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Friday 9th March 2018

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Civic Dinner Raffle Raised £727 for Scanner Appeal

Despite the bad winter conditions, many members of the public joined the Civic dignitaries for an evening of food and fundraising on Friday 2nd March at the Hallgarth Hotel and Golf Club Darlington, for the Mayor's Civic Dinner 2018. The event was hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Wendy Hillary and was in support of her nominated charity for her year in office, the MRI Scanner appeal for Darlington and Bishop Auckland Hospitals.



Left to right: Pat Chambers (NHS Charity Trust Fundraiser), Jedd Hillary, Mayor Wendy Hillary, Prof. Paul Keane OBE.

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The Chair for the County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust, Professor Paul Keane OBE spoke to the audience outlining the need for fundraising for this great cause and the success that has been achieved so far and their plans for the future. Tony Robinson, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, gave a response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests and John Melvin provided the music for the evening. The Mayor would like to thank friends, family and Councillors for their support throughout the year and



Tony Robinson

also the following local businesses who kindly donated prizes for the raffle and tombola which helped us to raise £727 on the night for this worthwhile cause: Husqvarna UK Ltd, Hallgarth Hotel and Golf Club, Finley Leisure, Alan Reed Ltd, Neil Thompson, Thorn Lighting Ltd, Hedley Tyres, Tesco, Fitness Fuzion, Mobile Rocket.

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Great Easter Fun at Messy Church

"Passport to Easter" is the theme for March Messy Church. Come along on March 17th at 4pm and travel from Shrove Tuesday to Easter. Pancakes and chocolate eggs - will you be tempted? Can you resist? Come and see! Make an Easter garden to take home, donkey masks, palm branches, have your feet washed! Collect stamps along the way at the different destinations and receive your Easter treat at the end. Doors open at 3.30pm for registration - crafts till 5pm then celebration sharing with a tea of pasta, garlic bread and a sweet chocolate tiffin to follow. All are welcome, donations gratefully received to support the work of Messy Church.

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A NEWTON AYCLIFFE FAMILY'S FOSTERING JOURNEY

Aycliffe couple, Mike and Marie Holton talked about the possibility of fostering for a long time, but once they made the decision they sat down with their children to discuss it with them and then the family as a whole. Fostering 100% needs to be a whole family decision as it will affect them all.

They made initial enquiries and met with several IFA's (independent fostering organisation) and the Local Authority before choosing the Children's Family Trust to pursue their dream of fostering. The company ethos was fantastic, and as a not for profit charity they knew that their focus is about the children and Mike and Marie receive 24/7 support, 365 days per year.

They also obtain ongoing specific training to the needs of the children they are caring for, and participation events where the children and carers get together to enjoy activities as well as the opportunity for carers to talk about their experiences and any issues they may be facing.

This support is invaluable for any carer, and the Trust even help with swimming lesson costs, driving lessons and rewards for great exam results which shows the children are truly at the heart of everything.

Marie told Newton News: "Our birth children especially our young daughter, have been the biggest support; she had to share her parents, welcome

children into her home and then say goodbye only to start again. It's been amazing to watch the unconditional love and patience they have all shown, plus our parents and extended family have also been a huge support. We also have the 'Staying Put' arrangement which means if the children in your care would like to stay on with you after their 18th birthday then this can be agreed by both the family and the young person. This is a huge reassurance for both parties as in a real family setting, who's ready



to move out at 18?"

Marie and Mike's journey from throughout the process was intense as their whole lives are laid bare starting with their own childhood, but this for them was reassuring as it was good to see such a robust selection procedure.

They are now approaching their second year of fostering and couldn't be happier. They have two amazing brothers who are settled, happy and thriving within the family.

Marie said: "It feels great to make such a difference to children's lives with a great team supporting us. If you have thought about fostering, have a spare bedroom, drive, have time, patience, understanding and the ability to commit to a young person's life then please get in touch with us at The Children's Family Trust for a further discussion or attend an open day on Monday 26th March between 10:00-14:00."

Telephone: 01388 779444

NEWTON NEWS EDITORIAL

Newton Press was very disappointed to miss publishing last week's issue of Newton News due to bad weather conditions preventing the delivery of paper to our factory.

We did publish on-line so some important stories were circulated for those who visited our website.

Obviously there is a duplication of articles in this week's issue as we try to catch up with local news and information.

We believe most people still like to read and feel their community newspaper and do not rely on websites and social media.

The information we print is a permanent record for people to refer to and keep. Research also shows the printed word is still the most popular media.

It was thought that Kindle Books, read on tablets, would kill off books but that has not happened and interest in all types of printed work is as popular as ever.

Facebook and websites have the advantage for immediate sharing among your "friends" and followers, but it is restricted and there are problems with security and abuse yet to be solved.

Use your local community newspaper to get your message across. We have a weekly circulation of 17,000 and 50,000 weekly hits on our website copy of Newton News.

New Team Rector for the Parish of Great Aycliffe

My name is Ann... Rev. Ann Anderson! Hartlepool is my home town, and I attended the very ostentatious Henry Smith Grammar School but didn't really achieve well, finding the whole five years of secondary education a complete ordeal.

I went on to take qualifications at the College of Further Education, Hartlepool, this time successfully. I then went to Leeds where I acquired the best nurse training at St. James' Hospital, but the actual reason I went to Leeds was my husband Jeff, he was studying Illustration at Leeds Polytechnic.

Here, we settled, I qualified and got a job as a Staff Nurse at Chapel Allerton Hospital and Jeff got a job at Rustcraft Greeting Cards. Life was good, though I knew there was something missing from my life; we started a much longer for family! In fact, we loved being a family so much we had two girls in two years.

It was while our second daughter was very small that Jeff lost his Dad, suddenly, to a massive heart attack. Within a few months it became clear that Jeff's Mam was also very sick; she was diagnosed with cancer. I travelled home to Hartlepool and took her to every radiotherapy/doctors' appointment.

While I was nursing Jeff's Mam, Jeff's sister arranged for me to attend a Billy Graham event at Roker Park, Sunderland; Billy Graham spoke powerfully about Jesus, I just about ran to the front of the meeting as I realised that everything that was wrong in my life, everything that was missing, could be made good by the love of God.

Sadly, Jeff's Mam still died, but not before I shared God's love with her too, so I grieved, but not as someone who has no hope. Jeff and I went onto have another three children, we have three daughters and two sons, we are so very proud of them!

We returned to Hartlepool and soon I realised God was calling me to full time ministry. Me?! A girl from Hartlepool who didn't even



Rev. Ann with husband Jeff

do well at school? You bet! I served as a Curate at St. Mary and St. Cuthbert's Church, Chester-le-Street and as Rector at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Hetton, Lyons with Eppleton for the past eleven years, and now God has led me to Great Aycliffe.

So, who am I? I am a Christian, a wife/Mum/Grandma, a church leader, a lover of people, walking, sewing, knitting, reading, food, films and chocolate... and God's not finished with me yet!

You can find me at our

four churches in Aycliffe, St. Andrew's Church, St. Francis' Church, St. Elizabeth's Church or St. Clare's Church, where you can find the Parish Office. I look forward to meeting you!

Rev. Ann Anderson.

Editor:

On behalf of residents of Great Aycliffe Newton News extends a warm welcome to Ann and her family. We hope they will be happy here and look forward to receiving the whole family into our community.

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THURSDAY - GRILL NIGHT

6.00pm-9.00pm - mix and match any 2 meals from the
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Check out our "Steak of the Week Offer" on Facebook

SUNDAY LUNCH

12noon-6.00pm - Bookings advisable

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LAW ON DATA PROTECTION EXPLAINED

As part of our Share and Learn Network, Durham Community Action are running a FREE session for community groups on the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which comes into force on 25th May 2018.

The session will take place on Monday 19th March from 6.00pm to 7.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4HT.

This meeting is open to everyone - attendance is free although booking in advance is required to secure places which are limited. Contact Julie Harrison on 01388 742040

Bike Marking & Chat to Police Officers



PCSO Jennifer Atkinson and PCSO 6642 O'Brien will be in the Police Town Centre shop on Saturday 24th March between 10:00-14:00hrs.

They will be doing bike marking and are available for people to have a chat with if they have any concerns.

Email: Jennifer.Atkinson@durham.pnn.police.uk

DISCO
Big Club

24 March
7 - 11pm
Over 21's Only
DJ: John Melvin

Tickets: £2.50
£3 o.t.d.
(limited spaces)

Tickets available from:
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Facebook:
Big Club Disco Night

Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5NU

"Let Us Entertain You"

March Entertainment Guide

Friday 9th	"The Beer Monkeys", £3 entry
Saturday 10th	Table Top/Craft Fair, 11am-4pm in aid of Clear & Care for the Community
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" and a Guest Appearance by Shanaya in aid of MRI Scanner Appeal, Tickets £7.50
Saturday 24th	Disco Night, Tickets £2.50 or £3 old
Friday 30th	John Melvin Karaoke & Disco, 7pm, £2 entry The Lounge Soul Session, Free admission
Saturday 31st	"Little Fix" - Clear & Care for the Community

THE TURBINIA

*** Saturday Night Live ***

The Very Best of Rock - NO Cover Charge (unless stated)

Saturday 17th March - "Revenant"

Female fronted Classic and Hard Rock covers band including AC/DC, Saxon, Iron Maiden, Ozzy, Scorpions, Guns n Roses, Motley Crue, Whitesnake, Heart, Def Leppard, Aerosmith etc. Gigit review - REVENANT - TRILLIANS - "What a cracking band, been very brilliant first set so far. Great set of musician, outstanding lead singer in Hannah who's totally blown me away. If this continues like this they're gonna hit a GIGIT MUST SEE. Seriously!! if your near Newcastle you are missing a brilliant gig".

