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Friday 16th February 2018 First Published in 1948 and still FREE

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## Greenfield Students Show Red Card to Racism



Students from Greenfield Community College have once again come together as part of Rights Respecting Day to tackle important issues and learn more about aspects of equality and diversity.

Year 7 students from both the Aycliffe Site and Sunnydale Campus were given the opportunity to work together with the 'Foundations' team from Sunderland's 'Foundation



of Light' to learn more about racism, how it can be tackled and how every student can be responsible for giving it the 'red card'.

Students were given challenges and arranged into groups according to their viewpoints, after further discussion from the 'Foundations' team and the students themselves it was amazing to see how opinions changed. Students began to take responsibility for their own actions and understand how their behaviour could have negative and positive consequences.

Year 7 student Sophie Capstick was keen to get involved, 'we were asked our opinion about different things' said Sophie 'like is it okay for someone to use an aggressive word to describe themselves. I said that if you say something aggressive about yourself, even if it's just a joke it could offend another person and this would make them feel bad, even if you mean it as a joke'. This is one day when there is a 'collapsed timetable' at Greenfield and year groups come together from both sites to experience a variety of activities with a range of internal and external providers. Greenfield is committed to every student and the well-being of the 'whole child' and Rights Respecting Day is a valued part of this commitment. The day was a great success and a big thank you to 'Foundations' team who were exceptional advocates, the students were keen to learn and were able to engage and enjoy the day.

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## Garden Guild Volunteer

Sildon Gardens & Allotments Guild is looking for able bodied volunteers to help in their Garden Shop on Sunday mornings between 8.30am and 11.30 am. The Guild Shop is situated in the Civic Square at the rear of Sildon Civic Hall. Everyone invited to use the shop - Good garden bargains available. Contact; L. Iddon. Secretary on 01388 773925.

## The Phoenix Club

Newton Aycliffe - 01325 319876

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### "Eddie Popescu"

with his "Forever Elvis" show along with

### "Chris Small"

as the accompanying Solo Artist

**Saturday 10th March**

Tickets available from the Phoenix Club £5.00

Telephone 01325 312876 for details

# HAIR SHAVE IN MEMORY OF GRAN AND AUNTY FOR CANCER CHARITY



If you wish to donate, please visit her sponsor page : <https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/hollie-langsley>

Hollie added: "I have two collection tins at Subway Newton Park Services where I work and have set my initial target to £300 but any donations, no matter how small would be so gratefully appreciated!"

## Give North East the Power!

Commenting on the regional breakdown of Government's Brexit impact assessments, Senior Research Fellow at IPPR North Luke Raikes said:

"This impact analysis appears to confirm that the North is at greater risk from Brexit than London, as many had feared. The North's supply chains in goods and services are more closely integrated with the EU. This means that adjusting to Brexit will be extremely challenging.

"Government should publish the detail of these impact assessments urgently, so that businesses in the North may prepare.

"Northern businesses do have the ability to adapt, but they may need government support. The UK government must learn from previous economic shocks and from other advanced economies. They must let regions take on more power and funding over industrial strategy so that they can mobilise the people and funds to weather the challenge ahead."

On 10th March 2018 Hollie Langsley is "Braving the Shave" in memory of her beloved Gran Lorraine and Auntie Mabel, both of whom lost their brave battle against Gran was Lorraine (Lol) Cole - co-founder of Aycliffe company E.C. Cabinets Ltd, and many will remember her as a barmaid for many years at the Southerne Club and British Legion.

Auntie Mabel (Ellis) was also well-known locally as she was keenly involved with the Methodist Church, Soup Kitchen etc and she made many lovely celebration cakes for friends and family. Hollie said: "Some people have said I am brave to have all my hair shaved off but that is nothing compared to the bravery of cancer sufferers. THEY are the ones who face real challenges every single day. I'm sure no one can

understand how hard it must be until it effects them". MacMillan Cancer Support provide invaluable care, help and understanding in people's most desperate, darkest hours. It takes 5 years to train to be a MacMillan Cancer nurse and although the NHS help fund these nurses, MacMillan rely on fund-raising and donations for 98% of their services. Judith who owns "HAIR WE GO" has very kindly offered to carry out the shave on March 10th and although nervous Hollie is so grateful to be able to support (even in a small way!) such a worthwhile cause as MacMillan.

## Bob the Champion



Gillian Noble of Scottish Power, Lord Beith and Bob Adamson

Bob Adamson (right) works as a volunteer on issues relating to fuel poverty, health and wellbeing plus patient care. He is retired and carries out unpaid work in the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group GP Surgeries.

Following a series of Warm Homes Campaign Awareness sessions run by the county Council with the Clinical Commissioning Group Patient referral DCC were delighted to welcome Bob to the role of "Champion!"

Bob will assist households who are living in cold, damp homes who may be suffering fuel poverty. In his role as Champion Bob regularly visits GP Surgeries and he was at Bewick Crescent this week.

During his visits Bob provides free and impartial advice on how to save money on energy bills and move to the cheapest and best tariff.

# EU Accounts - Fair and True says MEP

Dear Sir, I noted the correspondence to Newton News from 'P.C' regarding the EU's accounts and would like to state the full picture regarding the auditing process.

The European Court of Auditors checks the EU's accounts annually and gives two verdicts: are they accurate and reliable; and is money being paid or received in error. Since 2007 the auditors have "signed off" the accounts as giving the true and fair view of the EU's finances.

The separate opinion regarding errors has been "adverse", until 2016. Adverse means that more than 2% of payments are

subject to error. Error does not necessarily mean fraudulent or wasteful, and mistakes are often the result of the complexities in the delivery of funding programmes. The EU does seek to recover money paid in error.

The Court of Auditors' reports are published every year and they can be found on their website [www.ea.europa.eu](http://www.ea.europa.eu)

Transparency is a principle that is fundamental across all EU institutions, including the Parliament in which I sit. This is often forgotten in many debates around EU issues which can result in a few myths arising.

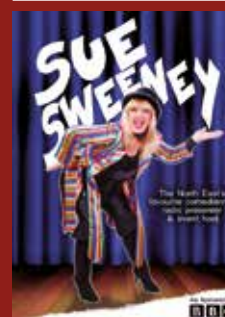
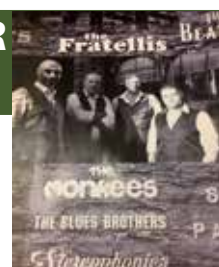
Jude Kirton-Darling MEP



## Newton Aycliffe Sports Club present two fantastic events in March

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### SUE SWEENEY Thursday 29th March

Come and join us on Maunday Thursday (29th March) from 7.30pm - we have Sue Sweeney, the North East's favourite comedienne, radio presenter and event host, alongside a disco. Tickets £5 behind the bar.

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**Saturday 17th February - "The Whole Hog"**

Gig Pit Review: The Comrades welcomed The Whole Hog back with their eclectic mix of rock, that, although you're familiar with, you don't often hear played by local bands. The fact there were members of at least five other local bands in to see The Hog gives an idea of how highly the band are respected among the local musicians. Kicking off with Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well" and running through classics by Family, Jethro Tull, Free, The Climax Blues Band as well as a couple of newer numbers by Joe Bonamassa and The Foo Fighters. The band gave a superb show that was well received by the punters. Rob on vocals and sax is an excellent front man whose vocal talents and on-stage athletics are a visual focus that other bands could learn from. Twin guitarists whose on stage empathy speaks of long experience of working together are underpinned by a solid rhythm section fronted by John on bass who bounces well off Rob on vocals in giving the appearance of a party on stage. Musicians having a good time, whilst playing, always carry the crowd with them - we look forward to seeing The Whole Hog again later in the year.

**Saturday 24th February - "F.M."**

For more information on bands go to  
[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034  
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# HOGWARTS COMING TO NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A specially designed Hogwarts model railway layout is coming to the 9th Annual Model Railway Exhibition organized by the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane, (opp Tesco) on Saturday 10th March from 10am to 5pm.

Entry costs £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and 50p for children. There are family tickets available at £10.

This year's event will be the larger than ever with 20 layouts booked for the event ranging from "n" to "0" scales representing locations from the UK, Europe and North America.

Of special interest will be



Model Railway at Hogwarts Castle designed by Newtonian, Brian Winwood

a fantastic Howarts/Harry Potter layouts built by Rotarian Brian Winwood and for the very young, a self-drive Thomas and Friends layout from Shildon Model Railway Club.

Sadly the visit of a live steam narrow gauge layout

has been cancelled due to the owner being taken ill.

Traders will be well represented with 10 stands selling new and pre-owned model railway items along with die-cast models, scenery, photographs and books.

Four full size preservation societies will be lending their support while other enthusiasts will be manning a tombola staff and serving refreshments.

Free parking is available at St Mary's RC Church just yards from the event, there is full disabled access, all day refreshments are available and a family tombola.

Proceeds from the exhibition will be shared between McMillan Cancer Care and Prostate Cancer UK. More information is available from Rtn John Burrows on 07870 210269 or email jandeburrows@gmail.com

# Inspirational Speaker Dr. Johnston Visits Woodham Academy

A celebrity academic visited Woodham Academy to help inspire the next generation of scientists. Engineer and applied mathematician Dr Ian Johnston visited the school to give a presentation for Year 8 students and take their questions.

