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Week Ending 26th May 2017

# Newton News

Incorporating "The Newtonian" - Aycliffe & District Community Newspaper  
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## Aycliffe Garage Supports MRI Scanners Appeal



The family owners of Ramsey's Garage on Aycliffe Business Park have pledged support for the Darlington and Bishop Auckland Hospitals MRI Scanner Appeal.

They want to get behind this community project which will bring untold benefits to the whole area

and are contributing money from each MOT Test they complete at their garage. Syd Howarth Editor of Newton News and a member of the fundraising NHS Trust Committee visited Jill, and her two sons Ian and Elliot to discuss the project and they were delighted to be part of the appeal, seeing the many advantages the two new scanners will bring to patients in our area.

The new modern, most up-to-date Philips equipment can detect Prostate and Bowel Cancer without invasive biopsies. They are also more efficient, bigger, less stressful for patients, and produce clearer images than the 18 year old equipment currently in use.

On hearing how the new

scanners will also save the NHS Trust a £1 million a year, Ramseys agreed it was a "No Brainer" and encourage others to get on board and donate to the £2.5m appeal. Every penny helps and local organisations and businesses are requested to support the appeal. Contact Syd on 300212. E-mail: syd@newtonnews.co.uk The Charity Committee have visited various venue to give a presentation on the Appeal. If your club or business wish to receive more details or a talk on the benefits the new equipment will bring to our area please contact Fiona Todd, Darlington Memorial Hospital the Trust Charity Admin Support Assistant Tel: 01325 74 3781 Email: ftodd2@nhs.net

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## Northern Soul and Return of Years Gone By

The Scout Centre is hosting a Northern Soul Night on Saturday the 3rd of June at 7:30pm. Admission is £3 payable on the door. Northern Soul will be a regular event at the Scout Centre dates will be published on our Facebook page.

On the Saturday 17th of June we have the return of 'YEARS GONE BY' - fantastic singers and cabaret comedy act. They are on stage at 8pm. They entertained us last year and are back by popular demand. YEARS GONE BY are one of, if not the premier duo in the North of England. Bringing you the very best in hits from the 60's to the 90's, along with audience participation and a sprinkling

of real cabaret comedy. Featuring tributes to Elvis and Freddie, they also include props and costume changes and an excellent light show to deliver classics from the biggest acts to go on stage. The Beatles to Bryan Adams, The Shadows, Meatloaf and many more. This duo will provide a fantastic night of family entertainment. Tickets are £4 adults and £3 for children, and are available in advance at NASSA Social Club, The Scout Centre, Bluebell Way Newton Aycliffe, or if there are any left, on the door. Our social club is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings and from 12:30pm at weekends - new members always welcome.

## MOBILE ART EXHIBITION

A new art installation will be making its way around County Durham over the coming months as the County Council adopts a new approach to exhibiting art. P's in a Pod, created by artist Louise Plant, features three cast iron sculptures, which are arranged differently depending on their surroundings.

It started its journey at Noses Point, Seaham, with a special launch on Thursday, 25 May, before moving on to Wharton Park, Durham; Bishop Auckland Market Place and finally Hamsterley Forest in April 2018.

Durham County Council commissioned Louise to create the work as part its new approach to the visual arts, which sees works being sited in community locations rather than being displayed in conventional gallery spaces. Lucy Jenkins, Durham County Council's visual arts manager, said: "Placing artworks outdoors and within our communities will



not only make them more accessible to the public, it also enables us to look at them in a different way. The artwork will officially open to the public on Saturday, 3 June, with a free

family event taking place at Noses Point between 11am and 3pm. As well as exploring P's in a Pod, visitors of all ages will be able to take part in a range of activities, including mask-making, improvised drama, a treasure trail and the chance to create their own sculpture using mini P's. Activities will be based in a marquee and toilet facilities will be provided.

The P's, each of which weighs about a tonne and measures one metre cubed, were made at Hargreaves Foundry in Halifax, where works by Angel of the North creator Antony Gormley have also been cast. Although all three are roughly the same shape - five separate limbs joined together at the centre - there are subtle differences between them, giving the work the theme 'the same but different'.

The pieces are also intended to embody a sense of freedom and adventure. The installation, funded by Arts Council England and County Durham Foundation, will be accompanied by a programme of educational sessions in local schools.

As well as helping children explore the artwork, visiting artists will use dance, drama, music and the visual arts to consider issues such as personal rights and responsibilities, other people's lives and challenging stereotypes.

## JUMPING FOR JOY



Before the Easter holidays, Woodham Academy students were given the opportunity to celebrate their hard work, excellent attendance and behaviour by going on a trip to Infinte Air, Durham. They all enjoyed a 2 hour jump session on the trampolines, working in small groups with a qualified instructor.

Throughout the session, students worked in different areas including jumping into a giant foam pit, playing dodgeball and jumping from different platforms and heights. Headteacher, Mrs Forsyth, believes it is vitally important to reward students for their hard work, dedication and effort.

This contributes to a positive school environment, ultimately driving students to reach their goals and raising aspirations. Throughout the school year, students will have the opportunity to access a rewards trip at Christmas, Easter and summer.

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## Bullies are Cowards

Dear Sir,  
My Grandson was attacked by a bully and his mates on Saturday 13th May. This was not an odd incident as it has been ongoing for a long time.

He cannot go to the local shop because this where the cowardly gang hang out and always have a go at him. He had to leave Greenfield College due to threats in and out of school on his way home.

He was distressed and it interfered with his lessons. If anything happened he got the blame because no one would stick up for him in case they became victims of this bullying gang.

Eggs have been thrown at the house with filthy verbal abuse at his Mum when she went to the shop. Items have been stolen from the garden and CCTV had to be installed to produce evidence for the police.

My Grandson gained belts in martial art but his could never be used outside the sport. I ran Junior 5-a-side leagues and also had to deal with bullies and found most of it stemmed from their home life.. we had some hard men in the older age group but very few bullies.

These young bullies ought to change their ways because they are bound to come up against somebody that will put them in their place which is what their parents should now be doing.

My Grandson is no angel and I have sometimes have to deal with him when needed, but that is part of parenting. I thank those who have given my grandchildren support, but please do not lower yourself using facebook in getting back at these bullies and their families as we don't want to be seen as bullies too.

Name and address supplied.

## Living Consult Tenants on Demolition of Prefabs



Living is proposing to demolish all the prefabs in Clarence Green and Travellers Green, replacing them with modern mixed housing with provision for elderly and disabled tenants.

They state the prefabs are at the end of their life, are poorly insulated and difficult to improve without great expense and major disruption to residents.

All tenants are being consulted individually and a few are not happy to be facing upheaval at their time of life and others who have lived there for many years are loathe to leave the beautiful gardens they have created. One tenant told Newton News the only way he would leave his house is in a coffin!

The new development would be built in 3 Phases starting with the demolition of five prefabs in Travellers Green opposite Gilpin Road. The idea is to build new houses and transfer residents in the Phase 2 area into their new homes with all types of help being provided by Living including disturbance allowance and home loss payments.

It is evident Living will

do very well from this development as they can build more dwellings on this substantial piece of land particularly if they are allowed to build on the spacious greens.

Subject to planning permission the development starts in January 2018, with the whole building programme completed by 2020. The consultation with tenants ends on 7th July.

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### Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 30th MAY features the comedy "TOOTSIE" starring Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange. Talented actor Michael Dorsey has such a name for being difficult that he can't get work, so he takes drastic action; he becomes Dorothy Michaels!!

The film was a great success and nominated for 10 Oscars, Jessica Lange winning Best Supporting actress. 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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# PCP's Royal Appointment

Carol Gaskarth, the Pioneering Care Partnership's (PCP) Chief Executive and Melanie Fordham the organisation's Chair, were thrilled to be invited to Her Majesty the Queen's first garden party of the year at Buckingham Palace last week. Upon receiving her invitation from the Lord Chamberlain Carol said, "We were delighted to be invited to such a prestigious event on behalf of PCP. PCP works hard towards its mission of 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All' and to be recognised by Royal invitation was truly an honour."

Carol explained, "The weather was glorious on the day and there was a buzz of excitement in the air as people filed through the front gate, over the courtyard, into the Palace and entered the garden. We were lucky to

beat the crowds and take in the views of quaint tables and chairs in neat rows on the immaculately kept lawns.

As one of the two military bands played magnificently in the background, we had a look around and found 'a good spot'. Dainty sandwiches and cakes were served along with delicious iced-coffee and then, as the Beefeaters marched through the grounds, the atmosphere was filled with anticipation of the Royal entrance. Coming out of a side door caught us a little by surprise but the Royal party stood proudly at the top of the stairs while the National Anthem played, allowing us time to reposition cameras!

"In addition to Her Majesty members of the Royal Family in attendance included the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Beatrice, the Earl of Wessex, Princess Anne, the Duke of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. The Royal Family moved through the 'lanes' of guests, speaking to some and then they made their way to the Royal Tea Tent.

After enjoying another iced-coffee Melanie and I had a walk around the grounds and fortunately ended up at the front of the Royal Tea Tent, prime position for more photographs and networking! At around 5:30 the Royal Family headed back through the crowds and headed into the Palace and we made our way home reflecting upon a wonderful afternoon."

Garden Parties are an important way for The Queen

to speak to a broad range of people from all walks of life, all of whom have made a positive impact in their community. Previously used as presentation parties the Garden Parties have evolved into a way of recognising and rewarding public service.

Speaking afterwards Melanie Fordham said, "We felt very privileged to represent PCP on such a memorable occasion and enjoyed hearing about the work of other organisations and spreading the word about our activities. It was a magnificent day and something we will remember for a long time to come."

If you would like to find out more about PCP's projects and service please contact Carol by email: carol.gaskarth@pcp.uk.net.



Melanie Fordham (left) with Carol Gaskarth

## STOP PRESS

### Two Minutes Silence for Manchester Bomb Victims

Following the tragic deaths of people from a bomb at a Manchester Concert a "Two Minute Silence will be held outside the Prayer Hub opposite Poundworld in the Town Centre at 11am on Tuesday 30th May. Everyone is invited to attend and sign the Book of Condolence inside the hub.

## WEAR IT & BEAT IT!

Dear Editor, Every year, heart and circulatory disease kills around 6,800 in the North East and currently, around 332,000 people in the region are living with its burden. The need to find new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat these terrible conditions is more urgent than ever. That's why I'm calling on everyone to take part in the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) Wear it. Beat it. campaign. Join thousands of others across the UK on Friday 9th June by wearing red and holding a fundraising event to help us stop heart disease in its tracks. From a bake sale or coffee

morning at work to a red-themed garden party with friends and family, whatever you choose to do, Wear it. Beat it. is a great way to bring everyone together and help make a difference to millions. You will be also be helping the BHF fund even more cutting-edge breakthroughs that will help end the devastation caused by heart disease.

