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Week Ending 3rd March 2017

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## Tesco Re-Launch with High Street Brands

Shoppers in Newton Aycliffe are set to benefit when a host of exciting fashion brands become available at the Tesco Extra Store. Following a partnership with the Arcadia Group the store will be welcoming high street clothing brands Dorothy Perkins, Evans, Burton and Wallis.

To celebrate, the store is holding a special re-launch event on Monday 6th March at 10am, where they will be joined by representatives from local charity Hub of Wishes who will receive a cheque for £1,000.

The winner of a drawing competition that has been run by the store with local schools will also be announced. Primary school pupils in the area were asked to design a poster depicting what they

love about their local area. The winning school will also receive a £500 donation and the winning pupil a £25 gift card.

Thousands of the hessian bags featuring the winning design will be given away to customers, along with Tesco finest\* prosecco and celebration cake, to mark this special occasion. In addition to the new fashion brands, there will also be a new-look fresh fruit and veg department and a new style bakery where customers can choose their own freshly baked bread.

Tesco Extra store manager, Helen Maynard said: "We are constantly looking at ways to enhance the customer experience and the addition of these popular fashion brands and other improvements are

ones which I am sure people will be excited about.

"We are really looking forward to the re-launch event and showing customers the changes that we have made in the store. We would like to thank all our customers for their patience during the building work."

To celebrate the addition of the Arcadia outlets the store will be giving customers the chance to nominate someone to receive a VIP experience at the store. Four winners will receive a personal shopping experience with £100 in vouchers to spend in the new departments, a professional make-up artist, brunch in the café and a limo taxi to and from the store. Nominations open on Monday 13th March. Visit the customer service desk for more information.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

For the past six years Newton Press have organised the Year 11 awards for Greenfield College and Woodham Academy.

These awards recognise the hard work that Year 11 pupils accomplish in their final year of school. The prizes have been valuable items such as cameras, ipods or tablets and are awarded at the end of year Prom.

Newton Press are looking to recruit another sponsor (or two) to provide cash towards this project.

If your company would like to get involved, please contact paul@newtonpress.net

Ideally the project requires another £200 from a sponsor and in return you will be invited to attend the Prom and help present the prizes to the winners. You will also receive free publicity for your business through Newton News (and its website).

## Rotary Club Model Railway Exhibition



It's all systems go for the 8th Annual Model Railway Exhibition being organized by the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4HT (opp. Tesco) on Saturday 11th March from 10am to 5pm.

Entry costs £4 for adults, £3 for concessions and 50p for children. There are family tickets available at £8.

This year's event will be the largest so far with 19 layouts booked for the event ranging from "n" to "G" scales representing locations from the UK, Europe and North America. Of special interest to the more mature visitors will be a Hornby "O" gauge layout from the 1950's and for the very young, a self-drive Thomas and Friends layout from Shildon Model Railway Club.

Traders will be well represented with 10 stands

selling new and pre-owned model railway items along with die-cast models, scenery, photographs and books. Four full size preservation societies will be lending their support while other enthusiasts will be manning a tombola staff and serving refreshments.

Free parking is available at St Mary's RC Church just yards from the event, there is full disabled access, all day refreshments are available and a family tombola. Proceeds from the exhibition will be shared between the Heel and Toe charity, which supports children with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities, and the Brain Tumour Research Campaign.

Further information is available from Rtn. John Burrows on 07870 210269 or email jandeburrows@gmail.com

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# Book Sales Raise £615 Woodham Student Destined for Star Dancing Career



Recent book sales held at Heighington Village Hall and St Clare's Church in Newton Aycliffe, in aid of Marie Curie, raised a combined total of £615.

The Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group thank the residents of Newton Aycliffe, Heighington, and the surrounding areas, who generously donated all the books, CD's and DVD's offered at the sales. There were over three thousand items donated within a ten day period.

The Group are also very grateful to all the people who attended the events and were able to purchase good quality books at amazing prices.

They would also like to say a special thank you to St Clare's Church and their volunteers who were very supportive of their event by providing a coffee morning and cake stall to all the visitors. Their generous donation helped contribute to the overall success of the book sale.

All of the unsold items have been re-distributed to Marie Curie shops throughout the North East and will generate substantial future funds to provide 'end of life' care by Marie Curie Nurses.

Woodham Academy student, Georgia Thelwell, has had an exceptional year this year where her hard work and dedication to dance has led her to fantastic opportunities and exceptional performances.

Recently Georgia competed in 'Can You Dance' touring convention where she competed against other dancers at a national standard. This is the first time that she was lucky enough to meet photographer Paul from Centre Stage. This allowed Georgia to have multiple photos shoots and events which has helped her considerably raise her profile as well as being introduced to Angel Dancewear.

Other than meeting the photographer, Georgia was also scouted by Urdang London, an extremely prestigious Dance School. This has led to a scholarship into Urdang's Summer



School which she will attend this August.

At the Moveit convention, Georgia performed on the freestyle stage where she was scouted by UKDance Elite. This resulted in Georgia automatically gaining a place in the regional heats. She performed outstandingly allowing Georgia to progress through the semi-finals and into the finals where she was competing against the top 22 in the country. During the final Georgia worked exceptionally hard, putting in all of her hard work and practice into her piece and was placed 3rd overall.

This year has also seen Georgia audition for 'Dance City' where again she successfully gained a place in the Centre for Advanced Training. This is where she trains to a high standard in

ballet and contemporary for 10 hours a week in Newcastle. One of the biggest successes she has experienced this year could be the opportunity from performing at NELive in Newcastle. Georgia was spotted by the top judge, Ryan Jenkins, during his lecture and offered her the chance to join his ID-dance company in the Pineapple studios in London.

With all of these amazing experiences, Georgia has had to travel far with her family and other families. She makes sure she has time to keep up her school attainment as she completes her work on the train journeys. Georgia remains positive and outgoing and always shows resilience, especially when she is faced with a challenge.

Georgia will be dancing in Woodham Academy's Dance Showcase on the 30th March where she will perform group pieces and solos which we are all looking forward to. Everyone at Woodham Academy is extremely proud of Georgia and her achievements and wish her luck with all of her future endeavours. Tickets for Woodham Academy's Dance Showcase on 30th March at 7pm are available from the school office 01325 300328.

## Western Area Residents Meet

Western Area Residents Association meeting is on Wednesday 8th March 6.00pm at The Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place (behind Lindisfarne Nursing Home). We hope the Police, Livin, Local Councillors and Park/Neighbourhood Wardens will attend.

## Don't Make Me Laugh!

Dear Sir,  
The Labour Party calling my letter fake news in Newton News, dated 17/02/2017, made me laugh! The Labour Party have been spreading fake news for years - you only have to read their leaflets.

If I want to have a go about something I do it face to face Hopper at PACT meeting which I attend in the West There was one job my husband asked E Adam to he ended up phoning County Hall asking why nothing had been done and was told it had not been reported. He rang the portfolio holder who got the work done straight away. When I want information I write to County Hall under the Freedom Of Information Act and that's how I keep informed.

The information in Labour Party leaflets do not hold water and has many holes. I only hope that when the West Ward Councillors talk to people they explain why our Ward.

Margaret Tomlin

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Don't Believe All You Read

Dear Sir,  
I could not believe the blatant lies I read in a leaflet saying how good our county councillors are. One of the candidates, Jim Atkinson, standing in Aycliffe East Ward has never been a County Councillor and has only been on the Town Council just over four years. Many good things have been achieved, and have been, in the past, through the Councillor's neighbourhood initiative fund. If the public believe the claims about their work in the East Ward - where were these so called hard working

councillors when they closed the care homes, post office and when not supporting nurses and teaching assistants, or when councillors voted for pay cuts?

Over the past 30 years I have worked alongside Labour councillors to improve the area we represent. My hope is that prospective County Councillors tell the truth in their next leaflet especially the time they have been involved in local politics and the length of time they have been a councillor.

Bill Blenkinsopp  
Independent

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Gig-Pit Review: "Well, I don't know what to say, apart from . . . THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best . . . especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar, haha! Every song was awesome, perfect sound, and just all round excellence. It was also the best atmosphere I've ever experienced, everyone was having fun."  
Gig-Pit Review: "One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol and Thin Lizzy."  
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## SCANNER SCANDAL

Dear Sir,  
I would like to express my admiration for Syd Howarth and his whistle blowing reader for acting to stop the Darlington Memorial Hospital being ripped off.

See extract from Newton News: "Over a year ago a reader contacted Newton News Editor Syd Howarth with alarming information on the finance deal providing MRI scanning equipment to Darlington Memorial Hospital."

Further investigation showed a Private Finance Company, owned the scanner and the hospital were paying over a £1 million a year for its use. The scanner cost less than £800,000 and it has been in place for 18 years".

I would like to ask if anyone, responsible for the Memorial Hospital finances, is being investigated in regards to this outrage, because this huge waste of money is at best gross incompetence or maybe worse.

John Parlour

## How to Climb Mount Everest



This week in Class 2, visitors from Durham University came in to teach us about being an explorer. The children spent the afternoon investigating what they would need to take with them if they were to climb Mount Everest, travel into a deep jungle, shoot off in a rocket to space or to climb aboard a pirate ship.

The children then looked into what it would really be like to be an explorer in Antarctica. The children were asked to build a vehicle with Lego, which would take them to Antarctica. It was a fun filled afternoon with lots of interesting facts learnt.

## Heighington Village Hall Assoc. AGM

Heighington Village Hall Association hold their AGM on Tuesday 14th March at 7pm and are keen to welcome villagers who would like to hear what has been done to improve the hall over the past year and about the activities of regular users.

Light refreshments will be served at 7pm prior to the meeting starting at 7.30pm. There will be elections of Officers and Committee with new committee members always welcome.