Saturday 24th March - "606"

For more information on bands go to
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FLOWER DEMO

The next meeting of Shildon and District Flower Club will now take place at Shildon Civic Centre on Monday 9th April at 7.30pm when Carys Harrison from York will present an evening of flower arranging on the theme 'Have Passport, Will Travel' Free to members, Visitors £5. All welcome.

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Whitehouse Aid Local Charities



Julie from Whitehouse Funeral Service was delighted to present a cheque for £100 to the Together 21 Project at the PCP Newton Aycliffe. The project supports children with Down's Syndrome and their families to learn, grow in confidence and improve independence. Julie received a warm, friendly and the money was raised from donations to Whitehouse Christmas Remembrance Tree in the Aycliffe offices. It was lovely to welcome Michelle Muir from Macmillan Cancer Support North East where we presented a cheque for £250 also raised by donations to the Remembrance tree in the Darlington Office. Michelle was delighted and told us that the money would fund a Macmillan nurse for a day! Macmillan improves the lives of local people affected by cancer, providing practical, medical, emotional and financial support while pushing for better cancer care.

Whitehouse are proud to help Macmillan Cancer Support and privileged to gain an insight into such an amazing group. Julie also visited the Children's Blessings project to present a cheque for £100 raised from our Christmas Remembrance tree in the Aycliffe office. She also took with her a bag of newborn baby donations. Sheena and the wonderful volunteers gave a very warm welcome and showed the amazing work they do. We will obviously do all we can to support the project with donations, and intend to set up drop off points for the public to leave donations at our Darlington and Aycliffe Offices.

Lifeline Children's Blessings project helps pregnant women and families with children who are struggling to provide all they need for their children especially women fleeing Domestic Violence, people in ill-health, on low-income or struggling due to unemployment. They provide baby toiletries, clothes, nappies and equipment and we are always looking for donations to help families in and around Newton Aycliffe. Whitehouse Funeral Service are proud to be able to support such an amazing charity.



COMIC BOOK TACKLES CHILD ABUSE



A COMIC book campaign is being launched to encourage younger children to "Trust and Tell" if they are at risk of abuse. Durham Police and local schoolchildren are joining forces to launch the campaign, giving children the confidence to report abuse to a trusted adult. It follows national research which found that only one in eight child victims have the confidence to report abuse to adults who can help – with the rest suffering in silence throughout their childhood. Durham's Mini Police, along with force mascot Mittens, will help teachers across all County Durham and Darlington primary schools deliver age-appropriate awareness sessions for pupils aged from five to

seven years. The campaign features video-based lessons and a cartoon booklet starring Mittens, designed to get across the crucial message that children should confide in a trusted adult. Schools will be able to get free access to the training materials through the Durham Agency Against Crime website www.daac.org.uk. The campaign will be rolled out in schools from Friday, March 9. Ahead of the launch in schools, Mini Police from St Godric's School, in Durham, along with force mascot Mittens, will join senior officers from Durham Police and Durham Agency Against Crime to launch the campaign.



HEADS UP LADIES & GENTS HAIRDRESSING

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Mothers Day Special

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UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

02 **PETE PAVERLEY & KARAOKE / DISCO**
with **CRAZY HOWIE**
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03 **PAUL ANTHONY & MARK HODSON**
£4 ON THE DOOR

04 **BINGO 12 - 2pm KARAOKE / DISCO**
2pm - 6pm with **STAN**
& solo artiste **KEV MAC**
Evening - KEVIN FINNIGAN
AFTERNOON £1 - EVENING £1 ON THE DOOR

09 **KARAOKE / DISCO**
with **NIGEL**
of **BURNBABY DISCO**
£1 ON THE DOOR

10 **EDDY POPESCUE's**
Forever **ELVIS** show and
CHRIS SMALL
£5 TICKET

11 **BINGO 12 - 2pm KARAOKE / DISCO**
2pm - 6pm with **CRAZY HOWIE**
Solo Artiste **TBA**
Evening - Female solo TRACY
AFTERNOON £1 - EVENING £1 ON THE DOOR

16 **ASHTON HAYES & KARAOKE / DISCO**
with **NIGEL**
of **BURNBABY DISCO**
£1.50 ON THE DOOR

17 **FROM 12 CRAZY HOWIE**
of **STARLIGHT DISCO & SAMANTHA MAC**
St PATRICKS NIGHT
Duo **GEMINI & JEMMA LEANNE**
FREE ENTRY

18 **BINGO 12 - 2pm KARAOKE / DISCO**
2pm - 6pm with **CRAZY HOWIE**
of **STARLIGHT DISCO**
EVENING
TONY MARTIN
AFTERNOON FREE - EVENING £1 ON THE DOOR

23 **KARAOKE / DISCO**
with **CRAZY HOWIE**
of **STARLIGHT DISCO**
£1 ON THE DOOR

24 **TRIO V and solo artiste AARON LODGE**
£3 ON THE DOOR

25 **BINGO 12 - 2pm KARAOKE / DISCO**
2pm - 6pm with **CRAZY HOWIE**
of **STARLIGHT DISCO**
EVENING
McNEIL
AFTERNOON FREE - EVENING £1 ON THE DOOR

30 **THE FANTASTIC BILLY BLACK BAND**
£6 TICKET

31 **SOLO ARTISTES ANTHONY WILLIAMS & NICOLA BROWN**
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PCP Promotes World Down's Syndrome Day

On Wednesday 21st March 2018 the Pioneering Care Partnership is showing our support for World Down's Syndrome day by wearing #LotsOfSocks!

PCP manages Together 21, a project providing interactive sessions for babies and children with Down syndrome that aids learning and development. Together 21 also provides vital peer support for parents and carers who are equipped with skills and techniques to help their children reach their full potential.

Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive said, "We want to get people talking and raising funds for this worthwhile group so let's wear whacky socks, and make them visible! Two babies with Down syndrome are born every day in the UK. Around one in every 1,000 babies born will have Down syndrome. PCP is proud to support World Down's Syndrome Day."

Vicki Appleby started bringing her son, Harry, to Together 21 when he was 9 weeks old; Harry will be 2 this April. Vicki says "I have gained so much confidence and knowledge since joining Together 21 and it has strengthened the bond between Harry and I." Get your business involved



WHO: You!
WHAT: Rock Your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day!
WHEN: Wednesday, March 21st
WHERE: Everywhere!
WHY: To Celebrate our Differences!
HOW? Wear your most colorful, fun, and even mismatched socks!

in World Down's Syndrome Day awareness! Put on your craziest socks this March 21st and send us a photo! Use the hashtag #LotsOfSocksDay and tag us on Twitter @PioneeringCare and Facebook @PCPandCentre. If you would like to support World Down's syndrome day, or raise funds for Together 21 please contact Karen Grundy, at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: kare.grundy@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net

History Society Cement Friendship with Hitachi Rail



A presentation of an historical railway picture was presented to Hitachi Rail at Aycliffe by Aycliffe Village Local History Society.

Long before the new factory was built, Hitachi were friendly and helpful to AVLHS. They seemed very interested in the history of Locomotion, and in the area which saw the birth of the world wide network of railways that we have today. They have showed our members the new factory, how it is working and the

wonderful new rolling stock they are producing.

As a mark of our friendship, we presented a framed picture of Locomotion and some copies of the book produced, after the site was chosen and an archaeological survey was deemed necessary before the new build could start.

It showed that four thousand years ago, early Bronze age people were well established here, and living in round houses. The bases of their houses were clearly still visible, when our Society

were able to visit the site in 2013. Fascinating objects were discovered, from a tool kit found in a cremation pit to knives and shards of pottery, possibly used to skin animals and prepare food.

Later finds from the Iron Age to the last family to live on the site, the farmers of Whitworth Farm were equally interesting. Harry Moses, Chairman is shown with members of the committee. Elizabeth Lewis, Secretary, AVLHS.



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

This week we have been thinking about Aycliffe's Regeneration and Planning. Your input is also needed on transport links and milkmen, and the PCP wants your spare wool. Plus there are some interesting things to do next weekend.

All this week's stories are on the internet and you can find out more about them on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB9318

COUNCIL

- Thanks to our Council workers, who went the extra mile during the recent weather, and are still working to clear up after it.
- Aycliffe Regeneration – what do we need?
- Planning news – the new National Planning Policy Framework.
- A visit to Chapter Homes.
- Good news on County Durham secondary school choices – 95% got their first choice.
- Latest unemployment figures very slightly up.
- Middridge Parish Council meeting, Monday 5 March.

