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Dedication Service for Railwaymen of Shildon Works



On Thursday 10th January a dedication service was held at Locomotion Shildon to recognise the Railwaymen of Shildon Works who enlisted to serve in the Great War. A new memorial was unveiled to those men who enlisted and the men who remained behind at the works to support the war effort. Head of Locomotion, Dr Sarah Price, began proceedings, Karyn Anwyl, Locomotion volunteer explained her inspiration behind the memorial project followed by Reverend Canon David Tomlinson, St John's Church, Shildon delivering the Memorial Service and blessing. The occasion was attended by the Durham Light Infantry Association, South West Durham REME Association & Friends of the National Railway Museum

North East Branch. The afternoon, was a thoroughly poignant experience and readers are

encouraged to pop down to Locomotion to see the memorial and possibly even identify a family member.

Care Home Residents Help with Knitting



Nifty knitters at Rose Lodge Care Home have made over 100 hats for premature babies following a hospital appeal. Residents, staff and friends of Rose Lodge Care Home knitted up a storm over the festive holidays to produce dozens of special hats for premature babies born in 2019. The University Hospital of North Durham made an appeal for hats to keep vulnerable premature new born babies warm and to highlight to hospital staff which babies need some extra care and attention. There are no plans to put down the wool yet as the home has already begun a new project to knit baby blankets to fit incubators

as these cannot be reused to avoid potential cross-infections. Rose Lodge Home Manager Nicola Wheatley said: "As soon as we heard about the hospital appeal we knew our residents would want to help. Many of them have a strong attachment to the area, having lived here for most of their lives, and they enjoy giving back to the community. A lot of love went into knitting the hats and I know it's been rewarding for everyone involved." "When we took the hats to the hospital the nurse that we handed them over to said that our red hats would be perfect for the new arrivals born on Valentine's Day."

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Badminton for Beginners

Looking to take up a new sport, get fit or improve your badminton skills? Aycliffe Badminton Club have a new Junior and Beginner Session running on a Friday evening from 6pm to 7.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Led by qualified coaches and costing only £3 per session, why not give it a try?

For more information contact Joanne Heron of County Durham Sport at joanne.heron@durham.gov.uk



Restaurant Specials

Kids Eat FREE Monday to Friday 5-6pm
with every adult meal purchased from the main menu
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Pensioners Special - Every Monday
One course meal with tea or coffee - £6.00

Two for £12 - Thursday 5-8.30pm

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Full English Breakfast - Saturday
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Young Carer Ambassador



Sugar Hill Primary have recently appointed a pupil ambassador for Young Carers. The Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Legge, leads Young Carers in school and is justifiably proud that the school has recently received re-accreditation to the Young Carers Charter for the second time.

Tyler Stacey, a Year 4 pupil, is a Young Carer. Tyler helps to care for his sister Kaitlyn who attends Evergreen Primary in Bishop Auckland. Tyler loves to help care for his sister and has a really good understanding of how he can support other Young Carers. Tyler was keen to take on this role with the help of his mam to promote Young Carers at Sugar Hill. It is hoped that children will find emotional support from Tyler and that they feel they can share experiences with him knowing he understands the responsibilities being a Young Carer can have on young people. Mrs Legge commented, "I am immensely proud of Tyler. He is a very positive young man with a fantastic outlook on life. He loves to help and support others. Tyler has a keen sense of humour and loves to share a joke. He will be a fantastic ambassador for Young Carers. This is a role Tyler will fulfil throughout his time as a Sugar Hill pupil and I am delighted that Tyler shows such a keen interest in supporting other Young Carers at Sugar Hill Primary".

5th Birthday Pledge



The Bishop Auckland Fundraising Group of Marie Curie celebrated its 5th birthday by pledging to raise £100,000 by the end of the financial year on 31st March 2019.

This successful group - with the help and generosity of the people of South West Durham - has raised £96,700 in the few years it has been in existence. Supermarket Collections, Blooming Great Tea Parties, Curry Nights courtesy of The Spice Lounge and other events too numerous to mention have all contributed to this amazing total.

The group hope that the annual Daffodil Appeal, which begins shortly, will prove the catalyst to ensure they reach their goal. Anyone wishing to help with collections or contribute ideas for future fundraising events will be most welcome to attend the monthly meetings which take place in the Community Fire Station on Watling Road on the first Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm

For further details contact Elizabeth Varley 01388 606075.

