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Town Council Agree Precept Increase Costing Tax Payers 14p a week

The Town Council met to agree its Revenue and Capital Budget and set the Precept and Council Tax increase for the forthcoming 2018/19 financial year.

Whilst in the short term, the Council's finances remain in a healthy position, with a balanced Revenue Budget, continued delivery of savings in the current financial year, capital receipts from land sales, and healthy levels of balances and reserves, the Council is facing an increasingly challenging future, and must ensure that it prudently plans ahead for the difficulties that it will face in the coming years.

The Council is suffering year on year, cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant

on which it is reliant to a total of nearly £200,000 per year. This funding is due to be cut by a further 10% next year.

The Council is also facing significant increases in its staffing costs linked to rises in the National Living Wage. The latest local government pay offer would implement a minimum local government pay rate of £8.50 per hour, with annual increases of between 4% and 9% for lower paid staff, and 2% for all other staff.

The Council employs a high proportion of staff in the lower pay grades, and this pay award will amount to a year on year increase in the Council's staffing costs of nearly 5% in 2018/19.

The high level of inflation is also putting unavoidable pressure on the running costs of many services. The Council is also making new investment next year in opening a new pre-school setting to meet the demand for places for two year old children in Great Aycliffe, and developing a new park with play equipment and games area in the Cobblers Hall area of the town.

In order to offset these additional costs and maintain the many services already provided by the Town Council, as well as ensure that sufficient contingency resources are maintained to help deal with some of the longer term budget pressures faced, the Council has agreed to

increase the Town Council Tax next year.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in light of the on-going 'cost of living' difficulties they know are being faced by local residents, and following on from the four year freeze in council tax the Town Council was proud to deliver earlier in the decade.

The agreed increase will add £7.38 per year to the Town Council Tax Bill at Valuation Band A, which equates to 14p week.

The Council hopes local tax payers will agree this is a modest price to pay in order to ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected for at least another year, whilst ensuring that a sufficient level of contingency is maintained to help steer the Council through the difficult times that lie ahead.

Should you require further information on the Council's finances and the 2018/19 budget setting process you can view detailed information on the Finance Section of Council website via the following link <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/info/council-and-democracy/finance/>

Councillor Bob Fleming
Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and Leader of the Council

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**Neville
Residents'
Association
Plan Trips**

The next meeting of Neville Residents Association will take place on Tuesday 20th February 2018 in Neville Community Centre at 6.45pm. Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. All Residents are welcome. Come along to find out about the trips and events we are planning for 2018. There will also be a presentation about Modern Day Slavery. County Councillor Jim Atkinson will be in attendance. Heather Brewster, Chair Neville Residents Association

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Aycliffe Marie Curie Fundraising Activity

Support Marie Curie Newton Aycliffe with your unwanted gifts! If you were one of the lucky ones and received too many gifts over the festive period, Marie Curie can help!

Newton Aycliffe Fundraising Group will be holding several coffee mornings in the area to raise vital funds for the care and support that Marie Curie provide.

Susan King, Chair of the group, said: "We hold a number of fundraising events in the area over the year and need help with prizes for our raffles and table top sales so everything

we receive is really appreciated".

If you can help, please contact Diane, Group Secretary, on 07792840829 or email dianemanson51@gmail.com. Collection can be arranged or you can drop your unwanted gifts at Newton Press.

The group are also looking for new members and would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved. For more information about the Group and their upcoming events visit the "Newton Aycliffe Marie Curie Fundraising Group" Facebook page

Students Experience Virtual Reality Space Trip



Woodham Academy students on board the 'Space Descent with Tim Peake' tour bus

Woodham Academy students took a trip to space and back – without leaving their school.

The students experienced the 400km descent of Tim Peake's Soyuz space capsule using the latest virtual reality technology. In June 2016, the UK astronaut returned to Earth in the capsule following six months on board the International Space Station (ISS).

The students' out-of-this-world trip took place on board a special Science Museum double-decker bus, converted to replicate the interior of a space craft, during its visit to the school. The students also learned how to programme a space mission and took part in a Q&A with Science Museum staff, before descending to Earth in the virtual-reality experience narrated by Tim Peake himself.

The visit is the latest in a series of recent space-themed events organised by Woodham Academy's science department.

Students visited the Soyuz capsule during its recent stay at Locomotion: the National Railway Museum in Shildon, and the Science Museum's outreach programme came to school to demonstrate

a series of eye-catching experiments exploring the themes of forces and rockets. Suzie Imber, the winner of the BBC's TV Show 'Astronauts: Do you have what it takes?' also visited Woodham Academy to talk about her experiences on the show, her work as an astrophysicist and how and why she became a scientist. Andrew Jenkins, Head of Science at Woodham

Academy, said: "At Woodham Academy, we are committed to giving our students as many experiences as we can to develop their interest in science, and ensure they are aware of the many exciting careers opportunities in the field. We are determined to raise aspirations and inspire the next generation of scientists."

PANCAKE PARTY AT ST. CLARE'S

Pancake Fun at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 13th February - Pancake Day. Come to our pancake party and make, decorate and eat your pancake.

Enjoy games and crafts and the all important pancake race. Cost is £3 per child, £5 for 2 children with each additional child in your family only £1. Adults are welcome to stay for a cuppa too - £1. We begin at 2pm - until 3.30pm and promise flip'in good fun!

Messy Church led by the Youth Team on Saturday 17th February at 4pm will be based on Amazing Love. Create your own Mother's Day card, play in the pink foam, enjoy making a valentine biscuit and paint a picture telling us what and who you love.

Toddler toys and colouring - in also. Tea will follow the story and song at 5.15pm and will be sausage rolls and beans with jam tart to finish. Registration is from 3.30pm and everyone is welcome at this family church event - FREE, with a donation plate to help us continue the fun and fellowship of Messy Church. Please come along to St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe,

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Saturday 10th February 2018 - "Hope City Rockers"

Gigit review: "We headed to The Fox Cover in Ashington to see a new band for us, a band we have had in the listings for a while now and who's set-list was one that we quite fancied. Although we arrived shortly after they had gone on stage, we were very impressed from the start with some great songs that are not usually heard on a night out, including Aerosmith, Shinedown and Blackstone Cherry amongst others. The band were very tight and the vocals were top class and Adam has a superb range that enables him to cover a vast collection of songs with The Darkness being pitched perfectly and a very impressive vocal performance in the two Guns 'n' Roses songs. The second set reverted back to classic rock with songs from Steppenwolf, Motorhead, AC/DC, The Who, Led Zeppelin and more. The band perform each song extremely well, but are not afraid to have some banter with the crowd and quite often Lee wandered through the crowd with either guitar in hand, or mic when he set off to find various patrons to join in with Green Day. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining night and certainly a band that we'll happily return to see and would recommend to everyone."

Saturday 17th February 2018 - "The Whole Hog"

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Beware Treacherous Weather Conditions

As snow, sleet and ice warnings kick in across the country, police are urging motorists to drive carefully. Amanda Stretton, motoring editor at Confused.com advises drivers how to stay

safe this winter. She says: "Drivers should take heed of the wintery weather warnings as over 2,000 road accidents were reported in one year in icy and snowy conditions. Our research suggests half (49%) of the driving population try to avoid driving in such weather, but it's not always an option. Motorists who are taking to the road should plan their journeys in advance, keeping to major roads where possible, as they are more likely to have been gritted. "Before heading out drivers should give at least 10 minutes to allow time to de-ice their windscreens - if your windscreen is not cleared correctly, it can land you with up to £60 in fines or points on your licence. Using our guide, drivers can educate themselves and avoid fines at a time where motoring costs are increasingly on the up.

PRESENTATION NIGHT FOR TOWN'S AIR CADETS



Cadets who gained Radio Operator certificates

1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets recently held their annual presentation evening at the RAFA Club. The squadron continues to provide excellent opportunities for the cadets as was evident by the number of awards and certificates given out. The event began with the presentation of badges for academic achievements within the Corps and nationally recognised awards such as Heartstart First Aid certificates and BTEC Diplomas. These were followed by the presentation of Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

The second half of the evening saw the awarding of the squadron's trophies for 2017 by Sector Commander, Sqn. Ldr. Gavin Houghton, and the squadron's Commanding Officer, Flt. Lt. Karin Scott.

The recipients were:
Scott Trophy for Citizenship: Cdt Hannah Taylor.
Cdt Crabbe Trophy for Aircraft Recognition: Cpl. Kieran Newbery.
Sedgefield Veterans Trophy for Attendance: Sgt Paul Ughra.
Tom Downs Trophy for Endeavour: Cdt. Leon McAndrew.
Scott Shield for Most Improved Cadet: Cdt. Brook Hodgson.
Simon Drill Award: Sgt Paul Ughra.
Padre's Award: Sgt. Nathaniel Lakey.
Mess Tin Trophy: Cdt Jack White.
Best Junior Cadet: Cdt. Rhys Bye.
Boddy Trophy for Best NCO: Sgt. Paul Ughra.
Fryer Trophy for Best Cadet: Cdt. Jane Houghton.
To round off the awards three cadets were promoted to Corporal. Well done to Cpl. Houghton, Cpl. Tinkler and Cpl. Harman!

The evening was a celebration of the achievements of all the members of 1407 squadron. The range of awards on offer and the high calibre of



Cdt Jane Houghton with Sqn Ldr Gavin Houghton.

the cadets shows why the squadron is still amongst the top squadrons in Durham/Northumberland Wing. Flt Lt. Scott would like to thank everyone involved with the squadron for their continued support.

If you are in year 8 or above at school and are interested in finding out more about us then come along to the Barnard Armoury ARC on a Monday or Thursday evening between 7 and 9pm for a chat.

Selected for England Under 17 Polo Squad



A Woodham Academy student has been selected to represent her country in a European tournament. Poppy Stephenson will fly out to the Czech Republic following her call up to the England U/17 girls water polo squad. The Year 10 student will take part in the EU Nations Tournament, which begins at the end of March.

Poppy has been playing water polo at national level for several years, and is a member of Sedgefield Water Polo Club, and Woodham Water Polo Academy. In October, she won silver with her team, City of Sheffield, in the under 15's ASA National Championships at Manchester.

Kim Hall, Head of PE at Woodham Academy, said: "To be selected to represent your country is a major achievement, and we are all delighted for Poppy.

This latest achievement is the result of all her hard work and dedication. Poppy should be very proud, as we are of her, and we wish her the very best in the Czech Republic."

Before heading to the Czech Republic with her country, Poppy will represent her club, City of Sheffield, in the ASA National Championships beginning this month.

