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Week Ending 7th April 2017

# Newton News

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Deadline: 5pm Tuesday 13th April  
Friday 21st April - Back to Normal  
Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 19th April

Please be aware of the opening times below and  
deadline times above to ensure your  
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## Office Opening Times

Open until Thursday 13th April at 5.30pm  
Reopening on Tuesday 18th April at 8.30am

## Woodham Academy Showcases Dance Talent



Woodham Academy hosted their annual Dance Showcase on Thursday 30th March to an audience comprised of staff, students and members of the local community. Preparations for the event have spanned over several months. This was evident in the standard of the performances, and the troupe left the audience stunned. Routines were choreographed by the dancers themselves, Miss Kent (Dance Academy Teacher at Woodham) and Kay Clarey (Joanne Banks Dancers).



Miss Kent, who has orchestrated the show for the past two years, said: 'Everyone who took part in the Dance Academy and performed in the Dance Showcase is fabulous and they have made me so proud. I am overwhelmed by their efforts and how exceptionally well they have represented Woodham Academy'. The performance showcased

the diversity of the dancers' talents and included routines from a variety of disciplines including Classical, Contemporary, Freestyle and Commercial. Every piece was captivating and warranted the tumultuous applause offered by the spectators. The whole show was a spectacle from the solo acts to the opening and finale involving all the members of the Dance Academy. The atmosphere was electric throughout.

For four students the performance was bittersweet, as it was their last at Woodham Academy. Year eleven students, Charlotte Lough, Caitlin Overfield, Lisa Robinson and Lauren Towell, have been committed members of the Dance Academy for five years. In addition to being outstanding dancers, the girls have also been unwavering in their dedication to their academic progress. We wish them every success in their next stage of education.

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# Mixed Messages on Woodham Development

Dear Editor

I write regarding the recent decision of the Durham County Council (DCC) Planning Committee to refuse permission for the proposed development at Woodham. We are all aware that this site has a long planning history & while I can understand that some local residents might welcome the Council's decision I believe that the reasons given for refusal are questionable.

Many years ago when development of the site was proposed a major issue was access off the A167. Now, it is clear that the Highway Authority has no problem with a signalised junction being installed on the A167. Since presumably traffic

growth has increased in the intervening period it would suggest that the original objections were unfounded. Furthermore, the report makes clear that Rushyford roundabout is already over capacity regardless of this and other proposed developments. This is not news to those who use it regularly. The developer would have contributed to the cost of upgrading this busy junction so what plans do DCC have to upgrade Rushyford roundabout?

With the A167 access issue dead in the water the planners have had to think up an alternative reason to refuse permission. The notice published on the DCC website says that there would be "significant

adverse landscape harm" if the development were to go ahead. Is this a convincing argument? According to the applicant's statement in the planning report: "... 8 weeks into the determination period a response was received in October 2016 advising that officers had changed their position and considered the site to represent a "valued landscape". The applicant was advised that the planning application was no longer supported by officers." This appears to be because the: "parcel of land that provides a strategic separation between the wider development of Newton Aycliffe and Woodham"

It must come as a surprise to anyone travelling along Woodham Way that there is considered to be a separation between Woodham and Newton Aycliffe. There isn't even a road sign! Perhaps someone should have thought of that when Woodham was first developed. It seems

that DCC are giving mixed messages to developers. They are relying on the 1996 Sedgfield Local Plan which is out of date, having been due to expire in 2006 but failing to come up with coherent plans to address government requirements on housing supply.

In all of this the landowner, Mr Porter, has been dignified in what must be a frustrating process. He has received countless knock-backs while the authorities rely on outdated plans. DCC say that they "sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner". I don't think it's helpful for them to change their position during a consultation. I think it is now incumbent on DCC to work with the developer to work out precisely what would be acceptable. This issue needs resolving, assuming the Planning Inspectors don't simply impose a solution as has happened elsewhere.

R.Tarling, Biscop Crescent

## Greenfield Open Art Celebration Event

Greenfield Arts are busy bringing together local artists to celebrate their recent Open Art Exhibition, by hosting a closing celebration on Wednesday 26th April where you will be able to purchase items from local crafters, try your hand at some of the artistic practices, hear from the artists and enjoy poetry readings.

There will even be the chance to gain advice and guidance on managing your own exhibition, including hanging as well as marketing from the Greenfield Gallery team. This workshop will also be repeated during the daytime on Wednesday 12th April, prior to the event on 26th April, for those who cannot make it.

The exhibition boasts extraordinary local and regional talent, which includes artwork applying a range of specialist media from pen and paint to printing and collage, resulting in a delightful array of colour and texture. This year the applications were open to all manner of creatives so the exhibition is host to its first poetry and film display, something the team are very proud to promote. The aim of the exhibition is to showcase the talent and creativity within everyone, not just professionals; so it is great to see so many people get involved from all over the North East.

All visitors are welcome and activities are suitable for all ages. To enable us to manage numbers please book your place on our online course booking system on our website: [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk). For further information please contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## Knitters Bring Warmth to Rescue Dogs



Members of a Newton Aycliffe 'knit and natter' circle have been using their skills for a good cause - by knitting and donating blankets to a local dog rehoming centre and charity group.

The group, which meets at Rose Lodge Care Home, knitted coloured squares which were then stitched together into blankets for the dogs waiting to find a new home at Coxhoe-based shelter Stray Aid. The charity group aims to rescue, re-union or rehome the lost, abused, abandoned or unwanted dogs found on the streets in the North East of England.

Staff and families of Rose Lodge, which provides residential care and care for people living with dementia, also arranged a food bank collection for Stray Aid which saw generous donations of various dog food, treats, toys, and even pet clothes and jewellery.

Volunteers at the shelter came to visit the home to collect the items and to thank members of the knitting group and residents of Rose Lodge for their support. Much to the delight of the pet-loving residents and staff at Rose Lodge, they also brought along Gucci, a 9 year old Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross looking for a new home, who met with residents for lots of love, affection and cuddles, and even got first pick of the treats collected by the home.

Diane Tweddle, an Activities Coordinator at Rose Lodge care home, said: "We are definitely a home of animal-lovers here so supporting

Stray Aid was a cause close to our hearts and we received great support for our food bank and blanket making project. It was very rewarding for our residents and everyone who took part."

## Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 11th April features the historical drama "Amistad" Starring Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins, Nigel Hawthorne, Pete Postlethwaite, Djimon Hounsou and Matthew McConaughey.

The film is based on the true story of slaves being taken to America on the slave ship Amistad who rose up and took control of the ship, only to be captured and put on trial in America.

Tea and coffee is 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.

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 Covering tracks by: Joan Jett, Pat Benatar, Anastasia, Cher, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Aerosmith, The Rolling Stones, Tom Petty, Blondie, Bryan Adams, Tina Turner, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Thunder, Springsteen and much more.

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# PWS CELEBRATE TWO AWARDS

PWS, market-leading kitchen distributor and bespoke work surface manufacturer, is celebrating after scooping two awards in two weeks, in recognition of its manufacturing expertise and contribution to the local economy. At the North East Business Awards, PWS Worksurfaces received the Manufacturing Award for the Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland region. Facing strong competition, including Siemens Ltd, the application process was stringent. Once shortlisted, three judges visited all finalists, and

spent an afternoon in PWS' Worksurfaces factory and Design Centre, to fully appreciate and endorse the application.

The North East Business Awards take place across three regions, so PWS Worksurfaces will now go forward to the North East Area Awards event at the end of April.

Comments Jeremy Redshaw, Head of Manufacturing at PWS, "It was a very proud moment when we were announced as the winner of the manufacturing award. We were shortlisted against some



PWS Worksurfaces' team – representatives from across the business with Jeremy Redshaw, Head of manufacturing holding the North East Business Manufacturing Award

much larger companies and this achievement is testament to the great team we have within the business. The entry focused on investment, innovation and development. We hit the mark on all three

counts." The company's second accolade is the Company Of The Year, at the recent Make Your Mark Awards. With over 250 companies operating from Aycliffe

Business Park, this award honours the impact and contribution PWS makes to the local Durham economy. Comments John Lennon, Managing Director at PWS, "We are delighted to be 'Company Of The Year'. It is a great honour to be recognized for our manufacturing expertise, contribution to the local economy, and our commitment to investment, not forgetting the wonderful support of our staff who helped to raise a record-breaking £314,000 for Phoenix House, the Help For Heroes Recovery Centre at Catterick Garrison."

Kerina Clark, Managing Director of Aycliffe's Excel Centre and Organiser of the Make Your Mark Awards says, "PWS has long been established on Aycliffe Business Park and evidence of the business growth can be seen in the growth of its base here. Known and respected throughout the area, PWS' commitment and contribution to the local economy is highly valued. Alongside the continued growth of the business, PWS pride themselves on being good corporate citizens, engaging with the local community."

## Top 5 Chef Based in Newton Aycliffe

Takeaway chef Syed Marjan Haque from Masala Tandoori Indian Restaurant based at Cobblers Hall, Newton Aycliffe has cooked his way to the finals of a reality TV show competition. The 42 year old impressed judges in five rounds with his take on some of the classics in Indian cuisine. During the contest Mr Haque showed off his culinary skills with a chicken korma, lamb shank, chicken korai and king prawn. Ten chefs made it to the finals of the reality show, which has now been reduced to five and just one will be crowned overall winner later in the year.



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### MIDDRIDGE SPRING CLEAN

We are organising our annual Litter Pick this Sunday 9th April at 10 am.

Please meet at the Village Hall where equipment will be provided. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult. Everyone is most welcome

### Charity Cake Stall & Raffle

The Caudwell Children's Charity supports youngsters with life limiting conditions, Cystic Fibrosis sufferers, Sensory Processing difficulties and DCD.

