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Councillors Back Residents Against Livin's Application

Planning Committee Reject Landlord's Plan

Dear Sir,
I have served the people of Newton Aycliffe in local politics for many years and during this time have experienced disappointments and occasionally success, but Thursday 16th February was a most successful day. A pattern has developed recently where Livin, who were set up as a social landlord, has been applying for and granted permission by officers of the County Council to demolish garages and build houses/bungalows, some of which were for sale. Recently I wrote in the paper that livin had applied to build five houses for sale on a garage site and open space land at Armstrong Close/St Oswald's Walk. Concerned local residents contacted their local councillors requesting assistance in opposing the application. Councillor Sarah Iveson and Councillor Jed Hillary immediately insisted that an officer would not make the decision on the development but that it would be decided by the planning committee. Councillor Wendy Hillary, Councillor Malcolm Iveson and myself immediately posted written objections to the development. At a meeting of the Town Council, it was decided to oppose the development and

appoint a consultant to present our case and opposition to the proposal was based on the following:

1. The 'piece of grass' that the application referred to was not any piece of grass, but amenity open space. Livin claimed they could do anything they wanted with the piece of grass as they owned it - this is not so! This area has been used by successive generations of children as a play area and was transferred to livin to maintain, not develop. Yes, this is a liability not an asset for livin but at the time of transfer from Sedgefield Borough Council, livin received a 'sweetheart deal' with considerable assets and only a small amount of liabilities. Open spaces are some of those liabilities.
2. The removal of garages and parking spaces would have an adverse and cumulative effect on parking in the area. The parking provision already there and other parts of the town was made in the 1960's. Car ownership and parking problems have increased tremendously in the intervening years. Plans already approved by officers will result in the removal of 110 garages leaving many more cars parked on our streets and green spaces.
3. The amount of weight that should be given to the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan should be taken into consideration. The GANP has been in progress since 2012, with residents, business representatives, landlords and councillors involved. It has proceeded through the necessary consultation processes and been examined and approved by both the Durham County Council planners and the Independent Examiner, passed ready for a referendum, subject to minor alterations. These amendments have been made, agreed and the Plan is ready for referendum. Two of the major issues in the Neighbourhood Plan are the retention of our



Cllr. Bob Fleming

green amenity open space and problems associated with parking. Local residents rose to the occasion - thirty nine objections were submitted in writing, together with a petition with twenty more signatories (note - a petition counts as only one objection). The meeting to discuss the application was held on Thursday 16th February, with the committee comprised of eleven County Councillors. Only two councillors were from Newton Aycliffe, the remaining nine came from other parts of the County. The County Planning Officer dealing with the case recommended approval, as did a representative from livin. The Town Council's Consultant, Mr Steve Barker, Councillor Jed Hillary and myself spoke in opposition to the proposal. When the committee members discussed the proposal, Councillor Mike Dixon immediately proposed that the application be refused. Councillor John Clare seconded the proposal and both councillors spoke effectively and with some feeling to the proposal. It is most unusual for members to go against planning officers' advice but it soon became clear as members spoke that they were in support of the proposal to reject the application. When the vote was taken, all voted to refuse livin's application. This was not only a victory for democracy but it showed that if residents of the town are prepared to stand and fight for a good cause, they can win. This case also set precedent on a number of areas showing developers cannot proceed on our green amenity open spaces. Already our Neighbourhood Plan has weight in planning decisions and if, following a referendum, it is agreed it will have even more substantial powers especially as Durham County Council still does not have a Local Plan, therefore it is essential we vote for the Plan when it goes to referendum in

June. I have no doubt that as I write this letter, livin will be planning an appeal against the decision. So be it, but we will fight to retain our open spaces

to the bitter end as there is no open season on our open spaces.

Cllr. Bob Fleming
Leader - Great Aycliffe Town Council

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Writing Masterclass

Greenfield Arts held their first Creative Writing Masterclass recently with published author John Dean leading the session. The course got off to a great start with budding authors drawing upon John's experience and passion for writing.

The first session centred upon finding ideas for a story, looking at the different ways you might be inspired to take pen to paper. Greenfield Arts are now offering the chance of a second Masterclass with John that will focus upon creating characters, where they come from and how you can use them to make a great story.

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.

The Writing Masterclass will be held on Thursday 16th March 2017 and will run from 6.00pm – 8.00pm at a cost of only £5.00. If you have a story to tell or would like to be involved in this friendly class why not check out our website at www.greenfield-arts.co.uk where you can book online.

If you would like to know any more about the course or any of our activities you can also call our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk



Local Dancers Perform with Stars



A new panto is on at the Majestic Theatre in Darlington this weekend! Not only were the senior dancers chosen

from Aycliffe Dance Academy but the Academy's Principal, Emma Cox, was chosen as choreographer.

Emma is delighted that ADA has been given this amazing opportunity and thrilled her students are to experience working with a professional production company and cast. Opportunities like this gives her dancers a taster of what it's really like to work in the performing arts industry.

Producer Tom Rolfe has created a fresh family show 'Sleeping Beauty' featuring well-known celebrities; Steven Arnold (from Coronation Street) and Andy McGuire (from Hollyoaks).

Students from the Academy were put through their paces back in September at an intense audition where only 10 dancers were selected to participate in the show. Amy Chatt, Emily French, Chloe Hutchinson, Sarah Murray, Katie Noades, Piper Roddam, Katya Seaman, Chloe Shaw, Isabelle Street and Hannah Tarn were the lucky dancers to be given this opportunity of a life time.

'Sleeping Beauty' from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th February and tickets are still available. You can purchase them from the Majestic Theatre Box Office or by visiting www.majestic-theatre.co.uk. For more information regarding dance classes please contact Emma on 07908 162 868.

Building a Warm Bishop Auckland Welcome

Hundreds of County Durham workers are playing their part in ensuring visitors to the region receive a warm welcome. Ground is now being broken on a new multi million pound Welcome Building, which will stand overlooking the Market Place in Bishop Auckland from 2018.

The building, which will ultimately serve as an information hub for local residents, visitors and tourists, has been commissioned by regional charity, Auckland Castle Trust, as part of a £70m project to revitalise the area.

The contract for the Welcome Building's construction, overseen by Darlington professional services company, Turner & Townsend, has been awarded to Bishop Auckland building and engineering firm, VEST Construction. Over the next 12 months, VEST will supervise hundreds of workers from dozens of subcontractors, all helping to bring the building's ambitious vision to life.

Gavin Vest, Managing Director, VEST Construction, said: "We are a locally focussed company, specialising in projects around the North East. It is fantastic now to be working on a unique building so close to our purpose-built base in Bishop Auckland and the firm, along with all our employees and subcontractors from across the region, are proud to be playing their part in transforming the town."

Supported by The Headley Trust, the new Welcome Building has been created by award-winning Niall McLaughlin Architects, which specialises in innovative, interpretive buildings that remain considerate to their surroundings.

Designed to resemble a great wooden siege engine drawn against the walls of Auckland Castle, this particular structure will form a direct link between the Castle and the town centre, effectively opening up access to a property that remained a private residence, closed to the public, for 900 years.

Once completed it will serve as a starting point for visitors to Bishop Auckland, as well as a meeting space for a wide range of community events. It will also boast a 29m high tower with a 15m viewing platform, offering unrivalled views across the Castle grounds, town centre and countryside beyond, "This is a really unique project for us," said Darren Cooke, Contracts Director, VEST Construction. "The architects drawings are amazing and, while it will undoubtedly have its challenges, it will be remarkable to see the building rising on what is now an empty patch of land. We're particularly looking forward to putting the viewing tower in place later this summer."

The Welcome Building's ground breaking, which follows a realignment of the Market Place by Durham County Council, supported by the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and North East Local Enterprise



Partnership (NELEP), marks one of the first visible signs of Auckland Castle Trust's revitalisation project.

Ultimately this will include a Spanish Art Gallery, Mining Art Gallery, Walled Garden, Faith Museum and fully restored, Bishop's Palace, all designed to create a world class arts, faith and heritage destination in the North East.

Jonathan Ruffer, Chair of Auckland Castle Trust, said: "Auckland Castle Trust is now entering the hard hat phase on many aspects of

its Future Plans, including the Welcome Building. It is a pleasure to be working with local companies, like VEST Construction, and to be creating opportunities not only directly, but along the supply chain."

Further details about Auckland Castle Trust's Future Plans and its ambitions for regeneration can be found at www.aucklandcastle.org. More information about VEST Construction is also available at <http://liveco.co.uk/>

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Saturday 25th February - "F.M."

Review: "Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably! What can you say about FM, this was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock and roll hall of fame. They did the lot: Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zeppelin and no real cheese, OK they did "Whisky in the Jar", but hey! FM put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid-week gigs just don't seem to have the same wow. The atmosphere was great, as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to "Sweet Child Of Mine", they did "Welcome to The Jungle". How long have FM been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome."