Lost Badge

Newtonian John Humble. of Langley Road lost his blood donor award badge last weekend.

It is round with two hearts overlapping and 75 on a green background. It was lost around Tesco's.

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BUSINESS INCUBATOR SCHEME HELPS AYCLIFFE COMPANY

FIVE North East entrepreneurs have won coveted spots with a space incubation programme designed to help their businesses scale up and soar.

The five innovators will each receive support from experts in areas such as marketing, law, financial management, business growth and IP protection thanks to a further £30,000 investment from the UK Space Agency.

Business Durham, the economic development organisation for County Durham working on behalf of Durham County Council, received the grant to continue with the incubation programme at the North East Technology Park, (NETPark) in Sedgfield, County Durham to help companies access the support they need to soar in the burgeoning space sector, which is worth billions to the UK economy.

The support has been made ahead of a major space conference at Ramside Hall Hotel, in Durham, on March 22, which is being organised by the North East Satellite Applications Centre of Excellence.

The five businesses selected are:

- Newton Aycliffe-based Viper RF, which designs and manufactures high frequency semiconductor chips working in the defence, commercial electronics (5G) and space sectors. It has started supplying custom designed chips into satellites to provide 'Internet on the move'.
- NETPark-based aXenic whose ultra, high-speed optical

modulators are used in photonic applications in the space sector for inter-satellite and ground-satellite links.

- Lexicon, which also has an office at NETPark, and traditionally uses its AR and VR technology in education but has three year plans to develop its first satellite related project for the maritime sector.

- Saltburn company Scoutek Ltd, which specialises in space and archaeological exploration technology. Scoutek will use the incubator to develop their own miniature satellites, as well as key spin-offs - small launch vehicles, micro-engineered space experiments and ground station "software-defined" radio receivers.

- Alnwick-based Northern Space and Security, a new business to the sector currently developing unique capabilities for defence and space applications.

Five entrepreneurs have already benefitted from the programme such as drone company Superfly Guys, which is currently working with homeware giant IKEA; software company Ryelore; Drone Industries, which is known for its mapping technology, software firm Gospelware and camera developers Chapter 6.

Al Yong, of, Superfly Guys said: "The business incubator provided crucial help at an important time in the development of our business. To be able to access high quality business support has directly helped us increase our revenues and improve our overall strategy. We are in a prime position to guide the built environment into a new era of UAV technology, strongly supported by the space sector. We're very grateful to the UK Space Agency for their continued support."

Catherine Johns, director of innovation and business growth at Business Durham, said: "The North East is fast becoming a hub for innovative companies which are tapping into the space sector. They have the support they need to scale up here; the networks which are vital to secure funding and build peer relationships and access to world-class universities. The space incubation programme will help these five companies take their businesses to the next level."

The support programme is being delivered in partnership with the UK Space Agency, which has plans for the UK to secure ten per cent of the anticipated £40bn global space market by 2030, and is part of a network of incubators which will collaborate on events and initiatives.

The investment in the programme builds on the significant impact the North East Satellite Applications Centre of Excellence, one of only five in the country and also based at NETPark, has already made.

Helen Roberts, regional growth manager at the UK Space Agency, said: "We are delighted to award this additional financial support to the North East Space Incubation Programme. We have successfully supported more than 30 new and innovative space companies across the regions, providing valuable jobs to the UK."

"The feedback from the supported companies has been extremely positive and the additional funding from the UK Space Agency will be used to stimulate further opportunities for start-ups by these experienced incubators."

To register for the space conference in March visit www.nesatappsconference.com

Fly-tipping Couple Fined Hundreds of Pounds

A couple who left their name and address in waste they dumped at a protected site as CCTV cameras rolled have been left hundreds of pounds worse off. Ashley Archer and Victoria Louise Parker, from Horden, have been successfully prosecuted by Durham County Council as part of its Operation Stop It! crackdown on fly-tipping.

At Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, Archer, 37, and Parker, 36, who live together at Third Street, each pleaded guilty to a charge of depositing controlled waste. The court heard how on 3rd September last year, a council neighbourhood warden called at Limekiln Gill at Horden, which is both a National Nature Reserve and forms part of the Durham Coastal Special Area of Conservation. He discovered 19 bags of household waste had been dumped.

Among the waste were letters bearing the couple's address and a medicine packet bearing Parker's name.

The warden reviewed footage from a CCTV camera left in the area as part of Operation Stop It, which sees the council work with partners to both take action against fly-tippers, and educate people to dispose of waste responsibly.

The footage showed a silver Ford Focus at the location the previous afternoon. A man and women then get out of the car and deposit the waste.

A check of the vehicle's registration found that it was registered to Archer and the warden was able to establish that he was living at the address found in the waste, with Parker.

In interview, the couple initially denied dumping the waste but when shown the footage they admitted it. In court, the couple apologised for their actions and accepted they had been irresponsible.

Magistrates were told they had waste from moving into their first home and hadn't known how to dispose of it. Archer and Parker were ordered to pay £624 each, incorporating fines of £480, costs of £196 and victim surcharges of £48.

After the case, Ian Hoult, the council's neighbourhood protection manager, said: "We are having to deal with around 7,500 fly-tips each year and this has an



annual cost to us of around £500,000.

"This is obviously not a good use of our resources given the budget pressures we face. Despite these figures we know the vast majority of our residents get rid of their waste responsibly and we would encourage everyone to use our household waste recycling centres or arrange for us to come out and get

their bulky items for a small fee.

"We really hope the financial penalties in this case will make people think twice before fly-tipping and show that we are prepared to take the strongest possible action to tackle this scourge." For more information on how to dispose of your waste, visit www.durham.gov.uk/recycling

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Aimed at families with children aged 3-5

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Sessions are with local artist Jilly Johnston

For more information or to book your place contact the Colour your Life team on the details below.

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Friday 2nd March
Karaoke 8pm-12midnight

Saturday 3rd March
Karaoke 8pm-12midnight

Open Sunday 4th March onwards - 12noon to 11pm

Friday & Saturday
Open 12noon-12midnight

Pop in for a Pancake

POP IN for a pancake lunch on Shrove Tuesday the 13th February at 12noon until 1pm. St Elizabeth's Church, Woodham Village. Pancakes with various fillings, and tea or coffee served for £2.00 - under 5yrs free. Booking and further details from Millie 01325 313819.

Rotary Help Fund for Trauma Victims



Left to right: Geoff Batchelor, President Tony Robinson, Marie Robson and Geoff Knapton

On behalf of Rotary International Tony Robinson presented a cheque for £2000 to Marie Robson on behalf of District 1285 Manchester Arena Families Trust. Her daughter was injured in the arena attack and this is to help set up a North East support group for victims suffering trauma from the attack.

Manchester Arena Families Trust is a charity set up by Rotary District 1285 to receive funds sent in by other Rotary clubs etc. to support victims of the Manchester bombing. Millie Robson from Newton Aycliffe was injured in the attack and her mother Marie became aware of the fund through the police and general counselling they were receiving in the Manchester area.

Marie applied for £2000 towards the setting up costs of a support group in the North East to give local help for people recovering from the trauma. The Trust contacted The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe to pass on their cheque.

Small Businesses Grow on Back of Free Training

A social media company and IT firm are among County Durham firms seeing upwards of a 30% increase in sales thanks to free training programme to help SMEs upskill and grow.

The 'Boost Your Business' courses, delivered through regional skills and enterprise programme Go>Grow, have been introduced as part of a £1m package of business improvement support.

New Aycliffe social media company Time for Media and Bishop Auckland-based IT support and web design specialists A-Byte are two SMEs that have undergone the training.

Julie Warters, owner of Time for Media a specialist digital marketing company which builds online business presence with full monthly management packages, audits, strategy or training, said that the course has had a 'massive impact' on her business, leading to an uptake in work.

She said: "Since participating in the course, I have seen a 30% increase in sales. This has to be down to some of the new skills I gained, while the networking and support side from the people that I met on the course has been exceptional."

A-Byte's director Andy Jackson and his colleague Cody Lovelace completed the course as part of a drive to improve the sales skills of



Julie Warters (right) with Adam Clemerson

the five-strong team as they gear up for growth.

"The course was beneficial and the team will be looking at how to utilise the content and expertise provided to develop the business further. I would definitely recommend the course to any other small business looking for growth and to improve all round team confidence."

Dozens of local start-ups and enterprises have completed the 'Boost Your Business' course - since April 2017, the initiative has helped more than 400 people working in North East businesses, with plans for even more to benefit in 2018.

The three-day training programme is designed to equip people with new

marketing, sales and business improvement skills. Each course recruits between 30-50 businesses, and in addition to the fully funded training, offers participants the opportunity to network and secure new business.

Adam Clemerson, skills project manager for North East Enterprise Agency, said the agencies are partnering to deliver £1m of training to enable small businesses to upskill their workforces, boost productivity and improve performance.

"The initiative sees us offering training in locations across the region, which gives all eligible businesses a chance to participate. We want everyone to have this fantastic opportunity

to encourage enterprise success.

"We have already helped hundreds of businesses and employees like Julie, Andy and Rachel. We are well on our way to delivering £1m of fully funded training across the region to those who would see the most benefit."

Collectively known as North East Enterprise Agency Ltd (NEEAL), the group includes North East Business Support (NBSL), Project North East, TEDCO, North East Business Innovation Centre (BIC), CDC Enterprise Agency,

EDBS, South Durham Enterprise Agency, and Enterprise Made Simple.

Boost Your Business covers understanding social media, exploring enterprise skills, and planning and executing an enterprise project.

Go Grow has the backing of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and North-East England Chamber of Commerce, with tailor-made programmes created and delivered at any of the Go>Grow training provider sites, or within the premises of the individual businesses.



POLICE NOTICE

TWO men have been arrested following the burglary of an elderly couple's home. The burglary happened at a property on Second Street, Consett at about 11.45am yesterday (February 1) when two men entered the house and stole a handbag containing cash and credit cards.

A spokesperson for Durham Constabulary said: "Two men attended the couple's home portraying to be roofers. After being challenged by one of the occupants, a man stole a handbag and ran from the address."

A Renault Clio which was believed to be linked to the burglary was intercepted by the roads policing unit later in the day after a short pursuit at Langley Park.

The driver of the vehicle was arrested on suspicion of burglary. The 24-year-old man was also wanted on suspicion of assault, taking a vehicle without the owner's consent and is alleged to be a disqualified driver.