On Wednesday 13th April they are holding A Cake Stall and Raffle at the PCP Centre, Cobblers Hall run by Angie and Michelle who would welcome your support between 10am and 1.30pm.



# 400 Volunteers Help Hospice

The management team at St Teresa's Hospice in Darlington have announced a strategic plan with a difference for the next three years. Unlike many organisation leaders who traditionally reveal ambitious hopes and plans in their visions for the future, they admit to having no intention whatever to embark on any radical new developments!

Instead, the team proposes to 'keep doing what we're doing well, make the hospice sustainable, and to keep listening so that people who need us can access our services'.

Chief executive Jane Bradshaw told members of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club this week that the hospice's fundamental mission would also remain the same – to offer choice and complete holistic care that is free of charge and in the patients' chosen environment. Since it was founded in 1986, the hospice has become a registered charity and grown from a small, home-care volunteer team to a centre that



now supports patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families throughout South Durham and North Yorkshire. "We help patients to keep their dignity, which we consider to be of paramount importance, we preserve patient choice and we provide care and support for carers and other family members", said Jane

Hospice services, Rotarians heard, could be accessed by everyone in the community regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, social standing, age or financial status "at the most distressing time of their lives". Jane said that full-time staff were now complemented by 400 dedicated volunteers.

"There is no magic machine to do the work we do, we need high quality people – staff and volunteers – to care for our patients and families", she added.

St Teresa's recently saw a dream come true when their brand new purpose-built in-patient unit opened in November 2016, which has 10 fully-accessible bedrooms and improved facilities for visitors. Two other developments have also been particularly successful – the introduction of a new volunteer home-visitor service and the launch of a Rapid Response Service which can produce crisis support for patients and their families within the hour.

The hospice relies heavily on the generosity of supporters to fund the £2.2 million it costs each year to provide services. "We never have enough funds and work hard to make every penny count", said Jane, pictured (left) with Rotary President Nora Scott (centre) and Rtn Jean Thompson who introduced her to members. By Ron Eyley

# Labour / Momentum Buying Votes?

Nationally, the three 'main' Political Parties have been fined by the Electoral Commission for overspending in the general election and by-elections. The amount of money that can be spent on campaigns at constituency level is strictly limited. However, the County Durham Labour Group appear to be intent upon financing their election campaigns using local taxpayer's monies.

Durham County Council grant each elected Councillor a 'Neighbourhood Budget' [currently £20,000 pa; soon to be reduced to £18,000?]. This money is disbursed to local worthy causes by GAMP and the Councillors against funding applications by local charities / worthy causes to benefit the local community. This, I consider, is a laudable use of taxpayer's money and indeed, I am not aware of any local dissatisfaction with, or abuse of, the system.

However, in recent 'electioneering' letters published in the Newton News and in Labour Party election leaflets, it is not made clear that this money is taxpayer's money and that, should a non-Labour candidate be elected, he or she would also receive a 'Neighbourhood Budget'.

I would therefore suggest that all candidates standing for election to Durham County Council in the May elections, should set out in their manifesto how they intend to disburse their 'Neighbourhood Budget'. This would create a level playing field and stop Labour being left open to the allegation of 'buying votes' with public funds.

There is another problem looming for the DCC electorate; the majority voted for Brexit and I'm only aware of one Labour Town Councillor who came out publicly for Brexit. Since the General Election extreme left wing Momentum group have hijacked the Labour Party and they are, to a man, Remainers. If you vote Labour will you be voting for an 'Old Labour', 'New Labour', or, 'Momentum Labour' candidate?

Personally, I think the electorate are entitled to know the politics of their Councillors. If a candidate is a Momentum supporter then they should not stand under the Labour banner. In Aycliffe East the current Labour Town Mayor, Cllr. Jed Hillary, is not standing for re-election. Rumour has it he has been de-selected by Momentum infiltrators! Come on Labour members, tell us what is going on. Alastair P.G. Welsh

# Aycliffe Company Wins Double Deal Steel Contract

Aycliffe construction company Finley Structures will fabricate and erect 1,000 tonnes of steel after sealing a double deal. The family-run firm, is working for the first time with Leeds-based main contractor GMI Construction on a new distribution centre in Lancashire, involving 465 tonnes of steel.

Finley Structures has also won another contract in the education sector as it works on a 640-tonne project for BAM Construction at Doncaster Sixth Form College.

Road haulage giant Fagan and Whalley is expanding with a multi-million pound development on Burnley Bridge Business Park creating at least 25 new jobs. The transport firm won planning permission to build a 92,000 square foot distribution hub on a 10-acre site near the M65's Junction 9.

Finley Structures won the contract from GMI Construction to design and



Diane Ruston

build its steel frame on a site which lies next to power lines. The complex nature of the project is no obstacle for Finley Structures. Commercial director Diane Ruston said: "We've had to erect the steel in close proximity to major power lines, and as the building is taller than the lines this is particularly challenging. Through the design process, we

developed effective solutions so the project is delivered safely and successfully.

"This is the first time we've worked with GMI and it's great to foster another new relationship with a major contractor."

F&W's new hub will provide parking for up to 80 trailers, with 10 loading bays and 25,000 pallet locations.

Finley Structures has strengthened its ongoing relationship with major contractor BAM Construction after successfully securing a contract at Doncaster Sixth Form College.

BAM is constructing the £11.1m building and awarded Finley's a 640-tonne project to fabricate and erect steel as part of the overall scheme, while also installing approximately 9,000 sq m of pre-cast concrete floor units along with pre-cast concrete lift shafts, concrete ground beams and stairs.

The project follows several recent contracts in the education sector for Finley Structures who are also working on a 224-tonne school project in London for Bowmer and Kirkland, SEMH School in Seacroft, East Leeds, for Interserve, as well as Krishna Avanti School, which is Britain's first state-funded Hindu school, in Edgware, London. They also won a 337-tonne contract, for Bowmer and Kirkland.

"The education sector has been crucial to us over the last couple of years and continues to do so," added Finley Structures managing director Julie Raistrick. "We enjoyed a really busy finish to 2016, with an equally busy start to 2017, which is very encouraging."

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 19th April 2017

## Council Meeting - 7.15pm

### QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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



# & Newton News

## FIND A DOG a home

**Clever Canine Pedro Looking For His Pawfect Home.**

Pedro is a very clever five-year-old Labrador cross who has a sensitive nature. Since becoming a resident of Dogs Trust Darlington, Pedro has developed a close bond with his trainer and has learned lots of new skills. Pedro has been working on his recall, touch, sit, stay and loose lead walking and has made great progress. If you have a tasty treat Pedro will be your best friend and these also come in very handy when training him.

Sue Embleton, Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Darlington, said:

"Pedro would benefit from a quieter adult only home with experienced dog owners who will be dedicated to continuing his training which he loves. Pedro will need to be given time and understanding to settle into a new home and find his feet at his own pace. He is particular about his canine friends so will need to be the only pet in the home."

If you think that you can offer Pedro a secure and understanding home then please contact the rehoming centre to chat to a member of staff. Dogs Trust Darlington is open Thursday-Tuesday 12pm-4pm and is closed on Wednesdays. To find out more about Pedro or any of the dogs at the centre, go to [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) or call 01325 333114



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**classes held...**

Durham, Darlington, Brandon, Northallerton, Bishop Auckland, Shotton, Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.



# Students Learn Through Art

Greenfield Arts have been working in partnership with students of Greenfield Community College to inspire younger generations to go out and see more creative work in galleries and museums.

The aim of the project is to highlight everyone's ability to be creative and therefore offering freedom of expression, whilst developing their own creative practice and mentoring skills.

So far the group of Year 11 art students have worked together to devise a talk and workshop, based upon exhibitions in Greenfield Gallery, which they have offered to Year 9 students to inspire them to choose art for GCSE.

Year 11 students started by visiting the Laing Gallery in Newcastle to see how something like that is run and took part in their own workshop and talk based on



the 'Out of Chaos' exhibition, which is currently on display. They then met with artist

Stephen Wiper, who was previously on display in The Greenfield Gallery, to understand the background to his work and how he came to be the artist he is now.

They took all this information and devised their own event, which Year 9 students enjoyed thoroughly.

Teaching staff were thrilled to see both Year 11 and 9 students using their initiative and speaking so positively about their own creativity as well as that of the artist in residence, Stephen Wiper.

Year 11 students will continue with the project, with the aim to devise more opportunities for younger years to experience art and creativity and it will also offer them a chance to mentor new members, before they start exams at the end of the year.

This is a brilliant opportunity for young people of different ages to work together and share their positivity for learning through art. Year 11 students taking part will also have the chance to submit their portfolio for an Arts Award, which is a brilliant way to gain additional awards recognised by businesses and colleges. We look forward to what is still to come!

For more information on The Greenfield Gallery and what opportunities we offer for young people, check out our website [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) or speak to a member of our lovely staff on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk).

# RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION FOR NEVILLE PARADE AREA

*People requested to indicate interest*

A number of people have come forward interested in forming a Residents' Association for the Neville Parade area. They recognise the benefits it will bring as it will open up opportunities to influence decision making.

