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Volunteer Drivers Needed in the Town to Start SDNA Great Community Project



community.
S.D.N.A will meet regularly to share experiences, ideas and opportunities to continue the good work. To join S.D.N.A is simple, you will need a full driver's licence, two references and will be subject to a DBS check (free of charge).

If you want to help people in our community, have some spare time on your hands now and again or on a more regular basis, wanting a new purpose in your life to make new friends, then SDNA needs you!
All drivers receive training and support along with a mileage allowance of 40.55p a mile from the moment they leave their front door.

Anyone interested can call Debbie at Supportive for an informal chat on 01740 658872 or come along to our open meeting to be arranged soon where Tracy Hutchinson, Support Manager and current Newton Aycliffe volunteer drivers will share their experiences of what it's like to help people in need in our community.

Back in November we published an article headed 'Local Charity Seeks Volunteer Drivers' about Supportive, formerly known as the Social Resource Centre who support the communities of County Durham with volunteer transport. Children and Adults of all ages are supported in getting to and from school, family contact, health appointments and in some areas social community events.

As a direct result of this article, Supportive have increased the number of Newton Aycliffe volunteer drivers but as a community, Newton Aycliffe has and opportunity to go one step further.

With the assistance of

Newton News, Supportive would like to establish S.D.N.A - **Supportive Drivers Newton Aycliffe**. We see S.D.N.A as more than just a group of volunteer drivers, more as people who can build awareness within the Newton Aycliffe area of the services that are on offer to people in need, helping each other in building and growing the group as ambassadors of our

Mini Police on Speedwatch Duty



PCSO Steven Gill, the town's Mini Police from Stephenson Way Academy & Nursery

School, Brian Riley from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) along with Star Radio, carried out a community speedwatch on Stephenson Way. This was in support of Durham Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner's Road Safety Awareness Month, February 2017.

The students were also interviewed by Star Radio about the Mini Police project which is funded through GAMP. On this occasion no cars were found to be speeding, but further checks will be carried out due to complaints from residents at local PACT meetings.

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Murder Mystery at Heighington



On Saturday 11th February a packed house watched a murder mystery at Heighington Village Hall called "A spy at the wedding". Clues and red herrings abounded but the audience of 90 stuck with it and 2 teams solved the mystery.

The very enjoyable night raised £982.90 and this was supplemented by Barclays Bank through their matched funding scheme by £750 so the night raised £1732.90. The funds are for the Church Improvement Fund which

is to provide a more user friendly building including an accessible toilet and improved kitchen.

Thanks are due to our Vicar Lisa Scott for organising and directing, Andrew Maxwell for assisting and arranging the matched funding and to the cast and helpers for all their hard work.

A great team effort, a great social night and a valuable boost to St. Michael's Church Improvement Fund.

ACORN Activities Planned for Early 2017

Popular local residents Association ACORN announced at their February meeting last week the itinerary of the outings which are planned for this summer: Dates for ACORN outings up to July 2017

11th March Leeds Armoury
23rd April Whitby Goth weekend

13th May North Shields Aquarium

17th June Holmfirth; Last of the Summer Wine country and Skipton...

Plans are also progressing for the forthcoming annual Petting Zoo event to be held at Newton Aycliffe leisure centre on Monday 10th April. As usual ACORN is throwing the event open to other groups who may be interested in promoting themselves to the public. As an entertainment for young and old alike the event has been growing in popularity over the previous four years with small animals, bouncy castle, local entertainers, face painting and of course a photo opportunity with Syd the Squirrel and Spotty Dog.

ACORN are keen to encourage other Newtonians to join the group and will be promoting events at the Petting Zoo, little Acorns will also be promoting activities which our under 18s are planning.

Ken Robson Chairman
ACORN Residents Association



MRI Scanner Appeal – Our Hospitals Need Your Support

The fundraising appeal to bring the latest state-of-the-art MRI scanning technology to Darlington Memorial and Bishop Auckland Hospitals is underway with the first donations being received.

The appeal run by the official Charity of County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust aims to raise £2.5m for two new scanners which will provide much improved images and a better experience for patients.

Dr Elizabeth Loney, Clinical Director for Radiology, explains, "MRI scans are particularly good at looking at soft tissues. Tremendous advances in technology over recent years mean they can be enormously helpful in diagnosing cancer, heart conditions, strokes and many other health issues.

Scans can also give doctors information that previously required the patient to undergo surgery or another invasive procedure as part of the investigation of their symptoms. Crucially, MRI scanners don't use radiation, unlike x-rays.

"MRI scans are so useful we're doing more of them each year. In the last year alone the number of MRI scans has increased by 11%.

"In the past, some patients have been unable to tolerate the noise or have felt claustrophobic during the scan which can result in it being abandoned. An MRI scan can take between 30 minutes and an hour - much longer than people may realise, so comfort is really important. Modern scanners have a choice of music the patient can listen to - they can even bring their own!

"We're re-developing the whole MRI suite at Darlington. Changing and waiting areas will provide greater privacy. Anaesthetic facilities will be improved which will particularly benefit children who can't lie still in the scanner.

"An MRI scanner is one of the most expensive pieces of equipment a hospital will ever purchase and with the NHS facing huge financial challenges we need to seek public help in buying them. We're lucky to have the support of Darlington Rotary Club with their great fundraising track record.

