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WOODHAM STUDENTS TEAM UP WITH G.B. COACH



Woodham Academy has teamed up with Sky Sports and the Youth Sport Trust to launch a female focussed sports initiative within the school.

Girls Active aims to increase participation levels of girls in key stage three by providing more opportunities to get involved and peer support. Nationally, only a small number of girls meet the recommended levels of physical activity. This is due to a number of factors including self-confidence and peer pressure.

The Youth Sport Trust is a national charity that is building a brighter future for young people through PE and sport. Through 20 years of experience the charity has developed a unique way of maximising the power of sport to grow young people, schools and communities through the development of qualities including creativity, aspiration, resilience and empathy.

Working in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust is Sky Sports through their Living For Sport programme. The programme utilises recognised sports stars and skills learnt through sport to build confidence and develop life skills with young people. 14 Year 9 students from the school will work with an athlete mentor to form the Girls Active team who will assist with generating ideas for activities and encouraging students to get involved.

Former Great British Boxing Champion, Amanda Coulson, will be the mentor for Woodham Academy. Amanda will help motivate and inspire the students to become more physically

active. This includes hosting a project day, inviting all KS3 students to take part which will be promoted by the Girls Active team.

On her appointment as a Sky Sports Living for Sport Athlete Mentor, Amanda commented: "I am honoured to be involved with an initiative as inspirational as Sky Sports Living for Sport. I want to motivate the young people I meet in schools to become involved in sport as I know the benefits it can reap. My story is a true example of how, with passion and determination, you can overcome obstacles in your life to make your dream come true."

Amanda Coulson with girls wanting involvement in sport

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Meeting of the Charity
“Great Aycliffe Old People’s Welfare Committee”
 to be held at Neville Community Centre,
 Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe
 on Monday 6th February 2017 at 2.00pm.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DISSOLUTION OF CHARITY

It is proposed that the registered charity “Great Aycliffe Old People’s Welfare Committee”, charity number 504398, operating as “The Cubby” from Neville Community Centre be dissolved in accordance with paragraph 11 of its constitution; registered with the Charity Commission 4th August 1975.

After the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any assets owned by the charity shall be freely given or transferred to such other institutions having objects similar to the object of the Great Aycliffe Old People’s Welfare Committee as the Committee may, after consultation with the Charity Commissioners, determine.

It is proposed that the chosen institute to receive any remaining assets will be the registered charity “Friends of Senior Citizens Charitable Trust”, charity number 1099207, which operates Neville Community Centre. The Community Cafe will continue to operate from Neville Community Centre and that element of Neville Community Centre will still be known as “The Cubby”.

David G Lewis

Trustee, Great Aycliffe Old People’s Welfare Committee
 Trustee, Friends of Senior Citizens Charitable Trust
 11th January 2017

Aycliffe Water Babies Pupil Wins Little Heroes Award

Harriet Holland aged three from Darlington, has been selected as a Little Hero by Water Babies, the UK’s leading baby and toddler swimming school. The local branch of Water Babies, based in Aycliffe, was delighted to hear that one of its young pupils had been awarded this accolade, after coming through a number of physical challenges from a very early age.

A few months ago Harriet came to the end of two, very long years of intensive, medical treatment to remove a birthmark, for very serious health reasons. Throughout this physical and mental ordeal Harriet always remained cheerful and bravely underwent numerous

operations without a single complaint. After recovering from each procedure she always looked forward to heading back to her swimming classes with her mum Joanne.

Joanne was delighted Harriet has been nominated a Little Hero adding: “After 10 general anaesthetics in 2 years our beautiful daughter has finally reached the end of her treatment, which used to break my heart every time I had to leave her in the surgeon’s room.

“Harriet has to have 6 monthly eye examinations at James Cook Hospital for the rest of her life. Harriet was still able to join all her friends and her Water Babies teacher Danielle for some fun in the pool and a chance to unwind. Our family is so proud she has received this award.”

Danielle said: “I always look forward to seeing Harriet – she’s a gorgeous little girl and despite all her treatment she’s become a really confident swimmer. She is always smiling and is such a pleasure to teach.”

A recent survey showed that 92 % of former Water Babies aged seven to eleven could easily swim twenty-five metres unaided. The national picture is far bleaker with only 45% of their counterparts being able to

swim the same distance on their own.

Paul Thompson, Chairman of Water Babies commented, “When you look back at Harriet’s difficult journey in the early part of her life, you realise just how well she has managed to overcome major obstacles. That’s why we decided Harriet is a very worthy winner of this Little Heroes award.

“Everyone at Water Babies has been really impressed by our Little Heroes and just how many courageous little splashers there are out there. Their stories show how important it is, to get your baby to the pool as early as possible and so introduce them to all the health and psychological benefits that swimming classes offer. It’s also a fun activity for all the family! At the same time, you are giving a very important gift to your child – a potentially life-saving skill. In fact, over the last few years, a dozen of our pupils have actually saved themselves from drowning, some aged just two years old!”

Water Babies classes are offered throughout the UK. Go to www.waterbabies.co.uk to find your nearest class plus all the latest baby swimming news; alternatively go to www.facebook.com/waterbabiesuk and www.twitter.com/waterbabies.



MAYOR’S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets are available for the Mayor’s Charity Civic Dinner which is to be held on Saturday, 25th February 2017 at Hallgarth Golf and Country Club, Coatham Mundeville.

This annual event is hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe who, this year, is Councillor Jed Hillary. The evening will commence with a reception at 7pm followed at 7.30pm by a three course meal with coffee and mints.

The evening will then proceed with entertainment by ‘Michaela Lawton’ and dancing provided by ‘John Melvin’ until 12pm.

During the evening the Mayor will be holding various fund raising activities in aid of one of his nominated charities which is ‘The Rifles Care for Casualties’. This charity is a truly worthwhile cause and the Mayor would appreciate your support in either attending the event or making a donation towards our fund raising.

Further information and tickets can be obtained from Christine Ryder at Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices and are priced at £30.00. Email: Christine.Ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk. Tel: 01325 300700.

Domino’s to Open in the Town Centre



Domino’s Pizza are to open a shop in the former Furniture store opposite Argos. Newton News received the following statement from Abbey Everett, spokesperson for the company: “Domino’s is always looking for great new locations for our stores, and we’re really excited to have found such good premises right in the heart of Newton Aycliffe community. “We hope to open our doors in Spring, and will be looking to recruit from within the area, with 25 new jobs available for pizza-passionate locals.”

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FORMER CHAIRMAN BILL THANKED

Dear Sir

The trustees for Neville Parade Community Centre incorporating The Cubby would like to thank Bill Blenkinsopp for ALL the hard work and hours that he put in for the Community Centre and The Cubby.

He worked tirelessly and will be sorely missed. We wish him good luck and happiness in his future ventures. Thanks Bill. The new number to get in touch about bookings for the hall etc will be 07961 733524 - Lileen Cuthbertson, Secretary.

We need more volunteers to run the Cubby, clean the building and complete general handyman work. If anyone would like to help, please give Lileen a call.

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BRIGHT FUTURE AT WOODHAM

Did you know what you wanted to do after school when you were 13 years old? Many students haven't got a clue, while others know exactly where they want to go and what they want to do. The prospect of planning your career and making choices for your future can be daunting at any age. To help students make the right decision, Woodham Academy has recently hosted a variety of career-focussed events. The events include students visiting local colleges including Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form in Darlington and New College Durham. The visits were aimed at giving students a taste of college life with taster sessions in a range of subjects and tours of the facilities.

Recently, over 25 local employers, training providers, colleges and universities attended the school's Careers Fair. Exhibitors were on hand to answer any queries and offer advice for grades and the application process. The Careers Service was available to offer guidance to parents and students on all the different options after school including apprenticeships and further education.

Colleges have also been in to school to lead the Year 11 assemblies. Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form, Darlington College, Polam Hall Sixth Form, New College Durham and Bishop Auckland College have all delivered an assembly to discuss the range of subjects available at A level, career prospects and what to expect from going to college.

Year 8 students from the school's More Able Academy recently spent the day at the Nissan plant in Sunderland to learn about the car industry and the production process. The group were invited to take part as part of the Government's See Inside Manufacturing Programme. The national programme aims to inspire the next generation and open young eyes to the variety of careers available within an integral industry.

Further career events include Specialist Days. Woodham Academy host Specialist Day three times during the academic year. The normal school timetable is suspended for the day whilst all year groups working on a variety of current themes including apprenticeships, and preparing their CVs. During the day, external partners come in to school to deliver workshops with each year group.