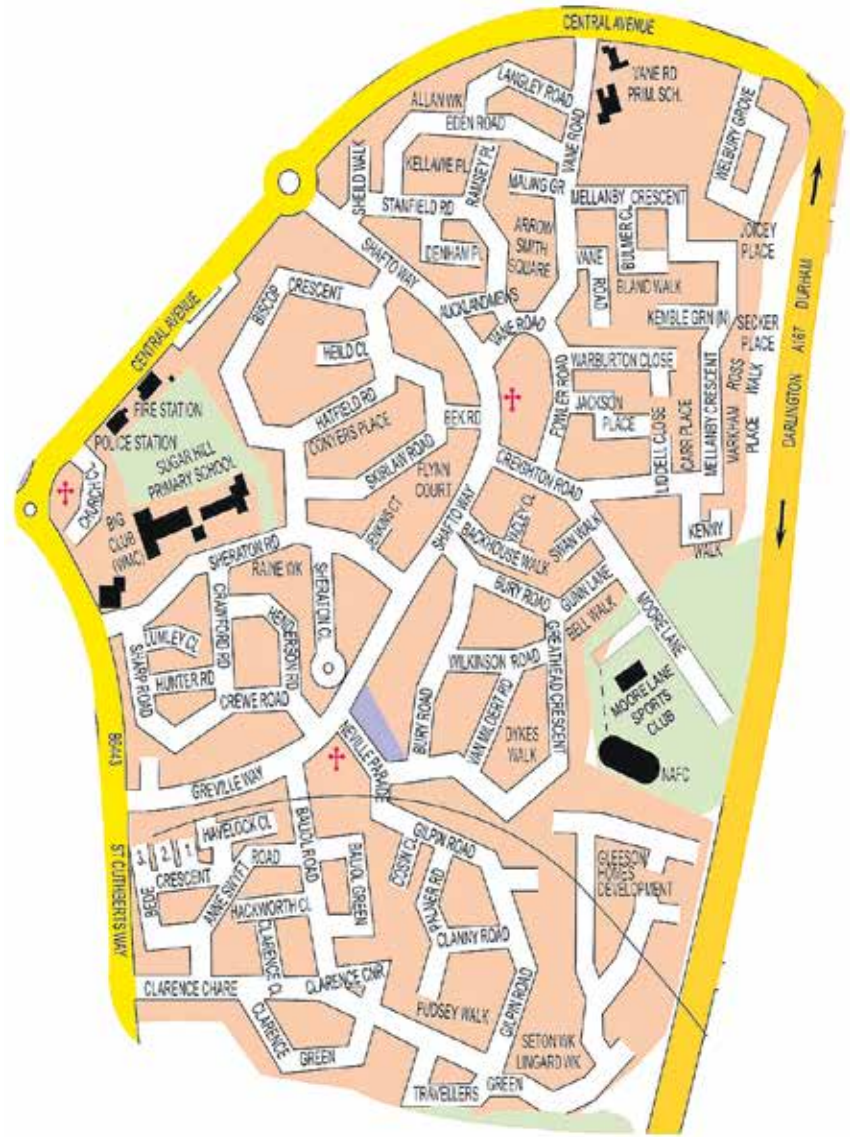
It will also bring the community together for social activities and outings funded by outside sources. The offer of Neville Parade as Headquarters for the Association is fantastic and should bring greater use of these magnificent community premises.

You just have to look at the success of other associations already set up in Newton Aycliffe to recognise their value to residents.

The Neville Parade areas is shown on the map above and includes Aycliffe Business Park.

It is important residents express their support for this new association by volunteering to serve on the organising committee.

If sufficient people come forward an Inaugural Meeting will be called in the summer to form the Association. If you are interested please contact the Chairman of Great Aycliffe Residents' Association, Syd Howarth at Newton Press, Tel: 01325 300212 or e-mail: [syd@newtonpress.net](mailto:syd@newtonpress.net).



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**Police Appeal**

Police are investigating recent thefts in the Oakfield area of Newton Aycliffe where a white transit van has been broken into and a large number of Dewalt power tools have been stolen from inside. This is the second time this vehicle has been targeted in recent weeks and the most recent incident saw £700 worth of goods stolen. If anyone has any information regarding either of these incidents please contact PC 2788 David Brawn via 101.

**School Aycliffe Community Centre**

School Aycliffe Community Hall, hold regular activities to which everyone is invited.

**MONDAY**

**13.30 - 14.30 Dance Fit Class**

**TUESDAY**

**19.00 - 20.30**

**Ballroom and Latin Dance Class for Beginners**

**First WEDNESDAY of the Month**

**Ladies Night 19.00 - 21.00 different activity every month**

**THURSDAY**

**10.00am - 12 noon Mothers & Toddlers Group**

**18.30 - 19.30 Yoga Class**

**SATURDAY**

**10.30am - 11.30am Scott School of Highland Dancing**  
With ALL these activities please feel free to just come along. All will be made welcome.

Also we are holding a table top sale on Sunday 23rd April 12noon till 3pm stall holders £10 per table Space is limited so it is on first come first served basis, free entry, refreshments available Please contact Tony Robinson on 07807 134942 or by email: [anthony53@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anthony53@hotmail.co.uk)

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# Thanks a Million! READATHON APPEAL 10 YEARS IN BUSINESS



On Monday 3rd April Liz Million (author and illustrator) came to visit Stephenson Way Academy & Nursery School. Her entertaining approach captured the interest of all children from nursery to year 6. The response from the children was fantastic. Her talks were fun and motivating with lots of audience participation. One year 5 girl commented, "This is the best owl I have ever drawn and she was so easy to follow because of her funny personality."

Liz did a range of talks from fun storytelling and drawing colourful characters to sketches and character development. The children were in awe at her ability to draw so quickly and accurately. She covered a range of themes based around the school's curriculum. The children thoroughly enjoyed working alongside a 'real life' illustrator and using their imagination to create wonderful art work. Stephenson Way Academy would like to say a huge thank you for such an inspiring visit.

Woodham Academy has been running Readathon for several years now, and has embedded the annual charity event into its reading curriculum for Y7 students.

As part of their Guided Reading studies learners are encouraged to secure sponsorship in exchange for reading a quantity of books, e-books, stories and magazines over a period of a week.

Although part of Readathon's growing appeal is its focus on home-reading, Y7 pupils at Woodham Academy should find this task as easy as A B C as they are already expected to read for 35 minutes every night as part of their homework.

Readathon began in 1984, and is the largest reading event in the country. Since its inception it has raised over £25 million for seriously ill children. The money is divided amongst several charities which support young people and their families during times of stress and anxiety, including the children's cancer specialists CLIC Sargent, children's hospice charity Together for Short Lives and Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, which currently funds 15 specialist paediatric nursing posts in NHS hospitals in the UK.

Readathon is itself a registered charity, providing 100,000 hospitalised children with story tellers and books each year. And how have the young learners taken to the task? Ella Draisey says she is keen to raise money for kids in hospital, because they might have nothing to do and could be 'upset and bored.' Ella's friend Aimee is in agreement, and adds that raising money for Readathon is kids-play, as they are good at emptying their parents' pockets; furthermore, she declares, you can even do so whilst sitting in the bath. India is so confident of her ability and thinks she can raise £10.

And what advice did these Woodham Academy students have for their peers? Help Children! Raise money! Badger your family!

You have been warned.



## COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by  
County Councillor John Clare

Little Council news during the election period of course, but a fabulous promotional video to watch, and some great things to do during the Easter holidays. Internet links to the articles below are at: [bit.ly/CNB5417](http://bit.ly/CNB5417)

### COUNCIL

- DCC Economy Scrutiny meeting, 30 March
- This is Durham, Place of Light video

- Household bins will be emptied as normal during the Easter holidays
- If you register, you can report a wide range of problems to DCC online
- Are you registered to vote? Register before 13 April to have your say on 4 May.
- Latest roadworks information

### COMMUNITY

- Woodham PACT meeting
- Durham Countryside Spring newsletter
- HealthWatch County Durham March newsletter
- Online scam: 'Law-Abiding Citizen'
- Children & Young People's Activities during the Easter Holidays
- FREE holiday activities at Greenfield Arts
- Family pond-dipping (5-10s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 1-3pm, Tuesday 11 April, £3
- Sikh festival of Vaisakhi (5-11s), 1-3pm, Durham Oriental Museum, Wednesday 12 April
- Easter Fun Activity Packs (4-11s) available at Locomotion Museum Shildon, Friday 14 - Monday 17 April, £1, plus FREE family learning trail.
- Have you been to see the DLI Gallery in Palace Green yet

After working full-time for 10 years in the Probations Service as a PSO and 8 years with Disc Drugs Interventions as a Senior Practitioner, in the South of County Durham, Michelle Bromley-Davies founded ASPIRATIONS.

The development of ASPIRATIONS was initiated by the sudden loss of her sister, at an early age the previous year. This reiterated the importance of balancing one's work and having a healthy life style.

Michelle qualified as a Therapeutic Counsellor in 2002 with Darlington and Teesside University and started her business offering private counselling sessions. The services offered soon increased, and in addition to offering Personal Development Training, she developed adhoc courses to meet her clients' needs.

Government legislation changes for Teaching and Training led Michelle to complete a 2 year PCET Teacher Training Course with Bishop Auckland College and Sunderland University, graduating in 2009 as a Further Education Teacher. She is currently delivering part-time courses for Bishop Auckland College out in the community.

To continue her professional development and seeking opportunities to extend the services provided through ASPIRATIONS, Michelle studied to become a Reiki Master/Teacher in 2012,



resulting in her training groups of individuals in Reiki Therapy, enhancing individuals and families' wellbeing. Through ASPIRATIONS clients can access Reiki Therapy Training from an Introduction level up to Level 3. This training would be provided by Michelle in collaboration with her friend and Peer Mentor, Mrs. Nalini Muller Director of Sole Purpose Life and Learning Management Ltd.

Reflecting back over the last 10 years, Michelle feels that the time has passed quickly and never anticipated how positively life changing, a joy and a privilege it is to be working and teaching in the community, with so many fantastic colleagues, associates in community organisations and last but most importantly the great learners that she has been involved in teaching. Many of whom have gone on to study

Higher Education courses and a number have set up their own businesses.

Quote: "To plant a seed, nurture it and watch it grow to its unique potential is the ultimate reward "(MBD)

Michelle would like to take this opportunity to thank her family, friends, work colleagues and community centre managers around County Durham for their continued support.