Sunday 26th February - "JD & The Woodsmen" £3cc, 4pm

Hailing from County Durham, JD & The Woodsmen were formed back in the summer 2012. With backgrounds ranging across Rock, Gospel, Blues and Country, the band quickly found their calling in Funk, Soul and Rock 'n' Roll... and the rest, as they say, is history. Starting out in the local venues of South West Durham the band gained a beloved and fiercely loyal following. Since then they have played hundreds of gigs ranging from pubs and clubs to private parties and weddings around the country. After successful appearances at Stone Valley Festival, Shildonbury, Crookfest, Richmond Live and a headlining slot at their hometown festival FuzzFest, they have made lots of friends as well as gaining a reputation as one of the hardest working bands in the North East. Covering artists ranging from James Brown, Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles to Wilson Pickett, Al Wilson and Martha Reeves, evoking memories of The Blues Brothers and The Commitments - JD always aim to keep the dance floor moving.

Sunday 4th March - "This Machine"

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MP Presents Warm Homes Champion Award to AGE UK RAFA A.G.M.

Local MP Phil Wilson, recently took the opportunity to join the Age UK 'Come Eat Together' project based in the Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre.

Running on the second Monday of every month, the 'Monday Carvery' event is open to

anyone over the age of 50, offering a two course meal and after lunch activity. Joining his constituents for lunch, many of them took the opportunity to raise issues and concerns they had with their MP.

During his visit Mr Wilson, along with Sue Carr from

Durham County Council, awarded Bob Adamson the Warm Homes Champion Award. The award follows a series of Warm and Healthy-Homes awareness sessions with Doctors Surgeries across Sedgefield.

In his new role Bob, a volunteer member of the NHS Patient Reference Group, will be working alongside Durham County Council's Warm Homes Team. They hope that together they can ensure patients have warmer homes and lower energy bills, which will lead to improvements in long term cold related ill health especially in winter months.

In addition to the award Bob, also received a £500 grant from Nation Energy Action, a fuel poverty charity, which he used to purchase winter wellness packs, containing fleece blankets and thermal socks, which were distributed to residents at the event.

Those attending the Monday Carvery were delighted with their packs, assuring Bob they would be put to good use! Speaking after the event, Mr Wilson said what a fabulous afternoon. "The 'Come Eat Together' project is fantastic, and offers a much needed option for people who may not otherwise get out and about, to meet with existing friends and the opportunity to make new ones. Moreover, I was privileged to present the Warm Homes Champion Award to Bob who has, and I am sure will continue to do, tremendous work across the constituency. I'd like to thank the volunteers

and people who attended the event for welcoming me. I had a great afternoon, the lunch was fantastic, and there is no that I will be back as soon as possible."

Cliff Duff from Durham County Council commented "We are delighted that Bob had received the Warm and Healthy

Homes award for all the support and assistance he has provided to local residents and we will be rolling out the Warm Homes scheme to other GP surgeries in the Newton Aycliffe area over the following months"

Vince Crosby Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community

Centre said, "We work in partnership with Age UK on the Come Eat Together event, and it was good to have the support of our MP Phil Wilson at the NAYCC. The local residents were all given a gift through the winter warmth project".

Newton Aycliffe RAFA Club AGM will take place on Wednesday 29th March 2017.

Doors will close at 8.00pm prompt. All Members are invited to attend.

A. Young, Hon. Secretary.

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DEFECTOR RESPONDS TO LABOUR GROUP'S ANONYMOUS LETTER

Dear Sir,
I never normally enter into a battle of wits with someone who is only half equipped, but a recent poison pen letter warrants it. What the anonymous letter writer does not realise is that, their personal subconscious habits, which are so ingrained, their little peculiarities that are so difficult to suppress, leaves behind a trail, leading to identification. The Gang of Four behind "Aycliffe Reply" think they can frighten and intimidate me just as they have members of the Aycliffe North West Branch of the Labour Party. The Branch

Secretary was told to send the letter in to Newton News. I have been fighting a lone battle against political corruption within my Labour Party Branch for several years. Ever since a member, tried to infiltrate the branch with someone who not only did not live in Newton Aycliffe but was never registered to vote anywhere in County Durham. He used a family member's address to claim membership in our area. This opened up issues not only of being unconstitutional, because according to Labour Party rules you have to be registered to vote (which he wasn't), and that



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

your Labour Party membership was attached to the Branch where you are registered to vote (which he wasn't). It also raised issues of Council tax and or housing benefit. When I asked in January 2015 at a branch meeting where he lived the same member stepped in and said "he doesn't have to answer that" Not one Branch member spoke up, either out of fear or collusion.

When asked again in February 2015 he did say he lived at Ferryhill Station. I raised the issue via the Constituency and Regional Labour Parties but it was quietly shelved. Among the people who helped shelve it are members of this "Aycliffe Reply" a group formed to respond to anyone who dares oppose Labour.

That same member also had another person attending meetings of the Branch until I stood up and challenged their right to attend when they weren't even a paid member of the Party. Finally at our Branch meeting in November last year the Branch chose to select someone as a candidate for the Town Council who had moved to live in Darlington two years earlier and is still living there now.

At that same meeting another Councillor, just elected in a By election in West Ward stated he didn't think he should stand in the Elections in May as he was hoping to go abroad to work and that would entail a By election just two months after the Full Elections in May.

A young man who I had no recollection of ever attending before, piped up to say he was 17 and too young to stand at

the full elections in May but could stand in that By election two months later. With this the Branch kept the Councillor on the Candidate's list consciously deciding that they would be faced with an unnecessary costly (to the Tax Payer) By-election in West Ward just a few months after the elections. They thought this was acceptable but I could not!

When this anonymous gang of four say people have a right to know who will be standing, will they confirm they have selected a Councillor to stand for the Town Council who lives in Darlington, and a Councillor who just two months after the full elections may resign and cause a By election costing £9,000 to the taxpayer, so that an 18 year old can stand in his place?

If elected Ken Robson and I see ourselves representing the people of Great Aycliffe on the County Council and Town Council. We believe Councillors are servants of the public not masters. I fully support the Labour Leader on the Town Council Bob Fleming and many other Labour councillors and thank them for their support along with all the Independents too.

The public meeting we called recently had nothing to do with recruiting anyone to stand for Councils it was purely informative for those interested in standing. To know how to go about it. The meeting was public and was fully open to Labour Party members as well as anyone else.

Arun Chandran, Independent West Ward for Town and County Councils.

Landrover Competition at UTC



A competition called '4x4 Landrover' was held on Friday 17th February at South Durham UTC. It involves students aged 11-19 building a remote control 4x4 that can get through an obstacle course.

The students were in groups and they will have a record of the production of their vehicle including pictures, early designs, a production plan and so on. Students from all around the North East will take on this challenge hoping to win. Expect to see UTC students compete

in this in the future.

You may be asking why this competition is being held at the UTC, and that's what we asked too. The brilliant people behind the competition were on the phone to our engineering teacher Neil McGrath. Neil said that they should come down to have a look to see if it was the right place to host it and they thought it was great.

Article written by the UTC Year 10 Journalism Club

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Friday 24th 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 25th 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 26th February

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

Monday 27th February to Thursday 2nd March

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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GREENFIELD OPEN ART EXHIBITION



Greenfield Arts invites you and the public to the preview of our latest exhibition by a fantastic range of artists from across the local area on Wednesday 8th March 6.00pm to 8.00pm. This exhibition always provides a superb range of work in different media and contains a range of subjects. It is an excellent opportunity for artists who aim to sell their work and would like to promote their work for commissions, or simply would like to be inspired by the work of others. This year we have made it a truly 'open' experience in that we have opened the applications to all art forms and with it comes lots of opportunities. So if you enjoy theatre, poetry, film or any form of art, this is the event for you.

Coming soon, there will also be various opportunities including workshops, plus the chance to learn how to manage your own exhibition, talks from the artists about their creative practice and a night of performance and skill sharing for artists and audiences alike.

Artists will be in attendance at the preview event to provide insight into their work with artworks for sale throughout the exhibition. For more information, check out the website or speak with one of our lovely team members on 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk.

Gallery Opening Times: Monday – Thursday 10am – 9pm
Friday 10am – 4pm.

Horndale Residents Meet SACA News

Our next meeting is Wednesday 2nd March starting at 6pm with refreshments at 5.45, at Greenfield Arts Centre. Hopefully we will have local Police, livin and Councillors in attendance. Our meetings are a great way of meeting like minded people wanting to make a difference to our local neighbourhoods.

