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## Successful Xmas Live Event for Aycliffe Radio

Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Management and Aycliffe Radio kicked off this years Christmas Festivities with two live events last weekend.

The first took place in Newton Aycliffe town centre between 1.00pm and 5.00pm and featured popular local band "Groovy Street", followed by "Harris Tweed Mystery Machine" and Cassandra giving a short tribute to Dua Lipa.

The event was compered by Professor Nincompoop, ably supported by Amy Harrison from Aycliffe Radio's morning show.

To round the day off the M.A.D. Choir sang Christmas Carols while Santa and Mrs Claus handed out gifts to the children.

The town centre event was brought to you by the Aycliffe Town Centre Management

We were also pleased to welcome Liam Mellor who plays Wishee Washee and Carl Douglas who is Aladdin in this years pantomime at the Hippodrome in Darlington.

The Aycliffe Radio team then quickly headed down to the Xcel Centre to host the Xmas Live event.

The atmosphere was electric in the room as the three superb acts performed a tribute to their chosen artistes.

Comper Nathan Abbott warmed up the audience with dances and encouraged the children on to stage to perform and win prizes.

First up was local girl, Cassandra, who with her back up dancers, Emily and Francis from Infinity Dance School, performed as Dua



Lipa. A superb performance which got the audience dancing, clapping and singing along.

Brandon Mazz performed his tribute to Bruno Mars, which was a brilliant rendition of the real thing.

Not only did Brandon have the moves he sounded authentic and moved around the auditorium intermingling with the audience.

Charlotte Hopley's tribute to Katy Perry finished the night off with a bang, interacting with the children who were

dancing around the front of the stage.

The event was a huge success and Aycliffe Radio will be planning more "Live" events in the future, watch Newton News for details.

Aycliffe Radio would like to record thanks to the fantastic Xcel Centre for the use of the venue; thank you to all those who attended the night and a special thank you to the event sponsors ROF59 and Honest John.

**For more images and video:  
[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk)**



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## ACORN Residents Association

Our monthly meeting will be held on Thursday 13th December 2018 at 6pm in The Phoenix Club.

Little Acorns start at 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along. Our local Councillors will attend if they are available. Any new trips and events will be announced. Get your Christmas jumpers out if you wish and join us for mince pies and a cuppa.

# Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

A huge thanks once again to everyone who helped collect hundreds of boxes for this year's Paws2Rescue Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. Beverley Dowson, who went above and beyond by sorting and carefully wrapping well over 120 boxes for the Romanian children, to her cousin Sarah for her donated clothes and acquaintances at One Point, plus stallholders at Willington car boot for their kind donations, her parents for helping on collection day and Gail at Boyes for donating hundreds of shoe boxes. Dawn Hughes for all the

boxes of clothes, coats & shoes. Children's Blessings for the 4 large bags full of shoes. Lindsey Hurst and friends for the boxes of animal donations, Madison for storing donations and for helping load up the van and also Martin and Cayden for their help.

And last, but not least, Paul Hartford for travelling all the way to Sutton in Surrey to deliver everything safely and helping Alison to move everything into storage ready for the final journey which left Big Yellow Storage in Sutton on Monday 3rd December to



travel to Romania. We hope to have pictures of some of the children, who don't normally get to celebrate Christmas as their families are too poor, and animals receiving these donations nearer to Christmas. We think we will have helped make a few dreams come true this year, so watch this space!

Thank you again to everyone, sorry if I have missed any names, but you all know who you are, myself and P2R are more than grateful for all the donations and the time and effort you have put in to make this happen, you have all made a really huge difference. Sarah-Jane P2R Design Manager

## \* Saturday Night Live \*

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

**Saturday 8th December - "Hope City Rockers"**

Gigit Review: "We headed to The Fox Cover in Ashington to see a new band for us, a band we have had in the listings for a while now and who's set list was one that we quite fancied. Although we arrived shortly after they had gone off stage, we were very impressed from the start with some great songs that are not usually seen on a night out, including Aerosmith, Shinedown and Blackstone Cherry amongst others. The band were very tight and the vocals were top class and Adam has a superb range that enables him to cover a vast collection of songs with The Darkness being pitch perfect and a very impressive vocal performance in the two Guns 'n' Roses tracks. The second set reverted back to classic rock with songs from Steppenwolf, Motorhead, AC/DC, The Who, Led Zeppelin and more. The band perform each song extremely well, but are not afraid to have some banter with the crowd and quite often Lee wandered through the crowd with either guitar or mic in hand. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining night and certainly a band that we'll happily return to see and would recommend to anyone."

**Saturday 15th December - "This Machine"**

For more information on bands go to  
[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034  
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## WOODHAM Country Club

Saturday 15th December  
**Christmas Party Night**  
Live entertainment from singer "Tom Whitley"  
Cold Buffet - Starts 7.00pm - Tickets £19.95 per person

Saturday 22nd December  
**Christmas Party Night**  
Live entertainment from singer "Tom Whitley"  
Two Course Christmas Meal - Starts 7.00pm - Tickets £25.00 per person

Sunday 23rd December  
**Children's Christmas Party**  
Festive Buffet - Disco - Party Games - Santa (present for each child)  
£7.95 per child - 4.00pm to 7.30pm - £10.95 (per adult)

Monday 31st December, 7pm-1am  
**NEW YEARS EVE Celebration**  
with SINGER "TRUDI", DISCO & BUFFET - £55 per head

**Woodham Golf & Country Club**  
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## Festive Period Events

### THE BIG CLUB

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Upstairs Lounge - 7pm  
Evening Ticket Event £2.00  
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Complimentary drink for all guests on arrival

**CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY**  
Open from 11am until close

**HEADLINE EVENTS**  
December 22nd  
2pm & 7pm shows  
**LITTLE FIX** All tickets £4  
December 23rd  
2pm & 7pm shows  
**Sleeping Beauty Panto**  
Tickets £4.50 + selection box for children

**NEW YEARS DAY BIG CLUB CELEBRATION DAY**  
Doors open 11am till late  
Entertainment all day from **JOHN MELVIN DISCO** and Live Band **THE PRE-AMPS**  
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**29th DECEMBER**  
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Comedy from **GARY SKYNER** supported by Howey's Starlight Disco

**NEW YEARS EVE**  
Upstairs Music Lounge - tickets £2.00 - Complimentary drink for all guests on arrival.  
Fantastic Vocals from **'ANGIE'** plus music from **HOWEY'S STARLIGHT DISCO** plus Bingo  
**Concert Hall - Aycliffe Soul Club**  
6.30pm - Late - Tickets £5.  
**MIDNIGHT COUNTDOWN** at both events!

**MAIN BAR 'Members Only'**  
Doors Open 11am

**SHOW OF THE MONTH EVENTS -**

February 2nd - Soul Addiction  
March 2nd - Four Letter Word  
Further details in the New Year

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#### MONDAY AND TUESDAY

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#### WEDNESDAY

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#### THURSDAY - GRILL NIGHT

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**Pensioners Special - Every Monday**  
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**Two for £12 - Thursday 5-8.30pm**

**Fish Friday - Two Fish & Chips**  
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## December & Christmas Entertainment Guide

Saturday 8th	Fantastic Band "Ska Mania" supported by "The Thieves" - £5.00
Saturday 8th	Music Lounge: Vocalist "Ali Jay" + Bingo - Free
Sunday 9th	Sheraton Bar: Brilliant "Kevin Finnigan" + Howey's Karaoke - Free entry
Friday 14th	Concert Hall: "Boxing Night"
Saturday 15th	Music Lounge: Vocalist "Alan Watson" + Bingo - Free entry
Sunday 16th	Sheraton Bar: Vocalist "Danny Stephens" + Howey's Karaoke - Free entry
Saturday 22nd	The Sensational "Little Fix" (two shows, 2pm and 7pm) - Tickets £4.00
Saturday 22nd	Music Lounge: Vocalist "Mark Thomas" + Bingo
Sunday 23rd	Family Pantomime "Sleeping Beauty" (two shows, 2pm and 7pm) - £4.50 + A free Selection Box for children
Monday 24th	Music Lounge: Vocalist "Peter Hoban" - £2.00
Saturday 29th	Show of the Month - "Dr Drew & The Crew" + Comedy from "Gary Skyrer" and music from Howey's Starlight Disco - £5.00
Monday 31st	Music Lounge: Vocalist "Angie" and music from Howey's Starlight Disco - £2.00
Tuesday 1st	Concert Hall: John Melvins Disco/Karaoke + fantastic band "The Pre-Amps" - £1.00

All Welcome and Happy New Year To You All  
from the Committee, Steward and Staff  
Tickets on sale now - Tel 01325 312949 - Credit/Debit Cards



# Top Industry Award for Eldon Financial Planning

Newton Aycliffe based Eldon Financial Planning has won The Personal Finance Awards' UK "Chartered Financial Planning Firm of the Year" 2018/19. The industry leading awards were held at London's O2 Intercontinental Hotel on

22nd November, hosted by broadcaster and writer Clive Anderson. This is the second time that Eldon has picked up the leading Personal Finance Society (PFS) award, having also won in 2011. The PFS are part of the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)

Group, that received its Royal Charter over a hundred years ago. Director Gemma Siddle was also celebrating, having reached the final three in the individual UK "Chartered Financial Planner of the Year" category for a second year in a row. A record number of entries for the 14 award categories made this year the most competitive yet.

Eldon was founded in 2002, by three like-minded financial planning experts determined to re-think the traditional model by providing an ongoing, holistic, financial planning service. The Directors went on to gain the highest available CII qualifications and embedded a culture of 'treating customers fairly' long before it became mandatory. Passionate about the development of the profession, they achieved Chartered status, and Fellowship of the PFS, in its very first wave.

Since then, the Eldon team has continued to grow through referral and recommendation by listening closely to their clients and helping them to understand their finances. The Eldon team work with their clients to answer key questions such as when can they retire, is their money in the best place, do they have enough for their future plans, can they make gifts, and can they afford future care? Through Eldon's years of experience, technical expertise and professional qualifications, the team demonstrate to their clients the benefits of successful financial planning, in turn giving them choices and the ability to confidently deal with life's inevitable 'curve balls'. Eldon continues to invest in technology and systems to deliver an efficient, accessible and personalised service, setting out clients' financial goals and milestones in a highly visual and easy to understand way.

Engrained with its CII pedigree, new colleagues at Eldon, be they Paraplanners or Advisers, all work towards Chartered status. The team can proudly boast that, other than through retirement, no-one has ever left the business. Gemma is a 'Chartered Champion' and an active member of the national Financial Planning Panel, and gets involved with local community and charity initiatives as well as promoting the profession to young people through training and work experience. The team also regularly provides financial planning industry insight to local BBC Radio.

To win the award, Eldon went through a rigorous process to satisfy the judging criteria of demonstrating the highest commitment to professionalism, the qualification and development of its people, as well as a highly professional and ethical culture, and a strong commitment to customer



care. The PFS panel said of the winning team: "The judges were impressed by Eldon, a Chartered Financial Planning firm with a unique culture driven by client centricity and commitment to nurturing the talent of the future." Reflecting on the win and being up against much larger city-based firms with national reach, Eldon Director, Tony Conner commented:

"We are absolutely delighted to win this accolade! Our team is hard-working with a strong culture of doing the best for our clients so to have this external recognition and endorsement of the work we do is fantastic."

Fellow Director, Gemma Siddle said: "Eldon has seen many changes since winning this prestigious award in 2011; a founder retiring, development of our service proposition, management moving to the next

generation, and doubling the size of our team with each member being developed along an agreed pathway. Undertaking these changes within the firm, whilst still maintaining our leading edge, is a testament to our magnificent team and their dedication in working together to give our clients the best service possible." To find out more visit [www.eldonfinancial.co.uk](http://www.eldonfinancial.co.uk)

## MAGICAL SANTA



On Sunday 2nd December 2018 Newton Aycliffe Beat Team created a Santa's grotto in the old Select store in Newton Aycliffe town centre. We were lucky enough that Santa was able to pay us a visit along with Mrs Claus and the naughty elves. We had over 400 people come through the doors and the event was a huge success much bigger than we ever imagined.