Amazing Attendance at Sugar Hill Primary



Sugar Hill Primary School Leadership Team are doing all they can to inspire pupils to attend school regularly. Mrs Hindmarsh leads a whole school attendance initiative and is always thinking of new ways to get the message to parents and pupils of the importance of attending school. Last term the children were told that if their attendance for the Autumn Term was 96% or above they would be entered into a draw to win a bike. Three bikes were kindly donated to school as the much coveted prizes by Mr Benjamin Maughan of Epic Social Newcastle. Every day the children have seen the bikes displayed in school. Last Thursday a special draw took place in a whole school assembly and the lucky winners were announced. Roman was the lucky winner in Early Years, Brihanna won the Key Stage 1 prize and Moore could not contain his excitement when his name was pulled out after a very dramatic drum roll for the Key Stage 2 prize! Mrs Hindmarsh has already made plans for the prizes for Spring Term and the children are eagerly awaiting delivery so they

know what they may win next. The school are looking into ways to reward children who could never achieve this target due to ongoing health needs and would love to hear from any local businesses who feel they can offer support to the school in the form of prizes. In addition to the termly prizes there are weekly draws where one pupil from each class chooses a smaller prize from Attendance Reward cabinets. Classes with the best attendance overall also earn a class treat. Attending school regularly and arriving on time are life skills that will auger well for pupils when they enter the world of work. Good habits start young. Staff at Sugar Hill would like to thank Mr Benjamin Maughan for donating the bikes. These prizes have had such a positive impact on pupil attendance. Mrs Hindmarsh commented, "I would also like to say a huge thanks to all the parents who support us in doing all they can to ensure their child regularly attends and arrives at school on time. The children are so excited when they know they have a chance of winning a prize like a bike!"

Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre



NAYCC Open Day

Saturday 26th January 2019 ~ 10am - 2pm

Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre's are opening its doors to you, the public and businesses alike, to come and view our facility and see what we can offer you.

- for any groups that are interested in renting rooms to run their classes/events;
- for any organisation or service provider that wants to hire rooms on a regular basis to see what space is available and the services we include;
- for any members of the public who want to see inside the centre and find out what groups and services run from the centre. We promise there is no catch and you will not be asked to sign up to anything;
- we would also like to use the opportunity to consult with people on what kinds of services and projects they would like to see running from our centre. There is a free cuppa and a cupcake for everyone who completes a short questionnaire and all completed questionnaires will be entered into a prize draw;
- there will be lots of information from the groups and services that run from the centre as well as entertainment from local groups such as The Acorn Ukes (our local Ukulele group), Applause Theatre School and a display from the Little Eagles.
- We will also have a few local small businesses, i.e. Temple Spa, Love Thy Cupcake

We hope to see you on the 26th.

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Saturday 26th January - "Uncle Gilbert"
Top quality band with a massive local following

Saturday 2nd February - "F.M."
How long have FM been around now ?? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome."

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For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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MAYOR'S CHARITY CIVIC DINNER 2019

Tickets are now on sale for the Great Aycliffe Town Council Mayor's Charity Civic Dinner to be held at the Hallgarth Hotel and Country Club, Coatham Mundeville Darlington on Friday 15th February 2019.

The event starts at 7pm with music and there will be a raffle and tombola with proceeds to be donated to the Mayor's chosen charity the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.

Tickets are £30.00 each and include a 3 course dinner with tea/coffee, for details of how to reserve your place for this popular event please telephone 01325 300700 or e-mail: sharna.stretch@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

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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 SHELLS 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@rof59.co.uk or call 01325 728222
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Acclaimed Exhibition Reveals First World War Women On The Frontline

A nationally acclaimed exhibition showing rare photographs taken by women on the frontline is set to stir audiences as it comes to Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

No Man's Land offers rarely-seen images taken by female nurses, ambulance drivers and photographers during the First World War, alongside contemporary female artists working a century later.

The pioneering exhibition will end its national tour at Durham County Council's Bishop Auckland Town Hall from Saturday, 26 January to Saturday, 6 April, inviting visitors to share in the experiences of the brave, ground-breaking women who took to the front line.

Such women include Olive Edis (1876-1955), thought to be the UK's first female official war photographer sent to a war zone and one of the first anywhere in the world. Also featured are the remarkable images of Mairi Chisholm (1896-1981) who took the unconventional role of motorcyclist-turned-ambulance driver and used snapshot cameras to record her intense life under fire at Pervyse in Belgium, just yards from the trenches. These historical images coincide with contemporary works, such as photographs by Alison Baskerville, a former soldier with personal insight who was commissioned to create a series of portraits of present-day women in the British Army.