To obtain a full list of bespoke training courses available that is developed and delivered by Michelle, focusing on specific areas of Introduction level to Counselling, Confidence and Personal Development, Stress/Anxiety/Anger Management, Colour and Gem Therapy and Reiki Therapy she can be contacted on: Mobile: 07789 955178 Email: [michelle@aspirations.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:michelle@aspirations.orangehome.co.uk)

## Councillor Challenge

Great Aycliffe Councillors Arun Chandran and Ken Robson are pledging this month's Councillors Allowance to the Darlington and Bishop Auckland MRI Scanners Appeal.

The two Independent Councillors are urging other councillors across the county to help swell the coffers of this very worthy fund which will benefit everyone.



### TREATMENT PRICE LIST

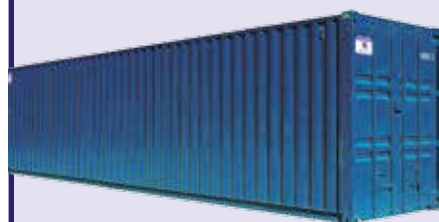
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## WALKING RED FOR COMIC RELIEF



Students at Greenfield Community College became 'The Walking Red' and organised a wide range of different activities to raise well over £1,000 for Comic Relief on Friday 24th March. The day was designated as a 'non-uniform' day and many students adopted the colour theme, with an array of red t-shirts, red hoodies and red socks. At break-time, school halls at both Sunnydale Campus and Aycliffe Site were transformed into markets, with a range of items for sale, from homemade cakes to Mother's Day and Easter cards. A number of competitions were also organised, including a crossbar challenge, guess the name of the teddy and a Comic Relief song sweepstake! At the Sunnydale Campus, students took part in karaoke at break and lunchtime to add

an element of entertainment, and even managed to sneak in a plug for the upcoming school show, 'We Will Rock You'. At the Aycliffe Site there was a charity football match at lunch time and a number of students were unusually quiet as they helped raise money with a sponsored silence.

All of the preparation was led by the students through the school's Time4Success programme which encourages innovation and participation in mixed age tutor groups. A special mention must go to Sunlight form, based at the Sunnydale Campus, who organised the sale of Red Noses and raised £140 of the final total.

All in all, everyone agreed that it was a fabulous day, and plans are already in place for a further fundraiser in June – watch this space!

## Northern Soul Night

The Scout Centre is hosting a Northern Soul Night on Saturday the 15th of April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 and will be available on the door. Your host is a popular local DJ who is well known for his Soul nights.

We treat our floor with 'Sliperine' to give you a good dancing surface so we would appreciate it if you could not use talc – it's a nightmare to clean off! Northern Soul will be a regular event at the Scout Centre dates will be published on our Facebook page shortly. Our AGM is on Wednesday 19th April at 7pm – all current members are welcome. If any member would like to join the committee to help run the Association please see the notice board at our Social club – names and nominees required. Please note that this is a demanding role and you will be expected to partake in the everyday running of the club – everything from un-blocking the toilet to organising an event and everything in between.

Saturday May 20th sees the return of Andrew Sokell as ELVIS, in his fantastic Tribute Act. Andrew is becoming very popular with the local pubs and clubs and always puts on a good show. This is a family show with tickets at £3 for adults and £2 for children – no toddlers please.

We hope to see you at our events. All the profits are used to run and maintain the Scout Centre which is used by up to 100 young people each week for their scouting/brownie meetings.

## National Award for Aycliffe Volunteer

A local man has been recognised by one of the UK's largest providers of new homes and supported housing in its annual customer awards celebrations. Wayne Hartshorn of Newton Aycliffe has been awarded a Home Group 'Special Recognition Award' for his contribution to the local community.

Wayne is a volunteer and a carer who has supported Home Group colleagues to achieve a Quality Innovation Standard for their work with carers. He has also demonstrated commitment, energy and enthusiasm by getting involved in developing a weekly



programme of activities at the organisation's Bluebell Hub service, which he promotes in a variety of ways throughout the local community. Judges were particularly

impressed with his fundraising ideas and efforts that resulted in over £400 being raised to support those affected by the Cumbrian floods in late 2015. He has

also organised events in support of World Mental Health Day and the air ambulance service.

Wayne also helps out on one of Home Group's reception desks, supporting with administration queries and is recognised as being a great asset to the Bluebell Hub service as well as the wider community.

Home Group, a national charity and social enterprise, runs the awards every year to recognise and thank customers (people who live in the Group's homes or access its services) for their achievements, hard work and success. This year, over 100 nominations were received from colleagues across the country creating a difficult challenge for the judging panel.

Mark Henderson, chief executive, Home Group said: "We hold these awards each year to say a massive thank you to customers who achieve their aspirations and inspire others through their personal achievements."

"This year we've seen a wide range of nominations recognising people for their hard work - from making a significant contribution to their local community, to campaigning against mental health stigma and supporting others. We are immensely proud of all of our award-winners and nominees and look forward to hearing more of their success stories next year."

## 21ST CENTURY ELECTION VIDEO CAMPAIGNING



Three local councillors have started their election campaign with a promotional video. The video – which shows the achievements of John D. Clare, Mike Dixon and Joan Gray in their four years as Aycliffe North & Middridge Councillors – was edited by Cllr Clare's son.

When asked about the venture, Cllr Clare commented, "I thought it was time we came into the 21st century". You can watch the video on YouTube at: [bit.ly/ANAMP](http://bit.ly/ANAMP)

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## Aycliffe Girl with Life Threatening Illness Wants Support for Charity Cake Sale

Hollie Williams, a 12-year-old girl from Newton Aycliffe is asking members of the public to support her efforts to give something back to a charity that has supported her and her younger brother, Thomas, aged 8.

Caudwell Children, the national charity that gives practical and emotional support to disabled children and their families, provided Hollie, who has cystic fibrosis, with a specialist buggy and a dream holiday, to Florida, when she was younger.

And now Hollie, along with her mother Angela, aged 47, have organised a charity cake sale and raffle to pay back their debt of gratitude to the charity.

The event will take place from 10:00am-1:30pm on Thursday 13th April at the Pioneering Care Centre. Angela said: "The charity selected our family to go on its Destination Dreams holiday, to Disney World, in Florida a few years ago. The trip, for children with life limiting conditions, was an amazing experience, something we would never have been able to do on our own."

"We've also benefited from the charity's Family Services programme which offers help and emotional support to families at times of crisis. We can't thank the charity enough for what they've done for Hollie and Thomas, so we wanted to give a little back." Angela a keen cook says that she and Hollie are confident people will love their creative offerings. "We're a real pair of Mary Berry wannabes! We've planned to bake some savouries, like cheese scones and a variety of quiches, to



complement home-made chocolate fudge, chocolate brownies, salted caramel cake, delicate lemon cupcakes and a range of crispy cakes."

The pair have also organised an Easter raffle which will give ticket holders the chance to win an array of goodies, including Easter bunnies and delicious chocolate eggs.

Hollie, a pupil at Woodham Academy in Newton Aycliffe, understands how life-changing the support from Caudwell Children has been for her and her brother and she has committed herself to a number of fundraising events over the next few months.

Businesses wishing to donate a raffle prize should contact Angela on 07501 464949.

### 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

**Tel: Syd**  
**01325 300212**  
or [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

## Police Commissioner Seeks Community Volunteers

Enthusiastic and kind-hearted volunteers, from all backgrounds and experiences, are sought from Co. Durham to help vulnerable and isolated people in the community.

The Community Peer Mentor project continues to expand across more towns and villages throughout County Durham and has proven to be extremely rewarding for volunteers who have helped to change people's lives. Free-of-charge training will take place in April and May this year, so that volunteers can gain new skills, interests and qualifications.

Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) Ron Hogg said: "This project is expanding rapidly which is fantastic news for the area. We now have nearly 60 volunteer mentors throughout Spennymoor, Newton Aycliffe and Ferryhill, as well as Darlington, Bishop Auckland and Shildon. This means that even more people in our communities who feel vulnerable or isolated can receive the support they need to improve their quality of life."

There are two training courses available. Both courses offer the same training content, just with different time durations to meet different people's needs:

- 2 Day Training Course - 26 to 27 April 2017 - Durham Town Hall. (This will run from 9.30am to 4.30pm. People will be required to attend both days).
- 5 Week Training Course - 3 May to 31 May 2017 - New Police HQ, Aykley Heads, Durham (This will run every Wednesday evening, 6.00pm

to 8.30pm). No previous experience in volunteering or supporting people is needed as training is provided. There is no upper age restriction and relevant travel expenses will be paid when engaging with a client.

Once trained, Community Peer Mentors work with individuals in pairs to find the reasons behind their behaviour or why they feel the way they do, and encourage them to find ways to get the help and support they need. Existing

volunteers within this unique project have found it a rewarding experience to help others when they need it most. Mentors also have the opportunity to gain BTEC and NVQ qualifications as part of their voluntary work and numerous opportunities including Safeguarding and Mental Health Training. Applicants are invited to contact Jim Cunningham for more information or to register their interest on Tel: 0300 003 1818 or email: [jim.cunningham@restorativehub.org.uk](mailto:jim.cunningham@restorativehub.org.uk)

## Grass Cutting on Wet Areas Cause Damage



Dear Sir,  
I went to visit a friend at Bakewell Place last Wednesday to find the state of the grass outside his house a total mess thanks to the grass cutters whose heavy equipment got stuck in the soft wet ground.

I can understand getting stuck, but if they cause damage it should be repaired! But there again who cuts grass in wet weather?

Ian Dixon  
*Newton News investigated and found the piece of ground affected belongs to Livin. The question is asked every year when damage is caused by grass cutting equipment and people wonder why the workers carry on regardless?*



Paul Stewart of Carmel Safety Training Services in Darlington has contributed £250 to the MRI appeal.

A lady came into Newton News Offices this week with an anonymous donation of £100.

The committee thank and acknowledge these generous donations.

