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Police are appealing for witnesses or any information in relation to a number of small fires which were set in the Newton Aycliffe area on Thursday, 13th April. The most serious was a bin which was set alight at the rear of McGuinness Opticians and Argos on Greenwell Road. The bin was against a wall and could easily have spread to the main building. Any information can be passed to PC 2569 Ashleigh Canvin at Newton Aycliffe police station by calling 101

TESCO V.I.P. TREAT FOR FOUR LUCKY CUSTOMERS



The Tesco Extra store in Newton Aycliffe has treated four lucky customers to a glamorous VIP experience following its recent revamp.

Harley Wilkins, Shaun Morrell, Camille Wilde and Ruth Smith were all nominated by family and friends for the special instore experience. The four ladies were driven to the store by a chauffeur in a limousine, where they were greeted with a glass of champagne and treated to an all-star makeover.

As part of the experience the winners were gifted a £100 gift card to spend at any of the Arcadia Group stores. Winners were also treated to a gift bag each containing £50 worth of beauty products and a delicious lunch at the newly revamped café.

A professional make-up artist was on hand to give the winners a make-over and talk them through the best products for them, whilst a personal stylist helped them pick out some new outfits.

The Tesco Extra store on Greenway has seen the addition of clothing brands Dorothy Perkins, Wallis and Burton. The store has also seen a host of changes to improve customers' shopping



experience. Helen Maynard, store manager, (photo above left) said: "To celebrate the improvements to the store we wanted to do something

special for customers and so we invited them to nominate someone who they felt deserved to be treated. We have so many wonderful customers and wanted the chance to do something to thank them for their loyal custom.

All four ladies who received the VIP experience were voted for by family and friends and we are glad they had a lovely time! They all deserved a reward and we hope that they will treat themselves to something special with the Arcadia gift card."

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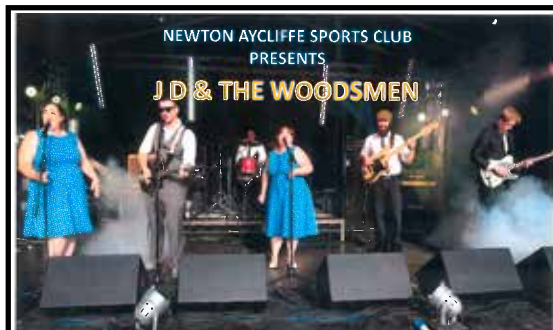
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SIGNING TOTS

Next set of Baby Signing sessions start: Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 10am (aged from 6 months to 18 months)
Brand new Sign 'n' Sing sessions start Tuesday 25th April 11.00am (suitable for 18 months plus)
Venue: Woodham Community Centre, Newton Aycliffe £35 for 6 weeks! Come join in the fun! Book your place by text or call Jules 07966 968388



Saturday 13th May 2017, 7-11pm

Tickets on sale behind the bar - £5.00 each

MP Voices Concern of Residents with Livin

Following increasing concerns from constituents regarding social housing provider Livin', Mr Wilson had a positive meeting with CEO Colin Steel, who agreed to keep the situation under review and said he would meet with Mr Wilson in a month's time.

The meeting followed a letter Mr Wilson sent to Mr Steel, after the MP's constituency office saw an increase in the number of elderly tenants reporting issues. The letter Mr Wilson sent, read "One of the most common problems includes elderly people reporting to Livin that their boiler has broken down leaving them without hot water or heating. They are then told that they must wait two weeks or more for an appointment with an engineer.

Constituents have also had problems with repairs or renovations that have been carried out in a shoddy manner leaving them with ongoing problems. They report that it can be weeks before anyone returns to look

at the problem and even then it is often still not resolved.' All of these concerns were raised by Mr Wilson, and overall the meeting with Colin Steel was a positive one.

BENIDORM OR BUST!



"Fishing with Tom" a charity run by Tom Carrol is taking part in the 2017 'Benidorm or Bust' Rally to raise funds for the Air Ambulance.

Grandads' Army, a team of local men in their later years leave on the 7th June undertaking the gruelling 3000 mile round trip to Benidorm stopping at locations along the way to rest up and meet with fellow rally drivers doing the same for their local causes.

The aim is to give back to the community by helping raise awareness across the North East.

We need the help of Newton News readers and local businesses to raise as much money as possible for this worthy cause.

We will be having a Sign the Rally Car session in the coming weeks and each name signed will cost £1 and

local businesses can have their logos put on the car for a small cost.

We have to cover the fuel cost and have raised a few hundred pounds so far, but need much more!

If you are able to help out then please contact us on 07759 469032 or 07801 427361.

Famine Appeal

The Parish of Great Aycliffe have organised a collection for the East African Famine Appeal at Tesco on Friday 28th of April from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

This Appeal was covered by television, radio and newspaper coverage but help is still needed.

We would like the town of Newton Aycliffe to help alleviate this tragedy. All money will be given to The Disaster Emergency Committee for this appeal.

Our thanks to Tesco for allowing us to conduct this collection.

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All Sorts Shop Raffle Winners

The All Sorts Charity Shop at St. Clare's held an Easter Raffle with the following winners:

1st No. 766 Chocolate Egg; 2nd No. 733 Chocolates; 3rd 710 a Night Dress C.

Thanks to the hundreds of people who support me in so many ways - sales at the shop are very good making it possible to give cash to those in need.

All Sorts shop is accessible from the side of the Church facing St. Cuthberts Way from 10am - 1pm Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

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Saturday 29th April - "RockMonster"
Sunday 30th April - "TBC" (4pm, £3 c/c)

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Newtonian Creates Capsule to be Opened in 300 Years Time

A map of the moon, a miniature music box and a collection of coins are among the artefacts contained in a time capsule that is to be locked away for 300 years.

The James D Robinson Time Capsule, which has been put together by a County Durham photographer, is to be stored at Durham County Record Office.

There are only four other known capsules in the world that will remain unopened for longer than the new box – and none are to be found in the UK.

James D Robinson, from Newton Aycliffe, was inspired to create the aluminium box-within-a-box after reading about the Westinghouse time capsules buried at Flushing Meadows in New York. First interred in 1938, the capsules are not due to be opened until 6939.

James, whose photos are included in the permanent



collections of the National Portrait Gallery and The Royal Society, said: "The capsule is intended to be opened on 21 March 2317, a day I have chosen because of its symbolic association with the first day of spring



James D Robinson

and the rebirth of the natural world, which equates to the new lease of life for the data within the time capsule once it is opened."

Noel Bennett, also of Newton Aycliffe, has put together a film about the project, its contents, how it was sealed and how it will be stored.

There will be a special showing of the film at St Clare's Church Hall, St Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, on Friday, 21 April at 7pm, when there will also be a question and answer session and Liz Bregazzi, county archivist at Durham County Record Office, will talk about how the time capsule will be preserved.

Liz said: "James' request to store the capsule was quite an unusual one and not something we have been asked to do before."

"It's the only time capsule we have in our stores but we are always interested in different ideas and suggestions for capturing and preserving the past."

The capsule contains a large database of text and images and a number of artefacts, with individual items including:

- A copy of Patrick Moore's moon map as originally published in the Sky at Night magazine;
- An early copy of an American superhero comic featuring The Flash;
- An essay on current understanding of how the universe may have originated by Professor Carlos S Frenk, the director of the Durham-based Institute for Computational Cosmology;
- Copies of drawings, photographs and poster designs by James D Robinson;
- More than 100 coins from around the world;

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 25th APRIL features the musical comedy-drama fantasy "ON A CLEAR DAY" Marc treats scatter-brained chain smoker Daisy with hypnosis to cure her smoking; as if she isn't enough of a handful he starts meeting the woman she was in a previous incarnation. Streisand at her amazing best in a real FEEL GOOD film. 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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Aycliffe 102 Battalion REME Challenge Apprentices

At the beginning of April, soldiers from the Newton Aycliffe based REME Battalion (102 Battalion REME) conducted Exercise Engineering Challenge for engineering apprentices from across the North East of England.

Engineering Challenge, a four day residential course is now in its second year and proving to be very popular with the automotive industry and apprentice providers. This year teams of apprentices were provided by Nissan, Caterpillar, Komatsu and Reliance Precision and Sunderland College.

There was a new dynamic to this year's event, with the Caterpillar team comprising of four female engineering apprentices, all volunteers and all wanting to prove themselves as capable as their male counterparts. They were placed in a well matched group with apprentices from

Komatsu, a rival company in so much as they both manufacture excavators and other plant!

As it turned out it was an excellent match with both sets of apprentices having similar skill sets that made them a well-rounded team. This was borne out during the Technical Challenge aspect of the course, when they were the only team to successfully lift their vehicle and alight it as per the specification!

The course was conducted entirely at Wathgill Training Camp this year and resourced almost entirely from battalion staff. However the support provided by Outreach Team North on day two must be acknowledged, loaning us their facilities and members of their team to assist with the Command Tasks and Assault Course.

The course programme was coordinated by the ROSO, Capt Dave Hamilton, while



Major Phil Cush designed and ran the technical two day phase. The week was supported by SPSIs and mentoring teams throughout the week. It would be fair to say the apprentices loved the course and that we got the balance just about right.

