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ACORN R.A.'s BEST EVER PETTING ZOO

Dear Editor,
Thank you for your support in promoting the seventh ACORN annual Petting Zoo, I can confirm that with the help of the Newton News we had our most successful event to date.

Opened by our MP Phil Wilson and sponsored by Councillors Kate Hopper and Eddy Adam the event entertained, educated and made people very happy. As a community event the annual petting zoo enlists other organisations who are able to promote their groups to a wider public and raise funds for themselves. This year ACORN chose to have the event on a Saturday which allowed more people to access the event. Actually 750 people came along and



thoroughly enjoyed the three petting zoos, face painting, craft stall, cake stall, balloon modelling and Tombola. I would like to thank all those volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to help us to put on these events. The next ACORN event will be a fun day on a local green planned for August 11th. Meanwhile we have an

exciting range of coach tours planned starting on 12th May with a trip to South Lakes Zoo. If you want to be involved with our popular group we invite you to join us at our monthly meetings to help plan our programme. Meetings are held at the Phoenix Club upstairs lounge 6.00pm every second Thursday of the month. Ken Robson
Acorn Chairman
Tel: 321471



More photos on Page 3

Bronze Medal for England Polo Player

Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to highlight the success of one of our members. 15 year old Poppy Stephenson has just returned from her England debut in Brno, Czech Republic after playing for the U17 Girls' EU Nations Squad. England's team won the bronze medal at the EU Nations after beating the hosts Czech Republic 8-3 in a dramatic final match. The sensational result sparked wild celebrations in Brno and sealed a podium finish for a talented and young team in their first ever international tournament.

Photo shows Poppy in her England kit. Anyone interested in joining our club - based at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre - is asked to email sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com to arrange a suitable date



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Bee Keeping in Aycliffe

Great Aycliffe Town Council have recently agreed for bee keeping plots to be established at St Oswald's allotments and are keen for anyone interest in this pastime to come along to a free informal presentation at Moore Lane Eco Centre on Monday 16th April to learn more about what is involved.

The presentation will begin at 8.00pm and will be hosted by members of Darlington Bee Keepers Association who will give an informative presentation on how any budding bee keeping can get involved and hopefully answer any of your questions and concerns.

If you would like to know more please contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

New Summer Courses at Greenfield Arts



We are pleased to announce our new Summer Community Learning Programme is now available and is full to the brim with creative opportunities for those looking to try new things or develop their skills. We look forward to the return of our regular adult courses, including: Spanish, Yoga and Floral Art as well as our popular art development opportunities, featuring Exploring Collage and Exploring Paint and our popular Creative Forum, where you can join a relaxed community of artists who can learn from one another with expert guidance. Masterclass Thursday will also continue due to its ongoing success, offering further opportunities in Digital Photography and

Print Making, where you can learn new skills and get the opportunity to create fabulous work to take away.

We also look forward to the return of our after school activities for young people including: Young Yoga and Art Club. There is something for everyone of all ages and abilities, whether you are looking to get fit, improve wellbeing or develop your artistic talent, whatever level, we look forward to seeing you!

We are also delighted to bring you the programme of exhibitions taking place at The Greenfield Gallery and we look forward to welcoming a range of established and up-and-coming artists show-casing their fabulous artwork. The programme includes, Sharron Bates Hidden Depths, a collection of illustrations and textiles that gently encourage us to challenge perceptions. We also welcome Just Look by Tom Dudding, an established wildlife and landscape artist who has exhibited his work throughout the UK, Europe and more recently America. This will be followed by Greenfield's very own GCSE annual showcase, displaying the fantastic work of students, including sculpture. Photography and graphics. For all courses and events please book your place via the online enrolment link, which can be found on the 'Courses and Activities' page on our website. If you would like any further information please contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Take Time to Join in the Big Spring Clean 2018

Communities and volunteers across County Durham and Darlington are being reminded to register for the eleventh annual Big Spring Clean litter-picking campaign. This year's event runs until 15 April and local groups are encouraged to sign up to organise a litter pick in their village, town, or city in County Durham and Darlington.

Organised by LitterFree Durham, in partnership with Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council, the campaign brings communities together to tidy-up, clean-up or green-up their villages or towns and encourages thousands of people to make a difference.

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

Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "The Big Spring Clean campaign represents a fantastic opportunity for people to really make a difference in their community. "Over the years we have seen hundreds of litter-picks carried out by thousands of people, who have contributed tens of thousands of volunteer hours to keep their local areas clean – And this year, despite the recent weather, we're hoping to add to that incredible achievement." All equipment, litter-picks and sacks will be provided to organised litter-picks and all rubbish will be collected and disposed of afterwards. In addition, the council's Civic Pride team can advise on health and safety and risk assessments.

Gerald Lee, Chair of LitterFree Durham, said: "So far we've been delighted with our annual Big Spring Clean event, but every year we aim to do better than the year before. That's why this year we're urging more and more

people to sign up and really make a difference to their communities.

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

"Never before has the public awareness about the evils of plastic been so great and yet whilst many are rightfully upset about our whales and dolphins being killed by plastic we should not forget that the same is happening every day on dry land - dogs, cats, birds sheep and cows are dying because we continue to litter our towns and

countryside instead of doing what we all know is the right thing to do: "Please take your litter home!"

Dropping litter is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) can be issued to anyone caught dropping litter.

To report littering online go to www.durham.gov.uk/litter or call 03000 260 000 during office hours. To organise a litter pick in County Durham, email litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 260 000. To organise a litter pick in Darlington, email litterfreedurham@darlington.gov.uk or call 01325 406 719.

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Saturday 14th April - "This Machine"

Gig-Pit Review: "Well, I don't know what to say, apart from... THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best - especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar, haha. Every song was awesome, perfect sound, and just an all round excellence. Also it was the best atmosphere I've ever experienced, everyone was having fun."

Gig-Pit Review: "One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy and more."

Saturday 21st April - "1 0 1"

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Film Show

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The "FEEL GOOD FILM SHOW" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 17th April features the musical comedy "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" starring Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell as two show girls getting into scrapes and performing classics like "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" "Bye Bye Baby" and "Little Girl From Little Rock" A great Feel Good film, one of the classics of the time. Everyone is welcome.

Tea and coffee are served at 1pm, included in the £2, and the film starts at 1-15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

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Meeting with Livin to Discuss Regeneration Scheme

Dear Sir,
I had a meeting Livin's Karen Grundy, Michael

Fishwick, and Vicky Miller and Emily Hunter (PCP). Karen and Emily explained this was their last day on the project, and were moving on to other projects. We began with me outlining the issues regarding Livin's original bid, and the concerns around Option 3, as Livin had discounted Options 1 & 2. Livin explained that at York Hill Estate Regeneration there were 150 homes affected of which there were 48 Home Owners who all bought into the scheme. The houses were clad and had pitched roofs put on. Average costs were £25,000 per house, and as Livin were a registered charity they had written off about £10,000 per house leaving a charge on their houses of £15,000 each. In the Western Area, compared to York Hill,

this is not viable on those grounds as the Western Area is 5 times larger than York Hill. It is untenable to put a charge on houses.

We discussed:

Shared Equity no worse off, a charge on the property, but sheer number and length of time, if it is untenable to put charges like York Hill then shared Equity was unlikely to be on offer.

Asset Swap and buy the house.

Straight Swap similar to like for like.

Owners could become a Livin Tenant, Capital effects on benefits.

Shared Ownership pay rent for difference, on bungalows for example.

I put the view that most Owners want no change to their current circumstances at all, and indeed many tenants opposed option 3 and demolition. Shared Equity was a way forward with no cost whilst residents alive, but that was untenable from Livin's viewpoint because of the numbers.

Livin could not rule out Compulsory Purchase (CPO), I explained how Valuations re CPO i.e. market value +10% plus Home Loss Allowance and Disturbance Allowance

was never enough to buy like-for-like on the Estate or anywhere else in Newton Aycliffe.

Livin would not be attending public meetings as they felt these did not represent the Estate.

The impression I got from Livin was that their Tenants would be in favour of Option 3 and thus out-vote Owners in any consultation. I doubted this as it was Livin's intention that on any rebuilt Estate there would be 100 less Livin Tenants

I expressed deep reservations about their sums as losing £480,000 a year rental income let alone reducing the number of Social Housing available to low income families by 100 did not make sense financially.

I gave Livin a copy of my draft Great Aycliffe Residents' Association 18 page report and the leaflet we had put out, just to be open and transparent with them. They indicated they would put information in the public domain via Newton News.

I was surprised to be the only one invited to this meeting, no other councillor or Livin Champion. Cllr Arun M Chandran GARA Secretary

Charity DJ Festival Event at the Hammers in May



The fantastic Charity DJ event returns this summer as a Mini Festival with a stellar DJ line-up. After running a successful charity event in 2016, the organisers Andy Lee & Lisa Morrison have gone bigger and better this year, and transformed the event into a ONE DAY MINI FESTIVAL on the 12th May at the Hammer & Pincers in Newton Aycliffe. The event will feature over 20 DJ's split over two stages, and will be representing both the best in Classic 90's House and also underground House and Tech-House.

Andy Lee & Lisa Morrison have said the response to this years event has been amazing. "Both the support from people wanting to attend the festival, and also support from businesses wanting to sponsor the event has been fantastic". Companies such as Loopmasters, Convertmyvan.com and Webahead have made it possible for us to cover a large part of costs associated with hosting an event of this size, so the majority of the ticket money can be donated straight to charity.