## ELECTION ADDRESS



### MARTIN ASHCROFT



Labour is fielding its best candidates for the Election in West Ward to be held on Thursday 4th May, one of which is Martin Ashcroft.

Martin was born and bred in Newton Aycliffe. He is aged 43, a hard working family man and father of five children. Martin lives in the West Ward and he is a time served Motor Vehicle Technician with over 27 years' experience and self-employed since 1996. Martin has a taxi business in Darlington I.A.B. Taxis.

He is a member of the Management Committee of Great Aycliffe Resident's Association and also The Friends of West Park group and regularly attends meetings. He is a very active and goes out litter picking in and around West Park Boating Lakes every Sunday with other volunteers. Martin helped clean the Lakes out and was active in the 'Save our Fireworks Group' which successfully persuaded the Town Council to bring back the display.

If elected again Martin will continue to be a dedicated attendee and contribute fully to Council Meetings. Martin is a moderate and progressive candidate; young with integrity and ability.

Cllr Bob Fleming Labour Leader on Great Aycliffe Town Council said "Since being elected in a By-election in July 2015, Martin has proved to be an exemplary Councillor working very hard on your behalf and I see him as a future Leader of this Council."

Martin said: "As soon as I was elected I put myself forward to be on the committees

to represent the interests of residents in West Ward: Environment, Recreation, Policy and Resources. I am involved in the Festival Working Group, Audit Subcommittee, Personal Subcommittee and became the Councils' representative on the Crime and Community Safety Task Group.

I am a regular attendee at all meetings and this will continue if elected again. My main focus is to continue to serve the residents of West Ward and try to make a difference for the community we live in."

Unfortunately due to the very short time table for this Election Martin can't possibly call on all 3,000 plus houses by 4th May, but if you would like him to call in and chat with you just let him know and he will be delighted to meet up with you:

Martin Ashcroft  
73 Oakfield, Newton Aycliffe,  
Mob. 07811 403 986  
E-mail: [martycl18@mail.com](mailto:martycl18@mail.com)

## Newton News Easter Deadline

**Thursday 14th April - Easter Issue**

**Deadline: 5pm Tuesday 13th April**

**Friday 21st April - Back to Normal**

**Deadline: 5pm Wednesday 19th April**

Please be aware of the opening times below and deadline times above to ensure your advert is placed on time and in the correct edition

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## Office Opening Times

Open until Thursday 13th April at 5.30pm  
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## UTC Subsea Science Week



National Science Week took place from 13th March – 17th March 2017. Students at the UTC South Durham worked with industry partner Modus Subsea Intervention to take part in a series of challenges which involved students building and testing subsea remotely operated vehicles. Students were given a bag of kit and basic instructions and had to work in a team to build a remote controlled subsea vehicle. Engaging students with this type of activity really highlights the different skills that they need to develop and demonstrates the variety of different engineering sectors that are available to them

locally. All of the Year 10 students had the opportunity to work with colleagues from Modus and even had the chance to speak to Tom, an ex-apprentice from Modus who has now firmly secured his position, recently being given a permanent job within the company. Lee, Year 10 student said 'It's really good to work with our industry partners like Modus as it gives you an insight into what their company does and you can hear about how you could work for them one day' Ellie, Year 10 student said 'I like doing activities like this as it not only helps you to develop lots of different skills like

communication and teamwork but it also allows you to speak to people who are working in this sector every day and find out how they got the job they did'. Jake Tompkins, Managing Director of Modus commented 'We have such a diversity of skills that are needed in our sector that we are really focused on supporting students. It is really important we do engaging and inspiring activities such as these to really get the young people thinking about what skills you need to be an engineer but it also helps them to develop those wider work place skills that we also look for.'

## New BBC1 Show: Search for 100 Singers

BBC1 is piloting a Saturday night competition format in which 100 singers will show their level of appreciation for hopefuls by joining in with their performance.

Endemol Shine UK Indie Remarkable Television will produce the non-TX pilot this summer. It successful, it is destined for a Saturday night slot on BBC1.

Remarkable Television managing director James Fox said the format is more akin to a "singing tournament" than the search-for-a-star formats already out there.

He described it as a warm-hearted show in which the spectacle and "wall of sound" created by the hundred singers standing up to join in with the best performers will cause a "hairs on the back of your neck moment".

All Together Now (w/t) will see amateur performers take to the stage to perform in front of an audience of 100 great singers. If any of the 100 like what they hear, they can stand up and join in. The greater the number that sing along, the higher the

contestant's score.

The pilot was ordered by controller of entertainment commissioning Kate Phillips and commissioning editor Rachel Ashdown.

Casting for the pilot is due to start imminently and it will be filmed at Dock 10 in Salford this summer.

Fox said: "All Together Now is the ultimate in feel-good entertainment with big voices, big laughs and even bigger personalities. We can't wait to get everyone up on their feet and singing along!"

The format was devised by Remarkable Television's in-house creative team. The executive producers for Remarkable are Fox, Claire Horton and Dom Waugh. The series producer is Marc Bassett.

Remarkable is responsible for a raft of gameshow formats including Channel 4's The Million Pound Drop and BBC1's Pointless.

Jamie Furby  
Researcher  
T +44 (0)20 8222 4106. E: jamie.furby@remarkable.tv

## FIRE WARNING ON TUMBLE DRYERS

County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service (CDDFRS) is warning people to be aware of tumble dryer fires after an increase in this kind of fire in the Newton Aycliffe area. Crews have attended an increased number of tumble dryer fires over recent months and there are steps people can take to help prevent this type of blaze.

- Only use tumble dryers when you are there, never go out and leave them on.
- Turn off your tumble dryer before you go to bed.
- Regularly clean lint from the filters of the dryer.
- Don't overfill the dryer.
- Tumble dryers sold under the Hotpoint, Creda and Indesit brands are behind a series of fires.

The company that owns the brands Whirlpool, had stated owners could use the dryers provided someone was in attendance. The Trading standards ordered new guidance saying that the dryers should be unplugged and not used until they are repaired by Whirlpool.

More details are available at BBC online here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-39052979> - Customers can check their dryer by using the model checker for Hotpoint customers for Indesit customers and Creda customers - or via a free helpline on 0800 151 0905



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# ACORN PETTING ZOO BETTER HEALTH AT WORK AWARD EVENT

Little Acorns will again be producing a fun filled Petting Zoo in the leisure centre on Monday 10th April 10am till 2pm. The annual event features a variety of creatures for children to look at and to hold. This will be the fifth time that the popular residents group has put on the show

which is heavily subsidised by the Big Lottery Fund for the benefit of the whole area. In addition to the small animals the leisure centre will be supplying a bouncy castle. Professor Nincompoop will be balloon modelling and we will be having face painting too.

Cuddly mascots Spotty Dog and Syd the Squirrel will be in attendance and a craft activity stall to keep kids occupied, tombola and other games will be on offer. As usual if anyone wants to do a craft stall or promote their own organisation please feel free to contact Ken Robson for details on 01325 321471. A member of the

In addition, ACORN Residents Association will be hosting their AGM on Thursday 13th April along with their regular monthly meeting in upstairs lounge at the Phoenix Club at 6:00 pm. Come along to voice your views to local town and county councillors and your local PCSO. The adult meeting will be preceded by the Little Acorns meeting at 5:30pm. **Ken Robson** (Chairman) ACORN Residents Assoc.

The County Durham Better Health at Work Awards ceremony has taken place at the Ramside Hall Hotel and Spa to celebrate businesses in County Durham who have successfully achieved the Better Health at Work Award.

A total of 50 businesses (small, medium and large) attended the ceremony organised by the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) who manage the County Durham Sub Region of the North East Better Health at Work Award. The Award ceremony was hosted by Steve and Karen from TFM Radio who did a great job in entertaining the guests on the evening. Lots of guests left with a goodies and raffle prizes, including a Fitbit, gym passes, smoothie machines, shopping vouchers and much more which were all kindly donated by from a

number of businesses.

The Awards were officially opened by Carol Gaskarth, PCP's Chief Executive, who also picked up an award, on behalf of local charity PCP, for Continuing Excellence. Carol said "I was delighted to open the fabulous and unique awards ceremony, celebrating the hard work and dedication of local businesses and Healthy Living Pharmacies. Their commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of employees and local people was outstanding. Seeing business progress from Bronze to Silver to Gold and then Continuing Excellence and hearing about some of the special achievements was a real pleasure. As an organisation PCP is immensely proud of our workplace health journey and the added value it has



brought to the health and wellbeing of our teams. The Better Health at Work Award is certainly a valuable standard to hold". On top of the 50 Better Health at Work Awards, four special awards were presented for Innovation, Social Value, Health Advocate and Ambassador Award. The Ambassador status was introduced as a

recent addition to the award, created to recognise employers who demonstrate both long term commitment and outstanding practice around workplace health and wellbeing, not only achieving, but consistently going above and beyond at every stage of assessment. The Better Health at Work Ambassador Status Award was presented to Department of Working Pensions (DWP) Seaham. The workplace setting offers a unique opportunity to engage with and support employers and employees with the aim of creating workplaces that both protect the health and wellbeing of employees and optimise the opportunity to help people improve their own health and wellbeing through education and awareness. Participation in health improving activities through a workplace health programme allows individuals to develop knowledge, self-management and coping skills as well as build a social support network among co-workers, managers and family.

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## Confident Future for Local Racing Driver

Racing driver Max Coates, sponsored by Primex Plastics at Aycliffe, travelled down to Brands Hatch in Kent for rounds 1 & 2 of the 2017 Renault UK Clio Cup last weekend.