Last year more than 15,000 people took part in Wear it. Beat it, raising over £750,000. To sign up and receive a free fundraising pack full of ideas about how to get involved, visit wearitbeatit.bhf.org.uk Dan McNally, BHF

# Independents Bid for Recognition at Council AGM

The now larger group of Independent Councillors on the Town Council attempted to flex their muscles in proposing one of their own to become Mayor and Chairman.

The controlling Labour group proposed Wendy Hillary to succeed her husband Jed, but the nine strong Independents also put in their nomination for Sandra Haigh on the basis she had given ten years service and there should not be any logical or reasoned grounds for her not to be appointed.

Arun Chandran, who has joined the group of Independents following his resignation from Labour said they had nothing to fear having such a large majority and it would be better rather than having some Councillors serving as Mayor 2 or more times.

Irene Hewitson also a long serving Independent councillor believed they deserved consideration and thought the system unfair.

John Clare explained they held the majority vote and were democratically justified in electing a Labour Councillor to the position.

The Leader Bob Fleming simplified the argument by asking the Independents if they were in the majority would they appoint a Labour candidate as Chairman.

Needless to say Wendy Hillary was duly elected and she signed the declaration. The same situation arose when voting for the Deputy Mayor. Ken Robson Independent was nominated but Labour man John Clark was elected.

It was evident the Independents were better organised at this year's AGM. In appointing Committees places they were ready with their list to add to the Labour nominations. In previous years it was a long and tedious process as names were sought on the night.

The AGM concluded with the appointment of Leader and Deputy Leader, Bob Fleming and Malcolm Iveson respectively.



Mayor Wendy Hillary with Deputy John Clark



Retiring Mayor, Jed Hillary raised £5200 for charity and is shown here presenting cheques to the beneficiaries



Left to right; Mayor Jed Hillary, Rebecca Metcalfe, Vince Crosby (Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre) and Keith Johnson (Aycliffe Village Hall Association). The Rifles Care for Casualties not present.

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or visit our website: [www.stjohnsrc.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrc.org.uk) - Vacancies

Closing Date: Monday, 12 June 2017 – 10am

'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values'

## KIDZ FLIX

A fun, family movie that will have kids and grown-ups singing along - rave reviews, packed cinema! Sounds good - then come along to St. Clare's Film Club on Saturday 3rd June at 2pm.

The story of a koala named Buster Moon who has one final chance to restore his beloved theatre to it's former glory by hosting the world's greatest singing competition. Will Gunter win or perhaps Rosita?

If you love music and singing then SING is the movie for you! Entrance is only £1 and it would be lovely to have a full house. We have sweets and goodies from 20p and very popular ice-creams at only 50p.

Bring a friend or two, grown ups welcome to stay and enjoy or collect children when the movie ends. Check out the Youth/ChildrenSt. Clares face book page for all of our children's events.

**Starlight**

**Charity Night**

With The Fantastic **Zen** 80's Band

**Saturday 3rd June**  
**6.30pm till Late**  
@  
**The "Big Club"**

**Tickets are £4 each, available from Sharon Franklin on 07896 511171 or from the club.**



# Brass Festival Announces Full Line-up of Events

The full line-up of this year's BRASS festival has been announced, with events ranging from popular Northern Soul band Keep the Faith to a unique play-along screening of iconic British film Brassed Off. Returning for its 11th year, Durham's popular BRASS festival celebrates the best of brass across ten days in one of the North East's most stunning cities.

Organised by Durham County Council, this year's festival is the first under the leadership of new Artistic Director Paul Gudgin and will showcase the broadest possible range of brass music from Broadway to 17th century Venice.

Tickets on sale Friday, 19 May. Popular Yorkshire-based band Keep the Faith joins forces with North of England Champion Band NASUWT Riverside Band to celebrate Northern Soul – the movement that emerged in the North in the late 1960s from the British mod scene and which continues to sweep dance-floors across the UK to this day.

Covering classic songs from

the likes of The Specials, Billy Ocean, Frankie Valli, Edwin Starr and Stevie Wonder, Keep the Faith creates its own authentic arrangements of these original songs and provides a live experience that brings together two of the North East's great musical traditions. Joined by local BRASS favourites NASUWT Riverside Band for some special brassed up arrangements, get set to dance! This year's festival – which takes place from Friday, 7 July to Sunday, 16 July – also includes the chance to experience iconic British film Brassed Off as never before, with its first ever play-along screening.

In this special show, brass players can bring their own instruments to the theatre to rehearse and play along with the BAFTA nominated music in the company of professional brass players and characters Andy Barrow (Ewan McGregor) and Gloria Mullens (Tara Fitzgerald) on screen. In Cutting Edge Brass, the 1960s avant-garde and free jazz inspired Family Band brings its

powerful and dynamic music combining jazz, brass and blues into simple, repeated riffs.

Tickets are already on sale for a number of other events, including BRASS on Broadway, which sees stars of the West End Matt Corner (Frankie Valli in Jersey Boys) and Kate Graham (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Billy Elliot) who hail from the North East perform swing versions of songs from a range of musicals. Other highlights include Venetian Surround Sound, where the audience will experience early surround sound in Durham Cathedral with the Cathedral Choir and His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts, while the 100th anniversary of Dizzy Gillespie will also be celebrated with American jazz trombonist Jiggs Whigham and the BBC big band.

The ever-popular Streets of BRASS also returns to the festival, bringing international favourites such as Mr Wilson's Second Liners to the streets of Durham, while brass and voices join together for a newly arranged version of William Walton's thrilling Belshazzar's Feast. For more information and tickets visit:

[www.brassfestival.co.uk](http://www.brassfestival.co.uk)

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Starting times between 1pm and 4pm

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and a company limited by guarantee (2208425)



## Wool Wanted

All kinds of unwanted wool is requested on behalf of people who knit to help good causes.

Please hand in to Godfrey Bennett who runs the Charity Shop at the side of St. Clare's Church on St. Cuthbert's Way.

The shop is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

## LIVE BANDS

Yakley Club hold a live music event on Saturday 3rd June at a new entertainment venue the Hammer & Pincers (Blacksmiths Arms) Newton Aycliffe DL5 6JH.

Bands playing in the Tipi in the Beer Garden include 3.30pm Bleathermen Irish band. 6pm - Abi solo female singer. 8pm - MATIS Indi Rock.

Tickets are £4, available at the Hammer and Pincers.

## Grave Problem

The Team Vicar, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of Great Aycliffe are seeking to contact the person or persons responsible for the care and safety of the headstone of Marjorie Helen Robinson, which is in St Andrew's Churchyard in Aycliffe Village.

If anyone has any information relating to this please email Revd Elizabeth Bland [atelizabeth.a.bland@gmail.com](mailto:atelizabeth.a.bland@gmail.com).

# Air Ambulance Ball Raised Record Amount

The region's air ambulance raised a record amount at its annual ball, held this year to mark its 15th anniversary as an independent charity.

Guests at the Air Angels Ball, held at the Hilton in Gateshead on Saturday night, helped raise £26,300 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS).

The amount is the most raised at GNAAS' ball since the charity launched in its current form in 2002.

Ruth Davey, who organised the event, said: "We are blown away by the fundraising total. The money will make a difference to people's lives here in the region, so everyone involved should be proud."

"A lot of work goes into making the event a success but we simply couldn't do it without our volunteers, sponsors and all those who turned out, willing to donate their money to this good cause. "We aim to make this the

North-East social event of the year, and we think this is a huge leap in the right direction."

Attendees were greeted to the event by ITV's Pam Royle, a patron of the charity.

She welcomed former patients of GNAAS as well as aircrew members, local businesses and other supporters.

They were treated to a dinner and dancing, with a live performance from the Lorraine Crosby Band.

The money was raised through ticket sales, a raffle, and an auction of exclusive lots.

A behind the scenes experience at BBC's Match of the Day, courtesy of Alan Shearer, sold for the highest amount, with the lot receiving a top bid of £5,000.

The date for next year's event will be announced shortly.

To avoid disappointment and to register your interest, please call 01325-487263 or email [info@greatnorthairambulance.co.uk](mailto:info@greatnorthairambulance.co.uk)

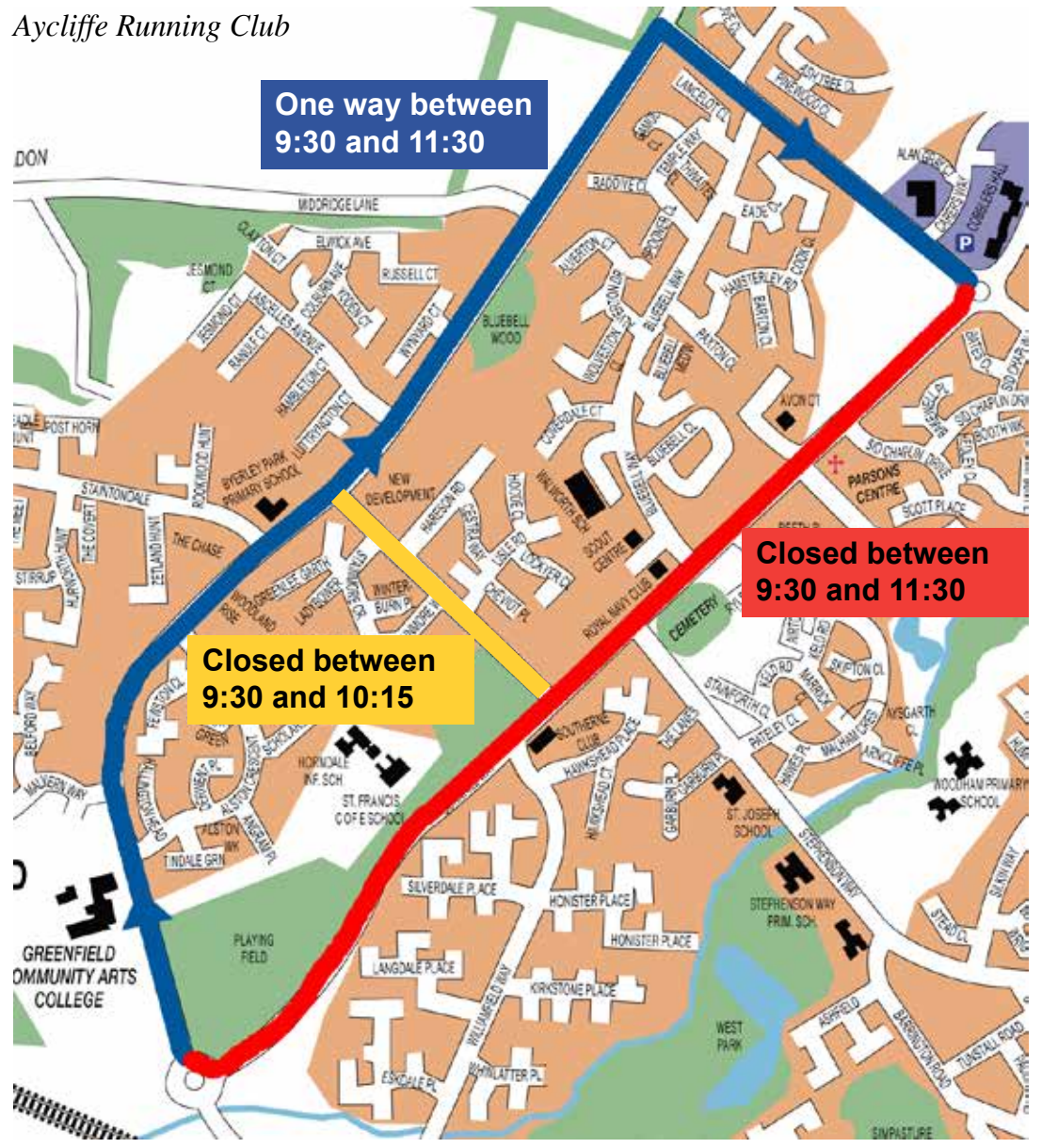
## Notification of Road Closures

### June 18th 2017 - Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run

From 9:30 to 11:30 Burnhill Way in both directions is closed with no access, Burn Lane from Cobblers Hall to the junction with Greenfield Way is one way West-East towards the town centre, Greenfield Way from Burn Lane to the roundabout with Burnhill Way is one way South-North towards Rope Moor. Meadowfield Way is totally closed in both direction for the first lap 9:30 to 10:15. Aycliffe Running Club are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, the road closures are a requirement of the race safety risk assessment agreed with Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary. We hope you will join others in cheering the competitors on their way.

