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Rotary Honour for Cancer Campaigner Anna Swabey

Posthumous Award Received by Family



Centre: Rotary National President Eve Conway with Newton Aycliffe President Nora Scott.
Left to right: District Governor Peter Chandler, Anna's fiancé Andy Bell, brother Matthew, sister Victoria, Anna's parents Linda and Keith.

The bravery and determination of brain tumour victim Anna Louise Swabey, the 25-year-old Newton Aycliffe cancer campaigner who died in September just a day before her wedding, was remembered this week at a moving ceremony designed to mark her outstanding achievements.

Anna's family was presented with a prestigious Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship, the organisation's highest honour, at an event attended by national Rotary President Eve Conway and

District Governor Peter Chandler.

The Fellowship was awarded to Anna shortly before her death when she was too sick to receive it personally.

Eve and her husband, Robert, made a five-hour drive to attend the ceremony which saw Newton Aycliffe President Nora Scott present Anna's father, Keith, with the Paul Harris Certificate and Eve pin the Paul Harris badge on Keith's jacket lapel.

Watching as the presentations took place were Anna's mother, Linda, her sister and brother, Victoria and Matthew, and Anna's fiancé, Andy Bell.

President Nora described the occasion as a 'bittersweet' event - bitter because it marked the loss of a 'delightful young woman whose early death left a great hole in the worlds of many people' and sweet because the award confirmed that Anna was 'a truly inspirational individual who cared more about others than she did about herself'.

In a personal reflection, journalist Rtn. Ron Eyley said that more heartfelt tributes had been paid to Anna's courage and determination than anyone he had known

in 50 years of reporting the obituaries of the great and the good - and 'none had been more deserved'.

RIBI President Eve described Anna as 'a wonderful, beautiful, brave person who touched the life of everyone she met' and added: "We shall never forget her".

And District Governor Peter admitted that while he had not known Anna personally, it was clear that she had proved 'a real inspiration to people across the world'.

In a moving reply, Anna's father confessed: "We miss Anna each and every day. She really was a most incredible young lady."

Keith told Rotarians and guests how 16000 people every year were diagnosed with brain tumours and how research work was 'woefully short of funding'.

He outlined Anna's campaign to help secure enough signatures to force a government debate into increasing the amount of funding for brain tumour research and her determination to help raise £100,000 to permit more work to identify the cause and treatment of 'this terrible disease'.

Keith confirmed that the family intended to continue its work for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign and thanked the Rotarians for their on-going support.

The next major fund-raiser would be a Parisian-themed, black-tie Ball at Woodham Golf Club on March 25th.

During the evening, President Nora also presented Keith with a cheque for £1000 - money raised at the club's very successful annual model railway exhibition held at the Youth Centre.

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POLICE COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR HARSHER PENALTIES FOR DEATH BY DANGEROUS DRIVING

People convicted of causing death by dangerous driving should receive harsher penalties, Durham's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg, has said.

Responding to a Government consultation exercise, Ron said: "People who kill someone as a consequence of very bad driving such as racing in the street, deliberately under-taking, or driving when they know they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, are committing a similar offence to manslaughter in my opinion. It is only right that they should face a similar penalty, and for me that means a maximum sentence of life imprisonment."

The Ministry of Justice is currently consulting on the following issues:

- The distinction between 'careless' and 'dangerous' driving
- A perceived 'gap in the law' for causing serious injury by careless driving
- Maximum penalties for causing death
- Driving disqualifications

Ron added: "I also think that the minimum period of disqualification should be extended from one year to five years. When I think of the harm caused to families by the actions of people who know the risks they are taking, a year seems to me to be far too short. And anyone who is convicted twice should lose their licence for life."

The consultation is open to anyone who wishes to respond before Wednesday 1 February, and can be found on the Ministry of Justice website

Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 7th February features the 2015 British period drama "SUFFRAGETTE" Starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff and Meryl Streep. Set in 1912, it tells the story of Maud Watts, a 24 year old laundress who becomes involved in the fight for women's rights, and not just the vote, but at great cost. Light and fluffy it isn't, it's a powerful story set just a hundred years ago when women were fighting for equality, as they still are. 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.

Care Home Hosts Burns' Coffee Morning



It was a memorable morning of Scottish-inspired merriment as residents of Rose Lodge Care home, located on Carers Way in Newton Aycliffe, were joined by families, friends, and dozens of guests from the community as the home hosted a Burns Night coffee morning.

Bagpiper Geoff Richardson, wearing traditional Highland dress, opened proceedings with the ceremonial 'entrance of the haggis' – a key part of a traditional Burns Night supper. Rose Lodge Head chef David Nevison brought out a haggis prepared for guests as Mr Richardson recited the Robert Burns poem "Address to a Haggis" before ceremonial cutting the haggis to mark the beginning of the meal. Guests enjoyed sampling 'haggis, neeps and tatties' as well as a selection of shortbread biscuits and cakes while listening to a

string of Scottish songs performed on the bagpipes. The first Burns Night Supper was held in Ayrshire, Scotland on July 21st in the late 1700s by acquaintances of Robert Burns to mark the anniversary of his death. The date was later changed to January 25, which marks his birthday. Burns suppers are now held by people and organizations with Scottish origins worldwide.

Activities Coordinator Diane Tweddle, who helped to organise the event, said: "It was a wonderful

morning. We received some lovely comments from our residents and guests on how much they have enjoyed the day and we were delighted that so many people joined us for our Burns Night celebrations."

Members started the New Year as we mean to go on, enjoying our Annual General Meeting with Fish and Chips! We would like to thank Mike's Fish Bar (Greenwell Rd.) for cooking over 40 orders for us and this meant we all were fed well for another enjoyable evening.

At the AGM it was time for us to vote for our President for the coming year, and we are delighted that Helen Webster was proposed and Helen accepted this appointment!

Our speaker for the evening was Tina Bickerdike who is a WI adviser, and she took us back in time as to when our Nan was a member of WI down south some years ago. Tina showed old photos and some interesting items that her Nan had kept (even prizes she had won in WI competitions).

We all enjoyed the evening and look forward to our February meeting on Tuesday 14th at 7.15 held in the church hall at St Clare's. For more information please contact 01325 315017, a warm welcome to current and new members.

Joan Francis-Edwards

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Saturday 4th February - "Uncle Gilbert"

RIFFS Online Review: "An excellent night with some classic rock covers by mainstay of our rock fraternity. Both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right. This band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league". Covering tracks by Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satirani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, U.F.O., ZZ Top and much more.

Saturday 11th February - "Fossil"

For more information on bands go to

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Cheque for West Africa

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Shafto Way have for many years "Saved Pennies for West Africa" the poorest countries in the world.

As usual they made an annual donation, which will go towards a clean water project in Burkina Faso.

RESIDENTS MEETING

The Western Area Residents Association meets on Wednesday 8th February 2017 6pm at the Community Centre, Silverdale Place.

We are hoping for new people to attend from the Ashfield, Oakfield, Beechfield areas. We will also hold some meetings at the R.A.F.A. Club Barrington Rd.

This will be an ideal place to have your say for your area and to know that requests/jobs are given immediate attention by the Association and actioned as soon as possible.

They have had success over the last 2 years including new fences opposite Silverdale Shop, a new fence at the rear of 82 Langdale, a petition signed by 490 residents for the replacement of Whinlatter Footbridge and much more.

The police and Livin will attend and everyone is welcome. Ring 01325 308094 for further details.

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£500 for Town's Cancer Support Group

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group has just been given a kind donation of £500 by Ian Larnach of Cancer Care Charities who has been living with cancer for the past 5 years and continues to raise money. "We send a huge thank you as our group has grown significantly since Christmas and all donations are gratefully received" said founder Alison White shown in the photo with Ian..

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month (except January & August) at 6pm until 7.30pm at the Youth & Community Centre. Different speakers are invited each month to give help and support to those been affected by cancer.

For more information about the group or if you would like to help raise money please contact Allison on 07762 258696 or Sharon (Secretary) on 07944 187877



Hospital Opens New Chapel



Left to right: Trust Chairman, Professor Paul Keane OBE; Trust Chief Executive, Sue Jacques; Right Reverend Mark Bryant, Bishop of Jarrow; Trust Lead Chaplain, Kevin Tromans; Chaplain, Catherine Minor and Chaplain, Jim Wright.

A new chapel and chaplaincy suite has opened at Darlington Memorial Hospital, following a dedication by the Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Reverend Mark

Bryant. Kevin Tromans, Lead chaplain at County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, said:

"The chapel will be open daily, between 8am and 8pm. During this time patients, their relatives, staff and other visitors to the hospital can call in whenever they wish.

Our hope is that the new chapel will be used by people of all faiths and none, and are pleased that the suite includes a Wudu, a facility where Muslims may wash before prayer. The hospital chaplains will now be based in the chaplaincy suite and are always available for anyone in need of spiritual support, comfort or just a chat.

"The architect has

incorporated features from the previous chapel including wood panelling. The original altar has also been retained, so there's a real sense of heritage.

"In addition to welcoming visitors at any time, the chapel will regularly host a Catholic Mass each Thursday at 10.30 and an ecumenical communion service each Sunday morning at 11.00am – to which all are welcome."

