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Friday 23rd February 2018

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HIMALAYAN BIKE RIDE RAISED £38K TO BUILD NEW SCHOOL



Dr Walker is married with a 15year old daughter and has previously competed in Iron Man competitions which involved cycling on roads but he had never experienced mountain biking in the conditions he experienced in Nepal.

Local Doctor, Geoff Walker from Pease Way Surgery, recently joined a group of 11 others in a sponsored 420k Bike Ride in the Himalayas. He gave a talk on his exploits to the Rotary Club explaining the aim of the adventure to raise cash to build a new school following the earthquake in 2015 which destroyed the original building.

It was no easy ride along the tortuous foothills of Nepal with frequent wounds from falls and a broken leg! The roads were just rocky, narrow paths with the cyclists constantly avoiding heavy lorries. However, wherever they went the group were welcomed by the lovely Nepalese people who really appreciated their efforts, raising £38,000 for the YYY Foundation to help child education. Doctor Geoff, a 50 year old

ex Bath rugby player, joined former teammate John Hall and 10 others to raise awareness of the plight of rural communities in Nepal.

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Photography Club Meet

The next meeting of Wear Valley Photography Club is on Monday Feb 26th at 7.30 pm when Sheila Wylie from Middleton Camera Club will be showing a selection of recent images including Sicily. Everyone is welcome and there is a charge of £2 for non members to include tea and biscuits. Contact the Secretary on 07753 178682 for further details.

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CARING CARE HOME

Dear Sir,
10 out of 10 for St Clare's Court - and we'd like to say a huge thank you to their team.

It was my parent's wedding anniversary last week and we had asked if we could go in for a cuppa and a biscuit with my Dad on the afternoon.

When we got there, they had a "Happy Anniversary" balloon, a large bunch of flowers and had even walked my father over to the town so he could buy a card himself for my Mum.

They also laid on a lovely afternoon tea for seven of us and it was like being in a 5 Star Hotel. The family were so touched by the care we received on this special day, which was above and beyond what we could have hoped for. Many thanks to you all.

Allison Mendelsohn
(daughter of Elsie and Peter Beaty).

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with choice of toppings

MONDAY & TUESDAY - TWO DINE FOR £20.00

Choose from our "Specials" menu

WEDNESDAY - PIE NIGHT

6.00pm-9.00pm - choice of 4 homemade pies served with mushy peas, chips and salad

THURSDAY - GRILL NIGHT

6.00pm-9.00pm - mix and match any 2 meals from the grill menu and receive a free bottle of house wine
All our steaks are 10oz or over!
Check out our "Steak of the Week Offer" on Facebook

SUNDAY LUNCH

12noon-6.00pm - Bookings advisable

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The REME Association South West Durham Branch and the DLI Association held a joint dinner at Lbistro in the Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 17th February.

We had a delicious meal that was well cooked and well presented. We would like to say a big thank you to Louise and all her staff for making it a very pleasant evening, we would also like to thank Julia and Dave for the splendid job they did organising and running the raffle. J Moore Branch Secretary

PATIENTS ASKED FOR VIEWS ON PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

Patients across Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield are being asked for their views on the delivery of local health care services started in April last year.

Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG) carried out a public consultation and implemented nine new primary care services (PCSs) across the region in 2017. This meant that patients could be seen for an urgent healthcare need up to 8pm during the week and 1pm on a weekend. Patient feedback from those

who have used the primary care services has stated them as overall excellent.

From the patient feedback 93 per cent of patients said it was easier to get an urgent, same day appointment since the changes and 98 per cent of patients said they would recommend this service to their friends.

The usage of some of these services are low, which results in some healthcare professionals spending valuable time being unproductive as they have no patients to treat resulting in many unused available appointments.

DDES CCG is now asking patients for their input to help find out what could be improved or changed.

Joseph Chandy, Director of Engagement at DDES CCG, said: "We will be out within the DDES area talking to groups and also trying to reach as many people as possible with an online survey to find out how people are accessing urgent care services. We are also attending the PCS services talking to the patients who use the service to understand if we have the model right.

"We'd like to make sure we are delivering services that patients want, so please fill in the survey and give us your views, even if you haven't had to use the primary care services before.

"Primary care services are there for anyone who needs them and your opinion will help shape decisions we make moving forward."

To join in the conversation, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Srvmodel> For more information on DDES CCG, visit <https://www.durhamdalesasington.sedgefieldccg.nhs.uk/>.

THE BIG GIG RECEIVES FANTASTIC HIGH VALUE RAFFLE PRIZES

More valuable prizes have been received at Newton Press Offices at the Blue Bridge Centre for the Super Raffle and Tombola to be held at the Mad March Gig at the Big Club on Friday 23rd March.

Councillor George Gray and his wife Maud donated five great prizes this week. People who attend the night will be "wowed" by the fantastic prizes available for 50p a ticket.

Top prize is a £700 Robot Mower donated by Husqvarna, and second prize is a VIP tour of Hitachi with a meal for four.

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe wish to record thanks to all who are supporting this big effort in aid of the MRI Scanner Appeal.

President of the club, Tony Robinson said: "We are

encouraged by the take-up of tickets for this Grand Show and very grateful for the number of people who have given prizes for the event. This is a wonderful community occasion in aid of equipment which will save many lives."

If you wish to attend this fantastic night of entertainment get your tickets now before they all go! The evening features local Show Band "Groovy Street" with a guest performance by Newtonian Shanaya, star of X Factor.

It will be a fantastic night of popular music, singing and dancing to suit all tastes. Tickets are only £7.50 and include a Hot Pork Sandwich with Roast Potatoes.

Tickets available from Newton Press, Blue Bridge Centre, Walkers Butchers, Simpasturegate, Aycliffe Framers and Engravers in the Town Centre and from the Big Club. Hurry, tickets are going fast!

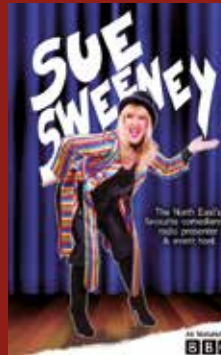
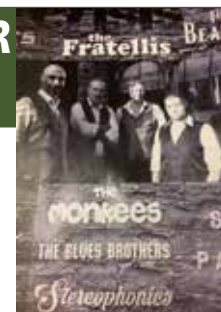


Newton Aycliffe Sports Club
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Friday 2nd March
fantastic local group
Tickets £3 behind the bar.



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.

Why not start your Easter weekend with a good laugh, music, dancing and a few drinks!!



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In aid of "Clear and Care for the Community"

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Saturday 24th February - "F.M."

Review: "Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably! What can you say about F.M.? This was rock and metal utopia; a classic journey through the rock 'n' roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zeppelin and no real cheese! OK, they did Whiskey in the Jar, but hey! F.M. put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid week gigs just don't seem to have the same wow. The atmosphere was great, as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that F.M. don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to "Sweet Child Of Mine", they did "Welcome To The Jungle". How long have F.M. been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome."

Sunday 25th February - "OasisJam" (4pm - £3 c/c)

OasisJam are a tribute to two of the greatest bands ever, Oasis and The Jam. They are a 4 piece band and create the greatest hits of both bands such as Wonderwall, Going Underground, Town Called Malice, Don't Look Back In Anger - all killer and no filler! OasisJam are based in the North-East of England and play regularly in the area. Band Members include Tim Lowe - Vocals and Guitar; Richard Coxon - Bass and Vocals; Alan Batchelor - Lead Guitar and Vocals and Scott Fenner - Drums and Percussion.

Saturday 3rd March - "7 Sins"

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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"Let us Entertain You"

March Entertainment Guide

Friday 2nd	T.B.C.
Saturday 3rd	Table Top/Craft Fair, 11am-4pm Private Party
Tuesday 6th	Kids Disco, pm-8pm, £1 entry
Friday 9th	"The Beer Monkeys", £3 entry
Saturday 10th	T.B.C.
Friday 16th	"The Hudson Sisters", Tickets £5 In aid of Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group
Saturday 17th	Aycliffe Soul Club, £4 entry
Tuesday 20th	Kids Disco, 5pm-8pm, £1 entry
Friday 23rd	Rotary Club Big Gig with "Groovy Street" in aid of MRI Scanner Appeal, Tickets £7.50
Saturday 24th	Disco Night, Thickets £2.50 or £3 otd
Friday 30th	John Melvin Karaoke & Disco, 7pm, £2 entry The Lounge Soul Session, Free admission
Saturday 31st	"Little Fix" - Clear & Care for the Community



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"Let us Entertain You"

Friday 9th March 2018

doors open 7.00pm

Entry £3.00 on the door

THE BEER MONKEYS



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BISHOP AUCKLAND DISPLAYED IN THE BIG APPLE

An international spotlight is shining on County Durham with two prestigious US exhibitions attracting international attention.

Paintings from The Auckland Project, Bishop Auckland, including works from Auckland Castle and the forthcoming Spanish Gallery nearby, have been displayed in two separate exhibitions in New York City.

Francisco de Zurbarán's Jacob and His Twelve Sons, a series of paintings that has hung in Auckland Castle for more than 250 years, is being exhibited at the renowned Frick Collection until 22 April, while an



additional selection of Spanish artworks was shown at Sotheby's auction house earlier this month. Both exhibitions have helped to raise the profile of Bishop Auckland with the Zurbarán paintings at The Frick Collection, in particular, generating countless column inches in worldwide publications such as The New Yorker, The Art Newspaper and Spain's La Vanguardia. A sold-out evening event about the exhibition, featuring Philippe de Montebello, former Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Auckland Project's Chairman, Jonathan Ruffer, was also broadcast and viewed as far afield as Colombia and Australia. The first ever showing of Jacob and His Twelve Sons in New York builds on a year-long in-depth technical

analysis of the Zurbarán paintings at the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas and an exhibition at the Meadows Museum, Dallas, which closed in January. Ian Wardropper, Director of The Frick Collection, said: "We are thrilled to collaborate with The Auckland Project and the Meadows Museum on the first North American showing of Francisco de Zurbarán's extraordinary series Jacob and His Twelve Sons."

