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ROTARY CLUB SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

It's that time of year again – the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe Christmas fund-raising season is well underway and this year our partnership with Santa is going extremely well – thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the people of Newton Aycliffe and our partners, Tesco and the Jones family. The money raised at this time of year is used for local good causes, with part of the money being spent on Christmas hampers for local families, who, without the hampers, would be unable to share in the normal joy of Christmas as well as all the trimmings of a Christmas Day. The distribution of the hampers, which are put together for us by Tesco, has already begun. The families who receive them are mainly directed to us through the local contacts attached to GP practices, as they are the people who know their own communities best and can make sure that they reach the people to whom they will



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make the most difference. So thank you very much indeed to the health visitors – and all of you out there who have dug deep in their pockets to enable the Rotary Club to make this happen. So what has been happening so far? Well, Aycliffe Radio generously gave us the chance to collect at their Christmas event in the main square of Newton Aycliffe shopping centre recently. The weather may have been against us all, but it didn't stop Santa and Mrs Claus from visiting – together with

Continued on page 3

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Honest John Donations

Honest John's Aycliffe Community Kitty latest donations go to:

Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club - £250.00;
Aycliffe Police Community Santa Grotto - £500.00;
"Xmas Live" at the Xcel Centre (Aycliffe Radio) - £500.00.

I am now in my twelfth year running the Community Kitty and things are getting better and better thanks to all donors and customers who keep this charity alive and well.

Yours sincerely, and all the best for 2019 to all Newtonians. I will be opposite Argos (under the Tesco outdoor canopy) on Christmas Eve from 9.00am to 4.00pm with my annual collection.

John

CHRISTMAS GOLDEN TICKET FOR NEW PUB TEAM

A passionate young team who are spearheading the recently relaunched Huntsman Pub and Kitchen in Woodham Village, Newton Aycliffe, are doing all they can to extend a warm welcome, good food and even a 'Golden Ticket' surprise this Christmas.



Owner Elliot McKee (24) and Head Chef Nathaniel Tomlinson (29) supported by Front of House Supervisor Nadia Abed-Ali are pulling out all the stops to get the Restaurant / Pub on the local culinary map.

After years of being avoided or overlooked by local residents, the team took over the pub in the summer following a facelift of the building, its gardens and the establishing of a new professional kitchen. Since then they have been steadily wowing customers by delivering a blend of exceptional home cooked food combined with a vibrant modern decor and fantastic hospitality which has seen the business go from strength to strength. Elliot said: "We get people coming in who say they haven't been here for 10 years or more, and even a couple who said that they didn't dare venture in before. The response of everyone is overwhelmingly positive."

Certainly, the first months have seen the team breaking down the barriers that once stopped the local residents wanting to use the Huntsman and have created a loyal group of customers coming back week after week. Building on the teams plans to grow their customer experience is a novel promotion this Christmas. Elliot explains: "All guests dining with us over the Christmas period are given a 'Golden Envelope', which when presented unopened at a booking in January will award them with a discount of 25, 50 or 100% off the meal price."

Elliot is following in the family tradition of owning and managing pubs/hotels. Originally started by his father, his sister and brother who also own pubs in the region. But Elliot is no stranger to the trade, he started helping his father, who then owned the Croft Hotel near Darlington, when he was only 13. He said: "I started at the bottom working in the kitchen first as a pot washer then progressing through to chef and then front-of-house hospitality."

In a similar vein, son of Shildon Vicar David Tomlinson, Nathaniel is equally experienced having been a chef at Bannatyne Hotel in Darlington and later head chef at the Honest Lawyer in Durham. He said: "I'm all about using the best ingredients, sourced locally and presenting people

with good food and decent portions.

"I have worked in rosette kitchens, but here we are more interested in good honest food, at a good price, designed to wow our customers and keep them coming back for more. One customer loved our Christmas menu so much he asked if we could prepare the Spicy Parsnip Soup for his home Christmas Dinner and another asked if we could do their Turkey; we are happy to oblige."

Front of house Supervisor Nadia, who previously worked at Woodham Golf and Country Club, said: "We just want people to come and give us a try, we know they won't be disappointed."

Veterans Find a New Home for Breakfast

Newton Aycliffe Veterans Breakfast club have secured a new 'home' to hold their monthly breakfast club for veterans in the local area. Previously held at the NAYCC, and then Sporting Force, the Newton Aycliffe Veterans Breakfast Club has found a new home at the Pioneering Care Centre.

Local councillors, Hopper, Adam, Clare, Howell, Atkinson, Durham and Iveson supported, in total £300, through their Small Grants allocation, which secured the sustainability of the club for the coming year. Nick Cooke, founder of the breakfast club commented, "We have been made very welcome at the PCP. The Club aims to provide an opportunity for Armed Forces Veterans from the local area, grab a bacon roll and a hot drink, and relax with people that understand forces banter. It's all very casual, and there are no hard rules or membership requirements."

The club is held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 10:00am, in the Brown Room. All Veterans are welcome. On some occasions we have guests from other Veterans organisations that keep the group up to date on what is available to help Veterans improve their quality of life. For further information please contact 07780 725117.

THE TURBINIA

* December at the Tub *

Friday 21st December - Open-Mic
Saturday 22nd December - "7 Sins"
Gig-Pit Review: "Now if they are a new one for you too, make a point of getting to see them - you won't be disappointed."

Friday 28th December - Open-Mic
Saturday 29th December - "Vinyl Chimes"
One of the most talked about bands in the North-East, covering 80's Rock / Punk / Ska & Pop.

Monday 31st December - New Years Eve - "1 0 1"
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Evening Ticket Event £2.00
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All welcome
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MAIN BAR 'Members Only'
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HEADLINE EVENTS
December 22nd
2pm & 7pm shows
LITTLE FIX All tickets £4
December 23rd
Sleeping Beauty Panto
2pm & 7pm shows
Tickets £4.50 + selection box for children

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 Tickets
Concert Hall - Aycliffe Soul Club
6.30pm - Late - Tickets £5.
MIDNIGHT COUNTDOWN at both events!

SHOW OF THE MONTH EVENTS -
February 2nd - Soul Addiction
March 2nd - Four Letter Word
Further details in the New Year



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(not available in conjunction with any other offer)

Pensioners Special - Every Monday
One course meal with tea or coffee - £6.00

Two for £12 - Thursday 5-8.30pm

Fish Friday - Two Fish & Chips
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Full English Breakfast - Saturday
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CAROL SERVICE

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Shafro Way) will be holding their Annual Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December, commencing at 6.00pm. We open a warm invitation for all to come and join with us, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ Bishop Richard Morgan

TURBINIA & AYCLIFFE BIKE CLUB TOY RUN 2018

Dozens of Santas, a snowman and angels have collected more than 1,000 presents to deliver to families in need of help. The Turbinia & Aycliffe Bike Club (ABC) organise the toy run every Christmas to collect donations for Bishop Auckland



women's refuge and a Newton Aycliffe children's charity. Setting off from the Turbinia pub, in Newton Aycliffe, on

Sunday, they stopped off at pubs around County Durham to pick up presents for the charity. Around 50 people took part in the event, which also featured a party fire engine to collect the presents. Organiser and pub landlord Gary Soakell said: "It was absolutely excellent. We were lucky with the weather and all the pubs on our route were really generous. We filled the fire engine from top to bottom and another car as well. I would like to thank everyone that got involved, too many to name individually, you will make a lot of children happy on Xmas day" A raffle at The Turbinia, and cash collection on the day was also made, with money going towards 3 fridges for the refuge.

XMAS IN HOSPITAL

Police have helped to spread some Christmas cheer to children spending the lead up to the festive period in hospital. Father Christmas joined officers and staff from Durham Constabulary to hand out presents to youngsters on the children's ward at Darlington Memorial Hospital. For the past month, generous members of staff at Darlington Police Station have been collecting and wrapping dozens of presents, which include chocolate treats, toys and books.

Any extra presents will be donated to the Salvation Army who will give them to vulnerable children who might not otherwise have a present to open on Christmas morning. Assistant Chief Constable Dave Orford said: "It has been fantastic to help bring some smiles to children who are in hospital in the run up to Christmas. We've had such a brilliant response to our Christmas present appeal in Darlington, with dozens of officers and staff digging deep to donate all sorts of gifts. Any surplus presents will now be given to the Salvation Army to help bring a smile to other vulnerable children this Christmas."

Children's ward manager, Jayne Auld, said: "It's lovely that police officers and their colleagues have thought about the children who are in hospital at this time of year. Our priority is giving the children the care they need but visits like this, and a gift, certainly lift their, and their families', spirits. We're very grateful."

ROTARY CLUB SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Continued from Front Page

stars from the Darlington panto. The music and the compere certainly lifted all our spirits. Then there was the Rotary Christmas Carol Service in the Leisure centre. Santa was much in evidence here as well, to the delight of the children from many local schools who took part and showed us just how talented the young people of the town are. This service is being broadcast by Aycliffe Radio on Boxing Day at 12noon. On that day many of us will be remembering our good friend and fellow Rotarian Syd Howarth who has left this event as just one of his many legacies to the town. Santa has also been seen around town after dark with his wonderful sleigh, accompanied by his delightful wife, Mrs Claus and a number of his elves. This year he has honoured us by using his brand new sleigh – it's great to see the children's faces as they have their pictures taken with Mr and Mrs Claus. Weather prevented Santa's visit on Tuesday night but this has not affected the sums of money pouring in – including whole tankards



of money collected since his visit last year.

Tesco are also hosting us once again – for seven days in total. When he can, Santa is calling in here as well and is very happy to have his photo taken with anyone who asks. This year records are being broken for the amounts you are donating. We will let you know how much has been raised as soon as we know ourselves.

In the meantime, we wish you a very happy Christmas and a very big thank you for your generosity.

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MONDAY
Bootcamp 7:00pm - 7:45pm

TUESDAY
Bounce Fit 10:00am - 10:45am
Circuit Training 7:00pm - 7:45pm

WEDNESDAY
Bootcamp 7:00pm - 7:45pm

THURSDAY
Circuit Training 7:00pm - 7:45pm

All classes are £5 per session. 3 month memberships are available for £40. A 5.5 HELL. Childcare services are available for ages 0-5 for £1 per child during Bounce Fit. Children aged 6+ can bounce for £1 during Circuit Training and Bootcamp with an adult doing a class.

For more information follow us on Facebook, email hello@roff59.co.uk or call 01325 720222
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Wednesday - 2-4-1 on all main meals 5-8.30pm
Thursday - Bingo, 8.30pm start
Friday - Two Fish & Chips for £14
Saturday - Kids Eat for £1.00
Sunday - Carvery Lunch (Adults £8.50, Seniors £6.00, Kids £4.50)

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Eat, Drink & Be Merry

As the season to “eat, drink and be merry” fast approaches not everyone will be happily in control of their alcohol intake and will see it as an excuse to drink more than usual. Loneliness, depression and the added stress that Christmas brings can see drinking levels spiralling way above normal limits. If you're concerned or are struggling to control your alcohol intake come along to the AARMS group (Aycliffe Alcohol Recovery and Mutual Support) and let us help and support you to reduce it safely.

