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Concern Over Bank Closures in Newton Aycliffe Poor Communication with Customers

When a customer visited her local Santander Branch in the town centre last Monday she was shocked to find it is shortly to close.

Whilst standing in the queue she observed a large closure poster on the wall and also whilst waiting picked up an A4 booklet entitled: Branch Closure Impact Assessment. When served by the Cashier she was given an A4 sheet: entitled "Banking at your Post Office". She pointed out to the cashier that if she wanted to bank with the Post Office she would have opened an account there instead. "Needless to say I do not consider that this banking alternative is a sustainable option, nor does it provide good customer service to a Santander customer" she told Newton News..

The customer's other alternatives include visiting either Darlington or Bishop Auckland Santander branches which will take on business previously done at Aycliffe. On the final page of the Impact Assessment Santander inform their customers the Assessment will be updated online, two weeks ahead of the planned closure, to include a summary of feedback received and their responses. "I deduce from this that the writing is already on the wall. Yet another big business is leaving our town centre with which I am sure will



have long term detrimental consequences for personal and business customers alike" said the concerned lady.

The document issued by Santander says they have notified a range of community representatives including our M.P. We find this hard to believe as nothing has been received by your community newspaper. Phil Wilson MP has since expressed his concern at the news of the planned closure of two banks in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre. Both NatWest and Santander plan on closing their branches by the end of June 2018.

Mr Wilson will be meeting with both banks before the Christmas break to discuss the impact that these decisions will have on his constituents. Mr Wilson is especially worried about elderly and vulnerable customers who are often not as familiar with using online

banking services and prefer the security of using the services of a branch.

Mr Wilson said "I am very worried about the impact these closures will have upon my constituents in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area. It would be bad enough seeing one bank close their branch in the town centre yet alone two. I was particularly unhappy to note that Santander are telling customers that alternative local banking services are available at the NatWest - this is a disgrace - do they not realise that the Newton Aycliffe NatWest branch is closing before they are!"

Santander also note in their leaflet that they had notified a range of community representatives within Newton Aycliffe including our MP. Mr Wilson said "The leaflet had already been distributed to customers by the time I received an email at 4.23pm on 4th December notifying me of their closure plans."

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Rotary Xmas Concert Free

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The Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe

(Formerly Royal British Legion)

Sunday 17th December
from 2.00pm to 6.30pm

Solo Artist **"Chris Jones"**
Plus Starlight Karaoke/Disco
FREE ENTRY

December Entertainment

Saturday 23rd December

Popular Trio **"Betcha By Golly Wow"**
and Solo Artist **"Dave Lee Michaels"**
Tickets £5 each - Doors Open 6pm

Sunday 24th December

Solo Artist **"Alex McCrae"**
and Duo **"SoundWaves"**
Tickets £4 each

ST. CLARE'S COURT FESTIVE FUN

OPEN DAY
Tuesday 12th December
10am-4pm

Tours, opportunity to discuss care needs, meet the home manager and residents, entertainment and meet new people from the local community.

All welcome to come and join in the celebrations and refreshments as we open our doors for you to see what it is like for your loved one to live here and for you to see what it is like to work at St Clare's Court.

Christmas Fete
Friday 15th December
1pm-4pm

There will be a range of stalls so come along and join in the festive fun.

Worldwide Response to Aycliffe Radio

The first week of broadcasting has resulted in a huge response from not only residents in Newton Aycliffe but also from ex-Newtonians around the world.

Before the launch on Friday morning an email was received from ex-Newtonian Andy Little, who runs a radio station in Spain (CentralFM). Not only did he offer his congratulations and wish the new venture good luck, but also offered his services. Aycliffe Radio is an online station, so Andy would be able to broadcast his show live from Spain - watch this space for more details!

Over the first few days we were contacted by previous residents of Newton Aycliffe who are now resident in Australia, America, Romania, United Arab Emirates, Spain, The Philippines and a nice message from Mel Carter sitting in front of his log fire in Newfoundland, Canada.

During the first week our presenters have been finding their feet and getting used to the studio equipment. There were a few gaffs and dead air sections, which we have hopefully sorted out.

Please remember the presenters are not all professional DJs, they are your friends and neighbours willing to give up their time to entertain and inform you about all things local.

If you are interested in joining us at Aycliffe Radio, please get in touch via our website www.ayclifferadio.co.uk, text 07512 253333, email info@ayclifferadio.co.uk, like our Facebook page or download the (soon to be upgraded) app from Apple Store or Google Play. Newton News have kindly offered us space each week to promote our DJ schedule, so check out the running order on page 5 for your type of music.

FESTIVE FUN AT ROSE LODGE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Dozens of guests of all ages visited Rose Lodge Care home on Saturday 25th November for their annual Christmas Fair.

The highlights of the family-friendly event included a Santa's Grotto for visiting Children, Christmas café, a wide variety of Christmas themed gift stalls and a luxury hamper prize draw. An impressive £577.50 was raised on the day which will go to providing additional treats and outings for residents in the New Year.

The fair marked the start of Christmas festivities at the home which will see events happening throughout December including a Christmas-themed 'Come Dine with Me' for families and friends, carols from Stephenson Way and Vane Road Primary School, Christmas church services, trips out and Christmas parties.

Home Manager Nicola Wheatley Said: "We'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Christmas Fair. It was one of our busiest



yet and it was so wonderful to see so many families, friends and people from the local community come along to support it. It was a great way to start our Christmas celebrations here at Rose Lodge."



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www.bayhorseheighington.co.uk

New Menu Now Available

Come and meet Santa
on 16th December
from 5.00pm - Free to all



Marvellous Magic Monday
2 FOR 1
on our boards menu
served 6.00-9.00pm

Christmas Fare
Bookings now being taken for 27th Nov., until 22nd Dec. Monday to Saturday

Thursday

Available from 6.00pm to 9.00pm
Pie, Peas, Chips and a Pint for £12.00
Pasta and Presecco £12.00

Sunday Lunch Carvery

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Saturday 9th December - "Dakota"

Quote: "Dakota are a really tight act who look like they enjoy every second of their set. They like to keep their set list varied covering music from many different periods and genres. All rockers at heart, their set has a definite rock feel, but there is something to keep everyone happy!"

Trimmers Arms, South Shields March 2017

Covering songs by: Chilli Peppers, Oasis, Green Day, Killers, Blink 182, Metallica, U2 and much more

Saturday 16th December - "This Machine"

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All About UC

You can find more information on Universal Credit by visiting our web pages at www.durham.gov.uk/universalcredit, which has been updated following the announcements made last week.

There is a "postcode finder" tool there which can be used to help customers find local computer facilities and also where they can get support to help them make a claim.

Festive Period Events

THE BIG CLUB

CHRISTMAS EVE
Upstairs Lounge - 7pm
Evening Ticket Event £2.00
'PATRICK G'
Pub in Club - 2.30pm - Free Entry
The fabulous
'Miss Kimberley Cunningham'

CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY
Open from 11am

BOXING DAY Domino Handicap
£50.00 - Added names to be entered by 1pm
BOXING NIGHT
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Evening Ticket Event £2.00
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29th DECEMBER
Upstairs Lounge
SOUL SESSION
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BINGO SESSIONS
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Concert Hall - Ticket Event
£5.00 - Doors Open at 7pm
'Norty New Year'
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Please Help Bring my Mam Dorothy Home

The family of Dorothy Moore is raising around £5,000 for medical transport to bring her home for Christmas from East Sussex to Newton Aycliffe.

She has lived in Newton Aycliffe all her and was married to Joseph Moore (Joe) and they lived in Whinlatter Place with five children, David, Janet, Sara, Helen and Caroline. Dorothy has Dementia and needs support to travel. The family have requested Newton News share their story asking the people of Newton Aycliffe to help.

The family are well known on the town - Janet works in McColls at Simpature, David works for Permoid, Sara is employed at 3m's and Helen worked at Aycliffe Secure Unit.

Sadly Joe died of prostate cancer and Dorothy has no



family near to visit her 300 miles away. Dorothy would always help anyone in need and loved Newton Aycliffe and only left to give her sister help who also had dementia before she died. Please email: helen.moore124@btinternet.com if anyone wants to help regarding items for a raffle or make a donation.

Fantastic Support for Foodbank Collection

Dear Sir,
As Chairman and Secretary of GACAP Ron and myself were privileged to take part on Friday and Saturday giving out leaflets and accepting donations of food and money for Trussel Trust Foodbank at Tesco's Store in Newton Aycliffe.

Once again I would like to express my thanks to Kath and Alison for inviting us to help out at the event where the generosity of the people of Newton Aycliffe once again astonished me.

For three days last week Alison and Kath from the town's Foodbank operating out of St Clare's Church were busy packing up the food donated by shoppers in Tesco in Newton Aycliffe.

For 5 years Ernie and June Temple ran the foodbank and organised the Tesco Collection events before they retired and handed over to

Alison and Kath. You may have noticed in last week's Newton News a presentation to them both at a special event at St Clare's Church. which we attended.

As chairman and secretary of Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership we are forever grateful to our partners of which Tesco and the Foodbank are included, for the untiring work they do, also for their advice, practical support and direction they give to people of Newton Aycliffe who for many reasons find themselves in need.

For more information about GACAP contact the secretary on secretary@gacap.org.uk or take a look at our website which is still under construction. www.gacap.org.uk

Joan and Ron Mitchie
Secretary and Chairman
GACAP

Charity Leads on Quality



An award winning charity was celebrating again following recent assessment against international standards for Quality Management Systems and Environmental Standards. The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) also completed the transition for both standards to the newly revised 2015 versions demonstrating their commitment to continually improving their practice.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said, "PCP operates in a competitive environment and, whilst our drive and passion comes from our work supporting communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing or increase aspirations, we need to ensure that all of our projects and services are of a very high quality to stand out from the crowd. We are constantly evaluating how we can do things better and work more efficiently; the ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards help us on this journey. Our staff and volunteers play a vital role in both ensuring quality

in delivery and acting as environmental champions for the organisation and the transition to the new standards is in recognition of their hard work." ISO 9001 is a quality management standard demonstrate an organisations ability to consistently provide products or services that meet customer and regulatory requirements and ISO 14001 aims to support organisations to minimise any negative environmental

impact they may have. For further information about PCP visit the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF, tel: 01325 321234, email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net or find PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre.