"We couldn't be happier with how its going, we have some amazing DJ's on the line-up and hopefully should raise much needed funds for Zoe's place" said Lisa.

The event, although an outdoor festival, is under cover in both areas and unusually sees the main area hosted inside three massive Tipi's that are joined to form a unique and interesting space, that's sure to give this boutique festival an unbelievable atmosphere.

With stilt walkers and fire eaters, UV face painting and also handmade pizza and burgers at the event it sounds not only amazing fun, but also a great opportunity to raise money for the children's hospice in Middlesbrough.

Josh Butler (Origins Records, Rejected, Defected), Headline DJ's include the Hacienda legend Allister Whitehead, who will be topping the bill in the 90's classics arena. The underground tent features award winning international DJ Josh Butler and the talents of Hauswerks, alongside Zoo Project Ibiza's Lee Pennington and chart topping DJ Lee Walker. Support also comes from the well established local brands Solar Knights, Terrace Sessions, Riff Raff and many more Allister Whitehead (FAC 51 The Hacienda.) Tickets are on sale now at £10 and limited camping



is also available at £15 per pitch. Available from Hammer & Pincers, Preston Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

Contact Andy on 07779 342499. <https://www.facebook.com/events/947751295375002>.

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Petting Zoo Photos



Ken Robson (left) with Zoo Sponsor Councillor Eddy Adam

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HRA Litter Pick Army of Workers Ready to Bridge Digital Skills Gap



Horndale Residents Association held a litter pick on Thursday 29th March after we had to cancel it twice due to poor weather.

Our volunteers started at the Greenfield Convenience store and worked around the surrounding streets and underpass collecting 10 bags of rubbish.

Thank you to Christine and Eddy Hyde, Andrea Lewis, Martin Carter and Cllr Scott Durham for their sterling work. We will organize another pick later in the year.

As we reported last month we have had to review our plans for the coming year due to funding issues, and I am pleased to say we have started the process of looking at other funding streams and decided to go ahead with our successful Community Fun Day in August. Watch Newton News for more info nearer the time.

Philip Clark, Chairman

Businesses can now tap into a pool of tech apprentices, with a new talent programme about to produce more than 100 potential new employees to bridge the growing digital skills gap in the North-East.

RAW Digital Training has teamed up with DurhamWorks to create a new Digital Talent Service, taking unemployed 16-24 year olds and giving them work-ready IT skills. More than 100 learners have already accessed expert training from industry leaders in the fields of games development, cyber security, website creation, digital marketing and search engine optimisation as part of the programme. Many of them are ready to be placed into firms looking to recruit digital staff, with several success stories already. Businesses from Newcastle to Teesside can access the learners completely free, and benefit from the new skills and talent in their workforce.

The programme is being delivered by Stockton-based RAW Digital Training, in partnership with DurhamWorks, a



County Durham Youth Employment Initiative funded by the European Social Fund, designed to get 16-24 year olds into employment through training and apprenticeships.

RAW managing director Joanna Wake said: "There's a massive increase in jobs being created in these sectors in the North-East – growing at twice the rate as any other sector. We're seeing a huge scramble for high-level website developers. This programme enables us to help businesses fill their talent pipeline, by bringing in people who will stay with the company and be nurtured, and ultimately bridge that gap."

"We've had an exceptional response to the programme, but we've also seen a very high retention rate, with

the majority of learners staying with it throughout the course duration, which has been very pleasing. They're working hard, hungry to change their career path and get into what will be good, well-paid jobs to boost the local economy.

"It's an ideal free service for businesses, whether you are a non-digital company looking for your first social media marketing apprentice, or you're a massively digital company looking to build your internal talent pipeline."

Scott Carney, RAW Digital's Talent Service manager who is overseeing the programme, added: "The courses are short, intensive and focussed. We showcase the digital opportunities in the region and the various routes to

access employment in the sector.

"We work closely with our learners to ensure they retain their skills by practicing their learning, and we ensure they have a much wider set of knowledge and soft skills to ensure they are super job ready when they come to interview."

"We've seen some really strong candidates, some of which we have placed very quickly. They're learning more about real roles within businesses and we've already seen candidates go into jobs in app design, web development, gaming and social media. We have candidates to suit every entry level, from apprentices, to entry level after college, to graduates." More about the RAW Digital Talent Service can be found at www.rawdigital.training/netalent

School Aycliffe Assoc AGM

School Aycliffe Community Association, hold their AGM on Monday 16th April, 2018.

All residents welcome so please come along and air your views.

Time: 7.15pm for a 7.30 start.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Tony Robinson
Chairman

St. Michael's Heighington Help MRI Appeal

Pat Chambers lead fundraiser for the MRI Scanner Appeal thanks the members of St. Michael's Church, Heighington for their £200 donation.

The money is proceeds from the Lent Lunches and Pat is so grateful for the kind thought.

XCEL CHURCH PARTNERS NATIONAL CHARITY TO HELP PEOPLE IN DEBT



A Newton Aycliffe church is offering free help to local people after partnering with an award-winning national debt counselling charity. Xcel Church, has joined forces with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and aims to help dozens this year by offering home visits for people affected by debt.

Aycliffe centre manager Katie Earley said: "Typically, debts can build up when a relationship breaks down, someone loses their job, or through bereavement – so often when people are least able to cope

with a financial headache. That's why we're so excited to open a debt centre here in County Durham."

"We hope over the next few years to help countless local people and families, regardless of their age, gender, faith or background, to put their debt nightmares behind them and start a new life."

She added that every client is visited in their own home, CAP's does all the negotiating with creditors, while local volunteers offer support to each person until they become debt free.



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Save Our Heritage



Town Councillor Paul Symons has ambitions to take over the Locomotion Inn at Heighington Station to save this historical building from vandals and what could be its eventual demolition.

Paul estimates to buy and restore the property would cost over £350,000 and has started a hopeful fundraising appeal.

When he approached Newton News a few weeks ago for advice we put him in touch with Patricia Pemberton, Chairman of Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway.

Since then there have been moves to secure the property by County Councillor John Clare who has contacted the council. Patricia, recognising the historical significance of the former Railway Ticket Office, is making other enquiries to save the building. Clr. Clare said it is essential this building is preserved. The premises are in a very bad state and coincidentally he has been appointed by DCC to sit on a committee made up from local councils to ensure the Anniversary is a tourist success. He is hoping the Locomotion Inn could play a part in the celebrations,



working alongside Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway.

The Friends were formed in 2013 to bring together all those with an interest in the S&DR to ensure that by the bicentenary in 2025, the 1825 Stockton and Darlington Railway line will have received the recognition and the protection it deserves as the birthplace of the modern railway.

The first Railway Engine was placed on the Heighington Station railway line in 1825 and the Aycliffe History Society recently mounted a plaque to mark that event.

Nine Vehicles Seized in Spennymoor Police Action Day

NINE vehicles were seized in Spennymoor on Wednesday during a multi-agency day of action. Forming part of Cleveland and Durham Police's ongoing 'Operation Dragoon', officers from the joint Specialist Operations Unit and Spennymoor Neighbourhood Policing Team targeted criminal and anti-social use of the roads in the area.

Vehicle and driver checks were carried out throughout the day to identify those driving dangerously, without insurance, whilst disqualified, or under the influence of drink or drugs. Alongside Police were representatives from DVLA, DVSA, HMRC, and Durham County Council's Civil Parking and Licensing Services Enforcement teams.

PC David Greenwell, of Spennymoor Beat Team, said: "Targeting this type of criminal activity is part of

our routine work, but today we're working side by side with our partner agencies to tackle ongoing issues even more effectively.

"Assistance from our partner agencies allows us to deal with the wide range of issues that present themselves better than we can by ourselves. For example, DVSA officers can examine the roadworthiness of vehicles, while HMRC staff can test fuel and cargo." Dave Wafer, the council's strategic traffic manager, said: "We are committed to supporting Durham Constabulary in its campaign to tackle criminal and anti-social use of the roads in our county.

"While we know the overwhelming majority of motorists comply with the law, there are a minority who don't and the day of action at Spennymoor allowed us to take action against people parking illegally and

to speak to taxi drivers to ensure they are complying with licensing legislation."

Results from the day were: **8 vehicles** seized by Police for no insurance or driving without a license.

1 vehicle seized by DVLA, plus 4 fined and 4 clamped for no tax.

2 prohibitions issued by DVSA.

- 2 fixed penalty notices issued by the council's Civil Parking Enforcement team.

- 2 taxis examined by the council's Licensing Services Enforcement team.

A DVLA Spokesman said: "We operate a range of measures to make vehicle tax easy to pay and hard to avoid, including online vehicle taxing and Direct Debit.

We also continue to send reminder letters to vehicle keepers, which is why it is so important they notify DVLA of a change of address or keeper.

FREE Senior Citizens' Excursions

Application forms for the free Senior Citizens' Excursions will be available from the Library and Recreation Centre in Beveridge Way, the Oakleaf Sports Complex, Golf Complex

and Great Aycliffe Town Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane from 10 am on Tuesday 17th April. The forms will also be available from the Council's website www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 27th April 2018.

To be eligible, you do not have to be drawing your pension or have a bus pass, but you do have to be a resident of the electoral parish and 60 years old with a date of birth on or before 31st March 1958 (applies to both men and women). If you are in any doubt, please telephone 01325 300700 and we will check your eligibility.

This year, the destinations are Northumberland, Skipton, Scottish Borders, Blackpool, Lake District and South Shields. Please note that places are limited and given out on a 'first come, first served' basis.

A three course meal and tea or coffee is provided in good quality establishments with disabled facilities. Most of the excursions also call in for a comfort stop with refreshments provided on the way to or from the main destination.