The Village Hall is the hub of Heighington's community and a lot of hard work goes into the day to day running of the building so that it can be there for ALL villagers to enjoy.

Without the hard work of the committee who are all volunteers, the hall would not be open, so every bit of support they can get is greatly appreciated.

Karin Allison, Hon Secretary

## WILLIAMFIELD BRIDGE RESTORED



The residents of the Williamfield Area of Newton Aycliffe would like to thank Kerry Wooton for taking the time to collect the 480 signatures for our "SAVE OUR BRIDGE PETITION" which Dorothy Bowman Chairperson of the local residents association personally handed in to Head of Services at Durham County Council.

The work on this bridge has now started and will save people having to walk the extra distance. It is hoped Kerry will be allowed to cut the opening ribbon because it was a long, hard job collecting the signatures. The money for restoring the bridge came from local County Councillors from their Neighbourhood Budget.

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## Hollie Donates Hair to Chemo Patients



Hollie Williams (12) who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis had very long hair before she decided to help people who lose their hair following chemotherapy. She asked Town Hairdressers "The Work" to cut it off so she could donate it to the Princess Trust who make wigs for cancer victims. Hollie knows what it is like to be really ill and she hopes her hair will make someone happy who is feeling low.



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# Half-term Holiday Fun at Greenfield Arts BHF Quiz Night Raised £2000

Greenfield Arts had three fabulous sessions during the half-term break which saw families getting together to get creative and have fun. The first session was held at Foundations Building, Shildon, it had a real buzz about it as our brilliant tutor Dawn Belshaw got everyone busy making bumble-bee and ladybird insect hotels. The young people really enjoyed bringing recycled materials to life and the results were fabulous with each child

taking home their very own work to brighten up the garden. Gallery Encounters was the next fun activity at Greenfield Arts. The session was led by talented tutor Jilly Johnston who introduced the children and families to the art of mono-printing. The children had the chance to visit the gallery and take inspiration from the work of professional artist, Stephen Wiper. Everyone involved had great fun learning new



skills, in a lovely friendly environment. The final session brought in an element of design, led by artist and illustrator Sharron Bates the young people got the chance to show off their talents by helping to create a fabulous display for the Foyer at Greenfield Community College.

Families worked brilliantly with Sharron to bring beauty and inspiration to their very own installation, creating stunning birds coupled with inspirational text, inviting everyone and anyone to come in and let their creativity flow, a real testament to their hard work. All in all a really great week well done to everyone involved!

If you would like to know a bit more about the activities at Greenfield Arts why not check out our website at [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) or call our friendly team on 01325 379048.

## ACORN Meets

The Acorn Residents Association monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 9th March at 6.00pm in the Phoenix Club upstairs. The juniors will meet at 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along. Our local PCSO and Councillors usually attend and welcome any questions or public views.

The trips we have organised are as follows: Leeds Armoury and/or shopping 11th March, Whitby Goth Day 23rd April, North Shields Aquarium 13th May and Holmfirth/Skipton 17th June. All the trips require a £5 per person donation. For any further information or to book ring 01325 321471. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting or trips.



On Saturday 11th February 2017 a 3rd Annual Charity Quiz night raised money for The British Heart Foundation at Newton Aycliffe Scout Hall.

Jon, Bernie and Joshua Patchett wanted to raise funds for this great charity as Jon received life saving treatment at James Cook Hospital, 4 years ago after suffering a heart attack.

We raised a brilliant £1500 and with some more donations hope to total £2000. Everyone enjoyed a Pie and Pea supper supplied by Walkers Butchers and we had a great quiz led by brilliant quiz master Ian Banks. Congratulations to the winning team, the Wino's.

We received raffle prizes/donations from Aycliffe Fabrications, Darchem Engineering, JAJECS Electrical Services, The Olive Garden, Occasions, The County, Emre's,

Wilkinsons, Darlington MOT Centre, Tesco, Workshop Supplies, Gestamp Tallent, Flymo, Jewsons, Edmundson Electrical, UPEX Electrical, Park Electrical and many other local companies, friends and families.

A big thank you to Jessica and Megan for selling raffle tickets; Denise for organising and running the Tombola; Joshua and Sean for marking the quiz and everyone who helped serve the pie and pies plus staff at the Scout Hall.

Thanks to David Sutton-Lloyd from Woodham Community Association who spoke about the funding in place for defibrillators and training. To find out more information please contact David on 01325 300258.

Jon, Bernie and Joshua would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes, helped out on the night and everyone who bought tickets and made it such a great night, without you we couldn't have done it.

## COUNCIL BID FOR ELMFIELD SCHOOL SITE

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that at Great Aycliffe Town Council Recreation Committee meeting I put forward a motion, seconded by Cllr Arun Chandran requesting an approach to Durham County Council to acquire the old Elmfield School site as an extension to West Park. All attending Councillors supported the motion and we hope for co-operation from Durham County Council. As an authority, we are asking for the use of this land over a long period at a peppercorn rent, which would result in the tidying up, cleaning and general maintenance of the site.

Many thanks to all involved; we are only at the start of the process but if we are successful the whole area will benefit from the tidy outlook. This along with the refurbished Whinlatter Bridge scheduled to be installed soon, means residents can look forward to seeing a much-improved vista.

Cllr Ken Robson

Cllr Arun Chandran

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## ★ STAR RADIO

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Frequency: 102-107FM

#### Friday 3rd 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 - Dancing Through the Decades  
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

#### Saturday 4th March

0600-0800 - John Clayton  
0800-1200 - Harry Peak  
1200-1400 - Best Of Breakfast - Wes Stakes  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1800 - Craig Andrews  
1800-0000 - Dancing Through the Decades

#### Sunday 5th March

0600-0800 - Easy Like A Sunday Morning, John Clayton  
0800-1200 - Dave Sherwood  
1200-1400 - The Sunday Takeover  
1400-1500 - Everything 80's  
1500-1900 - Emil Franchi  
1900-2200 - Non Stop Star  
2200-0000 - Wind Down Zone

#### Monday 6th to Thursday 9th 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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## Town's Pipe Band Support MRI Scanner Appeal



Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band are performing outside Tesco's in aid of the Darlington and Bishop Auckland MRI Scanner Appeal on 29th April 2017, from 11am.

The band is currently recruiting new members, both experienced or non-experienced pipers and drummers, of any age, are welcome. We practice at the TA Centre, Greenwell Road, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday nights, 7.30pm until 9pm and Sunday afternoons, 2.00pm until 5.00pm. All tuition is given free of charge.

If you are interested and want further details please contact Susan Cook 07875 321425.



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OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE  
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## 8th ANNUAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017  
10am - 5pm

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## Fly the Flag for Commonwealth

Great Aycliffe Town Council have registered to take part in the marking of Commonwealth Day by raising and flying the Commonwealth Flag at the flagpole outside of St. Clare's Church. The Mayor, Councillor Jed Hillary, will raise the flag on behalf of the town; anyone wishing to attend should meet at St. Clare's Flagpole prior to 9.30am on Monday, 13th March 2017.

## LABOUR PARTY REFUTES DEFECTOR'S CLAIMS

Dear Editor,  
I refer to the letter from Arun Chandran and having discussed the contents with the Branch Chair make the following comments to the allegations.  
Aycliffe North / West Labour Party Branch is not a place of corruption and bullying. Arun Chandran's allegations were shelved

because they were found to be nonsense. No impropriety has been committed. Not one word of his letter was true.  
We notice that amongst all the bluster Arun did not deny the Northern Echo report that he tried to manipulate a By-election by fielding a dummy candidate. He also failed to mention

that he was under investigation by the NEC of the Labour Party. He mentions the fact that the Branch selected a member from Darlington but fails to mention that this member works in Tesco and under the rules set by Parliament you are allowed to stand as a candidate if you, live, work, volunteer or own property in the area that you wish to stand. He further says that he investigated a member who lives in Ferryhill and not on the electoral roll that would be an issue for DCC's electoral officer who would spot that.

In this case the member works at Greenfield School. It is not an issue for the Labour Party. Once again, he got it wrong, Cllr. Chandran is manipulating the system. According the GATC website he calls himself, Independent – Labour he cannot wear two hats he is either Independent or Labour. Labour belongs to the official Labour Party, not someone who just pretends to be.

There are people on this town who also take a dim view of people being elected on one ticket then swapping sides but would like to see them stand down with a By-election called, maybe Cllr. Chandran should consider his position.

Vince Crosby  
Branch Secretary  
Aycliffe North/West BLP

## Former Newtonians Married in Darlington



Shelana Lloyd and Adam Stott were married on Saturday 25th February 2017 at 3pm in Darlington Town Hall.

The Reception was held at The Freemasons' Hall in Darlington. Shelana is employed as a Homemaker and Adam is an Occupation Security Officer for Almit Group in Faverdale.

The Best Man was David O'Reilly and Groomsmen were Martin, Jack and Joe Stott, brothers of the groom.

The Maid of Honour was Jamie Leigh Lloyd the bride's sister. Bridesmaids Marcy Lloyd, bride's sister, Dani Moore and Naomi Smith the bride's friends. The Flower Girl was Ellie Mae and the Page Boys were the Sons of the Bride, Cameron & Declan O'Reilly and the Bride and Groom's one year old son Oscar Stott.

Adam is the eldest son of Stephen Stott and Lesley Smith and Shelana is the eldest daughter of Polly and Philip Lloyd. Adam and Shelana both grew up in Aycliffe and were childhood friends, eventually becoming best friends which grew into love and marriage.

They now live in Gurney Street, Darlington.

## Looking for Colin Wilson

Dear Sir,  
I am trying to locate my Mam and Dad's Best Man as they are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in a few weeks time and I would love for him to be there for the celebrations.