This is the 20th annual Aycliffe 10K and Fun Run with over 600 competitors taking part. If you wish to take part you can enter online at [www.entrycentral.com/Aycliffe10k](http://www.entrycentral.com/Aycliffe10k), information is available at <http://ayclifferrunningclub.org.uk/about-aycliffe-10k-and-fun-run/>, you can enter on the day with a £4 administration charge, alternatively post your entry to Aycliffe Running Club c/o Michelle Scott, 4 Salisbury Terrace, Shildon, DL4 1JR or email [Aycliffe10k@gmail.com](mailto:Aycliffe10k@gmail.com). The Closing Date for online entries is midnight Friday 16th June 2017.

Aycliffe Running Club





## Aycliffe Painter Exhibits at Locomotion Museum



An exhibition of art by Newton Aycliffe painter Stephen Bainbridge will be on show at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon from Wednesday June 7 to Wednesday June 28, 2017.

Stephen has worked in the acrylic medium for 40 years, initially developing techniques under the tutelage of the professional artist Noel Gregory.

His pictures often reflect his lifelong passion for the days of steam railways, especially featuring locomotives of the LNER, but he has also produced works of other technical subjects and landscapes.

His paintings have also featured in magazines and have been used in historical text books. In his works he always aims to produce paintings that are detailed and technically accurate, while portraying the atmosphere of the days of steam.

The exhibition of Stephen's work will be on display in the museum's Collection Building. The museum is open daily from 10am to 5pm, and parking and admission are free of charge. For more information, please call 01904 685780.

## Safety Poster Winners



Last month Bob Knox from Northern Power Grid, visited Sugar Hill Primary School to explain to the Year 4 pupils what electricity is, where our power comes from and how to stay safe around electricity and it was really informative. The Year 4 teachers decided to hold a safety poster competition and Bob came back into school this week to judge them. Aishia Pearson-Clark's poster won 1st prize, and she received £30 of High Street vouchers and in 2nd place

## Walworth's Special Pavilion for Outdoor Weddings

The grand opening of Walworth Castle's outdoor ceremony area, "Lady Palmer's Pavilion" took place on Wednesday 17th May. Rachel and Chris Swain have owned the Castle since 2000, and are very passionate about bringing the castle back to its former glory and in chatting to wedding couples discovered there is a huge interest for outdoor weddings.

Walworth decided to create a wedding day that couples dream of so a special pavilion has been built. It is named after Lady Palmer who owned Walworth Castle up until 1935 as a private residence.

With the castle's rich history, and one of the few Grade 1 listed buildings in the area the owners felt like this new facility was one to celebrate. They welcomed approximately 100 guests to the opening with glasses of fizz and afternoon tea whilst watching the Mayor, Councillor Brian Jones cut the ribbon to mark the opening. Entertainment for our guests was live band "Last Anthem Unplugged" who played throughout the evening from the new Pavilion.

Our beautiful function rooms were styled and tastefully decorated on the evening by Lisa Charles with Flowers provided by Nattrass. Lady Palmer's was decorated by Mandy of Perfectly You Events.

Two photographers were present Jane from Camera A



The Swain family with Darlington Mayor Brian Jones



## Country Singer & Line Dance

Top Country Singer Henry Smith and his Band appear at the Phoenix Club on the 31st August with an admission price of just £5. You can take up Line Dancing at the same time with expert tuition. Come along and enjoy yourself. Tickets available at the club or give me a ring and collect them from my home: Tel: 01325 307041.

John Sutton, 17 Warburton Close.

and Claire Hirst (see photos) The first wedding in Lady Palmer's is due to take place at the end of May. The castle has weddings booked up until the end of 2019, but still have a number of dates available

and they would be delighted to hear from anybody who is looking for a wedding venue. Contact: Ailsa Long Tel: 01325 485470 E-Mail: enquiries@walworthcastle.co.uk

## OUR MEP LEADS FACT FINDING VISIT INTO STOLEN BABIES IN SPAIN

Jude Kirton-Darling MEP will lead a delegation of MEPs to Madrid, Spain from 22-23rd May to demand the truth be heard about historical baby abductions, as the European Parliament's Petitions Committee takes up the case of a British woman whose baby was allegedly abducted hours after birth in a Spanish hospital in 1992. The historical case was picked up by MEPs on the Petitions Committee after Ruth Anne Appleby's access to the truth had been blocked at every turn.

Jude Kirton-Darling, North East MEP and Member of the Petitions Committee said: "For many people, the EU is synonymous with bureaucracy and rules, but my experience as an MEP on the European Parliament's Petitions Committee has been of people - people often searching for justice and hoping the EU will help. Ruth Anne Appleby is a prime example.

"As a UK citizen who previously lived and worked in Spain, now living back in the UK with limited resources, she has faced an uphill struggle to find the truth about her stolen baby. The European Parliament is the last place that Ruth and five other petitioners, representing dozens of families, felt they could go to get a fair hearing, and importantly some action to shine a light onto a subject that has been hidden for decades by powerful vested interests. Opening up the Catholic Church's archives is their key demand.

"During the visit, we will take testimony from representatives of the state, lawyers, journalists, victims - both mothers and stolen children - and crucially the Catholic Church. I am proud to lead the visit and hope that I can help reveal the truth about these precious stolen babies, an issue that reaches beyond Spain's borders".

## Saatchi & Saatchi CEO Visits Greenfield

Greenfield Community College were privileged to welcome Robert Senior, world wide CEO from the renowned advertising company Saatchi & Saatchi. He has been the producer of iconic advertising campaigns and is a leading force in global creative thinking.

Students were thrilled to hear him speak and were engaged as he spoke of his own experiences and his vision for success. He spoke of working hard to do what you love, and how this means that you will progress.

He encouraged students to look for something they enjoy, don't go out looking for money, it doesn't work - were the sentiments of the motivational speaker.

A selection of Year 10 and Year 11 students from the Aycliffe site and Sunnysdale Campus were lucky enough to take his advice on board which is a timely experience as they look to their future in the coming months. Mr Senior also visited tutor groups who have been working on projects around entrepreneurship and establishing new business

ideas. The busy CEO also found time to tour the school and was very impressed with the fabulous facilities that we have and was interested in the SOLE sessions which encourage self-organised learning and our unique gallery space. As part of his busy day he met with Executive Head Teacher David Priestley and school's Leadership Team and was interested in their motivation to teach and how they had come to be at Greenfield. "Our students really enjoyed listening to Robert speak and were certainly motivated by his 'advice from an old neighbour' talk" said Stuart Dixon, Deputy Head Teacher. "It was very rewarding for the students to see someone, originally from our local area, making such an impact on the world stage with a leading international company. The Speakers For Schools programme, that organised the visit from Robert, is a fantastic way of allowing our young people at Greenfield to hear the thoughts of some of the world leading experts in a variety of different fields."

## Pensioners Better off With Labour Government

Dear Sir, Pensioner poverty is on the rise. Soon there will be 15.7 million citizens in the UK living in poverty, many of these pensioners who have worked hard most of their adult life. The Tory failure to protect pensioners incomes, is leaving many pensioners having to decide between putting on their heating or eating a hot meal.

The Conservative policy which changed the pension eligibility age has seen many women born in the 1950's robbed of thousands of pounds that they worked hard for, leaving them suffering financial hardship.

There are women in Newton Aycliffe who have lost tens of

thousands of pounds, money which they were relying on for their retirement, due to this change. As your local candidate I have met with many of these women, and vowed to fight their corner, pledging support to the WASPI campaign and to combat pensioner poverty.

In Newton Aycliffe, and the wider Sedgefield constituency, over 14,000 pensioners would be better off with Labour's pension policies. They would guarantee the triple-lock on pensions and extend pension credit for the women unfairly suffering due to the change in the pension eligibility age.

Phil Wilson  
Parliamentary Candidate

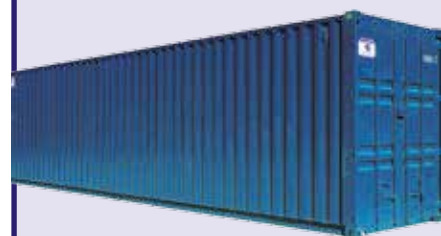
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# Bloodwise Fundraiser Requests Help to Reach £30k

A charity fundraiser edged closer to another milestone at the weekend with a coffee morning raising over £1000, split between Bloodwise (formerly Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research) and the Neonatal Unit at Antrim Area Hospital in Northern Ireland.

Paul McGeary, 35, from Newton Aycliffe, began raising cash and awareness having been diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APL) in November 2014. With his condition relapsing in July last year, McGeary has continued to spearhead the #NotOneInch campaign, which has now raised almost £27k.

The coffee morning was the brainchild of McGeary's mother Mary Warke, who enlisted the help of her friends Julie McKenley and Marie Matthews (pictured, along with Niamh McGeary, aged 3), as well as the support of friends, family and fellow Newtonians.

A cheque for £500 from the coffee morning has made its way to the Antrim Area Hospital via two close friends of McGeary, who relied on the care and expertise of the Neonatal Unit prior to Christmas when their son was born almost eight weeks premature.

With the total raised now standing at £26,837, Paul has



Coffee Morning organisers raised £1000

appealed to fundraisers to come together to help propel the sum over the £30k mark before the end of 2017.

"The amount raised is a phenomenal effort, from everybody who have both raised and donated to the cause over the past 30 months," said Paul.