Dr Johnston is the scientific expert and Richard Hammond's aid on 'Battle of the Geeks' as well as academic consultant to TV

shows 'Electric Dreams' and 'Bang Goes The Theory' since it started. He has also appeared on Celebrity Eggheads alongside a team of media scientists.

His talk on engineering and mathematics was organised through the school's More Able Academy and was attended by all Year 8 students.

Dr Johnston said: "Many thanks to everyone in



## THE BAHAMAS STORY

As part of the "Rail Cameramen" exhibition programme, Locomotion is hosting a talk "The Bahamas Story" by Peter Skellon of the Bahamas Locomotive Society.

The free talk, on Thursday March 1 at 1.45pm, will provide a brief history of the LMS Jubilee 4-6-0s and No. 45596 in particular - its purchase in 1967 by the Bahamas Locomotive Society; the creation of the Dinting Railway Centre as its home; and the move to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway in 1990.

The talk includes some background to the fitment of its double chimney in 1961, the last experiment

undertaken by British Railways on its fleet of steam locomotives. It also includes some details of the current overhaul, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is due for completion and return to the main lines end of Spring 2018.

It's free to attend the talk, but seats are limited, and tickets must be pre-booked - for more information, or to book, please call 01904 685780.

The Bahamas Locomotive Society is a sponsor of "Rail Cameramen", an exciting new exhibition featuring the photographic artistry of many of the UK's leading railway photographers, and will be on show at Locomotion until 4th March.



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## Line Dancing in Green!

Dear Sir,  
Just to inform readers of your great newspaper that on Thursday 15th March the Line Dancers at the Phoenix Club are holding a Party to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Everybody is invited and come in "green" if you wish! The best will win an award. We will also have an Open Buffet so bring a plate please.

If you want to learn how to Line Dance you can be taught by fully qualified teachers Shirley and Tony. Admission is only £3 including a free raffle ticket. Come on down, have some fun and give it a try!  
John Sutton

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# Councillors and Staff Give Generously to Food Bank

Staff and councillors from Durham County Council have donated over 600 kilogrammes of food to Durham Food Bank.

Collected over the Christmas period, the foodbank donations provided 758 meals for those in need across County Durham and gave people practical support at a difficult time of year.

Cllr Jane Brown, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "Hundreds of boxes packed with festive treats were donated to Durham Food Bank by our generous colleagues."

"We want to make sure that no one in our community goes hungry, and we're very pleased to hear that we provided hundreds of meals for food bank users throughout County Durham."

"We also donated £41.34, which the food bank can use to purchase provisions during the coming months." As well as donating to Durham Food Bank, council staff took part in mass fundraising activities throughout 2017, raising thousands of pounds in cash and donations for great local charities in the process.

In July, council officers and members wore their football shirts to work in order to raise £3,995.29 in aid of the Bradley Lowery Foundation.



The foundation was set up in memory of Bradley Lowery, a County Durham youngster who lost his battle with Neuroblastoma.

The foundation helps and supports campaigns to raise funds for medical treatment and equipment not available on the NHS.

In December, the council raised £813.71 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) by wearing their Christmas jumpers to work and making a donation. Staff and council members also donated 75 bags of unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, belts and other items.

The GNAAS is the chosen charity of Durham County Council Chairman Bill Kellett, and the funds raised

contribute to the year-long fundraising undertaken during his year of office.

The service operates three helicopters, 365 days a year, across the North-East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria, and crews respond to around 1,000 call outs each year. During the festive holidays, and in response to a plea by Cllr Kellett to support the Salvation Army Toy Appeal, staff and members donated new unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas present.

Cllr Jane Brown added: "We hope that these generous donations can help make a difference in our community, and I'd urge members of staff and the public to keep supporting these amazing charities and all of the good work they do."



Compiled by  
County Councillor John Clare

My 'County Newsbits' column is a roundup of headlines and messages I have come across during the last week. I try to include issues which relate to the wider county, as well as specifically Aycliffe matters.

This week's list includes council meetings and local information, as well as consultations, petitions and requests for help. All the stories are from the internet, so you can go onto the web to find out more, and I have posted links online to all this week's items here: [bit.ly/CNB142](http://bit.ly/CNB142)

## COUNCIL MATTERS

- DCC Joint Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee Meeting about the Heritage Coast (tourism, Seaham Marina and environmental projects), Monday, 12 February.

- DCC Cabinet Meeting (budget and precept, school admissions and a new school at Bowburn), Wednesday February 7.
- DCC is consulting on the possible live streaming of its meetings.

- The consultation on the proposed Durham History Centre ends Sunday 18

February.

- There is a petition seeking to ensure women are fully represented across the curriculum.

- See the Aycliffe speed visor rota.

- Latest local roadworks information.

## COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS

- Aycliffe Business Park continues to thrive – congratulations Tekmar, Finley Structures, Viper and Plastic Mouldings Northern.

- It's National Nest Box Week.

- DCC is seeking volunteers to train to safeguard County Durham's woodland.

- Food hygiene ratings in Newton Aycliffe.

- Please help Derwentside Athletics Club based in Stanley win £200,000.

- Please support HMS Bulwark.

## THINGS TO DO

- Lunar New Year celebration, Durham Oriental Museum, 6-8pm, Saturday 24 February, £2.

- Fairy furniture, Palace Green Library (5-11s), drop-in 1-3pm, 24-25 February.

- Beamish real ice rink ends Sunday 25 February.

# Bag Pack in Aid of Junior Cricketers



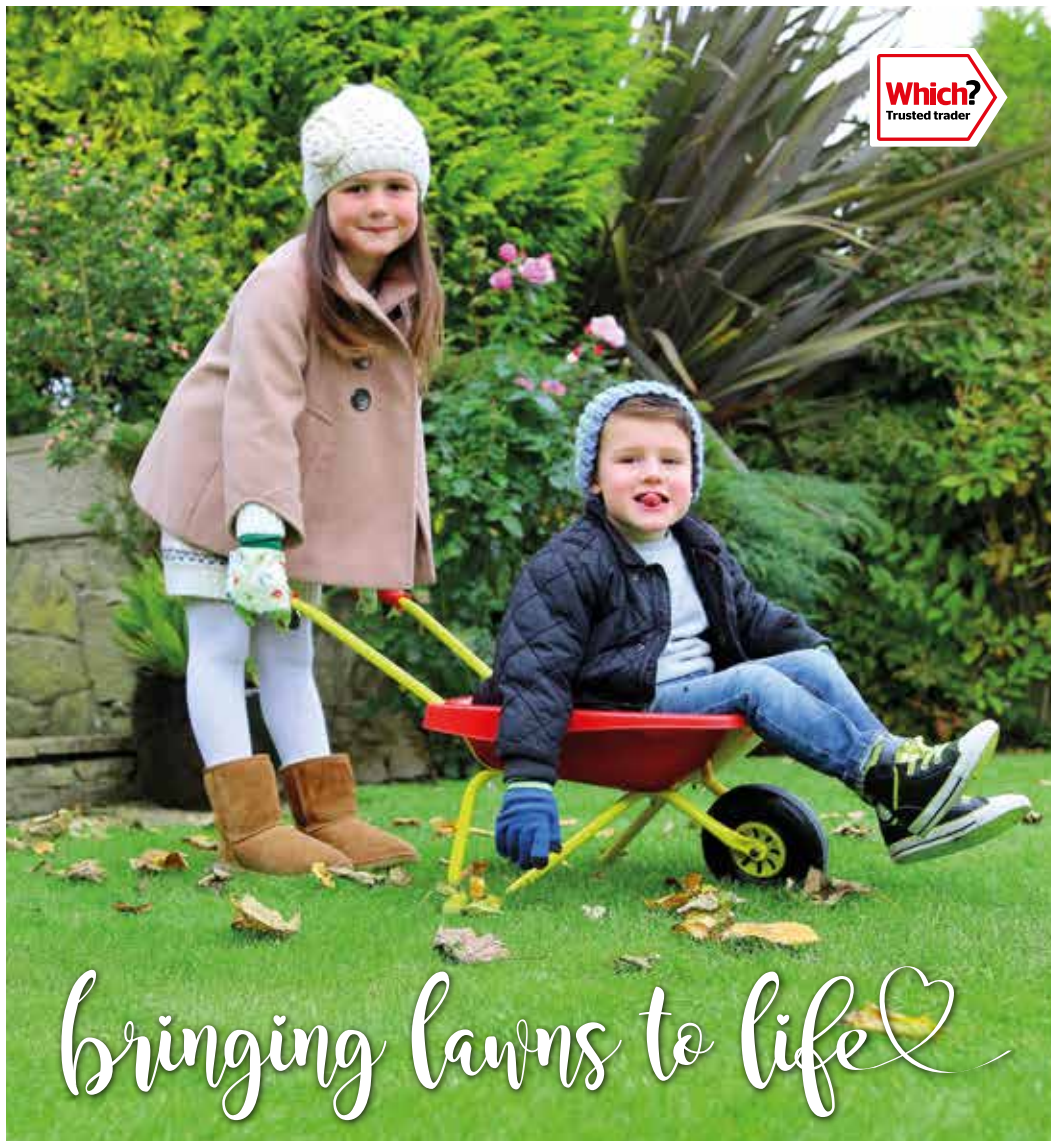
Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club held a Bag Pack at Tesco on Saturday 3rd February and raised a total of £582.00 to help purchase equipment for the junior sections of the Club. We would like to thank Tesco and their staff for making this day possible, and their customers for being so generous.