At our last meeting we had a good turn out where the Police reported that anti-social-behaviour had dropped by 53% on the previous month. 2 males have been arrested in connection with burglaries across the County including some in Newton Aycliffe. They also reported ongoing problems with of road motor vehicles riding on footpaths, grassed areas and on the road without lights across the whole of the town, they request if you know who is responsible contact them which can be anonymously.

David Sutton Lloyd from Woodham Community Centre updated us on his project to install Defibrillators in parts of the town. He has successfully raised £20,000 and is now looking for volunteers to complete training in how use the machines and ultimately save a life. If you are interested David can be contacted by email Woodham.community@gmail.com.

We finished our meeting with a great presentation by Well Being For Life who explained what and how their services help individuals and groups with physical and mental wellbeing. It could be exercise or healthy cooking, shopping and much more. We have some seats on our trip to the Great North Museum/Hancock, £5 each ring martin on 316148 for details.

School Aycliffe Community Association hold their AGM on Monday 27th March 2017 at the Community Hall, starting 7.30pm and any resident attending will be made very welcome.

Purpose of the AGM is to look at the accounts for year end 2016, elect officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer.

Any nominations need to be sent in by Monday 13th March to the secretary Sharon Robinson addressed for the Community Hall, Eastfields Rd, DL5 6QH or by e-mail to robinat21@sky.com. Any questions for the committee need to be in by the same date and sent to the same addresses.

THE TURBINIA COMEDY NIGHT

Wednesday 1st March

Doors open 7pm, Show starts 8pm

Duncan Oakley

As heard on BBC Radio 4's "Shappi Talk", Duncan performs an infectious mix of musical comedy and stand up with one of his trusty guitars - Maurice (Fender Strat), No.7 (acoustic) or his Les Paul (the Lezza) by his side.

"Oakley's routine deftly mixes the tunes with the stand-up" - City Life

"There's laughter and there's laughter and if you want to experience real McCoy, genuine, honestly felt, uncontrollable cackinnation the best place is at a Duncan Oakley gig" - Plymouth Herald

"...the encore had me in tears of laughter" - BBC

"...an excellent entertainer and musical/comedy genius well worth seeing!" - The National Student

Phil Lucas

Phil Lucas is a master of high-octane digital tomfoolery. Using PowerPoint, his dodgy PhotoShop, out of date cultural references and a barrage of multimedia silliness have made him a truly pair of hands on stages up and down the country. He offers something completely different to anyone else on the circuit and this has made him a high demand comic, booked time and time again by clubs. A truly unique act.

"He's like Harry Hill with PowerPoint, a stream of silly non-sequiturs coming from his mouth while extra gags pop up on screen, giving twice the jokes for your money. A daft favourite for me" - Chortle

"Mr Lucas is wonderfully funny. Our new favourite thing" - The Huffington Post

"Consistently funny... A stupidly nice way to close the show" - Bruce Dessau

MC - Freddy Quinne

The winner of the 2013 Hilarity Bites New Act of the Year competition, Freddy Quinne's "uniquely northern observational humour" (Lancashire Evening Post) has seen a meteoric rise into some of the biggest clubs in the country. Quinne couples "clever, well placed gags" (Pickled Egg) together with a vulnerable persona for a unique experience which combines to make "a real tour de force performance" (Alex Boardman).

Freddy's willingness to break away from his set and involve the crowd leads for an engaging and memorable set backed up with frantic energy and raw emotion.

"An impeccable set... a great storyteller with immense potential" - Worksop Guardian

"The hilarious Freddy Quinne managed to quieten the two worst hecklers with one perfectly judged line" - eFestivals

"Quinne delighted the crowd with clever, well placed gags" - Pickled Egg

This show will also feature a newer act in the middle.

Tickets for this show can be bought online now from the Hilarity Bites Box Office at <http://shop.hilaritybites.co.uk> or in person from The Turbinia.

Tickets for this show are £5 each in advance or £8 on the door.

AYCLIFFE COMPANY WINS HITACHI GROUNDS CONTRACT

A family-run grounds maintenance and landscaping company Beaumont has landed a high-profile contract with train manufacturing firm Hitachi Rail Europe. Hitachi Rail has agreed a deal with Beaumont Grounds Maintenance to look after its 42,700sq mt site on Aycliffe Business Park.

The deal comes just a few months after Beaumont celebrated another record year with an increase in workforce and turnover. Managing Director Alexander Lineton said: "This is another significant deal for Beaumont and naturally we're absolutely delighted to be working with one of Aycliffe's flagship companies."

"It comes off the back of a number of notable contract wins so business is good for us and we're heading in the right direction. Our workforce is growing as we pick up these contracts, creating jobs for local people as we grow." Beaumont have accreditation for ISO 9001 (quality management framework), ISO 14001 (environmental management practises) and ISO 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management). "This is the culmination of many months and years' hard work and endeavour to gain accreditation which will



Alexander Lineton (left) with Chris Evans

enable us to push us into new fields and win new large-scale tenders to support our ambitious growth plan. Beaumont's latest deal is another example of Hitachi's policy to utilise the local supply chain as much as possible. The company's maintenance and facilities manager Chris Evans said: "We're delighted to be working with Beaumont, who are now in charge keeping the site world class. 'We're keen to

promote Hitachi locally using as many local companies as we can because that brings benefits to the community, and expands our footprint in the region."

Beaumont was established in 1965 by Steven Lineton, who ran the new business alongside his garden centre based on Beaumont Hill in Darlington. In 1991 Beaumont moved premises to larger premises on Aycliffe Business Park and has since pushed more into the commercial maintenance sector.

It's now headed by the third generation of the Lineton family, with Alexander as managing director and his

sister Sophie as accounts manager, while their parents – finance director Mark and company secretary Sally – continue to play crucial roles. Beaumont, which in early 2016 was named Service Business of the Year at the annual Aycliffe Business Park "Make Your Mark" awards, invested £120,000 in new machinery during its 50th year in 2015. Beaumont now has an increasing list of 150 contracted sites across the whole of the North-East, down to Yorkshire and Humber and across to Cumbria. These include a range of public and private contracts – various commercial premises including factories, hotels and premises run by national property management companies – as well more than 50 schools around the North-East region.

You can find out more about Beaumont Grounds Maintenance at www.beaumontgroundsmaintenance.co.uk or give them a call on 01325 301379.

Pensioner Donates £300 to MRI Scanner Appeal

Money for the MRI Scanner Appeal is starting to come in with promises from organisations and businesses in Newton Aycliffe to fundraise for this vital life saving equipment.

It started last week with an anonymous letter addressed to Syd Howarth, Newton Press, Scanner Appeal, with £100 in cash. Then Frank Daniel aged 87 from Clarence Green rang offering another £300.

Originally from Evenwood he has lived in Newton Aycliffe for 47 years. Frank said he wanted to give something back to the Hospital which through excellent treatment has given him a long life. He's led a very active life starting as a farmer, shop owner, running a travelling shop, working for UMM at Aycliffe and finally as an HGV driver, before retiring due to ill health in 1989.

Frank's wife Elsie, a Pharmacist, died in 2001 and in 2008 he suffered a heart attack and this is the time the NHS saved his life. Frank a



former Mason is very keen to support the provision of new scanners, knowing they save lives.

Many others have contacted Syd promising to raise cash from charity events they are organising. It is also hoped those looking for a good cause to support with Marathon sponsorship etc. will consider this appeal, saving our local NHS trust over a £million pounds a year - money which can be put to very good use.

Modeller's Loco Talk

Throughout 2017, Loco motionmodels.com is presenting a series of talks giving railway modellers the opportunity to learn more about their hobby and develop new skills.

The next talk in the series will take place in the Hackworth Room at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon on Saturday March 4th, 2017, starting at 10.30am. The speaker is Graham from Vintage Transport in Miniature, and the topic is "Creating a slice of life". The talk will explore techniques to complete the picture of your model railway by adding in other objects to make cameos which can suggest everyday life.

Tickets for the talk are £2.50 each – this includes tea/coffee. Tickets are available from the gift shop at Locomotion: The NRM at Shildon or from www.locomotionmodels.com.

For more information, please call the Locomotionmodels.com team on 01904 685785.

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Messy Church

Following the success of Messy Love we invite you to continue the 2017 Journey of Messy Church on Saturday 4th March at 4pm, St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe.

Sharing a variety of crafts and activities, making bread, good gifts plates and special cups, decorate your own candle and write a thought or prayer for our living prayer tree.

Join the celebration in the sharing of bread together as the Messy Church Family grows and grows. The fellowship continues with a delicious Shepherd's Pie tea for everyone. Tea and coffee, juice and cake, a chance to chat and learn more about each other.

Doors open from 3.30pm for registration - so come and share, taste and see, a friendly, caring, fun Christ centered space for all. You can view the Messy Church journey on Youth/Children St. Clare's facebook page.

