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Are you looking for a good charity to support? If so please consider adopting the Darlington and Bishop Auckland MRI Scanner Appeal.

To install two life saving state-of-the-art scanners will cost £2.5 million and everyone is encouraged to give generously to help our NHS Trust.

Buying the two scanners will save over £1 million a year which was previously being spent to hire the

equipment from a private finance company.

The Darlington & Durham NHS Trust see this appeal has a big step forward in providing the best equipment possible to diagnose serious illnesses and provide the best treatment possible.

Rather than paying out money this equipment could be used by other hospitals, who will pay for its use, generating income for our NHS area.

Soaring Sales Place Aycliffe Company in Top Export List

Market-leading craft retailer Crafter's Companion has ranked at number 52 in the prestigious 2017 Sunday Times Lloyds SME Export Track 100 list, following international sales of £6 million over the past two years.

One of four North East companies to make the list, the Aycliffe-based business has grown significantly from a small start-up into a global enterprise, now exporting to Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and North and South America.

The annual Sunday Times Lloyds SME Export Track 100 league recognises the 100 small and medium-sized (SME) companies in Britain with the fastest-growing international sales over the previous two years.

Founded in 2005 by award-winning entrepreneur Sara Davies MBE, Crafter's Companion has enjoyed continued growth, building upon last year's move to a new 15,724 sq ft head office at Horndale Centre, Aycliffe Business Park and two successful retail store openings.

Company founder Sara Davies said: "Our journey into export has gained significant momentum over the last two years, and we are delighted to have witnessed our small family start-up grow both here in the North East and as an internationally-recognised leading craft supplier.

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Board will be meeting on Tuesday 14th March 2017, between 6pm and 8pm, at Woodham Academy, and members of the public are invited to go along



forward to continuing to drive the business forward over the coming years and exploring some new markets and what they have to offer." This year's SME Export Track 100 businesses will attend a celebratory awards dinner, held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at the Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel in London.

Crafter's Companion currently employs more than 100 staff across the

UK, selling products online, through its own outlets and independent retailers, and regularly presenting workshops and demonstrations in store and on TV shopping channels shown across the world. For further information about Crafter's Companion, visit www.crafterscompanion.co.uk. The full Sunday Times Lloyds SME Export track 100 list can be found at www.fasttrack.co.uk.

A Chance to Comment on Local Issues

Residents in Great Aycliffe & Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local area action partnership holds their next board meeting later this month.

The Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership Board will be meeting on Tuesday 14th March 2017, between 6pm and 8pm, at Woodham Academy, and members of the public are invited to go along

to observe proceedings. Local people can also raise any local neighbourhood or policing issues that they would like the Board to address. These ideally need to be put in writing and sent in advance of the meeting.

The Board will be receiving an update presentation on Urgent Care services, the Newton Aycliffe Masterplan, and an update from the Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner. Board members will also be reviewing nine project applications for funding from Councillors' Neighbourhood Budgets at the meeting.

Anyone who would like to attend the Board meeting should register in advance by ringing 01325 327441, or by emailing gampaap@durham.gov.uk Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009.

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CRAFTS AND GIFTS FAYRE

On Saturday 18th March we are holding a Crafts & Gifts Fayre from 10am to 2pm at Neville Parade Methodist Church. There will be a variety of stalls selling handmade goods, including cards, jewellery, art prints, knitting, crocheting and cakes etc.

Come along to sample our great value bacon or sausage sandwiches, soup and pie & peas. Entry is 50p which includes a free drink. Come along to grab a bargain. We look forward to seeing you there.

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County Newsbits

Compiled by
County Councillor
John Clare

The week's big events have been the Make Your Mark awards, the library and clock tower relaunches, and PCVC Ron Hogg's domestic abuse initiative. Internet links to the articles below are at bit.ly/CNB8317

COUNCIL

- DCC Environment Scrutiny, 6 March
- Official opening of the new Library
- GAMP Employment Task Group
- New speed visor locations approved
- Middridge Parish Council meeting, 6 March
- Boundary Commission Report

- Latest Roadworks info
- COMMUNITY
- Aycliffe Business Park 'Make Your Mark' awards evening
- Ron Hogg PCVC launches new domestic abuse panel
- Clock tower relaunch boost for town centre
- The Tour Series cycling returns to Durham in May
- Durham Countryside Service newsletter
- This is Durham Top Ten walking routes
- Livin Jobs Fair, Spennymoor Leisure Centre, 9am till noon, Thursday 16 March
- 5" Gauge Association model railway rally, 10am-4pm, 17-19 March at the Locomotion Museum Shildon

Film Show

"BLACK OR WHITE"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 14th March features the 2014 drama "Black or White" starring Kevin Costner and Octavia Spenser fight for custody of their grandchild in a film with plenty of comedy and drama.

The two Oscar winning stars, and Jillian Estell (Who plays the adorable grand-daughter) make this a film well worth seeing. Tea and coffee will be served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. Everyone is most welcome. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

New "Petite Boutique" Opens in Aycliffe



MP Phil Wilson called in to "Petite Boutique" to wish good luck to new shop owner Steph. The Boutique opened in Newton Aycliffe Town centre on Saturday 18th February. Owner, Stephanie Joyce saw a gap in the market for a children's clothes store in the town and took the opportunity.

Steph has many year's experience in the children's clothing market having previously run market stalls and is currently in the process of setting up an online website shop to accompany shop sales (www.petiteboutiquechildrenswear.co.uk - not yet live). Petite Boutique supply clothes, shoes and bedding for birth to 12 years old from top suppliers across Europe. Why not call in and see the range of goods available.

Deputy Mayor Engaged to Friend of 30 Years

Well-known local Councillor, Rotarian and former Mayor of Newton Aycliffe, Michael Dalton, has announced his engagement to a lady he first met thirty years ago.

Michael was holidaying in Harrogate when he first encountered Sue Ward who now lives in Leeds.

"We lost track of each other but I recently searched for



Sue on Facebook, found her and we have been in touch ever since," said Michael. No arrangements have yet been made for their wedding. Retired accountant Michael (52), has battled both spina bifida and kidney failure since the day he was born and spends all his waking day in a wheelchair - but still plays an active role in local affairs.

He recently completed a 50 kilometre charity ride on a static, upper-body hand cycle at the Lifestyle Fitness Suite in Newton Aycliffe to raise money for the Mayor of Great Aycliffe's appeal for the Renal Unit at James Cook University Hospital and other local charities. Michael's mother, 91-year-old Mary Dalton, has been Mayor of Newton Aycliffe on four occasions.

The town's Rotarians burst into song with "Congratulations" at this week's meeting when they heard of the engagement. "We are absolutely delighted to hear your good news", said club President Nora Scott.

Celebrating Work of Healthcare Scientists

The Medical Physics department at County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is celebrating Healthcare Science Week by opening its doors to anyone interested in finding out more about their work and career opportunities in healthcare science.

The department at Darlington Memorial Hospital will be open on Thursday 16th March from 1-5pm or visit University Hospital of North Durham on Friday 17th March from 1-5pm and everyone is welcome to come along for a look behind the scenes.

Robyn Cooke, Medical Physicist, said, "Scientists and engineers in the NHS make a real difference to people's lives and this is an opportunity for anyone to come along and find out more. We'll be giving practical demonstrations and demystifying the work we do. For example, not many people know that we use small amounts of radioisotope tracers to find cancers or to see how your internal organs work!"

"Staff from the department will give interactive and fun demonstrations. No appointment is necessary and the event is free. Schools are also very welcome and we hope to meet some of the scientists of the future."

Teachers can email: robyncooke@nhs.net for more information.

THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 11th March - "Romeo's Pistol"

Romeo's Pistol: where the hell did they come from? This fresh faced dynamic three piece represent the next generation of live entertainment. At a glance they're three lads with a mighty sound who conquered 2016 in style. Underneath their leather jackets, tight shirts and skinny jeans there's a raw passion for guitar based music and a healthy interest in big sound.

A set list boasting the likes of up-to-date Indie Rock without missing out the golden oldies, the band have engineered a unique sound beginning with neat arrangements of the likes of Arctic Monkeys, Kings of Leon and Oasis, coupled with beefed up rock twists of 80's classics such as "Don't You Want Me Baby", "Superstition" and many more.

