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SILVER IN NATIONAL BIATHLON

A Woodham Academy student has won silver in the national biathlon championships after winning the regional trials. Niall Coulthard took second place in the British Schools' Modern Biathlon National Finals at Crystal Palace. The Year 10 student qualified for the finals after finishing first in the regional trials held at Hexham.

Kim Hall, Head of PE at Woodham Academy, said: "Everyone at Woodham Academy congratulates Niall on this outstanding achievement. His success is a result of his hard work and determination, and is thoroughly deserved."

Niall, who also represents the Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club, completed a 1600m run and a 200m swim, to place second overall in the boys' under 15 category.



Spring Fayre

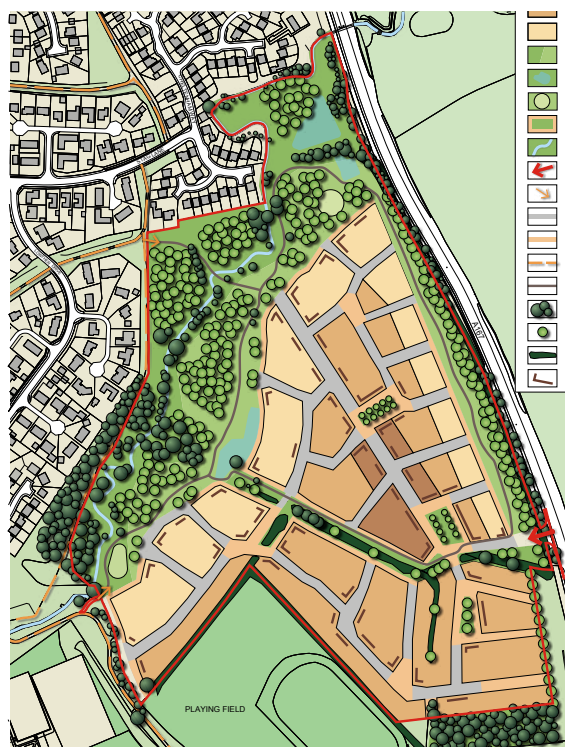
Join us at our Spring Fayre at Elizabeth's Church on **Saturday 7th April at 10am.** Indulge in delicious cakes and baked goods. Make new friends over refreshments Or see if you win some delightful seasonal goodies on the Raffle We look forward to seeing you there.

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Appeal to Build 430 Houses at Woodham



Dear Sir,
I would like to bring to the attention, of Newton News the ongoing attempts by developers to build at Woodham, adjacent to the A167, with the current development proposal being rejected and, now being appealed by the developer on Tuesday 17th April at 10am at the Work Place, Aycliffe Business Park, off Heighington Lane.

The development of this site is an ongoing battle with local residents in Woodham who now, and in the past, do not support this housing development.

The appeal notification reads nothing short of an attempt to bully the local council who have the full support of local residents in fully rejecting this application for housing development.

This is now the 5th attempt in the last 10 years to try and force a development on this beautiful stretch of land which is rich with wildlife, and natural environment enjoyed by all as part of The Burn Woodham Walk. An attempt for any houses (never mind 430 houses) would simply destroy that environment.

Can I ask all readers to be aware of this proposal appeal, and give their full support to the local council to continue rejecting such proposals destroying our local areas of natural beauty.

Tony Beppard
Editor:
Newton News received no notification on this Public Inquiry which is annoying as this is important to

our readers. We have printed the notice without permission for the benefit of all interested parties. Readers will see it is held at 10am on a Tuesday when most people are at work. We have discovered it was advertised in the Northern Echo which only has a few hundred circulation in Newton Aycliffe whereas Newton News goes to every household.

This is a typical bureaucratic mistake where they just place a statutory notice to comply, rather than judge which is the best media contact.

ACORN R.A. Petting Zoo this Weekend

Local residents group ACORN will be holding their 7th annual Petting Zoo at Newton Aycliffe leisure centre on Saturday 7th April. Running from 10am till 2pm children and adults will be enthralled with the small creatures.

The event features three petting zoos and numerous stalls together with a bouncy castle and other attractions such as Tombola, Face-painting and Professor Nincompoop.

Bring the kids, Auntie, Uncle and Grandparents. Sponsored by Councillors Kate Hopper and Eddy Adam and ACORN the event will be opened by Phil Wilson our MP.

Entrance is only £1

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Funds for Veterans to Revisit Battlefields

Dear Editor,
It's The Royal British Legion's belief that every World War Two veteran should have the chance to

revisit the battlefield on which they served. Thanks to new LIBOR funding from HM Treasury, we are now able to offer a fully funded

trip to anyone who served in our Armed Forces during World War Two. However, as there is no unified record of World War Two veterans that are alive today, I am reaching out to you and your readers in the hope that you can help us spread the word.

The trips will take place between Spring and Autumn this year and a family member and a carer will also be able to go along and share this pilgrimage of Remembrance with them. Organised by Remembrance Travel, part of The Royal British Legion, the trip will give the World War Two veterans - now mostly in their 90s - a chance to meet up with fellow ex-service men and women, and pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

Veterans who may be interested in this opportunity need to apply through our tour operator, Arena Travel on 01473 660800, or visit: www.arenatravel.com/journeysforembrace. Yours faithfully, Charles Byrne



Over the last few months we have enjoyed a wide variety of speakers and outings. Our December meeting was the Christmas party, which was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all. In January we enjoyed a fish and chip supper at our A.G.M where Helen Webster was re-elected as our President. At the February meeting Anna Shepherd gave us a presentation about a trek she did in the Andes Mountains to raise money for the "Coppafeel" charity which supports breast cancer research. It was a really interesting talk and it was great to see the team spirit that grew throughout the challenge. In March we enjoyed a pie and peas supper along with a silent auction. A good way to raise some funds and donate those unwanted gifts.

We have also enjoyed outings including a Christmas lunch at the Burtree Inn, and a trip to see The History Wardrobe at the Custom House in South Shields, with a meal beforehand. There often seems to be food involved in our outings.

On the 10th April we have someone coming to talk about the MRI scanner appeal and 13th May will be a talk entitled "Behind the scenes - Norman Cornish" delivered by Mike Thornton. There is always social time at the meetings when we chat with friends over a cuppa.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in St Clare's church hall. Come along and make some new friends. We are very welcoming. For more information ring Helen on 01325 315017.

ACORN R.A. BEGIN PROGRAMME WITH A TRIP TO YORK



Lottery funded local residents' group ACORN have commenced their 2018 excursion season with a visit to the vibrant city of York.

Cathedral, Railway Museum, Jorvic Centre, the Shambles or shopping. There is always plenty to do in York and ACORN members took full advantage of the fantastic spring weather to explore narrow streets and quirky little emporiums selling everything from antiques to old fashioned sweet shops. Thanks to ACORN for organising the trip and to those people who joined us on our mini adventure.

PETTING ZOO

Acorn residents ever popular PETTING ZOO to be held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on APRIL 7th is this year sponsored by Councillors Eddy Adam and Kate Hopper. The 2018 event sees the addition of a third Petting Zoo making it the biggest petting zoo event so far. With bouncy castle, Tombola and a selection of stalls there is something for all.

The PETTING ZOO will be opened by our MP Phil Wilson at 10am so come along, bring the kids and have a great day.

FLOWER TUBS

Residents in the Silkin Way, Stead Close and Lilburne Crescent area will have noticed the appearance of decorative flower tubs supplied by the ACORN team as a result of the "ITS YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD" programme.

Special thanks to John Hannah, Paul Thompson, Ray Bewley, Arun Chandran, Jillian Hillary and Ken Robson for their input and effort

JOIN US NEXT MEETING

ACORN meet monthly every second Thursday 6pm at the Phoenix Club Lounge (upstairs).

Ken Robson 01325 321471

ACORN A.G.M.

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 12th April 2018 at Phoenix Club at 6pm. Everyone welcome. Our future trips will be announced and bookings taken. Local Councillors, PCSO and livin representative will be present if they are available. Free tea, coffee and biscuits.

UKULELE EVENING

The Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs of Bishop Auckland are organising a Ukulele Evening on April 21st, at 7pm in Shildon Civic Centre.

The band is the Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express, and there will be a Pie, Peas and chips supper.

Tickets £15, from Keith Black at k.black@sky.com or 07761 864591. Proceeds in aid of the MRI Scanner Appeal

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Saturday 7th April - "Fossil"

The band comprises some of the finest singers and musicians in the region, all experienced professionals with a long pedigree of performing, recording, teaching and composing. With an emphasis on powerful guitar-driven rock with massive vocal harmonies, FOSSIL have been taking the local gig scene by storm recently.
Gig-Pit review: "Cracking band, really good players and four singers all taking lead vocals! Excellent harmonies, good sound. Loved the set list; Asia, Kansas, Zeppelin, Gary Moore, Yes.
Great lead guitars from both Brian Emerson and Ritchie Reeve. Ritchie also adept at simulating keyboard parts on the guitar and a very fine player as well. Drummer and bass player were tight as a frogs bum! Drummer sang Zeppelin stuff and was amazing.
Definitely a band I would go to see again and again. Highly Recommended."

Saturday 14th April - "This Machine"

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April Entertainment Guide

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| Tuesday 3rd | Kids Disco, 5-8pm, £1 otd |
| Friday 6th | T.B.C. |
| Saturday 7th | Private Party |
| Friday 13th | T.B.C. |
| Saturday 14th | Amy Housewine + Support - Tickets £6 |
| Tuesday 17th | Kids Disco, 5-8pm, £1 otd |
| Friday 20th | Boxing Night |
| Saturday 21st | Aycliffe Soul Club, £4 otd |
| Sunday 22nd | St. George's Day Special |
| Friday 27th | Tony Little Band, Tickets £4 |
| Saturday 28th | Elvis Tribute, Tickets £5 |

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Community Tea Party

Rose Lodge Care Home, at Carers Way in Newton Aycliffe, are opening their doors to the public for a 'Royal Community Tea party'.

The event is being held in honour of National Care Home Open Day, which aims to encourage care homes across the nation to connect with their local community and build meaningful relationships with people in their area, and is being held in conjunction with the Queen's birthday.

The Tea Party takes place on Saturday 21st April from 2-4pm. Rose Lodge will be serving a selection of complimentary afternoon tea cakes, treats and refreshments.

Seating is limited so to avoid disappointment it is recommended that those wishing to attend contact the home prior to the event to book a place. For more information please contact the home on 01325 271301 or roselodge@cwch.com

IMPROVING AN AYCLIFFE WILDLIFE GEM

A team of volunteers from Durham Wildlife Trust has been working to improve a wildlife pond on the site of a sewage treatment works in South Durham.

The trust, which is working with site owner Northumbrian Water, views Newton Aycliffe Sewage Treatment Works as an example of the vital pockets of wildlife-friendly sites that exist in urban areas.

Newton Aycliffe Sewage Treatment Works is situated on Newton Aycliffe Industrial Estate, just off the busy A167, and Northumbrian Water and Durham Wildlife Trust's Heart of Durham Project are improving the site to offer a habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna.

The area being improved includes a pond supplied by surface run-off from the canteen's roof, a small area



of grassland and an area of scrub.