His name is Colin Wilson and his last known whereabouts was Newton Aycliffe in the late 60's. Please contact: sarahgilyeat@icloud.com or on my mobile: 07895 295124. Sarah Gilyeat

## Gold Valuation Day Helps Ex-Service Personnel

Week commencing Monday March 6th could be a fantastic opportunity for readers of Newton News to beat the credit crunch and cash in on their inherited and unwanted medals. As well as coins and all associated items of unwanted gold and silver items this is when the team of experts from The Medal Centre will hold specialist valuation days in Aycliffe Village Hall.

The specialists are experts in their own chosen field and will be on hand to give free plus other small collectables. Scrap gold and broken jewellery in any form is acceptable particularly gold coins, sovereigns, krugerrands, gold watches and watch chains.

Experts are happy to make you an immediate on the spot cash offer for your unwanted items and will offer the very best prices available. Most people are delighted at the large amounts they are offered.

The Medal Centre have been

asked to return to a number of local venues due to the huge response to the event held at this venue last time they visited.

One local resident was absolutely thrilled to accept a four figure sum for a small tin box containing her late Uncle's medals for bravery during WW1 along with his campaign medals for service in the Boer War and WW1 with gold and silver coins, along with a small amount of broken jewellery.

The lady was astounded to discover how much her items were worth and the money could not have come at a better time due to the current financial situation. On top of all that she was delighted to be helping local ex-servicemen and women

There has never been a better time to sell your inherited collectable items due to The Medal Centres vast client base. They are able to offer the best possible prices and proprietor

Andrew Jukes said "We are now able to pay exceptionally high prices for all medals from a single item to a complete collection".

Prices for these items are at an all time high and people are often surprised how much associated items such as cloth and metal badges or items of uniform, paperwork and photographs can enhance the value of a group of medals.

Even items such as military pay books or old photographs will always be of interest to a genuine collector. It is also a good way to help your local community as The Medal Centre will be giving a donation to local ex-service charities for every item they are able to purchase on the day. If you cannot attend on the day one of the experts from The Medal Centre will be happy to call and see you at your convenience and they can be contacted on 01434 609794 or 07950 421704.

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**LANCHESTER**  
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**DH7-0NT**

**TUESDAY MARCH 7TH**  
**THE VANE TEMPEST HALL**  
**(GILLES GATE)**  
**COMMUNITY CENTRE)**  
**MAYNARDS ROW**  
**GILLES GATE**  
**DURHAM**  
**DH1-1QF**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 8TH**  
**CHESTER-LE-STREET**  
**METHODIST CHURCH**  
**(CORNER STONES**  
**COMMUNITY CENTRE)**  
**THE MARKET PLACE**  
**NORTH BURNS**  
**CHESTER-LE-STREET**  
**COUNTY DURHAM**  
**DH3-3TF**

**THURSDAY MARCH 9TH**  
**ST. AUGUSTINES PARISH**  
**CENTRE**  
**LARCHFIELD STREET**  
**DARLINGTON**  
**COUNTY DURHAM**  
**DL3-7TG**

**FRIDAY MARCH 10TH**  
**AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL**  
**9-12 NORTH TERRACE**  
**AYCLIFFE VILLAGE**  
**NEWTON AYCLIFFE**  
**COUNTY DURHAM**  
**DL5-6LF**

**SATURDAY MARCH 11TH**  
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**FERRYHILL LITERARY**  
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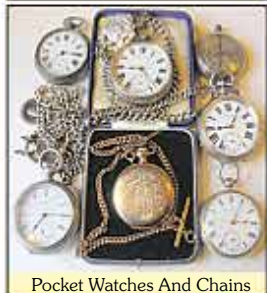
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Scrap Gold



# "COUNCILLORS CAN LIVE OUTSIDE THE TOWN"

Dear Sir,  
I feel obliged to respond to a letter by former Labour Councillor Arun Chandran who twice made reference to a serving Councillor living in Darlington. It is clear he was referring to is me.

The stance he is taking on this matter amazes me as he has never raised it as an issue, even saying so personally to me just weeks ago because, in his words, I was an active Councillor regularly attending meetings. In his letter he mentioned £9,000 of taxpayers' money being spent on a possible future by-election. This comes from a man that once submitted to Newton News an artist's impression of a large greenhouse with a proposal to the Council that money be spent building one and placing it in West Park. Another of his proposals was that up to a whopping £48,000 be spent on already existing pathways around Simpature Park.

Regarding comments made about myself and where I live, I have in the past dealt openly with this issue and made it clear to the public in this very paper what the rules are for out-of-town Councillors. When elected back in 2013 I was and had been a resident of this town for 40 years but in late 2014, due to personal reasons, I had to relocate to Darlington. There was no wrongdoing in this as Council rules state that Councillors should

either live OR WORK within 3 miles of the town they are serving.

For the past 7 years I have been working for Tesco. This in fact ensures that I am working closely with the people of Great Aycliffe, keeping up to date with everything that goes on around our town, at the same time listening to people's views and opinions and ready to help whenever I can.

In addition I am also the

founder and chair of the local group looking after the safety of the town's children trying to deal with speeding and parking issues outside the town's schools. Thus, over the course of my 4-year term I have been very active as a Councillor.

This has been an honour. I will be standing in the Town Council elections this year and I hope to be able to continue to do so.

CLlr Paul Kjenstad

## Free Normandy Trip for D-Day Veterans

Dear Editor,

I am Head of Travel for the travel arm of the Royal British Legion, Remembrance Travel, and I'm currently on a mission to find every single surviving 'D'-Day veteran. The Treasury is enabling a series of free-of-charge tours for D-Day veterans to return to Normandy and pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

The tours are being funded by the Treasury from LIBOR fines, and will enable a D-Day veteran to return with a family member and carer on a six-night tour.

The 2017 tours will take place in March, April, May and September and will give Normandy veterans - now mostly in their 90s - the chance to revisit the Normandy beaches, cemeteries and memorials. The tours will be accompanied by a medic and a guide from the Royal British Legion. The tours will depart from London and will include Eurotunnel from Dover to Calais, accommodation, visits to Pegasus Bridge, Juno, Sword, Gold beaches, Arromanches, and war memorials, plus visits to personally specified cemeteries too.

Sadly, there is no database of D-Day veterans so we're calling on the goodwill of the media and general public to spread the word. So, if you do know a D-Day veteran, please do let them know about our free tours.

Normandy veterans wishing to benefit from this tour need to apply to our tour operator, Arena Travel on 01473 660800, or visit [www.arenatravel.com/journeysofremembrance](http://www.arenatravel.com/journeysofremembrance)

Nichola Rowlands



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Keep Off Our Grass

Dear Sir,  
Alexander Pope wrote: 'Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed', but I am disappointed!

Disappointed that some of the residents of our town - places such as Armstrong Close probably will have to endure stress in battles to prevent Livin from building on land, close to their homes. I asked the question, back in July 2008: 'Why does Sedgfield Borough Homes require these open spaces?'

The Chief Executive of Sedgfield Borough Council, called my fears and predictions regarding the fate of open spaces 'absurd'. He gave categorical assurances that this would not happen and covenants would be written into the 'Offer Document' preventing housing developments.

His words now appear hollow and empty, however, my main disappointment does not focus on former SBC Officer Mr Allen, but rather with the 15 Newton Aycliffe Councillors - initially, 10 Independent and 5 Labour Party - elected to represent this town in the 2007 Sedgfield Borough Council elections.

Those 15 councillors made up some 30% of the total of the 50 elected for the whole of SBC. They represented us from 2007 until 2009.

If I, as an unelected

Newtonian, was receiving public written assurances (and slap-downs) in July 2008, why were they, our elected representatives, not then making sure that those words became actions?

Would any of those councillors, still active, from back in 2007 - 2009, like to inform us why collectively, they were not able to hold the Chief Executive to his word? Were they given the opportunity to scrutinise the 'offer document' and its terms?

Did they vote on this?

Were there 'behind closed doors' meetings to which councillors were not privy? To my mind this particular stable door should have been firmly shut and bolted back in 2008, before the SBH/Livin horses were allowed to trample over our open spaces.

We should never have been put in this position in the first place! Have any of those six or more SBC councillors from back in 2009, who will be standing in the May 2017 elections - both Independent and Labour - have any recollections? Or should I refer to Alexander Pope, again?

Derek G. Atkinson  
GATC councillor and  
GARA committee member.

## Political Criticism

Dear Sir,  
I saw in a recent edition that our MP had his first shopping experience in Tesco's. When you want people to attend, don't you promote and advertise it well to gain full and varied opinions and points of view from a maximum cross section of constituents?

At the same time, was he informed of what Tesco are planning on the upper level of the store and is it not sub-letting?

Does this mean our 13 empty shops will remain vacant, when Mr. Wilson said they would attract high street stores, into our new town centre? But then Tesco has been known to donate a sizable, financial contribution to the Labour Party (allegedly).

On top of this there is no light at the end of the tunnel for a Retail Park in Aycliffe. How long will the London owned town centre be protected from outside open and fair competition?

As for his main concern, Brexit, Phil Wilson wanted us to stay in the EU. Don't remaners tell us we didn't understand what we were voting for? I can't wait for the sequel "LaLa Land 2, - A Day in the House of Commons".

Then we have a new thing called fake news. A Labour leaflet for James Atkinson and Sarah Iveson put through

our door made interesting observations. All schools in Aycliffe had help from the council, but are they not controlled by the County Council?

Councillors supported improvement in the Neville Parade Community Centre, but was this for the centre or for improvements to The Cubby which transferred there?

There was an interesting piece of information, that they greatly improved parking along Gilpin Road. Can the councillor who lives in that area put her hand up? Bollards have also been erected to stop vehicles parking on grassed areas on St. Cuthbert's Way.