Sapphire Wedding Anniversary Celebration



Margaret and Alex Cochrane were married on the 6th December 1952 in Methil Parish Church, Fife, in Scotland. They have four children, Dale, Colin, Audrey and Sandra along with nine Grandchildren and five Great Grandchildren.

They moved south to Newton Aycliffe in the mid sixties due to Alex working as an Office Manager on building the motorway between Aycliffe and Bradbury.

While here Margaret worked at the GEC factory and later in the laundry at Aycliffe School. Work commitments took the away again from Aycliffe in 1980, moving back to Scotland in Cumbernauld and a village near Pitlochry. They moved south and lived in Wolverhampton before Alex retired in 1994 when they moved back to Newton Aycliffe to their home in Rushyford Court.

Margaret is members and regular attendee at neville Parade Methodist Church and Alex in his retirement pursued his interest in computers and mechanical engineering. He also enjoys studying local history and was member of the local society for many years.

Our town Mayor, Wendy Hillary, called on the couple

to pass on congratulations on behalf of the Council and the townspeople.

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Options Group Wins Printer

A local charity supporting adults with learning and physical disabilities is celebrating after winning a state-of-the-art printer.

Around 50 people from across County Durham regularly attend Options, which is based at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

The group won the Lexmark colour laser printer, donated by digital office equipment company SOS Group Ltd, at the first North East Fundraising Conference.

Carol Gaskarth, chief executive at the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), was the lucky winner selected at random from a huge number of delegates.

Carol says: "PCP delivers a wide range of projects across County Durham and I instantly knew which project would benefit the most from the new printer.

"Options is our user-led service supporting adults with learning and physical disabilities and aims to encourage independence whilst improving the health and wellbeing of members.

"The printer will have positive impact on how the project runs, not only making it more efficient, but also enhancing the members' ability to be even more creative.

"Options members are very much in control of choosing what they want to do and really enjoy crafts and organising celebration and fundraising events. For instance, they're currently organising a Christmas awards ceremony and now they'll be able to write letters to local businesses, print invitations and create their own fliers.

"They're also in the process of designing and writing their own superhero comic so a high quality colour printer will be invaluable for this."

Andrew Skelton, director



at SOS Group, says: "We're thrilled that the printer was won by PCP and the Options project. I've had the pleasure of visiting them a couple of times now and we've learned a lot about their work to improve health, wellbeing and learning for all.

"As a company, we love supporting charities in our region and we're very proud to have been able to help.

"We can see the instant positive impact the addition of a new printer has had on the group and they were genuinely very pleased to receive it. It was up and running in no time!"

SOS Group Ltd launched in 2002 to supply digital office equipment, related software and support. It is based on the Team Valley, with an additional office in Bristol, and services 'blue chip' clients nationally and, increasingly, internationally.

It employs 20 staff and is equally at home providing digital office equipment in a standard business environment and within the highly-charged atmosphere of world-class sporting competitions.

The company has provided

digital office equipment services at a number of high-profile sporting events this year, including the IAAF World Athletics Championships and World Para Athletics Championships in London, and the British Swimming Summer Championships and Special Olympics GB National Games in Sheffield.

For more information about PCP, please visit: www.pcp.uk.net or call 01325 321234

It was a full house at Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership meeting last Monday and gone are the days when only 5 or 6 partners attended. Now the numbers are nearer 30. We also had our first Friend of Gacap attending too and a further "Friend of GACAP" enrolled.

The last meeting of 2017 was put aside for eating Christmas nibbles and networking and our thanks go to Helen and Aaron from Tesco for their contribution to our increased waistline!

Many thanks to Dawn from More Time UK Café recently reopened after refurbishment, where she too brought some tempting nibbles. The Corn Beef and Potato Pie was my particular favourite and I will be popping in for a coffee and a slice of pie soon.

Ernie Temple on behalf of his wife and himself said he had been honoured to accept a plaque from Alison and Kath celebrating five years they had set up and run the foodbank. Alison from the Foodbank was pleased to announce that the Play Café spoke about in November would commence on 4th January - another

example of partners working together.

The secretary said that £221.50 had been collected at Tesco on 16th November, go to those who helped out. A big thank you to Helen at Tesco who do so much to help charities across the town. The money of course is always useful and will go to our discretionary fund. What was good was that we were noticed and recognised in our High Viz Tops and displaying our new banners.

The icing on the cake came from Peter Driver Assistant Secretary when he unveiled GACAP's much awaited Website launched a month before the deadline.

Val Fawcett from AARMS gave a thought provoking message in respect of the work she is doing with those who are struggling with alcohol addiction. To help raise necessary funds they will be holding a tombola stall at the Thames Centre on Saturday 9th December. 10-3pm. Val's vision for 2018 is for all doctors surgeries to display the information rather than just Bewick Crescent Surgery. Allison White from Aycliffe Cancer Support Group advised partners her group were taking over a shop in the town centre on 11th and 12th December. Her group has got bigger and lots of people are struggling. On Monday MacMillan Welfare Rights will be in the shop giving advice. There will be a tombola stall, and clothes for sale or to give away to people who can't afford them. She said they have been developing Chemo Bags to be given to people who are taking the drug. They contain all things needed: pen, pencil, puzzle books, tissues. Christmas is a bad time of the year for all who are going through Chemotherapy or are a carer for someone taking the treatment.

Before the networking and refreshments, Chris Palmer from St Mary's alerted all to an article in the Northern Echo under help and advice for older people. GAMP had funded a programme called "Beat the Scammer" set to alert older people on the lengths people will go to fraudulently extract money from people, who were isolated and vulnerable.

Memory Tree at Coffee Pronto Helps Hospice

This Year Coffee Pronto have turned their Christmas tree into a Memory tree for all customers old and new to write a tag out in memory of loved ones.

Coffee Pronto support charities and this year they are sending any donations to Butterwick Hospice. Barbara Meredith owner of Coffee Pronto said "It is very emotional watching our lovely customers writing



out their memory tags and hanging them and it reminds us how precious life is" Huey the manager commented "This is our way of helping our community to come together in memory of the ones we have loved and lost"

Free Community Concert in Aycliffe Leisure Centre

The Rotary Club annual Community Christmas Concert is on Tuesday 12th December in the Leisure Centre from 1pm - 2.30pm.

This is an event not to be missed with lots of Xmas entertainment from our schools and a special item from our famous Aycliffe MAD Choir.

It promises to be a spectacular show with singing, dancing, gymnastics, School Band with an opportunity for the audience to sing their favourite carols and Xmas songs.

Admission is free, but there will be a raffle and a collection for people to support the Rotary Club's annual appeal to purchase hampers for the town's needy families.

Local DJ, John Melvin is the sound engineer and schools bring backing tracks for their own special musical items. It is a joyful occasion and will raise your spirits in readiness for Christmas.

There is a special invitation to our Care Homes to bring their

residents to enjoy children singing.

FREE XMAS DAY LUNCH

Don't stay home alone on Christmas Day - Come and join The Church of Latter Day Saints on Shafto Way for your Christmas Lunch.

ARRIVE at 1.30pm for 2pm Sitting on Monday 25th December. Free collection and return within 10-miles of Newton Aycliffe

Places Limited so RESERVE your lunch before Monday 11th December by calling John on 07900 251258 or emailjohn.angeletta54@gmail.com

Vintage Bus Refurbished



Members of the Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society were delighted to have been offered significant funding by GAMP and Honest John earlier in the year in order to have their ex Darlington Double Decker AHN 451B re -panelled and repainted by local coach repairers Gardiners of Spennymoor. It is some 20 years since it was last repainted and the current work will give it another 20 years of quality display time. The previous advert on the bus for Darlington Leisure Services is to be renewed in order to maintain its local roots.

Amused by last week's letter in the Newton News from Bill Curtis about buses on the Sapphire 7 service. John Sullivan of Gardiners, assured the Society that the vintage rattles, bangs and groans are definitely from the aged Society drivers and not from the old bus itself. We think that Gardiners are "pulling our leg"!

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Aycliffe Radio Heard in Spain

Dear Sir,
Congratulations Newton Press on the launch of your new project - Aycliffe Radio. I grew up in Newton Aycliffe,

went to Woodham when it was a Comprehensive and worked at the Leisure Centre for many years, so the town will always have a place in



my heart.

I now own my own Radio Station in Spain (Central FM) and present the Breakfast Show so when I heard the news that you are opening a Radio Station in Aycliffe I was over the moon.

Good luck with the launch and look forward to listening in.

Andy Little
Central FM Spain

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NEWTON NEWS EDITORIAL

School Car Parking

The problem of parents parking in roads around schools is a constant whine from residents. Not only is access and egress to their own homes denied, but there is a danger to children being hit while milling around the area, as cars move in and out of the street.

The problem is being tackled by various means, when the answer is easily solved by the school itself allowing parents with children to drop them off and pick children up on the perimeter of their large hard-standing playgrounds.

The playgrounds are not in use at the end of the school day so why not put in special single car roads and parking areas for drop off's and pick ups?

This would get all those cars off the roads into an orderly queue in and out of school grounds safely.

Of course it will be costly installing access and roads, but it would solve this ongoing problem.

County Councillor's Reply

Parking outside schools is one of the most intractable problems Councillors are asked about. This is because most schools were located and designed for a time when many fewer people owned or used a car, so we are always going to be trying to squeeze a gallon onto a pint pot as far as traffic round schools is concerned.

It is not just that there is not the £ millions to make huge alterations to the infrastructure, in most cases it is difficult to see any way or anywhere that vehicles could be safely be directed. In the meantime, current planning legislation seeks to deter, not to attract, traffic.