"We've already had



donations from people happy with the care they or a loved one has received, regardless of whether they had a scan. We'd love the whole community, including individuals, companies, schools, sports clubs etc, to support us by holding events such as coffee mornings, cake sales and sponsored activities in aid of the Scanner Appeal. Every pound counts. After all, you never know when you or a loved one might need a scan.

"We're happy to offer support and advice and will be publicising events and fundraising on the CDDFT website."

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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Saturday 18th February - "7 Sins"

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 Rhythm and lead vocals has a great tone to his voice and is a great front man 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 won't 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 25th February - "F.M."

Sunday 26th February - 4pm
J.D. & The Woodsmen - £3cc

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Councillors' Surgeries

Aycliffe North & Middridge County Councillors Joan Gray, Mike Dixon and John D. Clare will be holding a Councillor Surgery on Tuesday 21st February, 10.30-11.30am in Woodham Community Centre, at the same time as the PACT drop-in there.

Alternatively, please inform us of issues by emailing:

• joan.gray@durham.gov.uk
• mike.dixon@durham.gov.uk
• john.clare@durham.gov.uk
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Community Garden Growing Nicely

PCP's gardening workshops are still running weekly at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe and new members are always welcome to go along, for free!

There's a horticultural expert on hand who builds activities for each gardener to improve their health needs and to work on goals they want to achieve. All equipment is provided and the gardeners get to take home what they grow.

Anyone is welcome to take a look around the garden and join in with the group on: Mondays 10am-12noon, Wednesdays 10am-12noon, Fridays 1pm-3pm.

PCP Volunteer David Cockburn has created a blog to showcase the work carried out by the garden volunteers in our community garden, take a look at: <http://www.pcp.garden.co.uk>

David says "Working together, socialising, exercise, enjoying the fresh air and the bonus of fresh produce to take home makes for a great morning or afternoon in the garden.

We grow organic fruit and vegetables in our newly built raised beds but also maintain the shrubs and flower beds around the Centre. We are currently sowing seeds of tomatoes, chillies, onions and

leeks and preparing the raised beds for spring planting."

The gardening workshops are ideal for those who love being outdoors amongst nature. Recent work in PCP's community garden has improved access and provided low maintenance solutions, so whatever your age or ability there's something to enjoy and benefit from.

PCP's mission is 'health, wellbeing and learning for all' and this project follows the philosophy that taking part in social activities, being active, exercising, learning and achieving is beneficial to all.

For further information pop into the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, call 01325 321234, email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

MIDDRIDGE MEMORIES

An Exhibition of old photos, maps and newspaper cuttings showing life in Middridge, past and present will be held at Middridge Village Hall on Tuesday 21st February, from 5pm till 8pm. Everyone most Welcome

NEW PATHWAYS TOGETHER 4 SENIOR CITIZENS

Ladies and Gentlemen come and join us at the Phoenix Club (Formerly The Royal British Legion Club) every Friday from 11.00am until 2pm in the Concert room The No 5, 5a, 7, 8, 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 etc. etc., Bus trips and outings will be arranged. You may want to go to the restaurant for your lunch a

lift and disabled facilities are available.

Our first bus trip will be FREE to Clays Garden Centre at Washington in the middle of March We then hope to go on bus trips/theatres and to places of interest chosen by yourselves throughout the year Our aims are to be able 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 i.e Cancer, MS, ME and many more other illnesses and feel the need to get out and about again.

For people who would like to go to the group but feel nervous about meeting new people FREE TRANSPORT CAN BE ARRANGED for your first 1 or 2 visits.

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Tesco Donate Clothes to Town Charity



Sheena with her assistant Yvonne Beynon

Tesco have donated five large boxes of brand new baby and children's clothing which will go to needy families in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas.

The donation also included nappies, wipes, bedding and blankets which are all in high demand by Baby Basics run by Sheena Stephenson from Silverdale House.

Anyone in need can call for an appointment on 07594 297 462.

Young Cast for Musical

Local theatre group 'The Tearaways' after finishing a sell out pantomime recently, are about to start rehearsals for their next production of 'Our House', the group Madness musical.

A spokesperson said "The Tearaways Theatre Group are celebrating 20 years after being formed in 1997, and are looking for young people aged 12 to 25 years of age to join them either as Singers, Dancers or Actors.

They are wanted for this adaptation of this lively musical, with hit songs from Madness, like Baggy Trousers, House of Fun, Our House, It Must be Love, and many more. Our House is a must see 2 hour musical for young and old. It was voted Best New Musical in 2003.

Anyone interested in joining the group should ring 07747 826 324.

More Train Excursions from Newton Aycliffe



Following the success of last year's "Festive Capital Express" Christmas themed day excursion train to London, Bishop Trains are operating three further day excursion trains which will be calling at Newton Aycliffe railway station.

On Saturday 15th April 2017 the "Easter Eggspress" excursion train will leave the town for Liverpool and will offer around 8 hours in the city, on Saturday 17th June 2017 the "Lincolnshire Explorer" will give passengers the choice of either visiting the Cathedral city of Lincoln or the popular seaside resort of Skegness, the trio of excursions is rounded off with the Santa's Special train, the "Festive Capital Express", which will visit Edinburgh on Saturday

18th November.