"People have mentioned doing other bits and pieces over the summer which should be well received, but we will not allow this campaign to fizzle out, so we are always keen to hear from others who wish to support."

"Now I am free from treatment for a second time, I will also be looking to do something myself and my thinking cap is on, and keen to join in with anything that

needs support. "I'd love to hear from anyone who wishes to walk, climb, cycle, dress up, abstain from vices... whatever it may be, because we can make enough noise about it to ensure it benefits the charity."

"Once we hit the £30k mark, we will set our sights on the next milestone - £35k, £40k or even £50k. This campaign will not show any signs of slowing down or stopping." Anyone who wishes to speak to Paul with any ideas, is encouraged to contact him on 0770 332342 or email at mcgearypaul@hotmail.co.uk. You can donate at [www.justgiving.com/Paul-McGeary2](http://www.justgiving.com/Paul-McGeary2) and follow progress on Twitter @McGearyUpdates

## Can We Trust Tories?

Dear Sir,  
Conservative candidate Dehenna Davison recently sent a letter claiming that her life experience does not matter, something as a young person I can wholly agree with.

However what I can't agree with is a candidate that champions an education system that is broken and this is shown in her poor grammar in her leaflets as well as the fact that so many students feel left behind.

Not everyone at schools in Aycliffe feel happy, not everyone feels we should accept a broken and bad education system.

Miss Davison states she supports Mrs. May. Does

that mean she is against democracy?

Because Theresa May was NOT elected as Prime Minister. Miss Davison supports a leader without a mandate, and a leader who goes back on their promises not to call an election.

If she supports an unelected leader who refuses to debate and has to fabricate crowds of people because she simply can't get enough support, then how can we trust her?

I will admit that Mr Wilson is not the perfect candidate, but his support for local issues as well as national ones, shows he is the BEST candidate.

Young voter  
Name & address supplied.

## I am Labour to the Core

"First my thoughts go out to the victims and their families affected by the horrific terrorist attacks in Manchester. I would also like to thank the emergency services who tended to the injured. Out of respect for those affected campaigning was rightly stopped."

Your vote in Sedgefield won't affect who is in Number 10 on June 9th. The battle for Number 10 is in other constituencies where Labour did not have MPs going into this election. What it will decide here in Aycliffe, is who will be your MP.

As my hand written letter to the voters of Sedgefield constituency made clear, I am no supporter of Theresa May and I am no supporter of Jeremy Corbyn. The only people I support are you, the



people of Newton Aycliffe and the people of Sedgefield constituency.

Local people deserve a strong local MP, who stands up for them and fights your corner.

UKIP have fallen apart, the Lib Dems can't be trusted and our Tory candidate is a 23-year-old student from Hull who has made it clear she is only here to support the Conservative leader, not you. I put local people first. I am the only candidate who will stand up for you. I will challenge whoever needs challenging. If this means standing up to May, I do. If this means opposing Corbyn, I do.

My views on Jeremy Corbyn are long standing, and have always been public.

I am for Labour. I stand up for Labour values. Thousands of my constituents hold Labour values too, and I want them to know I stand with them and I will always be there for them. I am Labour to the core, I always have been and always will be. It is my name on the ballot paper.

Phil Wilson

## Successful First Year for Crafter's Companion

NORTH-EAST based craft company, Crafter's Companion, is celebrating the first anniversary of its flagship store in Newton Aycliffe with a weekend-long event.

Following a successful year of trading, with over 40,000 people visiting the store and buying more than 150,000 products, the outlet is hosting a four-day birthday party with a host of craft activities, workshops with some of the company's craft stars, including Sara Davies, Leann Chivers and Sheena Douglass, and some special giveaways.

The event will start with a 'craftathon', which will see the store staff and customers take part in a sponsored craft day for the Crafter's Companion Community Fund which supports a number of different charities in the region.

Sara Davies, founder and creative director at Crafter's Companion, said: "The last year has been a total whirlwind for our team. The Newton Aycliffe store started out as a big idea and we're so pleased with its performance in the first year. We can't thank our customers enough for their continued support and commitment to visit our flagship store from all corners of the UK."

"The anniversary weekend has been designed to be a huge thank you to customers, our local community in Newton Aycliffe and everyone that has contributed to the success of the store."

"From in-store fundraising and crafty make and take sessions to some amazing giveaways, the long weekend looks absolutely jam-packed. We hope people will come along and help us celebrate the store's first anniversary." The celebrations, which will take place from Friday 26th May until Monday 29th May, will give visitors the chance to enjoy all-day demonstrations, compete in a design a birthday card competition and find presents that will be hidden around the store for customers. Two



Sara Davies



customers will also be invited to take part in a ready, steady, craft session each day.

Crafter's Companion manufactures, distributes and retails crafting tools and products online via its website, on TV shopping channels across the world, through thousands of independent retailers and in its own outlets in Newton Aycliffe and Chesterfield.

The Newton Aycliffe store opened in May 2016 and includes themed shopping areas, a coffee shop, a central hub for workshops and two dedicated demonstration areas. It also runs a regular calendar of events.

There will also be a number of birthday promotions running across the weekend, including scratch card giveaways for anyone who spends over £30, with one lucky winner getting a free Gemini machine worth £170. Tickets to the event are £5 and include a goody bag worth £30 and lunch. You can buy tickets from the store or online at <http://www.crafterscompanion.co.uk/aycliffe-store>

## Election Thanks

May I thank the people who voted to return me as your Councillor on Great Aycliffe Town Council.

I appreciate your support and will do my utmost to represent the people in my ward and the whole town.

Bill Blenkinsopp

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8 - 15 years  
Members £2.40  
Non members £2.90

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8 - 15 years  
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Non members £3.70

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## £1000 for the MRI Scanners Appeal



Honest John has contributed £1000 from his Community Kitty to the MRI Scanner Appeal. He is shown here with his assistant Val, presenting the cheque to the NHS Trust Chairman Professor Paul Keane OBE. Paul who lives in the town told John how much he admired his hard work for the community and thanked him for the generous donation to the Appeal.

## Aycliffe Steel Company Wins Contract in Hull

Family-run Finley Structures has been handed a 960-tonne project to fabricate and erect the steel frame for the £36m Hull Venue, on behalf of main contractor Bam Construction. Hull Venue is a state-of-the-art, music and events complex with up to 3,500 seats that will enable the city to attract large corporate conferences, exhibitions and trade tours as well as major touring concerts, stand-up comedy, family shows and sporting events.

As well as fabricating and erecting the steel for the multi-use complex, Finley Structures is also installing pre-cast concrete stairs, lift shafts and terrace units. The Aycliffe firm is on site



Finley Structures' steelwork going up in Hull

in Hull, while working on another redevelopment project closer to home in Durham City, on the multi-million pound Riverwalk development.

"This is another phoenix from the flames type of project," said Finley Structures operations manager Jim Graham. There's a lot of redevelopment going on in Hull at the moment, as part of its 2017 City of Culture programme, and it's another good example of how we're helping to transform an old site into a state-of-the-art venue."

The Hull Venue contract is one of several major projects won by Finley Structures in the first part of 2017. They include a 283-tonne project to build a new Hilton Hotel in Lincoln for main contractor Manorcrest, a 300-tonne warehouse in Leicester for A&H Construction and a 614-tonne project for Carillion Construction in Sunderland. Finley Structures has also completed a 337-tonne

project for Bowmer and Kirkland, to fabricate and erect Avanti School in Stanmore, London, and has also won a third contract with Interserve for another school, this time the SEMH School in South Leeds, which is already on site. Graham added: "It has been a hugely positive start to 2017 for Finley Structures which gives us a strong start to the new financial year from April. We're hoping to secure a lot more work in the coming months to further boost our order book for the year ahead."

## Aycliffe Mentioned in Labour's Manifesto

Have you realised that the Labour manifesto mentions Newton Aycliffe? On page 11, when it is talking about the need for investment in transport infrastructure, it promises to link the HS2 rail project to Crossrail of the North "... AND ON TO THE DURHAM FREIGHT CENTRE." The 'Durham Freight Centre' to which it refers is the Rail Freight Interchange proposed for the Forrest 2 extension to Aycliffe Business Park, for which they are currently laying the foundations in the fields next to McDonald's. Wouldn't THAT be a wonderful thing to get for Newton Aycliffe? By contrast, unfortunately, the Conservatives have removed Crossrail 2 from their manifesto.

John D. Clare

## Friendship Tea Party



An afternoon tea party was held at the home of Vera Davison, a member of The Friendship Force of Co Durham at The Grange, Woodham with raffle and plant sales on Monday 22nd May in aid of The Club.

It was a huge success, bathed in lovely sunshine with everyone enjoying Vera's beautiful garden in this "The Chelsea Show" week, giving great encouragement and inspiration to all garden lovers.

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## Residents Urged to Compost

As part of International Compost Awareness Week (CAW), Durham County Council is encouraging more residents to get composting by holding compost information stalls in Durham and Coundon near Bishop Auckland. Around one third of the contents of an average UK household bin can be composted at home, such as vegetable peelings, tea bags, cardboard and shredded paper, as well as all the garden waste that can be added to a compost bin.

Home composting helps to reduce the amount of household and garden waste being disposed of and also produces nutritious compost, which can be used on flower beds, vegetable plots and in hanging baskets.

There are a range of compost bins and accessories available to suit new recruits and seasoned gardeners alike. Victoria Burrell, waste strategy team manager said "Many people don't realise how much of their waste can be composted. "Everything from fruit scraps to coffee grounds and vacuum cleaner contents to shredded paper can go in a composter, helping to reduce waste. "It also provides great organic



compost which can help plants to grow and save gardeners money on shop bought fertilisers."

As part of International

Compost Awareness Week, Durham County Council is encouraging more residents to get composting with an offer promoted in partnership with getcomposting.com. Residents can purchase discounted compost bins from as little as £17.98 and alongside a 'buy one get one half-price' offer, residents can purchase a second compost bin from only £8.99 (RRP £39).

To get involved head online to [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com), or call 0844 571 4444.

For further information on home composting visit [www.durham.gov.uk/composting](http://www.durham.gov.uk/composting)

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# Flymo & McCulloch Showcase Products at MetroCentre

LEADING lawnmower manufacturers Flymo and McCulloch, based in Newton Aycliffe, are showcasing their latest innovative designs to customers via an interactive garden space that's set to appear at a third into shopping centre during the upcoming Bank Holiday weekend this May.

Having already captured shoppers' attention at intu Lakeside over Easter and intu Trafford Centre at the beginning of the month, the Flymo and McCulloch pop-up experience will arrive at intu Metrocentre for its final outing as part of the roadshow.

The eye-catching stand is fully branded, with digital screens showing off a variety of the products the two brands have on offer – it even features its very own lawn, which sees the Flymo Robotic 1200 R and, new for the 2017 season, the McCulloch ROB R600 set to work.

They are designed to make their way around the garden 24 hours a day, trimming the tips of the grass to let micro clippings form mulch to feed the lawn. Without human

intervention, they return to their docking station to charge, then off they go again around the garden working within the set boundary wires for a consistently perfect lawn.