Lucy Jenkins, visual arts manager for Durham County Council, said: "As we commemorate the centenary of the Armistice period, it is a historic moment to consider people's experiences of the First World War and reflect upon the impact of conflict today. With Bishop Auckland fast becoming a destination for arts and culture, we're delighted to offer this important exhibition to residents and visitors to the region".

The exhibition has been curated by Dr. Pippa Oldfield and is a co-production by Impressions Gallery in Bradford, The Turnpike in Leigh, Bristol Cathedral, and Bishop Auckland Town Hall, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Admission to the exhibition is free. Bishop Auckland Town Hall is open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

For more information, visit www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk or phone 03000 269 524.



Alex from Soldier 2011 by Alison Baskerville, commissioned by Impressions Gallery. Cibachrome print LED lightbox

Film Show

"Goodbye Christopher Robin"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 22nd January features the 2017 British biographical drama "Goodbye Christopher Robin", starring Domhnall Gleeson, Margot Robbie & Kelly MacDonald.

A poignant glimpse into the life of children's author A.A. Milne and his son Christopher Robin. The fascinating story of the author of Winnie-the-Pooh. Everyone is welcome, please come and enjoy. Tea and coffee are served at 1pm, included in the £2 entry. The film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables, so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company.

For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Woodham Students See in the New Year at Aosta Valley, Italy



Year 11 students from Woodham Academy saw in the New Year in the idyllic setting of the Aosta Valley, Italy. With the usual term time trip limited to years 8-10, the additional trip was offered at the request of the year 11 students. Many of the group were familiar with Pila having skied there the year before, and with constant blue skies, the stunning panorama of the Italian Swiss border from Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn was visible every day.

With a smaller group than usual, students were able to visit the neighbouring resort of Courmayeur for a day. Courmayeur is situated at

the foot of Mont Blanc and the breath taking views of the Dent du Geant and the Grandes Jorasses were an imposing sight for all to see. The day finished with a visit to the stylish village and the pedestrianised Via Roma which was still decorated with spectacular Christmas illuminations.

Woodham Academy Deputy Headteacher and party leader Danny Morgans said: "It was wonderful to see how much the students improved during their week away, and also extremely rewarding to be able to take them to see cultural sights in the Aosta Valley such as the Roman amphitheatre that is over 2000 years old."

FLOWER DEMO

Shildon and District Flower Club's next meeting, on Monday, 4th February, will feature Area Demonstrator, Wendy Smith who will entertain with a series of floral demonstrations entitled 'A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That'.

The club meets at Shildon Civic Hall at 7.30pm.

Free to members, visitors £5. All welcome.

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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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Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Interesting council meetings, surveys on the County Council's aims and Police funding, and the HealthWatch newsletter, along with some very high-brow (and expensive) things to do next weekend.

More information on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB91

And don't forget to join me on Aycliffe Radio, 6-7:30pm, Sunday 20 January, as my guests and I discuss the chaos in Parliament and our ailing town centres: bit.ly/ARLIVE

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- DCC Economy Scrutiny Committee (homelessness and selective licensing of landlords), Tuesday 10 January.

- DCC Environment Scrutiny Committee (Heritage Coast and the S&DR bicentenary), Thursday 15 January.

- DCC launches #2019 Year of Culture.

- Take part in the survey: What are your hopes and ambitions for County Durham?

- Middridge Parish Council meeting, 7 January.

- Durham Restorative Hub receives award for high

quality services.

- Please complete the survey on Police Funding.

- Durham Constabulary to recruit new police officers.

- HealthWatch County Durham January newsletter.

THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEKEND

- Messiah, Durham Cathedral, 7:30pm Saturday 26 January. Tickets £7-£24.

- Ballet at the Darlington Hippodrome – Nutcracker 2:30 and 7:30pm, 26 January; Swan Lake 2:30pm, 27 January. Tickets £12-£41.

- Norman Cornish and the Creative Arts, Beamish Museum, 16-24 February (entrance charge).

FORMER APPRENTICE LEE ON ROAD TO SUCCESS

A former apprentice is on the road to success after landing a prestigious award.