The coaches provided are 49-53 seater executive coaches with toilet facilities. There is also one, executive coach with a wheelchair hoist to each destination. This ensures that people with mobility problems can enjoy a day out. The hoist can be used for loading wheelchairs for residents who need to travel in their wheelchair, or as a lift for people who cannot manage the steps on the coach.

GACAP AGM

The Chairman, members of the management committee and partners of Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership, (GACAP) invite you to attend their AGM on Friday 20th April in the upper room of the Big Club. After the meeting you are all invited to network in the new cocktail lounge at the Club. The meeting will commence at 3.45 pm for coffee and registration for 4pm start.

We are hoping the Deputy Mayor John Clark will be available to open the meeting and address attendees. Once the agenda items have been completed the Chairman will welcome our guest speakers Phil Wilson MP, Sid Rooke N E First Credit Union and Chris Reeves from Hope for Justice. For further information please contact the secretary Joan Mitchie on 07597 915378

Seeking a Beneficial Brexit Deal

Dear Sir,
In reply to last week's hysterical letter about Brexit, may I simply remind readers of the 'six tests' which Labour requires for an acceptable Brexit deal, viz.:

1. a beneficial future relationship with the EU.
 2. the exact same benefits as we currently have.
 3. migration which works in the interests of the economy and communities.
 4. continuation of our rights and protections.
 5. a continued capacity to tackle cross-border crime and terrorism.
 6. a good deal for all regions and nations of the UK.
- Surely everybody wants these outcomes?
John D Clare

MORE POLICE WILL PREVENT CRIME

Durham's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner has expressed astonishment at today's contention by the Home Secretary that more resources for policing are not the answer to rising concerns about crime.

With the Government expected to launch a new Offensive Weapons Bill, Ron said "Additional powers are futile without sufficient officers to enforce them.

The Home Secretary's approach suggests that we can arrest our way of the situation but we cannot. More officers will enable police to act pro-actively and thus prevent crime."

Ron added "I am in constant dialogue with local people, and of course with police officers. Amber Rudd's views do not reflect views of police leaders, local communities, or local Councillors of all parties".

AYCLIFFE RADIO Programme Schedule

"GOOD MORNING AYCLIFFE" with Aidan Thompson

TEXT, EMAIL, OR PLACE A REQUEST VIA THE APP,
TO WIN ONE OF FOUR WEEKLY PRIZES

*broadcasting live Monday to Friday
from 8.30am - 12 noon*

WATCH FOR NEW SHOWS/PRESENTERS

Time	Session	Presenter
MONDAY		
6-7pm	60s Show	DJ-A
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Paul Gittins
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
TUESDAY		
6-7.30pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
	17th April - Tommy Lowther (Sporting Force)	
	24th April - TBC	
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby
WEDNESDAY		
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	
	13th Apr - from Spain	Andy Little
	20th Apr - Mardi Gras	Nathan Abbott
SATURDAY		
8-11am	Kitchen Floor Fillers	
11am-1pm	Kent Collective	Daz Kent
1-2pm	Honest John "Flower Power"	
2-4pm	Aycliffe Radio Take Over	Metis
4-6pm	School Disco	
6-7pm	"The Evening Session"	DJ-Jim-Jams
7-8pm	Dance Anthems	The Doctor
8-10pm	Dance Mix	Nathan Abbott
10-12am	Garage/Indie/Grime	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

OPEN INTERVIEW INVITATION

Got an event or organisation you would like to promote?

Contact John Atkinson for an interview appointment, held in the Aycliffe Radio Studio on Wednesday afternoons.

Email: john@ayclifferadio.co.uk to book yours ...

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

As part of the 2018 Aycliffe Festival AYCLIFFE RADIO IN CONJUNCTION WITH



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



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South Durham U3A

Enhance your social life, develop your skills, make new friends and enjoy a fulfilling life in retirement. We offer an excellent monthly activities programme.

Join us on the second Tuesday in every month when we meet at the Cockerton Community Hall, Bowen Road, Darlington from 10am to 12 noon.

Car park available. Guest Speaker every month. A very warm welcome and refreshments.

Call Carol or Dave for further information on

01325 496153

and/or visit www.sdurhamu3a.org.uk

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

13 KARAOKE / DISCO
with **HOWIE**
£1 ON THE DOOR

KATHERINE STONE & REMEMBER WHEN
£3 ON THE DOOR **14**

15 BINGO 12 - 2pm
2pm - 6pm
KARAOKE / DISCO
with **NIGEL**
of **BURNBABY DISCO**
Evening - **ANDY MAX**
AFTERNOON FREE - EVENING £1 ON THE DOOR

ALEXANDERS PALACE **20**
£6 TICKET

21 MICKEY GLAM
&
Duo **VELVET**
£3 ON THE DOOR

PROUD TO BE ENGLISH
HAPPY EARLY
ST. GEORGE'S DAY **22**
BINGO 12 - 2pm
KARAOKE / DISCO
2pm - 6pm with
Solo Artiste
MARK HODGSON
Evening - Female solo **TRACY**
FREE ALL DAY

27 CHRIS DAVIES &
KARAOKE / DISCO
with **NIGEL**
of **BURNBABY DISCO**
£1.50 ON THE DOOR

DEE DOWLING TRIO & Solo Artiste LOUISE **28**
£4 ON THE DOOR

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

LINE DANCING THURSDAYS
BINGO Monday & Wednesday
Games Nights Mondays & Fridays



The Phoenix Club

01325 312876

MacMillan Road - Newton Aycliffe

Photo Competition Winner



The Photographic Competition run jointly by Newton Press and Whitehouse Funeral Service attracted 56 entries in the first quarter and the winning photo (above) was chosen by a judging panel. The winner Gary Foster received a printed copy of his photo reproduced on a large canvas by Newton Press. Gary took his photo at dusk on 20th January at Thwaite in Swaledale using a Canon 800D camera.

Entries for the second quarter competition are being accepted now. Please upload your photo to www.photocomp.co.uk

For your Child's Sake Pledge to Walk to School

NHS statistics have revealed that parents of obese and overweight children think their child is the right weight, and that just over a fifth of children are as active as they need to be to maintain a healthy weight.

Parents are being urged to walk their children to school after the Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet: England (published by NHS Digital on 4 April) revealed that one in five children in Year 6 and 1 in 10 children in Reception are classified as obese.

The statistics found that parents of overweight and obese children think their child is the right weight, with fathers more likely to think this than mothers (41 per cent of mothers with obese children said their child was about the right weight or too light, compared to 55 per cent of fathers with obese children).

The Chief Medical Officer recommends that children are active for 60 minutes a day to stay fit and maintain a healthy weight but the statistics reveal that only 22 per cent achieve this.

Living Streets, the UK charity which promotes walking as an easy way for children to fit more physical activity into their day, is urging parents to pledge to walk to school during Walk to School Week (21 - 25 May 2018) to help in the fight against childhood obesity.

Jenni Wiggle, Director of Local Impact, Living Streets said: "Childhood obesity is one of the biggest health threats facing the UK. Swapping the school run for a school walk is an easy way for families to fit more activity into their day and take the fight against obesity into their own hands."

The Government previously recognised the importance of increasing the number of children walking to school with a commitment in the obesity strategy to setting a 'clear target to increase the number of children walking to school'.

Schools can use their recently doubled PE and Sport Premium budget, funded by the 'Sugar Tax', to invest in active travel initiatives; such as classroom

packs for Walk to School Week.

Jenni Wiggle continues: "There is so much attention put on the 'sugar tax' and eating better that we can be forgiven for forgetting that moving more is also part of the solution to childhood obesity."

"Walking to school not only helps children to maintain a healthy weight but is also great for their mental wellbeing and can help reduce harmful air pollution around school gates by taking cars off the road. It should be considered as one of the best options to improve our children's health."

Parents and carers that pledge to take part in this Living Streets' Walk to School Week will be sent ideas on how to make the walk to school safer, easier and more enjoyable. And, as an extra incentive, everyone who pledges will go into a prize draw to win £40 shopping vouchers.

Pledge to walk to school this May: <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-you-can-do/campaigns/pledge-to-walk-to-school-this-may>

Care Home Open Day

St Clare's Court, Central Avenue in Newton Aycliffe will be opening their doors to the local community.

We are thrilled to welcome members of the local community, local groups clubs and associations to spend a little time in our home to gain a greater understanding of the wonderful work we do. During your visit you can enjoy delicious refreshments, Fun and games Music and entertainment from 2pm onwards.

The Care Home opening day will be celebrated on Saturday 21st April. The home manager Jason Parkinson and his colleagues look forward to meeting you all.

Situations VACANT

Playday Nursery

15 Simpature Gate, Newton Aycliffe DL5 5HH

Telephone: (01325) 312050

Supply Nursery Practitioner

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic, energetic individual to complement our friendly nursery team, who is flexible and reliable with level 3 qualification. The role of supply staff is important to us to ensure smooth running of the nursery during our busy periods.

If you require further information or application forms for this position please telephone 01325 312050 or email: play.days@btconnect.com

Closing date for applications is 20th April 2018



MRI SCANNER APPEAL

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

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

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

- Text **SCAN02 £10** to 70070 to donate £10 to CDDFT.
- To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: cddft.charity@nhs.net
- Follow us on twitter: [@CDDFTCharity](https://twitter.com/CDDFTCharity)
- Find the charity on Facebook



Great British SUNDAY LUNCH

SERVED 12-3PM

ROF59 Activity Centre are now serving delicious Sunday Lunches in The Blitz Restaurant. Why not make a day of it? There's plenty of activities to work up an appetite.