The Chapel is part of a new £27 million development at the hospital with six new state of the art theatres opening in the Spring. The existing six theatres will re-open in Spring 2018, following a significant upgrade. The increased theatre capacity is designed to improve patient experience and reduce waiting times.

Public Meeting to Encourage People to Become Councillors

Is it the state of the local park, the need for more activities for young people, improving services for older people, making the roads safer or ensuring that local businesses can thrive?

Whatever needs changing in your neighbourhood, you could be just the person to change it by becoming a local councillor. Or you may be looking for a worthwhile and rewarding way to help your local community.

Women are also under-represented on local councils. You could be the fresh new talent that your council is looking for. No other role gives you a chance to make such a huge difference to quality of life for people in your local area.

Becoming a councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service. You will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives and prospects. Groups made up of diverse individuals tend to make better informed decisions.

It is important that councils have councillors who not only reflect and represent the communities they serve, but also have a broad range of skills and life experience. You don't have to be highly educated or have a profession. Skills gained through raising a family, caring for a sick or disabled relative, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups can be just as valuable.

While you don't need any special qualifications to be a councillor, having or being able to develop the following skills, knowledge and attributes will help you in the role.

• **Communication Skills**
These include listening and

interpersonal skills, public speaking skills, the ability to consider alternative points of view and to negotiate, mediate and resolve conflict.

• **Problem solving and analytical skills**

This includes being able to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it, including considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

You may have gained skills and knowledge through your professional, personal or community experience. If you care about the area that you live or work in and the issues facing local people, you could be a councillor.

You may feel that certain sections of the community or people who live in a particular neighbourhood are getting a raw deal and need stronger representation.

There are many reasons why people decide to become a local councillor. They include:

- *Wanting to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community*
- *Being concerned about your local area and wanting to ensure that the community gets the right services*
- *Wanting to represent the views of local people and ensure that community interests are taken into account*
- *Wanting to contribute your business or professional skills*
- *Concerns about one particular issue*
- *As an extension of what you are already doing through a trade union, charity, voluntary group or school governing body – becoming a councillor can be the next step.*

We are holding a meeting open to the public on Tuesday 14th February at 7.00pm in the Phoenix Club (Formerly British Legion Club.) Why not come along and see if the idea of becoming a Councillor appeals to you.

Counc. Arun Chandran
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Harry (centre) with Store Manager Helen Maynard and colleagues

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all departments He enjoyed it so much People Manager Aaron Elliot extended Harry's work experience so he could spend longer with us doing what he loved! Tesco offer fantastic career opportunities so if you would be interested in completing your own work experience why not call in and speak to Aaron who can point you in the right direction.

COUNCIL PROTECTS FRONTLINE SERVICES DESPITE BUDGET CUTS

Families will see front line services protected as Durham County Council looks to minimise the impact of continuing austerity through plans backed by the majority of residents. Councillors will hear on February 8 how the authority must cut £36 million from its revenue budget in 2017/18 as part of £245 million of savings between 2011 and 2020.

Council leader Cllr Simon Henig said: "The impact of above average funding reductions for seven years has left Durham in a position that is neither proportionate nor fair. "Even the government's own spending calculations show that Durham receives approximately £200 less per household than the average for England, and almost 20 per cent less than Surrey, where the local authority is looking to raise its council tax rate by 15 per cent. This cannot be right and we are now seeing the results of a funding system that does not take account of need.

"Despite this we are continuing to work hard to provide the highest levels of service across the county and there is still much for us to be proud of in County Durham. "In 2017 we will focus on our key priorities, continuing to encourage the growth of our economy, redoubling our efforts to make Durham a safe, clean and green place to live."

The council has identified £23.4 million of savings in 2017/18, with a public consultation in autumn 2016 finding almost two thirds of residents who responded backed the authority's plans on how to make them. The remainder of the budget shortfall would be met with £12.6 million from the council's Budget Support Reserve – delaying the impact of cuts on front line services for as long as possible.

As part of the budget for 2017/18, council tax would rise by 1.99 per cent and in line with Governments plans to fund social care pressures through local council tax – a further 2 per cent Adult Social Care council tax precept will be charged. In agreeing these increases, the council has declined the government's offer to increase the Adult Social Care council tax precept by 3 per cent in 2017/18 given the additional burden this will place on council taxpayers across County Durham.

The council is also continuing to protect services prioritised by the public, such as job creation and winter maintenance, whilst also supporting a fully funded capital investment programme.

Council deputy leader, Cllr Alan Napier, said: "Times are still incredibly tough for us but through our careful management of the council's finances over the last seven years we have put money aside in reserves and are able to use them to protect services for as long as we can.

"By the end of 2016/17 we will have made £186 million of savings and yet we face almost £60m more over the next three years, taking us up to a decade of unprecedented austerity. I am pleased to announce that yet again we are still able to maintain the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which helps those who would have previously received support under the Council Tax Benefit system. This is despite Government funding for the scheme being cut as part of austerity measures.

"That is a significant achievement and we are one of just a small number of councils across the country that have been able to maintain this support at a time when working age households are suffering from the continued impacts of the government's welfare reforms."

A report on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Revenue and Capital Budget 2017/18 will be presented at a meeting of the council's Cabinet on Wednesday February 8th. For more information visit democracy.durham.gov.uk

Stalwart Labour Councillor Resigns from Party



Councillor Arun Chandran has confirmed that he resigned from the Labour Party on 21st January and has teamed up with Cllr. Ken Robson in the West Ward to stand for Town and County Councils elections on 4th May 2017 as an Independent.

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History Talk

MYTHS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR - An illustrated talk by Alan Jordan who sets out to dispel some of these myths such as the Machine Gun and Casualty statistics. Thursday 9th February at Middridge Village Hall. Everyone most welcome.

Diamond Status for Weight Watchers Coach



Coach Danielle before and after

Danielle Stout has helped over 300 local residents in Newton Aycliffe, West Auckland, Sedgfield and Spennymoor towards a healthier weight and lifestyle – and has been recognised for her outstanding service to Weight Watchers members in the area.

On 17th January 2017, Danielle was awarded Weight Watchers Diamond Coach status at her meeting in The Pioneering Care Centre. The award, which celebrates Coaches who have provided exceptional support to their members during their weight loss journey, is only given out once every two years to a select group of Weight Watchers experts across the country.

In 2016 Danielle helped her members shed approximately 9,840lbs - 702 stone. With a plan personalised to each member's age, gender, BMI and lifestyle, Danielle, who lost 4 stone, is committed to helping every member achieve their goal and equip them with the skills and

techniques to build a positive relationship between food, mind and body for good.

An Aycliffe member Allison Cuncliffe says the accolade is well-deserved: "Danielle is a real inspiration to me and the other members in our meeting. She always provides great tips, tricks and support to help us achieve our weight loss goals and develop healthier habits. I have lost over a stone and I've never felt better!" Danielle runs meetings on Monday 6.30pm & Tuesday 9.30am at the Pioneering Care Centre. She organised a Charity WeightWatchers Winter Ball in 2016.

to give members the chance to dress up and celebrate their success with WeightWatchers. 193 people attended raising over £1,000 for Bradley Lowery, a 5 year old re-diagnosed with Cancer.

One of her members said how empowered they felt being in a room full of inspirational women all on the same weight loss journey.

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MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2017 SAYS COUNCIL LEADER

Leader of Durham County Council, Cllr Simon Henig, has used his first address to council of 2017 to highlight that there is much to look forward to in what promises to be an exciting year ahead. Set against the backdrop of Brexit uncertainty and continuing austerity, Cllr Henig insists that the council continues to be "fiercely ambitious" despite having already faced budget cuts of £200 million.

He said: "We will focus on our key priorities: encouraging continued growth of our economy, redoubling our efforts to make Durham a safe, clean and green place to live and promoting a thriving visitor economy and cultural sphere."

Cllr Henig also highlighted what can be achieved when partners and businesses from across the county work together. He said: "I was privileged to be present as the first Hitachi train, assembled on the production line at the Newton Aycliffe plant, was unveiled recently.

"Many companies from the county supply components for the trains and this historic moment served as a great example of how working together can bring huge benefits to the county, justifying the many years of hard work that brought Hitachi to County Durham, beating off competition from more than 40 other sites across the UK."

Hitachi is just one of several success stories the county has to celebrate, including the creation of 1,200 jobs by ResQ in Seaham following support from Business Durham, the council's business arm. Cllr Henig continued: "We are already looking forward to more good economic news in 2017 – this will include the start of the next phase

of expansion at NETPark in Sedgefield and a new facility to expand GlaxoSmithKline in Barnard Castle.

"Redevelopments are now underway on this side of the riverbanks in Durham City which will enhance retail and cinema offers; all of these developments mean more job opportunities for local people and are key to our plans for a brighter future for County Durham.

"These plans include updated masterplans for Durham City and our major towns throughout the county – masterplans which will go before our Area Action Partnerships locally following

consideration by Cabinet. Each is unique; each details the work undertaken so far, and what is still to come. We also look forward to 'Operation Spruce Up' within each of our 14 AAP's as we continue our programme of spring cleans across County Durham so that this county is seen in its best possible light." In addition to the work of the council, Cllr Henig also highlighted some of the UK's most popular and ground breaking events that the council works to support: "We are delighted that Kynren will return for a second season this summer – described as the country's largest

outdoor performance since the London Olympics – and attracting 100,000 visitors at a series of stunning night-time performances last year.