"The sheer visual power and rich narrative content of this series will draw visitors in and will be beautifully complemented by the Frick's strong holdings in Spanish art." Elsewhere in Manhattan, a selection of Spanish art from The Auckland Project's collection was also on display at Sotheby's from 26 January to 11 February. Timed to coincide with Sotheby's Masters Week, one of their busiest weeks of the year, the exhibition featured Spanish Old Master paintings acquired by The Auckland Project through the international auction house. Jointly curated by Sotheby's and The Auckland Project, this was the first presentation of works that will soon be displayed in the Spanish Gallery, due to open in Bishop Auckland in 2019. James Macdonald, Senior Director at Sotheby's, said: "It is a great privilege for Sotheby's to play a small part in this inspirational project. Through the brief preview that this exhibition offers, we hope our viewers will be inspired to learn more about Spanish art and visit The Auckland Project in a beautiful part of North East England."

Auckland Castle and the Spanish Gallery form part of The Auckland Project's plans for a world-class visitor destination in Bishop Auckland, including a Faith Museum, Walled Garden and Auckland Tower visitor centre. The first of these new attractions, the Mining Art Gallery, opened in October 2017, with the rest following in stages over the next two years.

The presentation of Jacob and His Twelve Sons to American audiences was made possible, in part, by the multi-million-pound conservation programme currently underway at Auckland Castle, the

historic home of the Prince Bishops of Durham. The paintings will return to England prior to the Castle's grand reopening on Saturday, 1 December 2018. Dr Edward Payne, Head Curator: Spanish Art at The Auckland Project, said: "The temporary closure of Auckland Castle has allowed us to travel Zurbarán's masterpieces and further develop existing partnerships with US institutions."

"The exhibitions of our Spanish paintings in America have also provided a fantastic opportunity to share news of The Auckland Project's exciting vision for Bishop Auckland, including plans underway for the Spanish Gallery." For more information about the American exhibitions and to stay up to date with The Auckland Project's Future Plans, visit: www.aucklandproject.org

Film Show

"RESTING PLACE"

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY features the drama "RESTING PLACE" Starring Morgan Freeman and John Lithgow. 1972 in Georgia, USA, and the body of a black American lieutenant arrives home from Vietnam to be buried; then his family are told that he can't be buried in the town cemetery, an all-white cemetery. Major Laird has the job of supporting the family, but finds that the lieutenant's death was also suspicious. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Tea and coffee are served at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

GRANT UNLOCKS 1,500 NEW HOMES IN NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A £6.8 million grant for infrastructure improvements will enable 1,500 new homes to be built in Newton Aycliffe. The cash has been awarded to Durham County Council through the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund. It will be used to improve infrastructure in Newton Aycliffe, including roads and utilities, overcoming significant development costs that had been affecting the viability of housing sites within the town.

Work will include the upgrading of the A167 in order to reduce congestion and help tackle traffic capacity issues. The investment will also deliver housing site access roads and will be used to install water, sewerage and power supplies. Cllr Carl Marshall, Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "We want to ensure a wide choice of quality homes in areas where people want to live and work. "This cash will enable the delivery of much-needed new homes in the south of our county, which will have a significant impact on the economic growth of the area and wider county."

COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

This 'County Newsbits' list is very short after a quiet week! However, it includes last Wednesday's budget-setting DCC Council meeting, and the latest newsletter from our MP. All the stories are from the internet and should you wish to find out more I have posted links to all this week's items here: bit.ly/CNB212

- New DWP Universal Credit information website – use with caution.
- Latest roadworks information.

THINGS TO DO

- Wildlife Watch (5-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am-noon, Saturday 3 March, £3.
- Holi Festival, Durham Oriental Museum, Saturday 3 March, £4.
- Dante Exhibition (5-11s), Palace Green Library, 1-3pm, 3-4 March.
- DCC Archaeology Day, Saturday 10 March, £16.
- Three-part Channel 5 documentary series on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway begins 8pm Friday, 2 March.

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New Kitchen & Bedroom Supplier Moves to Aycliffe



Parkin and Denwood Ltd a newly formed company has located to Aycliffe Business Park on the Whinbank Industrial Estate. They proudly manufacture bespoke kitchen, utility and bedroom furniture plus panelling and custom made items that would enhance any home.

Director Darren Marsden was born and educated in Doncaster graduating from Leeds University in Civil Engineering. He was employed as a Commercial Manager for a UK-wide Construction Company and left full time employment to focus on this enterprise.

He is married with three children and two miniature schnauzer dogs. I wanted a change, to challenge myself, this opportunity was one that presented itself which had the greatest opportunity of success.

The company was a going concern, known as 'Leangrange Ltd' which went into liquidation in September 2017. Darren purchased the machinery

and TUPE labour from the liquidator and managed to retain the staff that wanted to stay. He took on additional staff, mainly apprentices and now has a great team of people working for Parkin and Denwood Ltd, together aiming to make this enterprise a success.

Darren has seen a rapid growth from nothing to comfortably employing 22 local people in a short period of time. The company is expanding and recently employed four young apprentices, from the local community.

Darren told Newton News: "Our company aspirations are realised in the youthful employees that have joined and have very quickly become an asset to our new company.

We have invested in a new showroom, opening on 3rd March 2018, to display our products and demonstrate the quality and variety of what we produce. Our kitchens and fitted bedroom wardrobes are bespoke, enabling customers to

choose from any sized units in any finish, any colour from any timber type. We have recently welcomed two designers to the team with years of experience who can take your ideas and develop them into a scheme suitable for any budget."

Parkin and Denwood Ltd believe in supporting the local community and the Northern Power House Project and are proud to say all their suppliers are from the local vicinity. The Northern Power House Project will help boost our local community, provide a buoyant employment market and boost the local economy.

"We aim to expand our business and employ more local people in our quest to become one of the leading enterprises in the area. Buy our products and show your support for #Northernpowerhouse" said Darren.

Website: www.ParkinandDenwoodLtd.co.uk or follow them on Facebook for latest offers and information.

First New MRI Scanner Installed

Patients are starting to benefit from a new state of the art MRI scanner at Bishop Auckland Hospital, thanks to generous donations and fundraising by local individuals, businesses and organisations.

Manufacturer Philips installed the scanner this Tuesday, whilst fundraising continues throughout 2018.

The Hospital executive team and clinicians explained the benefits of the new scanner and the fundraising appeal to bring this and a second scanner to Darlington Memorial Hospital.

People present met seven year old Warren Hubble, one of the first patients to use the new scanner, and talk to him and his father about the experience and how Warren was able to lie still for 30 minutes, avoiding a general anaesthetic – thanks to the scanner's features – and his bravery, of course!

Aycliffe Lifesaving Project Exceeds Expectations

A mission to provide 24-hour Public Access lifesaving equipment, and free CPR and Defibrillator training is exceeding expectations in Newton Aycliffe.

The project funded by Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership was to provide several community venues with equipment and training that can assist our emergency services with "The Chain of Survival" – Dial 999, give CPR, use a defibrillator and hand over to the Professionals. Every year in the UK there are 350,000 heart attacks, 100,000 fatal. Young, old, fit, or unfit, all can be at risk. Over 20% happen in a public place like Community venues. In 42% of cases someone was on hand who has had CPR training, but this means in 58% of the cases no one did, so it would be better if we had more people trained in the basics! Even with good CPR only, time is critical, your odds of survival after ten minutes can be as low as less than 5%. If a defibrillator could be available within the same time you, or a loved one's survival odds could go up to 70%.

The project lead, David Sutton-Lloyd, is a great example of Community Partnership working and

how organisations and venues have come together in support of this fantastic project. All Newton Aycliffe External 24-hour Public access defibrillators have now been fitted at 5 public access venues PCP; Greenfield College, Bay Horse Middridge, St Clare's Church, and Woodham Community Centre. They become available to the public by telephoning 999 to get the access code.

Whilst making more defibrillators available in the area is important, awareness about their use, and locations are equally important. The offer of free training for CPR and Defibrillator use has been a huge success. To date 232 people have been trained by Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

As the project draws to a close there is still the opportunity to take advantage of the remaining training sessions which are due to take place soon.

These are being organised by the Ambulance Service, dates and venues to be announced. The project

is keen to encourage participation especially by young people.

The latest training and awareness session was jointly organised with Helen McCormick of St Clare's Church. The session was aimed at young people's groups after requests by the youngsters themselves. Thirty-six people attended with ages ranging from 77 to 9. Isobel at age 9 became the youngest yet to attend and complete the training. David Sutton-Lloyd the project lead expressed how "impressed with the attitude and commitment of the youngsters" the group was and commented how a mother texted to say her daughter aged 10 had gone home and demonstrated the training to her brother.

Giving about two hours of your time to learn what to do in an emergency could mean so much to some person or family in the future, the chances are very high that it will be a member of your own family, or someone you know well. Would you know what to do in an emergency?

Banner Lost from Youth Centre Wall

The 12 feet long banner displayed on the wall of the Youth and Community Centre in Burn Lane advertising the Rotary Club Model Railway Exhibition on 10th March 2018 appears to have blown away!

The event is being held to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Care and Prostate Cancer UK.

A small reward is being offered for the return of the banner. Anyone finding this should take it to the Youth Centre, Newton Press or Walkers Butchers in Simpasturegate. John Burrows – Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe



Petition to Keep A & E Darlington

Dear Sir,
On Saturday 4th May 2018 we will be all enjoying the May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

Privatisation has devastated our public services and the NHS is now being milked dry of funds by business people who overcharge the NHS for equipment services and rent on buildings.

Can I ask you please if you will join with me to demonstrate against the proposed closure of Darlington Memorial A and E on Saturday May 4th 2018 by holding with me a mass petition signing in the town centre for 2 hours from 10 am until 12 noon?

Please email me through the website if you can help, by holding a clip board and asking people to sign the petition for just one or the whole two hours?

Nigel Boddy
Contact: 07890 053482

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KYNREN LAUNCHES IT'S STRONGEST SEASON FOR 2018

Kynren – An Epic Tale of England returns for another action-packed summer spectacular guaranteed to amaze visitors of all ages, with breathtaking new stunts.

