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World War 1 History Lesson in Durham



Woodham students at Palace Green Library, Durham

Woodham Academy students got hands on artefacts from the First World War the school's latest trip organised in partnership with Durham University. The students took part in two workshops at Palace Green Library in Durham, organised through the University's "4Schools" programme. During a workshop on the First World War, students wore original uniforms and read newspapers and documents from the time, as they examined the motivations behind those who willingly signed up to serve in the military and those who refused conscription. In the other session, students examined the meaning and production of books and other written documents through the ages, including the opportunity to write with quills. Headteacher Christine Forsyth said: "Woodham Academy offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities to challenge and inspire students and to provide them with opportunities to explore their subjects in more depth. This is also reflected in our excellent exam results, including exceptional performance in History."

Woodham Academy is in the top two percent of similar schools across the country for progress in History, and more than 70 percent of our students gained a pass in the subject this year, with a third achieving an A* or A."



SANTA TOURS

On a very busy Christmas Eve we are lucky enough to have Santa visit the streets of Newton Aycliffe. Santa has an additional route this year, so check his timetable which shows the approximate time you can expect him, please note that Santa can be held up in bad weather too. From 3.45pm listen out for his tooting horn, ringing bell and Christmas music. Keep up to date with his progress on the Oak Leaf Sports Complex Facebook page, which will be updated during the evening. See the full listing on page 5

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Christmas Services at Town's Care Homes



The Parish Pastoral Team are going round all Care and Nursing Homes in the town, offering a Christmas Service with Communion for those who request it. The Mothers' Union branch of the Parish of Great Aycliffe have also donated an "Emergency Bag" for those elderly residents who arrive so quickly in the homes that they have no necessary toiletries with them and also for those residents who have no family to bring these items in.

Residents' Association Celebrate Great Year

Dear Editor,
I would like to thank County Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper for their help in obtaining a grant of £995 to assist in financing our upcoming "LITTLE ACORNS PETTING ZOO" to be held at Easter. Eddy and Kate are great supporters of the ACORN group attending most meetings, answering questions and offering advice. We welcome Councillor Jim Atkinson as he joins us to make up the County Council team and is also available for advice. Grateful thanks also to West Ward Town Councillors George Gray, Arun Chandran, Martin Ashcroft and members of other groups who attend in a spirit of partnership to

discuss common issues and bring us news of other areas of the town. ACORN have once again had a very successful year producing events for the community sponsored by The Big Lottery Fund, coach trips and Parties such as Halloween. We are also enhancing our area through gardening projects with help from our friends at livin and then we had a weekend exploring London supported by Honest John's Community Fund. Could I also take this opportunity to wish all ACORN members for their continuing support wishing them a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Ken Robson Chairman ACORN Residents Association

Archivist Xmas Vouchers

Archivists in County Durham are offering the perfect Christmas gift for amateur historians. Gift vouchers are now available for Durham County Record Office's next beginners' family history course, which takes place in the New Year. The popular sessions are led by an archivist and offer an introduction to the sources available at the record office. The course lasts for three weeks and runs on the following dates: Friday mornings, from 10am to noon – 19th, 26th January and 2nd February

Thursday evenings, from 6pm to 8pm – 18th, 25th January and 1st February Dawn Layland, education and outreach archivist, said: "A voucher for our family history course is a present with a difference. Individual and thoughtful, it could prove to be the start of a very interesting and fulfilling hobby for someone." The course costs £30 for all three sessions. Places must be booked in advance by calling 03000 267 626. Further information available at www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk

THE BIG CLUB
BIG CLUB FC OLD BOYS
Christmas Do
Wednesday 27th December
with comedian "Max Pressure"
and guitar/vocalist "Micky Malibu"
Tickets £5.00 available from the Big Club
Doors open from 1.00pm

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Saturday 16th December - "This Machine"

Gig-pit Review: "Well, I don't even know what to say, apart from... 'THIS MACHINE' were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best, especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar, haha! Every song was awesome, perfect sound, and just all round excellence. It was also the best atmosphere I've ever experienced, everyone was having fun."
Gig Pit Review: One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy and more.

Saturday 23rd December - "7 Sins"

For more information on bands go to
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Festive Period Events

THE BIG CLUB

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

BOXING DAY
Domino Handicap
£50.00 - Added names
to be entered by 1pm
BOXING NIGHT
Upstairs Lounge - 7pm
Evening Ticket Event £2.00
With the fantastic
'Chad McDonald'

CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY
Open from 11am

29th DECEMBER
Upstairs Lounge
SOUL SESSION
Free Admission 7pm

BINGO SESSIONS
as normal over
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Female Vocalist **"Cassandra"**

Sunday 31st December
New Years Eve
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plus Vocalist **"Dawn"**
Tickets £5 each

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Town Quiz Raises £1216 for MRI Appeal

Over 150 people took part in the Civic Society's Annual Town Quiz with regular quiz master Glynn Wales in the interrogator's chair - in Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Wednesday, 6th December.

The Quiz itself raised a magnificent £726

This figure was supplemented by £500, courtesy of a bequest to the Chair of the Civic Society, Dr. Robert McManners, from a grateful patient, Mr Fred Hutchinson of Howden-le-Wear, making a grand total of £1,216 for the Bishop Auckland Scanner Appeal.

The Civic Society would like to thank all those private individuals and local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle, together with Janet Strong and the staff of the Town Hall for their help in making the evening such a success.

Churches & Business Supporting Local Charities



Representatives from Churches Together in Great Aycliffe met on Wednesday 6th December in St. Clare's church hall to officially present three charities with cheque/



cash donations, the proceeds of a recent Quiz Night. The Aycliffe Food Bank received a cash donation of £125 received by Alison Firby. The Women's Refuge received a cheque for £125 received by Gwen Morrison on their behalf. The Youth Centre received a cheque for £150 received by Rebecca Metcalfe, the Youth Centre Manager.

Tesco are already a great supporter of the Food Bank and some of their staff turned up with boxes of chocolates to donate to the Food Bank. These are especially welcome at this time of the year as Food Banks are not allowed to spend cash donations on luxury items like chocolates. So, a big thank you to Tesco from CTGA and the Food Bank.

Margaret Lee (St. Mary's Ch); Rev. Elizabeth Bland (St. Clare's Ch); Alison Firby (Food Bank); Kerina & Julian Clark (Xcel Ch); Andrew Bryer (Methodist Ch); Pam Lovelass (St. Clare's Ch); Anne Molyneux (St. Mary's Ch); Kath Pinner (Food Bank); Gwen Morrison (Methodist Ch).



REME Association, South West Durham Branch monthly meeting will be held at 8:00pm on Wednesday 20th December 2017 in the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe. All serving and ex-serving REME personnel welcome. "Arte et Marte"

ASB in Town Decreased

A multi-agency group which meets once a month to overview ASB on the town and to coordinate the agencies' response is having an effect.

There were 546 incidents of ASB in the year ending 30th November 2017, down 27% from the year before. Whereas there were 123 incidents of ASB in November 2016, there were only 65 in November this year - almost halved!

There has been a little spike in ASB in the Town Park, involving things like throwing food, overturning planters, riding bikes through flower beds and name-calling the wardens. This will now be targeted, but ASB in the town centre and the multi-storey car park seems to have quietened down.

Festive Refuse & Recycling

Residents in County Durham are being reminded of changes to refuse and recycling collections over the Christmas period.

Bins will be emptied as normal up to and including Friday, 22 December. However, all collections during the week beginning Monday, 25 December will be a day later than normal.

This means that anyone whose rubbish or recycling is due to be collected on Tuesday, 26 December, for example, should put their bin out the following day, Wednesday, 27 December.

Collections due to take place on Friday, 29 December will be carried out on Saturday, 30 December.

Normal collections will resume on Tuesday, 2 January, 2018.

The last day for bulky waste and white goods collections will be Friday, 22 December, with the service resuming on Tuesday, 2 January. To book a collection online, visit www.durham.gov.uk/bulkywaste

The council will once again be offering a collection service for real Christmas trees. Bookings, for collection in the New Year, can be made by visiting www.durham.gov.uk or calling 03000 260 000 between Monday, 18 December and Sunday, 7 January.

Real Christmas trees can also be taken to any of the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). To check opening times, visit www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

Anyone visiting a HWRC in a van, pick-up, mini-bus or towing a trailer will need to apply for a permit in advance by calling 03000 260 000 or visiting www.durham.gov.uk/householdpermit

If you require a waste permit for use over the Christmas and New Year period, you must apply before noon on Friday, 15 December.

Continues...

Residents are also reminded to Bin it Right in order to reduce recycling contamination. Check which items should

be placed in which bin by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere

And if you're getting new furniture in time for Christmas or buying electrical appliances in the sales, remember to dispose of old items responsibly.

Don't leave them in your yard, garden or street for a 'man with a van' to collect as they may end up being fly-tipped.

Items can be taken to any HWRC or donated to charity. Details of furniture reuse charities can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/reuse

CLlr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "The Christmas and New Year period is a busy one for

everybody, but it's important that we take time to ensure that we dispose of our rubbish and recycling responsibly.

"Information on all of our waste and recycling services is available on our website, where residents can also book bulky waste and real Christmas tree collections, order a permit and check their rubbish and recycling collection days."

To download a bin collection calendar, visit www.durham.gov.uk and enter your house number and postcode into the My Durham section.

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Festive Food Donations Handed to Durham Foodbank

Hundreds of boxes packed with festive treats have been donated to Durham Foodbank by generous council staff to help make sure no-one goes hungry this Christmas.

Over the last few weeks, staff from Durham County Council have been bringing in items which will be used by the foodbank to create special Christmas hampers. Pamela Glaister, senior enforcement officer at Durham County Council, has helped with the collection for a number of years and this week donated approximately 140 selection boxes on behalf of the planning and highways teams.

"Children are the innocent ones and simple selection boxes are something we take for granted at Christmas but are not always a necessity for families in need," she said.

"It seemed a simple task to donate them for the children to help bring a smile to their faces and some normality to their Christmas day. We also want to say a special thank you to Wilko's in the Arnison Centre for providing us with a special discount, meaning we could buy even more selection boxes for the children."

The boxes from County Hall were passed by Cllr Jane Brown, Cabinet member for social inclusion to Peter MacLellan, CEO of Durham Christian Partnership which facilitates the foodbank.

"Christmas is a time for



celebration but not everyone can enjoy the kind of things we take for granted," she said.