The front seat passenger, a 31-year-old man, was also arrested for burglary and was wanted on suspicion of a second burglary which happened at St. Bede's Close, Durham on January 20th. Both men are currently in custody.



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MINE SHAFTS TO BECOME GREEN ENERGY STORES

Former mining communities across the country could find a new lease of life – with old mine shafts turned into hi-tech green energy stores. This is the plan of energy start-up Gravitricity, which has just received a £650,000 grant from Innovate UK, the UK Government's innovation agency, for their plan to harness the power of gravity to store renewable energy.

In a case of 'what goes up, must come down', their technology uses a massive weight suspended in mine shafts to capture green power, and then release it in seconds (pictured below). [Download free print-quality graphic here].

If Gravitricity's plan succeeds, their technology could breathe new life into former mining communities, and with it jobs and economic activity.

The UK funds will enable them to start building a scale demonstrator later this year, and find a site to install a full-scale prototype by 2020.

They are now on the lookout for investors, including those who can bring mining experience to the team, and suitable shafts to trial their technology.

And once they have proven the technology in old mines, they then plan to sink new shafts to store energy wherever it is required.

"As we rely more and more on renewable energy, there is an increasing need to find ways to store that energy – so we can produce quick bursts of power exactly when it is needed," explains company managing director Charlie Blair. "So far there is a lot of



focus on batteries, but our idea is quite different. Gravitricity uses a heavy weight – up to 2000 tonnes – suspended in a deep shaft by cables attached to winches.

"When there is excess electricity, for example on a windy day, the weight is winched to the top of the shaft ready to generate power.

"This weight can then be released when required – in less than a second – and the winches become generators, producing either a large burst of electricity quickly, or releasing it more slowly depending on what is needed," Blair explains.

"It's a simple case of 'What goes up, must come down,'" he says.

Unlike batteries, the Gravitricity system can operate for decades without any degradation or reduction in performance, Blair states.

Of course the idea of using gravity to store energy is not new. Britain already relies on a number of pumped storage hydro schemes, such as Ben Cruachan, where water is

pumped uphill to be released when required.

"The difference is we don't need a mountain with a loch or lake at the top, and we can react much faster," says Blair. He says the biggest single cost is the hole, and that is why the start-up is developing their technology utilising existing mine shafts, both in the UK and also in South Africa.

As the technology advances, the cost of drilling will reduce significantly and will allow them to sink purpose-built shafts wherever they are required, the company claims. The start-up plans to build models from 1 to 20MW, and estimates each 'Gravitricity Energy Storage System' will last up to 50 years.

Later this year they will build and test a part-scale

demonstrator, and they are currently short-listing a number of disused mine shafts for their first full-scale working prototype in 2019/20. www.gravitricity.com

Young People Wanted for Chocolate Factory Musical

After recently finishing their annual pantomime, The Tearaways Theatre Group are about to start rehearsals on their next production "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", the New Musical. A spokesperson said "The group are looking for young people aged 11 years and over, who would like to take part as actors and singers in this Roald Dahl's all time classic West End musical adaptation.

Who knows you could be our Veruca Salt, or Charlie Bucket, or even Willy Wonka himself. Maybe you would like to be an Oompa Loompa!?" Any young people interested or 07747 826324 for more information

STILLER STORES WINE GLASSES IN £150K DEAL

Thriving warehousing firm Stiller Warehousing and Distribution on Aycliffe Business Park is holding 800 pallets of goods – weighing for Scarborough-based import and distribution firm AddCore. The new £150,000 contract involves storing AddCore goods in Stiller's new state-of-the-art warehousing facility, which was completed in 2017, and distributing them around the UK.

The deal has enabled the family-run firm to increase turnover, with 2017 sales at the end of December touching £15m – up from £11.9m in 2016.

Founded in 2013, AddCore is a small innovative import and distribution company specialising in novelty gifts, glassware and novelty lighting, supplying both multi-channel retailers and high street businesses throughout the UK and Europe also with customers as far away as Dubai.

Stiller managing director Matthew Stiller said: "AddCore is the perfect client for us because they're utilising both sides of our business. We're both



Stiller Warehousing and Distribution manager Gary Auston with AddCore head of sales Pamela Pllu

storing goods for AddCore as well as distributing them around the whole of the UK via the Palletline network, of which we're members.

"Our team began working with AddCore towards the end of last year to support them in the busy run-up to Christmas and in December we were shipping on average 10 pallets a day, involving five tonnes of goods, so it's a good contract win for us". Stiller completed a new 40,000 sq ft, 10 metre tall warehouse at its premises in March 2017 costing £750,000, adding to the firm's impressive facilities at its 22-acre site in Aycliffe.

AddCore head of sales Pamela Pllu said: "We chose Stiller for our warehousing and distribution needs because they have the capabilities to help us grow our business.

"The modern warehousing facilities are the perfect solution to fulfil our customer service guarantee, offering a 24-hour dispatch of products aiming to reach a better than service standard of same day dispatch.

"The team at Stiller are willing to adapt and change to the needs of our business. Although our relationship is in its infancy we are showing positive signs of this

relationship growing with our business."

She added: "The future is certainly bright for AddCore, with our ever growing product range and our team of product designers developing our in house designs which are growing year on year, we are now able to offer an even wider range of products."

Stiller's staff numbers climbed to 170 in 2017 and the firm expects to create more jobs with the creation of a new £2m distribution centre, set to be completed later this year and take staff numbers to 190.

The 50,000 sq ft palletised distribution centre will be the largest of its type in the North East and will allow Stiller to load 30 vehicles at any one time.

Stiller has invested almost £9m in equipment, people and facilities over the last three years, including warehousing facilities and a fleet of new vehicles.

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

PM May Throws Brexit into Disarray says North MEP's

North East Members of the European Parliament, Jude Kirton-Darling and Paul Brannen, reacted with dismay at Teresa May's comments over the issue of citizens' rights, which have again thrown Brexit negotiations with the EU into disarray.

Teresa May said that EU citizens coming into the UK after 29th March 2019 - the date on which Article 50 takes effect - must be treated differently and vowed to end their freedom of movement. This is in contrast to her previous statements which indicated that EU citizens would be protected during the transition period.

Following a request from the Conservative government it was agreed in December last year that the UK would have a transition period of 2 years following the country's departure from the EU on the understanding that this would mean the UK would be subject to the same rules and regulations that we are now. In exchange the UK would continue to have access to the single market and customs union. The transition period allows negotiations on our future relationship and trade to continue without putting jobs and investment at risk from a "cliff edge" scenario. Part of the agreement was that EU citizens' rights would remain protected and kept the same as they are now.

In the European Parliament

MEPs held a hearing on "citizens rights after Brexit". The hearing was attended by groups and individuals affected by the Brexit process and they gave evidence and personal accounts to key members of the European Parliament and Brexit steering group. North East MEP Jude Kirton-Darling contributed to the debate apologising to those present for the latest actions of the UK Prime Minister and yet another U-turn that further muddies the waters concerning the rights of both UK and EU citizens.

Jude Kirton-Darling MEP said: "On the Petitions Committee we are hearing many stories on how families are worried about what will happen to them. I am extremely frustrated over Teresa May's utter disregard towards the lives of millions of people living here and in the EU. By contradicting the already agreed terms she is jeopardising the rights of citizens already living in the North East and wider UK, meaning they now have to go back to the uncertainty of not knowing what their futures will hold.

People are already in a very precarious situation, they feel very vulnerable and adding further insecurity to people who are not at the root of this, didn't have a voice or a vote in this process, is absolutely shameful. It's about time the government stopped playing

politics with people's lives." Paul Brannen MEP said: "By agreeing one thing with the EU then saying another to the UK press in China the Tory government is revealed as both chaotic and untrustworthy. The government seems incapable of doing the right thing by its citizens that live in the EU. A sudden end to freedom of movement is no good for the businesses and public services that rely on EU workers and causes difficulties for the economy here in the North East, something that we should all be trying to avoid."

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Family Fun at Parks this Half Term



Families are in for a treat this February half term with events and activities for both children and adults in County Durham parks.

Artist Kay Henderson will be visiting Wharton Park to deliver a children's ceramic workshop on Thursday 15 February and an adult's ceramic workshop on Saturday 17 February. Attendees will be provided with a brick of clay, donated by Ibstock Brick in Birtley, and will learn the techniques of working with the material to mould it into a masterpiece. The artwork will be taken away to be fired and then returned to the park for collection.

Both workshops take place from 11am to 3pm and booking is essential. Tickets for the children's workshop are priced at £8.50 per child (5-16 years) and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets for the adult's workshop are priced at £12 per person and bookings for both workshops can be made by contacting Wharton Park on 03000 262 655.

As part of National Nest Box Week 2018 Hardwick

Park is inviting families to a bird-box making event on Saturday 17 February.

All materials will be provided and children will work with the park rangers to build a wooden bird box to leave in the park or take home.

Timeslots are available between 10am and 2.30pm and booking is essential. Places can be booked by contacting Hardwick Park on 03000 262 899.

The event is priced at £5 per box and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Both parks also have Valentine-themed art and craft family sessions during half term. Lovebirds crafts will be on at Hardwick Park on Wednesday 14 February and Queen of Hearts crafts will take place at Wharton Park on Friday 16 February.

Both events are drop-in between 11.00am and 3.00pm and are open to all ages. The sessions are priced at £3 per child. For more information and to find out about other events at Wharton Park and Hardwick Park visit www.durham.gov.uk/whartonpark or www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark

ANOTHER FIRST FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE!

ROF59 again have pushed boundaries and introduced another first to Newton Aycliffe, "The Ultimate Leap, DROP ZONE"

This new activity Drop Zone is a free fall belay. Free falling is a unique experience that most people have never tried and takes nerves of steel to actually take the plunge from the 19 metres high platform. A new unique adrenaline experience - Nothing can compare with this!

Owner John Finley said "He is delighted that once again ROF59 is leading the way in family activities, along with Bounce, Adventure Climb, Rock Climb, Laser & VR we now bring the ultimate experience for those people who crave an adrenaline rush"

It opens this Saturday 10th February, bookings now been taken. Contact: hello@rof59.co.uk or phone 01325 728222



MP to Attend GACAP's AGM

Partners at GACAP's regular meeting enjoyed a time of networking with a cup of coffee before their meeting. County Councillor Paul Howell attended the meeting to ascertain if he could assist Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership.

Work on GACAP website is ongoing meanwhile anyone wanting to find out more about can log on to www.gacap.org.uk - this will help outline who and what GACAP is and what it stands for.