The UK's 'must see' live outdoor show based in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, will premiere its third season on 30th June 2018, blazing a trail for a season of 17 world class performances with a 1,000-strong cast and crew that will take visitors on a breath-taking time travel adventure through 2,000 years of history, myth and legend.

Hot on the heels of its

opening two seasons, Kynren now has even more surprises in store, with the addition of a brand new experience including the 'Animal Croft' and a food village that will showcase local cuisine and more. The Animal Croft will give visitors the opportunity to meet the show's furred and feathered cast, and learn more about their day-to-day care and training before they taking their seat for an immersive 90-minute performance.

Fresh from working on the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games in South Korea, Steve Boyd returns as Kynren's

Creative Director to lead the outdoor spectacular, a thrilling live action show against a backdrop of world class special effects and amazing pyrotechnics.

Show teams will turn up the heat with an array of brave new stunts which will see a Roman Centurion dragged along the ground at speed, and performance riders jumping through fire in a new Civil War sequence. Other fiery surprises are in store to entertain the crowds throughout the summer.

New for 2018, Kynren, an Epic Tale of England will also commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War with emotional effects and an updated poignant narrative that acknowledges the role of women during the war and the Suffragette movement.

NEW ADDED TICKET

PRICES FOR 2018

The new pricing makes entertainment enjoyable for the whole family bringing all generations to Kynren. This year Kynren offers:

- New young adult tickets (for ages 12-16) from £18.75
- More than a third of the seats (Bronze and Silver) offer a 50% children's discount and a 25% young adult's discount off the adult price
- Group savings offers of up to 25%

An early booking offer* saving of 20% is available for a limited time before 28th February 2018. Early booker tickets start at £20.00 Adult £10.00 Child - the cost for a family of four from just £60. *terms and conditions apply, see website for details. Tickets are now available to book via the website www.kynren.co.uk

Families Can Help with Prisoner Reform

Visitors to north east prisons are invited to an event to have their say on strengthening family ties.

A north east charity is inviting friends and families of prisoners in north east prisons to come along to an event in March to have their say on how family ties could be placed at the heart of prison reform in the north east.

The Visitors' Voice event will take place on Tuesday 6 March 2018 from 10am to 2pm at Bowburn Community Centre, Bowburn, County Durham, DH6 5AT. Free lunch and refreshments will be provided. Nepacs, a long-standing charity in the north east of England which aims to support a positive future for prisoners and their families, has organised the annual event to give anyone currently visiting a prison in the north east of England a 'voice' about how services they receive when visiting prison can be

improved.

Helen Attewell, chief executive of Nepacs said: "In August last year the Ministry of Justice published a landmark review by Lord Michael Farmer in which he recommended that family ties should be a golden thread running through the new policy frameworks being put in place to reform prisons. I am pleased and proud that the work that charities, such as Nepacs, have developed over many decades to support family ties for people in prison, is recognised in this review as crucially important for rehabilitation and resettlement. "In light of this review we want our Visitors Voice event to give families and friends of prisoners in the north east the chance to tell local prisons what would make the biggest difference to them in terms of helping to strengthen family ties."

Helen added: "So, if you have a loved one in prison in the north east please come along to our Visitors' Voice event. We want to find out what you think about the help and support you are receiving, and how we can make your visit experience better. There will also be an opportunity to talk to prison staff, hear from the Head of the Assisted Prison Visits Unit who provide help with visiting costs and to take part in a mental wellbeing session."

For more information about the event or to book a place please email training@nepacs.co.uk or telephone 0191 332 3810. Alternatively, if you already go to a visitors' centre in the north east you can book your place with the centre manager. To find out more about the work of Nepacs, including how you can get involved or make a donation please visit www.nepacs.co.uk.

Stephenson Way Academy "Healthy Me" Week

Children's Mental Health Week provided pupils at Stephenson Way Academy with the perfect opportunity to explore what wellbeing means to them. Pupils enjoyed a whole week of 'healthy me' activities, aimed at helping them to develop their own 'toolkit' for healthy living.

Working together with Taylor Shaw, our catering partner, younger pupils completed a bacteria workshop, which taught them the importance of beating bugs and nasties by washing their hands thoroughly each and every time they turn the tap on. Meanwhile, KS2 pupils looked at how food choices impact on their wellness by chopping, mixing and moulding food such as fruit smoothies and pasta using fresh ingredients. On sampling her freshly made kiwi and banana smoothie for the first time, Savanna declared it to be, "Absolutely delicious!"

Aware that wellness goes beyond the diet, a whole host of sporting taster activities, such as Judo, Boxercise and Yoga were also on offer, leaving children feeling energised and raring to go.

In an assembly given by Debbie from Relax Kids, everyone was taught some simple solutions to help stay calm in stressful situations. From shoulder shrugging to hand massage, deep breathing to positive thinking, everyone left the hall with a greater sense of calm. Year 6 pupils were particularly delighted to find out that Debbie will be on-hand to support them with more stress-busting as the busy SATs periods approaches.

Across the course of the week, children were also encouraged to consider how kindness to others can have its rewards both as the person being kind to others and as a recipient of praise. In Year 3, compliments



bags were pinned up on the whiteboard so that pupils could periodically leave notes and well wishes for their peers. At the end of the week, those bags were given to children to empty and read and some children seemed to grow a foot taller on discovering all the lovely things that others had written especially for them. Considering the impact that the week's activities

had made to pupils, Acting Headteacher, Mr Jones, told us, "Most importantly, the children have had a lot of fun this week. They've enjoyed new experiences, worked together brilliantly and have been excited about being healthy. Thank you to all the outside professionals who worked with our children this week – activities were fun, informative and inspiring."

FREE THERAPY FOR WIS VETERANS



Spend an afternoon investing in yourself. This session gives you an informative look at an holistic approach to helping yourself and your loved ones. This session is delivered to WIS veterans and their families free of charge as the therapist is donating her time.

Begin your Reiki Journey with an introduction in how to connect to and use the healing power of Reiki and how to integrate it into your everyday life.

NLP Therapy is explained so that you can get an understanding on how this method can help some people deal with depression, stress, anger issues, drink or drug problems, PTSD, nightmares, flashbacks.

The Sporting Force Amazon Project has been set up to support the female veterans and the wives, partners and children of veterans. To provide companionship, friendship, activities in sport or to support you during the tough times.

Clair, who delivers the workshop, is a female veteran who is a Master Practitioner NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) Therapist.

To book your place on 7th March at 2pm, please visit <http://www.sportingforce.org/events>.

For more information or questions, please email jacqui.nicholson@sportingforce.org or call on Freephone 0800 050 9502.

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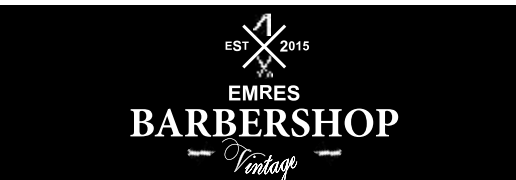
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NEW NORTH EAST CAR COMPANY?

Chronicle Live has reported plans on Durham Business website to build a new car factory in the UK after billionaire Ineos boss selected a designer for the new Land Rover Defender. Chemicals Tycoon Jim Ratcliffe announced his intention to create a new car factory, and said a base in the North of England would be his choice.

The project, named Project Grenadier, is run through Mr Ratcliffe's company Ineos Automotive, designing the new 4x4.

The company haven't decided where it will manufacture the vehicle, but is asking the UK government for financial support to build the vehicle in the UK rather than Germany.



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Sunday: Closed

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Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS
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PERSISTENT 'REMAINERS'

Dear Sir,
I would have thought that, in a supposedly democratic country, a majority vote to leave the EU would mean that we would leave. However, in the Newton News of 16th February there are still three anti-Brexit letters/articles.

We are celebrating the centenary of the start of the move toward Universal Suffrage. This is a strange time to be saying that the majority 'Leave' vote is somehow 'trumped' by the minority 'Remain' vote. Indeed, left-wing Journalist Polly Toynbee thinks that Leave voters are "Lunatics" and therefore, their votes can be ignored. Not quite the equal voting rights, fought for, and currently enjoyed by, the British electors.

In the article, "Give North East the Power" the writer refers to the leaked Brexit Impact Assessments which show that the greatest negative impact will be on the, Leave voting, North East. Fortunately, we have learned from George Osborne's 'Project Fear' that our so called economic experts cannot be trusted. They were, and still are all 'Remainers'. Did anyone really expect them to show that the Leave voting areas would be better off? However, I commend the writer's insistence that we must "Take Back Control"; firstly, from the EU and thereafter from the Metropolitan Elite.

The Liberal Democrat Brexit Spokesman also relies on 'Project Fear Mark II'. However, he says that, "People did not vote to make ourselves poorer". Unfortunately, if they

believed that 'Project Fear' was going to happen, then Leave voters clearly did vote to make themselves poorer. The Remain side cannot have it both ways, either Project Fear was factual but was ignored by the Leave voters, in which case they did vote to make themselves poorer, or as events have proven, it was a Government/Remain tactic to lie to, and frighten, the electorate. But the majority of the electorate were not as stupid as the Remain Campaign thought!

Remain MEP, Jude Kirton-Darling, advises us that the EU has managed to get its accounts 'signed off' by its Auditor since 2007, when a discrepancy of 2% was deemed acceptable.

I would like to make two points about this:

- We 'donate' circa. £8 Billion to the EU annually. I calculate that the audited deficiency since 2007 is circa. £1.6 Billion. Given that our budget has run a deficit since Labour's Bank Crash we have been borrowing to 'donate' our £8 Billion and have incurred interest costs. I'm sure that Durham County Council could find something better spend this £1.6 + Billion on rather than let it disappear into the EU's 'Black Hole'. 2007 was the first time the EU could get its auditors to sign-off its accounts since 1976! How much of our taxpayers money has been siphoned off by the crooks in the EU between 1976 and 2007? If we accept 2% then I guesstimate a deficiency of another £5 Billion! Note also: The Carillion accounts were 'audited' and signed-

off by international auditors, PWC, only for Carillion to go into receivership soon thereafter.

