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Week Ending 10th February 2017

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£2.5m Appeal for MRI Scanners for Darlington

SAVING NHS TRUST OVER £1m A YEAR



Over a year ago a reader contacted Newton News Editor Syd Howarth with alarming information on the finance deal providing MRI scanning equipment to Darlington Memorial Hospital. Further investigation showed a Private Finance Company, owned the scanner and the hospital were paying over a £1 million a year for its use. The scanner cost less than £800,000 and it has been in place for 18 years. Syd, an Aycliffe Rotarian, was aware of the successful campaign led by Middlesbrough Rotary Club raising £1 million by public appeal recently for a new scanner in 10 months! Syd thought we should be doing the same in Darlington,

putting the million pounds a year saved to better use. It could fund 40 extra nurses! He spoke to Darlington Rotary Club, well known for their community involvement, who saw the viability of the project and Alasdair MacConachie OBE, a member of the club and Director of Vauxhall dealership Sherwoods of Darlington, took the lead. Talks were held with the NHS Trust who agreed it was the way forward and this week the appeal was launched for two state-of-the-art scanners costing £2.5 million which will put Darlington top of the league in providing new ultra-modern, wide bore scanners. The benefits in cost saving

to the Trust and efficiency in treatment for patients is enormous. What we need now is the support of everyone in the Darlington, Durham and Bishop Auckland Hospital areas to support the appeal by raising cash, leaving legacies, and making individual contributions. This is for the benefit of everyone, as you never know when you might need the use of an MRI scanner to diagnose your illness. Darlington Rotary Club is spearheading the appeal which was launched on 7th February at Darlington Memorial Hospital. Please support the campaign.



Left to right at Darlington Rotary Club meeting: Peter Chandler Rotary District Governor, Syd Howarth, Alasdair MacConachie, Dr. Elizabeth Loney, (Darlington NHS Trust), and Chris Wiper President Darlington Rotary Club.

Team Reunion After 50 Years

50 years on the Newton Aycliffe Boys Club Under 18's Football Team held a re-union at Woodham Golf Club which everyone enjoyed. Unfortunately the Goal-keeper John Vickers and Centre Forward Keith Summers were unable to attend. This was the first time most of the players had seen each other since 1967. The Manager David Kell died at an early age, but he was not forgotten at this meeting of the team who raised their glasses in a toast to his memory. The players remembered his dedication and coaching skills which helped them to success as a team.

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Supporting MRI Appeal

If you would like to make a donation to our MRI appeal or get involved: Visit the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity 'justgiving' website at: https://www.justgiving.com/cddft • Send a cheque to: Cashiers, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX. Please make cheques payable to: Co Durham & Darlington NHS FT Charity. Pick up a donation envelope with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards. Text SCAN02 £10 to 70070 to donate to CDDFT. To discuss fundraising and more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: cddft.charity@nhs.net • Follow us on twitter: @CDDFTCharity • Find the charity on Facebook

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Specialist Extension Service for Hair Loss

Gabrielle Harker is a mobile hairdresser who has specialised in hair extensions for just over 10 years which she loves doing them as it can make a massive difference to people.

She was particularly pleased to help people who had hair issues like alopecia or cancer victims who had chemo and lost their hair. Gabrielle wanted to do something to help so decided to train further with the Racoon course.

"I can't imagine how awful it is to lose your hair due to chemo and unfortunately cancer touches so many of us. The hair can take ages to grow back afterwards and wearing wigs can be itchy and uncomfortable so that's where hair extensions come and I can help" said Gabrielle.

The Hair Recovery programme is for anyone who



has lost their hair, male and female. Gabrielle is qualified to advise and provide hair extensions and there are discounts for the service over a 12 month period.

Glue will not be applied only small translucent bands, gentle to remove or apply leaving no trace or residue.

Book your consultation with Gabrielle on 07772 251823.

Courses & Crafts at Woodham Community Centre

Want to learn a new craft, or brush up on an old craft skill - Beginners Sewing, Knitting and Crochet?

A new seven week course by Tutor: Jan Hodgson organised through WEA (Workers Educational Association) is starting at Woodham Village Community Centre on Friday 17th February from 10am until noon.

(Closed on 24th February for half term).

Fees of £35, or free if in receipt of certain benefits. Jan will bring along sewing

machines and will have some materials to set you off with your new skill.

Other existing craft groups may also be of interest.

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Monday - Noon to 3pm

ART

Tuesday - 1pm to 3pm

SEW AND SO's

Wednesday - 7pm to 9pm

HOBBIES

Thursday - 1.30pm to

3.30pm.

Contact David on 01325

316 144.

woodham.community@gmail.com

New Pathways Together 4 Senior Citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us at the Phoenix Club (formerly The Royal British Legion Concert Room. The No 5, 5a.

and town service buses stop 2 minutes away at the town centre.

Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a chat, play dominoes, Bingo, New Age Curling and enjoy Bus Trips and outings. You may want to go to the restaurant for your lunch where a lift and disabled facilities are available.

Our first bus trip will be FREE to Clays Garden Centre at Washington in March. We then hope to go on further trips/theatres and to places of interest, chosen by yourselves throughout the year - Our aims are to help people to meet new friends, socialise and end the boredom of sitting alone in your homes every day, especially if you are recovering from a long term illness.

If you feel the need to get out and about again, we can help you take those first initial steps to a much more interesting and active lifestyle.

Please ring 01325 308094 / 07967 901477.

Aycliffe Singer Features in Streisand-Neil Diamond Show

The Majestic Theatre in Darlington brings you a nonstop, song packed show featuring two of the country's most well respected tribute artistes: Christina Simone (Chrissy) from Newton Aycliffe as Barbra Streisand and Chris James as Neil Diamond. Featuring such huge hits as Evergreen, Sweet Caroline, The Way We Were, Love on the Rocks, Woman in Love, Cracklin' Rosie, Don't Rain On My Parade and of course, their wonderful duet, You Don't Bring Me Flowers.

Chris James is an award-winning vocalist and entertainer, based in the North East. During a 20-year career, Chris has performed in some of the country's top theatres as part of old time music hall and Las Vegas themed shows. His Matt Monro and Neil Diamond tribute acts have earned him a reputation as one of the region's best-loved entertainers and continue to attract crowds within the local club and cabaret circuit, also events and functions. He is an established name on TV and film; appearing in hit BBC and ITV shows, including Downton Abbey, Vera and the Bafta - nominated I Daniel Blake, working alongside notable entertainers such as Graham Norton, Frank Carson and Michael Barrymore.

Christina is no stranger when it comes to theatre, having played principal roles in stage musicals including Killer Queen in We Will Rock You and Nancy in Oliver. Christina has over 20 years' experience performing on stage, as well as being a recording artiste and having her songs played on the radio. Christina has won several awards, including being voted North East Female Vocalist of the Year. Being half Greek Cypriot, Christina was hand-picked to represent Cyprus in the Eurovision Song Contest,



Newtonian Chrissy as Barbara Streisand

a number of years ago but unfortunately, work commitments and a solid diary in the U.K meant that she was unable to participate.

Having worked with household names including Peter Andre, Michael Barrymore, Frank Carson and North East legend, Brendon Healy, Christina is delighted to be performing alongside old friend Chris James again.

Christina has performed her Streisand show up and down the country and as part of the theatre production Magic of the Bee Gees, in addition to paying tribute to her idol at festivals, casinos, hotels and private parties.

Both Christina and Chris are delighted to bring this show "home", to the North

East. Christina and Chris are both dedicated to their craft and the quality of performances, two of the most well-respected and popular entertainers in the area are paying tribute to two of the world's greatest living legends.

Two fabulous tribute artistes: as close to the real thing as you're likely to see. This is truly a show not to be missed.

Accompanied by a fabulous live band with Tim Jasper as the Musical Director.

Tickets purchased from Majestic Theatre, Box Office number 01325 482848.