That same councillor, should look around her own ward, where houses have been built and garages removed. The grass along the roadside is being ruined by tyre tracks. Bungalows in the Clarence Green area are being left empty on purpose to fall into dilapidation by Livin.

In the same area, there is other land available for a Livin building venture - a number of allotments - which might be under threat. Why are all the new infill builds in the old end of town? There is never planning applications for housing association accommodation in the Woodham area.

Name & address supplied

## DogsTrust & Newton News

### FIND A DOG a home

**Dogs hop on DogMobile for a tail-wagging time.**

Charity brings roving rehoming unit to North Yorkshire.

On Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th February Dogs Trust will be raising pounds for hounds at a doggie meet and greet in North Yorkshire.

The charity's Dogmobile will be making an appearance at The Market Place in Richmond Town Centre from 9.00am to 4.00pm to give supporters and doting dog lovers a chance to find out more about the work of Dogs Trust and meet some of our four legged friends.

The Dogmobile will be carrying pooches from Dogs Trust's Darlington Rehoming Centre, all looking for brand new homes. Pooches like Tyler, a five year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier who loves getting out and about to explore new places. Tyler recently jumped at the chance to visit the iconic Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough where he loved posing for pictures and enjoyed having a walk along the riverside.

Sue Embleton, Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Darlington, said: "This adorable chap loves his toys, sometimes a bit too much and it can be an adventure getting him to share. Tyler can be quite an independent boy but is very happy playing with his toys and will be your best friend for a tasty treat. Tyler already knows how to sit, lie down and give a paw so it's no surprise he enjoys learning new things.

"Tyler would need to be the only dog in the home as he prefers human companionship and likes to soak up all the attention in the home. He could live with older teenagers aged 14 years and older. He would also benefit by living with a family who have experience in caring for bull breeds but his exuberant nature and joy for life would make anyone fall instantly in love with him."

Experts will also be on hand at the two-day event to offer advice on finding your perfect dog and to talk about the various opportunities to support the charity.

Dogmobile Manager, Mal Green, explains: "The Dogmobile is a fun, interactive way to help people find out more about rehoming a rescue dog and the brilliant work of Dogs Trust. Whilst dogs are not directly rehomed from the Dogmobile, if you do find that it's puppy love after meeting our adorable dogs, we encourage you to visit our centres to find out more about making a new best friend."

"You'll also be able to find out about the charity's fantastic 'Sponsor a Dog' scheme, how you can get your dog microchipped at Dogs Trust centres and how you can make a difference by volunteering at the Dogs Trust Darlington Centre."

If you are interested in rehoming a dog please contact Dogs Trust Darlington on 0300 303 0292 or visit Dogs Trust Darlington, Hill House Farm, Hill House Lane, Sadberge DL2 1SL



## Durham Constabulary "Outstanding"

Durham Constabulary has maintained its position as the top performing police force in the country for a third year in a row.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) assessed each of the 43 forces in England and Wales to see how effective they were at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

It is understood Durham is the only one to receive an overall grade of 'outstanding'. In the individual areas assessed, the force was deemed 'outstanding' at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe. It also was graded 'outstanding' at tackling serious and organised crime. Meanwhile, the force was deemed to be 'good' at investigating crime and reducing re-offending and 'good' at protecting the vulnerable.

The report says: "Overall the effectiveness of Durham Constabulary is judged to be outstanding. In arriving at this view HMIC has taken account of how the constabulary treats, identifies and supports vulnerable victims, investigates crime - especially serious and organised crime - and engages with its communities.

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## Councillor Asks What is Going Wrong?

Dear Sir,  
I began this week with an air of anticipation that my work in the community was beginning to bear fruit. Then last Saturday night Cllr Arun Chandran called the police and said he couldn't get an adequate response at a time when a crime was taking place.

Last week I had occasion to complain on our Neighbourhood Beat Team facebook page about the criminal damage caused to our beautiful green spaces by thoughtless people riding mini motos and quads in our parks.

I had a visit mid week by the police who assured me that plans were afoot to deal with the situation. On Friday an article from PCSO Mike Welch appeared in the Newton News and I thought at least we are tackling the problem.

However on Sunday at West Park chatting with our park warden he revealed the extent of problems caused by our children and not so young I was shocked!

On Monday evening I got a call from a lady who lives in Silkin Way complaining about parking problems, much of which are caused by the chap who was recently using the Woodham Burn School as a car park. (I have an appointment to see the lady but don't think I

will be able to help her) Tuesday - Had a chat with Alan Lowe from Simpasture Court who informs me that some elderly residents have been frightened by youths sneaking into the court and lighting a fire.

10am on Tuesday I received photos of severe damage to a bus stop on Williamfield Way showing glass / carbonate all over the path.

As you all know I am probably one of the greatest supporters of our police and know how difficult it must be at times to cover shifts, but I feel something is definitely beginning to go wrong.

I am only one of 30 councillors but if this is being replicated across Newton Aycliffe it is a big concern.

Councillor Ken Robson

### HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

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or [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

## Hire Fabulous Greenfield Space



Greenfield Arts boast a number of fabulous rooms to hire for meetings, training events and workshops and is suitable for a variety of community activities.

Studio 2 is an excellent option for small meetings and has recently been refurbished to a very high standard. It also has the added benefit of a comfortable and stylish raised seating area, this additional space offers a lovely area for taking a break from your workshop or training day whilst having the benefit of being neatly tucked away within the same facility.

The package at Greenfield Arts can also include useful resources such as a laptop, projector and flip-chart as well as catering facilities for those well-earned breaks!

Film maker and writer, Laura Degnan has been making use of the facilities for her business meetings and workshops and has been thrilled with the environment and service at Greenfield, "We have hosted a number of events with high profile speakers at Greenfield Arts now. The conference room is large, bright and spacious and suited our needs perfectly. It's quiet and private, with good facilities. We were able to access a laptop and projector and the venue loaded our content onto the system in advance of the event. Quality refreshments and a flip chart were provided. Everything ran smoothly. The venue is great for parking and is very easy to get to by car, situated close to the A167."

You can now book online at [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) where you can view all of our fabulous facilities, or alternatively to book a room or find out a bit more about our facilities why not give our friendly team a call on 01325 379048 or email at [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk).

### Councillors' Surgeries

#### Shafto, Central and Neville Ward

Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jed Hillary will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 11th March from 11.00am to 12 noon.

## Aycliffe Angels – With a Difference!



This weekend the Parish of Great Aycliffe is going to be visited by a host of angels – who are of course God's messengers. Some 150 of them will be small knitted angels – as you can see in the photograph – and some of them are going to be Church of England Bishops visiting some of the exciting happenings, the churches in Aycliffe are putting on, over the weekend. This is part of the Talking Jesus event which is taking place across Durham Diocese. Keep an eye open for the angels – and why not come along and see what's going on?

On Friday afternoon between 1.30 and 4.00pm there's a chance to ask BIG QUESTIONS in Aycliffe Village Hall, over delicious home-made cakes. You

can take a short walk up to historic St Andrew's Church and have a look around, where there will be live organ music playing. On Friday evening attention shifts to The Huntsman Pub in Woodham where There's Room at the Inn, and a chance to chat over a free buffet.

On Saturday afternoon families are warmly invited to come to St Clare's for Messy Journeys – craft activities, singing and stories, food and drink.

And of course everyone is welcome to attend one of our Sunday morning services (9.30am at St Elizabeth's; 10.00am at St Clare's; 11.00am at St Andrew's) where there will be visiting preachers from the Bishops' teams.

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## History TALK

On Wednesday 8th March at 7.30pm in Aycliffe Village Hall Aycliffe Village Local History Society will host a talk by Julian Harrop of Beamish Museum entitled 'Changes of View'. All welcome: members £1, non members £3, includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Enquiries 01325 301093.

## theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

At our monthly meeting in February our speaker was Peter Barron former editor of The Northern Echo who entertained us with stories from his "Dear Dad" column in the newspaper. We are currently gearing up to celebrate Durham W.I. Federation's Centenary year. We are entering three teams in the February Fun Quiz and two teams for the Murder Mystery Evening. We also have a Lunch planned for April and a host of other events in the pipeline. If you are interested in joining us please ring Helen on 01325 315017.



## Aycliffe Junior Soldier "Passes Out"

James Hutchinson, a former pupil of St Francis CE and Greenfield Schools, featured in Newton News as part of our coverage of the 2016 Swimathon when he volunteered as a fund-raiser for SSAFA at the event at

Spennymoor Leisure Centre. We reported that James had applied to join the Army as a Junior Soldier at Harrogate Foundation College. James went on to pass selection but, unfortunately, failed the Army's hearing test.

However, with the help of Dr. Welsh at Bewick Crescent Surgery, James appealed the Army's decision and was informed in August 2016 that he had a place at Harrogate starting in September.

James has now completed his basic military training and "Passed Out" on Thursday 23rd February 2017. The passing-out parade included a visit by Storm "Doris" but despite that the Junior Soldiers put on a great show for the visiting friends, families and dignitaries.

James now has a short period of leave before he is posted to RAF Lyneham to start his trade training as a Vehicle Mechanic with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Well done James!



## Chocolate Fuelled Family Fun for Easter



Excitement is building for this year's Chocolate Walk organised by Butterwick Hospice. The phone lines are buzzing and the emails are pinging but take heart, there are still a few tickets left.

The Chocolate Walk is a fantastic fun event where parents get to join in all the tasks and win the chocolate prizes too!

The event is held in Hamsterley Forest where families follow a trail over 3 kilometres and take part in fun challenges along the way that are suitable for children and grown-ups to achieve.

Last year's theme was based on Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and families met up with our fabulous Mr Wonka and his Oompaloompas. This year we are inviting families to follow the yellow brick road on our wonderful Wizard of Oz themed walk.

There will be lots of surprises, face painting, fun and entertainment from 'Make My Day Events' who will introduce you to Dorothy, that cuddly, cowardly Lion, bashful Scarecrow and the squeaky Tin Man!

