members of Neville Parade Church would like to wish a happy & peaceful Christmas to everyone and we extend a warm welcome to everyone at any or all of these events.



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 news about the County Durham Plan is important, as is the information on the NHS's Sustainability and Transformation Plans. You will want to support the Foodbank Appeal, and check out the Herbert Protocol. Finally – as usual – there are some ideas for things to do next weekend.

#### COUNCIL

• Government scuppers County Durham Plan ... again! bit.ly/GSCDP  
• Temporary closure of Library: bit.ly/CNALIB

• Have you got your Bright Water River Skerne wall planner yet? bit.ly/BWRSpoter  
• GATC Policy & Resources meeting, 30 November: bit.ly/GATC301116  
• Latest roadworks information for the Newton Aycliffe area: bit.ly/Roadworks91216  
• December newsletter from our MEPs: bit.ly/JKD1216  
• Latest report from our MEP Jude Kirtton-Darling: bit.ly/JKD51216

#### COMMUNITY

• County Durham Foodbank Christmas Food Appeal: bit.ly/CDFCEA  
• Update on the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans: bit.ly/NHSSTP1216  
• Have you heard of the

Herbert Protocol to protect at risk relatives: bit.ly/HP1216

• CPS consultation on Crimes Against Disabled People: bit.ly/CPSCADP

• HealthWatch County Durham December E-Bulletin: bit.ly/HWCD1216

• Horndale Residents Association AGM: bit.ly/HRA1216

• Friends of the S&DR meeting: bit.ly/FSDR1216

• St Elizabeth's Church is setting up a Deaf Fellowship: bit.ly/NADF1216

• AGE UK 'Eat Together' traditional Christmas lunch for the over-50s, £5, 12.00pm Monday 12 December: bit.ly/AUKET16

• Find out how Christmas is celebrated around the world (ages 5-11), Durham Oriental Museum, Saturday 17 December 1-3pm: bit.ly/DOM171216

• Father Christmas is in Hardwick Park, 17-21 December, £7.50: bit.ly/HPFC1216

• Santa's Christmas Specials at the Locomotion Museum Shildon: 17-18 December, 10am-4pm: bit.ly/LOCO1216

• Christmas at Beamish: bit.ly/Beamish1216

• Greenfield Arts Christmas Holiday events: bit.ly/GA1216

## TOY FAIR

Check out the Year End Toy Fair event at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon on Tuesday 27th December, 2016.

Visitors will have the chance to browse a wide range of trade stands offering modelling, railway, die cast, collectables and more.

Plus look out for Star Wars characters from a local re-enactment group appearing at the event throughout the day. The Year End Toy Fair event is open from 10am to 4pm, and parking and admission are free of charge.

For more information, please call the museum on 01388 777999.

## BE PENSION WISE

Pensions can be fairly complicated, which is why it is important for people to seek guidance. Following the chancellor's pension reforms in 2015, the government established a free and impartial guidance service, Pension Wise, to help people understand the new pension landscape and make better use of their pensions.

The Pension Wise service can be accessed by anyone over the age of 50 with a UK defined contribution pension, which is a pension based on how much has been paid into your pot. These are not final salary or career-averaged pensions and the usual age rules may not apply if people have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness.

Pension Wise guiders will not tell people what to do but will help them make sense of their options and decide whether, when and how their savings can work best for their later life.

Citizens Advice Darlington is offering Pension Wise appointments across the County. The team also offers Pension Wise appointments at Macmillan Cancer Information and Support centres across County Durham, including Bishop Auckland, Peterlee and Durham, which are run by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation

Trust. Neeraj Sharma, chief executive of Citizens Advice Darlington, said: "Hopefully Pension Wise will help enlighten people about their options. Professional guidance will be crucial to ensure people understand what is available to them and to help them make the right decision for their personal circumstances."

Pension Wise guidance specialists are impartial. They do not recommend any products or companies and will not tell you how to invest your money.

Clients in the Darlington area can now access the Pension Wise website to book appointments. The website gives people the option to select their preferred time and location, and the Pension Wise team later confirm the appointment with them. This means that Pension Wise appointments can be booked easily online at any time.

If you do not have access to a computer, you can also book an appointment with the Pension Wise guiders at Citizens Advice Darlington by phoning 0300 330 1001. You can also visit the Pension Wise website at [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk)

For more information contact: Jo Kelly, Citizens Advice Darlington; 01325 256999; email [jo.kelly@darlingtoncab.co.uk](mailto:jo.kelly@darlingtoncab.co.uk)

## What's on at TESCO this Christmas?

Below is the calendar of events that are taking place in December in store for customers, which involve the local community and customer experience activities.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>9th</b>  | St Francis School Carol Singing 11am<br>Visit Santa's Grotto 11am-5pm                    |
| <b>10th</b> | Salvation Army<br>Visit Santa's Grotto 11am-6pm  |
| <b>11th</b> | Salvation Army<br>In store Wine & Cheese Tasting 9am-8pm                                 |
| <b>12th</b> | Rotary Club Collection<br>In store Wine and Cheese Tasting 9am-8pm                       |
| <b>13th</b> | Rotary Club Collection<br>Christmas Snacks Tasting 9am-8pm                               |
| <b>14th</b> | Rotary Club Collection<br>Customer Christmas Food Festival 9am-6pm                       |
| <b>15th</b> | Rotary Club Collection<br>Customer Christmas Food Festival 9am-6pm                       |
| <b>16th</b> | Rotary Club Collection<br>Winter Festival, Meet Santa & Reindeer 3-7pm (in the car park) |
| <b>17th</b> | Rotary Club Collection<br>Kids Christmas Craft Table 9am-6pm                             |
| <b>18th</b> | Rotary Club Collection   |
| <b>19th</b> | Fishburn Brass Band<br>Kids Christmas Craft Table 9am-6pm                                |
| <b>20th</b> | Shop + enjoy FREE Mulled Wine and Mince Pies 9am-8pm                                     |
| <b>21st</b> | Kids Juice and Chocolates 9am-8pm  |
| <b>22nd</b> | Rotary Hamper Collection for delivery to needy families                                  |
| <b>23rd</b> | In store sampling - Christmas Cakes & Mince Pies 9am-8pm                                 |



## Furniture Factory Outlet

Fulbeck Road, Aycliffe Business Park - Tel 07825 777966

Facebook – [affordablefurnitureuk](http://affordablefurnitureuk)



Open  
weekdays  
and  
Saturday





## P.C.'s INITIATIVE CUTS BIKE THEFTS



Dave (centre) and Ian (right) pictured with Chief Supt. Paul Beddow, who presented them with their commendations

PC Dave Williamson and former partnerships liaison officer Ian Martin have been honoured for their work promoting a scheme which has slashed the number of bicycle thefts in County Durham and Darlington.

Both have been awarded Chief Superintendent's commendations for their roles with 'Operation Spoke', an initiative developed three years ago as a response to the soaring number of bike thefts. Ian, who recently retired and Dave, who is based at Barnard Castle have dedicated many hours to ensure the Durham Constabulary initiative has become a shining example nationally of 'best practice'. They also received a national award recently at the 2016

'Cycle Crime' conference, for the development of a bespoke bike register frame and component marking kit. There are now over 10,000 bikes registered through the Durham Constabulary scheme.