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Craft, Coffee & Cake for Town Charity

Aycliffe based Crafter's Companion is hosting a day of craft, coffee and cake to raise money for the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group. The store will be holding a coffee morning on Sunday 5th March, giving visitors the chance to try their hand at card-making, hand sewing and colouring with the Spectrum Noir Colorista range in exchange for a small donation.

There will also be a chance for attendees to browse and buy handmade cards, made by the Crafter's Companion design team to raise funds on the day. Money raised at the event will then be matched by Crafter's Companion and the County Durham Community Foundation, tripling the overall donation.

Amy Rodger, store manager at the Newton Aycliffe store, said, "The Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group is such an amazing cause and it can really change the lives of people affected by cancer in our community."

"We hope all our regular customers, as well as people

who are new to craft, will come along and help us support this worthwhile cause."

The Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group is designed to bring people together who have been affected, directly or indirectly, by cancer. The group offers support and advice, as well as day trips, social events and meals for its members, working closely with other charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support. During the event, there will also be a raffle to raise additional funds.

Crafter's Companion is a global craft supplies company which sells its products globally online, on TV shopping channels, via independent retailers and in its own UK retail stores in Newton Aycliffe and Chesterfield.

The Newton Aycliffe store holds regular workshops and charity events to support the local community. For a full programme of events visit <http://www.crafterscompanion.co.uk/aycliffe-store>.

Parent Parking Problem



School Council members with PCSO Steven Gill

The School Council of St Joseph's School have been working on a project to highlight the importance of parking/driving safely when parents come to school with their children. They made bright colourful posters and put several items on the newsletter to highlight this problem.

Marie Curie Group Celebrate 3rd Birthday

The Bishop Auckland



Fundraising Group of Marie Curie celebrated its third birthday at its monthly meeting with lots of chocolate!

Supermarket collections, collection tins in local outlets, Garden Open Days, Blooming Great Tea Parties, Curry and Quiz nights to name but a few events have attracted enormous support and the Group have been overwhelmed by the magnificent total of £63,724.90 raised in the last 3 years.

This amazing amount has been used to provide 'end of life care' by Marie Curie Nurses in the Bishop Auckland area and the Group wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the people of South West Durham without whom none of this would have been possible.

The Group is currently working towards supporting the Daffodil Appeal which runs throughout March and anyone wishing to get involved is invited to attend the next meeting on the first Tuesday in March at 1.30pm at the Community Fire Station, Watling Road, Bishop Auckland.

For more information contact Elizabeth Varley (01388) 606075

Newtonian Takes Over Bra Lady Business



Vivianne (left) and Sadie on handover day

Newtonian Vivianne Boynton is the new owner of Sadie the Bra Lady Shop at High Northgate in Darlington.

Her parents moved to Aycliffe in the 50's and she is one of seven "Timoney" siblings who attended Sugar Hill and The Avenue Comprehensive School.

Vivianne's early working life was spent working in various working up to Manager at M & Co (Mackays) in the town centre until it closed.

She moved three years ago to work for Sadie the Bra Lady in Darlington to learn their method of bra fitting.

Sadie, after reaching her 80th birthday sought semi retirement and the opportunity arose for Vivianne to take over which took place on Friday 10th

February 2017.

Vivianne welcome customers old and new to come and look at the new exciting ranges for 2017 with sizes to fit everyone.

On Yer Bike!

Still running is the 'Back On Your Bike' rides from the Pioneering Care Partnership-PCP in Newton Aycliffe at 10am every Wednesday.

The ride is a 1 hour session for those who have never cycled, maybe looking to get back into cycling or are looking for a shorter, gentle ride.

The session is completely free and there are a number of helmets and bikes available if required.

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Mini Motos - Police Warning for Parents

As I'm sure you are all aware over recent weeks we have seen an increase in the amount of calls we are receiving regarding mini motos and motorbikes being used illegally on the open spaces around our town.

I would like to reassure residents that Durham Constabulary are doing everything we can to address these issues and will be working tirelessly to prosecute those that are putting others in danger.

That said I would like to ask that we work together to address these issues.

If you know who has these bikes and where they are stored we need to know. This information will be completely confidential but it will allow us to take action against those responsible.

Using Mini Motos

Using these vehicles in parks, on pavements and in public places is illegal; the only legal area would be on private land and with the owner's permission; so long as its use does not cause harassment, alarm or distress, or a statutory nuisance.

An individual using a mini-moto illegally could ultimately be liable to a fine of up to £1,000, have their licence/future licence endorsed (with resulting extra costs via insurance etc.), lose their mini moto and see it crushed and/or

have to pay for its removal and storage.

Mini Motos and the law

The Government regards Mini Motos (Go-peds etc.) to be the same as motor vehicles and they should therefore:

- Be registered with the DVLA
- Have Road Tax
- Be insured

• Comply with road vehicle (construction and use) regulations meaning that it should have the correct working lights, indicators etc.

• Have 'European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval' or 'Motor Cycle Single Vehicle Approval'.

• Riders should have a suitable safety helmet, appropriate insurance (for use on a road) and a driving licence that authorises the use of that vehicle.

• Riders of the vehicles should be 17 years of age unless the vehicle meets the definition of a moped, which can be ridden at the age of 16. A moped is a motorcycle or scooter that has an engine capacity under 50cc and is designed not to do more than 31mph/50kmh.

Also any parents who allow their child to use these mini motos will have their details shared with Social Services for putting your child in unnecessary danger. - You have been warned Michael.welch@durham.pnn.police.uk - Please feel free to email me with any information

New Choir's Debut at Rose Lodge



Rose Lodge Care Home enjoyed an afternoon of song when 'Harmony', a ladies singing group from Newton Aycliffe, along with their vocal coach and guitarist John Melvin, entertained residents and staff on Monday 20th February. Residents and staff of Rose Lodge, which offers residential care and specialist dementia care for up to 54 people, happily joined in

with the wide variety of songs and music performed by the choir.

The event marked the debut public performance of the group and was a big hit with their audience. Diane Tweddle, Activities Coordinator at Rose Lodge, said: "Everyone had a lovely afternoon and really enjoyed the songs and musical arrangements by John and the Group."

Teenager Shaves Head for Cancer Charity



Leo with his proud Mum Rosie

Leo Haymer, a 13 year old student at Woodham Academy decided to raise money for Cancer Research UK by shaving his much-loved curly locks. He learned about cancer at school and his friend's sister, Emily Cook, who was diagnosed at a very young age. As a gesture of support, he pledged to raise £50 for the charity which he exceeded quite early. The current amount raised is £752.01 (including gift aid), with more sponsors contributing daily. Proud friends and family have



Leo with full head of hair

sponsored Leo, who plays in defence for Darlington 21st Allstars. A further generous contribution was made by the parents of his football team who have known him since he first kicked a ball.

It shocked Leo to learn that 1 in 2 people will be diagnosed with some form of cancer. However CRUK has developed ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, boosting the survival rate. The money raised will be sent to CRUK to help fund their work. There are many fundraising ideas on the CRUK website which his parents envisage Leo will take on board for future challenges in his life.

Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 28th February features the romantic comedy musical "On Moonlight Bay". Starring Doris Day and Gordon MacRae as the boy and girl next door, spoonin' & croonin' & swoonin' in a great 50's musical. There's no sex, no bad language or violence, just comedy, romance and songs. Totally feel-good.

Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm, included in the £2 admission fee. The film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, as well as 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.

Pancakes & Film Show

If you can't be bothered to cook pancakes, why not come along to St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 28th February at 12 noon and enjoy freshly made pancakes with topping, tea/coffee and biscuits for only £2.

Afterwards why not stay to our Feel Good Film Club which this week is showing 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon' featuring Doris Day and Gordon McCrae.

POETRY WORKSHOP



Students from Greenfield Community College, Shildon Campus were recently treated to a special trip to take part in a workshop with renowned poet Simon Armitage at North Durham Academy.

Students were fortunate to be involved in the literary session, which involved studying poetic techniques. This included working from examples from Simon's own poem 'Out Of The Blue' and then analysing meter and structure in 'Porphyria's Lover'.

In preparation for the event, students had been inspired to write their own sonnets before departing to North Durham Academy for the workshop.

In his talk, Simon read poems from his large library of work spanning the past 30 years, giving students insight into the inspiration and backstory to his poems. He also recited the GCSE poem 'Remains' about soldiers returning from the Gulf War. A student from Greenfield said "it was a great insight into the world of poetry which will dramatically help us with our GCSE English".

In the second half of the workshop Simon was happy to answer any questions regarding form and structure allowing students to probe into the inspiration behind his works. All in all it was an excellent day for all concerned.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 8th March 2017

Council Meeting - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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Ebac Ready to Boost Sales & Marketing



Leading North East manufacturer Ebac is to embark on a recruitment drive that will support the development of its washing machine division.