GACAP Chairman and Secretary continue visiting partners either at events they are holding like CDFHS's recent Networking Day or joining with LIVIN and PCP in litter picking and tree planting.

The GACAP Discretionary Fund application form is currently being simplified to assist partners claim small amounts of funding or as small amounts of matched funding. An amended form will be forwarded with the minutes.

GACAP have an article on Aycliffe Business Park website with a direct link to GACAP website. Again this is an opportunity to find

out more about GACAP by reading the article and then clicking onto their website.

The Secretary advertised the MRI funding event being run by Rotary at the Big Club on 23rd March. Tickets are £7.50 including a hot pork roll and roast potatoes. Amongst the evening's entertainment will be Shanaya from Newton Aycliffe who was recently a contestant in the X Factor. Simon Day from CDTVRM (County Durham Tees Valley Rescue Mission), he showed a harrowing video of a young girl who, excitingly was looking forward to a new life, as things unfolded she had fallen into the Trap of human trafficking she had been forced into prostitution being attached well over a 100 times before being rescued.

Hope for Justice is at the core of the work done by CDTVRM who are one of many hubs across the world who exist to help raise the profile of Hope for Justice. CDTVRM are a hub, a spindle for Hope for Justice, The hubs are located worldwide whose aim is to raise funds to support the work done by the charity. ROC

Solid confirmed they had received clients from Hope for Justice.

Other items advertised were the date of the AGM which had provisionally been agreed as 20th April. Time and venue to be confirmed. The guest speaker for the AGM is our MP Phil Wilson. Val Fawcett told partners about the forthcoming event at the Leisure Centre with the Petting Zoo being held by Acorn Residents Association, on 7th April. Several partners including Neville Jones from J & C Coaches gave reports about the Furniture Scheme he had just established. He has a Facebook Page and told all how his scheme had started when he was contacted to see if he could help someone who had absolutely nothing - facebook is popular in advertising for white goods and furniture.

The scheme has snowballed, but Neville wanted to ensure the work he was doing wasn't treading on anyone's toes. The meeting welcomed Neville as a GACAP partner saying the service he was offering would fit well into their jigsaw of welfare organisations.

Aycliffe Beautician Builds Her Client Base

23 years old Newtonian Paige Kell has launched her Paige Kell has lived in Newton Aycliffe all her life and attended Greenfield School, before going on to college in Bishop, Durham and Darlington.

She currently works full time in retail in Darlington but on her days off takes a room which she hires from Blush, a beauty salon in Shildon while building up her client list.

Paige is offering some great introductory offers, including spray tans, waxing, party lashes and all types of make up. She has also attended children's Pamper Parties which have been really popular.

All her details can



be found under her business which is called 'The Beauty Paige' on Facebook. If you would like more details please get in touch 07722 202479.

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Pennine Open New Showroom AFTER SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASSES

Leading North East retailer, Pennine Home Improvements, is set to launch its biggest showroom to date with an evening of live jazz and an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. An impressive launch event will see Pennine announce the opening of its brand-new space, situated at Dragonville Retail Park, Durham, on 10th February. The Mayor and Mayoress of Durham, Councillor Bill Kellett and Councillor Mrs Jean Chaplow will do the honour of cutting the ribbon.

Members of the public will be invited along to enjoy a free evening of live jazz, champagne and canapes, and a cocktail masterclass. There will also be a number of exclusive giveaways throughout the evening, including the chance to win an iPad.

Mark Tinnion, managing director at Pennine Home Improvements, said: "With seven conservatories and orangeries, as well as a state-of-the-art virtual reality design station, the new showroom will give

more customers from across the region the opportunity to visualise their dream living space and see the quality of our products up close.

"This will be Pennine's first showroom in the Durham area, and as it's our biggest to date, we can't wait to share it with the public with a fun-filled evening."

Along with a tuxedo-clad jazz band playing classic songs from the Great American songbook and cocktail-making demonstrations from the Guzzling Gander, the night will see the unveiling of an exclusive Pennine cocktail mix, The Pennine Way, created especially for the event.

When guests aren't getting a first-hand experience of Pennine products with the virtual reality design station, there will also be a close-up magician to provide entertainment.

Mark continued: "We really wanted to launch the new showroom with a bang, and as we have customers to thank for getting Pennine to the leading position it's in today, we thought it only fair to share the celebration with the region."

"On behalf of Pennine Home Improvements, I hope everyone has an amazing evening and joins us on this next big step in our journey." The free launch event will run from 4pm until 8pm on Saturday February 10th, with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5pm.

For further information on the official launch event, visit: <https://www.penninehome.co.uk/showrooms/durham-showroom/>.

For further information on Pennine Home Improvements, please visit www.penninehome.co.uk or follow @PennineHome on Twitter.



Students with a passion for their subject are taking part in the latest programme of extra-curricular activities at Woodham Academy.

The Enrichment Programme, introduced by the school's More Able Academy, is continuing with after-school English classes. The programme, introduced

last term in the Art department, is the latest addition to Woodham Academy's extensive range of extra-curricular activities and enables students to explore a subject in more depth.

The English programme, for Year 8 students, began with a workshop on the importance of the subject

and its relevance to everyday life, with a taster of studying English at university.

Students will go on to research an area of interest, develop a presentation and then share their findings at a presentation evening.

Teacher Ellesha Gray said: "These sessions for literature enthusiasts provide students with the opportunity to

explore their interest and encourage them to develop their passion for English, while preparing them for success in their GCSEs."

English Enrichment runs after school in Room 19 on Wednesdays, January 31st, February 7th, and February 24th. The Enrichment Programme then be offered for other subjects.



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Talk on Photos of First World War Trench Raid

The story behind rare photographs of a First World War trench raid in progress will be revealed during a talk next week.

Taken by a Royal Flying Corps warplane, the images show a September 1917 raid by soldiers on a German trench at Chérisy, in northern France.

Copies of the photos, which are the only known images of a trench raid taking place, are already on display at Durham County Record Office as part of the exhibition 'All of a sudden, hell let loose – the trench raid at Chérisy, 15 September 1917'.

To coincide with the exhibition, military historian Steve Shannon will give an illustrated talk about the raid by Durham Light Infantry soldiers, at the record office on Thursday, 15 February.

Steve, who also curated the exhibition, will talk specifically about the photos and a selection of maps. "The raid is largely forgotten today, submerged beneath

the horrors of the Somme and Passchendaele but it is unique, not only because of the number of soldiers involved but because the photographs showing it in progress are so rare," he said.

"The raid also had an important outcome as it is believed that Lt Col Roland Bradford, from Wotton Park, received a promotion to become the youngest general in the British Army, as a result of his involvement."

Tickets for the talk, which runs from 12.30pm to 1.15pm, are priced at £2 per person. To book, call 03000 267 626. The exhibition also includes copies of original maps, documents and photographs from the DLI's archive, which is cared for by Durham County Record Office on behalf of the Trustees of the DLI Collection.

The free exhibition is open to the public Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm until mid-2018.



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Council meetings, newsletters, a fabulous housing grant, and lots of ideas for things to do at half-term. As always, more information and links online at: bit.ly/CNB7218

COUNCIL ITEMS

• DCC Environment Scrutiny Meeting, Friday 2 February (flooding).

• Durham Countryside News, February edition.

• Newton Aycliffe gets a £6.87 million Housing Infrastructure Fund grant.

• GATC Full Council meeting, Wednesday 31 January (New Great Aycliffe Show; 2018/19 precept).

• Latest local roadworks information for the Newton Aycliffe area.

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

• Meeting about PACT meetings, Thursday 1 February.

• HealthWatch County Durham February newsletter.

• PCP 'What's On' Guide updated.

• Don't fall prey to the 'Phantom debt' fraud and the 'DVLA scam'.

• Wonderful Aycliffe Business Park news about Stiller, and Collins Seafoods

THINGS TO DO AT HALFTERM

• Winter Woodland Adventure (5-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am Monday 12

February, £3.

• Half Term Local Folklore Tales (5-11s), The Museum of Archaeology at Palace Green Library, noon and 1pm, Tuesday 13 February, FREE.

• Family Crafts: Lovebirds, Hardwick Park education room, drop in 11am-3pm Wednesday 14 February, £3, no booking required.

• Crazy Canopic Jars, Durham Oriental Museum (5-11s), drop in 1-3pm Wednesday 14 February.

• Family Fun Tour, Durham Castle, 2:15pm Wednesday 14 February, A: £5, C: £4, Family: £15.

• Half-term activities at Greenfield Arts, 10:30am-12:30pm 14-15 February, FREE – enrol online.

• Lunar New Year celebrations: Year of the Dog (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop in 1-3pm Friday 16 February.

• Fire & Ice trail and demonstrations in Durham, 10am-6pm 16-17 February.

• Chinese Lion Dance celebrations, Durham, Saturday 17 February.

• Guide in the Hide (5-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am-noon Saturday 17 February, FREE.

• National Nest Box Week – Bird Box Building, 10am-2:30pm Saturday 17 February, £5 – you will need to book a time slot on 03000 262 899.

SAVING BUTTERFLIES



Davis (left) with Club President Tony Robinson

David Wainwright from the Durham Wildlife Trust, Low Barns Nature Reserve, Witton le Wear leads Butterfly Conservation in the north. He gave a very interesting talk with stunning photos of these colourful insects to the Rotary club recently.

The topic was a bit different, but David from Newton Aycliffe pointed out the importance of preserving butterflies and how many volunteers actively support the species.

If you are interested please contact him on 01388 488728 Mobile 07709 278407

Email dwainwright@butterfly-conservation.org

Dogs Trust & Newton News FIND A DOG a home

The rescue Dog with Love in her Eyes

Dogs Trust Darlington resident with unusual markings seeks special valentine.

One of Dogs Trust Darlington's current residents literally has love in her eyes and she has the markings to prove it; in the shape of a love heart around her right eye. Lilly is a gorgeous eight-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier who is hoping her unique features and personality will win her a place in the heart of a new family this Valentine's Day.

Canine Carers at the Sadberge Rehoming Centre believe Lilly's eye marking will split opinions amongst the public at first, very much like 'The Dress', a photograph taken in 2015 which created an online frenzy when people were asked to guess what colour the outfit was; with many getting the answer wrong due to an optical illusion in the photograph. The longer you look at Lilly's eyes, the more apparent the love heart becomes; and hopefully the more likely you will be to fall in love with her.

Jake Flatman, Assistant Manager at Dogs Trust Darlington, said:

"Lilly is an amazing dog with lots of character and we really hope she finds her true love soon. She has been at the rehoming centre for a few months and we don't want her to become overlooked by potential owners, especially as we approach Valentine's Day – a day dedicated to love."