The kit comprises a UV etch kit, microdots, tamper proof label and warning sticker. The UV etch has the advantage of being difficult for a thief to see and remove, and is not too obtrusive to affect the look of a valuable bike.

The microdots help protect the bicycle further and the component parts. The tamper evident label and warning stickers offer a visible deterrent to the would-be thief. Using the kit has helped bring about a 25% reduction in bicycle crime in the last 24 months.

## ENTERPRISE AGENCY SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD

Local agency, South Durham Enterprise Agency has been awarded the National Enterprise Network, Community Stakeholder of the Year award at the organisation's national conference, taking place at the RBS headquarters in London. Awarded for SDEA's local community engagement and the promotion of enterprise and economic development with a number of local organisations and communities, including local Area Action Partnerships, the Auckland Castle Trust, Town and County Councils and many others the Agency scooped the award in amongst strong national opposition.

Winning a special commendation in the Future of Enterprise Support category in addition was a proud moment for SDEA Chief Executive, Steven Robson who commented:

"We're really proud to be part of the National Enterprise Network and to bring a national award home with us from this year's conference is testament to the hard work everyone here at the agency puts into their job every day. The team deserve the credit, but we should also commend the people and the communities we serve, the award is recognition for their contribution to our local economy also, so our new award will have pride of place!"

Agency Chairman Rob Yorke also commented:

"National recognition for the work SDEA put into economic development in our area is well deserved. The Board and staff work tirelessly to improve the economic outlook for our



Left to right: Robert Yorke, Penny Watson and Steven Robson

local communities, helping people everyday do something new and create wealth for themselves and their families." The work of the enterprise agency is ongoing with a number of projects still providing start up and business support to the communities of South Durham. The 8th

December will see the next instalment of the Agency's 'Enterprise Evenings' take place, with an informative talk about how small businesses can protect themselves from Cybercrime.

Visit South Durham Enterprise Agency's social media profiles or call 01388 776688

## Honest John's Xmas Treat for Wives Club



The Wives Club, Neville Parade Methodist Church, Newton Aycliffe want to say a big thank you to Honest John. When told about the club which has been running since 1958 and that they were planning a Christmas Lunch he wanted to help. He certainly did just that and gave us £500!

We also would like to thank Dave, Andy and the staff at the Red Alligator, South Church where we all enjoyed our Christmas Lunch today, 5th December.

The club meets on a Monday night, 7 - 9pm and ladies of all faiths are welcome. Up to now this year we have had visits from John Elliott, Phil Wilson MP, speakers from Movement Disorder Durham, BACH Flower Remedies, Buddies Befriending Service and the Sedgefield Ladies Hand-bell Ringers with lots of other activities and outings.

We are in the process of planning our next programme of activities which will re-commence on the first Monday in February 2017 and would be happy to see some new members.

## FITNESS CHALLENGE AT LEISURE CENTRES

Leisure Centres in County Durham are counting down the days to Christmas with an advent-themed fitness competition.

Throughout December, gym users will be able to open a door on each centre's advent calendar to reveal an exercise challenge.

Participants could find themselves holding a plank position for as long as possible, doing 60 sit-ups in a minute, swimming lengths of the pool, burning 250 calories on the rowing machine or climbing 1,000 steps on the stepper.

Everyone who completes 15 challenges will be entered into a prize draw to win a smoothie-maker. The contest follows a successful Euro-inspired competition earlier this year, which saw nine leisure centre members win £50 in shopping vouchers.

Kirk Walker, the Council physical activities coordinator, said: "During the past year, we have introduced a number of

competitions and challenges for gym users and they've had a great response.

"The daily challenges in our advent-themed event should add some fun and spontaneity to members' work-outs, push them to improve their current levels of fitness and encourage them to add new exercises to their fitness programmes."

The leisure centres participating in the challenge include Newton Aycliffe, and Shildon-Sunnydale. This month, new members can also take advantage of three months free membership if they pay for 12 months in advance. This means they will receive 15 months membership for the price of 12.

And from Friday, 16th December, anyone wishing to pay by direct debit can join their local leisure centre for just £10 and pay nothing more until February 2017. Find out more about leisure centre offers, by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/leisureoffers](http://www.durham.gov.uk/leisureoffers)

## READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Reader Richard Atterby sent in this stunning photo of the sky at night over Aycliffe Town Centre. If you have a camera shot you would like to share send it in to [syd@newtonpress.net](mailto:syd@newtonpress.net) We are looking for photos of DECORATED XMAS HOUSES. Please send in the ones you like in Newton Aycliffe.

**Christmas Comedy Show**  
Saturday 10th December  
Newton Aycliffe, Scouts Hut  
7pm till late

£5 per ticket  
£7 on the door

Stephanie Aird

Nikki Teene

Nikki Bett

Blue Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL57PW

# Adult Learning & Skills Service

## New courses starting in January 2017

Do you want to **retrain, change your career** or simply **meet new people** and learn new skills?

Check out our new **Adult Learning Guide** and find out what courses are available near you!

Learn new skills

Find a new career

Build confidence



Sign up now at [www.durham.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.durham.gov.uk/adultlearning)  
Or call the **Adult Learning & Skills Service** on 03000 266 115





## Situations VACANT

### Greenfield Community College A Specialist Arts & Science School

Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF  
Tel: 01325 300378 – Fax: 01325 379058  
<http://greenfieldschool.net>



### Casual Breaktime/Lunchtime Supervisor

Grade 1, Point 10-11 (£7.90 - £8.04 per hour)

Greenfield Community College wishes to appoint a Casual Lunchtime and Breaktime Supervisor to work on our Aycliffe Campus when required to cover for absence.

The successful candidate will work as part of a team to supervise students in all areas of the school at breaktime and lunchtime. Additional duties may include cashier cover and contributing to the supervision of recreational and sports activities.

Please contact Chloe Roberts on 01325 300378 or email [chloe.roberts@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:chloe.roberts@greenfieldschool.net) for further information and an application pack.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment.  
All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

**Closing Date: Monday 19th December at 12 noon**  
**Interviews are to be held week commencing 9th January**

All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks. Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

### Greenfield Community College A Specialist Arts & Science School

Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7LF  
Tel: 01325 300378 – Fax: 01325 379058  
<http://greenfieldschool.net>



### Casual Community Sports & Arts Assistant

Grade 1, Point 10-11 (£7.90 - £8.04 per hour)

Greenfield Community College are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Casual Community Sports & Arts Assistant to work on our Aycliffe Campus.

The successful candidate will be flexible to work some evenings and weekends as and when required, to work in an exciting community led environment to manage enquiries, bookings, financial and administrative tasks.

Please contact Miss Chloe Roberts on 01325 300378 or email [chloe.roberts@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:chloe.roberts@greenfieldschool.net) for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment.

All posts are subject to satisfactory DBS clearance.