The Chocolate Walk is taking place at Hamsterley Forest on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st April, perfect for a great day out during the Easter school holidays.

Tickets cost just £8, children 2 and under go free. All profits from this event go to

support Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland which freely cares for people across Weardale, Teesdale and the Sedgefield area who are diagnosed with a life limiting illness.

Booking forms are on our website at [www.butterwick.org.uk/chocolatewalkhamsterley](http://www.butterwick.org.uk/chocolatewalkhamsterley) or contact our Fundraising office 01388 603003 during normal office hours. Make sure you book yours today!

## EDUCATION BUDGET TO BE CUT BY £3bn

Schools in Durham will soon be seeing the impact of an estimated £3bn shortfall in the government's education budget by 2020. These are the first real terms cuts to education spending since the 1990s. The picture is extremely bleak, with 98 per cent of schools set to lose funding, at a time when costs are rising and pupil numbers are growing.

Durham is likely to lose an average of £329 per pupil – a total of over £20 million for the local authority as a whole. The impact on learning will be significant. Class sizes in primary schools could rise and some GCSE and A Level subjects could be cut from the curriculum entirely as school budgets are pushed beyond breaking point.

The government is currently pushing ahead with a new formula to calculate funding levels for schools in England. Whilst this is welcome, many voices in education believe that the £3bn real terms funding shortfall will derail this process before it even gets started.

Russell Hobby, general secretary of school leaders' union NAHT, said: "School budgets are being pushed beyond breaking point. The government's £3 billion real terms cut to education funding

must be reversed or we will see education and care suffer. Already heads are being forced to cut staff, cut the curriculum and cut specialist support. A new funding formula is the right thing to do, but it cannot be truly fair unless there is enough money to go round in the first place."

NAHT is holding a series of national events to raise awareness amongst school leaders, governors and parents. We will be meeting in Durham on Tuesday 7th March to spread the word in the hope that local pressure will force the government to explain

its rationale for cutting the education budget at a time when the school population is rising and costs are going up.

Head teachers are worried about being able to continue to provide a first class education without adequate funding and the inability to plan for the future when there is such uncertainty over future budgets. The proposed cuts for the North East are catastrophic and this is leaving us feeling even more frustrated than ever. The real victims of these proposed cuts are our children – the future generation – and it can't be allowed to happen.

## Aycliffe Couple Marry

Heather Harker and John Wilson were married on the 18th February 2017 in Darlington and held their wedding reception at Woodham Golf Club Restaurant.

Heather is a Home Support Worker and John is employed at Hartlepool College. The Bridesmaid was Krystal Miya and Page Boys were Harry and Sam.

The couple spent their honeymoon in the Maldives and returned home to begin their married life in Newton Aycliffe.



County Newsbits

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/CNB1317](http://bit.ly/CNB1317).

This week's important articles are on the DCC Council and Economy Scrutiny meetings. You will want to support Durham Cathedral and (if you are under 25) do the Digital Engagement Survey. Residents in School Aycliffe will be interested in the proposed residential development there.

**COUNCIL**  
• DCC Budget-setting Council meeting, Wednesday 22 February  
• DCC Economy Scrutiny, Thursday 23 February  
• 95% of the county's

Secondary school applicants have been given their first choice

• DCC gritters have been salting 1,733km of priority 1 routes in Co Durham this winter

• Public Reps sought for GAMP

• School funding cuts to fall harder on the North-East

• No waiting lists for County Durham Care Homes

• Town Council Meetings, Wednesday 22 February

• Latest Roadworks information

**COMMUNITY**  
• Please support Durham Cathedral for Countryfile's Heritage Site of the Year

• National Police Chiefs' Council 'Digital Engagement Survey' for the under-24s

• Much harsher punishments for using a mobile phone when driving

• HealthWatch County Durham February newsletter

• Crafter's Companion is one of the country's top 100 SME exporters

• Construction work is set to begin on NETPark's new £7.4m Explorer development

• New residential development proposed at West School Aycliffe

• Work has begun on the bridge at West Park

• Learn about the Chinese terracotta army at the Durham Oriental Museum family activity, Saturday 11 March, 1-3pm

• Model Railway Exhibition, Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, Saturday 11 March, 10am-5pm, Adults £4, Children 50p phone 07870 210 269

## Town Clock Back!



Over this week in Aycliffe Town Centre a team has been working on restoring the clock faces and mechanism in preparation for resetting the clock and bringing it back into use.

Town Centre Manager Bryan Haldane said: "On Monday 6th March our MP Phil Wilson will officially relaunch the clock and the new town centre Library from 1.30 onwards. Yet another phase in the continuing development of Newton Aycliffe Town Centre".

## Photos in Newton News



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# Training Firm First to Secure Service Accreditation



Photo: Celebrating Baltic Training's customer service success are l-r: Lisa Margach, Vanessa Hedley, Simonne Hoath, Ben Thubron, Michael Tucker, Alex Smith, Kieren Gillott-Keens, Bernadette Corner, Daniel Petrusow, Katie Malcolm, Annie Rockett, Faye Gartland

An Aycliffe company has become the first independent training provider in the UK to gain accreditation to the Institute of Customer Service (IOCS). The move follows recognition of Baltic Training's commitment to boosting customer service

by the leading independent, professional membership body. The firm, which provides IT and digital training services, completed a ten-month long drive to improve customer service levels for national companies as well as the

young apprentices it helps into the workplace through personalised development programmes.

With the shortage of skills in the IT sector, where there are in excess of 700,000 jobs available and tens of thousands of new recruits required annually to plug the gaps, Baltic Training aims to secure a new generation of specialist talent - it has already helped more than 3,600 young people pursue careers in the technology and digital industries.

The firm works with over 1,500 employers across the UK, helping them to secure their training needs and equip the workforces with the skills needed to support growth and remain competitive in global markets.

Accreditation follows investment by Baltic Training in raising standards of service, a strong commitment to continuous improvement, and on-site assessment by the IOCS.

A satisfaction survey undertaken as part of the process has also revealed that the company scored highly for the quality of its service, reflecting how much customers recognise the steps being taken to ensure training excellence.

The IOCS Customer Services Communication qualification is currently being rolled-out across the company following the survey.

This will see 40 members of staff, who will gain the qualification during 2017, develop their communications skills, improving the way that they handle both internal or external customers as a key part of their roles.

With over 3,500 learners on apprenticeships, the Aycliffe Business Park-based independent training provider employs 127 people working for 1,700 regional and national employers.

Nicky Hobbs, Baltic Training's operations director, said that this latest success reinforced the company's position as a training provider with a difference. "The IOCS accreditation will strengthen our reputation and set us apart from others in a highly competitive independent training sector."

Baltic Training is a one of the UK's foremost apprenticeship providers, working in partnership with employers in the IT sector to deliver programmes and training initiatives specifically tailored to meet individual needs. Visit: <http://baltictraining.com>

# Councillor Tries Living on £57.90p a Week



County Councillor Trish Pemberton has described her recent experience of trying to 'live life in the footsteps of a care leaver' as "worthwhile but very challenging."

She told members of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club this week: "I'd challenge anyone to find it easy to live on £57.90 per week, the amount a care leaver receives."

Trish and her partner, John Wilson (pictured) are both members of the club and decided to take the Care Leavers' Challenge to discover for themselves how hard life could be for a young person with so little cash every week. Their verdict: "It's a bit unrealistic to expect young people to cope".

Trish, a Shildon councillor, former residential social worker and teacher at Aycliffe Young People's Centre, told club members: "At first, £57.90 seemed quite a lot of money but after deducting recommended amounts for electricity and water bills, television licence, mobile phone and bus fares, I found I had just £13.10 to pay for food and everything else". The challenge didn't end there. Trish had been warned to expect a brown envelope surprise during the week - and it arrived with a demand to sign on at the Job centre which cost her £4.80 in bus fare. If she didn't turn up, it was made clear, she would be sanctioned and her money would have been stopped for several weeks.

By buying the cheapest foods and goods near the end of their best-before date, using local food banks and reducing meal portions, Trish thought she and John might survive the week. They didn't. With two days to go, Trish had only a few pence in her purse. Then John received his little brown envelope containing a £5 windfall.

Said Trish: "We spent five minutes or so just trying to decide how we might spend it. We were so excited." Their delight was short-lived. The heating boiler then broke down and, under real conditions, they would have been unable to get it repaired. A meeting is to be held shortly with all the people who took part in the challenge to identify what more could be done to help young people leaving care.

"We have learned quite a lot but there is still much more

to do if we are to make a difference," said Trish.

Rtn. Geoff Knapton welcomed Trish and John to the meeting and they were thanked by president-elect Rtn. Tony Robinson.

# Cuppa With the Head

Year 11 students at Greenfield Community College are busy studying for their final year. Their commitment is always appreciated by staff but students now have a very special reward to celebrate with the introduction of 'Hot Chocolate with the Head'.

Each Friday Executive Headteacher David Priestley will enjoy hot chocolate with the exceptional students who have been nominated by staff for their hard work and fantastic effort.

"This is a very special time in my diary, said Mr Priestley, as I get the chance to enjoy some time (and hot chocolate) with our outstanding students, recognising their hard work, commitment and effort"

The students at Greenfield have also enjoyed spending time with the Headteacher - and what could be better than hot chocolate on a cold Friday morning?

Well done to all of those students who have been nominated, keep up the good work!



# OVER 5,000 CHILDREN PLACED IN CHOSEN SCHOOL

Parents of 5,088 soon to be Year 7 pupils will on March 1 receive offers for the forthcoming academic year, with 98.3 per cent of them given one of their preferred choices.

CLr Oddie Johnson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "We know that for parents

the decision of where to send their children is a big one and so we are delighted to be able to offer so many of them their first choice schools.