We meet every Thursday in Tesco from 11am-1pm and are open as usual in between Christmas and New Year. For more information call Val on 07598 994054.

PLEASE NOTE: The group will be meeting in Love Thy Cupcake shop until after Christmas!

Greenfield Newshounds are Animated



The Student Newshounds at Greenfield Community College are once again working their magic as they celebrate and report on all that is good about school life at Greenfield. The group of students have had their noses to the ground working creatively with filmmaker Laura Degnan to make and release their own stop-motion animated film. The Newshounds have been professional, enthusiastic and creative coming up with ideas and contributing to all elements of the process. Laura was amazed at their contribution, “The young people’s enthusiasm made this project an absolute pleasure to work on. Each student was brimming with brilliant ideas and a passion to make the film the very best that it could be. I’m really looking forward to seeing what the impressive Newshounds group does next!”

The film has just had its first screening at a prestigious educational conference entitled ‘Pure Imagination’ where Executive Headteacher Mr David Priestley wowed the audience of 1000 educationalists with the insightful work of the students at Greenfield. The film was very well received by the audience and the school has since received messages congratulating the imaginative work from the students and admiration for the film.

Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity at Greenfield Arts who has been leading the project was very proud of the young people. “The animation is superb. It speaks from the voice of the young people and reflects the creative, caring and inclusive organisation that it is. I’m so proud of the students and have enjoyed working with them on this and any other outstanding pieces of work they have realised recently.”

Applying to Uni for 2019?

Better Get Your Skates On – Deadline is 15th January!

As most schools and colleges break-up this week it’s important for students to use this time wisely if they still haven’t applied to university – the deadline is 15th January for starting in 2019.

Studying a degree is a significant commitment and it’s a big decision, make sure you get as much information as possible over this Christmas break to help you make the right decision. Applying to university can be daunting, and if you’ve put it off and put it off – you’re really going to have to get your skates-on – so what can you realistically do during this Christmas break?

We asked Dr Lisette Johnston, Head of School at ScreenSpace, part of the MetFilm school to give us some top tips...

1. Research your subject. Who provides the course that will best suit you? For example, there is a difference between Film Studies and a Film Production, so you need to do your homework. League tables give some idea, but also look at uni websites. Most courses give a module overview to give a sense of what topics you’ll cover across the degree. Are there similarities or differences in the courses you like?

2. Research your university. Just because a university offers your degree subject and ranks well doesn’t mean it’s a ‘shoo in’. Reach out to current students via social media and forums – ask them about their experience at the university, try TheStudentRoom.com, groups on Facebook etc... also check-out the university’s Instagram account – get a feel for what people are responding to.

If you haven’t already, as soon as you can book on an Open Day – you’re probably going to have to apply whether you’ve visited the uni or not at this late stage, but before you accept an offer, try to get to the campus – remember you will spend three or four years there, and may have to move from home, so you want to make sure you will be happy.

- Check out what the student union is like.
- Do they have clubs and societies you are interested in?
- How easy is it to get to class?
- Are you on a campus or in a city?

Knowing these things will make it easier to make a decision when the offers start coming in.

3. Think about your future self: The decisions you make about where and what to study are only part of the story. Find out:

- If you get to do work experience
- Are there sandwich course options with year in industry?

• Also look at employability rates for the university as a whole and your field of study. At my institution, 87% of our students are working within the creative industries within six months of graduating. This is very different to saying a high

percentage of graduates are working – get the facts!

4. Know the process: Universities know how scary the UCAS application process can be, so every candidate who applies for our courses is assigned a dedicated Admissions Manager (other unis offer this too) who will help talk you through the process, from researching a course, to personal statements and student finance.

Even if you aren’t currently studying a “relevant” subject, don’t discount applying to a course that really interests you. We, like other institutions, consider all applications where students have demonstrated a passion for the industry/subject.

To help you learn more about the course that you’re interested in, make sure you call the university as soon as you can after the Christmas break, have a list of questions at hand and make sure you know about any open days, workshops and / or applicant visits BEFORE you accept an offer.

GENEROUS BOYS



Dear Sir,

My two boys, Harvey aged 4 and Oscar aged 2, have saved up their spare change and pocket money to give to Santa Claus for the needy this Christmas.

We feel they deserve a bit of press recognition for their generosity, giving the boys a mention in the Newton News would be great and be something they could treasure.

As parents we are so proud of our boys.

Thank you
James Bagnall

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS



A big thank you and well done goes out to all the children who took part in the Mayor’s Official Christmas Card Competition this year.

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor John Clark, presented prizes of gift vouchers and framed pictures of the designs

to the winners at the Council Offices on Wednesday 12th December, prior to the full Council meeting.

The winning design chosen for the Christmas card was by Emily Webb, in 2nd place Jaimee Richardson, 3rd place was Poppy James.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

We collect your tree!
Saturday 5th January

Simply register & pay online at
www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk
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Darlington
& Newton
Aycliffe

Please book by
noon 3rd January

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Woodham Academy Christmas Concert



Students from all year groups took to the stage as part of Woodham Academy's annual Christmas Concert. The event was a huge success with some outstanding performances. Students performed in a variety of different acts, with the Dance and Gymnastics Academies producing

three adventurous and energetic performances. The musical acts featured some Christmas classics from Woodham Sound and Advanced Choir, including Wham's 'Last Christmas' and Band Aid's 'Do they know it's Christmas?' The cast of Grease also took to the stage to perform the

song 'Grease is the word!' as a sneak preview for next year's performance. There was also a variety of excellent solo performances and the newly formed Year 11 Rock Band made their debut appearance. The concert, planned by a group of Year 11 Music students, was a huge success

and really demonstrated the huge amount of talent that is developing within the school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 11 student Darcy Kent, who hosted the concert, on being accepted in to Drama School in London for next year.

COUNCIL WORKERS SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas is a time for giving and employees and councillors have been giving a helping hand to families in need this month. Elected members and staff from Durham County Council have been donating new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children who might



A.G.M.

10th Anniversary and AGM

New Friends New Places AGM Tuesday 8th January, 2pm, Navy Club, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe.

Please come along and join us at our AGM and Christmas and 10 Year Anniversary Party. We welcome old members and any new members. We hope to have some special guests.

Thank you very much to Debbie from Tesco for the donation of Biscuits, Mince Pies and Chocolates that she brought to our clubs Christmas meeting and Bran tub. If you are lonely and would like to meet new friends, go on trips and various other activities this is the club to join. Ring 308094 or 07967 901477.

not otherwise receive a Christmas present, as part of the Salvation Army toy appeal.

By buying an extra toy for a child or gift for a teenager when they completed their Christmas shopping, council employees are hoping to bring festive cheer to deprived youngsters in the region.

Toys and gifts were collected at the council's County Hall headquarters throughout December and were presented by Chairman Cllr John Lethbridge to the Salvation Army, whose volunteers will then distribute the presents to struggling families.

Cllr Lethbridge, said: "I'm very happy that we're continuing our annual

tradition of helping the Salvation Army make Christmas special for youngsters by holding a toy collection. It's fantastic to see how generous our employees and elected members have been this year and to think of the joy those donations will bring to local families."

Major Ian Fawcett from the Salvation Army, said: "There has been a tremendous increase in the number of family referrals to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal. Without the support and donations by schools, businesses and individuals we would not be able to meet the needs of the families referred. We are so grateful for everyone's support."

Joy Marie Hairdressing

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE

Would like to wish all her friends, neighbours and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

A donation has been given to Aycliffe Village Hall in lieu of cards

ENSURE YOUR GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

Residents can now apply to have their garden waste collected in 2019.

Across the next couple of months, Durham County Council will be contacting eligible households with information about the different ways they can sign up.

Those who subscribe to the scheme by Thursday 14 February will receive all 17 collections between April and November for an annual fee of £35.

For residents who subscribe after 14 February, collections will start as soon as possible, after the April start date and they will receive the remaining collections for the rest of the year.

Those who signed up in 2018 for a three year period do not need to sign up again. A bin sticker and calendar detailing collection dates will be posted to residents who have subscribed.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "More than 63,500 County Durham residents subscribed to the garden waste scheme in 2018. We're pleased to announce the start of subscriptions for 2019 and I'd urge people to sign up before the 14 February, to ensure they receive the full year of collections."

Residents who would like to recycle garden waste during the winter, before collections begin next year, can do so at household waste recycling centres or by composting it at home.

For more information on garden waste collections in County Durham and how to join the scheme visit www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 03000 26 0000.

Garden waste collections in Teesdale are provided by Rotters Composting. Residents should contact Rotters at www.rotters.org

or by calling 01833 690 022.

THAMES DRY CLEANERS

Ken and his Staff,
regret to announce,
that due to health reasons

Thames Dry Cleaners will be CLOSING

The final day that dry cleaning
will be accepted and processed
will be

Saturday 5th January 2019

All outstanding garments
must be collected by

Thursday 31st January 2019

We would also like to take this opportunity to
thank all our customers for their loyalty over
the last 30 years and wish you a Merry Xmas

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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Live Shows over The Festive Period



What's going on here then? Alby and Gaz from the Alternative Aycliffe Show and Steve from the Folk/Rock Show all in the studio together, at the same time! Maybe they are planning something special for this festive period...

Tune in to Aycliffe Radio over the festive period to listen to a selection of our hard working presenters, who are voluntarily going into the studio to perform a "live" show, just for you.

The above photo shows Alby, Steve and Gary who were busy preparing tracks for the Alternative Aycliffe Show on Boxing Day evening.

Live on Christmas Day morning from 8.00am to 12 noon will be Karl and Colin playing Christmas tunes and talking festivities - This show will be entitled "not a turkey or sprout in sight". Christmas Day afternoon

you will be able to hear Paul Bakers, six hour Xmas Day marathon from 12noon.

On Boxing Day Aycliffe Radio will be broadcasting the Rotary Carol Concert in which school children from various schools performed. This will be on from 12noon. On the evening Gaz and Alby will be presenting their Alternative Aycliffe show.

Most of the Aycliffe Radio presenters will be continuing with their shows during the festive period. Those that are unable to will have a pre-recorded a session for your enjoyment.

Check out the full schedule listing on page 7 or on the station's website www.ayclifferradio.co.uk

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our listeners. Watch this space for more exciting news in the year from Aycliffe Radio.



On Tuesday 18th December, Daz and Lee were delighted to welcome Paul Eddy, the founder and head coach of Seconds Out Boxing Academy in Ferryhill and his son Regan, who is also a coach at the Academy, to their live sports show on Aycliffe Radio. This interview will be repeated on Sunday at 12noon.

Daz and Lee will be taking a well deserved break over the festive period, returning to the studio on 8th January. In the meantime the duo have selected a few interview highlights from the past year which will be broadcast as follows:

Tuesday 25th December, 6pm - Ian Wilkinson;
Sunday 30th December, 12noon - Stuart Hall;
Tuesday 1st January, 6pm - Sharon Darter;
Sunday 6th January, 12noon - Ian Wilkinson.