**Closing Date: Monday 19th December at 12 noon**  
**Interviews will be held week commencing 9th January**

All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks. Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

## Popular Church Xmas Fayre



St. Clare's Church held their annual Christmas Fayre last Saturday and attracted lots of people to buy goods from the stalls including the ever popular home-made cakes. The "Shine" choir entertained with some fantastic songs sung in their usual enthusiastic style.

## Tesco Help Raise Cash for Marie Curie Nurses



Marie Curie Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group would like to thank Tesco's Newton Aycliffe Store, it's staff, and especially those customers who generously donated to the fundraising carried out on Friday and Saturday, 25th and 26th November 2016.

A grand total of £736.49 was raised all of which will go to assist Marie Curie Nurses in providing free care for people with terminal illnesses.



## NHS Special Church Service

A local NHS Trust is holding a church Service in Bishop Auckland for anyone who has been affected by the tragedy of losing a baby at or around the time of birth.

Kevin Tromans, lead chaplain at County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, writes, "This annual service of remembrance and thanksgiving is for anyone who has been affected by this very sad experience, including wider families and regardless of whether the loss was recent or in the more distant past. "The service will take place at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, starting at 7pm on Monday, 12 December 2016. It will last approximately an hour and anyone who wishes to attend will be welcome, and to join us for tea/coffee afterwards."

For further information on the service, please don't hesitate to ring the chaplains at Bishop Auckland Hospital on 01388 545541.



For more information visit: [www.teessidefamily.com](http://www.teessidefamily.com)

## Ceilidh Night

**Saturday 28th January 2017**

**7.30pm Start • PLUS buffet and raffle**



**The hedgehog's skin ceilidh band**

**Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre sports hall**

**In support of Nicola Maul**

**No dancing experience necessary! • £12.50 per person**

**CONTACT: Hazel: hazelinn\_borthwick@yahoo.co.uk • Sarah: sarahgmeyers@sky.com**

## FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

**Christmas: - Thursday, 22nd December**

**Deadline: Tuesday 20th December, 5pm**

**No Edition - Friday, 30th December, 2016**

**Friday, 6th January, 2017 (back to normal)**

**Deadline: Wednesday 4th January, 5pm**

*Advertisements can be placed at our agents:*

**WALKERS (Simpasture),**

**YOUNGS/POST OFFICE (Town Centre)**

*or online at [www.newtonnewsads.co.uk](http://www.newtonnewsads.co.uk)*

## Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Friday 23rd December  
Skeleton Staff in attendance until re-opening  
on **Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 8.30am**

*The Management  
and Staff of Newton Press  
and Newton News would like  
to wish all Newtonians a  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy, Prosperous New Year*



## WOODHAM CONCERN OVER LINK WITH A167

Dear Sir,  
Reference piece in a recent issue on the possibility of a bridge being built at the bottom of Stag Lane to provide access to Woodham for new houses proposed between Woodham Burn and the A167.  
I draw readers attention to a petition in our shop expressing concerns about the wisdom of this bridge being built.  
If anyone feels strongly enough to support this petition going to the Planning Authority please call in and add your name to the list.  
Stephen Jones  
Woodham News

## New Year Celebrations!

*Join the Holiday Inn Darlington North for on of the most important meal of the year.  
With beautifully cooked food and festive surroundings.  
We promise friends and family a truly magical New Year.  
Plus, we'll do all the hard work so you can relax completely stress free.*

## New Year's Eve Party

*Count down to the new year in style and join  
us for our New Year's Eve Party.*

*Sit down to a 4 course dinner followed by live entertainment  
and a free glass of bubbly to see in 2017!*

**£45.00 per person**

**Please call 01325 329600 or email: [events@hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk](mailto:events@hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk)**

**Please ask about our New Year room rates on booking!**



**Holiday Inn**

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T: 01325 329 600 F: 01325 313 313 • E: [restaurant@hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk](mailto:restaurant@hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk) • [www.hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk](http://www.hidarlingtonnorth.co.uk)**



# CHARITY TOY RUN



## Great Result for Town's Foodbank Collection



Volunteers were out in force last weekend for the Tesco Foodbank collection including (left & right) Joan and Ron Mitchie Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership's Secretary and Assistant Secretary, show here with staff from Tesco. Everybody worked hard to achieve a fantastic result. Ernie Temple the foodbank co-ordinator for Newton Aycliffe thanks all who assisted and everyone who donated goods.

Every year 'Aycliffe Bike Club' & The Party Fire Engine tour round pubs collecting toys that have been donated, to be handed over to 'Bishop Auckland Women's Refuge'. This event has been running 9 years and handed over thousands of toys, giving kids a Xmas they could only have dreamt about, so please support this worthwhile cause. If you can, buy an extra present this year and leave it, unwrapped at the Turbinia, or better still, hand it over in person and greet the cavalcade of motorcycles on Sunday 11th December and the 'Party Fire Engine' at 3pm. All bikers are welcome to join in the fun, suitable for all sizes of Bikes / Trikes / Scooters etc just donate a toy. Meet at the Turbinia, Aycliffe. DL5 7PA - 11-45am. For any info call GARY on 01325 313034

## Hitachi Workforce to Reach 900

News from Hitachi indicates they will be increasing their workforce up to 900 employees by next Easter. The Aycliffe train builder has been very active bidding for new contracts and their success is reflected in their expansion on the site and now going well over their projected employment figures.

## Public Backs Council Budget

Almost two thirds of people who took part in a consultation agreed with Durham County Council's approach to making budget savings for 2017/18. The authority asked residents to help set its spending priorities at a series of meetings and roadshow events during September and October. Officers and councillors spoke to more than 3,000 people across County Durham, with 1,919 of them completing a questionnaire giving their feedback. Of those who returned a

questionnaire, 63 per cent said they believed the council's approach to making future savings was a reasonable way to go forward for 2017/18. And almost half (49.7 per cent) said they had not noticed any change to council services during the last five years. The figures are included in an update on 2017/18 budget planning to be discussed by Durham County Council's Cabinet when they meet next week. The Medium Term Financial Plan paper also reflects on the content of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

It recommends that savings of £39.8 million are now required for 2017/18. This would require £20.7 million of savings to be made, with £19.1 million to be taken from reserves set aside as part of the council's medium term approach to balancing the budget. These figures would take overall savings for the period 2011/12 to 2019/20 to £251 million.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council said: "Times are still tough for us financially but we continue to work hard to provide the highest levels of service across the county. There is still much for us to be

proud of in County Durham. "It is also reassuring to know that most residents agree with our approach to the way we are making savings. We really appreciate the public being involved in the budget process. "It is extremely important that we understand where the public's priorities lie when it comes to funding as everyone's opinions matter and even more so with the financial challenges ahead of us." Cllr Alan Napier, Deputy Leader of Durham County Council and Cabinet member for Finance, said: "Since the start of austerity the council has faced unprecedented savings targets. It's a testament to the hard work of everyone involved that nearly half of those taking part in the consultation agree that we've managed to meet these so far without noticeably reducing services. "We await the budget settlement later this month and urge the Chancellor to acknowledge the urgent requirement to recognise the national social care funding crisis that is unfolding across the country." Cabinet meets at County Hall on Wednesday, 14 December.