"In our county we benefit from many schools with superb facilities and dedicated, talented staff, and we hope that wherever pupils study they will be happy and successful." Of the 5,088 applications

made, 4,849 pupils (95.3 per cent) have been offered their first choice school, 129 children (2.5 per cent) their second choice, and 26 (0.5 per cent) their third choice.

Only 84 children were not able to be offered a place at one of their three preferred schools, but have been offered a place at another school as close to their home as possible.

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Would you be willing to participate by offering your time or services  
We are looking singers, bands entertainers etc.. to help us support Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.

Please contact Terri (me) at the Eden Arms Hotel on 01388 720541 or by email to [terri.gibson@shearings.com](mailto:terri.gibson@shearings.com) and let me know how you can help.

Thankyou (in advance) Terri

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# Aycliffe Running Club 'CAN YOU HEAR ME?' PHONE SCAM WARNING



Michelle Zamir (left) and Michelle Jane at NYSD Cross Country Race.

Three Aycliffe club runners participated in the Preston Park trail run, part of the Stockton-Tees-Trail series. Only The course was icy and muddy in parts, making it a tricky run on a cold but sunny morning.

The three runners ran their own race but finished together in 46th, 47th and 48th position. 1st back for the club was Dave Blewitt in a time of 22.45, followed by John Burnside in 22.47 and placing 1st in his category of male over 60, then came Michelle Zamir in 22.48. Aycliffe Club runners were in the NYSD cross country at Summerhill, Hartlepool on Sunday 5th February. The women's race was 2.6 miles long one small lap and one large lap, but was a tough course especially as it was very muddy.

First back for the ladies was Michelle Zamir 19th overall in 21.06 closely followed by Michelle Jane who was 20th in 21.16. Next was Martha McBarron 35th in 22.44, Sue Milburn 59th in 25.21 and Susan Clark 82nd in 31.11

The men completed three large laps 5.3 miles. First back was Mark Wade who placed 22nd in 37.37 closely followed by Dez Fielden placing 24th in 37.56, next Peter Milburn came in 38th in 40.06 and Dave Blewitt came in 73rd with a time of 44.18.

On 4th February Alan Wilks competed in the North East Masters cross country in Newcastle. Alan Excelled himself by winning a gold medal in the over 65 masters. He ran a time of 25.34 in the 3 ½ mile event.

Four Aycliffe runners braved icy winds and thick mud in the annual 'Absent Friends' 5 mile charity run in Cowpen Bewley. First home for the club in 27th position was John Burnside, also an over 60s prize winner in a time of 36.51.

He was followed by Dave Blewitt 30th in a time of 37.43. Next was Michelle Zamir, first lady over 35 and prize winner in a time of 39.15. Mick Burnskill also finished well up the field in a time of 42.57.

People are being warned of a new telephone scam which is currently sweeping the United States and is set to hit the UK. CPR Call Blocker, makers of the best selling call blocking device in the US and UK, is urging the public to hang up if their phone rings and someone asks "Can you hear me?" as their answer to this simple question from an unknown caller could make them a victim of a scam.

It works by the scammer recording you saying "yes" which is then edited to make it sound like you authorised a major purchase. It's effectively a verbal contract, just like clicking 'I agree' on a computer. It's called a voice signature and is used legitimately by companies to show that you've agreed to some sort of a change, usually an upgrade in some sort of plan. CPR Call Blocker has seen this scam rise in frequency in the United States and say it's just a matter of time before fraudsters start using it in the UK. In one variation of the scam

documented in the US, the criminals may pretend to be from a holiday or home security company and will later bill you for products or services you never asked for. If you try to deny the charges, the scammers will play back your verbal confirmation "yes" and threaten to take legal action if you don't pay.

In another variation, scammers may use the recording to authorise charges on a stolen credit card or with a utility company by tricking an automated system. The con artists may have already stolen other personal information through a data breach that would allow them to pass the security checks.

"I know that people think it's impolite to hang up, but it's a good strategy. If you don't recognise the number, don't answer. And if you do pick up, and they instantly start asking 'Can you hear me? Are you there?' as if they are trying to get you to say 'yes' to something, don't say anything and hang up.

## GREAT AYCLIFFE COMMUNITY AID PARTNERSHIP

### Talk on Dementia

GACAP (Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership) hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday 6th March at 4pm at DISC offices next to Newton Press by the Blue Bridge, Newton Aycliffe.

GACAP are a partnership of organisations/charities/churches whose common interest is to assist people living in the Great Aycliffe

area who for one reason or another find themselves in need of help.

February's meeting saw Peter Driver deliver an interesting talk on TTRS. (TOUCH TYPE READ AND SPELL) a programme to assist those in our community, young and old, who are challenged in education by autism, dyslexia or any form of learning difficulties that slow down educational progress.

The presentation in March will be about becoming a Dementia Friend. Prime Minister David Cameron challenged the Alzheimers Society in 2012 to set a target of 1 million people enrolled as 'Dementia Friends' during the year.

This target has been superseded and new targets have been set with the aim of ensuring more and more councils, people, buildings, shops, clubs, charities and businesses become dementia friendly.

Members of GACAP, Dorothy Bowman and Joan Mitchie are Dementia Friend Champions equipping them to explain to people how they can help and better understand people living with dementia. They will advise all present what it takes to become a 'Dementia Friend'.

As a society we are living longer and more and more people are living at home with various disabilities including dementia. We should individually or corporately, endeavour to increase our understanding to help those living with dementia.

If you would like to know more about GACAP, or if you are interested in becoming a dementia friend, why not come along on the 6th March at 4pm to the DISC offices. There will be refreshments before the meeting and time at the end of the meeting for Networking with other partners.

One of the best ways to protect yourself is to register on the Telephone Preference Service and purchase a call blocker device such as a CPR Call Blocker which simply plugs into any landline and features a 'Block Now' button which ends an unwanted

call and permanently blocks the number. They come pre-programmed with up to 2,000 known nuisance callers and have the ability to store up to an additional 1,500 numbers." If you suspect you may have compromised your account, contact your bank or card

provider as soon as possible. It also advisable to check your bank and card statements regularly for unauthorised charges as a matter of course." The CPR suite of call blockers are available from www.cprcallblocker.com and www.amazon.co.uk

## Youthy Team Thank MacDonalds



The Russel Foster mid season break, for all our mini soccer teams, gave our under 8 Eagles a chance to visit their sponsor, MacDonalds. They have sponsored this team for two years providing strips and equipment. Luke, the store manager, really appreciated all of the team coming along to say thank you for their support.

The staff were brilliant giving every player a free meal and Easter Eggs. The support for grass roots football by McDonalds provides much needed funds for teams across the

country and our local Newton Aycliffe restaurant have been keen to follow this young group of boys and girls.

Elsewhere many games were postponed but the results for the few that were played:

Whinney Banks 1 v 1 Under 12's Under14 Falcons 3 v 3 Great Ayton Under 11's 3 v 9 Hemlington Royal Friendly Under 7 Eagles 6 v 2 Newton Aycliffe Jnrs. If you want more information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit the website

## Place your Mothers Day (26th March) Greeting in your community newspaper the "Newton News"

### Mothers Day Greetings - Mothers Day Remembrance

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**To be printed Friday 24th March**

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# Students Create "Battle of Somme" Poignant Artwork

Students from Greenfield Community College at Sunnydale Campus have created some remarkable

artwork to commemorate the 'Battle of the Somme'. Year 9 students produced the work as part of

a nationwide project where students were invited to take part in commemorations for the

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

Laura Peaker, teacher of Art at the College was thrilled with the results. The year 9 group decided to produce a digital response where they visited local war memorials to take primary source images. They then collaborated with students from their partnered school in France to create the final artwork,

the photographs from both schools were combined to produce thought provoking images.

The artwork has prompted such appreciation that Greenfield Community College and Greenfield Arts are now making these wonderful prints available to the public, all proceeds of which will be donated to Durham Light Infantry Collections.

If you would like to know a bit more about the prints or Greenfield Arts please contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