"I haven't heard of any other local authorities in the North East doing this – it's a great thing to do and buying an extra item when we do our shopping isn't a huge burden for most people."

"We are delighted to be able to give these boxes to the foodbank to help make Christmas a little bit brighter for those who might be having a difficult time."

Peter MacLellan said: "December is a busy time for the foodbank and we know a lot of families struggle throughout the month."

"These hampers can make a real difference to people over the festive period and we are extremely grateful to staff at Durham County Council for their generous donation."

Taylor Shaw – Durham County Council's primary school meal supplier – also donated 40 tins of chocolates, tea bags and coffee while food supplier Batleys contributed 240 cans of tinned rice pudding and cartons of orange juice. Collections will continue until January 19 2018 when any remaining items will be passed over to the foodbank.

DRAGOON TARGETS DANGEROUS DRIVERS

Cleveland and Durham Police's joint specialist operations unit will launch 'Operation Dragoon' to target dangerous drivers.

Following on from its success at Northumbria Police, the operation will target the

Garden Bin Fee Increase

Dear Sir,

It is with disgust I read in your very illustrious Newton News that our greedy County Council are increasing the annual fee to empty the garden bin in 2018 to £30.

Not only are they increasing the fee in 2018 but have kindly told us that it will be increasing to £35 in 2019. I look upon this as a form of recycling, because the greedy Council make money from selling the recycled garden waste in the form of compost.

How do they justify these two increases when they keep begging us to recycle as much as possible and not send it to landfill?

The only logical conclusion I can think of is that the Council want this service to become too expensive to us to continue so they can say we turned down the service offered.

As you can guess from my tone I will not be paying the Council to get rid of my garden waste in the future, it will be bagged and put into the rubbish for landfill.

Terry Spellman
Sheraton Close

Charity Worker Inspires Vane Road Students

Vane Road Primary is a Rights Respecting School, where the local community is at the heart of our school ethos. We have recently been awarded our level one award for the work we do on Rights Respecting.

As part of our PSHCE in Year 4, we decided to have a 'Community Week' for both Year 4 classes. The children enjoy helping others and been part of their community. We tried to organise activities that involve their school community and the wider community. From Tuesday 19th December the children will have their parents coming in to school to participate in a family activity, they are going to visit Rose Lodge and sing Christmas Carols with the elderly residents, the children are having a curriculum day where they choose their learning and to complete the week the children are going to have a friendship day and appreciate why having special people in our life is important.

Vane Road Primary has helped many charities i.e. Water Aid, Dogs Trust, and Macmillan Cancer. The children in Year 4 wanted to do something to help others so decided to support Mark Solan's Charity. As a Spennymoor resident, he is an inspiration in the community so it was arranged for the children to be inspired to help others and meet Mark. We decided to decorate biscuits and



sell them every morning at break time in December with money raised donated to the Solan Fawcett Charity.

Mark came to school to talk to children in Key Stage Two and hosted a special assembly talking about why he set his charity up and how it makes a difference. I have never seen the children so absorbed and interested in a person. They listened intently and asked many questions.

The children were inspired to continue helping others and now feel that they can talk about Cancer openly as many know someone who has suffered this awful disease.

Here are a few quotes from the children:

"It was fantastic and nice to have him come in to our school to tell us about what he has done in the past and

what he is going to do in the future". Micah

"It was special to me that people are researching and helping people with Cancer because my Gran had Cancer". Zach

"It is nice to see someone makes a difference, my Gran died of Cancer". Evie

"It was amazing to hear about what he's going to do and how he raised £22,000, my jaw dropped open". Clayton

"It's nice to see someone so inspiring and nice to know someone who helps raise money to help others". Lucy

"My Great Grandmother died from Cancer. She lost her hair and needed a wig and it made me think". Noah

"I'm happy that he's been through all of that and helps others". Ava

Junior Disco Each Friday

A Friday Night Disco will be held every week for up to 10 years starting FRIDAY 15th December. Admission £2

Venue: Burnhill Methodist Church Hall from 5pm until 8pm.

On Friday 22nd December a Special Christmas Disco with Father Christmas is arranged. Ring for further details: 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

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Honest John Xmas Hours

Honest John will be open next week up to and including Saturday 22nd December.

He will be closed until Tuesday 2nd January and wishes all donors and customers a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. He and Val will be making a Christmas Collection on Christmas Eve next to Argos.

Furniture Factory Outlet

Fulbeck Road, Aycliffe Business Park - Tel 07825 777966

Facebook – affordablefurniture uk



Open
weekdays
and
Saturday



Have Yourself a Merry Messy Xmas

Messy Christmas at St. Clare's Church will be a Glitter Heaven of activities. Through angel craft, glitter trees, card making, pictures and stories we will discover the Christmas Story. Enjoy a cup of shepherd's hot chocolate, make a Christmas biscuit and cracker to take home for your Christmas table. After our craft time we

can share in a delicious tea of hot Christmas sandwiches and jelly and ice-cream... delicious. Come and enjoy some family time - making and creating together, sharing in the wonder of Christmas amongst all the business of shopping and present buying. A welcome rest from all that hustle and bustle! All are welcome -

Saturday 23rd December - beginning promptly at 4pm. St. Clare's Church. A free event although a collection box will be available for your Christmas donations to help the continuing work of Messy Church in 2018. We thank you for your kindness. The Children and Youth Team at St.

Clare's would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We look forward to continue working with the many Messy Church, SHINE CHOIR, Kidzflixs and Parish Youth families and many more new ones too! Enjoy your Christmas Time Together.

Santa's Christmas Eve Tour of Newton Aycliffe



ROUTE ONE

3.45pm
St Oswalds
4.00pm
Welbury
4.10-5.10pm
Washington Crescent area,
Wycliffe, Armstrong, Wren,
Whitehead, Hutchinson,
Hylton, Matthew, Wolsey,
Richardson, Trevor Gardens,
St Aidans, Felton
5.10-5.20pm
Neile, Defoe, Trevor, Porter,
Wheeler, Lamb, Espin,
Bellasis
5.20-6.20pm
Wiseman, Ewbank,
Hardinge, Chandler,
Chapman, Hardinge,
Bousefield, Faber, Kendrew,
Hamilton Close, Elstob,
Burn
6.20-7.30pm
Dalton, Hartley, Faulkner,
Hullock, Allington,
Walcher, Lilburne,
Macmillan, Bertie, Alington,
Webb, Westmorland
7.30-8.00pm
Priestman, Wright,
Marshall, Burdon, Lightfoot,
Stephenson
8.00pm
Back via Pease

ROUTE TWO

3.45-4.00pm
St Cuthbert's/Bede, Anne
Swyft, Baliol, Hackworth
4.00-4.40pm
Baliol, Travellers, Linguard,
Seton, Gilpin, Clanny,
Palmer, Cosin
4.40-5.25pm
Co-operative Store, Bury,
Wilkinson, Van Mildert,
Greathead, Shafto, return
to Yacley, Greville, St
Cuthberts
5.25-6.05pm
Sheraton, Greville,
Crewe, Sharp, Hunter,
Lumley, Sheraton, Crawford,
Sheraton, Biscop
6.05-6.35pm
Hatfield, Heild, Biscop,
Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck
6.35-7.30pm
Via Shafto to Creighton,
Moore, Swan, Gunn,
Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny,
Carr, Markham, Secker,
Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer,
Vane, Fowler, Warburton,
Jackson
7.30-7.55pm
Shafto, Shield, Denham,
Ramsey, Eden, Langley,
Malling
7.55-8.15pm
Central Avenue (Fire
Station), Church Close

ROUTE THREE

3.45-4.45pm
Garburn, The Lanes,
Burnhill, Hawkshead,
Honister, Silverdale,
Kirkstone, Langdale,
Whinlatter, Eskdale,
Greenfield
4.45-5.40pm
Linden, Beechfield, Rowan,
Elmfield, Pease, Oakfield
5.40-6.25pm
Cumby, Crosby, Doxford,
Crosby, Lowery, St Godrics,
Mills
6.25-7.15pm
St Godrics, Simpature,
Simpature Gate, Moule,
Finchale, Gregory
Court, Lambton, Lee
Green, Hopper, Walker
Lane, Emerson, Butler,
Castlereagh, Merz
7.15-7.45pm
Ritson, Marley, Wallas,
Isherwood, Bewick,
Emerson
7.45-8.15pm
Barrington Road, Ashfield,
Beacon Court, Tunstall
Road, Carileph Close, Ebba
Close, Bruce Road, Pease
Way, RAFA Club, Paulinus
Road, Peaseway

ROUTE FOUR

3.45-4.40pm
Durham Road, Atkinson
Gardens, Village Green,
Heighington Lane, Oaklea
Mews, Congreve Terrace,
Bickford Terrace
School Aycliffe
4.40-5.30pm
The Garth, Eastfields,
Millfields, Binchester,
Burnynghill, Lord Neville
Drive, Wilbore Croft,
Forrester, Smythsons,
High Barn, Springfields,
High Barn, Hansard Close,
Jenison, Westfields, High
Barn, North Cottages
Greenfield Area
5.45-6.10pm
Colwell Court, Belford,
Malvern, Wilton, Belford
The Chase
6.10-6.45pm
Zetland, Hurworth,
Bramham, Holdrness,
Ainsty, The Meet, Saddlery,
Post Horn, Bedale,
Rookwood
Byerley Park
6.45-7.20pm
Luttryngton, Hambleton,
Ranulf, Jesmond, Elwick,
Colburn, Russell, Yoden,
Lascelles, Wynyard

ROUTE FIVE

3.45-4.00pm
Brafferton, Grange,
Chilton, Grindon, Whitton,
Woodham
4.00-4.30pm
Lowther, Brook, Cartington,
Mulgrave, Helmsley,
Middleham, Burleigh,
Badminton, Stoneleigh,
Lowther
4.30-4.45pm
Hickstead, Stag,
Kennilworth, Cheltenham,
Gatcome
4.45-5.15pm
Epsom, Kempton, Windsor,
Fallow, Fawn, Hind, Raby,
Brancepeth
5.15-5.35pm
Village, Bamburgh,
Chillingham, Alnwick,
Barnardm, Pemberton,
Farnham
5.35-6.10pm
Beaumont, Kirkham,
Egerton, Dudley, Howson,
Clover, Sorrel, Yarrow,
Harebell, Campion
6.10-6.30pm
Sandowne, Tattersall,
The Oaks, Beechers,
Paddock, Croft, Woodham,
Sunningdale, Low Green
6.30-7.30pm
Spinney, High Green,
The Grange 1-4, Bridle,
Woodham Gate