## CHARITY SINGLE FOR LOCAL HOSPICE



St Teresa's Hospice in Darlington will benefit from sales of the Darlington-based indie band Apex cover of 'Last Christmas', originally a hit for 80s stars Wham!. The band decided to give away all proceeds from online downloads to charity, and St Teresa's was close to their hearts. The single will be launched with a special event at The Forum in Darlington on Tuesday 13th December. This one-off gig will see the premier of the recording, with all proceeds from the concert being donated to the Hospice.

Dan Martin: "When we chose to record the cover of 'Last Christmas' we knew we wanted to do something that would benefit the community, and I knew someone who was cared for by St Teresa's Hospice so it felt right to do something for this important local charity". The band have also been added to the programme of the Hospice's annual Christmas Cracker concert which will this year take place at the Education Village, Darlington, on Saturday 17th December. Director Jane Bradshaw said: "We are fortunate to be supported by many organisations throughout the communities we serve, we're delighted that for the first time ever a charity single is being released in aid of the Hospice. Music is an important part of our fundraising at Christmas, and I am looking forward to seeing Apex perform at our fabulous Cracker concert." The track will be available to purchase on Amazon, Google Play and iTunes. Around 69p from every sale will be donated to St Teresa's Hospice.

## ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE

PRESENT THE ANNUAL

# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Come along to sing your favourite Xmas Songs & Carols with performances by Aycliffe Schoolchildren

TUESDAY 13th DEC.

1pm - 2.30pm

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Admission FREE! Everyone Welcome!

## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd  
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or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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\*Terms and conditions apply. Joining fee applies. Price shown is per month based on a 12 month Direct Debit membership.



## NEW RESEARCH SHOWS NUISANCE CALLS IN DURHAM AS BAD AS EVER

New research has revealed that nuisance and scam calls are still a problem for people in Durham with two out of three people who have signed up to the Telephone Preference Service, a service aimed at taking members of the public off nuisance caller registers, still receiving nuisance calls. The research by BBC One's Watchdog suggests that nuisance and scam calls pose as big a threat as ever to people in Durham as it revealed that 58 per cent of people who have signed up to the service said it doesn't work for them. Of those 58 per cent just 12 per cent have had call blocker systems installed in their homes, despite 83 per cent of those with call blockers saying the device had worked to eradicate unwanted calls. Kris Hicks, Head of Marketing for the UK's best selling call blocker, CPR Call Blocker, said "Scam and nuisance callers are a persistent problem for people in the Durham area and it's often the case that those most vulnerable are the ones who are targeted and fall victim to these telephone scams." A survey by Which? in 2013 found that the Telephone Preference Service only cuts out around a third of nuisance calls. Such evidence suggests

that even though many people have taken the first steps towards freeing themselves from such calls, they are still being harassed.

Kris added: "With this in mind we created our newest product, the Shield, our most simplistic call-blocking device to date. It is pre-loaded with 2000 known nuisance callers and allows you to block a further 1500 unwanted callers at the touch of a button.

"We believe our new Shield model is the perfect solution for anyone looking to be able to instantly block scam callers with the touch of just one button. Its modern and sleek design also means that it won't look out of place in anyone's home and acts as a perfect present for someone being bugged by unwanted calls this Christmas."

In a recent survey, carried out by CPR Call Blocker, it was found that the most common types of scams were, virus hoax calls, PPI refunds, prize scams, bank account problems and noise rebates. CPR Call Blocker is the number one call blocker brand worldwide. It is available on Amazon and at www.cprcallblocker.com. For more information call 0800 652 7780 or visit www.cprcallblocker.com

## County Durham Plan Paused

The process which will result in a plan for development across County Durham has been paused to consider what are expected to be fundamental changes from a new Government White Paper. After the Issues and Options consultation on the County Durham Plan earlier in the year, Durham County Council was aiming to seek Cabinet approval to consult in the New Year on a preferred option. With the Government set to announce full details of a White Paper in January - which could fundamentally change the number of houses that councils are required to plan for - the council have taken the decision to pause the process. This will ensure that residents are not consulted on a plan which may quickly become out of date and subject to further changes.

Indications from the Government are that the White Paper will change how local plans - such as the County Durham Plan - calculate the number and type of houses needed as well as how they are then delivered. As the new legislation could require the council to make significant changes to the work on the plan so far, the process will now be paused until there is clarity on the proposals in the White Paper so that these can be taken into account before further consultation is carried out.

CLlr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "While we're obviously incredibly disappointed that we cannot proceed with the plan in line with our original timescales, the decision to pause the process now is the only one we could make given the fundamental changes that may be included in the White Paper. It is important that people

have the most up to date and robust information so that the consultation is meaningful in planning for the future of their county."

"Publishing a plan without understanding the impact of the White Paper would be a risk which could leave the council being required to revisit parts of the process causing delay. Instead we will reflect on the changes the Government is looking to bring forward and take the extra time we now have to ensure that the County Durham Plan is the right plan for the people who live, work and visit the county."

The County Durham Plan will shape the county up to the year 2033, guiding the amount of new development needed for housing, potential job creation and future retail spaces as well as what infrastructure is needed to support these, such as transport, schools and green spaces.

## School App Aids Parent Contact

Woodham Burn School Improves Parental Engagement with OurSchoolsApp taking a proactive approach to improving parental engagement by utilising a smart phone app, OurSchoolsApp (www.OurSchoolsApp.com).

OurSchoolsApp facilitates communication between school and parent well beyond the newsletter and website and acts as a link between home and school. On average, parents will view an app six times more frequently than the school website, allowing



Woodham Burn to keep the parents more updated with school information, news, calendar events and contact information.

Every time something new is uploaded to the app, parents receive a notification message. Even better, prior to events, a reminder is sent to them, ensuring they are always kept updated.

Head Teacher Mrs Riannon Edwards comments: "This app is a brilliant new way of keeping our parents fully informed about what is going on in school. It is very easy to use, both for our administrators, and for parents."

## More People Talking About Immigration

Dear Sir,  
In last week's Newton News, two Northern Labour MEPs insinuated that the democratic vote to Leave the EU has spawned public hatred against immigrants. It has not! Also, how do they explain the outbreak of anti-semitism within the Labour Party upon the election of the Palestinian supporter Jeremy Corbyn? Was this caused by the Brexit vote or the election of Jeremy Corbyn giving his supporters licence to voice their hitherto hidden anti-semitism?

I believe that, if there is an increase in people being more outspoken about immigration, they are doing so because, prior to the Brexit Referendum, the political elite tried to make it 'Political Incorrect' to discuss immigration. Indeed, during the Referendum Remain campaigners accused Leave supporters of being racist! Any increase in anti-immigrant sentiment is a backlash by voters who fear that they are not going to get the LEAVE vote via democratic means.

As a democrat, without a racist bone in my body, I found this accusation of racism abhorrent, as clearly did the majority of the electorate.

I would therefore suggest that the population at large is no more or less anti-migrant than it was before the Leave vote, however it clearly is more against mass, uncontrolled immigration, especially from the EU.