Robotic mowers are quiet, safe, emit no fumes and are theft-proof but the most popular feature is of course that those in possession of one will never have to mow the lawn again.

Alongside the robotic mowers, the stand displays a number of petrol products by McCulloch for garden maintenance as well as Flymo's most recent innovation; a lightweight, cordless battery-powered lawnmower called the Mighti-Mo 300 Li.

Visitors to the stand are also given the opportunity to enter a competition to win a Flymo Robotic 1200 R of their own and consult the experts with any questions they have.

Gavin Burns, trade marketing manager for Flymo and McCulloch, said: "The partnership with intu is a first for the brands, allowing us to interact with customers in a different

environment and capitalise on a high footfall which a Bank Holiday weekend offers at the popular centres.

"We are looking forward to bringing our product to life for shoppers in the North East this weekend, giving them the chance to handle products, learn a little more about both brands, speak to experienced professionals, see the robotic mowers in action – even negotiating obstacles – and of course enter the fantastic competition that we're running."

The 'Flymo McCulloch Roadshow' was the brainchild of Newcastle-based creative agency, Hedley McEwan, who have worked with the sector-leading Flymo brand for over 15 years.

Hedley McEwan managing director Tom Hedley said of the project: "This 'interactive roadshow' has been two years in the planning and we have always been confident that given the opportunity to experience relatively new technology like robotic mowers, the general public will be inspired to change the way they take care of their lawns, especially as like most of us, 'personal' time is in short supply and we'd rather be doing other things than repeatedly mowing our lawn."

Roger Binks, customer experience director of intu, said: "Our dedicated in-house team work closely with brands to deliver compelling experiences that help them to flourish within our portfolio of popular shopping and leisure destinations, with Flymo and McCulloch the latest to take advantage of our prime locations and 400 million customer visits a year to drive this kind of brand engagement."

# The Only Party to Bring us Out of EU

Dear Newtonians,

If the majority of Phil Wilson's constituents told him they didn't believe in God, he would become an atheist overnight to keep his job. You can tell he was Tony Blair's big mate (the man who took us to war), by telling lies for his own ego, and he has become a money monster.

He is not a man of the people as he keeps announcing - he is a man for his own ends a man terrified he is going to lose his cushy job earning over £1,300 plus expense per week.

Lie No 1: Quote from a letter to Sedgefield voters - "your vote in Sedgefield on June 8th won't affect who is in No 10 on June 9th."

Truth - Every vote for our Conservative candidate will help to make Theresa May stronger, putting Corbyn and his bunch of traitors where they should be out in the cold and Wilson drowning his sorrows in the pubs of Trimdon.

Lie No 2 & 3, He did not bring Hitachi here alone, many people did. He did not back Brexit or YOUR Brexit (as he puts it), he backed remain, then had a sudden election change of heart. It is now time our once loyal Labour Party voters in Aycliffe put aside their old fashioned attitude of "well my parents and family always voted Labour"

I, like Phil Wilson, was born and bred in a mining community but now I realise at this time in the UK a Labour government would be totally useless - the last thing we need. Theresa May is not another Maggie Thatcher, she is strong, sensible and a sincere lady in her own right - the only Party that can bring us out of this poor excuse of a European Union and make it work.

By voting for our Conservative candidate, a lovely young lady with a future in politics, you will be giving Britain hope.

Goodbye Phil - Hello Dehenna

Honest John

# Head Teachers Fearful of Government Cuts

In a letter to Phil Wilson, Labour's candidate in the General Election on June 8th, Christine Forysth, Head Teacher of Woodham Academy, has confirmed the effect Conservative government cuts to school budgets will have on local schools. Mrs Forysth said: "If budgets are reduced, it is inevitable that there will be a reduction in the number of teachers employed and a correspondent increase in class sizes."

Recent figures show that Woodham Academy and Greenfield Community College will see their budgets reduced by £1,000,000 by 2020, with the loss of 24 teachers. Aycliffe's primary schools face a funding cut of £370,000 and the loss of 10 teachers.

Phil Wilson said: "I've raised the impact on local school budgets in parliament before

the election. Numerous local Head teachers have contacted me with their concern over what lies ahead. The cuts will have a major impact on education standards in local schools. The range of subjects on offer to pupils will be reduced. This is not the way to educate the next generation. I will continue to oppose the cut to funding. Our children deserve better."

## Election Thanks

I would like to thank the residents of Central Ward for re-electing me to serve on Great Aycliffe Town Council for another term.

I will do my best to be a fair and helpful Councillor for our ward and town. Thank you again for your continued support.

CLlr Val M. Raw

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 31st May 2017

### Environment Committee Recreation Committee 7.15pm

#### QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been 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.

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".

## GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 7th June 2017

### Policy & Resources Committee, 7.15pm

#### QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been 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.

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".

## Choir Concert

Bishop Auckland Choral Society are presenting the 'Armed Man', a choral suite by Karl Jenkins, and GF Handel's Coronation Anthems on Friday 2nd June at Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

The performance begins at 7pm. Tickets £8/£6, under 16s £3, available from Mrs S Hassall on 01388 834359 or Mrs J Smith on 01325 360514

## FLOWER DEMO

At the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday, 5th June at 7.30pm area Flower Arranger, Bob Forbes from Ripon, will make music with flowers as he presents an evening of flower arranger entitled "A Symphony for Summer"

Free to members, visitors £5 on the door. All welcome to this friendly club. There is always a selection of stalls selling quality crafts and the bar is open for coffees and drinks.

## AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB

Presents

### The 3M 10K & Fun Run Sunday 18th June 2017

Sponsored by  
3M UK PLC and  
GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL



10k Run ..... 10.00 am  
3k Run ..... 9.15 am

From Greenfield Community College,  
Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7LF  
Changing and parking at School

Organised by  
Aycliffe Running  
Club under  
England Athletics  
Rules Permit No.  
2017-26805

- 10k Race**
- £100 to first male and female
  - £100 to first male team and female team (of 4)
  - £100 for the course record
  - Veteran prizes
  - Chip race timing
  - Technical Running Shirt
- Fun Run**
- Technical Running Shirt

(accurately measured with kilometres marked)

**Entry Fees:** 10k Run £13.00 Club Runners/£15.00 Non England Athletics member  
£4.00 extra to enter on the day  
3k Run £4.00 All entries

Enter online at [www.entrycentral.com/Aycliffe10k](http://www.entrycentral.com/Aycliffe10k) or email: [Aycliffe10k@gmail.com](mailto:Aycliffe10k@gmail.com)  
Race details: <http://ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/about-aycliffe-10k-and-fun-run/>

Cheques to be made payable to 'Aycliffe Running Club' Entries to:

Michelle Scott, 4 Salisbury Terrace, Shildon, DL4 1JR

Closing Date for Entries midnight Friday 16th, June 2017

**NOTE! allow extra time to collect your race number and chip on the day.**

If for any reason the race is cancelled at short notice (which in the 18 year history has never occurred) Aycliffe Running Club cannot return your entry fee as the club is committed to the organisation cost of the event regardless.

Surname; ..... Forename(s); .....

Address first line; ..... Post Code; .....

e-mail address; ..... Phone No. ....

Date of Birth; ..... Age on June 18th, 2017; ..... Club/Team; .....  
(10K runners must be 16-years or over on June 18th, 2017)

England Athletics membership No. .... Select from the following; 10k ☐ or Fun Run ☐ Male ☐ or Female ☐

Emergency Contact - name; ..... Phone No. ....

**Declaration:** I wish to enter the 3M 10K or Fun Run and I declare that I am an amateur as defined by England Athletics Laws and certify that I am medically fit to run. Furthermore, I agree that the organisers will not be held responsible for any injury or illness as a result of my participation in the events. I understand that my details will be stored on the entry computer, but will not be distributed to any other organisation or running club.

Signature; ..... Date; .....





## STUDENT MASCOTS AT PROFESSIONAL NETBALL GAME

Woodham Academy was given the amazing opportunity to be a part of a professional women's netball game at Northumbria University. Students from the Year 7, Year 8 and Year 10 netball teams were invited to attend the netball tournament to watch and be a part of the celebrations.

The students were transported to Northumbria University's Sport Central campus in Newcastle City centre, where they were given a full tour of the new facilities. They were given opportunities to ask questions, find out where the team trained and recovered and also what was accessible to university students. During the tour, they got to meet an injured player and the team's personal trainer;

they were even shown the media balcony and met the performance analysis team. After the tour Woodham were shown to their front row seats and the Year 7 and Year 8 students were briefed about being mascots. It was an amazing experience to lead Team Northumbria out, be involved with the team chant and also play with them during half time. The students got to see a full game of professional netball where Team Northumbria competed against Bath Netball team. The quick pace, tactical play and atmosphere really inspired the students who left the University buzzing! The students were exceptionally well behaved, and were a true representation of Woodham Academy.



## Cost to Ratepayers!



Another senseless act of vandalism which adds to the burden on Aycliffe taxpayers. The culprits broke every pane of glass in this bus shelter outside St. Clare's Church.



A lively week – Council and community information, interesting events, and good news on the Business Park! Please check out the details on the articles below at: bit.ly/CNB245

### COUNCIL & COMMUNITY

- My report on the DCC AGM.
- My reports on the DCC induction sessions on Planning, and on Regeneration & Local Services.
- What are the material planning considerations if you want to oppose a planning application?
- The latest unemployment figures show no change for Newton Aycliffe and County Durham.
- Well done all those who care for their neighbourhood.
- The Durham County News is available online.
- Beware of the 'Homewatch' telephone scam.
- Latest roadworks.

### THINGS TO DO

- My report on the Josephine Bowes exhibition at Bowes Museum.
- The list of Half-Term activities in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon.
- Hardwick Park events – Myth & Magic Trail, 27 May-4 June, 50p; Unicorns & Dragons, 31 May, £3; Fairy Magic, 2 June, £6.
- Durham Oriental Museum – Super Samurai (5-11s), Friday 2 June, 1-3pm; Pretty Peacocks, Saturday 3 June, 1-3pm.
- Shildon Model Railway Club exhibition, Saturday 3 June, 10am-5pm, Locomotion Museum Shildon.
- Make your own military pompom inspired by the DLI (5-11s), 3-4 June, 1-3pm, Palace Green Library.
- Sedgefield Farmers' Market, Sunday 4 June, 8.30am-12.30pm.
- North East Brass is back in July; find out what's on.

### ECONOMY

- This week's FOCUS is on Aycliffe Business Park's PWS.
- Businesses are flocking to sign up for this year's Oktoberfest.
- Well done Aycliffe Business Park firm Growth Capital Ventures.