"She absolutely adores human companionship and is house-trained too. Lilly gets on well with children over the age of 11 as she has lots of energy, but would prefer to be the only pet in the home."

Are you smitten with Lilly and believe a dog is for life? If so, please get in touch with the team at Dogs Trust Darlington on 0300 303 0292



Paws2Rescue

Easter ShoeBox Appeal

FOR CHILDREN IN DESPERATE NEED IN ROMANIA

Please can you help us with this urgent appeal?

We are collecting Shoes, Socks & Easter Eggs
(shoes/boots/trainers in new or good clean condition plus a pair of new children's socks)

Our aim is to send an Easter Egg plus a pair of Shoes and Socks to as many needy children as possible this Easter

Please, clearly mark the box or bag containing the shoes with the shoe size and girl or boy
Please text SJ on 07834 614 659 or drop-off at NEWTON PRESS Blue Bridge Centre during office hours

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 18th

With grateful thanks to Newton Press and Newton News for printing and advertising

WALWORTH CASTLE WINS HOTEL OF THE YEAR NATIONAL AWARD



have refurbished bedrooms and bathrooms, and installed our beautiful outdoor ceremony garden, Lady Palmers Pavilion. This has proved very popular with our bride and grooms as it now gives them the option of having their civil ceremony in the open.

Walworth have launched a new menu in the Farmers Restaurant which serves locally sourced, seasonal produce. The team ensure all customers leave with great memories of their experience at Walworth Castle Hotel which also has a certificate of excellence from Tripadvisor and 5 stars for food hygiene, so being awarded hotel of the year is the icing on the cake.

Owners Chris and Rachel Swain are delighted to announce their award of 'Small Hotel of the Year' at the Best Western annual awards ceremony in Brighton's Grand Hotel on 30th January 2018. Walworth Castle Hotel has consistently achieved all its targets in customer care and achieved high marks in the annual inspection. During the inspection, Best Western assess Guest Rooms and Public Areas, Brand Standards and Brand Identity. They are also targeted in signing up rewards members, and

Walworth are now 3000% above target. All Best Western Hotels are privately owned and operated. Chris and Rachel bought the Hotel in July 2000 and have worked tirelessly to improve the castle and are so proud in what they have achieved. Being awarded hotel of the year is a testament to all the hard work the team have put into making Walworth Castle a success. "Without their hard work, dedication and commitment we couldn't have achieved this fantastic accolade" said Rachel. Over the past 12 months, we

Care Home Celebrates Good CQC Award



On Monday 26th February 2018 2.30pm - 6pm, St Clare's Court Care Home invite you to come along and meet new friends from the local community. Afternoon Tea and Champagne served followed by entertainment by two gentlemen singers. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations and refreshments as we celebrate our home achieving a good CQC result.

POETRY BY HEART



Greenfield Community College, Sunnydale Campus were thrilled to host the return of 'Poetry by Heart' on Thursday 2nd February 2018.

The evening was part of a national initiative encouraging young people across the country to discover the joy of learning and reciting poems. The event was, yet again, a huge success. The hall was full to capacity with students, parents, staff and local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Shildon and the Reverend David Tomlinson in attendance. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed an evening of entertainment which included poetry recitals interspersed with a selection of stand-out singing performances. The event was introduced, arranged and concluded by students ranging from Year 7 to Year 11 and show-cased the exceptional talent within the local area.

Students performed a range of poems, inspired by poignant themes from 'Love and Relationships' to 'War and

Humanity'. This included original poems written by the students themselves and some excellent recitals of more established works.

Greenfield Community College are committed to developing skills in ways that will improve techniques and at the same time inspire a love of learning. The competition helps students understand more about the sounds of poetry as part of its meaning but also for pleasure and the opportunity to perform and bring pleasure to others.

The students involved were a credit to the school and performed with passion and enthusiasm. There wasn't a dry eye in the house as Yr 10 student Leah Mundy sang a heart-wrenching version of Faith Hill's 'There You'll Be' and the audience were left in awe as student Robert Beeston performed, in character, the 56 lines of 'My Last Duchess', he was dramatic, ruthless and massively entertaining.

Well done to everyone involved in 'Poetry by Heart' it was a fabulous experience for all.

Aaliyah to Donate her Hair to Charity

14 year old Aaliyah Barimah has come to the decision to have her waist length hair cut off for the Little Princess Trust charity which makes wigs for children with cancer.

Aaliyah been through so much with racial bullying in her life and has gained a rather thick skin against people who bully her.

She is arranging the cut with Melly Wilson a local hair stylist who has offered to cut and restyle what's left over of Aaliyah's hair.

Her mother Rachel is very proud of her daughter's kind intentions for charity and says she is so brave to lose her beautiful long hair.

The family have lived in Newton Aycliffe since Aaliyah was 4 years old. They lived in Germany in British Army quarters. The cut will take place on Friday 16th February.

Aaliyah with her little sister Shaniece



HOW TO TUNE IN

Aycliffe Radio is an internet based station

TO TUNE IN YOU REQUIRE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET OR A WI-FI HOT SPOT

You can listen directly via our website

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

click the red "Listen Live" link in the top right hand corner of the home page

Alternatively you can download our Free App from Google Play or Apple Store, search "Aycliffe Radio" download and install

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Simply say "Alexa Play Aycliffe Radio on Tunein"

(Tunein App should be enabled and emphasise the "A" in Aycliffe)

Contact Aycliffe Radio via:

Facebook or Twitter

Text: 07512 253333

Email: info@ayclifferadio.co.uk



AYCLIFFE RADIO

Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



Schedule Highlights:

MONDAY 7-8pm - Paul Gittins joins Aycliffe Radio with a new show

TUESDAY 8-9pm - Sponsored by **Honest John**: Join Darren Lowe and Lee Weldon as they give a run down on the latest LOCAL sports news. **Tuesday 13th February** listen local girl, Anna Young who plays for Sunderland Ladies. The following week will be David Brassell from Heighington Youth FC. Ben Potts will also give his weekly report on Newton Aycliffe FC's latest game(s).
Text your sport question for Darren, Lee or their guest(s) to 07512 253333

WEDNESDAY 12-8pm: Tune in on **14th February** (Valentines Day) for hours of "Love Songs" and "Power Ballads".

FRIDAY 8-10pm: On **Friday 9th February**, Ex-Newtonian Andy Little, who runs CentralFM in Spain, will start his monthly show. "Mardi Gras" time comes to Aycliffe Radio on **Friday 16th February** with local DJ Martin Norris who worked at D'ton Mardi Gras Night Club in the 1990's. The following week **Friday 23rd February** sees the return of Pauly Mac from Australia.

SUNDAY 6-8pm: The Xcel Centre present a pre-recorded sermon from the church. Join the lively congregation with a selection of songs.

SATURDAY 12-1pm: **10th February** we will be playing tracks from local band **Izengard's** debut album "Angel Heart", as well as a pre-recorded session from **Honest John** entitled "With the Beatles". **Aycliffe Village Primary School's** rehearsal for "Snappy Opera" which was performed at the Gala Theatre, Durham on 6th February will also preview.

REGULARLY UPDATED SCHEDULE: Check our website for regular updates to the schedule. Lots more new shows covering many genres and different decades... something to suit everyone.
Send your request or dedication to info@ayclifferadio.co.uk or text 07512 253333

AYCLIFFE RADIO SHOW SCHEDULE

VIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

MONDAY

6-7pm 70s Hour - Peter Rush
7-8pm Paul Gittins
8-10pm UK Number Ones

TUESDAY

6-8pm Sports Round Up - Darren & Lee
Sponsored by **Honest John**
13th Feb - Anna Young (Ladies Football)
20th Feb - David Brassell (H'ton FC)

WEDNESDAY

10-12noon Kent Collective - Daz Kent + Wellersday
12-8pm Love Songs followed by Power Ballads
8-10pm Alternative Aycliffe - Gary & Alby

THURSDAY

6-8pm 80s Show
8-10pm Graeme Roote in the House

FRIDAY

6-8pm PVR Studio House Mix
8-10pm Guest Presenter Session
9th Feb - Andy Little (Spain)
16th Feb - Martin Norris (Mardi Gras)

SATURDAY

8-12noon Kitchen Floor Fillers
12-2pm Local Schools & Bands
10th Feb - "Izengard" & Honest John
and Aycliffe Village Primary School
School Disco
4-6pm Dance Anthems - The Doctor
6-8pm Dance Mix - OZ-DJ
8-10pm Garage/Indie/Drum 'n' Bass - MC Supa

SUNDAY

12-2pm Sports Round Up with Daz & Lee
6-8pm Church Service (from the Xcel Centre)
8-10pm Rhythm 'n' Soul Show - Jack Hall

Scheduled shows may be changed/cancelled at any time.

How to Get Involved:

TUNE IN - Tune in to our Presenter's shows and support your local radio station.

VOLUNTEER - Help out at the station by becoming a presenter or volunteer.

SPONSOR - Sponsor a show, presenter or the station for a nominal fee.

ORGANISATIONS - You are invited to come along and record a 5 minute info slot about your club.

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.

SCHOOLS - We can attend and record your Concerts, Performances, Presentations to be played on air.

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?

Thanks to our Sponsors:



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Asda Help Roller Skaters

Spectrum Roller Skaters were very pleased to accept a cheque for £200 from Asda store Bishop Auckland. The green token community box supports local groups and the roller skaters were very proud to be nominated as a good cause.

The roller skating group consisting of members from Newton Aycliffe, is based at Shildon and was formed in 2014. It has grown in numbers and relies heavily on funding and donations.

"This donation will help towards travel to competitions throughout the year. Our first competition is at Kettering where 11 skaters will compete in a national artistic roller skating competition". If you are interested in trying roller skating please contact - Tracy Stevens 07891 461958

£10K PRIZE IN BEST APPRENTICE AWARD

Now is the time to celebrate the great young trade apprentices who are learning and earning in Newton Aycliffe with the launch of the Screwfix Trade Apprentice Award 2018.

Screwfix has a store in Newton Aycliffe, and open for entries now. It's designed to find the finest trade-apprentices or full-time apprentice students in the nation. One winner will be rewarded with an ultimate prize package worth £10,000 to help them to step onto the career ladder in the best possible way.

The most impressive entries from the region will be selected to go head-to-head at a national final at Google headquarters in London, where one person will win the title and receive a brilliant business start-up



pack including a laptop with accessories, £5,000 worth of Screwfix products and funds for future training and courses.