Or using the online booking system: <http://www.majestic-tickets.co.uk/>

THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 11th February - "Fossil"

GIG PIT REVIEW - "First time for me to catch the 7 Sins @ Murton's Big Club i really enjoyed the band a great selection of Rock covers from tom petty - free - kings of leon - Def Leppard - Bad Company - kaizer chiefs - Simple minds. The standard of playing was excellent bill brown on Rythm and lead vocals has a great tone to his voice and is a great frontman who likes to get the audience involved with his jokes and banter.The other members play to a very high standard Lead guitar - Bass - and a cracking drummer that captures the feel and sound of the the drummers that had crafted the songs that they covered.All in all what a great night" - "Now if they are a new one for you too, make a point of getting to see them - you wont be disappointed.They didn't need gimmicks as the quality of playing was excellent as was the sound quality.So a fantastic night with Rainbow, Free, Doobie Brothers "Long Train Running", Martha & the Muffins "Echo Beach" to name just a few.The crowd really appreciated them and I think you would."

Saturday 18th February - "7 Sins"

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D.L.I. Workshop

Newton Aycliffe Library invite you for a brief view of the Durhams' through the DLI collection including WW2 Durhams' Duties activity and real objects from the collection.

The event will take place in the library on Friday 17th February from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Tickets are priced at just £1.00 per adult and due to high demand places will need to be booked.

Call in to the library or contact us on 0300 026 9519 for more information.

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COUNCIL SUPPORTS GREENFIELD STUDENTS

At a meeting of the Town Council last week, members unanimously approved and adopted a motion in support of students from Greenfield Community College in their petition to the Secretary of State for Education regarding the English GCSE exam.

Councillor John Clare, supporting the Greenfield students in their campaign to make English GCSE coursework equitable proposed the motion:

"Great Aycliffe Town Council applauds the students of Greenfield Community College, Newton Aycliffe, who have challenged the inequity of an exam system whereby English state schools entering students for the English GCSE exam do not have a 40% coursework option ... although that option

continues to be available to independent schools through IGCSE. Such a disparity of opportunity is unacceptable.

Great Aycliffe Town Council therefore requests the Secretary of State for Education to consider the Greenfield students' petition*, which seeks parity of treatment and calls upon Parliament to allow state schools the option of 40% coursework in English GCSE exams."

(the students' petition is published online at <http://bit.ly/CWK40>)

Councillor Clare (a former teacher at Greenfield) pointed out how proud we should be of the ethical calibre of the students mounting this campaign; and also of the need of our democratic institutions to respond when young people (who are so often apathetic

to politics) turn to them. Other Councillors spoke in support of the motion, which was passed unanimously. The students are calling upon Parliament to allow state schools the option of

40% coursework in English GCSE exams, which is currently only available to students from independent schools who are able to take iGCSE. This lack of equality of opportunity is deemed to be unacceptable.

Poetry Performance



Young people from the Sunnydale Campus of Greenfield Community College thrilled staff and parents with powerful recitals of poetry on the evening of Thursday 26th January. Covering a wide range of themes, including love, war and belief, the students worked tirelessly to commit to memory each of their poems.

The evening was part of a national initiative encouraging young people across the country to discover the joy of learning and reciting poems. The students worked very hard to prepare for the evening and could be seen practicing at every opportunity, memorising and reciting during lunchtimes, break-time and even after school! Over 30 students from every year group performed poems they had themselves selected in front of an audience including parents

and staff and the Mayor of Shildon, Trish Pemberton. All talents were showcased including poetry and the musical numbers performed by Rebecca Fish, Leigh Stabler, Abigail Charlton and Emily Moore with Robert Beaston bringing the evening to a close.

The event was a huge success, and Greenfield Staff were delighted with the engagement of all students who were inspired to take part. The national competition will take place in March, and we are busy preparing our students for the next stage.

Mr Dover, teacher of English commented "Developing skills in poetry analysis is a key part of the new English curriculum and this initiative has certainly contributed to students love for poetry. We can't wait to do it again next year."

Shanaya Brings National Singing Trophy Home



Shanaya with her trophy, surrounded by family and friends after the contest

Parents Belinda and Floyd Atkinson-Jones their parents John & Sheila, family members and friends are absolutely delighted for Shanaya who was Runner-up in a National Singing Contest held in Birmingham last week. "Our hearts are bursting with pride" said her Mother.

On Friday 27th January Shanaya, aged 19, and Mum Belinda, headed down to Birmingham to be there in good time for all the excitement a performance the

NEC brings, sound checks, rehearsals, hair and make-up. "The amount of luggage we had for a three day stay was phenomenal "but that is part of being a 19 year old Diva" Shanaya's Dad Floyd said.

The story began in September 2016 with auditions and Shanaya winning through to the Regional Final on October 2016, Area Finals in November and on Saturday 28th January 2017 the Grand Final of Open Mic UK.

The competition spans the whole of the U.K. attracting over 30,000 entrants, 10,000 in Shanaya's age range 16-20 years. There were 27 competitors in Shanaya's category and she was 24th to perform singing a Jennifer Hudson cover "And I Am Telling You".

The auditorium was full to capacity with her face on huge screens at either side of the stage and behind her. When she began singing, there was no holding her - the audience was on its feet, the noise level so high, cheering, whistling and the applause deafening.

Belinda told Newton News: "You just never know what the panel of rather famous

judges are looking for. After all the competitors performed, our entourage of 33 waited with bated breath for the results".

First to be announced were awards for professional development, then the award for best original song, still no mention of Shanaya, 3rd place was announced and then the runner up of the UK Open Mic 2016 - SHANAYA! It was sheer delight as Shanaya, ever humble, calmly stepped forward to receive her truly deserved, amazing accolade. Her Mum said "I have had many proud moments shared with my daughter, but this is fantastic and certainly tops anything else, absolute pride and joy"

Shanaya is truly committed to singing and performing and will give everything to achieve her dream, and now doors are opening for her. Shanaya's dream of "singing for her living" can only be a step from reality.

The family thank Newton News readers and everyone who supported Shanaya, sent in text votes and travelled thousands of miles in the process.



There will be a Bike Marking event and an official naming of the town centre shop this will be held in the town centre on Saturday 11th February 2017 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Kind Regards
PCSO 7596 Daniela Jones
Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Policing Team
Email: Daniela.Jones@durham.pnn.police.uk

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ANIMALS LOOKING FOR A HOME

Pip is a 7 year old Collie Spaniel cross with a zest for life despite the early onset of arthritis in his elbows he does not let that stop him from living life to the full. He has lived with another dog and older children.

Pip is fun loving and endearing, he loves water, chasing a ball and being around people who interact with him. He needs a home where he will get plenty of exercise to keep him stimulated. Pip is neutered, vaccinated and chipped.

Sophie is a young spayed female with a very steady and sweet personality, she has lived with another cat and would get on with a dog that was used to cats, she would be fine with older children. Sophie is also vaccinated and chipped. She thrives on company and would like nothing better than to be at the heart of a loving family.

For more information please contact NASSL on 01325 321 855 or Mobile 07748 268 822.



Writing Masterclass



Are you keen to be a writer? Why not sign up to our creative masterclass at Greenfield Arts and learn new skills from a published author.

Novelist and creative writing tutor John Dean is running a beginner's class focusing on plotting, creating characters and finding ideas for great stories

John is a successful published author who has published a dozen books in the crime genre and his passion for teaching is renowned throughout the region. If you have a story to tell or would like to be inspired by John's teaching this course would be the perfect start,

"The more I talk to writers, the more I realise the passion that they hold for their art and one subject that seems to evoke stronger reactions than most is 'where do stories come from?' said John. To find out the answers and kick-start your writing why not come along to our masterclass and meet new friends in a creative, friendly environment.

If you would like to know a bit more about the course or activities at Greenfield Arts why not give our team a call on 01325 379048 or check out our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk where you can now book online!

LADY DRIVER COLLIDES WITH WHEELCHAIR AND LEAVES THE SCENE



Dear Sir,
An incident took place at Bewick Crescent Car Park between a silver grey haired, mature lady driver and wheelchair lady owner Mrs Sharon Catchpole on Tuesday 24th of January between 2pm and 2.30pm.

I write in the hope that someone witnessed the car owner driving sideways into Sharon's wheelchair. I care for Sharon who was born with Cerebral Palsy and is well known and liked in Newton Aycliffe.

Not long having her new wheelchair, it is now written

off by the wheelchair service providers, due to the damage the collision caused. Some personal possessions attached to the wheelchair were also a damaged beyond repair. The lady driver did not report the incident to the Police and drove off.