Two days of physical and mental challenges based around a military programme, followed by two days of technical design and manufacturing, what more could a young man or woman want from a week with the Northern Craftsmen? Oh yes, fun, so we threw in quite a bit of that too.

On Thursday afternoon 13 representatives from the companies named above watched their apprentices as they talked through the challenges they had been presented with and how they had dealt with them. There then followed a demonstration by each of the groups of their finished projects. There were a lot of crossed fingers as their models negotiated obstacles with a variety of control modules and then got into their lifting devices. Given the time constraints and unfamiliar resources all teams did extremely well, though it is unlikely that Nissan will begin production of any of the model vehicles presented or that Caterpillar or Komatsu will roll out a new winch based on the examples presented by the apprentices. It was extremely good fun and the audience were as enthusiastic as the apprentices as they encouraged their teams throughout the demonstrations.

For information about joining the Northern Craftsmen in Aycliffe, call us on 01325 375012 for an information pack.



TAILGATE INTIMIDATORS

Dear Sir,
I have read in various media about the police warning drivers on the consequences of speeding. Although I don't disagree with these warnings, what I do disagree with, is in some cases drivers are only getting a ticking off via letter or verbally at the roadside, speeding is ticking! I have been driving 40 years plus and in that time vehicles have become faster, more powerful including family cars and although brakes and suspension etc., have improved the drivers skill has not!

As regards drivers like myself who drive within the speed limit, there are those who tailgate, trying to bully and intimidate us into speeding. Although tailgating just like Middle Lane Hogging is illegal you don't hear of anyone being caught.

So a message for those who wish to speed, don't hassle those who don't!

Name & address supplied

British Manufacturers Hold Marketing Meeting in Aycliffe



Made in Britain are holding three half day marketing workshops in the North East, Midlands and North West, to share best practice in provenance marketing and help the members make the most of their Made in Britain membership. Roman along with other partners advised Members on how best to apply the Made in Britain marque, and showing how manufacturers can make effective use of social media marketing. The Department for International Trade and Lloyds Bank Manufacturing were presenting expert guidance on exports and sales and demonstrating their new marketing tools designed to help UK manufacturers. There was also a skype call with Gabriela Castro-Fontoura from Sky Solutions about doing business in Latin America. These members-only workshops will provide a great opportunity for the Made in Britain community to network, share best practice and celebrate their British made products. Made in Britain members demonstrated their own products including the Eco Trailer from Cleveland in Teesside.

Made in Britain supports and promotes British manufacturing, enabling buyers and consumers, at home and abroad to identify British made products. Made in Britain now have over 900 members and are growing and developing the Organisation. The website is now increasingly used as an International directory for British sourced products.

Dave Forster of Hartlepool based Propipe commented: "It has been a very insightful day at the Made in Britain workshop and it is great to meet like-minded manufacturers. The speakers were very good providing invaluable export guidance. I would highly recommend to all Made in Britain members wanting to make the most out of their membership and progress their marketing strategy."

David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman commented: "It was a pleasure to be involved with the first Made in

Britain event and the organisation's aims and values have never been so important in our post Brexit climate."

Chairman of the day, CEO of Made in Britain John Pearce was delighted with the event. John says, "These inaugural events have come about as a result of direct feedback from our manufacturing members. UK makers have told us they want to meet other UK manufacturers. This allows them to source UK suppliers and share best practice in provenance marketing."

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Working with University Graduate Ambassadors



On Friday 31st March, Year 9 students from Greenfield Community College, Sunnydale Campus worked with two of Newcastle University's graduate ambassadors to develop business & enterprise skills. The graduate ambassadors opened the event by talking to the students about business as a subject, skills which are gained from studying the subject and possible future routes for study and employment. Following the introductions,

students competed against each other in the Business Bonanza game. In small groups, students were asked to make business decisions, work out their finances and consider the ethical implications of their decisions and how these might also impact on the customers. Students were able to gain points by balancing the best financial decisions with those that would be ethically and morally sound as well as satisfying the needs of the customers.

Abbie in Year 9 said, "I learnt a lot about the paths you can go down in the business sector and how you would be taught at University. I found the Business Bonanza games interesting because it showed us what it's like to set up our own business and the good aspects. However, it did also show us the bad aspects such as losing a lot of money on silly things. Overall, I enjoyed this morning's workshop and the activities and the valuable information we got."

Open Letter to "Aycliffe Replies"

Thank you for taking the time to read my campaign leaflet and for your illuminating comments, I am exceptionally pleased to find that you have a member who can read and write as I was beginning to wonder if you may need the help of a sacked Teaching Assistant to help you as a result of Labours education, education, education election promise made by the warmongering Tony Blair and his cronies.

As you claim to know more than any of the Newton Aycliffe electorate can I humbly attempt to answer in a coherent way your ramblings in last week's Newton News.

1/ As a very long standing resident of Newton Aycliffe it has been my experience that the residents of this area have been calling for a cinema since at least 1964 when my family arrived here. Nothing has EVER been done by successive Labour administrations since that time apart from using taxpayers' money to supply a DVD player and projector to show old movies in village halls and churches. In reply to your question of when can we expect to see a cinema I am afraid that we as a Labour controlled town have missed that particular goal by a minimum of 10 years

I would dispute the statement that Labour councillors have provided anything, let alone a HUGE range of theatre events. The funding put into the events mentioned was of course supplied by the ratepayer usually through GAMP and credit was as usual claimed by self-serving councillors. If the

Labour group were interested in supporting events we would still have Newton Aycliffe Show, which was supported by the entire population. Oh and by the way most people would like to see it returned. As a volunteer, I have supported the book festival by helping to make little libraries with the men's Cree group. I have attended and enjoyed the showing of Hewing goals and indeed sat adjacent to the Newton News political correspondent, the eminent ambassador to the industrial estate John Clare.

2/ I note that Labour replIES have answered their own question THREE retailers expressed an interest in Newton Aycliffe because of a short enquiry by our Town Council. Maybe if we had a sustained campaign promoting the benefits of our beautiful town we could attract more. Meanwhile the negative posturing of Labour replIES ignores the arrival of Crafters Companion, Screwfix and Hitachi.

3/ Can I begin by stating that even though Arun Chandran was a long-term member of the Labour party I find myself in agreement with a high percentage of his ideas. Sometimes we disagree but as reasonable people we can discuss our differences. Arun Chandran and I are friends and as such I would never abandon him to the baying curs of Aycliffe RePLIES who know nothing of INTEGRITY as demonstrated by their hiding behind a cowardly pseudonym FALL IN ANTI - SOCIAL

BEHAVIOUR CONTINUES Whilst I am in the mood for writing in this publication can I also ask why it is that anti-social behaviour appears to be falling.

I have had reports of damaged vehicles, armed assaults, car fires, and assorted fires around the town as well as the mini moto and quad bike menace which has become a source of complaint around our town.

Recently I have been receiving

complaints about the poor service from the telephone query line 101 and indeed had cause to use it to report something. It took ages to get a reply after listening to Mike Barton. I had not realised that reporting crime through this number costs the caller. No wonder RECORDED crime is falling I suspect it is because it is difficult to report a crime.

KEN ROBSON:
Tel 01325 321471



A successful DCC Environment meeting and a significant GATC P&R committee, plus progress updates on Cobblers Hall Park & Cabinet 23, a livin survey and some fascinating local events.

Internet links to the articles below are at: bit.ly/CNB19417

COUNCIL
• DCC Environment Scrutiny Committee, Thursday 13 April.
• Progress on the Cobblers Hall Play Park.
• 'Contract' on County Councillors - man arrested.
• Going to Durham? Check the cameras before you hit the traffic.
• GATC Policy & Resources Committee, Wednesday 12 April.
• Applications open for GATC day trips for the over-60s.

• Latest roadworks.

COMMUNITY

• livin survey.
• 10k run road closure application.
• Slow progress on Superfast.
• Help4Teens interview advice.
• When did you last visit Hardwick Park?
• BrightWater Historic Darlington Walk (2-3miles), start Head of Steam Museum, 2pm Monday 24 April.
• Walk.History of Hardwick (2 miles), start Visitor Centre Hardwick Park, 2pm Wednesday 26 April.
• Terrible trenches (5-11s) at Durham Oriental Museum, Saturday, 29 April, 1-3pm.
• Spring Toy Fair and Steam Gala, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 29 April-1 May.

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UKIP Candidate for Aycliffe East JOHN GRANT

Dear residents of Aycliffe East I will be standing in the ward as your local UKIP candidate. I was born and bred in Newton Aycliffe and have lived here for over 35 years and currently serve as branch chairman of UKIP Sedgefield and I'm also on the committee for Aycliffe Village Hall.

I can pursue all areas of concern in the residents interests irrespective of UKIP party policies. Looking out for matters concerning social care in the community for the elderly and vulnerable. We've had Durham County Council making cuts to the provision of care in the community, the controlling Labour group on the council have closed Durham Light Infantry museum and executives on the council have been awarded big pay deals even the CEO of Durham County Council is paid more than the Prime Minister while at the same time have put council tax up by 1.99%.