Tom Backhouse (24) fronts the band on the impressive lead guitar and is also principle chanter with his raunchy vocals. David Lloyd (25) provides the guts with thumping bass lines throughout and Daniel K (33) gives the drums a relentless battering which altogether constitutes an energetic performance full of twists and turns. The band will take you on a night-long tour where you can, rock to 70's punk; dance to 80's rock, before singing your heart out to all the modern classics. Just to give a flavour in no particular order. Romeo's Pistol delve into some of the most loved tunes from the Stereophonics, Black Keys, Beatles, Buzzcocks, The Jam, Red Hot Chillii Peppers, U2, Oasis and many more. So, put your beer back in the fridge and get down to the Turbinia for a night you may regret tomorrow but - 'at least not today'!

Saturday 18th March - "Untold"

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Official Opening of Library

HONEST JOHN DONATIONS

Aycliffe Library has started a new chapter with the official opening of its new home relocating to a bright and modern new base within the Leisure Centre on Beveridge Way.



The new-look library was officially opened on Monday, 6 March by Cllr Edward Bell, Chairman of Durham County Council, and Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of the Council.

A plaque was unveiled marking the occasion and a special cake provided featuring a book and a pair

of trainers. Cllr Bell said: "The new library is a fantastic facility and I am really pleased to be asked to officially open it to the public. Having the library and Leisure Centre under one roof will be a massive benefit to the public and the improved facilities will, no doubt, prove a real boost for the town."

Recruiting Young Actors & Actresses

Chance Drama is working towards a show named 'When I Grow Up' and are recruiting ages 7-16 to join their drama school.

They offer singing, acting and dancing guidance and is held at Mainsforth Community Centre, Ferryhill on a Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm. Contact Maureen for more details on 01740 654094.

The relocation of the library is part of a £1 million scheme being carried out by Durham County Council to help regenerate the town centre. The authority has been working alongside Freshwater, the owners of Aycliffe Town Centre, and Great Aycliffe Town Council to ensure residents and businesses have access to much improved facilities.

The new look town centre has attracted major new retailers including Aldi, Wilko and Select.

The creation of the new library has involved refurbishing a number of shop units adjoining the leisure centre and creating a shared entrance for the library and leisure centre.

Facilities include separate sections for teenagers and children, a study area and updated computer equipment.

The library also offers a wide selection of current and classic titles as well as ebooks and emags and free wi-fi is available throughout the building.

For more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/NAlibraryrelocation

Honest John's Aycliffe Community Kitty recently donated to the following local organisations:

- Children's JAM Club - £400**
- Zan Shin Kai Karate Club - £400**
- St Clare's Care Home Residents Fund - £600**
- Friends of St Clare's (Defibrillator appeal) - £1000**

Many thanks to DISC and all those who have supported by either donating or buying goods.

If you have any goods which you would like to donate to John please call 01325 316630 after 5pm.

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Couple's Generous Donation to MRI Scanner Appeal

When Bert and Muriel Terry heard that Darlington Memorial Hospital is raising money to buy a state of the art MRI scanner, they knew they had to help and immediately wrote a cheque for £1,000.

Bert, 87, explains, "I was brought up on a farm in Wesleydale and one of my earliest memories is of an accident I had when I was about three or four. Being a curious little boy, I managed to slice the top off a finger by inserting it in a haymaker. I had to spend quite some time in Darlington Memorial Hospital and remember being very well looked after. There was a real chance I would lose my hand but they managed to save it and most of my finger.

All these years later, I'm getting more great care at Darlington where I receive fortnightly blood transfusions. While the treatments, technology and lots of other things have changed beyond recognition since my childhood, the staff have the same attitude all these years later. They're kind, helpful, cheerful, and give me



exceptional care, treating my wife and I like family.

Muriel adds, "In making this donation, we're getting the satisfaction of giving something back to the hospital that has given my husband great care in both his early and later years. We hope the new scanner will help do the same for future generations."

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust aims to

raise £2.5m to bring the latest MRI scanning technology to both Darlington Memorial and Bishop Auckland Hospitals.

Dr. Elizabeth Loney, Clinical Director for Radiology, explains, "We're so grateful to Mr and Mrs Terry for their very generous donation which gives a real boost to our appeal. MRI scans are particularly good at looking at soft tissues and tremendous advances in technology over recent years mean they can be enormously helpful in diagnosing cancer, heart conditions, strokes and many other health issues. Scans can also give doctors information that previously required the

patient to undergo surgery or another invasive procedure as part of the investigation of their symptoms. Crucially, MRI scanners don't use radiation, unlike x-rays.

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

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

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

"An MRI scanner is one of the most expensive pieces of equipment a hospital will ever purchase and we'd love the

whole community, including individuals, companies, schools, sports clubs etc, to support us by holding events such as coffee mornings, cake sales and sponsored activities in aid of the Scanner Appeal. Every pound counts. After all, you never know when you or a loved one might need a scan."

If you would like to make a donation to our MRI appeal or get involved:

Visit the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity 'justgiving' website at: <https://www.justgiving.com/cddft>

Send a cheque to: Cashiers, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX. Please make cheques payable to: Co Durham & Darlington NHS FT Charity. Pick up a donation envelope with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards. Text SCAN02 £10 to 70070 to donate to CDDFT.

To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email:

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Aycliffe Performer in Durham Musical

Newtonian Deborah Wilson Plays Arminy in Durham Musical Theatre Company's "CAROUSEL" by Rodgers and Hammerstein at the GALA Theatre, Durham, from Tuesday 21st - Saturday 25th March 2017. Evening performances are at 7.00pm, with Wednesday & Saturday matinées at 2.00pm.

DMTC's production of "Carousel" will mark the 50th anniversary of Fred Wharton's productions for DMTC. "Carousel" is a show that both he and DMTC have never staged before. We want to make this a special, spectacular way of saying a huge THANK YOU to him for all he has done for us and the people of Durham over these past 50 years. We hope you will want to join in this celebratory event with us.

Tickets are now on sale from the GALA Theatre Box Office, telephone: 03000 266600 or on line at www.galadurham.co.uk



Back: Arminy (Deborah Wilson), Nettie (Delia McNally)
Seated: Julie (Katy Walton), Carrie (Shireen Gale).

"Aycliffe Ambassador" Thanks Businesses



Local Councillor John Clare thanked businesses after he was awarded a special Aycliffe Ambassador Award during Wednesday night's Make Your Mark ceremony on Aycliffe Business Park.

Cllr Clare was handed the gong for his outstanding contribution to the business park at the end of the awards presentation, held at the Xcel Centre.

"It's a total surprise and I'm humbled," he said. "There are people in this room who have done so much for the community, so to find myself here is a total shock. I think of myself as a representative of the people, so on their behalf can I just say . . . you put the bread and butter on our tables, you are the future - not just for Aycliffe, but for County Durham. On your shoulders rests the future of our children. You are so important to us. We can't think of going into the future without you building and growing and working. Thank you so much to you and all you do. You're so

much appreciated."

For the first time, the new Aycliffe Business Park Community board decided to create the new Aycliffe Ambassador Award to recognise the outstanding contribution an individual has made to Aycliffe Business Park and Newton Aycliffe.

Before handing over the award, chair Kerina Clark told guests: "He has been a prolific advocate of Aycliffe Business Park. He is extremely active on social media - Facebook and Twitter in particular - and is the first to 'talk up' Aycliffe Business Park, to shout about our success stories and to make a hugely-positive impact on the thousands of people who follow him.

Whenever he talks, he exudes passion, positivity and patriotism for Aycliffe. He has indeed made an outstanding contribution to Aycliffe Business Park, not only in the last year but over the last number of years."

SWIMMING CLUB MEDAL WINNERS

Northumberland & Durham ASA Championship
25th & 26th February

Swimmers representing Sedgefield 75 Swimming club were Hannah Featherstone, Kate Tolley, Leah Smith, Niall Coulthard and Jamie Darnton.

They competed in a total of 19 events and made 18 finals. The most pleasing thing from a coaching perspective is that they all improved their times going from heats to finals.

The medal winners were Hannah who took gold in the 200 and 100 mtrs. Freestyle the 100 and 200 Backstroke and the 200 Individual Medley in the women's open events

Leah won bronze in the 50 Freestyle and silver in the 200 Individual medley in the 13 year girls events.