Lee Teasdale, who is a new recruit to Durham County Council's highways maintenance team, has won an award from Derwentside College following the success of his apprenticeship.

The 20-year-old from Crook undertook a two year Level 2 apprenticeship which saw him spending four days a week on the frontline, working on roads and footpaths with the council.

Lee's fifth day of the week was spent at the college studying theory.

Following the success of his apprenticeship, Lee earned a permanent job with the council as a highways operative, in November last year.

He has now landed the college's Excellence in the Construction Apprenticeship accolade, in its Annual Achievement Awards, having been nominated by his lecturer.

Lee was described by the college as "an excellent role



model to others."

It added: "With an excellent attitude and commitment, Lee was an amazing apprentice from the outset!

"Always leading by example and working to the highest of standards, Lee continually showed the desire to improve his skills and gain more knowledge."

Lee was "shocked," "excited" and a "bit nervous" to receive the award for which he was presented with a glass trophy.

"I was pleased that the college recognised my commitment and effort but at the same time I was nervous and I knew I would get a right ribbing

from the lads. I believe the award helped with me getting a full time position within the council."

He is now happy in his new role and said: "It is good, I enjoy it. I like the variation – no two jobs are the same.

"Obviously there is the change of scenery - you are never in the same place."

Neil Summerson, the council's contracts manager, said: "We are very pleased for Lee to have won this award. His attitude and performance while with us as an apprentice and since he came on board full time has been second-to-none and he definitely has a bright future ahead of him."

To find out more about apprenticeships with the council, visit <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Apprenticeships>

Studio Sessions at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are delighted to announce their new studio sessions for the spring season.

The sessions include three creative strands including digital photography, lino print making and jewellery making.

Why not learn something new and join professional photographer Elaine Vizor for the first of our series and improve your camera skills? Elaine will be leading the first digital photography session on Thursday 24th January from 10:30–14:00.

In this session you can learn more about black and white photography and the skills of depth of field. This is an exciting opportunity to help you get started or hone your present skills.

The workshops cost just £25.00 per session and are a great opportunity to learn more about how to get the best from your camera and enjoy getting creative.

In February we are offering the opportunity to make your own beautiful piece of jewellery, you can choose to create a unique pendant or earrings with expert guidance from jewellery maker Lindsay Peter. The session will be held on Thursday 21st February from 10:30 – 14:30 and will involve a technique called 'soutache' which uses cord and embroidery. The cost including materials is £50.00 for the session and you will be able to create something special to take home.

Our popular lino-print making session will be held on Thursday 28th February from 10:30 – 16:30 where you can learn print skills with artists Alan and Helen Holcroft. The session is suitable for



beginners and no drawing skills are required. Please contact Helen directly on helholcroft@gmail.com to book your place.

These sessions form part of our new Spring Programme which is now available to book online. It is full to the brim with creative opportunities for those looking to return to one of their popular favourites or try something completely new. You can find out more about Greenfield Arts and what is on offer by visiting www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or speak to one of our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

George Wheatley Celebrates his 90th Birthday at PCP

My Dad has lived in Newton Aycliffe since the early 1950's (I was born in Lightfoot Road in 1956!) – and he was part of the Great Aycliffe Town Council Building Works Team that built most of the Town Centre (as was!) and many of the houses around the Simpature Gate area and beyond.

He loves living in Newton Aycliffe – and despite now being 90 years old is an active member of Neville Parade Methodist Church and Art Group, as well as a regular attendee at the fabulous Luncheon Club held weekly at the Youth Centre.

He can also be seen most days tearing around Newton Aycliffe on his 'e-bike'... an electric bike that has transformed his life!

We approached the Pioneering Care Partnership to help us celebrate my Dad's Birthday. It was a 'first' for the PCP to have such an event – but as you can see from the photographs it was a resounding success – due to the incredible help and support the Staff at the PCP gave us.

Once again the Pioneering Care Partnership pulled out the stops to ensure my Dad



had a party to remember. The willingness of their Staff to help us in setting the room as well as the fabulous Catering they provided ensured that my Dad, Family and Guests had a wonderful afternoon enjoying and celebrating a 'Wonderful Man....my Dad'.

I would like to thank Vicki, Gail and Carol and all of her Staff for all they did on the day – and for their support in making it happen – and the fabulous Buffet they provided.