## Top Award for Local Roller Skater

Joseph Kearney, a member of Spectrum (North East) Roller Skating Club won Best of Darlington Award for Contribution to Sport on Friday 19th May 2017. There were inspirational stories and amazing demonstrations during a night of celebration at Darlington Dolphin Centre. Joseph (16) came along to roller skating lessons hosted by Spectrum Roller Skating Club's coach Tracy Stevens at Planet Leisure almost 3 years ago. "I was a little surprised to have a teenage boy join in as it is predominantly females who take up the sport, but I was keen to encourage Joseph as he showed enthusiasm and talent right from day one." said coach Tracy Stevens. "Joseph, Darlington went on to accomplish new moves very quickly. He was eager and ambitious. In a short time he worked through grades 1-5 and has later been assessed by judges to gain grade 6, 7 and 8. He took part in local competitions and performances and earlier this year, with his skating partner Nicola Stevens they attended their first national competition where they came 4th."

"I nominated Joseph not only because of his determination, dedication and contribution

to artistic roller skating but also for his commitment to the club. During the three years Joseph has joined in with paired work, group work and has helped to coach others. Most significantly for Joseph he has helped with fundraising. Although he initially wasn't entirely comfortable with bag-packing - speaking to the general public and advertising the club, he persevered, gained confidence and found he was actually very good at it!" Joseph has gained so much from taking part in physical activity and being part of a club. He has grown in confidence and is a role model for other boys taking part in artistic roller skating. This was recognised by best of Darlington Awards as although Joseph was against tough competition in his category he went on to win the award sponsored by Polam Hall, Darlington. Spectrum Roller Skating Club have a facebook page and summer holiday activities planned from June 10th with skating at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre on Saturdays and Sundays from 2.30pm. For more details about learning to roller skate - ring Tracy 07891 461958



Joseph Kearney with proud parents Joe and Sarah

## UTC Students Visit Lucite



## LONG LOST FAMILY

Dear Sir,  
I'm trying to find out more about my Great Aunt born KATE ANNIE CLARK on 28th May 1896 in Seaham Harbour, she lived in Dawdon and attended Bedes School. Kate went to Sommerville College, Oxford to study between 1915 and 1920, leaving with a degree with honours. I can find no trace for her until she reappears after having changed her name to CATHERINE ANNETTE ESTELLA CLARK and is living with her mother Kate Helen Clark at Cross House, Holwick, Middleton-in-Teesdale. Kate Helen died 26th January 1949 and Catherine/Kate Annie was in attendance. I lost her again for a few years, then she reappears at Shafto House, Newton Aycliffe where she died on 6th January 1973. I have since found her grave at Stephenson Way Cemetery in Newton Aycliffe. It appears that Catherine/Kate died 3 weeks before her brother (My Grandfather) Robert Harper Clark and as my Father Robert Harper

Clark Jnr., died in 1974, information on her has been hard to find. If anyone can enlighten me on the lost years, her occupation, or indeed if anyone cared for her I would be really grateful for any information. I do appreciate that with the passage of time it may be hard to come by and I know I'll be extremely lucky to find anything at all, but fingers crossed. Please contact me on fl01@live.co.uk Fiona Clark

## Election Thanks

We would just like to thank everybody in the Woodham Ward for electing myself and my wife as Councillors on Great Aycliffe Town Council. We will be working hard in the ward with other councillors to serve you all. We would just like to publish a big thank you to everyone and please feel free to contact myself or Sally if you have any question or need help. Paul & Sally Symons

To support learning in GCSE Chemistry and to let students see a range of engineering roles in practice, some of our Y10 students visited Lucite Speciality Polymers over the last fortnight. Students enjoyed a tour around the site, looking at the stages involved in turning the monomers into the finished polymer.

The products seen included the glue for the back of plasters and bone cement. Students also visited the Quality Control lab and the Research and Development lab, where they were able to see how Chemistry is used to design new polymers to meet the requirements of the customer, and how every batch is checked to make sure it meets the required standards. Student James Fry said "It's good to see the different parts of engineering and to compare it to other visits to other companies who make different things", and Alex Paterson said "It was unique to see all of the different roles inside such a small factory". A big thank you to Lucite for being such great hosts.

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## Running Club News

Around 4000 runners participated in the Run Sunderland Festival on Sunday 7th May with Aycliffe Running Club represented in the 10K and Half Marathon events. The routes started in Keel Square and took in the sights of Sunderland City Centre, the National Glass Centre, Wearmouth Bridge, Sunderland Marina and Roker Park. The course had lots of twists and turns and conditions were cold and very windy making it quite a challenge at times. Robert Young was first to finish for ARC in 43:20, followed by Trish Kay in 49:58 and John Young in 58:57. In the Half Marathon Dave Blewitt finished in 1:41:56. Martha McBarron was 1st F60 in 1:45:13 followed by Sandra Collins in 1:50. Lisa Sheldon 2:05:05 and Ian Baronowski in 2:12:28. On Sunday 14th May Tommy Scott and Trish Kay ran Pier to Pier race. This is approximately 7 miles depending which route you choose. The race started on the beach at South Shields pier and then followed cliff top paths past Marsden Grotto, Souter Lighthouse and finished on the beach at Roker Pier. Tommy Scott finished in 47:22 and Trish Kay in 59 minutes.



## Superb Year for Aycliffe Junior Teams



The finale of the Aycliffe Juniors football season took place this weekend with two teams competing in TJFA League Challenge Cup Finals. Both games were played at Middlesbrough FC's Rockcliffe Hall training ground. The Under 9's have enjoyed a superb season and have already sealed promotion in to Durham Division 1 for next season. In the final they faced opponents from North Riding

Division One, Thirsk Falcons. The lads were superb and after going 1-0 down Harvey and Jayden scored to make it 2-1 at half time. In the second half Aycliffe dominated and man of the match Niall scored twice with Harvey adding another in a 5-1 win. The Under 17's ended their league season as runners up in Division 2 and faced cup final opponents from the same league, Hardwick Youth. A positive first half display saw Tom open the scoring and Callum double the lead, the half time score was 2-0. In the second half a penalty was conceded and a goal line clearance was needed to maintain the lead. Daniel then hit a superb strike to make it 3-1 and secure a great win. So it turned out to be a super Sunday for the Juniors who enjoyed lifting two cups to end the season on a positive note. Another notable achievement for the Juniors this week saw no less than five of this season's Under 11 squad representing Darlington and District Schools in the County Cup Final. Each of Jacob, Jake, Charlie, Zack and Lucas contributed to the 2-1 win and it was Zack who scored both goals in the win.

## Champion Inspires Students



Woodham Academy have partnered with the Youth Sports Trust to try and encourage girls to have a healthy active lifestyle. Miss Kent, Director of Woodham Sports Academy, decided to join the Girls Active campaign after she saw the success another school experienced. Research from the Youth Sport Trust indicates that by age 14, just over 10% of girls achieve their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day. research also shows the majority of girls do not see the importance of physical activity and how it affects them. This is mainly seen around the ages of 13-15. Woodham Academy have set up their own Girls Active group to try and change attitudes towards physical activity and to promote a healthy active lifestyle. The club has its own leadership and marketing team known as the 'GLAMS' (Girls Leadership and Marketing Squad). The GLAMS chosen to represent the Club went through a rigorous application process including creating a poster that had an image of what they thought would be the perfect GLAM and how they compare. Through the mass of applications submitted by the Year 9 girls, 4 were selected. Woodham's GLAM squad then took straight to the task in

deciding what their vision was for the club. Already there has been a huge improvement in the confidence in the Squad promoting the club across the school. They have also shown an understanding of organisation as it has been down to them to come up with different ideas for activities for KS3 girls. During the launch of the Girls Active club, the Academy has been lucky enough to have a visit from an extremely influential athlete with a great background story. Amanda Coulson, a female boxing champion, came into school to deliver two sessions. The first was directed at a group of year 9 girls, including the Glam Squad. The second session was a boxing master class, giving girls the basics in a fun and exciting way. Amanda who is partnered with Sky Sports Academy, was assigned to Woodham as the project to encourage girls participate in physical activity resonated closely to her. Amanda was one of the first female boxers to compete at a high level and to overcome gender stereotypes through her battle to compete in a male dominated sport. Woodham Sports Academy Director, Miss Kent, says "Amanda's story is truly inspirational. It is one of the reasons for the high weekly attendance at the Girls' Active

Club." The GLAM Squad have organised multiple activities, including 'Just Dance' in the dark with glow sticks and UV paint, a trampolining evening, games and fitness DVDs. They have also organised a dance teacher from Joanne Banks Dancers to deliver three sessions. The Glams are also looking for more activities they can organise for after May half term. Being involved in the GLAM Squad has also encouraged students to be engaged in their education. One student who had been selected for the GLAM Squad had previously obtained multiple behaviour points. She explained how much she wanted to take part and her place came with the condition that her behaviour improved. Since Christmas this student has shown dedication and determination and improved her behaviour across the whole school. Thanks to the GLAM Squad's hard work, The Girls Active club has been a success and will continue to run as long as the girls persevere to create a positive attitude surrounding physical activity. Girls Active takes place Woodham Academy on Thursdays after school from 3:30pm until 4:30pm and is open to any KS3 student at the school.



A spokesman for Durham Constabulary said: "The national security threat level is now critical." "We've stepped up patrols across County Durham and Darlington to provide a visible, reassuring presence. This will remain the case for as long as necessary. There is nothing to suggest there is any specific threat to our communities in County Durham and Darlington. "However, we will continue to review public events due to take place in our area over the coming days. We have sent a small number of officers to assist the policing operation in Manchester. "Durham Constabulary have plans in place for situations like this and currently it is extremely unlikely that members of the public will see military staff on our streets. Please remain calm but alert. "If you see anything that causes you concern, then call the anti-terror hot-line immediately on 0800 789 321. In an emergency dial 999."



Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring were beaten by 6 wickets away at Maltby 1st XI in the NYSD 2nd division. Losing a vital toss, Aycliffe were asked to bat first on a difficult wicket and they were duly skittled for just 66 after 24.4 overs with only Chris Palmer and Sean Morgan reaching double figures when they jointly top scored with 14 runs each. In reply the home side also struggled thanks to some excellent bowling from Michael Howe (3 for 30) (sponsored by Yvonne and Bob Wood), but Maltby recovered well and reached their winning target after 17.4 overs. The 2nd team lost at home to promotion chasing Seaton Carew 2nd XI by 8 wickets in the 4th division of the NYSD. Electing to bat first, Aycliffe

were dismissed for 88 after 27.3 overs with captain Steve Sweeney (17 runs) and Dan Weldon (15 runs) the main scorers. In reply the visitors coasted to victory after just 19.5 overs and for the loss of only 2 wickets. Our u17's played well but eventually lost by seven wickets away at Richmond in the league cup. Batting first, Aycliffe finished their allotted 20 overs with a respectable total of 75 for 5 thanks to an excellent innings from captain Ryan Patrick, who finished 30 not out and also good contributions from Will Varley (18 runs) and Dan Bowmer (10 runs). In reply the homeside hurried to victory after just 8.2 overs despite two wickets and two catches from all rounder Ryan Patrick. The u13's had another excellent win, this time defeating Darlington RA

away from home by 17 runs. Batting first Aycliffe scored 11 for 4 in their 20 overs thanks to good innings from both Josh Imerson (24 runs) and Leo Mercy (17 runs). In reply, the homeside were restricted to 93 for 8, with Leo Mercy (3 for 8) and Josh Imerson (2 for 17) causing the most damage. Special mention must go to Charlie Cayless, who put in a great performance behind the stumps and Kyle Cuthbertson with some great fielding which resulted in a run out. The u11's team lost by 42 runs away at unbeaten Richmond, but there were some good individual performances with eight year old Will Dearden bowled superbly taking two wickets for just 8 runs and his older brother Thomas who batted well to top score with 10 not out and there was an encouraging debut for William Dryden.