Daz and Lee would like to thank all the guests who have appeared on their show and wish all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bishop Of Durham's Christmas Message

I love being with people at this Christmas season. Let me give you some examples. I have always loved a school nativity or carol event; there tends to be such delight and pride in performing touched with real recognition that the birth of this baby, so long ago, is truly special for us all. Each year I try and get to at least one community lunch to celebrate the season with people of all ages. These are always enormous fun; the joy of being with others, enjoying food and drink, wearing party hats and enjoying a good sing all make them incredibly worthwhile. Then every Christmas morning I join the residents of Durham Prison for their Christmas morning worship. Prison is not where anyone really wants to be on Christmas Day but this service offers time to be together, and to think for a short while just what Christmas is all about at its heart. The singing is always robust, if not always deeply tuneful. I simply love being with people at Christmas. Then there is the particular love of being with family. This becomes ever more complex as they grow up, marry and have to join with different bits of family - but somehow we always manage to be with each other for some time; it is a delight. We all know that this is not the case for everyone; many people find themselves alone, not with anyone, on Christmas Day, and often other days around it. The TV and the radio become important companions for many; radio phone ins offer companionship and comfort. Churches (and other community organisations) arrange Christmas Day lunches to offer people the chance not to be alone at least for a few hours at this festive season. There is a genuine desire around that for all who want to be with others opportunities to do so are found. I applaud and salute all who work hard to make such events happen - and go with such great joy.

As people we are social beings; being with others and others being with us is part of our core humanity. I think this is why one of my favourite phrases from the Christmas readings in the Bible is that which Matthew records; 'He shall be called Immanuel' which means God with us.' This is such a powerful statement - God with us. God with Joseph in all his confusion about discovering his fiancée was pregnant and he knew he was not responsible. God with Mary coping with being asked to carry a child before marriage in a society that could choose to stone her to death for this. God with shepherds just doing their job. God with the community of Bethlehem coping with a huge influx of visitors because of the occupying Romans. God with Herod, though choosing to try and remove God rather than welcome him. God present in a baby who cries, needs changing, feeds from his mother, grows and develops like other children. God with us in all our ordinariness and mess. God with us in all our abilities. This remains the wonder of Christmas for me. This is not simply a delightful story to retell in imaginative ways every year in a Nativity play. This is not simply a festival in which to enjoy lots of good food and drink in the company of others. This is the time to remember that God is with us. So often we do not recognise God's loving presence in our lives. God gives us breath and life. God is alongside us in our loneliness as the friend above all other friends. God is with us in our deepest sorrows and troubles, through the kindness of others; through the inner strength we discover. God is with us. This Christmas, however we celebrate it, may we all have others to be with at least for some while. Let us be good friends, neighbours, community members and family members to and for one another. Let us be with one another. As we do so may we all rejoice that in Jesus God is with us - not just at Christmas but every day of the year. Wishing You All a Very Happy Christmas Paul



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Lonely This Christmas

This year we are doing Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day.

Do you know anyone who would like to join us, or help?

This is free, funded by people who care as no one should be alone on Christmas Day. This event is for anyone who is struggling, alone or just wants to be involved in the community.

It will be held at Neville Community Centre at 2.00pm. We will be having a traditional Christmas Dinner and a special visitor will be popping in too. Transport available. Please contact 07804 454471 or 07754 244547 or email junc7tion@gmail.com to book or for more details.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

County Councillor Sarah Iveson (Neville Ward) and Councillor Jed Hillary wish the residents of Great Aycliffe a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings from ACE

Geoff Batchelor, Chairman of Aycliffe Community Engagement, along with the trustees and partners, friends and associates of ACE formerly GACAP would like to wish everyone in Newton Aycliffe a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

They would also like to send Christmas wishes to all at the Big Club, especially, Alan, Tom and Gary for making them so welcome.

ACE recognises that the direction the club is going, whilst still retaining its strong ethics as a Working Men's Club, has embraced progress and welcomed so many community organisations into the folds of its membership. We wish them continued progress and increased prosperity in the new year. Following the recent death of Syd Howarth, MBE, their Founder and Life President. The Trustees of ACE's thoughts and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year go to his family as they work to continue in Syd's footsteps not just within the newspaper's continual development but also in agreeing to support many of Syd's charitable works, including ACE, within the town that stole his heart. It's a hard act to follow guys but you had the best ever role model to follow. Joan Mitchie

SEASONS GREETING

Seasons Greetings to the residents of Great Aycliffe from Councillors Wendy Hillary, Bob Fleming, Malcolm Iveson and Derek Atkinson (Shafto/St. Mary's Ward).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DCC Aycliffe West & GATC West Ward Councillors Kate Hopper & Eddy Adam wish all our residents and the wider town community a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.
CLlr Eddy Adam
03000 268670
eddy.adam@durham.gov.uk
CLlr Kate Hopper
03000 268727
kate.hopper@durham.gov.uk

WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

A friend of mine, Jane, was in a café off the motorway, somewhere near Sheffield, Jane, her husband Ken and her son James had a long journey and the baby had had enough of his car chair. James was ten months, plump and pink and cute, noisy and loved to make friends. They got some food, but James was more interested in making friends, as babies do. To Jane's horror James was shouting and waving at an elderly gentleman of the road, shall we say. His coat was held together by threads, he hadn't seen a bath in a long, long time, he was grimy and smelly. But that didn't bother James! Peek a boo! Nursery rhymes, hand-clapping all from the elderly man all served to cement the friendship between little James and his friend. Jane and Ken were horrified and decided to leave as soon as possible. Ken went to pay while Jane made a quick get away from this smelly intruder of their nice family trip. Some people came in with a pushchair, her way was blocked, she had to pass by the elderly man. Arms held a loft in a "Pick me up" gesture James launched himself at the elderly man as the man's eyes met Jane's with a plea of "is it alright?"

A very old man and a young baby cemented their love of one another in the warmest closest hug. James laid his little head upon the man's ragged shoulder. He closed his eyes and Jane saw tears hover beneath his lower lashes. His aged hands, full of grime and pain cradled the baby's bottom and gently stroked his back.

The old man rocked, then firmly peeled James away from him and giving Jane eye contact handed him back with the words, "You look after this baby. And God bless you, you have given me my Christmas gift." Jane staggered back to the car and broke her heart, and prayed "My God forgive me, forgive me."

The real meaning of Christmas is in that story. Baby James is like God, arms open wide ready to love, ready to accept no matter who we are. We are like that elderly smelly man, made tatty by life, tattered by poor choices and hurtful relationships while God holds His arms out if we will just receive him. And that is what Christmas is all about, God born as a baby, with two arms determined to love us, a love that would embrace the least likely, even me and you, with a love that changes our lives. When you look at the manger this Christmas, don't see a cooing baby there, but a love determined to be satisfied, a baby passionate about being with us and in relationship with us - and that is why we celebrate Christmas.

A Merry, Passionate Christmas to you all!
Rev Ann Anderson

MERRY CHRISTMAS

County Councillor Jim Atkinson and Councillors Val Raw and Kathy Beetham send Christmas Greetings to the residents of Newton Aycliffe.

FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Christmas: - Friday, 21st December

Deadline: Wednesday 19th December, 5pm

No Edition - Friday, 28th December, 2018

Friday, 4th January, 2019 (back to normal)

Deadline: Wednesday 2nd January, 5pm

Advertisements are accepted at our offices via email to paul@newtonnews.co.uk or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Friday 21st December
Skeleton Staff in attendance until re-opening on **Wednesday 2nd January 2019** at 8.30am

The Management and Staff of Newton Press and Newton News would like to wish all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous New Year



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

20th December 8.30am-6pm

21st December 8am-7pm

22nd December 8am-4pm

23rd December CLOSED

24th December 7am-2.30pm

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

Santa's Christmas Eve Tour of Newton Aycliffe

Listen out for my bells, I may be a little late

ROUTE 1

Aycliffe Village

Times are approximate

3.45pm-5.30pm

Millfields, Durham Road, Atkinson Gardens, Village Green, Heighington Lane, Oaklea Mews, Congreve Terrace, Bickford Terrace, School Aycliffe

5.30pm-6.55pm

North Cottages, The Garth, Eastfields, Millfields, Binchester, Burnynghill, Lord Neville Drive, Wilbore Croft, Forrester, Smythsons, High Barn, Springfields, High Barn, Hansard Close, Jenison, Westfields, High Barn

ROUTE 2

Greenfield Way

Times are approximate

3.45pm-4.30pm

Malvern Way, Colwell Court, Belford Way, Wilton Court, Belford Way

4.30pm-5.15pm

Zetland Hunt, Staintondale, Hurworth Hunt, The Culvert, Stirrup, Bramham Chase, The Meet, Holdness, Hunters Green, Ainsty Hunt, Saddlery, The Post Horn, Bedale, Rookwood Hunt

5.15pm-6.00pm

Luttryton Court, Lascelles Avenue, Hambleton Court, Ranulf Court, Jesmond Court, Colburn Avenue, Elswick Avenue, Claxton Court, Russell Court, Yoden Court, Wynyard Court

6.00pm-6.45pm

Meadowfield Way, Stainmore Crescent, Burnhope, Grassholme, Winterburn Place, Greenlee Garth

6.45pm-7.30pm

Blackton Close, Alston Crescent, Fewston Close, Greenwood Court, Stocks Green, Scholars Path, Angram Place, Derwent Place, Tindale Green, Hallington Head

ROUTE 3

Bluebell Area

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 4.45pm

Meadowfield Way, Hareson Road, Cestria Way, Lisle

Road, Hoode Close, Lockyer Close, Cheviot Place

4.45pm-5.00pm

Kestral Court

5.00pm-6.00pm

Bluebell Close, Bluebell Way, Coverdale Court, Bluebell Meadows

6.00pm-7.00pm

Wolvoston Drive, Alverton Drive, Hamsterley Road, Barton Close, Paxton Close

7.00pm-8.00pm

Temple Way, Spooner Close, Raddive Close, Thwaites Close, Gamul Close, Lancelot Close, Eade Close

ROUTE 4

Cobblers Hall

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 6.00pm

Foxglove Close, Ashtree Close, Pinewood Close, Foster Close, Patenson Court, Wakenshaw Drive, Youens Crescent, Annand Way, Haslewood Road, Blakiston Court, Carwardine Close, Bloomsley Close, Karles Close

6.00pm-6.45pm

Bluestone Close, Oldwood, Sugarhill Crescent, Wellhouse Road

6.45pm-7.30pm

Acle Burn, Acle Meadows, St Andrews Court, Ryder Court

ROUTE 5

Woodham Gate

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.00pm

Woodham Gate, Bridle, The Grange, High Green

5.00pm-6.30pm

Spinney, Low Green, Sunningdale, Sandown Drive, Tattersall Close, Beechers Grove, The Oaks

6.30pm-8.00pm

Campion Court, Harebell Meadows, Yarrow Court, Sorrel Wynd, Clover Court, Egerton Grove, Dudley Drive, Howson Crescent, Kirkham Close, Beaumont Close, Farnham Close

8.00pm-8.15pm

Village Close

ROUTE 6

Woodham Stag Lane

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.15pm

Hind Court, Fallow Road, Fawn Close, Stag Lane, Hickstead Rise, Cheltenham Way, Epsom Court, Kempton Close, Cowdray Close, Windsor Close, Gatcombe, Kenilworth Court, Raby Drive