The pond, which was dug some years ago, is now home to newts and plants including water forget-me-not, water mint, bog bean, purple loosestrife and common reed.

It was cleared out last winter by Durham Wildlife Trust's Young Volunteer Group, who also constructed a compost bin and a reptile hibernacula, and now a Heart of Durham team has planted a hedge of hawthorn, hazel, holly and guelder rose. Several crab apple trees dotted along the hedge, which will provide blossom in the spring.

The volunteer team also set about clearing the scrub and coppicing the hazel to allow light in and space for new young trees. Once the scrub had been cleared, the area was replanted with crab apple trees along with holly, hawthorn and hazel. Three new bird boxes were also erected.

This year should also see the emergence of wildflowers and yellow rattle sown last October, which should attract insects and butterflies to the site. Anne Porter, Heart of Durham Project Officer, said: "Sites like the sewage works are important for wildlife. A constant and increasing demand on land for houses and industrial development highlights the importance of these kinds of pockets of land surrounding water treatment and sewage works owned by Northumbrian Water."

Treatment Works Manager Frank Errington said: "It's fantastic that the Durham Wildlife Trust volunteers have been working to help

nature thrive at our Newton Aycliffe Sewage Treatment Works. People might not think of a sewage treatment site as somewhere that wildlife could flourish, but we take care to look after the environment in and around our sites and working with partners like the Trust enables us to do even more to protect the flora and fauna."

Aycliffe treats the wastewater from the Aycliffe, Shildon and Woodham catchment, a large portion of which is derived from industrial businesses within the Aycliffe industrial estate. The site was established in the 1930s and has changed dramatically since that point.

The current site is built over a World War Two ordnance factory so any invasive work requiring excavations requires carefully planned site investigation work.

Reduction in Teenage Pregnancies in North

Dear Sir,

The latest annual teenage pregnancy statistics were released last week for the North East, and despite the region still having the highest rates in the country, they're at a record low for the area:

- Lowest rates since records began in 1969
- 12% drop since previous year
- 56% fall since 1998

But although this is obviously great news, we're concerned that this amazing achievement is being jeopardised by cuts to sexual health services that could mean these figures start reversing.

Emily Butler

Senior Communications Officer, FPA

The sexual health charity FPA has been championing people's right to sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing since 1930.

NRA Gets Underway

The new Neville Residents Association recent meeting was again well attended.

The main topic for discussion was ideas for stalls and how best to advertise our Easter Event which is to be held on Saturday 14th April in Neville Community Centre from 1pm to 4pm.

As this is our very first event we would like it to be a massive success so please come down to Neville Community Centre to support us.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th April in Neville Community Centre at 6.30pm. All Residents welcome

Regeneration Scheme in Bath Halted Due to Resident Protest

The following information was discovered by Arun Chandran Secretary of Great Aycliffe Residents' Association and points to the common sense decision another Social Landlord took.

A social landlord has said it will no longer pursue plans for the large-scale regeneration of a housing estate in Bath. Curo had been granted outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the Foxhill estate in July 2017. Up to 542 homes were set to be demolished, but the scheme would see the construction of 700 dwellings. However, the Foxhill Residents' Association launched a judicial review challenge of the council's decision.

In a letter sent to residents in Foxhill last week, Curo chief executive Victor da Cunha confirmed that it had decided "reluctantly" to change its approach to the

estate. He said: "We will no longer consider demolition of homes on the Foxhill estate, either privately owned or belonging to Curo. Instead, we will work in partnership with local residents to create a new plan focussed on significant investment in the refurbishment of existing Curo-owned homes over the next few years. This will help give certainty to residents and deliver improvements to homes in Foxhill more quickly."

He accepted there was some opposition to the demolition of homes and to the loss of social housing "that redevelopment would inevitably entail". He added that Curo had received

varying levels of political support and also no clear decision about grant funding from central government. "Residents have told us that they no longer want to live with the uncertainty of what may happen to their home in the future. The recent legal action by residents may result in further delays and uncertainty for 12 months or more. Even if this legal action is unsuccessful, this would not promote the necessary consensus to deliver a truly community-owned, successful project. However, we remain committed to providing great homes, supporting communities and improving lives for our tenants in Foxhill."

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Village Hall Completes Improvement Works



L-R, Keith Johnson, County Councillor Sarah Iveson, former County Councillor Jed Hillary and David Lewis

Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association are delighted with the grant from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) which has enabled the purchase of much needed equipment and resources. The Village Hall Association secured funding from Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) via the Neighbourhood Budget allocations of County Councillor Sarah Iveson and former County Councillor Jed Hillary. With the funding, the Village Hall have been able to purchase new equipment and restore the wood floor in the main hall to its original state. Keith Johnson, Chairman for Aycliffe Village Hall Association, said: "The new equipment will replace

items that have been damaged through extensive use over the years, and now pose a health and safety risk. The restoration of the floor in the main hall negates the need for us to regularly borrow the floor cleaning machine and equipment from the local school." Great Aycliffe Village Hall has provided a centre for the community for over 100 years, firstly as a school and then since 1970 as a community centre. It is hoped the funding used to further improve the building will encourage more people to use the Village Hall. Anyone who would like further information about activities or hire of the hall, please contact Sue Hindle on 07775 680804.

SWDT Apprentices Tour 3M

A former South West Durham Training apprentice gave 16 engineering students' who hope to follow in his footsteps' a tour of 3M's Newton Aycliffe plant.

John Bayne, Plant Engineering Group Leader at 3M, showed the group of full-time electrical mechanical students, who all hope to secure engineering apprenticeships at the end of their course, various processes and systems and explained how deadlines are met.

The visit was arranged by South West Durham Training and 3M to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

3M, which employs 400 people in Newton Aycliffe, manufactures reusable and disposable respirators and car care products including finishing compounds and polishes.

It has a long standing relationship with SWDT, and currently has seven apprentices in maintenance engineering, mechanical and electrical with the training provider, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last December.

John Bayne said: "For several decades South West Durham Training has been assisting 3M with not only apprenticeship training but also manual handling, abrasive wheels training, slinging and lifting, maintainer assessment, apprentice recruitment, 17th Edition and various types of fault finding and pneumatics training."

John said the visit went very well: "They were a very well-mannered group, asking



John Bayne and Gillian Atwell from 3M with Matt Gatiss from South West Durham Training and the full-time electrical mechanical students.

plenty of questions about the type of products and the various types of machinery used, also questions in general about 3M, its apprenticeship scheme and any upcoming opportunities."

Speaking about his own apprenticeship at SWDT, John added: "It gave me a broad experience of engineering skills including welding, fabricating, basic hand tool skills, use of lathes, millers and drilling machines, and then on to specialising in electrical maintenance."

"My advice to young people looking at taking an engineering apprenticeship would be to have a curious mind, don't be afraid to ask questions and relish every challenge that comes your way. Also, try to experience as many engineering

disciplines as possible before concentrating on one or two particular areas."

3M have a regular intake of apprentices, which are advertised on the SWDT website and the Government's 'Find an apprenticeship' website.

Jason Howe, Head of South West Durham Training, said: "We are very grateful to John and his team for hosting the tour of 3M's plant by our full-time electrical mechanical students. SWDT enjoys an excellent relationship with 3M going back decades and I know the visit made our students even more determined to secure an engineering apprenticeship at the end of their course."

South West Durham Training is part of the Bishop Auckland College Group.

NASSA AGM & FAMILY DISCO

It's that time of year again and the Annual General Meeting for Newton Aycliffe Scout Supporters association will be held on THURSDAY 26TH APRIL AT 7.00pm. Please arrive early as doors will be closed at 7.00pm prompt. If you wish to volunteer to be on the committee in any capacity, please add your name to the list on the notice board.

Membership renewals are now also due - still only £3.00 per year.

NASSA would like to say a BIG thank you to all the people who have supported us over the last 12 months.

The next event is a Bits n

Pieces Family Disco on the 14th April 2018, Saturday night, where the DJ's will be playing from the 60s right through to the latest charts taking requests all night long. Come along, kids welcome too but must be accompanied by an adult, usual £3.00 entry CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE ENTRY.

Starts at 7pm and finishes at 11.30 unless told otherwise. It would be lovely to see you there, especially the parents and the young people that use the centre as it is the profits from this type of event that keep the premises open.

Navy Assoc. Support MRI Scanner Appeal



L-R Gwen Bailey (Club Secretary), Geoff Mackey (Chairman), Enid Mackey and Liz Lewarne

Members of the Royal Naval Association in Newton Aycliffe are seen here presenting a cheque for £200.00 to Pat Chambers NHS Charity Development Manager at Co. Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity towards the MRI Scanner Appeal.

Club Chairman Geoff and his wife Enid, are the original members of the association, launching the club some 42 years ago and a part of building the fabulous Navy Club where it is now on Bluebell Way, with funding help from Twinings. The Navy Club is well used by the whole community and

offers extensive facilities for functions and events.

Pat Chambers NHS Charity Fundraiser said: "I am absolutely delighted to receive this donation towards the MRI Scanner Appeal and am particularly grateful as I understand that most fundraising would normally go towards supporting Naval charitable causes."

I understand some of the existing members have had need of our MRI Scanner recently and it prompted them to consider how they could support our very local cause. We are very grateful to everyone."

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PUBLIC INQUIRY

At The Work Place, Heighington Lane, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AJ

On 17 April 2018 at 10.00

REASON FOR INQUIRY

Appeal by Wilimott Partnership Homes

Relating to the application to Durham County Council

For erection of up to 430 dwellings (Use Class C3) and associated access, landscaping and engineering works

At Land to the West of the A167, Woodham Burn, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4YH

An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will attend at the place, date and time shown above to decide the appeal.

Members of the public may attend the inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views. If you, or anyone you know has a disability and is concerned about facilities at the inquiry venue, you should contact the council to confirm that suitable provisions are in place. Documents relating to the appeal(s) can be viewed at the Council's offices by prior arrangement.

Planning Inspectorate References:
APP/X1355/W/17/3180108

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate:

Robert Wordsworth, Room 3/O Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN Tel: 0303 444 5608

Where applicable, you can use the internet to submit documents, to see information and to check the progress of cases through GOV.UK. The address of the search page is - <https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate>



AYCLIFFE RADIO

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

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE
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"Aycliffe Town Centre ... Shopping for You"



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Aycliffe Radio is an internet based station

To tune in you require access to the internet or a wi-fi hot spot

You can listen directly via our website

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

click the "Listen Live" link in the top right hand corner

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

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Simply say "Alexa Play Aycliffe Radio on Tunein"

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

Contact Aycliffe Radio via

Facebook or Twitter

Text: 07512 253333



Email: info@ayclifferadio.co.uk



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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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PACT MEETINGS

Following a Public Meeting on February 1st which was attended by Councillors and members of the public, a decision was made to alter the PACT areas within Newton Aycliffe and Middridge to reflect the county council wards. It was agreed that we would hold 3 PACT meetings per month, one in each of the wards - the venue within each ward to rotate. In organising these new venues we have had to take into consideration other groups that meet at the venues and also the shift pattern of the Neighbourhood Police Team. Therefore there will be two venues per county council ward area and the meetings will all be held on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Whilst the venues may not be of everyone's choosing, it has not been an easy process and I am keen to be in a position where we can publicise the meetings well in advance so as to maximise attendance. I have therefore booked the venues up until the end of February 2019. The team intends to advertise these dates regularly through the Newton News and on our Facebook site. They will also be displayed each month on the Durham Constabulary website. I would like to remind residents of Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village and Middridge that the PACT meetings are an opportunity for the community to work with Police to address issues across the area. We would encourage your attendance so that we can discuss matters that are important to you and

also update you on what is happening in your area. The purpose of reorganising PACT in the area was to improve the meetings and to increase attendance. Some of the previous PACT meetings were poorly attended and this was not assisted by venues being changed last minute on some occasions owing to other public events and classes. The first meeting in each of the three wards will focus on setting new PACT priorities, so this is your opportunity to influence the priorities of your local policing teams so that we focus on the issues that most to you. Please show your support for the town and villages by attending your PACT meeting. We have a wonderful town and by working together we can improve it further!