Before the Christmas holidays, Year 8 students took part in the final of the Apprenticeship Awareness Challenge. During Specialist Day local businesses Palram, Lucite, Thorn Lighting, Ivin, South West Durham Training and Ebac came in to school to work with the Year 8 students. The groups discussed their industry and explored career opportunities and what type of apprenticeships are

available in that industry. Students also visited each workplace to spend time speaking to employees and touring the facilities. Their projects came to an end on just before the end of term, with parents being invited in to school to watch the teams deliver presentations of their findings from working with each company.

Parents of Year 11 students were recently welcomed in to school to discuss their child's progress, what to expect from the year ahead and to speak to college advisers for the Year 11 Examination Preparation Evening. The evening was an opportunity for parents to ask any questions related to their child's final year at school and to understand the importance of working hard

in the coming months.

Head of Careers and PCC at Woodham Academy, Dave Walker, said: 'As a school we want to provide our students with as many opportunities as possible to get a taste of life after school and to prepare them for the world of work. We want to inspire our students and help them to discover the vast range of career options available to them. It is important to work with local employers and colleges and ensure our students are well informed before making the important decisions about their futures. We also have a good working relationship with agencies such as The Careers Service who are on hand to offer students and parents advice about all sectors.'



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1900-2200 - Dancing Through the Decades
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Saturday 14th January

0600-0900 - Best Of Breakfast – Wes Stakes
0900-1400 - Michael Weadock
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1800 - Craig Andrews
1800-0000 - Dancing Through the Decades

Sunday 15th January

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0900-1400 - Dave Sherwood
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Sunday Afternoon
1900-2200 - Non Stop Star
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Monday 16th to Thursday 19th January

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0900-1000 - Mystery Years – Wes Stakes
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GREAT YEAR FOR EBAC BOOK SALE

Ebac, the North East manufacturer, is celebrating after UK sales of its dehumidifiers almost doubled in 2016.

Enhanced distribution with retail partners including Amazon, B&Q, Currys, Tesco and Buy it Direct has been a major factor in the significant increase in sales. In addition Ebac's energy saving Smart Control dehumidifiers have proved popular with consumers, saving up to £150 a year on running costs when compared to most other machines.

Smart Control technology is an intelligent software system that automatically controls the operation of the Ebac dehumidifier, ensuring the home is always protected from condensation and damp. In 1980, founder and Chairman of Ebac John Elliott invented the UK's first dehumidifier which was specifically designed to operate in the UK's climate of lower temperatures and humidity.

By 1985 Ebac had become the best-selling dehumidifier in the UK and was exporting to most countries throughout Europe.

Tony Hird, business development manager at Ebac, said: "When John Elliott first introduced dehumidifiers to British homes I don't think he ever envisaged that the company would sell millions of



machines to UK consumers.

"The development of Smart Control has taken our products to a new level, with significant energy-saving costs and ease of use and we expect to continue the upward trend of sales in 2017."

Ebac manufactures a growing range of electrical products for the home, which make life better. Founded in 1972, Ebac has been at the forefront of dehumidifier and water cooler manufacturing for more than 40 years and 20 years respectively, and is now expanding its range of products, having launched a range of air source heat pumps in 2013 and developed its facilities and team to move into home appliances in 2014. The company is set to become the UK's only manufacturer of washing machines and with the recent acquisition of the Norfrost brand, chest freezers, to grow sales in the laundry and refrigeration

sectors.
<http://www.ebac.com>

The Marie Curie (Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group) is holding a mammoth book sale. The event will take place on Saturday, 21st January 2017 in Heighington Village Hall (DL5 6PE) between 9.30am and 1.00pm. With over 3000 books, to suit everyone's tastes, plus an assortment of DVD's and CDs, all of which will be offered at great prices. All funds raised will help support Marie Curie Nurses locally who provide free care to people with terminal illnesses in their own homes. Please come along, enjoy a coffee, and bag a bargain or two while supporting a worthwhile cause.

(FOOTPATH ADJACENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, ST ANDREW'S CLOSE, AYCLIFFE VILLAGE) (TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

The Council, on 06/01/17 made an Order under Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, to close to all pedestrian traffic a 65m length of segregated footpath that extends easterly and southerly along the northern and rear of The White House, St Andrews Close, from A167 High Street, Aycliffe Village to enable demolition and redevelopment works to be undertaken. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 6 months and is required from 16/01/17 for the duration of the works, anticipated to be 6 months. However, on rare occasions, alternative dates for closures may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. **Alternative route:** from the north western side of the closure north on High Street and turning north easterly on The Wynd, south easterly on The Green and south westerly on St Andrews Close leading to the south eastern side of the closure, and vice versa.

Dated: 13 January 2017



Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PREFAB AREA ASKS PRIVATE RESIDENTS

Fred and Margaret Jackson of Clarence Chare have lived there for 30 years, buying their Prefab Bungalow, brick cladding and modernising it to suit their requirements.

Most of the other bungalows which were built after the war, and used mainly for people with disabilities, are now owned and rented out by Livin. Fred and Margaret are concerned how their neighbourhood has deteriorated over recent years with nine of the properties empty - waiting, they are told, for re-cladding and improvements by the landlords.

The outside of the bungalows have also been neglected with hedges uncropped and growing to great height. Last year the couple had a rat infestation and they are worried this problem may reoccur.

They have lived in the area for nearly 65 years and love where they live, but the state of properties surrounding them is disheartening and they would like to know what the future holds.

Fred said it was hard to believe these bungalows are still empty when there is such a demand. "Why are the landlords letting the condition of their properties worsen when they could be earning good rental value" asked Fred. We contacted Livin and they told us there were no plans in the immediate future to bring

the bungalows back into use as other areas of property development have taken priority.

They did think initially there was a need to re-clad the exterior of the prefabs to bring the insulation up to standard, but investigations show this is unnecessary. Eventually the bungalows will be brought back into the rental market and probably used as temporary housing while other properties are being refurbished.

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Crafter's Companion Raise Cash for MIND



Aycliffe based craft company, Crafter's Companion has raised almost £1,750 for mental health charity, MIND, following two 'Crafternoon' fundraising events held at its UK stores.

The total monies raised at the 'Crafternoons', which were held out of its Newton Aycliffe and Chesterfield stores, and via online donations were then fund-matched by Crafter's Companion and the County Durham Community Foundation.

'Crafternoons' are a fundraising initiative of Mind's which enable friends, family or colleagues to get together and hold a fun afternoon of crafting to raise money for the charity.

Newton Aycliffe's 'Crafternoon' invited guests to have a go at various papercrafting and sewing make and takes, enjoy coffee and cake, donate via the 'honesty boxes' and enter a raffle. The store was also decked out with bunting, courtesy of its weekly sewing

clubs, and staff donned Christmas jumpers to get everyone into the festive spirit. Crafter's Companion also set up a Just Giving page which generated additional funds online.

Sara Davies MBE, founder of Crafter's Companion said, "We were very excited to welcome both regular customers and local novices to our first 'Crafternoon' fundraising events and we are delighted at the monies raised. Crafting is a great mindfulness activity which allows participants to unwind and destress, freeing the mind from negative thoughts. Given that we have all the tools to hand to run Crafternoons from our shops it made total sense to set up these fundraisers for a very important charity.

"Each of our stores operates an ongoing community engagement programme as part of our CSR policy, and owing to the success of these first sessions, we hope to make 'Crafternoons'

a regular feature on our fundraising event calendar." Crafter's Companion is a leading craft supplies company which sells its products globally online, on TV shopping channels, via independent retailers and in its own UK retail stores

in Newton Aycliffe and Chesterfield. The Newton Aycliffe store opened in May 2016 and includes themed shopping areas, a coffee shop, a central hub for workshops and two dedicated demonstration areas.

Deadline for Primary School Applications

Parents in County Durham are reminded they are running out of time to apply for primary school places for their children.

The deadline for applications for the next academic year, which starts in September 2017, is Sunday 15 January 2017.

Cllr Ossie Johnson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "In our county we benefit from many schools with superb facilities and dedicated, talented staff, and we hope that through our admissions system people can express their preferences and see children enjoy a happy and successful education.

"We know that the decision of where to send your children is a big one, and can be difficult, but we would

urge parents to make sure they apply by the deadline as a late application greatly reduces your chances of getting into your preferred school."

Applications can be made online, at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions, or by post.

Forms can also be requested by phoning 03000 265896 or by writing to the School Admissions and Transport Team at Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ.

If posting, the forms should be sent back using signed for or special delivery services. Offers of places will be made to parents on 16 April 2017.