Unfortunately the CCTV Camera was pointing in another direction and there was no close up of the incident and we were both badly shaken up. All the details we could give to the Police was the description of the lady and the colour of the car, which was a silvery blue grey tone four door type saloon. Neither of us had a pen to take down the registration number.

If this had been a child pedestrian it could have been a fatality, but luckily the wheelchair took the brunt of the impact. After the wheelchair was freed from under the driver's side undercarriage, she made no attempt to enquire if injuries had been sustained and left the car park at speed.

Ms Marie Darci
Editor: The Police are investigating and if you have any information please ring 101.

SOMME ARTWORK

Students from Greenfield Community College at Sunnydale Campus have created some remarkable artwork to commemorate the 'Battle of the Somme'.

Year 9 students produced the work as part of a nationwide project where students were invited to take part in commemorations for the battle of the Somme.

As part of the bigger project they were also asked to produce two pieces of artwork based on the theme of the Somme which could be sent all around the works to be exhibited.

Laura Peaker, teacher of Art at Greenfield Community College was thrilled with the results. The year 9 group decided to produce a digital response where they visited

local war memorials to take primary source images. They then collaborated with students from their partnered school in France to create the final artwork, the photographs from both schools were combined to produce thought provoking images.

The artwork has prompted such appreciation that Greenfield Community College and Greenfield Arts are now making these wonderful prints available to the public, all proceeds of which will be donated to Durham Light Infantry Collections. If you would like to know more about the prints or Greenfield Arts contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Photos in Newton News



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What's new on our website this week?

www.newtonnews.co.uk

Cash Boost for Aycliffe Cancer Support Group



A group set up just three years ago to support cancer patients, their relatives and carers has been given a cash boost to help continue its "extremely valuable work". Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group had just eight members when it was launched. Today it has over 80 and more turn up at meetings in the Youth Centre every month.

Last week, Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club President Nora Scott presented the group's chairperson, Allison White, with a cheque for £400 after telling the group: "We have all been touched by cancer

and recognize the extremely valuable work that you do to support those who need help."

The cash was part of the proceeds from the Rotary Club's Golf Day last year sponsored by Hall Construction owners of Woodham Golf Club Allison, pictured with President Nora Scott and (l-r) Rtn David Hogg and Rtn David Scott, commented: "We're most grateful for the Rotary Club's support." Information about the cancer group can be obtained from Allison on 07762 258696



ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE
Charity No. 1034862



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PCC's Call to Scrap Domestic Violence Fee

Ron Hogg has joined fellow Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) across the country, calling on Health Minister Jeremy Hunt to scrap the fee charged to domestic abuse victims seeking legal aid.

Due to recent legislation changes, domestic abuse victims now have to apply for legal aid. However to qualify for support they need to provide specific evidence to prove that they have been subjected to such abuse. One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP – a letter that some GPs are charging fees to provide.

The concerns have been raised in a letter which has been co-signed by 16 PCCs across the country. As a signatory to the “scrap the fee” campaign, Ron is calling

for fair treatment for abuse victims.

Ron said: “I firmly believe that the victim should always be put first, and those suffering from domestic abuse are already incredibly vulnerable. We should be taking action to help them, not demanding payment for a letter they need to access justice.

“In my view, help for victims of domestic violence should never come at a price.”

As well as writing to Jeremy Hunt, the 16 PCCs have also written to Justice Secretary Liz Truss to urge her to scrap the need for the letter altogether.

Not all GPs apply these charges, and the amounts being charged vary. But to ensure that victims receive a consistent, equitable, and fair

Town Centre Update

I would like to provide a general update regarding the Town Centre and our continued progress to improve the local environment for all who visit.

Last year during the summer we hosted 3 very successful summer events prior to our main Christmas Event, these were very well supported by the town and I hope to do something similar this year working with Great Aycliffe Town Council starting in July as part of the Aycliffe Festival. Should any groups or individuals like to be involved at any time over the summer please contact my office on the number below or GATC on 01325 300 700.

Regarding future developments in the centre I can confirm we have a new retailer Petite Boutique, specialist in children's wear, opening soon just opposite Boyes and further interest in other units around the centre. To address the recent growth in the pigeon population can I advise that we have a fully comprehensive management plan in place which was

working and had seen a decline in the population however we do currently have 2 to 3 people who live in the town who have chosen to provide food to them which has resulted in the pigeons nesting in the centre and being able to feed there meaning they continue to be a problem for visitors.

We are using CCTV and other methods to identify those who are feeding the pigeons and will advise DCC Enforcement Officers of any information we collect to allow them to progress further.

Going forward we will continue the works to the clock tower including fully refurbished clock faces and mechanism, improved groundworks around the tower and further works to the car parks leading from Stephenson and St Cuthbert's Way including new centre signage.

I hope the above is of interest to everyone and please contact me on 01325 300 605 should you have any queries on the Town Centre.

Bryan Haldane, Centre Manager

How to be a Dad Blog



Danny Gray a 31-year-old from Chilton has started a dad blog, 'How to Daddoo' which looks at a wide range of dad topics, including dad wins, hacks and epic fails, basically a what-not-to-do guide for new or unsure Dads. Danny works full-time on Aycliffe Business Park and is married to Rachel and have a 2-year-old with another on the way.

“I felt being a Father is the most important job a man can do and I didn't want to miss the opportunity to document my progress and give our daughter, Ayla something to look back on later in life. The eventual aim of the blog is to build a community of Fathers who are a little nervous about getting things wrong to help each other along the way. The blog is humorous and has guest posts from other Dads from other walks of life.

There's a 'contact' page on

the site www.howtodaddoo.com for visitors to get in touch, join the conversation, share Dad hacks and subscribe to the mailing list. We're also on social media at Facebook: /HowtoDaddoo and Twitter/Instagram: @HowtoDaddoo

Year 8 Chinese New Year Celebration



Students in Year 8 have been studying the key features and characteristics of music from China and Japan. They have focussed on the different instrumentation and history of Japanese Meditation Music and Chinese Folk Music before going on to replicate these styles through group compositions and performances.

Chinese New Year Celebrations began on 28th January and runs until 15th February and coincided with the students performances. In order to join in the

celebrations, students were given the opportunity to taste some Chinese delicacies such as seaweed, prawn crackers and spring rolls whilst investigating and learning about all the ways in which the Chinese people celebrate. Students made some interesting discoveries such as: people are not allowed the sweep their floors, fireworks are set off to chase away evil spirits, red packets containing money are given to the young and unmarried and that 2017 is the year of the Rooster!

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Tesco Help Town's Needy Families

Baby Basics part of Lifeline Community Action, operating from Silverdale House Community Centre, provide free clothing and goods to help families with babies and young children. They regularly receive goods from our local Tesco Store and are extremely grateful to Shirley and Joe the Tesco Community Champions for their help. They recently donated baby wipes, sheets, duvet covers and on 2nd February, gave the organisation five huge boxes of new Baby/Children's clothes in various sizes which will help our needy families enormously.

“Every time Shirley phones me up to come to collect stuff she always provides just what we need without even knowing what is needed. Thanks so much”, said Sheena & Yvonne, from Baby Basics.

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 - 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

Speakers for Schools



On Friday 3rd February, Woodham Academy welcomed Professor Simon James from Durham University to host our first Speakers into Schools event. Speakers for Schools is an independent education charity that provides young people in UK state schools and colleges with access to talks from leading, influential figures, free of charge. By sharing top-level experience, inspiration and insights, our purpose is to level the playing field of opportunities for stimulation and encouragement by those who shape the world of today. Professor James spoke to a group of high achieving Y10 students about the development of literature with a particular focus on the key text of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Students were engaged and stimulated by his analysis of the text drawing contextual references about Victorian England. Students were also given the opportunity to ask questions about studying at Durham University and about careers

using English Literature. Students were eager to hear from such a professional speaker and from someone very influential in his field. Woodham Academy are looking forward to hosting future events in participation with Speakers for Schools.

PICK & MIX BOOK/ DVD/CD SALE

The Marie Curie (Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group) is holding a sale of books, DVD's and CD's on Saturday, 18th February 2017 at St Clare's Church, St Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe (DL5 5NT) between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

A wide range of books to suit everyone's taste, plus an assortment of DVD's and CDs, will be available. Everything will be offered at "Any Two Items for £1". Refreshments will be supplied by the Church between 10am and 12noon. All funds raised will help support Marie Curie Nurses locally who provide free

care to people with terminal illness in their own homes. Please come along, enjoy a coffee, and bag a bargain or two while supporting a worthwhile cause.