Sarah Honeyman
NPT Inspector

MEETINGS

Aycliffe North and Middridge
Thursday 26th April 2018 (6.00-7.00pm) Woodham Community Centre
Wednesday 23rd May 2018 (6.00-7.00pm) Greenfield Arts College
Aycliffe West
Wednesday 11th April 2018 (6.00-7.00pm) Newton Aycliffe Evangelica Church, Ladybower
Wednesday 9th May 2018 (6.00-7.00pm) Simp pasture Court
Aycliffe East
Thursday 12th April 2018 (6.00-7.00pm) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, Burn Lane
Thursday 10th May 2018 (6.00-7.00pm) Neville Community Centre

Howtown Adventure for Year 7 Students



Students at Greenfield Community College have been sampling outdoor life at the Howtown Centre, Ullswater as part of their varied learning programme. Each year staff look at transferable skills which can be taken from the trip and used in the classroom. This

year students focused on resilience and independence, as well as building in listening and communication skills. The Year 7 group were keen to soak up the experience taking part in activities such as hiking, rock climbing, tunnelling and jog and dip. One of the most challenging was the expedition, students were packed up with camping equipment and rations and then hiked to a camp base where they spent the night, a great test in survival skills! One of the most popular activities was gorge walking which included an exciting and thrilling chance to climb a waterfall.

Year 7 student, Sky White enjoyed the experience, "we camped on the top of a mountain! It was really cold but the view was really nice, I also liked the caving, even though it was tight it was fun" Greenfield Staff and Students have been visiting Howtown for 10 years, an excellent outward-bound centre in a fabulous setting in the lake district. 44 Year 7 students were keen to take up the offer and were rewarded with a valuable experience, they not only found it helpful for their academic studies but gained new expertise in team building, made new friends and gained confidence in the process. Subject Specialist, Mrs Robson was thrilled with the quality of the trip, "The Outward Bound team are great to work with and make everything so easy, each group is provided with a qualified instructor who will work with the throughout the week. The service provided is well thought out and practised and couldn't be faulted". The impact of the trip is huge and a fantastic opportunity for the students. Just to spend time away from home in the Lake District is wonderful, but to be pushed and challenged and learn new skills is priceless.

Hat-trick for "Outstanding" Durham Constabulary

DURHAM Constabulary is celebrating an extraordinary hat-trick of success after once again being rated 'Outstanding' by inspectors. For the third year running, the force has achieved the highest possible grading in an inspection to assess how effective it is at cutting crime and keeping people safe. In a report published today, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) judged Durham to be outstanding at preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour and also at dealing with serious and organised crime. The force was found to be good at investigating crime and protecting vulnerable people. Durham was given an overall rating of 'outstanding', the only force in the country to achieve the top grade. HM Inspector of Constabulary Matt Parr concluded: "Overall, Durham Constabulary remains outstandingly effective at reducing crime and keeping people safe. "It continues to provide high-quality services to its communities, as well as seeking to innovate and improve in many areas". Welcoming the announcement, Durham's Deputy Chief Constable Jo Farrell, said: "We face the same problems as other forces: austerity, increased demand and having to police the internet. "But every time the inspection teams have visited over the last 12 months, they have commented that 'it feels different here'. "We have very positive, optimistic, professional staff who work as a team and deliver an outstanding service to the people of County Durham and Darlington. "These brilliant people are supported by software we write ourselves and that's

probably what gives us our marginal edge". Today's report is the third and final part of the annual Peel (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) inspections, which are regular reviews of each of the UK's 43 forces. This is the third time that the full Peel inspection programme has been conducted and the third time that Durham has been rated outstanding. Inspectors highlighted "an impressive level of understanding" throughout the force of the support needed for vulnerable people and the extent to which officers and staff shared the force vision of putting victims and the people of County Durham and Darlington first. Jo Farrell added: "On behalf of all the officers and staff at Durham Constabulary, I am delighted with the news: it demonstrates our commitment

to keeping people safe. "The Durham Difference is about being efficient and innovative, it's about good partnerships which help with problem-solving. "But above all, it's about the attitude of all the staff: there are very clear objectives and very clear values which we all share". Ron Hogg, Durham's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, said: "I would like to extend my congratulations, once again, to Durham Constabulary for yet another outstanding outcome in an inspection report. "It's well deserved and reflects the positive ethos that exists across the force. "There are always challenges, as crime has risen and funding continues to be constrained. "Local people should be confident that they have a police force that is committed to addressing these effectively".

AYCLIFFE RADIO Programme Schedule

"GOOD MORNING AYCLIFFE" with Aidan Thompson
broadcasting live Monday to Friday from 8.30am - 12 noon

| Time | Session | Presenter |
|---|---|----------------|
| MONDAY | | |
| 6-7pm | 70s Show | Peter Rush |
| 7-8pm | 80s Reminiscing | Paul Gittins |
| 8-10pm | UK Number Ones | |
| TUESDAY | | |
| 6-7.30pm | Sports Round UP | Darren & Lee |
| | 10th April - Claire Turner (Durham Roller Angels) | |
| | 17th April - Tommy Lowther (Sporting Force) | |
| 7.30-9.30pm | Northern & Classic Soul | Kevin Sowerby |
| WEDNESDAY | | |
| 2-3pm | Open Interview Session | John Atkinson |
| <i>Email: john@ayclifferadio.co.uk for interview appointments</i> | | |
| 7.45-10.15pm | Alternative Aycliffe | Gary & Alby |
| THURSDAY | | |
| 8-10pm | "Beat"Roote | Graeme Roote |
| FRIDAY | | |
| 6-8pm | House Mix | PVR Studios |
| 8-10pm | Guest Presenter Session | |
| | 6th Apr - Local Politics | Owen Dickinson |
| <i>with guests Lisa Turnbull and Paul Howell, send questions to 07512 253333 or email: info@ayclifferadio.co.uk</i> | | |
| | 13th April - Andy Little (Spain) | |
| SATURDAY | | |
| 8-11am | Kitchen Floor Fillers | |
| 11am-1pm | Kent Collective | Daz Kent |
| 1-2pm | Honest John "Being Kinky" | |
| 2-4pm | Aycliffe Radio Take Over | Metis |
| 4-6pm | School Disco | |
| 6-8pm | Dance Anthems | The Doctor |
| 8-10pm | Dance Mix | Alan Hastie |
| 10-12am | Garage/Indie | MC Supa |
| 12-2.30am | Alternative Aycliffe (R) | Gary & Alby |
| SUNDAY | | |
| 12-2pm | Sports Round Up (R) | Darren & Lee |
| 2-4pm | "Aycliffe Goes Country" | Aidan Thompson |
| 4-6pm | Lazy Sunday Afternoon | |
| 6-7pm | Church Service | Xcel Centre |
| 7-10pm | R 'n' B Show | Jack Hall |

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

Witton Castle Event for Butterwick Hospice

A small group of Events Management students from Leeds Beckett University are working hard to plan a Farm Family Fun Day on 15th April 2018. One of their modules consists of planning an event to raise money for a charity, one of the girls from the group is local, Helen who decided to hold the event at Witton Castle so it was closer to the charity. The event will be held at Witton Castle on Sunday 15th April 2018, and will include a petting zoo, alpacas, a mini family fair, stalls and many more surprises! Tickets are £3 per adult, £1.50 per child or £7 for a family ticket (two adults and two children) All proceeds will come to Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland. It is guaranteed to be a great day! For tickets visit: <https://www.butterwick.org.uk/events/familyfunday/> or call Milly Toner on 01388 603003 or email millytoner@butterwick.org.uk for more information.

As part of the 2018 Aycliffe Festival

AYCLIFFE RADIO

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE "Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"

present a

LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL

to take place on SATURDAY 28th JULY 2018
in NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE MALL
from 12noon to 8.00pm - FREE admission

We require local bands, singers, choirs to volunteer a session on the day, if this is you contact Aycliffe Radio:
info@ayclifferadio.co.uk or 07931 701444

Is Your Group Looking for Grants? GAMP Can Help

Are you part of a group that works in the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) area? Do you have a project idea that requires funding? Could your project help GAMP address its priorities for the area? If so, grants of between £5,000 and £11,000 are available to groups for projects which support our key priorities.

GAMP has an Area Budget of £100,000 available to fund projects within the Great Aycliffe and Middridge village areas. There is £33,333 available within each of the 2018/19 GAMP priorities; and projects should address at least one of the following priorities and the specified key issues:

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES PRIORITY

Projects are invited which help improve positive outcomes to support children, young people, young carers and their families from the GAMP area to live a happier and healthier life. Projects must address one of the following key issues:

- Risky behaviour, including alcohol/drugs/smoking/crime
- Provision of activities/things to do for 0-19 years (or 19-25 years for those with special educational needs and disability)
- Children's physical, emotional and mental health
- Economically disadvantaged children, young people & families

OLDER PEOPLE PRIORITY

Projects are invited which help support older GAMP residents to live a happier and healthier life (older residents are defined by Age UK as 50yrs+). Projects must address at least one of the following key issues:

- Health, including mental health, dementia, depression, access to social activity
- Access to activity; facilities, transport, welfare/money issues and lifelong learning opportunities
- Social support: having regular contact with friends, family or neighbours

EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE & TRAINING PRIORITY

Projects are invited which aim to help improve positive outcomes for GAMP residents to gain employment and/or access to training. The key issues of particular interest are:

- apprenticeships, particularly aimed at targeting specific skills shortages
- gaining measurable work experience (preferably for the long-term unemployed)
- careers advice

Funding can be spent on either capital or revenue costs, but projects which include a specific element of capital spend are strongly encouraged.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the GAMP Team for an application pack. You can also contact the team if you are unsure whether your project fits with our priorities.