David Million, Business Partner for Bishop Trains commented "tickets for our 2017 excursion trains are now on sale and our train offers both first and standard seating plus dining options, early booking is particularly recommended for the Festive Capital Express in November which this year is visiting Edinburgh. Passengers travelling on the Edinburgh train will enjoy festive entertainment, mince pies and Santa visiting the children with gifts". Full details of all excursions can be found at www.ba-rail.co.uk/excursion-trains. Bookings can be made online via the website, at Bishop Auckland station ticket office or by telephone on 01388-661394.

Blacksmiths, Back to "Hammer & Pincers"



Since taking over in February 2016 family team of Rachel, Neil and Peter have toyed with the idea of changing the name of The Blacksmiths Arms back to 'The Hammer and Pincers' and finally decided to go for it with a new logo and signs.

The reason is they prefer it to The Blacksmiths Arms and think it's quite cool!

A 1901 census showed it was called The Hammer and Pincers Inn and locals still call it 'The Hammers'. The owners wanted to change the name to refresh people's memory of the pub and hopefully re-visit, and they would also be very interested to receive information about the history of the pub.

In November the small bar was revamped into a lovely dining/function room for smaller groups, the hallway has been decorated and plans are being made for the large dining room. Rachel said "We could not have achieved any of this without our fantastic team of staff.

Running and working in a pub is hard graft but very rewarding".

In 2016 has been the venue for a beer festival, several weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, an international reunion, funeral receptions, Christmas parties, Christenings and Baby Showers.

Readers are invited to try The Hammers and Pincers weekday special evening offers with a Grill Night on Tuesday, Curry Night on Wednesdays, Pie Night on a Thursday and a Fish Night on Fridays - £10 for a meal and a drink.

A 'Golden Years' offer is still available every Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime and our early bird menu is available weekday lunchtimes and evenings.

Ask about holding your special occasion at the pub or in the Tipi's or Garden Marquee.

The new website is www.thehammers.co, with menus and offers regularly updated.

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BISHOP TRAINS

Customers Meet MP Phil in Tesco's

On Monday Phil Wilson, the local MP, held his first 'Supermarket Surgery' in Tesco, Newton Aycliffe. Located at the entrance of the store, Phil was on hand to talk to local constituents about issues and concerns they may have.

Many people who had popped in to do their shopping, took advantage of the opportunity to speak to Phil, either raising particular concerns or just stopping for a chat.

Speaking about the event Phil said; 'The surgery in Tesco's was a great success. It is important that people are able to speak to their MP about issues that may concern them, and the informal setting of the

supermarket meant that I got to speak to people who wouldn't otherwise arrange to a meeting with an MP. It also gave me a much broader insight into concerns facing the community. I'd like to say thank you to Tesco's for letting me set up in their entrance, and for helping me be more accessible to my constituents.'

Overall, the event was a great success and Phil looks forward to holding more supermarket surgeries, along with Brexit themed and constituency surgeries across Sedgefield. In the meantime, should you have any issues which you feel his office may be able to help with, please contact 01325 321 603.



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AYCLIFFE Business Park

NEWS

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Sponsor for Aycliffe's Business Awards

Endeavour Partnership have announced they will be one of the key sponsors of this year's 'Make Your Mark' awards. The annual event recognises the achievements of companies based at Aycliffe Business Park and will this year be held on March 1st at the Xcel Centre.

An independent panel of judges will decide on 10 awards for this year's event including Apprenticeships, Employer of the Year, Apprentice of the Year, Engineering and Manufacturing, Export, Heart of the Community, Newcomer, Service Business, Small Business, Company of the Year and Innovation, the award sponsored by Endeavour Partnership.

Endeavour, one of the North East's leading commercial legal firms, employs a team of 50 and has a reputation spanning over 16 years, providing high quality advice on a range of business law matters including mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property, employment, commercial property and corporate recovery and insolvency from its headquarters at Teesdale in Stockton.

Managing partner of Endeavour Partnership, Paul Bury, who will be presenting the Innovation award on the night said: "We're passionate about the North East's thriving business community and it is awards such as these that continue to encourage and boost companies across our vast region."

"Aycliffe Business Park boasts such a diverse range of businesses so it's fantastic to see an awards ceremony to focus on the incredible achievements of those companies and individuals, many of whom we're currently working with."

"Innovation is vital for ongoing development and we're proud to be able to



Paul Bury

support this award and look forward to unveiling the winner on the night."

This year's ceremony will be the first to be delivered by the new Aycliffe Business Park Community (ABPC), which was formed in 2016. Two high-profile entrepreneurs are keynote speakers: Andy Preston, from Middlesbrough, CEO of Sleepout, which holds events across the UK to raise funds to combat homelessness and poverty. Yarm-based Peter Wilcock joins Andy to speak at the awards, as a founding director of Comcast UK.

ABPC chair Kerina Clark said: "The Make Your Mark Awards have reached their third year and continue to grow in popularity. "This is illustrated by the calibre of our keynote speakers and sponsors. Endeavour Partnership has a high-profile reputation across the North East so to have their support is a huge boost for our event."