After various new sponsorship signings and strong pre-season testing pace he was hoping to make a solid start to the season. He started with good pace in the Friday test sessions which culminated in the 2nd fastest time of the day, heading into qualifying on Saturday. As the 24 drivers headed on track rain began to fall and a red flag appeared half way through the session. With ten minutes remaining and a quick change of tyres Coates headed back on track but was held up and unable to better his times. Coates qualified the Harron Homes sponsored Ciceley Motorsport car in 5th and 4th for the weekend's races respectively, less than two tenths off pole and with only 1 second separating the top 19 drivers.

Just before the start of race one the heavens opened and everyone quickly changed to the new wet Michelin tyres. The Clements Limited backed car was immediately embroiled in a battle with the cars around him, he was forced wide and conceded two places falling back to 7th. Following a safety car period he immediately attacked back and reclaimed 6th place which, despite his best efforts to move further forward, he held to the finish. Race two, televised live on ITV4 during Sunday's British Touring Car broadcast, was held in near perfect conditions at the Kent circuit. A good start moved the Primex Plastics and PLASgran Recycling sponsored driver up to 3rd after the first lap. A high speed slide at the final corner cost Coates four positions, much to the excitement of the commentators, however he fought back to 6th place quickly. He then began a race long battle with Clio Cup regular James Colburn, but was unable to find his way through. On-route to a pair of 6th place finishes Coates, also supported by JT Atkinson Builders Merchants, posted the 2nd and 3rd fastest race lap times respectively, showing



that front running pace was within.

Max commented, "I'm disappointed not to have stood on the podium this weekend as I feel we had the speed to do so. A tough qualifying cost me dearly but two 6th place finishes gives me a good haul of points in the championship and we know we have the pace to be winning races, I'm sure it will come soon."

Donnington Park will host rounds 3 and 4 of the Renault UK Clio Cup in just two weeks' time, 15th - 16th April where Coates will be hoping to repeat his pole position from last year and get his first 2017 podium finish.

The Better Health at Work Award provides a framework to help businesses achieve this and workplace delivery and engagement is fundamental to its success.

For more information on the Better Health at Work Award contact Lindsay Sheridan, Programme Manager at PCP on [Lindsay.sheridan@pcp.uk.net](mailto:Lindsay.sheridan@pcp.uk.net) or telephone 01325 321234.

More information can be found at [www.betterhealthatworkdurham.co.uk](http://www.betterhealthatworkdurham.co.uk) or [www.betterhealthatworkne.org](http://www.betterhealthatworkne.org)

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The chance to create an innovative education establishment is very rare and this is an exciting opportunity to join us as we develop our organisation; support us in delivering an excellent experience for our students. You will be a key member of a small technician team led by the Faculty Director. As part of the support team you will focus on training on our CNC and specialist machinery.

You will have experience of providing support to the engineering department of an organisation. You'll build positive relationships with staff, students and partners. You can demonstrate a knowledge of CNC and the practical requirements required to deliver and enrich the engineering curriculum.

Our sponsors, Hitachi Rail Europe, Gestamp Tallent and the University of Sunderland, are committed to creating an outstanding school that will provide a talented young workforce for companies in the North of England. If you have the expertise and commitment to make a life-changing impact on our students, then we'd like to hear from you.

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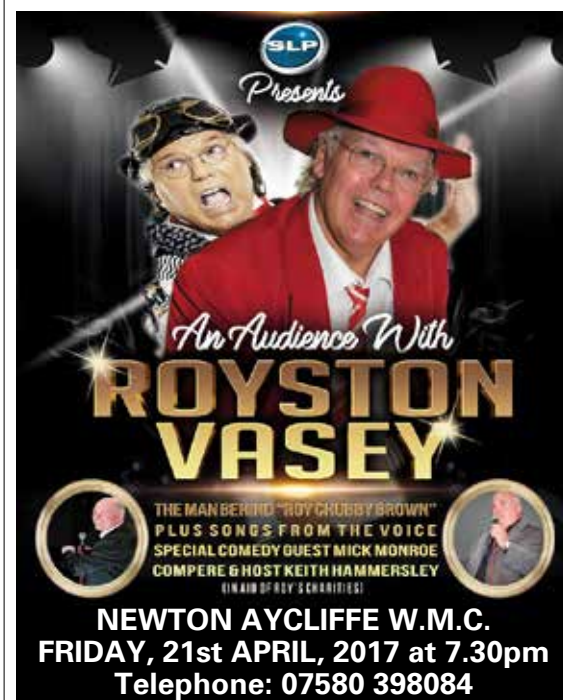
Neil McGrath

[Neil.mcgrath@utcsouthdurham.org](mailto:Neil.mcgrath@utcsouthdurham.org)

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## Final Push for Good League Placing Become a Bone Marrow Donor



Many of the Aycliffe Juniors teams' league seasons are coming in to their last few games. This week saw another round of fixtures for our sides looking to secure the best possible league placing.

On Friday evening our development squad for 4-6 year olds enjoyed a series of mini games against Heighington. The players had a great time and over the four matches played, honours were even between the teams.

On Saturday the Under 8's were enjoying their match day experience at Moore Lane with Newton Aycliffe FC until a burst of heavy hail and rain led to the match being called off.

The Under 7's played Hetton Juniors and the game finished in a 2-2 draw, so the team remain unbeaten in this Spring league. There was great passing on display from all of the team and man of the match Josh pulled off some great saves. The goals were scored by Kenyon and Lewis, it took a late Hetton equaliser to level the scores.

The Under 9's TJFA league team have secured a top two finish and now wait for their final league game at the end of the month. The Under 9's Russell Foster league team

played Roker Boys in their Spring League. The team put in a great effort and won 3-1. Jake Smith scored twice and man of the match Kenzie Saeed got the other goal, which takes this team's winning streak to seven games.

The Under 10's were away at Seaton Carew Lions and Rhys' goal was in vain as they lost the match 3-1. Zack was named man of the match.

The Under 11 Russell Foster league team were away to table topping Harton and Westoe. They came up against a good team in form and despite a goal from Taylor they couldn't avoid defeat.

The Under 11's TJFA league team have begun catching up games lost to the weather earlier in the year. On Thursday evening they played at Seaton Carew and went 2-0 down before half time. Despite a determined effort and the creation of lots of chances they couldn't get back into the game and there was no further score.

On Sunday they faced League Cup finalists Boro Rangers and after a bright start again somehow found themselves 2-0 down at half time. A good second half performance got them back in the game with both Zack and Taylor scoring but they lost 5-2 in the end.

The Under 12's are needing one point from their last two games to secure a third place finish in the league. However they have to play the top two teams and this week faced second placed Normanby Orange, who proved to be too strong and defeated the Aycliffe team 6-3.

The Under 15's played their final league game against Hartlepool Pools Youth knowing that a win would secure them fourth place. However they couldn't quite achieve that and lost 7-4.

The Under 23's still have four games left to play and this week had a closely fought mid table battle with West Auckland. Aycliffe scored first when Slatcher volleyed home from an Iley cross. In the second half West Auckland equalised before a couple of great saves denied Raisbeck and stopped Aycliffe re-gaining the lead. Dixon did turn and score well to make it 2-1. Against the run of play West Auckland equalised and the game ended 2-2. The first goal scorer Thomas Iley was named as man of the match following an excellent performance.

Ex Newtonian, Joanne Forsyth, after losing almost 7 stone at Slimming World, wanted to focus on getting fit and began by running and training to complete in the Great North Run.

Joanne read about a little girl who required a bone marrow transplant after her donor did not match her blood type. A big search for another donor was conducted by the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Joanne signed up with the charity to become a donor and a week later the opportunity arose to take part in the Great North Run. To support her fundraising



she is holding a raffle to be drawn on the 6th of May at Darlington Building Society offices between 9am and 12 noon. There will also be a tombola and cupcakes on sale.

Before that raffle tickets will be available from Joanne at Darlington Memorial Hospital on the 27th of April also a competition to guess how many marshmallows on the cake to win on the day, between 11am and 4pm.

There will be leaflets and information available about the charity including how to become a donor. Your support would be appreciated.

## Newton Press

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# Looking for North East "Employee of the Year"

Employees from around the region are to be celebrated at the second annual North East Employee of the Year Awards to be held at Wynyard Hall Hotel.

Individuals are urged to nominate colleagues they feel make an invaluable contribution to their businesses for the range of awards including, the Leadership Award, Unsung Hero and Best Apprentice. Nominations from managers, directors and board members are welcomed for employees who deserve special recognition, or who have already been awarded by the company.

The evening will culminate with the presentation of the coveted 'North East Employee of the Year' award, which is selected from all category winners.

Tesco Underwriting were quick to confirm their partnership with the event once again with HR Manager Lesley Clapperton keen to sing the praises of North East employees. She said: "Everyone at Tesco Underwriting considers this a fantastic event for the area. We believe the hard work of staff at all levels should be commended so we're thrilled to once again be a part of an event that does just that."

Heading into its second year, the programme was founded by leading North East event management company, She's Gott It!, following the decision by leading local businesses to showcase the talent of the region's employees. She's Gott It! event manager, Sie Francis, said: "The awards add a great deal of value to the region, as there are no other ceremonies in the North East that offer a platform to shout about employee success."

"Being able to bring the event back for a second year is very exciting and it means so much to have Tesco Underwriting as our headline sponsor once again. We're keen to get as many businesses from around the North East involved as sponsors or supporters to make this year's event bigger and better than ever."

For more information on how your business can be a part of celebrating the region's employees by supporting or sponsoring, contact Sie Francis at She's Gott It! on 0191 385 6619, or at info@northeastemployeeoftheyear.co.uk.

To enter or learn more about the awards, please visit: www.northeastemployeeoftheyear.co.uk

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# Reading Books - an Essential Part of Life

Teachers at Woodham Academy have been signposting their own reading preferences as part of their contribution to World Book Day celebrations.

As part of the school's continuing drive to encourage reading for pleasure, staff members have been displaying the titles of their latest leisure-reading matter on their classroom doors - in order to remind learners that books are an essential and pleasurable part of life for many successful adults.