Application packs are available now. The closing date for expression of interest forms is 5.00pm on Friday 11 May 2018.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

As part of the project callout the GAMP team will be running an advice session to take you through the application process, and to give you some hints and tips to help you complete your application. We strongly recommend that you book a place at the session:

Wednesday 25 April, 10.00pm – 1.00pm at Woodham Community Centre

Thursday 26 April, 5.00pm – 7.00pm at Pioneering Care Centre

Tuesday 1 May, 2.00pm – 5.00pm at Pioneering Care Centre

If you are unable to attend an advice session please contact the GAMP Team to arrange an alternative appointment. To request an application pack, to book a place at an advice session or to find out more about the GAMP project callout, please contact the GAMP Team: Email: gampaap@durham.gov.uk. Telephone: 01325 327 441

£1m Boost for County Durham Firms

COUNTY DURHAM businesses are set for a £1m cash injection, from a fund created specifically for small and medium enterprises.

Enterprise agency NBSL has launched a new North East Business Support Fund (NEBSF) specifically for County Durham businesses. The programme, which is part financed by the England European Regional Development Fund, is forecast to help 620 businesses, creating around 230 jobs.

This new programme is open to all County Durham SMEs until 2020, even those which have already accessed NBSL support in previous funding rounds.

In recent years the North East Business Support Fund has supported over 800 Businesses in County Durham with £870,000 of Grants and 120 fully funded places on Business Development Masterclasses. John King, North East Business Support Manager at NBSL, said: "We're really pleased to have secured this new funding that allows us to carry on the great work of the North East Business Support Fund in County Durham."

"It is great news for those businesses looking for that little bit of help that enables them to deliver on



John King, North East Business Support Manager at NBSL

their growth plans. The programme has already helped hundreds of businesses in County Durham to tap into funding and expertise and we're excited that we can now support hundreds more over the next three years."

This version of NEBSF provides up to 40 per cent funding - up to £3,200 - towards a project worth between £2,500 and £8,000. Firms can use the funding for most types of business support that will encourage business growth.

Fully funded Masterclasses covering topics which will include sales strategy, bid writing and tendering, business growth planning and a range of digital marketing sessions, are available, delivered by leading experts from across the region.

The North East Business Support Fund (NEBSF) is part financed by the England European Regional Development Fund as part of

John added: "This may not be the end of the good news for the region. We are also aiming to secure additional funding to provide support to businesses based in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear and hope to be able to make an announcement in that in the coming months."

"County Durham has a wealth of innovative, exciting SMEs and we're proud to be able to support them and hopefully help them take the next step in their development." For more information about this new North East Business Support Fund, call 01670 813322, visit www.nbsl.org.uk/nebsf/county-durham or follow @nbsl on Twitter.

Auckland Project Talk



Lee (left) with Rotary President (centre) and Chris

Lee Brownson, Community Relationship Officer for the Auckland Castle Trust and Chris Walkinshaw - volunteer for the Auckland Project attended the town's Rotary Club Meeting to speak about their involvement with Bishop Auckland's Kynren and related exciting projects.

They gave a fantastic presentation showing their vast knowledge of the history of the castle and town. Anyone interested in hearing the talk should contact: Lee on 01388 743750 or E-mail: enquiries@aucklandcastle.org

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More Transparency Needed from Livin

Dear Sir,
I am a home owner on the estate. I've lived here for nearly 19 years - owning the property for approximately 12 of these years, having bought under the right to buy scheme.

I am not specifically opposed to option 3 (or even a CPO) - as long as I am not financially disadvantaged and compensation is provided which reflects the money, time and energy that has been invested in my home. The area itself is in need of some regeneration (although as others will no doubt point out it is far from the dilapidated derelict expanse that one usually associates with CPO's).

However, one of my main concerns is that as my home is located within an area that has been very publicly declared in need of regeneration - I would struggle to sell it for market value anyway - meaning that if the plans do not go ahead, my equity will vanish regardless - creating a catch 22 situation!

What I feel is required is a micro-level approach whereby Livin representatives visit each and every household involved (tenant and home-owner) and discuss in a very open and transparent manner their plans for the estate, time-frames involved and the processes by which the plans will operate.

This would allow direct conversation and offer the individual the chance

to highlight their hopes, concerns and requirements. This would also provide Livin with an opportunity to examine how many people want to return to the area following regeneration (as some tenants will naturally resettle elsewhere a reduction in numbers of properties on the estate may not then be an issue - but until the questions are asked it is all speculation and cause for concern).

Some home-owners may wish to take this opportunity as a reason to sell and move to new horizons (again freeing up more potential plots). Others (tenants and home-owners) will no doubt wish to be provided with like for like accommodation - Livin should also be prepared to match or negotiate here (it is not fair or reasonable to ask those who are now mortgage free to start all over again, incurring debt they had not planned for).

In addition, options such as; selling early in the process and renting back your property (to allow home-owners time to reflect on potential capital to invest elsewhere or following regeneration); up-scaling / down-scaling of property sizes and re-location costs should all be made available for discussion.

All in all an individualised approach which offers transparency and options are key to these plans (whichever option is utilised).

Home-owner
Name and email supplied

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Newton Press and Whitehouse Funeral Services are sponsoring a **PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

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Dog Attack

Dear Sir,
Just to make readers aware that on Good Friday evening around 9.30pm in the Silverdale area a grey pit bull type dog, not on a lead, with a teenager attacked my black Shitzu for no reason! Be very aware, this dog saw mine and went straight for him with intent to harm! Police were informed, but I don't want anyone to have to experience what I went through! My dog is ok, but it could have been far worse! JB

£20 to Promote Your Business on this Car



We would like to set a challenge to Newton Aycliffe businesses while taking a Volvo v70 to Benidorm in June for a great charity The Solan Conner Fawcett Cancer Trust. This is to help not only the person with cancer but their carers and family in whatever way they can. Simply put your company name on the car for £20 getting your name out there as the car will be going to fairs and rallies as well as boot sales throughout the north east. We would like to thank all that find the time to help and we can be contacted on 07763 896309 or look us up on Facebook at Grandads Army to Benidorm and Beyond. Bill & Tom



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

A light week in terms of Council meetings, but an important article on the new NPPF, some information tweets, and lovely things to do next week! Find out more on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB54

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY

- The proposed new National Planning Policy Framework – the key changes.
- Healthwatch County Durham has published its April newsletter.
- #HelpDurhamShine – tell DCC what you love most about the county for a chance to win a free VIP pass.
- You can check driving conditions all over the county by viewing DCC's online weather cameras.
- You can monitor flood levels in local rivers on the Environment Agency's interactive map.

- Could you sponsor the Aycliffe Business Park 'Make Your Mark' awards event – contact helo@aycliffeawards.co.uk.
- THINGS TO DO
- Whose Poo? (5-11s) Exploration at Hardwick Park, 11am-3pm, Wednesday 11 April, £4.
- Wizard School (5-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 1-3pm, Wednesday 11 April, £3.
- Horses at War, Beamish Museum, 13-15 April, (entrance fee).
- Durham Cathedral History Walk, starts 10:30am, Saturday 14 April, £3, phone 0191 3387 178.
- The DLI Collection touring exhibition – When The Bugle Calls – is open at Bishop Auckland Town Hall library.
- There is a 'Brief History of Aycliffe' with a car tour of the main sites on my website.

World Book Day Celebrated



After all the disruption caused by the snow, children at Aycliffe Village Primary School finally got to celebrate World Book Day! Children in Year One led the assembly that day and their family members were invited to share this with them. Pupils wore some fantastic costumes and spent the day doing a variety of activities related to books. Some classes made their own books while others devised board games and shared ideas about their favourite books. At the end of the assembly, Head Teacher, Helen Sutherland said how pleased

she was that the children and staff had made such a great effort to take part. She reminded everyone how important and special reading is and used quotes from Dr Seuss, Roald Dahl's Matilda and Walt Disney to inspire and motivate children. Other recent activities at Aycliffe Primary include Year 4 pupils working with an artist on 'The Voices Project' (arranged by the Baltic Museum) and a tree planting party led by Year 6 pupils. This was as part of the work pupils have been doing towards their Green Tree Award. Last Sunday, a group

of pupils sang during the Palm Sunday service at St Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village. This included a beautiful solo from a Year 2 pupil, Ruby, and the singing was very well received by members of the congregation. Helen Sutherland took over as Head Teacher at Aycliffe Village in January and expressed how much she is enjoying the role and getting to know members of the school and wider community. "I have been made to feel very welcome by everyone. A parent governor recently said she can feel a real 'buzz' about the school and I am looking forward to continuing to build on this in the future. It is a lovely school with fantastic children and such a lot of potential."



MONDAYS

Neville Community Centre Neville Parade

5.30pm & 7.30pm with Annette - Tel: 07974 696241

TUESDAYS

R.A.F.A. Club Barrington Road

3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm with Nic - Tel: 07791 909376

WEDNESDAYS

Navy Club Bluebell Way

9.30am with Nic - Tel: 07791 909376

5pm & 7pm with Christine - Tel: 07970 666291

Eden Arms Hotel Rushyford

3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm with Joni - Tel: 07716 484472

THURSDAYS

R.A.F.A. Club Barrington Road

9.30am & 11.30am with Sam - Tel: 07970 451284

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

SATURDAYS

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Burn Lane

8.30am and 10.30am with Gordon - Tel: 07572 240010

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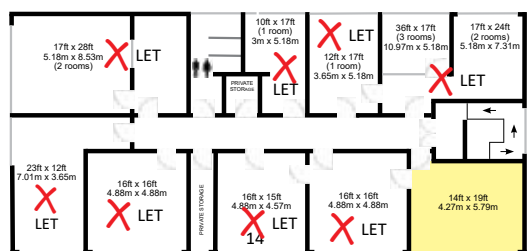
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Loco Steam Season



Locomotion, Shildon, invites you to explore the power of steam with Steam Season – a programme of inspiring events, exhibitions and activities from May to September 2018.

Steam Season will begin with a Festival from Saturday May 5 to Monday May 7. Steam Season will then continue with events, exhibitions and activities throughout the summer, ending with the Autumn Steam Gala on Saturday September 22 & Sunday September 23, 2018, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of steam on British Railways.

Enjoy a steam train ride behind No. 7063 Eustace Forth, which will be the museum's guest operating locomotive for Summer 2018. This 1942-built Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns saddle tank locomotive spent its industrial career shunting coal wagons at Dunston 'B' Power Station in Gateshead, before being saved for preservation.

Now owned by the 7063 Group, based at the Foxfield Railway, Eustace Forth will see regular service on passenger steaming days at

Locomotion over the coming months.

The Festival of Steam event will also offer visitors their last chance at Locomotion for a steam train ride behind Furness Railway No. 20, the oldest standard gauge locomotive still operating in the UK.

After 10 years hauling passenger trains at Locomotion, Furness Railway No. 20 will leave Shildon in mid May, and will return to the Ribble Steam Railway, where the Furness Railway Trust are based, for its final steamings before being withdrawn for major overhaul this summer.

The Festival of Steam will also feature displays of model railways; street theatre performances from Same Difference; and a free, hands-on learning activity from Locomotion's Learning team, suitable for all the family.

For more information on the Festival of Steam event and Locomotion's Steam Season, please visit www.locomotion.org.uk Locomotion is open from 10am to 5pm daily. Parking and admission are free of charge. Please note that there is a charge for steam train rides.