If you apply online you will receive an offer email. If you apply by post you will receive an offer letter. These should arrive by no later than 16th April.

Air Ambulance Plan New Operational Centre

The region's air ambulance charity has submitted plans for its new operational base and Medical Centre of Excellence, which it claims will lead to more lives being saved across the North.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) hopes to build the facility at Urry Nook, near Stockton-on-Tees, on the former Elementis chromium works site.

GNAAS has agreed a deal in principle for the site but the sale is dependent on a number of factors including the success of the planning application, which will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of Stockton Borough Council's planning committee.

The entire project, including the purchase of the land, the buildings, and the construction of the new facilities, is forecast to cost £3.9M. This is being financed through a combination of fundraising, reserves, additional borrowing, and grants from the Government through the LIBOR banking fine fund.

Last year, at his autumn statement, Chancellor Philip Hammond announced £1m from the fund would be allocated to the project.

This was £900,000 short of

what GNAAS had applied for, but Grahame Pickering MBE, the charity's chief executive, today confirmed the project would still go ahead, albeit over a longer timescale than previously proposed.

The plans will incorporate an existing office building, which would house the Medical Centre of Excellence alongside the charity's operational and support staff including fundraising, lottery and admin teams.

The 1,500sqm hangar also featured in the plans include space for three aircraft as well as dormitories and parking for the charity's 24-7 trauma car service.

"The renovation and repurposing of the existing facilities could potentially start in the new year," Mr Pickering said. "But the construction of the hangar could be delayed slightly to preserve the financial stability of the charity.

"If the application is successful, we will be asking supporters to give whatever they can to support the project. I cannot stress enough how vital this is for the future of the charity and for the future of pre-hospital care in the region.

"The benefits to the charity and the wider public are

many. Fundamentally though, it will save the charity tens of thousands of pounds which can be spent on frontline healthcare, it gives us a stable home for the first time, and through the Medical Centre of Excellence, we will have the facility to research clinical innovations that will save even more lives."

Mr Pickering said the GNAAS board of trustees had given the green light to the project, having scrutinised the plans alongside the financial proposals. An environmental survey has been carried out, taking into consideration the site's former use as a chemical works, and found there to be no risk to workers or visitors to the site.

If the proposals go ahead, the charity would leave its base at Durham Tees Valley Airport, as well as offices in Darlington town centre. Its bases at Newcastle International Airport and Langwathby, near Penrith, continue to be integral to its future plans.

To keep up to date with the development, please visit www.gnaas.com/our-new-home Costs associated with the planning application and a feasibility study were met by a grant.

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P.A.C.T. Meeting

Police And Community Together



There will be a "POP IN" PACT Meeting to be held in Aycliffe Village at the Village Hall on Saturday 14th January from 10.30am to 12.00am.

PCSO Daniela Jones will be available to give updates on what's going on in your area and answer your questions. Councillors and Partners from GATC, DCC and Livin will attend if available. PCSO 7596 Daniela Jones
Email: Daniela.Jones@durham.pnn.police.uk

CARE HOME RAISE £700

Aycliffe Care Home, which is operated by Akari Care, raised a total of £740 for its Residents' Comfort Fund over the festive period at its winter wonderland event, with a portion of the funds going to support Kathryn Griffiths, a local girl who is volunteering in Fiji next summer.

Kathryn is going to support one of the schools in the country by helping to build proper sanitation, refurbish the facilities and also teach basic English to pupils. She will also be



participating in a 'Week in Paradise' – a week dedicated to turtle conservation – by providing care for hatchlings, building new turtle pools and artificial reefs, as well as surveying areas and identifying different species. 10% of all monies raised throughout the year by Aycliffe Care Home will also go towards Kathryn and her volunteering efforts. Kathryn is also going to regularly Skype the home and its residents. Jane Mack, Manager at Aycliffe Care Home, said: "We were delighted to welcome members of the local community to the home to celebrate the holiday season with our residents. "I would like to thank everyone for contributing to the fund, which is very much appreciated and will benefit our residents and Kathryn immensely. Kathryn is such a wonderful person and is going to help make a difference in Fiji, and we will be following her progress and supporting her as much as possible." Located on Burnhope Way, Newton Aycliffe - Aycliffe Care Home is a purpose built 54-bed home that provides 24-hour general residential, dementia and nursing care.

Long-Serving Employees Bag Health & Safety Hat-trick

Two of the longest-serving employees at Newton Aycliffe firm Stiller Warehousing and Distribution have bagged an important health and safety hat-trick.

Office manager Julie Gilpin and fleet and facilities manager Herbie Blaser – who have amassed more than 45 years' service between them – have helped Stiller to gain one of the highest industry-recognised standard safety accreditations.

The pair worked with Quality Standards Consultant Billy Naisbett, of Newton Aycliffe-based ISO Systems to attain ISO 18001 certification.

The achievement follows the firm's long-standing accreditations for ISO 9001, which relates to quality management framework, as well as ISO 14001, for environmental management practises.

Managing Director Paul Stiller said: "We've wanted to do this for a long time so we're delighted to have it – it's a big deal for the company. We're a growing business, so there's an ever-growing duty of care to our workforce to make sure we're operating as safely as we possibly can be. To be able to do that effectively, when the business passes a certain size in terms of footprint and employee numbers, you need a recognised management framework in place for health and safety, and that's what we've chosen to do.



Stiller Warehousing and Distribution Office Manager Julie Gilpin and Fleet & Facilities Manager Herbie Blaser with Quality Standards Consultant Billy Naisbett

"It's also a benefit to be able to reassure our customers that they're dealing with a responsible, professional and reliable partner. Julie and Herbie have done a fantastic job gaining this accreditation for the company."

Julie has worked for Stiller for 15 years, but previously worked for the company on the same site before Stiller's arrival in Aycliffe.

"I've been on the site more 25 years in total so I've seen huge changes here," said Julie. "But the changes and improvements since Stiller moved here have been huge. These accreditations are very important. Each manager completes a regular safety

touch audit. They walk the floor, talk to other staff about safety, any subject which is relevant to that area of the business and get the views from the floor, so everyone has been involved. It helps ensure that our workforce is safe and that any practises that we carry out for our clients will be done in a formalised and recognised way."

As part of the accreditation Stiller has to take part in routine inspections and annual audits.

Julie added: "We don't just do it because we have to. We do it because we want to. And we don't just hit the requirements, we exceed them, which is why we're able to gain 18001."

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Children's drop in Archery session Saturday 11.30-12.30

DOUBLE FUNDING BOOST FOR POPULAR CENTRE

Members and user groups at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre are celebrating a double funding boost thanks to support from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP).

The ever popular community facility is in the final stages of the Asset Transfer of the building from Durham County Council, and as part of the process the Centre's Management Committee identified a number of areas within the building that were in need of improvements.

The centre successfully received funding from GAMP through the Neighbourhood Budgets of Durham County Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper. The funding was used to replace the worn carpet flooring tiles within the Social Room & Pool Room. In addition, the centre also received funding from GAMP's Capital Small Grants Fund to help purchase new furniture to support the popular Beveridge Community Café.

Vince Crosby, Chair of Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre, said: "I'm delighted with the funding support that



we have received from Councillors Eddy Adam, Kate Hopper and GAMP. The funding will help the centre move forward with our plans to further improve the building."

Rebecca Metcalfe, Centre Manager, said: "It has to be mentioned that the team have played a very important role in upgrading the centres décor and building the new furniture for the café. Without the staff and volunteers behind me the renovations could not have been completed without their understanding, support and co-operation.

Thank you does not seem to be enough of a compliment to them."

Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre offers a wide range of youth and community activities, these include: Boot Camp, Destination Judo, NAYC Football Club, Sporting Chance, Duke of Edinburgh, Dancercise, AGE UK (Tai Chi). There are two new groups at the Centre, Musikality and Newton Aycliffe Karate Club, with new bookings occurring all the time. The footfall from these groups is in excess of 1,500 visits a month.

Wellbeing - Not Just January!

In the New Year, there are some things you should cut back on to be healthier, but also so many things you should add in. The best part? They're so simple and cost absolutely nothing.

The County Durham Wellbeing for Life service is free and aims to help people to live well and maintain good health for themselves and those around them.

Wellbeing for Life staff work with individuals on a 1-1 basis and in groups to recognise the issues that are affecting their wellbeing and help them make positive changes.

They recommend trying the Five Ways to Wellbeing to make this year better than the last. The Five Ways to Wellbeing are simple actions we can do in our everyday lives to help us feel good and function well. The five ways are:

Connect - with the people around you; your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Wellbeing for Life health trainers can help you find a social activity to help make new friendships. Building connections will support and enrich your everyday.