All help from sponsors, board advertisers, player sponsors and the local community is gratefully accepted - the costs of running a cricket club increase each year and running fundraising events like this is one way of keeping the Club going.

If you would like to sponsor a player for this season (£20), advertise your business on a perimeter board (8ft x 3ft) around the ground or help out in any other way please contact our Commercial/Marketing Manager Valerie on 07976 392173.

If your child is interested in playing cricket we run youth development courses from age 5 upwards.

Further information about Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club can be obtained from Club Secretary Lee Weldon on 01325 312424 or visit [www.newtonaycliffe.play-cricket.com](http://www.newtonaycliffe.play-cricket.com)



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## Cheques for Aycliffe Children's Charity



Evelyn Lodge (left) and Sonia Scott (right) with Sheena Stephenson.

Sheena Stephenson (centre) received a cheque from MAD Community Choir for 'Children's Blessings' in Newton Aycliffe.

Julie Whitehouse also donated £100 from their Christmas Memory Tree at Whitehouse Funeral Services. Sheena thanks both most sincerely for their donations.

If you need help with children's supplies contact Sheena Stephenson, Children's Blessings Manager (Lifeline Community Action) - Mobile: 07594 297462.

MAD Choir are this week performing at Shildon Civic Hall in Support of EML Music Showcase whilst working on new material for their next fundraiser on April 11th at the Xcel Centre where they will be raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society. Tickets are £5 and available

from Sonia Scott or any of the Choir members. As usual this will be a fun event where the Choir will be performing songs from the 60's onwards aptly titled "Remember When". The Show will include song lyrics so the whole audience can join in the fun.

## Keeping A & E at Darlington Hospital

Dear Sir,  
May I thank your readers for signing the petition to Save Accident and Emergency in Darlington. Can you help spread the word by forwarding the link below to your friends, posting it on your facebook page and tweeting about this on twitter too?  
<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-accident-and-emergency-in-darlington>

As you may know; Stockton's North Tees Hospital A and E is also under threat. We need all our A and E Departments here on Teesside. As Whitehall try to bamboozle everyone by turning this into some kind of cruel competition and by claiming we have to make a choice between Darlington and Stockton, we have to make it clear we the people of the Tees Valley need both and James Cook Hospital A and E too. All 3 of our A and E Departments are very busy since the closure of Hartlepool and Bishop Auckland A and E Departments. We have to make it clear, we will not be fooled by Whitehall's dirty tricks. We will not stand by and see one town played off against another.  
Nigel Boddy

# DCC WINS NATIONAL 'GREEN' AWARD FOR OPERATION SPRUCE UP

Durham County Council has clinched a prestigious national 'green' award for the second year in a row - thanks to Operation Spruce Up.

The council has taken home the title of 'campaign of the year' at environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy's Network Awards 2018 for Spruce Up, its programme to 'clean up and 'green up' the county's town and villages. The council was a shortlisted finalist in two other categories - community engagement, for its civic pride work, and litter hero, for Bob Sorley, a volunteer with walking and cycling charity Sustrans for 15 years. The authority holds onto the title it won at the annual awards last year for its anti-fly-tipping campaign Operation Stop It.



Bob Sorley collecting the award from 'Allo 'Allo! actress Vicki Michelle. Left to right: Ian Hoult, Bob Sorley, Vicki Michelle, Garry Parsonage and Chris Hindmarch

Spruce Up was launched in November 2016 to bring teams from across the council's different service areas together in one town or village centre, to give it a thorough clean.

The programme has visited a new location each month with the teams assisted by partners including town and parish councils, the council's area action partnerships, residents groups and local schools and businesses.

A survey conducted in communities visited by Spruce Up has shown that 90 per cent of those asked noticed an improvement as a result of the work done.

Cllr Simon Henig, leader of the council, said: "We are immensely proud of the work we have done with partners in our towns and villages through Operation Spruce Up and delighted that Keep Britain Tidy has deemed it the best campaign of the year across the country."

"Winning this particular award for the second year in a row is proof that the campaigns we undertake for the benefit of our environment, communities and residents really are making a difference."

"It is also very positive that our civic pride work and Bob reached the finals on a

national stage."

The civic pride work which saw the council shortlisted included co-ordinating In Bloom campaigns across the county, the Big Spring Clean, wildflower planting, its Green Move Out scheme which encourages students to recycle as well as the authority's #BeLikeChip responsible dog ownership scheme.

Retired Mr Sorley, 69, from Burnopfield, was nominated by the council in recognition of the 580 hours he spends each year picking up litter along the Coast to Coast cycle route.

He said: "I believe it's worth giving up my time to ensure that this important route looks as good as it possibly can for the benefit of local people and to make visitors want to come back and use it again and again."

"It's nice that the council recognised what I do by putting me forward for an award and to be shortlisted at national level is just amazing."

Keep Britain Tidy's chief executive Allison Ogden-Newton said: "Congratulations to the team at Durham County Council, winning our campaign of the year award for their 'Operation Spruce Up', working together to improve local spaces across the county. They are a fantastic example of just what is possible when people have the passion and commitment to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep."

"The fact that Durham County Council were shortlisted for two more of our awards this year shows how much they are achieving in the fight to end litter and improve local places for people. Thank you to everyone involved for all your incredible work."

Spruce Up is going for double national success next month having reached the finals of the Local Government Chronicle Awards, in the

environmental services category.

It is shortlisted alongside the council's £20m Finance Durham fund which supports local businesses, and helps firms from outside the county to move here.

To find out more about Operation Spruce Up visit [www.durham.gov.uk/spruceup](http://www.durham.gov.uk/spruceup) and to find out more about the council's civic pride work, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/civicpride](http://www.durham.gov.uk/civicpride)

## QUIT SMOKING TEAM AT BEWICK SURGERY WIN 4th AWARD



The HCA's from Bewick Crescent Surgery have won a 'Smoking Star Performer' award for the 4th year running. This means that They have achieved a high quit rate amongst the people who have attended their clinics to stop smoking. The Surgery run clinics on Wednesday mornings and evenings 5 - 7pm and also on Friday mornings but can accommodate people if they cannot attend during these times. Please ring 01325 316637

## Girls' Football Coach on Aycliffe Radio



Helen in Aycliffe Radio studio with Lee Weldon and Darren Lowe

Helen Clark is the Newton Aycliffe Youth Under 16's girls manager/coach and has been involved in girls football for over seven years.

Her team have won a number of awards including League titles and local cup competitions. Helen currently has five girls playing for her and also representing Durham County at U16's level.

Aycliffe Radio welcomed Helen along for an interview last Tuesday, which, if you missed, can be heard on Sunday 18th at 12noon.

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# 110-year Ringtons Seek New Recruit from Aycliffe

Renowned tea and coffee experts Ringtons is on the search for five new apprentices including one in Newton Aycliffe for its traditional doorstep delivery service following the successful introduction of two recruits to its apprenticeship programme. The family-business is looking for five enthusiastic, passionate and ambitious recruits to join the 110-year-old company under its new Customer Services Apprenticeship Programme at three sites in Newton Aycliffe, Chesterfield and Birstall. The Ringtons Newton Aycliffe office operates 13 vans which provide regular deliveries to over 15,000 customers in the area.

The Customer Services Apprentices will be responsible for helping keep the nation in its favourite tea, coffee and biscuits via the company's traditional doorstep delivery service which caters to over 240,000 customers from 19 sites throughout the UK.

Duties of the apprenticeship role include supporting existing vans salespeople, making regular calls to local customers, providing excellent customer service, sales and stock management. The five new Ringtons recruits will be offered an initial 12-month contract with the possibility of securing a permanent role.

Each apprentice will complete written assessments as part of their Customer Services Apprenticeship Programme with the support from local college assessors provided by Derwentside College in Consett, Durham.

Jon Malton, Brand Director for Ringtons said: "Our new apprenticeship programme is the first we have offered in over 110 years of business and we are pleased to be in a position where we have found two successful new trainees and are able to look for even more. Not only are we attracting enthusiastic, passionate, committed and endearing trainees, but putting our recruits through a Ringtons induction



Connor Keegan (left) and Daniel Gray

programme which covers all areas of the business gives them a solid background to build their own skills and are essential for their Customer Services Apprenticeships.

"Although the current rate of pay for an apprenticeship is £7,280 we actually pay £12,000 per annum because we want to attract and keep the right candidates who understand our business, love our products and can build great relationships with our customers."

Daniel Gray (26) and Connor Keegan (20) are the first recruits to undertake Ringtons' apprenticeships programme at the company's biggest sales office in Tyne and Wear. Speaking of the apprenticeship Connor Keegan said: "After a few years working in different jobs I saw the Ringtons apprenticeship as an opportunity to gain a more secure job with a steady income and to join a well-respected family business. I really enjoy working outside, managing my own time, talking to the customers and learning about every element of the business, so this role really suits me and I would recommend it to those looking for all-round customer service experience."

"The Customer Services

Apprenticeship programme equates to 80% on the job learning and 20% off the job training and, like myself and Daniel, the new recruits will spend time working within the sales office, on the vans, out and about with new business canvassers, working with the customer care team at head office and at Ringtons' factory where all of the company's tea and coffee is made, so it really is a well-rounded experience working in the business."

Ringtons was established in 1907 by Samuel Smith who delivered tea to households throughout the north east via horse and cart. Today the family-business operates throughout the UK via its doorstep delivery service, Ringtons Beverages for Business division and online store.