On the day itself we also raised over £100 which will be given to local groups who feed the lonely this Christmas. Santa will be back with us on Sunday 16th December 2018 between 11-4 and everyone is welcome. Officers from your local Police team will be also present. Please come along and support his fantastic event. All children will receive a small gift and there is plenty of time to have an "Elfie" with Santa. We would also like to thank

our sponsors Honest John, Livin and Tesco. We look forward to seeing you there. PC 2696 Mike WELCH

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Creamy Garlic Butter Mushrooms served with Crusty Bread  
Salmon Fishcakes  
served on a bed of Salad and a with a warm Sweet Chilli Sauce

**TO CONTINUE**  
Traditional Turkey  
served with Pigs in Blanket, Roast Potatoes and Pork & Cranberry Stuffing  
Pan Fried Sea Bass  
served on a bed of Crushed New Potatoes & a Creamy Leek Sauce  
Brie & Cranberry Parcel (V)  
served in a Filo Pastry on a bed of Crushed New Potatoes

**TO FINISH**  
Christmas Pudding  
served with Brandy Sauce  
Raspberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake  
topped with Fresh Raspberries & Pouring Cream  
Sticky Toffee Pudding  
served with a Jack Daniels Toffee Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream

One course £ 7.95 Two course £12.50 Three course £16.95  
Children's Traditional Turkey Meal & Trio Ice Cream £6.50

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## The Night Before Christmas

Little Cubs Day Nursery based at Xcel Centre on Aycliffe Business Park would like to invite all local families with Pre-school and younger children to attend our special family event, "The Night Before Christmas". It's a drop in event on Monday 17th December from 6pm-8pm which is open to all.

We are going to have so much fun with crafts for the children, storytelling, Christmas carols in our garden, tombola, delicious hot roast sandwiches and roast potatoes, and Santa and his Elves are here too (6pm-7pm). Jacksons coffeehouse is also open serving Christmas drinks and a space to relax. Pop along and join in the fun, staff will be available to give Nursery tours too. Admission is free with a small charge for refreshments and some activities.

We hope to see you all here for a magical night of festive fun.

For more information please contact Little Cubs on 01325 312288 or email [littlecubs@xcelcentre.com](mailto:littlecubs@xcelcentre.com)

## Hardwick Park Voted Best Place for a Free Day Out



A historic park has been named the best destination for a free family day out in the North East after securing the most public votes.

Hardwick Park near Sedgfield is among the regional winners of the inaugural Family Favourites Awards, organised by the popular website [Dayoutwiththekids.co.uk](http://Dayoutwiththekids.co.uk). The park, which is owned and managed by Durham County Council, came out

top in the best free family day out category among the 20,000 families that voted. Designed to recognise attractions that excel in the family travel and leisure sector, the awards celebrate those that go the extra mile to ensure a memorable day out for all of the family. Nigel Dodds, strategic manager for culture and sport at Durham County Council, said: "We are delighted to be among the winners of the first Family Favourites Awards, especially as the decision was made by members of the public."

"Hardwick Park is a fantastic attraction, with excellent facilities and dedicated staff and volunteers who work hard to maintain high standards throughout the year." With free admission, other than car parking charges, Hardwick Park is ideal for dog walkers, runners, families and anyone wishing to get some fresh air while admiring the natural beauty of the lake, woodland and wildlife. There is also a visitor centre

where people can learn about the history and restoration of the parkland, along with a gift shop and an inviting café.

The council also runs a year-round programme of activities and events for the whole family including workshops, crafts and storytelling sessions. Hardwick Park was not the only County Durham destination to triumph in the Family Favourite Awards, with the county's attractions winning five of the six categories in the North East. Lisa O'Keeffe, brand manager at [Dayoutwiththekids.co.uk](http://Dayoutwiththekids.co.uk), said the response to the awards had been overwhelming, adding: "The competition was extremely tough across the region, but residents in the North East have had their say, with Durham proving to be home to a fantastic range of family attractions and some very deserving Family Favourites Awards winners."

To find out more about Hardwick Park, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark](http://www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickpark)

## The High Speed Train of Tomorrow

*Bombardier Transportation and Hitachi Rail showcase their design innovations.*

Increasing the enjoyment of modern train travel and reaching new standards in passenger experience and reliability are key ambitions for Bombardier and Hitachi Rail's HS2 Rolling Stock bid. Today the Bombardier/Hitachi bid team has been setting out how they intend to build on the design and engineering excellence of the hugely successful train they developed together for the Italian high speed rail network - The Frecciarossa 1000.

The joint bid team want to build on this successful partnership as they develop a world class offer for the British HS2 fleet. Once the contract has been awarded in March 2020 the successful HS2 bidder will be part of a collaborative design process to shape the final product, with the interiors and passenger offering specified by the Department for Transport and the HS2 franchise operator.

Hitachi and Bombardier's experts from the UK, Italy, Japan and Germany are exploring a wide range of innovations for what will be Britain's fastest ever train, running at 360km/h. The engineers and designers are modelling ways to make the new train lighter, quieter and more energy efficient, combined with features to maximise comfort and capacity.

This engineering excellence could also be supported by a best in class digital offer. The team fully understand how future technologies will enhance the customer experience and they are exploring how their systems could offer:

- At seat food and drink ordering
- Seat occupancy detection system
- Real-time contact with train staff to check ongoing connections
- Click and collect

Bombardier and Hitachi's previous high speed train - the Frecciarossa 1000, aka the Red Arrow - has had many firsts since its maiden ride in 2015. Main features include increased accessibility for wheelchair users, free unlimited Wi-Fi technology, exceptional seating comfort and air conditioning distribution at floor, window and ceiling height allowing for optimal thermal comfort.

Designed to offer flexible interior layouts, the Italian state railways opted for four different passenger classes aboard the train, including Standard, Premium, Business and Executive, which includes a boardroom facility equipped with a meeting table and 32" monitor to display presentations.

And as well as whisking passengers to their destination at the fastest speed in Europe, the Frecciarossa 1000 also offers Italian passengers great comfort and style; with interiors produced by

Bertone, the design experts renowned for working with Lamborghini and Aston Martin.

The Frecciarossa also led the way in environmental sustainability by using over 90% recycled materials. Karen Boswell, Managing Director at Hitachi Rail, said: "I have no doubt that travelling on HS2 will be a game changer. As well as introducing much needed rail capacity and stimulating regional growth, the passenger experience for this new network will be exceptional. Our two companies have already combined to deliver a brilliant and hugely popular very high speed train for Italy, and we will build on this experience to design a truly iconic product for the UK."

Phil Hufton, Managing Director UK, Bombardier Transportation, said "HS2 is a golden opportunity to transform Britain by adding capacity and spreading prosperity. Bombardier and Hitachi have an unrivalled track record in together delivering transformative high speed projects, and our bid team is now taking high speed innovation to the next level by combining engineering excellence with the capacity to deliver cutting edge passenger benefits."

## SILENT SANTA APPEAL

Dear Sir,  
Thank you for including information about the 2019 Silent Santa Christmas Appeal sent in by Chris and Claire Williams. The response has been incredible. Lots of people have called to drop off their kind gifts and the numbers are increasing daily but ideally more would be appreciated.

A 'SPECIAL' thank you must go to Newton Aycliffe based Whitehouse Funeral Service who have so generously given numerous Christmas bags full of presents for the children. Whitehouse Funeral Service run a wonderful 'craft workshop' where bereaved ladies meet and spend time together chatting and making wonderful useful knitted garments so not only do they provide presents that will be appreciated by the little ones, Whitehouse is also a warm place where ladies can meet and talk helping them through the dark days following the loss of their loved ones - a remarkable and thoughtful service. But will those who intend to provide a shoe box please deliver them to my home or call me and I will pick it up. Please do not take them down to Darlington Fire Station.

Thank you  
Councillor Gerald Lee

## Shine Choir Entertain at Church Fair



St. Clare's Church held their Christmas Fair last Saturday 1st December and we had the wonderful SHINE CHOIR entertain us.

Shine was started up at this church many years ago and consists of children from both church and the community. We were lucky to have them as they are so popular throughout the town.

The inclement weather did not dampen our spirits and we raised over £600 towards church funds which we need badly. A very big THANK YOU to SHINE, Helen and Cath their leaders and all who helped out on the day, especially those who came and spent their money. God bless you all

## GOODBYE ANGIE

Angie Cook will be leaving her position as Lunchtime Supervisor at Woodham Academy after 21 years of service. Angie is one of Woodham's longest serving members of staff and during her time at the school she



has helped thousands of local children enjoy their lunchtimes in a safe and caring environment. Woodham Academy's Headteacher, Christine Forsyth added, "Angie has displayed great commitment to looking after pupils over so many years and is a popular member of staff with staff and children. We all thank her for her dedicated service and wish her well in the future."

## Aycliffe Self Storage Ltd.

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Contact Allan on 07496 423440  
email: [sangsteralchris@aol.com](mailto:sangsteralchris@aol.com)

## Poppies Missed

Dear Sir,  
As the Poppies, donated and made by many in the local Aycliffe area for Remembrance Sunday and inspired by the late Newton News editor, have now been removed, I for one wanted you to know that our household are missing them.

These were a welcoming, bright and cheery sight on the corner of Central Avenue next to the War Memorial; especially at this cold, dark and damp time of year.

Thank you  
Name and Address supplied

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# Woodham Student Hits the West End!

Former Woodham Academy student Abbie Finn is embarking on an amazing career path performing as part of the Jamie Lloyd Company's 'Pinter at the Pinter' at the Harold Pinter Theatre in London. Abbie, a versatile drummer, composer and arranger is performing alongside some amazing cast including Martin Freeman, Lee Evans and Michael Gambon. She is performing the part of Mavis and is drumming live on stage throughout the show. Abbie's drumming skills have been described as "impeccable" and "vivifying" (Marissa Khaos - The Up Coming). Another review simply states "a whole lot of talent is what this young woman has in abundance" Lance Liddle (Bebop Spoken Here).

"It's been an amazing experience to work with such talented actors, crew and creative team. I'm so lucky to have been given the opportunity to take part in this unprecedented season of Harold Pinter's one act plays. I'm loving every minute of it" says Abbie Finn.

Abbie left Woodham 6 years ago with an amazing set of GCSE results including an A\* in Music. She always had a passion for Music and was an extremely talented drummer as well as performing the bass guitar and trumpet to a high standard. Abbie was determined to pursue her passion for Music and gained a First Class BA (Hons) Music (Jazz) Degree from Leeds College of Music and then completed a Master's Degree at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

"We are all extremely proud of Abbie. She has always shown passion, dedication



and a clear talent for Music. Abbie received drum lessons whilst at Woodham through

the Durham Music Service. She was involved in all school music events as well

as performing in the county bands. We encourage as many students as possible to learn an instrument. You never know how many doors it will open!" says Mrs Taylor, Music teacher and Assistant Headteacher.

Abbie Finn is the second former student to make it to the West End. Abbie follows in the steps of Nathan Elwick who continues to embark on his fantastic career in musical theatre.

We are delighted that Abbie is going to return to Woodham Academy and be our guest performer in the Christmas Concert which takes place on Thursday 13th December at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the school office on 01325 300328.

If you would like to find out more about Abbie then please visit her website [www.abbiefinn.com](http://www.abbiefinn.com)

# LOCAL CRAFT BUSINESS EXPANDS US PRESENCE

Global craft retailer, Crafter's Companion, has announced plans to move its US headquarters to a larger space in Corona, California following a huge growth in sales from \$12m to an estimated \$22m over the past two years.

The new office and warehouse, which will be 31,000 sq. ft, has been primarily driven by increased demand from key accounts including the Home Shopping Network (HSN), Notions Marketing, Amazon.com and fellow retailers such as Tuesday Morning and Hobby Lobby.