It is also problematic because it is about changing people's behaviour. Some of the driving and parking round schools, where not downright illegal, is dangerous and inconvenient; some people seem to think that their needs take precedence over anything or anybody else. We do not have enough wardens and police, and where local authorities have experimented with giving powers to other people (e.g. teachers) they have been abused and assaulted.

This does not mean that the problems have been accepted or ignored. Former Town Councillor Paul Kjenstad set up a multi-agency group which systematically discussed the problems of Newton Aycliffe schools. Durham County

Council has introduced 20mph zones round 60 of its schools. Cllrs Howell, Durham and I are currently addressing a number of dangerous situations around Greenfield School. I have to say that even the smallest suggestion tends to meet with derision, outrage and accusation. Ultimately, the solution is not about infrastructure or enforcement, but about people treating other people as they would wish to be treated. It is about parents realising that they are invading someone else's living space, and taking care to drive and park considerately. It is about residents accepting that children are going to be dropped off and picked up and if you live near a school, this is going to happen twice a day at set times you can plan around. In the meantime, I would suggest that our primary focus has to be to ensure that school drop-off and pickup periods are as safe as possible for the children (given that road safety is often the last thing on their mind). Some schools do have queuing systems and drop-off/pickup areas, and it might indeed be worth investigating individual situations. However, in general, I am afraid I have to say that I do not consider the idea of twice a day having large numbers of cars entering the school grounds and driving around the children's playgrounds a safe solution. Cllr John D Clare

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS? Please e-mail: syd@newtonnews.co.uk or phone 01325 300212.

Roller Skate Xmas Show

The children of Durham & District Roller Skating Club will be presenting "Wicked Oz" for their annual Xmas Show at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre in Shildon on Sunday December 10th, at 12:00.

If you are looking for something to do, come along for an afternoon of entertainment and fun, and see how the Wizard of Oz & Wicked are transformed into a Roller Skating Show.

Tickets are available on the door and refreshments are served at the interval. We look forward to welcoming you to a great afternoon.

For further information contact Janet on 01325 310399 or Jo-Anne on 01388 608422, or just turn up on the day... all welcome.

W.I. Members Volunteer to Plant Spring Bulbs



As part of our Centenary Celebration legacy next year, a group of hardy volunteers from Heighington Women's Institute have been busy planting Spring bulbs at the approaches to Heighington Village.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of our labour in the Spring. Heighington WI is very grateful to Heighington Parish Council for their sponsorship of this project.

AYCLIFFE RADIO Programme Schedule

Time	Session	Presenter
MONDAY		
10am-Noon	Request Show	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
TUESDAY		
10am-Noon	Tuesday Chill	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	80s Show	Paul Gittins
WEDNESDAY		
10am-Noon	Eclectic Mix	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
8pm-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gary Avery
10pm-Midnight	Kent Collective	Daz Kent
THURSDAY		
10am-Noon	Eclectic Mix	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	90s Show	Mixer
FRIDAY		
10am-Noon	Moderation	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	00s Show	The Gosnays
SATURDAY		
8pm-10pm	Dance Mix	OZDJ
10pm-Midnight	Garage/Indie	MC Supa
SUNDAY		
8pm-10pm	R&B Show	Jack Hall

Most of these sessions are repeated during the week. Check our website for full schedule.

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TUESDAY 12th DEC.

1pm - 2.30pm

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Admission FREE! Everyone Welcome!

ADVENT PREP

Preparing for Advent at St. Clare's Messy Church was an afternoon of craft, story, song and of course food. Families worked together on the wonderful Advent Banners telling the Advent message and these will hang in church.

Making wreaths and icing biscuits were also popular activities and each child took home their own Advent promise jar. Our candle prayers were quiet reflections in this busy afternoon. Ending with a scrumptious tea - a fabulous afternoon.

Next one is 23rd December - Glitter Heaven of activities with Christmas Sandwiches, jelly and ice cream and party crackers. Please come along at 4pm.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR ST. TERESA'S HOSPICE



Darlington's favourite community Christmas concert will return to the Dolphin Centre this December, with a programme packed with festive favourites. The St Teresa's Hospice Christmas Cracker Concert will be staged on Saturday 23rd December, getting the holiday season off with a bang.

For many adults and children alike the Christmas Cracker, which began over 15 years ago, has become a real festive tradition in Darlington, marking the start of Christmas. The night of festive fun includes carols, choirs, soloists and a wonderful volunteer orchestra led by Musical Director John Forsyth, MBE. Everyone donates their time and their considerable expertise free of

charge, resulting in a magical Christmas evening. Audience members will be treated to the debut performance by the newly formed St Teresa's Hospice Choir, comprised of staff and volunteers who have all given up their time to perform on the night.

In addition to the wonderful performance there will also be mince pies, mulled wine, and a raffle to win a fabulous luxury Christmas hamper. There will also be a prize for the best Christmas jumper and audience members are encouraged to dress up to get in the spirit.

Hospice Chief Executive, Jane Bradshaw said: "This lovely concert marks the start of Christmas for me and this year

I'm thrilled to be taking part with my colleagues, including our Head of Nursing, in the Hospice choir! With John Forsyth MBE once again at the helm as our Musical Director we can be assured of another magical performance. We are privileged to be supported by John and the wonderful volunteer choir and orchestra - all of whom give up their time for free at such a busy time of year."

Tickets costing £10 for adults and £5 for children (under 16) are on sale now from the Hospice, its Darlington shops or from the Dolphin Centre main reception.

Alternatively tickets can be bought online from <https://www.support.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/pages/christmas-cracker-concert> For more information, or if your choir or musical group would like to take part, please contact Supporter Services on 01325 254321 or email events@darlingtonhospice.org.uk

Honest John Donations

Honest John has donated £1000 to Rocsolid Supported Housing charity in Newton Aycliffe. The money will Xmas gifts, Panto trips, vouchers etc. for vulnerable people in the town.

Rocsolid work closely with young people giving support to help them lead fulfilling and independent lives. Certainly a charity worthy of support.

John has also donated £500 to Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band.

Shine Choir at Switch on!

SHINE CHOIR were delighted to be asked to sing at the Brafferton Christmas Lights 'switch on' Sunday 3rd December.

This is what a community choir is all about - being a visible presence in the community - bringing Church to the people. As always the children delighted everyone with their joyful songs and actions. Thank you for the kind invitation! Please look on SHINE choir Facebook page for video and photos. All children/youth work is advertised on Youth/ChildrenSt.Clares.

Durham Constabulary 'Outstanding' for 3rd Year

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published the latest findings for police efficiency, which is part of the annual PEEL programme of inspections (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) and looks at how efficient forces are at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

The efficiency inspection was broken down into three areas - how the force understands the demands for its services; how it uses resources, and planning for the future. Durham Constabulary was graded 'outstanding' - the highest grade - in each area. Only two forces from 43 across England and Wales received an overall grading of 'outstanding' - Durham and Thames Valley.

The HMIC report said: "The force has extensive and creative plans in place to meet a variety of future scenarios of demand and budget and is well-placed to meet any future circumstances."

It added: "Durham Constabulary has an excellent understanding of the demand for its services, both now and looking ahead to changing crime patterns."

"The senior leadership team promotes a culture where officers and staff of all ranks are encouraged to offer their views and senior leaders regularly go out on patrol with more junior officers. It has carried out detailed analysis of the skills of its workforce and leadership capability and revises these plans regularly. Durham Constabulary is to be congratulated on its consistently high level of achievement in their financial planning."

Durham Constabulary currently holds an 'outstanding' grade for being effective (keeping people safe and reducing crime) and a 'good' grade for legitimacy, making it one of the top performing forces in the country. Chief Constable Mike Barton said: "The acid test of any organisation, especially public funded organisations, is how wisely they spend their money. The public of County Durham and Darlington should be reassured that

Durham Constabulary has, for the third year running, been graded as outstanding across all areas of efficiency. "What this means is we understand our demand, we use our resources well and we plan for the future in an outstanding way. The report makes satisfying reading and shows we work well with outside organisations and the public."

The report praised Durham's culture of inclusivity and said the force has 'an outstanding approach to seeking new ideas from its workforce'. In particular, it praised the 100 Little Things initiative which encourages staff to submit suggestions for improvements covering anything from the type of pen issued to officers, to new policies and working patterns.

Mr Barton added: "We constantly look to innovate and implement new ideas, and the 100 Little Things initiative is a prime example of this. However, clearly someone cannot count as we have completely excelled our target - we now have 140 Little Things!"

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg, said: "This is yet another feather in the cap for Durham Constabulary. It is a rare recognition for a force to be so consistently awarded the high grades which the officers and staff have received. To be one of only two forces in the country is an indication of how challenging it is. I offer my heartiest congratulations to everyone associated with Durham Constabulary who has worked so hard to make this possible."



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

No Council meeting reports, but lots of community news and things to do. Please complete the consultation and remember your local foodbank this Christmas. Further details and links on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB612

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY

- DCC Consultation: the provision of pharmaceutical services in County Durham.
- Universal Credit Rollout - update.
- Dealing with homelessness in County Durham, especially now winter is here.
- Did you do anything for 'Small Business Saturday' - it's never too late to support small local shops and businesses.
- As part of its support for small businesses, DCC is offering free parking in its car parks after 3pm, every day in December.
- Ron Hogg is working with Stop Loan Sharks to support victims and to promote the Credit Unions as a safer way to borrow.
- Healthwatch County Durham - December newsletter.

- Christmas Countryside Newsletter from DCC.

- Foodbank Shopping List - please help this Christmas.

- It is time to stop driving and parking on the grass.

- Latest local roadworks.

THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEK

- Newton Aycliffe Community Carol Service at the Leisure Centre, 4pm, Tuesday 12 December.
- Christmas Around The World (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop-in 1-3pm, Saturday 16 December.
- Carols for Families at Durham Cathedral, 3:30pm, Saturday 16 December.
- Have you been to see Tim Peake's spacecraft and VR exhibition at the Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm until 15 January.
- Mrs Claus's Kitchen (under 5s) is at the Gala Theatre Durham until 30 December, £6.50+ (almost sold out).
- Families who share their surname Robinson with 'Robinson' Crusoe are eligible for reduced-price tickets at the Gala pantomime (almost sold out).