The deadline to enter the 2016 Make Your Mark is 20th February 2017, and businesses can enter online easily at www.aycliffeawards.co.uk. Tickets for the evening itself have been subsidised and are priced at £29.95 each. Other sponsorship packages are also available from www.aycliffeawards.co.uk or by emailing hello@aycliffeawards.co.uk

Take Advantage of New Apprenticeship Levy

Some of the region's biggest employers have been urged to take advantage of the apprenticeship levy, which comes into force this year. From April the way government funds apprenticeships will change and some employers will be required to contribute to the apprenticeship levy, with changes to funding for apprenticeship for all employers.

Representatives from more than 40 local businesses including Hitachi, Gestamp Tallent, 3M, GSK, Nifco and Ebac, attended a specialist employer event focusing on the levy at South West Durham Training (SWDT) on Aycliffe Business Park.

County Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Network director of operations Ben Gilhespy warned attendees that the so-called skills gap is actually worse than how currently perceived. "We keep hearing people talk about a skills gap for our 16-24 year olds, but it stretches right throughout our businesses," said Ben.

"One of the key areas we're looking at for SME's in the county is succession planning. People at the top can't move on without having people with the necessary skills ready to move up. We need to use the levy to turn around the staff we have and achieve a quality of people we can utilise in businesses." Former Ebac MD, Pamela Petty, now chair of Bishop Auckland College board and a director of Aycliffe Business Park Community, an apprentice herself, said: "I understand the strain businesses are under, but I'm a massive believer in the apprenticeship model - on



(left to right): SWDT senior business development officer Ian Nelson and chief executive Lee Childs with Ben Gilhespy and Pamela Petty.

the job experience with off the job learning.

"One of the good things about the levy is that there's actually more funding available in the new system for older people, as it's not just about 16 year olds any more. There are opportunities for people in companies now who have a really good attitude and understanding of the business to up-skill themselves. "It's really important we not only take on the commitment of taking on apprentices, but also work with them and give them the time to learn."

SWDT chief executive Lee Childs an engineer from Shildon served his time with SWDT 16 years ago and took over as CEO in October 2015. He said: "The apprenticeship reforms might seem quite daunting to employers. They'll have to handle a digital account and manage their levy pot, but rather than being afraid of it, businesses must embrace it, and actually see the changes as an opportunity".

"We want to talk employers through the levy and how the changes will affect businesses."

SWDT last year welcomed new apprentices from Hitachi Rail Europe and 3M in Aycliffe, Darlington-based Cummins, Stockton-based car parts maker Nifco and Barnard Castle-based pharmaceuticals giant GSK. All are on engineering or manufacturing programmes with bespoke elements required by their employer, including hydraulics, pneumatics, electrical, fabrication and welding. SWDT now has more than 300 learners on the books across all years and a number of new customers.

SWDT, a subsidiary of Bishop Auckland College which employs 27 staff, celebrates its 50th year later this year.

WINTER TOY FAIR AT LOCO

Check out the Winter Toy Fair event at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon on Saturday February 18 & Sunday February 19, 2017.

Visitors will have the chance to browse a wide range of trade stands offering modelling, railway, die cast, collectables and more. Plus - for a small charge - enjoy a steam train ride behind Furness Railway No. 20, the oldest standard gauge locomotive still working in the UK.

The Winter Toy Fair event is open from 10am to 4pm, and parking and admission are free of charge.

For more information, please call the museum on 01388 777 999.



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/CNB15217

This week's list includes important reports about the Cabinet meeting and the NHS Better Health event, along with lots of things to do at half-term.

COUNCIL

- DCC (budget-setting) Cabinet meeting, 8 February
- Vlog: DCC, its budget, Surrey County Council - and a government which lacks moral compass
- Vlog: Government cuts and the DCC Budget - a lesson in LEGO
- A Council that is fantastic and fun!
- DCC got there too!
- Beautiful Aycliffe North Challenge
- Our MP Phil Wilson calls for tariff-free, impediment-free trade agreement with the EU
- Latest Roadworks information

COMMUNITY

- Ron Hogg PCVC's Road Safety Awareness Month

sees 133 drivers apprehended for using their mobile phone whilst driving

- Our PCVC goes to London seeking to safeguard police funding
- Last week was HeartUnions Week
- My report on the NHS Better Health Programme event in Darlington, Wed. 8 February
- Save the Savings Campaign
- Northern Powergrid February newsletter
- What's on at NAYCC - useful calendar
- Learning courses at the PCP
- Colour your Life FREE Family Fun session, 1-2:30pm, Wednesday 22 Feb at the PCP: phone 01325 321234 to book.
- February School Holiday partners activity list for children, young people and families
- Greenfield Arts half-term activities
- Upcoming family activities at the Durham Oriental Museum
- Animal encounters at the Locomotion Museum, Shildon, 10am-4pm, 25-26 February

Opposing Fake News

Dear Sir,
 We said we would oppose fake news, and Mrs Tomlin's letter is the worst culprit! Her letter last week was nothing but a personal attack on Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper, two worthy councillors who have done a superb amount for Aycliffe West, and it was full of errors!

Kate and Eddy know their ward boundaries and their attendance at meetings is very good. They both supported the campaign to save the Post Offices, and it is not a County Council matter anyway. DCC did NOT close the DLI, and in the same week she says DCC closed the DLI, an exhibition on the DLI was held in the Library!

Kate and Eddy told people what they have done, asked for comments on the leaflet, so how is that 'showing no respect for what the people want'? What has coming out of the EU got to do with Kate and Eddy's record as County Councillors? Everybody but Mrs Tomlin knows it is not their money - does she think they should pay out of their own pocket?