Get active - Physical activity makes us feel good. Step outside, being in green open spaces increases your sense of wellbeing and relaxation. Health trainers can support you to try an activity that you enjoy and suits your level of fitness; such as an exercise class or walking group.

Learn - Learning new skills can give you a sense of achievement and a new confidence. Health trainers can help you find a creative arts class or a training course which interests you.

Give - Whether it's a thank you, a kind word or volunteering your time. Helping others makes you feel good about yourself. Wellbeing for Life offer a range of volunteering opportunities across County Durham from; Community Health Champions who support the Health Trainers to Community Volunteers who provide much needed support at events and activities.



Take notice - Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Take time to breathe, unwind: yoga, listening to music, reading a book – time on your own. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

People's lifestyles and the conditions in which they live and work, act together to influence their health and wellbeing. The wellbeing approach goes beyond looking at a single-issue and instead aims to take a whole-person and community approach to improving health.

For further information on the Wellbeing for Life service contact freephone 0800 8766887 or visit www.wellbeingforlife.net, Facebook @CountyDurhamWellbeingForLifeService, Twitter @WBFL_Durham

Thanks Honest John

I would like to say huge "thank you" to Honest John for his kindness and support in helping us get my Son Thomas, the help he needed.

We are very grateful for the funding John has given towards diagnosis - if there was an angel put on this Earth, he is one of them.

I have never met such a kind hearted man in my life like him. The community of Newton Aycliffe should be so proud to have such a kind man as Honest John among them.

John deserves a medal in my opinion.

Thank you
Angie Williams

Greenfield Students Host Residents Party

Wednesday 14th December saw the welcome return of the annual Older Residents' Christmas Party at the Sunnydale Campus of Greenfield Community College. 55 local residents enjoyed a Christmas tea prepared by the students, who also provided entertainment in the form of a Christmas Quiz, Bingo and a sing-a-long with the school choir. The afternoon ended with a free raffle, in which everyone was a winner, and all guests left with a hamper of food donated by students to brighten their Christmas.

Guests were full of praise for the students, who not only served tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes but also sat and chatted with the residents and even played along with the bingo, before helping them carry their prizes home.

Assistant Headteacher Kath Bennett said "The whole event, including planning, decorating the hall, preparing and clearing up was run by the students, with every form from the Sunnydale Campus making a contribution. It was a lovely afternoon and we are incredibly proud of our young people who showed that they truly are an important part of the wider community"

Thanks also must go to the local businesses who donated raffle prizes for the event.



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Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions. *Test drive is subject to status and availability.

Hot Jazz Favourite Comes to Darlington

Darlington New Orleans Jazz Club is set to start its 2017 programme of live jazz with a foot-tapping, heart-warming performance by the hugely popular Savannah Jazz Band. Savannah will be kicking off the Club's jazz year at 12.30pm on Saturday 4 February 2017 at St Augustine's Parish Hall, Larchfield Street, Darlington. The event is being staged by joint club organisers Ray Sams and Graham Foster.

"There's never a shortage of fun, excitement and raw good music whenever the Savannah Jazz Band takes the stage" said Graham. "Their driving and exciting New Orleans style attracts large audiences whenever they play."

"We've had them here at Darlington several times now and they never fail to delight everyone in the room. They're the ideal tonic to banish the winter blues with lunchtime sessions of great quality, New Orleans jazz".

"Savannah has a varied and ever changing programme, and is constantly adding new numbers to their extremely wide repertoire" added Ray. "They're never predictable and we're so pleased we've been able to be included in their packed tour programme this year".

There's an impressive line up of bands booked for 2017. Coming up next:

Saturday 4th March 2017 - Café Society Jazz Band: This lively four piece band (Anthony Mason, Willy

Entwistle – both also with the renowned Temperance Seven - Andy Henderson and Colin Turner) specialises in Dixieland and jazz from the Charleston era. Often exuberantly dressed and always irrepressibly rhythmic, they're bound to get feet tapping and faces smiling throughout the gig.

Saturday 1st April 2017 - Brownfield Byrne Hot Six: Inspired by the swing era stylists of the late 1930's and early 1940's, the 'Hot Six' performs music by the likes of Louis Armstrong, Bix Biederbeck, Fats Waller, early Duke Ellington and the John Kirby sextet, all to their own arrangements. Standout soloists Jamie Brownfield and Liam Byrne energize the band and give it all a really authentic and infectious swing.

Darlington New Orleans Jazz Club meets at St Augustine's Parish Hall, Larchfield Street, Darlington 12.30pm on the first Saturday of every month except January. Entry is just £10 on the door (no need to pre-book), there is a licensed bar, tea and coffee is available, and everyone is very welcome to bring their own food along for a picnic whilst the bands are entertaining.

Doors open at 12noon and there's the added benefit of plenty of free onsite car parking. It's also just a short walk from the bus stops on Tubwell Row.

www.darlingtonjazz.co.uk

Services for Children & Young People Improve

Improvements are being made in services for children and young people in County Durham.

Durham County Council identified ways to improve its services for children and young people and its Cabinet will next week hear that the majority of the action points are either completed or on target.

Following last year's Ofsted inspection of children's services, actions were identified under four themes: strengthening management and staffing capacity; strengthening political and management oversight; improving the quality of practice; and compliance with regulations.

The meeting will next week hear how good progress is being made.

In terms of strengthening management and staffing capacity, there is more stability in the workforce with reductions in turnover and vacancy rates, as well as in sickness absence.

The council has also implemented a number of initiatives to recruit, develop and retain social workers and managers. A Social Work Academy has been set up to support 12 newly qualified social workers while a further 24 newly qualified social workers have also been employed. A management training programme has also been established alongside a course for aspiring managers. The council also plans to host four students who want

to become social workers as part of the Frontline programme and is developing a social work apprenticeship programme.

In terms of strengthening political and management oversight, the council is in the process of introducing a new system for children's services social care records, with staff having visited local authorities with leading children's IT systems to help identify the most suitable model.

In relation to improving the quality of practice, the council has revised standards for assessment and planning, developed a key reference tool for evaluating casework activity for practitioners and managers, and delivered training and support through workshops on how to carry out assessments.

In recent months, the focus on quality of practice has brought national recognition for the council. West Rainton Children's Home won the public sector children's team award at the Local Government Children and Young People Now 2016 Awards while the council's Supporting Young People with a Cancer Caring Role was highly commended in the young carers award category. The action plan was produced in response to the findings of last February's Ofsted inspection which made 14 recommendations.

Cllr Ossie Johnson, portfolio holder for children and young people's services, said:

"Significant progress has been made in the last year to the point where we are recruiting more and more social workers and where our focus on quality of practice has seen us afforded national recognition. "However we recognise there is still room for improvement and we will continue to work

steadfastly to improve the lives of our children and young people."

The council's Cabinet, which meets on 18 January, is being recommended to agree to receive further updates in relation to children and young people's services on a six monthly basis.

Burns Coffee Morning



Rose Lodge Care Home, Carer's Way, are set to celebrate all things Scottish as they host a coffee morning in honour of Burns Night.

The event, which is open for all to attend, will feature live entertainment from a Bagpipe player and alongside hot and cold refreshments attendees will also have the chance to sample some traditional Scottish cuisine including shortbread and haggis. The coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 25th January at 11.00am. Entry is free and all are welcome to attend. For further information please contact Rose Lodge on Tel: 01325 271301.

Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 17th January features the Disney fantasy-comedy "Blackbeard's Ghost".

Starring Peter Ustinov, Suzanne Pleshette and Dean Jones. Blackbeard is cursed to walk in limbo until he performs a good deed, and at last he tries to do one, with hilarious results. A real Feel Good Film to lift the winter blues. Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm, included in the £2. 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.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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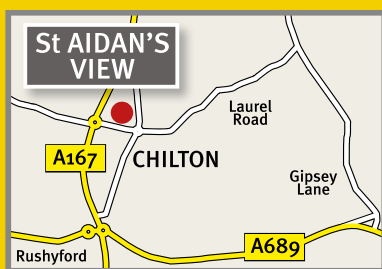


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LABOUR WANTS TO TAKE BRITAIN INTO BRIGHT BREXIT

*Is Labour trying to undermine the referendum result?
Nothing could be further from the truth.*

The Tories have told us NOTHING about what 'Brexit' will look like – apart from the fact that it will be 'red, white and blue'. By contrast, Labour's Brexit shadow secretary Keir Starmer has been presenting a very clear and positive idea of how we should respond to the referendum.