The Ringtons Packing Division supplies some of the UK's leading supermarkets and retailers with a wide range of private label tea and infusion products.

Applicants are invited to apply to Ringtons Customer Services Apprenticeships via the Government's 'Find an Apprenticeship' website: <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/230828>

# Finleys Hope to Benefit from Education Contracts

Family-run steel firm Finley Structures is hoping to benefit from what it says is a construction boom in the education sector. The Newton Aycliffe-based fabrication specialists have won two more education contracts which come off the back of several projects in the sector over the last year. Finley Structures have previously helped to build Roundhay School in Leeds for Interserve Construction, Ryde Academy on the Isle of Wight for Sir Robert McAlpine, Doncaster Sixth Form College for BAM Construction, George Mitchell School in London for Bowmer and Kirkland and SEMH School in Seacroft, East Leeds, also for Interserve.

The firm worked on a 337-tonne project for Bowmer and Kirkland, to fabricate and erect Krishna Avanti School in Edgware, London, in 2017.

And Finley also fabricated and erected the steel frame for The Curve in Middlesbrough – Teesside University's eye-catching structure in Middlesbrough which has won a series of accolades.

The £20m Curve building, which opened in 2015, was rated 'Excellent' by the Building Research Establishment as part of its BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) standard, the world's longest established method of assessing, rating, and certifying the sustainability of buildings, and also won three architecture awards at the 2016 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) North East Awards.

Finley Structures has now won two new education contracts involving a total of nearly 1,000 tonnes of steel – a 625-tonne contract at Bannerdale School in Sheffield for Bam Construction which is now complete, and a 360-tonne project at the University of Hull for Henry Boot Construction.

Finley's estimating manager Andrew Workman said: "We've completed several projects in the education sector over the last year and these two new contracts underline our reputation in the industry."

"We're seeing a definite upward curve in education contracts at the moment, with particularly universities looking to expand. Newcastle, Durham, Teesside, Leeds, Lincoln, York, Warwick, Coventry, Birmingham and Bristol universities are all building, and we're tendering for a lot of work in that sector at the moment, which is very promising."

Finley is working for the first time with national contractor Henry Boot Construction, which has sites in Derbyshire and Manchester, on a new Sports Village at the University of Hull, involving 360 tonnes



Andrew Workman

of steel.

And Finley has recently completed work for Bam Construction at Bannerdale School, Sheffield, involving 625 tonnes of steel as well as installing pre-cast concrete floor planks, four pre-cast concrete stair cases, a lift shaft and ground beams.

"The education sector, in particular, has been a significant area of growth for us in recent months."

Ironically, it was this sector which really kept us going through the recession post

2008-09," added Workman.

Finley Structures last year completed the 550-tonne steelwork on the Riverwalk regeneration development in Durham city. The family firm, founded by John Finley in 2000, has over the years worked on a number of high-profile contracts, including Hitachi Rail's new factory on Aycliffe Business Park, which opened in September 2015, Nissan's new Leaf factory in Washington and a new factory for car parts maker Nifco in Eaglescliffe.

## KIDZ FLIX

A magical adventure awaits My Little Pony fans at KIDZFLICKS - in the large hall attached to St. Clare's Church, on Saturday 3rd March when we show the newly released MY LITTLE PONY MOVIE.

Follow the adventures of Mane 6 when Storm King invades Canterlot to steal the magic from the little ponies they are forced to embark upon an action packed heroic journey that takes them across magical mountains, undersea worlds and even enlisting the help from a flying swashbuckling pirate ship.

We open the doors at 1.30pm so that goodies from the tuck shop can be purchased and the film begins at 2pm. Grown-ups are welcome to stay or collect their children at 3.45 pm when the movie ends.

We sell hot chocolate and cakes or ice-creams in the interval for only 50p. So come along for a Saturday Movie treat that won't break the bank. It is only £1 entry.

You may even be lucky enough to win one of the movie themed prizes, including the DVD itself, in our FREE prize draw at the end of the film. Hold on to your lucky ticket! Ran by St. Clare's Children and Youth Team.



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## 50% of Tickets Sold for Mad March Gig at Big Club

Tickets are going quickly for the Mad March Gig at the Big Club on Friday 23rd March at 7.30pm.

This fantastic event features local Show Band "Groovy Street" with a guest appearance of local girl super singer "Shanaya" of "X" Factor fame.

The music is guaranteed to get you up dancing the night away and the presentation by Groovy Street is really entertaining with great singing and dancing girls. The evening will offer valuable prizes to be won in the raffle and tombola all donated to raise funds for the MRI Appeal. The President and members of Rotary thank all those who have made generous donations including the Big Club for hosting the event.

If you wish to donate a prize please contact Syd Howarth at Newton Press, Telephone: 01325 300212 or syd@newtonpress.net

A special supper is included in the ticket price of £7.50 - Hot Roast Pork Sandwich with Roast Potatoes.

The Big Club have given their premises free for this occasion which will be a great community effort for the appeal.

The Rotary Club organisers told Newton News they want to sell 300 tickets and chose the Big Club for its excellent

accommodation for a large Concert.

Don't leave it too late to get your tickets from Newton Press Offices, Blue Bridge Centre, Walkers Butchers Simpasturegate, Aycliffe Framers & Engravers in the Town Centre and the Big Club.

## IMPROVE and GROW YOUR BUSINESS The 'BIG' Aycliffe Programme

Sign up for the exclusive Aycliffe Business Growth programme. Get your business growing through a series of four free workshops covering all the essentials of growing a business.

This exciting programme for Aycliffe Business Park

businesses is brought to you by the Durham Business Opportunities Programme in partnership with Aycliffe Business Park Community.

The programme, which is to be delivered by Gary Scott of Consult the Experts who has helped over 300 businesses with their business growth planning, ranging from micro to multi-nationals. Gary also runs the award-winning Derwentside Business Network aimed at helping small businesses grow.

The workshops are aimed at giving practical advice and support tailored to growing your business and are interactive, fun and engaging. Participants can always expect lots of group discussion, ideas generation, problem solving and interaction.

You will also receive expert one to one mentoring to support you with your business growth planning.

This exclusive programme is on 23rd February at South West Durham Training, 08:15 - 12:30pm and has limited places, so early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

For further information please contact Lisa Wall, Business Engagement Officer at lisa.wall@durham.gov.uk or alternatively 01207 291268.

## Open Art Exhibition at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts invites you and the public to the preview of our latest Open Art exhibition on Wednesday 7th March 6pm to 8pm.

This exhibition always provides a superb range of work in different media and contains a range of subjects. It is a truly 'open' experience including mixed media, sculptural work, textiles and even digital media.

This year we are looking at 'The Power of the Pen' and how art can inspire creativity and passion in us all. You may find art to be therapeutic, expressive, or even empowering. Perhaps the expressive forms that art

brings is how you find your voice or communicate with others. Maybe you write in your own time, possibly you dance professionally or maybe you just like to visit galleries to feel inspired.

This exhibition is a display of the power and passion artists gain from their creative expression, it might even empower you in the process.

Please check out the website or speak with one of our lovely team members on 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk. Gallery Opening Times: Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm and Friday 10am - 4pm.

## Pennine Open 5th Showroom



Syd and Stuart Howarth from Newton Press were guests of Pennine at the Champagne opening of their fifth new showroom in the North East at Dragonville Industrial Estate, Durham.

The Chairman of the County Council opened the new modern premises showing the high class workmanship in building Porches, Orangeries, Conservatories, replacement

roofs, doors and windows all at very reasonable prices. Pennine offers a 20-year guarantee, giving customers complete peace of mind.

The addition of the virtual reality station also allows customers to experience their desired living spaces, as part of an innovative and advanced design process, before building work begins.

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## Schedule Highlights:

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

**TUESDAY 6-8pm - Sponsored by Honest John:** Join Darren Lowe and Lee Weldon as they give a run down on the latest LOCAL sports news. **Tuesday 20th February** David Brassell from Heighington. **Tuesday 27th February** Team Warrior TKD (Tae Kwon Do) representative Sean Kelly will join the team. 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 8-10pm** - Join Gary and Alby with their weekly Alternative Aycliffe Show.

**THURSDAY 8-10pm** - Graeme Roote mixes some of the dance tracks in his new show entitled "BeatRoote".

**FRIDAY 8-10pm:** "Mardi Gras" time comes to Aycliffe Radio on **Friday 16th February** with local DJ Martin Norris who worked at Darlington's Mardi Gras Night Club in the 1990's. The following week **Friday 23rd February** sees the return of Pauly Mac from Australia. **Friday 2nd March** Owen Dickinson will present his monthly politics show with guests Cllr. John Clare and Cllr Scott Durham discussing Credit Unions, Constitutions, Universal Credit and the latest news, as well as answering questions from the listeners. **Text your question for Owen or his guests to 07512 253333**

**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:** 17th February we will feature a pre-recorded session from Honest John entitled "With the Beatles".