ROUTE SIX

3.45-4.20pm
Hallington, Tindale,
Derwent, Angram,
Scholars, Broomlee, Stocks,
Waskerley, Fewston,
Greenwood Court, Blackton
4.20-5.15pm
Meadowfield, Ladybower,
Greenlee, Stainmore,
Winterburn, Grassholme,
Burnhope, Stainmore,
Hareson, Cestria
5.15-5.45pm
Lisle, Lockyer, Hoode,
Cheviot, Pennine
5.45-6.20pm
Bluebell Close, Coverdale,
Bluebell Meadows,
Wolvestone, Alverton
Drive & Court, Hamsterley,
Barton, Paxton
6.20-6.55pm
Lancelot, Temple, Gamul,
Raddive, Spooner, Thwaites,
Eade
6.55-8.00pm
Malham, Reeth, Rylstone,
Askrigg, Skipton, Arncliffe,
Aysgarth, Hawes, Pateley,
Stainforth, Keld, Marrick

ROUTE SEVEN

3.45-4.00pm
Foxglove, Ashtree,
Pinewood
4.00-5.00pm
Ropemoor Way, Forster,
Patenson, Wakenham,
Youens, Haselwood,
Blackiston, Carwardine,
Karles, Bloomesley
5.00-5.20pm
Oldwood, Bluestone,
Wellhouse, Sugarhill
Crescent
5.20-5.45pm
Acle Burn, Acle Meadow,
St Andrews, Ryder,
Woodham
5.45-6.30pm
Agnew, Kings, Ida, Osbert,
Guthrum, Osric, Aldfrid
6.30-6.45pm
Wellhouse, Morrison,
Tanfield, Stargate, The
Ballarat
6.45-7.30pm
Kimbleworth Walk, Fenhall
Green, Hutton Place,
Callerton Rise, Deleval
Close, Elemore Place,
Phoenix Place, Brockwell
Close
7.30-8.15pm
Heatherburn Court, Foxton
Close, Herrington Court,
Hardwick Court, Butterwick
Court, Rushyford Court,
Layton Court, Woodham
Way



ROUTE EIGHT

3.45-4.10pm
Clarence Chare, Clarence
Close, Clarence Corner,
Clarence Court, Travellers
Green, Clarence Green
4.10-5.30pm
Silkin Way, Stead,
Humphrey, Newburn,
Thurlow, Aylmer, Whitley,
Henson
5.30-6.50pm
Sid Chaplin, Fox Place,
Bates Close, Brockett,
Thornton, Scott, Bakewell,
Booth Walk, Merlin, Kestral
6.50-7.25pm
The Swale, Pasture,
Moorland

We Want Your Input



A studio full of guests on Tuesday evening: Ben Potts (NAFC), Lee Weldon (Presenter & Cricket), Darren Lowe (Presenter & Junior FC), Jonathan Gallagher (NA Youth FC Head Coach) and Billy Horn (FA Coach and Mentor).

Aycliffe Radio is putting out a request to all town organisations to come along to our Studio and record a five minute info slot about your group.

This is your opportunity to promote your activities to our listening audience, get them involved and even recruit more members.

Aycliffe Radio are happy to record your sound bite for use on the station during the day at no charge to you. Please get in touch via email in the first instance to register your interest. Our programme coordinator will then get back to you to arrange a day and time to do the recording. Please email info@ayclifferadio.co.uk

During the last two weeks the station has picked up listeners from all around the world, mainly ex-pats who like to keep an eye on what is happening in their home town. Paul McDonald is one of those ex-pats, now living in Sydney, Australia; another is Frazer Sim who lives in Adelaide, Australia. They both tune in when time allows. Both are ex-DJ's who likes to keep their hands in and have offered to do an occasional set for us.

The running schedule has been updated this week, with more shows, as well as guest presenter slot (for Paul and Frazer in Australia and Andy in Spain) - the Xcel Church will also be providing songs and a Sermon for future broadcast on a Sunday evening. If you would like to join us for a weekly or monthly session, please get in touch info@ayclifferadio.co.uk

If your business would rather help financially, we encourage you to become a sponsor; why not sponsor a

Music Exams Results

The following pupils of Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe, have been successful in the recent Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examinations:
PIANO:
Francesca Marr Grade 2
SINGING:
Sally Cresser Grade 7

Film Show

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 19th December features the most loved Christmas film ever, "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" Starring James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore and Gloria Graham. Made in black & white in 1946 it remains as timeless as ever, and this is the colour version so even more of a joy to watch.

One of the most generous and selfless of men, George is at his lowest ebb, contemplating suicide, when his guardian angel takes him in hand and shows him what his town would have been like had he never lived. It is, quite simply, the most uplifting Christmas film ever made. Tea and coffee are served at 1pm, included in the £2. The film starts at 1.15pm. Please note that children must be accompanied. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. Everyone is most welcome. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.



AYCLIFFE RADIO

show for a low monthly cost? In return your business will receive a mention from our presenters.

From 8pm on Christmas Eve till midnight on Boxing Day, we will be playing solid Christmas tracks for your festive enjoyment.

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk
07512 253333
info@ayclifferadio.co.uk

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	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
WEDNESDAY		
10am-Noon	Eclectic Mix	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	80s Show	Mixer
8pm-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gary Avery
THURSDAY		
10am-Noon	Eclectic Mix	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	90s Show	Mixer
FRIDAY		
10am-Noon	Moderation	Jack Hall
6pm-8pm	00s Show	Mixer
SATURDAY		
6pm-8pm	Dance Anthems	The Doctor
8pm-10pm	Dance Mix	OZDJ
10pm-Midnight	Garage/Indie	MC Supa
SUNDAY		
2pm-6pm	Lazy Sunday	Mixer
8pm-10pm	R&B Show	Jack Hall

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

How To Tune In:

Visit our website: www.ayclifferadio.co.uk
Download the app from Apple Store or Google Play

How To Contact Us:

Visit our website: www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

Call/Text: 07512 253333

Email: info@ayclifferadio.co.uk

Facebook: serach Aycliffe radio

Twitter: @AycliffeRadio

Download the app from Apple Store or Google Play

Listen out for my bells, I may be a little late

Weightwatch Coach Raised £1,300 for Hospice

Local Weight Watcher's Diamond Coach Danielle Stout not only helps residents in Newton Aycliffe lose weight, but now helps raise money for charity.

Danielle Stout has helped over 300 people in the Newton Aycliffe area towards a healthier lifestyle. In 2017 alone, Danielle Stout her members shed approximately 10, 840 lb which is 774 stone. With a new flexible plan 'FLEX' personalised to each member's age, gender, BMI and lifestyle, Coach Danielle Stout, who has lost 4 stone, is committed to helping every member achieve their goal and will equip local residents with the skills and techniques required to build a positive relationship between food, mind and body for good.

Danielle Stout was awarded Diamond Leader last year and is hoping to revive this same award again this year. "I'm so proud of my members and what they've achieved; it has been another fantastic year, not many people can say they absolutely love their job but I can! It's great to see my members enjoying the food they love and jumping off the scales happy.

"Unlike fad diets and quick fixes, Weight Watchers provides a flexible and balanced approach to leading a healthier lifestyle. Our unique counting system, SmartPoints, or no tracking



Danielle when 4 stone overweight and now!

option No Count, guide you towards healthier food choices, based on much more than calories alone, while helping you to be more active and equipping you with the skills and techniques to get you in the right frame of mind to achieve long term success. "Research shows that with Weight Watchers meetings and online tools, you could lose up to seven times more weight than on your own and I'm looking forward to continuing to prove that stat right!"

Danielle Stout runs 9 meetings a week Monday 5pm, 6.30pm & Tuesday 9.30am Pioneering care centre Newton Aycliffe, Tuesday 5pm & 6pm

West Auckland Memorial Hall, Wednesday 6.30pm Ceddesfeld Hall Sedgefield, Friday 9.30am Spectrum leisure centre Willington, Saturday 8am & 9.30am Tudhoe Community Centre Spennymoor

As well as helping her members lose weight Danielle Stout also organised a Charity WeightWatchers Winter Ball. This took place on Saturday 25th November 2017 at Redworth Hall Hotel Danielle organises a Winter Ball to give all her members the chance to dress up and celebrate their successes with WeightWatchers. She also invites all other coaches in her area and their members raising £1300 for charity.

Easy Access to Credit Union Savings & Loans at Library

Residents of Newton Aycliffe can now access a vital service right in the heart of the town after the NEFirst credit union moved its service point into Newtown Aycliffe Library. NEFirst Credit Union is a not-for-profit organisation that offers community focussed banking services such as savings and loans, and has been in Newton Aycliffe for the last three years with the support of local councillors and Durham County Council's Durham Savers project.

The credit union collection point has been a vital service for the people of Newton Aycliffe, giving them access to an ethical banking service that aims to get to the heart of the community and help people save and borrow safely and sensibly.

Being in the town centre, the new service will make it much easier for people to access the credit union. The library's facilities are modern and accessible, giving local people a much more welcoming and convenient environment to conduct their business, on a Thursday morning.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet



member for economic regeneration, said: "Over the last three years NEFirst have helped many people save, but also borrow at a fair interest rate, so avoiding the high cost payday and doorstep lenders who charge much more in interest.

"For example, a year-long loan of £500 from a long established high-cost lender, could cost borrowers over £400 in interest, whereas through NEFirst Credit Union, the total cost of the loan would only be £49 in interest.

"With these high cost lenders and weekly payment stores

still over used in Newton Aycliffe, the credit union is a welcome service; helping people to avoid getting into deeper debt."

"When money is saved into the credit union, that money can be used to help people in the community borrow at a fair interest rate.

"Any profit or surplus the organisation makes during the financial year is shared with members as a dividend." NEFirst is regulated by The Bank of England and like high street banks, savings are protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (up to £85,000).

Appeal for Young Lad & His Dog Sleeping Rough

Dear Sir,

People may not know but there is a young lad and his dog homeless and sleeping rough in this freezing conditions.

The Police are working in partnership with Durham County Council to find accommodation for this vulnerable member of our community.

They are trying to find a one bedroom property available in Newton Aycliffe to accommodate him and his dog, costing no more than £300 a month.

I appeal to our community to rally round and help this young man and his dog for Christmas by making a donation to <https://www.gofindme.com/safe-place-for-xmas>

You can also place a donation in the collection tub at Jon's Mini Market at Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe. Let's get this lad and his dog off the streets for Christmas so they are safe and warm. Name & address supplied

PREFERRED PLAY AREA DESIGN



Great Aycliffe Town Council will be hosting two final public consultation sessions regarding the preferred play area design proposed to improve the existing play area located below Eade Close, off Burn Lane.