BREMOANERS AND BREXSH*TERS

Labour are not 'Bremoaners' trying to subvert the result of the referendum – Starmer has made it clear that he regards the 23 June vote as a binding 'mandate', and that Labour will not prevent the government triggering Article 50 in March. But neither are they 'Brexsh*ters' trying to pretend that we can simply walk away without any plans and all will magically be well. In Starmer's terms: there is a 'mandate' on our leaving ... but there is no mandate on the terms of our leaving, which MUST be debated and agreed.

I get angry at those people who use every setback to claim that Brexit is failing. Equally, I disagree with those who take every bit of economic success to suggest that Brexit is working. Brexit hasn't happened yet! So all these 'analyses' are pure guesswork, and we will only know if Brexit was a good or bad idea in half-a-century's time. And whatever happens, there will "always be an England", with an economy and trade and a place in the world. We have such already within the EU, of course, but Brexit will take all our political and economic circumstances and utterly reshape them. So our future success depends, not just on leaving the EU, nor even on the deal the government negotiates, but on how well we adapt to our new circumstances.

BREXIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY

There is a saying: "there are no problems, only opportunities". Brexit can be seen similarly. Of course there are dangers – but successful businesses will avoid the pitfalls, and the government needs to aspire to create a climate for success whatever shape 'Brexit' it negotiates.

I'll give you a concrete example. Here in the North-East we face a skills shortage, especially as many of our skilled workers prepare to retire. If we had stayed in the EU, firms

would have been able to recruit skilled workers from other EU countries. So, if Brexit were to stop the Free Movement of Labour, yes it MIGHT cause a shortage of skilled workers in the North-East (danger) ... OR it could instead release well-paid jobs for North-East workers (opportunity).

I was last year on a County Council Review of Workforce Skills which discovered wonderful examples (particularly at Hitachi and Caterpillar) of skills training. In Newton Aycliffe, our County Council GAMP committee has set up a fund to help people-in-work upskill themselves to progress their careers. So, given the time and the money, I have no fear that we in the North-East could produce the skilled workers to fill any skills gap left by Brexit. But this kind of preparation needs the government to have a clear, costed plan of how it intends things to develop in the future ... and that is not happening.

WE NEED TO LISTEN TO LABOUR

Labour has always fought for the North-East. And now only Labour sees clearly how to head into the future in a way which accepts the mandate of the referendum, yet empowers the people of the North-East to seize Brexit's opportunities. And that is why Labour is demanding that this incompetent government should develop a plan and give us at local level the resources to achieve that plan. That is not "working against" Brexit – it is trying make sure that Brexit works for us.

John D. Clare



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

This week you will be particularly impressed by DCC's response to Tuesday night's wild weather. There are two consultations you may wish to respond to, and there are a couple of crime issues to beware of.

COUNCIL

- Cllr Simon Henig looks ahead to what's in store for County Durham in 2017: bit.ly/DCCSH2017
- DCC responds quickly to weather disruption: bit.ly/DCCWD17
- Pothole-Spotting and Streetlight-Lookout: bit.ly/DCCPHSL
- DCC Consultation on Direct Payments to disabled young people: http://bit.ly/DCCDYDP
- GAMP Board meeting, 6pm Tuesday 17 January at the Oak Leaf Complex; public welcome – phone 01325 327441
- Middridge Parish Council's January meeting: bit.ly/MPC9117
- Latest Roadworks

- information: bit.ly/RW13117
- Congratulations to our MEP Jude Kirton-Darling, on the birth of her son, Natan
- COMMUNITY**
- A chance for 16-19 year-olds to make 2017 the start of their future: bit.ly/H4TST17
- Police And Crime Commissioner Consultation on the 2017-18 police budget: bit.ly/PCCBC17
- Bleach burglar strikes again: bit.ly/NAPB117
- Amazon email scam: bit.ly/AES117
- Horndale Residents' Association January meeting: bit.ly/HRA4117
- Friends of the S&DR newsletter: bit.ly/FSDR117
- Friends of the S&DR January meeting: bit.ly/FSDRM117

Greenfield Open Art Opportunity

Greenfield Arts would like to offer you the opportunity to participate in this years 'Open Art Exhibition'. This exhibition 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, would like to promote their work for commissions, or simply would like 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 and with it comes lots of opportunities. 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 to 8.00pm 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 30th 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

BEANS & SAUSAGES FOR TEA

MESSY CHURCH at St. Clare's kicks off their 2017 programme with 'Messy Creation' on Saturday 21st January at 4pm.

Through a mix of crafts, story, song and worship - come and explore how we all came into being. Make rainbow fish and crispie earth cakes, make a splash in the water tank or create a model in the creation station.

Tea will be beans and sausages with hash browns and eggs, with plenty of toast to keep us going. This is followed with yoghurt, fruit and everyone's favourite - donut's! We look forward to wishing you a Happy New Year whether you are a Messy regular or looking for a new, different style of church for you and your family in 2017 - come and give it a try. We welcome you all.

Starting at 4pm prompt with tea around 5.30pm. More details of all Youth/Children's work is available to view on the Youth/ChildrenSt.Clares Facebook page. Helen McCormick

2 FOR 1 RACEDAYS

A North East racecourse starts the New Year off with a "January Sale" incentive by offering 2 for 1 racing tickets on Friday 13th January and Monday 6th February 2017. Both racedays gets started at 11.40am, have six live races and are offering hospitality packages within the restaurant at 2 for 1 for a very affordable way to try the fine dining on offer.

Jill Williamson, Executive Director of Sedgfield Racecourse, said: "We are delighted to offer such cost effective packages to race goers to celebrate the start of the New Year. We have an exciting year ahead which will see the return of our Cheltenham Festival Raceday and Betfred Hurdle Series Final in March, the Gents Aintree Day in April and Ladies Evening in August". For more information about racedays, or to buy tickets, visit www.sedgfield-racecourse.co.uk or call 01740 621925.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 25th January 2017

Council Meeting - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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75 YEARS OLD AND STILL BREAKING RECORDS

At the age of 12 Laurie Cummings got up at 5.30am every morning to deliver morning papers to an area over a mile from the paper shop in Easington Colliery where he lived. He ran the distance jumping fences gates and walls which was excellent training without even thinking running another mile to school. He became a keen athlete and was school champion cross-country runner. He commenced work at Easington Colliery in



School Aycliffe resident
Laurie Cummings

1953 as an electrician and worked at the mine athletics team taking part in Field/Track/Cross Country events throughout the country. His training covered distances up to 20 plus miles a day joining the Crook & District Athletics Club taking part in athletics events throughout the country including National Championships.

In 1992 Laurie ran the London Marathon and achieved a 9th world ranking in his age category, at 51 years of age. He also competed in Road Running Championships in Birmingham with another two world rankings of 9th in the 25km and 24th in the 10km races.

Picking up an injury and told by specialists not to run any more or I would end up in a wheel-chair put me into decline as I just lived for running.

In 1999 Laurie saw another specialist who gave him the go ahead to run once again provided he ran sensibly. he trained as best he could but felt he was achieving nothing! My son Jeff suggested I take on local 5km Fun Runs.

In July 2012 he took part in his first 5km Fun Run at Sedgefield followed by others with Personal Best times in the 70-74 age group category.

Laurie's running was going well so he decided to break the age category times at various 5k Park Run venues throughout the North area and then other venues further afield. From the December, 2015 to the present date Laurie has broken 21 age category records in the 70-74 age category and the 75-79 category.

He trains at Newton Aycliffe gym every morning and does an hour session on the various CV and Weight machines. This is followed by a road run which can vary from 3km to 8km. Laurie is also a qualified sub-aqua diver with a total of over 12,000 dives, all of which are recorded, signed and verified. He received a certificate to verify all these dives from PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) in March, 2015.

Christian Unity Service

Christian Unity Week 15th-21st January - Churches Together in Great Aycliffe are hosting the Christian Unity Service in St. Mary's on Wednesday 18th January at 7.00pm.

The preacher will be the Methodist Minister, Andrew Bryer. This service is open to anyone of any denomination - please come along and join us, you will be most welcome.

Students' Petition Gets Massive Support



Greenfield students meeting Phil Wilson M.P. and Head Teacher David Priestley to discuss petition

It was a pleasure for Newton News to interview the three Greenfield students and we commend their unselfish act in raising this petition. They will gain nothing from it themselves and are doing it purely for the benefit of future students who face an unfair GCSE examination system.

Phil Wilson M.P. was very impressed with their concern for others and agreed with their views, pledging as much support as possible.