The MEPs also mentioned German students asking which pubs in Newcastle are safe to speak German in? Why don't they drink and speak German in their Student's Union where the beer is much cheaper? In this matter, again, I fear that the 'Politically Correct' brigade may have contributed.

At a recent fly-past of the Battle of Britain Flight, the Lancaster Bomber was not included because it was thought, by our political elite, that it may upset our German friends as it coincided with the anniversary of a Lancaster Bomber raid on a German city.

Many I spoke to at the time thought that this was an insult to the memory of Wartime Bomber Command and its contribution to our eventual victory. Unfortunately, the fact is there is a long history of warring and hatred between us and Germany and currently Leavers do not trust Germany to allow their EU partners to achieve the best possible Brexit for all.

We have only been allowed to talk about and learn about the scale of, and the effects of, mass EU immigration on our economy and our lives. The Remainers still say that it is good for our economy. This is nonsense! A home grown worker who works and pays taxes and spends his earnings (and in-work benefits, family allowance etc.) in his local community, contributes more to the local economy than does an economic migrant who sends most of his earnings (some subsidised by UK taxpayers) back home to the EU to be spent there. Our local and national economies suffer, and not even the taxes levied here are being spent within our economy.

Let our MEPs campaign to get us out of Europe and then we can invite who we want and need to work here. These migrants will be welcomed with open arms and will have the comforting knowledge that they are wanted and needed. Students from Germany can be included!

Alastair P.G. Welsh

## Customers who Need Extra Help in Power Cut Should Sign-up for Free Support

With winter here Northern Powergrid is encouraging people who are disabled, elderly, have young children or are medically dependant on electricity and would benefit from extra help in a power cut to take action and sign up to its free Priority Services Register.

Network investments mean power cuts aren't an everyday occurrence for most people but if severe weather strikes it can increase the risk of damage to the region's power network which could cause a power cut. For some people this disruption can be more than just an inconvenience.

Northern Powergrid, which is responsible for the network that delivers electricity to 8 million people across 3.9 million homes and businesses across the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire, is calling on customers to think about the people in their life and whether they would benefit from extra support if their power went off.

The company has increased activities to inform people about its free Priority Services Register adding online advertising on major regional newspaper sites to its campaign which already includes a four-month radio campaign.

Siobhan Barton, Head of Customer and Stakeholder Engagement at Northern Powergrid, said: "With winter comes the increased risk of severe weather that can cause damage to our power network, so we're encouraging local people to take a moment to think about how a power cut might affect them, a family member, friend or neighbour who may be more vulnerable.

"It doesn't matter who you choose to buy your electricity from, if you - or someone you know - would find a power cut more

difficult due to a medical condition or personal circumstances, then we can offer extra help while our engineers work to get your lights back on.

"We hope the combination of the recent weather and our campaign will spur people to take action and join our free Priority Services Register so they can get additional advice and support if their lights do go out in the future."

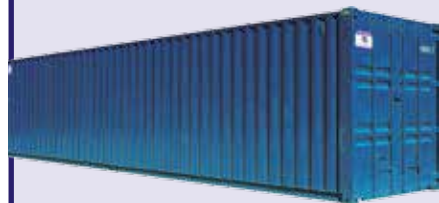
People who join Northern Powergrid's register will be kept updated as a priority and in some cases, the electricity distributor offers practical support such as sending one of its Customer Support Vehicles or organises alternative accommodation if they are part of a more complicated power cut that may take longer to repair.

Northern Powergrid hopes its campaign will reach out to different groups of customers who may benefit from extra support and link them directly to northernpowergrid.com where they can sign-up themselves, friends, family or neighbours and find out more about the different ways to report a power cut.

To stay informed in a power cut customers can follow Northern Powergrid on Twitter (@northpowergrid) and Facebook pages or use their mobile to visit northernpowergrid.com to report a power cut and get regular updates and advice. Customer service advisors are also available 24/7 at the electricity distributor's contact centre and can be contacted by calling 105 - the new, free, easy-to-remember power cut phone number. (105 compliments Northern Powergrid's existing freephone numbers - 0800 375 675 (Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire) and 0800 66 88 77 (North East).

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## Rotary Club's Annual Street Tour with Santa

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe will be out with Santa's Sleigh in the areas shown on the following dates, each evening from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. They will be collecting to provide Christmas Hampers for needy families, an annual event which also involves a collection in Tesco.

Monday 12th - Simpasture  
Tuesday 13th - School Aycliffe  
Wednesday 14th - Bluebell Way  
Thursday 15th - Silkin Way

Listen for the music and bring  
your children out to meet Santa.





# YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

TJFA and Russel Foster Cup weekend for five of our teams brought a mixed bag of results. **Darlington Youth 2 v 3 Aycliffe Youth**

U12's Aycliffe started very slowly and were soon punished by going 1.0 down. With Darlington wanting it more added to our lack lustre display and we soon went 2.0 down. A couple of positional changes at half time and a reminder to get the tackles in we started off the 2nd half on the front foot and the urgency to win. The rewards came with Jack Clarkson scoring just inside the post. Brennan Fitzpatrick added the equaliser before Kieran Walton completing the job with a hard earned winner. FT 2-3

**U10's Eagles 1 v 1 Redcar** (Aycliffe win 3-2 on penalties) A scrappy game with neither team taking real control - we did look better when we started stringing a few passes together but it took a moment of brilliance from Noah with a half volley on the turn from the edge of the box to get our only goal just before halftime. With Ashton, Jack and Owen battling hard in midfield and Sam and Joe just about handling everything at the back it looked like we would hang on for a 1-0 victory. Then as last week, a loss of concentration gifted Redcar a goal with the last kick of the game. Extra time saw no more goals so we went to the dreaded penalties, A couple of well taken penalties from us and a couple of unbelievable saves from Dan saw us wrap

it up 3-2 with a penalty kick to spare.

**U13's Eagles 1 - 3 Trimdon United.**

Eagles started a little slowly but were a match for the opposition. Both teams had a couple of chances but Trimdon took the lead. The Eagles were then awarded a free kick outside the box. Joe Halford had a good shot saved by the Trimdon keeper but then Trimdon hit us on the counterattack. They quickly got the ball down the other end and calmly slotted away their opportunity. HT 0-2. Into the second half and Trimdon grabbed a 3rd. With 12 minutes to go, Rhys got the ball at his feet and beat his man before slotting a good pass into Adam Lowe who finished well from the edge of the box. However that was the final score 1-3

**Under 17s 3 v 5 Haughton Albion,**

Away to a team a league above us so a good test of where we could be next season. The opening 30 minutes we were by far the better team and got our reward when Sam Thompson got our opening goal. Their keeper then pulled off 3 great saves to keep them in the game HT 1-0. They started the second half the better and put us under pressure and we conceded a penalty for their equaliser.

This lifted Haughton and with in 10 minutes two individual mistakes cost us 2 goals and we found our selves 3-1 down. Jay Bateman 20th goal of the season grabbed one back with a good header. Haughton then

scored followed by a quick reply from Aycliffe. Haughton then stretched their lead with another individual mistake by us, but with 5 minutes to go Ben Knights scored, 3-4, but it was left to Haughton to have the final word and go through to the next round - FT 3-5.