The reason Labour opposes the government is because the Labour Party are the OPPOSITION.

We LOVE political debate, but we will fight political misinformation.
 Aycliffe Reply

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 21st February features the comedy-drama "STEPMOM" Starring Julia Roberts, Susan Sarandon and Ed Harris.

A broken marriage, a new girlfriend and two children in the middle of it all doesn't sound like comedy. Well no, it isn't all laughs; they all have some learning to do, learning to be there, for the joy, for the tears and for each other. So when it isn't comedy it's heart-warming.

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 contact Ric Hargreaves 01325 316 755.

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Aycliffe Face Synners in Semi's

Newton Aycliffe will face Ebac Northern League Second Division side Billingham Synthonia in the semi final of the Durham Challenge Cup.

Aycliffe were first drawn out of the Durham FA hat & so have the home draw for the tie to be played at Moore Lane on Tuesday 28 February.

The Newtonians are the

current holders of the County's premier cup competition having beaten West Auckland in last season's final.

The semi final place was earned thanks to a close win over Seaham Red Star in January. Since then Aycliffe have earned a point at Jarrow Roofing but were denied a game last Saturday when snow forced

the postponement of the scheduled game at Consett. Hopefully the weather will improve for the trip to Penrith on Saturday 18 February.

The rearranged Consett game will be played on Tuesday 21 January. Aycliffe then return to Moore Lane for a league game against Whitley Bay on Saturday 25 February before the Cup Semi Final on the 28th.

Ex Scout Mayor Presents New Flag to Aycliffe Group



The Aycliffe Scout Group, who meet at Aycliffe Village Hall every Monday and Thursday evening, were presented with a new flag staff and Union flag by the Mayor, Cllr Jed Hillary, on 9th February.

Jed noticed the Scout Group had mismatched flag staffs at the Remembrance Service held at St Andrew's Church last November. A member of the Baden Powell Scouts himself

as a youngster, Jed undertook to source a new flag to present to the Scout Group.

Jed commented "I'm immensely proud to be able to give something back to a youth organisation that gave me so much, back in the 1970's.

There's truth in the saying once a Scout, always a Scout," said Leader, Margaret Lenehan, thanking Jed on behalf of the Scouts.

Darts Competition Joe Ewin Memorial Trophy

It's the 5th year of the 'Joe Ewin Memorial', the venue once again is The Turbinia, Newton Aycliffe. Doors open 10.30am. Registration £5 by 12.45pm. Toe to Oche by 1pm. **Saturday 25th February** ALL Entry Fees added to Prize Fund. Sponsored by 'Heineken UK', so we have £200 added to the prize fund. Can we have some new champions to take Alan Edward's crown? If enough time we will have another 'Winner Takes All' blind pairs competition.

Even if you don't want to enter, come along and watch some awesome matches by some of the North-east's best players.

Raffles and fund raising will take place throughout the day with ALL proceeds going to the 'Wishing Well Club' in Aycliffe - a charity very close to Joe's heart, and one in which he was involved.

Business Park Burglary - £250 Reward

On 7th - 8th February A. D. Marine Repairs of Unit 12 Gurney Way on the Business Park was burgled when most of their test equipment, tool stations, were removed. It included several socket

sets, 2-500 volt meggers, 1 - 1000 volt (dangerous in the hands of children), tool boxes, circlip 20 volt battery drill, lathe tools, hammers, sledge hammer, coolant pump, SKF vibration tester plus many other items.

John Painter the owner is offering £250 reward for information leading to person or persons being brought to justice. Any information will be strictly confidential. Tel: (01325) 311 135. E-mail: painteradj@aol.com

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Friday 17th February

0600-0900 - Wake Up with Wes - 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 18th February

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

Sunday 19th 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 20th to Thursday 23rd February

0600-0900 - Wake Up With Wes - 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

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FREE ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Don't miss your chance to view an assortment of creatures in FREE "Animal Encounters" workshops at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon on **Saturday February 25 & Sunday February 26, 2017.** Sessions will take place at 11am and 1pm, led by experienced rangers from Animal Story. Suitable for children aged 3+, sessions are designed to encourage an interest in wildlife and the natural world around us. Sessions follow a drop-in format, and it's free to participate - just come along and join in!

Plus check out the "Animal and The Railways" activity packs, available at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon from Monday February 20 to Sunday February 26. Priced at just £1 each, packs contain a themed museum trail, an animal mask to decorate, plus a pencil and certificate. Available whilst stocks last. Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is open daily from 10am to 4pm, and parking and admission are free of charge. For more information, please call the museum on 01388 777999.

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Hitachi Joins Health Awareness Scheme for Staff

Hitachi Rail is leading by example in Newton Aycliffe by signing up to the North East Better Health at Work Award. Hitachi Rail has committed to investing in the health and wellbeing of its staff at its site on Aycliffe Business Park by signing up to the Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA). The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) manage the County Durham sub region of the North East BHAWA and are working with Hitachi to help them achieve the award. Lindsay Sheridan, PCP Programme Manager for the Award says, "I am delighted that Hitachi Rail has joined over 60 other local organisations operating in County Durham to raise awareness of health and wellbeing in the workplace. This is a huge developing area for employers as we need to support our employees in becoming healthier and happier at work.