COMMUNITY

- County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service has won the Public Sector Transformation silver award for Fire & Rescue Service of the year.
- Two important transport consultations which need your input.
- Should we/ could we bring back the milkman – have your say!
- Help Durham Shine ... and maybe win a VIP Visitor Pass.
- Healthwatch County Durham's latest newsletter is out – health screening, pharmacy services, the Great North Care Record and maternity services.

- The PCP needs wool!
- Wednesday 14 March is No Smoking Day so: get in touch on 0800 772 0565; text QUIT to 66777; or email info@smokefreelifecountydurham.co.uk
- Owen Dickinson Politics Show on Aycliffe Radio, 8pm, first Friday of every month – plus this month's podcast.
- Here has been good Business Park news this week from Gestamp and Crafter's Companion, Stiller and Hitachi.

THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEKEND

- Story-telling about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings (3+), part of the St Cuthbert Festival at Durham Cathedral South Transept, drop in 10:30am-4pm, Saturday 17 March – perhaps time your visit to see also the St Cuthbert procession from Durham Market Place to the Cathedral at about 2pm.
- Japanese manga cartoons (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, 1-3pm Saturday 17 March.
- Steampunk/sci-fi Fantazmagoria, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm 17-18 March.

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FANTASTIC PRIZES IN BIG GIG RAFFLE

Tesco's have added to the very valuable Raffle prizes at the Mad March Gig at the Big Club on Friday 23rd March.

Added to the 1st and second prizes which include a £700 Robot Mower from Husqvarna and a VIP Tour of Hitachi with a £50 voucher is Tesco's donation of 2X Beats Headphones, a Landline phone and a Now TV Box. Other valuable prizes will also be drawn on the night.

In addition the organiser, Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club are running an attractive Tombola, also with great prizes donated by businesses and the general public all in aid of the MRI Scanner Appeal.

Tickets for the Fantastic Show features "Groovy Street" and a guest appearance of X Factor star Shanaya offering non-stop musical entertainment to suit all tastes.

Included in the ticket price of just £7.50 is a Roast Pork Sandwich with Roast Potatoes.

But hurry - there are not many tickets left. Buy them at the Big Club, Newton Press Offices at the Blue Bridge Centre, Aycliffe Framers & Engravers in the Town Centre and Walkers Butchers, Simpashiregate. This will be a night to remember!

Darlington 1AB Taxi Company Opens in Aycliffe



Left to right: Peter Crang Director of Fleet Management, Managing Director Chris Bainbridge, Paul Rimmer Operations Director

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Rally to Raise Funds for Cancer Research

Two men from Aycliffe, William Hedley and Tom Karroll who were inspired by the dedication and efforts of Pride of Britain award winner Mark Solan from Spennymoor have joined a rally to raise funds for cancer research and to support a local charity involved in cancer care, The Solan Connor-Fawcett Trust.

They are also helping a charity called Busy Bees and need boys' and girls' clothing from the age of 12 up to about early 20's. They are happy to pick up items of clothing or you are welcome to drop it off. If you want something to put on the car to remember someone lost or dealing with cancer, They are happy to place a heart sticker with your information for £20, which will go to the charity



Please help them show that the people of Co. Durham are kind and happy to help others in need. Contact numbers 07759 469032 or 07763 896309.

DEMENTIA AWARENESS SESSION AT BURNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Burnhill Community Centre was the venue for a Dementia Awareness Session held by County Durham Residents' Association. Andrew Bowman opened the event introducing the speakers. The two talks covered becoming a dementia friend and dementia and spirituality.

Dorothy Bowman and Joan Mitchie, are both dementia friends champions. Dorothy is a town councillor and community champion whilst Joan is Secretary of Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership, (GACAP). Joan explained that the original challenge had been

given to the Alzheimers' Society to enrol 1 million people as dementia friends in 2015. The challenge had come from David Cameron when he was Prime Minister. The goal posts had since been moved to FOUR MILLION dementia friends to be enrolled by 2020.

The purpose of becoming a dementia friend was to educate the general public also to become a dementia friend and raise the awareness of the disease.

There were 5 key statements identifying dementia. The diagnosis for a person living at home with dementia could be greatly helped by way-finding signage on all cupboard and drawer, colour coding (using primary colours was best), also had positive help for people living with dementia. Joan said the session had only been a tester and if anyone wanted a full presentation she could be contacted via info@gacap.org.uk

Eileen Bowman spoke about the spiritual aspect of people living with dementia. She showed a brand new £5 which she asked for people to identify it screwing it up then grinding it underfoot but everyone confirmed it was still a £5. This she said was the same with a person living with dementia, regardless of their diagnosis, they are still the person they were before the condition was identified.

She went on to endorse the items of signs and colour along with the benefits of photographs and music. People with dementia came alive when music they remembered was played. Not surprisingly hymns and choruses were also popular. Andrew closed the event for lunch.

County Durham Residents' Association meet on the last Wednesday of each month and was open for all residents to attend. Look out for more information in the Newton News.

Kindness Recognised at Newton Aycliffe Care Home

HC-One's St Clare's Court Care Home in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, is celebrating the success of its Home Manager, Jason Parkinson, who received a Kindness in Care Award for the great work he delivers for Residents on a daily basis. The Kindness in Care Awards programme was launched by HC-One, a leading provider in health and social care, in October 2013 to recognise the efforts of their kindest colleagues, and the impact they have on the lives of Residents and their loved ones.

Last month, a record breaking 230 Awards were presented to colleagues, volunteers, and whole teams within the family of homes that HC-One operates across the UK.

Jason was nominated for the award by a colleague, who highlighted his 'kind, caring and professional' approach. He was described as 'an exceptional manager who goes above and beyond', and someone who is 'always willing to listen'. Jason was presented with his award by HC-One Area Quality Director Mandy Falconer.

Since 2013, over 3,000 HC-One colleagues have been awarded for their commitment to kindness with nominations invited from Residents, relatives, colleagues or visitors to the home.

HC-One aims to be the first-choice care provider in each of its communities for Residents looking for the very best care and support, and the employer of choice for the best, most professional, and kindest care staff, with sector leading career progression opportunities.

HC-One consistently invests in staff, and is currently celebrating achieving a 9.2/10 average rating on the sector's leading care home comparison website carehome.co.uk, with St Clare's Court itself boasting a 9.9/10 rating. This high rating puts HC-One homes into the very best company in the care home sector.

HC-One St Clare's Court Care Home Manager, Jason Parkinson, said: "I am delighted and humbled to have



received this award. Every day we at St Clare's Court strive to provide the kindest care to Residents, and it is a pleasure to be a part of such a dedicated team." HC-One Managing Director, Stephen Butterworth, said: "The Kindness in Care Awards programme is about recognising and celebrating colleagues who demonstrate

the kindest care and the best practice that we can all learn from, and St Clare's Court has the privilege of having just such a colleague.

"Each and every day, HC-One staff do incredible work, and make such a difference to the lives of Residents living in our homes. It is great to work with such inspirational, caring and kind people."

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GACAP REPORT

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership had an excellent meeting on Monday 5th March at DISC Offices. Numbers were slightly reduced due to weather, but what was lacking in numbers was made up for in the content and the presentation by speakers.

The Management Report brought partners up to date with the progress of the website. Peter Driver said he hoped to have something to show partners at the next meeting. He confirmed the current website is still up and running. Partners were asked to please return information about themselves for the website.

Partners were reminded that the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe were holding a fund raising event on 23rd March at the Big Club with funding going to the MRI appeal.

As the Thames centre is no longer available for tombola/fund raising events due to a change in staff and their preferences for permanent stalls in the centre meant GACAP would have to look around to find another suitable venue with an increased footfall.

Guest speaker Christine Fletcher from Age UK County Durham, she explained they were an independent charity not to be confused with any other charity.

She spoke eloquently on the problem we all have with scammers, either phone, computer, post or door. Scammers are all highly trained and pensioners have been known to hand over their pensions and extortionate amounts of money from their savings. Easy responses to scammers were shared with partners.

Stacy Porter, Volunteer & Engagement Officer from Durham University spoke on feedback since her last talk. Her role at the university is in staff volunteering where each member had 35 hours a year to volunteer in the local community. The food bank at St Clare's had already benefitted from the scheme and whatever people need from website and app design to stuffing envelopes would be considered. 3M had come on



Stacy Porter

board with the volunteering and helped the food bank.

Stacy showed a video of work done on revamping a community garden from an overgrown area to something of real benefit to the community.

The date and time of the next meeting had been changed from the usual Monday as it is Easter Monday to Friday 6th April, usual time and place.

The AGM is on Friday 20th April at the Big Club. The Guest Speakers Phil Wilson MP and Sid Rooke from NE First Credit Union. Hopefully the Mayor of Aycliffe will be able to attend to open the meeting.

Partners were reminded that all officers and management committee stand down at the AGM, but can stand again if they wished. All nomination must be with the Secretary by hand or electronically, prior to the commencement of the April meeting.

One of the AOB items was another free community lunch to be held on Good Friday at Burnhill Way Community Centre. For more information see Dorothy Bowman, Simon Day or Jane Johnson. This meal is a follow on from the extremely successful Christmas Day Lunch.