Library Farm Fun

Newton Aycliffe Library are hold a half term craft day for children aged from 5 to 11 on Tuesday 21st February from 11 am to 12 noon.

Tickets for this event are £1.00 per child and due to high demand places need to be booked. Call into the library or ring us on 03000 269519 for more information.

Girls Group Receives Funding



A Newton Aycliffe-based project aimed at engaging girls aged 11+ into sport activities is celebrating receiving funding from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP).

Us Girls is an award-winning programme delivered by Sedgefield School Sport Partnership, and is designed to increase and sustain young women's participation in sport and physical activity. The initiative works around 5 key values:

Us Girls is at the right time of life: when young girls are in danger of dropping out of sport and activity, they need something different that fits with their new priorities

Us Girls is at the right time of day: teenage girls and young women have busy lives with lots of demands on their time. To increase the chances of getting girls active, sessions fit within

their everyday lifestyle Us Girls is at the right place: girls want to go to a local facility that's easy to get to, is indoors and away from the male gaze.

Us Girls is at the right price: girls are savvy shoppers and love a bargain. Loyalty cards, two-for-one deals and prizes are great incentives to recruitment – and the price of sessions can have a significant influence on whether or not a young woman is active

Us Girls is in the right style: it's all about fun, fitness, music and friendship.

Since the project started, over 50 girls have participated in regular physical activity. The sessions are held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Monday evening 7pm till 8.30pm. The session costs 50p and is payable to the coaches on arrival. The group meets on the top floor in the

bar/lounge before getting started with the activities.

The Us Girls project is youth led, so the girls get to decide which activities are delivered and also receive rewards and regular trips and festivals for their dedication and participation.

Laura Langdale, US Girls Youth Worker, said: "This term we are delivering UV Dancing (Clubbersise) all kit is provided you just need your trainers! If this isn't for you don't worry! After February half term we will be back delivering multi sports and we love to hear your suggestions on what you want to do! This session is all about you and having fun!

Any questions pop along on the night and speak to Laura Langdale or contact Sarah Price at the office on 01388 722317. Find us on Facebook 'Usgirls Sedgefield'

Charitable Knit & Natter Club



A Knit and Natter Club meet every Monday at St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham from 2-4pm during term times to knit for various charities. Knitted goods on show in the photograph will be presented to the Mothers Union to be distributed where needed. New members always welcome. Ring Milly Duffin for more information on 01325 313819



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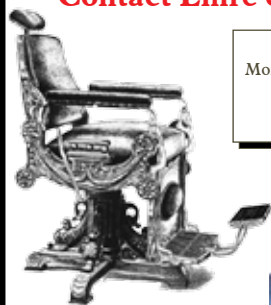
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Wednesday 15th February,
re-opening on Friday 24th February

Sorry for any inconvenience, thank you

**Petition to Save A & E in
Darlington Memorial Hospital**

Retired Darlington solicitor Nigel Boddy has launched an online petition on the 38 Degrees website to **SAVE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY IN DARLINGTON.**

The NHS is currently looking at its regional services, and is publishing draft 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans' (STPs) for different areas of the country. A draft STP has been published for our local area (which stretches from Wearhead to Whitby – see map) which you can read here: bit.ly/DSTPST

The STP says a lot of good things about preventing ill health, and improving the quality of care in our communities and hospitals. It confirms James Cook Hospital as a specialist and major trauma hospital. However, the STP is also proposing to downgrade EITHER Darlington Memorial OR North Tees Hospital, from a 'specialist emergency hospital', to merely a 'local hospital' ... which would mean losing its A&E, acute

surgery and maternity. Newton News believes it would be a local disaster if we should lose Darlington's specialist services, including Darlington's A&E, and have to go instead to James Cook. Nor is it just about increased travel times. How would North Tees and James Cook cope with increased numbers of patients – and has anyone assessed how the hospital car parks, and the local road systems, will cope with the additional traffic?

It is for this reason that local MPs Phil Wilson and Jenny Chapman have been out campaigning to make people aware of the danger to Darlington A&E, and to mobilise support against the changes. Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson commented: "At this time, given pressures on existing A&Es it seems ludicrous to consider closing one. The possibility that the closure of the A&E in Darlington could lead to the loss of the consultant

led maternity in Darlington would be a huge blow to my constituents who use these much needed services. It is clear this is primarily being done for financial reasons and not in the best interest of patients."

Local councillor John D Clare, who marched last October to protest against the proposed changes, told the Newton News: "Only this government could suggest that the answer to the A&E crisis is to close the local A&E. Neither must we let this divide-and-rule government twist this into a contest between Stockton and Darlington, each trying to save their own local hospital. We must unite to demand an STP which has at its heart patients' needs, not saving money."

Darlington MP Jenny Chapman does not want to wait until the STP is finalised, and then have to campaign if Darlington's A&E is named for closure – she wishes to influence the STP now while it is being written. This makes sense.

If you want to get involved to save Darlington A&E:

- The NHS is currently holding a second series of consultation events, and there is time to register for the Sedgefield meeting on 23 February: bit.ly/NHSBHP23217

- You can sign Nigel Boddy's petition here: bit.ly/38SDAE

AYCLIFFE STUDENTS' PETITION HANDED IN TO PARLIAMENT

On Wednesday 1st February, our MP Phil Wilson handed a petition to Parliament calling for fairer English GCSEs.

Mr Wilson gave his backing to the petition earlier this year when students Christine Davies, Melissa Foster and Aidan Wong brought their campaign to his attention. The three students, from Greenfield Community College set up the petition to demand equality in English GCSE's after discovering the differences between the GCSE sat in maintained (state schools and academies) and independent schools.

Currently, independent schools can opt to sit the iGCSE, which allows for a 40% coursework component to count towards the student's final mark and offers students the opportunity to sit the exam twice. State

schools and academies on the other hand sit the English GCSE requiring students to sit one exam in the summer, counting for 100% of their mark.

The fury at this inequality is clear, with the student's petition having currently collected over 1000 signatures. Phil Wilson said he was 'appalled' and is adamant that students, regardless of whether they attended state or public school, must be on a level playing field.

Mr Wilson said 'State school student's face a far tougher examination process than those who have the privilege of attending private school, making the system inherently unfair.'

Currently Phil Wilson is waiting on a response from the Government.

**Council Reject Plan for
430 Houses at Woodham**

On Tuesday, the County Council's Planning Committee voted to accept the planning officers' recommendation to reject the application by Wilmott Partnership Homes to erect up to 430 dwellings on the land adjoining Woodham Bridge.

Proposing to accept the officers' recommendation to reject, local Councillor John D Clare welcomed the officers' decision to declare the area a 'valued landscape'. Not only does the area constitute a strategic break between the housing in Newton Aycliffe and Woodham Village, he said, it also forms a bio-diversity corridor allowing wildlife from the countryside into the very heart of the town. It is, he said, one of the 'green areas' around which Newton Aycliffe is conceptually formed, and as such essential to the whole nature of Newton Aycliffe as a settlement.

Cllr Clare also welcomed the fact that, for the first time, the emerging Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan had been included in the planning considerations – the importance of Great Aycliffe's 'green spaces' was a major feature of the Neighbourhood Plan. Seconding rejection, local Councillor Mike Dixon drew attention to the poor connectivity of the site, with poor access to local facilities

on foot, leaving the only option to drive onto the A167 and into town by car. Residents were hostile to the suggestion of a second access by bridge from Stag Lane, which would become a rat run.

The application was rejected on the grounds that "the Local Planning Authority considers the proposed development would result in transformative effects on the character of the area and setting of Newton Aycliffe/Woodham resulting in significant adverse harm to a valued landscape and designated green wedge."

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COUNCILLOR DOOR KNOCKING STARTS

Dear Sir,
Labour County Councillors have been knocking on our doors and invading us with leaflets saying how hard they have worked for us, but is that not what they are paid to do, and what they promised on the door step last elections?

I noticed they failed to tell us why they did not support the teachers assistants who live in Newton Aycliffe when they needed them. We find under the Freedom of Information Act Councillors Clare, Dixon, Gray, Hillary, Hopper, voted for the pay cut. Councillors Iveson, and Adam did Not attend the Meeting and must not

have thought its important enough to support the Teaching Assistants. 57 Labour Councillors voted for the pay cut 18 Independents voted against it, so why do they promise to support us yet will not go against the Labour Group?