The first drop in session will be held at the Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, on Monday 18th December between 1pm - 6.30pm. The second session will be held at the Pioneering Care Centre (PCP) on Tuesday 19th December between 10am - 2pm.

During both consultation sessions there will be an opportunity to view the two final designs and a Council Officer will be available to answer any queries in regard to the two designs before participants are given a chance to vote on their preferred option.

For more information please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

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Fresh Turkeys (and Turkey Crowns)

Fresh Chickens

Goose/Duck (to order)

Local Beef, Pork & Lamb

All cut to your requirements



TESCO

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

Everyone's Welcome

SHREDDING FIRM EXPANDS

A North East shredding business is undergoing significant expansion and extending its services across the UK, thanks to surpassing last year's turnover figures in the first four months of its financial year.

The Shred Centre, a family business with over 20 years of industry experience, recently more than quadrupled its site, from 1500 sq ft to 10,000 sq ft., with new premises in Spennymoor.

The workforce, which began as husband and wife team, Patrick and Natalie Stephens in 2012, has recently expanded with two new members of warehouse staff. A further new Admin Assistant and Driver are to be recruited by the end of the year, taking the workforce to nine.

The Company has also doubled its vehicle fleet from three to six, so it can continue to increase services around the North East, Yorkshire, North West and the Midlands.

Patrick said: "I'm very excited for the future of the Company and I hope that we



Patrick and Natalie Stephens

can continue the trend we've started of expanding every year.

"We're not just a Company that offers paper shredding anymore. We now have the facility to destroy data, in all forms including media disks, hard drives, mobile phones and branded clothing"

"We are fully accredited and certified to EN15713 the European Standard for Information Destruction, and offer business owners

what they need to make sure their data is 100% protected." With the world of data storage quickly changing as technology does, shredding paper is no longer the only secure way to dispose of information. Demands have meant that The Shred Centre now offers a hard drive shredding service.

Patrick continued: "We're in an information age and technology holds a lot of confidential data. Data protection is at the forefront of most business owners' minds, so we're glad that we can now offer further peace of mind and securely dispose of electronically stored information."

"We're expecting the growing use of technology will bring an even higher demand for our services and we'll continue to expand across the UK!" Through industry experience, reputation and accreditations (ISO9001, 18001 and 14001), The Shred Centre has built up a

selection of regular clients. This includes DeepOcean, an integrated provider of safe, innovation services and technologies for the subsea industry, that was drawn to the Company for its secure shredding services five years ago.

David Tighe from Deep Ocean said: "We have worked with The Shred Centre for five years and we have been very pleased with the service provided. They provide us with a clear audit trail and certificates of destruction for shredding of our paper and non-paper items when we have them destroyed. We can highly recommend The Shred Centre to all businesses who need a secure shredding service."

To find out more about The Shred Centre and its range of services, please visit: <http://www.theshredcentre.com>

The Wrong Meynell

John Meynell Funeral Director this week received a letter, which was addressed to Joan Meynell with the address as Newton Aycliffe and a post code.

Inside the envelope was a birthday card for Joan. Obviously this was delivered to the wrong address, if you are Joan Meynell of Newton Aycliffe and are celebrating a birthday. You can contact Tammie at John Meynell Funeral Service to retrieve the greeting card. Please call 01325 301405.

TeraByte Celebrates 5th Birthday Confirming New Partnership

Cyber Security company TeraByte IT Limited are celebrating their 5th Anniversary in Darlington, County Durham, after moving to the area 2 years ago as a strategic business decision. TeraByte chose Darlington in no small part for to the great transport links to London and Scotland as well as the East and West Coast. The ongoing development opportunities and nearby Business Parks; with Newton Aycliffe now overtaking Team Valley as the biggest in the UK, meant the area was, and still is, very attractive to the cyber security business.

As part of the plans for growth, TeraByte achieved certification through the Cyber Essentials Scheme with IASME governance. TeraByte then went on to become a certification body with IASME and we have promoted them in return through the Cyber Security sector.

TeraByte can assist businesses with a route to compliance in order to meet the minimum mandatory requirements of GDPR or the General Data Protection Regulation. This new legislation replaces the Data Protection Act on 25th May 2018 and applies to all businesses in an effort to help against the increasing cyber-attacks businesses face. A combination of free workshops and seminars has held TeraByte in good stead offering advice and assistance to businesses making the necessary choices for their own journey to compliance. As a market leader in the field, TeraByte have carefully aligned themselves with the right partners as part of their



future plans.

TeraByte are delighted to celebrate their 5th Anniversary by confirming partnership with SITS/Pivotal Group who are based at Cramlington.

Laura Dempsey, Managing Director of TeraByte said "At TeraByte we demand excellence and as such, after they approached us initially, we are extremely pleased to have found that SITS/Pivotal Group have exceeded all of our expectations. We are very honoured to be accepted by them in return as we see excellence within them across the board. We look forward to the opportunities this new venture brings to the area and are very pleased with the increased service offering our clients can enjoy".

Phil Cambers, Commercial Director of SITS Group and Pivotal Networks said "We take great care in selecting the right partners to form alliances with. TeraByte are a professionally ran business and we have every faith in

engaging them with our longstanding loyal clients. The reciprocal nature of our alliance means TeraByte can bring us into their clients to add value and vice versa'

Flower Club Meet

At the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 8th January, Lynne Dent from Woollybacks in Stanhope visits to talk about her passion - knitting. Not only does Lynne sell wool and patterns, but she designs and knits historically correct items for well-known television programs such as Inspector George Gently.

Thus will be an entertaining and fascinating evening focusing on a popular activity that is currently having a revival.

Shildon Civic Hall at 7.30pm. Free to members, visitors £5.

Joy Marie Hair

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE

Wishing all my friends and customers a very Happy Christmas and New Year

A donation has been given to Aycliffe Village Hall in lieu of cards

FRIENDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS FIND NEW VENUE

Are you lonely and unable to meet and socialise with people? If so read further.

Christmas Day Lunch FREE and you will be picked up and returned home.

Starting from Monday 18th December we are inviting you to join us at our new venue BURNHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL. The no. 7 bus from Woodham and the town centre stops at the Syd Chaplin bus stop on Burnhill Way and the hall is on the right just 2 minutes away. The No 5 bus will bring you back to the town centre.

The following programmes are arranged and you can be picked up from home. Our opening times are from 11am until 8pm

Monday:

11.00am Morning Coffee followed by cooked lunch

Tuesday: 11.00am activity to be decided

Wednesday: 11.00am: Mother and toddler

Thursday: 11.00am not decided open to suggestions possibly a shopping trip in our Community Mini Bus.

Friday: 11.00am

Morning Coffee followed by a cooked lunch.

5pm until 8pm Children's DISCO every week.

Saturday: 11.00am morning coffee

Sunday:

Children's Sunshine Corner and Afternoon Tea for seniors.

Our committee's aim is to welcome people who are lonely and those who are recovering from illnesses, suffering from or going through CANCER M/S, M/E or any other long term condition who need help or advice

Talks will be given by professional people and we will be able to point you to experienced advisors. We are joining up hopefully with Cancer Care UK.

During the summer months we will have trips away to the seaside etc. and will have activities including Line dancing, 50/50 Ballroom dancing, Armchair aerobics etc.

Phone for more details: 07967 901477 or 01325 308094



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Email: play.days@btconnect.com

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OFSTED Inspected - "Outstanding Provision"

OFSTED quote: "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."



SUGAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Graded outstanding,
September 2017



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www.sugarhill.durham.sch.uk

Discovering Ancient Egypt

Stephenson Way Learn to Sign



Year 4 pupils at Stephenson Way Academy recently spent the day uncovering the hidden secrets of Ancient Egypt in a fun-filled workshop with experts from Durham University. Throughout the course of the day, children immersed themselves in life as an Ancient Egyptian. They began by mummifying Lewis, who had to wear a 'death mask', so that his soul would be recognised in the afterlife. He said, "The mask was really big and quite heavy but it was fun to wear."

For the less squeamish members of the class, the mummification was the most exciting part of the day as three volunteers were chosen to pull out all of the mummy's insides before it could be mummified. Jayden told us, "It was so gross but really cool too!" Next, the group asked lots of questions about the mummy to decide whether he had lived a good life and deserved to go to the afterlife. Using images of the Gods they took it in turns to decide his fate, giving reasons for their

decision. Thankfully for the mummy, it was decided he could go after all! After looking at some Egyptian artefacts, the children got creative with clay by making Egyptian ambulant. Some children made scarab beetles, while others chose to sculpt shabti dolls and everyone took their creation home as a keepsake. Both the children and Miss Taylor would like to thank Durham University for leading such an interesting and informative day of historical learning.

During the last term, young learners from Stephenson Way Academy Nursery have been developing their communication skills with Signing Tots sessions. Each sign is taught through interactive activities such as songs, puppets, stories and rhymes so children have great fun as they learn. As well as bringing books and stories to life, Signing Tots has been proven to develop children's speech and ease frustrations as youngsters use simple signs alongside their speech to show what they mean. Jules, who leads the sessions, told us, "The children are always so enthusiastic and enjoy playing with the props as they learn to sign, it's wonderful to see them engage and watch their confidence grow over time." Alongside school based sessions, Signing Tots also offer a range of parties. For more information, contact Jules on 07966 968388.



Thousands of Christmas services and events will be taking place in churches all over the country this December as people join together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is God with us. There are about 16,000 Church of England churches and those nearest you in Newton Aycliffe are: St Clare's in the Town Centre, St Elizabeth's in Woodham Village and St Andrew's in Aycliffe Village. We hope a record number of people join us over Christmas.

Please join us on our Christmas Journey of carols, readings and prayers, which remind us that God is with us in every situation and every part of our lives. He understands our many difficulties, hears our cries, heals our wounds and strengthens us for our Journey.

Services and events near to Christmas are as follows:

Wednesday 20th December - 7.00pm - St Elizabeth's

Quiet Christmas Reflections

Saturday 23rd December - 4.00pm - St Clare's

Messy Christmas

Sunday 24th December - 3.00pm - St Andrew's

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 24th December - 4.30pm - St Clare's

Christingle Service

Sunday 24th December - 11.30pm - St Andrew's

Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day 25th December - 10.00am - St Clare's

Celebration of Christmas

followed by light festive refreshments. Those expecting to spend the day alone are very welcome. To find out about the #God With Us Christmas Campaign, visit www.churchofengland.org

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

Free Internet Access Reminder for Universal Credit

People preparing to claim Universal Credit are being advised that they can set up and access their online application by visiting their local library.

