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## Arriva Donate £2000 to Newton Aycliffe Charity



Arriva has donated thousands of pounds to 86 community projects in County Durham since 2001, through County Durham Community Foundation. Their most recent good cause is Newton Aycliffe charity, Lifeline Community Action, which has bagged £2,000 to help with the cost of premises. Alwyn White, trustee of the charity, said: "The key difference that this funding makes is that it means we

can be in the town centre which we just couldn't afford otherwise because shop frontage is so expensive. "We actually started out working from someone's garden shed, then we had a couple of different spots on an industrial estate but they didn't last long. "We do tell people that we couldn't do what we do without funding like this. Many mistakenly think it's government funded which of

course it isn't. "To be based where we are is wonderful because people can get to us and they know where we are because the church was one of the first to be built and it is used regularly. It's also useful because the foodbank is based here too and we are referrers for it." Lifeline Community Action is based at St Clare's Church, on St Cuthbert's Way. The charity runs several projects, including Helping Hands, which supplies basic household packs of essentials for families in desperate need. Alwyn, (2nd left) who is a retired teacher, said: "There is a most definite increase in need these days, particularly before Christmas. "There have been so many cuts and people who have been on benefits for many years are finding it extremely difficult. And it's not just people on benefits who are struggling - people on low wages are too." Alwyn says she has huge sympathy for the people that

Continued on Page 2

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## Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 9th January features the romantic comedy "THE 7 YEAR ITCH" starring Marilyn Monroe and Tom Ewell. A heat-wave in the city and Richard has sent his wife and son off on vacation; then he meets his new neighbour, Monroe, and his imagination goes wild.

Things get mixed up with hilarious results.

Everyone is welcome.

Tea, coffee and juice are served at 1pm, included in the £2, children £1 but please note that they must be accompanied. The film starts at 1.15pm.

A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

# NEW YEAR - NEW LOOK - NEW SERVICES AT NEWTON PRESS



Since opening for business in 1963 Newton Press has strived to bring the best service possible to the community it serves for 55 years.

One of our aims was to attempt to provide goods and services to the new town which was unavailable, helping to save residents a journey out of town to obtain goods.

Our Print Factory has always kept pace with modern technology and Newton Press invested heavily in new equipment to offer a fast and efficient personal family service. The service we offer is not only for local businesses

as we despatch daily to customers all over the UK.

Newton News has been one of the strong pillars of our business, with small beginnings from a monthly black and white four page newspaper moving to a fortnightly issue, then to a 16 page full colour edition, popular with readers and advertisers alike.

Starting off in the back-room of a baker's shop at Neville Parade we moved first to larger premises in the Town Centre and with further expansion, a few years later, taking us to an even larger Print Factory on the Business Park.

Our recent move to the Blue Bridge Centre in 2015 was part of another expansion programme and we have ambitions to refurbish our last factory, near Talents and Ramsey's Garage, to provide eight separate units for rent, bringing other useful services to the Aycliffe Business Park.

Moving with the times Newton Press is now offering marketing and website design, helping our customers old and new to showcase their business.

Readers will also have noticed a move into supporting On-line Community Radio which is proving very popular as a non-profit making organisation, utilising voluntary D.J. and broadcasting talent in the town and abroad. Readers may also have noticed a change in our presentation image with a new banner design and company logo.

All these changes shows Newton Press as an ambitious, forward looking business eager to provide a good family service to all our customers.



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## Residents Reminded of Council Tax Discounts

Residents of County Durham are being reminded that a wide range of council tax discounts are available for those in special circumstances.

Homes which include someone with severe physical disabilities could be eligible for reductions and carers can also be excluded when calculating council tax depending on the circumstances.

Care Leavers under 25 who pay council tax or who live with someone who pays council tax are able to reduce the amount they pay by applying for a discretionary reduction.

People living with dementia and those who care for people with a severe mental impairment, such as Alzheimer's, may also be eligible for a discount or exemption.

Students are also exempt from paying council tax, while those aged over 18 who are the sole resident in a property are entitled to a 25% single occupier discount.

Universal Credit claimants are reminded that they need to make a separate claim to Durham County Council if they are having difficulty paying council tax, as this isn't included in the housing costs element of the new Universal Credit system.

Clr Jane Brown, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "These discounts and exemptions are designed to take the pressure off those who may be in difficult circumstances, and we're very keen for those eligible to get in touch.

"Council tax discounts and exemptions are an entitlement and we want to ensure that

everyone who is eligible receives this support.

"To find out more about the range of council tax discounts and exemptions available, call 03000 260 000 or visit [www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.durham.gov.uk/counciltax)"

## Kind Xmas Gesture

Dear Syd,

One day during the Xmas holidays I found myself at a check point in Tesco with a basketful of groceries and no money to pay for them as I had left my wallet at home. When the next customers in the queue (a man and his wife who were complete strangers to me) realised my predicament they immediately insisted on paying the bill.

Over the years I have been in similar situations (car breakdowns, minor mishaps, etc., etc.). I have been both a "giver" and a "receiver". As a "giver" I have experienced great satisfaction in being able to help. As a "receiver" I have had mixed emotions. Certainly, I have always felt grateful but I have also felt disappointment and frustration in not being allowed to repay my benefactors.

That is why, via your newspaper, I ask these good people to contact me on [william507@btinternet.com](mailto:william507@btinternet.com) and give me the pleasure of paying them back for their kindness.

William Cooksey

## ARRIVA GRANT FOR AYCLIFFE CHARITY

*Continued from Front Page*

need the charity because of her own circumstances.

She said: "I was brought up in poverty myself because my father died when I was young. He had been poorly for a couple of years and I was 16 when he passed away. Both my brother and I had been hoping to go to university and my mother had to go out to work which was a bit unusual at that time. I saw in her the way she was able to manage. We didn't realise we were poor."

Arriva set up their grant-giving fund 16 years ago, with a special focus on helping the elderly, the young and the disabled. Nick Knox, area managing director for Arriva North East said: "We take our role as a large employer within the region very seriously and believe we also have a responsibility to help and support the local communities we serve. Our latest donation means we have now helped over 85 local charities, community projects and voluntary organisations with over £50,000 of funding. It's fantastic to see the work

they do and we are very pleased to be able to support them with not only funding but also our time too."

Knox added: "The way in which our investment into the Community Foundation has been set up means we should be able to continue to fund local projects for many years to come and we urge people to make use of what is available to them to help improve their local communities.

"Naomi Stevens, from County Durham Community Foundation, helps assess suitable causes for Arriva to donate to, said: "Many long-standing North East businesses like Arriva, want to give back to the people that make their business a success, which is highly admirable.

We work as the 'bridge' to help them find causes that they want to support and that help the most vulnerable.

We're so proud to manage a fund that has been running for such a long time and that has given so much to the community." To find out more go to [www.cdccf.org.uk](http://www.cdccf.org.uk)



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# TALK ON AUCKLAND

On Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm in Aycliffe Village Hall, Lee Brownson will speak on "Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland Future Plans". All welcome: members £1 non-members £3, including tea/coffee/biscuits. Further information 01325 301093.

# Talented Students Perform Xmas Concert



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Woodham Academy students have organised and performed another successful Christmas Concert. Students for all year groups took part in the public event, which featured solo performances, routines from the school's dance and

gymnastic academies, and instrumental ensembles. The audience will also witness the debut of 'The Snare Academy' and sneak previews from next year's production of School of Rock. The event was organised by Year 11 students as part of their BTEC course.



## Joy-Marie Hairdressing

*Would like to wish all customers a very Happy New Year and thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts received over the festive season.*

*From Joy-Marie,  
Angela, Sarah and Elise*

## £22k in 2017 Donated from Honest John's Shop

Honest John's collection near Argos on Christmas Eve raised £406 for his Community Kitty. Again the townsfolk were more than generous, over just seven hours, supporting local charities and organisations. "This was just fantastic and a big thank you to all who contributed. Val my assistant even turned out against Doctor's orders, suffering from a painful knee injury" said John. Latest donations to town organisations include £300 to Excel Local, £350 to St. Clare's Court Residents' Fund, £200 to Nicola Maull Fundraising event, and £100 to St. Mary's School. An amount of £22,002 was raised by Honest John during 2017. He thanks DISC for providing free space within their furniture showroom so he can continue his valuable community work. John also thanks all donors and customers for their great support saying "There is not a town like Newton Aycliffe anywhere for its generosity to people in need - a Happy New Year to everybody".

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# Career Change - Why not Get into Teaching?

With the nation poised to head back to work after the festive break, new figures released today show January continues to be a popular month for people in the North East looking to switch into teaching as a career.

Expressions of interest from career changers in the North East spiked in January 2017 with 406 registrants, according to figures from the Get Into Teaching campaign. Ashley Kell, a Design and Technology teacher from Shotton Hall Academy in County Durham, took the decision to leave her career in retail in 2015 to go in search of a more rewarding career. Ashley is now supporting the national Get Into Teaching campaign, by recommending other people in the Durham consider making the switch.

Ashley, a Design and Technology teacher and local Get Into Teaching advocate said:

"I'd always been intrigued by teaching and imagined it to be a very rewarding career. After seven years in the retail sector working my way from a sales assistant to a visual associate, I was quite bored of going to work to do the same thing every day and needed something which would excite me and give something back. Plus, I wanted to use my degree and felt I wasn't doing this in that role. The idea of switching my profession was nerve-racking, but it felt the right thing to do. I did my research, applied for the training, and haven't looked back since."

"Teaching at my school in Durham really makes me proud and brings daily rewards. For example, I now

have my own year 7 set group who I see every morning and greet me with a smile. I know I'll be their tutor from now until year 11 and can already see the change in their demeanour since starting this big, scary school. From being anxious to now being quite content in secondary school, being able to offer answers in lesson and volunteer for a task is lovely to see. I definitely made the right decision to change my career and would advise any other professionals who might be considering it to take the time to think about teaching this new year."

Get Into Teaching is offering a package of support to help bridge the gap between candidates in Durham considering teaching as one of their resolutions, and actually registering their interest and applying. This includes a series of events, opportunities to get some classroom experience and tailored advice from teaching experts to help people through the application process.