**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](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk)

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

6-8pm Sports Round Up - Darren & Lee  
Sponsored by Honest John  
20th Feb - David Brassell (H'ton FC)  
27th Feb - Sean Kelly (Tae Kwon Do)

### WEDNESDAY

10-12noon Kent Collective - Daz Kent + Wellersday  
8-10pm Alternative Aycliffe - Gary & Alby

### THURSDAY

6-8pm 80s Show  
8-10pm BeatRoote with Graeme Roote

### FRIDAY

6-8pm PVR Studio House Mix  
8-10pm Guest Presenter Session  
16th Feb - Martin Norris (Mardi Gras)  
23rd Feb - Pauly Mac (from Australia)  
2nd Mar - Owen Dickinson Politics

### SATURDAY

8-12noon Kitchen Floor Fillers  
12-1pm Local Schools, Bands & Guests  
Honest John "With the Beatles"  
Followed by a session by Kent Collective  
4-6pm School Disco  
6-8pm Dance Anthems - The Doctor  
8-10pm Dance Mix - OZ-DJ  
10-12midnight 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 Rhythmic '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?

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# Youthy Football Round Up

## Consett AFC Avengers 2 - 3 Newton Aycliffe Youth U9's

Last game of the winter season today before a short break and the Eagles took on Consett Avengers, a team sitting near the top of the table. Another outstanding performance by the Eagles and what an exciting match. From the kick off the Eagles pressed really well and put into practice their passing drills from training. Consett managed to get ahead by scoring in the first half just skipping past our defence and Ollie had no chance in goal. 1-0.

The Eagles kept their heads held high battling on and it wasn't long before Will was running at the opposition. A tackle from one of their defenders took Will to the ground and Jayden found the ball and blasted it into the back of the net, a brilliant goal. The Eagles celebrated but the ref had blown for a free kick and the goal did not count. Luckily Will stepped up to the ball and took the free kick brilliantly chipping over the defence and into the back of the net 1-1 Well done Will.

Edwin and Jayden at the back in defence today both making some fantastic key challenges and clearing the ball when in danger. Jayden this week was outstanding and really caused the opposition some problems. Adam, Will and Kai in midfield running with the ball and making some excellent passing movements. Makai found great space again upfront and the midfielders were working hard to get the ball to him but Consett were making it very difficult for them. Half time 1-1.

The Eagles started the second half with Makai taking over in goal, Ollie and Liam in defence, Edwin, Will and Adam in midfield and Jayden upfront. The boys working really hard as a team but Consett managed to take a shot and the power in the shot bounced off Makai into the back of the net, so unlucky. 2-1. The Eagles knew they were playing well and kept the smiles on their faces and worked as a team. Will again putting in 100% all over the pitch found Kai who ran down the wing with the ball, crossed to Adam who had found space in the box and a half volley into the back of the net. 2-2 well done Adam and a great team goal. The Eagles were all having an outstanding match and we knew we were more than capable of winning. Liam and Ollie solid at the back using their speed and strength to ensure Consett weren't taking any shots at Makai.

The Eagles were pushing for the win and a perfectly timed pass from Will found Kai, with Adam and Will in support all running towards goal. Kai didn't need any help, he made a brilliant run with the ball and finished with a fantastic goal to win the game for Eagles. Well done Kai. 2-3.

The ref blew his whistle just after the restart. Well done to all the boys today, some excellent football played and all playing as a team. Man of the match this week was Jayden. The best we have seen him play, outstanding performance, defending so well, making crunching tackles, running with the ball and scoring a goal, even though it didn't count. Jayden put 100% effort into today's match and deserved man of the match today. Well done Jayden.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for their support



today although I'm sure you enjoyed watching the match as much as we did. Keep up the positive attitude boys. Time and time again we go a goal down however you keep battling on with smiles on your faces and it pays off. The Eagles have really improved during this season and we have had a brilliant few weeks of excellent football and more importantly great attitudes and team spirit. Very excited to start the spring league in a few weeks' time.

## Newton Aycliffe Youth U10's 4 - 2 Wearmouth Wolves

Last game today in terrible conditions and yet again the boys were excellent playing some great football but also digging in when against the strong wind. A goal each from Will Houllahan and Jake Laheney Clark saw us go in at half time 2-1 up. Numerous shots on goal and some fine saves from their keeper kept them in the game. Second half and two further goals from Jake gave us a deserved 4-2 win. Great performance today and man of the match goes to Jake for being in the positions to score his hat trick today.

## SPR Blue 4 - 6 Newton Aycliffe Youth U14's Hawks

Tough game away to SPR today. We quickly found ourselves 1 down as we were slow to react to a through ball. It took us 15 minutes to wake up and equalised with a well taken goal from Ethan. We started to play some nice football and 1st half sub Lee scored a hat-trick in 15 minutes to put us in control. 2nd half started and it felt like if we grabbed another we would run away with it, but it was SPR who came out fighting. They brought it back to 4-2.

We were creating chances but not taking them and at the other end Charlie made some great saves today to keep us in the game. We went 5-2 up when Jack latched onto a through ball and slotted past the on rushing keeper. Game over, Not. SPR came back fighting and scored 2 quick goals and at 5-4 down they were on the front foot.

Again Charlie made a great save to preserve our slender lead. With just over 5 minutes to go we killed the game with a great strike from Ethan. Another hard fought victory, mom Charlie in the sticks. For a young man to step up and play a year above yourself and produce the performance you did today is a massive credit to yourself. Well done guys, next week we finally have a home game after playing 5 away games in a row. 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](http://www.nayfc.com).

## PCP Need Your Votes!

Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has been chosen to be part of the Tesco Bags of Help; a local community grant scheme where the money raised by the sale of carrier bags is being used to fund local projects. There are three projects in the running - the project with the highest number of votes will receive £4,000, second place will receive £2,000, and third place will receive £1,000.

PCP is raising funds for 'Together 21', this project supports the learning and development of children with Down's syndrome and aims to help with speech, language, movement and motor skills as well as life skills whilst raising awareness and tackling stigma and discrimination.

Together 21 provides vital peer support for parents and carers and sessions are interactive and accessible but most of all fun! Voting boxes are available to shoppers in Newton Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland and Darlington stores. There's only 2 weeks left - the vote will close March 1st 2018. Use your Tesco blue chips wisely and please vote for the Pioneering Care Centre every time you visit the store.

For further information about PCP please contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Tel: 01325 321234 email: [enquiries@pcp.uk.net](mailto:enquiries@pcp.uk.net) website: [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net). Or follow PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre

## Matisse Cut-outs at Gala Gallery



An exhibition featuring the work of French painter, sculptor and designer Henri Matisse will open in Durham this month.

Matisse - Drawing with Scissors, a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition from London's Southbank Centre, features 35 posthumous prints of the iconic cut-outs produced by the artist in the last four years of his life.

They will take pride of place within the recently opened gallery at the city's Gala Theatre from Saturday, 17 February to Sunday, 18 March.

Matisse's spectacular paper cut-outs were the artist's final triumph and include many of his iconic images such as The Snail and the Blue Nudes. The colours he used for these pieces of art were so strong that he was advised by his doctor to wear dark glasses when working on them.

Although not released until after his death in 1954, the publication was planned during his lifetime, with the first lithographic plates prepared under his direction a few days before he died.

The Matisse exhibition coincides with Gala's production of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads and three drama, visual arts and animation engagement projects will take place across the county, co-ordinated by the theatre's community arts team.

Over the next year, the gallery will showcase modern and contemporary art by local, regional, national and international artists.

The Gala Gallery is open between 10am and 8.30pm Monday to Saturday and between 2.30pm and 8.30pm on Sundays. All exhibitions are free.

For more information visit [www.durham.gov.uk/art](http://www.durham.gov.uk/art)

## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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## Wanted: Real-life 'Angels of the North'

At 66-feet tall, Antony Gormley's Angel of the North has towered over the North East for 20 years.

Now, to mark the 20th anniversary of one of the region's most famous landmarks, BBC North East and Cumbria is looking for real-life Angels of the North. The search is on for people who make a difference in their towns and communities; people who go the extra mile to have a positive impact on in their local areas.

Twenty community heroes will be named as 'Angels of the North' in a new awards initiative by BBC North East and Cumbria.

Phil Roberts, Head of BBC North East and Cumbria said: "We're looking for the real-life Angels of the North who make the North East such a brilliant place to be. Let us know about the special people in your communities who help others week in, week out and deserve to be recognised

for their contributions to our region, as we celebrate 20 years of the Angel of the North."

Members of the public can nominate their Angels from Thursday 15 February. Nominations can be made by anyone over the age of 18 and the Angel can be any age.

A panel of judges will name 20 'Angels of the North' who will be recognised for their roles in their communities. As well as attending a special event at the Angel of the North site in Gateshead, the 20 Angels will be featured on BBC Look North, BBC Tees, BBC Radio Newcastle, BBC Radio Cumbria and regional social media platforms.

To nominate an Angel of the North, visit one of the below addresses to complete a nomination form. Nominations close at midnight on Saturday 31 March 2018.

[www.bbc.co.uk/looknorthcumbria](http://www.bbc.co.uk/looknorthcumbria)

## STOP KNIFE CRIME



Durham Constabulary is joining with other police forces around the country in support of the message #StopKnifeCrime.

Operation Sceptre is a national week of action (February 12-16) against knife crime and aims to highlight the risks that carrying a bladed weapon can bring, as well as targeting offenders who use and carry knives.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Gray from Durham Constabulary, said: "Thankfully, County Durham and Darlington is a safe place to live and knife crime here is low, however public safety is an ongoing commitment and we want to take as many weapons off the streets as possible.

"Carrying knives or other weapons does not keep you safe. By carrying a knife you

are putting yourself in much greater danger and are more likely to become involved in a violent situation, potentially getting injured yourself. This is the key message which we want to emphasise this week.