4.55HELL Call now to book your table 01325 728 222 HELLS

1 COURSE	2 COURSES	3 COURSES
£8.50	£12.50	£15.50

Children's portions available

ROF 59

ROF59 Durham Way South, Aycliffe Business Park, Co Durham, DL5 6XN
t: 01325 728 222 e: hello@rof59.co.uk

GACAP Meeting EUROPE SHARE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IDEAS

Great Aycliffe Community Aid Partnership April 6th meeting had an excellent number of partners present. The chairman Ron Mitchie welcomed all with a special welcome to Meng Qi (Mull) who is an MBA Student at Durham University Business School. Meng is working with GACAP to promote Friends of GACAP and Associates of GACAP. Brian Riley Co-ordinator of GAMP AAP and a partner of GACAP talked partners through the various funding option over the coming months. The three funding options for partners to consider are

- Children, Young People and Families Priorities,
- Older People Priority,
- Employment, Enterprise & Training Priority.

Brian announced 3 dates when support would be available from various locations around the GAMP area.: Wednesday 25th April at Woodham 10.00-1.00, Thursday 26th April 5.00pm-7p.m. at the PCP and Tuesday 22nd May 2.00-5.00pm at the PCP. All expressions of interest need to be in GACAP Offices by 11th May.

The Chairman and Secretary Ron and Joan Mitchie continue to support partners by attending their meetings and functions and helped at the Foodbank collection at Tesco. Simon Day asked for thanks to be recorded to all helpers at the community Easter Meal. 46 people joined the Feast, many of whom would have spent the day alone. A special thanks to Dorothy Bowman for

using the mini bus to collect guests. Nominations were closed for the officers and committee at the AGM. There was still one vacancy on the Management Committee who could be co-opted later. Three changes to the constitution were outlined to incorporate Associates and Friends of GACAP. The next partners meeting is 4th June at DISC Offices. The AGM is on 20th April at 3.45. Guest speakers are Phil Wilson MP., Sid Rooke, NE First Credit Union and Chris Reeves, Hope for Justice. The AGM will be opened by the Mayor of Aycliffe if available.

Partners across Europe have been sharing ideas on how to promote energy efficiency as part of a five-year EU project. The Renovation for Energy Efficient Buildings (REBUS) project sees eight public authorities from countries across Europe come together to exchange ideas and good practice on how to make their buildings more energy efficient.

As the UK partner, representatives from Durham County Council attended a meeting in Krakow in Poland, where all attendees presented examples of their work, which included a visit to a solar farm that helps

power a historic former royal castle.

They also visited Miskolc in Hungary where staff demonstrated their work with a local research innovation centre and the implementation of a district heating system using geothermal power.

European partners have also been learning from projects based in County Durham, with a team from Florence visiting the OASES Team based at Esh Winning Primary School to learn about the programme, which engages with over 240 schools to support them to reduce their energy use and

help the pupils understand the impact that they can make.

They also met with staff to learn about the energy measures in the school itself, which range from solar PV panels, a biomass boiler, excellent insulation and lots of natural light through the design of the classroom roofs.

Their visit also included a trip to Pitlington Primary School to hear from their Power Savers pupil group, as well as a meeting with the School Business Manager from Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College who spoke about its long-term approach to energy efficiency including the implementation of solar panels, new efficient boilers and LED lights.

Staff from the Florentine Energy Agency learnt more about The Big Switch Off Campaign, which has helped save money through reducing electricity usage and costs in council buildings.

Rich Hurst, Sustainability Education Development Advisor at Durham County Council, said: "A key part of this project is learning from colleagues across Europe and it has been both fascinating and very worthwhile to visit those who are facing similar challenges."

"Some of their energy efficiency projects have real potential to work in our county and further afield and we know that our visitors were also very impressed with the schemes already implemented in Durham."

REBUS, is a five-year project funded through Interreg Europe. For more information, visit: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/rebus>

APPEAL FOR GOODS TO SEND TO POOR AFRICAN PEOPLE



Can you help us fill a container with any surplus goods you may have to be sent in June to one of the poorest countries in Africa. This appeal is for Bauleni Special Needs School. The school provides education and support to children with physical and learning disabilities as well as serving as a primary school for the children who live in the compound surrounding the school.

The compound, which is described as worse than a shanty town, with no running water or sanitation, is home to more than 20,000 people. Outbreaks of diseases such as cholera are frequent.

Children throughout Zambia have been severely affected by the country's poor social, economic and cultural growth, its lack of resources and the prevalence of HIV/Aids.

Anything that would be of

use to the school/community would be appreciated. Football strips, balls and other sports equipment encourage physical development and growth; pens, stationery and children's reading books help with learning; soap and toiletries assist with hygiene as do antiseptics and dressings; clothes for all ages are needed; basic tools help with developing life skills as does cooking and gardening equipment and creative materials.

You may have other items which are surplus to your needs which can be put to very good use in Bauleni - anything working and in good condition is valuable.

If you have anything you could donate to Bauleni please contact us at: Holy Family Parish, St Mary's Church, 1 Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DLS 4HT. 01325 313611 or anthony.cornforth@gmail.com

Aycliffe Premises Raided for Illegal Tobacco

Over 100,000 illegal cigarettes and 100kg of hand rolling tobacco have been seized as part of a campaign between Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary.

Acting on information received during the Keep It Out illicit tobacco campaign, trading standards teams raided premises in Newton Aycliffe, Shildon, Fencehouses and Chester-le-Street.

In total 111,580 illegal cigarettes and 116kg of hand rolling tobacco were seized - all of it counterfeit or in breach of other regulations - with their total value estimated to be between

£35,000 and £40,000.

In addition, over £7,500 in cash was seized as representing the proceeds of crime. Several individuals remain under investigation.

Owen Cleugh, consumer protection manager at Durham County Council, said: "Residents can be reassured that our trading standards teams are proactive in the enforcement of issues related to the trade in illegal tobacco."

"Illegal tobacco affects communities on many levels. The availability of cheap tobacco products frustrates stop-smoking services, makes it easier for children to start smoking,

and brings crime into our neighbourhoods.

"Sellers of illegal tobacco can face imprisonment, as well as having their assets confiscated in accordance with the Proceeds of Crime Act. We would like to thank the public for their support in the Keep It Out campaign, and would urge residents to report information about illegal tobacco in their neighbourhoods using the Illegal Tobacco Hotline."

Report illegal tobacco sales anonymously by calling 0300 999 0000, or online at www.keep-it-out.co.uk.

Need help quitting smoking? Visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree.

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†If you qualify for HomeBuy Direct assistance and you raise a mortgage for at least 70% of the purchase price of your new home from a qualifying bank or building society, you can borrow up to the remaining 30% of the purchase price by taking out loans secured over your new home from each of the Government's Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and Miller Homes over a period of 25 years. Credit is available subject to status and is provided by two separate secured loans from each of the HCA and Miller Homes Limited. HomeBuy Direct is plot specific and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer provided by Miller Homes. **Subject to terms and conditions. *Although a deposit is not payable with HomeBuy Direct some mortgage lenders may require a deposit, you should ask your mortgage lender for details or seek independent financial advice. For full details contact the development direct or visit our website at www.millerhomes.co.uk/homebuy. Photography represents a typical Miller Homes' exterior. Price and availability correct at time of going to press.

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP THE REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT

Eating a Traditional Roast in the Blitz Restaurant

"It doesn't get anymore British than this!"

Sunday saw another first for ROF59 with the serving of Sunday Lunch. Despite being the first week, a number of customers enjoyed a great British Roast, Home made Yorkshire Puddings & all the trimmings. Owner John Finley said he was "delighted" by the positive response to Sunday Lunch and commented "after three years, we now feel the time is right to embrace this exciting new venture for the business".

With the woodburner stove providing a cosy feel, why not book a table and relax with friends and family. We can even keep the kids entertained on the activities too! Call us today to book your table.

Telephone 01325 728222 or email events@rof59.co.uk



WWW.SUPREMEFENCING.CO.UK



Fencing & Timber Supply Store

Opening hours

Mon-Friday: 7.30am - 5.00pm

Sat: 8.30am - 1.00pm

Address: Unit 15, Leaside, Newton Aycliffe
Business Park, DL5 6HX

07508 734 943 - LOCAL DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Taxi Drivers Fined for Refusing Fare and Overcharging

A taxi driver who told a student to walk rather than taking her fare has been fined and ordered to pay court costs. Ashfaq Ahmed was waiting at a taxi rank outside the Prince Bishops shopping centre in Durham in October last year when the woman approached his Seat car.

Ahmed initially told her he was available for hire and when she asked to be taken to the Chapel Heights university accommodation in the city, he told her: "it's up the street, just walk." The woman subsequently used the next vehicle on the rank.

During an interview with licensing officers from Durham County Council, Ahmed said that he had not refused the fare but had told the woman that the journey was only two minutes' walk. In mitigation, Ahmed claimed he hadn't known where Chapel Heights was but when the passenger had told him it was at the top of Claypath, he had told her it was just up the street.

He also claimed that Claypath was closed at the time and so he would have had to take a longer route which would have meant a higher fare. Magistrates at Newton Aycliffe ordered Ahmed,

59, of Windsor Road, Oxbridge, Stockton-on-Tees, to pay a £50 fine, £292.12 in costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

In a separate case, also heard at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court, a taxi driver from Darlington was ordered to pay £340 for overcharging for a fare. Stephen Raymond Williams charged £15 for a journey which should have cost less than half that amount.