To support the latest generation of New Year career changers, a series of online and Train to Teach roadshow events are starting this month. On Wednesday 7 February, 4.30 - 8pm, there will be a Train to Teach roadshow event at Jurys Inn Middlesbrough, Fry Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1JH. There will also be a Train to Teach event on 24 February, 1pm - 5pm, at Newcastle University, Great North Museum, Hancock, Barras Bridge, NE2 4PT. Online events this month include:

• **Monday 8 January, 6.30pm - 7.30pm: Introduction to Teacher Training**

• **Monday 15 January, 6.30pm - 7.30pm: Change Career to Teaching**

• **Monday 29th January, 6.30pm - 7.30pm: Gaining School Experience**

Career changers could get a £26,000 tax-free bursary to train as a teacher in key subjects including science, computing, geography and languages. This year candidates could get £30,000 to train to teach maths - a £20,000 tax-free bursary while training as a teacher and a further £10,000 after tax once in teaching. Alternatively, prestigious scholarships of up to £28,000 are available in priority subjects for graduates with a 2:1 or above who are passionate about their subject and have the potential to be teachers.

Applications to start teacher training in September 2018 are now open. For tailored advice and information about a career in teaching visit: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk> or call the Get Into Teaching line on 0800 389 2500.

To find out more about the series of online and face-to-face events, visit: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/teaching-events>

## Music Exams

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

# CHRISTMAS WASTE FIGURES

Brits threw out 108 million rolls of wrapping paper, 54 million platefuls of food - and used 189 million batteries over Christmas, a study has found.

But eight in 10 admit they don't bother to try and justify the huge amount of waste they produce, with six in 10 saying they don't feel at all guilty about what they throw away over the festive period.

A poll of 2,000 adults found the nation will also get through more than 40 million rolls of sticky tape and bin almost 100 million black bags full of packaging from toys and gifts.

Seven in 10 admit to buying far more food than they need, with two thirds saying at least some of the turkey usually ends up in the bin.

And rather than recycling where possible, many simply throw their wrapping paper, packaging and old Christmas cards out with the rubbish.

A spokesman for GP Batteries, which commissioned the research, said: "Christmas is a time of great celebration, but this can result in a huge amount of waste - many of which we don't always do the right things with."

"And it seems many don't worry about the amount of their Christmas produce that ends up in the bin, despite the nation as a whole trying to do all we can to cut down on waste at other times of the year."

"Reusing things, such as Christmas Cards or wrapping paper, or using rechargeable batteries are small things to most people but will drastically reduce the amount you end up throwing away."

The study of 2,000 adults found the average household will get through four rolls of wrapping paper and throw away seven batteries over the Christmas period.

A roll-and-a-half of sticky tape will be used per household, while three-and-a-half black bags full of packaging will be thrown out.

The equivalent of a whole plateful of food will end up going to waste on Christmas Day, along with another plateful in the following days.

An average of 24 Christmas cards will also be discarded once the festive period is over, while 14 per cent will bin their fake Christmas Tree this year.

But researchers, from OnePoll.com, found many aren't

recycling or reusing their waste with one in five admitting to throwing their used wrapping paper into the bin.

More than one in four throw batteries into the bin, despite knowing they shouldn't, while three in 10 still use disposables instead of re-chargeables.

Others admit to throwing out leftover food rather than trying to use it in other meals and binning cards and packaging instead of recycling or reusing.

But one in six often try to justify the amount of waste they produce, with 34 per cent of those believing it's just part of Christmas.

One in five think it's OK as everyone else does it while 43 per cent believe it is impossible to avoid waste over the festive period.

It also emerged one in ten have even had rows with their family because of the amount of waste they produce.

As a result, many are trying to cut down on the waste they produce, with 48 per cent turning their Christmas dinner leftovers into other meals in the following days.

Forty-two per cent buy a fake tree instead of having to dispose of a real tree every year while a third simply buy less food than usual.

Others reuse Christmas cards as gift tags the following year, buy rechargeable batteries and even avoid wrapping presents at all. A spokesman for GP Batteries added: "These days a battery is for life, not just for Christmas."

"A modern rechargeable battery can be used up to 1,500 times and over its lifetime - saving a fortune in cash and waste. Once you go rechargeable you never go back."

Top ten things people have done to try and reduce their waste at Christmas:

1. Turn leftovers into other meals
2. Buy a fake tree to reuse every year
3. Buy less food
4. Reuse Christmas cards as gift tags
5. Use rechargeable batteries
6. Order online in one order to reduce packaging
7. Send e-cards
8. Buy fewer toys
9. Order less online to cut down on packaging
10. Don't wrap presents at all

## Reported Crime Increases as Police Resources Diminish

REPORTED CRIMES in County Durham and Darlington are on the increase, according to the latest Performance Report from Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg.

The report indicates that whilst levels of anti-social behaviour reduced by 12% over the twelve months to September 2017, reported crime rose by 35%.

At the same time, confidence in the Police is higher in Durham than almost anywhere else in the country. 85% of people agree that 'taking everything into account I have confidence in the police', compared to a national average of 79%.

There are three reasons for

the increase in recorded crime:

National changes to recording rules which require more incidents including harassment to be recorded as crimes

The public are increasingly confident to report crimes, including those that occurred in the past

There have been real increases in crimes such as theft, robbery and arson

Commissioner Ron Hogg said: "It is reassuring that victims appear to be increasingly confident to come forward and report their experiences, especially victims of sexual offences and hate crime."

"Durham Constabulary is still the most effective and

efficient police force in the country. Our police officers do an excellent job, every day, keeping the public safe. However, the number of Police Officers in County Durham and Darlington has dropped by 400 since 2010 and I am concerned that the budget for local policing continues to reduce. I have continued to call on the Government to ensure that Police have the resources they need to protect the public."

Ron's Public Performance Report is available on his website at: [www.durham-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk) Further crime prevention advice is available on the Durham Constabulary website at [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)



The 5th January postponed KIDZFLICKS will be held on Saturday 13th January 2018 beginning at 1.30pm. We will be watching a variety of short films including TROLLS HOLIDAY - prepare to be merry and bright. Kidzflix is in St. Clare's Church Movie Hall which will run the first Saturday in the month throughout 2018.

This year KIDZFLICKS IS 10 YEARS OLD - so watch out for some celebration offers!

Come along it's only £1 for 2 hours of festive films, serving hot chocolate with whipped cream and a cake for 50p in the interval. It's great fun offered by this safe and friendly team. Keep viewing youth/childrenst. clares for all details of Youth and Children's events.

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## ACORN R.A. MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 6pm in the Phoenix Club (upstairs). Little Acorns meet at 5.30pm. Any under 18's are welcome.

We are expecting our local PCSO to attend as the PACT meeting will be included with our regular meeting. Our local Councillors usually attend and are happy to take any queries that people have.

Suggestions for this year's events and outings will be taken and your input will be very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you and wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful 2018.

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# Charity Reindeer Run



The staff and children at Aycliffe Village House of Eden Children's Nursery helped to raise over £460 for Butterwick Hospice by taking part in a sponsored reindeer run around the school-field everyday for a week just before Christmas. A big thank you to all those who sponsored the event..

# Do something REALLY GREAT for your Community *Aycliffe Needs YOU*

Winter is here, but it's now that you should be thinking about next summer. There are people in Aycliffe who are already arranging an event near you for the annual Aycliffe Festival in July next year. We want you to organise one too.

The aim of the Festival is to involve local groups, businesses and voluntary organisations, to encourage people to organise an 'event' within the time-frame of the Festival. So if you belong to a scout or brownie group, a local voluntary organisation, community association or a business, get in touch with us!

Grants are available to cover the cost of the event and it is a great opportunity for you to raise funds for your organisation. The closing date to apply for a grant is 31st March so there is still plenty of time to apply for a grant for an event for your own community. Your event doesn't have to cost a fortune or be the size

of Glastonbury. It can be something really simple that would appeal to the people in your community, a board games day, an evening of comedy or singing, a nature walk etc. the possibilities are endless.

Even if you don't need a grant, you can still benefit from our advertising and promotions campaign by letting us know about your event.

We will organise training and support to help you with any problems or queries you may have with the organisation and we will guide you through the process of application and event organisation if you need it.

Any event will be considered, large or small, indoor or outdoor but it must be held in the Festival period in Aycliffe from Friday 13th - Sunday 29th July. If you are thinking about organising an event or just want to talk it through with us, contact Marie Robinson on 01325 300700 or [marie.robinson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:marie.robinson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

# Husqvarna Cheque for Hospice



Linda Purdie, HR Manager for Husqvarna UK presenting the cheque to Scott Marshall from St. Teresa's Hospice

Husqvarna have raised over £11,000 with money still coming in for St Teresa's Hospice. The cash has been raised over the last two years with St Teresa's being the company's nominated charity.

The staff have raised money through various events including Cake Bake Day, Tea Fund Donation, Easter Egg Raffle, Great North Run, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Hamper Raffle and Christmas Card Donations.

St Teresa's was chosen for support as sadly, Husqvarna has lost some colleagues in the last few years who had been cared for at the hospice.

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# Is this Aycliffe's Biggest Snowman?



Owen Scott claimed to have built the largest snowman in Aycliffe a few years ago and has been waiting for snow ever since, so he could go bigger. The previous effort was 12ft high so this year he and his children Brooke and Lincoln built a 14ft Snowman. Did you have a bigger one - if so send your photo to [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

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Durham County Council

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

# BISHOP AUCKLAND PREPARES TO HOST 1000'S OF NEW VISITORS

Bishop Auckland has been officially named as one of the most welcoming towns in the country as it prepares to greet thousands of new visitors. Durham has become the first North East location to be awarded WorldHost Recognised Destination status, following a training initiative delivered by The Auckland Project and Durham County Council.

An internationally renowned programme, WorldHost has set a new benchmark for excellence in customer service and was used to great effect for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As the latest official WorldHost destination, the world-class welcome in Bishop Auckland puts the town on par with locations such as Liverpool, a former UK City of Culture.

To attain the accolade, 286 employees from 22 local businesses in Bishop Auckland completed a training course, gaining new skills to deliver a warm and friendly welcome to all visitors.

The businesses involved include Bishop Auckland Town Council, Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Bishop Trains, Bondgate Gallery, Castlegate Café, Eleven Arches, Escomb Saxon Church, Gillian Arnold, Image Bridal, M&Co, No.17 Bar and Bistro, Painting with Thread Gallery, Park Head Country Hotel, Premier Inn,



Saxon Inn, Spice Lounge, The Auckland Project, The Merry Monk, Trimmers Hair Design, and the Victorian Tearooms.