- I believe that no elected Government can, legally, hand over taxpayer's money to an organisation that cannot pass audit. That is, between 1976 and 2007 the British Government should have refused to pay money to the EU until such time as its accounts could be properly audited. If your high street bank issued a statement that showed a 2% discrepancy on your account, I'm sure you would think twice before depositing any further money until the discrepancy was made good! Simple Common sense!

Dear Remainers, both sides put forward their best arguments and the voters decided to Leave. It is now time to unite to get a good deal with the EU and take back control of our taxes and spend them fairly all across the UK.

Alastair P.G. Welsh

DEMENTIA EXPLAINED

Want to know a little more about Dementia? An event is to be held at Burnhill Methodist Church Newton Aycliffe on 23rd February from 9.30am organised by County Durham Residents Association.

This is an open free to attend event with lunch provided at no cost. Please come along to find out what the signs are, what the symptoms are, and get advice and information. Event is sponsored by the Big Lottery Fund and organised by County Durham Residents Association. Please contact Christine Hall on 07941 190145 or Christine.hall47@gmail.com

CRAFTERS ASKED TO QUILT TO SUPPORT SICK CHILDREN

Aycliffe-based craft company Crafter's Companion is asking people to 'get quilting' to help sick children as part of a new partnership with Project Linus UK.

Project Linus UK aims to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through the provision of new, handmade patchwork quilts.

The partnership will officially launch on this year's 'Random Act of Kindness' day on Saturday 17th February in the hope that people will be inspired to join in and support a stranger by getting creative. As part of the launch and 'Random Act of Kindness' day activity, stores in Newton Aycliffe, Chesterfield and Evesham will be encouraging visitors to try their hand at quilting with advice and guidance from in-store experts.

Volunteers from Project Linus UK will also be visiting the stores during the year-long partnership to talk about the work they do, their motivation and the people they help.

Sara Davies MBE, founder of Crafter's Companion, said: "Project Linus UK is an inspirational cause and a really great fit for our crafting community. It's not often that you can combine a hobby and something you enjoy doing with the knowledge that you're helping to make a positive difference to the lives of sick children, their families and carers, so we're delighted to be working with Project Linus UK.

"We're encouraging people to give something back in the best way we know how



Sara Davies MBE

– through crafting, so I'm sure our crafters will get on board with this opportunity to contribute something so special to their local community.

"And, as it's 'Random Act of Kindness Day', we hope to see some new faces too – hopefully people will come along, support and make even a little contribution to

this worthwhile cause – even if they're not remotely crafty and have never quilted before."

In addition to the in-store events, Crafter's Companion will be launching a four-part quilting series in its magazine 'Sew Inspired' to give readers with little to no quilting experience the chance to help. At the end of the series, readers will be encouraged to donate their quilts to Project Linus UK.

Project Linus UK always tries to deliver quilts and blankets to children who are local to the makers. Their volunteers deliver about 2,000 quilts and blankets to sick, disabled or disadvantaged children across the UK each month.

Heather Russell, a director of Project Linus UK said: "The directors and volunteers of Project Linus UK are pleased that Sew Inspired

has chosen to support us in helping to raise awareness of our work in the community, as well as enthusing and encouraging sewers to learn new skills.

"The activity of hand-made quilt making provides friendship and company to the needlewomen and the bright colourful quilts give comfort to 'babies, children and teenagers throughout the British Isles."

Crafter's Companion is a global craft supplies company which sells its products globally online, on TV shopping channels, via independent retailers and in its own UK retail stores in Newton Aycliffe, Chesterfield and Evesham.

All stores will be hosting dedicated Project Linus quilting workshops. For further details of specific store activities please visit: www.crafterscompanion.co.uk.

50 Golden Years Together



Last Saturday the Mayor Wendy Hillary presented a bouquet of flowers to George and Jean Dunn of Dalton Way on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

They have lived in Newton Aycliffe in the same house for 41 years, moving here from Glasgow. George worked at Talents for a short period before moving employment to Middlesbrough.

Jean worked at the Avenue School before

working in Masons Fruit Shop in the Town Centre for ten years until her retirement. They have two children and five grandchildren.

In the photo is daughter Linda, Marie future daughter-in-law, George, Jean and youngest grandchild Maddison with son Martin.

Their Anniversary was on Friday 16th February and they went out for a family meal on the evening.

Great Work by Big Club Community Group

Sharon Franklin is a member of the committee at the Big Club, and also runs, with her husband James, a Fundraising Group called 'Clear and Care for the Community'.

On Friday 1st June 2018 they are staging an 80's Concert Band called Zen. All profits from this night will go to The MRI Scanner Appeal. Tickets are £5 and available on Facebook or contact number is 07896 511171, or from the Big Club. We will be holding a raffle and are currently looking for prizes, if anyone could help out.

The Franklin's community group has been around for 3 years and have a great number of supporters. They collect donated items and sell them at a small charge, this also helps a lot of people who are struggling. James delivers them on an evening in his free time.

Over the time they have donated money to a few organisations on the town and organised events and trips to South Shields, a

pantomime, and currently organising a trip to South Lakes Safari Zoo in April.

They have held Summer & Christmas Disco Parties and have an Easter one coming up. Halloween and Christmas disco's are also being planned.

They run the fortnightly Kid's Disco at the Big Club on a Tuesday night from 5pm-8pm which is a great success.

In the past they had events for Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, as well as Kieran Maxwell Legacy and others.

They have a Little Mix Tribute act on at the club called Little Fix, this is aimed at families and 600 tickets over 2 shows have sold out on Saturday 31st March. More family orientated events coming up include an Ariana Grande Tribute Act in September.

"It is our pleasure to be holding the Zen Night and raising funds for the MRI Scanner Appeal," said Sharon.

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Hair Cut for Princess Trust Charity



Schoolgirl Aaliyah Barimah's charity haircut for the Princess Trust was completed by Melly Wilson who gave her a beautiful modern style with the hair left over. Aliyah was completely fearless and embraced the whole experience and her hair has been posted direct to the charity.

NEW SEAHAM WATER SPORTS CENTRE SHORTLISTED FOR TOP AWARD

The centre at Seaham Harbour Marina is a finalist in the Excellence in Planning for Health and Wellbeing category at the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence 2018.

The water sports centre, which opened in July 2017, offers a programme of activities include kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding, as well as providing changing facilities, showers, a kayak store and office space.

It was paid for by a grant from the Coastal Communities Fund and match-funding from Durham County Council, Seaham Harbour Community Interest Company and Sport England.

Peter Coe, development manager at Durham County Council and director of Seaham Harbour Marina, said: "We are delighted to have been nominated for this award which recognises the hard work done to create a building which complements the rest of the marina development and takes into account the environmental and ecological conditions of the site."

"The centre provides a fantastic space for leisure, recreation, health and well-being activities for local communities and we know that the facilities it offers are already enhancing Seaham's reputation as a visitor destination."

The winners will be announced during a ceremony held at Milton Court at The Barbican, London on 24 May.

Seaham Harbour Marina opened in 2013 and has 14 business units currently housing the marina office, East Durham Heritage Centre, a number of shops, businesses and eateries, and a pontoon with 96 berths boasting new facilities.

For more information on letting a business unit or becoming a berth holder, call the marina office directly on 0191 581 8998.

John Acres MRTPI, president of the Royal Town Planning



Institute, said: "This year's finalists reflect the important contribution planners and planning makes to creating great places and tackling the challenges we face across the UK."

"Planners are taking on new and innovative projects and the finalists show they are succeeding. It's a huge achievement just to be shortlisted this year given the six per cent rise in entries to the awards and the high calibre of entries will make judging very difficult."

Andrew Jones MRTPI, practice leader for design, planning and economics at AECOM, said: "AECOM is proud to once again be a headline sponsor of this year's RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence. The finalists are a diverse mixture of outstanding examples of planning, which demonstrate the breadth of

the impact the profession has on quality placemaking and delivery in the built environment."

David Jackson MRTPI, head of planning at Savills, said: "Savills is delighted to be a headline sponsor of the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence. The finalists reflect the positive impact planning has on our communities and wider society across the UK, Ireland and internationally through exemplary projects, plans and people."

Racecourse Competition Winners Celebrate

Sedgefield Racecourse is thrilled to announce the 2017 champions of the Beat the Best and the Best Turned Out Competitions. Both introduced in 2016 to reward loyal and supportive racehorse trainers and stable yards.

On Sunday 31 January 2016, the Beat the Best competition was established at a tribute to Denys Smith as he celebrated with family and friends to reminisce of his successful career. Having had a huge success as a racehorse trainer, the competition was introduced to incentivise trainers to beat Denys's benchmark of 145 total wins at Sedgefield alone, and to attract more competitive racing at his local track.

After recording the number of wins from Sedgefield's loyal and long supporting Trainers, it was Brian Ellison who placed first with a total of 104 Sedgefield wins. Brian Ellison currently has over 120 horses in training at his Training Yard in Malton and has so far trained over 1000 winners.

Another competition was introduced to reward loyal Stable Yards which is judged by race sponsors for the work and effort by stable grooms and staff, who present their horses in the parade ring prior to the race. Donald McCain's stable yard comfortably took the lead once again with 23 best turned out horses, beating 2nd place by 10 points! Donald McCain has 100 horses in training at his Stable Yard in Cheshire.

Prizes, including luxury hampers, polos and carrots for the horses and ARC annual badges plus much more, will be presented on Thursday 22 February.

Sedgefield Racecourse wish to thank all of their loyal Owners, Trainers and Stable Yards for their long-term and continued support and would like to take this opportunity to remind all that the competitions have now re-opened for 2018.

Information on the Durham County Cricket Club Raceday or book tickets visit www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk or call 01740 621925.

Drama Group Want Young People

Chance Drama are a fun and friendly drama group based in Ferryhill. We are looking for young people who have an interest in the arts to join our group.

We have two planned shows this year which is a singing show celebrating Ferryhill Stage Society's 80th year and DISNEY and then our final show - The Jungle Book. We can't wait for both of these performances and wish for some new faces to be involved also. We rehearse Sunday afternoons and, depending on your child's age, will decide what class they will be in.