Ebac became the first company in more than two decades to bring back the manufacture of British made washing machines last year, and is to create four new graduate roles within its sales and marketing department.

The Aycliffe-based company invested £7m in the development of the venture, with the new models comprising revolutionary dual fill technology, as an alternative to traditional cold fill machines, which will lower energy bills through shorter wash times. Ebac is also offering 10 year parts and labour warranties on selected washing machines.

Ebac has prioritised independent Northern retailers as stockists for its washing machines, in order to spread the maximum economic benefit to the region.

Tony Hird, business development manager at Ebac, said: "Ebac is committed to boosting the region's economy with the manufacture of innovative products from our base in County Durham, as well as through supporting the creation of local jobs.

"We are now in a position to increase our presence within the region and these additional posts will help contribute to the company's growth, as well as help deliver our key messages to the general public and support our partnerships with our network of independent retailers in the North East."

Ebac's washing machine range joins its well-established stable of electrical goods, complementing its European market-leading watercoolers and domestic dehumidifiers.

AYCLIFFE COMPANY RENEWS RACING CAR SPONSORSHIP

Primex Plastics Limited have renewed sponsorship contracts with Renault UK Clio Cup Graduate Champion, Max Coates.

Joining new principal sponsors Harron Homes, Primex Plastics will continue to support Max in his bid for championship glory. Max continues his partnership with Ciceley Motorsport following a fantastic debut season in the Renault UK Clio Cup. In 2016 Max challenged the established front runners and championship favourites on a regular basis with seven visits to the podium including a maiden win at his home circuit, Croft. The season's results earned Max the Graduate Cup Championship and 3rd place overall, this year he is aiming to go two positions higher.

Max Coates said, "I am delighted that Primex Plastics have renewed their sponsorship contracts for 2017. We enjoyed a brilliant first season in the championship

and the experience gained last year means we are aiming for the championship this year. Primex Plastics were major parts of my 2016 season and we enjoyed a lot of success together. This year, alongside new partners Harron Homes, I am aiming to win the championship."

Primex Plastics are enjoying a successful business relationship as a result of the motorsport partnership. Alan Pollitt, Primex Business Manager, said, "We are delighted to be partnering with Max again in 2017, he had a fantastic season last year and delivered both on and off the track and we are right behind his goal to win the championship. Primex Plastics has certainly improved its company profile, built important partnerships with suppliers and provided an excellent platform to host customers and employees during the race weekends"

Max and the team will begin

a testing programme with the UK Clio Cup's new Michelin tyre in preparation for the 2017 season which will start at Brands Hatch on 1st and 2nd April 2017.

ESSENTIAL TREE WORK

Great Aycliffe Town Council will be completing essential tree maintenance works as identified by independent tree inspectors in the forthcoming weeks at West Park, School Aycliffe, Seven Hills, South Agnew Plantation and St Oswald's Park.

Anyone wishing to know more please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

Steve Cooper
Works and Environment Manager

Mini Police Visit Fire Station



Mini Police from Woodham Burn Primary School carried out community speedwatch on Central Avenue outside of the Police station, to help support Durham Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner's Road Safety Awareness Month 2017. The students were explained the risks of speeding and also shown around County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Station, allowing them to see the equipment they use.

The mini police project is funded through Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership - GAMP and helps to teach the future generation. #LookOutForEachOther

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Aycliffe Students on Italian Ski Trip



Students from Woodham Academy have just returned from a week of ski tuition in Pila, Italy. After a long coach journey the group arrived mid Sunday afternoon to their hotel high up overlooking the mountain range of the Gran Paradiso National Park.

The hotel Bellevue was very aptly named; the views were stunning and the clear blue skies enabled them to be seen in all their glory. Whilst in resort, the fantastic snow conditions allowed all students to make excellent progress on the slopes beneath an idyllic panorama that stretches from Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn.

In addition to the activity on the slopes, students visited the town of Aosta and saw Roman ruins that date back to 25b.c. After travelling to the Aosta Valley for 18 years and winning the first ever group of the season award Woodham students have an exceptional reputation with Interski and their staff.

This year was no exception with all instructors complimenting the students on their conduct and behaviour and the course co-ordinator who stays with the group in the hotel requesting she is able to work with Woodham students again next year.



Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

If you want to know more about any of the items below, internet links to the full articles are at: bit.ly/CNB22217

This week's Newsbits are mainly good news messages about both the County Council and the Town Council – especially regarding Armstrong Close, the Care Leavers' Challenge and the DLI. Ron Hogg's article is

thought-provoking.

COUNCIL

- County Durham advertised at Kings Cross
- DLI – Outreach Session, Sevenhills and video
- Lumière to return in 2017
- Care Leavers' Challenge – a good outcome and a wash-up
- DCC's achievements highlighted
- Two new dog bins for the SUDS reserve
- GAMP February e-bulletin
- Defibrillator funding approved
- Planning success re Armstrong Close garages
- Beautiful Aycliffe North – the answers
- Latest Roadworks information

COMMUNITY

- Latest Unemployment Figures
- Durham PCVC Ron Hogg on the pressures of austerity
- Etherley Incline walk with the Friends of the S&DR
- Lovely Lacquer – family event at the Durham Oriental Museum, 1-3pm, Saturday 4 March
- Model railways display, FREE at the Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm, 4-5 March

Flower Demo

Gear up to Spring with a visit to Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 6th March at 7.30pm at Shildon Civic Hall when Area Demonstrator, Katie Jane Pridmore, from Seaton Delaval will present an evening of professional flower arranging entitled 'Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder'. Enjoy a delightfully indulgent evening being entertained by a top-notch flower arranger in convivial company. Peruse the many stalls and the bar is open! Free to members. Visitors £5 on the door

DURHAM COUNTY WINS AWARDS

Durham County Council 'cleaned up' at a prestigious national award ceremony, taking home prizes for best local authority and best campaign.

The council landed the coveted Local Authority of the Year honour at the Keep Britain Tidy Awards, while its anti-fly-tipping programme Operation Stop It scooped Environmental Campaign of the Year.

The awards, staged in Leeds on Thursday night, celebrate the achievements of local authorities, businesses and land managers in improving the quality of public spaces through campaigns, innovations and partnerships.

The local authority of the year prize was in recognition of the council's commitment to improving and protecting the environment often involving the local community, from its new wildflower verges, to recycling promotion and support for numerous 'in bloom' groups around the county.

Alongside this, the council was also commended for the innovative ways it tackles the minority who spoil the environment, such as widespread use of CCTV in hot-spot areas.

Operation Stop It won the campaign accolade having led to a 22 per cent reduction in flytipping across the county and saved more than £104,000 in clean-up and disposal costs.

Terry Collins, Durham County Council's Chief Executive, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won these two awards. "We take our responsibility as guardian of our beautiful county very seriously and it is gratifying to receive national recognition for our efforts."

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of the council, added: "We know the standard of entries for these awards is always very high.

"This makes it all the more pleasing to win these awards from such a respected national charity and we'd like to thank our communities who work very closely with us to protect and enhance the environment."

Operation Stop It was launched in September 2014 in response to an increase in flytipping incidents of more than 40 per cent between 2012/13 and 2014/15. The campaign, which sees the council working in partnership with Durham Constabulary, the Environment Agency, and Crimestoppers, seeks to educate residents and businesses on their responsibility to dispose of their rubbish correctly and to take action against those who break the law.

Flytipping has fallen by more than 22 per cent since Operation Stop It began, with this equivalent to 3,494 fewer incidents. The campaign sees CCTV cameras deployed across the county playing a key part in catching fly-tippers. In 2014/15, the council successfully prosecuted four people for flytipping. This increased to 63 by 2015/16.

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Juniors Football Report



Aycliffe Juniors had a near full weekend of fixtures after a near wash out the previous week.

Under 9 TJFA league team were away at Billingham United. They had drawn 2-2 with this team recently but put in a great performance to win this game 9-1. Man of the match Jayden scored a hatrick, there were braces for both Niall and Connor, Harvey and Dominic also scored one a piece. The second game saw Aycliffe gain a 4-0 win and Dan was the man of the match. **The Under 11** Russell Foster league team were at home playing against Humbledon Youth, who sit two places above them in the league. Despite a spirited fight back to bring the score from 3-1 to level at 3-3, the Aycliffe team eventually lost out by 4 goals to 3.

Under 11 TJFA league team

faced league leaders Marton Whites at Sunnydale. They made a great start with Zack's goal giving them a 1-0 lead. The physical visitors then went on to take all their chances in the first half to go ahead 3-1 at the break. Zack scored again in the second half but the game was lost 5-2 despite a great effort from all the players involved.

Under 12's played away at Normanby Black and secured a 4-1 win. The Under 15's had a home game against Cargo Fleet aiming to leapfrog them in league. They took a 3-0 lead but then disappointingly lost 4-3.