The economic cost of working age ill health is £100bn a year to the national economy, with 131m working days lost. The BHAWA can assist in reducing work-related ill health and health-related worklessness by creating healthier and more productive workplaces. We are hoping that other organisations on the Newton Aycliffe business park follow Hitachi's lead and join in on becoming a healthier workplace too." Hitachi Rail already promotes healthy lifestyles and considers the health of its employees as important so this Award



will help the business move forward in a structured and supported way. Louise Williams, HR Advisor at Hitachi Rail Europe said: "We are committed to the health and wellbeing of our workforce and are busy promoting healthy lifestyles inside and outside of work. We are currently in the process of encouraging our 800 employees to have a Check4Life health check to raise awareness of any health issues they may have. This has been a real success. We are excited to be taking part in the Better Health at Work Award with PCP and are looking forward to seeing the benefits." For those organisations who have not considered promoting health at work, taking part in this award will help you reap the rewards of encouraging a healthy workforce.

There are 4 levels to the Award, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Continuing Excellence, with appropriate criteria at each stage to build into an Award portfolio.

The Bronze Level lays a firm foundation to build a healthier workplace and is the starting point for all participants. So, amongst other things, this will see Hitachi Rail raising awareness of health in general, conducting a workforce health needs assessment and then running three workplace health campaigns/events based on these results, which could be anything from heart health and diabetes sessions to smoking cessation and stress awareness. Organisations have up to a year to complete each level before they are assessed and progress to the next one, with the ultimate aim of workplace health and wellbeing becoming as embedded as safety. The North East BHAWA is a partnership between the 12 Local Authorities in the

region, the Northern TUC and the NHS. Developed to give recognition and endorsement to those organisations that are committed to developing a sustainable culture of health and wellbeing in the workplace.

This means offering encouragement, opportunity and practical support so staff have the chance to be fitter, healthier and safer. The Award is free, open to all organisations in the north east, regardless of size or sector and brings real benefits for employers, employees and the economy.

For more information on the Better Health at Work Award contact Lindsay Sheridan, Programme Manager at PCP on Lindsay.sheridan@pcp.uk.net or telephone 01325 321234. Information can be found at www.betterhealthatworkdurham.co.uk or www.betterhealthatworkne.org

Women's World Day of Prayer for Philippines

This year's Service is hosted by St. Clare's Church near the town centre on Friday March 3rd at 11.00am. The theme is 'Am I Being Unfair to You'.

Women all over the world are asked to come together and have a service to pray for women of another country.

The chosen country this year is the Philippines, and women from most of our churches on the town will be taking part.

We have the 'Open the Book Team' from the parish, who

go into many of our schools on the town, who will act out the Gospel reading.

After the Service you all are invited to the adjoining church hall for a warming bowl of soup and other refreshments.

Everyone is invited to come long and join us on this special day, and if you are reading this and have any memorabilia, or anything from the Philippines that would help with a display, please call Pam Lovell on 312 6841 - thank you.

Honest John Helps Residents Association



Honest John and Val (back right) with ACORN members

ACORN and little ACORNs would like to thank Honest John for his generous donation of £1000 to help fund our latest project. An inter-generational educational and historical weekend trip to London will take place later this year, when we will be visiting the Houses of Parliament, museums and Buckingham Palace, maybe even take in a Show.

Thanks to John and our own fundraising we will be able to heavily subsidise this trip making it possible for some to visit our capital for the first time.

Keith Lovejoy, Vice-chair ACORN

Students in Robotics Challenge



On Wednesday the 8th of February 9 KS3 students from

Woodham Academy went to compete in the TE EEP Robotics Challenge at the Caterpillar Centre of Light in Peterlee. This event, entered by over 200 schools, was the culmination of three months careful preparation in school. The challenge was to develop and build a robot from scratch before programming it. Students took on a variety of responsibilities from construction and coding but also with research tasks and making a social network page. Each task completed earned points for the team.

During the day at Caterpillar, students really had the chance to showcase their project and hard work.

Their robot was assessed in a variety of tasks by judges in particular fields, namely its design and its ability to carry

out specific space inspired tasks such as raising a solar panel, gathering a moon buggy and launching a rocket.

The students were also required to give a presentation on their robot and undergo a mystery task which they performed highly in. Concluding the trip students got a tour of the Caterpillar construction line and facility which they found both interesting and very enjoyable.

Many students came back from the trip having developed their knowledge of coding and the use of robotics as well as the application of these skills in the field.

Though the team did not win the robotics challenge, students gained a range of skills and new found knowledge, seeing the application of the science they are studying.

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Juniors Football Report



The wet weather took account for most of the Juniors action with only the Under 8's and 17's with matches this weekend.

The Under 8's have continued to dominate the Durham TJFA Division 2. They have played five games since the Christmas break, winning four and losing just once. Throughout these games the 27 goals scored are testament to the hard work all the players are putting in.

This week's game saw a 7-3 win against a side who have lost only twice this season. The players development is further demonstrated in the second friendly games where 14 goals have been produced from all over the pitch. With goal keeping duties shared between the players all have done well in pulling off great saves. This squad includes

Lewis, Harrison, Marley, Josh T, Kai, Harry, Ashton, Joe, Ethan C, Josh C, Roman and Ethan N.