To become a WorldHost Recognised Business, 50 per cent of frontline employees at each of the 22 businesses had to complete WorldHost customer service training programmes.

Clr Carl Marshall, said: "This is a fantastic achievement. We are, of course, renowned for our warm and friendly attitude in the north east but achieving WorldHost status is proof of just how committed the businesses of Bishop Auckland are to offering the best possible welcome to visitors. Providing the highest levels of customer service has an

invaluable impact on the economy, ensuring visitors return time and again and building on the town and county's reputation as a top class visitor destination."

Bishop Auckland is predicted to attract more than 430,000 annual visitors by 2020, through initiatives including The Auckland Project, which is being supported by £11.4 million of National Lottery funding, and Kynren, an epic tale of England by Eleven Arches. This influx of both domestic and international visitors is forecast to pour £20m a year into the local economy. Kynren volunteers, known as 'Archers' were among the first to complete the training. Michelle Gorman, Managing Director of Visit County

Durham, said: "As a shining example to others of what can be achieved, this step change in customer service supports our commitment to delivering a quality visitor experience and helps to further differentiate the Durham brand."

The creation of a WorldHost Recognised Destination in the DL14 postcode area has been the result of partnership work between local businesses and organisations, Durham County Council and The Auckland Project.

The WorldHost training courses have been delivered by the council's Durham Employment Skills team and The Auckland Project and funded by Durham County Councillor Joy Allen, through her Neighbourhood Budget and Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership, and the National Lottery players via the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Clr Allen, who has also completed the WorldHost training herself, said: "This has been a really important project for our town and I am delighted that all the effort and investment has paid off now we have achieved the highly acclaimed and sought after WorldHost destination status. The independent businesses working alongside ourselves and The Auckland Project really got behind this training and it is to their credit that they

have helped us achieve this prestigious award."

Louise Costello, Visitor Experience Manager at The Auckland Project, said: "The next few years will see the creation of a world-class visitor attraction in Bishop Auckland, providing an opportunity to showcase the best of the town."

"The visitor experience, whether from leisure, transport, hospitality or retail businesses can hugely impact whether they return to Durham or recommend it to friends and family.

We need to ensure that as a community we have the skills in place to welcome the world to Bishop Auckland."

The recognition status has been awarded by performance and talent management expert, People 1st, which has seen more than 200,000 people across the country trained using WorldHost Programmes.

Jane Rexworthy, Executive Director at People 1st said: "Becoming a WorldHost Recognised Destination is a fantastic achievement and it's incredibly encouraging to see so many businesses willing to go the extra mile for their customers."

WorldHost training is now being used by The Auckland Project as a customer service benchmark for its employees and volunteers, for more information on volunteering opportunities visit: [www.aucklandproject.org/volunteer-with-us/](http://www.aucklandproject.org/volunteer-with-us/)

## Rotary Club Relax After a Busy Xmas



"The County" Restaurant staff

Santa Claus turned up three days late when he visited Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club's family Christmas party – not that the youngsters minded at all. He still remembered to bring a sackful of toys which he shared with each and every one of them.

Later, in an exclusive interview with Newton News, Santa explained that the delay was caused by the reindeer having a very long sleep after their hectic delivery schedule on Christmas Eve.

Santa, whose smiling face reminded several people of Rtn. Roger Curtis, made his annual visit to the County Restaurant at Aycliffe Village on Thursday and chatted with children, their parents and staff at the restaurant before dashing off to make other promised deliveries.



He is pictured with Immediate Past President of the Club, Rtn. Nora Scott, and members of the Scott family – Callum, Iona and Evoline.

Santa got a special thank-you from Rtn. Malcolm Masterman who also praised Colette and staff at the County for their hard work and friendly service. This year's raffle was arranged by Nora and David Scott with Rtn. Roger Curtis as M.C.

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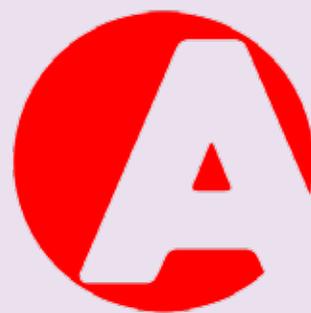


Contact Aycliffe Radio via:

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# AYCLIFFE RADIO

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**ORGANISATIONS** You are invited to come along and record a 5 minute info slot about your club - for no charge.

**ADVERTISE** Could your business benefit from advertising on Aycliffe Radio?

**LOCAL BAND/CHOIR** Send us a pre-recorded session of your set or invite us along to record for you.

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**PUBS/CLUBS** Send us your upcoming events and our presenters will promote them during their shows.

**EVENTS** If you are organising an event, why not let us help you promote it.

**MONDAY**  
10-12am Jack's Request Show  
6-8pm 70s Show - Peter Rush  
8-10pm Local Band Night  
10-12pm Dance Anthem (R)

**TUESDAY**  
10-12am Jack's Tuesday Chill  
6-8pm Sports - Darren & Lee  
8-10pm Kent Collective - Daz  
10-12pm Dance Mix (R)

**WEDNESDAY**  
10-12am Jack's Eclectic Mix  
6-8pm 80s Show  
8-10pm Alternative Aycliffe - Gary  
10-12pm Garage/Indie (R)

**THURSDAY**  
10-12am Jack's Eclectic Mix  
6-8pm Peter's Rock Show  
8-10pm 90s Show  
10-12pm R n B Show (R)

**FRIDAY**  
10-12am Jack's Moderation Show  
6-8pm PVR Studio House Mix  
8-10pm Guest Presenter Session  
10-12pm Alternative Aycliffe (R)

**SATURDAY**  
10-6pm 70s-00s (R)  
6-8pm Dance Anthems - The Dr  
8-10pm Dance Mix - OZ DJ  
10-12pm Garage/Indie - MC Supa

**SUNDAY**  
10-12pm Classical Hour  
12-2pm Sports Round Up (R)  
2-4pm Country & Western  
4-6pm Lazy Sunday  
8-10pm R n B Show - Jack  
10-12pm Motown Show

# Multi-Million Make-Over for Blackwell Grange **TALK ON KNITTING**



(L-R) Danny Piper, Food & Beverage Supervisor, Victoria Taylor, Sales Manager, Dawn Raine, General Manager, Rebecca Bogle, Meeting & Events Manager, Julia Demidova, Senior Receptionist.

the team and we look forward to welcoming guests old and new to the hotel." The exciting new interiors will be the work of Simon Bartlett, managing director at Simon Comfortable and aesthetic, the design will combine new and old grandeur, such as plump upholstered seating with

deep button fabrics, muted wall colours and vintage finishes; creating a classic, timeless design with plenty of atmosphere. After completion of the first phase, investment will continue in the refurbishment of the hotel's leisure facilities and bedrooms with further

works progressing in the first quarter of each year over the next five years. To find out more about The Blackwell Grange Hotel and its ongoing renovations, please contact Victoria at sales.blackwell@bruhennyhotels.co.uk or visit: <https://www.blackwellgrangehotel.com/>

At the next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club on Monday, 8th January, Lynne Dent from Woolybacks 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 programmes 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 All welcome

The first phase of a multi-million pound refurbishment has begun at Blackwell Grange Hotel - one of the prized hotels in Darlington. The hotel's five-year remodelling is now underway, with a substantial amount of the work to be carried out in the first quarter of 2018.

This initial phase will focus on the public areas of Blackwell Grange Hotel, including the main reception and lounge, three function suites and three bars; bringing new life to these historic areas in a more contemporary country house style.

A key element is to enhance the sense of arrival to the hotel, which will include opening up the main driveway views and improved parking facilities. The landscaping will be upgraded with larger patio areas taking greater advantage of the aspect and surroundings of Blackwell Grange.

Dawn Raine, who has been general manager at Blackwell since 2005, explained that "the investment will greatly enhance the Grade II listed building for the long term. At Blackwell Grange we believe that the hospitality business is first and foremost about people; that each stay should be treated as a unique experience for the guests. We can't wait to give our beautiful hotel the restoration it deserves, and

give Darlington a building of which it can be proud."

Built in 1693 as a family home for industrialist, George Allan, the Grade II listed property stands within a wooded parkland which is about to be developed by Darlington Borough Council. The building was transformed into a hotel in 1970 and now features three function suites, 108 bedrooms, three bars, nine further function rooms, a restaurant and leisure facilities, including a swimming pool and gym.

People in the area have a real nostalgia when it comes to the hotel as it's played a vital part in many lives, whether with weekly Sunday roasts, or big family weddings. We're excited to help keep those memories alive, and give people an excuse to come back and make new ones", Simon said.

Dawn, who has been a team leader at the hotel for over 20 years, said: "On behalf of myself and the team we are delighted to see these restoration works take place. Over the past 20 years we have seen several changes in ownership and promises of refurbishment and finally it is happening. We are excited to showcase the plans to our loyal and new customers who I am sure will be delighted with the proposed changes. It is very exciting times for myself and



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**New Group - Neville Community Centre Neville Parade**  
7.30pm with Annette - Tel: 07974 696241

### TUESDAYS

**R.A.F.A. Club Barrington Road**  
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm with Nic - Tel: 07791 909376

### WEDNESDAYS

**Navy Club Bluebell Way**  
9.30am with Nic - Tel: 07791 909376

**New Consultant - 5pm & 7pm with Christine - Tel: 07970 666291**

**Eden Arms Hotel Rushyford**  
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm with Joni - Tel: 07716 484472

### THURSDAYS

**R.A.F.A. Club Barrington Road**  
**New Consultant - 9.30am & 11.30am with Sam - Tel: 07970 451284**

5pm & 7pm with Nic - Tel: 07791 909376

### SATURDAYS

**Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Burn Lane**  
8.30am and 10.30am with Gordon - Tel: 07572 240010

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## READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



New residents to the town, the Laws' family, enjoying the recent downfall of snow. We welcome them and hope they will be happy in Newton Aycliffe.

Send your special photo to: [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

# S&D Railway Receives National Award as Heritage Action Zone

Three years ago, the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway were founded out of concern at the deterioration - indeed, the loss - of our very own world class heritage, the S&DR. It seemed ironic that this should be happening at the very same time that a world class railway company - Hitachi - was bringing train and railway vehicle building back to the birthplace of the modern railway.