**Under 16's 4 v 2 Great Ayton** A close first half with a goal from Joe Fawcett saw the game at evens 1-1. The second half continues with both teams creating chances but neither could score so the game went into extra time. Aycliffe then took control with 3 unanswered goals from Wilson, Breckon, and Fletcher before Great Ayton grabbed a consolation near the end. A hard fought result but the reward of league cup semi final in the new year.

**U10 girls 4 - 0 Washington** Another strong performance from the girls this week - all working hard throughout, never giving up. A second hat trick in as many weeks for Imogen and a goal from Libby gave us the win, but every girl played their part with Keira and Phoebe in defence helping Chloe towards another clean sheet. Heidi as the backbone of midfield allowed the younger players Lilly, Fearnie and Gracie to move around the pitch creating chances. A good team performance all round. For further information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit our website [www.nayfc.com](http://www.nayfc.com) or contact Berni 07939 045242

## 25 Partners at GACAP Meeting

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership. (GACAP), held a good festive meeting at DISC officers on Monday with 25 partners present. Ken Robson chaired the meeting with four new partners in attendance.

Peter and Terri Driver were the new representatives from Harvest Church and told all about a very interesting online project TTRS (Touch Type Read and Spell) a unique multi-sensory, phonics based approach to learning for students who struggle with reading and writing. As Secretary, I had been given a temporary licence to try it out and quickly learned how my touch typing skill had slipped.

Peter will give a full power point projection of the benefits of the course at the next meeting. All partners and anyone interested in learning for students with difficulties in reading and writing, ie. Dyslexia and autism are invited.

New partner who Belinda Jones Atkinson from Sugar Hill School, Belinda had a variety of knowledge and talents and is keen to get involved in projects in the community especially those that were in crisis.

Faye Callan introduced herself as the new Police Engagement Officer with an interest in

Crime Prevention. Being new in post, she wanted to know who was who in the community and where to go for advice and felt GACAP was a good starting point.

Ken Robson knew Faye's predecessor and knew she would do a good job if she was to follow in his excellent footsteps. Faye gave her contact details and could also be contacted on 101.

Other new partners or changes to partnership were Fiona Mawson a change of representative from PCP and Clair Johnson who had represented Veteran's at Ease was at her last meeting and would be attending in future as a partner for her newly formed organisation.

Ron Mitchie thanked Liane Taylor for the use of DISC premises with refreshments, free of charge for the year. He also thanked partners who brought along food and Tesco for the excellent Festive Faye they had donated for partners' enjoyment whilst networking after the meeting.

He wished all present a very tranquil Christmas and looked forward to seeing all in the new year. He and Joan would not be around for Christmas as they were away on a late Honeymoon.

The chairman closed the meeting confirming the date of the next meeting as Monday 6th February as the first Monday in January was a Bank Holiday.

## Strong on Soundbites, Bankrupt on Solutions

Dear Sir,  
I read UKIP's manifesto, as asked in last week's Newton News. The first thing I noticed was that it contains a welter of 'wants' ... but absolutely no ideas on how to achieve them. The manifesto says that UKIP wants to protect heavy industry, to introduce a "world-renowned" education system, to upgrade the roads, railways, Tees Valley Airport and internet - all things we would all want - but it offers not a single strategy on how to do so.

### CLUELESS

Most amazingly of all - given that it is a key UKIP policy - the manifesto offers NO IDEAS AT ALL of how to control immigration. Indeed, the only immigration strategy it proposes is to accept asylum seekers.

And on the few occasions it does offer strategies, the suggestions it makes would be disastrous - for example:

- It proposes to rebuild the fishing industry ... by letting foreign vessels pay to fish in our waters.

- It wants to block skilled foreign workers ... apparently unaware that a major weakness of the north-east economy is the shortage of skilled workers.

- And despite the importance of renewable technologies to the north-east, it proposes to end government subsidies to renewables.

UKIP's

suggestions

regarding local government show their ignorance even more starkly - for example, they only seem just to have noticed the government's 'disproportionate cuts' (something I have been telling you about since 2010).

Laughably, they also offer to "fight" to replace the very EU subsidies which their Brexit success has cost.

### MISLEADING

Biggest lie of all? The front of the leaflet has the words 'WORKERS' RIGHTS' boldly prominent. But the manifesto does not once mention the word 'rights'. (Right-wing parties don't much care about your 'rights'.)

What the manifesto does say is that UKIP will not raise the minimum wage, but will raise the tax threshold instead. This fails to appreciate that the highest earners keep 40% of any increase in the threshold, in contrast to the poorest people, who do not thereby get any increase in income at all.

And that about sums up the whole ill-informed, sleight-of-hand claptrap which MAKES NOT ONE 'PROMISE'. What UKIP touted last week as a comprehensive 'vision' is simply a blatant attempt to rebrand the 'Party-which-rejects-foreigners' as a 'Party-which-cares-about-your-jobs'. It is a manifesto perfectly matched to yet another of their 'say anything-to-get-votes' campaigns.

John D Clare

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## Christmas Activities at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts' Christmas holiday activity programme is now live and kicking and available for bookings! We have some great free sessions on offer for young people and families, with Christmas Crafts, Crafty Wreath Making and even a chance to make your own Card for Santa! Activities are suitable for all ages, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. For full details and to book your place please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) or pop in and speak to one of our members of staff. Please see website for all holiday programmes as well as lots of other opportunities on offer, including our new learning programme and gallery brochure soon to be released at [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk). We hope to see you over the festive season! Have a wonderful Winter holiday!

## TOWN ARTISTS INVITED TO EXHIBIT THEIR WORK

Greenfield Arts would like to offer artists the opportunity to participate in this years 'Open Exhibition'. This always provides a superb range of work in different media and contains a range of subjects. It is an excellent opportunity for artists who aim to sell their work, promote their work for commissions, or simply want to be inspired by the work of others.

This year we are making it a truly 'open' experience in that we have opened the applications to all art forms. So if you are a theatre maker, dancer, poet, spoken word artist, film maker or any form of artist we want to hear from you! The exhibition will run from Thursday 9th March 2017 - Wednesday 26th April 2017. Artists are invited to submit up to 3 pieces of work for the exhibition, with a small submission charge. There will be a preview event on Wednesday 8th March between 5:30pm-8pm so please come along and bring friends and family.

We will also be offering a variety of workshops and events throughout the duration of the exhibition, including training sessions - learn how to manage your own exhibition; talks from the artists about their creative practice; brilliant performances and Jam sessions. Keep your eyes peeled for the release of these dates, coming soon. The deadline for entries is

Monday 16th January 2017. Spaces in the exhibition are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Once we reach maximum numbers no more work will be accepted.

If you would like a booking form or any further information, please contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk).