Sara Davies MBE said: "It's fantastic to see such an increase in demand for our products in the US market. When we opened our office in Santa Ana, California, in 2016, I could not have envisioned this level of growth, although I always knew our products would be well received by customers in North America."

"A big part of our success in this market has been down to a great partnership with HSN. Its team has supported our brand for many years and enabled us to bring our innovations to their well-established and loyal customer base."

The company is currently recruiting for several new positions across customer service, compliance and design to join the current team of 30. Among Crafter's Companion's new appointments are two senior recruits that will both be based in the company's new



US headquarters.

Lister Hargreaves joins the team as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Having previously worked at AkzoNobel, he brings over 17 years' experience of the global finance industry to the role.

Kelli Snowgold has also been promoted to the newly created role of VP of Commercial Strategy. She will be responsible for developing and driving the business growth strategy and overseeing sales and marketing, including the management of products.

Sara continued: "This latest expansion, together with a strengthened senior leadership team, provides us with a solid platform to further increase our US presence and develop our product portfolio to meet customers' evolving needs. It's a very exciting time for our business and we can't wait to see what the next few years will bring."

"I'm delighted to welcome Lister to the Crafter's Companion family. We're

confident his experience will be hugely beneficial for us as we continue to grow. Likewise, we're delighted to congratulate Kelli on her new role, she's become a big part of the business since joining us earlier this year and I'm sure she'll continue to be an integral part of the team moving forward."

Commenting on his new appointment, Lister said: "I am very excited to be joining Crafter's Companion as I've had close connections to the company's UK team from the start and have watched the company grow over the last 13 years."

"I am confident that I can draw on past experiences to help build a platform for our continued and sustainable future growth in the North American craft market. I'm looking forward to getting started."

Crafter's Companion is a market-leading craft retailer headquartered in the North-East of England. Founded in 2005, the company now employs over 150 staff and exports products to Europe, Asia, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and North and South America.

Having traditionally sold its products online, through independent retailers and on TV shopping channels across the world, Crafter's Companion opened its first three UK stores between 2016 and 2017. For more information visit [www.crafterscompanion.co.uk](http://www.crafterscompanion.co.uk) or [www.crafterscompanion.com](http://www.crafterscompanion.com)

# Cirque du Skate Show



Dear Sir,  
Durham District Roller Skating Club are holding their Annual Christmas

Show to help fund the club throughout the year.

Durham District Roller Skating Club have been running since the 1980s and this is the main fundraising event.

It has had many skaters through its doors over the years of all ages and abilities and has produced several British Champions and even had skaters represent Great Britain in European and World Championships.

The club is run by a set of dedicated volunteers who give up their weekends to ensure the club runs smoothly.

This year there is a circus theme which is very upbeat and all the children have worked hard to put this production together, along with coaches and parents.

Yours sincerely  
A very grateful parent



Aycliffe West  
Wednesday 19th December  
6.00-7.00pm  
Simpature Court  
Aycliffe East  
Thursday 20th December  
6.00-7.00pm  
Neville Community Centre.  
Police on hand to report Crime Statistics for the area and to listen to residents concerns and decide on policing priorities. All residents welcome.

# Rotary Club's Annual Street Tour with Santa

The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe will be out with Santa's Sleigh in the areas shown below on the following dates, each evening from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. They will be collecting to provide Christmas Hampers for needy families, an annual event which also involves a collection in Tesco from Sunday 16th to Saturday 22nd December.

Monday 10th - Heighington

Tuesday 11th - Woodham

Wednesday 12th - Cobblers Hall

Thursday 13th - Greathead Crescent

Monday 17th - Simpature

Tuesday 18th - School Aycliffe

Wednesday 19th - Bluebell Way

Thursday 20th - Silkin Way

*Listen for the music and bring your children out to meet Santa.*



# J&C Coaches

**Forthcoming Events 2019**  
at Sunderland Empire Theatre

## WARHORSE

Thursday 31st February 2019  
Stall Seats & Coach Fare £61.50

## THE KING & I

Thursday 6th June 2019  
Stall Seats & Coach Fare £57.50

## KINKY BOOTS

Tuesday 2nd July 2019  
Stall Seats & Coach Fare £50.50

## GREASE

Wednesday 31st July 2019  
Stall Seats & Coach Fare £46.50

## ANNIE

Tuesday 8th October 2019  
Stall Seats & Coach Fare £45.50

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## Photography Studio Sessions at Greenfield



Greenfield Arts are delighted to announce their new studio sessions for the first of the spring season. Why not learn something new and join professional photographer Elaine Vizor for the first of our series and improve your camera skills? Elaine will be leading the first digital photography session on Thursday 24th January from 10:30– 14:00. In this session you can learn more about black and white photography and the skills of depth of field. This is an exciting opportunity to help you get 'picture perfect' results and hone your own skills. Elaine will also be running a second session which will take place on Thursday 21st March where you can learn how to make creative choices and play with perspectives. The workshop will run from

10:30 – 14:00 and is a chance to develop your style and flair. The workshops cost just £25.00 per session and are a great opportunity to learn more about how to get the best from your camera and enjoy getting creative. Come along to these friendly sessions and don't forget your camera (and your manual if possible!) The sessions form part of our new Spring Programme which is now available to book online. It is full to the brim with creative opportunities for those looking to return to one of their popular favourites or try something completely new. You can find out more about Greenfield Arts and what is on offer by visiting [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk) or speak to one of our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

## CPI Helps Running Entrepreneur Take Big Step Forward



The Centre for Process Innovation (CPI) has supported an entrepreneur's vision to help runners find the most appropriate type of footwear. CPI worked with Craig Downs on mymo, a wearable sock which uses artificial intelligence to gauge an athlete's gait. By embedding electronics into the sock, Mr Downs' company, Shoes2Run, can measure how feet perform during a short walk, jog or run. Data gathered from the product is then sent to a smartphone app, via the Internet of Things, with the information used to direct athletes to the most suitable footwear on the market, minimising their risk of injury. The information can also be shared with physiotherapists and podiatrists to monitor

injuries.

CPI supported Mr Downs by designing and implementing electronics to log sensor measurements, as well as adding wireless integration into a smartphone app and offline tool for algorithm development. The project builds on CPI's strong track record in artificial intelligence through printed electronics and represents another example of its work across the Internet of Things, which connects devices via the web and allows them to send and receive data.

CPI has created rolls of thin, flexible inlays containing multiple electronic components. These can be converted into labels or embedded into smart products, such as pharmaceutical packaging capable of monitoring a drug's condition. This printed electronics work takes place at NETPark, Sedgfield, and a sister base which opened earlier this year at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

Mr Downs, whose company is based in Washington, Wearside, received further support from the North-East Business and Innovation Centre's (BIC) SME Innovation Programme, with Northumbria University working on an artificial intelligence algorithm for his product. The collaboration also included support from Creative Fuse North-East, the University of Sunderland, and RTC North. Mr Downs hopes to launch this product in the new year. *Photo: CPI has helped Craig Downs take mymo forward. Mr Downs is pictured with a wearable sock that uses artificial intelligence to monitor a runner's gait before sending the information to a smartphone.*

## STUDENT LEADERS TRY, ACHIEVE AND INSPIRE

The student leadership team at Greenfield Community College have been delivering assemblies to the full school this week to feed back the many achievements made over recent months in key areas.

Following their campaign to understand and find possible resolutions to issues concerning students and staff the student leaders were able to stand up and relay how they have approached each item and the positive changes that they have supported. To communicate their achievements student leaders also screened their very own film which outlined how these changes have taken place. The making of the inspirational film was an experience which not only acted as an inspiring visual example but empowered the students to be confident and able to voice their own individual experiences. The team spoke about the impact of student feedback and how this had influenced the new house system, something which has brought the school together and improved communication systems within the school. The film also depicted the 'feet' campaign, where every student had the chance to make positive changes and have a voice, explaining how their ideas and worries can create a footprint on the school and how students and staff are listening.

Student leaders at Greenfield have grown in confidence, they have spoken at a local conference, outlining their ideas and how they are working to take these forward. Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity, has been supporting and developing



the team and is very proud of the progress they have made, "They have had a big impact on school improvement and have made sure the dialogue between staff and students stays open. They have influenced many whole school changes and decisions including the house system, staff training and school

uniform" said Katy. The team are expanding and have had a high number of interest forms from other students. They are looking forward to other great achievements in the New Year including developing a student voice conference. What great leaders of the future.

## "Behind the Scenes"



On Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm in Middridge Village Hall a talk entitled 'Behind the Scenes': The Norman Cornish Sketchbooks will be given by Mike Thornton. Norman Cornish remains one of the leading 20th Century British artists. His collection of 269 sketchbooks, catalogued by his family in 2013, reveal a fascinating story and historical record, behind his most iconic works. The images inside,

chronicle a by-gone era and evoke strong emotional attachments for many people. Using these images, Mike will illustrate the development of Norman's work, the legacy projects and some aspects of his centenary year in 2019. Copies of 'Behind the Scenes' will be available at a special offer of £25. Entry for Non Members is £3.00 including refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

## 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: Paul**  
**01325 300212**  
or [paul@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:paul@newtonnews.co.uk)

## Children's Christmas Party

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre present the Annual Children's Christmas Party on Monday 24th December from 12noon to 3pm. Tickets are priced at £4.00 per child (for under 10s only). There will also be a bouncy castle, soft play, face painting, games and disco - with a very special visit from Santa. Please call into the Leisure Centre for your ticket.

## Furniture Factory Outlet

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Facebook – [affordablefurnitureuk](https://www.facebook.com/affordablefurnitureuk)



Open weekdays and Saturday



# NEWTON AYCLIFFE CHRISTMAS ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

All events located at: 37 Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. DL5 4DU (opposite Savers)

L52-18

NOVEMBER		
Friday 30th	6pm-10pm	Street Triage
DECEMBER		
Saturday 1st	6pm-10pm	Street Triage
Sunday 2nd	11am-4pm	Santa
Wednesday 5th	1pm-5pm	AARMS (Aycliffe Alcohol Recovery and Mutual Support Group)
Thursday 6th	1pm-5pm	Changing Lives
Friday 7th	9am-1pm	Fire Service Livin (ASB Officer)
Monday 10th	1pm-5pm	YourCountryYourMoney (FamilyFinance/Meet the experts day) Livin (Western Ward)
Tuesday 11th	1pm-5pm	Livin (Shafto Ward) 1-2pm Livin (Central/Agnew/Burnhill Ward) 3-5pm DCC - Private Landlords Department Hub of Wishes
Wednesday 12th	9am-1pm	Changing Lives Livin (ASB Officer)
Friday 14th	6pm-10pm	Street Triage
Saturday 15th	6pm-10pm	Junction 7 Street Triage
Sunday 16th	11am-4pm	Santa
Wednesday 19th	9am-1pm	YourCountryYourMoney (Family Finance/Meet the experts day) Livin (ASB Officer) DCC - Neighbourhood Interventions Officer
Thursday 20th	1pm-5pm	Fire Service Livin (Simpasture Ward) 1-3pm
Friday 21st	12pm-4pm	DCC - Private Landlords Department Livin (Aycliffe Central/Agnew/Burnhill ward) 1-3pm

Altogether Better Policing



# [editorial]

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

## PAST

A community with any depth is rooted in, and has a respect for, its past. You will read in this week's Newton News of the work that the Heritage Action Zone is doing in Bishop Auckland to restore the Bishop's Palace, but we have to admit that our attention was caught by news of former Greenfield Headteacher Mike

Thornton's forthcoming talk in Middridge Village Hall about Norman Cornish, his father-in-law. Cornish started work in the mines in 1933, and his sketches constitute an iconic portrayal of our area in the mid-twentieth century. It is a record of a life we have lost ... but in Cornish's evocative paintings one becomes all but part of that busy, vibrant world.