Every one needs to think very hard for the May Elections, on who we want to represent us - Councillors that are not afraid to speak up! It is trust and support we need and if a councillor will not stand up against their group they should not be elected. Name and address supplied.

Defected Councillor

Dear Sir,
We see Arun Chandran has resigned from the Labour Party and wants candidates to stand with him in the election. Last May he was caught out by the Northern Echo (12 May 2016) when reported he was being "investigated over allegations he attempted to field a dummy candidate" to manipulate a By-election. He had written e-mails saying his neighbour had agreed to stand "to split the opposition vote". When asked, Arun Chandran said "All I was doing was bragging to get

the credit for it - I want the credit for being the mastermind." Soon after, he was suspended from representing the Labour Party. Now he has resigned and is campaigning against them. People have a right to stand as a candidate but people also have a right to know who will be standing. 'Aycliffe Reply' is a group of Labour supporters sick of fake news put out by some of Labour's opponents and we will challenge them if they do. Aycliffe Reply

Aycliffe Polo Players Beat University Team

Sedgefield Water Polo Club sent a very young Senior team up to Newcastle to play Newcastle University. Their oldest player was 20. Five of the Sedgefield team were England junior players. Sedgefield started the game in a dominant fashion and were too fast and well organized for the students and led 6-1 after the first period. After that Sedgefield cruised to a 18-6 victory led by their captain and England Junior John Pratt 18 who scored 8 goals. The rest of

the goals were shared by Micheal Cousins 16, Connor Keeble 16, Ben Stephenson 15, James Pratt 19, Kris Egginton 16. The other players in the Sedgefield team were Richard Murray the goalkeeper 16, Ben Turnbull 18, Michael Hampshire 14 and Simon Howe 20. Most of the Sedgefield team is preparing for The National under 19 Championships due to start soon with Sedgefield hoping to win a National title for the 4th season in a row against all the big City teams in Great Britain.

Students Join STEM Polar Programme

Recently, St Mary's Primary School played host to 20 aspiring teachers from Shotton Hall SCITT, helping them experience first hand how interesting and fun STEM based learning can be. The trainees spent three days in school, working with children from both Year 5 and 6, taking part in activities including coding, making butter and bath bombs, skittle rainbow plates, newspaper bridges and a marble run that needed to be as close to 20 seconds as possible. The children, and trainees, soon realised just how long 20 seconds actually is. The event was hugely successful and received many positive comments from the trainees, Shotton Hall Academy and of course our pupils. St Mary's will continue their excellent STEM learning this year as we have been accepted on a brand new initiative

called The Polar Explorer Programme, working with the group who are currently building The RRS Sir David Attenborough, enabling world-leading research in Antarctica and the Arctic for the next 25 years. The Polar Explorer Programme is working with NERC, British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and others to use this historic occasion to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We hope to use the build, launch and operation of RRS Sir David Attenborough and Boaty McBoatface (a state of the art sub sea vehicle) to engage young people in science, enabling them to understand the scientific process and enhance their understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics concepts. Sounds really cool, no pun intended!

Rotary Club Enjoys Boozy Meeting



Nick and Gulen with Rotary Club Members

A dream came true for beer-drinking members of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe this week. When Tuesday's meeting ended, they were supplied with free beer by a local company with a rapidly-growing reputation for producing craft beers of the highest quality. President Nora Scott (pictured front) couldn't resist the chance to taste some of the beers being produced in Newton Aycliffe by the Steam Machine Brewing Company. Special guests at the meeting were husband and wife brewery owners Nick and Gulen Smith whose beers are earning praise from serious drinkers over a wide area and now feature in the top 50

list of specialist brews. Nick began to make beer as a hobby while at university but subsequently developed a taste for the exciting flavours of craft beers he discovered in Australia and New Zealand. With Gulen, they then decided to return to Aycliffe to set up their own brewery - "taking time and care to produce decent beer". "It's been an absolutely crazy journey but we have managed it," Nick told Rotarians. Nick and Gulen were welcomed to the meeting by Rtn Tony Robinson and were thanked by Rtn Denese Cartwright, who commented: "We had a delightful evening."

NEW PROPOSAL FOR FORMER ELMFIELD SCHOOL SITE

On the 22nd of February at the Council Recreation Committee I shall be putting forward a motion asking the Council to make contact with Durham County Council regarding the future of the derelict former Elmfield School site. Readers will recall that some years ago the Elmfield School was demolished and the grounds have since been allowed to deteriorate with rubbish being dumped at the site whilst awaiting development some two decades later.

The nearby Whinlatter bridge, whilst waiting to be replaced, is also adding to the air of desolation and untidy vista around the site. Local residents are upset by the way the area has been allowed to deteriorate and indeed have already raised a petition calling for the Whinlatter Bridge to be replaced.

What I propose is that Great Aycliffe Town Council adopt the Elmfield site on a long term peppercorn rent basis - in effect to tidy up the whole area extending the beautiful West Park. At this time I am not suggesting we enter into any great financial commitment but only explore a mutually beneficial arrangement. The Benefit to the area is that the residents of the area get an improvement to a site which has become

an eyesore, and an almost doubling of the size of West Park open and available to the public. Meanwhile of course Durham County Council also benefit by not having

to maintain the former school site at a time when they are short of funds and proposing cuts to maintenance of buildings and land upkeep. Cllr. Ken Robson



Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

If you want to know more about any of the headlines below, internet links to ALL the full articles can be found at: bit.ly/CNB8217

Please do the Hate Crime Survey, and consider making a regular donation to the foodbank. You may also wish to find out more about the drug and alcohol consultation, the changes to the health appointments transport programmes, and the NHS Better Health Programme consultation.

COUNCIL
• DCC Leader Cllr Simon Henig talks about Durham developments
• 'This Is Durham' showcased County Durham in the House of Commons
• Drug and alcohol recovery services consultation
• Changes to health appointments transport programmes
• Tuesday 14 February is the last date to sign up to the

Garden Waste Collection Scheme
• The GAMP Board is seeking representatives
• Latest Roadworks information

COMMUNITY

• Hate Crime Survey
• Should Darlington A&E close? Register for the NHS Better Health Programme consultation event in Sedgefield, Wednesday 23 February, 6-8pm
• Help for Teens contemplating their future
• How to donate regularly to the Foodbank
• Good news for the Kings Drive estate
• Horndale Residents' Association meeting
• Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre prepares for Asset Transfer with a makeover
• Winter Toy Fair, 18-19 February, 10am-4pm, Locomotion Museum Shildon

★ STARRADIO PROGRAMMESCHEDULE Frequency: 102-107FM

Friday 10th 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 - Dancing Through the Decades
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

Saturday 11th 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 12th February

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

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th 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
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Caprice Bags Success Elections - Here We Go Again!



Seven members of Caprice Roller Skating Club (Lisa, Kirsteen, Ava, Elisha, Aysha, Andrea and John) took part in a bag pack at Tesco's Newton Aycliffe Supermarket to raise funds for the club on Saturday 4th February. The amount raised was just short of £214 which will go towards the running of the club and expenses. The Club would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff at Tesco's who were very friendly and welcoming plus all those customers who donated cash.

Anyone wishing to come along and try Roller Skating, the club meets on a Saturday from at 2.30 pm at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre (£4 per hour) All ages and abilities welcome. For further information please call Andrea on 07876 354981.

Dear Sir,
It is that time again when Labour Councillors come out of the dark and into the sunlight so we know who they are. Yes it is Election Time and they want us to know how they have spent OUR MONEY - RATE PAYERS MONEY.

Today I received a Labour Party leaflet from two West Ward Councillors Adams and Hopper telling us what they have done with rate payer's money, the list looks good on paper, and some are not in the west ward. What they should have done when elected was to spend a little time knowing where the west ward boundaries are. Why in 2013 to 2014 K Hopper and E Adams spent a total of £6433 outside their ward when improvements were required in the West Ward.

At first I put this down to their inexperience at being county councillors so I am now waiting for the figures for 2014 to 2015. In their leaflet they tell you what they did with ratepayer's money! As they think and say that it is their money to do with what they want - sorry this has to be accountable.