Graham Bell, Screwfix CEO, said: "We truly believe that we, along with

the rest of the industry, have a duty to support the next generation of tradespeople. Therefore, it's important we play our part in encouraging and inspiring those who have chosen to undertake an apprenticeship. The Screwfix Trade Apprentice Award is one of the many ways we are highlighting the importance of apprenticeships and supporting those who are starting out in a career in the trade."

Entries are open until 4th March, with the overall winner being awarded Screwfix Top Trade Apprentice 2018 at Google Head Office in April.

William Ellis, Screwfix Top Trade Apprentice Winner 2017, said: "I was completely shocked when they announced that I had won the Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition last year! Winning has enabled me to pursue my dream and advance my studies. This has been an amazing opportunity and a brilliant step into launching my career. I'd recommend any trade apprentice applies for this competition - this year it could be you!"

To find out more you can go into the Screwfix store in Newton Aycliffe, or go to www.screwfix.com/sfta to complete an application form.

DARLINGTON & BISHOP AUCKLAND HOSPITALS 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
- 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
- Follow us on twitter: @CDDFTCharity
- Find the charity on Facebook

INCREASE IN POLICE ELEMENT OF COUNCIL TAX TO GO AHEAD

The amount of Council Tax the public pay for the police service, known as the police precept, will increase for 2018-19 by 7.09% in County Durham and Darlington. This equates to an increase of £8 a year, or 15p a week for a property in Council Tax Band A. The increase follows a period of engagement across County Durham and Darlington and was supported by the Police and Crime Panel this morning.

In December 2017 the Government announced a change to the cap on the increase which Police and Crime Commissioners can add to the precept. The new cap permits increases of up to £12 per year for a property in Council Tax Band D. In Durham, this equates to a 7.09% increase.

Ron Hogg, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner presented his decision, along with his rationale for the increase, to the Police and Crime Panel this morning. The Panel supported his decision.

Ron Hogg said: "I have been put in a position where I have to do this because the Government has decided not increase its grant to Police forces for next year. I am committed to maximising the safety of our communities and I do not wish to see the number of Police Officers fall. This increase is the only way I can avoid that. I will continue to lobby Government for a fair funding settlement for future years."

"We have been to all parts of County Durham and in Darlington to explain the reasons for the increase. Residents have been very understanding of the situation and they have been supportive of the increase in order to protect our police force."

"Durham Constabulary is strongly committed to innovation and efficiency and we continue to challenge every aspect of the business. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire

and Rescue Services rank Durham Constabulary as the most efficient force in the country."

Page 2 of 2
Councillor Lucy Hovvels MBE, Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel, said: "Panel Members from all parties support the Commissioner's decision. There are extreme financial

pressures on our Police force. This decision is a consequence of the Government's decision to transfer responsibility for funding from Whitehall to Police and Crime Commissioners. I'm pleased that it means there will be no decrease in Police Officer numbers over the next 12 months."

Vince Crosby Back to Helping Charities



Vince Crosby who has just retired as Chairman of the Youth & Community Centre for health reasons completed the 1500 Minute Workout in aid of Centrepoint a charity that gives homeless young people a chance in life. According to a report by Care it is estimated that about 100,000 young people go missing from home mostly by running away each and every year, mostly because

of abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation or unhappiness at home.

"Lifestyle Fitness should be congratulated in choosing Centrepoint at their sponsored charity but with out the members of the gym to continue the workouts this would not be possible. Just to let readers know, following a recent report, my health is fine as this photo shows."

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DERBY WIN FOR AYCLIFFE



Aycliffe keeper James Winter punches clear

Aycliffe played at Moore Lane for the first time since mid-November and gained a vital win and 3 points against local rivals Shildon. The result extended Aycliffe's unbeaten run to 7 games, lifting them to 15th place in Division One of the Ebac Northern League.

Aycliffe were quick out of the traps and were two up within 14 minutes. Firstly, Jordan Roberts received a pass from Ben Trotter and cut inside his full back before powering an unstoppable shot into the top corner on 12 minutes. Two minutes later Roberts broke out of defence and released Craig Hutchinson. He beat his man and crossed for Ben Trotter to run onto it and smash it into the net on the half-volley. Aycliffe nearly had

a third on 24 minutes when a Stuart Banks free kick went just past the post. Shildon came back into it and had a couple of half-chances. Half-time 2-0. Aycliffe suffered a blow early in the second half when striker Hutchinson went off injured, and was replaced by Kurt Matthews. Shildon were having a lot of possession without troubling home keeper James Winter. This changed on 67 minutes when Shildon's height advantage at corners paid dividends when Greulish-Smith got on the end of a nod-down to make it 2-1. Both sides went for another goal but could only create half-chances, the game ending 2-1. Next game is against Washington at home on Saturday 10th February.

AYCLIFFE'S SOLID PERFORMANCE AGAINST LEAGUE PRETENDERS

The First XV hosted Whitley Bay Rockliffe, in a fixture which was widely expected to be a repeat of the last time the two sides met and WBR ran riot. Aycliffe took to the field with a strong squad featuring a number of Newtonians players whose performances warranted inclusion in the First XV. The game started perfectly for the home side, with Aycliffe immediately surging into the WBR half, making metres from every phase, and presenting clean ball to allow scrum half Richie Brown to supply quick ball from the base of the ruck. WBR worked

hard in defence, however the First XV wanted it more, and spent the first quarter almost exclusively in the WBR twenty-two, the final execution just stopping them taking the points they arguably deserved. On 25 minutes, Aycliffe again surged forward, first through number 8 James Thacker, who broke the defensive line, before releasing Luke Tinkler with a deft off-load. The pack then took control, with pick after pick making the hard yard close in to the breakdown, led from the front by Captain Jamie Whelan. Following a massive carry from Linden

Dixon, WBR infringed and gave the penalty which Alfie Wilson quickly tapped, crossing at the feet of a defender, only to be called back by the ref who claimed not to have seen the tap taken. Aycliffe then elected to take the three, with fullback Tom Prior dissecting the posts to take the home team into a well-deserved lead. The restart was well contested by the visitors, who regained possession and following an excellent backs move, cut through the defensive line to cross under the posts, taking them into the break in - given the balance of possession and territory - what felt like an ill-deserved lead.

Half Time: Newton Aycliffe First XV 3 - 7 Whitley Bay Rockliffe RFC

Aycliffe returned to the field with a point to prove, but the visitors had clearly been subjected to a half time talk which involved multiple four-letter words, as they seemed a different side, scoring just three minutes into the second half, as they worked hard through the backs and exploited an overlap. The following fifteen minutes saw both teams batter one another in the midfield, with each making yards before giving a penalty or suffering a turnover which then returned possession to the opposition.



The visitors struck again on fifty-seven minutes, kicking for touch and taking a lineout ten metres out, which was not sacked, and formed an excellent maul, which, once it began moving toward the line, became inexorable. The next try came ten minutes later as the visitors worked almost the exact same play, with a lineout nearer to the line which was then mauled over. The visitors struck again on seventy six minutes, crossing as a result of a mis-tackle which gave them a twenty six point lead.

However, it was the home side who were to have the last word, with hard work in the midfield giving them a penalty which was kicked to touch on the five-metre line. The lineout was stolen, but Aycliffe did not give up, with Alfie Wilson charging through to smash the ball carrier over the line and dislodge the ball, which was dived upon by eight man James Thacker to take the home side to eight.

Full Time: Newton Aycliffe First XV 8 - 29 Whitley Bay Rockliffe RFC



Juniors Football Report



The Under 7's played a friendly at Seaton Carew Tigers. They all enjoyed a few mini games having great fun and there was some excellent football played. The Under 8's were in Challenge Cup Second Round action at Guisborough Town 'Whites' and they won

the game 8-1. Oliver scored a hat trick, Kenyon scored twice and there was a goal each for Dylan, Thomas and man of the match - Finley. Under 9's played at Billingham Juniors and returned home pleased with a 1-0 win. Under 10's 'Black' were away at Leven AFC 'White' but lost out 3-1.

The Under 10's 'White' travelled to Redcar Town 'Whites' for their Challenge Cup Quarter Final and they got through to the semi final with a 4-1 win. Under 11's visited Hemlington United and put in a great performance to draw 0-0 against top of the table opposition.

The Under 12's Russell Foster League team reversed their fixture and played away at Swalwell Swifts. The poor state of the nine a side pitch at Sunnydale led to home advantage being conceded but a great performance saw them win 1-0 away from home. Man of the match Charlie played the through ball for Noah to score the winning goal.

The Under 12's TJFA League team made the trip to play Marton FC 'Royals' in their League Cup Quarter Final. The lads did not have their best day and despite dominating the first half they couldn't score. After a deflected shot put Marton in the lead they did well to defend and hold on for a 1-0 win.

Under 16's were due to play Cleveland Juniors from the league above, in their Challenge Cup Quarter Final. The opposition suffered with players dropping out, so forfeited the fixture and this placed Aycliffe in the semi final draw.

The Under 23's had a mid table clash against Sunderland University first team at Sunnydale. This was a match they went on to win 3-0.

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COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT

Newton Press would like to dispel all doubts regarding the publication of the Newton News. It is not subsidised by any third party, nor is it financed in any way by any other public body.

It costs you, the reader, nothing and is published and distributed entirely at the expense of Newton Press who derive finance from the sale of advertising space.

We pay young boys and girls and retired active citizens to

distribute the Newton News to each house in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding villages. Unfortunately we cannot be 100% certain that they are always doing the job properly and we rely on our readers to inform us if they are not receiving their copy.

The policy of this newspaper is to be absolutely impartial on every topic, yet reserving the right to make comment. Readers are invited to write to us on any issue, and provided

the article passes the usual requirements, will be publicly aired.

There is little need to be sensational in our editorial as we are under no pressure to increase circulation, therefore we can hear both sides of an argument calmly without upsetting either party. In most cases we are able to resolve a matter without having to go into print.

The indication is that our efforts as the community newspaper are appreciated, and this has its reward.

We thank readers for their kind comments and hope to continue to be of service for years to come.

New Club for Elderly People Takes Off!

Dear Sir,
Thanks to all at Newton Press for helping me to spread the word to all the older people in our Community who sit at home all day lonely and fed up.

Let me please share a success story with you and hope that more will take up my invitation. Every Monday from 2pm until 4pm in the BURNHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL & BURNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE Sid Chaplin Drive next to the Turbinia Pub. This is where a new weekly club "GOLDEN YEARS TOGETHER" meets. Last

week 15 people came for a chat played dominoes and New Age Kurling whilst they were having a cup of tea or chatting.