Finally we saw the essence of GACAP in action when Kath Pinner from the Food bank said she had a volunteer who was looking for a placement, Dawn McCreanor from Moretime Uk Ltd Cafe and Furniture Store confirmed she was looking for a volunteer. A win win situation!

Joan Mitchie
Secretary

PUBLIC MEMBER WANTED FOR COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Members of the public are being invited to apply to serve on Durham County Council's Audit Committee. The council is seeking to appoint a new co-opted member to serve on the committee until 30 April 2019.

The role of the committee is to approve the final accounts and advise both full council and the Cabinet on audit and governance issues.

The co-opted member will serve alongside nine elected county councillors and one

other co-opted member to assist the council in maintaining high standards of corporate governance as well as bringing additional knowledge, expertise and independence.

Anyone applying should be completely independent from the council and politically independent. It would also be helpful if they had knowledge of how local government works as well as knowledge of risk management and corporate governance arrangements

in other public or private sectors.

The successful candidate will be required to attend around six or seven meetings a year as well as some training sessions and would be able to claim reasonable travelling expenses.

Application forms and further details can be obtained by emailing democraticservices@durham.gov.uk The closing date for anyone interested is Friday, 6 April 2018.

BEASTLY SHOW FOR THESE CATS

The CATS Youth Theatre Group say "Be Our Guest" as they invite you along to their Beauty and the Beast Easter Pantomime at the Civic Hall, Shildon, Thursday 15th, Friday 16th, and Saturday 17th March, at 7.30pm. with one final show on Sunday 18th March, 2pm.

A spokesperson said "This is the group's first ever Easter Pantomime so fingers crossed it is a success. Why not come along and support the group in this family show where you'll see as well as the usual characters some very surprising unusual ones too."

Our very own Amelia Rees takes on the title role of Beauty (Belle). Sophie Hodgson is the lovely Enchantress of the Rose. Whilst Ellarae Bower, and Katelyn Freeborn keep the comedy going throughout the two hour show.

You can boo at the evil Stepmother played by Emma Dixon. Or feel sorry for poor Sienna Birkett as she plays the misplaced Cinderella. Imogen Jones, Evie Tenwick Poppy Walker, Rose Stenger, Fiona Lindley and Luci James are amongst the Dance Troupe.

You can pre-book Tickets priced £5.50 Adults and £3.50 Children. by ringing 01325 313363 or 07747 826324.

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CLOSING DATE: 16th MARCH 2018



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In addition there are a number of company benefits, including Pension scheme, Life assurance, 25 days holiday + statutory days.

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<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>. The link will transfer you to the search page where you will have to enter Gestamp as the keyword and DL5 6EP as the POSTCODE. This will take you to the two jobs.

CLOSING DATE: 16th MARCH 2018



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Village School at Gala Theatre **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



Year 5 pupils from Aycliffe Village Primary School, were lucky enough to perform a Snappy Opera at the Gala Theatre in Durham, as part of the Durham Voices Festival. It was called the

Magical Music Tree. The short performance was one of 5 mini operas from various schools throughout the County Durham area. The aim of the event was to introduce opera to children,

young people and adults in a fun, interactive and exciting way. Freya and Mark, from Mahogany Opera Group, worked with the children in school for just 6 hours. They helped their acting skills and singing so that the children could move and sing like the characters in the opera – fish, dodos, unicorns and hunters!

On the day the children spent most of the day at the theatre rehearsing and watching the performances of the other schools.

The show was a sell-out. The auditorium was full of family and friends who thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Mr and Mrs Shaw (parents) said, "The performance was excellent." New Head Teacher, Mrs Sutherland was very proud of the children.

The children themselves also said that they had enjoyed the experience of performing on stage and hoped that they would have the opportunity to do something similar again in the future. *By Hannah Shaw, Isobel Welsh and Charlotte Bone.*



On behalf of MAD Community Choir I would like to extend a massive thank you to GAMP for recent funding provided. This funding has allowed us to purchase a brand new PA system which we used for the first time last week.

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to Tesco (Bags of Help) for funding from them which will go towards new outfits and music for the Choir as well as further pieces of equipment that are required.

MAD Choir are increasing in number, however, still have room to welcome more new members on board so if you love singing and would like to join, we meet in Woodham Community Centre every Wednesday at 7pm. You would be assured of a warm welcome and even a cuppa! MAD are currently

working towards their next fundraising event at the Xcel Centre on the 11th of April where they will be raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society. Tickets are available now from any MAD member or Woodham Community Centre.

Or by ringing Sonia on 07746 925896. Tickets are £5

Thank you also to all you wonderful people who continue to support the MAD Choir - Together we are 'Making A Difference' Evelyn Lodge Musical Director.

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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HRA Trip to The Dogs



Horndale Residents' Association arranged a trip Newcastle Dogs where everyone enjoyed the night with good food and good company. Imogen and Sophie Johnson celebrated their birthday and are pictured with the winning dog of our race 'The Horndale Stakes'.

On Wednesday 7th March our guest speakers was Simon Day and Jane Johnson from County Durham and Tees Valley Rescue Mission. They talked about their vital work raising awareness on modern day slavery, supporting those who have been rescued from slavery, they also focus on the homeless and substance misuse.

Philip Clark, Chairman

Nursery Accepts 3 year old Children



At Stephenson Way Academy we continue to welcome new-starters to our thriving nursery provision, which takes children from as early as their 3rd birthday. With ample space to play and learn, as well as access to natural outdoor areas, it is often remarked upon by parents how quickly and easily children settle into

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Schedule Highlights:

MONDAY 6-8pm - Peter Rush 70s Hour followed by Paul Gittins 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 13th March**, Finley Bradon and Gregor Mills tell us about U17's Ice Hockey, as they prepare to represent GB. 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 gives a mix of some of the best dance tracks in his show entitled "BeatRoote".

FRIDAY 8-10pm: Friday 9th March Andy Little from Spain returns with his 80s Show and an eclectic mixture of tracks. **Friday 16th March** Nathan Abbott from Darlington Mardi Gras livens things up with his take on dance mixes with Martin Norris.

SATURDAY 2-4pm: Local group Metis take over Aycliffe Radio for a regular Saturday afternoon session with guests, banter and requests.

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

Don't forget Saturday night is all about the Dance Music. The Doctor is on a short break but "BeatRoote" 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... something to suit everyone.

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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
13th Mar - Finley Bradon & Gregor Mills

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

6-8pm PVR Studio House Mix
8-10pm Guest Presenter Session
9th Mar - Andy Little (from Spain)
16th Mar - Nathan Abbott (Mardi Gras)

SATURDAY

8-11am Kitchen Floor Fillers
11-12noon Kent Collective
12-1pm Honest John - With the Beatles Pt 4
2-4pm "Metis" take over Aycliffe Radio
4-6pm School Disco
6-8pm "Beat"Roote in the House
8-10pm Dance Mix - OZ-DJ
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)

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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who attend the nursery from an early age enjoy a taster of school life. This leaves them well equipped for starting Reception and ensures that this important transition is as smooth as possible.

Flexibility is a further strength of Stephenson Way Nursery, as pupils entitled to 15 hours a week can opt to attend morning or afternoon sessions or even 2 ½ days each week as preferred.

In addition to this, working parents can benefit from the longer 30 hour places that are also available to help meet childcare needs. For more information or to request a visit to Stephenson Way Academy Nursery School, please contact 01325 300324.

Vane Road Defy Winter Conditions and Open School

A primary school in Newton Aycliffe remained open all week despite the beast from the east battering the UK. As hundreds of schools across the county closed their gates this week, staff at Vane Road Primary School did all they could to ensure the site would be open as usual.

Staff travelled from as far as Crook in slow moving traffic with heavy delays as Storm Emma took hold, many staff members gave up on their cars and walked into school. Mr Wilson (site manager) and Mr Patrick were working from the early mornings clearing the paths and entrances in to the school so that the children could attend safely.

Headteacher, Kieran Pavey, said: "The decision to keep our school open was not an easy one to make. The safety of our children is paramount and making sure we had enough teachers present to provide the children with quality lessons, was what we had to overcome to make our decision."

Despite the snow fall, students made their way in to school all week and even celebrated world Book Day on Thursday, arriving dressed as their favourite book characters.

Parents have praised the decision of the Headteacher with many taking to social media to congratulate the Durham County Council school on a gallant effort.

Lynn Wardrop, commented: "Just want to say a big well done to Vane Road school this week for the great effort in keeping the school open and children safe. They have had so much fun in the snow and for World Book day. Daisy was so happy to wear her outfit. Another parent, Joanne



Schoolchildren playing in the snow L-R: Jamie Bennett, Sophie Morgan, Joshua Hinchliffe, Ruby Abed-Ali, Sophie Jobling, Freya Aither, Kieran Lodge, Lily Howard, Molly Skinner, Isaac Morgan.

Alderson added: "Thank you and well done Vane Road for working so hard to keep the school open and for the great communication. My husband and I are currently on our way to work."

Laurie Winter also commented: "Well Done to all at Vane Road for opening and providing a fun, safe day for the children!"