Officers from Durham County Council had pre-booked a taxi for a 10 minute journey from Whorlton to Greta Bridge, in Teesdale, during a test purchase exercise in November last year.

They received a text message telling them the fare would be £15. When Williams arrived, he did not activate his meter and subsequently charged them the £15. According to Durham County Council's tariff of charges, the journey should have cost between £5.80 and £7.70.

During an interview, Williams said that all journeys were charged in this manner and that he hadn't realised that he should be setting his meter for every job. In a letter to the court, Williams said that the fare had been agreed in advance and

that had he been a private hire driver he would not have been committing an offence.

Williams, 46, of Darlington, was given a conditional discharge as a result of his early guilty plea but was ordered to pay £320 in costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Owen Cleugh, Durham County Council's consumer protection manager, said: "The aim of taxi licensing is to protect the public. In both of these cases, drivers broke these rules – either by refusing a fare or overcharging. "Neither of these situations is acceptable. It is important that people know they can rely on taxis working in our county and we will do all we can to ensure this is the case."

Councillors' Surgeries

Shafto, Central and Neville Ward

Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jim Atkinson will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on Saturday 4th April from 11am - 12 noon.

International Award for Aycliffe School

This week, representatives from the British Council praised the work undertaken in Stephenson Way Academy as they awarded them the International School Award. While working towards this accolade, pupils have been given many opportunities within their enriched curriculum to enhance their awareness of the world in which they live.

Students have discovered more about different countries across the globe and celebrated the differences in culture and customs that make each place special.

Younger children were particularly engaged in their work on Chinese New Year and enjoyed creating a dragon dance as well as sampling some new cuisines. Older pupils investigating India found a range of invasion games that were similar to some that we play and had great fun playing 'Kabaddi' a traditional Indian ball game in PE sessions.



In addition to this, more than twenty children opt to attend an extra-curricular languages club each week and, since September, have already become proficient at holding an introductory conversation in both French and German.

As part of our exploration, we have also begun to establish links with schools in other parts of the world and we're excited to work more collaboratively with teachers and pupils in other countries over the coming months.

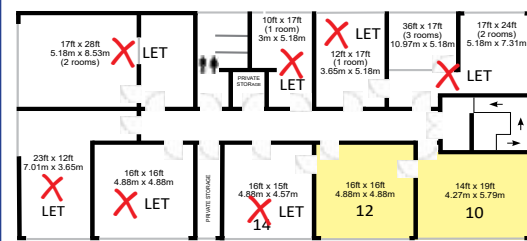
OFFICE TO LET

Refurbished office to let in eco-friendly building. Located next to Newton Aycliffe's iconic landmark, the Blue Bridge, with easy access to A1M and other routes north and south.

Office comes with:

- Secure Private Access
- 24 Hour Access
- Natural Light Windows
- New Ceilings
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- Multiple Electric Points
- Internet and Telephone Packages Available
- Use of Kitchen and Toilet Facilities
- 24 Hour CCTV Security in Operation
- Private Lockable Door
- Parking
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COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Informative reports about DCC's Economy Scrutiny, some interesting political news, a great week if you are a railway enthusiast ... and the Bishop Auckland Food Festival heads our list of things to do next weekend! Find out more about all the following on my blog at: bit.ly/CNBI24

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY

- Economy Scrutiny Committee meeting, Thursday 5 April (Tourism, Broadband, Performance Review, GRT provision).
- The DCC Economy Scrutiny Retail Review continues to make good progress.
- Do you need help to remain in your own house? DCC has information about adaptations to your home, equipment & personal care.
- Ron Hogg PCVC has taken issue with the Home Secretary over the impact of police cuts.
- No ID, No Vote – voter ID is being trialled this May in the local elections in Swindon, Woking, Watford, Gosport and Bromley.
- It has been a good week for the Stockton & Darlington Railway.
- Exciting news about the Weardale Railway.
- North-East Autism Society Short Break Lodges Open Day, 10am-3pm, 28 April, 2018.
- Road closures have been advertised for the Newton Aycliffe 10k run on 17 June.
- Latest roadworks information.

- Bishop Auckland Food Festival, 21-22 April.
- World Heritage Weekend, Durham, 21-22 April.
- Toddler Trails – Jack & the Beanstalk (2-5s), Hardwick Park, 10-11:30am and 1-2:30pm, Wednesday 18 April and Saturday 21 April, £4, book in advance (03000 262 899).
- Learn about the Japanese tradition of Sakura (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop-in 1-3pm, Saturday 21 April.
- Military Music and the DLI (5-11s), Palace Green Library, drop-in 1-3pm, 21-22 April.

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Charity Shop Appeals for Unwanted Items

Local residents are encouraged to donate their unwanted items to their local YMCA shop this year, to support the charity's work across the North East.

YMCA is asking for unwanted items to be donated to its charity shop to help the organisation continue its work in the next year and help even more people in the local community.

Wendy Teague, Shop Manager Newton Aycliffe shop said: "Most of us have wanted to de-clutter and freshen up our homes and wardrobe."

"With the winter coming to an end and spring hopefully arriving, we're asking members of the local community to donate their unwanted items to our local shop to help provide valuable services for those who need it."

"Our shops are stocked with the most interesting and unusual items and we are always looking for more. Donate your unwanted items to us and we can guarantee your donations will find a new home through our lovely customers."

Anyone who wants to make a donation can drop of their items at the shop Monday to Friday, 9m to 5m, larger items can be collected on request.

YMCA Newton Aycliffe is part of the wider national YMCA federation that, in total, supports 228,000 young people. YMCA was first created in London in 1844 by apprentice draper George Williams, later knighted to become Sir George Williams. It now operates in 119 countries across the world, supporting almost 600 million people.

To find out more about what the YMCA does to help in your community, visit: www.ymca.org.uk

Western Area Residents Association

Meeting to be held Tuesday 17th from 5pm at Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale Place.

We would like to form a new committee and talk over plans for the future including funding, trip and general running of the Association for the good of the residents in the area. Ring 01325 308094.

Big Club Collect £476 for Scanner Appeal



Peter Sawyer and Jayne Pollard

Thanks to Gary Hepple, the committee staff and patrons of The Big Club for raising £476.23 from collections. Included was £75.00 from the Easter Raffle and £200 from the Disco Diva's Deb, Mollie, Debby and Paula who put on such fabulous shows at the club too.

An amazing amount and the MRI Scanner Committee are very grateful to everyone that donated.

DOG RESCUER COMES TO THE AID OF INJURED HILL WALKER

A Dogs Trust Darlington staff member came to the aid of an injured walker last week, while trekking across Brown Cove Craggs on Helvellyn, the third highest mountain in England. Chrissie Davies and her partner Craig Loader were out for the day with Dogs Trust resident Loki, a one-year-old Collie, when they happened upon a woman who had fallen 50m and sustained what seemed to be a head injury.

Chrissie Davies said: "Although Helvellyn is a popular destination for mountain climbers, at certain heights there is no guarantee what the weather will be like. Thankfully we had supplies; blankets and lots of coffee to keep the lady warm and Craig is an ambulance technician so was able to provide some additional support as well, while we waited on Keswick Mountain Rescue, who managed to stretch the lady to a waiting ambulance at the bottom of the mountain."

"We had been out for the day with Loki, in the hopes of getting some nice pictures of him for his Dogs Trust rehoming profile online and the lady had been out walking with her own dog; as it was her



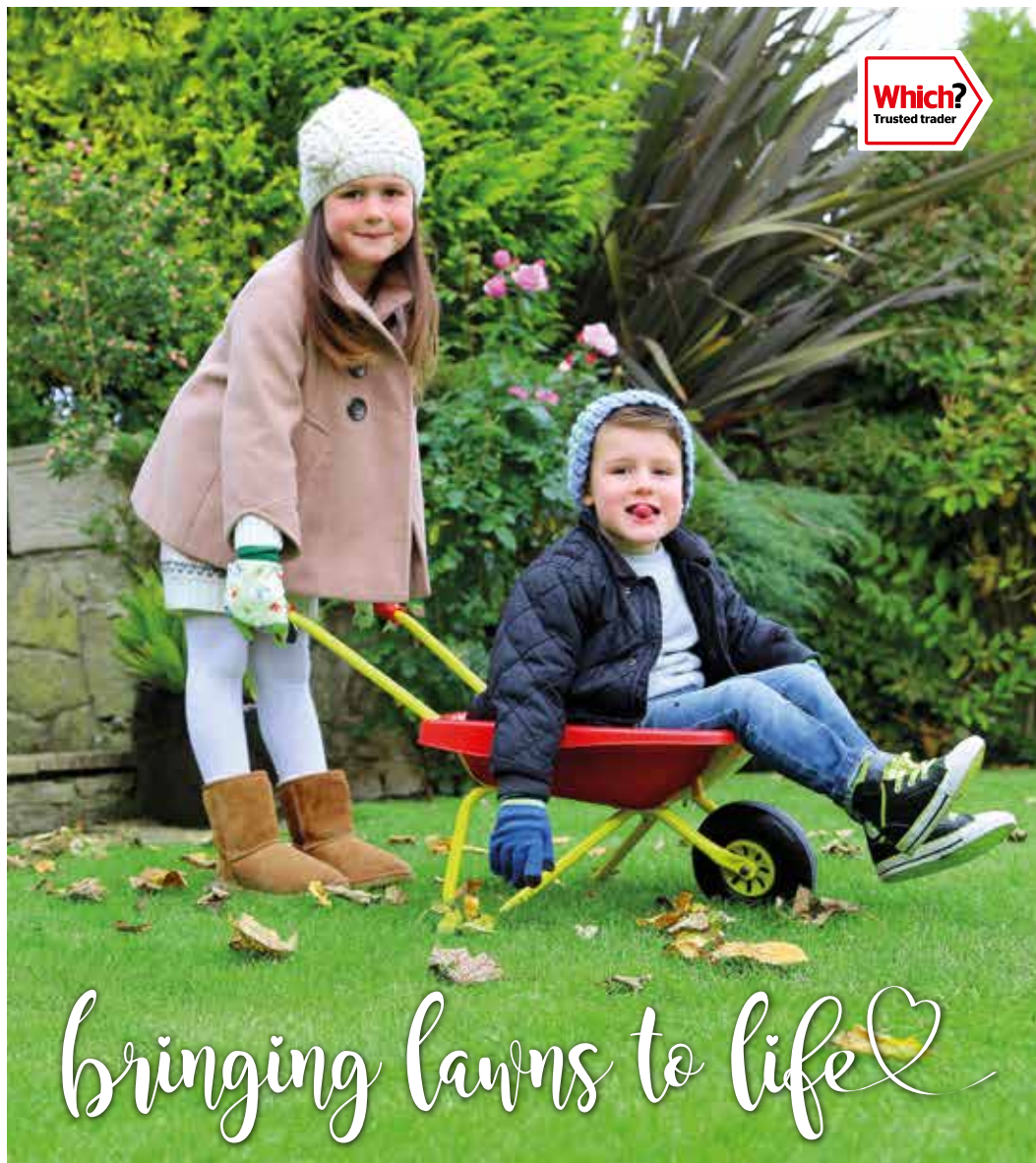
dog we noticed first. Loki was the one who alerted us to the situation as he bounded up and quickly became friends with the dog and we realised something was wrong.