Our answer was to hold a national conference in 2015 at Locomotion, National Railway Museum (NRM) Shildon to raise awareness of this world class heritage on our doorstep, debate the importance of the S&DR and encourage cooperative working between a wide range of partners. Since then a lot has been happening, the HAZ being the latest in a growing string of successes in the lead up to our 200th anniversary in 2025. It is the best Christmas present ever!

Crucially, the major local authorities along the line (Durham, Darlington and Stockton Councils and the Tees Valley Combined Authority) are now co-operating together in a Rail Heritage Steering Group (RSHG) with other key partners such as the Friends of the S&DR, Historic England, the NRM (on behalf of the Science Museums Group), railway companies and the A1 Trust. The work of the RSHG covers three strands: firstly, to conserve, repair and make accessible the remains

of the S&DR along its 26 miles; secondly, to look at major infrastructure projects such as the North Road area of Darlington and thirdly, to plan for the major celebration events of 2025, the bicentenary of the S&DR and hopefully also the year in which the Tees Valley will be celebrating as the City of Culture.

As one element of this partnership, an application was made to Historic England to become a Heritage Action Zone - taking part in a regional and then national competition to secure one of only eight designations for the whole country in this round of designations. Our Heritage Action Zone is different from most others as our Zone is linear in nature rather than geographically all in one place, covering as it does an area from Witton Park in County Durham (where the line begins), right through to Stockton on Tees where the line ended in 1825.

What does it mean to be a Heritage Action Zone? The idea is the result of a government white paper which addressed concerns about the loss of significant heritage, including industrial heritage such as the S&DR.

Organisations can take part in a competition to become a HAZ, which brings with it national recognition, only relatively small amounts of money but lots of vital support from Historic England to enable key work to be done to

arrest decline and bring about a brighter future for our heritage assets. For the S&DR it will help us to continue the crucial research that has already begun (a track bed audit funded by the three main councils was completed last year), to identify where money needs to be invested to protect the line - and, crucially it should help us when we apply to organisations like the Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England for large sums of money to make things happen. It also provides an opportunity to work with local communities and schools along the line.

What is the Friends' vision for the future? Take it for granted that we want to preserve what is left for the future and make it more accessible.

But what about a Stockton & Darlington Marathon, sponsored by some of our partners? After all, the main line of the S&DR is about 26 miles long. How about a film of the story of how the railway came to be built - it really is as entertaining as a Catherine Cookson novel. How about bringing steam back to the line - say, from Darlington right the way up Weardale? How about themed holidays for people interested in railway history - people from all over the world, including Japan?

Above all else, we want to use our heritage to inspire the present and future generations of youngsters coming through our schools today to take up engineering and make this area what it used to be back in 1825 - a hotbed of innovation at the forefront of world industrial development. We want to use our heritage to stimulate economic regeneration and bring much needed jobs and prosperity to our area. We want to celebrate the place where the modern railway was born and remind everyone just what an amazing place it is we live in. Who knows, perhaps it might just encourage a generation of school children to aspire to be great engineers and entrepreneurs like George Stephenson and Edward Pease and change the world. Trish Pemberton, Chair, Friends of the S&DR

# TREATS FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

For most people the Christmas hustle and bustle, parties and pantos are just part and parcel of the festive season. But for hundreds of families across the North-east dealing with autism, it's not quite so simple. The North East Autism Society gave away 100 tickets to specially-created relaxed performances of North-east pantomimes, to families who access the Society's free services including toddler groups and parent workshops.

And to help make this a Christmas to remember all you had to do was switch work suits, shirts and ties for some fun festive fleece! That's right instead of your normal Christmas dressing down today - you opted for a Dressing Gown day instead!



You donned your Santa sleepwear, made a small donation and joined us for PJs for Panto. The families who use NEAS lifeline services often

receive no other support or help and often have other children who have to make room for their siblings with autism.

The pantomime tickets will enable families to go out together without the worry of cost or whether the venue and show will be suitable for someone with autism.

Our family development team has worked with theatres including Gala Durham, Sunderland Empire and Sage Gateshead to ensure the performances and locations are autism friendly, we had a line of families who we knew would love this opportunity, all we needed were individuals, schools and organisations to

get behind the PJs for Panto campaign.

Kerrie Highcock from the North East Autism Society Family Development Team said: "We've had the opportunity to work with a number of theatres in the region on developing and delivering relaxed performances for people with autism and their families."

"It has been fantastic to be part of something which can make a difference to so many people's lives. A visit to the theatre can be just a standard experience for many people, but for someone with autism it can be very difficult, confusing and overwhelming. But making a few adjustments at the theatre means that people with autism can experience the show too, many for the first time."

A massive thank you to everyone who took part and also to Muckles LLP and Activa Contracts who sponsored the campaign making Christmas wishes come true for so many families.

And it's not too late to join in. By texting NEAS17 £2 to 70070 you can still contribute to our PJs for Panto campaign. Find out more about the campaign at [www.ne-as.org.uk/pjs-for-panto](http://www.ne-as.org.uk/pjs-for-panto)

## HEIGHINGTON MATTERS

I am sure that Lily and Natalie had a SUPER Christmas judging from the amount of Christmas wrapping paper and toy boxes I picked up on Sunday 31st December blowing freely down the road leading from Heighington roundabout to Heighington Station.

The Christmas greeting labels addressed to Lily and Natalie were found attached to some of the wrapping paper together with an envelope addressed to Natalie. There was a black plastic untied sack dumped with loads and loads of pretty paper that must have been left on the grass verge, but when spotted stretched for a good 70 - 80 yards - a real mess.

There were toy boxes large and small flattened and saturated by the melting snow strewn along the roadside which had to be squashed hard down into a very large sack that I had in my car. So Lily and Natalie if you are old enough to read this, please have a word with the

grown ups who were so kind to make your Christmas such a lovely time and remind them that it an offence and completely unacceptable for them to fly tip.

They may say they were driving down to Aycliffe recycling depot and found it closed, but tell them this is no excuse to leave their rubbish to litter our beautiful countryside.

If any readers know of anyone with the names Lily, Natalie, Sam and Chippy, please pass this letter to them so they get the message and hopefully they will do the right thing in future by taking their rubbish to the tip and not leaving it on the roadside for others to pick up.

In the meantime as it is the New Year, a time for making resolutions, can you all, irrespective of how young or old, make a resolution NOT to drop litter and NOT to fly tip - let's keep Co. Durham and Darlington Borough - CLEAN.

Councillor Gerald G. Lee Heighington

### INBOX

**PARNABY**  
SELF STORAGE

**Ridgeway**  
Aycliffe Business Park  
Newton Aycliffe  
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## Rotary Club Christmas Appeal Helps Town's Needy Families



Rotary Club members with the manager and staff of Tesco's who had just loaded over 60 hampers for needy families from money collected in-store and on the Christmas Santa's Sleigh touring the streets of the town.

Cash received was a record - thanks to the generosity of Aycliffe and district residents. Rotary President Tony Robinson (front left) praised the hard work of club members and Tesco for their help and support, thanking everyone who contributed to the appeal.

## "Being Together, Hearing Together"

If you sometimes feel lonely and/or are hard-of-hearing and would like to start the New Year on a positive note; meet new people and make new friends, come along to our little 'Get Together'.

**St. Mary's Church**  
**Friday, 19th January, 5.30pm**

Light refreshments will be provided.  
Donations welcome on the day.

Contact **Angelina Cooke** for further details  
and to book your place on **07813 945226**.  
(Leave a message/send a text with your name and number)

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# Woodham Students Collect for Foodbank



Woodham Academy students have donated dozens of Christmas Hampers to help Newton Aycliffe's Foodbank. Students in every tutor group have been bringing food items into school and preparing the donations as Christmas Hampers. The hampers have been delivered to Durham Foodbank at St Clare's Church.

# Xmas Recycling - Do's & Don'ts

Households are approaching the worst time of the year for recycling waste as families drown under a mountain of Christmas packaging, experts have warned.

Waste disposal experts at Junk Hunters advise households to stop and think and not take the easy route out by chucking everything in the general bin.

They also recommend double-checking typically recyclable items such as paper, plastic and card as they may not be suitable if adorned in shimmery, glittery designs.

From wrapping paper and cards, to foil trays for pigs in blankets and ripped Christmas crackers, festive paraphernalia is aplenty and while much of it is recyclable, a lot of it is unsuitable.

People think they are trying to do the right thing by recycling certain items in their boxes, but good intentions don't always work during Christmas time.

This can cause whole boxes of rubbish, some of which are suitable to be rejected and sent to landfill which

wastes recyclable materials. By following a few simple steps, you can do right by the environment this Christmas. Here's his list of seasonal trash do's and don'ts:

### CHRISTMAS CARDS & ENVELOPES

**Do** - recycle if the cards and envelopes are made of paper. **Don't** - recycle if they are covered in glitter or foil, dispose of in the general bin.

### WRAPPING PAPER

**Do** - remove all tags, bows, ribbons and sellotape and try the 'scrunch test'. If it stays in a ball once scrunched it can go in recycling.

**Don't** - put it in recycling if it doesn't stay scrunched, pop it in the general bin.

### FOOD

**Do** - put all cooked and raw food into the food recycling bin.

**Don't** - put any food in the food recycling that still has residual bits of cling film or foil, and don't forget to remove pesky chocolate wrappers.

### FOOD CONTAINERS

**Do** - clean any disposable paper plates, trays and party cups and add them to the

paper recycling bin.

**Don't** - put dirty, food stained disposable paper plates into the recycling bin.

### GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

**Do** - swill glass bottles and jars and put them in the recycling.

**Don't** - take their lids off, the lids help them to be easily sorted and recycled separately.

### TREES

**Do** - cut into small pieces and dispose of in the garden waste bin. If there is a lack of equipment to do this, Darlington Rotary Club will recycle it for a small fee for St. Teresa's Hospice.

Contact: pr@darlingtonhospice.org.uk telephone: 01325 254321 or 07590 323210

Wreaths, holly and mistletoe can go in with garden waste.

**Don't** - dispose of them in the paper recycling bin.

### OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

**Do** - follow the electronic disposal guidelines on the set before recycling and check with the local council for recycling information.