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ROUGH FOR CHARITYGeoff Hodgson, Director of  
Formula Plastics in Aycliffe  
is to sleep rough to raise  
awareness for homeless  
people. CEO Sleepout will  
see business leaders from  
across the UK give up their  
bed to help those who don't  
have one.Participants will be sleeping  
outdoors to help fight  
poverty and homelessness.  
Geoff said; "I am sleeping  
rough at St James' Park  
on 9th March 2017 to help  
raise awareness and vital  
funds for homelessness in  
Newcastle. My target is to  
raise £1000 to help make  
a difference to the lives of  
vulnerable people."I would like to highlight  
the amazing work of both  
of the charity partners,  
Newcastle United  
Foundation and Changing  
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minutes to read about their  
amazing work. Newcastle  
United Foundation utilises  
the funds raised by the  
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their transition back into  
employment.DURHAM TO MAKE  
NATIONAL IMPACTDurham is being showcased to  
rail travellers up and down the  
country as a vibrant destination  
to live, work, invest, study and  
visit, as part of a campaign to  
place the county in the national  
spotlight.A specially produced video  
of some of Durham's greatest  
assets is being played on big  
screens alongside timetable  
boards at King's Cross,  
Newcastle and Edinburgh train  
stations.The video is part of This is  
Durham, Place of Light, a  
brand that has been developed  
by Visit County Durham,  
the destination management  
organisation for the county,  
core-funded by Durham  
County Council. The place  
brand aims to shine a light on  
the county, working to change  
perceptions and over time,  
develop Durham's reputation  
as a beacon for businesses,  
visitors and residents alike.The video at the railway  
stations shows off the county's  
stunning scenery from  
countryside to coast including  
High Force waterfall, gives a  
glimpse at Durham's cultural  
gems such as Lumiere and  
Kynren and shows snippets of  
scientists at work in some of  
the county's ground-breaking  
businesses.The roll-out of the big-  
screen video forms part of a  
wider programme to shine a  
spotlight on the county on a  
national scale, which included  
a celebration of the Durham  
Place of Light brand at The  
House of Commons earlier this  
week.Leader of Durham County  
Council, Councillor Simon  
Henig, said: "Durham is a  
fantastic county and we are  
justifiably proud of the many  
reasons that make it sucha great place to live, work,  
invest, study and visit, which  
is why showcasing all of those  
stories on a national level is so  
important."When it comes to our  
economy, we have a proven  
track record in attracting  
businesses to the county and  
are focused on providing  
them with the confidence and  
strength they need to grow,  
supporting the creation of  
more and better jobs."In just the past three years  
20 multinationals, unique  
and niche companies have  
invested, and re-invested,  
in the County and we  
have supported over 3,400  
businesses to relocate, set up  
or expand in County Durham;  
equating to thousands of jobs  
and generating £187m for the  
economy in the last four years.  
"And we are also making great  
strides to showcase the county  
as a vibrant destination for  
visitors - last year we attracted  
18.6m visitors and the value of  
the visitor economy grew by  
£17m to £777.5m."Providing a rich and diverse  
cultural offer in some of the  
most unique and spectacular  
backdrops is a key priority  
for us. We are proud to have  
hosted world class cultural  
programmes, such as the  
amazing Kynren; An Epic  
tale of England in Bishop  
Auckland and the UK's largest  
light festival, Lumiere, which  
returns for its fifth edition in  
November.As a whole package, there  
is no county more beautiful  
or inspiring than Durham,  
whether that's to visit, live in  
or invest in." To find out more about the  
Durham Place of Light  
brand, please visit www.  
DurhamPlaceofLight.comTIME FOR CHANGES  
AT COUNTY HALL

Dear Sir

As an Alderman, along  
with others, we are invited  
to attend the full Durham  
County Council meetings, on  
a Wednesday morning once a  
month.On Wednesday 22nd  
February 2017 Durham  
County Councillors voted to  
increase our Council Tax by  
1.99% and Adult Social Care  
by 2%.The Council also voted to  
approve its budget of £387.6m  
for the coming year, including  
required savings of £36m and  
cuts totalling £23.4m.There were three  
amendments put forward  
by the Conservative Party,  
Independents and the Liberal  
Democrats, and they were all  
defeated by the Labour Party  
80 votes to 13.There is never any give and  
take by the Labour Party as  
to what other Parties request  
to change. The total increase  
in Council Tax, including  
charges paid to Police and  
Fire Service will be 3.67%  
and means that Band D  
taxpayers will pay £1,709.93  
a year excluding any Parish  
or Town Council Taxes.  
Sorry, but I think it is time  
for some changes to be made,  
what I observed is just not on,  
as it is always someone else to  
blame!

The question people are

103 New  
Homes at  
School  
AycliffeMiller Homes are proposing  
building 103 new homes west  
of School Aycliffe on the  
Chesnuts side of the road and  
therefore in the Darlington  
Borough boundary.The only way it will affect  
Newton Aycliffe adversely  
is the increase in traffic on  
School Aycliffe Lane. No  
doubt the new homeowners  
will use Aycliffe facilities,  
but that will be to the  
advantage of businesses.A drop in event will be held at  
the Oakleaf Sports Complex  
on Tuesday 7th March from  
3.00pm and 7.00pm. The  
development will include 2 to  
5 bed properties and include  
affordable housing.DO YOU NEED A  
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01325 300212asking me is will I be  
standing for the Elections on  
4th May 2017? The answer  
is Yes and with the help of  
the voters of the West Ward  
that know me, I will do a  
good job. As I do not haveto answer to any Party, just  
the people that vote for me, I  
hope to be elected as it is time  
for some changes to be made  
at County Hall.Alderman George Gray  
West Ward Councillor.

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contact Lucy on 07826 925652  
for further details (please note  
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# Survey Respondents in Favour of Police Precept Increase

A PROPOSAL to apply a small increase to the police element (precept) of Council Tax has been supported by the Durham Police and Crime Panel, at a recent meeting. This will result in a small rise in the precept of 1.98% from April, equivalent to 4p a week, or £2.20 a year, for households in Council Tax Band A.

Ron Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington, sought views from residents about the proposed precept increase, as part of his annual consultation. Local people met Ron at events in leisure centres and community meetings, and also responded online and by telephone throughout January. Residents from across all twelve neighbourhood policing teams gave their views. From the 324 valid responses to the consultation, 77 per cent were in favour of Ron's proposal to increase the precept by 1.98 per cent from April 2017. Ron said: "Since the

Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2015, the impact of cuts to police budgets mean the amount of funding coming to local policing from Government is still reducing year on year. In 2017-18 I will receive £1.1m less to fund your local police force than I did in 2016-17.

"I am very conscious of the challenge that people face in terms of their household finances. The Panel today agreed that there was a clear public endorsement to the increase, from the residents who had taken the time to give me their views. Whilst I recognise that some respondents preferred to maintain the current precept level, over three-quarters of respondents did support the increase. This will take place from April 2017.

"I remain committed to ensuring the police have the resources they need to ensure the public receive the police service they deserve.

This small increase will raise £560,000 for 2017-18, and maintain the equivalent of six Police Officers in post."

Cllr Joy Allen, Chair of the Panel said: "Any increase less than 1.98% or keeping the precept at the current level would result in lower baseline going forward and would potentially jeopardise front line policing.

Crime and the fear of crime is always a priority for residents and this is reflected in the feedback from majority of respondents who support the proposed increase.

"The Panel will continue to hold the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to account. We want Durham to maintain its enviable record as being one of only two forces in the country to be graded as outstanding following the HMIC efficiency inspection." Ron continues to monitor the work Durham Constabulary has undertaken to increase value for money and to protect community policing.

## AYCLIFFE CHARITY FLIES THE FLAG FOR LGBT



Workers at Northern Communities' charity DISC are completing a busy few weeks promoting LGBT History month. Billjeane Summerbell, Jo Dixon and Rebecca Jackson pictured with the iconic Rainbow Flag have been discussing LGBT History at events and group meetings around the North.

Team leader Billjeane Summerbell, said: "LGBT History month is about having discussions with people about the struggles Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender people have had over the years – and how people have stood up for LGBT rights, often paying the ultimate price. "We have been able to show how far LGBT rights have come and how difficult the struggle has been over the years, especially in the last century."

As well as speaking with the charity's own service users, the team conducted discussions with teachers and lecturers at a special event at the National Glass Centre, in partnership with Sunderland University. Billjeane added: "The talks and groups discussions have been really great. Many people knew about the history but many others did not know how hard it's been.

"It has been so worthwhile and our young people, who

still face discrimination in their everyday lives, have found great strength in it." DISC's LGBT Services provide help and support for some 200 young people between the ages of 11 and 26.

## Youths Abuse Town's Nature Park



We reported a reader's concern over anti-social behaviour on the town's Nature Park, near the Blue Bridge, to the Town Council's Environment Officer Steve Cooper. His reply was as follows:

"The Fire Service, Police and Town Council Park Patrol operatives have all visited the area on numerous occasions over the last few weeks in regard to youths setting fire to scrub and bushes in the area and being involved with general anti social behaviour.

Town Council Operatives have increased their patrols in the area, both in terms of litter collection during the day and Park Patrol operatives visiting the site in the evening, reporting any problems to the Police and assisting the Fire Service".

As the area is used a lot by Newtonians please report any incidents to the Police by ringing 101.



Great fun for the whole family at St. Clare's Film Club on Saturday 11th March at 2pm. Storks deliver babies . . . or at least they used to . . . now they deliver packages. Come and watch the STORKS who get into a whole lot of trouble when their deliveries get mixed up. All are welcome - admission is only £1 each and we have a super sweet shop selling a variety of goodies. Hot chocolate and cake or even ice-cream if the weather warms up a bit.

We have a large hall and a large screen and a friendly team to welcome your children. Doors open 1.30pm with the film beginning at 2pm and ending 3.40pm. Check out Youth/ChildrenSt. Clares for any more details.

## Club Hears Talk on Alcohol Addiction



Left to right: Lisa Raine, Rtn John Snowball, Speaker Val Fawcett and Nora Scott President of the club.

Two weeks ago the town's Rotary Club After Dinner Speaker was Nick Smith who talked about his Steam Machine Brewery in Aycliffe and brought samples for members to taste.

Ironically last week's speaker was Val Fawcett from a new organisation Aycliffe Alcohol Recovery Mutual Support (AARMS), being formed in Newton Aycliffe to help people addicted to alcohol. The friendly group are non-judgemental, non-medical and non-religious. You do not have to be abstinent from drink to attend. The group exists to support each other in attempting to beat addiction. Meetings are very informal and confidential where people of all ages and backgrounds share experiences and explore ways of reducing and abstaining from alcohol. The group meet socially in Tesco's Meeting Room each

Thursday from 11am - 1pm. Tesco kindly loan out the room to community organisations free of charge. Anyone wanting help to tackle this addiction and attend the weekly meetings can contact Val on Mobile 07921 816549 for more information.

### Fitness

**BEGINNERS** running group - All welcome. Thursday 6-7pm meet at Tesco Park. Contact Jules for more details 07966 968388 or visit Facebook: RunClubNewtonAycliffe

### Acknowledgement

**THE FAMILY** of the late William Johnson (Bill) would like to thank all the staff at Defoe Court Care Home for all their love, care and kindness towards Bill. John Meynell Funeral Directors for their excellent services. Also to all the staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery and a special thank you to Dr. Middleton, once again thank you all very much. **THE FAMILY** of the late Ian Howson wish to express sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness, sympathy, help, cards and flowers following the sudden sad loss of Ian. Special thanks to the paramedics, nursing staff at A&E Darlington and Durham University Hospital Stroke Unit for their care and compassion. Thanks to Rev. Elizabeth Bland for the lovely Service and Barry of Gordon Fletcher Funeral Services for the funeral arrangements. Also a big thank you to Eileen and staff of Moore Lane Sports Club for all your help on the day and to Debbie of Pit-Stop Cafe for the wonderful buffet.