What's on in your store this Christmas

National Food Collection Weekend
Thursday 30th November, Friday 1st December & Saturday 2nd December

Children's Santa's Grotto
1st, 2nd & 3rd, 8th, 9th & 10th December

Tesco Festive Bash - Our Charity Fundraising Weekend
Friday 8th & Saturday 9th December

Santa's Post Box - Open from 10th December
Children can post their letters to Santa and receive a letter back from the man himself!

Remembrance Tree
Monday 11th December

Hot Chocolate Day for Customers
Wednesday 13th December

Food Festival Sampling
Thursday 14th & Friday 15th December

Elf on a Shelf for Children
Saturday 16th December

Children's Christmas Card Making
Sunday 17th December

Chocolate Fountain and Christmas Jumper Pic Competition
Friday 22nd December

Children's Christmas Craft Table
Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th December

Children's Christmas Movie Day
Saturday 30th December

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Middridge History Society Talk

Although often overshadowed by better known southern examples, the North East has a surprising number of country houses.

Richard Pears will talk about their evolution from Tudor times to the present, looking at their architecture, treasures and people (above and below stairs) whose wealth and work sustained the 'big house'.

'The Country Houses of North East England' talk is on Thursday 14th December at 7.30pm in Middridge Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome, including non members

Carols & Mince Pies

Its Christmastime again and who doesn't like singing carols! We will be holding our Candlelit Carol Service at the Methodist Church at Neville Parade at 6pm on Sunday 17th December. The Service will be followed by mince pies & refreshments. A warm welcome awaits friends old & new, young & not so young at this festive service.

Members of the Methodist Church wish everyone a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas & Best Wishes for 2018.

Lesson on Mediaeval Durham



Students on The Black Staircase in Durham Castle.

Year 10 History students visited the city's Castle and Palace Green Library on the trip organised through Durham University's 4schools programme. The 15 students were taken on a guided tour of the 11th century Durham Castle, and learnt about how the county was once ruled by Prince Bishops.

They then visited Durham Palace Green Library, and were shown artefacts from the Norman period, including books from the university archive, some dating back more than 1,000 years.

Headteacher Christine Forsyth said: "Our students are fortunate to live in County Durham where they can see first-hand how the Norman Conquest shaped the past. We are proud of



our students' achievements in History. Over 70% gained a GCSE pass, with a third of students being awarded A*/A grades. Progress in History at Woodham Academy is in the top 2% of similar schools nationally."

Butterwick Hospice Chocolate Appeal



Butterwick Hospice is calling on friends, supporters and neighbours to help them collect chocolate items.

Helen Kirby, fundraiser said 'We need to collect as much chocolate as we can to make our presents from Santa. If anyone is able to buy an extra selection box or two, chocolate Santa or reindeer with their next shopping please do. You can drop them off or we can collect.'

Butterwick is appealing to individuals or businesses that may be able to help before the festive period begins. You could have a collection point

at your workplace and we will arrange to pick up.

Robert Proud (pictured) has already brought us a tray of selection boxes to get us started which is brilliant. He said 'Butterwick is such a worthy cause and I do all I can to help them out.' Please help if you can, ideally before the 14th December.

Contact Helen or Milly to arrange collection or to drop off a collection point and posters in your workplace on 01388 603003 or helenkirby@butterwick.org.uk or contact us on Facebook.

Universal Credit Delayed

The rollout of Universal Credit in Newton Aycliffe will now not take place until 20 JUNE 2018.

If you are on benefits you may be moved from your existing benefits to UC when you have a change of circumstances or reassessment.

Experience tells that the move to UC is a huge financial shock, leading to debt and even eviction.

The change of date gives you six months to prepare yourself by reducing any rent-arrears and debts, joining a Credit Union, and finding out more about UC.

Other changes announced by the Budget include:

From December 2017, people in the Private Rented Sector who have managed payments to landlords for their legacy Housing Benefit, will be offered an alternative payment arrangement (direct payment to the landlord) when they join Universal Credit, provided the relevant criteria continues to be met.

From January 2018, people receiving advance payments

when moving onto Universal Credit will have the choice of repaying this over a period of 12 months (it was previously 6 months).

It is worth noting that those migrating from HB could already get 12 months

The amount of advance payment someone can receive will increase to 100% of the expected first payment from January 2018 – it is currently capped at 50%.

The 7 waiting days will be abolished from February 2018. People in receipt of Housing Benefit moving onto Universal Credit will continue to receive their Housing Benefit for an additional 2 weeks from April 2018

From April 2018, housing costs for those people staying in short term temporary accommodation will be administered from Housing Benefit rather than Universal Credit

Universal Credit Live Service will end in December 2017, after which no one can claim UC unless they are in a full service area.

ACORN Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Thursday 14th December 2017 at 6pm at the Phoenix Club upstairs. Little Acorns meet at 5.30pm. From next year the local PACT meetings will be held on the same evening as our monthly meetings.

Unfortunately the PCSO is not available this month. We usually have our local Councillors along to answer any questions we may have and to keep us up to date on any Council issues we need to know about.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in any of our social occasions. Wear your Christmas jumpers if you wish and come and join us for a tea/coffee and mince pie.

Best Wishes to everyone for Christmas and 2018.

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PCP COMMUNITY GARDEN RECEIVES RHS AWARD



Volunteers, Michael and Peter with the award

Community Gardeners and local volunteers were delighted to see that the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) assessor valued and appreciated all their hard work in the friendly and thriving community garden at the Pioneering Care Centre. At the Britain in Bloom event, held in Gateshead, the recipients were delighted to hear that the Pioneering Care Partnership was awarded Level 4 recognition of

achievement in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" category. Three of PCP's gardening volunteers attended the award ceremony and were over the moon to be told the Community Garden achieved such a high award in the first year of registration. Since receiving the award the dedicated gardeners have been busy planning the revamp of the Wild Flower area. They hope to install live willow

structures and will aim to achieve the highest award, Level 5 Outstanding next year.

Since the assessment took place in Summer 2017 the gardeners, supported by PPG Industries in Shildon volunteers have revamped the raised beds, bringing vibrancy and colour to the garden and now benefit from an accessible super shed so that they can continue their sterling work throughout the year. PCP Chief Executive Carol Gaskarth said, "Well done to all involved, the volunteers work incredibly hard in all weathers and have big plans for 2018. Gardening is great for people of all ages and you don't need to be an expert to get involved."

If you would like to join PCP Gardening Volunteers in 2018 get in touch. Contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net or follow PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre

Visit Aycliffe's Winter Wonderland

For the final time Brian and Eleanor Nichol are turning their house at 354 Sampson Place into a Winter Wonderland to raise money for charity. For years the couple have created magical scenes at their home for Halloween and Christmas. On the 18th, 19th and 20th December you can see Santa in his Grotto surrounded with the usual decorations. There will be a Tombola for adults to enjoy and entry is just £2 per child. All proceeds to charity.

SANTA SUIT FOR HIRE

Godfrey Bennett of Allsorts Charity Shop at St. Clare's Church is offering the hire of a Santa Suit for a fee in aid of charity. Call in at the shop on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday from 10am - 3pm.

Furniture Scheme Bargains

"Christmas is coming quickly, why not grab a reuse bargain here at the CDFHS" said Robert Baird.

We have again been amazed at the generosity of the people of County Durham and Newton Aycliffe who donate their unwanted furniture and white goods to us. Our visitor numbers are still over 1000 per month, all eager for a bargain.

We now have new "Panama" style Wardrobe and bedroom furniture sets assembled from £129.00.

CDFHS have a wide range of beds second hand from £20.00 or if budgets can manage we can supply new single Divan Beds for £85.00 or Doubles from £119.00.

"Our new electrical goods are proving extremely popular" said Lee Heightley Head of Operations with for example our bargain priced Washing Machines starting at 5 kilo machine with a 2 year warranty from £169.00 or new Electric Cookers from £168.00"

Call in soon at 19 & 20, Avenue 3, Chilton Industrial Estate DL17 0PB Phone: 01388 721509 Email: info@cdfhs.org.uk Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm Saturday 10:30am - 3:00pm



Churches Together in Great Aycliffe

St Andrew's Church

December 24th at 3pm
Carols by Candlelight
December 24th at 11:30pm
Midnight Mass

Xcel Church

December 17th at 10:30am
Christmas Family Service
December 24th at 6pm
Christmas Eve Family Carol Service

Methodist Church

Neville Parade:
December 17th at 6pm
Carol Service
December 24th at 10.30am
Christmas Eve Service
December 25th at 10.30am
Christmas Day Celebration

St Clare's Church

December 16/17th at 6pm
SHINE Christmas Show
December 23rd at 4pm
Messy Christmas Party
December 24th at 4.30pm
Christingle Service
December 25th at 10am
Communion Service

St Elizabeth's Church

December 18th at 6pm
Carols in the Huntsman Pub
December 20th at 7pm
Quiet Christmas Service

Harvest Christian Centre

December 24th at 10.30am
Christmas Eve Service

St Thomas'

December 24th at 4pm
Christmas Eve Mass

St Mary's

December 24th at 5.30pm
Family Mass
December 24th at 8pm
Christmas Eve Mass
December 25th at 10am
Christmas Morning Mass

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES & EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH DIRECTLY USING THE RELEVANT CONTACT DETAILS:

Methodist Church

Minister Andrew Bryer Tel: 01388 778207

The Parish of Great Aycliffe

St. Clare's | St Andrew's | St. Elizabeth's
Rev. Elizabeth Bland Tel: 01325 324622
www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk

Harvest Christian Centre

Pastor Geoff Walvin Tel: 01325 308284
www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk

XCEL Church

Pastor John Greenow Tel: 01325 329500
www.xcelchurch.com

St Mary's | Great Aycliffe & St Thomas' | Shildon

Father Tony Cornforth Tel: 01325 313611
www.aycliffecatholic.org

Aycliffe SWDT Renovates Helicopter for GNAAS

THE shell of a helicopter is being transformed into a training facility for medics from around the world thanks to a group of students in Newton Aycliffe

The fuselage of a Dauphin aircraft is being renovated at South West Durham Training (SWDT), based on the Business Park. It was part of an entire aircraft bought for parts by the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), which does not receive Government funding and must therefore raise around £5m every year to survive.