Most proud was their Head Teacher, David Priestley who praised their maturity and for standing up to what appears to be an injustice. Our local M.P. Phil Wilson said: "All pupils, whether they go to local authority, independent or academy schools should all be treated the same when it comes to their exam opportunities. I'll be raising this issue in Parliament and urge everyone to sign the online petition" Local County Councillor and former Deputy Head at Greenfield said: "The abolition of a coursework

element to GCSE's was a severe setback for school students from less advantaged backgrounds, who for various reasons may find it harder to focus their entire effort into one short exam.

A situation where advantaged pupils can still submit 40% course work, but maintained school students cannot, is an indefensible equalities issue. The Greenfield students are to be applauded for raising this matter, which we must now take up and pursue".



John Clare

Under 7 Player Scores 8 Goals



Aycliffe Juniors returned to action after the Christmas break. A mixture of postponements and there being no scheduled fixtures saw only a few teams play this week.

The Under 7's put in a great performance away at Hartlepool Pools Youth. As a team they played some superb football and an amazing individual performance from Thomas saw him score eight of the nine goals in a 9-2 win. Lewis added the other goal and Thomas was man of the match. The second game was also won and Joshua was the man of the match in that game.

The Under 9 Russell Foster league team were up against the unbeaten Washington

Athletic. They went a goal down before Kenzie equalised but Washington regained the lead before half time. In the second half Jake scored but the game ended with a 5-2 defeat for Aycliffe. Jake Smith was named as man of the match.

The Under 9 TJFA league team had a top of the table clash with Heighington. Lucas made a great early save with Conor and James were tackling well in the early stages. Aycliffe conceded goals either side of half time then Niall scored with a great free kick to make it 2-1. A late goal line clearance denied the equaliser and the final score stayed at 2-1. The second game was won and the mornings men of the

match were Jayden and Dan. The Under 15's played against Darlington RA and started strongly with Stoker getting the first goal of the game for Aycliffe. Stoker completed a first half hatrick with Haynes getting another for a 4-0 half time lead. It was Stoker and Hynes who added a goal each in the second half to seal a 6-3 win. The man of the match award was shared between Ethan Stoker and Cameron Martin. The Under 23's had a local derby against Shildon. Aycliffe dominated the first half and led through Raisbeck's goal, the same player who added the second in a great 2-0 win. Man of the match was Jordan Tonge who had an excellent game.

Situations VACANT

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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 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 18th January

Interviews are to be held week commencing 23rd 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.

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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 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 18th January at 12 noon

Interviews will be held week commencing 23rd 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.

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- Attending reviews and ensuring that care plan documentation is accurate and up to date
- Supervision of care workers and providing support as required
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Cricket Club Prepare For New Season



With Christmas now out of the way Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club have begun preparations

for the new cricket season which gets underway in April. Coaching is underway for junior academy players aged between 7 and 17 years with sessions taking place each Friday night at Woodham Academy Sports Hall between 5.30 and 7.00pm.

The Club are always on the lookout for new players, both boys and girls, to join their Academy and anybody who is interested in playing cricket, or just joining in the fun coaching sessions, is invited to come along on a Friday evening.

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club are thankful for the support given, this year, by County Durham Community Foundation and Durham County Council who have provided funding to subsidise the cost of the hall hire.

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club run 6 teams from ages under 11 to senior level and are members of the North Yorkshire and South Durham ECB Premier Cricket League. At the leagues annual presentation dinner in November Newton Aycliffe were again awarded the NYSD Club of the Year Gold Award, the fourth consecutive year that they have been presented with the award.

They also hold ECB Clubmark and all coaches have undergone DBS safeguarding checks.

Further information about Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club or the Friday night coaching sessions can be obtained from the Club Secretary Lee Weldon on 01325 312424.

Struggling to Think of What to Put in your Job Application Forms?

LCA JOB CLUB CAN HELP

Lifeline Community Actions Job Club starts again at the PCP at Cobblers Hall on a Tuesday morning from the 31st January 2017 10am – 12.30pm and one of the aims of the course is to help job seekers tackle those often daunting job applications forms that so many people fear.

The LCA Job Coaches have found that so many people have so many skills that they don't realise they have that are relevant to many of the job vacancies advertised and so they do not include them on an application form. LCA Job Club helps people identify those skills and how to link them to the world of work to create a stronger application.

Job Club coaches have found it amazing just how much experience and skills people actually have without realising it and once aware these job seekers often feel an instant increase in self-esteem and self-belief.

The job club also helps participants fill in application forms particularly in relation to what sort of information an employer could be looking for dependant on the role and therefore what information they could include on their form. If you think you could benefit from support like this then please contact Pauline Chambers by email paulinechamberslca@gmail.com or tel 07746 111385. The 10 week course is free of charge and includes a light lunch and refreshments.

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Public Notice

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Join us every Tuesday from 1-3pm with raffles, bingo, a natter and a cup of tea at the New Phoenix Club Town Centre (Ex-British Legion)

DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

RSPCA North Tees & District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and ID chip. Please Tel 311 215

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Branch Meeting to be held on Sunday 8th January at 11.00am. Also Branch AGM for the election of Trustees. All members and new members are welcome.

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County Town's Masterplans Updated

Durham County Council's Cabinet will hear the second half of an update on recent successes and future plans for towns across County Durham when it meets on 18th January. Councillors will be asked to approve updates of masterplans for Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon, Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland. Masterplans are the council's regeneration frameworks for each major town in the county. Updates for Consett, Crook, Newton Aycliffe, Durham City, Chester-le-Street and Stanley were approved at December's Cabinet meeting.

Working closely with the council's Area Action Partnerships, the updated plans profile each of the towns, detailing investment and work across the county as well as plans for the future. In addition to highlighting the range of activities undertaken by the council - including improvements to town centres, highways, education and health provision - they also identify the development of new businesses, housing and community facilities.

If approved by Cabinet the adopted masterplans will continue to evolve, with the Area Action Partnerships continuing to play a key role in shaping them to ensure that they reflect the priorities of local residents.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The updated masterplans are key documents, setting a clear way forward to bring even further investment and improvements to towns throughout the county."

"The masterplans show how the council has invested millions of pounds, right across County Durham, and encouraged even more investment from the private sector; boosting business, safeguarding and creating thousands of new jobs across the county, improving education and transport and creating new housing and community facilities."

"The future is just as bright with a range of plans and new investment for the county. The £1.7 million Coastal Communities Fund backed project to further improve Seaham Marina will continue as well as the new activity centre set to offer water and land sports in the area. In Peterlee we'll be looking to move forward with our plans for a new railway station at Horden and we'll continue to invest in our roads and schools as well as targeting support for businesses and high streets countywide to improve the local economy."

"All of which is before Kynren returns to Bishop Auckland in the summer and, alongside the council, the Auckland Castle Trust move forward with their range of extremely exciting plans in the town."

Among a range of other success stories and future plans, Cabinet will hear how Peterlee has benefited from a £25 million investment by Bristol Laboratories to set up a new major manufacturing base for generic drugs, employing 347 staff. The new Horden Sea View railway station continues to be a priority for the council which, by making the town more accessible, it is hoped will boost both the town and surrounding areas as well as the employment prospects of the people living there. Seaham continues to enjoy a boom in employment with Business Durham, the council's business gateway, working to attract 1,200 jobs to the area with ResQ setting up a new call centre at Spectrum Business Park. Business Durham has also been working closely with another resident of the park, Great Annual Savings, as they now look to double their workforce to 300 over the next year.

Seaham Marina can also look forward to further improvements with the continuation of the works as part of a £1.7 million Coastal Communities Fund award. This will see the boatyard facilities extended and the creation of 19 more berths.

In Spennymoor the town centre has seen £300,000 worth of improvements since 2009 targeted towards improving the retail environment with 25 individual businesses supported. DurhamGate is set for further expansion after the owners acquired the former Wellsprings site meaning a development of a further 12,000 sqm of business and office space as well as a potential car showroom, crèche and café.

Shildon has seen £9 million worth of private sector investment at the Future Durham Business Park from the CreateCity Group. Fittingly for the home of Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon - which attracted over 435,000 visitors in 2015 - the visit of the Flying Scotsman in 2016 saw a £100,000 project to regenerate the town centre area in time to welcome it. Following requests from the public, local residents also voted for the council to keep the three decorative arches across the town which will now be repaired and maintained.

Barnard Castle is another area in the county that has benefited from major private sector investment with GlaxoSmithKline recently announcing a new £92 million facility to expand and safeguard the future of its operations in the town. Working alongside the Digital Durham project, residents and businesses are also set to benefit from an improvement to the quality and speed of broadband services through the rollout of the fibre service.