It is certainly an ideal venue to hold such an event – and one which I'm sure my Dad will want to return to for every other party he has. Sandra Wheatley



Launch Of Quiet Hours At Tesco Newton Aycliffe

From 15th January Tesco are supporting customers who may require a little more support and time at the checkouts with a quieter shopping environment and a relaxed lane at the checkouts.

Every Tuesday going forward from 9am-10.30am and 2pm-3pm the relaxed lane at checkouts will be open (look out for checkout number 25!), there will be no music playing or tannoy calls, the till volume will be turned down and in the mornings the store lighting will be dimmed to part lighting.

We have two pairs of noise cancelling headphones which are available from the customer service desk should our customers require them, these are available at any time our customers choose to shop with us.

Seating areas are available at the pharmacy and behind the relaxed lane checkout.

A number of our colleagues have had some Autism awareness training in partnership with the North East Autism Society and are Dementia friends. The North East Autism college - Aycliffe School will be in store on a Tuesday morning 9.30-10.30 to raise awareness and will have some lovely items for sale, for example fudge, soaps, candles, which have been made by their students.

Reg. Charity Number 1152038

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YOUR SUPPORT,
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- Care for children aged 0-5 years
- Excellent outdoor play area
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OFSTED quote: "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."

mnda
motor neurone disease
association

Do you enjoy listening to and helping people?

Does influencing and creating change motivate you?

Would you like to help make a difference for people living with MND in your area?

Our local volunteers provide vital support, raise awareness, campaign and fundraise.

For more information on how you can volunteer with us please contact:
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Registered Charity NO 294354

FINAL STAGE OF NEW THEATRE AND SURGERY COMPLEX

Just before Christmas we formally opened the second and final stage of our new theatre and surgery complex at Darlington Memorial Hospital. Following the opening of six new state of the art theatres, bereavement suite and mortuary 18 months ago, five of the existing theatres have been fully refurbished to the same standard as the new theatres – bringing the total to 11. In addition,



the development has created a new day surgery ward, admissions lounge, recovery bays, consultation rooms, changing facilities, staff room and offices – altogether fantastic, as you can see! The £30m investment has involved lots of hard work from contractors and colleagues alike. The surgery teams also continued delivering their excellent 'service with a smile' during the transformation.

We already perform around 10,000 surgical procedures at Darlington each year across a range of specialities. The new areas are designed to ensure they offer patients the best possible journey – from the moment they arrive in the new admissions lounge, to their pre-operative consultation with the surgeon and anaesthetist. The scale of the new complex is breathtaking, creating a sense of calm, even on the busiest of days.



POPULAR SESSIONS RETURN TO DELVE DEEPER INTO FAMILY

Archivists will help people dig into their family's past as a popular history course returns.

Back by popular demand, the Durham County Record Office session will take family historians beyond the basics of family tree tracing, to delve deeper into old records.

Two identical sessions will run, the first on Tuesday 22 January from 6pm to 8pm, the second on Thursday 24 January from 10am till 12 noon.

These will look in more detail at the census, with an archivist offering insight into how the census was conducted and how it dealt with institutions including workhouses, prisons, hospitals and ships, as well as the different ways to search the census.

Gill Parkes, principal archivist at Durham County Record Office said: "The talks form part of the Branching Out series, aimed at developing people's skills in history research. We have seen people make fascinating discoveries about their family history."

As with other Branching Out sessions, there will be an hour after the talk to



browse and use the record office's research facilities with support from an archivist.

Tickets must be booked in advance and are priced at £10 per person. These can be booked online at <https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgEventResult>

Jacquie
at
J&A Headstart
wishes all her customers a Happy New Year. Many thanks for all the gifts and cards received.
NOW OFFERING A WALK-IN SERVICE for Gents & Ladies
Tuesday, Friday & Saturday
Appointments Available
Wednesday & Thursday
Tel. 300037

Healthwatch Host Information Events For Vascular Services

Healthwatch County Durham and Healthwatch Darlington are hosting a number of information and listening events about vascular services in County Durham. We have been asked by NHS England to facilitate these events to capture the views of patients and the public about improving the experience of services.

You will be able to hear from and share your views directly with NHS staff, including vascular consultants. More information about the changes and the benefits to patients will be given at the events being held across County Durham and Darlington on the following dates:

- Thursday 17th January, 5-7pm at Spennymoor
- Wednesday 23rd January, 5-7pm at Stanhope

- Monday 28th January, 5-7pm at Durham
- Wednesday 30th January, 5-7pm at Darlington
- Wednesday 13th February, 5-7pm at Consett
- Wednesday 27th February, 5-7pm at Barnard Castle

The events, while directly impacting patients who may need to access vascular services (for treatments, procedures and surgeries), are also available for any member of the public who would like to attend. Decisions on changes to services may also impact on family, carers and friends of a patient.