"Beamish, already the UK's most popular living museum, will commence its expansion to encompass a reconstructed 1950's town this year. The project to improve Seaham marina will continue as well as a new activity centre set to offer water and land sports. Our popular annual festivals – including Bishop Auckland Food Festival, Brass and the Durham Book Festival - will again entertain locals and bring in many thousands of visitors.

"Finally we also welcome back Lumiere for a fifth time in November – now the UK's largest light festival - and this year accompanied by a major international lighting conference which we have attracted to Durham that last year took place in Seoul in South Korea."

Blind Life Group Formed in Newton Aycliffe

Please pass this information on to those it concerns . . .

Blind Life in Durham was established in 2004. We are a friendly proactive group of blind and partially sighted people from all parts of County Durham and surrounding areas. Our motto is "it is about what we can do, not what we can't do". We provide friendship and advice, regular social meetings with talks, demonstrations and refreshments at Durham City and at Newton Aycliffe, a monthly newsletter. A New Age Kurling session is on Tuesday 21st February from 1.30pm to 3.30pm followed by another on 28th March 2017. If you would like to come along and have a go please let us know on the phone number below.

We also provide information and support in using technology, group outings, a weekly on-line chat



group with volunteering opportunities and a presence at community events. The charity's website is www.blindlifeindurham.org.uk where you can read about the charity's activities and achievements. Blind Life in Durham hold social meeting at Newton Aycliffe at Simpasture Court meeting room (DL5 5JZ) from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Our next two meetings are

Thursdays 23rd February and 23rd March. Please come along and meet us. People with sight loss their partners or carers who live in the Newton Aycliffe area are very welcome to come to the next social meeting. Please contact Blind Life in Durham on 01388 763501 or via email blindlifeindurham@gmail.com for any further information.

WHAT'S UP DOC?



Leanne with her mentors Linda and Doreen

Leanne Smith, an apprentice at Newton Aycliffe based charity DISC, has recently secured a job at a local GP surgery. And the popular member of staff believes she couldn't have got her new job without attending DISC.

Leanne, who completed a year-long apprenticeship

administrator's post at Christmas says the support she received and professional experience she gained at DISC was instrumental in getting her job at the practice. She said: "I was ecstatic. They said I'd really impressed them in the interview with how I came across and the different things I'd done at DISC."

"I wouldn't even have had the confidence to answer their questions before I came to DISC – definitely not!"

The 21 year old took minutes at meetings, was in charge of mobile phone allocation at the organisation, covered reception, administered a charitable fund for service users and supplied general administration support. She also helped arrange some recent company-wide Mission, Vision and Values roadshow events.

Leanne was line managed by DISC Administrator Linda Spencer. And she added: "Linda supported me in everything, professionally and personally. She helped boost my confidence. It meant a lot to see someone like Linda show me such respect, but everyone at DISC was so kind and friendly."

Linda said: "Leanne was always willing to take on any tasks. It was a privilege to watch her grow in confidence and ability through her year with us. "She will be an asset wherever she works and will be greatly missed by everyone she worked with especially myself and (administrator/receptionist) Doreen."

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- when you suspect drug use or dealing;
- to report a minor traffic collision;
- to give information about crime in your area;
- or
- if you would like to speak to your local police officer

Town Council Sets 2017/18 Precept

1.99% TAX INCREASE

Town Council to limit the Council Tax increase to 1.99% next year, despite facing funding cuts and unavoidable increases in costs

The Town Council has agreed its Revenue and Capital Budget and set the Precept and Council Tax increase for the 2017/18 financial year.

Whilst in the short term, the Council's finances remain in a healthy position, with savings continuing to be achieved and healthy levels of balances and reserves, the Council is facing an increasingly challenging future, and must ensure that it plans ahead for the difficulties that lie ahead.

The Council is facing year on year cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant funding on which it is reliant, while it faces a number of significant spending pressures including pay awards and increases to the National Living Wage, pension contribution increases, and inflation on running costs.

In order to maintain the many important services provided by the Town Council, and absorb the cuts to funding and increases in costs faced over the longer term, the Council needs to consider making a small increase in the Town Council Tax next year.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in light of the on-going 'cost of living' difficulties we know are being faced by local residents, and following on from the four year freeze in council tax that the Town Council was proud to deliver between 2010 and 2013.

However, by agreeing, in principle, to limit the proposed rise to 1.99% next year, the increase in the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A would be limited to less than £3 per year or 5p per week.

This increase will ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected and maintained for at least another year, whilst maintaining some contingency funds to help the Council to offset some of the budget pressures faced in the longer term.

Should you wish to read further information on the Council's finances and the 2017/18 budget setting process you can view detailed information on the Finance Section of Council website via the following link <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/finance/>

Councillor Bob Fleming
Chairman Policy & Resources

Hospice Seeks Zombie Run Sponsor



Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland is looking for a daring local sponsor of their second Zombie Run, a 5k run with a multitude of challenges through the dim and damp glades and forestation of Hamsterley Forest on Sunday 12th of March.

The Zombie Evacuation Race is an exhilarating 5km obstacle course with a theatrical twist. You run for your life through the twists and turns of the forest doing your utmost to dodge the Zombies who literally come out of the forest when you are least expecting it. The Zombies will be constantly trying to 'attack' you and steal your three Life Tags which are attached to a belt by Velcro.

As the sponsor of this

fantastic event you will have your branding and logo on all marketing material, posters, flyers, banners, obstacles and all social media campaigns as well as websites: www.butterwick.org.uk and www.zombierunuk.com

We really do need your help to be able to organise and carry out events like this to then raise the funds needed to provide pain and symptom control, end of life, respite, day and home care, complementary therapies, bereavement care and family support free of charge to children and adults in the local area. Please call 01388 603003 or email helenkirby@butterwick.org.uk before Friday 3rd February if you can help.

Anyone wanting to enter the event, you will be rewarded with your certificate of survival and your Zombie medal. Entry is available now on www.zombierunuk.com or tel 01388 603003 where you will be able to register and pay over the phone by debit / credit card.

Entry £30 until the end of February when the price will rise to £35. If you prefer to chase, Zombies can enter free at www.zombierunuk.com

New Recruits & Promotions at Finley Structures

Two new members of staff have joined an Aycliffe steel firm as it continues to grow. Neil Ryan has joined family-run Finley Structures as site supervisor and Crystal Moss-Henry has been appointed payroll administrator.

The new recruits have boosted Finley's staff to 63, with the family's group of companies – including Finley Structures, SCH Site Services (45) and the ROF 59 Activity Centre (47) – employing 155 people in total.

Neil, from Middlesbrough, has been in the steel industry for 19 years, progressing



(left to right) Andrew Workman, Crystal Moss-Henry, Neil Ryan and Diane Ruston

Spring Clearance at "All Sorts"

Since opening my audited accounts show that more than £8,000 has been raised from the sale of "All Sorts" of items collected over seventy years.

The money has been donated to many good causes including: Tear Fund, North Air Ambulance, Copstone Project, Phase Worldwide, A promise to Zack, Emily Cook, St. Clare's Roof Appeal, to name a few.

A big thank you to the many kind people who continue to support me in lots of ways. I will continue to open the shop each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

In addition to my normal opening times I will be holding a Spring Clearance on Wednesday 8th February from 1pm-5pm. A warm welcome to all - just walk towards the front door of St. Clare's and follow the signs pointing right. Godfrey Bennett.

from steel erector to site foreman, and now site supervisor. "When the chance of working for Finley Structures came about, it appealed to me straight away," said Neil.

"I'm excited about the opportunity and looking forward to the challenge."

Crystal previously worked for a Darlington plumbing, heating and mechanical services firm for 15 years, progressing through the company before covering all aspects of accounts.

Diane Ruston and Andrew Workman have both gained new promotions within the company. Diane joined Finley Structures as a senior quantity surveyor in May 2014 and is now commercial director.

She previously worked for a major national construction company after graduating from Warwick University in 2004 with a degree in economics, before joining Finley Structures three years ago.

Andrew, a former apprentice welder, has been with the company more than 13 years and has been promoted to estimating manager. He completed an apprenticeship

in fabrication and welding with the Army after leaving Woodham Academy in 1991.

Andrew worked for a number of other firms as a welder or fabricator before joining Finley Structures, working his way up to a supervisor's position and then workshop foreman before he moved into the office as an estimator. Finley Structures, which needs to appoint a new quantity surveyor, a contracts manager and an estimator, is well known for erecting many high-profile buildings in the North-East.

The family firm, established by John Finley in 2000, fabricated and erected the steel for Hitachi Rail Europe's train-building factory on Aycliffe Business Park and Nissan's new Leaf factory at Washington.

Finley Structures constructed Teesside University's award-winning Curve building, Middlesbrough Council's Sports Village and Nifco's state-of-the-art car parts factory in Eaglescliffe.

Anyone interested in applying for positions at Finley Structures can send a CV and covering letter to p.hadwin@finleystructures.co.uk




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STATE PENSION AND LOOKING AFTER YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

Grandparents who give up their job to look after their grandchild could be losing out on their state pension rights. Grandparents who are under state pension age caring for grandchildren under 12 years old could qualify for National Insurance credits that can top up their income in retirement.

What exactly is the Grandparents' credit and how does it work?