Signing the attendance book two of the ladies noticed they both lived in the same cul-de-sac five doors apart. They had never met or spoken to each other although they had both lived there many years and travelled in separate taxis to the club.

The joy and pleasure they shared at their meeting and the fact that they could meet chat

and possibly go on our trips or outings together meant they would not have to spend many lonely days seeing no one and knowing no one.

This makes my efforts and time very worthwhile; the other group I organise has charity status and has been running for 9 years and every year small groups go on holiday for 7 days together. Many of them say that their "Club" attendance outings and holidays are the best thing that happened to them. At Christmas I receive cards

from members thanking me for organising activities and in most of the cards the words always appear "Thank you for starting the club it has changed my life and I have made many friends and also made a small group of very special friends".

I do hope people joining the 'Golden Years Together' Club gain the same satisfaction and meet many new friends and their loneliness becomes a thing of their past.

CLlr. Dorothy Bowman
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Keeping Young People Safe on the Internet

A CAMPAIGN to keep users safe on the internet was supported by Durham Constabulary on February 6th promoting the safe and positive use of digital technology especially among children and young people. Officers from Durham Constabulary will be visiting Park View School and Roseberry Primary School in Chester-le-Street to speak to children about what they share online and how to keep safe.

Inspector Karen Naunton from the Safeguarding Unit said: "The internet is one of the greatest inventions of the 20th century - offering you an encyclopedia of information at the click of your fingertips, but concerns about safety, especially for children, persist.

"With an ever increasing market of online applications and live streaming opportunities there is also an ever increasing opportunity for criminals to target potential victims through these channels, whether for harassment, abuse or fraud. "Children are at risk of sharing too much information about themselves online. The safeguarding of young

people is a priority and we are encouraging everyone to play their part in building a better internet."

As well as visiting schools, Durham Constabulary will be giving tips about staying safe online throughout the day. They will be hosting a Q&A session and sharing an image on their social media channels, asking the public to share it in a bid to show youngsters how far a post can go. Insp Naunton continued: "Our children might be more adept with technology than their parents, but they need to protect themselves as there are potential pitfalls and vulnerabilities the internet can create.

"We want youngsters to remember that behind every screen is a real person. Being kind and positive online is just as important as being kind and positive face-to-face.

"We want to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Use the hashtag #SID2018 to engage in conversation with us."

Find out more about the global campaign for Safer Internet

Day at www.saferinternetday.org and follow Durham Constabulary on Facebook and Twitter @DurhamPolice

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WOODHAM ACADEMY IN TOP FIVE SCHOOLS

Woodham Academy is one of the top five secondary schools in County Durham and Darlington according to Government figures.

The Department for Education (DFE) school performance tables highlight the progress students make during their time at Woodham Academy, which recorded its best-ever GCSE results in 2017.

Progress 8 is the recognised comparative measure for all schools nationally, and is used to track the performance of students based on their starting point in Year 7. Woodham Academy's Progress 8 score of +0.26 means that all students achieved over a quarter of a grade more than similar students nationally

in every subject. This score places Woodham Academy in joint-fourth place for secondary schools in County Durham and Darlington.

Headteacher Christine Forsyth said: "These Government figures are testament to the hard work of students and staff at Woodham Academy. Our ethos is 'achievement for all' and the figures confirm that regardless of their starting point, our students make excellent progress."

"The achievements of the school reflects the advances we have made throughout Woodham Academy, including curriculum development, pastoral care, behaviour management, and the improvements to the school buildings."

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"We are all determined, and confident, that we will continue to achieve excellent outcomes for our students in 2018 and beyond."

Woodham Academy's record-breaking GCSE results in 2017 were achieved despite the introduction of a tougher new exam system. The proportion of students who passed both of the key subjects of Maths and English rose 22 percent on the previous year, with the pass rate for both subjects

now above 70 percent. The DFE's school performance comparison tool allows schools, parents, carers and students to compare the outcomes of any schools nationally, regionally or in the local area.

To use the comparison tool, and see how Woodham Academy compares to schools nationally, regionally and locally, visit: www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/138717

What Happened to Fairer Voting System?

Dear Sir
DURING the 2015-17 Parliament, a petition calling for Government to debate on a fairer electoral system passed the 100,000 threshold, and a parliamentary debate took place in October of last year, but what has happened since?

The significance of this subject raises the inadequacy of First Past The Post with a third successive election which produced a hung parliament, or delivered a tiny parliamentary majority. The FPTP electoral system is broken ~ see CPG Grey video link below ~ as it rarely produces a "strong and stable" one-party Government!

In the past I have written to Philip Wilson MP for Sedgefield about this matter. Whereas Mr Wilson has been keen to support local issues, he seems a tad hesitant to join a debate about Proportional Representation ~ not surprisingly I guess as he represents one of the two main protagonists.

Is it fair in the 21st-century to apply a 200-year old process that forces election voters to vote for either Labour or Conservative, simply to keep out the candidate they dislike the most. I would also

like to take the opportunity to encourage Sedgefield constituents to contact Philip Wilson MP to express their views.

In these most troubling political times, I guess we can expect this constituency to be forever Labour. That means Mr Wilsons, and his successor, will always be more accountable to the local Labour Party than to you and me ~ the Sedgefield electorate.

There are fairer voting systems out there ~ <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/voting-systems/what-are-voting-systems/proportional-representation/>

I know people on the opposite side of the debate argue that a Proportional Representation voting system is very complicated. Yet, from a voters position nothing changes in the polling booth. Plus Proportional Representation reduces the complication attached to First Past The Post, and second guessing how other people cast tactical votes.

So do please, let's contact our local MP to express your dissatisfaction, too.

Why the UK Election Results are the Worst in History - YouTube
John G. Angeletta

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MANUFACTURING EXPERT JOINS EBAC

Well-known North East manufacturing specialist David Land has joined Ebac, to drive further growth at the County Durham-based electrical goods manufacturer, the only British company to produce washing machines, dehumidifiers & water coolers in the UK.

David's remit is to work with the senior management team to deliver a business plan that will facilitate further growth across the product range, with particular emphasis on washing machines. With 27 years' experience in business development, David Land is the chairman of the County Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Network (CDEM). He is also on the Board of the North East LEP. David has spent his career



in the automotive sector where he guided a local company into a major industry player. Using his extensive experience, he is now actively involved with many business groups to promote and support the growth of manufacturing in the North East. He also mentors businesses in the region and was one of the founder members of the region's first University Technical College.

John Elliott, executive chairman at Ebac, said: "We are very proud to have invested in new product development over the last few years, which has also seen us launch washing machines. "Ebac is not a company to rest on its laurels and we will continue to innovate and invest in new and existing products, embrace the opportunities that leaving the EU will bring and continue to fly the flag for British manufacturing."

"David's role will be to focus on the delivery of our strategy that will fulfil Ebac's growth potential and achieve the trustees' aims." David said: "Ebac is an innovative and forward-thinking company and this role takes me back to my manufacturing roots. The Ebac Foundation trustees' focus is on trading and development for the future and generating profits to be re-invested into the business, its employees and the community. "I am looking forward to supporting John and working with the team at Ebac as the company continues to grow, expands into new products and markets and remains a major contributor to the local economy."

Thank You

THANK YOU
to Vince Crosby

The Man with the winning smile and enthusiasm. Hope you get well soon. Clive

DON'T MISS THE MAD MARCH GIG



County Councillor Jim Atkinson popped into Newton Press Offices this week to buy two tickets for the Big Gig at the Big Club organised by the Rotary Club and to donate a prize for the Raffle.

The tickets for this great Show in aid of the MRI Appeal are going well so be sure to get yours from Newton Press, Walkers Butchers Simpasturegate, Aycliffe Framers & Engravers in the town centre, and The Big Club. The Show featuring local band "Groovy Street" will provide non-stop music for all tastes with singing and dancing including ABBA hits and other well known numbers to get people

up and dancing along. Included in the Show is a guest appearance by X Factor Star Shanaya. In with the very reasonable price of £7.50 is a Hot Pork Sandwich with Roast Potatoes. Also a great attraction will be the number of valuable Raffle and Tombola prizes to be won, donated by business and community

supporters. If you wish to support this event with a prize please drop it off at Newton Press or ring 01325 320901 to be picked up (answer machine).

In Memoriam

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest peaceful bonnie lad, till we meet again. My love always. June. God bless xxxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of our wonderful Dad and Grandad. Miss you every day Dad. From Ian, Heena, Andrew, Tina, Rachel and Philip. Loads of hugs and kisses from Rebecca, Cameron and Haley xxxx

COLIN MACCORMACK (Mac). Just a prayer from those who love you. Just a memory ever true. In our hearts you will live forever. Because we thought the world of you. Rob and June.

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Three years ago we had to part with a Son we loved with all our hearts. They say that time's a healer, but we know it's not true. The pain is still as strong today as the day that we lost you. Miss and love you Tony, from Mam and Dad

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Young'n, not a day goes by without thinking of you. Always my Brother, always my Hero, Bryan

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Our Brother, loved and missed every day. John & Andrew.

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Uncle Tony we love you, Jack and Morgan

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Uncle Tony we miss you loads and will love you always. Jason, Kieran and Kathleen

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Can't believe it's three years since you left us. Still missed. Love, Leanne

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Three years since you left us, we miss you millions. Love you Dad from Amber and Courtney

TONY DOBSON 7-2-2015. Still miss you mate, always remembered. From Tommy

WILLIAM WILSON REID 6th February 2000. Of all the special gifts in life, however great or small. To have you as my Son, was the greatest gift of all. A special time, a special face, a special Son I can't replace. With an aching heart I whisper low, I miss you Son, I love you so. Love from Mam and all the family xxxx

Congratulations

Val & Tony Stokeld



10th February 2018

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary to you both with lots of love from all the family xxxx

Birthday Remembrance

AUDREY HUMBLE Sending special birthday wishes, 12th. Loved and missed every day. Gisela, David, Paul and Gavin xxxx

NANCY PICKERING 11th February 1933 to 22nd January 2018. On the 11th February 2018 you would have been 85 years old. This is the first birthday and wedding anniversary that we cannot celebrate with hugs and kisses. Taken from us too soon, we can only send you heavenly birthday wishes. You will be loved and missed forever. Happy birthday Mam. Our love always, Colin, Judith, Gary and Daughter-in-Law Pat.