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# Labour Acknowledge Brexit Democratic Vote

Dear Sir,  
It was with sadness I opened my copy of the Newton News last week and read the far right 'Vision' that UKIP has for the North east. A vision based on hate, fear, and myths. Perhaps Mr Grant is not aware that Mr Blair has not been Labour party leader for over a decade now and the majority of the current new, younger and passionate shadow cabinet are untainted

by the decisions made regarding the Iraq war, indeed Corbyn himself voted against that decision. Mr Grant is also clearly unaware that the Labour party is not pushing for a second Brexit referendum but, acknowledging the democratic vote, is pressing the government for a deal which will cause the least harm to the British people, who are already struggling

under the Tories ideological and unnecessary cuts. If he looked at the nation's history he would find the U.K. has long been a multicultural nation, benefiting from the diverse cultural mix which has made us the people and the country we are today, tolerant, vibrant and outward looking, which are the very qualities that really make nations great. Aycliffe itself would not be the successful town it is without the Polish immigrants that arrived in the UK after the war and

helped to found the town and from whom many of Aycliffe's current population are descended from. As Farage sets his sights on the House of Lords, the new UKIP leader (Ex Tory Nuttall) claims UKIP is the people's party, but what he does not say is that he would like to see the end of the NHS, a woman's right to choose and the restoration of the death penalty, all backward looking and regressive directions we have long moved on from.

UKIP currently claim to be the 'anti-establishment' choice, but are in fact, isolationists and as pro-establishment as they come. Thankfully I have faith the people of the North East will see the reality of UKIP's vision for us, is not visionary, but a short sighted and far right nightmare that they cannot sleep walk us into. The only party offering a new forward looking vision of the future, based on honesty, equality, fairness and leaving no one and no community behind this time, is the real people's party, the current Labour Party. Miss K Beetham.

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# BOOK NOW FOR SPRING COURSES

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

We are pleased to announce the return of our hugely successful Core Arts course, which is designed to give participants a rounded understanding of core artistic skills via 3 different art forms, including: photography, drawing, and digital design, and enable further development opportunities. This term we have added elements which will develop artistic practice, including digital uploading and storage; advice on materials and a complimentary SHED digital hub induction, worth £80, to continue to develop your skills after the course.

Rosi Thornton also returns with her brilliant Re-Jig Sewing sessions, which are a great way to learn new skills whilst building friendships and confidence. The group have developed some great work and friendships over the last term and always enjoy meeting new friendly faces.

New additions this term will be our Beginners Painting and Creative Writing masterclasses. Jilly Johnston

will be in residence for 5 weeks to develop your skills in watercolour, oil and acrylic painting. While John Dean will be with us to offer a one off beginners and advanced masterclass in the skills you need to succeed with your creative writing.

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

including Spanish, floral art, fitness, health and music. Try something new and meet some wonderful people along the way.

Young people can come and join our after school team and enjoy our weekly Art Club or Young Yoga. Great ways for young people to try new skills and make friends in a safe environment. We also host the South Durham School

of Dance which is a constant fixture at the centre and a great opportunity for young people to develop their passions.

If you would like to join any of the above courses or find out more please check out our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) or contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk) or pop in and speak to one of our members of staff.

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A number of foster carers in County Durham are needed to help provide a loving home for children. Councillors will next week hear how the County Council's fostering service has seen an increase in the number of potential foster placements – but that the number of children in care continues to outstrip that supply.

A report to Cabinet, on December 14, will set out four main priorities for the service over the next year, including recruiting more foster carers to ensure that children remain in County Durham communities; and developing its Foster Xtra scheme that supports children with some of the most complex needs.

Margaret Whellans, the council's corporate director of children and young people's services, said: "The majority of our looked after children are placed within our fostering service, but it is increasingly challenging to manage the growing demand for placements.

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## For Sale



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**NEW** (bought wrong size) men's size 6, Nike shop bought, trainers in blue with black tick, laces and sole, darker blue suede finish at lace section, toe and heel. Ideal Xmas gift. Less than half price at £25. Call 07815 164682.

**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113 343

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## NEWTON NEWS

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# DogsTrust & Newton News FIND A DOG a home

## Leggy Lurchers Looking for Love

Staff at Dogs Trust Darlington have recently seen an influx in the number of Lurcher residents at the Rehoming Centre in Sadberge. They are hoping to find forever homes for these loveable long-legged pooches and are calling on all potential owners to come forward.

All of the Lurcher residents at Dogs Trust's Rehoming Centre in Sadberge would benefit from homes with experienced dog handlers who understand typical Lurcher behaviour and will be patient with their new pet while he or she adjusts to their new home.

Sue Embleton, Rehoming Centre Manager for Dogs Trust Darlington said: "Each of our Lurcher residents has their own unique personality but what they do have in common is a desire to find a new home ahead of the new year."

"There could be many reasons for the increased number of this particular breed at the Rehoming Centre. One of the common issues we've found, especially around the festive season is that families can romanticise the idea of getting a pet dog but may not consider the responsibility and care involved."

"We would love to hear from experienced dog owners who have space in their lives for a new companion and will give these loveable pooches the home they've always dreamed of."

If you would like to find out more about the Rehoming Centre's leggy Lurchers, please contact Dogs Trust Darlington on 0300 303 0292 or visit <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk>



# Live Reindeer and Santa's Grotto Visit

**Friday, 16th December at 3.00pm**

**Tesco Car Park and In-Store**

*Tickets £5.00 - available from Tesco Information desk*

Also available are:

**Food Stall, Kids Fair, Local Craft Stalls, Children Face Painting and Tattoo's plus a Tombola**

*This event is organised by the WECAN Parents Group working with Tesco with help from Horndale Residents Association, Great Aycliffe Town Council and Newton News*





# Join the NHS Organ Donor Register this Christmas



Students were invited to attend in non-uniform for a donation to the charity and each house group organised a series of additional events: break time saw students setting up a series

Assistant Headteacher Kath Bennett said "Through our House System, we asked students to plan and organise their own fundraising efforts. We were very impressed at the range of ideas and how well everyone responded. It really was a fantastic day!" Following a suggestion from staff and students, part of the total raised will be donated to Kieran Maxwell's Legacy Fund, with the rest going to Children in Need.



There is a particular need for more black and Asian organ donors. People from black and Asian communities have a higher incidence of conditions such as diabetes and certain forms of hepatitis, making them more likely to need a transplant, yet people from these communities are less likely to agree to organ donation. While some may be able to receive an organ from a white donor, for many others the best, or only, match would be from someone from the same ethnic background. Organ donation saves and transforms lives. Thanks to

His parents, Adrian and Candace Livingstone, clung to fading hopes someone would donate and his life would be

Adrian said: "Thanks to an organ donor, this year we are looking forward to a Christmas we never thought we would

www.organdonation.nhs.uk  
#timetosign #organdonation

+

**RITA THOMPSON** 11th  
December 2008. A very loving  
Sister and Auntie. Memories  
we treasure will last forever.  
Love you always. Sister Doris,  
Family and Grandchildren xxx

A special smile, a special face, in our hearts, a special place. Memories are a gift to treasure, ours of you will last forever. God bless, your loving Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxx

**WENDY GRAHAM** 9th  
December. Memories of a  
special Sister and Auntie.  
Love you always. Kay, Mike,  
Michael, Sean and Zoe xxxx

**YOUNGS NEWSAGENTS** *Town Centre or*  
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**FARNWORTH & WEIR**  
 Congratulations to Dale and  
 Leigh on your Engagement on  
 19th November 2016. Lots of  
 love and best wishes from both  
 families xxxxxxxxxxxxx  
**PALLISER** John and Melanie.  
 Happy 17th anniversary. Lots  
 of love, as always John. Love  
 you Jake, Callum, Kain, Saxon  
 and Zavn

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# BOXING DAY RACES

County Durham's biggest racing fixture held on Boxing Day is proving successful as hospitality sells out!