Now let me tell them and the readers of Newton News just what they did not do when attending meetings when

very important items were discussed - that is when they do attend them.

Closing down of Homes throughout Durham County; Closing Post Offices;

Total disgrace of closing the DLI Museum; No support for teacher's assistants where all Labour members voted for these measures.

In their leaflet again they blame the Government, WHY? It was the Labour Party that got us in this mess. Anyone can run the country by borrowing money, as the Labour Party did BUT there is a time when it has to be paid back, and this is what is happening now. The Labour controlled Council are aware they do not have to do what they are doing, as they do have reserves.

There is an election on the 4th May 2017 and this is why Labour councillors are putting these leaflets out now. They must be desperate to get re-elected, but not with my vote as I do not like what they have done in the past four years.

One Councillor sometimes misses meetings because he

has two other jobs, but this is very convenient when there are very important items on the agenda, as they do not want to go against the Labour vote. These people forget that it is the people that voted them in, but then show no respect for what the people want. It has to be what the Labour Party want at all times!

I get very tired of reading about the Labour Party always blaming the Government for everything. Our country would be a better place to live, without all this in-fighting I hear that Phil Wilson MP for Sedgefield has done a U-turn and is now voting to come out of the EU and I wonder if he is starting to worry that he might not get elected next time. In fact there are some MP's that have resigned after being told what they had to do by the Labour Party leader, but we could not be that lucky.

Can I remind the Labour Councillors putting out leaflets that you can only spend a limited amount on an election and you have spent some of yours already.

Mrs M. Tomlin

Aycliffe FC Through to Semis

Durham Challenge Cup holders Aycliffe reached the semi-finals of this season's competition with a narrow 3-2 victory over The Star, in an entertaining cup tie. Both sides looked to attack throughout the match, and both missed several good chances.

Aycliffe started the brighter, and captain Jamie Owens got a shot away after 3 minutes, but Star keeper Newbrook made the save. Ten minutes later, Owens got another chance, and this time made no mistake. From a corner, Dan Mitton fired in a shot which came back out to Owens to blast it into the top corner for 1-0.

Star then had a good spell and were rewarded on 24 minutes when Palmer hit a terrific shot past Phil Pentony in the home goal for 1-1. The lead only lasted 4 minutes though. Newbrook could only push out an Alan Harrison shot, and Ben Wood got in first to put away the rebound for 2-1. Half-time 2-1.

Aycliffe again came out the stronger, and following a good team Jamie Owens put a shot just past the post. Star then pushed again and Aycliffe were grateful to Dan Mitton and Liam Browne for great blocks in the penalty box from strong shots. Then Seaham missed a great chance on 62 minutes, when Bird put a free header over the bar from 6 yards, with the goal gaping. Aycliffe made them pay 10 minutes later, when Ben Trotter made a great run through midfield. Jack Oliver took over and crossed to Ben Wood, who curled it past Newbrook into the far corner for 3-1.

Aycliffe were very unlucky not to put the game beyond

reach, when Jamie Owens hit the post and then the bar within a minute. Star went down to 10 men on 82 minutes when Craig Price was sent off. Star didn't give up though,

and with 5 minutes left got back to 3-2 when Lynch hit a strong shot from outside the box. Aycliffe went for a 4th and had a couple of good chances but didn't convert. Final score 3-2.

Award for Contribution to Girls' Football



Darlington Rotary President Chris Wiper, Chloe & Nigel Little

Former Newton Aycliffe Youth FC footballer Chloe Ryan was celebrating last week at the Grand Final of the prestigious Darlington Sports Winners Scheme Awards evening. Having scooped the Secondary Schools and Further Education Category award, where she was up against some very talented achievers, Chloe then went on to take the Ron Lewis Award for outstanding achievements and her contribution to girls' football in the area.

The award was presented by the Rotary Club of Darlington, who are one of the many generous sponsors of the Winners Scheme, which is in its 41st year.

Chloe, a year 10 student at Hummersknott Academy, is attending an FA Regional Excellence Camp this weekend at Queen Ethelburga's School near York."

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**Closing Date for Applications:
Noon on Thursday 16th February 2017**

Date of Interviews: Tuesday 28th February 2017

Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, Emailing: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk, or from: the Council Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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Greenfield in King's Global Event



Greenfield Community College were invited to take part in the biggest ever global 'big question' as part of Martin Luther King Day. The event marked the 50th anniversary of Dr King's visit to Newcastle where he received an honorary degree from the University in 1967. Children across five continents were invited to answer a 'big question' as part of a global SOLE event that had been created especially to celebrate the occasion. Professor Sugata Mitra who is the driving force behind SOLEs (self organised learning environment) set a challenging question "How is a massively connected world different to the one we have now and different to the one Dr King was in 50 years ago?" which inspired the students to come up with some very interesting thoughts and findings. Student's commented that as we have become more widely connected we have developed

learning and become more understanding but in 50 years time will we think the same? The law is only as good as the person creating it. Greenfield Arts were thrilled to take part in the event, which was held in their very own SOLE lab, Room 13. The results have been recorded through SOLE central and the 'Freedom City' initiative. Sophie Lewis, Arts and Community Centre Co-ordinator, was thrilled with the way the students developed the questions "Students have since took the enquiry on themselves during Time 4 Success sessions, which are enquiry based tutorial lessons, by looking into 'is the law always right?', showing real initiative and curiosity." To find out more about Room 13 and the SOLE project please contact us or see our blog on the Greenfield Arts website: www.greenfield-arts.co.uk.

Regional Award for Durham Constabulary

DURHAM Constabulary is celebrating after securing a regional award for the way it looks after its employees. The force has been given a bronze award in the North East Better Health at Work Award. The scheme recognises the efforts of local employers in addressing health issues within the workplace. Durham Constabulary has implemented a number of initiatives, campaigns and training programmes aimed at improving the workforce's physical and emotional wellbeing. Some of those have included free Check4Life health screenings, a cycle to work scheme, healthy eating awareness, mental health awareness training plus many others. Judith Clewlow, Head of HR at Durham Constabulary, said: "It's a fantastic achievement to get this award and to be recognised in this way. "We truly believe that

our people are our most important asset. "It is therefore vital that we give them all the help and support possible to ensure they are fit, happy and healthy to take on the challenges they face every day." Judges for the award said: "The work the constabulary has done around raising awareness of mental health and promoting a positive environment where staff feel able to talk openly is commendable. "Durham Constabulary understands that mental health should not be addressed in isolation and have linked this to other areas of health and wellbeing including healthy eating, physical activity, sleep, financial wellbeing and alcohol and drug awareness. "The support available to staff through procedures and signposting demonstrates examples of best practice which we would encourage be shared with other organisations."

Vacancies for Public Representatives

There are three vacancies on the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP) Board within

the public representative sector, and another due in November this year. Public Representatives must live, work, volunteer or be educated in the area covered by GAMP AAP and must be over the age of 16.

This is an exciting opportunity for a Forum member 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 & Middridge area since our formation in June 2009.

A Fact Sheet which gives a basic outline of the role of a public representative on an Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board is available. Please feel free to contact the office if you'd like to know more.

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 Priority Task Groups if you can, but really it's about sharing your valuable local knowledge and being passionate about your community - helping to make a difference in our area.

If you're interested in applying, please contact us for an application pack:

Email us: gampaap@durham.gov.uk or telephone: 01325 327441. The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Wednesday 15 March 2017.

We anticipate that informal interviews will be arranged for early April 2017. This is your opportunity to become directly involved in what's going on in your local area - we look forward to hearing from you!

Litter and Dog Fouling

Dear Sir,
Complaints about dog fouling are coming in thick and fast. Sadly there are a few dog owners who walk their dogs early in the morning or late at night or simply open their front doors to let their dogs run wild and their dogs are leaving their mess on the road and pavements throughout the village. Sadly, the problem is not unique to Heighington. It is a national problem which must be stopped. People who live in the delightful Chestnuts housing estate tell me of strangers who live elsewhere are having the temerity to drive from their own homes, park their vehicles adjacent to the large grassed area where children play, and let their dogs out leaving their filthy calling card behind them.