Feel free to speak to Darcy to find out which class will suit your child on 07598 674718.

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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Aycliffe Business Park's 'Make Your Mark' Awards

Companies are being urged to Make Their Mark by entering Aycliffe Business Park's fourth annual awards competition.

Make Your Mark will single out the business park's shining stars and recognise outstanding performances from the last year during a special event at the Xcel Centre, which is now being held on Thursday May 24.

The event organisers, Aycliffe Business Park Community (ABPC), have slightly changed the format of Mark Your Mark after listening to feedback from businesses, while changing the date to give firms extra time to enter the awards.

The 11 categories for Make Your Mark remain the same, with awards available for Engineering and Manufacturing, Apprentice of the Year, Apprenticeships & Training, Innovation, Service, Export, Newcomer, Small Business, Employer of the Year, Heart of the Community and Company of the Year. As usual, an independent panel of judges will decide on 10 awards.

ABPC chair Kerina Clark said: "We're again looking forward to the calendar event of the year for Aycliffe Business Park residents."

"Make Your Mark has brought to the fore some fantastic success stories

about many of our companies and we hope to see more of them come forward to enter this year's competition.

"After listening to feedback, we have slightly changed the format of the evening to make it slightly less formal and allow more time for networking and socialising. "But ultimately the main thrust of the event remains the same – to shout from the rooftops about all our great businesses here and to jointly celebrate our success stories."

The Make Your Mark 2016/17 winners included PWS (Company of the Year), Hitachi Rail Europe (Apprenticeships), Arlington Automotive (Employer of the Year), Premo Fabrications (Engineering & Manufacturing), Stiller Warehousing & Distribution (Innovation), Primex Plastics (Export), Beaumont Grounds Maintenance (Small Business of the Year), Trident Manor (Service Business), UTC South Durham (Newcomer), Ben Thubron, Baltic Training (Apprentice of the Year) and DISC (Heart of the Community).

The deadline to enter the 2017/18 Make Your Mark is Thursday April 12, and businesses can enter easily and quickly online at www.aycliffeawards.co.uk

Tickets for the evening itself on May 24 are priced just £17.50 each, which includes welcome drinks on arrival and canapés, are also available online, while sponsorship packages are available from www.aycliffeawards.co.uk or by emailing hello@aycliffeawards.co.uk

TEKMAR ARE NAMED COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Tekmar Energy of Aycliffe was named company of the year at Subsea UK's annual awards while subsidiary AgileTek Engineering was crowned the Small Company of the Year.

Tekmar Group CEO, James Ritchie, said: "We are honoured to receive



company of the year award at the prestigious Subsea Expo, I would like to dedicate this to everyone who is with us on our amazing journey; to all of our suppliers for supporting us, to our clients for believing in us, and to our dedicated hardworking team for making us who we are!"

AgileTek MD, Steve Rossiter, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won this award, which acknowledges the rapid progress and growth that AgileTek has undergone since its inception."

"This validation for efforts undertaken in the last three years means a tremendous amount to the team and is hugely inspiring for our new younger staff. It is also a great way to mark the efforts of the "original AgileTek team", who took risks and put in long hours to build the company to the point it is at today."

Tekmar Group is destined to become the partner of choice for the supply and installation support of subsea protection equipment to the global offshore energy markets".

Heighington Village AGM

Heighington Village Hall Association are holding their AGM at the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th March from 7.00pm for 7.30pm and are keen to welcome villagers who would like to hear about what has been done to improve the hall over the past year and about the activities of our regular users.

Drinks and light refreshments will be served at 7.00pm prior to the commencement of the AGM at 7.30pm. There will also be elections of Officers and Members of the Management Committee. New Committee members are always most welcome.

The Village Hall is the hub of the Heighington community and a lot of hard work is put into the day to day running of the building so it can be there for ALL villagers to enjoy – without the hard work of the Committee, who are all volunteers, the village hall would not be open - so every bit of support they can get is greatly appreciated."

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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Schedule Highlights:

MONDAY 7-8pm - Paul Gittins joins Aycliffe Radio with his 80s 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 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: 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 another pre-recorded session from Honest John entitled "With the Beatles" part 2. Don't forget Saturday night is all about the Dance Music: The Doctor will be in the house from 6 to 8pm with his mix of Dance Anthems followed by OZDJ with his eclectic mix of classic house tracks. MC Supa will play a bit of dirty grime, garage and drum 'n' bass from 10 to midnight, followed by a repeat of Alternative Aycliffe from midnight.

REGULARLY UPDATED SCHEDULE: Check our website for regular updates to the schedule. Lots more new shows covering many genres and different decades... something to suit everyone.

Send your request or dedication to info@ayclifferadio.co.uk or text 07512 253333

AYCLIFFE RADIO SHOW SCHEDULE

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

MONDAY

6-7pm 70s Hour - Peter Rush
7-8pm Paul Gittins "80s Reminiscing"
8-10pm UK Number Ones

TUESDAY

6-8pm Sports Round Up - Darren & Lee
Sponsored by Honest John
27th Feb - Sean Kelly (Tae Kwon Do)

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

6-8pm Best of the 80s
8-10pm BeatRoote with Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

6-8pm PVR Studio House Mix
8-10pm Guest Presenter Session
23rd Feb - Pauly Mac (from Australia)
2nd Mar - Owen Dickinson Politics
9th Mar - Andy Little (from Spain)

SATURDAY

8-12noon Kitchen Floor Fillers
12-1pm Local Schools, Bands & Guests
Honest John "With the Beatles Part 2"
4-6pm School Disco
6-8pm Dance Anthems - The Doctor
8-10pm Dance Mix - OZDJ
10-12midnight Garage/Indie/Drum 'n' Bass - MC Supa
After midnight Alternative Aycliffe (by demand Repeat)

SUNDAY

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

Scheduled shows may be changed/cancelled at any time.

How to Get Involved:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS - If you are organising an event, why not let us help you promote it?

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North East Girls Take Pageant World by Storm



As Mrs Elite Global Earth United Kingdom I wanted to do something special with my title and share the love of pageantry showing how amazing they are: I may not have taken over the world yet, but as a team we took the north east by storm! I sponsored seven girls into the pageant, called National Elite Miss and Global Earth UK, run by the amazing DQ Events in Blackpool and I am so thrilled to say each one of my girls won! We have shiny crowns and will be heading to Vegas and Gibraltar to represent our country in international finals! Our sisterhood is fantastic and we have the most amazing friendships with genuine support! Also you get to promote your platform and meet people in the community. As a group we raised over £10,000 in the last year for various charities,

including 'Bullies Out', RVI, CLAPA and RNLA and have made over 300 appearances with our titles. We have helped 100's of people, shared love and a helping hand to those who need it the most. We have helped the homeless, supported the elderly, visited children's wards as Disney characters, created smiles, laughter and so much more. Pageantry encourages you to be a good person, to help others and support people who need us! The old fashion term 'beauty pageants' means so much more in today's society! Beauty comes from within! Whatever size, shape, colour, religion, sexuality - we are all united! Join us and support us. #teamnortheast #NEPN (North east pageant network) Facebook me for information: Mrs Elite Global Earth - Kayleigh. Dress Shop: Couture Heaven, Newton

Aycliffe.
Kayleigh Atkinson

MODERN DAY SLAVERY

ITS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

Want to know more, why not come along to our free to attend event to be held at Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Shildon DL4 2AL on Wednesday 28th February. Registration 9.30am with 2pm finish and free lunch provided at no cost. This event is sponsored by The Big Lottery Fund and organised by Durham County Residents Association. For more information please contact Christine Hall on 07941 190 145 or Christine.hall47@gmail.com

GOOD RATING FOR DURHAM POLICE

VICTIMS of crime can have confidence that Durham Constabulary will take their report seriously, independent inspectors have concluded.

Durham has been rated Good in the latest Crime Data Integrity inspection, one of only five forces in the country to achieve the rating out of the 20 inspected so far.

The force correctly recorded 91.5% of crimes reported by the public, among the highest figures so far in the rolling series of inspections across England and Wales.

The report, released today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, rated Durham good overall and said it was outstanding when it came to demonstrating the leadership necessary for meeting national standards in crime reporting.

The report concluded: "Victims reporting crimes to Durham Constabulary should have confidence that their report will be taken seriously." Inspectors particularly praised Durham for achieving high levels of accuracy in the reporting of sexual offences and for recording all offences of modern slavery.

They also noted that all recommendations set out in the force's last Crime Data Integrity report, carried out in 2014, had been implemented. The report said: "Durham Constabulary has made concerted efforts to improve crime-recording accuracy since HMICFRS' 2014 Crime Data Integrity inspection report.

"Importantly, we found a commitment to ethical crime recording that is victim-focused and free from performance pressures of any kind.

"These are very encouraging findings". Durham's Chief Constable Mike Barton said: "I am delighted that the inspectorate recognised how assiduous our staff are at accurately

recording crime as per the rules set by the Home Office.

"Albeit I am pleased, I do have a degree of irritation at some of the complexities of the rules and I have some sympathy and understanding for other police forces that may have been tripped up by some of the intricacies".

Inspectors did identify some areas for further improvement, including earlier recording of public order offences and the under-reporting of offences in which young people share indecent images of themselves.

But the report noted: "The constabulary responded immediately to our findings and is already taking action to address these".

Ron Hogg, Durham's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, said: "I am delighted once again to see Durham Constabulary rated at the very top of policing in England and Wales.

"Integrity around crime data recording is essential to maintaining public confidence and there is still some progress to be made.

"I congratulate the force on this achievement whilst at the same time sharing some of the frustrations expressed by the chief constable about the complexities of the rules around crime recording."

As part of the report, inspectors analysed Durham's systems for recording crime and audited more than 1,000 crimes to make sure they had been recorded correctly.

£10K RENT-FREE YEAR UP FOR GRABS FOR AYCLIFFE STUDENTS

Students in Newton Aycliffe could be in for a treat this year, as an insurance company is offering one lucky housemate £10,000 to cover their rent for a whole year.

Endsleigh Insurance Services will be helping one youngster take the steps into adult life with a rent-free year, after revealing that the majority of Brits now feel they don't officially reach 'adulthood' until the grand age of 25.