5.15pm-5.45pm

Bamburgh Crescent, Chillingham Grove, Barnard Close, Alnwick Grove

5.45pm-6.45pm

Lowther Drive, Brook Close, Mulgrave Court, Middleton way, Helmsley Court, Burghley Mews, Badminton Grove, Stoneleigh Court, Lowther Drive

6.45pm-7.10pm

Brafferton Close, Chilton Close, Grindon Court, Whitton Court, Grange Court

7.10pm-7.45pm

Foxton Close, Rushyford Court, Layton Court, Butterwick Court, Hardwick Court, Herrington Court

7.45pm-8.00pm

The Pasture

ROUTE 7

Agnew/Burn Lane

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.00pm

Wellhouse Drive, Brookwell, Phoenix Place, Elmore, Devalal Close, Callerton Rise, Hutton Place, Fenell Green, Kimblesworth, Tanfield Place, The Ballret, Wellhouse Ride, Stargate, Morrison Close

5.00pm-6.30pm

Heatherburn Court, Guthrum Place, Alfred, Osric Place, Kings Drive, Ida Place

6.30pm-7.30pm

Sid Chapin Drive, Fox Place, Bates Close, Bakewell Place, Booth Walk, Merlin Court, Scott Place, Thornton Close, Brockett Close



ROUTE 8

Malham

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.00pm

Rylstone Close, Reeth Place, Malham Crescent, Askrigg Close, Skipton Close, Arncliffe Place, Aysgarth, Hawes Place, Keld Road, Stainforth

5.00pm-6.00pm

Garburn Place, Hawkshead Place

6.00pm-7.00pm

Honister Place, Silverdale Place, Kirkstone Place, Langdale Place, Whinlatter, Eskdale Place

ROUTE 9

Central Avenue and Washington Crescent

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.00pm

Burn Lane, Elstob Close, Sanderson Close, Hamilton Close, Kendrew Close, Bousfield Crescent, Faber Close, Chandler Close, Chapman Close, Hardinge Road, Ewbank Close, Wiseman Walk

5.00pm-6.15pm

Bellasis Close, Defoe Crescent, Porter Close, Lamb Close, Neile Road, Washington Crescent, Felton Close

6.15pm-7.30pm

Wolsey Close, Matthew Close, Hylton Close, Hutchinson Walk, Escomb Close, Wren Close, Armstrong Close, Wycliffe, St Oswald's Court

ROUTE 10

Silkin and West Moreland

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.30pm

Silkin Way, Stead Close, Humphery Close, MacMillan Road, Lincoln Close, Stephenson Way, Lightfoot Road, Burdon Close, Marshall Road, Priestman Road, Wright Close

5.30pm-6.15pm

West Moreland Way, Newburn Court, Thurlow Grove, Aylmer Grove, Whiteley Grove, Henson Grove

6.15pm-7.30pm

Faulkner Road, Dalton Way, Hartley Road, Faulkner Road, Webb Close, Walcher Road, Lilburne Crescent, Alington Road, Hullcock Road, Bertie Road

ROUTE 11

Elmfield/Cumby

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.30pm

Linden Place, Elmfield Place, Rowan Place, Beechfield, Oakfield

5.30pm-6.45pm

Crosby Road, Doxford

road, Lowery Road, Cumby Road, Watson Road, St Goderic's Road, Mills Close, Peaseway

ROUTE 12

Barrington Road, Bewick Crescent & Travellers Green

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.15pm

Pease Way, Stephenson Way, Ashfield, Barrington Road, Beacon Court, Paulinus Road, Tunstall Road, Carileph Close, Ebba Close, Bruce Road

5.15pm-6.45pm

Bowes Road, Lyon Walk, Bewick Crescent, Central Avenue, Church Close, Sherwood Close, Bewick Crescent, Merz Road, Butler Road, Marley Road, Wallas Road, Bowes Road, Castlereagh Close, Emerson Way

6.45pm-7.30pm

Clarence Chare, Clarence Green, Travellers Green, Clarence Court

ROUTE 13

Neville Parade and Anne Swyft Road

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.15pm

Greville Way, Neville Parade, Cosin Close, Gilpin Road, Palmer Road, Clanny Road, Travellers Green, Clarence Corner, Clarence Chare, Clarence Close, Anne Swyft Walk, Haverlock Close, Elizabeth Barrett Walk, Westcott Walk, Surtees Walk, Baliol Road, Hackworth Close, Baliol Green

5.15pm-6.15pm

Henderson Road, Crewe Road, Sharp Road, Hunter Road, Crawford Road, Sheraton Road, Sharp Road, Lumley Close, Sheraton Close

ROUTE 14

Vane Road and Mellanby Crescent

Times are approximate

3.45pm - 5.15pm

Welbury Grove, Vane Road, Eden Road, Langley Road, Stanfield Road, Denham Place, Ramsey Place, Auckland Place, Kemble Green North, Maling Green, Mellanby Crescent, Bulmer Close

5.15pm - 7.00pm

Mellanby Crescent, Liddell Close, Creighton Road, Backhouse Walk, Yacley Close, Fowler Road, Warburton Close, Jackson Place, Moore Lane, Swan Walk, Gunn Lane, Greathead Crescent, Van Mildret Road, Shafto Way, Bury Road, Wilkinson Road

AYCLIFFE RADIO

Festive Schedule 2018

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

Broadcasting 24/7 - Specialist Festive Shows Below:

SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER

6-12midnight Saturday Night Evening Session with Jim-Jams, DJ Alan Hastie, OZ-DJ & MC Supa

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER

2-4pm Colin McNeillie - Bear Blues Show

4-6pm Steve & Col's Folk/Rock Show

7-8pm Political - John D. Clare & Guests

8-10pm CAD Rock Show - Christmas Special

10-12midnight Paul's Down Time (Paul Kjenstad)

MONDAY 24th DECEMBER

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

6-12midnight ThroughDecades(60s,70s,80s,90s,00s,Teens) With Karl, Peter, Paul, Paul, Dan and Steven

TUESDAY 25th DECEMBER

8-12noon Karl and Col present "Xmas Morning Show" "Not a Turkey or Sprout in Sight"

12-6pm Paul Baker's Christmas Marathon

6-7.30pm Daz & Lee - "Ian Wilkinson Interview"

7.30-9.30pm Kevin Sowerby's Christmas Soul Train

WEDNESDAY 26th DECEMBER

12-1pm Rotary Community Carol Concert

1-3pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

8-10pm Gaz & Alby "Alternative Aycliffe"

THURSDAY 27th DECEMBER

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

7-8pm Paul Baker "Mystery Year"

8-10pm BeatRoote

FRIDAY 28th DECEMBER

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

6-8pm PVR Studios - Deep House Mix

8-10pm Pauly Mac (Australia) Rare Vinyl

SATURDAY 29th DECEMBER

6-12midnight Saturday Night Evening Session with Jim-Jams, DJ Alan Hastie, OZ-DJ & MC Supa

SUNDAY 30th DECEMBER

12-1.30pm Daz & Lee - "Stuart Hall Interview"

2-4pm Colin McNeillie - Bear Blues Show

4-6pm Steve & Col's Folk/Rock Show

7-8pm Political - John D. Clare "New Year Special"

8-10pm CAD Rock Show - "Queen Tribute"

10-12midnight Paul's Down Time (Paul Kjenstad)

MONDAY 31st DECEMBER

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

6-12midnight ThroughDecades(60s,70s,80s,90s,00s,Teens) With Karl, Peter, Paul, Paul, Dan and Steven

TUESDAY 1st JANUARY 2019

6-7.30pm Daz & Lee - "Sharon Darter Interview"

7.30-9.30pm Kevin Sowerby's New Year Special

WEDNESDAY 2nd JANUARY

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

8-10pm Gaz & Alby "Alternative Aycliffe"

THURSDAY 3rd JANUARY

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

7-8pm Paul Baker "Mystery Year"

8-10pm BeatRoote

FRIDAY 4th JANUARY

12-2pm Paul Baker "Top 40 Edition"

3-5pm Paul Baker "Golden Times"

6-8pm PVR Studios - Deep House Mix

8-10pm Nathan Abbott - 90s Classix

SATURDAY 5th JANUARY

6-12midnight Saturday Night Evening Session with Jim-Jams, DJ Alan Hastie, OZ-DJ & MC Supa

SUNDAY 6th JANUARY

12-1.30pm Daz & Lee - "Ian Wilkinson Interview"

2-4pm Colin McNeillie - Bear Blues Show

4-6pm Steve & Col's Folk/Rock Show

6-7.30pm Political - John D. Clare & Guests

8-10pm CAD Rock Show - New Year Special

Check our website for full schedule
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Building Foundations for Family Learning at Horndale Infants



Over the last 10 weeks parents and pupils have been working alongside Steph Bilcliff, Family Learning Tutor at Sunderland AFC Foundation of Light to complete a parenting course at Horndale County Infant & Nursery School. Foundation of Light's Family Learning Course welcomes any family member over the age of 19 years and runs for two hours per week. One-hour learning with other adults and one-hour playing fun games with their pupil in the school, for 10 weeks. This popular family learning programme looks



Messy Christmas

Saturday 22nd December
3.30 registration, start 4pm

Christmas crafts based around the Nativity story. Fun and fellowship, ending with a party tea! Everyone welcome to this informal, all age form of worship. As always Messy Church is free but donations are gratefully received. Messy Church has welcomed 100's of families during 2018 and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Please join us in January to continue our journey in 2019, third Saturday of every month.

at issues around health and wellbeing aiming to increase learner's participation in physical activity. The sessions have a theory and practical element to them with the whole family taking part in fun, engaging practical games and activities as well as looking at key elements like, nutrition, benefits of exercise and target setting. On completing the course, parents and pupils were invited to attend a graduation

event to celebrate their achievements as a family at the Stadium of Light. Congratulations to all of our parents and pupils who took part. The course has proved to be very successful and we plan to run the sessions once more in the Summer Term – for more information see Headteacher, Craig Brown.

(Pictured are Parent Sophie Edminson and her son Oscar Cook receiving their certificates).

COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

A hugely important Cabinet meeting and some holiday messages, but no suggestions of things to do as most things have shut down for the festive period. Find more information on this week's County Newsbits on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB90 but this will be the last County Newsbits until after the holidays.

Don't forget to join me on Aycliffe Radio, 7-8pm, Sunday 23 December, as we discuss the Christmas Story: bit.ly/ARLIVE – and have a great Christmas and New Year!

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

• Very important DCC Cabinet meeting – school funding, performance report, town and village centres regeneration, role of the social worker, domestic

abuse, regional adoption structures.

- Council activity report.
- Organise your green waste collections for next year.
- Festive refuse and recycling information.
- DCC arrangements for rough sleepers over Christmas.
- Government announces its local government funding plan.
- North-East PCCs criticise the Home Secretary's funding arrangements.
- Real wages are down – but not in Durham.
- Emergency numbers over the festive period.
- Holiday pharmacy opening hours.
- What to do in a power cut – phone 105.
- Is your boiler on the blink? Phone 0191 375 5604.

Volunteers Festive Lunch



On Friday 14th December the PCP management thanked their volunteers by providing a festive lunch. Pictured are some of the Cycle Marshal volunteers: Bob Stevenson, Angela Stevenson, Barry Kneviatt and Mike McCabe.