The Under 9's did brave the weather to complete the Darlington South Park Run in order to raise funds for their team, well done to all who completed the run. Unfortunately there was no match for them to enjoy this weekend.

The Under 17's had a top of the table clash at Stockton West End on their 3G surface. Before kick off Aycliffe trailed the league leaders Stockton by 7 points but have played 4 games less, so a win would leave them well placed in their push for the title.

The home team though came away with a 2-1 win to retain top spot and leave Aycliffe needing to pick up points from the games in hand to

close the gap at the top. In this game it was West End who took the lead before good interplay between Sam and Sean set up Kieran to volley in the equaliser.

In a fiercely contested second half the hosts got ahead and despite Aycliffe pressure they couldn't get the goal required to level the game.

Acknowledgement

JOHN WATT June and Anthony wish to thank family, friends and neighbours for kindness and sympathy shown. Also for cards of condolence and donations received for The Freeman Heart & Lung Transplant Association, during their recent sad bereavement. Thanks to Les Lewis for a most comforting Service. Thanks to Dr. Parry, Freeman Hospital, Dr. Prescott, Bishop Auckland Hospital and Doctors and Staff at Peaseway Medical Centre for their care over the past years. Thanks to Mandy at Woodham Golf Club for the good spread of food and warm welcome. Thanks also to Barry of Gordon Fletcher & Sons Funeral Directors for their guidance.

Talking Jesus Mission with Two Bishops

The Parish of Great Aycliffe are holding a three day mission from March 3rd - March 6th. This is to encourage people to talk more openly about Jesus and we have the pleasure of having the Bishops of Whitby and Lancaster coming along with their staff to meet the lovely folk of this parish. This means YOU.

The following events are being held so please come along to some, or all of them - We would love to see you.

Friday March 3rd. Big Questions in Aycliffe Village Hall from 1.30 to 4.00pm Come along and enjoy tea and cakes with our Bishops, and their staff and ask those questions that have always troubled you. Then have a Prayer walk to St. Andrew's church, and look out for the Angels on the way.

Friday March 3rd. Bistro Church in the Pub! 7 - 9pm. Bring some friends to the Huntsman Pub in Woodham, share delicious food, have a drink and a chat. There is room at the Inn for YOU - See you there.

Saturday March 4th - Messy Mass at St. Clare's Church, 4pm - 6pm. Be on time, those who have been before know how much fun this is. Bring your parents kids and all the family, and join in with our Bishops and their staff in crafts, activities, songs, stories, sharing food and drink and lots more. Come along, the more the merrier we will be.

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Obituary

OLIVE HAMMOND of Clarence Green, Newton Aycliffe. Peacefully in hospital on February 5th, aged 84 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late Maurice, a much loved Mam to Carrie, Michele and the late Sue, a dear Mother in law, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Will family and friends please meet for a Service at St. Clare's Church on Monday 20th February at 10.45am, to be followed by Cremation at Darlington. Floral tributes may be sent to The Co-operative Funeralcare. Oakcliffe Cottage, MacMillan Road, Newton Aycliffe

In Memoriam

JUNE IVESON

February 19th 2016

Gone are the days we used to share, But in my heart you are always there, Never more than a thought away, Loved and remembered every day. I miss your smile, your gentle face, Nothing will ever take your place. Your Loving Husband Bill

No one knows how much we miss you, No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you. Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, Sweetly, tender, fond and true. There is not a day Dear Mam, that we do not think of you. Lynn, Ken and family

It only takes a little space, To write how much we love and miss you, But it will take the rest of our lives, To forget the day we lost you. Paul, Elaine and family

Deep in our hearts, You will always stay, Loved, missed and remembered every day. Malcolm, Sarah and family

LESLEY TOPPING

Died 20/01/17

Dear Mam, I wrote this poem to let you know, just how much I love you so. You'll always be here in my heart, for all the time we are apart. You helped me learn, you watched me grow, you always loved me, this I know. It is with great sadness that I say goodbye, as "off to heaven you will fly". Goodbye Mam!!! Marie

KATHLEEN HILLARY Two years have passed since you left. Still missed and loved. John
PAUL STEVENS for as long as there is a memory you will live on in our hearts. Loved always, Mam and Dad xx
PAUL My brother and best friend. No matter how long it's been, I will always miss you. Julie x

Congratulations

BARRIGAN 19th February. Congratulations Chloe on your 21st birthday. Have fun Princess. Love you, Nana and Grandad xx

MEGAN HARRISON Happy 21st to our beautiful Daughter. Hope you have a great weekend. Love you all the world, Mam and Dad xx

MEGAN HARRISON Happy 21st. Love from Curt, Brad and Charlie xxx

MEGAN HARRISON Happy 21st. Lots of love and kisses. Nana, Auntie Lynne, Uncle Peter, Auntie Yoli and Ricky xxxxx

MEGAN HARRISON Happy 21st Megs. Lots of love from Auntie Ally and Uncle Andrew xx

MEGAN HARRISON Happy 21st birthday, have a great time. All our love always, Auntie Anita, Uncle Micky, Ross, Robyn and Reed xxxxx
MEGAN HARRISON To a very caring, beautiful, special Granddaughter, happy 21st. Love you loads, Nana and Grandad xx

GEMMA HOWARTH and Allan Foddering Congratulations on your Engagement. Love Dad & June
GEMMA & ALLAN Congratulations on your Engagement. Lots of love from Carrie, Daniel and Sebastian xx
GEMMA & ALLAN Congratulations on your Engagement. Love from Paul and Bev.