Niall won bronze in the 50 Fly and silver in both the 100 FS and the 100 Fly 10 medals and 18 finals was a pleasing result from such a small group of swimmers who performed so well and did their club proud.

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Broomside Park, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham DH1 1HP
0191 502 0482
www.cooperdurhambmw.co.uk

FIND YOUR PERFECT BMW,
BOOK A TEST DRIVE* TODAY.

Official Fuel Economy Figures for the BMW Range: Extra Urban 26.2-83.1mpg (10.8-3.4l/100km). Urban 14.6-64.2mpg (19.3-4.4l/100km). Combined 20.3-74.3mpg (13.9-3.8l/100km). CO₂ emissions 325-99g/km. Figures are obtained in a standardised test cycle. They are intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not be representative of what a user achieves under usual driving conditions.

Cooper Durham is a credit broker.

¹Initial rental £0.00. Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a BMW 118i Sport 5-Door, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 5.84 p per mile. ²Initial rental £0.00. Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a BMW 420i Sport Coupé, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 9.11p per mile. ³Initial rental £0.00. Price shown is for a 48 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a BMW X3 20d xLine, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 6.93p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 01 January and 31 March 2017 and registered by 30 June 2017 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. At the end of your agreement you must return the vehicle. Excess mileage, vehicle condition and other charges may be payable. Hire available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Hire provided by BMW Financial Services (GB) Limited, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0FB. Inchcape Retail Limited trading as The Cooper Group, commonly introduce customers to a selected panel of lenders including BMW Financial Services. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice. *Test drive subject to applicant status and availability.

FROM A SOPHISTICATED STYLE TO A PLAYFUL RE-DESIGN, WE HAVE IT ALL.

Offering a range of stunning designs, at Cooper Durham there's something for everyone.



MINI ONE 3-DOOR HATCH.

Monthly payments from **£189**
per month + **£189** initial rental¹.



MINI ONE 5-DOOR HATCH

Monthly payments from **£199**
per month + **£199** initial rental².



MINI ONE CLUBMAN.

Monthly payments from **£249**
per month + **£249** initial rental³.

Book your test drive* today at Cooper Durham.

Cooper Durham

Broomside Park, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham DH1 1HP
0191 502 9571 www.cooperdurhammini.co.uk



Official Fuel Economy Figures for the MINI Range: Urban 26.4-72.4 mpg (10.7-3.9 l/100km). Extra Urban 44.8-91.1 mpg (6.3-3.1 l/100km). Combined 35.8-83.1mpg (7.9-3.4 l/100km). CO₂ Emissions 184-89g/km.

Figures are obtained in a standardised test cycle. They are intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not be representative of what a user achieves under usual driving conditions. Cooper Durham is a credit broker.

¹Initial rental £189. Price shown is for a £189 47 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI One 3-door Hatch, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 4.01p per mile. ²Initial rental £199. Price shown is for a £199 47 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI One 5-door Hatch, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 4.16p per mile. ³Initial rental £249. Price shown is for a £249 47 month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI One Clubman, with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 4.80p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 01 January and 31 March 2017 and registered by 30 June 2017 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. At the end of your agreement you must return the vehicle. Excess mileage, vehicle condition and other charges may be payable. Hire available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Hire provided by MINI Financial Services, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0FB. Inchcape Retail Limited trading as The Cooper Group commonly introduce customers to a selected panel of lenders including MINI Financial Services. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice. *Test drive is subject to status and availability.

THANK YOU HONEST JOHN



Residents at St Clare's Care Home received a boost this week with a generous donation of £600 from Honest John. These funds will be used to purchase games and other activities for those living at the home.

Aycliffe Air Cadet Awards

1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets recently held their annual presentation evening at the RAFA Club. The squadron continues to provide excellent opportunities for the cadets as was evident by the number of awards and certificates given out. The event began with the enrolment of a new cadet and then the award of badges for academic achievements. Nationally recognised awards such as Heartstart first aid certificates and BTec Diplomas in Aviation Studies were then presented along with Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. The second half of the evening saw the awarding of the squadron's trophies for 2016 by Deputy Wing Commander, Sqn. Ldr. John Scott, and the squadron's Commanding Officer, Ft. Lt. Karin Scott. The recipients were:

- Scott Trophy for Citizenship:** Cdt. Grace Bain;
- Crabbe Trophy for Aircraft Recognition:** Cpl. Kieran Newbery;
- Laverick Memorial Trophy for Shooting:** Cdt. Grace Bain;
- Sedgefield Veterans Trophy for Attendance:** Cpl. Kieran Newbery;
- Tom Downs Trophy for Endeavour:** Cdt. Bradley Moresby-White;
- Scott Shield for Most Improved Cadet:** Cdt. Ft. Sgt. Craig Addison;
- Padre's Award:** Cdt. Ft. Sgt. James Simon;
- Mess Tin Trophy:** Adventure Challenge team;
- Best Junior Cadet:** Cdt. Hannah Taylor;
- Boddy Trophy For Best NCO:** Sgt. Jake Hastie;
- Fryer Shield for Best Cadet:** Cdt. Paul Ughra.

The evening was a celebration of the achievements of all the members of 1407 squadron. The range of awards on offer and the high calibre of the cadets shows why the squadron is still amongst the top squadrons in Durham/Northumberland Wing. Ft. Lt. Scott would like to thank everyone involved with the squadron for their continued support. If you are in year 8 or above



Best Junior Cadet Hannah Taylor



Sgt. Jake Hastie, Cpl. Kieran Newbery & Cpl. Peter Hastie

at school and are interested in finding out more about us then come along to the Barnard Armory ARC on a Monday or Thursday evening between 7 and 9pm for a chat.

Bowling Fun at Planet Leisure



Members of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club recently swapped their Rotary badge pins for pins of an altogether different type. They took time out to try their ten pin bowling skills at the town's Planet Leisure Centre followed with a meal. At the end of the evening, trophies for the highest scoring male and female players were awarded to Rtn. David Hogg and Rtn. Angela Stevenson (pictured with their trophies). They were congratulated this week by club President Nora Scott. Angela said later: "Whether you are a 'King Pin' or a 'Gutter Ball' specialist, bowling is certainly a great way to relax and have fun."

Aycliffe Self Storage Ltd.

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Contact Allan on 07496 423440
email: sangsteralchris@aol.com

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Facebook – affordablefurniture uk



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Email: nick@painttechnicsnortheast.co.uk
www.painttechnicsnortheast.co.uk

Unit 11, Gurney Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6UJ



Sizeable Parcels...

Whilst out for a pleasant, or so I had hoped, midday promenade around the area in which I reside, I was utterly disgusted to find dog excrement still appears on our pathways in this day and age. Within a small area, specifically from the new builds on Woodham Way to Pemberton Road I counted twelve piles of the stuff - this is only what I could see from the path, goodness knows how many more piles are lurking out of sight. The offending parcels appear to be of a consistent size, suggesting a larger breed. My detective antenna believes the offending dog owner will live either on Pemberton or the opposite side of the road as they will most likely be too bone idle to take man's best friend further afield... Come on you know who you are... PICK IT UP... If you're kind enough to take care of your canine do the right thing, you are giving the rest of us canine carers a bad name. A Dog Lover

Situations VACANT




School and Sixth Form College
A Catholic Academy
Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 6JT.
Students on roll 1,300+ (including 350+ in Sixth Form)

Cover Supervisor

SCP 11-14 – Grade C - Salary £11,997 – £12,751
32.5 hours per week
8.30 am to 3.30 pm - term time only

Ofsted May 2010: Outstanding School
We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic, well organised and highly motivated person to start as soon as possible.

For further details, please contact: 01388 603246,
sanderson@stjohnsrc.org.uk or visit our website
www.stjohnsrc.org.uk - Vacancies

Closing Date: Monday, 27 March 2017
St John's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values'

FOLLOW US ON

NEWTON NEWS





Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

WHAT YOU GET FROM YOUR TOWN COUNCIL....

Management of Great Aycliffe Way, Woodham Burn, Woodlands and Nature areas.
Oakleaf Sports Complex – indoor bowls, sports hall, squash courts, bar and catering, children’s holidays courses.
Oakleaf Golf Complex consisting of an 18-hole golf course and 18-bay floodlit driving range.

Stephenson Way Cemetery and West Cemetery.
Aycliffe Angels Memorial Garden – provision and maintenance.