Appearing on BBC Newsnight, Geoff Barton, from the Association of School and College Leaders, explained that one of the major factors that headteachers must consider when they are making a decision about the weather, is child safety.

Mr Barton said: "The decision is, 'can I safely supervise those children and bring staff in to do it? Every member of the leadership teams of all schools will be making that decision before letting parents know."

Mr Pavey, added, "The children have thoroughly

enjoyed their usual lessons as well as being able to enjoy the snow during break times. We allowed for extra time arriving in to school each morning, ensuring the school was also accessible. We also made parents aware that it is their decision whether or not to send their child in to school but apart from that we did our best to continue as normal.

As the only school in the town to remain open this week and not wanting the children to miss out on the fun that can be had in the snow, staff took part in a teacher vs children snowball fight, to the delight of all the children competing on the playground.

The school which has 398 pupils is set to open a new purpose-built facility in the summer. The development has suffered some delays this week given the stormy weather but work will resume on Monday with contractors Kier ensuring the project will remain on schedule.

Dog Lovers Help Change & Enrich Lives



Dog sitters, Barking Mad Durham, are asking fellow dog lovers to join them in helping to change lives. The dog holiday specialists have officially partnered with 'Dogs for Good', a life transforming charity which creates partnerships between people living with disability and specially trained assistance dogs.

Joanne of Durham enthused: "We are so proud to announce that 'Dogs for Good' is Barking Mad's chosen charity for 2018! Dogs for Good train assistance dogs to support adults and children with a wide range of disabilities and also children with autism, in order to enrich and improve lives.

This is particularly relevant to the work which we undertake with our own dog sitting Host Community. We offer the opportunity to care for someone else's dog whilst its owners are away and through this initiative, we witness the amazing difference that canine companions can make in terms of improving social

interaction and fitness every day."

Cathryn Simpson, Corporate Partnerships Manager for Dogs for Good said, "We're absolutely delighted to be working with Barking Mad in 2018, there's obvious synergy between the two organisations in respect of the dogs but more importantly the ethos of both organisations is closely matched and this is important to ensure a successful partnership. Thank you to everyone for getting involved!"

How can you get involved? Barking Mad Durham's ultimate wish would be to raise enough money to fund the training of a Dogs for Good puppy and would really appreciate your help! Throughout 2018 they plan to hold fundraising events and would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved. Jo can be contacted on 0191 5805111 email Joanne.Hewitt@barkingmad.uk.com and www.barkingmad.uk.com/franchisees/durham/ to find out more.

Film Show

The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St Clare's Church on TUESDAY 13th MARCH features the romantic comedy "THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN" Starring Clifton Webb, Dorothy McGuire, Louis Jourdan, Jean Peters and Rossano Brazzi.

Three American secretaries working in Italy throw their coins into Rome's Trevi Fountain, make their wishes and vow to return to Rome. Plenty of romance and comedy follow, a real feel-good film to make you forget the weather for a while. 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.

Bereavement Rubicon Group

During the past two years the Rubicon Group has been privileged to welcome people from all walks of life to St. Elizabeth's Church Woodham. We are now moving our regular meeting place to St. Clare's Church in the centre of Newton Aycliffe where, over a cup of coffee, we can provide a sympathetic listening ear, not only to those suffering the pain of bereavement, but to those who have experienced the loneliness of living alone. You may need a temporary place of respite, or a regular time spent chatting to other friendly people who have experienced difficult situations.

Whatever your need, we are here to offer help, understanding and support. We meet every Thursday in the vestry of St Clare's Church Newton Aycliffe, between 2pm - 4pm. We are not a counselling service, but whether you need to speak to someone privately, or are happy to come and enjoy a cup of coffee with our informal group. Please do come and see if this could be a place of support and healing for you - we are waiting to welcome you. For more information ring Jan Carr on 01325 321225.

Hewitts Go Gung-Ho for MRI Appeal

The appeal to bring new state of the art MRI scanners to Darlington Memorial and Bishop Auckland Hospitals has received a boost from Hewitts Solicitors who have adopted the appeal as their charity for 2018.

Partner, Ben Green, said, "Many of us take part in sporting and other activities and it's great to think that whilst we're enjoying ourselves, we're also raising money for this fantastic cause. One of the reasons we chose the MRI Scanner appeal is that there's potential for local people from all walks of life and backgrounds to benefit from this equipment. We're very lucky to have it on our doorstep when people in other parts of the country aren't so fortunate.

"We've a number of fundraising activities planned during the year, the first of which comes up at the end of March when 26 of us are taking part in the Gung-ho Challenge at Wynyard Hall - wish us luck! We've a justgiving page and would welcome sponsors."

Charity manager at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Pat Chambers, said, "We're so grateful to Hewitts for their generosity. Individuals, organisations and businesses are all stepping up and supporting us. Modern MRI scanners can play an important part in helping consultants diagnose and

determine treatment plans for what can be life threatening or life limiting conditions, including many types of cancer and heart disease.

"Thanks to the generosity of manufacturer, Philips, patients at Bishop Auckland Hospital are already benefiting from the new scanner, whilst fundraising continues during 2018. The scanner at Darlington Memorial Hospital will be installed later in the spring, once building work has been completed. If you have a fundraising idea, or want to find out how you can help, please contact us on 01325 743781."

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ACORN R.A. EVENTS

We have a trip to York on Saturday 24th March - cost £5 per person. Ring 01325 321471 if you would like to book a seat. Our popular trip to Whitby on the Goth weekend in April is sold out already. Our next event will be the Petting Zoo which this year will be on Saturday 7th April. Entrance £1 per person. Under 2 year old free.

We will be having Animal Story and Crazy Creatures visit us along with Jet and Ben and several other side events. Pay at the door on the day. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and community events.

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Closing Date for applications:
12 noon, Monday 12th March 2018

We are an equal and diverse employer and particularly welcome applicants from groups who are currently underrepresented at PCP, such as males, people with sensory impairments and carers.



Enjoyable Visit to Loco Museum



Written by Year 3 pupils from St. Mary's Primary.

On 20th February Y3 pupils from St. Mary's visited Locomotion in Shildon. We were driven there by Neville from J and C Coaches. The purpose of the visit was to start our topic looking at famous people, focusing on those who lived in the North-East.

A very kind lady called Claire met us and our first activity involved handling some very old objects, such as a Davy Lamp and some old tools. We also looked at some photographs of George Stephenson's house and the room he lived in. We had some questions to discuss about these photographs and objects.

Next involved a role play where we re-enacted the first train journey on the Darlington to Stockton Railway, learning some exciting facts about George Stephenson. We were put into two groups and had to imagine we were doing the

train journey from Shildon, to Darlington and then on to Stockton. We wore hats, waved flags, and had signs to hold, showing each destination. It was great fun!

After this we did a craft activity where we had to create our own paper train of the George Stephenson Locomotion.

We had to cut out train parts, colour them in and stick them together as they were on a train. We had worked so hard it was now lunch time so we enjoyed relaxing for a little while before we were to start on our afternoon investigation trail.

In the afternoon we did a Treasure Trail where we had to look at the pictures that were on the sheet and try to locate them in different places around the museum. Also we got to explore inside a couple of the trains, finding out exciting facts.

We were divided into 3 groups for this activity, one with Mr. Bowden, one with Miss Wise and the other with Mrs Brown. It was great fun exploring the different parts of the museum and finding where all of the pictures were found in the museum. Sadly, we came to the end of our adventure, but when we got back to school, Mrs Brown gave us a goody bag that included crayons, a rubber, ruler, pencil, badge, and some colouring activities.

Some of our class had never visited the museum before

and will definitely go again. If you have not already visited the museum, give it a go! You will have fun and the best part is, it's free! Here are some quotes on thoughts of the day...

"I thought this trip was amazing."

"Inside the trains were amazing."

"I loved finding out about George Stephenson."

"I enjoyed learning about the history of the trains and George Stephenson."

"I am really excited now to learn about other famous people from our area."

Kind Couple Help Lady in Distress

A disabled lady, Carol Dawes was on her way to the Doctors when her Electric Scooter collided with an open metal gate in Oakfield.

She hit her knee quite badly and was screaming with the pain, and in tears. Luckily a couple, out walking with their dog, were able to assist and stay with her for nearly an hour as she recovered.

Carol's knee is badly bruised, and she wanted to thank the couple through Newton News, for their kindness.

We discovered Carol lives alone and has no one to help her, highlighting the need for extra care for people in her situation - especially in periods of bad weather.

We really need more people in our community to volunteer to help elderly and disabled people get to the shops, doctors surgeries and other places.



21

EASTER CRAFTS AT GREENFIELD ARTS



Greenfield Arts are offering a fun packed programme of FREE activities for young people over the Easter holidays. Popular favourites such as 'Crazy Crafts' and 'Arts Foraging' are just some of the activities on offer this spring.