The research showed that 56 per cent of young adults felt it was impossible to grow up as quickly as they'd like due to the economic climate - with 64 per cent finding it hard to get on the housing ladder or find a job.

Six in 10 adults believed you need to be at a point in life where your finances are in order to start feeling like a grown-up - which includes arranging your own insurance, keeping track of interest rates and having a credit card or savings account.

But 23 per cent of respondents aged 18 and over still haven't ever paid either a gas or electricity bill, and 17 per cent have never arranged their own buildings or contents insurance.

Julia Alpan, head of marketing at Endsleigh, said:

"Adult life can be a challenge for many young people, from organising finances to managing household chores, so it's no surprise to see how many people feel they aren't officially an 'adult' until the age of 25.

"Whether it's paying your own utility bills, spending less money on nights out, or taking out your first ever contents insurance policy, taking those steps into adult life can be a daunting experience.

"That's why we wanted to offer a helping hand, with £10,000 worth of free rent to give one lucky student a head-start on their finances as they move out their family home or say goodbye to their student halls to begin living independently.

"It would be great to see a student from Newton bagging the prize!"

To be in with a chance of winning, Aycliffe students just need to take Endsleigh's housemate quiz at endsleigh.co.uk/personal/gadget/housemate-quiz/start before 18 May 2018. *T&Cs apply. With over 50 years' experience Endsleigh uses its expertise to provide home, motor, travel and gadget insurance, throughout student life, through to homeownership and beyond.

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LEEK & POTATO SOUP FOR St. DAVID'S DAY

Leeks are a symbol of Wales and potatoes are the nation's favourite food. Together they make a wonderful winter warmer.

Serves 4-6

- 1 tbsp. coconut oil
- 1 onion sliced
- 225 g potatoes peeled & diced
- 2 medium leeks sliced
- 1,200 ml vegetable stock
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp lovage leaves chopped (optional)
- 150 ml soya cream
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

Heat the coconut oil in a large pan and add the prepared onion, potatoes and leeks. Sauté for 3-4 minutes until the vegetables start to soften. Pour the vegetable stock into the pan and bring to the boil. Season with black pepper and lovage (if available). Simmer for about 20 minutes until the vegetables are tender.

You can keep the soup in this consistency or liquidise it in a food processor or by using a stick blender. If you choose to do the latter, you may need to reheat it in a clean pan before serving, stir in the soya cream and garnish with chopped fresh parsley.

Also known as Dewi Sant the Patron Saint of Wales was born around 500 AD. Dydd Gŵyl Dewi (March 1st) is the feast day of Saint David and has been celebrated since the 12th Century by wearing daffodils and leeks and eating traditional Welsh food. Wales celebrates with a host of parades through Cardiff, Swansea and Aberystwyth.

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All proceeds for the MRI Scanner Appeal

Greenfield Students are 'Super Learners'

Greenfield students have been working extra hard in subject groups to get the best possible head start this term. Year 11 Students have come together for specialised sessions aimed to boost their knowledge and confidence in preparation for forthcoming exams.

The whole Maths team worked with Year 11 students from both the Aycliffe site and the Sunnysdale Campus with a more intensive focus on maths, pooling resources and ideas to benefit each and every student involved. Staff planned bespoke workshops for small groups of students based on areas of improvement identified from their mock exams. Each student attended 4 workshops and the day ended with a team maths relay quiz - with prizes and everything! Mrs Claire Middleton, Director of Improvement in Maths, was thrilled with the results. "We were all extremely impressed by the level of engagement of the students and many commented that they had got a lot from the day, it was real success and great for all of the staff and students to

have the opportunity to work across both campuses"

The English team also planned a dedicated event where Year 11 English students were given the opportunity to work together in the main hall going through past exam papers and generally preparing for exams. The English team enjoyed working together with the students who were able to gain tips on preparation and benefit from the shared knowledge and expertise of the English teaching team. They then had the chance to take part in a fun quiz which was a great way to finish off the day and another chance to work together and learn from each other.

The specialised sessions have given a real boost to the students giving them the chance to learn from an excellent team of staff and share good practice. Greenfield are committed to raising aspirations and finding innovative ways to help all of their students reach their potential. We wish all the students every success in their exams.

Pest Control Help for County Durham Businesses

Businesses in County Durham looking to tackle or avoid pest problems are being offered free help.

Durham County Council is providing pest management surveys and advice to companies on industrial estates and business parks which it owns.

The pest control team's qualified and experienced pest control technicians will visit the estates and parks on dates which will be advertised in advance, to allow businesses to book the surveys beforehand.

Staff will identify anything at a site that could attract pests, any weaknesses in a building's structure that might allow them access, and what monitoring and treatment arrangements a business should put in place. Companies which book a survey will receive immediate feedback on the day and a written report soon after.

The first survey day took place at Chilton Industrial Estate on Wednesday 21 February with another day on Dabble Duck and Furnace Industrial Estates in Shildon on Wednesday 7 March.

Mark Farren, the council's pest control manager, said: "We're really pleased to be rolling out our new free survey days for businesses. "Pest infestations can cause real harm to a firm, with potential for damaged equipment or stock which can cost thousands of pounds. They can also hit



a firm's reputation and staff relations.

"Our team can give advice on how to tackle infestations as well as reduce the chances of one occurring.

"We'd encourage firms on our industrial estates and business parks to sign up for the surveys - there is no obligation to use our services if you do."

The team deal with bed bugs, rats, cockroaches, fleas, weevils, mice, wasps, moles, squirrels and flies on a daily basis.

Pest control is not a service the council has to provide under law. It provides the service to residents for a one-off fee of £40. Appointments can be arranged online at www.durham.gov.uk/pestcontrol or by calling 03000 260 000.

Businesses can find out what the service can do for them

by calling 03000 262 550 or emailing: pestcontrol@durham.gov.uk



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Working With Rotary Club Changes Lives

Whether you are volunteering by helping your local community foodbank or responding to local and international disasters, there is a project or activity to suit everyone. By volunteering with Rotary, you know that you will be changing people's lives for the better. Being part of Rotary is more than just giving back to the community by volunteering. It is also about you bringing your skills, experience and enthusiasm to help it thrive, whilst making some great friends along the way. Our clubs are friendly places which invite speakers from a wide range of backgrounds to share their knowledge, increasing your social and cultural understanding. Members also share a common interest in friendship and if you visit any of our clubs around Great Britain and Ireland you will immediately feel the sense of camaraderie and fun.

Share Skills by Volunteering for Rotary
Volunteering with Rotary could be the most important thing you ever do. Your skills and experience are

invaluable in our drive to help communities at home and around the world through our volunteer work. Whether you become a member of Rotary or volunteer your time and abilities to your local club, you will be helping to make people's lives better.

There are many ways to get involved with Rotary:

- You could join your local Rotary and open up a world of opportunities.
 - You could donate to a club or Rotary initiative
 - You could volunteer to speak at a club about a cause or interest
 - If you are a school pupil, you could take part in a Rotary competition
 - You could volunteer to help the club in one of its initiatives, without becoming a Rotary member
- If Rotary sounds like the organisation for you and you feel like volunteering some of your spare time, we'd like to hear from you! Simply contact Newton Aycliffe rotary club through Syd Howarth at Newton Press, Tel: 01325 300212 or e-mail: syd@newtonpress.net.

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The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

Applications will only be accepted via NHS Jobs: www.jobs.nhs.uk
Please do not telephone the surgery.

Closing date: Monday 5th March 2018

Interviews: Week commencing 12th March 2018

Start date:
as soon as possible following selection.

General Builders & Bricklayers Wanted

Pennine Home Improvements at Dragonville, Durham has started the new year as it means to go on, with a 28 per cent turnover increase from last January, and the opening of its largest showroom to date.

The leading North East retailer is celebrating a significant turnover of £1.57 million for January, putting success partly down to the opening of its new showroom in Dragonville Retail Park, Durham.

The expansion is Pennine's first showroom in Durham, bringing five new jobs to the

area. Plans are also in the pipeline to expand further, with the addition of at least one more showroom in the North East region, promising further employment opportunities.

Mark Tinnion, managing director at Pennine Home Improvements, said: "It's a really exciting time for the Company, with the recent launch of our fifth and largest showroom, and a significant turnover increase that proves the outstanding efforts of the staff."

"The team's hard work, focus and commitment

to delivering the brand promises has really shone through for Pennine in January.

"We're determined to continue this success throughout the year and hope to deliver a strong financial result for 2018."

A night of live jazz saw the launch of the new Durham branch, on 10 February. The evening also included an official ribbon cutting ceremony with The Mayor and Mayoress of Durham, Councillor Bill Kellett and Councillor Jean Chaplow.

Consisting of seven

conservatories and orangeries, as well as a state-of-the-art virtual reality design station, the new showroom gives more customers from across the region the opportunity to visualise their dream living space and see the quality of our products up close.

"With the new showroom's state-of-the-art facilities, we expect it will make a significant contribution to turnover going forward, while offering our customers a new and exciting way to see our products," added Mark.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our customers for helping to make Pennine what it is today. We hope you will continue your support throughout 2018 and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for the Company."

Pennine is always looking to recruit general builders and bricklayers. If you are interested in joining Pennine's experienced team, please visit its careers page at www.penninehome.co.uk/careers. For further information on Pennine Home Improvements, please visit www.penninehome.co.uk or follow @PennineHome on Twitter.

Juniors Football Report

The football season continued with the Aycliffe Juniors teams hoping for a consistent run of fixtures and an end to the weather enforced postponements.

The Under 6's enjoyed a great match day experience at Rockcliffe Hall when they visited the Middlesbrough FC academy and played a variety of local teams including an MFC Development side. They played four games and they had a great mornings football.

The Under 7's hosted Hartlepool Pools Youth 'Blue' they lost the first game 6-0 but improved to draw the second 3-3. Great defending from the visitors prevented Aycliffe scoring in the first game. In the second two great strikes from Evan and a goal from David put Aycliffe 3-0 before Pools came back to draw.