Under the rules surrounding specified adult childcare credits, if a mother goes back to work after the birth of a child she can sign a form that allows a grandparent, or other family member, to receive National Insurance (NI) credits for looking after the child.

This means that working parents can give up the Child Benefit credits they receive and donate them to their child's grandparent or other adult family members for the previous tax year. Grandparents and parents

must apply for the credits to be transferred and the forms must be signed by both the grandparent carer and the Child Benefit recipient.

Victoria Cheston of Newton Aycliffe Citizens Advice states "If a working-age grandparent misses out on one year of state pension rights because they are caring for a grandchild instead of doing paid work, this could cost them one 35th of the full rate of the state pension or £231 per year."

If you wish to apply for Grandparents' credit you should apply to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Applications need to be made in the October following the end of the tax year in which the caring took place.

If you need further information on this credit then please call into your local Citizens Advice during a drop in session or call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 (Monday to Friday 10-4pm).



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TOWN COUNCIL LEADER SUPPORTS RESIDENTS' OBJECTION TO LIVIN'S HOUSING APPLICATION

Dear Sir,
Reference your article on the application by Livin to demolish garages and build houses on a green at Armstrong Close.

I have been approached by many residents of the area, who strongly object to the plan and I have forwarded over 20 written objections to the scheme to Mr S Timmiss, Director of Planning at Durham County Council.

Initially, an officer would have decided on the application but Councillor Sarah Iveson and Councillor Jed Hillary, who are County Councillors for the area, requested that the application be resolved by an appropriate planning committee.

Councillor Malcolm Iveson and myself immediately wrote letters of objection to the plan. The Town Council meeting on Wednesday 25 January endorsed a decision to object to the plan and agreed to bring in a consultant in planning regulation to advise and represent the Council on this issue.

The plan for housing development at Armstrong Close once again emphasises the need for us to protect our green amenity land. The meeting of the County Planning Committee to study this plan will be held on Thursday 16 February, commencing at 2pm.

For the past three years, residents, representatives of business and councillors have worked hard to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This Plan is firm on the protection of our open amenity spaces and the problems of parking. So far, the Plan has been

complimented on the consultation process and has been examined by officers of the County Council and an Independent Planning Inspector and approved with some minor modification to go before the residents of Great Aycliffe in a referendum in June 2017.

If approved by you, the residents of Great Aycliffe, this will go a long way to keeping and maintaining our environment for the next twenty years. **It is important that when the referendum comes, residents vote.** Councillor Bob Fleming
Leader GATC

British Legion Branch at Risk of Closing

There is a Royal British Legion Branch Meeting on Sunday 5th February 2017 at 11.00am at the Newton Aycliffe W.M. Club

It will be held in the Branch office which is upstairs. This meeting includes an AGM to elect Trustees for positions in the branch. We would like all branch members to attend and volunteer for the positions. If we don't have any members attending the Royal British Legion Branch will no longer be viable and continue to run.

It would be sad to lose the branch after all the years it has been on the town, so please come to support your local Branch.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep Off the Greens!

Dear Sir,
Legacy is often a much overused word. But that is precisely what Lord Beveridge envisaged for his flagship northern New Town of Newton Aycliffe, following the passing of the New Towns Act 1946. The seeds of this vision germinated as far back as 1942. Our town was very much his baby! He came to live here.

The planners vision that encapsulated his ideas was of a town of neighbourhoods surrounding greens, as well as 'predominantly single family housing at low density'. But the overarching feature were the greens; like arteries of green blood flowing through the town. This remained the distinguishing feature of the town for over 50 years. It is what made our town what it is and hopefully always will remain, environmentally green and pleasant.

Then back in about 2007, with the imminent demise of Sedgefield Borough Council, plans were made to transfer the housing stock to basically a private company, called Sedgefield Homes. They were later to become Livin. Some, including myself, were alarmed at the prospect of not only council houses being transferred to this company, but also the greens and open spaces of our town. If they were not property developers why were they so keen to take control of our greens and green areas? Bob Fleming, as usual, was ahead of the game. After much protracted negotiations, very many of our greens came under the control of Great Aycliffe Town Council. They had been saved. But, in my opinion too much green space had also been ceded to Livin's predecessor.

In July 2008, I wrote to the Newton News and also the Northern Echo expressing my alarm and doubts as to the long-term safety of our greens. Mr Brian Allen, Chief Executive of Sedgefield Borough Council replied in the most clear and unambiguous terms in a letter to the Northern Echo July 3 2008).

He wrote: 'the suggestion that we need 'to protect our greens from the greedy eyes of property developers - who would certainly build further houses on these open spaces' can only be described as wholly inaccurate and frankly absurd.

The council has made it quite clear that the 'offer document' is a contract between the council and Sedgefield Borough Homes, the housing association, and we will ensure that all promises are met.

The contract will contain covenants to ensure that green areas are protected and maintained, not just in Newton Aycliffe - the fear that open spaces will disappear and be replaced

by new house building is therefore completely without foundation'.

We go forward nine years and already Livin have used an open space in Baliol Road to develop new housing. They now plan to develop housing using up the green in front of Armstrong Close. What happened to these so called covenants? We as councillors and residents have to fight these plans, one by one, until Livin get the message. Our town and its greens belong to us and not to Livin. We cannot allow a private company to change the face and environment of our town.

Derek G Atkinson Great Aycliffe Town Councillor and GARA Committee member.
Denham Place

AYCLIFFE COUNCILLOR DISCOVERS PROBLEMS FACED BY CARE LEAVERS

Dear Sir,
Last week, I was one of a number of Durham County Councillors and officers who took the 'Care Leavers' Challenge' - issued by the Durham Children in Care Council - to live for a week on £57.90. The aim of the exercise was to raise awareness of the difficulties facing Care Leavers, and to help the County Council - in its role as a 'Corporate Parent' - improve its support for its Looked-After Children when they leave care.

On the plus side, I did quite well for food - I ate well for less than £1 a day, and finished with at least another week's food in the freezer. I joined the Credit Union. I visited the Foodbank's 'Place of Welcome'. I signed up to DurhamWorks for one-to-one mentoring to get into a job, an apprenticeship, or a college course.

However, I also began to appreciate some of the problems that 18-24-year-old home leavers face. I could not afford more than three hours heating each day, so I was constantly cold, which sapped my energy and made me feel ill and miserable. I was alarmed to find that going on an apprenticeship can make life financially *harder* for young home-leavers, because they get a wage of only £3.40 an hour,

GARA Objects to Livin's Application

Great Aycliffe Residents' Association has added its voice to those objecting to Livin's application to build houses in Armstrong Close, demolishing garages and building on green space.

"We believe that the loss of garages-will create additional on street parking problems in the neighbourhood, it is crazy to demolish perfectly good garages serving a vital need. There is a feeling among residents and the Residents' Associations in Great Aycliffe that Livin have been intentionally making it difficult for people to get garages like this and has been allowing them to deteriorate in order to justify their demolition."

We object to the loss of green open space - which the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan has been aiming to protect, in order to maintain the green and open feel for the Town. This open green space has been used by the local residents as a play area for

many years. Once gone it is gone forever.

We feel that approving this development will set an unacceptable precedent for the Parish of Great Aycliffe, is contrary to the Neighbourhood plan which we and all other Residents Associations have been closely involved with, (not yet adopted by referendum but passed inspection by the Inspector).

Arun Chandran
GARA Secretary

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories.

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Tel: Syd
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Livin Take Allotments Back After 2 Years

LAND TO BE USED FOR HOUSES

Dear Sir,
When the garages were demolished in Baliol Road and Landlord Livin replaced them with new houses, the spare land was turned into four garden allotments and I rented one.

We have now received notice to vacate our allotments by April as Livin are taking back possession of the land, along with the demolished Oak Tree Pub site, to build more houses.

I share my allotment with

my son-in-law, and our neighbouring allotment owner has already turned over his land ready for planting this season.

We feel sorry for him after all his hard work and I had ordered vegetable plants for this year and had to get my money refunded, which was quite embarrassing.

We have only had the allotments for two seasons and wonder why we were not given more notice?

John Maclean

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NEW AWARD HELPS FUEL CHARITY GROWTH



is a great affirmation of DISC. It demonstrates DISC's commitment to high performance through excellent people management."

The charity, which employs over 500 people, has a turnover of more than £26m. It runs services in the North East, across Yorkshire and the Humber and in the North West in fields such as drug and alcohol misuse, housing and related support, employment, training and education, health and well-being, children, young people and families and offender rehabilitation.

The charity's Chief Executive Officer Paul Townsley said: "This accreditation reinforces our view of the high levels of competence and dedication in our workforce. It also highlights the strength of our management systems and processes and that our plans to improve are robust and match IIP's criteria."

Bosses at Northern communities' charity DISC say they believe renewed IIP recognition will help fuel more growth of the organisation in 2017.

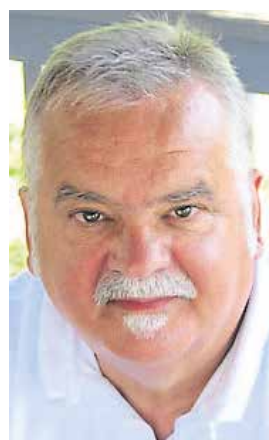
Unveiling a plaque, commemorating the charity's newly acquired Silver status with Investors In People, the chairman of Newton Aycliffe-based DISC, Jim Black said: "DISC is winning new contracts and our commitment to excellence, as the IIP award testifies, is incredibly important to us. 'Achieving IIP Silver

EX NEWTONIAN LIVING IN CANADA PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK

After moving from Witton Park, Philip Atkinson lived in Newton Aycliffe (Silkin Way) aged eight until he was 27, when he moved to Canada.