"It would be great to hear from the individual, to make sure she is recovering well and are appealing for her to get in touch with the Darlington Rehoming Centre team." The team at Dogs Trust Darlington are available on 0300 303 0292, or via email: darlington@dogstrust.org.uk

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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DARLINGTON BOROUGH OFFER SUPPORT TO CARERS

Appointments are now available within Darlington Carers Support office to support registered carers (with Darlington Carer Support). Alison Donoghue project team Leader "I am delighted to announce this new initiative

Please Watch Out for Lost Sheep!



Please be on the lookout! Some sheep have wandered off from Messy Church Meadow. They could be anywhere! If you find one please return it to our next Messy Church at St. Clare's on Saturday 21st April at 4pm. They can then be reunited with their friends and help decorate cakes and play in the foam.

Lots of sheep related craft and stories. Celebration and prayers - join in the joy. Shepherd's Pie for tea with fruit and yogurt for pudding. FREE (with donations always welcome). Fun, friendly - no membership required - family church - where everyone including lost sheep are very welcome xx. Progress can be monitored using #lostsheep on social media.

and look forward to working with Citizens Advice Bureau to offer this much needed service."

All appointments need to be booked in advance via our office on 03000 301215. The campaign is to ensure people in Darlington Borough are claiming the benefits to which they are entitled.

The campaign, called Darlo Millions, seeks to target assistance to client groups who have the greatest difficulty ensuring they get the correct rate of benefit and one of the groups we are focusing on will be Carers.

In order to better meet the needs of carers we will be running sessions at Darlington Carers support office twice a month to help individuals claim all the benefits they, and the person they care for, are entitled to.

The sessions will be held on the first and last Thursday in every month starting on the 3/05/2018. If you require an appointment please contact Darlington Carers Support on 03000 301215 to arrange.

Mike Robinson who works on the project says "It is often difficult for carers to get the time to seek advice for themselves and, yet people with caring responsibilities are often significantly under-claiming their benefit entitlement. Many people are not aware they can get financial help to care for people".

Landlord's Upcoming Energy Regulations

Landlords are being urged to make sure their properties are more energy efficient ahead of new regulations coming in to force from 1 April 2018.

Members of Durham County Council's trading standards team are advising landlords with less efficient properties that may fall foul of the new regulations if improvements aren't made.

From 1 April, all properties which are required to have Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) must have an energy rating of E or above, if a new tenancy agreement is signed.

The same regulation applies for tenancy agreements which will be renewed after 1 April. Where below standard, improvements can be made to bring the property rating up to a minimum E rating.

Energy improvements such as installing a more efficient boiler, radiator thermostat valves, insulation, double-glazing, and solar panels are some of the measures which can improve an energy efficiency rating.

Joanne Waller, Durham County Council's head of environment, health and consumer protection, said: "These new requirements not only address the environmental impact of CO2 emissions from properties, which accounts for 12 per cent of the UK's total CO2 emissions, but will also improve the daily lives of the county's residents.

"There are a high number of domestic rented properties across County Durham, and

these requirements seek to improve tenants' living standards, as well as save them money on household bills.

"Where landlords fail to comply with their legal obligations, and let property below an E rating, or lodge false information on the exemptions register, they may face a financial penalty for each let property of up to £5,000. Failing to respond to an information request by ourselves may also result in a penalty notice of up to £2,000."

The same will apply to non-domestic lets, with landlords no longer able to grant new or renewed tenancy agreements for commercial properties which fall below a minimum E efficiency rating.

The new provisions were first laid out in the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) Regulations which were introduced by the Government in 2015.

Further provisions will come into effect in 2020, when all rentals, whether new or existing, will be required to have a minimum E energy efficiency rating.

Further guidance for landlords can be found online via www.gov.uk/renting-out-a-property

School Science Week



Science week at Stephenson Way Academy took pupils to infinity and beyond as they took a leap into space exploration. Local scientist, Dr (Re)search led children across the school through a range of experiments that encouraged scientific discussion and developed pupils' language in relation to science.

While younger pupils built

rockets and discovered how forces helped with space travel, older learners were encouraged to investigate chemical reactions to uncover a winning formula to fuel a rocket. All groups had great fun testing their creations and were astounded at just how far their rockets could travel. One young scientist told us, "It was so cool, we could see the chemicals fizzing and our team were so excited waiting for our rocket to blast off!" We'd like to thank Dr (Re)search for the time she spent in our school helping us work towards the coveted Space Education Quality Mark.

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LOCAL DRIVER PLACED 5th IN OPENING RACE



Max Coates was in fine form in the Renault UK Clio Cup at the Brands Hatch Indy circuit in Kent at the weekend, taking his Harron Homes car to pole position, a win and a fifth place in the season's opening race meeting.

After announcing Bennett Renault and the RMB Auto Group as a sponsor on Friday Coates ended the two 45 minute free practice in 3rd place. He then found the pace he needed to secure two front row starts for races one and two, pole position for race one and 2nd for race two. He would line up alongside his new Pyro Motorsport team mate Jack McCarthy. In dry racing conditions the Aycliffe Primex Plastics and PLASgran

Recycling backed driver made the best start to race one and lead as the pack crossed the line at the end of lap one. He was passed for the lead shortly after and waited for the race to develop. Setting the fastest lap he closed in on the leader when a small error from Coates meant the leaders tangled. Coates sustained damage to the front left steering components and subsequently fell to 5th over the remaining three laps.

In the second race, broadcast live on ITV4, Clements Limited sponsored Max stormed into the lead and was never headed. In difficult damp conditions he managed the gap to the chasing pack behind and came home a clear winner.

Afterwards Coates said, "That's a great start to the season! Qualifying was something I struggled with last year so to nail the first one with a pole and a second is the best start I could have wished for. We've shown we have the pace and without an error of judgement in race one it would have been an almost perfect weekend, so I'm very happy."

Donington Park is up next and it's a track I love, we almost had a double win there last year so my aim is to make that happen this year! A big thanks to my sponsors Harron Homes, Primex Plastics, PLASgran Recycling, Clements Limited and Bennett Renault for their support, this weekend's results are the best way to repay them for that!" The Renault UK Clio Cup heads to Thruxton on Thursday for its pre-event test before a two week break in preparation for round two at Donington Park on the 28th and 29th April. Max and the car have a busy schedule between with an event at Harron Homes Sandlands Park development in Hucknall on the 21st April.

Do You Have Scottish Roots?

Family historians are being invited to discover their Scottish roots at Durham County Record Office.

The sessions, part of the service's Branching Out series, are aimed at anyone who already has basic knowledge of tracing family history and is ready to move on to the next level.

Dawn Layland, Durham County Council's education and outreach archivist, said: "We regularly run family history sessions at our record office and participants have told us that they would like to learn some more advanced skills."

"These sessions have been set up following that feedback and we will be looking at how to trace Scottish ancestors, including how sources such as the census and parish registers differ in Scotland and which you can find out online."

The Branching Out sessions run on Thursday 12 April from 10am to noon and Monday 16 April, from 6pm to 8pm. Sessions cost £10 per person. Booking is essential, with places available by calling 03000 267 626. More information about Durham County Record Office, which is based at County Hall in Aykley Heads, and the services it offers can be found at www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk

FIRST FOR SPECTRUM

A team of 10 Spectrum Roller Skaters represented the North East competing at The Federation of Roller Skating National Figure & Free Competition which was held at Kettering on 7th/8th April, coming back with their first National Title.

The skaters train every weekend at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre and with the support of their families, friends and local community have fundraised towards transport costs to go to competition. Hours of dedication paid off when Spectrum's Niamh Dawson (12) achieved 1st place in the Novice National Free Skating Competition.