County Council Restructure Children's Centres

Families in County Durham are seeing support offered to a wider age range as part of efforts to make sure help is targeted to those children most in need.

Durham County Council's One Point children's centres, which offered services for youngsters aged zero to five, have become "family centres," with services for zero to 19-year-olds.

Margaret Whellans, the authority's corporate director for Children and Young People's Services, said: "We are making sure that our resources more effectively targeted, with intensive support for those most in need, in order to reduce inequalities and give vulnerable children the best start in life."

Based on research from the Department for Education's Innovation and national Troubled Families programmes, the One Point Service has undergone a significant redesign and restructure.

Operating from the county's 15 family centres, seven intensive family support teams, backed by 14 Families First teams, aim to provide a seamless service including practical hands on help for those dealing with poverty and debt, and support to find the training and employment they need.

It also includes the development of a Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance, to better coordinate all of the support in an area, make sure that people know what is available to them and help them to access it.

Carole Payne, the authority's head of early help, assessment and safeguarding, said: "Many children in County Durham are born into deprived communities and are vulnerable to the adverse impact of poverty and neglect."

"By extending our early help offer to children aged zero to 19, providing intensive support for families with complex needs, and working more closely with the voluntary sector we can help people to access the help they need within their local communities."

The changes, which were introduced from February 1st, come at a time when the council's Children and Young People's Services is required to make almost £6.2 million in savings by 2021.

However, previous evidence shows that it is possible to deal with a significant increase in demand, and improve outcomes for families, while being more efficient and reducing costs.

Since a review of children's centres in 2015, the number of people seeking One Point's help has increased substantially, with 3,150 family assessments carried out between April and December last year, up from 1,229 in 2016/17 and 866 four years ago.

This year alone the centres have enjoyed a number of successes, with the Young Parent Programme helping

over 140 people into education, employment, training or volunteering; while almost three quarters of young people working with the Team around the School saw their behaviour improve.

More than four in five parents on the Wellbeing for Life programme said they perceived a reduction in their child's difficulties with emotions and behaviours

While the percentage of children under the age of 5 years who live in the top 30% most deprived wards who have contact with a centre is 87%, up from 43% in 2010.

Staff are also reaching more of the county's teenage mothers with 97% of them having at least some contact with support services.

All of that has helped Durham increase the number of children achieving a good level of development, up 8.3% between 2015 and 2017, to put the county 1.2% ahead of the national average.

For more information about One Point services visit www.durham.gov.uk/onepoint

AYCLIFFE STUDENT INSPIRES ARTIST IN NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN



In August 2017 Kieran Witton, a Year 7 student at Greenfield Community College, was chosen along with seven other children from around the country to take part in a three-year nationwide campaign with the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) and the #every blind children campaign.

The campaign aims to raise awareness, dispel the myths surrounding childhood sight loss and encourage support for more children and their families across the country.

Kieran was diagnosed with Stargardt's Macular Dystrophy at the age of nine, which causes progressive vision loss and leads to eventual blindness. As part of Kieran's involvement in the campaign he had the opportunity to visit London to take part in a photo shoot, interview and to meet world renowned artist 'Robert Montgomery'. The artist was so inspired by the children he has since created a custom designed vehicle with an illuminated light poem and video installation which will shortly be on tour throughout the whole country.

In January Kieran was invited to Granary Square, Kings Cross London for the launch of the campaign and tour. It has been an amazing experience for Kieran and staff and pupils at Greenfield are very proud of his positive and important contribution.

The campaign and 'light poem' has even gained royal approval as the RSBC received a letter from Queen Elizabeth displaying her interest in the 'light poem' and how it had been inspired by the children.

Would You Like to Join a County Council Committee?

Would you like to play a part in helping to shape council services?

Durham County Council is looking for volunteers to serve on its overview and scrutiny committees as non-voting co-optees and parent governor representatives.

Two non-voting co-optees are needed for each of the council's five overview and scrutiny committees – adults, wellbeing and health; safer and stronger communities; economy and enterprise; children and young people; and environment and sustainable communities.

Co-optees serve for two years and have the opportunity to help develop new ways of working, review existing policies and challenge the performance of the authority and its key partners.

In the last two years, co-optees have taken part in reviews looking at subjects such as alcohol and the demand on emergency services; free school meals and holiday hunger; the future of the council's woodland estate; cybercrime; and arson and deliberate fires.

Applicants will need to go through a formal selection process, with interviews due to take place in May.

The council is also looking for two people to serve as parent governor representatives on its Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

During the past year, the committee, which meets about six times a year, has considered a range of issues including the management of exclusions; summaries of serious case reviews; child poverty; neglect in County Durham; school funding and the Stronger Families programme.

In order to serve as a parent governor representative, applicants must have been elected by parents to represent them on a school governing body and must be the parent of a child currently attending a Durham County Council school or being educated outside school with funding

from the local authority.

Durham County Council employees and anyone employed at a school maintained by the authority either as teaching or non-teaching staff cannot serve as parent governor representatives. Councillors and anyone already serving as a parent governor representative for another authority are also exempt.

Tom Gorman, Durham County Council's corporate scrutiny and performance manager, said: "Overview and scrutiny committees play an important part in the decision-making process."

"They challenge decisions so that improvements can be made and ensure that our processes are transparent, accountable and inclusive."

"This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to use their expertise, personal knowledge and experience to influence how the council and its partners develop and deliver services in the future."

All overview and scrutiny meetings take place from 9.30am to 11.30am, with most taking place at County Hall,

Durham.

For more information, or to apply for a position as either a non-voting co-optee or a parent governor representative, call 03000 268 141 or email scrutiny@durham.gov.uk

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BREXIT & DEMOCRACY

Dear Sir,
I refer to Cllr. JD Clare's letter, on the above subject, in the 'Newton News' of 30th March 2015 and would comment follows:

1. Alleged plagiarism by Cllr. Arun Chandran.

This appears to be a matter between Mr Brendan O'Neil and Cllr. Chandran. However, given that the views expressed, allegedly by Mr O'Neill, are in support of 'Brexit' and that the democratic will of the people for Brexit is still under attack, I'm sure that Mr O'Neill will be pleased that his alleged views have received another public airing!

2. Upholding Democracy.

At the General Election following the Leave Referendum, both main political parties had leaving the EU in their manifestos. It was only after the election that some Labour MPs, started to change their mind and to agitate for staying in the Customs Union and/ or the Single Market. This is undemocratic! It is a betrayal of about a third of Labour voters who had voted Leave and believed the Labour Manifesto promise to Leave. The Remain Camp had made it clear that a vote to Leave would mean leaving all the EU institutions and in particular, the Single Market and the Customs Union. I expect that Cllr. JD Clare will use his influence in Labour/ Momentum to encourage Labour MPs to honour the Labour Party Election

Manifesto! Not to do so would be undemocratic!

3. Labour's Common Sense Surely, this heading is an oxymoron! When I was canvassing for Leave I was, on numerous occasions, accused of being 'Racist'. However I'm not racist and fail to see how wanting to take back control of an openly racist immigration system and setting up a new system with granted the same rights to EU migrants and migrants from the rest of the world, can be described as being racist. For your information Cllr. JD Clare, I believe that insinuating that a non-racist is 'Racist' is tantamount to a 'Hate Crime' in itself! Also, I will not take such insinuations, against anyone who voted Leave, from a member of the Labour Party which has been accused, by its own members, of being unwilling / unable to stamp out anti-semitism among its members and supporters. How can anyone be a member of, or support, such a party? Democracy would be better served if Labour Party members dealt with this matter rather than ignoring the Brexit majority, and campaigning for us to leave the EU, in name only. Labour, and indeed Cllr. JD Clare, appear not to have the common sense to realise that the majority of North East Labour voters who voted to Leave, did so because they wanted a change to the governance of the North East. The North East did not get its

fair share of investment under Blair or Brown and looked like getting very little more under Cameron (the Northern Powerhouse?). It should be noted that London and the South East voted to Remain in the EU; "Turkeys do not vote for Christmas". The Labour Party is scared of losing its power base in London if it supports the proper Brexit wanted by the majority of its voters in the rest of the country, especially in the North East.

Cllr. JD Clare's argument is almost a re-run of Polly Toynbee's, "Only a lunatic would vote for Brexit". Brexit could have been easy, quick and a lot less expensive if the Labour Party had honoured its Manifesto and assisted the elected Government in achieving a good deal with the EU. Common sense says that the EU, which exports more to the UK than it imports from the UK will not want any duties to apply or any other impediments to the free movements of goods. During the Brexit Referendum our MP, Phil Wilson, flew the flag for "Remain". Perhaps he would like to grace these columns again with his views on the current Labour Opposition antics to deny Brexit, and more importantly, on his views on the alleged anti-Semitism in Labour Party and the Party's actions/ inactions to eradicate this. Yours sincerely, Alastair P.G. Welsh

LIVIN CREATE UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR HOME OWNERS

Dear Sir,
Having read the letter in this week's Newton News I need to express my concerns regarding Livin's wish to demolish the West Ward and rebuild.

I live in Eskdale Place and my 71 year old mother lives around the corner from me. We both own our homes and both went to the Livin consultation in Whinlatter Place. Myself and others expressed great concern about Livin's plans, having bought my home and over the past six years spent nearly £20,000 on renovations, so I was quite taken aback by their preferred option to demolish all 514 houses.

I explained that most of the properties which are in poor condition are owned by buy to let landlords who are only interested in maximum rental income for minimum upkeep and that these should be either brought back up to standard by the landlords or bought back by livin and then brought back up to standard.

As a homeowner my partner and I have gone to considerable effort to make our home modern and comfortable, however since this meeting all planned work on the property will

stop other than essential repairs.

It is clear to me that those of us who own our own homes will be the losers in all this if Livin go ahead. If we are compulsory purchased then we will only be offered the market value of the property + 10% and other costs which as I stated to the staff at the meeting would be no-where near enough to buy a home of comparable standard in Newton Aycliffe. This would mean that I would have to get another mortgage and then carry out the same renovations I have just done all over again, which is unfair.

For example my kitchen cost £6,000 and is just over a year old. I did ask if we would be able to purchase one of these proposed new properties and was told yes. However it doesn't take a rocket scientist to work out that one of these properties would more than likely cost double what the compulsory purchase price would be.

If the preferred option does go ahead then all of my partners and my own retirement plans would be ruined since we are now mortgage free and we were both looking to use the money we would normally pay out each month to put

towards our retirement.

My partner has finally been able to reduce her working hours as we thought we would be able to comfortably manage but this may no longer be the case if the preferred option goes ahead. It is also clear to me that the winners in all this will be the buy to let landlords, many of whom will actually profit from this development having purchased their property for under £8000. My mother lives around the corner from me which is very handy as I help care for her and she dog sits for me whilst I am at work. She is 71 and settled in her home. Do you really think at her age she wants to move and start again?

Is the wholesale demolition of this area the preferred option simply because Livin would get funding for this and for the other two options funding would not be available?

Looking at the plans it is unclear just how many homes would be built but it is abundantly clear just how much green space would be lost. One of the reasons I bought my home in the first place was the amount of green spaces around. I would be very interested to hear just how many people

turned up to the latest Livin consultation as a great many people I have spoken to since this latest meeting had no idea this is what livin are planning. I would also be very interested to know how many homes Livin propose to build on the site.