**OLIVE HAMMOND.** Carrie and Michele wish to thank family and friends for the sympathy, kindness and cards given on the loss of our Mam. Thank you for the beautiful floral tributes that Mam received. We would also like to thank Co-Operative Funeralcare, especially David Scott and Christine Thompson for their care and understanding and the Reverend Elizabeth Bland for the comforting Service at St Clare's Church. Special thanks are sent to Jenny, one of Mam's carers and her family for adopting Mam's beloved cat, Tink. It's great to know that she has got a new, loving home. Thanks Jenny

### Obituary

**DYE,** Newton Aycliffe. 23rd February, peacefully in Bethany House. Arthur, aged 91 years. Beloved Husband to Mary; much loved Dad to Tony and Ken; dear Father-in-Law to Brenda and Judith and a proud Grandad and Great-Grandad. Sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Wednesday 8th March. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 11.30am followed by Committal and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, would be much appreciated, in aid of Alzheimer's UK.

### In Memoriam

#### Peter Mooney

Died 1st March 1987 (age 57)  
*Thirty Years Gone*

Loved and missed by Wife Rosemary; Son Paul; Daughters Annette, Gillian and Clare and families and friends.  
Sleep in Peace

**MARY GALLAGHER** 25th February 2011. Close in our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered every day. Love always, Vince, Clare, Paul, Victoria, Amanda and Flynn.

**DERICK YOUNG** - 02/03/05 Dad/Grandad, missing you today and always. Love, David, Louise, Thomas, Joseph and Stan x  
**DERICK YOUNG** - 2nd March 2005. Remembered and loved with affection. Love, Michael, June and all the family xxx

**RON RUSSELL** 5th March 2013. 4 years have gone since I cared with you. I shared with you, the special things in life, and found how precious love can be between Husband and Wife. Your loving Wife Dot xxxx

**ANN BARTLETT** 5th February 1942 to 6th March 2015. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name, but all we have are memories and your photo in a frame. Still loved and sadly missed. Susan, Paul, Peter, Liam, Becci, Dave and Lewis xxxx

**JOE WHARTON** 2nd March 1988. God bless Grandad. We love and miss you. Mark, Vikki and David xxx

**GLADYS HARBOTTLE** Died 7th March 2013. A dear Mother who's constantly in our thoughts and missed every day. Your smiles, laughter and poetry will always live on in our memories. Vera, Lavinia and Andy xxxx

**ALAN WRIGHT** Died 8th March 2016. Special memories and lots of love. Forever remembered and sadly missed. Love and many thanks for 49 years of Marriage. Also Son Stephen, Daughter Jennifer, Jason, Becky and Grandchildren xxxx

**CHARLES HEDLEY** (Charlie). 14th February 1926 to 4th March 2013. His Wife Joyce, 4th December 1928 to 2nd July 1995. Their Son Michael 14th February 1953 to 3rd November 2008. Loved and sadly missed by all the Hubery Family

### Thank You

#### JASON CUMMINS

Bridie and Family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support, comforting words and all acts of kindness during the recent sad passing of Jason. Also, thank you for generous donations to Jason's Day Centre Amenities Fund which amounted to £1,395. Thank you to everyone at the Co-op Funeral Directors and to Fr. Michael Whalen for the beautiful Mass. Thank you to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery, who looked after Jason so kindly over the years. Thank you to the Phoenix Club who provided the reception, their hospitality was greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU** to the lady who found my mobile phone in Tesco car park and handed it in to Tesco. Also thanks to the Tesco employee who took the time and trouble to watch for me going back to my car to hand the phone back to me. Thank you so much, J. Nelson.  
**JULIE WARD.** I would like to thank my fantastic family for my surprise 60th birthday party. Also to all friends and relatives who came and made it such a special night. Love you all xxx

### Congratulations

#### "The Secretary" is 70!!

#### BRENDA HUTCHISON

4th March 2017

**Hope you** have a brilliant 70th birthday Brenda, all my love forever, Rob xxx  
**Enjoy every** minute of being 70 Mam. All our love Michelle and Chris xx  
**Hope you** have a great 70th birthday Nan. Lots of love Jack and Joe xx  
**Happy 70th** birthday Mam, lots of love, Lee and Shellie xx  
**To a special** Nan on your 70th. Lots of hugs and kisses from Morgan, Callum, Georgia and Bobbi-Lea xxxx

#### Janet Cartwright

8th March

To my beautiful Daughter. Lots of love on your "Special Birthday".

From Mam and John xx

#### Josh Raine

Happy 19th Birthday

Love from Dad, Mam and Chloe xxxx



# JUNIORS FOOTBALL REPORT

A good weekend of footballing action was preceded with the excitement of the TJFA cup semi final draws on Wednesday night. Each of the Aycliffe sides involved got a home draw, in the League Cup the Under 11's will face Whinney Banks. In the Challenge Cup our Under 9's and 17's will face Nunthorpe Athletic and Seaton Carew respectively. The Under 9's Russell Foster league had no game but really enjoyed a match day experience with Newton Aycliffe FC. The young

players warmed up with the senior side, walked out with the team and took penalties at half time. All involved had a great day so thanks to their hosts at NAFC. The Under 9's TJFA league team played at Darlington based 21st All Stars who they had drawn with earlier in the season. The Aycliffe team opened up a 4-0 half time lead with goals from Jack, Jayden and Niall (2). In the second half Jack got his second then Harvey and Will scored in a 7-2 win. The second game was a 3-2 win



Man of the Match Jake

with Harvey and Lucas the morning's men of the match. The Under 10's played at Sunnydale against Leven AFC White. Their goals came from Jayden and man of the match Jake (pictured) but it wasn't enough to avoid defeat. The Under 11 Russell Foster league team were away to North East Sports Tigers who also sit in a mid table position in their division. The lads played well but lost out 3-2. The Under 11 TJFA league side faced Boro Rangers at home, after a missed penalty Lucas broke through and

opened the scoring. The home team dominated the game and secured victory with further goals from Jacob and Charlie (2) in a 4-0 win. The Under 12's made the short journey to Shildon for a local derby game but lost out 2-1. The Under 17's played at home against Hardwick Youth hoping to make ground up on the league leaders Stockton West End, who had a tricky looking game against the third placed team. Kieran and Lewis scored in the first half to gain a 2-1 lead at the break. The same two players scored again after the break, Callum got his first goal for the club and Lewis Race added another in a 6-1 win. The Under 23's reversed their fixture and played struggling Consett Blackfyne at home. Two penalties from Slatcher came either side of Raisbeck's goal to make it 3-0 at half time. The score stayed the same at full time and Craig Robertson was named as the man of the match.

## Junior Squash Player Ranked 22nd in the UK



Young squash player, Joseph Billany, age 9, continues to compete in U11 national competitions and is currently ranked 22 in the country for his age group. February has been a busy month, during which he has battled hard for the following finishing positions: Runner up at Norton, 4th position at Sheffield, Runner up at Halifax, Runner up at Gosforth and 1st place at Manchester. All the above should see his national ranking go up again next month. Joseph has a passion for the sport and a deep desire to improve. On average he trains 5 times a week, and sponsorship from a local business would be welcome.

facebook   
NEWTON NEWS

## Aycliffe Lose to Whitley Bay

For the second time in a week Aycliffe lost a game in which they should have gained at least a draw. This time it was The Bay who profited, taking the points after three defensive mistakes were all converted in a 1-3 win.

Aycliffe started the brighter. Captain Jamie Owens had a chance on 2 minutes, but put a shot over the bar. On 11 minutes Ben Trotter also put a shot over the bar. A minute later, Aaron Brown made a good overlapping run down the right and put in a great cross, but Owens was unable to get his header on target. Josh Gray then made a good run, but Ben Wood miss-hit his shot. Then completely against the run of play Whitley Bay got 2 goals in 3 minutes. Both were gifts. For the first, the defence left centre forward Andrew Robinson completely unmarked, and he finished low into the corner of the net.

Two minutes later, Aycliffe conceded a penalty when despite having two chances to clear the ball, they failed to clear their area. This ultimately resulted in a penalty which Callum Patton converted.

On 32 minutes, following a good team move, Gray hit a free-kick well over the bar. Aycliffe continued to press, and were thwarted by a great block by the Bay defence just before the break. Half-time 0-2.

Aycliffe were stronger from the restart, and yet again The Bay kept several shots out during a goalmouth scramble on minute in. Whitley Bay then came back into it, and Aycliffe were grateful to keeper Phil



Aycliffe defender Scott Howes

Pentony for a great double-save.

On 78 minutes Jack Oliver had a shot, but once again the shot was put over the bar. Just as the fans were giving up hope Aycliffe got an equaliser. Owens played in Ben Trotter who rounded the keeper for 1-2. Aycliffe pressed forward for an equaliser and were caught out 3 minutes into injury time when another defensive lapse gifted Charney with a goal. Final Score 1-3. Aycliffe now move on to the Durham Challenge

Cup Semi Final at home to Billingham Synthonia on Tuesday 28th February. The winners will face either Consett or South Shields at Hartlepool Utd's ground on Wednesday 3 May. After Tuesday's game Aycliffe return to league action with two away games where they will face former players. They visit striker John Campbell's new club, Newcastle Benfield, on Saturday 4 March & West Auckland the following week where Brian Close and Zak Boagey now play.

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