Skaters aged from 8 years to adult represented the team at Nationals and everyone had fantastic performances. Coach Tracy Stevens commented, "I am so proud of all the skaters not only for their skating achievements but for the care and support they give to each other. Our club was built on an ethos of teamwork and inclusion and we are so proud of everyone who took part. It has been a super weekend and an amazing skate from Niamh! We are all thrilled for her as she works so hard and it is very well deserved."

RESULTS

Novice Free/Figures
Niamh Dawson 1st, 18th
Lucy Richardson 7th, 13th
Aysha Toms 12th, 10th



Niamh Dawson

Novice Free/Figures

Joseph Kearney 8th, 9th
Leah Jeans 12th, 8th
Nicola Stevens 18th, 16th
Jo Loring 21st, 19th
Andrea Vasey 22nd, 11th

Tots Free/Figures

Jazzmyn Loring 5th, 5th
Novice Free/Figures
Harrison Austin 5th, 14th
The club are now preparing for their next goal when Spectrum's Jazzmyn Loring

(8) will be skating at The British Championships next month held at Haywards Heath. We are always looking for support with transport costs to get the skaters to competitions, if anyone can help us we would very much appreciate support.

You can follow Spectrum Roller Skating Club on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. If you would like more information about roller skating lessons or roller disco please contact Tracy Stevens 07891 461958.

County Youth Cup Final at Aycliffe

Newton Aycliffe FC's Moore Lane ground will play host to this year's Durham County FA Youth Cup Final next week.

The game between Darlington FC Youth U18 & Stockton Town FC Youth U18 will take place on Friday 20th April with a 7:00pm kick off. Admission is Adults £2, Concessions £1.

Hopefully Newtonians will turn out in numbers to support the stars of the future on their big night.



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TESCO & VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT FOODBANK

On Friday 6th April our Tesco Store allowed us to collect donations for the County Durham Foodbank and the St Clare's distribution point was brilliantly supported throughout the day.

A big thank you goes to shoppers who give so generously for those in need of food. Also to volunteers from 3M, organised in partnership with Stacy Porter, Staff Volunteer and Engagement Officer with Durham University. Trevor and Sean packed and stacked 59 crates ready to go to the Food Store in Chester le Street, from where the food supplies are delivered, on a weekly basis.

We had help from GACAP partners, Rotary Club members, Durham Constabulary, the church community, and our fabulous Foodbank volunteers. Thanks to you all, and not least to Tesco staff who make this all possible. Kath and Alison, Distribution Point co-ordinators



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Family History Research Available in Aycliffe

A local branch of the biggest genealogical library in the world is located in Newton Aycliffe. The Family History Centre at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on

Shafto Way is part of a global network of over 4,600 centres. It provides access to the records of over 3 BILLION people in over 100 countries. The Centre provides free access to Ancestry.co.uk/

com and Find My Past family history websites where a subscription would normally be paid. It's run entirely by volunteers who are happy to help anyone with their family history research. The centre is free and open to the public on Tuesday 10am - 4pm, Thursday 10am - 4pm, Thursday eve 6:30pm - 9pm.

A telephone appointment is recommended, since workstations are limited. Please phone Aycliffe 313632

Friendly advisers will help you search for your ancestors together with classes for beginner, intermediate and advanced users. The Church of Jesus Christ has long been known for its interest in family history, which it sponsors through FamilySearch - easily the largest genealogy organisation in the world. Its vast record collections are made available through the central Family History Library in Salt Lake City and many

branches, like the one in Newton Aycliffe. Its website, FamilySearch.org is one of the most popular genealogical resources ever created. There are over 2 billion names searchable online; the site receives over 10 million hits per day. Do you know who you are? Would you like some help finding out? Now you know where to go!

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Wardens Walk in aid of Air Ambulance

A team of ten council wardens are giving up their own time for a sponsored walk in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNASS).

Durham County Council staff will, on Sunday 15 April, trek from Chilton depot to their base at Morrison Busty depot in Annfield Plain – a distance of 20 miles that includes a steep uphill climb towards the end of the route.

Neighbourhood warden team leader Paul Rutherford, said: "We wanted to do something for charity as a team and thought walking between the two depots where our neighbourhood wardens are based was a good idea. "As wardens we have all seen the Great North Air Ambulance in action and think it's a fantastic cause to support."

Neighbourhood Wardens tackle environmental problems and antisocial behaviour across County Durham.

Working closely with the police, the fire service and other agencies they deal with a variety of issues including everything from dog fouling and stray dogs, to fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, littering and under-age street drinking. Paul will lead colleagues Stuart Champion, Eugene Walsh, Tom Walton, Ray Cornwell, Kirk Thiis,

Neil Morton, Patrick Rice, Will Hunter and Nick Snowdon on the walk, with support from neighbourhood warden manager Belinda Snow.

The Great North Air Ambulance is this year's Chairman's charity, and the council has raised money through a range of events, including the donation of 75 bags of unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and belts, and a Christmas jumper day. The team has set up a JustGiving page to make donating quick and easy. If you'd like to donate, please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paul-rutherford10

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Swimathon to Help Your Club

WANTED: Teams of one to six people from Clubs, Schools, Factories, Offices, Friends and Neighbours to swim for 55 minutes in relays for charity.

The Annual SWIMATHON, organised by the ROTARY CLUBS of Newton Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor and the LIONS CLUB of Darlington is now in its 37th year and has raised over £385,000 for local charities and good causes.

50% of the proceeds from this year's event will be donated to the BISHOP AUCKLAND and DARLINGTON HOSPITALS MRI SCANNER APPEAL. Other charities are nominated by the swimmers taking part in the event so

THE LIONS CLUB OF DARLINGTON,
THE ROTARY CLUBS of SEDGEFIELD
BISHOP AUCKLAND, NEWTON AYCLIFFE
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Invite you to take part in

SWIMATHON 2018

ON
SUNDAY 13th MAY 2018
(9.00am - 5.00pm)

at
SPENNYMOOR LEISURE CENTRE

We challenge you to enter a team or several teams of up to 6 members to swim in relay style for 55 minutes to raise funds through sponsorship for local charities including:

The Bishop Auckland & Darlington Hospitals MRI Scanners Appeal

YOU MAY NOMINATE A CHARITY OR "GOOD CAUSE" TO RECEIVE HALF THE SPONSORSHIP RAISED BY YOUR TEAM(S)

this is an opportunity for you to have a great day knowing that you have made a worthwhile contribution to your local community and your own club or choice of charity.

The state of the art scanners will make an important contribution to the health of our region and the life they save may be yours or one of your loved ones.

If you wish to take part in this **FUND Raising** event or donate to the swimmers please contact the organiser listed below. APPLICATION FORM shown below - please complete and send in or hand in at Newton News offices, Blue Bridge Centre. Further details from John Snowball of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club, Tel 01325 317804.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR TEAM EARLY
IN ORDER TO OBTAIN YOUR SPONSORSHIP FORMS,
YOU DO NOT NEED THE NAMES OF YOUR SWIMMERS UNTIL THE DAY OF THE SWIM
PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name of Team.....
Name of Contact
Address of Contact
.....Postcode:.....
Telephone Number.....
Email.....

EXACT TITLE of Charity or Good Cause nominated to receive half of sponsorship raised by team

Signature of Team Contact.....
The organisers reserve the right to refuse the nomination of a "cause" which is considered inappropriate. Any refusal will be given in writing following receipt of this entry form.

Sessions will start promptly on the hour, every hour, from 9am to 4pm. Whilst no guarantee can be given, every effort will be made to accommodate your preferred day time.

PLEASE STATE YOUR PREFERRED START TIME

9.00am ☐ 10.00am ☐ 11.00am ☐ 12noon ☐
1.00pm ☐ 2.00pm ☐ 3.00pm ☐ 4.00pm ☐

If children under the age of 14 are competing a Parent's Consent Statement must be completed on sponsorship form. NOTE: Confirmation of time of swim and sponsor forms will be forwarded by the organisers to the Team Contact, whose responsibility it is to advise the team of all relevant information.

Please return to Swimathon Chairperson:

KEITH PATTON
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Tudhoe DL16 6YW
Tel: 01388 811 963
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ART CELEBRATION

Greenfield Arts are delighted to announce their 'Open Art Celebration Evening' to be held on Wednesday 18th April from 6pm - 8pm. The event will present a final opportunity to enjoy the popular 'Open Art Exhibition' and appreciate



Birthday Remembrance

GEORGE SMITH 70th Birthday on 9th April. Sending 70 kisses to Heaven darling Brother. Miss you so much, always in my thoughts. Forever in my heart. Your ever loving Sister Margaret and family xxxxx

Births

Joseph & Ruth Stott

Congratulations to Joseph and Ruth on the birth of Ava-Rose, our first Great Granddaughter on 4th April. Love from Nanna and Granda Relton.

Love and congratulations to Joseph and Ruth on the birth of Ava-Rose. From Auntie Gillian

the fabulous work from the many artists from around the region, alongside the chance to enjoy a variety of creative attractions.

Greenfield Arts are privileged to welcome guest speakers 'Vane Women' a prominent group of writers from Darlington who will be leading a poetry reading offering recitals in a variety of styles and voices. Talented artist Jilly Johnston will also be leading a session on 'The art of business' a presentation giving advice and guidance with a helpful question and answer session for budding entrepreneurs who would like to ideas to sell and promote their work. There will also be a number of crafts on sale giving you the chance to choose something for special

for yourself or for a lovely individual gift.