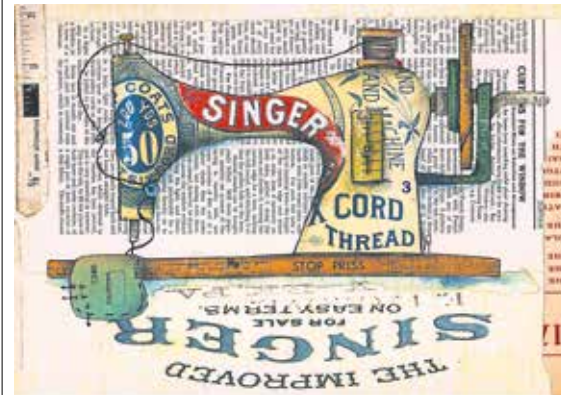
Christmas Giving at Bewick Surgery



Every year the staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery get together and donate to people in need. This year has been no different with a large collection of household goods, clothing and children's items being donated to a local

Women's Refuge. Also being handed over was a total of over £100 from those wishing to donate to a good cause instead of sending Christmas Cards and for wearing their Christmas Jumpers!

New Year Creativity at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts are delighted to announce their new 2019 programme which has a range of arts courses, learning opportunities, exhibitions and creative projects.

As part of the new season the popular 'Exploring Collage' is due to return in the new year. Led by mixed media artist Sharron Bates who will be on hand to guide you through the skills and techniques involved in this beautiful art form where you can learn to blend materials to create exciting original images.

The course will cover many aspects of collage and you will have the chance to create your own designs with amazing results. Why not come along to this friendly class and learn a new skill in a lovely environment? The ten-week course starts on Tuesday 15th January 2019 and will be held from 18:30 - 20:30 costing just £50.00 for the full course, including materials. You can also view Sharron's artwork which is currently on display in The Greenfield Gallery alongside the art and craft of fellow creatives who form part of Creative Forum. The exhibition Sharing Inspiration:

An Appointment with Creativity will run until Wednesday 2nd January 2019 and, as the title suggests, is an inspiration to others.

To find out more about our full programme and the many opportunities available please visit our website or contact our friendly team. You can now book online using our simple online form, just visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk call 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

THANK YOU

Lifeline Community Action's Children's Blessings team would like to thank Shirley and Helen from Tesco for their amazing support throughout the year. All the ladies who knit for us and all the parents and grandparents who have donated clothes, baby equipment and toys. Without this help we would be struggling to help families in need so would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Christmas and thank you all for your support. Sheena, Yvonne, Liz & Bob

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AYCLIFFE COMPANY 'PRIMED' FOR GROWTH

Acclaimed North East businessman, Gary Lumby has been appointed non-executive director by Newton Aycliffe firm BTS Facades & Fabrications, to assist the company in achieving its ambitious growth plans.

The well-established firm, which has worked on projects including Tottenham Hotspurs' new stadium, the Jaguar Land Rover Gaydon site, and student accommodation in Wembley and Coventry, met Gary at its recent open day and believed that his unique skills could offer considerable benefits. Gary works with 22 other clients across the North East and Yorkshire, adding value to the businesses and contributing to growth. His role at BTS will encompass coaching, strategic planning, and advice and he is joining the firm to help oversee plans to automate its production process



and sustain its impressive growth. He said: "BTS is a fabulous company that is growing fast already and is investing heavily in automation and people. The development of its rainwater screening and facade business is fuelling that growth and I am excited to be working with the company to accelerate it even further."

BTS, which employs 49 people, has seen turnover grow from £5.3million to a forecasted £7million over the past 12 months. The company has also invested in low voltage intelligent LED lighting throughout its factory and offices, and a biomass heating system to help reduce its carbon footprint.

Phil Atkinson, managing director at BTS, said: "Gary's appointment is a real triumph for us; my mission for the business is to be one of the UK's leading manufacturers of rainscreen systems and metal fabrications, I'd like to see turnover reach £10million in the next three to four years and I believe Gary will help us achieve that."

"I'm truly passionate about BTS and I am so proud of how far we have come in such a short time. While I enjoy all aspects of my job, I think my favourite part is seeing completed jobs being installed and photos coming back. I also enjoy watching staff excel and come through the ranks. We have a great family feel within the company and it is my pleasure to be part of it and watch it grow."

For more information on BTS Facades & Fabrications, see <https://btsfabrications.co.uk/> Twitter: @btsfabs

Successful Year For ACORN

As we leave another successful year and look forward to new challenges in 2019, I reflect on the myriad of events and outings ACORN has achieved in 2018.

The annual ACORN Petting Zoo held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre continued in its 7th year to entertain, educate and raise funding for local groups. We thank County Councillors Adam and Hopper for their sponsorship of this event.

The Big Lottery Fund continues to support our friendly community group allowing ACORN to provide low cost outings to places such as Whitby, Bamburgh, Scarborough, South Shields, Skipton, Leeds, Whitley Bay, South Lakes Zoo and Forbidden Corner.

ACORN have provided our junior group Little Acorns with an Easter Egg hunt, Halloween Party at the Leisure Centre which encouraged families to have fun together, a funday held on our local green and a Christmas outing to see Santa at Hall Hill Farm where they were entertained and enthralled by a selection of animals from rabbits to llamas. As we go forward into 2019, we look forward to taking 70 people to the Gala Theatre to see Snow White and the 7 Dwarves. It would be remiss of me not to thank all of those organisations and individuals who have supported us over the last year from Honest John, The PHOENIX Club, who allow us to use their premises as our home base, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre who host many of our annual events. Wilkinsons, Boyes, Tesco and Gregg Little for donating raffle prizes. Special thanks also to those individuals who gave their time to knit prizes and who volunteered to help run our events.

ACORN has given support where we can to other groups and welcome to the community scene Neville Residents Association and Aycliffe Village Residents Association to whom we offer help and support. Merry Christmas to all our supporters and friends and best wishes for the year to come.

Ken Robson
on Behalf of Acorn RA

Local Businesses Helping Needy at Christmas

Rotary President Jon Bean and Welfare Officer Geoff Batchelor visited Technology Court on the Whinbank Industrial Park in Newton Aycliffe this week to collect presents and donations for those in need this Christmas.

Eden Asset Management have recently taken over as managers of this site on Aycliffe Business Park and are keen to reinvest in the local area, especially at this time of the year when so many families are in need of a bit of extra help. The tenants of Technology Court all rallied round and provided a selection of gifts and monetary donations to help the Rotary Club help a needy family or two in Newton Aycliffe. The management company were delighted with the community spirit, which not only exists in the town, but also on the business park.



The companies which are based at Technology Court and were involved in this include HB Technologies, Diamond Community Cleaning, Hawk Shield Security, C&P Interiors, Capture Films, Morses Club, KHK People, Hillman & Co., PPS Developments, Special Touches, Teesvale, MSF, Vinyl4U, The Electronics Ltd, Communicators and

NASSL. Nizam from Eden Asset Management commented "I am delighted that the above companies are joining us in supporting the local community and especially those in need at this time of year". The Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe will pass the gifts to local charity, Helping Hands, who will distribute to those in need.

[editorial]

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

This week's Newton News, as you will see for yourself, is crammed with Christmas news, events and messages, and it is hard not to find ourselves catching some of the growing excitement just by reading the articles! A BBC programme about Charles Dickens this week suggested that Dickens – and especially his book A Christmas Carol – invented the modern Christmas, notably its character as a time for kindness and charity. If he did so, his invention has certainly caught on in Newton Aycliffe this year, and the Newton News would wish to thank all those people who have contributed so remarkably to the spirit of Christmas 2018 – in their shows and entertainments, in their fund-raising and their events trying to ensure

that no one is left out or alone ... and even in those messages about how we should responsibly get rid of all the post-Christmas mess! The Newton News is a community newspaper, and we rejoice in the achievements of our community. But we are also aware that Christmas has other significances, as a time to share with loved ones, as a time to miss loved ones no longer with us, and as a time of worship and spiritual meaning. And so – appreciating that everybody's situation is different – it is the wish of all of us here at the Newton News that you may over the next week know the spirit of Christmas, and that Christmas might set you up to greet the New Year, refreshed and with hope for the future.

County Council Festive Closures

Customer Access Points and most other county council buildings in County Durham will be closed over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

They will close at 4.30pm on Friday, 21 December and reopen at 8.30am on Wednesday, 2 January 2019. In the event of an emergency, residents can still contact the council on 03000 26 0000 or use the 24/7 automated payments line on 0300 456 2771.

If you are concerned about someone who is vulnerable or at risk, you should contact Social Care Direct on 03000 267 979. The service will be open across the Christmas and New Year period.

Online services will still be accessible over the festive period but requests may not be processed until council offices reopen on Wednesday, 2 January.

Leisure centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. They will also close early at 4pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

• Abbey Leisure Centre, in Pity Me, will close early at 11.30am on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

• Riverside Sports Complex, Chester-le-Street, will close on Friday, 21 December and reopen on Wednesday, 2 January.

Libraries will operate normal opening times on Saturday, 22 December but will be closed from then on until Wednesday, 2 January.

Pathways day centres for adults will be closed on Bank Holidays, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Children's centres, meanwhile, will close or have restricted opening times over the Christmas period. Users are advised to contact their local centre or One Point hub to check whether it is open.

The council's Welfare Assistance Service will be closed on Bank Holidays and will be open reduced hours, from 9am to 3pm, on Christmas Eve, Thursday, 27 December, Friday, 28 December and Monday, 31

December. Register offices will be closed on all Bank Holidays – Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day. Offices in Bishop Auckland and Aycliffe Heads, in Durham, will be open between Christmas and New Year but will operate on an appointment basis only. To make an appointment, call 03000 266 000. Barnard Castle office will not be open during this time. Sevenhills DLI research and study centre, in Spennymoor, will close at 3pm on Friday, 21 December and reopen at 10am on Tuesday, 2 January. Durham County Record Office has now closed for collections management and will reopen at 8.45am on Tuesday, 2 January. The Park and Ride service will not operate during any of the bank holidays, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. It will operate as normal, from 7am to 7pm, on all other days

except Sunday 30 December. Bin collections will take place as normal up to and including Friday, 21 December.

Collections during the week beginning Monday, 24 December will be two days later than usual, with collections which normally take place on a Friday being carried out on Monday, 31 December. Collections during the week beginning Monday, 31 December will take place one day later than usual.

Normal collections will resume on Wednesday, 2 January.

The council will again be offering a collection service for real Christmas trees. Bookings, for collection in the New Year, can be made by calling 03000 260 000 before Sunday, 6 January. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/festive for more information and updates on Durham County Council services during the festive period.

FESTIVE MUSIC



After the hugely successful concert at St. Mary's Church in September, Sophia Strings are returning by popular demand to present a programme of "Festive Music" for the Christmas season.

The event takes place in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 29th December at 6.45pm.

Tickets are priced at £5.00 to include mulled wine and mince pies. All proceeds will go to the South Cleveland Heat Fund for their Ghana Mission.