"We are proud to support this national initiative which will help raise awareness about the damage and destruction that knives can cause to victims and their families.

"There is no place for knife crime on the streets of our county and if you do carry a knife illegally, rest assured we will be doing everything in our power to catch you and see justice is served." Those who carry a knife or bladed item could face a custodial sentence. Join in the conversation online using the hashtag #StopKnifeCrime

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## Keep your Garden Tidy or Face a Fine



A woman has been ordered to pay more than £600 after failing to remove rubbish from her garden.

Lesley Iveson, was asked by Durham County Council to get rid of mattresses, wood, dog faeces and other general waste in her garden following a complaint about the mess.

On 28 June 2017 she was given a warning which gave her seven days to remove the waste, but this had not been done when a neighbourhood warden returned to the property on 12 July.

Although she was then given a Community Protection Notice and another 14 days to clear up the garden, she failed to do so and was issued with a fixed penalty notice. The warden revisited the property on 27 July and noticed that the waste was still present.

He then ordered that the waste be taken away but was later advised that Iveson refused to have certain items removed. When he visited again on 5 October, the waste was still present.

Following a hearing at

Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court, Iveson was given a fine of £450 and ordered to pay £130 costs and a victim surcharge of £45.

A remedial order was also granted, requiring her to carry out the work within 28 days. Should she fail to do so, the matter will be referred back to court requesting she be ordered to pay £50 per day for every day she is in default, or face going to prison.

Ian Hoult, neighbourhood protection manager at Durham County Council, said: "Lesley Iveson was given a number of warnings to remove the waste from her property and refused to do so.

"We are lucky to live in a beautiful county and we want to keep it that way. While we know the vast majority of people do the right thing and get rid of their waste in the correct way, a small minority do not and we hope this case serves as a warning that anyone who refuses to comply with the law could face an expensive day at court."

## Joseph Goes for Another Squash Title

Joseph Billany from Newton Aycliffe is fighting hard for another Under 11 Squash Tournament title.

He Won the Northern Junior Open held in Gosforth winning 3-1 in the final, and continues to show an excellent attitude and desire to improve!

His next tournament stops include Pontefract and Hull. Well Done Joseph - you are flying the flag for Aycliffe and Co. Durham.



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If your application is successful, you will be contacted directly by Paul and he will talk you through in detail the full company role and specifics.

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Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered. Completed forms should be returned to the school.

Please contact Chloe Taylor on 01325 300378 or email [chloe.taylor@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:chloe.taylor@greenfieldschool.net) for further information and an application pack.

Greenfield Community College is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. As a disability confident employer, we are committed to employing disabled people and people with health conditions making reasonable adjustments to support disabled applicants when required.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance.

#### Closing Date: 2nd March 2018

Interviews will be held week commencing 12th March

All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

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**Harold might not speak to anyone this week**

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS



(L-R) Michelle Zamir, Ray Tobb, Jane Burnside, Alan Wilks, Susan Milburn, Peter Milburn

position in a time of 32:05. Jane Burnside, in her 60s is participating in her first ever season of cross country, ran a brilliant race to finish 57th in a time of 39:42. Finally, Ray Todd was 4th over 80 in 45:42.

The second race was for males 35-64 and was approximately 5.25 miles. Peter Milburn was the only Aycliffe Running Club runner in this race and finished a brilliant 29th out of 75 runners in 37:41.



Michelle Zamir

Aycliffe Running Club members participated in the North East Masters cross country championships at Darlington on Sunday 4 February. Two club runners took home medals, with Alan Wilks taking the gold in his category and Michelle Zamir taking the bronze in hers.

The first race was for women 35 and over and men 65 and over. The course was approximately 3.5 miles. Alan Wilks was 2nd overall but 1st in his category of male over 65, in a time of 26:46.

Michelle Zamir was next, in 18th position with a time of 27:53. She was followed by Susan Milburn, badly bruised and in some pain after a falling from her bike caused by potholes, in 42nd

## TEACHERS NEED TRAINING ON CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

Dear Editor  
Children's mental health has never been so high profile and rightly so. At school leaders' union NAHT we've long been aware that schools are on the front line with children's mental health because school is often where issues first become apparent. That's why we were delighted to support Children's Mental Health Week, which took place from 5-11 February. And we want to say thank you to everyone who took part. But there is still so much more

to do. The Government's recently published green paper on children's mental health recognised the "vital role" that schools can play in identifying and supporting young people experiencing problems. However, school leaders are not experts in diagnosing and treating mental health issues so it can be difficult to know what kind of support is needed. And the green paper did not include any additional funding for the majority of schools. More specialist services are

vital, as is more training for teachers and support staff. One more change would make a world of difference. PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) should be taught in regular time-tabled lessons in school to enable all children to learn about mental health. Now that would be life-changing. Paul Whiteman, General Secretary of school leaders' union, NAHT

## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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## Future Aycliffe Boxing Stars



Aycliffe Boxing Club had a new wave of potential champions in early February which received the 1st and 2nd stage of their training. The 1st stage is for correct stance and basic combination punching, the 2nd stage is a little more intense adding foot movement to the combination and body punching.

The coaches for this group are Darren Wheatley (Club Welfare Officer) and Natasha Grainger. All coaches at the Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club are Fully Qualified with DBS checks, First Aid Training and Safeguarding children courses completed. Aycliffe ABC have been up and running for over 30 years and over that time have had 14 National champions and had quite a few more that has represented England in International competitions.

Training times for Schoolboys & Girls up to 16 years of age are 6pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening to 7pm. Training times for 16 years and over are 7pm to 8pm. Natasha Grainger runs a female only class at 6pm on a Wednesday evening.

Anyone wishing to try this great sport are welcome to come along and watch or join in, all the equipment needed is supplied for training. Acorn House, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park. DL5 6HP. For more information ring Les Gibson (Club Secretary & Head Coach) on 01325 313855.

## Powerhoop Exercise Class at NAYCC



Dianne White, Dancercise and Smovey Rings instructor is introducing a new exercise class at Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre on Monday 19th February 2018 at 11:30am.

This new hour-long class is a "POWERHOOP" Fitness class, guaranteed to take inches from your waist and hips and is an aid to toning up your core muscles.

If you would like to attend this class, it is advised that booking is essential and to contact Dianne on 07795 202 707. The class will cost £5 per session.

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All proceeds for the MRI Scanner Appeal

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# MUDDY MAYHEM SET TO RETURN

Thrill seeking early birds are invited to sign up to take on the dirtiest of challenges as Muddy Mayhem returns. Last autumn, almost 1,000 people traversed the ultimate obstacle course and faced freezing ice waters, took on tunnels and conquered cargo nets in the beautiful surroundings of Durham County Council's Hardwick Park.

Now entries are open for this year's event, which will take place on Sunday 30 September.

Cllr Ossie Johnson, Cabinet member for tourism, culture, leisure, and rural affairs, said: "Hardwick Park is a well-loved favourite in County Durham, with thousands of visitors every year. "This event not only benefits from the beauty of the park as its backdrop, but combines outdoor exercise with fun to make a great day out.

"We hope to welcome many



more people taking up the challenge in September, enjoying themselves and tackling the course's obstacles."

Muddy Mayhem began as a small 2.5km event in 2012, but has grown to become something quite unique in the obstacle course run world.

The event, which is for

those aged 16 or over, draws inspiration from horse trial courses, motocross tracks, rock climbing centres,

military obstacle courses and adventure playgrounds to create a 5km loop packed with over 40 man-made and natural challenges, which some runners take on twice to complete a 10K run.

Ross Carrick, Durham County Council's senior parks and countryside ranger, said: "Muddy Mayhem is in its seventh year now and every year we try to make it bigger and better.

"We're already planning the obstacles, keeping people's favourites and imagining new ways to challenge the runners. Not forgetting making it even muddier."

"I'd say to anyone looking for a challenge with a difference to book up now

and come and join the fun." Early bird places are available for a limited time, at £38 for the 5K course and £43 for the 10K.

Runners set off in waves, with the first group scheduled to begin at 10am and the last starting at 2pm. For more information or to sign up visit [www.durham.gov.uk/muddymayhem](http://www.durham.gov.uk/muddymayhem) or e-mail [muddymayhemquiries@durham.gov.uk](mailto:muddymayhemquiries@durham.gov.uk)



## MRI SCANNER APPEAL

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

- Visit the 'justgiving' website at [www.justgiving.com/cddft](http://www.justgiving.com/cddft)
- Send a cheque to: Cashiers, Darlington Memorial Hospital, Hollyhurst Road, Darlington, DL3 6HX. Please make cheques payable to: Co Durham & Darlington NHS FT Charity.
- Pick up a donation envelope

with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards.

- Text **SCAN02 £10** to 70070 to donate £10 to CDDFT.
- To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: [cddft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.charity@nhs.net)
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# ACORN R.A. SPRING INTO 2018 WITH FULL PROGRAMME

Popular residents group ACORN have announced at their recent meeting funding from the big lottery "Awards for All fund". A sum of £9875.00 has been allocated to the community group to enhance work already in progress. For many years ACORN has been improving community cohesion and infrastructure in the local area and beyond through discussion, persuasion and persistence. Money is not always the answer to improvement, but local perspective can cast a different light upon problems hence the importance of monthly meetings attended by the public and local councillors and others.