Under 17's travelled to Billingham Synthonia aiming to go above them in the league. In a scrappy first half Tom scored twice to give Aycliffe a 2-0 lead. Some good direct play from Billingham as well as some

poor defending saw the home team move in to a 3-2 lead. The Aycliffe team though never gave up and scored an injury time equaliser to make the final score 3-3.

The Under 23's were at home to Whinney Banks aiming to make ground up on the leagues third placed team. There were a few key players missing and they went 1-0 behind before Slatcher crossed for debutante Vincent to head in the equaliser.

In to the second half, and after a couple of calls for penalties were not awarded to Aycliffe it was the visitors who took the lead again with a nice lobbed finish. Vincent set up Raisbeck to draw level at 2-2 but Whinney Banks capitalised on a defensive mix up to win the game 3-2. A disappointing result for our oldest players, Raisbeck was named as man of the match.

Youthy Football Round Up

U13 Hawks v Washington.

A 9am kick off for an away game for the U13's but that didn't stop the lads grabbing an early goal as Lee pulled off his defender at the back post and slotted home nicely. Washington were causing us problems and managed to score: 1-1. (Photo right)

At times Aycliffe looked shaky at the back but a dominant midfield display from Adam Lowe kept us on the front foot and we managed to add 2 more goals through Lee and Dylan, HT 3-1. The lads were asked to work on our pressing game second half and try and keep in shape.

They played really well second half and managed to add another 5 goals, the pick coming from MOM Adam Lowe who scored a superb goal from outside the area. Washington did manage a second goal, however the points were coming back to Aycliffe: FT 8-2. Goals today Lee 2, Dylan 2, Drew 2, Jack 1, Adam 1. Only 2 games left against Whitburn, and promotion is a big possibility.

U10 Eagles v Billingham Jnrs. A cracking game of football despite both teams starting the game slowly. Then Aycliffe started to pass the ball better and played some nice football which quite quickly turned into a well taken goal by Will. That gave the lads some confidence and they had a couple of shots



saved and a couple of shots just wide. HT 0-1 up.

The lads started the second half as well as they finished the first with some really nice passing football which finished with an absolute cracker from Jack right in the top corner. This gave the lads another lift and saw them dominate the game. Will tried his luck from outside the box with a really good shot that the keeper could only parry into his own goal, at this point I think the lads thought the game was won as they start to relax and not play with the intensity they had been. This let Billingham back in the game with two late goal's which lead to a nery last minute but the lads held on to pick up a well deserved win. FT 2-3 to Aycliffe

U17 Falcons v Peterlee Helford Only 12 players for the trip to Peterlee and with a very heavy pitch, it always

the pitch was a bit heavy and once again the girls scored within a minute as Olivia received the ball inside the box and finds the corner.

Then Hattie picks up the ball on the half way line skips round the full back and slides the ball passed the keeper. Kate hits a ball from outside the box, the keeper makes a great save but she pops in the rebound.

The Consett keeper tries a clearance but it drops to Hattie who hits the back of the net from 25 yards. As half time approaches Olivia weaves her way through to score her second: HT 5-0. Into the second half the girls kept up the pressure as Hattie scores twice followed by a double from Kate for her hat-trick.

However Faith still needed to be alert from a couple of Consett breaks before we switched Hattie into goal to give Faith a run out. After 5 minutes she smashes a volley over the keeper's head - great goal. As always everyone else did their job Macey, Grace, Emily and Lauren held the defensive line, whilst Chloe Neve and Alex supported in midfield: FT 10-0

Other scores

Bromton 6 v **Under 11's 2**
Under 12 Eagles 1 v Boro Rangers 3.

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Duncan can also perform with harmonica, drums & piano as a one man musical whirlwind, and is a regular at the biggest comedy clubs around the UK. Phil Lucas is a master of high-octane digital tomfoolery. Using PowerPoint, his dodgy PhotoShop, out of date cultural references and a barrage of multimedia silliness have made him a trusty pair of hands on stages up and down the country. Phil is also highly adept at producing online viral material.

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break away from his set and involve the crowd leads for an engaging and memorable set backed up with frantic energy and raw emotion. This show will also feature a new act. Tickets £5, online now from the Hilarity Bites Box Office at <http://shop.hilaritybites.co.uk>, or in person from The Turbinia. Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 8pm.

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"ROOM IN THE INN". The Huntsman in Woodham Friday 3rd March at 7pm. Free Buffet. All welcome.
COFFEE MORNING at St Elizabeth's Church Saturday 4th of March at 10am.
NEW OR NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SALE (no jumble) to be held in Aycliffe Village Hall on **Saturday 25th March 2017** from 10.00am to 12.30pm £5.00 per table/space. To book please ring 01325 314735, leaving your name and contact details.

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NEWTON NEWS

Councillors Proud of Their Achievements

Dear Editor

As West Ward County Councillors, may we share how proud we are of the work we have done in the past four years, and of the projects we have funded or helped-to-fund. Most of the projects have been achieved in partnership with the other County Councillors on the town, and by working with an amazing list of local groups and clubs. In cooperation with them, we have been able to achieve great things for the residents. A lot of money has gone to funding West Ward projects and Community Groups – for instance agreement to replace the pedestrian footbridge

at Whinlatter Place; the Silverdale 'Hub of Wishes' ICT Suite; the St Joseph's School playhouse; the ACORN community group excursions; and the Cutting Loose community carnival. Other funding has been directed towards helping our needy residents – ROCSOLID; 1:1 Disability Health Training; Advice Workers; and the GAMP Employability Fund. We have made an especial effort to deal with some of the traffic, parking and accessibility issues in the Ward, with improvements at Lightfoot Road, Lee Green, Castlereagh Close, Simpature Gate, School Aycliffe,

Oakfield, Silkin Way and Bewick Crescent.

And we have been delighted to have supported with the other Aycliffe County Councillors whole-town initiatives which will benefit West Ward residents – projects such as the Greenfield School 3G Pitch and Tennis Courts; the Leisure Centre gymnastic floor; the Youth Centre refurb; and the Cricket and Youth Football Clubs.

You can see a list of ALL our Neighbourhood Budget grants online here: bit.ly/EAKHAL In addition, we have made 88 smaller grants, which you can see online at DCC: bit.ly/AdamMIF1317.

Of course this is not *our* money! It is how we have spent County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget moneys. But we would point out that many councils in the country do not have 'Neighbourhood Budgets', which are a DCC Labour Group policy ... and might

well disappear if ever Labour was not the controlling group on the County Council. As well as providing funding to local organisations:

- We consult and seek the views of the community on how public money is spent (notably over the Whinlatter footbridge). Our recent leaflet included a 'Tell us your views' tear off slip.
- We have regularly distributed informative leaflets and reported in the Newton News on the positive work we are doing in the community.
- In addition there have been a multitude of times we have conducted walkabouts and responded to residents' complaints and suggestions, as well as to their personal needs and crises.

Publishing this is part of our accountability to our residents. We believe it is an impressive achievement and trust that you will agree.
Cllrs Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper



SPONSORS AND 65 NOMINATIONS FOR MAKE YOUR MARK AWARDS

A total of 65 nominations involving 37 different companies on Aycliffe Business Park have been received for the third annual Make Your Mark Awards. Sponsorship for all 11 awards for the black tie event due to be held at the Xcel Centre on Wednesday 1st March has also been secured.

Crafter's Companion, Gestamp Tallent, Finley Structures, SCH Site Services, Ebac, the Xcel Centre, Business Durham, Endeavour Partnership, Star Radio, South Durham Enterprise Agency, NBSL and the Department for International Trade have all backed event.

Judges: John Clare (Aycliffe Town and Durham County Councillor), Steven Hugill (Northern Echo business editor), Tom Dower (UTC South Durham), Steven Robson (South Durham Enterprise Agency), John Parnell (Business Durham) and Kerina Clark (Xcel Centre).

Nominations received:

Apprentice of the Year (Sponsored by Crafter's Companion): Martin Clutterbuck and Adisorn Khampan (Arlington Automotive), Ben Thubron (Baltic Training Services), Nicole Sheldon (Edwards Analytical), Edward Cook (European Roofing Systems), Simon Hocking (Formula Plastics), Ben Clemmitt (Gregg Little Testing Centre) and Rachael Farley (Thrive Marketing).

Apprenticeships (Sponsored by Gestamp Tallent): Arlington Automotive, Certax (Durham) LLP, European Roofing Systems, Hitachi Rail Europe and Primex Plastics.

Company of the Year (Sponsored by Finley Structures and SCH Site Services): Arlington Automotive, Baltic Training Services, Beaumont Grounds Maintenance, Crafters Companion, PWS, Raisco and SCH Site Services.

Employer of the Year (Sponsored by NBSL): Arlington Automotive, Baltic Training Services, Certax (Durham) LLP, Hitachi Rail Europe, SCH Site Services and UPEX Electrical Distribution.