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would like to wish all
Our Readers and Advertisers
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

Newton Press and Newton News Offices will be closed from 4.00pm Friday 21st December until 8.30am on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. However we will be available over the holidays please contact us via email: sales@newtonpress.net or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Newton News deadline for 4th January edition is Wednesday 2nd January 2019

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Sat 22nd Dec 12.30 - 3.30

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FREE ENTRY

Holiday Snaps



Christine and Jill found the perfect spot in 'Celebration', Florida, to relax and unwind whilst reading a copy of the Newton News. Truly a magical place! Send your 'Newton News' holiday snaps to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

BEAT THE CHRISTMAS BLUES

Boxing Day racing offers something for everyone and welcomes people of all ages. Due to a record number of sales this year extra facilities have been added in order to accommodate demand including food outlets and extra toilets hired in.

The usual traditional family gathering event offers free admission for children under the age of 18 and as well as seven live exciting races on the card, the King George VI racing action will also be aired on the big screen throughout. Racing is still the second most popular sport enjoyed as a social event and is an event enjoyed by keen racing fanatics.

Emma White, General Manager of Sedgefield, "Boxing Day is the highlight of our calendar, and although we have now sold out of hospitality, admission and food packages are still available to purchase.

It's my first Boxing Day as General Manager at Sedgefield and I'm really looking forward to it. The whole team goes all out to make it a fabulous day for all who attend and what better way to carry on the family festivities? Fresh air, the thrill of racing and an exceptional friendly atmosphere".

For further information on Boxing Day races at Sedgefield and for a full list of Sedgefield's 2019 fixtures, visit www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk or call the office for further details on 01740 621925.

Pop in for a Cuppa and a Positive Mental Boost



A mental health support group in Spennymoor is looking for new members to join in with their fun social activities and friendly chats.

The Survive and Thrive support sessions offer people the opportunity to come together to talk, offload and make friends in a welcoming and relaxed environment. The group meets each week to enjoy social activities and relaxing therapies and to share experiences.

Durham County Council's Support & Recovery Service runs the group, which meets on a drop-in basis between 1pm and 4pm every Thursday, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Spennymoor.

The sessions aim to help people improve their emotional wellbeing and members choose the activities they would like to do. Past sessions have included quizzes, cookery demonstrations, mindfulness taster sessions and relaxing group walks. People can also get one-to-one support from group leaders Julie Patterson and Paul Cooke.

Julie said: "We're a really flexible group, people are

welcome to come and go as and when they feel like it and can contribute as much or as little as they like. Some people just like to sit quietly and enjoy having company but we have other people who really throw themselves into the activities. It's a very relaxed group and everyone who joins us is made to feel welcome. I love getting to know new people and watching their self-confidence improve as they get to know the rest of the group. I think one of the things people really like about the group is that they can talk to the group facilitators on a one-to-one basis too, so we can help with any issues they have, whether it's techniques to manage stress or anxiety, offering advice about housing or money, or just for a bit of a chat."

Tracey, from Ferryhill, who has been attending the group for a couple of years now, said: "My family are so far away, this group is like my second family. They know me better than my real family. I don't think I'd be here if it wasn't for the group".

Xmas Tree Collection

in aid of Darlington's St. Teresa's Hospice
Saturday 5th January 2019



With the collection area including Newton Aycliffe, Newton News forms a vital role in informing literally all households of this very worthwhile operation. Allow me please to remind you of the background.

1. For the last 8 years, St. Teresa's Hospice and Darlington Rotary Club have teamed up to collect over 5000 used Christmas trees direct from homes around Darlington and Newton Aycliffe. We then take them to the town's waste disposal centre for recycling into garden fertiliser topsoil.

2. In return the homeowner donates a small sum - minimum £5 - direct to the Hospice.

And since 2011 Darlington Rotary Club has raised for the Hospice over £36,000.

3. St. Teresa's is the region's only, and very highly respected, hospice.

It offers round the clock palliative and end of life care free to hundreds of local residents.

It's in house, day and at home care facilities are funded largely through voluntary donations, with professional staff assisted by a dedicated 300 strong team of voluntary helpers.

4. This year we hope to mount our most ambitious collection yet. A team of over 60 Rotarian volunteers, armed with 20 large vans - kindly loaned by Darlington's Drive Vauxhall and Enterprise Car Rentals - is hoping to collect over 1500 trees and raise a further £7500 for the Hospice.

5. "This is a win-win scheme for everyone, with homeowners avoiding mess in their cars and the Hospice receiving much needed funds", said Rotary organiser David Hayward.

"We are particularly grateful to the residents of Newton Aycliffe from whom we hope to collect around 100 trees."

6. To register your tree for collection and pay online, please go to www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk or phone 01325 254321 before noon on 3rd January.

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Mrs Brown Needs You... and Your Mammy!

Is your mammy a Mrs Brown's Boys fan, who deserves to be treated? A mammy who should be AWARDED just for being her?

All Round to Mrs Brown's is BACK and looking for people to secretly nominate mummies across the UK to win the coveted "Mammy Award". Sure, she might embarrass you on the dance floor, always put the family dog first, or burn every Sunday Roast! But she keeps the family together and the show on the road - whatever the reason, we want to know why YOUR Mammy deserves this special award.

To nominate your mammy for this opportunity, please email mrsbrown@hungrybear.tv with your name and contact details, to receive an application form, or call 0141 212 2303. We look forward to hearing from you!

Closing date for applications is 19th February 2019, **PLEASE NOTE** - You must keep your nomination secret at all times.

Juniors Football Report

It was the final round of fixtures in 2018 for the Aycliffe Juniors football teams this weekend. A few teams had no scheduled match and were already getting ready for Santa but others were involved in some great games.

The **Under 7's Whites** braved some cold conditions and put in a very good display. Their efforts resulted in a 7-3 win with two goals each for Jack C, Jack R, Joel and one for Tyler against Pass Soccer Yellows.

The **Under 7's Juniors** played away at Norton and Stockton they won the league game 7-4. The goals were scored by man of the match Alfie, Daniel, Jonah, Kai with two from Jack C. The development game was won comprehensively with goals from Jack C (5), man of the match Daniel (4), Dom (3) and Kai (2).

The **Under 9's** travelled to face Skelton United in the challenge cup and progressed to the next round with a 5-1 win. Callum (2), Oscar, Thomas and Stephen scored the goals. Jack was the man

of the match after a great defensive performance. The development game was won 2-1 with Jack and man of the match Stephen scoring.

The **Under 10's White** were away at Hartlepool St Francis and some great saves from man of the match Ido kept the score 0-0 at half time. They kept battling in the second half but a defensive mix up led to Hartlepool scoring to win the game 1-0.

The **Under 10's Claret** faced Darlington 21st All Stars at Woodham, they started well and scored first. The talented visitors got a goal back but Aycliffe maintained their positive form to win 4-2. There was a goal each for Joe and Ashton with two scored by man of the match Kai.

The **Under 11's Black** played at home against Redcar Town Royals, Jake and Rhys, both scored equalising goals after they had gone 1-0 and then 2-1 down. In the second half Redcar scored two more goals to win 4-2. Emrehan was the man of the match and there was also a strong debut from

Lucas.

The **Under 11's White** made the short trip to play Bishop Auckland St Mary's Kings. A tough match ended 3-2 to the home team with Niall and man of the match Jayden scoring the Aycliffe goals.

The **Under 12's** travelled to play Kader FC and came home happy with a 2-1 win. Zak gave Aycliffe the lead but Kader pulled a goal back before the break. There was some great football played in the second half and it was good to see Jayden coming back in to the team after a six week injury absence. It was Zak who went on to score the winner and Lewis was named as man of the match.

The **Under 13's TJFA** league team were the oldest team in action and they played away at Leven. The effort from last weeks home win was shown in parts of the first half with Zack and Lucas scoring to keep them in the game with the score 3-2 at the break. The second half performance was below standard as they slipped to a 6-2 defeat.



RUNNING CLUB NEWS



The festive season is nearly upon us and as such there are slightly fewer races to take part in and lots of parties to attend. Last weekend was also the night of the ARC Christmas Party and so there is less to report on this week.

A small handful of runners did however manage to take part in some races.

First up was Trish Kay who took part in the 5k Reindeer Chase. This is an annual festive race that takes place at Bowes Museum. This is not an actual timed race but more a charity fun run. It starts in the museum grounds and then continues onto the playing fields of Barnard Castle school. The idea of this race is to chase a person dressed as a reindeer and try and tear a paper ticket off their back which is then placed into a raffle. Entry to this race also allows participants entry to the Christmas Market and Museum. Trish enjoyed the race despite the day being very windy and cold. Four members also took part in the Xmas Trail Run in Preston Park, Stockton in what were slippery conditions given the weather the night before and the mud. First home for the club was Peter

Milburn in 20.28, followed by Sue Milburn in 25.15. Sue was also first lady o60. Alan Wilks was next in 25.49 and was also first male o70 followed by David Stothard in 27.01.

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.

Auction Raises Over £2000 for Breast Cancer

Newton Aycliffe based manufacturer, Husqvarna, auctioned a Pink Automower® recently, raising £2,100 for Breast Cancer Care.

To mark Breast Cancer Awareness month, Husqvarna recently auctioned one of its market leading, innovative robotic lawnmowers to raise money for charity. Husqvarna's Pink Automower® was designed to raise awareness of breast cancer and was the focus of a recent online auction resulting in a £2,100 winning bid which will go to Breast Cancer Care.

This year's Pink Automower® was won by 65-year-old Martin Moran from Armagh, Northern Ireland. A self-confessed hater of gardening, Martin was very pleased with his robotic lawnmower which will now take care of the lawn for him.

Alongside the Pink Automower® online auction, staff at Husqvarna in Newton Aycliffe raised money by dressing in pink and donating to Breast

Cancer Care, bringing the total figure raised up to £2,283.

Known for pioneering the robotic lawnmowing industry in 1995, this year marks the third in which Husqvarna has raised money for Breast Cancer Care, and the second in the form of an exclusive Pink Automower®. The robotic mower is the only one of its kind to be produced in the UK this year.

On winning the mower, Martin commented: "I've known a number of people who thankfully survived breast cancer however I've lost people close to me to other cancers. I'm happy to have won the Pink Automower® but, more importantly, I'm pleased to give this money to such a worthy cause."

For more information on Breast Cancer Care visit www.breastcancercare.org.uk

And to learn more about Husqvarna Automower® visit: <http://www.husqvarna.com/uk/products/robotic-lawn-mowers/>



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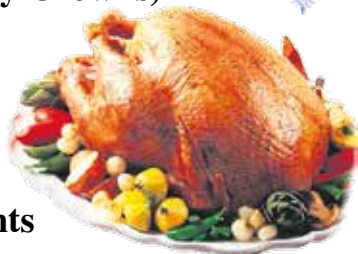
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MOTHER'S FESTIVE PLEA TO GIVE A CHILD A HOME

A mother has spoken of her joyful first Christmas with her adopted children to encourage others to give the gift of a home.

Durham County Council has 27 children waiting for adoption and, this festive season, the authority is appealing to people to consider providing a family and a future to youngsters in care.

For Sara and her partner, bringing home their two toddlers in October 2013 was the happiest day of their lives, and they will never forget their magical first Christmas together.

"It was the most amazing type of chaos we could imagine," said Sara.