If Newton News could keep me informed of any meetings etc. regarding this then I would be most grateful as at the minute it is like we are in limbo and our future is uncertain. Resident, Eskdale Place Name & address supplied



Shake off those bad weather blues and get in holiday mode with Shildon and District Flower Club at 7.30pm on Monday, 9th April at Shildon Civic Hall when Area Demonstrator, Carys Harrison, will present a colourful evening of flower demonstration entitled 'Have Passport, Will Travel.' Free to members - Visitors £5.00 There will be a selection of stalls to peruse and the bar is open!



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Helping Daniel Get to Hollywood

Local business space provider Flexspace would like to thank one of their tenants Mark Reay from MMA VIPER Martial Arts based at Acorn House Business Centre, Durham Way for very kindly making the generous donation of £500.00 to one of Newton Aycliffe's very own talented young dancers, and Greenfield Community College student, Daniel Wilkinson. The cash will help towards his ongoing fundraising efforts to allow him to visit Hollywood as part of the 'Hollywood Summer Tour' 2018 that Daniel was scouted

for at the 'Move It Dance' convention in London. The money was raised at one of Viper's MMA recent events and proudly presented to Daniel by his fellow classmate and local dancer from Macadam Dance Studio Jessymay Norman. Everyone at Flexspace would like to wish Daniel lots of luck with his continued efforts to raise the money to make his dream come true. If anyone would like to help this talented young man fulfil his ambition please visit his fund page @ www.youcaring.com/danielwilkinson-815491



EMPLOYABILITY DAY FOR RUGBY JUNIOR PLAYERS



A local rugby club has been helping its junior members with their careers by hosting a unique Employability Day where the players were able to meet representatives from some major employers in the region, many of whom sponsor the club.

Bishop Auckland Rugby Club, a leading sports club in the region for women and men of all ages, organised the event with the help of Petrus Communications, a new sponsor this season who are specialists in this field. Speakers joined from several key local employers including T Manners, Gestamp Talent Limited, Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd, Learning Curve Group, Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Petrus Communications themselves. The event included workshops where the junior players were given a chance to hone their various life skills to set them up for the world of work and interviews. They were also given some tips and insights from those already in industry about finding jobs and preparing themselves for the transition from education. "Having some workplace skills really does make a difference to academic results" said Hannah Potter, UK Training & Development Coordinator

at Gestamp Tallent Limited in Newton Aycliffe, who led one of the workshops and saw a significant improvement to her academic results following a year in industry.

"My message to the participants was clear – use all the resources around you, ask lots of questions to family, teachers, coaches, friends, and you'll find out that many different options are open to you". The day ended with a

networking session where participants to put into practice some of the new skills they learnt at the event.

Mark Macnair, Club Chairman said: "We are proud of the wide range of companies involved with the club, and it's great to be able to facilitate this kind of exchange. It helps our junior players understand that values they develop by playing rugby such as teamwork and respect, are also valuable workplace skills."

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Married 60 Years



Sheila and John Atkinson (Director of long established C.R. Atkinson Joiners on Aycliffe Business Park) celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary with a four day stay at the Savoy Hotel in London going to Shows and on the 'Eye', followed this month with a fortnight in Tenerife.

John met Sheila at Spennymoor Rink when she was 20 years old. He asked her for a dance and it was love at first sight. John later phoned Sheila for a date at Bishop Auckland Odeon Cinema to see "A Kid for Two Farthings".

They married two years later at St. John's Church, Shildon on March 29th, 1958. They bought a house in Shildon and had

two children Belinda and Duncan who now runs the business. They have four Grandchildren, Megan, Joe, Harry and Shanaya a fantastic singer who did so well in the X Factor this year. Grandson Joe also works for the company bringing in the fourth generation.

After serving in the war, John's father sold his house and started the business, moving from Middlesbrough to live in Clarence Corner, Newton Aycliffe. John went to work with his Dad and over the years the company specialised in manufacturing wooden stairs.

John was a founder member of Newton Aycliffe Table Tennis Club and an all-round sportsman playing football, squash and is currently President of Shildon Football Club. At 85 John still goes to work every day to keep his mind active.

Sheila a keen dancer said: "We have enjoyed 60 very happy years together, travelling the world and making long-lasting friendships with lovely memories. The secret is to give each other space, and trust; don't forget to tell each other how much you love them. If you have a disagreement sort it and do not battle! Always be prepared to say sorry"

John says of his wife: "Sheila is the best thing that ever happened to me and I would be lost without her. I think we've become closer over the years and we love each other very much."

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Aycliffe Charity Helps Veterans into Sports Employment

Sporting Force is a veterans charity that works predominantly with professional football clubs. Our charity is supported by the EFL, LMA and the Premier League. Sporting Force has a simple mission to help ex-service men and women make the transition into life as a civilian through placements in the sports industry. Military life is active by working with sports organisations we can offer opportunities that appeal, ignite a passion and help create a new life outside of the services.

By working with football clubs across the UK offering education, exercise and social events to help relieve mental health and social isolation. We ensure that all the opportunities on offer are inclusive and can be adapted to meet the needs of our disabled veterans.

Sporting Force can offer mental health awareness workshops to help the clubs with integration and support going forward of veterans with PTSD and other mental health issues. Research has suggested that the two best self-help strategies are exercise and social support. For anxiety sufferers exercise helps reduce worry, panic and other symptoms.

Sporting Force offers sport, exercise, camaraderie and being part of a team again, things that veterans all miss. Sporting Force in partnership with the football clubs place wounded, injured and sick veterans into training programmes and work. The exact areas veterans will operate in will be decided by

the clubs, Sporting Force and the veterans themselves.

I am sure you appreciate the impact that a programme using football to support the mental health and wellbeing of armed forces veterans would have. Harnessing the power of our national game to assist young service men and women once they have left the armed forces helps them adjust to civilian life. Our Veterans Onside program builds on this and goes further to help and support veterans opening routes into employment in addition to the improvements in health and mental wellbeing. Over 600 veterans have attended premier league football matches and rugby matches as the club's guests.

By working with us any sports club can create opportunities for those individuals who might not otherwise engage or be aware of the welfare and mental health services available to them including football coaching qualifications and involvement in the club.

They Utilise community programmes clubs already operate rather than creating extra programmes. Taking part with civilians will help the transition for the veterans rather than a dedicated programme that can be isolating. We have veterans currently volunteering in Kicks and Outreach projects in clubs. Some have attended Employability Courses in football clubs such as Arsenal and QPR.

Last summer and this summer we have placed veterans as



Team Leaders and Support Workers in the NCS (National Citizen Service) in seasonal roles. More recently with the opening of the Veterans Hub in Newton Aycliffe we have delivered coaching courses to support the delivery of Sport and PE in schools, Mental Health First Aid (Armed Forces

Community) for veterans but also employers and support organisations. We also run a bi-monthly Veterans and Services Breakfast Club that all armed forces, emergency services serving and veterans can attend for banter and a meal.

Current major projects include a Recruitment Drive with 50 positions (further 200 later this summer) for Tottenham Hotspur and the creation of a Para Snow Sports Team with a trip to Austria in April.

Our veterans are predominantly aged between 20-50 years and may well have served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Bosnia or Kosovo. On leaving the Forces, some veterans find that they have no "home" to return to. Friends from school, family members and old mates have lived a very different life. They feel even more isolated because they no longer fit in with former colleagues still in service.

Deprived of the camaraderie, excitement and action a military lifestyle had given them and which they were used to, they have nothing to shape their lives. For some this change in their life means that bouts of heavy drinking, relationship breakdown, trouble with the police and feelings of isolation and despair are all too common. Some veterans do not feel valued by society, a feeling that is most evident in the young veterans group and amongst veterans of recent conflicts in Iraq, the Balkans and Afghanistan. Often it takes a crisis before these proud veterans consider asking for help. Often, they are too proud to speak out, feeling they must suffer in silence. A common feeling is that they are not properly understood or supported by the wider community. Veterans don't expect special treatment – just to be treated fairly.

This year we are finalists for the prestigious Soldiering On Awards with Awards on the 20th of April in Westminster. Sporting Forces is funded through grants and fundraising. We have a big one in July at the St Johns Football Club in Bishop Auckland. We are looking for donations and sponsors for the event. We are also looking for teams to play against the veterans and serving personnel.

Skaters Travel to Kettering



Spectrum Roller Skaters have had a busy month of fundraising in total raising £337.07 towards transport to competition. Skaters and families organised

a guess the 'skater' doll which raised £75, sold knitted items for £17, held an Easter Hamper Raffle which made £150 and did a demonstration at Bishop Auckland Newgate Centre as part of their Easter Eggstravaganza with a bucket collection which made £95.07. The club are very grateful for the support from local people. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed. We are always looking for opportunities to demonstrate our sport and fundraise. If anyone can help us with sponsorship or support please get in touch.

The squad skaters have spent their Easter training and are taking part in an Easter Roller Boot Camp for four hours this Thursday.

The team of 10 skaters are travelling to Kettering this weekend to their first ever National Figure & Free Competition. The squad comprises of skaters aged

between 8 - adults, both male and female and they will be representing the north east in artistic roller skating nationals 7th/8th April.

Next month, for the first time, one of our youngest skaters, Jazzmyn Loring (8) will be competing in the British Championships held at Haywards Heath. Jazzmyn started skating just before her 5th birthday and trains with the club at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre in Shildon. She will be taking part in the tots dance event at The Dolphin Centre in Haywards Heath Saturday 12th May.

Find out how the club gets on at their upcoming competitions by following their pages on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). Anyone who would like to join Spectrum Roller Skating Club or enjoy our Friday night roller disco can contact Tracy Stevens 07891 461958

Ringtons to Build a Factory in Aycliffe



On reading about Rington's Planning application Newton News contacted the company welcoming them to Aycliffe and will be receiving regular updates on their new building. The new distribution and storage unit will be built on Whinfield Drive and will employ up to 20 people.

Ringtons story dates back to 1907 and they remain a family business today. Samuel Smith OBE moved from his home town in Leeds and began selling tea from a horse and cart in Newcastle Upon Tyne. He started with an initial investment of £250 from William Titterton. The company rapidly expanded and one year later, Sam needed two horses and four assistants! Now, 111 years after Sam Smith began his business, they continue to deliver door-to-door to over 260,000 customers throughout the UK. From humble beginnings in Newcastle Upon Tyne, they now have 35 offices across the country.

Their sales people battle through all weathers to make sure that customers get their regular delivery. With a wide range of products to choose from, our salespeople carry the well-known Ringtons basket to each customer's door.

We also provide the nations superior cafes, restaurants, hotels and workplaces with the best tea and coffee via our successful wholesale division, Ringtons Beverages.

The online store allows customers all over the world to get Ringtons deliveries, from the highest quality teas and coffees to a fantastic range of biscuits and sweet treats, and even stylish homeware pieces.

Livin Failed to Attend Residents Meeting

Western Area residents meeting was held this week with 59 local residents attending. Thank you all for coming.