The courses are family focused and suitable for all ages, although children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. Talented tutor Dawn Belshaw will be on hand at our Shildon venue to help you work your magic in our 'Crazy Crafts' session, making good use of unwanted everyday materials to make something very special to take home with you. Our popular 'Arts

Foraging' offers the chance for families to get to know their local area together, exploring memories and collecting items, which will be used to create an unforgettable installation. Budding artists will be able to work with illustrator Sharron Bates to create a piece of artwork, which will take centre stage in our upcoming exhibition open to the public, in our special 'Gallery Encounters' session.

You can now book via the website using our simple online form at www.greenfield-arts.org or contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 for further information, we look forward to seeing you soon!

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Newtonian Opens New Business Consultancy

Marie Robson has lived in Newton Aycliffe since 1976 and attended Woodham Comprehensive School. She began her career as a care assistant and ended up managing the care home. It was the first small care provider to achieve Investors in People in the North East and Marie attended many events as guest speaker with Business Link, promoting Investors in People to small businesses.

In her mid 20's she became the youngest postmistress in Britain on buying a small village post office near Bishop Auckland which she sold 3 years later when her first child Harry was born in 2000 followed by her daughter Millie in 2002.

Marie began volunteering for a local charity and was fortunate enough to be employed by them and spent 4 years gaining several promotions co-ordinating various community projects managing a team of staff and volunteers.

She achieved Level 5 in Leadership and Management and in 2016 decided to take a break to continue her studies full time. After completing a Business Management degree in May 2017 she was secured a Senior Management position for a healthcare organisation in Newcastle in charge of over 200 staff.

Unfortunately, only one week into the new post her daughter Millie was seriously injured in the Manchester Terror Attack



and their family life was turned upside down. Millie needed several operations and spent two weeks in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and then many more weeks recovering at home.

"Commuting to Newcastle daily and working around appointments as well as the emotional turmoil my family had been through meant I had to rethink my career and family commitments. I owed it to the organisation who had been so supportive and accommodating to resign from my position". said Marie.

"This was a difficult thing to do as I have always worked hard but I had to find a role that could be flexible given that Millie still attends appointments both at James Cook Hospital and Manchester and will require future surgery."

"I decided to bring my 5 year plan of working for myself

forward and have set up my own business consultancy MHM Guru. I have an office in the Blue Bridge Centre and will be providing businesses with tailored packages to suit their requirements..Changing management, business development, internal communications, staff health & wellbeing are just some of the services I can offer. Please visit my website www.mhmguru.co.uk" said Marie.

In addition to running her own company Marie wanted to use her years of health experience to provide a social support network for young people affected by trauma/ptsd. "Bee Happy 2gether" hopes to provide a wide range of activities such as trampolining, bowling, arts & crafts, horse riding, exercise classes, football, days out etc. to young people and their families.

Bee Happy 2gether received funding from Manchester Rotary Club and hope to receive further donations. A company from Sheffield has donated a telephone system to enable Bee Happy 2gether to provide telephone support with the help of trained counsellors and volunteers. Anyone wanting further information can contact Marie: marie@beehappy2gether.org.uk

Marie said: "I wanted to show my children that no matter what life throws at us hard work and supporting others is the only way to be."

Marie achieved a 2.1 BA (Hons Business Management Degree in June 2017 as she always enjoyed studying and learning new skills and been passionate supporting others whether in a business or caring capacity.

With her partner Anth she would like to thank family, friends and kind people of Newton Aycliffe for their continued support.

Shine Welcome for Rector



The brilliant SHINE CHOIR welcomed the newly appointed Rector of the Parish of Great Aycliffe, the Reverend Ann Anderson and her husband Jeff, at her Licensing Service held on Sunday 25th February. Ann joins Reverend Elizabeth in serving the community, alongside a strong team of lay people.

The service was led by the Bishop of Jarrow, Mark Bryant with clergy representing the diocese attending. Local civic dignitaries were also represented and the Town Mayor Wendy Hillary welcomed Ann warmly.

SHINE CHOIR sang the moving worship song 'This is Amazing Grace' and the children, aged from 5 - 14 years of age, had also taken the time to learn to sign the song. It was an amazing performance and was received with joy from the large congregation. and everyone enjoyed a magnificent Faith Tea afterwards - especially the cake!

SHINE CHOIR will next perform at the Daffodil Coffee Morning to be held in St. Clare's Hall on Saturday 10th March at

10am. Please come along to support them and you can also enjoy delicious bacon buns, tea, coffee and

cake. There will be a raffle and plenty of home-made produce to tempt you. We hope to see you there.

Two Important Local Traffic Consultations

Two consultations have been published which will hugely impact on our local transport system and economic growth. One of the biggest things holding back our local economy is our transport infrastructure, and its underfunding (£855 per person) compared to London (£4,155 per person). So you may wish to check out these latest proposals, and comment.

THE FIRST CONSULTATION (ends 19 March) identifies a 'Major Roads Network', to be preferentially maintained from a separate government funding stream. Whilst it will undoubtedly be beneficial to ensure that our core transport network is as well-maintained as possible, I worry that - because the proposals use existing traffic flow and settlement size to define the main road network - the proposed network will simply embed the current overemphasis of transport spending in the south-east.

THE SECOND CONSULTATION (response required before 17 April) concerns Transport for the North's new 'Strategic Transport Plan'. The Plan says that improving the transport

infrastructure in the north could grow the economy by £100 billion a year and, wonderfully, Newton Aycliffe finds itself at the hub of three of the proposals:

(1) 'Connecting the Energy Coasts' (improved east-west links) mentions the A66, but we need to lobby also to ensure it includes the A690 and A689, and the North Darlington Bypass.

(2) 'East Coast to Scotland' (north-south rail links up the east coast) seeks better freight provision, and improvements to stations, line speed and capacity, but we need to lobby for the Rail Freight Interchange at Forrest Park, and the Leamside Line.

(3) 'Yorkshire to Scotland' (north-south road links) - we need to press hard for improvements to the A19, for the AIM to be three-lane to Newcastle, and for improvements to the A167 and A68.

Funding for all this is flaky ... so it needs our engagement and support all the more!

GETTING INVOLVED You can find links to the full documents and how to respond, on my councillor's blog at: bit.ly/NNHTC John Clare

WHERE SECTION 106 MONEY GOES

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the following information was sent to Heighington Parish Council on payment of Section 106 monies due to Darlington Borough Council from the building of 101 new houses at School Aycliffe Lane.

The breakdown on the Section 106 money in relation to the development is summarised below.

Highways Contribution £100,000 to be paid to Durham County Council for road improvements at the Horndale Avenue/School Aycliffe Lane Mini roundabout (or a lesser sum of the actual cost)

Sustainable Transport Contribution £ 90,000 for the upgrade of Water Tower inbound bus stop, including a raised kerb, and to improve the daily frequency of and extend the bus service in the vicinity.

Education Contribution £81,000 towards the transport of children in School Aycliffe to schools in Newton Aycliffe

Number of Intermediate Affordable Dwellings (Non Financial):

5 x Two bed dwellings and 5 x Three bed dwellings which shall be Shared Ownership Housing Units. Rented Affordable Dwellings (Non Financial):

5 x Two bed dwellings and 5 x Three bed dwellings which shall be subsidised housing provided under a Shared Ownership Lease.

As such there is no Section 106 money due to be paid to Heighington Parish Council.

AYCLIFFE ICE HOCKEY STARS SELECTED FOR ENGLAND



Two highly promising prospects from Aycliffe have been selected to represent England in Ice Hockey.

Finley Bradon and Gregor Mills were selected to the Under 13 team after taking part in a demanding trial process over several months which featured over 50 players from all over the country.

Finley plays his club ice hockey for Billingham Stars and Gregor plays for Bradford Bulldogs.

As pictured, Finley (right) and Gregor (left) are already teammates for the Northern Conference, which selects the best players from throughout Northern England to play competitive games against other regions in the UK. The duo will make their England debuts when they travel to Bratislava, Slovakia in April, taking part in a highly intensive development camp with competitive games against teams from Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Both boys will be appearing on Aycliffe Radio on Tuesday 13th March at 6pm to talk about their selection to the England Ice Hockey team.

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Report Bad Potholes

Winter always sees an increase in the number of potholes. These are the responsibility of the County Council Highways department. The County Council's policy is that, within 24 hours of a pothole being reported, an officer visits the pothole to see if it is 'actionable' – i.e. at least 1 foot (30cm) wide and 1½ inches (4cm) deep.

If it is 'actionable', then it is put on a schedule for a temporary repair (a plug of tarmac to fill the hole and stop it worsening) and then on another schedule for a permanent, proper repair at a later date.

The time taken to address both these schedules depends on the depth of the pothole and how busy its location, but the aim is to get the temporary repair done as soon as possible, because the Council may be liable to any damage to cars once a pothole is reported.

Residents can report any pothole through the 'Do It Online' facility at the top left corner on the DCC website at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/> – you access the online form by clicking on the 'Services' tab on the second screen, then on 'Road or footpath' from the list.

Alternatively, you can

call **03000 261 000**, or tell your councillor for them to report it.

Please be very clear and precise about the location – e.g. as well as the road name, get the number of the nearest house or lamppost, yards from a junction etc.

This is a big issue at this time of year, especially when coming as we are out of a period of extreme frost and ice. But if we work together to report potholes, we can ensure that our local roads are as clear as possible.