VOLUNTEER LITTERPICKERS

Dear Sir,
I would like to say a big thank you to the two young women and their small children for litter picking along Morton Walk on Wednesday 14th February.
It was greatly appreciated and sets a wonderful example to us all.
D. Morgan



The Under 8's played a local derby at Sunnydale against Bishop Auckland Kings and they won by five goals to three. They established a four goal lead with Thomas, Dylan and Kenyon on target as well as an own goal adding to the total. Kings came back to 4-3 before man of the match Dylan's shot rebounded for Thomas to score. The development game allowed new player Oscar to join in and goals came from Josh (2), Dylan and Oliver in a 7-4 loss. The Under 10's 'White' faced Norton & Stockton Ancients 'Amber' and two goals from Niall led them to a 2-0 win. Connor was named as man of the match in the league game. The development game was won 6-1, Will got a hatrick, Oliver, Aidan and man of the match each added

a goal.
The Under 12's Russell Foster League team played against Beamish Sparks. They were up against a team sitting second in the league and started well taking the lead. However as the game progressed they slipped behind and ended the game on the wrong end of a 5-1 scoreline.
The Under 12's TJFA League team played their first home game of the calendar year against Stockton Town 'Yellows'. They went ahead with a neat finish from Liam but then conceded two goals to go behind 2-1 at half time. The second half saw relentless Aycliffe pressure, after a number of chances the equaliser was scored by Will. The winning goal though could not be found and this game ended 2-2.

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GREENFIELD STUDENTS TACKLE DISABILITY IN SPORT



As part of Rights Respecting day students from Greenfield Community College have been gaining an insight into the lives of Paralympic athletes and the difficulties they have to overcome to compete in their respective sports.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in activities such as sit down volleyball, boccia and blindfold football. The activities gave students a real sense of the difficulties experienced by competitors and the extra resolve and determination that was needed to compete. The students commented that the day had been a fantastic experience and how much more respect and understanding they had gained for people who have to cope with a disability on a day to day basis.

Rights Respecting is part of wider initiative which is intent on raising awareness of injustice and enables students to not only learn more about equality and diversity but builds their confidence to form and voice their opinions both at school and in the wider community. The activities also support a commitment from Greenfield to encourage an inclusive culture that considers the needs and talents of every child.



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DRUGS & ALCOHOL AT WORK

Suzannah Robin, an alcohol and drug safety expert at AlcoDigital, has helped numerous companies in the UK with their testing policies and procedures.

She lists five signs that could mean a colleague is addicted to drugs or alcohol. Alcohol and drug related deaths continue to be a problem in the UK, with the Office for National Statistics reporting that the number of people dying from alcohol and drug abuse has continued to increase over the last decade. The issue extends far and wide, with many companies across the UK feeling the effects. In fact, according to the Department for Transport, drugs and alcohol cost British businesses in excess

of £6 billion per year in lost productivity.

Many organisations have now put in place policies to test staff for drugs and alcohol. However, while having a procedure in place will help to identify issues, employers should also be actively encouraging employees to come forward, and offering assistance and access to treatment for staff who are struggling. What are the signs to look out for? Although they vary depending on the substance being abused, here are five common indications that a co-worker could be suffering from addiction:

1. Erratic behaviour and unpredictable mood swings – an individual may be happy and full of energy one minute,

and then lethargic, depressed and irritable the next. He or she may also lose interest in activities and hobbies they've previously enjoyed, or become socially withdrawn and isolated.

2. Poor timekeeping and absenteeism – consistently turning up to work late and constantly taking time off could both be signs that something is wrong. Particularly if there is a pattern for such occurrences taking place following the

weekend or a stretch of annual leave.

3. Work-related performance issues – an inability to carry out basic tasks efficiently or effectively and an overall deterioration in the quality and quantity of work being completed.

4. Personal hygiene – neglecting cleanliness and grooming. Turning up looking dishevelled and unkempt.

5. Injuries and other physical changes – unexplained injuries, shaking, incoherent

speech, bloodshot eyes and frequent nosebleeds are all possible signs a person may be abusing drugs or alcohol.

If you suspect a co-worker is suffering from substance abuse, encourage them to seek professional help either via their GP, a local treatment service or support group.

AlcoDigital provides free reviews for companies looking to implement drug and alcohol policies. Please visit www.alcodigital.co.uk for more information.

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WESTERN AREA LITTER PICK AND HOLLY PLANTING

The Community
Regeneration Team from
livin recently secured
a grant from Durham
County Council to plant
49 native holly trees to
enhance the woodland
walk in the Western Area
of Newton Aycliffe as part
of the National Tree Week
Campaign. Supporting this
initiative were local
Community Champions,
Ron Mitchie and Cllr Arun
Chandran, Emily Hunter
from PCP and Michael
Fishwick from livin. They
worked alongside Durham
County Council's Civic
Pride and the Clean and
Green Team, taking part
in the planting, along with
a litterpick and tidy up
around Silverdale Place.

Consultation on the
proposals for regeneration
in the Western Area is
ongoing and further drop
in sessions on the estate
are planned over the
spring. For further
information about PCP or
the Western Area
Regeneration Project
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Picture shows: Ron Mitchie, Cllr Arun Chandran, Emily Hunter and Michael Fishwick at work picking litter

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NEW MRI SCANNER INSTALLED THANKS TO GENEROUS DONATIONS



Patients at Bishop Auckland
Hospital can now benefit
from the first of two new
state of the art MRI scanners
coming to County Durham
and Darlington NHS
Foundation Trust as part of
an on-going major public
fundraising campaign. The
scanner has been installed
whilst fundraising continues
throughout 2018, thanks to
manufacturer Philips who
have deferred payment until
the end of the year.

Dr Elizabeth Loney,
Consultant Radiologist and
Care Group Director for
Clinical Specialist Services,
said, "I'm delighted that
our patients can now
benefit from this innovative
technology at Bishop
Auckland Hospital and look
forward to the installation
of our Darlington Memorial
Hospital scanner too,
once building work to
accommodate it is
completed during the
spring. Modern scanners
play an important part in
helping our Consultants
diagnose and determine
treatment plans for what
can be life threatening or
life limiting conditions,
including many types of
cancer and heart disease.
Previously patients

may have had to undergo
exploratory and sometimes
invasive surgery to support
the diagnostic process. This
advanced technology, which
provides detailed and high
quality images, will help
reduce many such
interventions, improving
the patient experience. "Not
everyone realises that MRI
scans take between 30 and
40 minutes which is a long
time to lie still, but our new
scanners have wider
tunnels, known as 'bores',
and are much quieter than
older models. Patients can
also choose from a selection
of lighting programmes
which change during the
scan. All of this leads to a
much improved patient
experience. In the past,
children and some adults
required sedation or a
general anaesthetic in order
to tolerate being scanned,
but we're finding this is
now much less likely. This
not only means reduced
risks to the patient but also
saves hospital beds, tradi-
tionally required for re-
covery. "We've been
amazed and very touched
by the generosity of local
people who have donated to
our Appeal. Individuals,

groups, associations and
local businesses have all
stepped-up, recognising the
huge benefits these scanners
will bring. It's important
that this generosity and
fundraising continues
throughout 2018. One of
the first patients to benefit
from the new Bishop
Auckland scanner was
seven year old Warren
Hubble, from Sacriston.
Warren's dad, Wayne
Hubble, explains, "Children
often need to have a
general anaesthetic ahead
of an MRI scan and when
they told me how long
Warren would need to lie
still, I thought he would
need an anaesthetic. However
the radiographer talked to
Warren, explained what
was going to happen and
let him choose his own
lighting options. Warren
loved the lights and the
way they changed and,
because the scanner was
so quiet, the Radiographer
was able to talk to him
through a speaker
throughout the scan.
Amazingly, Warren lay
completely still for the
full 30 minutes, which I
don't think would have
been possible with one of
the older scanners. I'm
so pleased he didn't need
an anaesthetic or even
sedation."

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Graduated Licences for Young Drivers

Road safety charity IAM RoadSmart has welcomed Prime Minister Theresa May's pledge to look at introducing a graduated licensing (GDL) scheme for young drivers – calling it long overdue.

The pledge came during Prime Minister's Questions, as Labour MP Jenny Chapman told MPs that one in four young drivers was involved in an accident within the first two years of starting to drive.

As Mrs May said: "There are too many people who suffer a loss and tragedy at the hands of learner drivers and we will certainly look at that."

Although very few learner drivers are responsible for deaths, IAM RoadSmart strongly support a review of the way we equip new drivers to cope with the first few dangerous months of solo driving. Road crashes are the biggest killer of

young people in the UK today, but in our view are not treated with the same urgency as knife or drug crime.

IAM RoadSmart has a full manifesto of what it would like to see for new drivers on the road, you can read it here: <https://www.iamroadsmart.com/media-and-policy/research-and-policy/policy-details/improving-the-safety-of-young-drivers---the-views-of-the-iam>

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart director of policy and research, said: "Too many young drivers pass the practical test unprepared for the road so any GDL scheme must focus on building experience in all traffic conditions."

"GDL shouldn't stop at the practical test and IAM RoadSmart supports post-test check-ups to embed learning and help new drivers negotiate our stressful roads."

Woodham Students Enjoy Ski Trip To Aosta Valley



Students from Woodham Academy have just returned from a week of ski tuition in Pila, Italy. After a long coach journey the group arrived mid Sunday afternoon to their hotel high up overlooking the mountain range of the Gran Paradiso National Park. The hotel St Nicolas boasts one of Interski's most picturesque locations; the views were stunning and the clear blue skies enabled them to be seen in all their glory. Whilst in resort, the fantastic snow conditions allowed all students to make excellent progress on the slopes beneath an idyllic panorama that stretches from Mont Blanc

to the Matterhorn. In addition to the activity on the slopes, students visited the town of Aosta and saw Roman ruins that date back to 25b.c.

After travelling to the Aosta Valley for 18 years and winning the first ever group of the season award Woodham students have an exceptional reputation with Interski and their staff. This year was no exception with all instructors complimenting the students on their conduct and behaviour and the course co-ordinator who stays with the group in the hotel requesting that she is able to work with the group again.