LIVIN failed to attend which infuriated the residents. The excuse was the area person was on holiday and the other person was at a residents meeting in Spennymoor.

This meeting was advertised in the Newton News and I would have expected LIVIN to be present. Micheal Fishwick asked all the officers at LIVIN on Wednesday morning if one of them could attend but they all declined.

The Western Area Regeneration programme is causing a lot of distress to some of the residents who want to know some answers.

The next residents meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd May, I do hope LIVIN will attend.

There is also a meeting at the GREAT AYCLIFFE FULL COUNCIL on WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL, doors open 6.45pm.

G.A.R.A. will be giving a presentation on the regeneration followed by a discussion. If members of the public wish to speak they must inform the council 7 days prior to the meeting on 01325 300700 to register your request.

LIVIN WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IN THE DISCUSSION

Dorothy Bowman Chair person of W.A.R.A.

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BBC BIG BAND SWINGS INTO DARLINGTON

The acclaimed BBC Big Band will be raising the roof of
Darlington Hippodrome on Tuesday 10 April.

The band's origins date from the earliest days of the BBC and the formation of the original BBC Dance Orchestra in 1928. This 'golden' period through the 1930's saw not only the BBC Dance Orchestra, but many other bands including those of Billy Cotton, Geraldo, Joe Loss and Jack Hylton become celebrities, thanks in great part to the unrivalled reach of the new medium of radio.

The band began to be used widely in the new medium of television, both in the company of home-grown talent including Matt Monro as well as with international stars such as Frank Sinatra and Nat 'King' Cole.

By the 1960's the band was known as the Radio Big Band and functioned as part of the larger BBC Radio Orchestra. However, in 1979, as a new series called Big Band Special began on Radio 2, the band's profile was given a huge boost. Originally commissioned as a short run of twelve shows, the impact made by the BBC Big Band, now under the direction of Barry Forgie, ensured that the run was extended to 34 years before ending in September 2013.

The artistry and enthusiasm of the band in conjunction with some of the world's great jazz composers such as Bob Brookmeyer, Abdullah Ibrahim and Michael Gibbs has achieved new levels of critical acclaim. The BBC Big Band is now widely regarded as the UK's leading Big Band and has won the prestigious 'Best Big Band Award' at the British Jazz Awards eight times.

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ORGAN DONATION SHOWS WE MUST TALK WITH OUR LOVED ONES

The vote to change the laws surrounding organ donation has once again turned a spotlight on the vital issue of making our final wishes clear to loved ones. The House of Commons vote to change organ donation laws in England to an opt-out system

follows a public outcry over the fate of the 6,500 sick Brits on the transplant waiting list. Around 1,100 families denied consent last year - many because they were unsure of their deceased relatives' wishes. Now the man behind a direct

cremation company shaking up the funeral industry is urging families to wake up to the importance of making their end-of-life plans known to loved ones.

Bryan Powell, who set up Pure Cremation with his wife Catherine, said: "When it comes to the uncomfortable subject of death we often don't know how to get the conversation started."

"More than two-thirds of us (67 per cent) say it's incredibly important that our final wishes are carried out after we die."

"Yet only a quarter of us tell our family about our wishes about organ donation consent and preferred funeral arrangements."

"Confusion over these things can lead to uncertainty, family

tension and even spark feuds at the worst possible time.

"The changes to organ donation consent highlight the importance of expressing your wishes before you go - giving more families the confidence they're doing the right thing when the time comes."

Prime Minister Theresa May and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn both backed the change in the law. Four in five people say they would donate their organs but less than half that number have registered.

A direct cremation is an alternative to a traditional funeral where the body is collected and cremated in the days immediately following the death, without a funeral service at the crematorium.

While traditional burials or cremations are often formal

and follow a rigid formula, a direct cremation changes the dynamic by allowing families to go straight to the most meaningful bit - the wake. Now families can take control, and take all the time they need to plan a more personal send-off when and where is right for them.

By ripping up the rulebook and taking a completely fresh approach, Pure Cremation is already beginning to transform the funeral sector.

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Woodham Academy Welcome for Year 6



Primary school students enjoyed a day making friends and preparing for life at Woodham Academy, ahead of transferring to the high-performing Newton Aycliffe school.

Year 6 students from several local primary schools attended Friendship Day at Woodham Academy, as part of their preparations for joining in September. The students and their parents were welcomed to Woodham Academy by Headteacher Christine Forsyth. Students then took part in a range of activities to help them get to know the school, staff and their future classmates, while parents were given a tour of the school, and attended workshops on how to help their child in their move to

secondary education. Friendship Day forms part of an extensive programme of transition activities and support offered by Woodham Academy.

Mrs. Forsyth said: "Woodham Academy works in partnership with primary schools and parents to ensure each student enjoys a successful and comfortable transition and is fully prepared for the next stage in their education."

The transition programme offered by Woodham includes a one-day visit from students while in Year 5, and Induction Day in June, with a Parents' Information Evening in July, as well as ongoing support from the school's

dedicated transition team. Woodham Academy is one of the three best-performing secondary schools in the County Durham Local Education Authority area. The Department for Education (DFE) school performance tables highlight the progress students

make during their time at Woodham Academy, which recorded its best-ever GCSE results in 2017. Progress 8 is the recognised comparative measure for all schools nationally, and is used to track the performance of students based on their starting point in Year 7.

Former Rotarian Honoured by Club



The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe has honoured a former member Robert Manners with a Paul Harris Fellowship, one of the top awards for service to the club

and community. Robert was a member until a few years ago when he had to resign due to work commitments. However he continued to organise the club's annual Charity Golf Day for many years, encouraging teams to enter.

Robert is a director of long established builders, Manners & Son, in Bishop Auckland. He was overwhelmed when the award was announced and presented by President Tony Robinson (left).

Art Club at Neville Parade Centre



The Neville Parade Art Club developed 18 months ago from a group already formed. We meet every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm. £2.00 each week pays for refreshments, a trip out in the summer and a Christmas Lunch. We received a grant from Durham County Council for £200 and Councillors involved were Jim Atkinson, Sarah Iveson, helped by Adam White. All 17 members received a block of high quality paper for painting. If you want to join us just come along to say hello - you will be very welcome at the Methodist Church Hall. For more information contact Steven 07753 286667 or Joan 01325 317829 or Shelagh 07523 472522



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

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IKEA KLIPPAN sofa (Ivory), 3 seater, 1m78cms (wide) x 84cms (deep) x 67cms (high). £25; Furniture Village sofa (pale gold), 1m94cms (wide) x 88cms (deep) x 89cms (high). £60. 3 seater, all zipped cushions. Tel 07871 509283

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Crime Prevention Centre Tackles Organised Crime

National and regional crime specialists are working closely together to tackle serious and organised crime, in a brand new facility which opened today.

The North East Regional Crime Prevention Centre is home to a number of organisations which tackle organised crime, including the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the North East Regional Special Operations Unit (NERSOU). Working together, they provide significant capacity to share intelligence and join-up their activities to address crimes such as child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, modern day slavery, drug-related crimes, cyber-crime and fraud. Speaking at the launch of the Centre, Dame Vera Baird, Police and

Crime Commissioner for Northumbria, said "NERSOU has been at the forefront of addressing some of the region's most harmful crime since its foundation. This is an exciting step forward for Northumbria and one that will allow us to bring even greater focus on protecting the most vulnerable in our communities."

Durham's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg, added "our police forces now have a unique opportunity to work together with the NCA to share intelligence and jointly tackle cross-regional issues such as child sexual exploitation and cybercrime, for which vulnerable people are often the targets."

The overall cost of the Centre was funded using £1.6 million from the North East's three Police and Crime

Commissioners, £1.5 million from the Home Office, plus a substantial contribution from the NCA.

Speaking for the National Crime Agency, Nikki Holland, Director of Investigations said: "The opening of the North East Crime Regional Crime Prevention Centre will enable partners from multiple law enforcement agencies to collaborate, and effectively share information and resources."

"Working so closely will bolster our response to serious and organised crime in the North East. It will allow us to disrupt criminal activity and bring offenders to justice. This means we are able to safeguard the most vulnerable in our communities."

"We proved the value of this approach recently when a strike day, involving officers from the National Crime Agency, and Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police forces, led to the arrest of 21 people suspected of working on a trafficking network. This shows the level of continued success we can expect with the North East Crime Regional Crime Prevention Centre."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Copping, said: "Some threats and risks to our safety can only be dealt with by drawing together the best resources and expertise available, both regionally and nationally."

"I'm confident this new centre will become a leading example of collaborative working to tackle some of the region's most serious crimes and is another welcome addition to the 70-plus collaboration agreements already taking place between services in the North East."

"We welcome the opportunity to engage closely with other criminal justice agencies to offer the public a more joined-up and cost-effective service."

In Memoriam

MIRIAM ROSSITER birthday 29th March. Sadness at losing you never disappears, the rock that dispelled all of our fears. Lovingly missed every day of the year, with us on your birthday, forever, held so dear. . . Thinking of you Mam. Tony and Lesley xxx

TOMMY HARBOTTLE Died 7th April 2005. Thirteen years since we lost our lovely Dad. Happy memories remain in our hearts. Your laughter and smiles will live on forever Dad. Vera, Lavinia and Andy xxx

ALF SAXBY 4th April 2002. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and missed every day. Love, Wife Eileen and family xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Missing my beautiful Wife. Love you always, Charlie xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Thoughts of a special Sister and Aunt. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxxxx

WENDY GRAHAM 5th April 2009. Thinking of a wonderful Sister. Love you, Mandy xxx

ANN McLUCKIE Dear Ann, 10th April. A Daughter's love is special, a gift beyond compare. You only know the meaning, when she is no longer there. A special time, a special face, a special Daughter I cannot replace. With aching heart I whisper low, I miss you Ann and I love you so. Always in our thoughts, Mam, Tony and family. Also Fred. Dear Husband, Dad and Granda, 14th April 1998.

ADAM RAINE 9th April 2000. It's been 18 years since you were taken from us, but you are always in our thoughts and in our hearts. Love you loads, Dad, Mam, Kay, Nicky, Paul, Josh and Chloe xxxxx

DogsTrust & Newton News FIND A DOG a home

"JACK IN THE BOX" RESCUE DOG READY FOR PLAYTIME WITH NEW OWNER

Jack is a two-year-old Lurcher who is currently staying with foster carers on Dogs Trust Darlington's Home From Home Fostering Scheme while waiting on his special someone to come along. He is an extremely bright and very active young man, who is enthusiastic about everything and is doing really well in his foster home.

He is still a young boy and can get excitable like a "Jack in the Box" at times. Jack's foster family have been teaching him lots of new skills; lovely sits, stays and even a commando crawl are now all part of his repertoire. Jack loves showing off his tricks for a treat or two and teaching him new things would be a great way to channel his energy.

Jack is doing great in his foster home and turning in to a very well-mannered house guest. He loves to play with his toys and has a toy box that any dog would be proud to own. Jack really enjoys his walks although can be particular about his canine friends so walking in quiet areas would be best. He has a walking buddy Whisper, a Labrador who sometimes joins him on his little adventures. Their favourite place is an enclosed tennis court where they can both run around together off lead.