1 pre-school learning centre – with ‘good’ Ofsted rating.
5 allotment sites with 9 pigeon and 5 poultry facilities.

11 parks and play areas at various locations.
6 football pitches, mini-soccer and six-a-side pitches.

Bus shelters with litter bins in various locations.

A lorry park at School Aycliffe.

Grounds maintenance and environmental management.

Planning consultation.

Liaison with principal authorities and other partner organisations.

Park Patrol and Town Pride Teams.

Moore Lane Eco Centre.

Aycliffe Youth Council.

Community Consultations.

Community Enhancement Awards.

Special Events:

Aycliffe Festival

Senior Citizens’ Excursions – approximately 1600 participants

Fun-in-the-Parks

Christmas lighting

Santa Tours – several routes, with volunteer Santas

Children’s Santa letters forwarded to the North Pole

Fireworks Display

Mayoral Events:

Civic Service, Civic Dinner, ‘At Home’, Golf Tournament & Carol Service



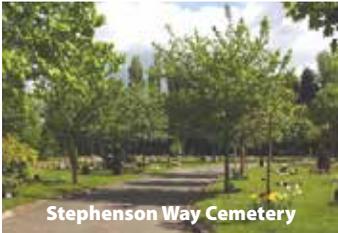
Aycliffe Youth Council



Grounds Maintenance



Brass Aycliffe Festival



Stephenson Way Cemetery



Moore Lane Park



Town Centre Park



West Park



Fun In The Park



Santa Letters



Santa Tours



Park Patrol



Angels Memorial Garden



Oakleaf Sports Complex



Oakleaf Sports Complex



Oakleaf Sports Complex



Community Enhancement Awards



Horndale Park



Allotment Sites



Queen's Birthday Celebrations



Armed Forces Day



Firework Display



Community Consultations



Simpasture



Woodham Park



Aycliffe Village Park



Oakleaf Driving Range



Oakleaf Golf



West Cemetery



St Oswalds Park



ECO Centre Events



ECO Centre Events



Great Aycliffe Way



Countryside Volunteers



Christmas Lights



STEM Events

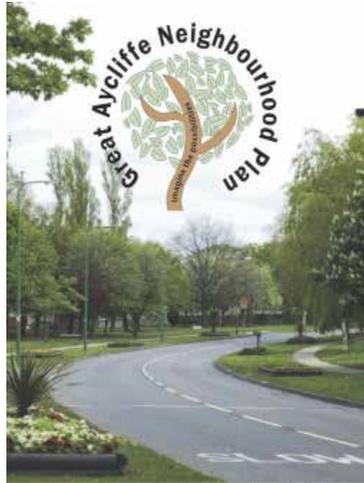


Queen's Birthday Celebrations in the Town Park

TOWN COUNCIL 4 YEARS OF KEY INVESTMENTS:

INVESTMENTS UNDERTAKEN

- Secured the future of the A167 highway lights
- Development of the Neighbourhood Plan
- New multi-use games area at Horndale Park
- New multi-use games area at Moore Lane Park
- Oakleaf Sports Complex multi unit play equipment
- Improvements at West Park
 - Including new play equipment
 - Footpaths
 - Seating
- New Scoot Track at Horndale Park
- Play Equipment - Horndale
- Oakleaf Sports Complex disabled access ramps
- Humphrey Close bridge replacement



MAJOR REPAIR WORKS UNDERTAKEN -

- Golf Irrigation System – valves and sprinkler replacement
- Oakleaf Sports Complex roof
- Replacement boilers at Oakleaf Golf Complex and Moore Lane ECO Centre
- Footpath repairs
- Oakleaf Sports Complex drainage works
- Safety surface repairs
- St. Oswald's Pavilion roof replacement



VEHICLE AND PLANT REPLACEMENTS -

- Wildflower meadow machinery
- Ride on mower
- Park Patrol vehicles



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation and community engagement with the Youth Council, Customer Panel and attending community events across the town ensures that the Town Council provides the services that the residents want and we prioritise our spending, and savings, to reflect your priorities.

Moore Lane Eco Centre FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Great Aycliffe Town Council will be building on past activities and organising a series of free public events for local residents to promote and encourage the positive use of our local environment in the coming year.

The focal point for these activities will be Moore Lane Eco Centre. Events such as arts activities, talks and practical sessions will take place at this venue with various other locations managed by the Town Council being utilised for nature based learning and fun throughout the year.

The type of activities will include sessions such as pond dipping, nature walks, bird box making and various nature based arts events.

Keep up to date with what is on offer as it is released by either watching for articles in the local press or signing up to the dedicated Facebook page searching for AycliffeMooreLaneEcoCentre.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Should you wish to read further information on the Council’s finances and the 2017/18 budget setting process you can view detailed information on the Finance Section of Council website via the following link [http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/finance/Financial Achievements from the past 4 years](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/finance/Financial%20Achievements%20from%20the%20past%204%20years)

1. The Council has achieved a clean bill of health from the external auditors every year on both its accounts and its arrangements for securing value for money.
2. The Council has not made any cuts to front line services despite losing more than £160,000 in grant funding over the 4 years and dealing with a number of unavoidable increases in costs.

MAYOR’S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER

The Annual Mayor’s Charity Civic Ball was hosted by the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Jed Hillary, on Saturday, 25th February 2017 at the Hallgarth Golf and Country Club. Music for dancing was provided by John Melvin and Cabaret Artiste ‘Mikki Lawton’ who entertained the guests.

Fund raising at the event was in aid of the Mayor’s nominated Charity during his Year in Office and this year the Mayor had chosen the Rifles Care for Casualties

A special thanks must go to Barclays Bank who match funded the evening’s fund raising of £1,620 making the total amount raised to £2,620.

Mrs. Nora Scott, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, gave a response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests. Councillor Jed Hillary would like to take this opportunity to thank Ebac Ltd., Husqvarna



Group, Tesco and Crafters Companion for their generosity in supplying prizes to be raffled on the evening. Thanks also went to family, friends and fellow Councillors for their support during the year.

Aycliffe Festival

AYCLIFFE FESTIVAL 2017

The Festival Working Group is currently considering event applications for your entertainment and involvement for 2017.

The Festival dates are Friday 14th July to Sunday 30th July inclusive.

The concept of the Festival is to involve local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations, encouraging them to organise an ‘event’ within the time-frame of the Festival.

There will be a ‘Party in the Park’ which is a FREE evening show with bands from the Durham Brass Festival in attendance on Friday July 14th in the Town Park.

Another immensely successful event in 2015 and 2016 was the Music Night at the Working Men’s Club and this too will run again this year



We are looking to continue the success of the Festival which is now in its third year and will be taking applications from anyone who would like to organise something for the Festival. It doesn’t have to be something the size of Glastonbury, it can be something as simple as a Whist Drive or a darts and dominoes Tournament that would appeal to the people you know.

Even if your organisation doesn’t need a grant, you can still benefit from our advertising campaign by letting us know when it is on as long as it is in the Festival period.

Any event will be considered, large or small, indoor or outdoor but it must be held in the Festival period in Aycliffe. If you are thinking about organising an event or just want to talk it through with us, contact Marie Robinson on 01325 300700 or festival@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is 31st March 2017.



Senior Citizens’ Excursions

Each year, the Council organises a series of free excursions for the senior citizens who live in our Parish. It is one of the most popular events organised by the Council.



Application forms will be available from the Library in Central Avenue, Recreation Centre in Beveridge Way, Oakleaf Sports Complex or Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane from 9 am on Thursday 20th

April. The forms will also be available from the Council’s website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

To be eligible, you do not have to be drawing your pension or have a bus pass, but you do have to be a resident of the electoral parish and 60 years old with a date of birth on or before 31st March 1957 (applies to both men and women). If you are in any doubt, please telephone 01325 300700 and we will check your eligibility.



This year, residents will be able to choose from Northumberland, Scarborough, Edinburgh, Blackpool, Lake District, South Shields or Barnard Castle with a guided tour of Bowes Museum. Please note that places are limited and given out on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Our ‘trippers’ have the choice of venue for the day with a three course meal and tea or coffee (afternoon tea at Bowes Museum) provided in a good quality establishment

usually with disabled facilities. Most of the excursions also call in for a comfort stop with refreshments provided on the way to or from the main destination.

The coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. There is also a 53 seater executive coach with a wheelchair hoist to each destination. This ensures that even people with severe mobility problems can enjoy a day out. The hoist can be used for loading wheelchairs for those residents who need to travel in their wheelchair, or for use by people who cannot manage the steps on the coach. Each person who qualifies is entitled to one ‘trip’. To qualify you must be aged 60 or over and must have lived in the electoral parish by 31st March in the year of travel.





Sports Complex

School Aycliffe Lane
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QZ

01325 300600

www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



MONDAY

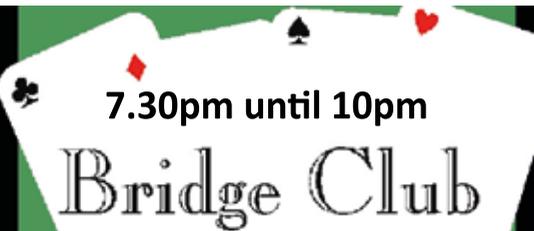
RACKETS & BATS

Over 50's
2pm until 3pm

Members £2.00 Non-Members £2.50
Tea and coffee included

5 - A - SIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

7pm until 9pm



7.30pm until 10pm

Bridge Club

THURSDAY

OAKLIFE OVER 50'S CLUB

10am until 12noon
Members £3 Non Members £3.50
All Welcome
No need to book
Come and join in the fun
every week

FITNESS RESOLUTION

low impact circuit training
6pm until 7pm
Members £2
Non Members £1.50
Suitable for all (over 16's only)

Aycliffe Squash Club

OPEN SESSIONS
6.15pm until 7.45pm
Only £2 per person
All standards welcome - over 16's only
Contact John Snowball 01325 311407

ARCHERY

7.30pm until 8.30pm
DROP IN ADULT ARCHERY
Must have completed coaching course
at Oakleaf Sports Complex first
Members £3 Non Members £4
Adult Archery Coaching Course
4 week duration - £25

SATURDAY

P.A.S.S

9am until 11am
Members £2 Non Members £2.50
For all aged between
8 - 15 years

Children's Archery

11.30am until 12.30pm
Members £2.40
Non Members £2.90

FAMILY BADMINTON SESSIONS

11am until 5pm
Bookings taken on the day
subject to availability
Only £5 per family, per hour
Equipment hire included - max. of 6 per court
SPECIAL OFFER
Book a court, receive a child's meal free

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

12noon until 4pm
Special Offer
Every Saturday and Sunday
ALL 5-A-SIDE BOOKINGS
only £20 per hour

FRIDAY

BOWLS

6.30pm until 8.30pm
8.30pm until 10.30pm
Members £3.10 Non Members £3.85

We have all the equipment you need
Hire Charge
Member £2.00 (per person)
Non Member £3.00 (per person)
with £1.00 refunded

OAKLEAF SPORTS BAR



sky SPORTS

BT Sport



Live sports shown daily

Function Room Available

FREE Room Hire

when purchasing food, see reception for more details

SUNDAY

PILATES

6pm until 7pm
£4.50 per class

Taught by fully qualified instructor Lone Hannman



Traditional Sunday Lunch

Adults portion £6.10
Childrens portion £3.10
and
Hot Meat Sandwiches
£2.50

TUESDAY

JUNIOR SQUASH COACHING

with Bill West
4pm until 6.10pm
Members £2.00
Non-Members £2.50
5-15 YEARS

QUIZ NIGHT

9pm
Oakleaf Sports Bar

General Knowledge, Music,
TV, Film, Picture Round
50p per person
Prizes to be won

WEDNESDAY

BADMINTON

8pm until 9pm

Hire Equipment

Member £2

Non-Member £3

with £1 refund (per person)

Member £6
Non-Member £7.50
(per court)



Available Everyday from the Bar



Jacket Potatoes, Toasties & Paninis

Prices start at £2.50



Oakleaf Sports Bar

SPECIALS BOARD

includes 2 for £10.00

Traditional Bar Meals - New Dishes Each Week



St Oswald's Pre-school is set in the beautiful grounds of St Oswald's Park in Wren Close, Newton Aycliffe.

We have excellent resources with a secure outdoor learning and play area for all children to attend from their 3rd birthday.

Here, at St Oswald's we believe that all children are entitled to a quality early years provision that will assist them to achieve their individual potential. That is why the service provided here is of high quality, where each child feels safe, is happy and has fun which helps enormously with their development. The Early Years Foundation Stage is provided in a stimulating environment to ensure that the children make steady progress in all areas of their learning.

We are registered with OFSTED and have achieved excellent results. We offer affordable fees and can even offer flexible hours to meet your individual needs (depending on capacity).

The first 15 hours of educational funding from the government is available to all children from the term after their 3rd birthday which means that the first 15 hours of childcare is totally free. Each additional hour (after the first 15) is £4.50.

If your child is not yet eligible for government funding, the cost is £4.00 for a three hour session with additional hours at £4.50 each.

A full day, (8.45 am to 3.30 pm) is £16.90 with funding or £20.90 if your child is not eligible for funding.

Come along and see for yourself what we can offer you and your child.

For more information please call into the Pre-school to see Julie Gale or telephone 07968 379 009 (01325 319 880).

Alternatively application forms for places are available from our website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk.



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Youthy Football Round Up



Once again the weather disrupted the majority of our games this weekend. However the Spring League started for all our mini soccer sides as they were played at central venue 3G pitches

Under 10 Girls v Felling Magpies, A dominant display by the girls as they took an early lead from Heidi and this was quickly followed with Imogen grabbing her first. The defence and goal keepers were alert to the odd breakaway from Felling, but further goals from Fearn, Heidi with her second and Imogen completing her hat trick and an emphatic win for the girls FT 6-0

Under 7 Eagles v North East Sport United, The Eagles started their Spring league at full pace and were on top in the first half creating lots of chances but the 2nd half saw NE Sport back into the game. Overall a really end to end game that could have saw both teams snatch the winner. FT 2-2.

Under 8 Eagles v North East Vipers, A great team performance with some outstanding saves from Trystan. The first half saw a great pass from Adam to find

Ollie who opened the scoring. Then Aycliffe were awarded a penalty just before half time. Nathan stepped forward and calmly beat the keeper.

HT 2-0. Two debut's in the second half with Liam and Jayden coming on and they played their part. Great runs from Liam and a fantastic goal from Jayden. The Vipers broke through and scored to make it 3-1. However a great individual goal from Will and two cracking goals from Edwin got the Eagles off to a flying start to the Spring season FT 6-1.

Under 9 Eagles v Wearmouth Wolves, Disappointing start to

the new league. Some positives in that everyone got good playing time and some really good passing and movement but again we were out muscled by a stronger team on the day. Good goals from Will and Declyn kept us in touch but we never looked like winning. But we look forward to next week's game. FT2-5
Other scores
Hartlepool 6v 1
Under 11's
Brompton 1v 0
U14 Falcons
H'Pool St Francis 0 v 3
U10 Falcons. For more information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit the website www.nayfc.com

SCANNER SCANDAL

Dear Sir,

I was interested, though not surprised at the content of John Parlour's letter on the MRI Scanner. The situation obviously is caused by the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) deals when building and equipping our local hospitals including Bishop Auckland. I don't think the current finance officers are responsible for contracts drawn up some years ago, but it would be advantageous to know when these contracts expire and if financial matters can be dealt with more efficiently and wisely.

Another example recently was the cost of replacing a light bulb above a patient's bed, reported in the Daily Mail to be a staggering £600.00! Can this really be true?
PC.

FIRST AWARD FOR UTC

UTC South Durham celebrated winning their first accolade of 'Newcomer of the Year' at the Aycliffe Business Park annual Make Your Mark Awards dinner, hosted by the Xcel Centre on the 1st March 2017. The annual business awards celebrates the collective achievements of companies on Aycliffe Business Park.

UTC South Durham is the first University Technical College in the North East. UTC's are state funded technical schools that give students the unique opportunity to innovate and invent. Studying at the UTC provides young people with the opportunity to gain both an academic and technical education in an inspiring learning environment.

UTC students work closely with employers to enable them to be qualified to work in sectors that are looking for skilled staff. The UTC South Durham specialises in advanced manufacturing and engineering, sectors that are vital to the economy of the region.