## PRESENT

We live in an amazing place, and this week's Newton News carries stories of some remarkable local achievements. Hardwick Park, you will read, has been named the best destination for a free family day out in

the North East. Also, in this week's edition, we celebrate Stiller's state-of-the-art business fleet; the 'Chartered Financial Planning Firm of the Year' award for Aycliffe Business Park's Eldon Financial Planning ... and stunning growth at Crafter's Companion, which is expanding in the US after sales there hit \$22 million for the year.

## FUTURE

Finally, you can glimpse in this week's columns a hint of our area getting itself ready for the world of the future. We are encouraged by the partnership and ambition of Hitachi and Bombardier as they showcase their design innovations. Who can fail to be fascinated by the story of Craig Downs and his intelligent socks! And most encouraging of all? Surely it has to be the launch of Future Business Magnates, in which our schoolchildren team up with local businesses in a competition which will develop the business skills and entrepreneurial flair of the next generation.

## Work Begins to Transform Historic Building in Heritage Action Zone

Work is starting to transform one of County Durham's oldest buildings into a new, learning space.

The West Mural Tower, in the grounds of Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, dates back to at least the 15th century and was built as a defensive gatehouse guarding the original, main entrance to the Castle when it was home to the Prince Bishops of Durham.

Now, the Grade I listed building is being rescued from decades of deterioration and decay as part of The Auckland Project visitor destination, with support from Historic England's local Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) scheme.

David Ronn, Project Manager at The Auckland Project, said: "The West Mural Tower has been through many incarnations in its 500 year history, including as a gatehouse for access to Auckland Castle and a cottage for those taking care of the Deer Park.

"It has fallen into disrepair over the last century but we've been working hard with Historic England and



Durham County Council in the past year to make the building safe. We are now looking forward to giving it a totally new lease of life and making it functional for people to use and enjoy."

The transformation of West Mural Tower is being funded primarily by The Auckland Project, with a £50,000 grant from Historic England as part of the Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone scheme and £5,000 from the Architectural Heritage Fund. Bishop Auckland is one of 18 locations across the UK to have been granted Heritage Action Zone status and will benefit from a five-year programme designed to reinvigorate its historic Market Place, high streets and other parts of the conservation area. It is being delivered by Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone in partnership with Durham County Council and the Brighter Bishop Auckland Regeneration Partnership.

Work to bring the West Mural Tower back into use will include stabilising the existing building, removing and then rebuilding some of the walls using original stone, and reinstating the medieval roof using green oak and other traditional materials. The original first

floor will also be recreated, with the installation of windows and basic services such as heating and electricity to make it fit for the present day.

The Auckland Project has appointed experienced, family-run, Tyne Valley company, Heritage Consolidation Ltd, to carry out the work, with designs by Hexham-based Doonan Architects, which specialises in working with historic buildings and conservation projects.

It is expected to take around six months to complete, with the room in use from spring/summer 2019.

Three volunteers have also been recruited to follow the progress of West Mural Tower and get hands on with the work wherever possible, assisting with activities such as pointing and galleting - using smaller pieces of stone or slate to help block up large gaps between building masonry.

The new space will be used by The Auckland Project's Engagement Team to provide a variety of learning opportunities for small groups and families. For more information about The Auckland Project, visit [www.aucklandproject.org](http://www.aucklandproject.org) or search for Auckland Project on Facebook and Twitter.

## Ghostly Tour for Greenfield Students



Students from Greenfield Community College were given the opportunity to sample the spirit of history as they visited the aptly named Chillingham Castle. Staff and students visited the heritage site in Northumberland to take part in the infamous historical ghost tour. It is reputedly the most haunted castle in England as many victims fell to the regular battles for the border between England and Scotland.

Unlike many school excursions the tour started in total darkness as the guide described the various ghostly sightings and the human remains within the castle walls. Students spent two hours exploring the ancient building as history was brought to life through ghostly tales.

Chillingham has been home to the Grey family since the 12th century and students learned about its historical significance as well as sampling the eerie atmosphere. This was an experience that the group of students will not easily forget as they continue their studies.

## AYCLIFFE RADIO

### NEW Programme Schedule

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



**Every Night from 12 Midnight to 3am**  
**cuddle up and listen to classic "Love Songs"**

### MONDAY

9-12noon	Amy in the Morning	Amy & Guest(s)
12-2pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
2-3pm	Afternoon Delight	
3-5pm	Driving Home with	Paul Baker
<b>"Through the Decades"</b>		
6-7pm	60s Show	Karl Simons
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Paul Gittins
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Steven Harrison

### TUESDAY

12-2pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
2-3pm	Afternoon Delight	
3-5pm	Driving Home with	Paul Baker
<b>Sports Show sponsored by Honest John</b>		
6-7.30pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
11th Dec	<b>Helen Clark - NA Women's FC Manager</b>	
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby
9.30-12am	Motown Classics	

### WEDNESDAY

12-2pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
2-3pm	Afternoon Delight	
3-5pm	Driving Home with	Paul Baker
<b>Community Connect &amp; Rewind sponsored by ROF59</b>		
5-6.30pm	Community Connect	Amy & Phil
6.30-8pm	Rewind	Amy & Phil
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gary & Alby

### THURSDAY

12-2pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
2-3pm	Afternoon Delight	
3-5pm	Driving Home with	Paul Baker
6-7pm	POLITICAL (R)	John D Clare
7-8pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
8-10pm	"Beat" Roote	Graeme Roote
10-12am	UK Number 1's	

### FRIDAY

9-12pm	Amy in the Morning	Amy & Guest(s)
12-2pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
2-3pm	Afternoon Delight	
3-5pm	Driving Home with	Paul Baker
6-8pm	Tech-House Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	<b>Guest Presenter Session</b>	

7th Dec	<b>Nathan Abbott</b> - 90s Classix	
14th Dec	<b>Andy Little</b> (CentralFM, Spain) - 80s	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gary & Alby

### SATURDAY

9-12pm	Kitchen Floor Fillers	
12-2pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
2-4pm	School Disco	
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby

### "THE SATURDAY NIGHT EXPERIENCE"

6-8pm	Evening Session	JimJams
8-9pm	Chart & Dance Remixes	Alan Hastie
9-10pm	Retro Tech House Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa

### SUNDAY

8-9.30am	Aycliffe Goes Country	
9.30-11am	Rewind (R)	
11-12pm	Conversations with Mary	Mary O'Sullivan
12-1.30pm	Sports Round Up (R)	Darren & Lee
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin McNeillie
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7pm	Church Service	Xcel Centre
7-8pm	POLITICAL	John D. Clare
9th Dec	<b>Guests: Eddy Adam, Linzi Beal &amp; Tracy James</b>	
8-10pm	The Live Rock Show	"CAD"

Check our website for full schedule

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

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## Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe

present the annual

# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Come along to sing your favourite Christmas Songs and Carols with performances by Aycliffe Schools

*Dedicated to the memory of the founder of this annual event, Syd Howarth*

**Tuesday 11th December**

**1.00pm to 2.30pm**

**Aycliffe Leisure Centre**

*Admission is FREE - Everyone Welcome*





## Out of School Child Wins Competition



Casey, a child who regularly attends Woodham Burn Out of School, has won the age 7–9 category Annual Fireworks Safety Poster Competition facilitated by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Children could use any medium to create their poster, i.e. crayon, paint, felt tip, collage etc. Casey used a range of medium to create her winning design. The theme of the poster was fire and firework safety. The Mayor of Great Aycliffe presented Casey with gift vouchers.

Mrs Edwards, Head Teacher said “This annual

competition is needed because it reminds children of being safe around fire and fireworks”.

Maureen and Sandra who manage the Out of School said “We are so proud of Casey, she created her winning poster at one of the Out of School sessions she attended and we remember her being so delighted with her creation, as were we” Just a reminder to parents/carers Out of School sessions are available up to and including Friday 21st December and then re-opening on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

## Breakfast Boost From Kellogg's

To celebrate 20 years of supporting school breakfast clubs, Kellogg's has awarded Walworth Primary School £1,000 to enhance the club and help feed children in the morning.

Walworth Primary School was one of many schools throughout the United Kingdom that was selected to receive the breakfast boost this anniversary year, with one grant to be given for every school day of 2018. Kellogg's has supported 3,000 school breakfast clubs with funds, food and training over the last 20 years – that's 70 million bowls of cereal to children all over the UK since 1998. Breakfast clubs help with everything from attendance and attainment to alleviating hunger and providing pre-school care. 68 per cent of teachers believe pupils would struggle to concentrate in class without their breakfast club, according to Kellogg's research.

Mr Wallbanks, Head Teacher said: “We are so grateful to receive this generous donation. We have since been able to purchase resources and food items for our club.

These resources will help us to provide our breakfast club services for our children and their families thanks to the support from Kellogg's.”

Kate Prince, Corporate Social Responsibility manager, at Kellogg's, said “We're proud to have spent 20 years supporting so many schools across the UK. We believe all children should have the opportunity to start the day with breakfast, and



we know that equipment and resources are just as important to clubs as the food itself.”

## MP Offers Support to AARMS Group



Our local MP, Phil Wilson, gave up time from his busy schedule to visit the AARMS (Aycliffe Alcohol Recovery Mutual Support) group who wanted to raise awareness of the diminishing help and support currently available for people experiencing alcohol related issues.

After hearing testimonials from AARMS members about the services available

locally at the present time, he offered to take the issues to a higher level and also to raise this with a local GP and potentially the Health Minister.

The group will be meeting with Phil Wilson MP again in the New Year to discuss any progress made.

If you or anyone you know would like to share your experiences (in confidence) relating to alcohol recovery services please contact Val on 07598 994054.

## 14 DAYS SOBER

Dear Sir,  
Have you ever thought you may be drinking too much and can't cut down?  
If, like me, you have failed Stoptober and Dry January many times. Take advantage of the help and support that is available in Newton Aycliffe.

AARMS (Aycliffe Alcohol Recovery Mutual Support), run by Val Fawcett and her team, offer non-judgemental support and advice on giving up or cutting down. It is a self-funding group reliant on donations and fund-raising activities. For more information give Val a call on 07598 994054.

## Schoolchildren Go Global for Popular Business Competition



Young entrepreneurs have been set the challenge of thinking global when developing their business ideas for a competition designed to inspire enterprise skills among schoolchildren.

Future Business Magnates (FBM) – an annual competition run by Business Durham, the economic development organisation for County Durham – was launched on 1st November at Newton Aycliffe's Xcel Centre with the challenge: Made in County Durham, Sold to the World.

Influential names from the business world, including Bignall Group, Ebac, Hydram, Waterstones, CA Group, Robertson Construction, Roman Limited, Franks the Flooring Store and Zumtobel Group will partner 18 school teams from across County Durham and provide mentoring and support over the next few months.

Sarah Slaven, operations director for Business Durham, which works on behalf of Durham County Council, said: “Pupils taking part in Future Business Magnates have always proved just how imaginative County Durham's young people can be. We are looking forward to seeing the innovative ideas they will come up with in this year's competition.”

“Pupils will be encouraged to draw on all of the resources available to them, from their schools, their business partners, and their networks to develop a business idea that has global appeal. We want to see the teams developing a product

or service that can be made using the skills found here in County Durham, and be exported around the world.” Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet Member for economic regeneration, said: “Our young people are the business people of tomorrow so it's great that this competition gets them thinking about enterprise.”

“We hope they take a lot from the experience of working with big names from the private sector and we're really looking forward to seeing the fruits of their creativity.”

Over the next eight months, around 180 pupils will attend a series of specially designed workshops and work with their mentors to develop a business idea, create a prototype and understand how to market and finance their product or service.

Pupils will present their finished concept to the judges and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in June next year. FBM has helped develop the business acumen and creative flair of hundreds of secondary school children since it was first established in 2005.

The winner of last year's competition was St John's School and Sixth Form College, in Bishop Auckland, who created Generation Jigsaw, a product aimed at connecting generations and encouraging conversations in a world saturated by technology. Following the competition, the team is continuing to further develop their product with a view to taking it to market.