UKIP believes council tax should be low as possible while at the time essential local services are protected, pay deals for executives and 'politically correct' jobs be slashed. UKIP will abolish the cabinet system in local government and replace it with a committee based system as we feel it's far more democratic.

The development of housing on green belt should be put to binding local referenda vote. Local people such as the elderly, vulnerable and veterans should have priority when it comes to social



housing. If you would like to discuss local issues with me I can be contacted on mobile 07477 440362 or alternatively email jgrant295@gmail.com.

DARLO CLUB MOVES TO AYCLIFFE

Darlington Video Makers Group, (a video production group) have now moved their meetings to Aycliffe Village Hall. Their new weekly season starts in Mid September, although monthly meetings take place throughout the summer.

The club is open to anyone over sixteen years of age, and prospective new members can visit free for their first two meetings. Anyone interested in joining the group can find out more at: www.darlingtoncc.weebly.com

Time to Pet a Large Snake

Recently the Little Acorns the junior section of Acorn Residents Association held their highly successful Petting Zoo event for the fifth year running, featuring two mobile Zoos.

Also, there to entertain the children of our town was Professor Nincompoop who was kept busy all day making balloon models. Face painting as always was also highly in demand with a queue which never seemed to diminish.

Nail painting was a real treat for some young people but this year Ken chickened out! Spotty Dog and Syd the Squirrel joined in the fun with frequent walkabouts around the town centre offering photo opportunities for children and families.

The event was as usual a brilliant fun day for the whole town and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of those volunteers who gave their time and skills to help.

Ken Robson,
Acorn Residents Association



Petition to Save Counselling Service

South Durham Counselling offer free non-time limited support sessions for as long as needed in Shildon.

Unfortunately they received an email out the blue from the Clinical Commissioning Group saying their funding was ending in April! The reasons being cuts and interestingly replication of service which is odd as it certainly isn't replicated elsewhere and they deemed us as a specialist service.

90% of clients are Rape/sex abuse victims or people suffering severe trauma. One of their working partners (Sex abuse and rape crisis centre have a waiting list of 12 months and state they will struggle without them as we are one of the few places in the UK to take victims of both sexes.

They are going to offer clients generic counselling which means 6-8 sessions with a counsellor who is not trained in the area and will likely cause more psychological trauma.

South Durham Counselling also provide student placements to trainee counsellors in their final degree year and without this they could not qualify to enter the workforce. All Counsellors give their time

for Free and two well attended community groups to try and address local social isolation. They have a website www.southdurhamcounselling.org with an online petition to save the service.

Political Bickering

Dear Sir,
I was astounded by Messrs Robson and Chandran's attack last week on certain candidates because they come from – wait for it – Darlington! It was acerbic parochialism of the worst order, and it is no surprise that the same edition carried a letter of support for them from a correspondent who a few years ago declared for the BNP.

THEIR ISOLATIONISM

To reject a candidate because they live in Darlington? The fact is that election rules intentionally accept people who WORK in an area.

And does this not make sense? Aycliffe depends hugely on its Business Park. Those firms pay Business Rates, and thousands of their employees come here every day to work. Is it not right that they too should have a worker's voice on the Council on rates, waste, potholes and the like?

OUR FUTURE

With the current expansion of the Business Park, Aycliffe is facing its brightest future EVER. The Aycliffe Business Park Community Directors are growth-minded and community-aware. They wish to work with the Councils ... and we need Councils who want to work with them.

Elections may reflect our

thoughts about the past, but they are actually appointments for the future. And as the future floods in, surely the answer is not to whistle an insular tune and throw bricks at strangers. Surely the answer is to embrace the future in a way which enhances and protects our residents' lives.

Do not think that this is just politicians bickering – it is about where we want to take our town in the next four years. It is a matter of our underlying attitude to progress. So far, only the Labour candidates have told you what they intend to achieve when elected. Only the Labour candidates have outlined any promises for the local economy.

YOUR VOTE

Old-time Tories on the town may find it strange that the Party advocating business growth and financial competence is LABOUR. But when you think about it, the clue is in our name – without secure jobs in a thriving local economy, we all suffer.

So I appeal to electors to see last week's embittered insularity for what it is, and instead to return Labour candidates to guide us sensibly into a future which will be the making of our town.

John D Clare

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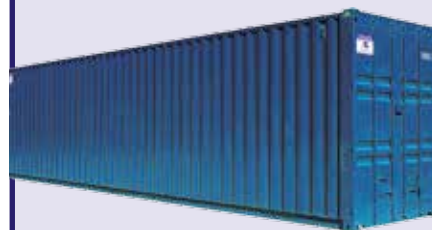
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Infinity Dance Company Celebrate First Birthday



Infinity Dance Company recently celebrated their first year anniversary, following an outstanding, sold out Dance Show at Spennymoor Town Hall! A year on from when the new dance school was launched, and things couldn't be going any better! Emily Henderson said 'I can't quite believe how fast our first year anniversary has come around! We have had an extremely successful first year achieving some great results at competitions, Both our crews ENERGY & INCEPTION qualifying for the World Street Dance Championships in Glasgow and not to mention an amazing first show production involving all of our dancers. It's been a crazy year for us & we still can't believe the volume of kids still wanting to join IDC, must be a good sign I guess!'

Frances Wade said 'We were completely overwhelmed by the brilliant feedback received from parents and other members of the audience after the show and could not be more proud of each and every one of our dancers! Once again we would like to thank our wonderful teachers Claire Johnson and Lydia Hall for all your hard work, our fabulous parents for your continuous support, and not forgetting St Clare's Church who have always been so accommodating and welcoming.' Infinity Dance Company cannot wait to watch their show DVD which was filmed and produced by Sarah Bailey from Simply Media, who also took fantastic photographs for their programme. Best of luck to Infinity Dance Company for the year ahead,

we hope it is as successful as your first! Please contact: 07791772965 or 07807580992 if you would like to enquire about the classes we offer. We have limited spaces in our classes so please contact us beforehand.

GACAP A.G.M

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership hold their AGM on Monday 24th April at 4pm at DISC premises next to the Blue Bridge. All partners are invited plus those who may be interested in joining the group. The partnership consists of organisations both statutory and voluntary who serve people in our area who are disadvantaged in any way. The aim of GACAP is to consult and liaise with partners to ensure no person or family suffers or goes short, by referring them to the right source, and helping each other provide aid and assistance. The meetings are held at DISC premises next to the Blue Bridge on the first Monday of each month at 4pm, excluding Bank Holidays. For more details contact the Secretary Joan on gacap@gmail.com

OFFICE WARMING PARTY AS COMPANY MOVES TO AYCLIFFE

Enjoy a free glass of fizz at local business office warming event as a North-East technology company, set for expansion, moves to Aycliffe Business Park. Excelpoint plotted the move after outgrowing its existing offices in nearby Shildon. Now based in Evans Business Centre – it is located at the heart of one of the largest business parks in the North East of England. Excelpoint is one of the region's unsung heroes. Its unique software enables organisations to create bespoke business systems without writing a line of bespoke code and is widely used in a variety of sectors including health, construction, defence, not for profit and the public sector. Managing director Ian Brown explained: "It is great to be at the centre of

such a thriving business community, we are looking forward to growing the business here for many years to come." To celebrate the move, Excelpoint will be hosting an office warming event on Friday, May 12. The opening ceremony will be performed by Mike Matthews, managing director of Nifco UK, and president of the North-East Chamber of Commerce. Mr Brown explained: "This is a friendly, informal event, anyone is welcome to come along and enjoy complimentary food and drink between 12 and 2 pm."

To celebrate the company's continuing growth, Excelpoint has pledged to support to a new worthy cause. Mr Brown explained: "We already have a long-standing association with several charities and we thought it would be a nice gesture to add another good cause which has been chosen by our guests." To nominate a cause close to your heart, get in touch via the company's website at www.excelpoint.co.uk/ contact The chosen charity will be announced on May 12 during the event. If you are planning to attend the office warming, please register via Eventbrite www.excelpoint.co.uk/blog/excelpoint-moving-aycliffe-business-park

ELECTION ADDRESS

Sandra Haigh



I am Sandra Haigh standing in Woodham and Middridge Ward as an Independent candidate. I have lived in Newton Aycliffe for nearly 50 years. I have worked with a lot of people within Aycliffe and I have some wonderful memories and I hope to represent you and create new memories within our community. I have been a town councillor for 10 years and as a borough councillor until the unitary. On the ballot sheet there is no party name against my name but I am standing as an Independent candidate to give a fresh outlook instead of the party driven policies and procedures. I hope to be representing you soon.

ELECTION ADDRESS

Brian Haigh



I am Brian Haigh, your Independent candidate for Shafto Way also East Ward. I have lived in Newton Aycliffe for 49 years all within the St. Mary's Ward, where I have lived and worked and raised my family. I am very proud of our town and how it has evolved into a pleasant place to live. I am standing as an alternative to the Party system. I have served terms as a town and borough councillor as an Independent. If I am elected I will do my best to help everyone within my Ward and in Newton Aycliffe.