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# ELECTION VOTING LIKE "X" FACTOR

Dear Editor,  
We are so used to voting in shows like the 'X factor' and

## Pest Control

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'Big Brother' it often seems that political elections are now conducted in a similar vein with personality put before substance. The fact is that, the age, personality or private life of a

candidate is not as important as the platform they are standing on in a national election, with national issues at stake, which then can have massive impact locally. If the Tory party are elected

again, they will have a mandate to fully impose their cruel and indifferent ideology on the people of the UK. We have seen in their current manifesto they intend to cut free school meals, take homes away from the elderly to pay for care they have already worked all their lives to pay for, they will continue to hit the hard working and the vulnerable to pay for tax breaks for the highest earners. They will continue to throw our money at the top 5% claiming it will 'trickle down', when in reality, it is blown away into off shore accounts and stagnates in property portfolios. They are even making the repeal of the fox hunting ban a greater priority than tackling the huge rise in child poverty and homelessness. They have already tripled the national

debt. Labour's radical new and modern manifesto will invest in the roots of society, investing in the NHS and care services, building houses, nationalizing the railways, protecting our environment and wild life, making sure our children get a hot meal each day AND a free education, so they can reach their full potential. Those strong roots will grow a stable, balanced and sustainable economy, from which we all will benefit, not just a few. This election is an opportunity for real change nationally. Be positive, act positively. Vote Labour for a new, fairer and better future for all. You can read the manifesto online at <http://www.labour.org.uk> Kathy Beetham.

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# Local People Should Back Local Man

Dear Editor,  
Last week a letter was sent out with an election communication signed by Phil Wilson, and you may agree or disagree with this letter which in effect was against Corbyn and not the Labour Party.

The plain fact is that Phil Wilson has been the local MP over the last 10 years has done more for this constituency than any other MP. He set up an office in the Town Centre was in part instrumental in getting investment for the Town Centre regeneration, with the Town Centre owners.

Phil has a strong record of bringing jobs and investment to Newton Aycliffe and led the campaign to bring Hitachi Rail Europe to Newton Aycliffe. He believed in the skills of local people when the Tories, who opposed the plan, didn't. The factory is now operational providing nearly 1000 jobs. Phil is also fighting for Darlington A & E and Maternity Services with the Tories starving the NHS to death.

All Theresa May can talk about is Brexit and in response to the referendum Phil voted to trigger Article 50 to begin the process of leaving. Phil wants to make sure we get a good Brexit deal, a deal that doesn't leave the North East behind. Phil has, and will continue to consult with his constituents

on the Brexit deal, and has held surgeries across the constituency asking what Brexit deal do you want.

The Tories are abandoning older people and going back on their promise to protect pensioners income, whereas Labour will guarantee the triple lock on pensions. They are robbing thousands of women born in the 1950's of the pension they work hard for.

The letter which in effect was about Jeremy Corbyn as the main thrust of the publicity, and I have been around the Town campaigning first for the County Councillors two of whom lost their seats but on every occasion whether it was on the doorstep or in the clubs, many of the traditional Labour Voters stated that they could not vote Labour with Jeremy Corbyn in charge.

This has been repeated throughout the constituency not just in Newton Aycliffe and the latest outburst of supporting the IRA did not help. What Phil has done, and in my opinion rightly so, is to distance himself from the damage caused by the Leader of the Labour Party.

The election is about whether you want a Labour MP or a 23 year old Tory from Hull who will just be a spokesperson to May's policies. My vote will go to Phil Wilson who has this town and the Constituency at heart and is a dedicated MP. "Local people backing a Local man". Vince Crosby

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# Sneak Peek of Castle Ahead of Reopening

Visitors are being given the chance to go behind closed doors at a historic County Durham castle. From May Bank Holiday weekend, (May 27 and 28), Auckland Castle will be hosting free Behind the Scenes Tours every Saturday and Sunday, as it prepares for one of the most exciting chapters in its 900-year history. The Castle, once a private palace for the Prince Bishops of Durham, closed to the public in September 2016 and has now been completely cleared to allow work to begin on a multi-million pound restoration scheme.

The Behind the Scenes Tours, run by a team of specially trained volunteers, will give visitors a rare opportunity to take a sneak peek inside ahead of the Castle's grand reopening in May 2018.

Those taking part will be able to learn more about the heritage of this prestigious property, as well as the restoration work due to take place over the next 12 months to return the currently bare rooms to their original Georgian Gothic opulence.

Separate tours will also be taking place around the Castle's landmark St Peter's Chapel. Originally a 12th century Great Hall, the chapel is now believed to be one of the largest private chapels in Europe and is still used by the current Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend Paul Butler. The Chapel Tours will explore the history of the chapel, including stories about the bishops and the Northern Saints, who are all depicted in a

series of stained glass windows. Hannah Peaden, Head of Visitor Experience at Auckland Castle Trust said: "The Behind the Scenes and Chapel Tours are a fantastic chance for visitors to step inside Auckland Castle before the restoration work gets underway in earnest.

"Those taking part will have a unique opportunity to see the Castle in its raw state and gain a greater understanding of the work required to transform it again before we fully reopen to the public in May 2018."

The restoration of Auckland Castle, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is part of Auckland Castle Trust's wider £70 million programme designed to revitalise Bishop Auckland, which also includes the Mining Art Gallery, Spanish Gallery and Faith Museum.

These developments, alongside Kynren - An Epic Tale of England, by Auckland Castle Trust's sister charity Eleven Arches and other attractions, look set to attract more than 430,000 visitors to Bishop Auckland and inject £20 million into the local economy every year by 2020.

Auckland Castle's free Behind the Scenes and Chapel Tours begin now and will run until the Castle reopens in May 2018. Spaces are limited and places can be booked by emailing bookings@aucklandcastle.org or call 01388 743797. Further details about the restoration of Auckland Castle and the Trust's Future Plans can be found at www.aucklandcastle.org

# Cake for PCP Trustees' 60th Birthdays



At a meeting at the PCP two Trustees had a pleasant surprise with a lovely red velvet cake baked by coffee shop apprentice, Lynsey. Melanie Fordham and Heather Brewster volunteer their time to support the governance and running of the charity, and both recently turned 60 last week. "Happy birthday from fellow Trustees, Chief Executive Carol, and the rest of the staff team x".

## Public Notice

**DONATIONS** needed of Bric-a-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 31st May 2017 in the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe. All serving and ex-serving REME personnel welcome.

# £1300 for Christian Aid



On behalf of Churches Together in Great Aycliffe, I would like to thank Tesco for allowing us to take a bucket collection in their store on 18th/19th/20th May. Thank you to Tesco's customers who donated so generously and to the volunteers from our churches who gave their time to collect for Christian Aid. The amount from the bucket collection was £892.32 plus £413.47 from church collections, making a total of £1,305.79 raised for Christian Aid. Christian Aid reaches out to people all over the world

in tragic circumstances, regardless of race, religion or creed. It works with poor communities across the world to bring lasting change for the most vulnerable people on earth. Every year thousands of volunteers all over the UK take part in fund raising for Christian Aid and the people of Newton Aycliffe always respond very generously to our bucket collection in Tesco. Thank you all for your tremendous generosity and support. Anne Molyneux, Secretary, C.T.G.A

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# STILLER INVESTS £280K IN NEW ULTRA-SAFE TRUCKS

Stiller Warehousing and Distribution has invested more than a quarter of a million pounds in a new batch of ultra-safe trucks. The Aycliffe family-run firm has spent £280,000 on the four new vehicles which include a number of state-of-the-art safety features.

The 18-tonne, 36-feet long trucks, each costing £70,000, are curtain-sided and built to the latest diesel omissions as standard. The Iveco vehicles are also fitted with the latest body work built and tested to German engineering standards. Fitted to the rear of the trucks are lifting platforms used to deliver pallets to ground level which have been specified to nearly double the normal size and fitted with collapsible safety barriers to help prevent falls from height. The trucks also come equipped with a bespoke reversing camera system.

Stiller's latest investment in equipment, people and facilities – including two new warehouses costing more than £1.8m between them – takes the company's total spent to almost £7m in the last three years.

Managing Director Matthew Stiller said: "It's another sound investment after a period of steady and positive growth for the company, which reflects how well the business is doing. "Two of the new trucks are replacing old ones, while two will be new additions to our fleet, and they're really state-of-the-art vehicles which will further improve efficiency.



Matthew Stiller with commercial co-ordinator Lizzie Brophie and the firm's new £70,000 Iveco trucks.

"They will be used to deliver to homes and small businesses throughout the North East usually in areas a full size articulated truck cannot reach."

More than £1.1m was spent on a new state-of-the-art, 40,000 sq ft warehouse, increasing the company's warehousing capacity to 200,000 sq ft, in 2015, and last year it invested another £750,000 in a 40,000 sq ft extension, which was completed earlier this year.

Stiller reported a turnover of just under £12m at the end of 2016, which Matthew Stiller says was a strong financial result for the company formed more than 60 years ago. Staff numbers at Stiller have steadily grown to 138 along with the firm's continued investment programme.

"We're committed to expanding our site in Aycliffe

while improving our existing facilities and vehicles to make sure we're performing to the best of our ability," added Matthew Stiller.

"We have plans to invest more in the site over the years as we continue our ambitious growth plan to create more employment for the Aycliffe area."

Stiller provides cost-effective warehousing and distribution services to businesses in the North-East region as well as commercial property lettings and is also a member and major shareholder in Palletline, a national co-operative network of 70 companies.

Its Aycliffe site stores goods and parts for well-known national brands as well as local businesses including Gestamp Tallent and 3M.

More about Stiller can be found at [www.stiller.co.uk](http://www.stiller.co.uk)

## New Rotary Member Gives Job Talk



Gary Blenkinsopp is a new member of the Rotary Club and as such is required to give a job talk explaining what he does and where he is employed. Gary is a Manager at Husqvarna and part of his job is travelling to meet suppliers. He recently spent time in Taiwan and in his

spare time visited the Rotary Club of Taipei. He brought back photos and videos of his trip which were both interesting and amusing. He is shown in this photo with the Club President Nora Scott.