He attended St. Mary's School during Sister Paul's tenure as headmistress, then on to St. Mary's Grammar in Darlington. On leaving school at 16 he served his apprenticeship at Block & Anderson on the Trading Estate.

Phil writes: "In 1968 I wrote a letter to the Newton News about the prohibitive cost of joining what was then the new Youth Centre (a colossal 50p I believe!) and on the strength of it Syd Howarth turned up on my doorstep asking if I'd like to write a regular youth feature for the Newton News. It was brief and disastrous, as 15-year-olds have a hard enough time getting out of bed never mind meeting deadlines and producing quality work, so my first stint as a writer ended literally before it



began".

Many years later Phil went to University and studied Creative Writing, and upon graduation got a job as a writer in Government for 20 years until retiring a few years ago.

Since then Phil has published two books: "The King Street Kids", which records the last days of his time in Witton Park during the village's death throes, and "Folk Tales of North East England", a collection of 36 stories mostly from Durham and Northumberland. He is currently working on a cook book comprising traditional recipes from what we used to call the Northern Counties.

Phil is a regular contributor to the Facebook site 'Photographic History of Newton Aycliffe' and an ardent fan of the Town Clock. Most of his family still live in Aycliffe, including brother Jim who is a Town Councillor. So, despite the fact Philip lives on Vancouver Island on the edge of the Western World, he is still very much a local lad who believes that the best way to protect our traditions is to keep them alive.

History Talk

On Wednesday 8 February at 7.30pm Aycliffe Village Local History Society will host a talk in Aycliffe Village Hall by Gordon Henderson entitled Binchester - an update.

All welcome members £1 non members £3 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. enquiries 01325 301093.

Messy LOVE

Messy Church at St. Clare's on Saturday February 11th will be based on LOVE.

Love for each other, for the world and for God. We have paint and collage crafts, card making and biscuit icing to keep us busy.

Have your photograph taken with someone you love and then share in the celebration time with story, song and prayers. A shared tea of pasta and garlic bread with chocolate cake to follow - a treat we all LOVE!

Come along we open from 3.30pm for registration with the fun beginning at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to Messy Church, families sharing fun, faith and fellowship



County Newsbits

Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

This week – in a change to what I have done previously – if you want to know more about any of the headlines below, I have listed the internet links to ALL the full articles online at: bit.ly/CNB1217.

COUNCIL

- DCC Full Council meeting, Wednesday 25 January
- Aycliffe Business Park Forrest 2 expansion
- Your Guide to DCC services booklet
- Talking Rubbish: DCC Waste Strategy Community meeting
- A tour of the new library
- What DCC does for Care Leavers
- A visit to the Foodbank
- A visit to the Credit Union:
- Labour election campaign

launched

- Great Aycliffe Town Council meeting, Wednesday 25 January
- Latest Roadworks information

COMMUNITY

- Should Darlington A&E close? Register for the NHS 'Better Health' consultation Darlington event, Wednesday 8 February, 6-8pm
- Free Mickle Grove Community training courses
- Celebrate the Lunar New Year Lantern Festival with your 5-11-year-old, Durham Oriental Museum, Saturday 11 February, 6-8pm
- 'Dig For It' for young archaeological explorers (up to age 16), Preston Park Museum, 11-26 February, 10am-4pm

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
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

POPPY BALL

Hosted by
The Royal British Legion
SHILDON BRANCH

Friday 10th February
Shildon Civic Hall

Doors open 7.00pm - Dress code: Black Tie
Tickets £20.00 per person
FOOD SERVED AT 7.30pm

Tickets available from Shildon Council Offices
Telephone 01388 772563

Music provided by
"Big Band, Little Band"

Aycliffe Beauty Queen in National Final



Kayleigh Atkinson from Newton Aycliffe is currently "Mrs County Durham Galaxy" and will be competing for the national title in March. She has raised thousands of pounds in the last few months for various charities and is continuing throughout the year.

Kayleigh is a children's nurse and a Weight Watchers coach. She started entering pageants after losing 58lb and although still being over weight according to her BMI, her weight loss has increased her confidence and made her much happier and healthier. "My aim when competing in pageants is to be a positive role model for all. Inspiring people not to focus on their size or weight or shape, but to bring out their inner beauty and individual sparkle" said Kayleigh.

She now runs three Weight Watchers meetings, sharing her story and motivating others. Kayleigh is so proud that this month she appears in the national Weight Watchers magazine featuring her success.



She recently won a pageant and holds the title of "Mrs County Durham Sensational."

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Tidy Agnew Builder



Chapter Homes is building on the Eden Field site down Woodham Way an initiative by the County Council to build market-value houses instead of leaving things to commercial contractors to choose locations and take the profit. Councillor Clare has been worried about occasional complaints about mud on Woodham Way. It is an unavoidable aspect of building houses, so it was pleasing to see street cleaner, driving up and down Woodham Way clearing the mud.

GAMP Needs You!

Do you live, work, volunteer or study in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership area? Do you have a keen interest and passion about your local community? Would you also like to have a say on local issues and priorities?

If your answer is yes to the questions above and you want to make a difference in your local community, we have an exciting opportunity for you to become involved with the work of Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP).

We will have four vacancies on the GAMP Board this year for public representatives and are seeking community minded individuals to fill these vacancies.

This is an exciting opportunity for people with a keen interest in the local community to join a dynamic and proactive Board, who have successfully delivered a number of projects throughout the Great Aycliffe and Middridge area since our formation in 2009.

The role isn't onerous; in terms of time commitments, there's a requirement to attend a Board meeting every two months, and preferably to have input to at least one of our Task and Finish Groups if you can, but really it's about sharing your valuable local knowledge and being passionate about your local community.

If you are interested in applying or would like to discuss the role further, please contact us: email us: gampaap@durham.gov.uk or telephone: 01325 327 441 (Applicants must be over 16 years old)

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Wednesday 15th March 2017. Informal interviews will be arranged in April 2017. Find us on Facebook: Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership

CHANGES AT NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

There have been some changes at Neville Community Centre and The Cubby since Bill Blenkinsopp resigned as Chairman.

The trustees have agreed to reduce the rent of the main hall to £10 per hour and would welcome

any bookings. Please contact Lileen on 07961 733524 and she will help you.

"The Cubby" will only be open on a Thursday and Friday from 9am - 1pm. Lileen is running the cafe alone and these are the only 2 days she

can manage, at the moment.

The volunteers will only be making snacks, not dinners due to lack of staff. Come along and have some hot home made soup with a bun or home made scone and a cup of tea. We can also serve all day breakfast or just a buttie. Pop in and see the daily menu for yourself!

There is a need for trustees and volunteers to help with running and

cleaning the premises also doing general odd jobs etc.

A Line Dance class for absolute beginners is to be arranged on a Friday afternoon from 1.30pm - start date to be confirmed. Please contact Lileen on the above number if you are interested.

We hope to keep our customers up to date and apologise for any inconvenience", said one of the Trustees.

Famous Author Visits Sugar Hill School



Sugar Hill Primary School welcomed renowned author and friend of the school, Adam Bushnell, to help with its Reading event held as part of the school's drive to promote reading for enjoyment.

Parents were also invited to the evening to listen to some of Adam's many stories which included interactive sessions where children acted out stories using Adam's fabulous props.

Mrs O'Rourke, Head Teacher, said: "It was a fantastic evening, enjoyed by children and their parents, and truly inspiring to see". Adam Bushnell had also been in school for much of that week, leading creative

writing sessions in with some of the children in key stage 2. He also plans to return to Sugar Hill later in the year in the coming weeks to work with Key Stage 1 children to build confidence in their reading and writing skills.

FREE Half Term Activities at Greenfield

Keep busy this half term with our wonderful creative workshops designed for young people and families!

Greenfield Arts' will be offering a FREE February half term holiday activity programme, including Crazy Crafts in Shildon, Window Wizards and Gallery Encounters in Newton Aycliffe! See how you can create brilliant inventions from recycled items found at home, with artist Dawn Belshaw, or join our window design team, lead by artist Sharron Bates, and create a new story through art to go on display in our entrance area. There is also the chance to learn the brilliant skill of mono printing with artist Jilly Johnston; experiment

with textures and mark making to see how you can create work like our current artist in residence.

Activities are suitable for all ages and families, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Bookings are now open and to make this process even smoother and more secure we have added an online service. Please visit our website for more details on sessions and to see how to book your place.

To find out more about what we offer through the school term and holidays please check out our website, contact Greenfield Arts on 01325 379048, info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or pop in and speak to one of our members of staff.