Little ACORNS petting zoo sponsored by DCC

Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper and to be opened by Phil Wilson MP will be our first event, held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on April 7th there will as usual be fun for the whole family from bouncy castle, face painting from Harry Potty and balloon art performed by Professor Nincompoop to entertain children. Two petting zoos ANIMAL STORY & CRAZY CREATURES, Tombola and a visit from Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood police beat officers with firm kiddies favourites Jet and Ben. Any group wishing to participate in this event to promote themselves can contact Ken on 01325 321471 to book a free table. "Syd the Squirrel" and "Spotty Dog" our dress up characters will be on hand to entertain kiddies with photo opportunities, whilst tombola and bouncy castle will entertain others. Meanwhile in conjunction with "Its Your Neighbourhood 2018" ACORN will be planting up extra wooden tubs and bulbs to brighten up our area for the benefit of all. ACORN are also organising outings to York on Saturday 24th March and Whitby on Sunday 29th April ring Ken Robson for details.

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# Volunteers Sought To Safeguard County Durham's Woodland

Volunteers are to receive expert training to help them identify diseases that are attacking trees in the county as part of the Woodland Trust's Observatree project. Observatree is being run in partnership with the Durham Woodland Revival project, of which Durham County Council is a leading partner. Durham Woodland Revival has received initial support for National Lottery funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Volunteers will receive the training from the Woodland Trust and scientists from the Food and Rural Environment Agency (FERA). The training day will comprise a mix of classroom-based exercises and practical work in the surrounding woodland.

Participants will learn how to spot specific pests and diseases, in particular 'Chalara ash dieback', a fungal disease affecting ash and beginning to spread across County Durham. The volunteers will also learn how to report their findings to the Forestry Commission's central tree health database and how to enact effective biosecurity measures before visiting woodland sites. Cllr Ossie Johnson, Durham County Council's Cabinet

member for tourism, culture, leisure and rural issues, said: "County Durham's woodlands are a precious resource for both people and wildlife, but it is a part of our heritage that is currently at risk."

"The Woodland Trust's Observatree project is an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts at the Woodland Trust and FERA, and puts volunteers on the frontline of environmental

care.

"We're very grateful to have them here in the county as part of the Durham Woodland Revival Project." Helen Jones, from the Woodland Trust, said: "Protecting our trees from pests and diseases is vital to us all and tracking the current spread of these is a key task in enabling us to deal with this threat."

Continues...

"It is entirely dependent on

volunteers coming forward to help our efforts and I am very pleased to be able to extend our ground-breaking national project into County Durham through our partnership with the Durham Woodland Revival programme."

To volunteer for the Observatree project, please e-mail observatree@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

## ARE YOU IN THE GREAT NORTH RUN?

Runners from all corners of the region, across the UK and around the world today found out if they secured one of the 57,000 places available in the Simplyhealth Great North Run.

Record numbers applied to take part in the 38th staging of the iconic half marathon, which will be held on Sunday 9 September. The event, which is shown live on the BBC, starts in Newcastle city centre and finishes 13.1 miles later in South Shields. Paul Foster, Chief Executive of the Great Run Company said, "We're delighted at the response to this year's event. After a record number of finishers last year, we've seen a significant increase in the number of people who want take part in 2018."

"The event has always been a celebration of what makes the North East an incredible place to live, whether it's the supporters on the streets shouting encouragement, the army of volunteers selflessly giving up their time, or most importantly, the tens of thousands of

runners, local heroes who embody dedication and determination whatever their reason for taking part.

"We're looking forward to welcoming everyone to the start line in September."

The Great North Run is the world's biggest half marathon, last year's event saw a record number of finishers, with 43,127 completing the challenge. The Simplyhealth Junior and Mini Great North Run held the day before sold out in record time, retaining its title as the UK's largest kids' running event with 6,500 taking part.

For those who didn't get a place this year, there is still a chance to get to the start line, a limited number of entries will be available through charities.

For more information visit: [www.greatrun.org/great-north-run/run-for-charity](http://www.greatrun.org/great-north-run/run-for-charity) The MRI Scanner Appeal is looking for runners to support their fundraising. Please contact Pat Chambers on 07770 455651.

## Free

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## For Sale

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

**5ft SLIMLINE** fridge freezer, 3 year old, silver, good condition, £65, can deliver. Tel 07745 541308

**LARGE** wheeled wheelchair, good condition, £40 ono. Tel Aycliffe 07964 277265

**FUTON** for sale, hardly used, makes into a double bed with grey cover, beautiful condition, buyer collects, 07923 003 713  
**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery. £125. Tel 07789 11334

**ZURICH** fabric swivel arm chair and foot stool in wheat (not been used, unwanted gift) from Furniture Village, £250. Tel 01325 307417

## Check Your Dog for Alabama Rot

In the past few years, a small number of dogs have died unexpectedly around the country. Test results and symptoms in the affected animals have been similar to those reported in dogs with Alabama Rot.

More recently, there have been 10 further cases around the country.

In response, Durham County Council is issuing the following advice to owners who may be concerned about the issue.

- If your dog has been in a wet or muddy area, make sure you wash them with anti-bacterial shampoo.
- Look out for any unexplained skin lesions or sores on the limbs or face of your dog. Lesions can vary in size from that of a 5p to a 50p coin.
- Seek advice from your vet immediately if you think your pet may have been affected by Alabama Rot.

Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection, said:

"Despite various tests being carried out nationally, the exact cause of the disease is unknown and, as such, there is no known way of preventing dogs from contracting the disease."

"We are, therefore, advising people to be aware of the symptoms and to seek advice from their vet as soon as possible if they are concerned about their pet."

"That said, it is important to remember that Alabama Rot is rare and only a very small number of animals have been affected by the disease so far. Hundreds of dogs are walked in public places around the country every day and have come to no harm." For more information, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/alabamarot](http://www.durham.gov.uk/alabamarot)

### NEWTON NEWS

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# Brave Fire Walkers Wanted for local Hospice Fundraiser



Fundraisers will be given a warm welcome at a Firewalk being held in aid of a local hospice.

St Teresa's Hospice is seeking brave souls to take on a sponsored challenge which will see them walking over hot embers for the charity, which cares for patients and carers across South Durham and North Yorkshire.

So far nearly 20 people have signed up for the event, which will take place at the Model T in Mowden, Darlington, on Friday February 23.

Those taking part include Hospice staff members Michelle Horner, Julie Cuthbertson and Sheila Dawson. Nurse Consultant Sheila was the first to sign up and has already raised

over £300.

Michelle, Supporter Services Manager at the Hospice, said: "We're always looking to try something new in fundraising. We hope this will give participants the opportunity not just to support their local Hospice but to undertake a challenge they wouldn't normally do that will motivate and inspire them to achieve their goals. I wish all the entrants the best of luck, and I can't wait to give this a go!"

After a motivational training session which will prepare them mentally for the endurance test, entrants will walk across 20 feet of wood embers burning at 1236 Degrees Fahrenheit without experiencing any pain or injury.

The event is supervised by

specially trained operatives from organisers Blaze Fire Walking.

All participants are asked to donate an entry fee of £20 and try to raise at least £100 for St Teresa's Hospice.

Spectators are welcome to cheer on those taking part. There will be fairground rides, hot food, and a raffle to keep people entertained all night long.

There is still time to sign up now at [www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk](http://www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk) or by calling 01325 254321 for more information.

# GET INSPIRED AT DURHAM ADVENTURE FESTIVAL

A festival encouraging people to get outdoors and try something new is making its debut in Durham this spring. The first Durham Adventure Festival, which takes place from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 April at the city's Gala Theatre, features ordinary people who have had the determination to get outside and do something different. Ultra endurance cyclist Mark Beaumont will share stories from his world record breaking feat in 2017, in which he cycled 18,000 miles around the world in under 80



days.

"It is so exciting that Durham now has an Adventure Festival, with so much fantastic terrain on the doorstep in the Pennines and up into Northumberland," said Mark.

"I look forward to sharing the

behind the scenes from my recent 'Around the World in 80 Days' cycle race, as well as some of the other short films and photography from the past decade of global expeditions."

Friday afternoon will provide an opportunity to hear from one of the world's most distinguished mountaineers Andy Cave, who looks back on his remarkable life and incredible journey from 3,000 feet underground in the Yorkshire coalfields to the summit of some of the world's highest mountains.

Later that evening, Elise Downing will tell all about her own big British adventure, after spending 301 days running 5,000 miles around the coast of the UK. She will be joined by Dave Cornthwaite, founder of a 'Say Yes More' philosophy, who aims to take on a series of 1,000 mile journeys each using a different form of motorised transport.

Saturday promises another action-packed day, with the opportunity to see world-leading BMX rider Pete Catherall and highliner Jediah Doohan perform stunts live on Gala's stage, while Anna McNuff will tell all about her impressive feats including cycling through all 50 states in the USA.

The event, which is presented in partnership with Kendal Mountain Festival, also boasts a packed film schedule with short films from across the world on topics from paragliding, big tree climbing, free diving and everything in between, including a special family programme.

Robin Byers, Durham County Council's manager for the Gala Theatre, said: "Tackling the great outdoors has never been more popular, so we set out to create an informal, fun and inspiring event which celebrates adventure, exploration and endurance."

"Durham is a magnificent county. From wild moors to great beaches; wonderful forests to large Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, we are a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. So we hope people will join us to for this brand new event and that we can inspire everyone to get out and create their own adventures."