Rumours of "Stitch-up"

Dear Sir,
It is rumoured that the Labour councillors for the County have an inner circle who decide the policy and inform others how to vote. As we have our own Aycliffe Ambassador on the Council, perhaps he can inform the electorate what the situation is, and if any of our Aycliffe representatives are part of the inner circle, if it exists. Peter Hardy.

Ambassador Replies:

The simple answer is no! There is no such controlling 'inner circle'. Labour policies for the County Council are decided by a democratic vote of the Labour Group of 96 Labour councillors. Decisions about the County Council budget are even more democratic, starting with a public consultation exercise and a couple of pre-meetings at which the Labour councillors explore options. Sometimes decisions are easy and unanimous ... at other times there is fierce debate. What defines Labour councillors, however, is that – after they have had their discussion and vote – they all then voluntarily go with the collective decision. Of course the Labour Group has its leaders, who have earned the respect of the Labour councillors. But the truth is that the leadership does as the Group decides, not the other way round. I have often said that there is a comfort in this for councillors. Before any Labour Party policy goes to Council, it has been dissected and tested by 96 minds. And I always feel that there is a presumptuous arrogance about Independents, who assume that their individual personal thoughts are correct. For residents, it assures them of stable local government, as Council decisions pass decisively. The truth about Labour councillors is not that we are told what to do, but that we WORK AS A TEAM, believing that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone. John D Clare

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Paul Kjenstad was first elected as Councillor in 2013 and from starting out as a novice, has gone on to become an active member of the Council adding many strings to his bow over the past 4 years. He came with a vast amount of experience as a school governor and Vice Chairman of Governors at a local primary school. It was here, and his passion to tackle some school traffic issues, that led him to stand as a Labour Councillor. In that same year, he went on to form and chair his own community based road management group with the intention of looking after the safety and wellbeing of the town's children when it comes to speeding and parking outside of school gates. This mission has gathered momentum over time, with some success. His job in a local supermarket ensures that he works closely alongside the residents of Great Aycliffe, keeping up to date with everything that goes on around town, constantly listening to people's views and opinions, and is ready to help whenever called upon. Paul will continue to be proactive and ensure that the best interests of the town and its residents are at the top of his agenda.

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Is This Poisonous?

Dear Sir,
I saw through your paper a lady warning dog owners of the fact that the vet had said her dog had been poisoned in Shafto area. I was walking my dog this morning and this is what I saw. I have these pieces of raw liver at home and the police are coming to get them to do tests, but I worry it may take some time to know the result. In the meantime I think people should be warned just in case.

A. Charlton
Editor: Small amounts of liver is OK for dogs, but large amounts can cause problems. However if it has been deliberately laced with poison and left for animals to eat, this is a serious matter.



Labour of Love



Malcolm and Sarah Iveson, both Labour Councillors for 22 years in Newton Aycliffe, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 15th April 2017.

To mark the occasion they received a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress, Jed and Wendy Hillary along with the Leader of the Town Council Bob Fleming.

Malcolm from Crook and Sarah from Stanley, met on the bus travelling to the Elite Dance Hall at the Civic Hall. After a four year courtship they were married in St. Cuthbert's R.C. Church in Crook followed by a Reception in the Masonic Hall.

Malcolm served an

apprenticeship in engineering and Sarah was in retail employed by W.E. Gill in Bishop Auckland where she rose to the position of China and Porcelain Buyer.

Malcolm worked for Westools, Smart & Brown before becoming Engineering Manager at Mono Containers in Durham until his retirement.

The couple lived in Stanley and moved to Wilkinson Road, Newton Aycliffe in 1977. Sarah took a job at Neville Parade Co-op store where she served for 21 years and was very popular with customers. They love the town for its natural environment and great facilities.

They had three children, Peter, Claire and an adopted niece Janet who unfortunately died in 2014. Peter has a partner, Jill and Claire lives in Daventry with her partner Kevin who is employed by Rolls Royce on very important projects. There are three grandchildren.

Sarah and Malcolm have been loyal Labour Councillors for many years. Malcolm served on Sedgfield Borough Council as a Cabinet Member and Sarah became Mayor of the Borough in 2007. Malcolm also served as Mayor, Deputy Leader and Leader on the Town Council.

Sarah has also served as Mayor on the Town Council and he completed 12 years as a County Councillor. Both are seeking re-election in the forthcoming Elections.

Malcolm's other interests include photography, glass engraving, fishing and bird watching. He is also a member of the town's Rotary Club. Sarah loves reading historical novels and decoupage.

The family arranged surprise meals over Easter weekend. Malcolm and Sarah received many messages of congratulations from their wide circle of friends which they appreciated.

No Case to Answer

Dear Sir,
I read somewhere that human intelligence is reckoned to be half a million years old, reading Aycliffe Reply you'd think it was still at the nappy stage. As Labour Cllr Derek Atkinson rightly said a few weeks ago, this is the dirtiest election campaign in decades. The anonymous Labour Gang of Four behind Aycliffe Reply obviously think that if they repeat lies enough times, people may believe them. I have usually found that the people who actually vote at elections read and understand a lot more than most politicians give them credit for, and can see through them.

Aycliffe Reply refer to a Northern Echo article, but what they don't say is that the Northern Echo, with its finest team of highly able investigative reporters, never repeated or followed up their article, why? ... because they were more than satisfied with the evidence and statements from key witnesses that there was no case to investigate.

Also they recognised from the leaked email that they were being manipulated by the Aycliffe Reply Labour Group within the Local Labour Party. This of course annoyed the hell

out of the politically corrupt "Aycliffe Reply". Their Leader who I call Mr T who was once a member of Militant Tendency, had once punched someone unconscious outside a working mens club, had an atrocious record of attendance in his one term on the County Council, and was a leading member of the "Trimdon Mafia" which ran the Constituency Party. No wonder they prefer not to identify themselves. He that does ill hates the light.

What Aycliffe Reply don't say is that they are also behind Labour putting a resident from Darlington up for the Town Council in Newton Aycliffe, purely on the grounds that he works in a shop in the town.

It is a funny world isn't it? Only the other day I was at County Hall Electoral Registration, and found out that the Aycliffe Reply Gang had tried to put forward another candidate, who recently moved back to Aycliffe allegedly, but who wasn't on the register to vote here nor did he meet any other grounds for standing and his application was rejected by the Electoral Registration Officer. Me, I put my faith in the residents.

Cllr Arun Chandran
Independent, West Ward

Aycliffe Family Bag Pack for Charity



Harrison Mason is 3 in July and is profoundly disabled with an undiagnosed genetic condition. The family have lived in Newton Aycliffe all their lives. Mum Hayley has three children, Harrison, the youngest, Jay (8) and daughter Maddison is 12.

Since it's Undiagnosed Children's Day on the 28th April they are all taking part in bag packing including friends and family at Tesco's on the 29th April from 12.00pm in aid of the charity SWAN (syndromes without a name) UK, to raise awareness of undiagnosed support groups and help others in situations like the Mason family. Hayley wishes to thank Tesco for their help and says they have been amazing towards her son. Contact number - 07766 490500

ELECTION ADDRESS

Alderman George Gray



I moved to Newton Aycliffe from Brandon in 1965 with my wife Maud. We have two daughters and a son. I have lived in Aycliffe West Ward for 52 years and served as a councillor for 27 of those years. In 1991-1992 was Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council, and in 2003-2004 Mayor of Sedgfield Borough Council.

I am asking for you to please VOTE for me as an experienced Councillor and if given the opportunity to serve I will continue to endeavour to help all residents of the West Ward as I have done for the last 27 years. I have a proven track record and have shown what can be achieved as a dedicated Councillor.

With confidence I offer myself to the Electors of Aycliffe West Ward. I have served on many Committees as a Councillor, being heavily involved in Education and lifelong learning. I am hugely active in voluntary and charitable work. I thank you for your votes in the past and hope that I can count on your continued support in the coming election. I have always worked with passion and dedication giving 100% commitment to my role at all times, honestly and reliably representing the best interests of the Ward at all times.

I am a volunteer for St John's Ambulance and attend other area divisions as President. I have served for many years as a custody visitor to detainees in Police Stations through the Home Office.

I attend Resident Association meetings including Silverdale

West Area and Acorn Residents Association.

I attended for 23 years Linden Residents' Association which disbanded last year a attending their monthly meetings. As an Alderman I attend the Durham County Council meetings at my own expense, also the local Police PACT meetings whenever they occur.

I have 100% attendance as a West Ward Member of Aycliffe Town Council and my pledges are as follows:

1. A SAFER WARD – with increased police presence to combat anti social behaviour and crime.
2. IMPROVEMENT to local roads and off street parking.
3. A STRONG experienced and politically independent voice within the County Council.
4. IMPROVING and protecting existing services within the ward for young people and the elderly.
5. A COMMITMENT to developing the local environment and the parks for the well being of all West Ward Residents.

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Inspirational Creative Writing Masterclass



Greenfield Arts are delighted to share the success of their recent creative writing masterclass with has been led by renowned local author John Dean. The two sessions got off to a great start and immediately attracted a keen circle of budding writers who enjoyed the opportunity of putting pen to paper and learning new writing skills. The class has also played an important part in unearthing hidden talents, through John's inspiration, participant Kathryn Palmer found the confidence to apply for a place on the 'writer's block' initiative and was thrilled to be selected for what promises to be an exciting journey.