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★ STAR RADIO PROGRAMME SCHEDULE Frequency: 102-107FM

Friday 3rd February

0600-0900 - Star Radio Breakfast - Wes Stakes
0900-1000 - Mystery Years - Wes Stakes
1000-1400 - Harry Peak
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Drivetime - Emil Franchi
1900-2200 - Dancing Through the Decades
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Saturday 4th February

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 5th February

0600-0900 - Easy Like A Sunday Morning (John Clayton)
0900-1400 - Dave Sherwood
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Sunday Afternoon
1900-2200 - Non Stop Star
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Monday 6th to Thursday 9th February

0600-0900 - Star Radio Breakfast - Wes Stakes
0900-1000 - Mystery Years - Wes Stakes
1000-1400 - Craig Andrews
1400-1500 - Everything 80's
1500-1900 - Drivetime - Emil Franchi
1900-2200 - Non Stop Star
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

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

Appointments Available for Cervical Screening

The County Durham Wellbeing for Life service is working in the local community to promote cervical screening and encourage women to attend screening appointments.

Wellbeing for Life are working in partnership with local GP surgeries and community venues to give women in County Durham the opportunity to find out more about cervical screening.

There were 3,224 new cases of cervical cancer in the UK in 2014. It is more commonly diagnosed in women aged 25-29, but cervical cancer can affect women of any age. It is important to know your body and get checked out if anything changes that is not normal for you. Cervical screening is not a test for cancer, but for abnormal cells which could develop into cancer.

Vicki Moffat, Wellbeing

Coordinator said 'A lot of women feel embarrassed or fearful of attending their Cervical screening appointments and that is understandable, the Practice Nurses understand this and do everything they can to help you feel comfortable. It's so important to make your screening appointment; it could save your life.'

Cervical screening saves around 4,500 lives every year in the UK. It is important to go for your cervical screening test whenever you are invited.

The Wellbeing for Life Service will be out in your local community promoting cervical screening. For details of where, please go to www.wellbeingforlife.net or phone 0800 8766887.

For further information, please contact Vicki Moffat, Wellbeing for Life Coordinator (East Durham Hub) on 0191 5274150

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Not Your 'Normal' Brass Band



Following the success of last year's Party in the Park (organised as part of the Aycliffe Festival) a further event has been organised for Friday 14th July from 7pm until 10pm in the Town Park. Working in partnership with the Durham Brass Festival, the event will be host to a variety of brass bands and vocalists from around the world with performances across a range of genres including jazz, blues, rock, pop, indie, traditional and classical. This year's festival will welcome acts including the Grammy nominated Hot 8 Brass Band, the multi-award winning Fairey Brass Band, Oompah Brass, New York Brass Band, Funky Style Brass, Beat 'n Blow, Always Marching Band and Les Traîne-Savates. These acts push the boundaries of brass. If you would like a preview of what to expect, there will be a roving performance around the Tesco area the week before the party takes place

EXPANDING MENTOR SCHEME CALLS FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

KIND-HEARTED residents that are keen to give back to the community are being sought to help vulnerable and isolated people.

The Community Peer Mentor project is growing bigger and bigger and therefore is seeking more volunteers in the Spennymoor, Newton Aycliffe and Ferryhill areas; the scheme has been a great success in the Darlington and Bishop Auckland areas following its launch in September last year. Free-of-charge training will take place in February and March this year, so

that volunteers can gain new skills, interests and experiences leading to new qualifications.

Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) Ron Hogg said: "This project is really going from strength to strength which is fantastic news. This means that even more people in our communities who feel vulnerable or isolated can receive the support they need to improve their lives." There are two training courses available, both of which will be held at Spennymoor Community Fire Station. Both courses offer the same training content, just with different time durations to meet different people's needs:

- 5 week Course – 1st Feb - 1st March 2017 - every Wednesday night. The training lasts 2½ hours starting at 1800hrs (6pm);
- 2 day Course - 22-23rd March 2017 – this will run from 0930 to 1630hrs. You will be required to attend both days.

No previous experience in volunteering or supporting people is needed as training is provided. There is no upper age restriction and relevant travel expenses will be paid.

Once trained, Community Peer Mentors will work in pairs with individuals to find the reasons behind their behaviour or why they feel the way they do and encourage them to find ways to get the help and support they need. Existing volunteers within this unique project who have completed their training have found it a rewarding experience to help others when they need it the most. Applicants are invited to contact Jim Cunningham for more information or to register their interest on Tel: 0300 003 1818 or email: jim.cunningham@restorativehub.org.uk.

Youth Football Round Up



Under 15 Girls v Hebburn Town

Early morning rain led to a heavy pitch but Aycliffe started well, passing the ball around and playing with confidence. Courtney in goal organised the defence and prevented Hebburn from scoring on several occasions as they broke up field. As the midfield were working hard for each other it was only a matter of time before the girls were rewarded with the breakthrough from a cross that Lydia placed neatly into the back of the net. HT 1-0. Second half everyone contributed, as they passed the ball around and created 2 goals for Lydia and Katie B. Hebburn then came back finding Aycliffe asleep and grabbing a goal but the points were safe and the girls took a well deserved win. FT 3-1

Under 12 girls v Shincliffe
Aycliffe got off to a flying start as within 2 mins a through ball from Alex to Hattie who raced forward and coolly slot passed the keeper. The girls continued to create chances and then from a corner the keeper dropped the ball at the feet of Macy to smash home. Another pacey run from Hattie and despite the defenders efforts to push her off the ball she kept her balance a hit a left foot drive into the corner. HT 3-0. Within minutes of the start of the second half Kate picked up the ball wide and weaved her way into the box and gave the keeper no chance. Another Kate run and the keeper saves but the ball falls to Hattie to complete her hat-trick. The girls were now dominating the midfield with Neve, Laila and Brooke working hard. Then a ball into the box, nobody marking Hattie who finds the corner. A great through ball from Brooke and Alex is 1-1 with the keeper and tucks the ball away. Hattie then hits in a great cross, Olivia takes a great first touch and beats the keeper with her second touch. Then Shincliffe start to push forward and have a 10 mins spell were they could have scored but again Faith in goal was alert, backed up by Macy and Emily Grace and Lauren. The final word went to Aycliffe as Hattie curls a shot into the far corner - FT 9-0.

Catchgate v Under 17s
Lots of early pressure from Aycliffe was rewarded as Maguire headed home from a Godfrey corner 10 minutes later and another corner from the same side was neatly finished by Knights. Then an Aycliffe mistake from a long throw give Catchgate a

chance to get back into the game but soon after Ions added Aycliffe's 3rd with a good run and finish. Again we let Catchgate back in as they scored their 2nd from a corner. HT 2-3. Changes were made including a debut for Marrow and the lads knew an early goal would finish the game. Aycliffe put in a superb second half, during which they scored 3, in an excellent 4 minute spell, from Thompson and Bateman. They continued playing some good football with Ions adding his second, Thompson adding another 2 taking his tally for the day to 4, Bateman and then Godfrey rounded off the scoring. FT 2-11. Only 5 games left and all to play for.

Under 7s v Hetton Lyons
Aycliffe started well and

controlled the game for long periods. The boys have learnt a lot and it was evident in this game they are taking this on board. A great all round team performance from a talented set of lads. Only 1 game to go and all is needed is a win to finish an impressive first season for these boys. FT 7-1 Goals from Layton 4, Isaac, Cole, Ethan

Selection of other scores

Gateshead Redheugh 3 v Under 18's 1
Thirsk Falcons 3 v Under 17's 2
Under 13 Eagles 6 v Billingham Synthonia 0
Under 9 Eagles 3 v Washington Jnr 6
Under 8 Eagles 3 v NE Sports 0
Under 10 Girls 0 v Leam Rangers 4

School Admissions Arrangements Stay the Same

Councillors are to be asked to approve a continuation of the current admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in County Durham. All admission authorities – which also includes governing bodies for voluntary aided and foundation schools, and the relevant trusts for academies or free schools – must agree their policies on how places are allocated, including what happens if there is oversubscription, on an annual basis.

Under the current system, for the 2016/17 academic year, 93.5 per cent of primary pupils and 96.1 per cent of secondary pupils received a place at their first choice school. The national average is just 88.4 per cent for primaries and 84.1 per cent for secondary schools.

A report – which proposes no changes to the present admission arrangements, other than some minor changes to the number of children at some schools - will be presented to Cabinet on Wednesday 8 February 2017, with councillors asked to approve a continuation of the current system for admissions for the 2018/19 academic year.

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Aycliffe Community Aid Partners Meet

A happy new year to one and all partners of GACAP current, previous or those who are yet to join the partnership. We may be in the second month of the 2017 but GACAP are holding their first meeting of the year on

Monday 6th February at DISC offices next door to Newton Press premises next to the Blue Bridge. The meeting starts at 4pm and usually lasts a little over an hour.
 For those who don't know about

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership, formed in 2013 after Syd Howarth, the current President of GACAP shared his concern (through the Newton News) for those in our community less fortunate than ourselves.

There are currently over 30 partners in the group, organisations ranging far and wide from Churches, Food Banks, Baby Basic, Alcohol Recovery support, and Cancer support, the list goes on. Our meeting on Monday will have two guest speakers. Peter and Terri Driver from Harvest Church who will be showing those present the benefits of a computer programme for children and adults with dyslexia or learning difficulties giving them confidence in Touch Typing, Reading and spelling.

Paul Atkinson from NE First Credit Union is going to update the meeting on the latest position of the Union and Ernie Temple is going to advise us of changes to the Food Bank. Lots of reasons for you to pop along and tell us about your organisation and how you feel you could fit under the umbrella of GACAP.