**Don't** - just chuck a set in the general bin as believe it or not, many lights can be recycled.

### TOYS

**Do** - take toys out of the packaging put them in the general bin.

**Don't** - forget to take the batteries out and dispose of them at the local battery collection point. These are available at most supermarkets and can be found online.

# THE ITALIAN JOB



Italian visitors spending Christmas in Newcastle with their daughter and English son in law, took the opportunity to visit Shildon Locomotion Museum to see the NRM collection as well as Tim Peake's space craft before returning home. Pina and Vincenzo Logozzo (left) were also able to view the Aycliffe Bus Society's 'Heartbeat' bus. Club member Peter Mitchell acted as guide and translator as neither visitor spoke any English. Assured that they did not have to "Blow the B\*\*\*\*\*y Doors Off" to sit on board, while enjoying the experience of the 'Heartbeat' connection first hand. The bus then travelled to Beamish to run for the last two of six Christmas Fair Nights which were attended by an estimated 18,000 people.

This booking with Beamish brought to a close a most successful running season for the Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society which amounted to over 70 vehicle running days. Society chairman Kevin Openshaw wished it be known that the Society very much appreciated the help and support of local businesses and organisations over the last year.

**Newton News PROM AWARDS**

Sponsored By:  
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 Co-op FuneralCare  
 Newton News  
 Newton Press  
 Planet Leisure  
 Honest John

All Year 11 students will also receive your year pin badge

# Donations Roll in for MRI Scanner Appeal

The appeal to bring state of the art MRI scanners to Darlington Memorial and Bishop Auckland Hospitals has received a donation of £2,000 from members of the Sikh community in Darlington.

Mr Jagsher Singh Garcha from Darlington instigated the fundraising when he heard about the appeal, as he was keen to support his local hospital where his wife has received excellent care.

Mr Garcha explained, "We meet each Sunday at our Gurudawara and once I raised awareness of the appeal and asked for donations, they came in very quickly raising £2,000 in a few weeks. Several people each gave £100. I received a lot of help from my friend, Mr Atma Singh, and we're delighted to support our local NHS services.

Professor Paul Keane, OBE, chairman of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Pat Chambers, charity development manager, were invited to the Gurudawara to collect the donation. Professor Keane, said, "I was overwhelmed with the warmth of the welcome, the hospitality and generosity of the Sikh Community in Darlington. Knowing that so many families have contributed towards raising this phenomenal amount is very humbling. We are very grateful to the members of the Sikh Gurdwara and their most generous donation."

**If you would like to make a donation to the MRI appeal, or get involved:**

• BACS payment to Nat West Sort Code 60-70-80 Acct 10011056 - please email [cddft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.charity@nhs.net) to let us know about your donation and so we can say thank you.

- Visit the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity 'justgiving' website at: <https://www.justgiving.com/cddft> - ideal way to donate and gift aid your donation
- Send a cheque to: Cashiers, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX. Please make cheques payable to: Co Durham & Darlington NHS FT Charity.
- Pick up a donation envelope with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards.
- Text SCAN02 £2 or other amount to 70070 to donate to CDDFT Charity.
- To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: [cddft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.charity@nhs.net)
- Follow us on twitter: @CDDFTCharity
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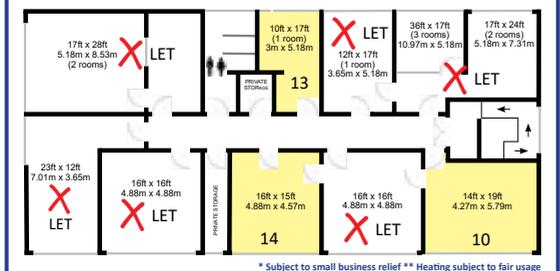
Prizes will be awarded at the Summer Prom. Winners are chosen by the teachers and staff, based on students performance during Year 11 coursework.

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For more information contact Stuart on 01325 300212



# History TALK

A talk entitled "The Guests of Queen Victoria" by David Butler to be given in Middridge Village Hall, on Thursday 11th January at 7.30pm. Refreshments are included and everyone is most welcome.

In the 1851 census for Durham, 226 inhabitants were listed, who would have wished themselves anywhere else than within the grim walls of Durham Prison. David explores the system of justice which led to their imprisonment, the crimes they had committed and examines one or two of their stories in greater detail.

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Preferred contact method

Please hand this form in to Tesco Customer Service Desk

## Bookkeeping Business Opens in School Aycliffe

With over 30 years' experience in the world of finance in both banking and accounting, Louise Morton has set up her own bookkeeping business. Based in School Aycliffe Louise is local to the area with clients in Aycliffe, Darlington and Teesside. Having worked for Barclays Bank for over 20 years, she has a sound knowledge of banking systems and finance. With a massive focus on customer service, she prides herself in her friendly, helpful and down to earth approach.



She specialises in small businesses and sole traders or partnerships, and helps clients with the completion of their self-assessment Tax Returns. Many people who are employed also run small businesses alongside their main income, such as marking exam papers, beauty treatments or baking celebration cakes. Whilst this can be a hobby, it should also be declared to HMRC. If you would like any help or advice, please feel free to give her a call. She will be more than happy to help. Tel: 07980 468615

## Crematorium Raises Thousands for Charity



Two crematoria in County Durham have donated a total of £10,000 to local charities as a result of a share of surplus funds from a recycling scheme.

Sands, a stillbirth and neonatal death charity, and the North of England Children's Cancer Research Fund (NECCR,) have each received cheques of £5,000, from Mountsett Crematorium and Durham Crematorium respectively.

Which runs Durham Crematorium in partnership with Spennymoor Town Council and Mountsett in conjunction with Gateshead Council, is a member of the Metal Recycling Scheme run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), which recycles metals which are left after a cremation.

Once written consent is given from each bereaved family, metals such as orthopaedic implants and materials used in the construction of the coffin are recycled by the ICCM with proceeds shared between

its members to donate to a charity of their choice.

Graham Harrison, the county council's bereavement services manager, said: "We're massively indebted to the generous families that have kindly donated these recycled metals to charity.

"Their consent, given at this difficult time for them, does mean that good causes continue to benefit."

The recycled metals scheme, which has been run in partnership with a Dutch company called Orthometals since 2006, makes a huge difference to the communities it serves, all while making the least possible impact on the environment.

NECCR fundraising manager Janet Price said: "We greatly appreciate receiving a portion of the proceeds from Durham Crematorium's recycling scheme. Every penny is integral in helping improve the lives of children and young people with cancer.

"Over 30 years ago when the NECCR was formed approximately 75 per cent of young people who contracted cancer died from the disease. Now, thanks to developments in research - funded by charities such as NECCR, approximately 75 per cent survive which wouldn't be the case were it not for the generosity of people in the North East."

Carolyn Bray, fundraising and events manager at Sands, said: "We'd like to say how grateful we are for being chosen to benefit from this brilliant scheme, and extend a heartfelt thank you to Mountsett Crematorium for such a generous donation.

"This not insignificant amount allows us to make a very real, positive difference to many thousands of people who have been devastated by the death of a baby and will help to continue to improve the bereavement care received by parents and families at such an awful time in their lives."

## Lifeline Community Action Job Club

We provide friendly, practical support to help you step confidently into employment. We are quite aware that being unemployed or losing your job can be hard to deal with and in today's financial climate finding a job can be very tough. We want to help you! We want to help you to realise the skills and the potential that you have and help you to be able to communicate that effectively to employers.

### WHAT IS JOB CLUB?

Lifeline Community Action Job Club is here to provide practical support to assist you to find your back to employment through:

**Information and advice Assistance with CV's, filling out application forms, interview preparation, work experience/volunteering opportunities or preparing to return to education**

Lifeline Community Action Job Club is here to help build your confidence, strengthen your skills and actively help you to find employment

Join in with others who are looking for jobs. We offer support, a listening ear and just having a coffee and a chat

### WHO CAN COME TO JOB CLUB?

Anyone is very welcome to come along to our Job Club and find out a bit more about what we do and how we can help you.

Whether you have been unemployed for many years, just lost your job, thinking about returning to work after having a family or have just left school, college or university and can't find work. Everyone is welcome.

### WHEN AND WHERE IS JOB CLUB?

Lifeline Community Action Job Club runs every Tuesday starting 9th January from 10 am to 12.15pm, at the PCP Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SE

### CAN I HELP WITH JOB CLUB?

We are always looking for employers or organisations who would be willing to provide work experience or volunteering opportunities. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

### WHO DO I CONTACT?

To find out more about Job Club, please contact: Pauline Chambers [Job Club Manager] or Linzi Nicholls [Job Club Coach] Phone: 07746111385 Email: paulinechamberslca@gmail.com

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## PETER PAN PANTO

The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group are into final rehearsals for their forthcoming pantomime "Peter Pan", which will be performed at the Civic Hall, Shildon on Thursday 18th, Friday 19th, and Saturday 20th January at 7.30pm. There is also a matinee performance on Sunday 21st January at 2pm.

A spokesperson said "This is a real family show with something for all ages to enjoy. So bring your family along and they will have a great time booing at Captain Hook, laughing at the idiot Smee and her Pirate Crew.

That's one thing there will be in the two hour show lots of laughter, and music too. Can we point out, it is advisable to pre-book your seats as this guarantees you a seat for any of the performances".

Tickets are priced £5.50 Adults £3.50 Children . Ring 01325 313363 / 01388 774838

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The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) mission is 'Health, Well-being and Learning for All'. We are currently seeking a number motivated and focused self-starters to join our highly successful and enthusiastic team based at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.



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### Finance Manager

Band 8a/b, Point 18, £26,842 per annum, pro rata - 22½ hour per week

We are seeking a proactive finance professional with demonstrable knowledge & understanding of financial & management accounting including significant experience of preparation of organisational budgets, management accounts & year-end accounts. The ideal candidate will have 3 years' experience preparing and providing complex financial information and analyses for a range of audiences and be qualified to AAT level 4 or Part qualified ACCA, ACA or CIMA.

### Finance Officer

Band 5, Point 9, £19,393 per annum 37½ hours per week

Required to support the provision of high quality timely financial and management accounting information and responsible for overseeing the work of a small finance team. Ideally candidates will have hands-on experience of supporting all financial functions, balance sheet reconciliation, fixed assets, management of stock control, accruals, prepayments and be qualified to AAT Level 3.