Universal Credit, which is already in place for some claimants in the Seaham and Peterlee areas, is being rolled out to Bishop Auckland, Crook, Consett, Stanley and some parts of Barnard Castle this week for new claimants and those on existing benefits who have had a change in their circumstances.

And in preparation for the roll-out, Durham County Council is reminding residents that its libraries and Customer Access Points all offer free internet access, which they can use to submit and update their claim form. Staff are also on hand at Customer Access Points to help if needed.

Cllr Jane Brown, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "The latest phase of the roll-out of Universal Credit in County Durham will mean a number of people will be submitting a claim over the coming weeks.

"We've been working closely with the DWP and other organisations, including the Advice in County Durham Partnership, to ensure people understand the changes to the benefit system and how these changes may affect them.

"We're also making sure that help is at hand for people who are having difficulty with the application process, with staff at our Customer Access Points available to offer advice and guidance, where needed to supplement the support available from the DWP via their JobCentre Plus offices."

Administered by the Department for Work and



(l-r) Customer Services staff Colleen Hancill, Lynne Bell and Joan Gordon (seated) with Cllr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation, and Cllr Jane Brown, Cabinet member for social inclusion.

Pensions (DWP), Universal Credit merges six benefits, including housing benefit and tax credits, into a single payment.

It is paid every four weeks, but due to the initial waiting period, and depending on when the first claim is made, the first payment may not be made for six weeks. Claimants can make a request for an advance payment, currently up to 50 per cent of their entitlement, which would be paid more quickly.

Cllr Joy Allen, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for transformation, said: "Online access is crucial for submitting an application for Universal Credit and keeping it up to date.

"We understand that some people may not have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone at home, so we want to remind them that they can use the self-service PCs at our libraries and Customer Access Points to submit and manage their claim."

"The council's website also

includes details of other buildings where residents can access the internet in their local area."

If residents need help with paying their council tax, the council continues to support and encourage claims through its Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

In addition, anyone visiting a council building can take advantage of free Wi-Fi in order to access their application via a smartphone or tablet.

Residents can also apply for short-term awards to help with daily living expenses through the authority's Welfare Assistance Scheme. For more information, visit www.durham.gov.uk/welfareassistance.

Information about Universal Credit is available at www.gov.uk/universal-credit or www.durham.gov.uk/universalcredit.

Access to computers at libraries and Customer Access Points can be booked in advance in person at any of the venues. Support is also available by calling the council's customer services team on 03000 260 000.

Use NHS Services Wisely in Winter

NHS services in the North East and North Cumbria are experiencing additional pressure as the cold weather sets in and are issuing a plea for members of the public to use services wisely.

As temperatures plummet, an increasing number of people are affected by coughs, colds and sore throats, as well as more serious breathing problems.

With a wide range of illnesses affecting more people in the winter months, the NHS is focused on helping patients to get access to the right services to meet their needs.

More GP practices than ever before are now open for appointments later in the evening and at weekends. And there is a range of medicines and quick advice available from local pharmacies to help with coughs, colds, sore throats, upset stomachs, aches and pains and other common symptoms.

Dr Jonathan Slade, NHS England's Deputy Medical Director, in Cumbria and the North East, and a practicing GP, said: "Emergency departments across the region are starting to get extremely busy and we're asking people to really think about their health needs and how best to seek advice and help.

"Everyone knows where their local emergency department is and when it is open - and understandably people often default to that - but there are many other services, including GP surgeries, which are now open longer hours providing treatment for a wide range of non-emergency health needs.

"NHS 111 can also provide advice, and signpost people to the most appropriate service to address their needs, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"When emergency departments are busy, the patients with the most pressing and life-threatening needs will always be seen as a priority.

"Coughs, bad cold and sore throats can make you feel awful for one to two weeks but symptoms can be helped by using over-the-counter medicines from local pharmacies and taking it easy at home.

"Parents concerned about their child's health can download the NHS child health app, created by doctors, which provides up-to-the-minute advice about how best to treat common childhood illnesses. Using the correct advice from the app can give parents the confidence to know they are taking the right course of action to help their child."

The NHS always sees a rise in emergency admissions to hospital at this time of year, particularly amongst older people, who are much more vulnerable to serious illness or injury during the cold winter months.

Dr James McFetrich, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital,

Cramlington, said: "Please think carefully about whether you need to come to an Emergency Department. Our team's skills are in treating people with life-threatening injuries or illness and there are many patients who come to the emergency department who could have been seen more appropriately elsewhere.

"Please look at the NHS Choices website for information about where to go to get the right treatment. You can also phone 111 for advice or speak to your GP or local pharmacist." Falls are one of the main causes of older people attending accident and emergency and can sometimes lead to a lengthy hospital stay. Anyone can have a fall, but older people are more vulnerable and likely to fall, especially if they have a long-term health condition.

There are all sorts of things that can be done to reduce the risk of having a fall, including making simple changes at home, doing exercises to improve strength and balance, and only going out when you have to if the weather is bad.

People are asked to look out for elderly friends and relatives to make sure they seek early advice for any heavy colds or breathing problems and that their home is warm and safe.

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director at Age UK said: "Older people are at particular risk of falls during winter. The streets can be extremely slippery underfoot due to fallen leaves, accumulations of rain, ice and snow, so we would encourage all older people to take extra care when out and about. When weather conditions are like this a pair of sturdy shoes with non-slip soles are worth their weight in gold as they may prevent a nasty tumble and resultant injury.

"Winter can also be a lonely time for older people if the weather means they are stuck at home, so we'd also urge people to keep an eye on their older family members, friends and neighbours. Bringing in some shopping for them, collecting prescriptions or just stopping by to check they're ok, and being prepared to have a friendly chat, can be of immense help and support to older people at this time of year."

If you're worried about a relative or elderly neighbour, contact your local council or call the Age UK helpline on 0800 678 1174 (8am-7pm every day). If you're concerned that the person may be suffering from hypothermia, contact NHS 111.

Healthcare services in the North East and North Cumbria are also backing the national 'Stay Well This Winter' campaign which encourages people to look after themselves properly www.nhs.uk/staywell.

Honest John Helps Town Pipe Band



Newton Aycliffe Pipe Band would like to sincerely thank Honest John for his very kind donation in the sum of £500.00. We can confirm that the money will be used for the purposes of purchasing new uniform and equipment for new band members. Once again, thank you!

We think the work Honest John does is fantastic and we can definitely conclude he makes the community, and the world, a better place! Honest John has a permanent shop in DISC next to the Blue Bridge in Newton Aycliffe- please pop in and support him and his fabulous work!

If you would like to join NAPB or hire us for an event or function, then please contact: newtonaycliffepipeband@gmail.com



Armed robbers threatened a couple in their own home

Three masked robbers entered a property in High Street, Eldon Lane at around 5.30pm on 10th December, armed with a machete before making off with cash, jewellery, cigarettes and Christmas presents.

Detective Sergeant Gareth Hodgson from Darlington CID, said: "The robbers assaulted one of the homeowners and made threats of extreme violence. They conducted an untidy search of the house before making off with a significant amount of property. Thankfully the victims were not seriously injured during this ordeal however they were left terrified and shocked."

Police are appealing for anyone with information in relation to this incident to contact DS 618 Gareth Hodgson at Bishop Auckland CID on 101.

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FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Christmas: - Friday, 22nd December

Deadline: Wednesday 20th December, 5pm

No Edition - Friday, 29th December, 2017

Friday, 5th January, 2018 (back to normal)

Deadline: Wednesday 3rd January, 5pm

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:

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YOUNGS/POST OFFICE (Town Centre)

or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Friday 22nd December
Skeleton Staff in attendance until re-opening
on **Tuesday 2nd January 2018** at 8.30am

*The Management
and Staff of Newton Press
and Newton News would like
to wish all Newtonians a
Merry Christmas and
Happy, Prosperous New Year*



Scammed by Online Offers

People are warned not to fall into the same trap as a County Durham resident who ended up with an £800 bill for unwanted anti-aging cream.

The woman clicked on an online advert for the product and provided her credit card details in the belief she would be making a one-off payment for a trial offer. However, she had actually signed up to a continuous payment scheme, which gave the company involved permission to continue charging £100 a month to supply the cream. In another case, a company ordered a debt collection agency to pursue a woman who had fallen victim to a similar scam.

Joanne Waller, the DCC head of environment, health and consumer protection, said: "Subscription traps are deliberately misleading and

usually involve a company using deceptive language and misleading terms and conditions.

"Products are often advertised as free samples, with the consumer asked to pay for postage and packing. However, they will then, typically, find much larger amounts being routinely taken from their account.

"In many cases, the products are also substandard and, in some, they don't turn up at all. "We would urge people to be extremely careful when signing up for trial offers and free products online – always make sure you fully understand what you are agreeing to."

In the case of the resident who was charged £800 for face cream, the company responsible was eventually traced to the USA by the council's Trading Standards

team and the subscription cancelled.

In the second case, another woman fell victim to a similar scheme, when she followed a pop-up link on a social media site and ordered a free sample of face cream.

After discovering she had also signed up to a continuous payment deal she tried to cancel. However, the trader, who was based in Cyprus, had instructed a debt collection agency to pursue the woman for the money they claimed was outstanding.

According to research by Citizens Advice, more than 16 million British people signed up for subscriptions between June 2014 and June 2015.

Anyone who would like help or advice about dealing with a subscription payment can contact the national consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Care Home Helps Town Gymnast



Daniel with Sue Foster Manager of Bethany House

Talented Gymnast Daniel Wilkinson from Newton Aycliffe who trains at Nadine's Dance Company in Hartlepool, was scouted at the "Move It" Dance conference in March 2017. He received a scholarship to train at the "Hollywood Summer Tour" in America in July 2018, where he will train with the likes of Brian Friedman and many others. Daniel would like to say a special Thank You to The Bethany House Nursing Home and Ruth Horn who have given a very generous donation of £450 to support Daniel in his fundraising. Daniels achievements so far include: Britain's Got Talent 2017 with 4 Yes's and a standing ovation from the audience and David Walliams. Daniel has also been picked out of thousands of dancers across the country to be "The Face of MOVEIT 2018" next year. Daniel has also danced in music videos with Philippa Hanna and Channy Thompson. Daniel was also a Finalist at the UK Dance Elite Championships in London 2016/2017.