Major changes continue in Bishop Auckland with the council working closely with the Eleven Arches and Auckland Castle Trusts on a range of exciting plans. The council is currently carrying out a £2 million refurbishment project in the town centre, improving the links between the castle and the market place, where an award winning, multimillion pound refurbishment was carried out in 2011. The works will see the highway realigned, events and market spaces created as well as new parking.

As well as Kynren returning in the summer, the town can also look forward to the progress of the Walled Garden, Welcome Tower and Scottish Wing developments at Auckland Castle among many others.

Cabinet will hear about the work carried out so far and be asked to approve the updated masterplans when it meets on 18th January.

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2 BEDROOM house to let with a view to buy in Kenny Walk. Tel 07546 226608

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INVITATION TO GAMP BOARD MEETING

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership holds their next board meeting later this month.

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Board will be meeting on Tuesday 17 January 2017, between 6pm and 8pm, at OakLeaf Sports Complex, and members of the public are invited to go along to observe proceedings. Local people can also raise any local neighbourhood or policing issues that they would like the Board to address. These ideally need to be put in writing and sent in advance of the meeting.

The Board will be receiving an update presentation on urgent care, as well as organised crime. Board members will also be reviewing two project applications for

funding from Area and Neighbourhood Budgets at the meeting.

Another important agenda item at this meeting will be for Board members to discuss and agree the key priorities that GAMP will focus its work on in the next financial year. There was a county-wide priority voting initiative held during November/December 2016, and the results will be made

available at the meeting, for Board members to consider.

Anyone who would like to attend the Board meeting should register in advance by ringing 01325 327441, or by emailing gampaap@durham.gov.uk

Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009.

Xmas Tree Collection Raised £7k for Charity



Darlington Rotary club earned over £1000 an hour for charity collecting Christmas Trees-as a service for householders. In total they collected over 1130 trees many over 10 foot high, and at least one 20 foot monster was unearthed from a back alley, demanding an hour of a three-man team to cut it up. £7100 - less any expenses - was raised for the Hospice and other charities. Grateful thanks to the collectors: Rotarians, family members and volunteers. Behind the scenes Sherwoods Garage, and Newton Aycliffe Rotarian, Newton News editor Syd Howarth, whose press coverage generated over 60 trees from Aycliffe.

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"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare's Church is open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. On sale is a huge selection of bric-a-brac, toys, household goods, jewellery, electrical goods . . . the list is endless. All items are perfect and at low prices. All money raised will continue to be given to good causes. All Sorts is a charitable project run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett.

WHEELCHAIR £40; 4 wheel mobility walker with seat, £35. Tel 07340 303180

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BLACK TV stand, £7 ono; Small fish tank, pump and gravel, £10 ono. Tel 07803 789963

THREE piece suite, dusky pink fabrics, good condition, £100. Tel 01325 366956

ALPHA COURSE AT BURNHILL CHURCH

The Alpha Course will be starting on Monday 16th January at Burnhill Way Methodist Church. This is a great opportunity to discover the truth about Christianity, who Jesus is, why pray, how much God loves you and that there really is more to life.

It will start at 7pm every Monday for next 8 weeks. Alpha is free and open to all.

You don't need to register, just turn up on Monday and our team will be there to welcome you. Each week is a different topic, with some discussion plus always a cuppa and food too.

TV Series Highlights Battle to Beat Polio

Dear Sir, Like millions of people, I spent post Christmas lunch with the family. It was great to tune into the BBC's Call the Midwife at 8pm and see a popular programme cover the horrors of a Polio epidemic in a realistic, contemporary and sensitive way. It was a welcome reminder of the Polio eradication programme that continues abroad and of the 120,000 people in Britain still living with Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) today. At home and abroad, 2017 is going to be pivotal in the ongoing battle to beat Polio and PPS. With Polio endemic in just two countries, the End Polio Now campaign can count on our ongoing backing but the British Polio Fellowship continues to focus on members of the public living with PPS and in need of our support.

Call the Midwife rightly depicts the Polio epidemics of the 50's; the Dickensian conditions of post war Britain and the Christmas special set in 1962 South Africa accurately portrays the extension of the Polio eradication programme. Sadly, many children unfortunate enough to contract Polio then face the perils of PPS today, and like

the ghost of Christmas Past, PPS has established itself as the unwelcome footnote of Polio UK.

While there is no cure for PPS, there is much we can do to alleviate the symptoms if properly managed and the British Polio Fellowship continues to raise awareness and offer support to those who continue to be affected by it. For more information on Polio, the late effects of Polio and PPS call British Polio on 0800 043 1935 or www.BritishPolio.org.uk

Ted Hill MBE CEO, The British Polio Fellowship.

Editor: Rotary International initiated Polio Eradication in 1985 with clubs throughout the world, including Newton Aycliffe, contributing £millions to the campaign.

Obituary

BUNTING, (formerly Etherington, nee Collingwood). Jessie of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully in her sleep on 7th January, aged 87 years. Much loved Mam of Elsie; Mother-in-Law of Paul; Devoted Grandmother of Mark and Helen and Great Grandmother of Niall and Brooke. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Wednesday 18th January at 3:00pm.

CUMMINS, Suddenly at home on 26th December, Jason, aged 39 years. Dearly loved Son of Bridie; loving Brother, Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Will family and friends please meet for a Service in St Mary's R.C. Church, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 18th January at 10.15am. To be followed by interment in The West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired may be made to Pathways Amenities Fund, plate provided in church.

TEDER, 4th January, peacefully in hospital, formerly of Newton Aycliffe. Susan Helen, aged 67 years, nee Tabernor. Dearly loved Mam to Clare and Debbie; loving Sister to Ann; a much loved Nan to Brooke and the late Sam. Funeral Monday 16th January, will friends please meet at 1.00pm for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium.

OLIVE WARE, Peacefully on 7th January 2017 at The Lawns Care Home. Loving Wife of the late Norman; devoted Mam of the late Brian Victor; also a loving Sister and Auntie. Funeral Service to be held at Darlington Crematorium on Thursday 19th January at 1.15pm. Family and friends please meet at Crematorium - Family flowers only please.

MARGARET PARRY, Nee Allen. Peacefully at home on 7th January. Peggy, aged 84 years. Beloved Wife of the late Alan; a much loved and sadly missed Mam of Gary and Geoff; Mother-in-Law of Mandy and Marie; Gran of Darren, Danny, Becky, Kirsty and a Great Gran of Jasper. Funeral Service to take place in Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 27th January at 11am, would friends please meet at Crematorium Chapel.

Thank You

I WOULD like to say a big thank you to the person who handed my handbag into Tesco store last Friday. Thank you again for your honesty.

BERYL HIRST. Thank you to everyone who attended the Funeral of my Wife, Beryl Hirst, at Wear Valley Crematorium on 9th January and for your kind donations to Cancer Research UK which raised £176.36. John Kelvin Hirst.

THANK YOU to Bill Blenkinsopp for the time and effort and re-inventing of the Neville Parade Community Centre including the Cubby, whilst he was custodian. In my eyes, there was only one man at the time in a position to take on the position (as the original Cubby was being demolished and still the land is empty). Steep learning curves, but he turned it around from near insolvency to a healthy concern, including many enjoyable social events. Always on hand to sort out any problems. Thank you Bill, I am sure this is echoed by many. Good luck, let's hope the next custodian is as dedicated and supported. Maureen McDonald (Supporter).

In Memoriam

Shane Smith

10th January 2015

We love you Son with all our hearts. Two years ago we had to part. The day you had to leave us, part of us left too. They say that time is a healer, we know that is not true. Every day we miss you and that we will always do. Mam and Dad xxxxx

MARY YOUNG - 8th January 2016. Missing you everyday, always in our hearts. Love from your Grandsons, Thomas, Joseph and Stan xxx

ALEXANDER SHEDDEN (12/1/16). Every day in some small way, we miss you more than words can say. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Love always Grandpop, Emma and John-Paul x
ALEXANDER SHEDDEN (12/1/16). God saw you getting weary, a cure was not to be. He put His arms around you, and whispered: "Come to Me". Forever in our thoughts Dad, Love always, Elaine and Ian x
SHEDDEN. 12th January. You are in our thoughts Jock. Miss you. Love, Yvonne and George xx

MARJORIE LOCAL 27th June 1943 to 15th January 2015. Will never be forgotten. John Local xxxxx

BILL GATENBY 13th January 1990. Loved and remembered by Wife Mary and family

ARNIE MILBURN 15th January 2010. As each day dawns and starts anew, as each day ends we think of you. And in between no matter where, in our hearts you are always there. Love, Wife Brenda; Sons John, Kevin; Daughter-in-Law Pam, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xx

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. Memories of a special Mam and Nana. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. Thinking of you Mam. Miss you always, Mandy xxx

Birthday Remembrance

WHARTON-PEART Noah Harry. 12th January 2007. Happy 10th birthday. 10 years ago I had to part with a Grandson I love and miss with all of my heart. Love, Grandma xxx

WHARTON-PEART Noah Harry. 12th January 2007. Our beautiful baby boy, lots of love on your 10th birthday. We love and miss you so much. Happy birthday Noah. Love always from your Mammy and Daddy xxx Another year over . . . another step closer to you.