LITTER HEROES URGED TO TAKE PART IN THIS YEAR'S BIG SPRING CLEAN

Communities and volunteers across County Durham and Darlington are being urged to take part in the eleventh annual 'Big Spring Clean' litter-picking campaign.

LitterFree Durham, in partnership with Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council, is inspiring people to give their local area a spring clean-up to banish strewn litter in time for summer.

The campaign brings communities together to tidy-up, clean-up or green-up their villages or towns and encourages thousands of people to make a difference. This year, the Big Spring Clean campaign will run until Sunday 15 April and people are urged to sign up and organise a litter pick in their village, town, or city in County Durham and Darlington.

The campaign contributes towards County Durham's priority of making the county 'altogether greener', and encourages residents to think about the environmental impact waste products such as plastic and metal can have on our wildlife, forests, and oceans.

Representatives from Durham County Council's clean and green and civic pride teams met with volunteer group 'Our Place', as well as PCSOs from Durham Constabulary, to launch the Big Spring Clean in Shotton this week.

Speaking at the launch event, Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "The Big Spring Clean campaign represents a fantastic opportunity for people to really make a difference in their community."



"Last year's campaign saw 191 litter-picks carried out in total, with 2,589 people contributing 3,382 volunteer hours to collect 2,865 bags of litter."

"This year we're hoping to top that incredible achievement." All equipment, litter-picks and sacks will be provided to organised litter-picks and all rubbish will be collected and disposed of afterwards.

In addition, the council's Civic Pride team can advise on health and safety and risk assessments. Gerald Lee, Chair of LitterFree Durham, said: "So far we've been delighted with our annual Big Spring Clean event, but every year we aim to do better than the year before."

"That's why this year we're urging more and more people to sign up and really make a difference to their communities."

"Whether you've volunteered with us before or are new to it, we can provide everything you need to get started and even organise a litter pick of your own."

"Never before has the public awareness about the evils of plastic been so great and yet whilst many are rightfully

upset about our whales and dolphins being killed by plastic we should not forget that the same is happening every day on dry land - dogs, cats, birds sheep and cows are dying because we continue to litter our towns and countryside instead of doing what we all know is the right thing to do.

"Please take your litter home!"

Dropping litter is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and currently a £80 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) can be issued to anyone caught dropping litter. The maximum fine for dropping litter is £2,500.

To report litter louts online anytime visit www.durham.gov.uk/litter or to report litter incidents by telephone call 03000 26 0000 during office hours.

To organise a litter pick in County Durham, email litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 26 0000. To organise a litter pick in Darlington, email litterfreedurham@darlington.gov.uk or call 01325 406 719.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/bigspringclean for further details.

Congratulations

Connor Wheatley



Happy 20th Birthday
Hope you have a great time at Fat Boy Slim on Friday! Love, SJ, Craig, Macca, Maddi and Cayden xx

Mackenzie



Happy Twentieth Birthday
24th February
Hope you have a brilliant time at Fat Boy Slim in Manchester on Friday with your mates. Lots of love from Mum and Dad xxxx

In Memoriam

Arthur Dye

23rd February 2017

There's a corner in our hearts you visit every day. It gives us this warm feeling that you're never far away. Although we laugh and seem carefree and make no outward show what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Loved and remembered always. Your Loving Wife, Mary; Tony and Brenda; Ken and Judith

John Hubery

1st March 2017

In loving memory. Sadly missed, deep in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Loving Wife Madge and family

Patricia Ann Walker

26th February 2015

Some day I hope to meet you, some day, I know not when, to clasp your hand in a better land, never to part again. Your loving Husband, Colin xxx

KATHLEEN HILLARY. Another day, three years gone. Nothing to say, but miss you. John

JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 22nd February 1992. When someone you love dies, you never quite get over it. You just learn to slowly go on without them. But always keeping them tucked safely within your heart. Love you always, missing you forever. Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul, Vicky and Maxine xxxxx

MARY GALLAGHER 25th February 2011. Your memory is as dear today, as in the hour you passed away. Love always Vince, Clare, Paul, Victoria, Amanda & Flynn
PETER REDDEN 1971-2013. In our hearts your memory lingers, always tender fond and true. There's not a day goes by when we don't think of you. Love and miss you loads. All the famil

Mackenzie Jackman



Happy 20th Birthday Bro
Love, Maddi and John xx
Happy Birthday Uncle MacMac.
Lots of love from Cayden x
Happy Birthday Grandson
Love from Grandad, Rachel, Nan, Davy, Grandad and Rose xx

Matthew French

25th February 2018
Happy 21st birthday
With love from
All the family
xxx

YVONNE REED. 27th February. Mam. Happy 65th birthday. Love, Michelle and Glen xx

YVONNE REED. Happy birthday Nanna. Love from Callum xx

YVONNE REED. 27th February. Mam. Happy 65th birthday. Love from Marc xx
YVONNE REED. 27th February. Nanna. Happy birthday. Love from Jacob xx
YVONNE REED. Happy 65th birthday. Lots of love, George xxx

ADAM & SHELANASTOTT. Happy first anniversary on 25th February. Love, SJ, Craig, Macca, Maddi and Cayden x

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Obituary

Reita Pierce



Retired music teacher from Avenue and Woodham Comprehensive Schools. Best remembered for the musical productions of Oliver, Sound of Music and the Wizard of Oz. Funeral to be held at Ferryhill Village Methodist Church on Tuesday 27th February at 2.15pm.

SID HOLMES. 15th February, at home. Sid, aged 84 years of Aycliffe Village. Beloved Husband of Audrey. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral on Friday 2nd March. Would family and friends please meet at 12.30pm for a Service at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village.

AYCLIFFE BEAT THE LEAGUE LEADERS MORPETH



Thibault Charmey celebrates the second of his two goals on his debut

Aycliffe put in a terrific performance in beating league leaders Morpeth Town at Moore Lane. The 2-1 victory meant that Aycliffe stretched their unbeaten run in the league to nine games. The game was played at a frantic pace throughout, with Aycliffe's twice-weekly training regime paying dividends, as they were still going strong at the end of the game, as Morpeth tired. Aycliffe started well and were rewarded when Jordan Jewson went on a mazy dribble, and after his

shot was blocked, debutant Thibault Charmey followed up and fired it low into the corner via the post for 1-0. The lead only lasted 2 minutes, as Morpeth centre-forward Henderson headed in a free-kick. On 15 minutes Kurt Matthews was tripped in the box, but instead of being awarded a penalty, he received a booking for simulation! Morpeth then had a lot of possession, but tight marking in midfield meant that they had to resort to long, high crosses, which centre halves Dan Mitton

and Andrew Grant-Soulsby dealt with comfortably. Half-time 1-1.

The pattern continued in the second half. Morpeth's high ball game nearly paid off when Taylor got free and powered in a header, but home keeper James Winter pulled off a great save. Aycliffe were dominating the midfield and Jewson was causing the Morpeth back four problems. Morpeth's frustrations spilled over in the 78th minute when Henderson was sent off for stamping. Aycliffe fashioned a great team move with five minutes to go, slicing open the Morpeth defence, with Jewson's shot just missing the goal.

The pressure told a minute later when Jewson was fouled outside the area. Charmey stepped up and fired the free kick into the corner past Morpeth keeper Dryden. Morpeth threw men forward in an attempt to get an equaliser, but couldn't trouble Winter. Morpeth full-back Forster was sent off in injury time for another bad tackle. Aycliffe saw out time for a 2-1 victory, resulting in them being voted Northern League Team of the Week.

Next game is away to Ryhope Colliery Welfare on Saturday 24th February at 3.00pm. The next home game is at Moore Lane on Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm, against Washington, followed by the visit of second placed Consett on Saturday 3rd March. Attendance : 120. Man of the Match : Thibault Charmey.

Youthy Football Round Up

Debut weekend for our newest team coming out of the Wildcats girls' development section, as the new U8's played Spraire Lassies. Our opposition were short of players due to holidays but still a very good day for this group of inexperienced girls. Plenty of work for the managers Chris and Claire Williams but good early signs.

Newton Aycliffe Youth U11's Falcons 4 - 2 Tibs FC Blue

Today we played away at Tibs Blue who sat 3 points behind us in 2nd place before today's game. The game was largely a scrappy affair with Tibs mainly playing the better football. We seemed a little uncomfortable in possession, missed hitting passes and rushing when we had time to get a foot on the ball. Despite this we still managed to get in front with a 2-0 lead by chasing everything down, pressing and causing errors in the opposition defence. Half time 2-0. In the 2nd half Tibs went for it and changed to a more attacking formation. This seemed to catch us out a bit and we conceded two early goals in the first half. However the players did not crumble and started taking the game to Tibs as well, getting another 2 goals to win the game 4-2, one of which was a great long range effort. Goal scorers were Louis Parnaby, Ethan Tate, Dylan Stewart and Reece Smith.

Newton Aycliffe Youth U14's Hawks 5-1 Normanby Black.

A fast start by Aycliffe had us 1 up in the first minute as a lovely through ball by Callum found James who fired past the keeper. We were creating chances going forward but also needed Charlie to keep out Normanby at the other end. We doubled our lead midway through the first half as Callum again found James to fire home. James grabbed his hat-trick before HT as he was brought down in the area and stepped up and beat the keeper. 3-0 HT.

2nd half changes were made and some players were given different roles. We added a 4th as Will Mawston turned in a cross from the left for a debut goal. Normanby kept creating chances and had a penalty saved by Charlie but finally grabbed a goal with 10 mins left.

Drew added a 5th to keep up his recent goal scoring run. MOM for his first half hat-trick, goes to James. First game up front and took your chances well today. Another mention for Charlie in goal on another good performance. Also a shout out to Callum who grabbed a couple of assists today and created problems with his quality passing.

Bishop Girls 8 - 1 Newton Aycliffe Youth U11's Girls Saturday saw us all meet up at Sedgefield to use the 3G pitch. Bishop, the stronger



World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year is being held on Friday 2nd March at Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church Neville Parade at 11am. The theme for the service is All God's Creation is Very Good. The Service has been written by Christian women in Suriname in the North Eastern part of South America. Everyone is welcome and a light lunch will be served after the service.

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