We meet on the first Monday of each month and look forward to meeting partner sold and new. For more information please contact the secretary Joan Mitchie on 07730471487 or email on secretary.gacap@gmail.com

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Public Notice

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ROAD CLOSURE FOR SAFETY REASONS

A road is to be closed temporarily in response to safety concerns over an increase in traffic passing through two County Durham communities.

Durham County Council is to close the A688 junction with Leeman's Lane, to the East of Thinford roundabout, for the remainder of road widening works on the A688 Thinford Lane, east of the roundabout.

The decision has been taken by the council after it consulted with local residents, businesses and councillors at Hett and Sunderland Bridge. Safety concerns had been

expressed at an increase in traffic passing through those communities, due to the closure of a stretch of the A688 East of the roundabout during the road widening works.

Leeman's Lane is very narrow with limited passing places and is not suitable for large volumes of traffic.

A vast majority of those responding to the consultation were in favour of closing the A688 junction with Leeman's Lane for the remainder of the road widening works. An impassable barrier will be in place from Monday 30 January until the works are complete, with them expected to take a further ten weeks.

A diversion route will be in place and signs put up to advise motorists of the closure.

The widening work is designed to reduce waiting times at the roundabout. Adrian White, the council's head of transport and contract services, said: "We are bringing in this closure in response to local residents telling us of their safety concerns over the numbers of motorists using the roads through their communities as short cuts."

"We appreciate residents and businesses in the area will face inconvenience with some longer journeys but would ask that they be patient and bear with us during the work which should result

in shorter waiting times at Thinford roundabout.

"We will complete this work as quickly as we can."

Diversion maps and further details of the works can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/thinford

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POLICE ACT ON MOBILE PHONE MENACE

Police are warning there will be no hiding place for any motorists across Cleveland and Durham tempted to use their mobile phones while driving.

From Monday, January 23rd officers from the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit (CDSOU) will be supporting national activity co-ordinated by the NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council).

From 1st January to 31st December 2016 across the Cleveland and Durham force areas there were 720 offences of drivers using their mobile phones and a further 67 found to be not in proper control of their vehicle.

Examples of not being in control can include eating or drinking, trying to set music on mp3 players, or serious distractions such as an argument with a passenger or being distracted by children or animals who are not suitably restrained.

At present the offence carries a £100 fine and three penalty points. If the case goes to court the offender can also be disqualified from driving or riding, and get a maximum fine of £1,000. Drivers of buses or goods vehicles could get a maximum fine of £2,500.

However, in March the penalties will increase to 6 points and a £200 fine. This could have a huge effect on new drivers in their probationary period, as their licence will be revoked if they receive six penalty points.

Research has found that being distracted by a phone while driving, regardless of whether it is being used to make calls, messages or going online can make a driver up to 25 times more likely to be involved in a collision.

Insp Harry SIMPSON from the CDSOU, said any drivers taking the risk of using a phone, or being otherwise seriously distracted while at the wheel could expect no second chances.

"We will have a number of officers dedicated to this campaign across the week, using unmarked as well as marked police cars."

"Over the years there have been plenty of educational campaigns so no-one can claim to be unaware this is against the law and also incredibly dangerous."

"There are clearly some people who feel the law doesn't apply to them. But over the next week they will discover our officers are making this offence a priority and that we have a zero-tolerance approach." The national campaign is also highlighting the dangers of pedestrians and cyclists being distracted while using the roads. Pedestrians tend to:

- walk slower
- are less likely to notice other objects in their environment
- Select smaller crossing gaps in traffic
- Are less likely to look at traffic before starting to cross
- Are less likely to wait for traffic to stop
- Are less likely to look at traffic while crossing
- Are more likely to walk out in front of an approaching car
- Cyclists who are distracted with a mobile phone or MP3 player will:
- Be more likely to veer to the side or swerve
- detect fewer signs planted along the bike route.
- be less likely to look at traffic while entering the road.
- select smaller crossing gaps in traffic

NEWTON NEWS

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Our MP Commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr Wilson pledged his commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day and to honouring those murdered during the Holocaust when he signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Book of Commitment' in Westminster.

It was therefore, only fitting that Mr Wilson took a moment on Holocaust Memorial Day to visit an exhibition at County Hall telling the relatively unknown story of the Porrajmos, the gypsy Holocaust.

Organised by the Gypsy, Roma Traveller Service the exhibition, entitled 'Porrajmos – Through the



Eyes of Children', told the harrowing and often unheard story of hundreds of thousands of gypsies who died at the hands of the Nazi's during the Second World War.

Commenting on the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day, Mr Wilson said 'It is important that we continue to reflect on these tragic events. As the atrocities of the Holocaust moves from living history, to history we must work to ensure that these dreadful events are not forgotten.'

'The stories of the Romany victims of Nazi persecution told during the exhibition were moving and harrowing. The Gypsy, Roma Traveller Service did a great job bringing them to light.'

'Undoubtedly, events such as this and Holocaust Memorial Day itself serve as poignant reminders of the tragic events, not just during the Second World War, but throughout history. We must remember them, honour those who died, and continue to work together to ensure similar atrocities are not repeated in the future.'

Councillors' Surgeries

Shafto, Central and Neville Ward

Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 11th February from 11am - 12 noon.

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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.

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Obituary

JOHN WATT on 24th January, aged 77 years, died peacefully in hospital. Beloved Husband of June (nee Park); devoted Dad of Anthony and the late Jennifer; a dear Father-in-Law of Robin; a loving Grandpa of Alexandria, Oliver and Fraser. Would friends please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 6th February for a Service and Committal at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if desired, to the Freeman Heart and Lung Transplant Association (FHLTA), may be left in the donation plate provided.

FRANCES EVELYN FRASER. Peacefully on 23rd January at home. Frances, aged 95 years. Beloved Wife of the late Alex; loving Mother to Margaret and Stephen; Gran to Rupert, Justin and Daniel and Mother-in-Law to Terry. Funeral Service to be held at St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham on Monday 6th February at 11.00am followed by interment at Stephenson Way Cemetery. All welcome to attend the burial. As we are celebrating the life of Frances, wearing black is optional. Family flowers only please, but donations, if so desired, can be given to West Auckland Vineyard Church (for Youth Work) and can be sent to John Meynell Funeral Service, Cemetery Chapel, Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7DF

HARRY MILLION passed away suddenly at home on 22nd January 2017. A devoted partner to Wendy; loving Father, Grandfather and Brother. Cherished and loved by all his family and friends. He will be a big miss to us all. Please meet for Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Thursday 9th February at 1.45pm prior to Darlington Crematorium. All welcome to the Big Club afterwards. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, to the Heart Foundation, plate available at the church.

Doris Roche

(nee Briggs)



25th January, passed away peacefully after a long illness. Doris, aged 82 years of Newton Aycliffe. A much loved Wife, Mam, Mother-in-Law, Grandma, Nana, Great Grandma, Sister, Auntie and friend to many. Funeral on Wednesday 8th February. The family would like to thank all the staff at Lindisfarne Nursing Home, Newton Aycliffe, for their care and support. Would family and friends please meet at 10.00am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Flowers welcome, donations in lieu, if desired, may be made after the service for The British Heart Foundation.

Gladys Kennedy

Our beautiful, devoted, selfless Mom and Gran who fought so hard to stay with us. Died peacefully in her sleep on 28th January 2017 aged 88 years. Beloved Wife of the late Alex (Ken); dearest Mom of Jimmy, Derek, Peter, David, Roy, Paul, Douglas, Shelagh, Heather, Hazel, Pauline, Shirley and Barbara; dearly loved Gran, Great Gran and Mother-in-Law. Always an inspiration. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 7th February at 3.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to The RNLI, plate provided at the crematorium.



*We hold you close within our hearts, and there you shall remain.
To walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.
Do rest in peace dear Mom, and thanks for all you've done.
We pray that God has given you the crown you've truly won.*



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In Memoriam

Eva Elizabeth Mavin

(Betty)



**19th September 1932
to 19th January 2016**

Aged 83 years

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you, and whispered "come to me". With tearful eyes I watched you, I watched you fade away. Although I loved you dearly, I could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, my loved one now at rest. God broke my heart to prove to me, He only takes the best. Always on my mind, forever in my heart. Loved and missed so much. Husband Alan and family, Jeffrey, Mandy, David, Nicola and Eva

TONY DOBSON 7th February 2015. Two years ago we had to part with a Son we loved with all our hearts. They say that time's a healer, but we know it's not true. The pain is still as strong today as the day that we lost you. Miss and love you Son. Mam and Dad
TONY DOBSON 7th February 2015. Young'n, not a day goes by without thinking of you. You are never more than a blink away. Always my Brother, always my hero. Bryan

TONY DOBSON 7th February 2015. Our Brother loved and missed every day. From John and Andrew. Love you Uncle Tony from Jack and Morgan

TONY DOBSON 7th February 2015. Uncle Tony. We miss you loads and will love you always. Jason, Kieran and Kathleen
TONY DOBSON 7th February 2015. Dobbo. Still miss you mate. Always remembered. Tommy