### Business & Project Support Officer

(previous applicants need not apply)  
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Working with the project and bid writing teams this Support Officer will be responsible for assisting with all aspects of research, intelligence gathering and data analysis. Supporting PCP's wide range of projects and helping to mobilise new developments candidates will need at least 3 years' experience in a fast paced office environment and be qualified to Level 3 in Business Administration or similar.

For an application form and further information please see our website [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net) or call the HR department after 2nd January 2018 on (01325) 313133, email: [hr@pcp.uk.net](mailto:hr@pcp.uk.net)

**Closing Date for applications:**  
**12 noon. Friday 12th January 2018**

We are an equal and diverse employer and particularly welcome applicants from groups who are currently underrepresented at PCP, such as males, people with sensory impairments and carers. Registered Office: Pioneering Care Partnership, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 4SF. Registered Charity No. 1067888. Company Limited by Guarantee. Company Registered in England No: 3491237.



# Chairman's Medal for 80 year old Beamish Volunteer

A pensioner who has painstakingly built a steam locomotive from scratch has received County Durham's highest honour.

David Young has devoted more than 6,000 hours to recreating the working replica of a 19th Century narrow gauge engine based on a single surviving photograph of the original locomotive, known as Samson.

The engine is now on display at Beamish, The Living Museum of the North, where it was built over a period of three years by 80-year-old David from Fatfield, Washington.

Building Samson was part of David's contribution to society after recovering from a blood disease which required a liver transplant in 2001.

The Chairman of Durham County Council, Cllr Bill Kellett, has recognised David's dedication to preserving the past by awarding him the Chairman's Medal. He has also honoured the thousands of people past and present who have given up their spare time to volunteer at Beamish Museum's since its launch in 1970s with a separate award.

Cllr Kellett said: "David's reconstruction of an 1874 steam locomotive is a marvel of engineering expertise, especially given that he drew up his own plans and only had one original photograph from which to work. A fantastic achievement indeed - it would be very difficult in this day and age to find anyone else with his ability and technical expertise.

"The museum's volunteers have built Beamish up into the amazing, world renowned attraction it has now become. I am well aware



(l-r) Richard Evans, Beamish Director; Paul Jarman, assistant director of transport and industry; David Young; Cllr Bill Kellett, Chairman of DCC, Cllr Jean Chaplow, Chairman's Consort; and, John Kelly, Chairman of Beamish.

of the very large number who have contributed their time, knowledge and enthusiasm over the years."

Richard Evans, director of Beamish, said: "This award is a fantastic tribute to all our volunteers who make it possible for Beamish to continue to prosper. We are so proud of the recognition and grateful for everything they do.

"Beamish is supported by more than 500 active volunteers working in a wide range of roles right across the museum, from managing our collections behind the scenes to baking in our pit cottages. Volunteers work closely alongside our 430 staff - bringing the region's past alive for all our visitors. We simply couldn't do what we do without their help. "The special award for David is particularly worthy of note. From an old photograph of a narrow gauge locomotive called 'Samson' that once worked in Weardale but was scrapped many years ago, David has single-handedly made a beautiful working replica.

"This took many thousands of hours - a real labour of love - creating the drawings

# Burnhill Methodist Hall Now a Community Venue



Voluntary Worker, Dorothy Bowman, is promoting Burnhill Community Centre and Methodist Church Hall as a Community Centre and a venue to hold meetings, events, and Birthday Parties for families.

**JUNIOR DISCO**  
FRIDAY 5th JANUARY  
5pm - 8pm - Admission £1.  
Hot Dogs sweets and Pop on

sale. This will be a weekly event.

80 people (parents and children) attended our New Year Eve Disco.

Friends of Senior Citizens meet Monday 8th January 2018 at 11.30am

Friday 12th January and each week thereafter Drop in for a chat, have a cup of tea/coffee and a bacon sandwich followed by Armchair Aerobics or light exercise and listen to olden day's music.

Monday Night 8th January, from 6pm until 8pm every week a Drop in for 12 years to 16 years - Play Pool/Snooker, Table Tennis or just sit and chat.

**TABLE TOP SALE**  
SUNDAY 14th JANUARY  
Sellers entry 9am - £5 per table. Public admission 10am - £1. Tea, Coffee Bacon Sandwiches etc. on sale. This could become a monthly event. Ring: 01325 308094 or 07967 901477 to book.

# READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo of a rainbow captured over Newton Press Print Factory indicating this is where you can get your printing done in all colours.

# See You Next Xmas



Following his tour of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve, SANTA would like to say (on behalf of Great Aycliffe Town Council) a huge thank you to all his volunteer helpers for their time and support; to Newton Press for publishing his routes; to Aycliffe Fabrications, Pinkney Builders and Beaumont Ground Maintenance for the use of their 'Santa Sleighs'.

Thanks also to all those who came out to greet him despite the weather, and for the cash donations which raised £203.00 for the Mayor's Charities.

Santa said "I wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year - see you next Christmas!"

## MRI SCANNER APPEAL

If you would like to make a donation to our MRI appeal or get involved:

- Visit the 'justgiving' website at [www.justgiving.com/cddft](http://www.justgiving.com/cddft)
- Send a cheque to: Cashiers, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX. Please make cheques payable to: Co Durham & Darlington NHS FT Charity.
- Pick up a donation envelope with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards.
- Text SCAN02 £10 to 70070 to donate £10 to CDDFT.
- To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: [cddft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.charity@nhs.net)
- Follow us on twitter: @CDDFTCharity
- Find the charity on Facebook

## COUNCIL STAFF WIN NATIONAL AWARD

Council staff are celebrating after scooping a top prize at a national awards ceremony. Durham County Council's Building and Facilities Maintenance team was announced as Most Improved Performer in Building Maintenance at the 2017 APSE Performance Networks Awards in Blackpool.

The awards, which were presented by radio presenter Lorna Bancroft, recognise those who show exceptional commitment to frontline government services, promoting excellence and continuous improvement. The Building and Facilities Maintenance team was recognised for improvements including its commitment to Health and Safety excellence and work in relation to project and people management.

Paul Burr, building and facilities maintenance manager at Durham County Council, said: "We are delighted to have picked up this national award which recognises the hard work and dedication of the full team. "The judges have recognised the innovative ways in which we manage our properties and maintenance activities, ensuring that our customers are at the heart of everything we do. Our building repairs and compliance systems are

known across the north east for providing an outstanding solution to a critical business need.

"Our frontline repairs and maintenance teams deserve to be commended for the quality service they provide day-in day-out, and their achievements have been recognised in relation to health and safety, quality and efficiency."

The council provides a wide range of buildings and facilities maintenance services to businesses across County Durham and the north east, from building compliance to construction. It also provides a range of services to maintain and improve properties as well as supporting customers in managing business premises to ensure safe and compliant places of work for staff and visitors.

APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said: "The winners and finalists of these awards are stunning examples of what local government is capable of achieving. "That is not to say austerity is not hitting councils hard because it is, however these winners and finalists are proof that in spite of the challenges local authorities are using innovation and efficiency to continue to deliver superb local service."

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# 30 Dog Owners Fined Under New Control Order

Durham County Council has issued 30 fixed penalty notices (FPN) in the first five months of its Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which seeks to tackle issues caused by a minority of irresponsible dog owners.

In the period between the order coming in on 1 June and 31 October, 23 people have been given the £100 notices for failing to pick up after their dog.

Six have been given FPNs for allowing their dogs to stray while one pet owner was given a FPN for allowing a dog into a fenced-off play area.

In addition to the FPNs handed out by the council, Shildon Town Council has also issued its first notice through the PSPO.

Town and parish councils are also authorised to enforce the order with staff from Great Aycliffe Town Council having undertaken the relevant enforcement training.

Despite clear signage stating dogs are not allowed to enter fenced-off play sites at Hackworth Park, a member of the public continued to allow their dog into the prohibited area and was therefore issued with an enforcement penalty. The priority is to ensure fenced-off play areas remain dog-free.

Under the PSPO, on-the-spot FPNs can be issued by the county council's neighbourhood wardens and officers from Durham Constabulary for:

- allowing a dog to foul

- without picking it up
- allowing a dog to stray
- allowing a dog into a fenced-off play area covered by the order
- failing to put a dog on a lead when asked by an authorised officer.

The council runs the #FollowOurLead campaign to encourage responsible dog ownership.

Cllr Brian Stephens, said: "Children and young people have the right to play in a clean and safe environment and excluding dogs from entering fenced-off play areas is just one of the steps we have taken to support this."

"We acknowledge the majority of dog owners in County Durham are responsible, but sadly some are not."

"The issuing of 30 FPNs shows we are prepared to take action against those who are irresponsible and we hope that our doing so brings about changes in behaviour."

Ian Hoult, the council's

neighbourhood protection manager, added: "Education and engagement is paramount to ensure all County Durham dog owners, and visitors to our county, understand dog control rules set out under the PSPO."

"Dogs should always be walked and exercised with a responsible owner. If visiting a children's play area with a dog, please exercise it outside of the fenced-off play area and pick up any mess and put it in a bin."

"Although dogs are allowed off-lead in some public spaces, including parks and countryside sites, authorised officers have the power to request dogs are put on a lead for public safety and protect children, other dogs and wildlife."

Please check local dog control policies before exercising dogs off-lead."

To find out more about the PSPO visit: www.durham.gov.uk/dogcontrol To check if a stray or lost dog has been handed in, visit www.strayaid.org.uk/found

# Police Warning to Owners of Keyless Cars

POLICE are urging owners of keyless entry cars to protect themselves from theft as a growing crime trend emerges.

Durham Constabulary says that keyless entry car theft is gaining proliferation nationally as criminals exploit technology to steal high value vehicles.

Criminals manipulate the vulnerabilities of the keyless system by capturing the signal from the car's fob and fooling the vehicle into believing the keys are with the vehicle so that it can be opened, started and driven away within minutes.

PC Dave Taylor, from Durham Constabulary's organised crime team, said: "While the risk of having your vehicle stolen in County Durham and Cleveland remains low compared to other areas of the UK, it is without a doubt that there are criminals in our area who have the technology to steal vehicles."

Now the force is urging people to use a 'Faraday bag' to protect themselves from being a victim of this crime.

Drivers can store their keys in a Faraday bag to prevent any unwanted communication between the vehicle and its keys. The bags are made of flexible metallic fabric and are used to block out electromagnetic fields.