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# Woodham Burn Primary Promoting Bedtime Reading



Woodham Burn Primary School have been looking closely at reading stories this term. Working in partnership with Usbourne Books prompting the importance and enjoyment of bedtime reading. Award winning service to schools, Usbourne Books support every level of your pupils' education. Anne-Marie from Usbourne Books visited nursery children and their parents and lead on bedtime reading sessions. It was great fun because the children and

family members dressed up in their pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers and brought along a teddy or soft toy of their choice, at the end of the session the children had warm milk and a cookie. Usbourne Books also had a number of suitable bedtime reading books for the families to purchase. Miss Green, Nursery Lead said "This is a lovely opportunity for our children and their families to share stories. We have many opportunities to encourage children's love of books

including our lending library and we have a book focus each half term". Mrs Edwards, Head Teacher said "Thank you to Usbourne Books, we really appreciate the time and effort provided to our families, encouraging them to read daily, the families loved the event and really got into the spirit of the theme by wearing their pyjamas".

## Scranimals 3rd Pet Show

Scranimals are proud to present a Family Fun Dog Show and Fete on Sunday 16th December 2018 from 11.30am to 4pm at the OakLeaf Sports Complex in the Sports Hall. All are welcome. Pedigree, Cross Breeds and Heinz57 - Something for everyone. Show classes are £1.50 entry per dog per class. Games £1 per dog per game. There will also be craft stalls, pet stalls and more available during the event. Rosettes, trophies and prizes will be awarded up to 6th place. There are still spaces available for more stall holders and local businesses. If interested please email Diana at [scranimals1@gmail.com](mailto:scranimals1@gmail.com) or call 07817 622051.

## Rotary Club Honour Young Golfers

Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club honoured the young golfers of Woodham Golf Club on 3rd December by presenting the Junior player of the year, James King (centre) and older player of the year, Harry Lawson (left), with the Richard Gent Memorial Trophies at the golf club's presentation evening. The trophies are donated by the Rotary Club in memory of the late Rotarian Richard Gent, his widow - Honorary Rotarian, Margaret, is pictured with Rotary Club President John Bean after making the presentations.



Also in the picture are Graeme Storm (leading golf professional in our area) and guest of honour

for the evening and Chris Lawson (Junior Liason Officer at Woodham Golf Club).



## COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by  
County Councillor John Clare

A busy week for newsbits, with a range of news items, two newsletters, and two very informative reports ... plus some interesting things for a family weekend. Find more information on my blog at: [bit.ly/CNB87](http://bit.ly/CNB87)

And join me on Aycliffe Radio, 7-8pm, Sunday 9 December, with my guest Cllr Eddy Adam, to find out what DCC is doing about the environment: [bit.ly/ARLIVE](http://bit.ly/ARLIVE)

**COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS**  
• On Saturday 1 December, DCC flew the World Aids Day flag (DCC sexual health services).

• County Durham is facing the worst health funding cuts in the country.

• Identity and Devolution stakeholder meeting, Wednesday 28 November.

• Great Aycliffe Town Council Recreation meeting, Wednesday 28 November.

• The skate park in the Town Park is now replaced and open.

• A pioneering harm reduction drug safety testing service is available in Durham.

• Sedgfield CLP Panel report on gender-based violence.

• Hardwick Park has been

named the best destination in the North East for a free family day out in the Family Favourites Awards.

• HealthWatch County Durham December newsletter.

• North-East England Nature Partnership Autumn Newsletter.

• 'Forgotten Workers' - a Durham University Business School report on in-work poverty.

• Consultation: 'Durham 2030 - Our Vision for the Future'.

• Business News: Crafter's Companion is planning a new US HQ as revenues near \$22million.

### THINGS TO DO

• Festive Family Story Trail, Locomotion Museum Shildon, every day 10am-4pm, FREE.

• Japanese Iron Snake, Durham Oriental Museum (5-11s), drop-in, 1-3pm, Saturday 15 December, FREE.

• Christmas decorations, Palace Green Library (5-11s), drop-in, 1-3pm, 15-16 December, FREE.

• Father Christmas in the Park, Hardwick Park, various timeslots, 15, 16, 21 and 22 December, £10.50 per child, phone 03000 262 899

## Churches Together in Great Aycliffe

### St Andrew's Church

December 24th at 3pm  
Carols by Candlelight  
December 24th at 11:30pm  
Midnight Mass

### Xcel Church

December 23rd at 10:30am  
Christmas Family Service  
December 24th at 6pm  
Christmas Eve  
Family Carol Service

### Methodist Church

December 23rd at 6pm  
Carol Service  
December 25th at 10:30am  
Christmas Day Celebration

### St Clare's Church

December 15/16th  
SHINE Christmas Show  
December 22nd at 4pm  
Messy Christmas Party  
December 24th at 4:30pm  
Christingle Service  
December 24th 11:30pm  
Midnight Mass

### St Elizabeth's Church

December 19th at 7pm  
Quiet Christmas Service  
December 23rd at 4pm  
Christingle Service  
December 25th at 10am  
Celebration Service

### Harvest Christian Centre

December 16th at 10:30am  
Carol Service  
December 16th at 6:30pm  
Christmas Special  
(In Partnership with  
New Generation Church)

### St Thomas'

December 24th at 4pm  
Christmas Eve Mass  
December 25th at 9am  
Christmas Day Mass  
**St Mary's**  
December 24th at 5:30pm  
Family Mass  
December 24th at 8pm  
Christmas Eve Mass  
December 25th at 10am  
Christmas Morning  
Mass

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT  
SERVICES & EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE CHURCH DIRECTLY USING THE  
RELEVANT CONTACT DETAILS:

**Methodist Church**  
Minister Andrew Bryer Tel: 01388 778207

**The Parish of Great Aycliffe**  
St. Clare's | St. Andrew's | St. Elizabeth's  
Rev. Ann Anderson Tel: 01325 315194  
[www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk](http://www.parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk)

**Harvest Christian Centre**  
Pastor Geoff Walvin Tel: 01325 308284  
[www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk](http://www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk)

**St Mary's | Great Aycliffe & St Thomas' | Shildon**  
Father Tony Cornforth Tel: 01325 313611  
[www.aycliffecatholic.org](http://www.aycliffecatholic.org)

**XCEL Church**  
Pastor John Greenow Tel: 01325 329500  
[www.xcelchurch.com](http://www.xcelchurch.com)



## Water Polo Presentation Evening



Sedgefield Water Polo Club held its annual presentation evening at the RAFA Club in Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 24th November. The evening was a fantastic success and was attended by players, coaches, parents and the Mayor of Newton Aycliffe, John Clark who assisted with presenting the certificates of participation to the club members.

The Club also held a raffle with a range of prizes donated by parents and local businesses. All proceeds from the raffle – totalling £210.10 – will be donated to Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group during December. On behalf of the club, we would like to thank all those who donated prizes and purchased tickets, helping support a local good cause!

### Trophy winners were:

*Mini - Players Player*

**Kyle Alderson**

*Mini - Male Coaches*

*Player of the Year*

**Kyle Alderson**

*Mini - Female Coaches*

*Player of the Year*

**Luci Li**

*Junior - Players Player*

**Ben Alderson & Jonathan Jones**

*Junior - Male Coaches*

*Player of the Year*

**Max Byles**

*Junior - Female Coaches*

*Player of the Year*

**Ella Boyer**

*Senior - Male Players*

*Player*

**John Pratt**

*Senior - Male Coaches*

*Player of the Year*

**Ben Stephenson**

*Senior - Female Coaches*

*Player of the Year*

**Kate Harrison**

*The George Carpenter Cup*

*for Overall Achievement*

**John Pratt**

Anyone aged 8 years and over who interested in trying out this fun and energetic sport is welcome to come join us for a free trial on a Saturday afternoon at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Simply email [sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com](mailto:sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com) or contact 07579 030598 for further information.

## VANE ROAD NETBALL SUCCESS



Over the last three weeks our two netball teams have been participating in local netball leagues organised by the SSP. Our Wednesday night team did really well to finish top of their league on goal difference and our Thursday night team were equally successful, remaining undefeated in all 8 of their games to claim the gold medals. A huge well done to both teams for displaying great skills and teamwork.

## NEWTON PRESS TREE PLANTING WITH THE WOODLAND TRUST

On Thursday 29th November Newton Press took part in an active day creating new native woodland in association with Premier Paper's Carbon Capture programme.

Taking place at Hedley Hall, an ancient woodland just south of Newcastle, Newton Press were amongst 30 tree planters busy working alongside the Woodland Trust, to plant 1,300 Oak, Silver Birch, Hazel, and Cherry saplings.

The Hedley Hall woodland site is just 2 miles south of Sunnyside and 8 miles south of Newcastle. The woods occupy part of Hedley Fell overlooking Beamish Open



Stephen Gosnay, Key Account Manager for Newton Press

Air Museum and the town of Stanley.

Newton Press' commitment to the Carbon Capture programme captures the CO2 emissions from their paper purchases, providing an effective way to reduce their carbon footprint whilst creating and maintaining native woodland here in the UK.

To find out more about joining Newton Press' dedication to the Carbon Capture programme visit [www.newtonpress.net](http://www.newtonpress.net)

More information about the Woodland Trust and Hedley Hall woodland is available here - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/4459/hedley-hall/>

## Spectrum Skating Performance



Skaters from Spectrum Roller Skating Club performed a demonstration of their talents last weekend at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre. The skaters showed off their Christmas routines as well as their programmes from national competitions throughout the year.

"We would like to thank everyone that came

along and supported the club, the raffle raised £41 for club funds."

Next weekend 22 skaters from the club ranging from 5-adults will travel to Bolton to take part in a skating exhibition. You can follow their story and keep up to date with the club by liking their social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

## Ineos Golf Club AGM & Presentation Night



John Bainbridge receiving Golf of the Year award



Michael Howlett receiving the Club Championship Trophy

INEOS Golf Club held the 59th Annual General Meeting on Thursday 29th November 2018. The Golf Club was established in 1959 when the site was under ownership of Bakelite. The course was originally located just off School Aycliffe Lane but moved to the south side of the plant in 1981 following the Resin Plant expansion. The course has proved popular for both

employees and the local community. Pictured above top is John Bainbridge receiving Golf of the Year award and above bottom photo is Michael Howlett receiving the Club Championship Trophy from Club Captain Anthony Garnett. Anyone interested in joining the Golf Club please contact Membership Secretary, Lee Killip on 07500 044532.

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[www.newtonpress.net](http://www.newtonpress.net)



# Youthy Football Round Up

Due to the rain, only two boys' games went ahead this weekend. **U12 Eagles** battled hard and gave a valiant effort against a higher division but went out of the cup with their heads held high. The opposition's Coach was impressed with the Eagles and spoke highly of them after the match. All lads should be proud of themselves with Isaac named MOM due to an outstanding performance in goal. The **U10 Eagles** had a very narrow defeat this weekend, a great all round performance was encouraging and shows the lads are developing well - great potential on show. Kai received a well deserved MOM for breaking up opposition play and commencing many counter attacks.

The girls mini soccer games were all played, and they flew the Youth flag high with three wins. **U7 Wildcats** had a 3-1 victory, with the girls all showing what they learned in training; passing, control, turning and moving into space. The girls started quickly and got into the game well. Skye amazing in goal, Kaitlyn, Sofia and Nyah strong in defence, Mia and Neve worked well in midfield with Ava and Lucy working hard together in attack. The lead was taken after 6 minutes when Ava was fouled during a run on goal - the sweet free kick was hit into the top corner - even Pickford couldn't have saved it! Towards half time, Neve won the ball and made a run, she was fouled, but advantage was played as Ava picked up the ball and scored - taking half time to 2-0. Wildcats were threatened during the second

half but some strong defending from Sofia kept the opposition out and allowed counter attacks through. A goal kick from Skye found the feet of the opposition, and a return shot when one on one gave the opposition their first goal. The girls continued to attack and minutes from the end of the match, Sofia won a tackle, Mia took the ball, passed to Ava who passed in to Lucy - she controlled the ball with her left, turned and hit a fantastic right foot shot into the bottom corner - a team goal to give a comfortable win.