Writers Block North East is a nine-month writer development programme which offers mentoring and advice from industry professionals and the exciting opportunity to work as writers in residence at the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA). The programme will also culminate in a showcasing event which will be attended by literary agents and gatekeepers. Greenfield's Art Centre Co-ordinator, Sophie Lewis was thrilled with the news, Sophie, who had highlighted

the opportunity to the group was very impressed with Kathryn's progress in such a short time. "It's great to know that Greenfield Arts are an integral part of creating real opportunities in the community, this is such good news we wish Kathryn all the best in her new venture and look forward to our new classes with John in the near future".

Novelist John Dean will be running two further masterclasses on Thursday 11th May and Thursday 15th June 6pm – 8pm, where he will again focus on plotting stories and creating characters. If you would like to know a little more about our creative writing and our recently released Community Learning Programme, including workshops and event, please check out our website on www.greenfield-arts.co.uk where you can now book online. Greenfield Arts will also be catching up with Kathryn in the future as they have been chosen to host a one-day conference organised by Writers Block in their purpose built art studio. "It is great to be so involved from start to finish" said Sophie Lewis "and we look forward to new writers being inspired in the future".

Situations VACANT

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The County, Aycliffe Village, Co. Durham DL5 6LX
Telephone: 01325 312 273
www.thecountyaycliffevillage.com

Aycliffe GNAAS Pilot Attacked by Laser Beam



The chief pilot of the region's air ambulance charity has warned against the dangers of laser strikes after his aircraft was targeted once more while returning from a rescue mission.

Captain Jay Steward, of the Great North Air Ambulance Service, was flying back from James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, to the charity's base at Durham Tees Valley Airport when a green laser beam was shone into the helicopter's cabin on Sunday evening.

The aircraft was preparing to land at the time and was at about 700ft when one of the aircrew spotted the laser beam being shone from the ground. The blinding beam lit up the aircraft repeatedly, presenting a serious risk to Captain Steward, who is a vastly experienced former military pilot, and his crew. He said: "It might all seem like fun and games from the ground, but I'm telling you it's no fun at 700ft, with a crew of dedicated medics on board, when the beam could be burning your retina and you are just trying your best to get everyone home safely."

The incident happened at about 9.25pm. As the crew were flying in darkness, Mr Steward had already briefed them about the possibilities of laser strikes, given that the crew were targeted in the area around James Cook University Hospital in November.

"It's a shame we are having to prepare our crews for laser strikes, but that's the world we are living in sadly," he said.

"I can't emphasise enough how dangerous this is. It causes temporary sight loss, which could quite feasibly cause the pilot to lose control of the aircraft. The consequences of that don't bear thinking about." It is thought the beam originated somewhere near the roundabout outside Tesco at Eaglescliffe.

Captain Steward from Newton Aycliffe added: "They are idiots and we would ask people if they see someone using a laser pen recklessly, to call the police."

The incident was reported to the police and aviation authorities. On this occasion, none of the aircrew suffered any damage to their eyesight. Meanwhile, the air

ambulance's aviation operators Multiflight are researching protective visors which could be introduced onto the aircraft when a suitable solution is found.

"As with everything we buy, the money from this will have to come from public donations," said Captain Steward.

The aircraft was returning to base from James Cook having flown a man from Kirkwhelpington, Northumberland, to the hospital with life-threatening head injuries. The man, believed in his twenties, was injured when the car he was driving collided with an HGV. He arrived in a stable condition.



Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership

Invitation to A.G.M.

GACAP held their regular monthly meeting at DISC offices on Monday. Just over a dozen partners attended all contributing to the meeting. Churches were working together along with Peter Driver representing Harvest Church who said, "I am new to the partnership, so it was a really fruitful meeting, I found out so much how partners were working and how they were interacting together. It's good to see that GACAP's partners are certainly achieving what the partnership was set up for, working together for the good of the community".

During the meeting all partners updated each other of the activities and events happening, from a giant Maypole Fun Day on 1st May to support from several churches with food and clothing and support for mums with babies to pamper days with clothing vouchers and Easter Egg hunts.

A report on support for people with alcohol related

problems with regular meetings held courtesy of Tesco's in their community room, made available to organisations in the town.

GACAP send out an invitation to all groups in the town who work to help disadvantaged people to join the partnership. the aim is to provide a cohesive service to talk and refer people to each other to ensure those needing help are fully informed and know where to receive attention.

Please come along to our AGM on Monday 24th April at 4pm and register: thereafter you can attend the monthly meetings at DISC premises next to the Blue Bridge on the first Monday of each month at 4pm, excluding Bank Holidays.

Partners are reminded they can have a fund raising stall in the Thames Centre free of charge. Contact the Secretary Joan Mitchie to arrange dates. E-mail: secretary.gacap@gmail.com

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1 Independent

Dear Sir,
In reply to Honest John's letter saying there is no Independent candidate standing in St Mary's and Shafto Ward - there is one and that is myself - Brian Haigh! There are five Labour people standing and myself as Independent. If there is no party name next to my name on the ballot sheet this means no party therefore Independent.
Brian Haigh



At our March meeting we held our annual Silent Auction with a soup and scone supper and a chance to have a good chat.

In April we had a craft evening working on decorations for our new banner which is for the Durham County Centenary Celebrations at Beamish Museum.

This will mark the founding of Durham W.I. in August 1917 and Centenary events are underway at local W.I.'s over the County.

In March the W.I. launched the sale of specially commissioned Centenary Cheese.

If you are interested in joining come along to St. Clare's Church Hall at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

You will be made most welcome and meet ne friends. For more details please ring Helen on 01325 315017.

Local Engineering Company Design REME Presentation Gift

It has long been a tradition in the Army that officers and soldiers leaving a unit are dined out by their peers and receive a symbolic gift to mark their service.

Presentation gifts can take many forms, but should be representative of the unit and the role that it plays within the wider army.

On Friday 7th April Lieutenant Colonel Nick Moore received delivery of the Battalion's new Officers' Mess presentation, which will be presented to officers at the end of their service or on posting to a new unit.

The presentation gift is a uniquely designed letter opener that represents an anchor pin, a piece of equipment in daily use by REME recovery mechanics and forms part of the battalion's "sprocket" motif.

The new presentation piece was based on an idea by the Commanding Officer, who in conjunction with Oliver Bignall a designer from The Bignall Group, Shildon



C.O. Lt. Col. Nick Moore with Bignall M.D. Steven Pugh

created the finished piece and stand in beautifully machine tooled aluminium.

The first of the presentations were awarded to Major Chris Prince on retirement and

Captain Joe Lee on posting, at the Officers' Mess Dinner held at the Aycliffe Armoury on Saturday 8th April.

The picture shows the Commanding Officer receiving the first of the presentations from Steven Pugh the Managing Director at Bignall Group against the backdrop of the Battalion's sprocket motif.

The Bignall Group founded by John Bignall in 1976 is a £3m turnover, family owned, engineering company which has been successfully exporting to 14 countries and holds multiple international patents.

They produce a unique range of products designed and developed by the Bignall family. This innovation permeates across everything we do to make our client's world better.

"We are a genuine local employer, with over 70% of our workforce living within a few miles.

The company also works with local schools and colleges to give something back to the next generation; whilst supporting our workforce with continued training and career opportunities" said Steve Pugh.

Ebac Start Selling Washing Machines in the Midlands

Leading North East manufacturer Ebac has recruited an experienced sales professional to support the expansion of its washing machine sales into the Midlands.

With more than thirty years industry experience, most recently at Hotpoint where he worked for over a decade Richard Foster has joined the Ebac family as a Sales Development Manager.

During his career he has established a real drive and vision for the UK white goods market and as a member of the Ebac team, he sees the brand firmly placed at the centre of that vision, as a future industry leader.

Richard is confident that he can work alongside the company to help it achieve continued success, he said: "This is a really exciting opportunity to work with a new name in the white goods industry, and help develop the business into a household name. One which will not



Richard Foster

washing machines, and the company's well-established dehumidifiers.

Richard is confident that he can work alongside the company to help it achieve continued success, he said: "This is a really exciting opportunity to work with a new name in the white goods industry, and help develop the business into a household name. One which will not

only be linked to quality dehumidifiers, but also safe, reliable British made washing machines".

Ebac became the first company in more than two decades to bring back the manufacture of British made washing machines last year.

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

Ebac's washing machines join an established stable of electrical goods. It is Europe's leading manufacturer of bottled watercoolers and domestic dehumidifiers and with the recent acquisition of the Norfrost brand, it is also growing sales in the laundry and refrigeration sectors.

Tony Hird, business development manager at Ebac, said: "Richard is a great addition to our washing machine team. "His experience at Hotpoint will be invaluable as we continue to move into new markets across the UK. There is a real appetite for British-made products and the Ebac washing machines are being well-received by both retailers and consumers."

Aycliffe Company Help Town Foodbank



Just before Easter the Foodbank at St. Clare's had a very large donation of Easter eggs, food and toiletries from Mediquip on the Business Park. It was organised by Ellice Orr, Simon Cook and Sarah Galashan. They Company have also taken away one of our donation bins as they wish to continue to support people in need in Newton Aycliffe.