If you would like to donate and help with his fundraising please check out his funding page www.youcaring.com/danielwilkinson-815491 or FOLLOW HIM ON Instagram @officialdanielwilkinson

Progress on New Vane Rd. School



Reader John Williamson sent in this photo of steel work being erected for new Vane Road School. Please send in your pics to: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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Alternative Tax Idea

Dear Sir,
This is not just an Aycliffe problem but it is something that happens across, I would suspect, every town in the country. The government is talking about introducing "green taxes" in various cities trying to combat air pollution aimed at diesel cars. I wonder if the "think tanks" involved have looked if there is an increase in air pollution at school pick up/drop off times and if so aim a tax for this type of motoring. Perhaps an easy solution to this and to aid congestion would be to look at a 'park and ride' type scheme where parents in their vehicles meet at a designated out of town area, drop the kids off and they get on a bus - the bus then drops them off at the various schools. The bus may need to do a couple of runs but surely one vehicle doing this is better than 100's of vehicles parked outside schools.
Steve Wild

The latest business to benefit is children's designer clothing store Minni & Me, which has been trading in Chester-le-Street for six months. Co-owner Angela Clennell approached the Council for help with digital marketing and customer service training for herself and her staff. She was also interested in redesigning the shop's exterior to create a more appealing and accessible entrance. The council is now working with Angela, her landlord and the shop's staff to provide marketing and customer service training and progress with work to the shopfront. Angela said: "I think the fresh new look for the shop front will have a positive impact on the business and I'm really excited about the proposed improvements."

Russell Greenfield, who owns the premises, added: "I am really grateful for the help and support from the council. The property has been in my family now for about 150

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Reader Darran Weston sent in this photo of the Sunset over Newton Aycliffe last week. Please send your photo to: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Council Invests Almost £1million in Small Businesses

A children's clothing store has become the 150th venture in the last five years to benefit from a scheme set up to support small businesses in County Durham. Since 2012, the County Council has awarded almost £1 million to independent businesses and retailers through its Targeted Business Improvement scheme, helping create 34 new enterprises and 199 new jobs. The scheme aims to support businesses, bring derelict or under-used retail space back into use and encourage business growth by offering funding and advice.

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years, but I wouldn't have been able to make these improvements without the council's help and the shop may have had to close." Cllr Carl Marshall, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "Small businesses really are the lifeblood of our towns and villages, often offering unique products and services and providing employment for local people. "We are extremely keen to do all we can to support them so I am thrilled to see that so many businesses have benefitted from the Targeted

Business Improvement scheme.

"I'd also like to call on people to show their support for independent retailers by shopping locally, particularly on Small Business Saturday this weekend."

The Targeted Business Improvement scheme is open to businesses operating in a number of locations across County Durham. For more information, contact the economic development team on 03000 267 967, email CED@durham.gov.uk or visit www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithbusinessfunding

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Award for Kynren Volunteers

Volunteers of the spectacular open-air live action show, 'Kynren - An Epic Tale of England', in Bishop Auckland were delighted recipients of The Chairman's Medal today at Durham Town Hall. The Medal was presented by the Chairman of Durham County Council, Bill Kellett to 14 Kynren volunteers representing their 1,500 peers, in recognition of their outstanding Volunteering. The Chairman's Medal is the highest civic honour that Durham County Council can bestow. A prestigious honour, only presented to a small handful of individuals, groups and organisations throughout County Durham every year, in recognition of significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life. Bill Kellett, the current Chairman says "It is particularly important to recognise those groups that give up significant time to volunteering and Kynren Volunteers were top of my thoughts for this award. In 2017, around 1,500 volunteers from all walks of life made up the cast and crew that brought the story of Kynren to life, performing 17 shows to an audience of over 100,000 people. Their commitment to the volunteering programme was outstanding."

Anne-Isabelle Daulon, CEO of Eleven Arches (the production company behind Kynren) adds, "This is an incredibly exciting accolade for the Kynren family of 'Archers', the name we give to all volunteers involved in orchestrating Kynren. We are beyond proud of how spectacular Kynren is thanks to the passion of all the 'Archers', and I am delighted at the opportunity for all of us Archers to receive formal recognition of our commitment. Kynren is scheduled for 17 dates each Summer in Bishop Auckland, and in preparation of the show season, all Archers go through a remarkable and robust programme of fun workshops and developmental training sessions, from January right through to June. The soul of Kynren is truly in its Archers."



DCC Chairman Bill Kellett presenting the award to Trustee of EA Steffa McManners, and Archers Volunteers

Also attending the ceremony was Steffa McManners, Trustee of Eleven Arches: "We are delighted to receive formal recognition of the our Volunteering programme known as 'The Archers'. 'Kynren' means 'generation' and each year our family of Archers grows with more people of all ages and from all walks of life. Entire families have been enthused by the unique experience of a shared activity; it's also an opportunity to gain confidence, learn new skills, be trained by leading industry

figures and reconnect with the local community while making real bonds and new friends, who they socialise with, not just for the Kynren programme, but all year round. So, my message to anyone thinking of volunteering is: just do it! Come and meet us at one our Open Evenings! "

Anyone who is interested in joining the 2018 Kynren production is urged to attend one of the last two Open Evenings prior to the 2018 start of the training and rehearsals months.

Wednesday 6th December

6.30pm and Wednesday 17th January 6.30pm.

Eleven Arches is particularly interested in recruiting new members, for its highly-praised experience team - the warm and friendly faces who made history when they welcomed more than 100,000 visitors in 2016.

Notably, males who have an equestrian interest and can confidently ride a horse, men in general for roles across all teams -actors on stage, operations, technical for ex-, families with young children and teens, and young women who would like to dance are all highly sought after.

The sessions are an opportunity to meet existing volunteers, get to know the team behind Kynren and discuss the range of volunteer roles available. Each fun, informal session lasts 1.5 hours and is held on the Eleven Arches site at Flatts Farm, Bishop Auckland. No experience required, no registration required, just turn up 10 minutes early in suitable outdoor clothes and footwear. For more info see <https://elevenarches.org/join-us> or to watch what our 2016 Archers said about their Kynren experience here <https://youtu.be/6kVeVWrPkak>.

Victorian Reading Room at Woodham Academy

Woodham Academy is bringing the Victoria era to life to inspire and support students in their reading. The school is creating a Victorian Room and have introduced Victorian Video Nights to help students become more familiar with the period. Woodham Academy has invested heavily in reading, including in a reading suite with cosy rooms and soft furnishings. The school has a wide-ranging reading library and has introduced



Students enjoy Victorian Video Night at Woodham Academy

a screening, monitoring and intervention system to assist their learners to develop 'active reading' skills.

Woodham Academy's Reading Team of Anya Thomas and Richard Heaven are now focussing on Victorian literature.

The Victorian Room will be stocked with literature of the period and about the period, as well as a range of classic DVD costume dramas. Alongside the books they frequently take home and read, Woodham students can now borrow a TV series such as The Paradise, or take home and watch an adaptation of Jane Eyre or Great Expectations. The Reading Team has held its first Victorian Video Night, featuring Lionel Bart's Oliver - the musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist - as well as free popcorn.

Miss Thomas said: "Schools have a responsibility to prepare students for what comes next. Learning should be seen as a journey, rather than a short-visit which

comes to an end in Y11 with GCSEs.

Students need to be engaging with the sort of text they will be encountering later in life, or they will seem unfamiliar." Mr Heaven said: "Victorian literature can seem complex and confusing, but we should also remember it was they who invented the children's story.

"Many of the tales we know and love were created by the Victorians and Edwardians, and they're still there, in the pages of their books, just waiting to be brought to life by a new generation of readers."

The next Victorian Video Night will be prior to Christmas and will feature an adaptation of Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol. The school's extensive extra-curricular and support programme has helped students record Woodham Academy's best-ever GCSE results. In English, 78 percent of students achieved a pass of grade 4 or higher this year compared to 73 percent for the county as a whole.

COUNTY DURHAM READY FOR WINTER

Gritters, ploughs and snow blowers are at the ready, to keep the roads and paths of County Durham clear and safe this winter.

Durham County Council has resources on standby to keep roads and paths clear of snow and ice, and as safe as can be, as temperatures drop.

The council's winter preparedness plan involves gritting 45 percent of the county's road networks - around

1,060 miles (1,706km) in total. Priority routes typically include all a roads, most B roads and bus routes, and other known hotspots.

During an average winter, the county's roads will be gritted anywhere from 80 to 100 times. Gritting all the priority routes costs £30,000 each time and can take up to two and a half hours.

The council is armed with: • Thirty seven gritters, 33 trailer gritters and six snow

blowers, all primed and ready for action. A fleet of 50 tractors and ploughs are also available should they be needed along with hand held salt spreaders.

• Forty two thousand tonnes of salt ready for use and 2,500 salt bins filled in anticipation of freezing temperatures.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "We have an extensive road network and parts of County Durham are prone to bad weather in the winter. Indeed the Met Office confirm that the west of the county has, on average, the highest number of snow days in England.

"This obviously creates huge challenges for us but we know how important it is that we keep our main roads as clear and as safe as is possible.

"We can assure residents that our teams will be out in the coming months, at all hours of the day and night, to ensure people's journeys are disrupted as little as possible by snow and ice."

Information about where and when gritting is taking place can be found at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/6821/Winter-gritting-routes> and on Twitter by searching #twittergritterNE Salt bins in need of refilling can be reported online at www.durham.gov.uk/saltbins Sandbags can be ordered for properties at immediate risk of flooding at www.durham.gov.uk/sandbags Information about weather warnings can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/weatherwarnings Further information available at www.durham.gov.uk/winterinfo or by phoning 03000 260000.



Compiled by County Councillor John Clare

Some important Council meetings this week, and a government consultation on organ donation. Please also remember your local foodbank. This will be my last County Newsbits until January, so Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As always, further details and links online at: bit.ly/CNBI312

COUNCIL
• DCC Full Council meeting, Wednesday 6th December (Business Durham Award, a 'paper-light' Council, electoral boundaries, NJC pay rise).

• DCC Environment Scrutiny meeting, Monday 11 December (fuel poverty, promoting energy efficiency in SMEs, and in schools).

• DCC Cabinet meeting, Wednesday 13th December (school funding, Business Rate pooling, oral health).

• Great Aycliffe Town Council Environment, Recreation, Policy & Resources, and Full Council meetings.