Tickets range in price but to encourage everyone to come along to multiple events, a special offer is in place – for every additional event booked, you will receive another five per cent off the cost of your total booking.

Visit [www.durhamadventurefestival.co.uk](http://www.durhamadventurefestival.co.uk) for more information and to book tickets.

## Congratulations

### Bengiman Burkitt



**Happy 5th Birthday**  
Love you lots.  
From Nana and Grandad  
Burkitt xxxxx

### Jean & George Dunn



**Golden Wedding**  
16th February 1968  
Happy Anniversary.  
Love from Linda, John,  
Martin, Marie and all the  
Grandchildren xxxx

### Kasia Tegan



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
Watching you grow has given me so much pleasure. You are and will always remain my special little treasure. Love you 2 to 10, high 5, you win.  
Auntie Pamela xx

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## Obituary

### Betty McFarlane

**Died 7th February 2018**  
Newton Aycliffe

Peacefully in Rose Lodge Care Home following a long illness. Betty, aged 79 years.

Dearly loved Partner of the late Jim Burnham; loving Step-Mother to Marie and Best Friend to Maureen.

A lovely lady, sadly missed. Funeral to be held on Thursday 22nd February.

Service to be held in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 12 noon.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be given at the Crematorium in aid of The Dogs Trust, Sadberge.

### Thomas Barrie Tarn

**Died 5th February 2018**

Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family, aged 73 years.

Dearly loved Husband of Trudi; much loved Dad to Beverley, Kurtis and Wesley; Father-in-Law to Paul, Joanne, and Nova; a devoted Grandad to Carrie, Matthew, Sylvan, Savannah, Donovan, Acer and Delphine; Great Grandad to Sebastian; much loved Son-in-Law to Edith; a dear Brother, Brother-in-Law, Uncle and friend to many.

Funeral Service to be held at St. James Church, Melsomby on Wednesday 21st February at 10.30am followed by Cremation at Darlington Crematorium. Family and friends please meet at the Church.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers for Marie Curie, Herriot Hospice Home Care and St. Teresa's Hospice, may be given on the plate provided or sent care of John Blenkins & Sons Ltd., Funeral Directors, 21 Queens Road, Richmond DL10 4AJ

## Acknowledgement

### ROBERT WILSON (Bob)

Edna and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, messages of sympathy and kind donations received following the sad loss of Bob. Special thanks to all the staff at Defoe Court Care Home for all their care of Bob. Many thanks to Pam for creating such a fitting tribute to a special man and all at the Co-op Funeral Care for their sympathetic care and understanding.

**ARNOLD STEPHENSON**  
3rd February, peacefully. Arnold (Arnie), aged 80 years of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of Jean; much loved Dad of Melanie; dear Father-in-Law of John and treasured Grandad of Ryan and Melissa. Funeral on Thursday 22nd February. Would family and friends please meet at 2.00pm for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, may be made after the Service for Parkinson's UK.

**DONALD ROBSON**  
7th February, aged 87. Beloved Husband of the late Stella; devoted Dad of Anne and Stephen; much loved Father-in-Law of Richard and Michelle; best Grandad in the world to Michael and Fiance Jodie, Clare and Fiance Jose, Sophie, Amelia and Sebastian; also a much loved Great Grandad to Caitlin, Abbie, Dylan, Alana and Joselito. Will friends please meet at Wear Valley Crematorium at 12noon on Tuesday 20th February. Family flowers only, donations can be left at the Service for Dementia UK.

**BESWICK.** 1st February, peacefully in hospital. Joyce, aged 89 years of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of the late Ray; loving Mam of Neil; also a dearly loved Gran and Great Gran. Funeral Tuesday 20th February. Would family and friends please meet at 11.00am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only.

## 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

## Juniors Football Report

The Aycliffe Juniors season continued with another round of league and cup fixtures for the teams. There were a couple of games postponed leaving both the Under 11's and TJFA Under 12's without a match.

The Under 7's hosted Darlington Spraire Lads winning the league game 5-3 and the development game 4-2. In the league game a hat trick from Evan and a goal from Alex led to a 4-1 half time lead before David added the fifth goal in the second half.

The Under 8's continued their Challenge Cup campaign playing a third round game against Trimdon at Sunnydale. They progressed to the next round with a 5-1 win, Dylan grabbed a hat trick and man of the match Kenyon scored twice. The second game ended with an 8-2 win, Thomas scoring a fantastic five goals with Josh (2) and Dylan also on target. The Under 10's 'Black' played at home against Greatham FC 'White' and it was goal-less at the break. In the second half two Jake Smith goals either side of one from Jade Ferry opened up a three goal lead. Noah also went on to score in this 4-2 win with Emrehan named as man of the match. The second game ended 7-0 to Aycliffe with man of the match Joseph getting a hat trick and Jake (2), Jayden and Cole also scoring. The Under 10's 'White' hosted Stockton Town 'Yellow' and secured a good win. Man of the match Niall scored a hat trick, Oliver bagged a brace and Harvey scored in a 6-3 league win.



The second game also ended with an Aycliffe win and in this one man of the match Dominic, Oliver and Will all scored.

The Under 12's Russell Foster League team played away at Durham County FC 'Whites'. They travelled with only the required nine players to play in wintry conditions. A determined

effort was not enough to stop the league's second placed team winning 5-0. The Under 13's played at Sunnydale in a local derby against Shildon and a fine performance provided a 6-2 win.

The Under 16's made the trip to face high flying Richmond Town and a fantastic effort led to a 5-1 win.

## Nine Medals from County Swimming Championships

The Northumberland and Durham Championships were held at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre over two weekends 3/4th February and 10/11th February. Representing Sedgfield 75 ASC were Niall Coulthard, Kyle Boyak, Katelyn Craig, Leah Smith and Emma Price. They competed in 28 events



Niall Coulthard, Leah Smith, Katelyn Craig, Emma Price

and took part in 21 finals. The medal tally was 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze. Niall and Emma were the only swimmers competing in the first session for Sedgfield 75 and without doubt their superb performances set the tone for all the events that followed. Niall won Gold in both the 400 and 200 Freestyle events and took the silver medal in the 100 Freestyle and was placed 5th in the 50. He took the Bronze medal in both the 200 and 100 Butterfly. He was 6th in the 50 Back and 10th in 200 Breaststroke. 15 year age group. An outstanding performance from a great athlete.

Leah won the Bronze medal in the 200 Breaststroke and in both the 100 and 50 Breast stroke she won the Silver Medal. Leah took 6th place in 200 Individual Medley and 9th in the 50 Back stroke and 5th in the 50 Freestyle. A great overall performance and so close to a double gold. 14 year age group.

Kyle had only one swim taking the Bronze Medal in the 100 Freestyle. A good

## GNAAS Teach Firearms Officers Medical Skills

FIREARMS officers are learning medical skills from the region's air ambulance medics in a partnership that could mean the difference between life and death for critically injured patients.

Northumbria Police Firearms Support Unit (NPFUSU) welcomed a trauma team from the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) at sessions aimed at equipping new firearms police officers with the knowledge to administer initial medical care to casualties on scene. Phil Dowson, GNAAS doctor, said: "We have a close working relationship with Northumbria Police as often they're first on scene at critically ill patients.

"This is about equipping them with the appropriate skills to make sure the basic work is done well in the first few moments after an injury.



It could make a crucial difference."

Chief Inspector of the NPFUSU, Simon Hall, said: "It's vital that our firearms officers undergo this type of medical training.

"These officers are often first on the scene of incidents where they may have people's lives in their hands, so it's imperative they are prepared to deal with all situations and issues that may arise.

"The training has been very beneficial, as it's good to have that clinical overview from a GNAAS paramedic or a doctor over and above that provided by our instructors."

During the fourth day of the course, the GNAAS crew set up a range of scenarios for the firearms officers using dummies. These focused on different injuries that a critically injured patient may have, and how to treat them.

Among the injuries they

dealt with were abdominal wounds, pelvic fractures, ballistic injuries and catastrophic bleeding. One of the firearms officers, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "It's certainly been a really challenging day, the staff have been informative in putting across the information we need to know and the skills we need to employ when we're treating casualties."

GNAAS provided training for six firearms courses last year and have so far been involved in two courses in 2018.

The current students will be taking their final assessments on Friday (FEB 16), which GNAAS will be assisting with.

GNAAS is funded entirely by donations. Last year, it needed to raise £5.1m to survive. To find out how you can help, please visit [www.gnaas.com](http://www.gnaas.com) or call 01325-487263.

## CASH MACHINE BLOWN UP!

The incident happened at around 1.40am outside the Heron Foods store on Cockerton Green.

It is believed the suspects have filled the free-standing machine with gas, which has then been deliberately ignited, before making off with an unknown quantity of cash.

Detective Inspector Sharon Alderson, from Durham Constabulary, said: "Nobody was injured during the incident. However, it has caused significant damage to the cash machine.

"A cordon remained in place this morning while we conducted our enquiries." She added: "In October last year, a cash machine on Neasham Road was targeted in a similar way.

"Enquiries are ongoing to determine if the two incidents are linked.

"We would like to appeal to anyone who may have seen or heard anything in the Cockerton area of Darlington in the early hours of Wednesday 14th to come forward."

It is understood that a car was seen leaving the scene at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information should call Durham Constabulary on 101, quoting incident number 24 of February 14th.

Alternatively, pass on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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