Bookworms have also been participating in a week of Reading Assemblies which highlight many of the fascinating facts associated with the English language - and written English in

particular. During assembly they have been learning they possess approximately 8 - 10,000 of the 171,467 words currently listed by the Oxford English Dictionary; that they are currently learning about one new word a day, and that this will eventually contribute to their attaining an adult vocabulary of between 20 - 35,000 words, depending on how much learning they do. However, students were also warned not to believe everything they read - particularly on social-media and the internet; whilst they were encouraged to continue using new technologies to expand their vocabularies they were also reminded that much electronic information is unreliable, and they were advised to always check their facts.

Reading is high on the agenda at Woodham Academy - so

much so that World Book Day is but one of a number of reading initiative which take place there during the course of the school year. In Year 7 pupils are enrolled on a bespoke reading programme that provides 'Active Reading' skills which can then be used in other subjects to improve comprehension and achievement, and are accompanied down to Aycliffe branch library where they are encouraged to enrol, or take up lapsed memberships. Older pupils, too, can look forward to a number of regular reading

enterprises, including annual participation in Readathon - which sponsors students to read a number of books over a period of time, and Six for Six - which rewards those pupils, and staff, who sign up to read six books over the six-week holidays.

And what of those titles currently being perused by Woodham Academy's teachers and staff? As you might expect from an up to date educational establishment, they come in all shapes, sizes, colours and shades - excepting for that of grey.

# Big Deal for Students



Emily French, Hannah Tarn, Rory Hubery, Ritchie Steward

Four Year 9 Woodham Academy students visited York University last week to take part in the launch of a 14 week business and enterprise competition. The Big Deal is for high achieving students in Years 9 or 10. Teams compete against each other to develop a business plan, which they will pitch at a Dragons' Den style event in June.

Students also complete online challenges with mentoring support from a business professional. The winning team are taken on a business trip of a lifetime to New York City to explore their business ideas in an international context!

# BREAST SCREENING

The County Durham Wellbeing for Life service is working in the local community to promote breast screening and encourage women to attend their screening appointments.

Wellbeing for Life are working in partnership with local GP surgeries and community venues to give women in County Durham the opportunity to find out more about breast screening.

1 in 8 women and 1 in 870 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. There were 54,800 new cases of breast cancer in the UK in 2014.

The NHS Breast Screening Programme invites all women aged between 50 and 70 for screening every 3 years. You need to be registered with a GP to receive the invitations. If you are older than 70, you can still have screening every 3 years but you won't automatically be invited. To make an appointment, talk to your GP or your local breast screening unit.

It is important to know your body and get checked out if anything changes that is not normal for you. 15,500 breast cancers are diagnosed through screening in the UK each year. Vicki Moffat, Wellbeing Coordinator said 'The number of women attending their breast screening appointments has fallen since 2011. Breast Cancer is not just a lump. Going for breast screening can find abnormalities which you wouldn't necessarily be able to feel or see, so it is really important that you keep your screening appointments.'

Breast screening saves around 1,500 lives every year in the UK. Screening aims to find breast cancers early. Very early breast cancers are usually easier to treat, may need less treatment, and are more likely to be cured. It is important to go for your breast screening whenever you are invited. For further information, please contact Vicki Moffat, Wellbeing for Life Coordinator on 0191 5274150

## Lost & Found



My pet cat "Luna" went missing in Newton Aycliffe a few months ago, a recent sitting in the Washington Crescent area has sparked a new search. She is around 9 years old and is micro-chipped. If anyone has seen her or taken her in please get in touch.

Ring Celine on 07809 261148 and/or take to Wilsons Vets in Newton Aycliffe.

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# Volunteer at YHA Summer Camps for CV Boosting Experience

Local people who are considering a career working with young people are being given a special opportunity to volunteer at YHA's Summer Camps in 2017 to gain vital experience and boost their CV.

Youth Hostelling charity YHA (England and Wales) is calling on people to volunteer at its popular week-long GoXtreme and Action Adventure residential Summer Camps which are held during July and August. As well as the opportunity to work with 10-16 year olds, YHA will provide training in safeguarding and behaviour management as well as food, accommodation and travelling expenses throughout the volunteering experience.

The volunteering opportunity is open to anyone who is 18 and has had any previous experience working with children. They must be available to have a DBS check as well as be available for a week or preferably two weeks in July



and August. Volunteers must also be available to undergo a residential training course on the 14 and 15 July.

YHA Summer Camps give young people the chance to be independent, try outdoor experiences, grow in confidence and make new friends. Each year hundreds of young people attend YHA Summer Camps at Youth Hostels in Edale and Ravensthorpe in Derbyshire, St Briavels in Gloucestershire, Okehampton and the South Downs in Sussex. The Summer Camps are an action

packed five days, featuring activities such as rafting, canoeing, rock climbing, weaselling, archery and quad biking.

Crewenna Dymond, Head of Volunteering at YHA (England and Wales) commented: "As YHA is a charity, volunteers are essential to enable us to create these unique and memorable experiences. Volunteering to help at YHA Summer Camps is a uniquely rewarding experience for anyone, but particularly people who are considering a career that involves working with young people. However, the camps are as fun-packed for the volunteers as they are for the children and we always get great feedback." The closing date for applications to become a YHA Summer Camps volunteer is 22 May 2017. To find out more about volunteering, visit <https://jobs.yha.org.uk/volunteer/> or apply here <https://jobs.yha.org.uk/volunteering-form/>

## Acknowledgement

**HINDMOOR.** The family of the late Darron wish to thank Gibson Funeral Services; family and friends for their support and attendance at his funeral and for cards and donations in lieu of flowers. £500 was raised and subsequently presented to James Cook Renal Unit for benefit of patients.

**GREENALL.** Betty's family thanks everyone involved in making her funeral such a special, memorable day. Thank you also for the messages of sympathy we received and for the very kind charitable donations.

**McKAY.** The family of the late Heather Eleanor McKay would like to thank all those involved with her care during the last few months. The doctors and nurses of Bewick Crescent Surgery, the staff at Defoe Court Care Home, David Scott and staff at Co-op FuneralCare, also the kindness shown by relatives and friends during this sad time.

**DEBBIE DAVIES.** The family of the late Debbie Davies (nee Clelland) would like to thank the Rev. Debbie for taking the time to listen about Debbie's life and delivering a beautiful Service. We would also like to thank the Co-op FuneralCare directors for their kindness and attention. Thank you to Mick Dooney for allowing us to use the club and supplying the food for the wake. Also thanks to family and friends who made the day go exactly how Deb would have wanted it.

## Western Area Meeting

Western Area Residents' Association meeting is on Wednesday 12th April at 6pm in the Community House, Silverdale Place. The Police and local Councillors will be in attendance and hopefully Livin.

We want to discuss our May Day Fun Day on 1st May. Also we would like volunteers to help make the area a place to be proud of. Your opinions will be welcome as other areas have flower beds and possibly better. Ring 07967 901477 for further details.

## Thank You

**SWAINSTONE** Kenny and Margaret would like to thank their family and friends for making their Diamond Anniversary party a night to remember. We had a wonderful time. Thank you all for our gifts. we will thank you all personally when we sober up! **THANK YOU** to the Sacred Heart for prayers answered. M.C.

## Birthday Remembrance

### Lillias R. Smith

9th April

Our thoughts are with you on this day, happy memories come to mind, of one we loved with all our hearts, and will till the end of time.

A Mum holds her children hands for a while, their hearts, forever.

Loving and missing you always.

Valerie & Michael  
Elizabeth & Kathryn  
Allan & David  
Jacob, Bronwyn,  
Theo and Dylan

### Freda Kilburn

9th April 1936



Second birthday without you, our Mam. Love and miss you unreal amounts, never a day goes by we don't talk about you. Loved always, Tracey and Dave

Happy birthday "Granny". Love you so so much, miss you even more. Tyler and Millie xx

**GEORGE SMITH.** 9th April. Thinking of you on your 69th birthday Dad. Lots of love, Steven, Graham and John xxx **GEORGE SMITH.** Happy birthday Grandad George. Hugs 'n' kisses. Millie and Bradley xx **GEORGE SMITH.** Sending special thoughts on your birthday George. Lots of love, Irene xx

## Obituary

### Sheila Armstrong

27th March

Peacefully in hospital, of Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Middridge.

Sheila, aged 88 years, (nee Johnson). Beloved Wife of the late Alan; much loved Mam to Joan; Mother-in-Law to Colin. Funeral on Wednesday 12th April.

Will friends please meet at 12.15pm for Service in St. Mary's R.C. Church, followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium.

### Tracey Savage

(nee Reay)



Passed away after a long and dignified illness on 1st April, aged 46 years, of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of Jason; Daughter to Agnes and George; Sister to Julie and Mark; Sister-in-Law and much loved Aunt.

Funeral Service will take place at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday 11th April at 1.00pm prior to private interment in West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

Floral tributes or donations if preferred, will be shared between Paul McGeary's Charity for "Bloodwise" and "St. Teresa's Hospice" for which a plate will be provided at The Phoenix Club or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

**POUNDER.** On 1st April, following a short illness. James (Jim), aged 90 years. Beloved Husband of the late Linda; loving Dad of Julie and Derek; Father-in-Law of David and Pam also a much loved Grandad of Emily, Jenny, Madeleine, Kathryn, Tom and Sophie and Great Grandad of Joshua. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and cremation at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 12th April at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to Dementia UK in memory of Jim's late Wife Linda.

**VIC LERIGO.** 2nd April, after a short illness, Vic, aged 71 years. A much loved Dad to Sharron; beloved Grandad to Luc and Conor; also a very dear Brother, Brother-in-Law, Uncle and good friend to many. Will family and friends please meet for Service at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 12th April at 11.15am. Family flowers only please, donations in memory of Vic, may be left at the Crematorium for Cancer Research UK.