A healthy road infrastructure is vital, not only for the look and safety, but also of the economic prosperity of the town.

Cllr John D Clare

Scheme To Get The Young #Motiv8ed

Workshops to empower young people has been launched by a local charity. #Motiv8ed is a programme developed by Tees Valley YMCA to support agencies in Darlington that are working with young people, particularly those in need of early help and intervention and those at risk. Staff will provide a range of workshops and activities to improve the prospects of young people and steer them away from negative behaviours.

The scheme draws on the strengths and skills of young people to help them navigate some of the challenges they may face, and to help tackle past experiences of

trauma, family breakdown, homelessness and exclusion. The skills they learn will also enable them to become more resilient to any challenges they face in the future.

A similar scheme is currently running in the wider Tees Valley area, and has received positive feedback from those who have taken part.

Matthew Connolly, pastoral intervention co-ordinator at Acklam Grange School,

said: "We ran anger management sessions with our most challenging pupils and the level of engagement from them was a pleasant surprise to all the staff involved."

"Most pupils have said they have implemented the strategies suggested in daily life and feel they are able to manage their emotions better."

It is anticipated that the Darlington programme will support 400 children and

young people in its first year.

Tees Valley YMCA has provided supported accommodation for young people since 1993, as well as offering community-based services across the region.

For more information on the #Motiv8ed service, contact Tees Valley YMCA on 01325 462452 or visit www.ymcateesvalley.org.uk

Twitter: @ymca_TeesValley

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Residents' Assoc. Well Supported

We had a really good turnout at the last Residents Meeting on Tuesday 20th February. A big thank you to those people who came along on a cold February evening. The main topics discussed were our Easter Event, which will be held on Saturday 14th April from 1pm to 4pm in Neville Community

Centre and planned day trips to Whitby, Scarborough and either Leeds or York during 2018

We had a presentation from Simon Day about Modern Day Slavery (human trafficking) and a lot of discussion about this topic. It definitely gave us something to think about. PCSO Kieran

Fodden provided an update on crime in our area.

Thank you to Councillors Jim Atkinson and Sarah Iveson who listened to Residents queries and pointed us in the right direction to get our queries addressed.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 20th March 2018 in Neville Community Centre at 7pm. Refreshments are available from 6.45pm. We will be discussing what we want to provide on our Easter Event and the planned trips. Please come along, all Residents are welcome. Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to Syd Howarth for his belief in bringing local communities together and for his idea of setting up Neville Residents Association.

Our meetings have all been well attended and well supported from other Residents Associations in Newton Aycliffe. With our Residents support we should achieve our aim of uniting residents in a common effort to improve conditions of life in the area and to foster a community spirit.

Heather Brewster
Chair, Neville Residents Association
Email: neville residents association@btinternet.com

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Were these the longest icicles in town during the cold snap?
 Photo by John Williamson.



Photo by Michael Simmons of the 'Beast from the East' (29 x 8 foot) on the Green at Palmer Road. Thanks to Issac Pateman for help in landing this big shark!



Sarah-Jane Mullett and her daughter Holly, aged 10 had fun in the snow making an igloo.
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UPDATE ON COUNCIL SERVICES

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Visitors will be able to browse displays and demonstrations by clubs and individual exhibitors, plus check out a range of traders offering collectables, costumes, jewellery, art and more.

Visitors will also be able to get on board cabs of selected steam locomotives, and take a steam train ride behind Furness Railway No. 20, the oldest standard gauge locomotive still operating in the UK.

Locomotion is open from 10am to 4pm daily. Parking and admission are free of charge. Please note that there is a charge for steam train rides.

For more information, please call the museum team on 01904 685780.

week's adverse weather.

Almost all of the roads closed due to the snow have now been re-opened. Although the 24 hour winter maintenance treatment is now coming to an end, ploughing is continuing on priority one and two networks in the High and Low Pennines and resource has also been allocated to other routes where needed.

The majority of schools across the county have welcomed back pupils but two schools remained closed due to a lack of power.

Residents are being advised that if their bin wasn't collected on the usual day last week it should be put out as normal on their next collection date for that waste type – check your collection calendar at www.durham.gov.uk/mydurham.

Continues... Any extra waste that has accumulated will also be taken as part of that collection.

The council's building and facilities maintenance team has also been working hard to deal with a number of burst pipes and roof leaks that occurred during last week and making sure buildings are fit for use.

In Memoriam

Peter Mooney

Died 1st March 1987 (aged 57)

Loved and missed by Rosemary, Annette, Paul, Gillian, Clare, families and friends.

DERICK YOUNG 2nd March 2005. Dad/Grandad. The time passes by but we will always remember the good times we shared together. Missing you always, love David, Louise, Thomas, Joseph and Stan xxxxx

DERICK YOUNG 2nd March 2005. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and held so dear. Love, Michael, June and all the family xxxxxxxxx

RON RUSSELL 5th March 2013. Five years have gone by, loved and remembered every day. Miss you so much. Loving Wife, Dot xxxxx

DEBORAH CLELLAND 6th March 2017. Always in my thoughts. Sadly missed. My life feels so empty without you. Rest in peace my darling. All my love always, Dave

GLADYS HARBOTTLE died 7th March 2013. A dear Mother who is constantly in our thoughts and missed every day. Your smiles, laughter and poetry will always live on in our memories. Vera, Lavinia and Andy xxx

FRANK REED. Every Father is special, our Dad was something more. Was taken long before his time after surviving last world war. God must have had a reason on this St Patrick's Day, to send him up to Heaven, his accordion to play. As a family we all miss him and his lovely smile. He will always be in our hearts, as we cross every life's stile. Never forgotten, his family far and near xxxxx

MARGARET THOMPSON 07.03.2018.

They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal. But neither time nor reason, will change the way we feel. For no-one knows the heartache, that lies behind our smiles. No-one knows how many times, we have broken down and cried. We want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt. You're so wonderful to think of, but so hard to be without. From your loving family xx

GEORGE SMITH 5th March 2009. There's a place in our hearts no one can fill. We miss you George and always will. Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher & Great Grandsons Charlie & George

CAROL REED 13.3.15 God called your name so gently, That only you could hear. No one heard the footsteps of the Angels drawing near. Softly from the shadows there came a gentle call. Your eyes closed, and you went to sleep, you quietly left us all. Love you and miss you everyday. Roy, Steven, Lara and families xx

Paul Watson

Suddenly at home on 15th February. Paul, aged 61 years. Much loved Husband of Anne; loving Dad, Step-Dad, Grandad, Brother-in-Law and Uncle.

Will family and friends please meet for a Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Thursday 8th March at 11.00am.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to The District Nurses, plate provided at the Crematorium.

Keith Maw

Newton Aycliffe Suddenly at home on 23rd February. Keith, aged 80 years. Dearly beloved Husband to Rina. Sadly missed by all his family and many friends. Funeral Thursday 8th March. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Darlington Crematorium at 1.45pm. No flowers please and no dark clothing. Donations in lieu may be given in aid of The British Heart Foundation or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

ARTHUR COCKER, aged 85, died suddenly at home in Harrogate on Saturday 3rd March, leaving his beloved wife Theo and 5 children. Arthur worked for many years for Aycliffe Development Corporation as Director of Technical Services. His funeral arrangements have yet to be confirmed but it will be held locally (Darlington or Coundon) - for exact details ring Anne Molyneux on 316162.

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01325 300212



Obituary

Mac Hardy



Sadly passed away at home on Tuesday 20th February 2018, aged 78. Loving Husband of the late Madge and dearly loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be sorely missed by all his family and friends. Service and cremation to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 2pm, Tuesday 13th March. No flowers please, but a donation can be made to Macmillan Cancer Research if so wished.

CREASEY, Dorothy Mary. (nee Curran), sadly passed away on 15th February 2018 aged 89 years at Providence Court Car Home, Baldock, Hertfordshire, formerly of Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham. Much loved Wife of the late Vince Creasey. Will be greatly missed by her Daughter Jane and Husband Steve and her three Grandchildren Matthew, Thomas and Emma. Funeral Service will take place on Monday 5th March 2018 at Darlington Crematorium at 10.45am. Flowers welcome or if preferred, please make a donation to Dementia UK in memory of Dorothy Creasey. Rest in Peace now Mum.

Thank You

MAY I through the Newton News, thank the gentleman who found my wallet, that I lost on my way from work on Monday teatime. I was still out looking for it when he went to my house and gave it to my mother. He did not know the area and had to ask quite a few people to find my house as I live in Washington Crescent area and it is quite a walk from the Business Park, where I lost my wallet. Thank you very much, it's so nice to find someone so honest and public spirited. Jay Gash

WALTER HENDERSON Ada and her family would like to thank relatives, friends and support and everyone's donations, following the sad loss of Walter, in January this year. Special thanks to Pam for providing such a heartfelt Service for a much loved man. Thanks, to all at Whitehouse Funeral Services for their sensitive help and advice. Also thanks to Margaret Allen from Woodham Golf Club for their kind hospitality.