### 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.

**REEBOK** K9 cross trainer, hardly used, like new, 19 programmes, £150 ono. Buyer to collect. Tel 07989 593277

**LARGE** 2 seater sofa x 2, dark red leather, immaculate condition, £1200 ono. Tel 01325 319268

**TYRES** 4 low profile tyres on alloy wheels from Ford Focus, used but in good condition. Tel 01325 321403

**CAR TYRES** (on wheels) from Citroen C3 (185x60x15), 4, as new (used). Haynes manual (C3). Timing belt (new) (C3). £70 the lot. Tel 01325 321403

**CAR BATTERY** brand new, £25. Tel 01325 321403

**FORD FOCUS** tow bar, complete, used, but as new, £100. Tel 01325 321403

**SAT NAV** Tom Tom 60, free computer updates, hardly used. Boxed with instructions. £45. Tel 01325 321689

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

**TRIKE** 3-in-1 and Apollo girls cycles with stabilisers, £15 for both. X-Factor microphone, £15. Tel 01325 310963

**LADIES** white comfort fit casual shoes, size 4, never worn. Cost £30, accept £15. Ladies black casual shoes, size 3, comfort fit. Cost £20, accept £10. Tel 01325 366956

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### In Memoriam

**LOUISE CUNNINGHAM** 23rd May 2010. In loving memory of a beloved Niece. Forever in our thoughts and in our hearts. So sadly missed. Uncle Jack and Aunt Lilian; Cousins Sharon and family, Hazel and family  
**NOEL NEEDHAM** 26th May 2009. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. In loving memory. Sheila and families. Love always

### Birthday Remembrance

**FORSTER**, John George. First of June 1935. Remembering my darling Husband Jack, on his birthday. Thinking of all the many happy years we shared together with our lovely family. I love and miss you with all my heart. From your darling Wife Joan xxxx

**CATHERINE McKENNA** Whom would have been 50 on 30th May. Always in our thoughts xxxx

**LINDA GRIFFITHS** 31st May 1954. Today is full of memories, happiness and tears. The love that we have for you we shared throughout the years. Sadly missed by all, God bless. Ray, Leanne & Simon, Mark & Shelley, Alistair & Dianne, Millie & Lucas, Hyla, Rhys, Bryn, Owen and Carys xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

### Obituary

**WILSON**. 12th May, unexpectedly but peacefully in hospital, Abel James (Dave) of Aycliffe Village, formerly Prudhoe, aged 88 years. Devoted Husband of the late Dorothy; a loving and much loved Dad to Helen and Barbara; beloved Grandad to Linzi, Lisa and Matthew; Father-in-Law to Andrew and John; dearest companion to the late Dorothy Couper; also a respected Uncle and good friend to many. Will family and friends please meet for Service at St. Michael's Church, Heighington on Friday 2nd June at 9.15am followed by interment in Prudhoe Cemetery.

**CYRIL ALLEN**, (Titch), aged 84 years, peacefully surrounded by his loving family on 12th May, of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of the late Alma and a dearly loved Dad of Susan and Norman. He will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends. Funeral on Wednesday 31st May. Friends please meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, maybe sent for either Dementia UK or Arthritis Research UK c/o Whitehouse Funeral Service. Golf Attire Optional.

**GORDON DOUGLAS**, of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully at home on 19th May, after a long illness bravely borne, aged 80 years. Much loved Husband of Rosemary; loving Dad of Lorraine and Amanda; devoted Grandad of Nathan, Kyle, Catriona, Conor and Matthew. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday, 31st May at 3.15pm followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, to the Butterwick Hospice.

### Maggie Barella



**1.8.1953 - 29.5.2016**

It's been a year since my loving wife left me and the boys to go to Heaven. Miss you so much Maggie, you are forever in our hearts. Sleep well my love. Till we meet again. Mick, Darren, David and Daniel

### Lillias R. Smith

12th June 2014

A dearly loved Mum, Granny and Great Gran. remembered by Valerie & Michael, Elizabeth and Kathryn, Allan and David, Jacob, Bronwyn, Theo and Dylan.

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

### Anthea Scott-Atess

26th May 2006

**Our Anthea, Our Daughter, Our Mam, Our Sister**  
We can't help but weep at your grave Anthea, for all we know you're not there. We know you have a date with a butterfly to dance in the air. You'll be singing in the sunshine wild and free. Playing tag with the wind while you wait for we. Loving and missing you always, and all our loved ones xxxxxxxxxxxx

### Wayne Seal

29th May 2016

Can't believe it's been a year. You are in our thoughts always and forever. Until we meet again. Have a JD for yourself.

Love always, Mam, Dad, Garry, Julie, Tony, Julie, Matty, Ollie, Owen, Trish, Dylan, Jack, Daniel and Baby Bump

## Strong Attendance at Business Park Event



Dozens of companies from the area attended the latest news and networking event, organised by Aycliffe Business Park Community (ABPC). Held at the Xcel Centre, it was open to businesses and more than 50 people took advantage of networking opportunities as well as hearing two useful presentations.

Jonathan Gamblin, from the Department for International Trade (DIT), spoke to attendees about the benefits of exporting, while Dan Kitchen, the managing director of IT business Razorblue, gave more details about his firm's new high-speed internet solution for the business park.

ABPC board member Rachel Townsend Green also gave an update on a new website for the business park which is currently being constructed. Board chairperson Kerina

Clark said: "We were delighted with the turn-out for our ever-popular news and networking event and we hope all attendees took something beneficial from it.

"There's also a lot of work going on behind the scenes. The ABPC board is meeting every month and, a year after being formed as a limited company, we're hopeful that some of our project work will come to fruition very soon with some exciting developments.

"Of course, we're always looking for new ideas and ways of improving what we do so we always encourage businesses to get in touch with their suggestions."

Aycliffe Business Park is the biggest single employment area in County Durham and one of the largest business parks in the UK. Spread across 400 hectares, it is home to an estimated 500

companies and around 10,000 employees.

ABPC was officially formed in summer 2016 with the main aim of helping companies increase their profile on the business park and to showcase their services locally, while also increasing engagement with each other.

ABPC's next meeting is a seminar on apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy, at South West Durham Training, on Friday June 16, from 8.15am.

The next news and networking for Aycliffe Business Park residents only is at ROF 59 Activity Centre on Friday July 21, from 8.15am.

The next event open to all is due to be held at Planet Leisure on Friday September 22, from 8.15am. More information and contact details can be found at

[aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk](http://aycliffebusinesspark.co.uk)

### NEWTON NEWS

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# Aycliffe Teenager Signs First Football Contract

Joshua Bayne, a Year 11 student at Woodham Academy, has signed his first professional contract with Hartlepool United.

Joshua is a very talented footballer who has already had experience playing schoolboy football for both Sunderland AFC and Scotland during his time at

secondary school.

In addition to his prowess on the football field, Joshua has represented Woodham Academy in a range of other sports including athletics, handball and cross country. His phenomenal service to sports at Woodham was recognised when he was awarded Young Performer

of the Year at last year's Woodham Sports Academy presentation. A true all-rounder, Joshua has managed to combine his sporting achievements with continued academic success in all subjects. It is a testament to his positive attitude and commitment to his studies that he is also on track to attain consistently excellent GCSE results this summer.

The Hartlepool United elite phase coach, Anthony Sweeney, commented, "Since joining us in February, Joshua has hit the ground running. He is not only someone with exceptional talent but also has a tremendous attitude. Everyone at Hartlepool United is delighted that Joshua chose to sign after interest from a lot of other football league clubs". Joshua follows a rich tradition of players from Woodham Academy who have gone on to play football at a professional level,

following in the footsteps of Jason Steele, Ross Turnbull, Darren Craddock, Christopher Mason and Lewis Wing. Everyone at Woodham Academy would like to wish Joshua the greatest luck, not only in his professional sporting career but also in his academic studies. He truly deserves every success.

## Athletics Report

Around 4000 runners participated in the Run Sunderland Festival on Sunday 7th May. Aycliffe Running Club was represented in the 10K and Half Marathon events. The routes started in Keel Square and took in the sights of Sunderland City Centre, the National Glass Centre, Wearmouth Bridge, Sunderland Marina and Roker Park. The course had lots of twists and turns and conditions were cold and very windy making it quite a challenge at times.

In the 10K Robert Young was first to finish for Aycliffe in 43:20, followed by Trish Kay in 49:58 and John Young in 58:57. In the Half Marathon Dave Blewitt finished in 1:41:56, Martha McBarron was 1st in her category of female over 60 in a time of 1:45:13, followed by Sandra Collins in 1:50. Then came Lisa Sheldon in 2:05:05 and Ian Baronowski in 2:12:28.

On Wednesday 10 May George Dixon finished 10th at the Locke Park pie and peas 5 miler in 30:22.

On Saturday 13 May we had 22 members of Aycliffe Running Club participating in park runs with three recording new personal bests. Park runs are free weekly timed running events which take place nationwide. Local events take place weekly at Hardwick, Hackworth and South Parks. These are open to runners of all abilities. Find out more on the park run website.

On Sunday 14 May Tommy Scott and Trish Kay ran in the Pier-to-Pier race. This is approximately 7 miles depending which route you choose. The race started on the beach at South Shields pier and then followed cliff top paths past Marsden Grotto, Souter Lighthouse and finished on the beach at Roker Pier. Tommy Scott finished in 47:22 and Trish Kay in 59 minutes. On the same day Judith Porter completed the Ripon 10 miler in a time of 1:41:47.

At the annual Raby Castle runs on Sunday 21 May Isaac Boys represented Aycliffe Running Club junior section in a new 3K race. Isaac had a great run and finished in 6th position in 12:14. Other members of Aycliffe Running Club competed in the undulating 10K race which is a 2 lap course set within the grounds of the Raby Castle Estate. First to finish for ARC was Martyn Knox in 43:27 followed by Dave Blewitt 45:48, Martha McBarron 50:09, Trish Kay 51:27, Heather Fenwick 57:07, Denise Evans 60:40 and Ian Baronowski in 63:42. Aycliffe Running club are hosting their annual 10K and 3K races on Sunday 18/06/17. For more information visit their website at [www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/about-aycliffe-10k-and-fun-run/](http://www.ayclifferunningclub.org.uk/about-aycliffe-10k-and-fun-run/)

# Heighington AFC Boys Hat-trick



Heighington AFC Boys Under 16's have just recently achieved an incredible hat-trick of promotions over the last 3 seasons within the TJFA Youth League, finishing as runners up in Division 2.

This is a remarkable achievement for a small village club that continues to thrive, and is a testament to the great work and commitment of the kids, Manager Mark Stapleton and his coaches Neil Thompson and Peter Steed. The team have also reached the final of the Darlington RA tournament, losing to the hosts on penalties, having not conceded a single goal throughout the tournament.

Training continues up until the school holidays, 6 to 7:30 at the village parish fields in Heighington, so if you're interested in joining a successful team and club, why not come along. Call Mark Stapleton on 07443 621876 for more details.

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