The location of the UTC is an unusual one but done



deliberately to reflect the specialism of the technical college placing it next to some of the most advanced manufacturing and engineering facilities in the country. Having these opportunities so close to the students means that they can access the best 'real world' experiences on their doorstep. Tom Dower, Principal of the UTC (pictured) said 'It is a privilege to be neighbours with such a large variety of businesses at Aycliffe that have reached out to the UTC

The Make Your Mark 2016 winners are as follows:

- Apprentice of the Year: **Ben Thubron** - Baltic Training
- Apprenticeship of the Year: **Hitachi Rail Europe**
- Company of the Year: **PWS**
- Employer of the Year Award: **Arlington Automotive**
- Engineering & Manufacturing Award: **Premo Fabrications**
- Export Award: **Primex Plastics**
- Heart of the Community Award: **DISC**
- Innovation Award: **Stiller Warehousing & Distribution**
- Newcomer of the Year Award: **UTC South Durham**
- Service Business of the Year Award: **Trident Manor Ltd**
- Small Business of the Year Award: **Beaumont Grounds Maintenance**

DONATION MISTAKE?

Dear Sir,
May I request that the lady who donated china and cutlery to Honest John on Tuesday 7th March please call back or ring John on 01325 316630 (after 5pm), as soon as possible. An item was found that may or may not have been meant for donation.

Could donors please leave contact details with the items being left or on the side of the box, there could be something of high value that you were not aware of.

Also when dropping off goods, please hand to Honest John in person or ring John to make arrangements.
Honest John

BUS TRIP TO WHITBY

Day out to Whitby on Sunday 2nd April 2017 with 9.30am pick up at St. Clare's and the Cemetery bus stop on Stephenson Way at 9.40am.

New Friends New Places, a group for older people, invite you to join them on a Coach day trip to Whitby. This is one of their monthly Sunday outings destinations. There will be a comfort stop at Guisborough and we have 15 seats available.

The cost will be £10 per seat payable on booking. Ring 01325 308094 for further details and please leave your telephone number if the call is taken on an answer machine. Mobile: 07967 901477.

Congratulations to Councillor

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to hear that Councillor John Clare was named as the first ever "Aycliffe Ambassador" at the Aycliffe Business Park "Make Your Mark" awards last Wednesday.

His tireless contribution has been recognised by the business community of our town and I would like to add my congratulations. Well done John on this great achievement.
Mary Dixon

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Curate Joins Rotary **DISABLED ACCESS DAY**



The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe has a new member – the Revd. Ruth Dawson. The curate at St Michael’s Church, Heighington, and St Matthew and St Luke, Brinkburn, was inducted into membership at this week’s club meeting. Ruth was sponsored by Rtn. Margaret Fenwick and was presented with her Rotary pin by President Nora Scott. The objects of Rotary were read by Rtn. Gary Blenkinsopp. Ruth (pictured left with President Nora) told members: “I feel very honoured to have been invited to join you.”

Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon is offering a range of free activities for the whole community to enjoy – as their contribution to the nationwide Disabled Access Day initiative from Friday 10th March to Sunday 12th March. Visit during the event, and you’ll be able to take a closer look at the cabs of the museum’s two operational diesel shunters – Class 03 D2090 and Class 08 13079 – as these locomotives will be positioned on the platform at the Collection Building to allow wheelchair access. You’ll be able to get hands on with some of the smaller items from the museum’s collection in object handling sessions, and you’ll be able to join in with tours of the ‘star’ vehicles on display throughout the day. Disabled Access Day is a nationwide initiative to encourage disabled people to try something new! The initiative is sponsored by Euan’s Guide, a listing and review site that helps disabled people and their families know which venues are truly accessible.

The Museum at Shildon is open from 10am to 4pm daily. Tours, cab access and object handling sessions for Disabled Access Day will be available at selected times throughout the event. Parking and admission is free of charge. For more information, please call 01388 777999.

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NEW OR NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SALE (no jumble) to be held in Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 25th March 2017 from 10.00am to 12.30pm £5.00 per table/space. To book please ring 01325 314735, leaving your name and contact details.

SHOPPERS HELP TESCO CELEBRATE NEW ADDITIONS TO THEIR STORE

The Tesco Extra store in Newton Aycliffe celebrated the introduction of high street fashion brands to the store by donating £1,000 to local charity Hub of Wishes and announcing the winner of its school design-a-bag competition.

The store on Greenwell Road has welcomed fashion brands Burtons, Dorothy Perkins, Evans and Wallis following a partnership between Tesco and the Arcadia Group.

The store held a special re-launch event on Monday 6th March where nine year old Jazmin Adderley from St. Mary's R.C. Primary School, was announced as the winner of a drawing competition that the store had been running. Jazmin was invited to join store manager Helen Maynard and Vicki Lawrence from Hub of Wishes to take part in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Representatives from other local charities and community groups were also welcomed at the re-opening to celebrate the strong relationships each have formed with the store. These included, Roc Solid, Shildon Alive, Junior Neighbourhood Watch, Woodcraft, St Clare's Foodbank, the Rotary Club and Freya's Freckle.

During the celebrations, the store presented Vicki and fellow representatives from Hub of Wishes with a cheque for £1,000 which will be used to purchase a new disabled toilet at their centre and a hot water boiler for the kitchen to enable people to make hot drinks.

Tesco Extra store manager, Helen Maynard said: "We would like to thank Vicki and the team from Hub of Wishes for coming along to help us celebrate the improvements to our store. They turned the occasion into a real celebration. We are delighted that we could support them with a donation as the team do wonderful work in our community."

Vicki Lawrence from Hub of Wishes said: "When we were contacted by the team at Tesco to say they would like us to be a part of their celebrations and provide us with a £1,000 donation we were over the moon! They made us feel very welcome and everyone had a lovely time. We can't thank the store enough for their support, it means so much to the whole team."

Along with presenting Hub of Wishes with their donation, store manager Helen also presented local pupil Jazmin with £500 for her school, St. Mary's R.C. Primary, a £25 gift card to spend in store and the limited edition hessian bag featuring her winning design. Pupils were asked to design a poster depicting what they love about Newton Aycliffe. Jazmin's design features a family enjoying a walk in open space/local park.

The hessian bags were given out to customers all day and so will be seen across Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas.

Class Teacher at St. Mary's R.C. Primary School, Louise Brown said: "We would like to thank the team at the Tesco Extra store in Newton Aycliffe for inviting us to join their celebrations. We had a

wonderful time and Jazmin was made to feel very special. The bags look amazing and will be a lovely keepsake for Jazmin to remember her achievement. The whole school are very proud of her." Store manager Helen said: "Jazmin's design looks great on the bags and we have had

some fantastic comments from customers who love them! We are grateful to, Louise, Jazmin and her classmates for coming along to help us celebrate our new-look store." Customers also celebrated the re-launch with a celebration cake and refreshments.

Helen added: "We are focused on serving our customers and are constantly looking at ways to enhance the customer experience and the addition of these popular fashion brands and other improvements through the store are ones which I am sure our customers will love."



Women's World Day of Prayer



The Anglican Parish Church of St. Clare's in the town centre hosted this year's Women's World Day of Prayer. This year the Service was written by the Women of the Philippine's and was themed on the subject of "Am I Being Unfair to You". The Service was attended by churches from different denominations on the town, and the feedback afterwards was really encouraging.

All who attended were given small embroidered bags of rice to remind them of the staple diet of the Philippine's, and were invited to light a candle

in remembrance of the country we had prayed for. The "Open the Book Team" who go into many schools on the town gave a lovely presentation of a reading from Matthew's Gospel of The Rich Land Owner, and how fair he was to his workers. The Service closed with everyone being invited for a lunch of home made soup, and typical Filipino fare of tuna and cracker's and Filipino cakes. Thanks to all who helped make this Service successful and to those who came along, we enjoyed your company very much.



Hairdressing

JULIE Mobile Hairstylist for all the family, competitive prices, perms £40 inc. cut and finish. Tel Julie on 07801 192417

Lost & Found

MOBILE phone found behind the town centre shops. If you think it may be yours, please get in touch. 07936 709309

Photography

EYE DREAM Photography for weddings, portrait and event photography. Telephone: 07595 023 823 or email paul@eyedreamphotography.co.uk or visit www.eyedreamphotography.co.uk

Weddings

CLASSIC WEDDING CARS offer a superb collection of cars for your special day including Rolls-Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars, Beaufords, Daimler Limousines and VW Campervans. View our cars at our Aycliffe showroom. www.classic-wedding-cars.co.uk 01325 789291 (Aycliffe) mob 07721 771113.