With everything else utilised, the charity had the idea of keeping the remaining fuselage for its training courses.

The fuselage is from the same model as the three aircraft operated by GNAAS, so it offers an opportunity for medics to experience what it is like to work within the confines of an air ambulance. However, as an empty shell, it needs revamping to make the experience as realistic as possible.

Colin Clark, GNAAS paramedic said: "Using the parts saved us a lot of money but we decided to keep the fuselage as well to use it when we run our courses. It will also help new doctors and paramedics train and gain experience in a realistic setting."

"We looked for a local firm to work with and got in touch with SWDT who were more than happy to help us out." Approximately 60 people will be working on the fuselage including apprentices and full-time learners from Bishop Auckland College and SWDT.

Jason Howe, General Manager, SWDT said: "When we told the students about it they were so enthusiastic because it's an enormous project which will give them real-life hands on experience."

"We've started work already. We plan to fabricate it, do some welding, use our 3D printer to print out some



parts, paint it and add graphics to make it look just like the GNAAS air ambulances.

"Inside we're going to custom make the interior so that it matches what the current GNAAS aircraft have, and install CCTV with screens outside the fuselage so people can see what is happening inside."

"There are plans for lights and speakers to be installed and we'll be putting in drawers, oxygen bottles, and other pieces such as a defibrillator and ventilator inside so it looks just like the

real thing."

Colin added: "It's a great opportunity for the apprentices and other learners involved to work on an aircraft and it shows the fantastic and loyal support GNAAS has from the people of the North."

GNAAS offers pre-hospital healthcare training to medics from around the world. Recent participants from Costa Rica and the Netherlands visited to learn from the region's air ambulance. The project is expected to be completed by September 2018.

Live Music Charity Night at Big Club



On Saturday 16th December Newton Aycliffe's very own "Metis" will be hosting a second annual fund raiser LIVE MUSIC NIGHT in aid of The Kieran Maxwell Legacy. Metis hosted a fantastic night last year and raised over £900 for this great cause. This year in memory of such a brave young man they are hosting a second bigger event.

There will be three live support acts followed by a full performance from Metis. Raffle tickets will be sold on the night as well as other ways to show your support.

All proceeds will be donated to the Legacy. Venue is Newton Aycliffe WMC and tickets are now on sale £4 in advance available from the club or £5 on the door. Doors open 7pm.

Durham Leads the Way

Durham Police, and Victims' Commissioner, leads the way in providing victims of crime with access to high quality Restorative Justice

Durham has been cited as an example of best practice in an influential national Report published by charity 'Why me?' to coincide with national Restorative Justice Week.

The Valuing Victims Report examines levels of funding for Restorative Justice and outcomes for victims in each police force area across England and Wales.

Restorative Justice involves the victim and the offender - both must be willing to take part - and it can take the form of a face-to-face meeting or a written exchange managed by a trained facilitator. The process can be about getting answers, a step to aid recovery for the victim and enabling the offender to understand the impact of their actions.

Ron Hogg the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham, emerges within the top ten highest funders of restorative justice

amongst Police and Crime Commissioners. Durham invests £2.24 per recorded crime into Restorative Justice as part of its wider provision to support victims and survivors.

Director of Why me? Lucy Jaffé said: "Durham is leading the way in delivery of high quality restorative justice services for victims of crime. Victims of crime are being supported and empowered. This is in contrast to victims of crime in other parts of England and Wales who still face a postcode lottery of access to restorative justice. Fewer than 5% of victims in England and Wales are aware of their right to request Restorative Justice according to the Office of National Statistics."

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg said: "The impact of taking part in restorative justice is personal to each victim. Many feel a great sense of relief after meeting their offender, as if a weight had been lifted from their shoulders, and they are able to get on with their lives."

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



One of our youngest readers 7 month old Eddie Howey wearing his Newton News hat. Photo taken by his Mum Amy. Please send your photo to: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Youth Royal Banquet



On Sunday 26th of November Parish Youth from Aycliffe Parish held a Royal Banquet to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Preparing, feeding and entertaining 36 members of the Parish. Amazing young people with a commitment to helping others - giving up their weekend for others and enjoying all that, that dedication brings.

A banquet it was indeed with everyone enjoying the food faithfully prepared. We then had flute and cornet playing, poetry, jokes, advent reflections and singing. Ending with a game of crowns or tails.

Young people to be proud of - and we are - incredibly proud. Thanks from us all xxx

St Michael's Christmas Concert
featuring
Durham Constabulary Brass Band
Heighington Village Hall
Saturday, December 9th at 7pm
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Rotary Club's Annual Street Tour with Santa

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe will be out with Santa's Sleigh in the areas shown on the following dates, each evening from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. They will be collecting to provide Christmas Hampers for needy families, an annual event which also involves a collection in Tesco from Saturday 16th to Friday 22nd December

Monday 11th - Simpasure
Tuesday 12th - School Aycliffe
Wednesday 13th - Bluebell Way
Thursday 14th - Silkin Way

Listen for the music and bring your children out to meet Santa.



Apprenticeship Challenge for Woodham Students



The winning team from Woodham Academy's Apprenticeships Challenge with representatives from Lucite.

Woodham Academy students joined forces with local employers to take part in the school's Apprenticeships Challenge.

The school's annual competition forms part of Woodham Academy's extensive programme of careers guidance and support.

Teams from every tutor group in Year 9 were paired with a partner organisation, including 3M, Lucite, South West Durham Training, the Fire and Rescue Service, Thorn Lighting, Hydram and Livin.

Following site visits, the teams developed presentations and collages about their partner organisations and the apprenticeships they offer.

School governors served as judges and a team from each tutor group was chosen to go through to the final, and continued to develop their presentations.

Representatives from the partner organisations joined staff, parents and friends at Woodham Academy for the final presentations followed by a Q&A with each team. David Walker, head of careers, said: "The presentations were all fantastic and served as an opportunity for students to develop their skills and confidence."

"The apprenticeship challenge is part of Woodham Academy's extensive programme of careers support. We are committed to helping students discover all the career paths open to them. This challenge improved their awareness of the many opportunities that apprenticeships offer." We are proud that the proportion of our students who are successful in applying for apprenticeships is 50% above the national average. All finalists received a box of chocolates and each winning team member was awarded a trophy.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

NEXT YEAR'S GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

Residents wishing to sign up to next year's garden waste collection scheme can do so from the end of this week.

From Friday, 1st December, residents will be able to sign up online or call customer services to receive garden waste collections when the scheme restarts next spring. Letters containing a unique reference number will also be sent to eligible properties in January, meaning people who want to pay by cash, cheque or via the automated telephone payment system

will be able to do so. Garden waste bins can also be shared between neighbours, with one address to be provided when payment is made.

To receive all 17 collections, households must sign up for the scheme by 14 February. There are two subscriptions available: 1 year subscription - £30; 3 year subscription - £90 (only available in 2018). Residents should note that the price will increase to £35 in 2019 and 2020. Anyone who signs up will

be sent a sticker for their bin and a collection calendar in 2018.

Residents are also reminded that garden waste collections may be on a different day to rubbish and recycling collections.

The following items can all go into the garden waste bin for composting: Grass cuttings, shrubs, leaves, weeds, flowers and bedding plants, hedge clippings, prunings, small branches. It is important that these items go in the bin to ensure

the garden waste can be composted. Residents can check if their property is eligible and sign up for the garden waste collection service by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Mini Police Girl Leads Parade

On Saturday 2nd December, Ruby Grainger (aged 11) from Newton Aycliffe led the St. Nicolas Lantern Parade in Durham City as part of her Mini Police duties.

Ruby is in her second year of duty for the Durham Mini Police and has attended many events throughout the County, including forming a guard of honour when HRH Princess Anne visited the area.

On Saturday she was chosen along with another mini police officer to escort Sue Snowdon the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff Mrs Peacock as they led the lantern parade through the city of Durham up to the Cathedral.

As part of the Service at the Cathedral, Ruby assisted the Lord Lieutenant in presenting PC Craig Johnson with a certificate of appreciation for all his hard work with the mini police service.



Mini Police brother and sister, Grace and Harry Langhorn from St. Francis School joined the parade

Local Gun Club Noise

Dear Sir,

After listening to complaints from local residents about the increase in noise from shooting in the local area, I would like to put the record straight as the excessive noise is not from Yackley Gun Club which has operated out of Aycliffe Quarry for well over 30 years with no noise complaints.

They have approximately 10 guns shooting 50 cartridges each, every other weekend which equates to approximately 500 shots. The increase in the noise is due to another shooting club who moved from the Dog Inn closer to Newton Aycliffe a number of months ago. They are a new gun club with around 40 to 50 members again shooting 50 cartridges each which equates to approximately 2500 shots. This is where the increase in noise has come from, and it is definitely not from Yackley Gun Club who purposely keep their membership numbers relatively low to avoid causing excessive noise for local residents

Name and address supplied

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- Ensuring efficient, courteous, professional and helpful customer service standards are maintained.
- Undertaking a wide range of reception duties including answering the switchboard whilst ensuring that the customer/client is always at the heart of what we do.
- Supporting an effective administration service within the Pioneering Care Centre, ensuring work produced is of a high standard.

Key skills required:

- NVQ level 3 in Customer Service, Information, Advice and Guidance or Business Administration
- Minimum 2 years' experience of working within a customer driven environment
- Flexibility; this post will include working regular evenings and weekends as part of rota and the requirement to provide cover as necessary

For an application form and further information please contact the HR Department on:

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Email: hr@pcp.uk.net

Fax: (01325) 301129

website: www.pcp.uk.net

Closing Date for applications:

Friday 15th December 2017

Interviews to be held:

Thursday 21st December 2017

We are an equal and diverse employer and particularly welcome applicants from groups who are currently underrepresented at PCP, such as males, people with sensory impairments and carers.