Superintendent Kerrin Wilson from the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit (CDSOU), said: "Vehicle security technology is constantly being advanced by vehicle manufacturers but unfortunately technology is also being developed and used by criminals to combat these new measures."

"We want to be one step ahead of the criminal fraternity and are working in partnership with car dealers across County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland to prevent the crime."

"The use of Faraday bags is a low cost effective solution and by popping your keys into the bag, the signal will be blocked and your car will be safe."

"The other added benefit is to put your mobile phone in the bag when driving thus blocking the signal, stopping your phone from distracting you and reducing the temptation to check your messages."

"Distractions such as mobile phones when driving contributes to a huge amount of road traffic collisions. "Be safe, be secure, and get one of these bags."

Surveys have shown that 13% of people leave their car keys on their hallway table; 25% leave their keys in a key pot or on a key hook and 15% put them in a drawer downstairs.

Supt Wilson added: "Putting your keys in a drawer may make you feel safe as they are out of sight, however this does not deter or protect you from being a victim of this kind of theft. A Faraday bag will."

Faraday bags can now be purchased for just £2.60 from the Durham Agency Against Crime, please contact enquiries@daac.org.uk to order.

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# Garden Waste Collection Fees & the Alternative

**Editor: We requested County Councillor John Clare to clarify this issue as some residents have interpreted the rules on Waste Collection wrongly**

Dear Sir,  
I acknowledge the letters recently which have criticised the rise in charges for garden waste collections. **THE BACKGROUND**  
The background, of course, is that the government has cut £208 million PER YEAR from the Council's grants

and is cutting a further £15.3 million a year in 2018/19. That's £223,000,000 – almost a £\_quarter-of-a-billion – every year – less than we got in 2010. In such a situation, the Council cannot spend money it does not have. It has to tailor the services it provides

within the budget it has available. Savings of such huge dimensions need some pretty extreme measures. Statutory services (those required by law, such as looked after children) are being required to operate as cost-efficiently as possible. Discretionary services

(provided voluntarily for the benefit of residents) will as far as possible have to pay for themselves.

## GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Garden waste collections are a discretionary service introduced in the early 2000s, in a different world, by some district authorities in the county. The total cost is £1.8 million a year. Even after charges were introduced three years ago, they are still subsidised to the tune of £ half-a-million a year. The proposed price-rises are not, as one correspondent speculated, an attempt to destroy and shut down the service, but they are an attempt to make it pay for itself. To be honest, I personally do not think it is unacceptable to ask people with gardens to pay to dispose of their own garden waste – a duty everybody in the county accepted before 2000 – especially when the alternative is cutting much more essential services.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO INSTEAD

Although not strictly allowed, small amounts of garden waste can be bagged and placed into

your domestic waste bin, whence it will be taken to Stockton and burned to make electricity – slightly less 'green' than turning it into compost as part of the garden waste collection, but better than dumping it into landfill.

Alternatively, you might wish to share a bin with a neighbour, or take it to the Heighington Lane Recycling Centre. Best of all, why not compost it yourself and improve your garden. What you must not do, however, is to put it as some people are suggesting into your recycling bin; the recycling waste is sorted by hand, and recycling bins containing garden waste will be rejected.

Neither should you dump your garden waste in a nearby wood or over the fence onto council grassland – that would be fly-tipping, and you will be getting a visit from the wardens and potentially a fine of anything up to £700-ish.

## A 30p RISE

I am sorry that garden waste collection fees are having to rise, but in the circumstances there is no alternative. And – in the light of the huge cuts to the Council's grants – is a rise of 30p per collection really so terrible to ask?  
John D Clare

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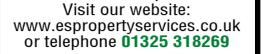
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accomplished, quietly and without any fuss with gifts delivered to lots of unknown children by so many people who expect nothing in return - the TRUE Spirit of Christmas.

For those of you who passed my Facebook page and my original email onto your relations and friends please do so again as there were so many people knocking on our door who we do not know. It is important they receive the thanks and appreciation that they deserve.

A Joyful and Healthy New Year from Gerald & Ruth (PS Plans are afoot that all being well we will be doing the same next year.)  
Councillor Gerald G. Lee  
Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward  
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## Personal

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"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. **CLOSED** from and including 23rd December - reopen on Tuesday 16th January. Seasonal Greetings and sincere thanks to all my supporters.

**WHEELCHAIR** £50; Mobility Walker with 4 wheels £30. Tel 07956 089630

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## WOMEN CONFIDENT IN REPORTING DOMESTIC ABUSE

**WOMEN** in Co. Durham feel increasingly confident to report cases of domestic abuse, according to Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg.

The Office for National Statistics published figures this week showing the scale of domestic abuse in the UK. More than 10% of 16-24 year old women experienced it in the last year alone. The figures also identify Durham as one of the areas where cases of domestic abuse are most likely to be reported.

Ron Hogg said "These figures demonstrate that the scale of domestic abuse in the UK is a real cause for concern. I know that Police Forces across the country are encouraging women to report incidents so that they can be dealt with. Over 80% of prosecutions lead to a successful conviction in the

Durham Constabulary area." Ron added "I think we can take some comfort from the higher figures in Durham. It indicates to me that women know that they can report domestic incidents to the Police, that they will be taken seriously, and that the Police are committed to helping them. It's also very important that male victims of domestic abuse report incidents. Some men are reluctant to come forward, and they should know that the Police are just as committed to helping them".

Durham Constabulary's Domestic Abuse Innovations Team consists of specially trained officers introduced to improve the police response to those experiencing Domestic Abuse. In particular the team advising on effective safety planning for victims.

## Tom Lamb Artist Miner Exhibition



Greenfield Arts invites you to the preview of our latest exhibition by Tom Lamb on Wednesday 10th January, 6pm to 8pm.

Tom Lamb started work as a miner at the age of fourteen, in 1942, at Craghead Colliery on Co. Durham. He worked for 27 years and often sketched his fellow miners underground. His sketchbooks have been the basis for many of his realistic paintings depicting the harsh working conditions with the constant fear of roof-falls, explosions, water inrushes and injury from machinery. Tom was a contemporary and friend of other mining artists, notably Norman Cornish, Tom McGuinness and Bill Hindmarsh. Tom died in February 2016 and this retrospective

exhibition represents his life's work. Tom was also a superb landscape artist and many of his works will be for sale. The paintings represent a way of life and work long since passed. When he started work there were over 750,000 people involved in coal mining in the UK, now there are hardly any. The book "Tom Lamb. The Biography of a Mining Artist" will also be on sale at £10. Proceeds to the Mining Institute.

For more information please check out the website or speak with one of our lovely team members on 01325 379048 or [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk).

Gallery Opening Times: Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm and Friday 10am - 4pm.

## Christmas Day Lunch for Lonely People



The Community Christmas Lunch, held at Woodham Community Centre on Christmas Day for anyone lonely, was a great success. We would like to thank Bethany Nursing Home, Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership, Tesco and everyone who kindly donated to this event. With these amazing donations we were able to make a very special day for everyone who came. We would also like to thank everyone who gave up their day to help. We are so proud of our team, showing love and care in their community. We are going to hold similar events like this during the year, where people can meet up, eat and make new friends. Jane Johnson ([janedajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:janedajohnson@gmail.com))

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# COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

Northern Powergrid, the company which delivers electricity to 3.9 million homes and businesses across the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire, is offering local groups the chance to secure funding to kick-start and deliver their own community projects. The electricity distribution company is offering grants from £1,000 to £10,000, as part of the Northern Powergrid Partnering Communities Fund.

The fund, which has been expanded this year, will support wider projects looking at alleviating fuel poverty, energy efficiency, energy education and promoting support for vulnerable customers in addition to offering support to community energy projects at their inception stage.

Now in its fourth year, the fund was established by the electricity distribution company as part of its commitment to supporting and working with local communities to deliver affordable and sustainable energy solutions.

Managed in partnership with Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, the fund aims to encourage innovative smaller projects by community groups interested in reducing and managing their energy use or tackling community and social issues like fuel poverty, education and sustainability in rural communities.

The fund is open until 31 January for applications from community groups within Northern Powergrid's operating area across the North East. Anne-Claire Leydier, Northern Powergrid's Sustainability Manager, said: "The extension of our annual fund to include funding projects that support our

wider social responsibility commitments, as well as Community Energy, is great news for community groups across the region. We're interested in initiatives that can demonstrate the wider environmental, social and economic benefits in the communities we serve, empower community groups, and extend the outreach of our social goals. We're also hoping to build some exciting new partnerships with a range of groups."

Twenty-seven groups have already benefited from the fund in recent years and Northern Powergrid has shared project case studies to help support other groups and researchers. The electricity distributor also plans to share more project outcome case studies in the spring.

Visit <http://www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply-groups> for details of how to apply in advance of the 31 January 2018 deadline. Applicants are encouraged to visit the Community Energy Hub ([www.hub.communityenergyengland.org](http://www.hub.communityenergyengland.org)) for useful information about community energy which may help when developing their application. Northern Powergrid will announce which groups have been successful in securing funding in April 2018.

# Business Support Scheme from County Council

A vacant shop unit in Bishop Auckland has been brought back into use as a grooming parlour, thanks to council support. Paws Pride and Groom is one of two businesses in the town to have recently benefitted from Durham County Council's Targeted Business Improvement (TBI) scheme. Business owner Paula Campbell was awarded cash to carry out a full internal refit of the premises in Fore Bondgate.

The money also enabled her to give the front of the shop a refresh, with brand new signage now taking pride of place above the entrance. Paula is also planning on taking on an apprentice now that the grooming parlour is up and running. She said: "For many years I had aspirations to own and manage my own dog grooming business and the TBI most definitely supported me in achieving this. The fund has enabled me to create a quirky and professional environment with many customers commenting on how welcoming my salon is."