"Before we knew it trees and decorations were up, a little higher than usual,

and the glass baubles were replaced with name and first Christmas baubles.



"We ordered matching Christmas jumpers and booked into every family Santa experience known to man. A little over the top we admit now, but then this was our Christmas, this was Santa bringing us what we had wanted for so long, our family.

"Christmas week was magical, wrapping all over the place, more toys than we had room for and family faces filled with such joy that we had brought these beautiful, happy children

into their lives and that we were complete."

Sara and her partner adopted through Durham County Council, and they are keen to share the wonderful impact it has had on their lives.

"We cherish every moment and wear our adoption journey proudly on our sleeves," she said.

"We will inform, educate and try to prove to anyone we meet that if you want to be a parent you can, and adoption works. We have

never looked back on the experience with anything but appreciation for what we went through, where we ended up and what we achieved."

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services at the council, said: "This is such a heart-warming story of a family's first Christmas. "Sara and her partner have provided two children with a loving home and a promising future, and they too have the family they always wanted.

"Anyone considering adoption please contact us to find out about the support we offer."

Families are needed for children of all ages and backgrounds, from babies and toddlers, to older children and young people. Some children have special needs and others are looking for a family where they can live with their brothers and sisters.

Adoptive parents can come from all walks of life and

all enquiries are welcomed, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, class, culture, sexuality or relationship status.

Extensive training and support is also offered at every stage of the adoption journey.

To find out more about adoption in County Durham, visit www.durham.gov.uk/adoption

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Woodham Academy Students Prepare for P-16 Interviews



Wednesday 28th November saw Year 11 students from Woodham Academy undertaking a mock interview in preparation for the next stage of their academic careers. The school welcomed interviewers from a variety of different careers

into school to conduct the interviews. Students were marked accordingly to a range of criteria, including further impressions, body language and quality of CV and communication skills. 'The experience has helped me prepare for my college interview' said Courtney Lister, a student at the school 'I feel much more confident about myself and my ability to interview well'.

The event forms part of the extensive careers programme run at Woodham Academy which aims to equip all students with the skills necessary to succeed in their working life. Interviews for Sixth Form and Further Education places will take place in the Spring term.

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In The Night Garden Coming to Darlington Hippodrome

In February 2019, the smash-hit children's TV show In the Night Garden begins a first ever tour of UK theatres and will play Darlington Hippodrome on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September and tickets have just gone on sale. Take a spectacular journey into the magical world of In the Night Garden and experience the UK's favourite family show with all the enchanting characters magically brought to life on

stage. In the Night Garden Live is the perfect musical theatre experience for the entire family. Children's favourite CBeebies stars - Igglepiggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends - are all brought beautifully to life in a specially-written new story using full-size costumes and magical puppets with enchanting music and dancing. This delightful classic is a firm favourite with young pre-schoolers and their parents. Seen by over one million people, the critically acclaimed production has established itself as a must-see first theatre experience for young children. Oliver Seadon, Executive Producer said "When we made In the Night Garden Live we never imagined it would run for 10 years and that over a million visitors would come to see it. It's incredibly exciting now to be making a brand-new

show and taking it into theatres all over the country. This will be the first time that audiences get to see In the Night Garden Live in their local theatre." Director Will Tuckett said, "Children know these characters so well, much better than we ever might think. They see them as proper friends- when they appear on stage live they are seeing friends liberated from the television or tablet. They are there, waving at THEM. Taking your child to see them live on stage is an extraordinary experience - it's a genuinely heartwarming and truly magical thing and makes me love my job as much as I do." In The Night Garden Live runs at Darlington Hippodrome on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September. For more information or to book call 01325 405405 or visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk



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"ALL SORTS" Charity Shop next to St. Clare's Church Hall is open 10.00am to 1.00pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Every penny made will continue to be donated to good causes. The shop is run and funded solely by Godfrey Bennett, who would like to thank all his many supporters. Seasonal greetings to everyone. **CLOSED** from and including Saturday 22nd December; reopen Saturday 12th January. **STAIRLIFT** for sale, hardly used, very good condition, still in situ so can be seen working. £600. Tel 07572 614466

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Christmas Wishes

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LOVELASS, Mike and Pam wish all family, friends and neighbours around the town a Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and send Good Wishes for 2019 xxxxx

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

VI CAPELL of Whitehead Walk would like to send Christmas and New Year greetings to all friends, Neighbours and a special mention to Lynne, Julie Meek and all the girls at Creations, who I miss seeing

DORIS CASSIDY would like to wish all family and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year xxx

Rev. Elizabeth Moves to Sedgefield

We are very sorry to announce the departure of the Rev. Elizabeth Bland who was Team Vicar of Great Aycliffe Parish until last week.

Rev Elizabeth and her husband Steve feel they have been called to serve God in a slightly different way and are moving to the parish of Upper Skerne which surrounds all villages in the Sedgefield district. Rev Elizabeth will take up the part-time post and begins her new role in January. Her licensing will be on January 3rd at St. Edmund's in Sedgefield and all are very welcome to attend.

Both Elizabeth and Steve have served very broadly in our parish in many ways. They helped start up the "Open the Book" scheme in several schools here which has been very successful. Also they will be missed as great helpers in our monthly "Messy Church" monthly services, and in the Meditation group which Rev. Elizabeth started a couple of years ago.

Their final service was a parish event and held in St. Clare's Church on December 9th where they were presented with a generous



cheque in thanks for their sterling efforts throughout the four churches in our parish. Their new home in Trimdon is not quite ready to move into as yet so they will commute to Sedgefield from Newton Aycliffe as necessary. We wish to send them both all of our love and good wishes in their new journey, and although missed very much by so many, they leave behind fond memories of a couple who serve God with dedication, wisdom and humility, and will continue to do so in their new parish.

Public Notice

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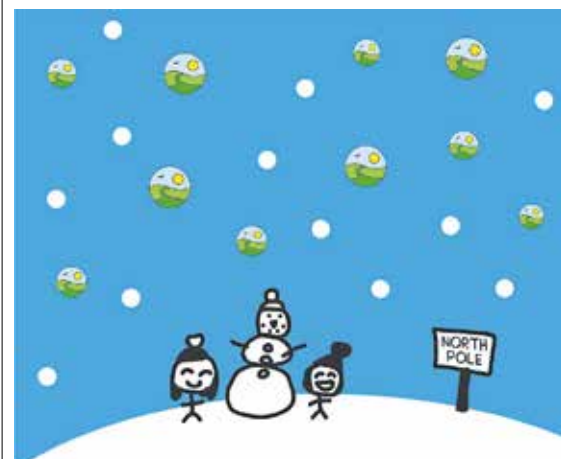
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Doggy Day Care - Dog Walking - Home Boarding - Canine Workshops
Free Puppy Sessions - Kennel Club Training Scheme
Dog Grooming - 1:1 Training Sessions

Why not call in to see us? - Check us out on Facebook

DOG WALKING (Dave Oliver) Daytime, half hour sessions £5.50 per dog. Police checked and fully insured. Years of experience in dog handling. Tel 07756 825637

Student Designs School Christmas Card

Students have once again created some wonderful designs as part of Greenfield's annual Christmas Card competition. The young people showed their creative skills as they used different media to add their own distinctive style to each festive image. The results were amazing with many cards also depicting the caring

and inspiring ethos at Greenfield Community College. It was a very difficult job for the judges but eventually a winner was chosen and Year 9 student Lauren Hartley claimed the top spot. The design has now been printed by professionals and sent to hundreds of people across the Newton Aycliffe and Shildon area. Lauren has also been presented with a gift voucher and her own framed copy to keep which will hopefully inspire her future designs.

Well done to all who entered the competition, the standard was very high and we look forward to seeing what the students can achieve next year!

Tuition

ENJOY LEARNING Guitar, Bass or Drums at home. Tel Roger 01325 321 444 - Friendly, Experienced, Local.

DIVE in
Hydrotherapy Pool Refurbishment

HELP US TO RAISE
£410,000
TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES

Families in your local community rely on our Hydrotherapy Pool for recovery and rehabilitation from serious illness and for pain management.

People like Simon, pictured here, use the Hydrotherapy Pool to recover from serious illness.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need your help to completely redevelop our 20 year old Hydrotherapy Pool, which is in desperate need of refurbishment or the Pool will have to close.

The pool is available to everyone without the need for a GP referral, with your support we can keep providing this vitally important therapeutic service.

Your donation will help us to:
Double the size of the original pool
Provide improved lifting and hoist equipment
Provide larger and better equipped changing rooms

Visit **www.diveinPCP.co.uk** to find out how you can help
Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF

PCP
Health, wellbeing and learning for all

Tesco Elves Deliver Early Christmas Joy

Down Syndrome Project Celebrate Christmas Bonanza!



• Behaviour & Social skills
“The generosity and support of Tesco Bishop Auckland has been overwhelming to all of us here at Together 21 and the Pioneering Care Partnership. We feel it is very important for our community based project, especially as it serves families from throughout the North East, to work closely with local businesses

to both raise awareness of the need for such a project and to raise vital funds. These funds are crucial to ensure the continuation of our essential work which allows our children to take advantage of every opportunity that early intervention can provide. Diane Goodwin Project Leader Together 21

Christmas came early for Together 21, a project which supports children with Down syndrome and their families, thanks to a generous delivery of toys and games from the customers of Tesco Bishop Auckland. This fantastic gesture means that each child at the project will receive a gift at their Christmas party this year. Together 21, a parent led project supported by local charity the Pioneering Care Partnership and based at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe,

offers Learning, Fun and Friendship to children with Down syndrome and their families from across the North East. It provides access to a comprehensive programme of tailored learning and life skills for children from birth to 18 years old, helping them to acquire the essential skills that will equip them to meet the future with confidence. The service provides access to;

- Communication / Makaton Signing
- Speech & Language,
- Numeracy
- Fine & Gross Motor Skills

MRI APPEAL BOOST



We're delighted with the support received by local McColl's Stores, with Area Manager Michael Johnson pictured here alongside Chair of Trust Professor Paul Keane OBE, donating a cheque to the value of £547.18. A further £200.00 was donated via the counter collecting tins in Newton Aycliffe stores, with more retail stores committed to support our local NHS Charity for 2019. Michael said, "It's very important to us as a national organisation that we do take care of our local charities and the NHS is special to everyone. It's been an absolute pleasure to help and

support through our stores the MRI Scanner Appeal and we hope to continue supporting our local NHS Charity during 2019." Paul said, "We are thoroughly delighted with the support that Michael and his staff have given us and look forward to working with McColl's more closely during 2019, with a number of ideas being discussed for a larger fundraiser for our hospital charity. We rely on the help and support of local businesses to do what they can to help us and McColl's have demonstrated that working together, you can make a big difference."