WHARTON-PEART Noah Harry. 12th January 2007. I miss you Noah. Mammy and Daddy said you are safe now in a place called Heaven. I really miss you. Love, Morgan xxxxx
WHARTON-PEART Noah Harry. 12th January 2007. The shiniest star in the sky is our big brother. Love, Annie xxx
ANN McLUCKIE 13th January. Our angel up in Heaven, I hope you understand we would give anything just to hold your hand. We'd hold it so tightly and never let you go. Because you are our Ann and we loved you so. Mam, Tony and family xxxxx

Congratulations

Benett Grindlay



Happy 21st Birthday

Happy birthday "Treasure". Lots of love always from Gran and Grandad xxxxx

Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love from Mam and Max xxxxx

Happy 21st Birthday

Happy birthday Benett. Lots of love from Nik-Nak, Pip, Millie and William xxxxx

MARK EASTON & KATEY BROWN congratulations on your Engagement over the New Year. Love and best wishes from Mams, Dads and both families xxxxx

NOAH HARRY WHARTON PEART Happy birthday little man. All our love and kisses from Nana and Grandad xxx

HARRY BELL 14th January 1996. Congratulations Harry on your 21st birthday. May you be showered with fabulous opportunities and exciting adventures. I am so proud of you. Love you lots, Mam xxxxx
HARRY BELL 14th January 1996. Congratulations Harry. Happy 21st birthday to my dear Grandson. I am so proud of you. May all your hopes and dreams come true. Love you, Gran xxxxx

HARRY BELL 14th January 1996. Congratulations Harry. Happy 21st birthday. Just wanted to let you know how proud we are of you. Wishing every happiness to our wonderful Nephew. Love you. Auntie Anne and Uncle John xxxxx

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Aycliffe FC in Good Form ATHENA SPORTS ACADEMY GYMFUSION



Aycliffe continued their good run of form with a 2-0 victory over the Cestrians at Moore Lane. Aycliffe started brightly, with Ben Trotter putting a header past the post on 5 minutes, and captain Jamie Owens curling a shot over the bar 5 minutes later, after working himself into a good position.

The visitors came back into it, and Dominic Laws got a shot away on 22 minutes, only to see it go just past the post. After that, Aycliffe dominated the rest of the half, with Josh Gray giving the visitor's defence all sorts of problems. On 27 minutes, he brought out a good save from Jack Wilson in the Cestrians goal. He then curled a great

free-kick that beat Wilson, but landed on the top of the net. Next, he put a shot just past the post, after a good pass from Owens. Gray's efforts were finally rewarded a minute before the break, when he beat his full back, cut back inside and curled a shot into the far corner of the goal. Half-time 1-0.

Gray had a chance early in the second half as well, but hit the side netting. Chester-le-Street then had a good spell, with Aycliffe adopting a counter-attacking style. However, the Cestrians couldn't find a way through, with Danny Mitton outstanding with his interceptions and then prompting Aycliffe's

counter-attacks by playing out from the back. He was well supported by fellow defenders James Oliver, Scott Howes and James Marley. On 82 minutes, Aycliffe broke away down the left with Ben Wood, on his return from injury. He played the ball to the opposite flank, where Corey Nicholson beat his man and crossed for substitute Zak Boagey to finish past Wilson.

Both sides then pushed for a goal but neither could find a finish; Phil Pentony made a great save in injury time for Aycliffe to give them a clean sheet. Full time 2-0. Next match up is on Saturday 14th January at home to Seaham Red Star. Kick-off 3.00pm.

Athena Sports Academy is an Gymnastics Acro Club which has its base at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and runs various classes including, Pre School Classes, Recreation Classes, Talented Tots, Warriors (Boys only) as well as the Acro classes which now compete on a National and International level.

Athena also have a Disability Class, every Sunday morning, and in the last couple of years the club have done routines at Gymfusion 2015 and Gymfusion 2014 at the Newcastle University and the Gateshead Sage. The club have also competed in local competitions and many of their gymnasts have won medals. On Sunday 15th January 2017, Athena Sports Academy and British Gymnastics "I'M IN Disability Gymnastics",

are hosting a FREE Taster Session at the Athena Gym at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 9.30am till 11am.

At the workshop they will work together in disability teams or mixed teams with their non-disabled friends. The workshop, will be hosted by BG fully qualified Disability Coaches, in a fun, safe and welcoming environment. This workshop will be a great way to introduce your child to this great sport, enjoy being creative and working with others. This workshop is suitable for ages 7+

If you would like more information on this Disability Workshop or would like to book your FREE place, please contact the club by Telephone - 07928 201357 email: athenasportsacademy@gmail.com or come to the



Athena reception, based

on the 1st Floor, within the Leisure Centre.

The picture is from our Gymfusion Disability Display at the Gateshead Sage in 2015.

Youth Football Round Up

The first weekend of football after the Christmas break for all of our 21 teams.

U12's Eagles v Stockton Town Blues.

Aycliffe were given a home draw in the quarter final of the league cup. Last time the two teams met it ended in a draw. Aycliffe started the stronger working hard for each other. Eventually we were rewarded when Brennan Fitzpatrick slid Calum Whitfield inside who slotted the ball in the net with a precision finish.

To Stockton's credit they started battling harder toward the end of the half and had Aycliffe on the back foot for a while. Aycliffe defended well, some of it with luck: HT 1-0. In the 2nd half we seemed comfortable and it was only a matter of time before we got the 2nd goal and Kieran Walton obliged from a great free kick. Stockton threw everything at us and pushed forward and but for some dominant keeping from Charlie Harrison they may have got their reward.

As it was, Aycliffe broke quickly from defence ending up getting the ball to George Clark who finished well. FT 3-0 and onwards to the Semi Final draw in February **U12 Girls v Peterlee Helford.**

We welcomed bottom of the league, but fast improving Peterlee Helford, but Aycliffe were in control as Hattie scored a quick fire 12 minute hat trick to give us the platform to give everyone plenty of time on the pitch. Alex slotted in just before half time and a tremendous save from Faith HT 4-0. The second half saw a first ever goal from Chloe as she lobbed the keeper, then a first goal from Macy heading in from a Hattie corner, and finally Brooke was rewarded for her hard work. Neve hit a great volley that rattled the crossbar and a couple of good saves from the Peterlee goalkeeper as we cruised to take the 3pts, FT 7-0.

Under 8's Eagles v Gretton Crest Hartlepool.

The game started at a very fast pace with some fantastic passing which resulted in great shots from the Eagles, hitting the post a few times during the game. Eventually we broke through from a brilliant pass from Adam that found Will in some space to slot home. Nathan and Edwin were very strong at the back with some



Under 12's Girls' Team

great tracking with help from others too. Just before half time Will found the back of the net for a second time after some fantastic footwork.

After the break Gretton came out with long balls which we mostly sorted with some great marking. Ollie came on at half time and played his part very well. Gretton then hit a long ball that just squeezed past our defence to find their striker who slotted their first goal, closely followed by their second.

With just a couple of minutes left to play their striker found himself one on one with Trystan our keeper, but Trystan stood tall and pulled off an outstanding save - one to be proud of. With just about the last kick of the ball Adam, who had a cracking game found the back of the net with some tidy footwork and a great finish. FT 3-2

Billingham v U13 Falcons

Trying a new formation the team began the game on the front foot and controlled the game throughout the match. Sam Peat showed his goal scoring instincts are still intact after the Xmas break, boosting his chances of finishing as the league's top scorer, scoring six! Will and Sam both scored well taken goals and Bingham grabbed a consolation goal. FT score 1-8 Good performance from the lads with MOTM awarded to Kieran for some quality wing play, providing half of the assists.

Other results:

U7 Eagles 2 v
Consett Roma 1
U9 Eagles 0 v
Jarrow Knights 5
U10 Girls 1 v
Bishop Auckland 2
U10 Falcons 1 v
Stockton Town Blues 1

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