**U10 Wildcats** played their first game on 3G this season, and won 3-0. Despite a slow start, their signs of real quality shone - goals from Demi Lee, Thea and Faith and a clean sheet from Safiye and Lana. Thea took Player of the Match following some fantastic runs and tackles, all with a smile on her face.

**U9 Angels** continued their winning ways with a 6-1 victory. The game started with play being end to end, and Holly making a fantastic save at the ten minute mark. The girls conceded shortly after, however this spurred them on, and play tightened up. The girls were passing well, and a great combination play between Hannah and Heidi led to a strike on goal, although their keeper saved it, the ball was slotted in by Erin who had her 'never give up' hat on today. Half time was 1-1 and after a quick talk, the girls went straight back out with high energy.

The second half was a goal fest, but more importantly each goal was a team effort. A throw in from Erin to Heidi was crossed to Isobel for an

unstoppable goal. Sophie crossed the ball to Erin during a run down the right wing, Erin tapped it confidently back into Sophie's path who didn't hesitate in smashing it into the net. Sophie went on to score again following a keeper error. Further link up play led to Hannah making a fantastic pass across the pitch to Heidi who took the score to 5-1. The opposition were asked if they wished to play another girl, as per the Power Play rule. Play continued with 15 minutes to go as 8v7. This didn't stop Isobel getting another goal - following many runs and attempts - this shows what determination and patience can bring. The girls' team work was fantastic today with Star Player going to Belle, who showed great skill in the first half and kept a clean sheet in goal during the second half. An unbeaten run so far this season for the Angels.

**Wildcats Girls Development** The end of the latest Wildcats development sessions with Newton Aycliffe Youth FC, was marked by a fun tournament with all girls having some Christmas fun. They were sporting their Wildcats hoodies and big smiles, as well as taking away their trophies and chocolate Rudolph's. The new Wildcats sessions begin on Sunday 13 January, 10-11am at Greenfield School.

To register your interest or for further details, please contact Berni on 07939 045242.

If you or a member of your family are interested in playing football and being part of our club, please visit our website [nayfc.com](http://nayfc.com) where you can find lots of information and links to teams.



# RUNNING CLUB NEWS



Jane Burnside 34.17, Susan Clark 34.43, Eve Doe 39.13 and Jan McLuckie.

For anyone interested in joining the club, you can simply turn up at one of our sessions, all of which start from the Oakleaf Complex in Newton Aycliffe. Monday night is beginners run at 6.30p.m., Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00 p.m., and Thursday is a track session and this takes place at Shildon Track. Further details can be found on our website or facebook pages or alternatively you can message the club via facebook for more information.



The focus of the past weeks racing was on Saturday 24th November 2018 for the last race in the Club's Championship. This meant that very few members took part in parkruns. That said, Craig Robinson secured a PB at Shildon Parkrun in 30.01.

Turning to the race on Saturday this was a race that is hugely popular with Aycliffe Running Club despite taking place in Ravenstonedale in Cumbria. This is a 10k race over undulating terrain. Fortunately this year (unlike previous years) the weather conditions were perfect. In total there were 36 members of ARC who took part in this race (with at least two members achieving PB's), some of whom travelled on a coach and some who drove.

First home for the club was Richard Campbell in 41.39, followed by Andy Talbot 41.46, Martyn Knox 42.13, Richard Holland 42.16, Mark Bainbridge 44.15, Susan Cranswick 45.55, Trevor Needham 46.04, Peter Smith 46.50, Dave Blewitt 47.17, Christine Mudd 48.15, Angela Sutherland 49.54, Andrew Lumley 50.49, John Heywood 51.03, Sandra Collins 51.09, Simon Matthew Turner 51.21, Rob Nicholson 51.52, Trish Kay 51.59, Nick Gilling 53.10, Mick Brunskill 53.57,

Warren Raine 55.00, Ian Baronowski 55.11, Alan Kellett 55.35, Heather Fenwick 55.55, Anne Kellett 57.03, Richard Tonge 58.02, John Richardson 58.43, Lindsey Brown 58.58, Bev Phillippo 59.22, Kathleen Tonge 59.35, Denise Evans 1.00.06, Judith Porter 1.01.55, Gemma Holland 1.03.40, Susan Clark 1.04.06, Eve Doe 1.09.58, Jan McLuckie 1.16.24 and Sam Baronowski 1.16.26.

It should also be mentioned that some runners achieved prizes. These were, Angela Sutherland 1st Female 0/45, Trish Kay for 1st place Female 0/55 and Susan Cranswick, Angela Sutherland and Christine Mudd who were first place Ladies Team. Celebrations took place in the Black Swan Pub in the village afterwards.

On Sunday 25th November, several runners attended the Gavin Duffy Memorial Race in Cowpen Bewley. This is one of a series of winter 5k trail runs organised by Muddy Roads.

Although running for his first team, Paul Dalton finished in 20.10. He was followed by Dez Fielden, the first runner home for ARC in 21.18, Richard Holland 22.54, Dave Blewitt 26.12, Michelle Scott 26.17, John Burnside 26.28, Alan Wilks 26.40, David Stothard 28.05,

# Greenfield Support 'Children in Need'

Students at Greenfield Community College were once again enthusiastic fund-raisers for the annual 'Children in Need' event. Staff and students were given the go-ahead for a non-uniform day which in itself raised a huge sum as those involved paid £1 for the privilege of dressing down for the day.

Students willingly gave up their time at break and lunch to organise and take part in the many charity events that were hosted on both sites. This included some regular fund raising such as cake stalls, guess the number of sweets, tombola, as well as a spin on a popular classic - pin the tail on Pudsey! The activities raised over £1,000, a brilliant reflection on the hard work and enthusiasm of staff and students to raise funds for such a deserving cause. Greenfield Community College are committed to supporting activities such as 'Children in Need' as they encourage and support students in their overall learning experience.

Assistant Headteacher, Mr John Richardson, helped co-ordinate activities and was thrilled with the level of support. "It is a testament to the staff and students who gave up their time to be part of the event, it is an important event in the Greenfield calendar, well done to everyone involved", said Mr Richardson.

# Situations VACANT

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

## Appointment of Part Time Sports Attendant

Spinal Scale - Point 7-9 - £8.70 per hour

Do you want to work in a small friendly environment with the opportunity to expand your skills and knowledge in the leisure industry? We have a permanent, part-time vacancy for a Sports Attendant at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. This is currently an 18 hour post and will involve a range of duties to assist in the provision of an effective and high quality leisure service including setting up and de-rigging of equipment and cleaning. You will be required to work on a rota basis including evenings and weekends.

Applications are invited for the above post which forms part of the team within the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

The candidate must be literate and numerate, together with previous experience of working within a sports environment.

The post holders will be required to work on a rota basis, including evenings and weekends.

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Leisure Manager Judith Thexton on 01325 300600 or by email at [judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE: A CV will not be accepted for this post, you must complete an application form.**

Closing Date: Wednesday 2 January 2019 – 12 noon

Interviews will be held on **WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2019.**

Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, e-mailing: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk), or from the Council website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

# WALKERS

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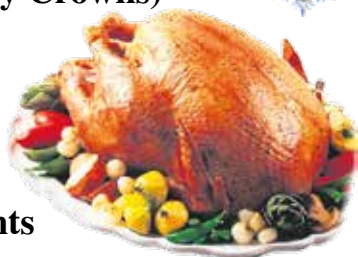
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# MEETING CANCELLED Pennine Achieves Record Sales & Welcomes New Director

Owing to the rewiring and refurbishment of The Western Area Community Centre, the Residents Meeting, which was scheduled for 12th December, is now cancelled. A provisional date for the next meeting which will be held in January has not yet been confirmed.

The Santa Grotto will still take place, hopefully, on 22nd and 23rd December from 11.00am till 3.00pm. There will also be a children's Christmas Disco on 21st December from 5.00pm till 7.00pm. Further details 07967 901477.

North East-based Pennine Home Improvements has smashed its targets once again, achieving sales 17 percent above predictions. The company has delivered a 45 per cent increase on 2017 performance for the same period, while welcoming

a new Group Retail Operations Director. August sales topped £1,326,898, something Pennine credits to its customer-centric ethos and 40-plus years of delivering high-quality products and service consistently. The appointment of industry renowned Shaun McAllister will bolster the company's performance further. Shaun brings a wealth of experience from his 10 years as Divisional and Conservatory Operations Director at Anglian Home Improvements, and most recently, as Director of Central

Services at Everest. Mark Tinnion, Managing Director at Pennine Home Improvements, said: "Adding Shaun to our business is a strategic move that demonstrates the calibre of our brand, in being able to attract industry pioneers such as him. We're delighted to have Shaun on board and look forward to seeing his experience add value to our business." Shaun's role has been created to build on the unprecedented success of the company's sales and to further strengthen its service operations. The focus



Shaun McAllister, Group Retail Operations Director

on maintaining the company's position at the cutting edge of the industry while delivering the best possible customer experience will be high on his agenda. Shaun McAllister, Group Retail Operations Director, said: "It's an honour to join Pennine Home Improvements; a company that has achieved great things already, as its results show. I'm looking forward to strengthening and scaling up the operational delivery for the

company, while maintaining the focus on customer experience." Pennine Home Improvements has showrooms in Benton, Birtley, Durham and Ponteland, and offers a range of high-quality products including orangeries, conservatories, replacement roofs, windows, doors and porches with a 20-year guarantee, as standard. For more information on Pennine Home Improvements, see <https://www.penninehome.co.uk>

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**Cornmill's Christmas Extravaganza**

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Look out for the return of the Cornmill's popular social media competition from the 1st December. Customers will be given the chance to win the advent calendar's mystery prize every day until 21st, and on 22nd December one lucky winner will win all the prizes given away through the month, walking away with £1000 worth of gifts just in time for Christmas.

**Santa's Grotto (From 1st - 23rd December)**

Santa and his Elves take time out of their Christmas schedules to visit the Cornmill every weekend in December. Don't miss the chance to see Santa in his grotto.

**Christmas Garland Workshop (15th December)**

Making spirits bright, the centre invites shoppers to create their very own statement Christmas garland from 11am. Used to bring festive cheer to the home, your personalised Christmas garland can be draped over your mantel, wrapped around your banister or laid across your table.

**Elfie Selfie (December 22nd)**

One very special Elf has taken time off from helping Santa at the North Pole. He loves nothing more than having his picture taken and carries a large festive photo frame wherever he goes! Will you be lucky enough to get an Elfie Selfie?

For further information on events at the Cornmill Shopping Centre, please visit [www.cornmillcentre.co.uk](http://www.cornmillcentre.co.uk)

**Campaign Against Loneliness**

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I would like to put across a message to all the readers of the Newton News to please spare a couple minutes of your time to speak to your next door neighbour.

This is especially important if this person is living alone or are elderly.

Performing this act of kindness will make a great difference to their lonely lives knowing that someone has taken the time to talk to them.

Also, for any elderly or residents living alone who would enjoy a Christmas Dinner with others in the same situation, please contact Dorothy Bowman on 01325 308094 between 6.00pm and 7.30pm as there are still a few places available.

**The Mousetrap Coming to Darlington**

The Mousetrap, the legendary whodunnit from Dame Agatha Christie, has announced a major national tour opening in January 2019 starring Gwyneth Strong and is coming to Darlington Hippodrome in April.

This unstoppable West End hit has been delighting theatregoers for 67 years with its macabre murder mystery. Following a record-breaking 60th anniversary tour in 2012, this timeless thriller The Mousetrap returns by popular demand, embarking on an extensive new tour that will travel the length and breadth of the country giving audiences all across the UK the opportunity to discover theatre's best kept secret.

Gwyneth Strong will perform as Mrs Boyle. The cast also includes David Alcock (Mr Paravacini), Geoff Arnold (Detective Sgt. Trotter), Nick Bidadon (Giles Ralston), Lewis

Chandler (Christopher Wren), John Griffiths (Major Metcalf), Harriett Hare (Mollie Ralston) and Saskia Vaincourt-Strallen (Miss Caswell).