SAFELINE TAXIS On behalf of my husband, son and myself we would like to off our sincere thanks to the staff and drivers, for the support given to us at all times, especially during the bad weather. Our thanks to all. No name needed

Congratulations

Joanna and Athol Hawkes



Golden Wedding Anniversary
5th March 2018
Congratulations from all the family

JOSH RAINE

Happy 20th Birthday - 5th March 2018
Love from Dad, Mam and Chloe xxxxx

RYAN WHARTON Happy 13th birthday Son. Have a great day. Love you loads, Mam, James and amelia xxx

RYAN WHARTON A special Grandson on your 13th birthday. Love you, Mandy and Grandad

RYAN WHARTON Happy 13th birthday. Love, Uncle Peter and Katy

Mother's Day

MADISON JACKMAN I love you Mummy, you are the best. Happy Mother's Day, love from Cayden xxxxxx

SYLVIA SPENSLEY Happy Mother's Day to not just my Mammy, but my best friend as well. Thank you for always being there for me and loving me so much. Love always, Julie and Den xxx

AMY BURN To my beautiful Mammy, happy first Mother's Day Mammy. I love you so much, you are one in a million. Love from Eddie xxxxxxxx

AMY BURN Hope you have a good day on Sunday Amy, you deserve it. Thanks for everything you do for us. Lots of love, Poppy and Thomas xxxxxxxx

JULIE HOWEY Happy Mother's Day Mam. You really are the best. Thanks for everything you do for us. Love from Ste, Mick and Paul xxxxxxxx

MAMMABURN I'd be totally lost without you! I appreciate every single thing you do for me. Thank you for being so great. Love, Amy xxxxx

GILLIAN SPENSLEY Happy Mother's Day to the best Mammy in the world. Love from Emily, Abbie and Ruby xxx

SYLVIA SPENSLEY Happy Mother's Day Mam. Love, Vince and Gillian xxx

DEBBIE LIVERMORE Best wishes to our wonderful Mam. Love always, Curt and Cloe xx

CAROLINE RYAN Happy Mother's Day. Lots of love from Jack and Chloe xx

SARAH TRAVIS Happy Mother's Day. Lots of love from Brandon and Aria xxxxx

Looks who's 21 Jessica Roberts



A very special daughter who we love dearly
Have a great time
Love you,
Dad, Sam and family xxx

Mother's Day Remembrance

JENNY TARVIT Thinking of my special Mam on Mother's Day. You were loved so much in life and now that you are gone I'll look for you in life's good things and in them you'll live on. Always in our thoughts Mam. Love from Kathy, Martin and Family xxx

JOANNE McCOURT Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful Mum. Missing you so much today and every day. You're forever in my heart, love you so much. Happy Mother's Day xx

PATRICIA FISK (PAT) Loving thoughts and wishes today and always. Susan and Michael xx RIP

ELEANOR FEATHERSTONE Mother's Day wishes Mam. Love always, Tony x RIP

BARBARA SUTTON On Mother's Day we all remember a Mother and Nana who is still missed and loved. As our Mother and Nana was so special to all of us in her life. Forever in all our hearts. All the family

Volunteer Drivers Wanted to Help Elderly

Dear Sir,
Every week dozens of people across County Durham struggle to make it to GP appointments due to lack of transport. I am writing to appeal to local people to volunteer their time and driving skills to make a difference in their community. Volunteer driving scheme, Help to Health, is funded by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups and is delivered by national charity Volunteering Matters, in partnership with Supportive. Many people rely on our volunteer driving schemes to help them get out and about and do everyday things that most of us take for granted. A routine appointment at the doctors can be complicated, if not impossible, for some people without the support of a volunteer driver. Together we can assist with helping older people maintain their health, independence and reduce social isolation. Our drivers find it a rewarding way to spend their free time because they know they make a big difference to the lives of others. If you would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer driver we would love to hear from you on 0191 3891155. Angela Foster
Development Worker, Volunteering Matters

Exciting news... It is time to come and see the proposed plan for your estate

You are invited to take a look and give your feedback on the preferred option for the future development of the Western Area estate, Newton Aycliffe.

Following ongoing consultation with residents since July 2017, we have identified one preferred option and want you to help us develop it further.

Drop into one of the open days listed below to find out what the option could mean for you and your home. The regeneration project team will be on hand to answer questions and record your feedback.

The events are aimed at everyone living on the estate from homeowners, tenants of flats, private tenants and landlords.

If you cannot attend, proposals are available to view at <https://western.flint.co.uk> where you can also give your feedback. Or you can contact michael.kidwick@flint.co.uk

Drop in at:

- 1 Whitlatter Place, Newton Aycliffe
Thursday 8 March - 2pm to 7pm
- 7 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe
Friday 9 March - 2pm to 5pm and Saturday 10 March - 10am to 1pm



CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CAMP AT WOODHAM ACADEMY



children enjoy their time with us and that we provide a wide range of activities to suit all tastes, with multiple activities happening at the same time. Woodham, offers excellent facilities including their swimming pool which is available for the children to use daily for fun and games, with all the staff working in and

around the pool-side being qualified lifeguards. Additionally, all staff hold up-to date DBS checks and first aid certificates meeting OFSTED requirements. **SPECIAL OFFER:** Mention Newton News when you book a place for your child and you receive your first day for **HALF PRICE!**

Sporting Futures holiday camp, situated at Woodham Academy, offers children the opportunity to take part in an abundance of sports and fun activities in a safe and secure environment. The company is owned by Director Liam Coates with three staff: Phil Park, Katie Park Brown, and Ben Turnbull.

Sporting Futures have been working within Primary schools and the communities across the North East region now for the past 6 years. In that time the team have become highly skilled at teaching a vast amount of sports and other activities within school hours and the

community.

The company was set up back in 2012 by company director Liam Coates, with one main purpose and that was to create an abundance of opportunities for young children to partake in Sports and activities on a regular basis. But in doing so receiving the best possible coaching available. Liam and his team are committed to offering the highest possible standards to schools and the community and in 2017 the company were rewarded for their hard work and won a very prestigious award, the North East holiday camp of the year for 2017.

We strive to ensure that all

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



The penultimate event in the Winter Tees Trail series of races over 5k took place at Tees Barrage. It was a bitterly cold but otherwise fine day, so conditions were good for the time of the year.

Andrew Lumley, in his first Tees trail outing was first home for the club, 44th in 23 :21. Not far behind and getting back to form was Susan Milburn, 47th in 24:16 and 1st F/55. Next to finish was Jane Burnside, 88th in 30:09, followed by Ray Todd, 108th in 34:53. His best time in the series so far.

Beast Kills 2 Aycliffe FC Football Games



The Beast from the East put paid to any chance of Newton Aycliffe FC getting a game in last week. Two home games were scheduled, Washington on Tuesday and Consett on Saturday. However, both fell victim to the weather. With a blanket of snow covering the Moore Lane pitch & surroundings Saturday's game was called off on Thursday evening. It wasn't alone, by the following morning the entire Northern League programme had been wiped out. Fortunately Aycliffe don't have a midweek game scheduled for 6 or 7 March, however, by Monday morning several other league games had already been postponed. There have now been over 200 Northern League fixtures postponed this season & all clubs will be hoping that the weather relents soon.

Aycliffe are due to return to action on Saturday 10 March when they visit Stockton Town. With Stockton playing on an artificial surface the game has every chance of going ahead as long as we don't get more heavy snow. Stockton are having an amazing season. Having progressed from the Wearside League to the Ebac Northern League Division One over the last two years they will be playing in the semi final of the FA Vase later this month. Stockton include two former Aycliffe favourites, Jamie Owens & Fred Woodhouse, in their squad Aycliffe then have two home games in a week. They face Jarrow Roofing at Moore Lane on Tuesday 13 March (ko 7:30pm) before welcoming Whitley Bay on Saturday 17 March (ko 3:00pm). Weather permitting!

Strong Ryhope Beat Aycliffe



Craig Hutchinson scoring Aycliffe's second goal

Aycliffe's recent run of good form came to an end away to Ryhope Colliery Welfare. The home side clinched a 3-2 win with an injury time winner, but the margin could have been larger, as they missed several good chances.

Ryhope started the stronger and nearly took the lead on 14 minutes when a shot narrowly missed the goal. A minute later they took the lead when Aycliffe failed to clear their lines and Ryhope winger Ellis shot past James Winter.

Aycliffe then had a good spell in the game. A Kurt Matthews header brought a good save from the home keeper on 26 minutes. Then Craig Hutchinson and Thibault Charmey both got shots away.

They pulled level on 33 minutes when the Ryhope centre half misjudged a header, releasing Hutchinson who finished well in the corner. The lead only lasted three minutes, as a cross from the left found its way to

Ellis, who put a unstoppable shot in the top corner. Ryhope were on top, but Aycliffe pulled themselves back into the match just before the break when Jordan Jewson beat two men and crossed for Aycliffe man-

head in for his second. Half-time 2-2.

Ryhope dominated the second half and hit the bar on 64 minutes. They went on to miss several good chances, as Aycliffe rode their luck. That luck ran out in injury time, as slack marking allowed Ellis to claim a hat-trick and the three points. Final score 3-2. MOTM : Craig Hutchinson.

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