Alison Firby and Kath Pinner have taken over from Ernie Temple as the Foodbank Coordinators and would like to thank The staff at Mediquip for their very kind donation and continued support.

Ernie and June Temple are leaving the town to be near their relatives and they were thanked for their hard work at a recent GACAP meeting

Aycliffe Vintage & Classic Vehicle Show



On 13th and 14th May The Northern Bygones Society are holding there annual Vintage and Classic car show and model display, the models will be inside the building at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

The Vintage and Classic vehicles will be at the rear of the building, if anyone would like to either show there models or show there vintage and classic vehicles don't hesitate to ring or text Paul on 07968 367438. It is free to show your exhibits and for the public to come and view them between 10.00am and 3.00pm both days.

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AYCLIFFE TEENAGE BOXER JOINS ENGLAND SQUAD

James Le Poidevin (16) from Aycliffe Boxing Club has made it onto the England Junior Boxing Club and last weekend he represented his country at Rotherham in the Tri Nations tournament where he won a Silver medal. On the 16th April he competed in Liverpool in the Final of the National Junior Championships and again won Silver only losing by a very narrow split decision. James has been boxing since he was 10 and has won five consecutive Tyne, Tees & Wear

titles taking him to the National Finals four times where he became National Champion twice. James is in action again on Friday 28th April at Aycliffe WMC where his Club present an evening of Olympic style boxing. For tickets contact Les Gibson on 01325 313855. £10 in advance - £13 on the door. Aycliffe Boxing Club is open to all - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 6-7pm - Juniors; 7-8pm - adults. Saturday: 10am - 12 noon. £2.50p per session.



Running Club News



Club runners at the Hartlepool Marina

On a bright and sunny Saturday on 25th March, Trish Kay took part in Coniston 14. The 14 mile road race is a lovely scenic, undulating course around the Lake at Coniston. Trish, who is trying to get back after a bad injury, completed the course in 02:00:36. On Sunday 26 March the final race in the Tees Trail 5k winter series took place at Ropner Park, on a glorious day! First back for the club and 3rd overall was John Surtees in 17.03, next was Mark Wade in 17.33, 3rd female overall was Michelle Jane in 20.44, followed by Dave Blewitt in 21.39 and John Burnside in 22.11. Series prizes were awarded to John Burnside for 1st Over 60 male and Dave Blewitt for 3rd Over 50 male. On Sunday 9th April 18 members turned out for the Hartlepool Marina 5 mile

race. A flat fast course running 2.5 miles to the end of the promenade and 2.5 miles back. First Home for the club and 12th overall was John Surtees in a time of 28.22, closely followed by Dez Fielden in 28.37, Mark Wade in 29.53, Peter Milburn in 31.10, Richard Campbell in 31.46. Michelle Jane was first female back for Aycliffe and 8th female overall in 33.48. Next in was Dave Blewitt in 35.02, Michelle Zamir in 36.25, Alan Wilks in 37.21, Michael Brunskill in 38.40, Sandra Collins in 39.33, Trish Kay in 39.57, Susan Milburn in 42.37, Rob Nicholson in 42.32, Heather Fenwick in 43.05, Denise Evans in 45.53, Donna Campbell in 49.58 and Ray Todd in 56.21. Age category prizes were awarded to Dez Fielden, Peter Milburn, Alan Wilks and Trish Kay.

ELECTION ADDRESS

Bill Blenkinsopp



I was born and bred in Aycliffe Village and an elected councillor for 30 years, always trying to do a good job for the people I represent. I will not be knocking on doors and making promises I cannot keep, but I will promise to always do my very best to solve problems you may have in the future. I think my record representing Aycliffe Village to date speaks for itself, having also been County Councillor for Aycliffe East in the past. I played a leading role in reviving Neville Parade Community Centre after it came close to bankruptcy, and it is now a first class venue for all the Neville community to enjoy. I would also like to reassure Neville Parade area residents, that if I am elected I will endeavour to do what you want, and not what the ruling party who think they know better might want. This year's major achievement in my opinion was to keep Aycliffe Village separate from Newton Aycliffe in the neighbourhood plan. I can be contacted on 01325 78893 and if elected will do the job to the best of my ability

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Victims of crime in Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington are being urged to take advantage of a free confidential support service provided by Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), one year since it began. Funded by Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger and Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg, VCAS helps victims make positive steps in their

lives after becoming a victim of crime. Since it was launched in April 2016, VCAS has reached out to almost 4000 victims, with over 1000 accessing intensive one-to-one support. They provide support for crimes ranging from significant school bullying through to serious assaults and robbery. Each victim has a case worker who provides them with access to the best support available to them, from a range of public and voluntary

sector organisations. As well as supporting the victim, Victim Care and Advice Service also provide advice and support to the victim's family and friends. Barry Coppinger said: "VCAS has a strong team of staff committed to improving and developing the service provided to local victims. I have been impressed with the work so far and feedback from victims has been positive. I hope people will make use of the service in the

future as it is there to help." Ron Hogg said: "Ensuring victims of crime receive the best possible service is at the heart of my Police, Crime and Victims' Plan. The service helps a victim, and their family or friends, to cope during a traumatic time in their lives. I encourage anyone affected by crime in our area to contact VCAS, so they can benefit from the free support available to them."

Dave Mead, Team Leader at Victim Care and Advice Service, said: "It has been a privilege to meet with and support people who have fallen victim to crime across the Cleveland area. We are constantly impressed with the courage, decency and humour displayed by many of our clients when coping with the initial impact of the crime, through to their ultimate recovery. I would also like to thank our partner organisations who work alongside us to deliver a high-quality service and I would ask anyone who is struggling to cope with the impact of crime to get in touch." If you've been a victim of crime and need support, you can visit the VCAS website on www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk/ or call them on 0303 0401 099.

Easter Fun & Games

On Monday 17th Little ACORNS held their annual Easter Egg Hunt, and even the wet Easter Sunday didn't dampen their spirits with youngsters and parents turning out for a bit of fun to burn off some chocolate. The little ones loved hunting around in the grassy areas of West park looking for our plastic eggs that had been hidden (some a little too well) to exchange for chocolate ones. When they had found all the eggs they started with the races: egg and spoon, skipping rope, running, sack and piggy back racing going down a treat. The youngsters had the most fun watching the parent races where the competitive ones



let their hair down. The hour flew by and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. A big thank you to the parent group

ACORN for supplying the funding for the event and to all those who turned up for the event.

FLOWER DEMO

At the eagerly awaited Open Meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday 8th May at 7.30pm National Demonstrator, Coral Gardiner, will present an evening of flower arranging entitled Nature's Palette - an evening not to be missed for those who love flowers and the delights of observing an expert at the height of her creative powers. Members £5 Visitors £8 (pay on the door)



Thanks to Mr and Mrs Bennett for their donation of £20 handed in at Newton Press offices.

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ROMAN WINS QUEEN'S AWARD



Roman Staff celebrating The Queens Award for Enterprise for International Trade

Newton Aycliffe based, designer and manufacturer, leading international shower Roman, have received

The Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade.

Roman, has shown a substantial and sustained increase in export earnings over three consecutive 12 month periods, to a level which is outstanding. The Queen's Award for Enterprise is the most prestigious corporate accolade that a UK business can win.

Roman design and manufacture Shower Enclosures and Solid Surface products for the bathroom at their headquarters in Newton Aycliffe. Roman has three manufacturing plants; for Shower Enclosures, Bath Screens and Wetrooms; for Solid Surface Fabrication of vanity units, basins and bathroom structures; and for moulding Solid Surface Shower Trays. The international market leader also has established subsidiaries in Ireland and Malaysia.

The Queen's Award is made on the advice of the Prime Minister after examination of applications by an Advisory Committee composed of leading individuals from industry, commerce, trade unions and government. The awards are conferred by her Majesty the Queen on her birthday – 21st April.

As part of The Queen's Award Roman will be invited by the Queen to attend a celebratory ceremony held at Buckingham Palace. There will also be a ceremony held at Roman Headquarters where a presentation will be made by The Queen's representative, the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham.

Roman has achieved such a strong position in the market place by consistent and creative product innovation and has produced significant growth across all UK Market sectors and in the past 5 years, strong growth in International Markets.

Roman's manufacturing capability and vast range of products has made the Brand increasingly strong in key International Markets. Currently Roman is active in 28 International Markets and has supplied products for Projects in over 50 Markets across the World from County Durham. Roman was recently highlighted by the FT as one of the 1000 fastest growing Companies in Europe.

Phil Wilson, MP, commented: "Roman winning the Queen's Award is brilliant news for the business and the people who work there. The Award is also excellent news for Newton Aycliffe, County Durham and the North East of England. The local community in Aycliffe can be really proud another company on the business park, the largest in the North East, is helping to put the town on the map."

David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman, commented: "Our sustained investment, patience and belief over the last 10 years in developing our international markets has proved a great success and for this to be recognised in such a way is a very proud achievement.