TONY DOBSON 26th April 1972 to 7th February 2015. Can't believe it's been two years since you left us. Still missed by everyone. Love, Leanne xx
TONY DOBSON 26th April 1972 to 7th February 2015. Well it's been two years since you left us. We miss you millions. Love you Tony. Love from Amber and Courtney xx
WILLIAM WILSON REID In loving memory of William, 6th February 2000. There is a family who misses you and finds time long since you went. We think of you daily and hourly, but try to be brave and content. The tears that we shed are in silence and we breathe a sigh of regret for you were ours and we remember. Though all the world forgets. Missing you always, Mam and all the family

SHEILA TWOHIG - 29th January. Six years have gone by and I miss you each and every day, Mike xx
SHEILA TWOHIG - On the 29th January 2011 you left to join the Angels. Don't know where the years have gone. Miss you every day. Love, Carol and family xx

DAWN ELLIOT 29-06-65 to 06-02-14 It doesn't need a special day to bring you to our minds. For days without a thought of you are very hard to find. Love always, Dad and Kathy

DAWN ELLIOT 6-2-2014. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Love always from James, Ellice, Jack, Sophie and Jay

DAWN ELLIOT 6-2-2014. Three years have passed since that sad day you closed your eyes and passed away. Our lives go on without you, but nothing is the same. But with the love in our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered every day. Love always from Jacky, Darren, Louis and Owen

DAWN ELLIOT 6-2-2014. To lose a Daughter who meant so much is difficult to bear. It just seems unbelievable so cruel and unfair. To us you were so special Dawn, what more is there to say. We only wish within our hearts that you were here today. Love always from Mam, Bill and Stephen

JOE BARNETT In memory of Joe, died 12th February 2002. Just a prayer from those who love you, just a memory ever true. In our hearts you will live for ever, because we thought the world of you. Sadly missed. Betty and family.

PETER CHEESBROUGH 7th February 2016. I believe that you can hear me, when I tell you about my life. I believe that you are listening, to my troubles and my strife. I believe that you are with me, when the sorrow is too much. I believe that you reach out to me, I know that I feel your touch. I believe that you can see me, when I celebrate and smile. I believe that you are happy, that joy comes once in a while. I believe that you still love me, from your place of eternal rest. I believe that love travels far and for this I am truly blessed. Love and miss you so much, Dorothy xxxx

PETER CHEESBROUGH In loving memory of Dad. He never looked for praise, he was never one to boast. He just went on quietly working for the ones he loved the most. His dreams were seldom spoken, his wants were very few. And most of his time his worries, went unspoken too. He was there in a firm foundation, through all our storms of life. A sturdy hand to hold onto, in times of stress and strife. A true friend I could turn to, when times were good or bad. One of the greatest blessings, the man that I called Dad. Cherished memories, Vivienne xxx

PETER CHEESBROUGH Grandad Peter. We really miss you Grandad, and wish that you were here. To hug us with loving arms, and lend a kindly ear. Life goes on as always, but things seem out of place. Now that we can't call on you, or see your smiling face. Although it's really painful to think that you are gone, we know you are in a better place when all is said and done. We never will forget you, and we'll never be apart in all the special memories we keep inside our hearts. Our love always, Aston and Scarlett

RICHARD HARRISON (Dick). 4/7/1936 - 8/2/2016. In loving memory of a special Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. It's been a year since you left us, but our memories last forever. Always in our thoughts and hearts, loved and missed every day. Your loving Wife Pauline xxx

JOHN GLASPER 1-2-2009. Our thoughts of you Dad, remembering you is easy we do it every day. Missing you is the heartache that never goes away. You are missed so much Dad. Daughter Sharron, Son-in-Law Colin, Grandchildren Cheryl, Natalie and Sean; Great Grandchildren Maisie, Tyler and Thomas xxx

JOHN GLASPER 1-2-2009. Eight long years without you Dad and Grandad. Love and miss you always. Viv, Chris and Jess xxxx

JOHN GLASPER 1-2-2009. Eight years since you were taken from my life. Love and miss you every day. Love always your Wife Doreen xxxx

PETER LOGAN 18th March 1939 to 5th February 2016. Always in our thoughts. Sister-in-Law Ann and Brother-in-Law Chris

Councillors Fund CCTV



The Hub of Wishes (formerly MIND) would like to thank Kate Hopper and Eddie Adam for funding security cameras for our centre. This has enabled us to have two cameras to cover the inside and outside of the building making our vulnerable users to feel safe and secure and helps monitor vandalism and anti - social behaviour around our centre.

Kate and Eddy continue to support The Hub of Wishes; we appreciate this ongoing support and help from the councillors.

AYCLIFFE DANCE SCHOOL RECRUITING STUDENTS

Introducing a new class of musical theatre South Durham School of dance started on Thursday 2nd February and meets every Thursday. Held at Greenfield Community Arts College the Dance School is committed to providing high-quality part time training for students aged 3 and above. Classes available in Street, Freestyle including commercial, lyrical/slow, Rock and Roll. Also ballet, tap and acro/flexibility. IDTA examinations are available and the school enters nationwide and regional competitions in both IDTA Classes focus on vocational development with good training aiming to build confidence and communication skills in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Classes also help prepare students for auditions in the creative



industry. The musical theatre class offers Drama classes based on improvisation and general stagecraft. These lessons develop acting skills through devising scenes and creating characters with script work. Singing classes aim to develop technique and repertoire in musical theatre, introducing harmonies and learning how to project the voice and develop an understanding of music and audition techniques. Dance classes are based on high energy movements and combinations to the latest hip hop, tap and musical theatre numbers offering a mix of traditional style of jazz and commercial dance. These sessions aim to develop style, technique



and performance skills. All Teachers are DBS checked and have Degree qualifications and teacher qualifications. Teachers have also worked in the creative industries for numerous years and are dedicated to their craft and professionalism. For further information Please contact :07949911642 caroline@southdurhamschoolofdance.co.uk

Bad Weather Affects Junior Football Games

It was a weather affected weekend for the Aycliffe Juniors with a mixture of postponements and match action. The Under 9 Russell Foster league team played Bishop Juniors and came away with a great 4-2 win. Jay Leaver scored and man of the match Jake Smith got a hatrick. So the team have completed their ten game winter league in third place with a total of seven wins and three losses. The Under 9 TJFA team gained a convincing win against Barnard Castle. Jayden was the man of the match and he was joined on the score sheet by Jack, Aidan, Dom, Harvey and Will. In the friendly game Will, Dom, Jayden and Niall



scored with Dan named as man of the match. The Under 11 Russell Foster league team were 2-0 and then 3-1 ahead but lost out 4-3 away at Washington Lions. The Under 11 TJFA league team had their game postponed so met up to bid a fond farewell to Aaron who is leaving to move abroad. Aaron has been the corner stone of this teams defence for four seasons and won the league in each season he completed. In total he played 78 games and scored 37 goals, all the team wish him the best in his family's new adventure abroad. The Under 12's had a big win at home against Greatham. Both Hume and Hardy netted hatricks and Cayless and Wilson grabbed a goal each in a fine 8-1 win. Aycliffe ran into a 4-0 lead before Greatham got one back on the strike of half time. Another four goals in the second half sealed a convincing win and Jacob Hume was named as man of the match. The Under 15's, 17's and 23's didn't play with either no scheduled fixture or postponements, so they will look ahead to next week when all teams hope to get games played.

WABBA Opens in Aycliffe

Newtonian Arthur Rudd has formed WABBA North East (World Amateur Body Building Association) at Newton Aycliffe. He covers the North East and Armed Forces personnel resettlement at his Centre of Excellence, Unit 22, Evans Incubation Centre, Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6ZF.

Arthur provides both personal training and a number of fitness qualifications including Diploma in Personal Training.

He attended Greenfield Comprehensive School and joined the Army in 2002 as a logistics supply specialist, serving in Woolwich, Iraq, Wattisham, Paderborn and BATUS - Canada, before suffering a serious lower limb crush injury. He was medically discharged in October 2014. After undergoing many years rehabilitation and surgery he qualified as a WABBA Fitness instructor in 2007 and moved on to complete a level 3 diploma in personal training.

In 2016 he completed the franchise training giving him the experience and qualification to train members of the public in a number of fitness instruction qualifications including a Diploma in Personal Training. His wife Steph is also involved in the business and has herself completed the Diploma in Personal Training and can demonstrate any exercise Arthur cannot.

Arthur opened for business in January 2017, for both Personal Training and delivery of qualifications. He already has a number of clients and students, including Olympian John Baines who Bob Sleights for Team GB.

The company is also in the process of providing advice for local restaurants to deliver new healthy meals and are in talks to link with one of the UKs leading Insurance companies. Arthur's favourite areas of training clients are both Sports specific, strength conditioning and rehabilitation of injured or medically decondition clients. WABBA Qualification have asked if he



Olympian John Baines Team GB - Bob Sleight with Arthur



Steph with Arthur

will help put together a qualification in rehabilitation instruction. Steph's speciality is Fitness toning, weight loss and health management. Information about

WABBA Qualification can be found by visiting the websites: www.wabba.co.uk www.wabba.fitness.co.uk www.wabbanortheast.co.uk

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Residents Meet

ACORN Residents Association will be holding their February meeting on Thursday 9th at 6pm in the Phoenix Club (upstairs). Notification of upcoming trips and events will be announced. Local Councillors and a PCSO usually attend to answer any questions you may have. We are a friendly group who welcome anyone who wishes to come along.

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