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Could You Help Unpaid Carers this Christmas?

What's on your Christmas list this year? Sadly, many unpaid carers can only dream of luxury items like these as

many struggle every day just to make ends meet.

The grants team at Carers Trust outlined that the top five most requested items they are asked to fund are some of the basic essentials:

- Washing machines
- Beds
- Transport, including driving lessons
- A break from caring
- Support in the home

Unfortunately, in 2017, the grants team was only able to fund or part-fund just over half (55%) of applications which meant that hundreds of grant applications have had to be turned down.

Giles Meyer, CEO of Carers Trust, said: "Many of the items unpaid carers applied to our grants team for were basic essentials. We hear from carers who desperately need a washing machine because the person they care for is doubly incontinent and they are washing soiled bed linen and clothing in the bath."

"Recently we heard from an older carer who is caring for her husband who has dementia and is sleeping on her grandchildren's camp bed because she cannot afford to buy a new bed. Many parent carers living in rural areas request driving lessons as they are having to regularly make four-hour round trips to the supermarket for the family's shopping or to pharmacies

to collect prescriptions for the person they care for on infrequent and expensive public transport. Stories like these are, unfortunately, not uncommon. Our grants team assesses hundreds of applications from unpaid carers every year.

"While many people are thinking about what to buy their family and friends for Christmas, unpaid carers are worrying about when they will get a good night's sleep or a break, even for an hour, from their caring role, not to mention how bills will be paid. That's why it's crucial they get as much support as possible."

To donate £5 and make a difference to the lives of unpaid carers this Christmas, text CTRU17 to 70070.

Wildcats Girls' Football Grows



Another very successful Wildcats Girls' Football development programme was completed on Sunday 3rd December. The 10 week programme was specifically aimed at girls from school years 1, 2 & 3, who have never played football.

Each session ensures the girls have fun but also learn the basics of football, which can hopefully lead to many of them joining teams in Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club. The next 10 week programme commences on Sunday 21st January with currently 16 girls from across the age range, but places are still

available for new girls to join. Our sessions are in Greenfield College Sports Hall, which provides a safe and warm environment for the girls to get involved at minimal cost. If you need any further information or would like to book a place on the next 10 week programme please contact Berni 07939 045242

Newtonian Returns as Ward PCSO

Matt Walls is one of the new PCSO's recently stationed in Aycliffe where he will be liaising and monitoring with the Woodham Ward and West Ward.

Mat comes from Newton Aycliffe and was educated at Vane Road and Woodham before going to University. He joined the Police recently and lives in Darlington.

He will be attending the Woodham Ward's Police and Community Together meeting in the Community Centre, St Elizabeth's Close. This meeting will be held on Thursday the 12th of December commencing at 10:30am. He will be joined by representative from the street warden's team and a couple of local councillors John CLARE and Paul SYMONS.

We will be discussing current issues in the Woodham Ward area and identify any possible community based remedies that can be put in place to tackle any problems. All are welcome and after this meeting the next date will be decided along with the following month's targets. The West Ward PACT meeting will be taking place in Burnhill Way Methodist Church, 1



Merlin Court, on Thursday the 21st December at 5 pm and will encompass current issues in the area and promoting home and personal security during the festive season. Mat will attending this meeting with a street warden and a couple of local councillors, including Ken ROBSON. Again all are welcome to this meeting and the next PACT meeting and targets fixed. Contact: Matthew Walls 7848 Police Community Support Officer Tel: 742636

Visiting Golf Coach

Great Aycliffe Town Council is pleased to welcome Steven McDonnell as a visiting golf coach to the Oakleaf Golf Complex. An elite sports professional, as a junior having played county cricket and semi-professional football, Steven's passion was always golf and he turned professional in 2015 with a handicap of +1. Steven lived most of his life in Cambridgeshire and the Midlands but his roots were always in the North East and he moved back in 2013. Steven's aim after turning professional in 2015 was to develop golf for the North East of England. He started his golf career at Close House PGA Academy as an assistant professional and now, coming to his third year as a professional, he is well on his way to making his mark in the golf game. In 2017 Steven delivered the biggest tri-golf project in North East schools and also helped set up and coach in three junior academies, whilst being in regular



contact with England Golf and The Golf Foundation. A serious back problem in 2016 hindered his playing career but now with a full recovery Steven hopes to play and deliver golf to a very high standard, having played in Open qualifying in 2017 and many North East/North West PGA events. For queries or to make a booking, please contact Steven on 07540 730022, e-mail stevenmcpga@outlook.com or via the Oakleaf Golf Complex Shop 01325 310820

Truck Parking Mystery



Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp is getting very angry and mystified over the parking of a low loader truck near his house, blocking the road and causing damage to the village green at great cost to taxpayers.

Motorist are having to drive onto the green to get by the vehicle which is constantly parked there and no one knows to whom it belongs.

Bill has complained many times to the Police and Council to no avail, after the truck has been parked there for the last 6 weeks. It is parked there during the day, taken away at night, returning next day.

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Aycliffe F.C. News

Newton Aycliffe's game against Jarrow Roofing fell victim to the weather last Saturday. The combination of snow & rain saw off all but one of the fixtures in the Ebac Northern League, with the match on West Allotment Celtic's artificial pitch being the only league survivor.

With no midweek game either last week Aycliffe played a friendly against Darlington at the Eastbourne Sports Complex with the Quakers taking a 1-0 win. The break has given those Aycliffe players on the injury list some welcome recovery time with keeper James Winter playing the first half against Darlington. Unfortunately Sean Tarling's leg injury sustained against Billingham Synthonia will require a lengthy recovery. This Saturday (9th December) Aycliffe travel to 11th placed Ashington.

The Colliers earned a point at Moore Lane in the first week of the season. Recently, however, they have seen a change of management with ex-England cricketer Steve Harmison leaving. His brothers Ben & James have also now moved on to North Shields and Blyth respectively. Since their departure Ashington have had mixed results & have won 5 and lost 4 at home this season.

On Wednesday 13 December Aycliffe travel to North Shields to play another match that has been rearranged due to the wet weather. Providing there are no further postponements the Shields game will be Aycliffe's last midweek game of the season. Aycliffe's last game at Moore Lane in 2017 will be against Seaham Red Star on Saturday 16 December, kick off 3pm.

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Space Age Education for Greenfield Students

Students at Greenfield Community College have been given an exciting opportunity as Tim Peake's Spacecraft arrives in the region.

On Wednesday 22nd November 2017 twenty eight Year 9 students, along with two members of staff were invited to a celebration morning for the arrival of the Soyuz descent module TMA-

19M at the Locomotion Museum in Shildon where they were able to see this amazing piece of space history. Between 22nd November 2017 to 15th January 2018 Durham will host the Samsung-sponsored Museum Group National Tour of Time Peake's Capsule.

As part of the tour a team of 'Explainers' from the Science Museum also

delivered a Science show the 'Greatest Hits' to the whole of Year 9 at Aycliffe Campus as part of the celebration. The students were entertained by an amazing selection of experiments which had strong links to the curriculum. Ron Milton, Deputy Headteacher, said "It has been a great opportunity for our students, they have enjoyed exploring the themes of forces and rockets and the way it has been brought to life through links to Tim Peake's Soyuz Capsule". The tour will also offer a further opportunity for Greenfield students to visit the National Railway Museum at Shildon to experience a fabulous 4D virtual reality experience of the descent of the Soyuz Capsule and parachute. It has been a brilliant opportunity for the students who have enjoyed being part of the event so far.



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Police Clamp Down on Drink & Drug Driving this Christmas

In the five years between 2012 and 2016, a total of 1,650 people have been injured in collisions that involved a suspected drink-driver in the North East. Thirty eight of those were killed. Chief Inspector Graham Milne of Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit, said:

"To combat this, extra patrols and roadside checks will be conducted in the run up to and over Christmas and New Year, in a bid to tackle those who commit the unacceptable act of drink or drug driving. "It is worrying, that we push this message out every year, and still

many reckless drivers ignore the warnings that cause devastating consequences." Alcohol and drugs both affect your ability to judge speed and distances accurately and slow down your reaction time, warn police. Ch Insp Milne continued:

"Tackling drink and drug drivers is a year round commitment for us but we know that around the festive period, many people for whatever reason, decide to get in a car while drunk. Perhaps home is 'just down the road' from the pub, but you should never get in a car under the influence." Durham officers will be active in educational and enforcement action by carrying out random checks on drivers.

"Anyone caught drink driving faces a minimum 12-18 month ban. However, deciding to drink and drive could cost you more than just your licence. Our message to drivers is simple. If you take the risk of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, you could kill someone, and yourself.

"Even if you've had a few drinks on an evening and you think you can get up and drive the next morning, you are likely to still be over the limit. Drugs also stay in the system for a very long time" added Ch Insp Milne. Officers will breathalyse drivers and use 'Drugwipe' kits to test motorists at the roadside for anyone suspected of being impaired through cannabis or cocaine. Motorists convicted of drink and drug driving are banned for at least a year, receive an unlimited fine and can be sent to prison. The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving under the influence of drink or drugs is up to 14 years in jail.

During last year's Christmas campaign, 116 drivers were arrested after being found to be under the influence of alcohol and a further 57 were arrested after being found to be under the influence of drugs. The public are encouraged to report any concerns relating to drink or drug driving anonymously using Crimestoppers on crimestoppers-uk.org or 0800 555 111.

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Aycliffe Quarry Staff Stop Work to Find Lost Dog



Bruce Whitley, Carolyn Bell and Deborah Laing with the illusive Levi!

Kellie and Justin Cooper and her husband live in Aycliffe Village and run the Three Tuns in Eggleston. In September they had a new addition to the family, Levi, a Weimaraner puppy. He is such a character but as well as being adopted as the pub dog he is one of the family. Justin was out walking with him by John Wades Quarry last Tuesday and Levi got spooked after encountering other dogs, bolted and disappeared.