"The council has been extremely helpful in guiding me through the application process from beginning to end. This was fundamental to the success of the application as the more I understood the more confident I became about the whole process. "I'm very proud of Paws Pride and Groom and look forward to building further on the success of our first six months." Neighbouring business Gregg Bros has also received support through the TBI initiative. The front of the takeaway unit has been completely revamped, with improvements including new signage and new windows to the first floor. The Targeted Business Improvement scheme aims to improve economic activity across the county's retail centres; generate investment, employment and training opportunities; and improve the design and appearance of business premises. Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "Supporting small businesses is extremely important for sustaining and improving the vitality and viability of our town centres. "During the past year, we have helped eight businesses in Bishop Auckland and we are currently working with two others. "However, we are still open to further requests for support so I would encourage people to get in touch if they think that their business could also benefit." 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 261 951, email [TBI@durham.gov.uk](mailto:TBI@durham.gov.uk) or visit [www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithbusinessfunding](http://www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithbusinessfunding)

## Congratulations

**JULIE BOWES** Happy 60th Birthday with lots of love from your nearest and dearest, Andy xxx Love too from New Zealand, Helen, Mark and Kiwi Will xx  
**JULIE BOWES** Happy 60th Birthday to our amazing Mam. Love you millions from Emma, Helen, Kev, Paul, Claire and Mark

## Christmas Wishes

Seasonal Greetings to all our many Friends, old and new.  
From Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

## Acknowledgement

**JOHN AINSLIE.** Beverley, Laura and Ellie would like to express their heartfelt thanks to family and friends for the overwhelming support they have shown since the devastating loss of John. A total of £415 was raised for the Great North Air Ambulance in his memory. Thank you also to Bryan Shepherd and staff of Whitehouse Funeral Service for their compassionate care of John and the family.

## Obituary

### Brenda Cannon (nee Wood)



Died after a short illness on 19th December. Loved Wife, Mother, Nana and Great Nana

**McARDLE** (nee Williams). Unexpectedly on 23rd December, Margaret of Newton Aycliffe aged 88 years. Beloved Wife of the late James; devoted Mam of James, Keith, Maria and the late Phil; dearly missed Mother-in-Law of Lynn, Marina and Caroline; treasured Grandma of Natasha, Christopher, Naipi, Amaro and Adele and a much loved Sister. Will family and friends please meet for a Service at Darlington Crematorium on Monday 8th January at 9.45am.

**MILBURN.** Peacefully on 1st January, Brenda, aged 85 years. Beloved Wife of the late Arnie; loving Mam of John and Kevin also a much loved Mother-in-Law, Nan and Great Nan. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Friday 12th January, at 3.00pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to The British Heart Foundation, a plate will be provided at the crematorium. The family would like to express their sincere thanks to The Coronary Care Unit at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

### Tony Peart

Tony, aged 60 years, of Newton Aycliffe, died suddenly at home. Loving Father of Natalie and Brother to Marilyn, Cheryl and Tracy.  
Funeral details to follow.

## In Memoriam

### David Barkley

5th January 2011

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Still miss and love you always. Your loving Wife, Pauline xxxx

**ALAN PARKER** 3rd January 2012. Memories of a special Dad and Grandad. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

**MARY YOUNG** 8th January 2016. Mam/Nana. Love and miss you every day. Always in our hearts. Love David, Louise, Thomas, Joseph and Stan xxx

**MARY YOUNG** 8th January 2016. Time may pass and fade away, but memories of you will always stay. Love, Michael, June and all the family xxxx



# Jersey Nights Return to Darlington

The international hit show New Jersey Nights comes to Darlington Hippodrome from Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 January.

The show is a spectacular celebration of the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, and takes the audience on a nostalgic musical journey through the career of one of the biggest selling groups of all time.

From the back-street studio in New Jersey where it all began, this vibrant production includes all of The Four Seasons' greatest hits including Sherry, Rag Doll, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like A Man and many more.

Featuring four great singers, perfect harmonies, stylized costumes, a rockin' live band

and amazing dancers, New Jersey Nights has smashed box-office records across the USA and UK and is proving to be one of the most successful touring shows of all time.

If you like the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, you'll love this show. New Jersey Nights is at Darlington Hippodrome from Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 January at 7.30pm with a 2pm matinee on Thursday and a 2.30pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets\* are priced from £22, discounts available.

\*All prices include a £2 restoration levy

To book contact the Box Office on 01325 405405 or visit [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk)

## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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### Alice Springs



Happy 21st Birthday 10-10-10

to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

### Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden Celebrations Mar on 1st Jan 1981, Gra

PhotoAds are suitable for any announcement and are preserved forever on our website [www.newtonnews.co.uk](http://www.newtonnews.co.uk)

We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

## Eagles & Wildcats Compete in Football Festival



The youngest boys and girls, at Newton Aycliffe Football Club, came together over Christmas, for the annual 5-a-side Football Festival. Boys aged 4-7 years old from our little Eagles Development Section and girls aged 5-8 years old from the Wildcats Development Section competed in teams at the Oakleaf Sports Complex. As the enthusiastic crowd

encouraged all the players, the skill level on show confirmed that the future of the football club is bright and secure. These girls and boys will go on to play for the club in their own leagues along with our current 15 boys and 5 girls' teams. Both boys and girls sections have availability and welcome new players of all abilities to come along and participate in

football. Ring 07939 045242 for details.

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS

On Saturday 23rd December three members of Aycliffe Running Club travelled to Gateshead to take part in England's oldest road race, the Ronnie Walker 10K. The race is held every year on the Saturday before Christmas. The undulating course consisted of 3 laps through parkland and closed roads in and around Saltwell Park. Weather was extremely mild for the time of year and some runners wore festive outfits. First to complete the race for ARC was Alan Wilks in 47:52 followed by Trish Kay in 50:58 and Ian Baronowski in 01:01:52. All runners were given an engraved glass and miniature bottle of whisky for completing the race.

## HELPING TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE STYLE



Neil Wilson, Alfie Charlton and Shane Woods

In the true spirit of Christmas 'Be Inspired Gyms' have given the ultimate gift this Christmas. Alfie Charlton has been selected from a large pool of nominees to receive a life changing gift. Alfie has struggled with his weight and faced all the problems that this brings at such a young age. We at B.I.G feel if you can act to change a life, it is your responsibility to do so.

After the fantastic year we have had we feel like we would like to take an opportunity to help someone change their life and brighten their future by giving the B.I.G. Christmas gift. 'A year to change a life' Alfie will receive one-year free membership: 3 PT sessions a week: full nutritional support: and weekly/monthly check-ins and 24/7 support from the training staff. We wished Alfie a Merry Xmas and a very bright new

year and I am sure all of you will join me in wishing him good luck in his new adventure.

Unfortunately, we can't give this gift to everyone, but if you think you or someone you know would benefit from this sort of hands on programme please do not hesitate to come and pay us a visit and have a chat with our team. They are waiting to help and show you what we can offer to help make your change. A change for life Please keep checking in with us as we have a massive year long initiative running with lots of offers on memberships and personal training packages. Remember if you have a goal or a special occasion in the coming year that you want to feel fitter or more body confident - please come see us we are:

"BIG" COMMITTED TO CHANGE 2018

## Time to Register for Great North Run

The general entry ballot for the world's biggest half marathon, the Simplyhealth Great North Run, is now open. The annual spectacular, which this year will be staged for the 38th time, will take place on Sunday 9th September.

More than a million people have completed the 13.1-mile distance from Newcastle to South Shields since it was first staged in 1981.

Last year saw a record amount of finishers in the world-famous half marathon, with 43,127 runners of all abilities crossing the finish line on the South Shields coast.

A massive £18.6million was raised for good causes during the Simplyhealth Great North Run last year, with more than two-thirds of finishers taking part to raise money for charities.

The Simplyhealth Great North Run is the highlight of a remarkable weekend in the North East of England which also features the iconic Great North CityGames, the Great North 5k plus the Junior and

Mini Great North Runs.

Last year quadruple Olympic champion Sir Mo Farah became the first runner to win four Great North Runs in a row, which helped earn Mo the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in 2017. Many of the world's greatest distance runners including Haile Gebrselassie, Paula Radcliffe, Liz McColgan, Derartu Tulu, Mary Keitany and Kenenisa Bekele have triumphed over the years.

In 2018, The Simplyhealth Great North Run will form part of the finale of next year's Great Exhibition of the North. The event will be the centrepiece of the Exhibition's final weekend in September. The Exhibition will showcase the best of art, culture, design and innovation across the Northern Powerhouse.

To register for the ballot prospective applicants should visit [www.greatrun.org/north](http://www.greatrun.org/north). The ballot will close at midday on Monday, 5 February with all applicants being notified by email no later than Friday 9 February.

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## Aycliffe Hold West Auckland to a Draw

Poor weather again affected local football with little opportunity for games over the festive period. However Newton Aycliffe went into Christmas in good cheer after taking a point at sixth placed West Auckland in their Ebac Northern League Division One game.

It was a well earned draw for Aycliffe who almost scored in the first minute when a Kurt Matthews header was cleared off the line. After that, the first half play was even. Marc Costello had Aycliffe's best chance when he looked to finish off a good team move, but shot wide.

Aycliffe had a good penalty shout for handball on the half hour, but this was turned down. West went ahead three minutes before the break, when Liam Browne mis-kicked his clearance straight to Ben Wood, who hit a well-struck shot past James Winter. Half time 1-0.

West had another let-off straight from the kick-off when keeper McHugh misjudged the flight of the ball, and appeared to handle outside the area. Aycliffe didn't let their heads drop and equalised on 70 minutes. Paul Weldon swung in a free-kick, and Matty Pennal headed it past McHugh. Aycliffe were then guilty of another defensive lapse, as

Alan Harrison gave the ball away and Francis struck his shot into the top corner for 2-1. Aycliffe came back strongly and dominated the last quarter hour. They equalised when Paul Weldon hit a free-kick into the top corner of the net on 86 minutes. They went agonisingly close to winning in the fourth minute of injury time when Pennal chipped the keeper, only to see the strong wind keep the ball out of the net. Full time 2-2

Aycliffe's next opponents are Jarrow Roofing BCA who visit Moore Lane on Saturday 6 January. Roofing are third bottom of the League & Aycliffe managers Danny Mellanby & Deano Browne will be looking to their players to make a positive start to 2018. A welcome feature of the West Auckland game was the return from injury of Dan Mitton. The popular central defender picked up an injury in the first week of the season and his absence has been keenly felt. Mitton came on as a second half substitute against West. Admission for the Jarrow Roofing game is as usual: Adults £6, Concessions £4, Under 16s £2, accompanied Under 12s Free. Kick off is 3pm. Why not make it your New Year Resolution to follow Non League Football and support your local team!

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