The theme this year has attracted work around the theme of 'The Power of the Pen' and how art can inspire creativity and passion in us all. This is part of a wider campaign at Greenfield which has brought together a number of projects which celebrate a love of reading, writing and creativity and Greenfield Arts would like to welcome you to join us and enjoy our special evening. For a bit more about the event or the variety of activities we have on offer you can find further details on our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or alternatively email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Not Illegal to Feed Wild Animals says DEFRA

The Government has stated 'it is not illegal to feed wild animals' in response to a petition aimed at preventing local councils from imposing fines on people who feed pigeons and gulls.

The petition, started by blogger Jason Endfield, has been gaining support on social media and encourages local authorities to change their attitude towards wild birds, calling for the establishment of urban feeding areas in towns and cities where people can feed wildlife without fear of being slapped with a fine for 'anti social' behaviour.

The statement from DEFRA also says that, while councils do have some powers to impose restrictions based on local bye-laws, anybody who is served with a penalty can

challenge the local council if they feel it is unfair and, if required, can take the matter to the local government ombudsman.

This news is being welcomed by all those citizens who enjoy feeding birds in towns and cities, many of whom say that they feel threatened by the prospect of being fined merely for showing compassion to urban wildlife. More details can be found at: <http://jasonendfield.weebly.com/home/it-is-not-illegal-for-people-to-feed-wild-animals-government-responds-to-our-petition> Jason Endfield

Acknowledgement

MARGARET JANE TRON (Meggie)

We would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of our Mam, for all the beautiful floral tributes, cards and messages at this difficult time.

A huge thank you to Dave Scott and colleagues at the Co-op for providing such excellent service; to Celebrant Glynis Haverson who conducted such a beautiful Service that Mam would have been so proud of. To staff at St Clare's Court for giving comfort and love until the end. Donations of £73.50 were raised on the day for Parkinsons UK. Once again thank you. Raymond, Sue, Yvonne and families

Congratulations

Courtenay Pearson & Oliver Amos



Congratulations on your Engagement. Lots of love and happiness for your future together. Mam, Mike, Paige, Frazer and all the family xxxxx

Eddie Howey



Happy 1st Birthday Teddy

You make us so proud every day already! Your smiles and laughter brings us so much happiness. Love you so much, Mammy & Daddy xxx

EDDIE HOWEY Happy 1st birthday to our cute little Brother. Enjoy all the happy memories on your first birthday. Lots of love, Thomas and Poppy xxxxx

EDDIE HOWEY One year old on the 19th April. Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful little Eddie. Lots of love and kisses from Nana and Grandad xxxxx

VINCE SPENSLEY Happy birthday to my wonderful Husband. I love you so much. Lots of love, Gill xxx

VINCE SPENSLEY To the best Daddy in the world. Happy birthday. Love from Emily, Abbie and Ruby xxx

Obituary

THOMAS HOWARTH (Tom)



Tom Howarth died peacefully at home with his family by his side on Sunday, 8th April, 2018. Funeral is by Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium at Coundon on Thursday 19th April 2018 at 10.30am. All welcome. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie.

DAVID NASH

On 3rd April, David aged 75 years. Much loved Husband of Pat; loving Dad of Gail and Claire; and Grandpa of Lee, Craig, Jacob, Adam and Ben. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and Cremation at Durham Crematorium on Friday 20th April at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired may be made to "The Dogs Trust", plate provided at the crematorium. Please wear bright colours at David's request.

ANN STOBBS

Peacefully on 2nd April. Ann, aged 73 years. Beloved Wife of the late Malcolm; loving Mum of Stephen and Amanda and Mother-in-Law of Graham and Sam; also a much loved Gran. Will family and friends please meet for a Service and Cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 17th April at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to Ward 44, Darlington Memorial Hospital. Plate provided at the crematorium.

DOROTHY CHEESBROUGH School Aycliffe

After an illness borne with great courage and dignity, Dorothy (nee Mewse), sadly passed away peacefully at home on 6th April. Dearly loved Wife to the late Peter; loving Mam to Vivienne and much adored Nanna to Aston and Scarlett. Funeral on Tuesday 17th April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium at 11.30am. "Forever in our hearts" Reunited, Rest In Peace

MARILYN NOBLE School Aycliffe

10th April, peacefully, after an illness fought with great courage and dignity. Marilyn, aged 64 years of High Barn Road. Loving Wife to Dennis; much loved Mam to Andrew and Clare and a wonderful Sister and Auntie. Funeral Thursday 19th April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 3.00pm followed by private committal and cremation. Floral tributes if so desired, will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

Pets Obituary

On the sad loss of our much beloved Maltese Terrier dog

"CHALKY"



who died 4th April 2018 at just 4 years old Chalky filled our home and lives with so much love and happiness and for such a little dog he left a big space that will be difficult to replace. We would like to give special thanks for the kindness and support received at this difficult time from friends at Linde Castle Limited and to Forget Me Not (Pet Crematorium) who gave Chalky the dignified end he so deserved. Rest in peace our little one, you will be forever in our hearts. Love, Susan, Barry, Naryse and Shirley xxxxx

In Memoriam

JOAN NICHOLSON 16th April. If memories bring us closer, we will never be apart, for you are always thought of and forever in our hearts. The fact that you are not here with us, will always cause us pain. But you are forever in our hearts until we meet again. Also remembering your birthday on the 22nd. Loved and missed by all your family. **JOHN SMALLMAN** 13th April 2009. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept, to love and cherish and never forget. Love forever, Pat and family xxx

BRADLEY Formerly Barraclough. 31st March, peacefully in hospital. Jean Ramona, aged 88 years of Newton Aycliffe. Dearly loved Mam of Christopher, Billy and Carol also a much loved Nana and Great Nana. Funeral Wednesday 18th April. Would family and friends please meet at 1.15pm for a Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church prior to private burial. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, may be made after the Service for Parkinson's UK.

THOMPSON (Newton Aycliffe). George William Stanley (Stan), peacefully passed away on Tuesday 27th March 2018, aged 85. He will join his beloved Wife Thelma, who left us 14 years ago. Dearly loved Father of Sharron and Russell and their partners Michael and Kristina; cherished Grandfather of Lauren, Danny, Edward and Joe; dear Brother-in-Law of Jean. Following his wishes, a private Funeral was held on 5th April at West Cemetery, Newton Aycliffe

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Aycliffe Player Scores all Four Goals

Newton Aycliffe travelled to bottom side Billingham Synthonia and came away with a comfortable 1-4 victory. Thibault Charmey scored all four goals for the Newtonians; they should have scored more, but wasted several good chances. They went ahead on 15 minutes when Sean Tarling surged through the midfield and played in Charmey, who beat home keeper Dawson to the ball and slotted it into the corner of the net. They continued to press and

Jordan Jewson and Marc Costello missed chances. However, the Synners equalised on 27 minutes. A free kick was headed out only as far as Jackson on the edge of the box, who lashed it into the net, giving Aycliffe keeper James Winter no chance. Aycliffe got themselves back in front a minute later when Charmey despatched a penalty with ease. On 40 minutes it became 1-3; Charmey broke down the left, cut inside the last defender and lifted the



Thibault Charmey scorer of all 4 goals

ball over Dawson into the far corner. Eight minutes into the second half, Aycliffe went further ahead when Craig Hutchinson won a free kick 20 yards out. Man-of-the-match Charmey stepped up and blasted it past the wall into the net for his and Aycliffe's fourth. They had chances to score more; substitute Jamie Davis and Hutchinson were combining well down the right, with Hutchinson hitting the post after a good move. Jordan Jewson then broke clear and got his shot away, but Dawson made a good save. Recent signing Mark Wood came on for the last 10 minutes to help Aycliffe see the game out and take three valuable points. The win sees Aycliffe in 15th place, with seven games remaining. They travel to Newcastle Benfield on Monday 9th April at 7.30pm and are then

at home to Sunderland RCA on Saturday 14th April at 3pm.

Students Raise £1500 for Sport Relief

Students from Greenfield Community College have raised a fabulous £1500 for Sport Relief. The theme this year was a 'Race to Russia', chosen to mark this year's venue for the FIFA World Cup. To reach their goal students and staff aimed to achieve an impressive 3,485 miles, the total distance from Greenfield to Russia. Students gave up their time at lunchtime to take part in the sponsored event and run as many miles as possible. They showed resilience even though the weather was not on their side and stepped up to the challenge which was fantastic.

Students off-campus were also a big part of the day, a group of Year 7 students on the Howtown Residential clocked-up 1,300 miles during the week from a variety of activities including gorge walking and a gruelling expedition. Competitors in the Level 3 County Games also played a key part, keeping track of their mileage in athletics and netball to add to final figures whilst representing the school in their sport. Students surpassed the total by then end of the school day with a little help from the staff who also tracked their steps for the worthy cause. It was an excellent day and a chance for Greenfield to come together to achieve great results. Well done to everyone involved!

INTRODUCING CRICKET TO AYCLIFFE 5 - 8 YR OLDS

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club is getting ready for the re-launch of All Stars Cricket this summer. From May 24th onwards children aged 5-8 years will have a great first experience of the sport via the eight week programme delivered at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club. All Stars Cricket is all about introducing children to the game in a fun, safe and inclusive environment and parents are encouraged to take part too. Sessions will be held each Thursday 6.00-7.00pm from May 24th until July 12th and each Friday 5.30-6.30pm from May 25th until July 13th.

The sessions are ran by ECB qualified and DBS checked coaches, each child receives



their own backpack full of goodies including a cricket bat, ball, activity book and personalised shirt to keep when they register. Last year 30 children took part at Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club and they were

part of more than 37,000 children involved across the country and this year is set to be even bigger and better. To find out more information visit www.newtonaycliffe-play-cricket.com and click on the All Stars page.

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