Kellie joined the search and phoned the quarry on the off chance Levi had been seen there. "I fully expected them to be unconcerned, but Carolyn Bell, who answered the phone and her team acted immediately and sent people out in a pick-up truck to look for Levi, contacting the workers and quarry manager David Basham" said Kellie.

Carolyn called with updates

and the Ops director Bruce Whitley went through cctv footage and nobody gave up! The search party grew as a friend, Rachel Townsend Green from Thrive marketing dropped

everything and even brought one of her staff to help.

Kellie was convinced someone dishonest must have found him and calls were made to the police, vets, Stray aid, local farmers, local breeders with constant posts on social media all without success. He is micro chipped and collared but his owners were concerned he was injured.

As it was getting dark, Kelly retraced her husband's route and met Deborah Laing, Engineer from John Wades who walked with her near the spot Levi disappeared. They thought the noise of machinery may have frightened him and he'd attempt to creep out once it was quiet. The quarry staff searched everywhere and CCTV showed he hadn't crossed any of the major access routes. Justin covered all of the surrounding area on foot and Kellie covered all roads, village and Business Park by car, returning every half hour.

"I had given up all hope, our family was heartbroken and we decided to call it a night, but as I pulled up outside our house for the last time I found Levi sat on our doorstep! He was covered in cuts and scrapes so we let everyone know. I later received a text from Deborah to say she had heard the news and was thrilled" said Kellie.

Next morning Kellie got a call from Carolyn to say how the whole team were

delighted he'd been found. Kellie took Levi down to the Quarry later that day with chocolates and flowers as a thank you and to say sorry for all the worry caused.

Everyone involved in the search were amazing and we can't thank them enough but the guys at Wades were just brilliant. Although they didn't actually find Levi, their support, fast thinking and actions were unbelievable. They didn't know me, my family or Levi, but they really pulled out all of the stops. The staff loved meeting Levi and for us it was lovely to put faces to all those people who helped, for which my family and I will be eternally grateful. Let's hope next time we see them we'll be just waving hello, as we walk by and not manning a full scale search and rescue party!" said Kellie.

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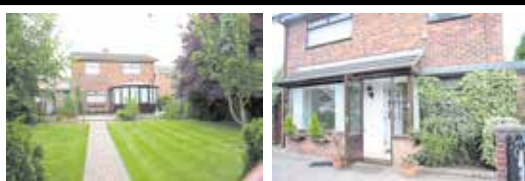
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GIVING A LITTLE BACK THIS CHRISTMAS

The team at Gregg Little love to help out locally here's just some of the Christmas spirit and fun they're up to this year... Watch out for the Gregg Little van pulling Santa for Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club.

Each year our little mechanic elves Jamie, Paul and Ben get our van ready for the 4-week tour of Santa around the streets of Newton Aycliffe, good luck this year to the Rotary Club. The team at Gregg Little's are asking customers to get involved with Xmas food hampers for families in the area, in conjunction with the Xcel Centre. We are hoping to collect lots of Xmas treats to add to the fab work the team at the Xcel Centre already do. We need dry foods really - tins of sweets, biscuits, Xmas puddings, mince pies, crisps any nibbles etc., if you would like to help drop any of the items listed into GLTC. Our annual Customer Christmas postcard raffle was drawn with winners taking Walkers Butchers vouchers and Love to Shop Vouchers.

This year's winners are Christine Power and Sue Kelly both from Newton Aycliffe (photo attached of Christine and her family).

In December Gregg Little's will be running an advent calendar giveaway for both staff and customers. Prizes to be won each day and announced on our Facebook page. What we don't need is unexpected bills over Christmas, especially on our cars, so to help out Gregg Little's offers a scheme called Payment Assist. This scheme allows customers with bills between £300 and £1000 to split their bill into 4 equal interest free payments, speak to our friendly team for further information.

And finally, we are also offering FREE winter checks worth up to £15 call to book yours today, mention Newton News for this offer. We check and top up oil, anti-freeze and screen wash, check tyre treads and pressures, check and change any standards light bulbs and wiper blades.

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DEBATING SOCIETY AT WOODHAM

Woodham Academy students went head-to-head as the school's new Debating Society got off to a "brilliant start".

The Debating Society has been launched to offer students the opportunity gain confidence in public speaking and improve their research and team working skills.

At the first session, students watched a televised debate, to help understand how a debate is structured. They then moved on to a 'speed debating' session, with each student given an argument to defend. They then moved around in carousel, defending a point that they may have had little knowledge of or may not have agreed with.

Teacher Richard Gore said: "The first Debating Society evening went off to a brilliant start. The students were engaged and enthusiastic throughout and learned about the history of debating, the basics of debating and the importance of the subject. Debates got a little heated

at times but it allowed the students to freely engage in the process of debating, gaining skills that they will carry forward into the more formal debates in the weeks ahead.

"Membership of the Debating Society will help students gain confidence in public speaking, and improve research and team-working skills, as well as looking great on CVs when the time comes to apply to colleges and universities."

The Debating Society is the latest addition to Woodham Academy's extensive and growing extra-curricular activities programme. Initially open to Year 10 and Year 11 students, the Debating Society will offer a series of research sessions, workshops and mock debates, followed by three internal competitions in front of adult and student audiences.

The Debating Society will then expand to include students from years 7 to 9 and go on join national competitions.



First session of the school's new Debating Society

KEEP DOGS OFF RECREATION AREAS



Don't allow your dog to foul football pitches and put children in danger of contracting a disease, not to mention the disgusting mess they bring on themselves.

Since this subject was raised by the local youth football club facebook has amassed a general outcry for irresponsible dog owners to respect this appeal. **KEEP DOGS ON A LEAD AND CLEAN UP AFTER THEM!**

Mayor at Xmas Concert



The Mayor Wendy Hillary and Consort Jed were guests of 201 Field Ambulance at the Barnard Armoury on 5th December. Their Christmas Carol Concert was attended by members of the unit together with family and friends.

The music was provided by the Royal Signals (Northern) Band with a superb range of musical arrangements and was rounded off with a sing-along of classic Christmas Songs. Tesco kindly provided decorations to add to ambience.

Obituary

Apology

Newton News would like to sincerely apologise to the Atkins family for the error in last week's edition, stating the incorrect date of the funeral for DAVID ATKINS.

The date of the funeral should have read 8th December, 10.15am at St Clare's Church.

John Weller

22nd November
At home. John, aged 86 years of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of Cynthia and a loving Dad and Pops. Funeral Wednesday 13th December. Would family and friends please meet at 11.00am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

Margaret Ridley

Passed away peacefully on 3rd December 2017 at Ashfield Court Nursing Home, Harrogate. Margaret, previously lived in Defoe Crescent, Newton Aycliffe. A dearly loved Wife of the late Robert (Bob) Ridley and much loved Mam to Sheila and Allan and Son-in-Law Ray; also loving Grandma to Jenny. Funeral Service is to be held at Stonefall Crematorium, Harrogate on Tuesday 12th December at 2.20pm.

John Price

Newton Aycliffe. 4th December, peacefully in hospital. John, a much loved Husband, Father and Grandfather. Funeral on Thursday 14th December. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations in aid of MNDA, Motor Neurone Disease Association may be given or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

SUMMERSON, Derrick, of Newton Aycliffe formerly Coundon. Peacefully on 23rd November, aged 82 years. Dearly beloved Husband to the late Ann Gladys. A dearly loved Dad, Grandad, Great-Grandad and Uncle. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium (Coundon) on Thursday 14th December for 12.00pm. Following the Service the family of Derrick request your company for refreshments at the Royal Navy Club, Newton Aycliffe.

ANNE COULTHARD, On 3rd December (suddenly), Anne, aged 76 years of Highside Road, Heighington. Dearly loved Wife of John; much loved Mother of Patricia and Stephen; dear Mother-in-Law of Owen and Juliet and loving Grandma to Helen, Joseph, Ivan, Tamsin, Connie and Megan. Funeral Wednesday 13th December. Friends please meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium at 1.00pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, for the Great North Air Ambulance Service. Collection plate provided.

LES MARSHALL, Peacefully on 3rd December, aged 84 years. Dearly loved Husband of Pat; devoted Dad of David, Debra and Jeff also a treasured and much loved Granddad of Darren, Rachel, Liam, Rebeka and Lucas. Funeral Service to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 15th December at 11.00am. Family and friends please meet at the crematorium. Family flowers only please.

Welcome Home

Bethan Lee



Welcome Home
to our beautiful Granddaughter, after 3 months charity work in South Africa. Well done sweetheart. From Nana & Grandma xx

Photography Club Meeting

The next meeting of Wear Valley Photography Club is on Monday 11th December when member Albert Nicholson will be showing a selection of his award winning nature and wildlife images taken in and around Cockfield Fell.

The club meets at Etherley Methodist Hall, South Road, High Etherley DL14 0HZ from 7.30pm and visitors are welcome to come and see what we do.

Non members £2 which includes light refreshments. For further details contact the Secretary on 07753 178682.

Birthday Remembrance

2017

Derrick Nelson

Birthday Remembrance, 8th December

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

Not only our precious Dad, but our dear friend.