NANCY PICKERING Happy birthday Gran. From heartbroken Grandchildren Collete, Colin and David

NANCY PICKERING 11th February. Happy heavenly birthday Grandma and Great Grandma (Grandy). With all our love, David & Kaylie, Finley, Daisy, Phoebe and Teddie

Obituary

Margaret Mordue

Passed away suddenly on 22nd January, aged 89 years.

Beloved Wife of the late Dennis; loving Mother of Ann and Tom; Mother-in-Law of Alan and Iris; also a treasured Grandma of Angela, Heather, George and Anja; a Great Grandma to Eloise.

Requiem Mass to be held in St. Mary's Church on Monday 12th February at 3.00pm followed by committal at Wear Valley Crematorium.

Ralph Preshous



Passed away peacefully in Defoe Court Care Home with his family around him on 31st January, aged 80 years.

Dearly loved Husband of Betty; much loved Dad of Steven; Father-in-Law to Michelle and a much loved Grandad and Great Grandad.

Family and friends please meet for Service at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday 14th February for 1.15pm, followed by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium (Coundon).

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, to Alzheimer's UK.

Benjamin MacFarlane



It is with deepest regret to announce the tragic passing of Benjamin MacFarlane (Ben), aged 83 years, on Tuesday 30th January 2018 in Darlington Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Much loved Husband of the late Charmaine; loving Father of Alastair; Father-in-Law to Julie; treasured Grandad to Ben and Natalie, Mathew and their beautiful children Rose and George; much loved Brother of Anne, and his deceased Brothers and Sisters Hugh, Louise and Iain; Uncle to Simon, Amanda and Julia; treasured friend and companion to Mary.

Will Friends and Family please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 13th February at 1.00pm.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, may be made to Macmillan Nurses, a plate will be provided at the crematorium.

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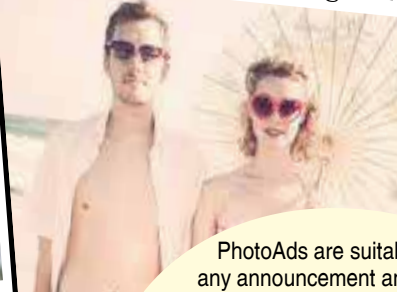
Alice Springs



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

ations Man on 1st Jan
nters, Gra

PhotoAds are suitable for any announcement and are preserved forever on our website 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!

Youthy Football Round Up

Newton Aycliffe Youth U18s 3 v 1 Wearside FC

Late kick off on Sunday for the 18s at home to Wearside. Wearside started the brightest and put us under some pressure right from the off. Their pressure paid off when they headed home to take the lead. Our keeper Joshua Shannon then pulled off 3 very good saves to keep us in the game. Aycliffe then seemed to settle down and started to keep the ball and play a little better. It was their keepers turn to keep Wearside in it with a good double save from Sam Thompson and a world class save to keep out a Jay Bateman header. Aycliffe finally found the equaliser when Nick Whiston found the back of the net from the edge of the box. Half time 1-1.

Second half Aycliffe started on the front foot and took the game to Wearside. Another couple of good saves from their keeper kept it at 1-1, then the ball fell to Sam Thompson in the box who took the chance well to put Aycliffe in front.

Wearside never really had a chance from here with Aycliffe's back four holding strong and they were reduced to long shoots. Luke Sinclair rounded off the scoring for Aycliffe with a well taken individual goal.

Bishop Auckland U16's Girls 0 - 1 Newton Aycliffe Youth U16's Girls

On Saturday Aycliffe played against Bishop Auckland and we knew from the beginning it would be a tough game as we were a few players down. The game began well and both teams created some really good chances but the first half ended 0-0. In the second half, the Aycliffe girls were noticeably on top, creating many chances and putting a lot

of pressure on the opposition. It took a long time for the goal to come but it finally did when Matilda crossed the ball to Lottie who set up Katie Bragg for the only goal of the game. The defence played an amazing game, making some solid tackles at the back and even helping out going forward. Courtney also played a great game in goal, making sure she came out for the ball when it was loose around the box. Well played girls!

Newton Aycliffe Youth U9's 2 - 1 Hebburn Town Madrid

Game 1 of 2 of the weekend and a very wet game today for the Eagles and parents but wow what a fantastic game of football. Fair to say it was an evenly matched game with some brilliant football from both teams. The Eagles started strongly with a new format, trying to get the team forward. Nathan at the back sweeping the width of the pitch, Edwin, Jayden, Kai and Hamza in midfield with Will in goal and Makai upfront. The boys played fantastically going forward but getting back to defend when needed too. Makai made himself available in space for the whole of the first half, using his strength to apply pressure and was unlucky not to get a goal as the boys in midfield were working hard trying to thread the ball through to him running at the opposition. In particular Kai who had been encouraged to dribble the ball and use his ability to take on players and did this making it look easy.

Nathan and Edwin making some key challenges meaning that Will had very little to do in goal. Half time 0-0. Adam replaced Kai in midfield and Will came out of goal with Makai taking his place.

Hamza going upfront. The second half started with some fantastic passing between Adam, Will and Hamza but was closed down quickly by Hebburn's defence. The ball was then cleared and the Eagles were awarded a corner. A fantastic corner from Edwin found Will in the box who drilled the ball home 1 - 0.

Not long after Hebburn put a ball over the top which bounced awkwardly in front of Makai and hit the back of the net. 1 - 1. Both teams battling hard and wanting the 3 points. Hebburn applying pressure but the Eagles wanted it more, another brilliant throw in from Edwin bounced across the box to find Adam unmarked in front of goal who made it look easy and volleyed the ball into the back of the net. Hebburn tried to equalise but our defence was too strong and the game finished 2-1 to the Eagles.

A well-deserved win and a long time coming. All players did really well today but Man of the Match was Edwin on his return from a broken finger.

Whitburn and Cleadon Real 6 - 0 Newton Aycliffe Youth U9's

Certainly a game of two halves today on the Eagles second match of the weekend against Whitburn who are a very good side sitting near the top of the table. The Eagles took a while to find their feet and within the first 10 minutes Whitburn managed to score 4 goals. This could have been more if it wasn't for Liam's brilliant saves and Ollie time and time again positioning himself on the line clearing the ball.

The boy's didn't let their heads go down and continued to battle hard with smiles on their faces. Whitburn managed to score another goal before half time 5 - 0. Quick team talk from Campbell and the boys were raring to go again, Ollie and Liam exchanging positions. Adam, Kai and Will again linking up fantastically putting in 100% but Whitburn were using their strength well and it didn't happen for the boys.

Nathan worked hard in defence making some key clearances but then had to come off unwell. The heavens opened and the boys were pounded by hailstones. Max and Hamza getting forward trying to create changes but closed down so quickly. Whitburn were then awarded a penalty, their striker stepped up to the spot, Ollie in goal, pure concentration on his face, cool as you like saved the penalty and then cleared by Liam. Fantastic.

Whitburn did manage to score another goal making it 6 - 0 but second half the Eagles played much better. They had smiles on their faces even though the score line wasn't going their way. Man of the match today was Ollie who was awesome outfield defending first half, he cleared so many balls from the danger area and fantastic second half in goal not only saving the penalty but making some other brilliant saves.

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

Sports Club Continue Good Form



Newton Aycliffe Sports Club continued their good run of form in the league beating close rivals Bishop Auckland Bay Horse 4-1 on Sunday at Moore Lane Park. After last week's 6-4 win against Spennymoor Volti in the Darlington Charity Cup, the Sports Club hosted this Division 2 tie, looking to continue their promotion push.

A corner in the opening 10 minutes led to the away side gaining an early lead, Liam Towers slotting the ball past goalkeeper Mark Craggs. The Sports Club rallied and began to put the Bay Horse under a lot of pressure. Chances came thick and fast with both David Teder and Callum Farley coming close, but the away side held on until half time.

The Aycliffe side started the stronger of the two in the 2nd

half and a long distant strike from Stuart Hackett caught the away keeper off guard for the equaliser. It was substitute Ryan Stonehouses thunderbolt shot that deflected off Darren Griffiths backside to wrong foot the goalkeeper and make it 2-1 to the hosts. Stuart Hackett then beat the offside trap and lobbed the oncoming goalkeeper to make it 3-1 and then secured his hat-trick shortly after to kill any chance of a comeback making it 4-1 to the hosts. With the promotion push gathering momentum, next week's opponents are league leaders West Auckland Tonns, unbeaten in the league this season, which will be a huge test for the Aycliffe team.

MoM: Stuart Hackett

Family Fun Sessions in the Leisure Centre Pool

Families looking for fun this half-term should visit their nearest swimming pool to try out the latest activities on offer.

Leisure Centres across the county will be running special holiday timetables from Monday, 12 to Sunday 18 February.

Activities on offer include Splashtots, a fun, pay as you go session for adults and children aged five and under. Those aged two to six can also take part in Ready, Sett, Splash – a class for adults and children with 30 minutes of instructor-led fun games followed by 30 minutes free play, as well as the chance to meet Brock the badger, Durham County Council's early years' mascot.

Fun sessions with toys and floats are also taking place in both the main and small pools, while children aged between eight and 14 who can swim 25 metres can take on an inflatable challenge in the large pools.

The new timetables and activities are being offered as part of the Swim Local pilot, which aims to get more

people in the pool.

Cllr Ossie Johnson, cabinet member for tourism, culture, leisure and rural issues, said: "Swimming is an excellent way to keep young people entertained during the holidays and many of the classes on offer give adults the chance to spend some quality time having fun with their children.

"We know the sessions introduced as part of the Swim Local pilot are already proving popular and we hope even more people will get in the water this half-term."

The pilot includes a £1.5 million investment from Durham County Council alongside £540,972 funding from Sport England which is being used to launch new aqua classes, refurbish pools and changing areas and implement innovative approaches to encourage more people to swim.

Residents who take out a swim membership between now and 12th February are also being offered a 25 per cent discount.

For more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/leisure



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Family Half Term Sessions at PCP

Colour your Life are delivering two fun packed family arts and crafts sessions at the Pioneering Care Centre this half term. The Arts & Story session is being held Friday 16 February 1.00-2.30pm, where family can re-enact the 'Lion Hunt' Story, using puppets and slimy mud. This session is aimed for children aged 3-5. The Family Craft Challenge session is being held Friday 16 February 2.30-4.00pm, and families will build a tree house to support a film character toy. This session is aimed for children aged 6 and over. PCP encourages a £1 donation per child to cover resources.

For further information or to book your place please contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net. Or follow PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre

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