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

Congratulations



Agnes



To my beautiful Wife Agnes on our 50th Wedding Anniversary. In all those years we've never had an argument. Lots of heated discussions, but no arguments. You are the best Wife any one could ask for. All my love
Geordie xxxx

Craig Jackman



23rd December 2018
Happy Birthday
Love you always, SJ xxxx

Happy Birthday Dad and Grandad

Thank you for everything you do for us. Hope you have the best day. Lots of love from Madison, Mackenzie, Cayden and the dogs xxx

Christmas Remembrance

Kirsty Sheila Hughes

22-9-1986 to 18-7-2017

No other time could be as sad, or quite as hard to bear. As celebrating Christmas without you being there. You meant the world to everyone, and at this time of year. Your kind and gentle nature, was so precious and so dear. Dear Daughter we will meet again, when earthly life is through. And may the angels keep you safe, until the day we do. Love you always Kirsty Mam and Dad xxxxx

George & Agnes Reay



Mum and Dad

Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. You've shared so many happy and sad times over the years, but it's always been by each others side. You are the best parents anyone could ask for. Love you both. Julie, Mark, Kayleigh, Mack, Richie, Nova-Reign, Leanne, Mark, Kate, Mason, Bailey and angel kisses from Tracey xxxx

Birthday Remembrance

NOEL NEEHAM Happy 88th birthday on the 24th December, 2018. Sweet are the memories silently kept of one we loved. Never forget. Love, Sheila and families xxxx

Obituary

MARINA LINCOLN

Aged 73, passed away peacefully at home on 17th December surrounded by her family.

Geordie



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary

They all said it would only last two weeks!! Love always and forever. Agnes xxx

In Memoriam

Emily Cook

Time doesn't heal our heartache, our grief grows more each day. All we wish this Christmas, is for our Daughter back to stay. She's one of Heaven's angels now, but how we miss her so. We had so little time with her, why did she have to go? No presents or gifts we can give her, so please send to Heaven above, millions of hugs and kisses, wrapped up with all our love. Merry Christmas Emily.

Love and miss you every day. Mam, Wayne, Holly and Morgan xxxxx

Our beautiful star Emily. Although our tears keep falling, peace and solace we'll have found. When we find a pure white feather that has fallen to the ground. Then we'll know for certain by this sign from you above, that the angel wings will surround you, with their everlasting love.

Merry Xmas sweetheart, Nanna and Grandad xxxxx

Happy Christmas Emily, I've asked an angel in Heaven, in a special Christmas prayer, to protect you while you're sleeping and to tend you with great care. All my love, Auntie Nicola and Bella xxxxx

Merry Christmas Emily. Our beautiful Niece. Your love is so special, a gift beyond compare. You only know the meaning when she is no longer there. We loved you so and you loved us too. Deep in our hearts your memory will be kept. Love forever, Uncle Michael and Auntie Caroline xxxxx

Twinkle Emily, our beautiful star. How we wonder how you are. Up above our world so high, you are that diamond in the sky. Twinkle Emily, our beautiful star, our love is with you wherever you are. Love at Xmas, our beautiful Cousin. Thomas and Michael



Although you were gone before I came, I know you'd have loved me just the same. Baby Matthew xxx

Emily, we wish we could see you on Xmas night. To tell you we miss you and hold you tight. We'd tell you that we love you and miss you every day. Then in the morning let you fly away, beautiful angel. Auntie Lesley, Uncle Brian and family xxxxx

As Christmas comes around again, and we light up our Xmas trees. Please give a thought for all the children who have passed - especially our Emily. With tears in our eyes we whisper low, Merry Christmas our Em, we love you so. Missed every day Uncle Howard, Auntie Eleanor and David xxx

Take a million tear drops and wrap them up with care, ask the wind to carry them, with love and a special prayer. Because close in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Merry Christmas Em. Auntie Vicki, Uncle Dave and all your family from the Hub

Christmas wishes Emily. Each night we shed a silent tear and speak to you in prayer. We're letting you know our beautiful girl, we love and miss you so. Love Uncle Chris and Auntie Hayley xxxxx

Susan Feeney



Died 25th December 2017
I can't believe it's been a year since I lost you. You are always in my heart and thoughts. Love always, Nev

Sue Feeney



Died 25th December 2017
No verse can say, no flowers can repay, how much we lost, one year today. We know you're still with us, especially today, because we shared a closeness even death can't take away. Merry Christmas Sue and Mam. Love and miss you always, Carol, Linda, Graham, Gordon and families xxxxx

Thank You

CHLOE MILLER Would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended her birthday party and for all the beautiful gifts and cards received. Also a big thank you to the committee at the Phoenix Club. Also Howie for the disco; Louise for the food and the Duo Phoenix. Also the bikers, the Ravens M.C.C. - The Knuckle Eddz M.C.C. and Phoenix M.C.C. for the beautiful flowers. It was an amazing night. Once again, thank you all for making it a special night. Chloe, John and Annie Miller

BOXING DAY DERBY

Newton Aycliffe FC take on local rivals Shildon at Moore Lane on Boxing Day. The game will be the second meeting in just over a week for the two sides who are due to meet in the Durham Challenge Cup on Tuesday 18 December.

The reverse league fixture, played on August Bank Holiday, saw Aycliffe come away with a point from Dean Street after the sides shared 6 goals. There have been squad changes for both clubs since then with Aycliffe bringing in several new players. Amongst them is former Shildon player Ben Wood who has scored 4 goals in his six appearances since signing from West Auckland at the end of October.

Aycliffe lie in 12th place in the Ebac Northern League Division One just one place and one point behind Shildon, having lost just once in their last 8 outings. Last weekends cold spell proved too much for a number of Northern League games and Aycliffe's home match against Stockton Town fell victim to a frozen pitch.

The Boxing Day game against Shildon kicks off at 1:00pm. Admission is Adults £6, Concessions £4 & accompanied under 12s free.

With only one other Boxing Day game in the Ebac Northern League Division One Aycliffe are hoping for a big crowd so come along & support our Town's team.

Youthy Football Round Up



NAYFC U11 Eagles 5 Consett 1

Today we welcomed Consett who were top of the league, only losing one game so far this season. In freezing conditions we were at the opposition from the start, the front three were causing problems and chances were coming but it looked to be a familiar story, we couldn't get the ball in the net and the opposition were trying to catch us on the break. We eventually got the breakthrough from our left back Tyler who pressed the opposition and hit one with his right foot from the edge of the box into the bottom corner. We were playing some lovely stuff today, retaining the ball in defence and passing well, especially in the bad conditions. The opposition were then given a dubious penalty and made it 1-1 against the run of play. Our heads didn't go down and we continued to play football with confidence and found ourselves 2-1 up after Harry put the ending on a fine move. We quickly

made it 3-1 with a great solo goal from Will, finishing well with his left foot. We continued into the second half the way we finished the first, we competed for every ball and passed it around well. Two more goals came, firstly Isaac broke through and struck one past the keeper and Alex helped it over the line then Harry put one into the top corner with a great strike. A great performance in poor conditions, every single player played their part today and a very difficult decision for man of the match. Moore, Kai, Tyler and Zach were solid at the back with Jude coming off his line well several times to clear the danger. Declan and Will worked tirelessly in the middle and were a constant menace to the opposition, while Isaac, Alex and Harry linked up really well and constantly pressed the opposition. After a vote, MOM went to Declan for his great energy, tackling and good range of passing. Well done Dec and all the boys.

Great game to watch.

N/Aycliffe U10 girls 7 Hebburn Town 2

A bitterly cold morning at Peterlee but the girls turned up with their game heads on. The girls were told to warm up and stay warm, as the cold was getting to them before kick off. The team today led with the right attitude and positivity ran through us. Lana was outstanding when called upon, she pulled off some great saves but also her distribution was spot on today. Freya and Tilly were outstanding at the back today winning the ball high up the field and looking to dribble or pass. Faith was our centre midfielder today always looking to go forward and having some great one to one battles in midfield. Thea and Bailey were on the wings holding up the ball and playing it through the defence into Demi Lee which is becoming natural to them. Safiye was our super sub today coming on first half and second half, lighting up the field with her excitement and passion. From front to back they excelled today and as a top of the table clash, they absolutely did themselves proud. Parent and coaches were over the moon with the team today and to see their faces light up at that final whistle makes standing in the freezing cold soooo worth it. Nice Christmas break now to recharge batteries and go again in January. Some fantastic goals today against a physical side who played with grit and determination till the final whistle. Goals from Demi Lee (2), Faith (2), Bailey, Freya and a first goal for Safiye. POM went to Bailey - she held up the ball fantastically, was forward thinking and her passing was great to see.

Other wins this weekend were: Washington AFC 0 - 6 NAYFC U9 Aycliffe Angels Chester-le-St Amazon Diablos 2 - 5 NAYFC U7 Wildcats Girls Newton Aycliffe Youth FC wish all their supporters, parents and players a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

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 where you can find lots of information and links to teams.

Photo: U9 Aycliffe Angels in their festive jumpers!

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

The focus for last week's racing was the North East Cross Country Championships which took place at Wrekenton on a cold and very windy day. There was a good turn out from the club despite the conditions, which meant that our Team Tent had to be taken down to prevent it blowing away.

The race was held on a course previously run this season in the NEHL. However to make it different it was to be run the opposite way round. It is usually a very undulating course but this way round meant that the racers had to climb what is usually the steep downhill section and for the men covering 12k this meant ascending the hill 4

times.

First home for the club was Peter Milburn in 55.14, followed by Richard Campbell 58.43, Andy Talbot 1.00.02, Dave Blewitt 1.04.23, Brett Lambert 1.10.48, Rob Nicholson 1.11.56, Mick Brunskill 1.14.46, John Richardson 1.15.58 and Ian Baronowski 1.17.08

Next was the turn of the two ladies who managed to finish their 5 mile course just before the weather changed!

First home was Susan Milburn in 44.33 and who came 2nd in her age category. She was followed by Melanie Rowland in 52.40.

The following day Julie Nisbet took on the challenge

of the Hardmoors Roseberry Topping Half Marathon which took her up the top of Roseberry Topping twice. Julie appears to enjoy these challenging races and she completed this one in 3.37.38. Anyone interested in joining the club can simply turn up at one of our sessions or contact us via our Facebook Page. All sessions meet at the Oakleaf in Newton Aycliffe. On a Monday we have a beginners session, Tuesday is a main club session, Wednesday is a recovery run of approximately 5 miles and Thursday is a track session at Shildon Track. Any changes to sessions over the Christmas period will be notified via Facebook.



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!



The Phoenix Club



Thursday 20th - Line Dancing with **TANYA TURNER & CHRIS RADDINGS** (Xmas Party Night - Bring A Plate)

Friday 21st - Karaoke / Disco with **BURNBABY** free entry.

Sat 22nd **THESE DAYS** Fantastic **TAKE THAT TRIBUTE** £6 a ticket

Sunday 23rd Karoke / Disco afternoon with **STAN** free entry.

In the evening solo artist **ALI JAY** £1 entry.

XMAS EVE - JEFFRI RAMILI and duo **MACABER** tickets selling fast £5 members / £6 guests .

Friday 28th Karaoke / Disco free entry .

Saturday 29th - solo artist **PAUL VINCENT** and solo artist **NICOLA BROWN** £3 ENTRY.

Sunday 30th - afternoon Karaoke/disco free entry Evening solo artist **JON CHARLES** £1 entry.

NEW YEARS EVE - We have **HUDSON SISTERS** and solo artist **IAN JOSEPH** Tickets £6 members / £7 guests

NEW YEARS DAY - Karaoke / Disco with **GARY** - free entry



A MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE STAFF & THE COMMITTEE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND CUSTOMERS.