First seen in Nottingham in 1952 starring Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim, The Mousetrap went on to become the world's longest running stage production following its West End transfer to The

Ambassadors in 1952 and St Martins in 1973 where it has played ever since, continuing a record-breaking run with over 27,500 performances in London so far.

The Mousetrap runs at Darlington Hippodrome from Monday 29 April to Saturday 4 May.

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# SHILDON ALIVE FUNDS BOOSTED

Shildon Church Projects Raises £3/4 Million for Community Transformation  
St John's Church's Shildon Alive Project has been awarded a further £378,341 from the Big Lottery Fund for the transformation of the community of Shildon in County Durham bringing the total raised to £3/4 Million in just 5 years.

Shildon Alive, launched in 2012 by Revd Canon David Tomlinson, Priest in charge of St. John's church in the town with the help of the Big Lottery Fund and local enthusiasm. A post-industrial community that has experienced a steady economic decline since the mid-1980s.

The Revd Canon David Tomlinson said: "Shildon is the kind of place that has a great sense of community but few opportunities. Shildon Alive was launched after a listening process that engaged with the town at multiple levels and saw the opening of the first two

community gardens in 2011 and a Foodbank in 2013." Growth and awards, both local and national, followed as the outstanding nature of the work undertaken began to be recognised.

On December 3rd 2018 the Big Lottery announced that it will continue to fund the project with an additional grant of £378,341.00 spread over a four year period. This grant will not only ensure Shildon Alive continues to support the vulnerable, build community, and challenge injustice, it will allow the project to expand in new ways.

With a centre of food and finance solidarity to be opened early in 2019, Shildon Alive will be building on the experience of the last five years by continuing to enable local people to care for local people.

Canon David added: "Since our launch we have drawn down around 3/4 (three-quarter) of a million pounds in grant funding to enable people in our town to volunteer, support each other and grow in skills and understanding. We have seen almost every school child in the town engaged with growing food, we have taken the lead in challenging loan sharks, loneliness and food waste. We have encouraged a culture of sharing, for example, running a 'coats for all' campaign, sharing good stories and teaching skills such as cookery.

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"We might be in the bottom 5% economically but when it comes to looking out for each other we are in a different league altogether! The new food solidarity centre will enable us to continue the mission that Jesus began, one in which no person need go hungry, or cold, or be a prisoner to loneliness or addiction." In August this year Shildon Alive gave away its largest number of meals in one month with 1084 meals given to families struggling over the summer. Almost 10% of the town's population used the Foodbank last year with many more using the food waste donated from supermarkets to supplement low wages or benefits. Shildon Alive Project Coordinator, Paula Nelson said: "The latest grant is fantastic news as the work we have started is now secured for at least another

4 years.

The Big Lottery Fund in making the award said "[we are] 'delighted' in being able to continue to fund what is happening in Shildon."

### NOTES:

Shildon Alive works in collaboration with a range of community parties and specialist including:

- Faith in our Community (FIC)
- NE First Credit Union
- Shildon Town Council, The Area Action Partnership
- Durham County Council St. John's CofE Aided School
- Greenfield Community College
- Timothy Hackworth Primary School
- Thornhill Primary School
- Prince Bishop's Primary School
- The Church Urban Fund
- Scotto Trust
- Seedbed Foundation.

## Stiller Invests £1.7m in Fleet New Vehicles



Logistics firm Stiller Warehousing & Distribution has invested £1.7m in a fleet of 20 new vehicles to keep their trucks motoring millions of miles around the country. Newton Aycliffe-based Stiller has refreshed its fleet of 45 trucks with 20 new Mercedes Actros tractor units, each rated for 44-tonne gross vehicle weight operation. The family-run firm's vehicles each cover around 95,000 miles a year, totalling 4.3 million miles covering the length and breadth of the UK. To maintain efficiency, as well as safety for drivers, Stiller's latest trucks are powered by second-generation Euro 6 engines and come fully equipped with the latest safety features, including radar emergency stop-assist which senses oncoming traffic and automatically brakes. All vehicles also have a recording accident camera set-up fitted along with fixed vehicle phones and GPS trackers, while specially-made full-width vehicle 'catwalks' have also been

installed, which provide a safer working environment for the drivers when they're hitching up their trailers. Stiller is also spending a further £200,000 refurbishing 50,000 square foot of warehousing space to modern standards, including repairing and enhancing the floor, painting and recladding internals and installing modern LED lighting. Once completed the unit will create extra palletised storage space for Stiller which is already close to capacity at its 22-acre Newton Aycliffe site. Earlier this year, Stiller completed work on a £2m 40,000 square foot palletised distribution centre, which improved its vehicle loading times. Stiller's latest investment in equipment, people and facilities - including two new warehouses costing more than £1.8m between them - takes the company's total spend to almost £11m in the last three years. More about Stiller can be found at www.stiller.co.uk

## Aycliffe Community Engagement

ACE formerly GACAP, had its final meeting for the year on Monday in their new home at the big club.

There were a lot of regular faces and a few new. The meeting was brief, other than explaining the new roles of the treasurer. Geoff Batchelor took over as Chairman from Ron Mitchie, who had side-stepped himself and is assuming the post of Assistant Secretary which Peter Driver relinquished from, Joan Mitchie remains as treasurer.

Joan shared with the meeting that she was working on a number of different funding bids in the hope of spring boarding ACE into a more active role in the community. The meeting left plenty of time for networking and partaking of festive nibbles.

ACE resume their meetings on Monday 4th February with Samantha Scotchbrook from Advice County Durham the first speaker in the New Year.

## For Sale

### Calor Gas Heater



Calor gas heater and bottle, 1/4 full of gas for sale. £40. Tel 01325 324820

**RENT** a washing machine only £3.99 per week, no deposit, fully maintained. Bargain Buys, Shafto Way, 01325 321 678

**"ALL SORTS"** Charity Shop next to St. Clare's Church Hall with new stock and bargains galore including books, comics, annuals, CDs, DVDs, board games, Jigsaws, Royalty items, toys, glassware, crockery, novelty, collectable, vinyl records, clocks, VHC, American style comics, lamps, pictures, frames, binoculars and lots more. New stocks of Christmas gifts for all ages and remember to book your Santa costume hire early. Open 10am to 1pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

**STAIRLIFT** for sale, hardly used, very good condition, still in situ so can be seen working, £600. Tel 07572 614466

**BUILDING** materials, ladders, bags of plaster etc. £10 total for quick sale. Tel 01325 317716

**MISCELLANEOUS** house hold furniture, electrical goods etc. Cheap for quick sale. Tel 01325 317716

**CASIO** organ and stand, excellent condition, multi function instruments and songs pre set, still in box. Great Xmas gift, £50, can deliver. Tel 07894 141553

**TROMBONE** and Case, excellent condition, £70, will deliver. Tel 07894 141553

**WHEELCHAIR** £50; Walking Aid £30. Tel 07840 568670

**FREEZER** Brand new, frost free, 3 year guarantee, £175. Tel 01325 317311

**LADDER** as new, various sizes, 15ft - 18th, double extension, professional trade aluminium, offers. 7ft step ladder, 5ft double extension aluminium. Tel 01325 317716

**VARIOUS** builders materials, roofing, PVC down comers, tiles, pipes, tools, saws. Cheap. Cash on collection. Tel 01325 317716

**HOUSEHOLD** goods, double mattress, telephone table, hifi unit. Stag furniture, television stands, gym equipment, step up machine, exercise bike, weights etc., tread mill. Tel 01325 317716

**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, can arrange delivery. £130. Tel 07789 113 343

**FULL SET** of golf clubs with bag and trolley, good condition. Tel 07850 646355

## Christmas Wishes

**MACKEY**, Geoff and Enid, send Season's Greetings to friends and neighbours. Donations have been made to charities in lieu of cards.



## LINDISFARNE CARE HOME CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY



On Monday 3rd December 2018, Lindisfarne Care Home celebrated their 10th birthday. Lindisfarne is a five star, purpose-built home specialising in the care of those suffering from Dementia and mental health issues, as well as general residential and nursing care.

Lindisfarne Newton Aycliffe is part of Gainford Group. On the tenth birthday the care home celebrated by holding a party. Entertainer, "Janie St John" came along to entertain our residents with songs from the past. The Deputy Mayor of Newton Aycliffe, Mary Dalton also attended with her consort. We also had two members of staff who had worked at the site since the care home opened, Gillian Lapworth and Carol Booth and these were acknowledged and thanked for their time, support and commitment to the company.



No matter how enlightened we feel we are, we are still a work in progress, as such, incomplete when we or others sit in judgment on our progress. Luckily for us the universe never judges the size of our steps or the lack of progress made. It is content in the knowledge we are heading in the right direction and our inevitable arrival is secure. Our ignorance is hidden from us; what we don't understand far outweighs what we hold to be true at any given moment in time. A chosen truth which makes us feel good about ourselves may or may not change, but our development certainly will, if not in the way we think. When we hold a belief so tightly and refuse to let go we are saying to the universe "On this thing I am complete and have no need or desire to move on and change".

For myself I am absolutely sure of . . . nothing. But life experience has shown me what I believe today as gospel may have to change tomorrow as the unknown is uncovered my level of compassion, knowledge and

understanding change as it must if I truly believe I am a work in progress. The racist, homophobic, the bigot, religious zealot, share an unshakeable belief they are right and you are wrong. They have created a belief that gives them comfort. The thought processes may be different, as will the outcome, but a belief is a feeling of certainty no matter what names you give it.

We have to challenge what we believe to be true as much as we challenge new or difficult truths. Spirituality is a personal thing, but it's also about accepting there are different paths to enlightenment. The moment you become rigid in your views no matter how right you may feel, you are in danger of defending the old, the tried and tested instead of embracing the new. If our desire is a one of personal development, there can't be any unchallengeable truths simply because they make us feel threatened or uncomfortable, and challenge what we have always held to be true.

## AN AUDIENCE WITH THE PRINCE OF WALES

*Update on the project to build Gresley class P2 No. 2007 Prince of Wales - Britain's most powerful steam locomotive.*

The project to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive will be holding a series of roadshows across Great Britain in 2019. The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, also the builders, owners and operators of the 100mph famous new steam locomotive No. 60163 Tornado, has announced that it will again be holding a number of presentations on the project to build new Gresley class P2 No. 2007 Prince of Wales in 2019. Entry into each roadshow is free.

- Saturday 2nd March 2019 – Darlington Locomotive Works, Darlington
- Saturday 6th April 2019 – York – venue to be confirmed
- Saturday 8th June 2019 – Newcastle – venue to be confirmed
- Saturday 6th July 2019 – Darlington Locomotive Works, Darlington
- Saturday 14th September 2019 – Leeds – venue to be confirmed
- Saturday 2nd November 2019 – Darlington Locomotive Works, Darlington

Public interest in seeing a new Gresley class P2 become a reality sooner rather than later is high with almost 900 people having already signed up to the 'P2 for the price of a pint of beer per week' (£10 per month or more) Covenant scheme since its launch.

Progress building Britain's most powerful steam locomotive continues at Darlington Locomotive Works and includes:

- Frame plates for engine and tender rolled and profiled; engine's frames erected at Darlington Locomotive Works; all major engine frame stays, brackets, horn blocks, axleboxes and buffers cast (44 in total); over 1,000 fitted and driven bolts ordered and delivered, approximately 800 now fitted to the frames
- All 20 wheels for engine and tender cast and proof machined; engine wheelset assembly complete, balance weights manufactured and fitted, tender axles delivered
- Preliminary discussions held with boiler manufacturers and forged foundation ring corners manufactured and machined; start made on boiler fittings with castings for combined injector steam and delivery valves; order placed with DB Dampflokwerk Meiningen to update the design to incorporate modifications and improvements fitted to Tornado's boiler over the last 10 years
- Study into ride and suspension completed using rail industry standard Vampire® software; Finite Element Analysis completed on re-designed crank axle to ensure it complies



with modern standards; assessment and notified body appointed to oversee certification - first site visit made

- Cab erected and cab side window frames fitted; engine footplating and splasher kits delivered and permanently fitted to frames
- Smokebox door pressed, details made and door completed; door frame manufactured, smokebox delivered and erected; chimney cast and fitted
- Crosshead castings delivered; connecting and coupling rods ordered and manufacture started
- Boiler cladding assembly jig built, cladding crinolines and hoops rolled and fitted to jig, cladding sheets made and trial fitted to the engine's frame
- Tender frame construction under way, axleboxes and other tender castings delivered from William Cook Cast Products; tender

tank procurement process underway

- Nameplates and chime whistle delivered
- Over £2m spent, £2.5m donated and over £3.1m pledged.