The result of dog fouling is making many residents particularly parents see red. Children are walking in dog mess taking it into cars, homes and school and pushchair wheels are getting covered in the stuff. It is unpleasant, embarrassing for the children and dangerous to the health of everyone. Unfortunately, control is difficult because of the times these irresponsible dog owners let their dogs do what they do naturally it is difficult to catch the offenders but something has to be done.

In the first instance, I appeal to all dog owners to pick up after them. You are the dog's owner and are totally responsible for it. Dog fouling is unacceptable to all and must stop. I urge all residents to contact me if you can identify any dog owner who does not pick up after his/her dog.

The details will be passed on to DBC Enforcement Team who WILL act. We have done this before and dog owners have had to pay an £80 fine and we will do it again. So to all dog owners who do not clean up their dog's mess be warned, there are lots of parents out there who are furious about the dog fouling problem and they will be watching...ALL OF THEM
Litter - As a Newton News reader I often read letters sent in from Newton Aycliffe readers complaining about the amount of litter in the town so as Chair of LitterFreeDurham I decided to see the problem for myself. I jumped on my bike pedalled around the ring road and turned right into a road somewhere near the Blue Bell garage. I had no idea of the road layout so I meandered randomly from the Blue Bell garage down to the Town centre, through Sharp Road and eventually back home via Heighington Lane taking in lots of roads that I never knew existed.

I am delighted to report that apart from the odd piece of paper there was very little litter seen on my longish travels. From my 'inspection' Newton Aycliffe is know where as bad as been reported. I don't doubt that there will be grot spots in the town and on the factory estate and it is these areas that your local authority and volunteer litter pickers should concentrate on.

The road from the A167 leading into the Business Park does not give a good impression to visitors and the hedge opposite Tesco tends to fill up with litter blowing across the road from the supermarket - two examples where action needs to be taken. Perhaps Tesco management can organise someone to clean up this hedge on a regular basis to save the local Primary school doing so.

Litter is a problem everywhere. In Heighington we pick litter monthly to keep the roads around the village clean. I know that there are lots of people in Newton Aycliffe who take pride in their town and this can be seen when driving through.

A number of people simply don't complain about the litter, they do something about it by getting out and cleaning up the littered areas and I am confident that many of these volunteer Litter pickers in Newton Aycliffe and Heighington will be supporting LitterFreeDurham's Big Spring Clean starting February 27th through to April 16th - don't complain - take action join them to help them to help you to keep our communities CLEAN.

Councillor Gerald G. Lee, Heighington

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Vincey x

Rachel

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Love from
Paul
xx

Laura

Happy Valentines
Love from
Andrew
xx

Sarah

Happy Valentines
Love Always
Paul
xxx

DADDY - You will always be my 1st true love. Love, Amber-Jean x

In Memoriam

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest peaceful bonnie lad, till we meet again. My love always. June. God bless xxxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of our wonderful Dad and Grandad. Miss you every day Dad. From Ian, Heena, Andrew, Tina, Rachel and Philip. Loads of hugs and kisses from Rebecca, Cameron and Haley xxxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). Four years since you went away. Just a prayer from those who love you. Just a memory ever true. In our hearts you will live forever. Because we thought the world of you. Rob and June

BLINKINSOPP, Margaret. 12th February 2011. Gone but not forgotten. Brother Bill

RAY BEADLE 7th February, 2016. Remembrance is a golden chain that links us till we meet again. Love from David, Susan, Michael, Gary and Angela and all their families x

TRACY WILKINSON 10th February 2016. Beloved Mam and Daughter, we hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain. To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again. With love from Son's Daniel and Joss. Love Mam and Dad

Births

Beth & Dan



Bethany Jackman and Daniel Bygate are proud to announce the birth of their Son, Layton Michael Martin Bygate, born at 10.12pm weighing in at 6lb 10z on the 7th of February. Thank you to everyone for their support and well wishes.

Beth & Dan



Congratulations on the birth of Layton Michael Martin Bygate born 12 mins past 10 on 7/2/2017 weighing 6lb 10z. Love from Mam, Dad, all your brothers and sisters and all the family xx

Beth & Dan



Huge congratulations on the birth of baby Layton. With love from SJ, Craig, Madison, John and Cayden, Mackenzie and Jade xx

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Obituary

JOHN FRITCHIEF JACOBSON (Jake)

John Fritchief (Jake) Jacobson passed away on 16th January 2017 at Defoe Court Nursing Home in Newton Aycliffe.

John was born in South Shields in 1921, the son of a fruit and vegetable merchant. He shared happy memories of his early childhood on Tyneside - looking after Billy the horse, watching the trawlers unload, playing on the beach and chasing the old 'Marsden Rattler' steam engine along the cliff tops. However, there were sad times too - his mother sadly died when he was only 7 years old and his father's business collapsed during the depression in the 1930s. At the age of 17, John left home and joined the RAF. He became known as Jake and that name stuck with him for the rest of his life. Six months after signing up, war was declared and Jake spent most of the next six years repairing planes and defending air bases in the North African desert. Like many others, Jake gave up his youth for this country and we must never forget what they did.

After the war, Jake spent a few carefree months working on a farm in Northamptonshire where he met his wife to be, Joyce. They moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1956 and he lived on the town for the next 61 years.

Jake maintained his involvement with the RAF through the Newton Aycliffe branch of the RAF Association. He was a founder member and one of the volunteers who, in 1956, helped convert the



old council offices into the RAFA club that still exists today. He was a stalwart supporter of that club and an ace domino player for the next five decades. Jake was a skilled craftsman - a sheet metal worker by trade but he could turn his hand to anything. He was famous for his ability to fix machinery and build novel equipment from salvaged parts. He worked at Darchem Engineering for many years and then became factory manager at Telcon Metals until he retired. There followed the happiest decade of his life during which he devoted his time to his beautiful garden and his grandchildren. After Joyce had a stroke, Jake became her full time carer ensuring that her remaining years were as comfortable as possible. The family will never forget what he did for her during that time. Jake was still fit at the age of 90 but his health deteriorated thereafter. We are grateful for the care he received at Defoe Court during those final years. Jake will be greatly missed by his 3 Children, 7 Grandchildren and 3 Great Grandchildren.

FRANCES FRASER Peacefully passed away 23.1.2017. Frances was like a Gran, Mam, My Adviser, but above all this, My Best Friend. She was a very special lady, one of a kind and I am very proud to have known her. She will always have a special place in my heart. I will always remember you and forget you never. You are now with Alex, your soul mate, R.I.P. With love and great memories, from Edie xx

HOBSON Peacefully on February 1st following a long illness. Jean aged 90 years. Beloved Wife of the late Joe. (Former landlady of The County, Aycliffe Village and former midwife). A much loved Auntie and friend. Will family and friends please meet for a service in Neville Parade Methodist Church, Newton Aycliffe on Friday 17th February at 12.15pm. To be followed by cremation at Darlington. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to The British Legion. Plate provided in church.

POUNDER Peacefully on February 1st, at home. Linda (Née Raper) aged 90 years, of Newton Aycliffe. Much loved wife of Jim, loving Mam of Julie and Derek, Mother in law of David and Pam, much loved Grandma of Emily, Jenny and Madeleine, Kathryn, Tom and Sophie and Great Grandma of Joshua. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and cremation at Darlington Crematorium on Thursday 16th February at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if so desired may be made to Dementia UK, plate provided at the crematorium.

Thank You

HEWITT, Heighington, Maria and Louise wish to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for kindness and sympathy shown, also for all the letters, cards of condolence and generous donations received during the recent sad loss of Graham. Special thanks to The Reverend Ruth Dawson for a sensitive and comforting Service, The Bay Horse for the delicious food and to Bryan A. Shepherd and staff at Whitehouse Funeral Service for all their care and concern.