We have developed unique capabilities which has in turn created so many opportunities with major International Hotel Groups. To receive this award so soon after returning from three fantastic international exhibitions during (including ISH Frankfurt) just adds to the excitement and success."

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Public Notice

DONATIONS needed of Brica-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John 316 630

REME Association South West Durham Branch monthly meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 26th April 2017 in the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe. All serving and ex-serving REME personnel welcome.

Weddings

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

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1.6 Petrol. First registered December 2009, two owners. M.O.T March 2018. Also had the recall complete by Vauxhall (Sherwoods in Darlington) for the heater. Nearly 99,000 miles. Just paid over £500 and had new timing belt / fan belt, (needed doing at 100,000 miles, so will last for years to come). Installed a non Vauxhall Stereo with Bluetooth Hands Free, CD Player, MP3 Player, DVD Player, Sat Nav, USB Connectivity, Reverse Camera. Also installed Cruise Control. Original Vauxhall stereo is also included. Front tyres replaced in last 6 months. Starts first time, drives well, recently valeted. Some minor marks on paintwork where been knocked by car doors etc. £1999 ovno. Please call Rob on 07841 867170.

Nearly 95% Obtain First Choice Primary School Place

More than 5,000 children in County Durham have received a place at one of their chosen primary schools for September

2017. This year 94.8 per cent of applicants were placed in their first choice primary school, an increase on last

year's figure of 93.4 per cent. Caroline O'Neill, Durham County Council's Head of Education, said: "We know that for parents, the decision of where to send their children to primary is a big one and so we are delighted to be able to offer so many of them their first choice schools. "In County Durham we have many good primary schools, which are

exceeding the national averages for educational standards and attainment meaning the choice of excellent schools in Durham has never been as high." Of the 5,380 applications made, 5,098 pupils (94.8 per cent) have been offered their first choice school, 210 children (3.9 per cent) their second choice, and 24 (0.4 per cent) their third choice. Only 48 children (0.9 per cent) were not able to be offered a place at one of their three preferred schools, but have been offered a place at another school as close to their home as possible.

Births

Eddie



Congratulations to Amy and Steve on the birth of your beautiful Son, "Eddie", weighing 5lb 8oz on 19th April. Love, SJ, Craig, Madison, Mackenzie and Cayden xxx

60 Years Membership of Heighington W.I.



At our Annual General Meeting last week our President Karin Allison presented one of our members Jessie Craggill with an Afternoon Tea voucher for Wynyard Hall in recognition of her 60 years as a member of Heighington W.I. Anne Linton presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7.30pm in Heighington Village Hall where we have interesting speakers, demonstrations and plenty of chat. All ladies welcome. Further details contact Val Haworth, Secretary. 01325 311934

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The Kind People of Newton Aycliffe

Dear Sir,
I would like to give thanks in Newton News to several kind individuals for the help they gave us recently. The first people I'd like to thank are a couple who were driving a black Ford Kuga on Burnhill Way who

stopped as my Ford Focus had ground to a halt.

The gentleman, who had a top on which said 'Security' even went under the bonnet to see if it was a fuel issue and when the car still wouldn't start, after putting the fuel filter assembly back together, both he and his partner both helped me push my wounded car into The Turbinia car park.

The problem was caused by dirty fuel from a local garage which clogged my fuel lines and required the tank and fuel lines to be cleaned out. All is well now. The second set of people I'd like to thank are a lady with a black Vauxhall Corsa and a member of staff from Lloyds Pharmacy on Pease Way. My wife had taken ill with a really bad migraine. Her type of migraines are called Hemiplegic Migraines which cause full paralysis. My plan was to get my wife to the Pharmacy then run home to get my car, however the lady from the Pharmacy offered to call a taxi and look after us but the lovely lady with the Corsa, from Silkin Way, gave us a lift home.

We were humbled to find this remarkable lady has serious health issues herself. My wife and I are eternally grateful for the outstanding kindness shown by these lovely people. So often, good deeds are done without recognition but I wanted these people to know they really helped us in a really difficult situation. Darran and Lisa Weston
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3 BEDROOM semi-detached house for rent in Woodham Village. Rent £550 pcm, bond £550. Telephone Clare on 07841 017815 for more details.

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Aycliffe Dancers Streets Ahead in National Finals

Pupils from South Durham School Of Dance have recently taken part in the Nationwide IDTA Street Dance Finals in Stoke and have achieved some outstanding results!

After previously qualifying to represent the region, students, Abbie Kennedy, Anna Shaw, Alicia Simpson, Andrea Menzies, Molly Ross, Alesha Ross, Layla Thompson, Drew Shaw and Hollie O'Connor went on to dance in various categories of this nationwide final, dancing against hundreds of other dancers all representing their part of the UK. The competition was fierce, with students dancing in lots of heats due to the large number of competitors taking part.

Caroline Race, the principal of South Durham School of Dance spoke highly of her students, 'I am so proud of what my students have achieved and it goes to show that with a lot of dedication, hard work and effort, you can achieve and be rewarded for your efforts. They really are a talented bunch and they have all made me so proud.'

If anyone is interested in joining South Durham School of Dance they have classes for everyone starting from 3 years of age and above, in

Street, Freestyle, Lyrical and Slow, Ballet, Tap, Acro and Flexibility. They have also recently started a Musical Theatre class and also offer private lessons in dancing and singing along with an Insanity Fitness class for adults.

The dance school also offers students the opportunity to take part in IDTA dancing exams and dancing competitions in both IDTA and ADFP as well as opportunities to perform on the stage in theatre



productions.

If you are interested and would like more information, contact Caroline on 07949 911642 or go to the South Durham School of Dance Facebook page.

In Memoriam

Derrick Nelson

18th April 2015

A cherished Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Remembered always by Valerie & Michael, Elizabeth and Kathryn, Allan and David, Jacob, Bronwyn, Theo and Dylan.

Today, tomorrow, our whole lives through, we will forever love and remember you.

MAUREEN YOUNG In loving memory of Maureen, died 20th April 2003. From Husband Paul; Son Mark; Daughters Paula, Claire and Grandchildren Kai, Katie, Ben. Always in our thoughts. God bless.

CHRISTINE ROBSON 25th April. A much loved and sadly missed Wife, Mother, Nana, Sister, Mother-in-Law and Aunt. 20 years and seems like only yesterday. All our love xxx

LOL HUNTER In loving memory of Lol, died 25th April 2014. Never forgotten. Love, Jeff, Lynn and family

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Treasured memories of a dearly loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Loved and remembered always. Love from Susan, Michelle, Kevin, Lisa and families xxxxx

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Treasured memories of a loving Dad and Grandad. Loved and remembered always. Sandra, Michael and Gemma xxx

DENNIS GARTLAND Died 27th April 2014. Although you left a while ago, sometimes throughout the year, just for a fleeting moment, I forget that you are not here. Not here to share a cosy chat, or give me sound advice. To ask about the things I've planned, and if my day was nice. That's why my life doesn't seem the same. So when your's had to end, the world lost someone wonderful and I lost my best friend. Love you Dennis. Your loving Wife, Irene xxxxx

DENNIS GARTLAND Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad. We never ask for miracles, but today just one would do. To see the front door open and for you to walk through. We'd throw our arms around you, so many things we'd say. For you are the reason we've become who we are today. Miss you. Love from all of us xxxxx

ANN BATCHELOR. 22 years and it feels like yesterday that we had to say goodbye. The best Mum, Wife, Sister and friend and so desperately missed! All our love from husband Geoff, daughters Amanda, Leslea, son in law Allan, and your beautiful grandchildren, Joe, Emma, Christian and Emil who never had the joy of knowing you!

Birthday Remembrance

TONY DOBSON 26th April 1972. Happy birthday Tony. Love and miss you every day from Mam and Dad

TONY DOBSON Happy birthday young 'un, always my Brother, always my hero. Never forgotten. There's too much to remember. Always with me. Bryan

TONY DOBSON Happy birthday Uncle Tony. Love and miss you always. Jason, Kieran and Kathleen

TONY DOBSON Happy birthday Kidda. Love, John, Andrew, Jack and Morgan

TONY DOBSON I'll have a drink for you mate. Tommy

TONY DOBSON 26th April 1972. Another birthday without you, but I know you will be having a drink up there. Missed by lots. Love, Leanne

TONY DOBSON 26th April 1972. Happy Birthday, don't be getting too drunk up there. Miss you millions. Love, Amber and Courtney

JULIE DALTON (nee Fulbrook). 19th April 1957. No birthday cards to send on your 60th birthday. No gifts to show we care. Lots of beautiful memories of a special Sister to cherish forever. Lots of love, John, Margery and family

Obituary

McLEAN, Leslie, peacefully at home on 10th April, following a short battle with cancer. Les, aged 66 years, from Newton Aycliffe and later in Otley. Dearly loved Dad and Grandad; greatly loved Brother of Roy, Brian, Sylvia and the late Vincent. Missed by many family and friends. Funeral to be held on Friday 21st April in St. Clare's Church at 11.00am followed by a private cremation. All welcome at the British Legion (Phoenix Club) following the Service. Family flowers only please. Donations welcome for Cancer Research.