Over the next 12 months, the Darlington based team aims to:

- Complete the pony truck
- Select the manufacturer and place the order for the boiler
- Make substantial progress on the tender tank and frames
- Finish the detailed design of the electrical system
- Complete the overhaul of and fit two steam driven air pumps
- Manufacture and take delivery of most of the coupling and connecting rods
- Complete the cylinder block design with construction nearing completion
- Start manufacture of the valve gear.

## Holiday Snaps



Christine and Greg were holidaying in Tenerife with their copy of the Newton News . . . waiting for more beers!!! Send your Newton News holiday snaps to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

ESTD 2015

**EMRES BARBERSHOP**

*— Vintage —*

20th December ..... 8.30am-6pm  
21st December ..... 8am-7pm  
22nd December ..... 8am-4pm  
23rd December ..... CLOSED  
24th December ..... 7am-2.30pm  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

**CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS:**

CLOSED BOXING DAY

27th December ..... 8.30am-6pm  
28th December ..... 8am-7pm  
29th December ..... 8am-4pm  
30th December ..... CLOSED  
31st December ..... 7am-3pm

**CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY**

**BACK OPEN FRIDAY**

**4th JANUARY 2019**

## Heighington Youth AFC

**Heighington AFC under 9s** Russell Foster, sponsored by MAF Plumbing, Heating and Gas Services, played against Imptotec this morning and after going in 1-1 at half time and the opposition saying things that upset a few of our players, they really had the best reply possible, running out 5-2 winners. Scorers were Cole x1, Oliver M x1, Oliver C x1 and Dylan x2 (one direct from a corner). Man of the Match to Oliver Y playing brilliantly in defence and keeping the opposition at bay. Excellent performance by the mighty Red and Blacks. We remain top of the league and undefeated.

### Heighington Blacks 6 vs Darlo TSC 0

Durham School's Ethan Cooper got the ball rolling with a poachers finish, Cole Raine thundered a brilliant second in from 15 yards, before the same man Cooper fired another strike for goal two minutes later - which went in off the back post - to make it three at half time. The goals kept coming after the break as TSC remained all at sea. Robson slotted home a fourth from the corner kick (unbelievable that this is the 2nd corner kick he has scored in the past 2 days), before Marlesbury

got in on the act to make it five and seal a goal against his former club. Raine then steered home a sixth 5 minutes from time, to complete the rout. MoM: Dylan Robson.

### Second Game

Again a strong performance by the lads who mixed it about in different positions, allowing all to experience different ways within a solid team, goal by Delderfield. A 2nd half surge saw the Blacks finish the game off with 2 well taken goals from Whiting and McKenna to seal a 3-1 victory. MoM - Oliver Marlesbury.

## Thank You

**STUBBS**, Joan and all her family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness and support over the last few weeks. Donations were made to Air Ambulance and Heart Foundation.

**THE FAMILY** of the late Catherine Raine (nee Hoar), who died on 18th November 2018, would like to express to everyone their sincere thanks for all the cards and flowers they have received during their sad loss and to everyone who attended Catherine's funeral to celebrate her life. Thank you, Brian and Anne

## Birthday Remembrance

### Derrick Nelson

Birthday Remembrance, 8th December

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.

Not only our precious Dad, but our dear friend.

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

### ALAN VEVERS

1948 to 1999  
7th December



You would have been 70 today. Forever young with your curly jet black hair and that gorgeous smile. Always in our memories forever. Happy birthday. Hope you're having fun up there, partying. You are very much missed by us all. Lots of love, Linda, Sarah, Denise, Julia, Christopher and all the family and Grandchildren

## In Memoriam

**JOHN CASSIDY** (Cass). Died 12th December 1987. Christmas is not the same without you, love always, Doris, Family and Grandchildren xxx

**RITA THOMPSON** Died 11th December 2008. Love you always, forget you never. Love, Sister Doris and family xxx

**PEGGY DICKINSON**. Died 8th December 2016. **BOB DICKINSON**. Died 10th December 1991. Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. Loved and remembered always from your Daughter Susan and all your family xxxx

## Congratulations

**JACKIE WAITES** (8-12-18). Happy 70th birthday. All our love, John, Julie, Craig, Gavin, John, Tara, Charley, Lauren, Neve, Flynn, Lexi, Noah and Oliver xxxxx



## Cracking Results at Stanley



Sedgefield 75 swimmers travelled to Stanley last weekend to compete in the Annual Christmas Cracker Gala. Sedgefield brought home a total of 24 medals and 40 personal best times, as well as selection boxes for all heat winners, which was a real treat.

## Souper Lunch

St. Elizabeth's Church presents another Souper Lunch which will take place on Wednesday 12th December at 12 noon. Choice of Soups as well as puddings plus many other extras included. Price is £4.00. To book your place, please contact Norma on 01325 312930.

This was the last gala of the year for Sedgefield and 18 swimmers took part in a total of 83 swims.

**Competing were:** Katelyn Craig, Emma Price, Chloe Harding, Kathryn Lee, Zoe Hodgson, Charlotte Lee, Leah Smith, Ethan Craig, Lucas Daley, Oliver Turnbull, James Hodgson, Robert Price, Matthew Wimbury, Thomas Curran, Aaron Stephenson, Mateusz Wilczynski, Lewis Turnbull and Charlie McEwan.

James Hodgson won silver in the 200 free and 50 back, bronze in the 50 free and 100 free.

Mateusz Wilczynski won gold in the 100 fly and silver in the 50 fly and 50 free.

Thomas Curran won bronze in the 100 free.

Matthew Wimbury won bronze in the 50 back and 50 free.

Emma Price won gold in the 200 free, 100 free and 200 back and silver in the 50 fly, 50 free, 50 back and 100 back.

Golden results for Leah Smith, as she took gold

medals in all her events, 50 free, 50 breast, 100 free, 100 breast, 200 IM, 200 free and 200 breast.

Head Coach John Moore attended the gala all weekend with Assistant Coach Emma Craig and Team Manager Cheryl Price.

John was proud of all the swimmers and particularly how the older swimmers looked after the younger members of the team throughout the gala.

Chloe Harding and Zoe Hodgson also took part in a school gala this week, held at St John's School and Sixth Form College at Bishop Auckland.

Zoe took first place in the Year 7 50 free and Chloe took first place in the Year 7/8 50 back, Year 8 50 back, Year 8 50 free and the medley relay. The swimmers are all looking forward to a fun Christmas party at the end of December at Bamboozles, as a reward for all their hard work in training this year.

Well done Sedgefield 75 for an amazing year.

## Aycliffe Concede Late Equaliser - Again!



### Saturday 1st December 2018 Ebac Northern League Division One Newton Aycliffe 2 Whitley Bay 2

For the second game running Newton Aycliffe drew a game that they should have won comfortably. They missed chances and conceded an injury time equaliser yet again in an entertaining 2-2 draw. They are playing attractive football and outplayed Whitley Bay, particularly in the second half.

The first half hour was dominated by the midfielders, with few clear chances. Ben Wood made a good run and shot, which Bay keeper Flynn pushed around for a corner. Whitley Bay took the lead against the run of play in the 33rd minute; a ball was pulled back from the dead-ball line into the path of Brannen who hit a good shot into the top corner past James Winter. Five minutes later, Vinny Gash broke through the defensive line, but dragged his shot wide. Jermaine Metz then went on a mazy run, before squaring for Gash to tap in for 1-1. Metz and Gash had further chances but the half ended all square.

Aycliffe started the second half well. Ben Wood and Ethan Wood put shots wide, and Shaun Hudson had a good penalty shout turned down. Gash got through but Flynn saved again. Aycliffe then went ahead when man-of-the-match Ben Wood finished off a good team move by skilfully beating his marker in the penalty box and slotting home for 2-1. Aycliffe had Mark Costello sent off for two cautions in injury time. Whitley Bay equalised right at the end when Aycliffe failed to clear a high ball and Ardelean put away the loose ball to enable the visitors to steal a point.

December is a busy month for the Newtonians with games in three competitions. Fixtures include a fourth game of the season against Guisborough & a double header against neighbours Shildon. The Boxing Day Derby against the Railwaymen should see a good crowd at Moore Lane with only one other Northern League Division One game being played on that day.

**December Fixtures:**  
Saturday 8th December  
Whickham

(away, League 3pm)  
Tuesday 11th December  
Guisborough (home, League Cup 7:30pm)  
Saturday 15th December  
Stockton (home, League 3pm)  
Tuesday 18th December  
Shildon (home, Durham Challenge Cup 7:30pm)  
Wednesday 26th December  
Shildon (home, League 1pm)  
Saturday 29th December  
Whitley Bay (away, League 3pm)

*Photo: Aycliffe goalscorer & man of the match Ben Wood*

## Juniors Football Report



The persistent wet weather led to some cancelled football matches for Aycliffe Juniors this weekend. The Saturday teams managed their games but then on Sunday several teams had games postponed. The **Under 6's** and some of the newer **Under 7's** players enjoyed the indoor facilities at the Alun Armstrong Centre for a joint training session. Great football was played and some superb goals were scored.

The **Under 7's White** played on Saturday and were in great form. A hatrick from Jack C and two goals each for Jack R and Tyler. With Will, Joel and Ryan Lee also scoring in a comprehensive 10-0 win against Pass Soccer Reds. This was a great team performance and Joel was the man of the match.

The **Under 8's** played their cup game at Boro Rangers. The effort did not get the result it deserved with man of the match Harry Dunn and Jack Heron scoring in an 8-2 loss. The development game was a

high scoring affair but ended in a 9-7 defeat. Alex (3), Logan (2), Harry and Sam were the scorers.

The **Under 11's Black** played away at Bedale and returned home happy after a 7-4 victory. They were behind early in the game but came back and ended the first half 5-2 ahead. After Bedale had got back in to the game both Jake and Rhys completed their hatricks to seal the win. Jayden also scored and Jake Smith was the man of the match.

The **Under 12's** had a thrilling cup tie at Kader. They came from behind twice with Zak and Daniel scoring to make the final score 2-2. In the penalty shoot out Zak, Charlie, Daniel and Jake were on target with Noah making two great saves to win 4-3 and seal a place in the quarter finals. Charlie was named as the man of the match.

The **Under 13's** Russell Foster League team played on Saturday but suffered a 3-0 defeat away at Foundation of Light.

## BENGAL LOUNGE

Contemporary Indian Restaurant

### One of Best 5 North East Takeaways 2018

We would like to say a massive thank you to the British Takeaway Awards on behalf of Justeat for inviting us to such a prestigious evening! It was a truly wonderful night meeting all the celebrities and the competitors for the Award of the Best Takeaway in the North East. Sadly, we did not receive first place but it was an honour to get to this position today, this is thanks to our customers and your loyalty. Thank you for everyone's support for allowing us to be recognised as one of the **BEST FIVE** British Takeaways in the North East!



# EURONICS

### BARGAIN BUYS

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Telephone: 01325 321678

COOKER&OVENSALE-[www.euronics.co.uk](http://www.euronics.co.uk)



Blomberg 60cm ceramic double oven cooker, 3 year guarantee was £499.99 now £449.99



Beko 60cm gas double oven cooker with lid and cast iron pan supports was £449.99 now £399.99



Beko built in oven and gas hob pack deal £299.99

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Cookers with 2 year guarantee

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