Sits Vacant

TAXI DRIVERS required weekends. Good rate of pay plus school passenger assistants for new contracts starting. Tel 01325 317716 or 01325 300444

Accommodation

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We need 2, 3, 4 bedroom houses and apartments in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas for our clients on our waiting list.
For further information call
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3 BEDROOM semi detached in Bates Close with conservatory. All modern, £450 pcm, £450 Bond. Tel 07976 321756
2 BEDROOM immaculate property in Lancelot Close. Available to rent from 13th March. South facing garden, conservatory and off street parking. Would suit a couple, young family or older person. £475 per month. One month in advance required plus bond and references. No DSS. Contact Jackie on 07908 741648
3 BEDROOM properties available to rent in Hawes Place, Newton Aycliffe. Please contact Lucy on 07826 925652 for further details (please note we do not accept DSS).
2 BEDROOM in Bewick Crescent, terrace, good condition. Front and rear garden. Available to rent from 22nd March. £475 per calendar month. No DSS. Would suit older person, or young family. Tel:07860 657827
3 BEDROOM terraced in Moule Close. Rent £500 pcm, fee £250. Tel 07980 596563
3 BEDROOM semi detached Tanfield Place. Rent £450 pcm, fee £150. Tel 07980 596563

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World Book Day at Sugar Hill



Children and staff at Sugar Hill Primary School again took on the challenge of celebrating World Book Day in the best possible way. Each class chose a particular theme to tie in with a book they were reading, with classics including Shakespeare's MacBeth, Michael Morpurgo's Kensuzuki's Kingdom, and JK Rowling's legendary Harry Potter series. Some classes chose contemporary titles such as

'Who Let The Gods Out' and 'Crayons'. Children spent the day reading and enjoying work based on the chosen book of their class. The staff at Sugar Hill were immensely proud of the efforts made by all the children to dress up as their favourite literary characters. The best-dressed from each class received an Easter Egg to recognise their efforts, but all the children were brilliant on the day.

MARY POPPINS MUSICAL

The C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre Group are into their final rehearsals for their next production "Mary Poppins" (Musical) at the Civic Hall, Sildon this month. A spokesperson said "The young people will be performing their musical adaptation of PL Travers well known magical Nanny on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm, with a final matinee performance on Sunday 19th March at 2pm. All your favourite songs are in this show like "A Spoonful of Sugar", "Jolly Holiday", "Chim Chim Cheree", "Let's Go Fly A Kite" and many more, along with two new songs from the London musical. This colourful family show has Amelia Rees as Jane Banks, Dylan Goddard as Bert the chimney sweep, Ellarae Bower as the dothy Uncle Albert, Hannah Liddell as the eccentric Mrs. Corry, Mr. Dawes the Bank Chairman is played by Katelyn Freeborn, whilst Erin Clarke is Katie Nanna. Sienna Birkett the Bird Woman who plays alongside Emma Dixon the Balloon Lady. Matthew Kerr and Oscar Peatling are stallholders and Faith Bingham is a member of the dance troupe. Tickets priced £5.50 Adults, £3.50 Children (u16) can be pre-booked by ringing 01325 313363 or 01388 774838.

BLUE BRIDGE CENTRE

OFFICES TO LET

Refurbished office to let in eco-friendly building. Located next to Newton Aycliffe's iconic landmark, the Blue Bridge, with easy access to A1M and other routes north and south. Office comes with secure, private, lockable front door, natural light windows, led lighting, new ceilings, eco-friendly heating. Internet and telephone packages available.

To register an interest please contact Stuart on 01325 300212

St. Patrick's Day Lunch at St. Elizabeth's

Celebrate St Patrick's Day in style with a themed Irish lunch held at St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham on 17 March at 12.30. This will mark the return of St Elizabeths Church delicious lunches, which will now be held seasonally throughout the year. The St Patrick's Day lunch will be a delicious main course and sweet followed by tea and coffee. All for £4 per person. To book your place at the celebratory seasonal event please call 01325 789344

Congratulations Congratulations

Rianna Armstrong

Happy 21st Birthday
13th March 2017
Love from Mam, Brothers, Sisters and all the family
xxxxxxxx

Michael and Margaret Norris

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary
Celebrating 50 years together on 11th March 2017.
Congratulations and best wishes from all the Family and the Dogs

MEET, PLAY & EAT

Age UK County Durham in partnership with Oakleaf Sports Complex host Meet, Play, Eat the first Friday of every month. It's a chance for anyone over 50 to meet new people, try a new activity and enjoy a bar meal. Each month there's a new activity on offer to try ranging from guided walks, archery, indoor bowls and table tennis. All activities can be enjoyed by people of varying abilities and can be enjoyed at your own pace. Louise Haymer, Development

Worker said, "There's a wide range of new activities to try each month. However if you don't feel like being involved in a physical activity there is the option to sit in the bar and take part in a quiz or bar games. We then all come together at the end to enjoy a bar meal". Up and coming activities over the next few months are a guided walk in April, Table Tennis in May and Archery in June. Each session begins at 11.00am and is £5.00 inclusive of a bar meal such as fish and chips, curry, mince and

Yorkshire puddings, jacket potatoes and omelettes. For more information or to book your place please contact the Come Eat Together Team on 0191 3746577.

NEWTON NEWS FOLLOW US ON

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In Memoriam

Philip Scott
17th February 1970
to 9th March 2016

Your life was love and labour,
Your love for your family true.
You did your best for all of us,
We will always remember you.
We sat beside your bedside,
Our hearts were crushed and sore.
We held your hand right to the end,
Till we could do no more. Love you Son xxxx
Mam, Dad, Leigh, Glenn, Earle, Victoria, Scott,
Families and Friends

MARGARET ROSE THOMPSON. 7th March 2017. Those who have a Mother, cherish her with care. For you never know the heartache, till you see her vacant chair. We love and miss you Mum, we wish you were here today. Just to say these words to you, we Love You in every way. From your loving family xx
SOULSBY, PETER ELLIOT. Died 10th March 1999. Silent thoughts of times together, special memories last forever. Love, Valerie xx
GEORGE SMITH. Died 5th March 2009. Your smile was made of sunshine, your heart was made of gold. Loved and remembered always, forever in our hearts. Love, Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fi, Charlie and George
RICHARD MILLER 11th March 2011. You are still missed, never forgotten, by Peter, Sheila and Lisa
MARY HIND 15th March 2009. We miss you so much. You are always in our thoughts and our hearts. Never forgotten. All our love, Janet, Tony and David xxx

For Sale

RENT a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321 678

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

QUANTUM Electric wheel chair, £1000; Careco electric Scooter, £400. Tel 07970 329989

FRIDGEMASTER fridge freezer. A+ frost free. 3 drawers. 56cms w, 55d, 144h. Excellent condition. £60. Morphy Richards microwave 800w. Very good condition. £15. Buyer collects, 07789 557620.

HARDLY used, dark brown leather 2 seater sofa, £80. Tel 01325 316651

BROWN leather 3 + 2 seater sofa's + matching foot stool/storage box. Excellent condition, £350 ono. Tel 01325 311394

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £120. Tel 07789 113343

TRAILER good condition and sturdy. 5ft x 4ft x 20", includes ladder rack, cover and jockey wheel. £200 ono. Tel 01325 316877 or 07773 348697

Obituary

TOMMY SHAW Peacefully on 27th February. Tommy, aged 79 years. Beloved Husband of the late Patty; loving Dad of Tony; much loved Grandad of Leanne, Kalya and Kasia. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday 13th March at 11.00am. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, may be made to "The British Heart Foundation", plate provided at the Crematorium.

JOHN HUBERY 1st March, peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne. John, aged 81 years, of Newton Aycliffe. Dearly loved Husband of Madge; loving Dad of John, Susan and Peter; Father-in-Law of Bal, Les and Maureen; much loved Grandad of Kyle, John, Joelle and Thoryn; also a Great Grandad of Macie. Funeral on Wednesday 15th March. Would friends please meet at 12.00 noon for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, may be made after the Service for Marie Curie Nurses. Thanks to Premier Care Workers.