HORNSBY, Isobel of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully at Lindsifarne Care Home on 17th April, aged 83 years. A much loved Wife, Mam and Granny. Will family and friends please meet for a Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Wednesday 26th April at 1.15pm.

WENDY ANN MILLER 10th April 2017. Peacefully slipped away at Darlington Memorial Hospital, aged 74 years. Much loved Mother of Mandy, Hayley and Daryl; a Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Loved by all that knew her. Funeral to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 25th April at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donation in lieu, if desired, to the British Lung Foundation

JOAN JACKSON (nee Cummings). Peacefully on 13th April. Joan, aged 82 years. Much loved Mam of Dominic and Valerie; treasured Nanny Joan, Great Nanny and great friend of Carole. Funeral Service and cremation to take place on Monday 24th April at 2.00pm in Wear Valley Crematorium. Friends please meet at crematorium. Flowers or donations to Arthritis Action please.

Thank You

THANK YOU to the Town Cleaner who kindly took the time to phone my Wife on finding my lost wallet in a waste bin. Although the money was gone, cards and driving license still there. Many thanks.

Emily Cook



22nd April
13th Birthday

You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide. And though we cannot see you, you are always by our side. Happy 13th birthday Emily. Love always, Mam, Wayne, Holly and Morgan xxx
Good night, sleep tight, I love you more than last night.

Happy 13th birthday to my beautiful star! Your loving presence we miss, your beautiful memory we will treasure. Loving you our Emily, and forgetting you never. Love you to the moon and back, Nanna and Grandad xxxx

Our Cousin, our Niece, a lady we are pleased to call our own. A teenager you couldn't have been, but a treasured family member you will always be. From being by our side to always being in our hearts. You watch from the Heavens above as we remember you on your special day. We will always love you, our Em! Auntie Caroline, Uncle Michael, Cousins Thomas and Michael xxxx

If roses grow in Heaven, please pick one for me. Place it in my Emily's hand and say this one is from me. Happy 13th birthday Emily. Love from Auntie Nicola xxx

Gentle Jesus up above, please give Emily a great big hug. Happy birthday Em! Love and miss you. Lesley, Brian and family xxxx

Happy birthday to our brave superstar. Dance with your new angel wings now. Love always, Vicki and Dave xxx

Wanted

WANTED Household furniture. Tel 07860 560295

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WANTED Wheelchair. Tel 07733 126179

WANTED Calor gas heater (portable). Tel 01325 321960

Congratulations

Malcolm & Sarah Iveson



Golden Wedding Anniversary

15th April 2017

Congratulations on the occasion of your 50th Wedding Anniversary. Hoping you share many more years together. Love and best wishes, Bill and family

Laura & Lee Docherty (Ainslie)



Congratulations to Laura and Lee on your Wedding on 16th April, 2017. We wish you every happiness as you begin your new life together. With all our love, Mam, Dad and Ellie xxxx

Chloe Stoker



Happy 18th Birthday

Looking forward to celebrating at the weekend with you. From Mam and boys

CHLOE STOKER Happy 18th, love you lots. Gran, Auntie Leanne, Reece and Lucas

CHLOE STOKER Happy 18th birthday Chloe. Love you lots. Auntie Amanda, Uncle Tony, Luke and Jessica

CHLOE STOKER Happy 18th birthday to our beautiful Granddaughter. We have watched you grow from a cute little bundle into the gorgeous lady you are now. All our love, Nana and Grandad

CHLOE STOKER Happy birthday Chloe. From Nana Lily. Enjoy your day xxx

CHLOE STOKER Happy 18th birthday Chloe. From all your Aunties, Uncles and Cousins xx

For Sale

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

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

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

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Acknowledgement

SYLVIA THOMAS I would like to thank all my family for a lovely birthday meal and special cake. Also all my friends, old and new, for my cards, flowers and presents on my birthday. You all mean the world to me.

ARMSTRONG Joan and Colin would like to thank everyone for the kind words of condolence, cards and flowers received on the passing of Mum Sheila. Special thanks to Dr. Stephenson, the Coronary Care Unit at Darlington, Father Whalen and Colin from the Co-op Funeralcare. All of whom ensured Mum received the best care. Very special thanks to Dorothy, Paddy and Lyndsey, you were there for us throughout what has been a very sad time in our lives.



AYCLIFFE'S KARATE KIDS SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS EVENT



Well done to the youngest members of Zanshin-Kai Karate, who all successfully gained their new belts recently: Blue Belt 5th Mon: Maddison Fenton, Martha Noble, Adam Smith, Emma Smith and Jonah Harrop
Green Belt 6th Mon: Ollie Fleming, Ellis Fleming, Sammy Lake, Miley Simpson, Cory Mitchell, Erin Sutherland and Lola Giudice.
Yellow Belt 8th Mon: Travis Alton, Maisie Cochrane, Connor Clark and Zac Hill
Red belt 9th Mon: James Henderson, Emma Henderson and Joshua Henderson

AYCLIFFE F.C. DRAW PUTS THEM IN 9th PLACE

Aycliffe gained a point at home to Bishop Auckland with a 1-1 draw. They got off to a great start when Ben Wood struck a sweet shot into the corner on 5 minutes, following good work by Jamie Owens.

On 19 minutes, Aaron Brown did well to get on the end of a free-kick, but narrowly missed the far post with his shot. Aycliffe made a couple of goal-line clearances on 21 minutes to keep the score at 1-0. However, Bishops got another chance on 30 minutes, when Aycliffe failed to clear their lines and as the ball bounced around

in the penalty box, Jury was first to the ball to prod home. Aycliffe pressed and Owens had a couple of chances, but put a header and a shot over the bar. Half-time 1-1. Owens had 2 further chances on the hour, but again put the ball over the bar on each occasion. Aycliffe had a let-off on 71 minutes when a curling shot from Bishops centre-forward Ward just missed the upright.

Then it was Aycliffe's turn to be unlucky when an Owens shot came back off the post. Then it was Bishop's turn to have a

chance, but Hoganson skied his free-kick from a good position. The result leaves Aycliffe in 9th place, with 2 games remaining.

Next match is away to North Shields on Saturday 22nd April. The last game of the season is at home to Morpeth on Tuesday 25th April.

Football fans may also be interested in watching the Durham FA under 18s Cup Final at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on Friday 21st April at 7.15pm. This will be between Bishop Auckland St Mary's and Durham County Youth.

Greenfield students celebrated World Table Tennis day on Thursday 6th April 2017, by organising a Primary School Table Tennis event for local Primary Schools in Newton Aycliffe.

Greenfields Year 8 (Youth Sport Trust Elite Athlete Programme) Sport Leaders planned and ran a fantastic event for our local Primary Schools.

The leaders included five year 8 girls who attended the Level 3 County Finals recently on the 26th March (Pictured right). In the County Finals the girls took bronze after some outstanding performances, including drawing four matches all with the eventual winners Bishop Barrington.

Leading up to the Primary School World Table Tennis day event, over ninety local students attended a five week introduction to table tennis in five week block since September.

Well done to Byerley Park Year 5 who finished in first place and St Josephs class 4 who finished runners up after a number of very close matches.

Head coach Matthew Porter was very impressed with the standard of co-ordination demonstrated by the youngsters involved, he commented that it is very usual to see such a high level of performance in Primary School events. He hopes to see a number of these up and coming young stars at the local club which is being relaunched after Easter. Well done to all who took part and to the Year 8



(Year 4 & 5 Table Tennis players from St Josephs and Byerley Park pictured with Andrew Green and Matthew Porter)



(Year 8 Leaders with Andrew Green, National U18 Wheelchair Basketball Champion and Matthew Porter Head Coach Bishop Auckland and Greenfield Table Tennis Club)

leaders who did an amazing job to organise and run such a major event.

Greenfield Community Table Tennis Club is being re-launched on Monday 24th April 4.30 to 5.30 with Matthew Porter. Come along and join in the fun and success. As a consequence of this opportunity, the college is delighted to have three nationally ranked players. Haydon Gilmour (Yr 9), Emma Smith (Yr 10) and Connor Elston (Yr 11). Everyone interested in

Table Tennis is welcome to attend the launch. All ages are welcome from junior to adult. Our local Primary schools students are

particularly welcome. For more information contact Luke (Facility manager) on 07879 117224 after 4.30 Monday to Friday.

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Greenfield Year 8 Girls Team & Sedgfield Champions with Bronze medals at the Level 3 County School games

KEEP OUR CRAFT CLUB

Dear Sir

I write in the hope you may be able to help a small community of Ladies and Gentlemen keep together who attend a crafts club in Newton Aycliffe Library.

The club enables people including disabled to learn new craft skills, but it fell off, as the lady who set it up from Durham County Council was not able to commit to arranging projects.

This was a disappointment to a lot of learner crafters dependent on someone that could teach on a Tuesday afternoon from 2-4pm. We feel very sad that this club has declined in numbers not because of the lack of interest in learning a new skill, but because they need Volunteer Crafters that have spare time on the hands to pass on their skill. People need this club to make and keep their friends.

May I also request if there is anyone who has crafting materials to donate they would be gratefully accepted as this is a great help for those on a low income.

Ms Marie Darci

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