For Sale

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Chloe Barrigan



19/02/1996

Happy 21st Birthday

Hope you have a fantastic day. Lots of love, Mum, Olivia, Sophia, Nana and Grandad and Coco xxx

Abigail Hughes



Happy 21st Birthday

To our gorgeous Daughter & Big Sis. So proud of the young woman you've become. Love, Mam, Dad and Leah

Heather Harker



Happy 60th Birthday

18th February
Congratulations on your Wedding Day Mam & John. Love from all your family xxx

Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you to Honest John for his donation to JAM Club. We would struggle to continue to keep our club going without his generosity. We will use the money to go toward a day at the seaside in the summer. Thank you, Margaret, Trudy and Niki

COULD I SAY THANKS to all who helped me when I had a fall in Pease Way on Saturday 4th February. The lady who stopped in a car from Leisure Centre who phoned an ambulance, she had been to set up a 60th party. Sharon Lyndsy, the Park Lads, my Sister Karen, Louise stayed with me until the ambulance arrived. Thank you to them, and not forgetting, the Policeman who wrapped me in tin foil. Cooked to a 'T'. Christine Peacock

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Youthy Football Round Up



A weekend of heavy rain resulted in most games being

postponed. **Under 10 Girls v St Cuthberts Amazons.** Aycliffe started well and were soon rewarded with 2 quick goals from Heidi and then Lily. The girls were now playing with confidence and the Amazons followed suit trying to close down our strikers. A ball into the box was met by Fearnie, to calmly score.

Keira in goal for this match spent most of it spectating whilst Phoebe, Gracie, Libby and Eden kept the opposition quiet. Aycliffe were now controlling the game and the goals came with Imogen and Chloe adding to the score line. Second goals from Lily, Fearnie, Imogen and Chloe gave a FT 9-0.

Under 10 Girls v Felling Magpies. Aycliffe lifted by a good win, were keen to get straight into the next match. The girls looked strong and it was end to end action against a team equally matched. It was Felling who opened the scoring but Aycliffe quickly responded, passing the ball and their efforts were rewarded with a goal from Imogen.

Both teams were pushing for the win with lots of efforts on target but the opposition keeper (and the post) kept the ball out. Then a break away from Felling, racing up field to score their second. Aycliffe desperate for another goal pushed and pushed but it was not meant to be - FT 1-2.

We are now looking to increase our numbers in preparation for next season. If you are in Year 5, 4 or 3 and are keen to try football, why not come and give it a go? Our coaching sessions are for all abilities and are fun and enjoyable, making everyone feel welcome. If you need further information contact Berni 07939 045 242.

U12 Eagles v Stockton Town. Travelling to Teesside for an away game in awful conditions, the lads started by playing against the wind. It was a tight game for 20 minutes then Jack Clarkson picked up the ball on the wing and his inch perfect cross found Kieran Walton who slotted home - Ht 0.1. Stockton did their best to make it difficult in the second half but when Kieran scored our second the result seemed

to be safe.

Some more good football again found Alfie Backhouse who crossed the ball for Kian to confidently volley the ball into the back of the net. This was shortly followed by some more good play when Calum Whitfield passed through to Kian again and he coolly finished to wrap up the points FT 0-4.

U11's v 21st All Stars. The game started in freezing cold conditions with horizontal sleet and a chilling wind. Both teams were playing well but eventually the All Stars pressure paid off and they were soon 2 nil up.

Credit to Aycliffe though they battled and got stuck back in and played some lovely passing football, one move ended with Brandon slotting in a lovely goal. 21st All Stars had a lot more in the tank and got a couple more goals which woke Aycliffe up with a couple of great strikes from Charlie and Matthew HT 4-3. The game was finely balanced but All Stars got another couple of quick goals with Aycliffe not closing down quick enough. Charlie got one back, and then Isaac surged forward to be brought down outside the box. Free kick and up steps Charlie who drilled it in for his hat trick. However tiredness and cold were beginning to set in. Aycliffe tried but just couldn't contain the All Stars - FT 9-5

If you want more information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit the website.

Woodham Centre AGM

Woodham Village Community Association at St Elizabeth's Close, Woodham DL5 4UE will hold their AGM on Tuesday 21st March at 7pm.

Review of Accounts, Election of Officers, Membership, and to consider any resolutions which must be submitted in writing two weeks before date of AGM.

Copies of Agenda are available at the Centre or by Email woodham.community@gmail.com David Sutton-Lloyd Treasurer.

Reunited After 50 Years



Photo back row left to right: Fred Langley, Bill Robson, John Vickers, Jeff Reid, Joe Coates, Alan Kell. Front row: Terry Langley, Dennis Lovelass, Keith Summers, Kevin Bibby, John Graham.



Recently the 1967 Under 18's Boys Club Team held a reunion to mark the 50 years they played together. Not a full team turn out but most were present and readers can see how the 50 years has treated them.

Photo back row left to right: Fred Langley, Bill Robson, Jack Kasher, Jeff Reid, Joe Coates, Alan Kell.

Front row: Terry Langley, Dennis Lovelass, Ian Melvin, Kevin Bibby, John Graham.

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