• Latest Local Roadworks Information.

COMMUNITY

• Durham Constabulary Neighbourhood Cohesion December Newsletter.

• Friends of the S&DR meeting, Thursday 7th December.

• Newton Aycliffe Anti-Social Behaviour Group.

• Horndale Residents Association AGM.

• 'Opt in' or 'opt out' government consultation on organ donation.

• 'Hogwatch' PCVC Winter 2017 newsletter.

• Keep your doors locked.

• John Moore, Swimming Coach, Local Hero.

• Help our local foodbank by giving Christmas items.

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Ann

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FLAME HEATING GROUP LAUNCHES 'VIRTUAL REALITY' SHOWROOM

Flame Heating Group is celebrating the official launch of its new 1,500ft² bathroom showroom – said to be Durham's only 4D bathroom design experience. The Heating & Plumbing merchant has invested in excess of £100,000 to open the bathroom showroom, after acquiring the adjoining property of its current Durham branch to extend the premises. It was officially launched on site at Dragonville Industrial Estate, by Dr Bill Moir, Deputy Mayor Consort Durham City, as

well as attended by customers and suppliers of Flame. The showroom offers customers the opportunity to view their tailored bathrooms complete with the products and features they have selected through a virtual reality headset. As a result of the expansion a role has been created, with Graeme Bonas joining as Showroom Manager to complement the branch's Investor Director, Simon Mann. Simon said: "A lot of hard work, time and dedication has gone



into bringing our bathroom design showroom to life, and we are delighted with how it has evolved from concept to the finished article. We are the only firm offering such a bespoke, virtual reality experience in the area, to our knowledge, which

allows us to offer even more to our customers. "It was nice to welcome a number of colleagues, suppliers and friends of the branch to the event, as we look to build on this period of positivity and grow the site further."

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CHRISTMAS SAVED FOR AYCLIFFE 3M WORKERS BUT STRIKE THREATENED

Unite, the UK's largest union, has welcomed the decision of the management at the 3M factory in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, to reverse their previous pronouncement and allow workers to enjoy a Christmas holiday.

3M, which makes respirators and dust masks, was labelled a 'Scrooge employer' by Unite after telling workers that for the first time in living memory they would be expected to work on the three days between Christmas and new year.

However this week in an about face, possibly following a visit from the ghost of Christmas future, management has relented and said there is now "no operational requirement" for the majority of the workforce to be in work over the festive

period (with just a handful of volunteers present). Management had threatened to cancel Christmas after Unite members at the plant rejected a 1.5 per cent pay increase for 2017. The proposed pay increase is half the inflation rate and follows a series of below inflation pay increases in previous years. The union is currently balloting its members for strike action in the pay dispute. The ballot closed on Wednesday (13th December). Unite regional officer, Mark Sanderson said: "Our members will be pleased and relieved that they will not be required to work between Christmas and new year for the first time in living memory. Having seen reason on Christmas working we now need the employer to see reason on the pay increase, return to the negotiating table and make an offer that the dedicated workforce will be able to accept. "Our members have seen pay rates eroded over recent years and are simply not going to accept cuts in pay any longer."

3M Reply

A 3M spokesman has refuted there is any link between the discussions with employees over pay increases and the plant's business requirements for the working days between the Christmas and New Year holidays. "The production requirements for the December period have been reassessed since the original forecast back in mid-October - as is standard manufacturing practice - and it is no longer necessary for as many production lines to be operational during the Christmas and New Year period," he explained.

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Council 'Logs' Support for Hospice's Fundraising Reindeers

Rudolph and co will be brightening up homes and gardens this Christmas - thanks to Durham County Council.

Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland was struggling to find the logs it needs to make the miniature wooden Reindeer it sells each festive season to raise much needed funds.

Aware of recent tree work carried out by the council in the area, the hospice wrote to the authority's chief executive Terry Collins asking if it could donate some logs.

Taking up the story, Terry said: "We always try to help when charitable organisations come to us for



help and we are aware of the really important work the hospice does in supporting

those with life limiting illnesses and their families.

"So when we got the letter asking if we could donate some logs, we were only too happy to help."

The reindeer are made by retired Bishop Auckland resident Ian Clark, who has volunteered at the hospice for the last ten years. He started making them three years ago.

In a letter to Terry, his wife Dorothy, who also volunteers at the site, wrote: "I write to call upon your generosity on behalf of Butterwick Hospice, Bishop Auckland."

"My husband and I make reindeer to sell to our supporters in the Christmas period to help raise money for our hospice."

"As we are finding it difficult finding the logs which we need, I wondered if we may ask to have some from the recent 'tree felling' please."

"We would really appreciate this... yours respectfully and hopefully."

Ian said: "There are so many people in need of the kind of support provided by the hospice these days and that is why it is so important that funds are raised to allow it to continue its good work."

"I'm really grateful to the council for donating the logs and in turn helping the hospice."

Helen Kirby, fundraiser at the hospice, said: "Ian and Dorothy are very dedicated volunteers who help us on a regular basis with projects and events."

"Everyone seems to love the reindeer and we'd like to thank both the Clarks and the council for what they've done for us."

Terry added: "It's great that Ian is willing to give up his time for what is a truly excellent cause and we hope the reindeer will add an extra touch of festive cheer to people's Christmases."

The reindeer have proved so popular that they have sold out. However orders can be placed for Christmas 2018 by contacting the hospice's fundraising team on 01388 603003

For Sale

RENT a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321678

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

SANTA COSTUME For hire: For bookings call at All Sorts Charity Shop. New stocks of Christmas lights, decorations and presents for all ages.

WHEELCHAIR £50, can deliver. Tel 07956 089630

BRAND NEW double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery, £129. Tel 07789 113343

NEW DOUBLE divan with chenille base and matching headboard and quilted damask mattress. Immediate delivery, £180. Tel 07881 917931

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£1M TO SUPPORT LOCAL ENTERPRISE

Community enterprises across County Durham are being encouraged to take advantage of a new initiative to help fine tune their journeys to provide more effective services within their communities.

Durham Sparks, a new regional development programme, has been launched by Durham charity Finchale in partnership with Bellrock Business Ltd, Riverside Consulting CIC, and Pinetree Trading Ltd.

The initiative comes as a result of almost £1m in funding from Durham County Council and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and will support entrepreneurs from across the region over a three year period.

The services delivered through Durham Sparks are structured to identify relevant support and interventions enabling both start-up and existing enterprise from across the region to achieve its goals and objectives.

Durham Sparks, managed by Finchale, is being rolled out across County Durham as part of an initiative involving partners working together to drive enterprise across the region.

As part of the initiative enterprise champions and coaches will work directly with both new and existing community enterprises to offer a range of services including marketing, business development, governance, people development, product and services development, brokerage to other added value support, access to workshops and network events as well as providing advice and guidance

on funding and investment.

Mel Pears, MBE, CEO Finchale said: Durham Sparks was developed by utilising the experience of the team at Finchale blending this with our extremely experienced partners from across the region. Finchale has served the Community of County Durham for over 70 years. This consortium has great ability, flexibility, resource and reputations in providing high-quality offers, enabling it to drive and support small and large enterprises across the county.

It is vital that this project creates a legacy of co-operation between existing and established organisations already operating in the sector to build a strong network of opportunity that enthuses enterprise within our community. It's a great honour to have been awarded this funding to develop further our community support in County Durham.

Gordon Elliott, Durham County Council's head of partnerships and community engagement, said: "We fully support the work of community enterprises and look forward to this project helping local people and groups to become more entrepreneurial. We are committed to working with the consortium in its efforts to promote enterprise across the county."

People interested in taking part in the project can either refer themselves or be signposted to Durham Sparks by other organisations. For more information on the project please contact 0191 386 2634



Property Sales

Dalton Way, Newton Aycliffe

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NEW CLIMBING WALL FACILITY AT ROF59

The new facility at ROF 59 opens on Saturday 16th December 2017 with courses and party bookings available from 2nd January 2018. ROF 59 have invested £350k and created two full time and 10 part time jobs.

ROF 59 host a modern, dedicated indoor bouldering and climbing area for people of all ages and abilities. The climbing centre features dedicated bouldering walls; mosaic walls rising up to 16m; a 21m tower section, two speed climbing walls and themed adventure walls. Climbing is an amazing sport that is growing faster than ever before, it offers a whole range of benefits to people of all ages and abilities and can be used to keep fit, to improve technical ability or just for a bit of fun! Whatever your motivation, anyone can enjoy climbing.

Climbing has many benefits including problem solving and communication - don't forget it can be used as an awesome fitness activity as well. Climbing is a social sport so ROF 59 boasts a fantastic facility to do just that with its Bunker Bar and Blitz Restaurant! ROF 59 offer a range of courses for all ages and abilities as well as birthday parties and kids climbing clubs.

Bouldering - The bouldering area is made up of 3 different walls. There is a novice area with slab and vertical sections. An intermediate



area with vertical and small overhanging sections. Then on the freestanding boulder there is a large 3.3m overhanging area to appeal to more advanced climbers. The bouldering area provides challenges suitable for all levels of ability.

Mosaic Walls - The mosaic design area offers 16 climbing lines with a mixture of lead and bottom rope climbing techniques to be used. A large two metre overhanging section and a variety of climbing volumes have been included to allow climbers to test their abilities. Each climbing line will average three separate routes. The climbing wall includes a wide variety of slab, vertical and overhanging sections to test all levels of climbers.

Tower Area - The 21m tower area offers 25 climbing lines featuring a mixture of lead only lines along with optional lead or bottom-roped lines. The 21m heights allow climbers to test their endurance with higher finishing points on a large variety of climbing grades. This area contains vertical, stepped and overhanging sections, some of which reach out up to 7m. With overhangs, volumes and 2 routes per line this area has something for everyone.

Speed Walls - This area is great to push your climbing to new limits with the side-by-side speed climbing walls, complete with speed auto-belays and timers to see just who is the fastest climber. Large hand-holds allow fast movement over this 10% constant overhang. With a bit of practice you will be at that 15m high stop button in no time!

Adventure Walls - The newly revamped adventure walls finish the climbing

centre off nicely offering an easy access climbing experience to all ages. These climbing walls feature fun shapes and colours. All walls feature auto-belays and are in their own dedicated zone meaning these walls are great for large groups such as birthday parties.

IS THIS THE OLDEST CHRISTMAS TREE?