Jack is fully housetrained in his foster home and can be left for up to four hours. He would be better placed as the only dog in the home and can live with children aged over 14 years. Active owners who are up for lots of exercise and training are top of his wish list. With a dedicated owner Jack will be able to reach his full potential and will make a fantastic dog and addition to the family.

Jack is just one of over 100 dogs currently looking for a home at the centre; all different shapes, sizes, ages and breeds and looking for a wide variety of homes. For more information on Jack or any of the other lovely dogs we have at Dogs Trust Darlington please contact the centre on 01325 333114, visit the website <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/our-centres/darlington/> or email us at Darlington@dogstrust.org.uk



Obituary

Denise Scott (nee Russell)



Ex-Newton Aycliffe Grenadier Bass Drummer dies at the age of 55

Denise Scott (nee Russell) lost her fight for life to cancer on 26th March, age 55. She enjoyed life to the full, her Daughters Samantha, Lauren and Hayley were by her side. We are so proud of the support the family gave to Denise. Denise passed away peacefully and will be greatly missed by all the family.

Joe Conlon



Joe, aged 89, passed away peacefully with family in Bethany House, March 24th. Joe will be lovingly remembered by wife of 65 years Connie. Devoted Dad to Claire, Amanda & partner Ian. Proud Grandad to Graham, Samantha, Luke & Ashley. Also Great Grandad to Trent, Miles & Ezekiel. Service to be held 11am at St Clare's Church, Wednesday 11th April followed by cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium and wake at the Phoenix Club from 12:45. Family flowers only. Donation in memory of Joe can be left at the church for Cancer Research.

LINDLEY. 29th March, peacefully in hospital surrounded by his loving family. John Walter, aged 82 years of Newton Aycliffe. Dearly loved Husband of Anne; loving Dad of Christine and Pamela; cherished Grandad of Amanda, Mark, Caroline and Lisa also Great Grandad of Jamie, Imogen and Callum. Funeral Thursday 12th April. Would family and friends please meet at 10.00am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, may be made after the Service for Cancer Research.

THOMAS COLLINS. It is with great sadness that the family of Thomas Collins announces his passing on Saturday, 31st March, 2018, at the age of 82 years. Thomas will be lovingly remembered by his Children, David, Leslie and Stephen Collins. Thomas will also be fondly remembered by his three Grandchildren, Gareth, Leigh and Cameron as well as his Great Grandchildren, Courtney and Henry. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered everyday. A true gentleman. The Service will be held at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 13th April at 2.00pm for family and close friends.

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Congratulations

Andrew and Laura Bush



4th April 2018

I can finally announce our dream family holiday is in fact a dream family wedding! Sophie and I are so happy to officially add Laura to the family and also be added to Laura's crazy lot.

Congratulations on your Wedding in Disneyland, Florida. From all the Press Gang

Birthday Remembrance

Lillias R. Smith

9th April

Our thoughts are with you on this day, happy memories come to mind. Of one we loved with all our hearts, and will till the end of time.

A Mum holds her children hands for a while, their hearts - forever.

Loving and missing you always.
Valerie & Michael
Elizabeth & Kathryn
Allan & David
Jacob, Bronwyn,
Theo & Dylan

GEORGE SMITH 9th April 1948 to 11th November 2011. Sending lots of love on your 70th birthday Dad. Steven, Graham and John xxx

GEORGE SMITH 9th April 1948 to 11th November 2011. Lots of love on your 70th George. Irene xx

GEORGE SMITH 9th April 1948 to 11th November 2011. Happy birthday Grandad George. Staxa love from Millie and Bradley xxxxx

HUTSON, Ada & Dick. Mam 4th April 1927; Dad 19th April 1928 (90). Today is your birthdays. In Heaven above our blessing we send on the wings of a dove. Not just for today, but every day hereof we think of you, always loved, forever missed. All your loving family xxx

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

Tel: Syd

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or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Kim Hall



Happy 60th Birthday
8th April 2018

My wonderful Wife Kim. I hope you have had and continue to have a fantastic 60th birthday. All my love, kisses and hugs, Eddie xxx

Happy 60th Birthday to my lovely Daughter Kim on Sunday. Have a lovely weekend. Love from Mam xxx

Happy Birthday Mam Hope you enjoy your birthday celebrations. Lots of love, Shaun, Rachael and Dan xxx

Happy Birthday Nana We love you lots. Love from Kate, Jazmin and Harry xxx

SYLVIA SPENSLEY Happy birthday. All my love, Husband Eddie

AMBER MURRAY Happy 21st birthday. Love, Mam, Shaun, Ralph, Naomi and Kurt xxx

AMBER MURRAY Happy 21st Amber. Enjoy your weekend. Love, Katie and Chris xx

AMBER MURRAY Happy 21st Amber. Love, Lewis

AMBER MURRAY Happy 21st birthday Auntie Amber. Love, Skyla and Penny xx

AMBER MURRAY Best wishes on your 21st Amber. All my love, Grandma xx

THE BELTON BOYS. It's April 7th, time again to celebrate Russell's 51 years old and Duncan is 50 years old.

To my best two sons, I am very proud of you both doing so well in life. Proud of you both. Your loving Mam (Ann) xxxxxxx



Red Dragons Roaring to Go



Zanshin Kai Karate based at Woodham Community Centre held the first club grading of 2018 starting off with its Red Dragons Cadets class on Thursday 29th March. These Karate kids showed great spirit, effort & technique throughout the grade test & all of our Instructors and assistants would like to say congratulations & well done to the youngest

members of our club, who all successfully gained their new belts. 3rd Mon Brown belt: Maddison Fenton, Martha Noble, Adam Smith, Emma Smith, Lola Giudice & Joey Hayman 5th Mon Blue belt: Travis Alton, Maisie Cochrane. 7th Mon Orange belt: Will Farrow, Izzy Lambert, Max Holehouse, Thomas Towler & Ella Myers. Zanshin-Kai Red Dragons

is a class specifically for children who range in ages from 5-9. The class aims to introduce children to the benefits of sport, exercise & the values of the Martial arts. All our instructors are insured, first aid trained and have undergone advanced disclosure checks with the criminal records bureau and been cleared to work with children and vulnerable adults. We are holding our next beginners induction class on Thursday 19th April for our Red Dragons class but places are limited and must be reserved in advance, if you wish to book for your child telephone an Instructor on 07970 554524 / 07746 204064/07917 203421 or email zanshin-kai-karate@hotmail.co.uk. Face book (zanshin kai karate newton aycliffe).

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS

The Weekend of the 24/25th March 2018 was yet again another busy weekend for the runners of ARC.

First up was Trish Kay who ran the 14 mile road race at Coniston Water. This is the area largest community event and money raised from this is donated to local clubs and charities. It attracts approx. 1600 runners each year. The route starts and finishes at John Ruskin School and proceeds in an anti-clockwise direction round the lake and is very undulating following a windy road that circles Coniston water. Trish completed the race in 1 hour 58 minutes.

On Sunday runners competed in three different races in the region. Firstly was the South Park 20 which took place in Darlington South Park and which consisted of 20 x 1 mile laps. This is quite a popular race for those marathon training as it enables a long run with other people and helps break the monotony that can come with marathon training. Results:- Mark Bainbridge 2:42:06, Dave Blewitt 2:45:19, Rob Nicholson 3:11:50, Julie Nisbet 3:13:15, Ian Baronowski 3:25:42, Richard Tonge 3:35:43. In addition some members took part in the Final Race of the Winter Trail Series. This was a 5k at Ropner Park in Middlesbrough. The race was run entirely on tarmac but unusually was run the opposite way round to usual however, this didn't seem to affect times. First home for the club was Richard Holland who was 25th with a PB of 21.32, next was Susan Milburn, 56th in 25.26 and First Female 0/55, Ray Todd followed in 35.30 with Julie Spring completing the race in 37.21. Finally on Sunday a large number of runners attended the inaugural 10k race at Dishforth Airfield. Although the base is still an active military base, the airfield has



been decommissioned and the race was arranged to raise funds for ABF The Soldiers Charity.

As you would expect the course was very flat which made for a good PB course and assisted by the good weather several runners achieved PBs. First home for the club was John Surtees, 6th in 35.58, Paul Dalton followed in 38.49 (however, Paul is a second claim member and was running for his first team in this race) Richard Campbell followed in 39.21, Tracey Surtees followed in 41.34 and was second female overall, Robert Young 43.17, Angela Barrett 48.48, Heather Fenwick 54.46, Lindsey Brown 56.59, Denise Evans, 1:00:32, Donna Campbell 1:00:38, Susan Clark 1:04:19, Eve Doe 1:04:56, Jane Quigley 1:04:58, Jan McLuckie 1:18:07, Lisa Dowell 1:21:49 and Carrieann Ingledew 1:21:50. On Sunday Evening John Heywood participated in the Night Sky 14 mile run in Keilder which as suggested was run in the evening. He completed the challenging 14.6 miles race in 2 hour 47 mins. Mention should be made of Judith Porter who recently took part in the Hong Kong Marathon. Judith completed this race in 5 hours and 18 minutes after falling at mile 15 and spending 15 minutes in the medical tent. The day before the race the organisers held a

friendship run of 4k for all the foreign runners. This was non-competitive and the atmosphere was great. Judith really enjoyed the race despite her fall as it was well organised and well supported throughout.



AYCLIFFE ANGELS GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM

Dear Sir,
 We have a new girls football team (current U8's and U9's come September). They have been formed following the current and ongoing development group called Wildcats, which is sponsored by The FA and ran locally in Newton Aycliffe.

A new charity to Newton Aycliffe and the North East is "Angel Trust" who have taken the team under their wings and sponsored them, so inspiring their name.

This Trust went live today with the help of local Aycliffe Ambassador Beau Stevens (of Premo) and TV personality Scarlett Moffett.

We are debuting our new kit, sponsored by Angel Trust, on 15th April at training (10-11am at Greenfield School 3G pitch), along with our away kit sponsored by Sporting Futures, a local sports coaching company run by local sporting entrepreneurs. We have also been supported by Newton Aycliffe Workwear and Darlington's Mysportswear.co.uk - they have heavily discounted our kit so that our girls can feel and look good as they head into their first season as a young girls team! Many thanks, Clare

County Champions



Woodham Academy's basketball players have been crowned County champions. The school's Year 7 team won the title at Durham Youth Sports Games held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

The team progressed through the qualification rounds unbeaten and represented Sedgfield District at the finals, where they competed against the best players in the county. Basketball is just one of many sports the Year 7 students were given the opportunity to participate in when they began attending Woodham Academy in September. The team has progressed since under the guidance of Deputy Headteacher Danny Morgans, who also coaches the Durham Wildcats basketball team.

He said: "Woodham Academy's players were some of the most technically proficient in the competition. They performed admirably and were able to develop their skills in the competitive game situations. They were unbeaten throughout and won the competition outright becoming county champions in the process."

Woodham Sports Academy offers an extensive range of sporting opportunities to its students, and provides high-quality coaching delivered by the school's award-winning PE department and in partnership with local sports clubs.

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