Engineering & Manufacturing (Sponsored by Business Durham): BTS Fabrications, PWS, Premo Fabrications.

Export (Sponsored by the Department for International Trade): Primex Plastics, Samwon Tech Europe and Trident Manor.

Heart of the Community (Sponsored by Star Radio): JDP Contracting, Baltic Training Services, DISC, PWS, ROF 59 and Thrive Marketing.

Innovation (Sponsored by Endeavour Partnership): Premo Fabrications, Steam Machine Brewing Company and Stiller Warehousing & Distribution.

Newcomer of the Year (Sponsored by Ebac): LED Supply & Fit, Crafters Companion, Creativehill, UTC South Durham and Steam Machine Brewing Company.

Service Business of the Year (Sponsored by the Xcel Centre): Beaumont Grounds Maintenance, Certax (Durham) LLP, Commercial Expert, Eldon Financial Planning, Gregg Little Testing Centre, Thrive Marketing, Tree Tops Occupational Therapy and Trident Manor.

Small Business of the Year (Sponsored by South Durham Enterprise Agency): AAA Caring Caretaker, Beaumont Grounds Maintenance, Commercial Expert, Gregg Little Testing Centre, Lorimers Electrical, SCH Site Services, Thrive Marketing, Tree Tops Children's Occupational Therapy, Trident Manor, Upex Electrical Distributors and Workshop Supplies.

Tickets for the evening are priced just £29.95 each, while sponsorship packages are also available from www.aycliffeawards.co.uk or by emailing hello@aycliffeawards.co.uk

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NEWTON NEWS

Thousands More People Now Attend the DLI Exhibition



Dear Editor
Recently one of your correspondents suggested Durham County Council had 'closed' the DLI. This is incorrect. With the DLI Museum receiving almost £300,000-a-year in subsidies, councillors took the difficult decision to focus resources on bringing the DLI Collection to people in new, more engaging ways. The approach taken has been backed both by the Arts Council and the Army Museums Ogilby Trust as an example of innovative and sustainable approach to important collections. After only ten months, more people have seen or heard about the service, sacrifices and lasting legacy of the brave men and women of County Durham, than in the previous year. The first of five temporary exhibitions, Somme 1916: From Durham to the Western Front, brought over 30,000 visitors to Durham University's Palace Green Library. In addition at the Gala around 5,000 people were transported to the First World War trenches and back again by what visitors described as an "incredible," "superb" and "deeply moving" immersive experience, 1916: No Turning Back. A further 1,636 turned out to see the specially commissioned Fighting Bradfords play, with 549 enjoying the Durham Hymns within the Cathedral and 625 watching screenings of the Battle of the Somme film. Educational sessions around the collection continue to be popular involving over 100 schools and 3,000 plus children, further widening access to the stories. The DLI Collection is now housed in the DLI Research and Study Centre - a much more spacious and suitable location, alongside the Durham Learning Resources and Library Support Services at Sevenhills. This has already received in excess of

100 hours volunteering a week and wider students and family visitors able to access the collection to follow their research. Members of the public are able to visit by emailing dlicollectionenquiries@durham.gov.uk, or simply pop in on a Tuesday or Thursday between 10am and 3pm when specialist advisors will be there to help. There is more to come too, with the DLI collection gallery opening on March 11th, where we expect to extend access to the collection further with this free gallery. 'Courage, Comrades and Community' will bring the story of the Durham soldier to an even wider audience, opening at Palace Green Library, in the heart of the county's UNESCO World Heritage Site. This modern gallery, with modern interpretation boards, interactive, film and displays will further help engage audiences of all ages. In addition to the new exhibition visitors can, whilst at Palace Green, call into the Barker Research Library to request to view medals from the DLI Collection. Items from the DLI collection can also be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/DLIdigi>, as well as the informative Durham at War website hosted by and curated by the Durham County Record Office. The travelling exhibition was in Newton Aycliffe Library on Friday 17th February and advertised in the Newton News. In summary, by focussing on the DLI Collection and working with groups and partners like the DLI Trustees, Friends and the University the local authority has found a positive way forward and extended access to the collection. Cllr Neil C. Foster
Cabinet Member Regeneration, Economic Development
Arts & Culture.

Coffee Morning at Care Home

Rose Lodge Care Home in Carers Way, Cobblers Hall are holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Marie Curie on Wednesday 1st March from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Entry is free but donations welcome. All are welcome to come along.

Obituary

Margaret Bewley



Newton Aycliffe

19th February, peacefully in hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Margaret, (nee Tray), aged 86 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late Bob; greatly loved Mam of Colin; treasured Mother-in-Law of Christine; the best Nan to Katie, Paul, Shaun and Jessica; proud Great-Nan to Luke, Jackson, Jack, Will, Bobby and Sadie. Greatly missed by many family and friends. Requiem Mass to be held in St. Mary's RC Church, Newton Aycliffe at 10.00am on Friday 3rd March, followed by Cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations welcome in aid of Diabetes UK. 'Together again. May they rest in peace'

William Johnson

(Bill)

Passed away peacefully on Sunday 19th February. Loving Husband, Dad, Grandad, Father-in-Law and Great Grandad. Service to be held on Thursday 2nd March at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe afterwards at the Big Club. A gentle, kind, caring man. Forever in our hearts.

EDWARD BRADLEY (Eddie) died suddenly at home on 15th February, age 73 years. Husband to Brenda; Father of Dawn and Ernest; Father-in-Law to George and Mary; Grandad to Jazz, Georgette, Kaye, Calvin and Grandfather to Alfie and Jack. Family and friends please meet at St. Clare's Church on Wednesday 1st March at 2.15pm followed by Cremation at Darlington Crematorium. Afterwards to 19 Marley Road. No flowers, donations to Bernardo's (Edwards chosen charity).

In Memoriam

Patricia Ann Walker

Died 26th February 2015

I know you are listening from Heaven above. There's nothing that I value more than your love. No matter where I am or what I'm doing, Your memories will always keep me smiling.

Love always, Colin

Patricia Ann Walker

Died 26th February 2015

Special memories of our Mam Patricia Ann Walker.

The fact that two years have passed and you are no longer with us, it will always cause us pain, but you will always be forever in our hearts. Until we meet again Mam.

Love always,
Lisa and Dennis xxxx

PATRICIA ANN WALKER Died 26th February 2015. Our Nana Patricia Ann Walker. We will never forget a Nana that gave us so much to remember. Love always, Gavin, Vanessa, Gareth, Gregory, Evie and Summer xxxxxx
WILLIAM TILLEY (Bill). Died 1st March 2015. Very much loved and missed every day by Billy, Elenor & family; Doreen, George & family; Trevor, Madge & family and Niece Brenda
JOHN ARRAN HUGHES January 1971 to February 1992. You will always remain in our thoughts, forever in our hearts, the breath we take, the tears we cry when alone. We will always hold you close. Forever in our hearts. Love always and forever, Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul, Vicky, Daughter Maxine and all the families xxxxx

PETER REDDEN 1971-2013. If memories bring us closer, we are never far apart. Because you are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. Love you loads, all your loving family
EDWARD HUBERY (Eddie). 17/06/1938 to 25/02/2011. Still loved and sadly missed by Gwyn, all his family and all his friends.

BLOWES Sylvia 5th March and Vic 24th February. You gave us many things in life, gifts both great and small. But most of all you gave us the greatest love of all. In our hearts your memory lingers, sweet, tender, fond and true. There is not a day dear Mam and Dad that we do not think of you. Love from all your Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Please pray for Emily who is very poorly x

Congratulations

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary



Happy 50th Anniversary

Love from Sarah, Emma, Stacey, Sam, Ellie, Megan, Steven and Samuel xx

MICK MANNION

Happy 70th birthday
1st March 2017

Enjoy your party.
Love from all your family and friends xx

Thank You

WILSON Heather and John would like to thank our amazing families and friends for attending our wedding and also for the beautiful gifts, cards and treats. Big thank you to the Golf Club staff and disco (shout out to Uncle Gilbert and Shane for the music). We are truly blessed.

GLADYS KENNEDY. Gladys's family would like to thank friends for their kindness and sympathy during this sad time. Also thanks for generous donations to RNLI which totalled £300. Thanks to Co-op Funeral Directors, and Carole Briggs (Celebrant) for patience, understanding, and the lovely Service. Thanks to Drs Scott and Pritchard for the care shown over the latter years. And a big thank you to Eileen at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club - your hospitality was very much appreciated.

For Sale

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

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Happy Golden Anniversary



With lots of love, Lynsey, Dominic and Andrew xxxx

Daniel Large

Happy Birthday!