My Mam and Dad bought it when they got married in 1956 and moved to Newton Aycliffe when Dad started working for Aycliffe Development corporation. It now stands pride of place in our living room and is 61 years old. Ann Bell Woodham

Birthday Remembrance

WENDY GRAHAM 12th December 1960. Thinking of my beautiful Wife Wendy. Miss you every day. Your loving Husband Charlie xxx
WENDY GRAHAM 12th December 1960. A wonderful Sister and Aunt, missed always. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx
WENDY GRAHAM 12th December 1960. Thoughts of a special Sister. Missing you. Love, Mandy xxx

Acknowledgement

DAVID ATKINS

(Acky)

The Father of the late David Atkins would like to thank relatives and friends; especially Son Paul, Daughter-in-Law Sharon and Sister Karen. Joanne, Hardys Funeral Service, Willington, Vicar Mike Dixon, The Big Club and Carol for their great help in this trying time.

Thanks again,
Harry

Obituary

Gladys Boddy

(nee Bunting)

of Newton Aycliffe formerly Shildon. Sadly passed away on 3rd December, aged 85 years. Dearly beloved Wife of the late Ken; a much loved Mam to Christine, Kenneth and Carol; a treasured Nanna to Edward, Claire, Louise, Paul and David; a dear Great Nanna to Emma, Owen, Connor and Joseph; Mother-in-Law to Eddie, Alan and Mandy. Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church on Thursday 21st December for 11.15am. Family flowers only, by request. Donations for Alzheimer and Dementia Charities.

VERNA TURNER, Peacefully on 12th December, aged 91 years. Beloved Wife of the late Robert; much loved Mum of John and Robert and Mother-in-Law to Anne and Gill. Also a dearly loved Nan and Great Nan. Funeral Service to take place in St. Clare's Church on Wednesday 20th December at 11.15am followed by burial at Stephenson Way Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, to Dementia UK.
ERNIE HORDON 6th December. Very, very peacefully at home. Dearly beloved Husband of Ann (better known as Ann Belton the Milk Lady). So sadly missed. Funeral to be held on Friday 15th December at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. All very welcome afterwards at the Big Club to raise a glass or two in memory of Ernie.

DISC'S NEW SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT COURSE

A new County Durham project supporting adults to get back into work and training has been launched by local charity DISC.

The Skills 4 Employment project is seeking local people over the age of 19 to join the course to develop their personal and social skills that are vital to securing employment.

Lindsey Smith, the Project Manager leading on the course delivery, said: "We're hoping to help unemployed people who live in County Durham who are looking to access new opportunities. Some people may have been away from learning or work for a long period of time, and this course

has been specially tailored to help people who may be lacking in confidence or self-esteem."

The course focuses on the development of job seeking skills, improving personal confidence and self-awareness, and increasing the ability to recognise employment opportunities. The course takes place for a minimum of six weeks and will be held at DISC's headquarters at

Newton Aycliffe and is free to those who meet the eligibility requirements.

DISC is a leading provider of independent training, specialising in working with young people and adults from across County Durham. The course is funded through Durham County Council's Adult Learning and skills service. For more information call 01325 731160.

Congratulations

Edith Trotter - 90 Years Young



Happy 90th Birthday - 16th December 2017

Happy birthday to a wonderful Mam, Grandma, Great Grandma and Great Great Grandma.

Have a great day.
Lots of love from all your family, near and far.

CHLOE MILLER 15th December. Happy birthday to our special Daughter, so proud of you. Have a great day. Lots of love always, Mam and Dad xxx

ROLLO, Anne and Gordon. Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary. Love always, Gemma, Pat and Lucy xxx

LEE ETHERINGTON Happy 60th birthday. Lots of love from Reg, Shelly, Rich, Calum, Linz, Craig, Bella, Nick, Leah, Ma and Macauley xxxx

Anne Rollo



Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary

To my wonderful Wife Anne.
Thank you for 50 memorable years, I love you
Your loving Husband Gordon xxx



THREE men armed with a samurai sword and a hammer threatened staff at a newsagents before taking cash and cigarettes.

Shortly before 7pm last Wednesday, December 6, the men threatened a member of staff at the Seasons Express store on Geneva Road, Darlington, before leaving with the contents of the till and cigarettes.

They then fled the scene in the direction of Harris Street towards the Eastbourne Park area. Detective Sergeant John Hoar, from Darlington CID, said: "This was a frightening ordeal for those involved.

"Thankfully the female member of staff and a customer who was in the shop at the time were not injured. However, they have understandably been left shaken by the incident.

"We'd encourage anyone who witnessed the incident, or who saw the men before or afterwards to contact us." Anyone with information can call Durham Constabulary on 101, quoting incident number 405 of December 6.

Youthy Football Round Up

Due to the icy weather this weekend, most of the football was called off. Thankfully some games did still manage to ahead.

Redcar 3-3 Newton Aycliffe Youth U14's Hawks.

3rd place Newton Aycliffe travelled to 4th in the table Redcar with only 10 men. We knew it would be tough to get a result and I asked the lads just to go out there and show me what they could do and just enjoy themselves. Aycliffe were hungry for it today and fought for every ball. We took the lead when Dylan Redpath burst down the wing and fired across the GK. We were battling hard but Redcar managed to force an error in our defence and equalised. Redcar applied some pressure but we were creating lots of chances on the break. Redcar took the lead midway through the half but the lads dusted themselves off and fired back through Jack Fleming for his 23rd league goal of the season. On the stroke of HT James

Hodgson broke free and curled a shot home from the edge of the box. HT 2-3 to Aycliffe. Second half we knew it would be tight and we defended like Lions and were still creating chances. Some very dodgy offside decisions cost us at both ends with Redcar equalising with a player stood 2 yards off side, the ref had his whistle in his mouth to blow but changed his mind. Last 5 minutes we defended really well and Dylan forced a great save from the Redcar GK and in the last minute James Hodgson won the ball in his own box, drove the whole length of the pitch only to put his shot over the bar. Outstanding performance today from the 10 of you. I couldn't be more proud of you. Some great performance all round so mom was a team one but a big shout out to Nicholas who had his best game in a Hawks shirt.

Newton Aycliffe Youth U10 Girls 3 - 0 Washington. Under 10 girls were in action

on Saturday morning at an extremely cold Peterlee against Washington and an inspired goalkeeper standing between the opposition posts. Aycliffe started the game just as we have come to see and expect as the season has gone on - organised, disciplined and entertaining on the counter attack. Imogen Paterson was rarely troubled in goal as the defensive duo of Jasmin & Gracie stopped any rare Washington attack in their tracks. Midfield trio Fearn, Aisha & Sophie linked up well with striker Imogen and mounted attack after attack against Washington but couldn't find a breakthrough against what can only be described as the best female goal keeping performance I've seen. Despite a large number of chances we went in at half time with the scores level at 0-0. The girls were told to carry on exactly where they left off and the goals would come as they were dominating the game. Ebony & Grace were introduced during the second half and again we began to attack the Washington goal from the off. 10 minutes into the second half and still no score, we started to wonder whether we would ever get a goal then Imogen took a speculative shot from outside the box and the reliable goalkeeper finally had a lapse in concentration and slipped the ball into the net. This inspired the Aycliffe Girls who continued to press for more goals and Imogen managed to find a further two goals to complete her hat-trick. Imogen Paterson in goal was frozen from having little to do most of the game but managed to keep her concentration in the final couple of minutes to stop a powerful Washington shot with her forehead to maintain a clean sheet. On a morning when the girls could have easily been forgiven for not giving 100% in the extremely cold weather they showed just how determined they are and put in another entertaining performance.

Newton Aycliffe Youth U10's 2 - 4 South Shields

Another great game on Saturday. Best football they have played all season, great passing and movement and excellent decision making. We took a well-deserved 1-0 lead through Alex Bellwood. A disputed equaliser made it 1-1 and we then regained the lead with man of the match Will Houlahan scoring. Three changes at half time and we lost our way a bit eventually losing 4-2. So proud of how well everyone is playing. Well done!!

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

www.nayfc.com

Bad Weather Affects Football Games

The cold weather took its toll on the Ebac Northern League again last week. Newton Aycliffe's game at Ashington being postponed on Saturday.

With the cold spell continuing this week it will be fingers crossed that Wednesday's game at North Shields goes ahead. Aycliffe are then due to play their last home game of 2017 on Saturday when we welcome Seaham Red Star to Moore Lane. Kick off is 3pm, admission £6 adults, £4 concessions, £2 under 16s & accompanied under 12s free.

With over 2 weeks without a game Aycliffe will be keen to get back on the pitch and will be looking for revenge for the 1-0 loss to Seaham earlier in the season.

At the moment however the weather is the toughest opponent of all local football clubs.

Book Collection of Your Used Christmas Tree



For the last six years, St. Teresa's Hospice and Darlington Rotary Club have teamed up to collect up to 1300 used Christmas trees direct from homes around Darlington and Newton Aycliffe, taking them to the waste disposal depot for recycling into garden topsoil.

In return, the homeowner donates a small sum - minimum £5 - direct to the Hospice which is a vital local charitable organisation carrying out an invaluable service to the area, supporting families at particularly challenging times.

It is currently undertaking a major and expensive expansion of the services on offer through its in-house health care.

This year we hope to significantly increase the number of trees collected by tagging, with a promotional advert, up to 3000 trees at point of sale from Croft Christmas Trees and Darlington's Elm Ridge Nursery.

This will lead to Darlington Rotary Club's largest ever community service venture with some 60 Rotarians volunteering to collect trees on Saturday 6th January.

A fleet of 20 large vans, kindly loaned by Darlington's Sherwood Vauxhall Group and Enterprise Rentals, will tour local streets all day.

"We are determined to beat last year's record 1350 trees and further increase the £7,500 we raised for St. Teresa's Hospice", said Rotary Organiser David Hayward.

"We are particularly

grateful to the residents of Newton Aycliffe from where we collected over 70 trees and this is a win-win scheme for everyone. Homeowners get a no-mess collection and the Hospice receives much needed extra funds."

WOODHAM GOLF SENIOR SECTION DONATE £905



Dear Sir
I would like to give a thank you to all Woodham Senior Section Members for their marvellous contributions to the 2017 Seniors Captain Charity.

The sum of £905 was raised and it gave me and the members great pleasure in donating a cheque to Lucy King, the regional manager for the Alzheimers Society. The money was raised by

the members by donating 20p for any bunker play, with a maximum of 40p per round and by raffles throughout the year. All raffle prizes were generously donated by the members.

Thanks to everyone in the Seniors Section for supporting this wonderful, worthwhile charity.

Bob Walton
Senior Section Captain 2017

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