## Congratulations

### Sylvia Thomas



#### Happy 70th Birthday

To a loving Wife, Mother, Sister and Grandmother, who is loved by all

### The Belton Boys Birthday

(Mam could not forget)

A very special birthday. Russell is 50 years old; Duncan is 49 years old on 7th April 2017. Sending all our best wishes. Love you both for ever. Best Mam (Ann) and Ernie xxxx

### Joanne & Mark Pooley



#### Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary

Love you both. Mam, Dad, Warren, Marie, Michelle, Brian and Sam

#### Happy 25th Anniversary Mam and Dad

Love from Shannon and Lola

### Nathan Acuna Ocana



#### Happy 18th Birthday

to my first Grandson. Best wishes in everything you do. Love, Grandad Peter

### Nathan Acuna Ocana



#### 18 YEARS OLD 10th APRIL 2017

Happy 18th birthday to our Number 1 Son Nathan. Hope you have a great birthday. All our love, Mam, Dad, Macy, Lucas and Poppy xxxx

# 30,000 Dog Owners Breaking the Law

Dog owners urged to microchip their dog and check the chip details are up to date on 1st anniversary of Compulsory Microchipping law

One year on from the introduction of this important law for dog welfare, 96%\* of dogs in the North East are now fitted with a microchip, meaning they can be reunited with their families if they are lost or stolen. However, owners in the North East are being urged to microchip their dog if they haven't already and keep the details up to date to ensure they can be reunited should they become lost.

Dogs Trust statistics show that 3,536\*\* strays were reunited with their owners in 2015-2016; over a quarter of these as a direct result of a microchip, proving just how important microchipping is in ensuring lost dogs are swiftly reunited with their owners. However, owners who don't update their details risk the very real possibility of being permanently separated from their beloved family pet. 5%\*\* of the 6,416 stray and abandoned dogs that remained unclaimed in local authority kennels



in the North East last year, couldn't be reunited with their owners simply because they didn't have up-to-date microchip details.

Whilst more needs to be done to target the minority of dog owners falling foul of the law, the legislation has overall been a positive influence over the past 12 months. Local councils across the UK have issued 2,751 enforcement notices to owners since the legislation came into force – 1,464 for dogs that aren't chipped and 1,287 for owners whose details are incorrect on the microchip database. The average fine issued to dog owners was £340, with the maximum penalty recorded as £500. It's estimated that fines will total around £73,000 over the next five years.

#### What you need to know:

- As of 6th April 2016, all dogs over the age of 8 weeks must be microchipped.
- Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, all dogs must wear a collar and identity tag in a public place. The tag must show the owner's name and address.
- Anyone breeding a puppy for sale, is required to microchip the dog at the age of 8 weeks, and register their details to the microchip before the sale.
- The owner of the puppy must then update the details on the database once they take ownership.
- Anyone buying a puppy should be aware that the puppy should be microchipped and the microchip should be registered to the breeder.
- The only dogs that shouldn't be chipped are those with a vet issued Defra exemption form.



## County Council Candidates' Promises

We believe that your Labour Team of seven County Councillors has served the town very well in the past four years. However, we know there is a mood for improvement so we are making a number of joint-promises at the start of the election campaign. These are not 'politicians' promises, but a planned agenda of what we will do if we are elected as a team.

### 1. THE ECONOMY

With government grants falling, Aycliffe Business Park is our hope for the future. We therefore promise to:

- continue encouraging the business community;
- support the Forrest 2 extension;
- contribute to a revision of the Town Masterplan; and
- review through the Scrutiny process the Council's contribution to Retail and Broadband provision in the County.

### 2. THE ENVIRONMENT.

We promise to:

- bring 'Operation Spruce Up' to Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village and Middridge;
- run campaigns against dog-fouling and household fly-tipping; and
- continue to work on the wider issues of biodiversity and community resilience.

### 3. IN ADDITION:

- We have planned a pilot scheme to provide a number of weekly nutritious meals free of charge to needy families.

- We have pledged to provide the financial support to allow local organisations to host DLI Outreach sessions.

These promises are our local pledges ON TOP of Labour's general manifesto for the whole County – for economic regeneration; education; housing; clean neighbourhoods; stronger, safer and healthier local communities, etc. We are excited about our agenda for the future—please elect us to achieve it.

Labour candidates Eddy Adam, James Atkinson, John D Clare, Mike Dixon, Joan Gray, Kate Hopper and Sarah Iveson.

## Youthy U12's in Cup Final



After last weeks semi final win for the under 16's, it was over to the under 12's to try and join them at the Cup Final day in May, with a trip to Norton & Stockton for their semi final where the playing conditions and surface were perfect.

Straight from the off you could see Aycliffe wanted it which was a great advert for grassroots football as no quarter was given. Long kicks from their keeper may have troubled us on another day, but Centre Half Brandon Addy dealt with every ball.

Aycliffe were showing a little bit more quality and it was up to Callum to score a great goal to settle things down. Aycliffe

were now playing good football and this was rewarded with Brennan Fitzpatrick finishing coolly with a nice pass from Calum. HT 0-2.

The second half started the same way they finished the first half with Jack Clarkson getting a well rewarded goal for all his hard work throughout the game. This was soon made 0-4 with Leon Patel scoring.

Credit to the opposition their heads never dropped and they put Aycliffe under pressure and were eventually rewarded with a goal from a quality free kick. This was closely followed when a corner was whipped in and was met by our defender George Clark but unfortunately

ended in our own goal.

A little panic set in until the lads were reminded to keep their shape and they saw out the game 2-4. The whole squad made the club proud. Charlie, Thomas, Alfie, Kieran, Kian, James & Louis. Despite their obvious disappointment, the opposition manager came over and said some lovely words to our team and wished us luck for the final.

**U15 Girls v Lumley.** Home game for the girls and a different team talk as they were asked to just pass the ball around Lumley, and not to try any long distance shots and it worked. We had chance after chance to score but luck was not with the girls and somehow found ourselves 0-2 down at half time.

Second half the girls determination was apparent as we took the game to Lumley and having most of the play. Then a goal from Katie B was quickly followed by an Aycliffe second from team captain, Martha. Despite our best efforts to find the winner Lumley held out to draw 2-2.

**Under 7's Eagles v Bishop Jnrs.** The lads had a really good 16 minute spell as we raced into a 4-0 lead with some excellently taken goals and really good positional play by all.

However Aycliffe did start to get tired towards the end which allowed Bishop to close the gap with 1 minute to go, but the lads held on for a well deserved win FT 4-3. MOM – Layton M, Goals - Charlie W, Travis F, Layton M 2

#### Other scores

U9 Eagles 6v4 Hetton Lyons  
U8 Eagles 0v2 Birtley Town  
U13 Falcons 2v4 Great Ayton  
Boldon 9v3 U12 Girls  
U13 Eagles 2v11 Wolsingham  
If you want more information about our FA Charter Standard Community Club visit the website [www.nayfc.com](http://www.nayfc.com)

## Plucky Performance by A.F.C.

Despite going down to a 4-0 defeat to South Shields (The Mariners), Aycliffe could still hold their heads high after giving a plucky performance against a high-calibre side in front of a crowd of 1237. The kick-off was delayed for 30 minutes as a result of a floodlight failure. This seemed to affect Aycliffe the greater, as they got caught cold after only 3 minutes. A soft free kick was awarded on the right. A quality ball was put into the danger area by Richardson and under pressure, Dan Mitton headed the ball into his own net. A minute later, captain Jamie Owens escaped his marker, but put his shot over the bar.

Aycliffe's hopes suffered another blow on 10 minutes when Corey Nicholson suffered a bad ankle injury and had to be stretchered off. The game was held up for 5 minutes, and Jack Oliver came on in his place. The Mariners continued to play their patient possession game, trying to stretch the Aycliffe defence.

They found a way through on 26 minutes when Baxter was played in and he put in a good cross for recent Mariners signing Blinco to run onto and finish past James Winter for 2-0. Blinco had another chance on 32 minutes, but Winter made a good save. The Mariners extended their two minutes later when Phillips crossed and centre half Petrache headed home. Half-time 3-0.

Aycliffe worked tirelessly in the second half, as Shields were content to keep possession and probe for an opening. Marc Costello marshalled the midfield well as Aycliffe fought mainly a rearguard action. Aycliffe's task became even harder with 20 minutes to go when Scott Howes was

sent off for a second caution. The Mariners wrapped up the win with a 4th goal in the 94th minute when a Richardson free kick evaded the wall and Winter. Full-time 4-0.

Aycliffe's game against Morpeth Town was called off on Saturday. A torrential downpour an hour before kick off left large areas of standing water on the Moore Lane pitch. The club's small team of volunteers worked hard to clear the water but it was to no avail & the referee decided to call a halt just after 3pm. It was a huge disappointment to both clubs & their supporters but undoubtedly the right decision

given the state of the pitch. The rearranged game is now due to be played on Tuesday 25 April. Aycliffe now face two away games, Newcastle Benfield on Wednesday 5 April & Ryhope CW on Saturday 8th April. They then return to Moore Lane to face Bishop Auckland on Saturday 15th April.

Aycliffe's Moore Lane ground will be hosting three cup finals this month. The first of these is Friday 7 April when Darlington RA SSG take on Shildon Three Tuns in the Wear Valley Sunday League Division Three Cup final. Kick off is 6:30pm. Admission £2 adults, £1 concessions.

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## Play Outdoor Bowls at Shildon

Would you like to try playing Outdoor Bowls? You can play casually or compete as a team member at Shildon Railway Bowling Club at Hackworth Road, DL4 1LX.

Get more information by calling in on Tuesday and Friday evenings starting April 18th from 6.30pm.

To get you started we offer coaching and free loan of equipment.

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