Big one next year - best get planning now! Lots of love, Carrie xxx

Happy Birthday Daddy

Have a great weekend! Lots of love, Sebastian and Alex xxx

Happy Birthday Dan

Have a nice day. Love from Bev, Paul and Matthew

Mackenzie Jackman

(Macca)



Happy 19th Birthday

Hope you have a fab day and enjoy Amsterdam next week! Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Maddi, Cayden, Jade and John xxxxx

JACKMAN, Mackenzie. Happy 19th Birthday Macca, love and hugs from Grandad & Rachel, Grandad & Rose, Nan & Davy, Rachael & Gary and all your family and friends xx
JACKMAN, Mackenzie. Congratulations Macca on passing your test! Lots of love from Mum, Dad and everyone xxxxx

CONNOR WHEATLEY Happy 19th birthday, hope you have a great birthday and enjoy your trip to Amsterdam! Love from SJ, Craig, Macca, Madison and Cayden xx
MEGAN HARRISON Happy 21st birthday. Love, Auntie Gail, Uncle Ken, Gary, Neil, Kelly, Kim, Matthew, Lincoln, Issac, Jacob, Ella and Archie xxxxx

FANTASTIC 2017 MIGHTY WURLITZER PROGRAMME

The North East Theatre Organ Association are pleased to announce a fantastic program of Mighty Wurlitzer entertainment at the New Victoria Centre, Howden-Le-Wear, Nr. Crook, DL15 8EZ during 2017. The season gets underway on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th March with brilliant international organist Simon Gledhill and the concerts continue with top artistes on the Mighty Wurlitzer to bring first class entertainment for all to enjoy. The big names include Robert Wolfe, John Mann, Jean Martin, Scott Harrison, Damon Willetts, Andrew Nix, Chiho Sunamoto & Jon Smith. To book these concerts telephone David Kirkbride on 01388 762467
Special events not to be missed are the Annual Fete on 27th May and the annual Public Visitors/Open Day on 9th September, both FREE.

Throughout the year the NETOA New Vic Allstars present concerts including two specials, Sunday 30th April at 2.30pm Mighty Wurlitzer concert with a cream tea, and Thursday 16th November at 7.00pm presents the Annual Awards Concert with hot supper. Booking for both these concerts are essential for details telephone Fred Thompson 01388 601596 or frdthompson0@gmail.com. Open to everyone - all welcome
NETOA also provide the

opportunity for anyone who would like to play the Mighty Wurlitzer or learn to play to further their musical interest. For details telephone Ian Bowman 07824 162202 or Email ian.bowman@netoa.org.uk
The New Victoria Centre is a very friendly venue suitable for all needs and ages and we look forward to seeing everyone coming along to enjoy the magic of the Mighty Wurlitzer.
www.netoa.org.uk also facebook North East Theatre Organ Association

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE AGM

Everyone is welcome to the Annual Meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association, which is on Tuesday, March 7th, at 7pm in the village hall.

This is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to meet the committee and find out what has been happening over the past year and to put forward any ideas for events and activities in the coming one.

So whether you have just moved into Aycliffe Village or have lived here years, please call in to say hello and find out what we are doing. Look forward to seeing you! For more information, please call our chairman Keith Johnson on 01325 314735.



OWENS' HAT-TRICK EARNs AYCLIFFE F.C. THE POINTS



Aycliffe came out on top in an entertaining game which saw Aycliffe skipper Jamie Owens score three. Both teams played good football on a very wet pitch, and with a heavy sand covering the middle, Aycliffe made a blistering start within 30 seconds of the kick off. Josh Gray put in a good cross from the left for Owens to head over the Penrith keeper.

On 13 minutes Scott Howes attempted to lob the keeper from 40 yards with a great effort, but it was cleared off the line. He was called into action again on 19 minutes, making a great save from a Ben Trotter piledriver. But he was beaten just a minute later when Stuart Banks played in Owens for his

second to go 2-nil up. Penrith had a chance themselves on 34 minutes when a strong free-kick from Gilfillan was well saved by Phil Pentony. Aycliffe continued to dominate and Josh Gray shot straight at the keeper and then Stuart Banks hit a shot over the bar. Half-time 0-2. Aycliffe came out strongly again and on 47 minutes Stuart Banks volleyed

in a Josh Gray cross to make it three.

Penrith couldn't handle Aycliffe and went further behind four minutes later when Owens out-muscled the last defender and slotted it past the keeper for his hat-trick and 0-4. Aycliffe took their foot off the accelerator and allowed Penrith into the game. Grant Davison finished off a move at the far post to score.

Both sides then had chances. Connelly put one past the post for Penrith. Then substitute Jack Oliver had a chance when clean through, but the goalkeeper saved with his legs. Penrith then made it 2-4 at the death when Connelly converted a penalty in injury time. Final score 2-4.

Aycliffe now play the rearranged league game at Consett on Tuesday before welcoming Whitley Bay to Moore Lane on Saturday 25 February (KO 3pm).

On Tuesday 28 February Billingham Synthonia will be the visitors for the semi final of the Durham Challenge Cup. Kick off is 7.30pm with admission £6 adults, £4 concessions, under 16's - £2.

Aycliffe Golfer Misses Out on National Title

Amateur golfer from Newton Aycliffe just missed out on a prestigious national title when he competed in the singles final of the 2016 Morocco Matchplay, powered by HowDidiDo, in Marrakech. Coachbuilder Neil Stein, 43, a 12-handicapper, who plays at Ramside Hall GC, won two of his matches at the Robert Trent Jones-designed PalmGolf Marrakech Palmeraie to finish third.

He still enjoyed the experience in Morocco, where he received complimentary return flights from Gatwick, courtesy of the event's partner British Airways; five nights' luxury bed-and-breakfast accommodation in the five-star Palmeraie Palace; four rounds of championship golf; a welcome cocktail reception; and a gala dinner and prize presentation.

He said: "It's been an absolutely fantastic week. Everybody's been spot on, especially the four of us in the singles. We've had such a laugh. We've taken our golf seriously, but we've enjoyed excellent camaraderie. I can't recommend it highly enough for people to enter it, because it's been superb."

"It cost me £25 to be here. My club paid for the two matches at home and the guy paid for me when I went away, so I've



beautiful scenery - with views of the Atlas mountains and 11 lakes - while still demanding technical prowess. Just 25 minutes from the international airport, the Troon Golf-managed course was voted Africa's best, in the World Travel Awards, for 10 consecutive years from 2006 to 2015.

The elegant, yet contemporary, five-star Palmeraie Palace offers 314 rooms and suites, each with a terrace or balcony overlooking the swimming pool, golf course or gardens. It also has four restaurants and bars for relaxing 'off course'.

Morocco has 37 golf courses to be enjoyed in year-round sunshine plus eight more under construction and, with flight times of less than 3½ hours from the UK and Ireland, it is a hugely attractive alternative to the more traditional golf destinations of Europe.

Around 2,000 golf clubs and more than 547,000 golfers currently use the HowDidiDo system.

www.howdidi.com

www.moroccomatchplay.co.uk

had a superb week in the sun for £25. The organisation's been brilliant too; the hotel is fantastic, top drawer: the rooms, the golf course, the facilities, all outstanding. And I'm going back to the UK with a sun-tan, I let myself down on the first two days by losing my two matches, but pulled it back in the last two to finish third. I'm disappointed to not have won it, but third out of the many hundreds of people around the country who entered feels superb. You want to win the golf when you're here, but we all won, because we got a free holiday."

The stunning course offers



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Town Skaters Meet National Standard



Spectrum skaters had success with grade tests at Outwood Academy, Middlesbrough on Monday February 6th.

Five skaters passed tests skating in front of judges to a national standard. Nicola Stevens (Shildon) passed grade 8, Joseph Kearney (15) passed grade 8, Harrison Austin (9) passed grade 7 and 8, Charlotte Wilson (11) passed grade 6 and 7, Lucy Richardson (10) passed grade 6 and 7.

The grades are accredited by Federation of Roller Skating. The Spectrum Club is affiliated to FARS and anyone wanting to learn to roller skate can come along to Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Sundays - 2.30-3.30pm £4 where the club follow the basic skills award grades scheme.

These grades are an excellent route for anyone wanting to participate in skating as a fun hobby or to further progress into roller derby, roller hockey or artistic roller skating. For more information contact: Tracy

Stevens 07891 461958 or find our club on facebook and twitter.

Photo: Nicola Stevens (back), Charlotte Wilson (left), Lucy Richardson (right), Harrison Austin (front).



There will be a POP in PACT Meeting to be held at the police town centre unit in on Saturday 11th March from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

PCSO Daniela Jones and PCSO Chris O'Brien will be available to give updates on what's going on in your area and answer your questions. We will also be offering a free bike marking service on the day.

Kind Regards
PCSO 7596 Daniela Jones
Newton Aycliffe
Neighbourhood Policing
Team

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