Lost & Found

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Congratulations

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GILLIAN SPENSLEY 10th February. Happy anniversary to my beautiful Wife. Love always, Vince xxx

BEV Happy Anniversary 14th February 2017. Lots of love, Rob xxxxx

ZOE Happy Birthday on 14th February 2017. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Ian, Bobby and Sunny xxxxx

JOE MATTHEWS, 15th February 1937. Congratulations on your 80th birthday. A loving and supportive Step-Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Love from Pam, Mick and Kath, Rita and Alan, Terri and Stuart and families. Thanks for being you! x

MICHAEL STEWART To a special Grandson on his 5th birthday on the 13th February. Can't believe it's been five years since you came into our lives, you are such a pleasure to have in our lives. Love you always, Nana Lyn and Grandad Phil xxx

MICHAEL STEWART To a special Nephew, happy birthday, lots of love, Uncle Paul and Auntie Emma x

DIANE Happy Birthday to my Auntie Diane on the 13th February, love you, Michael x
BETH JACKMAN Happy 21st birthday on 13th February. Hope you have a very special day. Love SJ and Craig xx

HAPPY 21st BETH Love from Mum, Dad, Sisters and Brothers and all the family xxx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MUMMY Lots of love and gurgles from Layton xxx
HAPPY 21st BETH Love from Dan xx

HAPPY 21st BETTY Love from Madison, John, Cayden, Macca and Jade xxx

Birthday Remembrance

AUDREY HUMBLE 12th February. Another birthday without you. Loved and missed every day. Gisela, David, Paul and Gavin xxxx

GEORGE BURNHAM 11.2.1940 - 1.7.2015 Our birthday wish must be a prayer, God bless and keep you in His care. We miss and love you always George. From Maureen, David, Charlotte, Julie, Theo and Grandchildren Jamie, Steph, Katie, Marco and Jessica xx

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AYCLIFFE JUNIORS REPORT YOUTHFUL FOOTBALL ROUND UP



Aycliffe Junior footballers enjoyed another great weekend of action across both league and cup competitions. There was a one minutes silence before many TJFA games to mark the sad loss of Eddie Hamblett, an Under 14 player from TIBS FC. The Under 9 TJFA League team played in a Challenge Cup quarter final against Golden Flatts. Their opponents play in the league above Aycliffe but the Juniors defied the league structure and recorded a 4-1 win to move in to the semi finals. Niall scored the first goal before Golden Flatts equalised, then Niall's second restored the one goal lead. Connor smashed home the third before Jayden's penalty completed the scoring. The second friendly game was won 5-2 and the mornings

men of the match were Jack and Harvey. The Under 10's faced Hartlepool Pools Youth and despite Rhys' goal and a man of the match performance from Jack they suffered a 4-1 loss.

The Under 11 Russell Foster league team were at home against Seaham Coast. The surface was quite boggy but a reshuffle of the pitch size ensured the game went ahead. Man of the match Noah fired in a great hattrick and Sam also scored. All the team contributed positively in a well deserved 4-2 win. The Under 11 TJFA league team travelled to Grangetown YCC for a difficult quarter final league cup tie. They found themselves a goal behind despite dominating early periods of the game. Taylor headed home a corner to equalise then Lucas broke away and finished well to give Aycliffe a 2-1 half time lead. Charlie scored early in the second half but Grangetown got a goal back to make it 3-2. It was Charlie who then broke through the defence to get the decisive fourth goal and seal the win. Despite a late consolation goal being conceded to make the final score 4-3, the Aycliffe team won and now progress to the semi finals.

The Under 12's were involved in a mid table clash against Darlington 21st All Stars Jets and were beaten 4-2. The Under 15's also travelled to Darlington to face the RA

Spitfires team who have had a difficult season so far. The Aycliffe team ran out comprehensive 13-2 winners.

The Under 17's were due to host Normanby United in a third league clash however their opponents couldn't raise a team so this game was called off.

The Under 23's were up against Seaton Carew in a Durham FA league clash. They got an early lead when M Howe scored first from close range and then added another after being assisted by his brother to put Aycliffe 2-0 up. Scott added the third goal after Seaton had clawed one back and it was 3-1 at the break. In the second half M Howe completed his hattrick, McLeod, Fitzgerald and Gibson got on the score sheet and Scott got his second in an 8-1 win. David Gibson was chosen as the man of the match.

Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 14th February features the musical "MEET ME IN ST LOUIS" Starring Judy Garland. It tells the story of a year in the life of the Smith family in St Louis, leading up to the World's Fair. It was released in 1944 and is just timeless. Songs like "The Trolley Song" "Meet me in St Louis" and Judy's singing of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" make it one of the most Feel Good films ever. 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.



Under 7's Eagles v Blackhall Monks. The Eagles secured a place in a higher division on Saturday, with an emphatic win over Blackhall Monks. On a nail biting final day of the season, with the top 3 places still to be decided, the Eagles couldn't take anything for granted. After a tentative start on a bitter morning, the players soon woke up and had two dominate spells, each reaping several goals.

At half-time, the hard work was done, so wholesale substitutions were made for the second half and they continued to another impressive haul with Blackhall Monks getting a deserved consolation. Goals: Cole 3, Layton 2, Noah 2, Archie 1, Charlie 1, Travis 1, Ethan 1 & 1 own goal. As Consett AFC Inter beat Deerness Valley Thunder on the adjacent pitch, this meant, with the Eagles convincing win, 3 teams secured a place in Division 2. Under 7 Eagles, Consett & Seaham Coast FC are looking forward to the challenge in the forthcoming Summer Season. Following the finale, the squad and co-managers Dave Raine and Will Richardson celebrated with a bowling party at Newton Aycliffe's Planet Leisure.

Under 13 Hawks v Seaton Carew. An away game for the hawks and an early goal from Dylan quickly put the them ahead with a great shot from distance and soon after Lee made it 0-2. The Hawks had a lot of possession and created lots of chances but couldn't find the net. Seaton pulled one back 1-2 and after some good passing they scored again 2-2 at the break.

The lads came out in the second half playing some great football and fought for every ball, the training sessions are paying off. Dylan scored with a penalty after Jack was brought down in the box 2-3. Lee then got his second after a great build up from the lads 2-4. Jack passed the ball across the front of goal unfortunately their keeper kicked it into his own net 2-5 to the Hawks.

Seaton kept on pressing forward and they scored again 3-5. Then after all his hard work throughout the game Drew slotted away a great ball after another fantastic build up from the midfield. FT 3-6 to the Hawks and promotion still a possibility MOTM was Evan another stunning display in defence that kept Seaton out on lots of occasions.

Under 12 girls v Deerness. Away trip in the Q/F of the league shield for the girls and they were on their way after 3 mins, as Kate beats 2 defenders to the ball and slots passed the keeper. Hattie fed the ball wide to Brooke who raced from the half way line, gets to the bye line and hits the perfect cross for Olivia to control and prod home. Alex's turn to race passed the 2 central defenders and calmly beats the keeper.

New Aycliffe Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club Opens



Newton Aycliffe now has an official, Brazilian Club! Both John Paul Cockerill and Dave Cunliffe are now officially affiliated with the well known North East Jiu Jitsu run by the legendary Ellis Younger!

The club will be overseen by Ellis and fellow grapplers to keep the club at a high standard. Two classes will be held a week at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Thursday 8.00-9.00pm and Sundays 3.00-4.00pm. Dave and John Paul are well

known for martial arts and boxing, MMA, and BJJ Grappling. They decided to open up Aycliffe's own club to bring the sport to local people. There's a Facebook page and posters advertising the club and the pair would be happy to teach anyone interested on the days mentioned! Stay tuned for news of competitions and information! Contact John Paul on 07557 655245; Dave on 07854 684712.

The pace and movement were giving Deerness all sorts of problems and just before half time Hattie gets the ball in the box, side steps the defender and finds the corner HT 0-4. Aycliffe continued to create chances but Deerness were looking dangerous on the break and from one of these the ball rebounded between 3 players and despite Grace getting to the ball couldn't prevent it from creeping over the line. FT 1-4... Onwards to an end of month semi final.

U13 Eagles v U13 Falcons. A tough derby game for both teams on a heavy pitch. The first half was dominated by the Falcons with Kieran opening the scoring, but the Eagles equalised through Jack. However a further 2 goals to the Falcons give them the lead - HT 3-1.

The eagles fought back with 2 goals from Dylan making it 3-3. Both teams were wanting the win but The Falcons showed great character to regain the lead, managing to score a good break away goal from Sam. They scored two further goals from Sam and Dylan to settle the game. FT 6-3 to the Falcons.

Selection of other scores

Harrington 3 v 2 Under 17's

Under 14 Falcons 6 v 1 Norton Stockton

Thirsk Falcons 3 v 1 Under 12 Eagles

Under 10 Falcons 1 v 1 Wynyard Village

Under 8 Eagles 6 v 1 Vipers

Norton & Stockton 0 v 3 Under 15 Girls

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