Loving and missing you always
Valerie and Michael
Elizabeth and Kathryn
Allan and David,
Jacob, Bronwyn, Theo and Dylan

MARGARET KELLY 12th December. Love and miss you so much, always yours. Paddy xxx

Congratulations

Freda Jones



Happy 80th Birthday - 8th December 2017
Lots of love from all the family xxxx

FREDA JONES Happy 80th birthday. From the Howarth family

KAREN LEE Happy 50th (sorry) Karen on 7th December 2017. I have waited 25 years to get my own back, but you don't look a day over 40! Lots of love, Mam and Richard xx

HAPPY 18th Wedding Anniversary to my Husband John Palliser. Love always, your Wife Melanie

MELANIE PALLISER Happy 18th years Wedding Anniversary. To me you are my life, love you more every day. Love you forever, John.
PALLISER John and Melanie, Happy Anniversary. Love, Callum, Kain, Saxon and the Dos Zayn

Simon Watson



Happy 50th Birthday
13th December 2017
Have a great birthday Simon. From all the Press Gang

In Memoriam

Brian Magee

2nd November 1936 to 5th December 2015.
To the best Dad and Grandad in the world. Two years have passed since you left us and we miss you more than words can say. Love you forever.
Love you, Susan, Dennis, Tony, Luke and Charlie

BRIAN MAGEE 2-11-1936 to 5-12-2015. Let the winds of love blow softly and whisper for you to hear, that I will always love and miss you and wish that you were here. Your loving Wife, Joan xxx

BRIAN MAGEE 2-11-1936 to 5-12-2015. To the most kind and loving Dad and Grandad in the world. You come into our conversation every day, at home I see you lovely face and wish you were here, memories we send, to a star in the sky not far away. Engraved in gold on a cloud above, just for you with all our love. Miss and love you forever. Love, Julie, Billy, Ross and Bella xxxxx

JOE REID 2nd April 1939 to 12th December 2015. My Mr Wonderful. Always in my thoughts and in my heart. Love you always, Jeannie

PEGGY DICKINSON 8th December 2016 **BOB DICKINSON** 10th December 1991. Loving memories of you Mam and Dad. You brightened up this world, and so very selflessly, gave everything you had and brought so much joy to us. You guided us so wisely and you are sorely missed each day. And the only comfort is the memories that will never fade away. You were both so very special and, although losing you brought pain, you are now both together and one day we will meet again. Thinking of you today and every day. Susan, Brian, Alan and all the family xxxxx

RALPH NELSON 11-12-2014. Three years have passed but you are still missed so much. Thinking of you always. We know you are looking down on us with a smile on your face from the stars above. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Love you always and forever. Tracy, Scott, Beckie, Brodie and Imogen xx Miss you Dad and Grandad. Sending you hugs and kisses

JOHN CASSIDY (Cass). 12-12-1987. To remember you is easy we do it every day. It's just the thought of losing you that never goes away. You left a place no one can fill, we love you my darling and always will. Special memories silently kept of one I loved and will never forget. Love always, Doris, Family and Grandchildren xxxxx

RITA THOMSON 11-12-2008. Precious memories of a much loved Sister and Auntie. Remembered always. Love, Doris and family xxx

STEVE STEWART 14-12-2009. As each day dawns and starts anew, my precious Son, I think of you. Love you, Mam

TREVOR PLASKITT Died 12-12-2010. You left too soon and broke our hearts. We find it hard to carry on without you. We miss you and are so proud of you. We love you and always will Trevor xx. Thinking of you every day and in our hearts forever. Love Wife, Valerie. Daughters Shirley, Julia and Adam and loving Gandchildren Jonathan, Maxine, Louis, Mia and family xxxxx

Plenty of Gala Medals

Galas in November & December saw Sedgefield 75 triumph again in the medal stakes as well as swimmers smashing personal bests in most of their races.

November at Wear Valley saw the team of 12 swim for the first time since the summer break. A total of 16 medals were won with Niall Coulthard & Leah Smith medalling in every race. Niall also swam his way to 3rd in the UK for his age at 400 free - an amazing achievement!

Last weekend another team of 12 again competed. This

time in a gala hosted by Northallerton Swimming Club at Eston. 18 gold, 16 silver and 6 bronze places were won, the most medals we have won in a long time and there were 28 personal best times which is an amazing achievement considering some of these times were pb's from Wear Valley last month.

The club AGM will be held on Thursday 14th December at the Pioneering Care Centre in Aycliffe at 7.30 all welcome to attend and help make the club an even greater success in the year to come.



Youthy Football Round Up



The weather took hold this weekend and resulted in most of the Youthy's games being postponed. Thankfully a couple of the fixtures survived and proved fruitful.

Stockton Town Blues 1 - 3 Newton Aycliffe Youth U11's Eagles

Straight back to winning ways on Sunday after our first defeat of the season in our last outing. Playing on the 3G pitch on a nice sunny morning the lads looked up for it from the first whistle. It started off a very tight game as Stockton also looked up for it but the boys were in control. Some nice football down the right and a lovely cross in from Noah enabled Kye to finish it off with a well taken goal. It was a good end to end game and Stockton then hit the post from a corner that bounced around the box before being cleared. Kye then had another chance from outside the box but couldn't get the power to trouble the keeper. He didn't have to wait long to get his second with a calm finish past the keeper after the keeper had saved a shot from Ethan. This took us to 0-2 up at half-time.

The second-half started as the first had finished a good contest between two teams really going for it. It was quite frantic at times with both teams not giving each other time to settle on the ball but I thought our lads managed this really well. About 15 minutes in, a lovely through ball from Owen set Kye on his way who showed good determination and strength to hold off a defender and finish neatly past the keeper, a well-deserved

Hat-trick. Don't know if we just relaxed or Stockton got more determined but they quickly got one back which gave them a real lift and they started to really push us. This saw Jack, Joe, Az and Harry really busy at the back but to be fair to them they handled everything that was thrown at them and we weathered the storm to see the game out to the final whistle. Well done to the subs when you came on you slotted in very well.

A special mentioned to Kye who scored all the goals to get his hat-trick and also to Noah who managed to beat him to the Man of the Match award.

Leven AFC whites 0 - 6 Newton Aycliffe Youth U11's Falcons

A solid performance by the boys on Sunday with some good link up play and solid in defence. It's really good to see the team improving week after week now we are half way through our first season at 9 a-side. Some cracking goals today as well. Every single player played there part in the win. Our next game is going to be a real test for us against a very good Tibs side who currently sit below us in the league at 2nd place. Keep it up boys. Goals scored by Travis Dixon X1, Louis Parnaby X1, Ethan Tate X1 and Dylan Stewart X3. Man of the match went to Dylan Stewart.

If you are interested in playing football and being part of our club, please visit our website where there are lots of information and also links to league tables for competitive football age groups www.nayfc.com

Aycliffe on a Losing Streak

The First XV hosted Sunderland, in what was seen by many as a must-win to stop the decline Aycliffe had found themselves on of late.

The game started well, with both teams vying for possession, the first points of the game came when Aycliffe strayed offside in the backline five minutes in, giving Sunderland the chance to kick for posts. The restart was well contested and Aycliffe fought hard in the midfield, before finding themselves pinned back in their own twenty two, and following a knock on from the home side, Sunderland's blindside winger crossed following a strong scrummage. Aycliffe responded swiftly, with a phase of play finishing with Chris Richards setting up James Thacker who cut through, converted by Gascoigne to take the home side within a point. The home side reapplied the pressure from kick off, with good carries coming from the pack adding up to force the error from Sunderland, which Gascoigne safely converted into three points, taking Aycliffe into the lead. Sunderland were next to strike, with a try coming from poor man-marking in



the midfield, which left a gap which was exploited by the visitors backline, who crossed to take back the lead.

Half Time: Newton Aycliffe First XV 10 - 13 Sunderland RFC

Aycliffe returned to the field with no changes, and looked set to break the habit of conceding a try directly after half time, and began an excellent attack, with forwards and backs working tight to the ruck to gain hard yards. However, a turnover by Sunderland was kicked downfield, and allowed their rapid winger to race past the entire Aycliffe team, and the try was scored despite a valiant chase by Alfie Wilson and Andrew Littlefair, the kicker missed the conversion, leaving Aycliffe eight points behind.

Aycliffe knew they had to score next or the game would get away from them. Replacement scrum half Richie Brown drew the defence before releasing Jon McGuigan who forced his way to the line and crashed over, taking the scores to within three, the conversion just missed from out wide.

It was the visitors who would have the final say however, and following a period of sustained pressure, and a man down for a cynical pulling down of a maul, the Aycliffe defence could hold no longer, and Sunderland crossed, taking them eight points to the good with just minutes left to play. Aycliffe fought their way down field, but were unable to cross. Full Time: Newton Aycliffe First XV 15 - 23 Sunderland RFC

COUNTY QUALIFIERS

Following on from an impressive victory at the start of the month, Vane Road's hardworking Sports hall Athletics team bagged gold medals and a trip to the county finals after their win at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre. The energetic group of 25 excelled in throwing, jumping and running events to seal an excellent victory. They will now move onto the county finals in March.

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS

Aycliffe Running Club members braved the elements to compete in the second of the Stockton Winter Trail series of 5k races which was held at Cowpen Bewley. This was the Gavin Duffy memorial race which was as always well supported with almost 300 runners attending. As expected conditions were muddy under foot, but not as bad as previous years.

First home for the club by a long way was John Surtees finishing in 4th position in a brilliant 19:18. Not too far behind was Tracey, 64th in 23:23, followed by Dave Blewitt, 72nd in 23:52 and Michelle Zamir, 80th in 24:16. Next to finish was Alan Wilks, 94th in 24:47 and 1st in his category of males over 65, followed by Susan Clark, 241st in 35:08 and Eve Doe, 255th in 37:48. Finally, Ray Todd finished 269th in 41:05.

18 Aycliffe runners turned out for the annual Ravenstonedale 10K on Saturday 25 November, which has become a firm favourite in the club's racing calendar. The hilly course loops around country roads with beautiful scenery. First home for the club and 3rd overall was Joe Restell in 37:08. He was followed by Martyn Knox in 42:44, Richard Holland in 43:54, Susan Cranswick in 43:57, David Blewitt in 45:13, Rob Nicholson in 48:30, Austin Donoghue in 50:11, Trish Kay in 51:24.

Next came Nick Gilling in 51:33, Andrew Lumley in 51:44, Warren Raine in 51:57, Alan Kellett in 54:36, Gary Minns in 55:22, Anne Kellett in 55:58, Bev Phillippo in 59:53, Lindsey Brown in 59:59, Ian Baronowski in 01:00:36 and Eve Doe in 01:09:02.

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