With more than 4,000 people due to descend, the team have been busy preparing for this annual event and to try and accommodate the large volume of enquiries an extended hospitality offering has become available in the viewing village marquee, with excellent track viewing, and includes an Indian Buffet Feast.

Gates open at 10.30am and the first of seven live races will kick off at 12.00pm. Jill Williamson, Executive Director of Sedgfield Racecourse, "We have put every effort into ensuring that this year's Boxing Day event will be the best yet and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our customers for their continued support this year, let's make it a day to remember! With over 1,500 advance tickets already sold for this event, it's sure to be a sell out!"

For more information about Boxing Day racing, or to buy tickets, visit [www.sedgfield-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.sedgfield-racecourse.co.uk) or call 01740 621925.

# Junior Football Results

Aycliffe Juniors football campaign progressed another week with lots of games across the age groups. Lots of teams were in cup action and looking to progress to the latter stages of these competitions.

**Under 7's** played in the quarter final of the League Challenge Cup against Boro Rangers 'Yellow'. This was an excellent game of high quality football but the Aycliffe team narrowly lost out as the game ended 2-1. Boro Rangers scored both their goals in the first half and this led to a great Aycliffe comeback effort in the second half. Thy piled on the pressure and hit the woodwork as well as shots narrowly missing the target. Dylan's free kick halved the deficit but the equaliser did not come and the game was lost. The second friendly game was enjoyed by all with Thomas and Joshua named as the mornings men of the match.

**Under 9's** Russell Foster

League team were looking to get back to winning ways after two recent narrow defeats. They were up against Ouston Juniors and started with some great passing and movement. There was no score in the first half and Jack pulled off a great save in the second half before Noah scored after Jake's shot was blocked. The man of the match was Lucas who put in a great performance in this well earned 1-0 win.

**Under 9 TJFA** league team were in the third round of the League Challenge Cup at home and against Boro Rangers 'Green'. The hosts were in fine form and put in one of their best ever performances in an 8-1 win. The interplay between James, Connor, Harvey, Jayden, Niall and Rhys was excellent. Lots of chances were created and Niall opened the scoring, Jayden then scored before Niall's second made it 3-1 at half time. Second half goals were scored by Jayden, Will,

Dom with Niall getting two more to end the game with four goals. The second game was also won and Harvey and Jack were named as the days men of the match.

**Under 11's** Russell Foster League team played a league game against Sunderland Athletic. They started well and had attempts on goal before being caught on the break to go behind. Taylor scored two good goals in the second half but the team could not avoid defeat. Taylor and Ted shared the man of the match award if this game.

**Under 11's TJFA** league team were playing in the fourth round of the League Cup at Sunnydale against Spraire Lads Panthers and were far too strong for the visitors. Lucas opened the scoring before Jake P added two goals. Evan was next to score and Jacob's two goals made it 6-0 at the break. Another six goals came in the second half as Jacob got three more to end up with an impressive five goals, Charlie added two and Zack also hit the back of the net in a comprehensive 12-0 win.

**Under 12's** were playing in the second round of the League Challenge Cup at home against TIBS Yellows who compete three leagues higher than the Aycliffe team. It was a determined effort but the home side were defeated by stronger opponents.

**Under 15's** were in league action away against Kader FC and played out an exciting 4-4 draw.

**Under 17's** were in the quarter final of the League Challenge Cup against Billingham Synthonia and came away with an impressive 4-0 win. The Aycliffe team were dominant throughout and goals from Jimmy and Kieran made it 2-0 at half time. In the second half Kieran scored again and Ryan added another to seal the win. It was the teams first clean sheet of the season and now a semi final awaits this talented group of players.

## Aycliffe FC. Sacks Manager

Newton Aycliffe FC confirms that it parted company with its manager, Peter Dixon, on Saturday evening following the game with Morpeth Town. The decision was made by the Club, due to the on going ill-discipline shown by some of the players.

Investigations into an incident after the game are continuing and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time. However, we can confirm that some players have left the club. The Club has begun the process of recruiting a new management team and it is hoped that this will be in place before the game against Jarrow Roofing on Saturday.

# Aycliffe Running Club Report



It was a great turn out from Aycliffe Running Club at the annual Ravenstonedale 10k on Saturday 26 November. Weather was cold but bright and the ground was frosty and icy in places. The undulating course was in around the picturesque village of Ravenstonedale near Kirkby Stephen.

First home for the club and placing 5th overall was John Surtees in 36:46. Next came Dez Fielden in 37:47, Richard

Campbell in 40:28, Tommy Scott in 41:31, Peter Milburn in 41:35, Lee Wren in 43:24, Martyn Knox in 43:53 and Susan Cranswick who was the first lady home for the club and recorded a new 10k personal best in 45:00. Then came Robert Young in 45:25, John Burnside in 45:49, Matt Heron in 46:20, Michelle Zamir in 47:04, Rob Jayne in 48:17, Roger Haslett in 49:29, Penny Johnson in 50:47, Susan Milburn in 51:03,

Mick Brunskill in 52:53, Rob Nicholson in 53:28, Gary Minns in 55:02, Alan Kellett in 55:22, Trish Kay in 55:31, Bev Philippo in 57:29, Ian Baronowski in 58:35, Anne Kellett in 59:34, Judith Porter in 01:00:30, Susan Clark in 01:05:01 and Ray Todd in 01:07:37.

Category prizes were awarded to Peter Milburn for male over 55, Susan Milburn for female over 55 and Ray Todd for male over 75.

## Good Sport Training for Town Youngsters

Dear Sir,  
May I thank Kevin the black belt instructor who teaches the Woodham Tigers Taekwondo group at Woodham Community Centre on Tuesdays from 6pm to 7pm.

My son has been going to the group since 4yrs old and through that time has gained so much. Kevin teaches discipline, respect, self control, hand and eye coordination, flexibility, strength, balance, stamina whilst learning Taekwondo moves, patterns and blocks. I would definitely recommend this group for anyone with young children as Kevin prepares them for the junior group which meets on a Sunday. It's a friendly group with Kevin and his two helpers. I also thank another instructor called Kevin who teaches Gymnastics at Woodham on a Friday 6.15pm to 7.45pm. Again my son has learned so much and is becoming more and more flexible, stronger and his balance and coordination



has vastly improved. He has huge amounts of fun mixing with other kids from Aycliffe and the surrounding areas. Both instructors work full time, yet give up their spare time to teach young children everything to help them in their lives.

These instructors and their assistants do an amazing job and they are both helping my son's life and wellbeing. If it wasn't for people like the two Kevin's passing on their knowledge of sport a lot of children would lose out. Susanne McKerr

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