MARJORIE EDITH HUNTER Peacefully on 3rd March, Marjorie, aged 87 years. Dearly loved Wife of the late Edward; much loved Mother of Wendy and David; loving Grandma of James, Sam and Joe. Funeral Service and Cremation to take place on Thursday 16th March in Wear Valley Crematorium at 2.00pm. Friends please meet at the Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the families chosen charity, collection plate at the Chapel.

CONGRATULATIONS to a dear Daughter and Son-in-Law, Sue and Lee Podmore on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Lots of love, Dad, Mam, Lauren, Mattie, Joe, Raff, Helen, Kevin, Anna, Chris, Lucy, Harvy and Lola xxxxx

Birthday Remembrance

SANDRA LOGAN 11th March 1946. NO cards to send, no presents to give. All we have is memories of you. Miss you more each day. Ann and Chris

Acknowledgement

STEPHENSON. The family of the late Joseph Stephenson (Joe), would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for all the cards, flowers and messages of support shown at this sad time. Also, a thank you to carers who looked after Joe, Co-op FuneralCare for their kindness and a special thank you to Carole Briggs for the comforting Service.

Entertainment

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Mam and Dad Sangster



Happy 50th Anniversary
Mam and Dad, I cannot begin to describe how blessed I am to have amazing parents in my life. Seeing true love through you both makes my heart happy. As your Daughter, I see perfection in both of you. I love you.
Lots of love from Paula xxxxx

Pat and Tom Brownless



Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary
11th March 2017
Love from Wayne, Michelle, James, Oliver and all your family and friends

Juniors Football Report

Aycliffe Juniors enjoyed another weekend of footballing action as most teams tried to continue league games. The highlight though was a much anticipated cup semi final for the Under 17's.

Seaton Carew were the visiting semi final opponents, a team who play a league above the Aycliffe side. League standings though were over turned as the home team won 4-1 and booked a place in the final.

The first half was a tight affair with neither keeper really tested and it was goalless at the break. A few changes were made at half time and Kieran pressured the visiting keeper to get the opening goal. The lead was doubled when Lewis finished a great through ball to make the score 2-0 to Aycliffe. Seaton got one back, then Arran came on up front to cause the defence all sorts of trouble and earn a penalty. Kieran scored from the spot and then Callum finished the game off with the fourth goal. A great effort was put in throughout the game from all of the 15 man squad and they will now look forward to the final.

The Under 7's started their Russell Foster Spring Cup which will be undertaken over the next 11 weeks. Aycliffe faced a strong Houghton Albion team this week and there were lots of chances on goal. Albion took the lead before Thomas equalised but at half time Albion were 2-1 up. Thomas' second brought the game level before the Aycliffe team found themselves 4-2 behind. Dylan played in Oli to get one goal back. Lewis went close and then it was Zeke who played in Thomas to complete his hatrick and make the final score 4-4.



This really was a great game and Josh was named as man of the match for making some fantastic saves in goal.

The Under 9's TJFA league team played Norton & Stockton Ancients at Sunnydale and produced a terrific 9-0 win. There was some great football on display and the goals came from Niall (4), Jayden (3) and Will (2). The second game saw another big win with Harvey and Connor named as the mornings men of the match.

The Under 10's were all set to travel to play Seaton Carew Lions, however an hour before kick off the game was postponed. The Under 11 Russell Foster league team were due to be at home in the first round of the League Shield against Shotton. A waterlogged pitch stopped this game going ahead. The Under 11 TJFA league team's game was cancelled due to a flooded pitch at Leven.

The Under 12's played host to their mid table and local rivals Sedgefield Youth, a great display gained a well deserved 2-1 win. The Under 15's were also scheduled to be at home against Hartlepool Pools Youth however this game was not played due to the standing water on that pitch.

The Under 23's played away to struggling Washington United but had a tough game against physical opponents. Aycliffe dominated possession and had more chances on goal but were denied many times by the home keeper. Raisbeck scored and Slatcher was named as man of the match in a 4-1 defeat

AYCLIFFE LOSE DURHAM CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL

Cup holders Aycliffe went out of this year's Durham Challenge Cup competition in a thrilling semi-final tie at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. Aycliffe took an experienced Billingham Synthonia side to the wire, but went out 3-2 when the Synners scored a last minute winner.

Aycliffe suffered a massive setback before the game when captain Jamie Owens wasn't well enough to start. They then went a goal down in the 5th minute when they failed to clear their lines after a corner and ex-Darlington player Nathan Mulligan rifled a strong shot into the corner of the net. The Synners went further ahead on 11 minutes with a similar goal.

Aycliffe had chances to clear, but didn't and this time ex-Aycliffe player Connor Winter took advantage with a shot which was deflected past Phil Pentony in the home goal. A minute later Pentony made a good save to keep the Newtonians in the game. They started to settle into their game and Stuart Banks put a shot over the bar on 23 minutes. Then a Charlie Raby free-kick was tipped over the bar by Synner's keeper McClaren.

A minute later Alan Harrison put a shot past the post. Then Raby fired a shot just over the

bar. Aycliffe were on top at this stage, and were rewarded when Raby fired a free-kick into the top corner for 1-2 in the 36th minute.

Both teams continued to attack, but there were no further scores before half-time. The second half continued in the same vein as the first, with end-to-end play, as both sides went for a goal.

Aycliffe brought on Owens for the last 20 minutes in an attempt to find a breakthrough. Stuart Banks was then up-ended in the penalty area, but the referee

waved away Aycliffe's protests. Minutes later they got the goal they deserved when Ben Wood went on a mazy run and sent a screamer into the top corner of the net for 2-2.

Synners were counter-attacking now, as Aycliffe risked pushing numbers forward to get the winner. Synners had a shot deflected onto the post during one counter-attack with five minutes to go.

Aycliffe were doing most of the pressing, but couldn't get a killer ball through to

Owens. They paid the price with a minute to go when Synner's skipper Peacock led another swift counter-attack before putting in a low cross for Gateshead FC-bound McCauley Langstaff to turn it in. Final score 2-3. Synners now face South Shields in the final on 3 May at Hartlepool Utd's ground. Aycliffe now have two away games, at Newcastle Benfield & West Auckland, before returning to Moore Lane on Tuesday 14 March to play Seaham Red Star.

WINS FOR AYCLIFFE



Northeast Jiu Jitsu club based in Newton Aycliffe's Leisure Centre had its first outing to a north east ran competition on Sunday 5th March. Six grapplers were matched in divisions relevant to skill level and weight, both in a Gi and Nogi.

The team did a fantastic job throughout the competition run by John-Paul Cockeril and

Dave Cunliffe, coming away with 2 Golds, 1 silver and a bronze! JP and Dave would like to thank everyone that fought and came to support the teams first competition!

We will continue to bring a high level of grappling to our Newton Aycliffe club while enjoying the results of our hard work through our students!

Boost for Girls Football

Girls across County Durham will be provided with increased opportunities to play football after a new nationwide participation programme was announced. The programme will see 200 SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres opening throughout England this spring, each run in conjunction with the local County FA and their key partners. The move will provide girls aged from 5 to 11, who haven't played regular football, with opportunities to play and take part in organised sessions in a fun, engaging and safe environment over a minimum 16 week period.

The project is an integral part of The FA's objective to double girls' football participation by 2020 and has been established in a joint partnership between The FA and SSE, supporters of girls' football participation and sponsor of the SSE Women's FA Cup.

One of the new SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres, within Durham County FA, will be taking place in conjunction with Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club every Sunday for 16 weeks (excluding Easter Sunday), Starting Sunday 26th March 2017, 10am-11am at Greenfield Community

College - 3G Facility. Cost £1.00 per session.

Parents and carers who attend with the girls will also have the optional opportunity to take part in football-related fitness sessions at the same time as the girls (subject to numbers interested).

Durham FA Secretary John Topping says: "This is a tremendous initiative from the Football Association and an ideal opportunity to promote and grow girl's football within the County. The Durham County FA are fully supportive of this venture."

Aycliffe Youth FC Secretary Berni Borsberry added "To be chosen as the partner club for the whole of South West Durham by The English FA is reward for the work we have put in over 15 years growing the girls game. The strength of our proposal and the number of qualified coaches we have committed to the programme will give these girls an enjoyable and satisfying introduction to the game of football."

To register your place for this exciting opportunity please contact Berni Borsberry: Mob 07939 045242 Email: bernib1102@yahoo.co.uk



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