To register your interest in attending one of the above events or for more information, please contact Healthwatch County Durham by calling 0800 304 7039 or emailing healthwatchcountydurham@pcp.uk.net

Monday 5.30pm and 7.30pm

Neville Community Centre

Contact Annette for more info on 07974696241

slimmingworld.co.uk 0344 897 8000

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*Help to Buy is available on properties up to a maximum value of £600,000. If you qualify for Help to Buy assistance and you raise a mortgage for at least 75% of the purchase price of your new home from a lender, you can borrow up to the remaining 20% of the purchase price by taking out a loan secured over your new home from the Government's Homes & Community Agency (HCA) over a period of 25 years. A 5% deposit is required by the lender. More may be required depending upon circumstances and your lender's criteria. Help to Buy is subject to eligibility and terms and conditions. For full details visit www.millerhomes.co.uk/help-tobuy. *Stamp Duty Land Tax paid offer does not apply to the higher Stamp Duty Land Tax rate for additional residential properties, if payable. Offer is subject to Miller Homes' standard terms and conditions and cannot be used in conjunction with any other incentive or offer nor exchanged for cash. Miller Homes reserves the right to withdraw the offer at any time. †Part Exchange is subject to availability, status and eligibility. Your present home must meet certain basic qualifying criteria and be of a lesser value to be eligible for Part Exchange. 100% market value based upon valuations obtained by appointed scheme surveyors. Terms and conditions apply. CGI represents an artist's impression. Move Ready homes is subject to availability and subject to change at any time. Price and availability correct at the time of going to print.

HISTORIC BUILDING IN DURHAM NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL STAYS



AN HISTORIC Durham can trace its origins to the city centre building, which 1700s, is now available for

residential stays. The former Durham County Club at Old Elvet has undergone a £1.5m refurbishment to transform it into 12 luxury one and two bed apartments, while still retaining many of its original features. And now the apartments – right in the heart of the city – are available for business guests and long-term visitors to rent through the newly formed Durham Boutique Lettings. The Grade II listed building, which over the years has seen numerous aristocrats and even HM The Queen

entertained there, has been transformed into a modern and stylish residential block but with a distinctly traditional feel. “52 Old Elvet is something really different in the centre of Durham and a fantastic option for business people who may be in the area for a length of time and want to stay somewhere that’s extremely luxurious but also offers all the home comforts,” said Claire Parry of Durham Boutique Lettings. “The apartments have all the advantages of a home away from home and are also in a prime location.” Parking is also available

for a limited amount of the apartments, adding to their appeal for business people or guests who are staying in the area for a longer period of time. The apartments, which are all named after former Prince Bishops and include a top floor penthouse, all have their own fully fitted kitchens, lounges and one or two bedrooms. “We really feel we have something very special to offer which will enhance the appeal of accommodation in Durham,” said Claire. Bookings are available for stays from seven nights. For further information visit www.durhamboutique.com

Local Dog Lovers’ Solution to Modern Day Loneliness

Volunteer dog cuddling is being offered by Barking Mad Durham as an antidote to the problem of loneliness in modern society. For those who are retired or work from home and are spending large chunks of time alone, caring for a waggy-tailed companion on a temporary basis and meeting other likeminded dog lovers could really help to overcome feelings of isolation.

The perception of loneliness as mainly an issue for the older generation is now proving inaccurate, as a study from the Office for National Statistics suggests that young adults are more likely to feel lonely than older age groups. Due to huge advances in technology, the number of freelancers and remote workers is rising, with an article in Business Leader claiming that a ‘third of business owners think that workforce will work remotely by 2020.’

Joanne Hewitt of Barking Mad Durham said: “As a former nurse I worked with a team and interacted with lots of people from all walks of life, working in the community I saw loneliness on a daily basis in all age groups.

“Whilst remote working has obvious advantages, working alone under pressure and not having the physical presence of a team to support you can lead to loneliness that can’t be fixed by any kind of app. Caring for a friendly dog not only provides canine cuddles (far better than any virtual hug) but also the motivation to go and take a walk at lunchtime, increasing the likelihood



of adhering to New Year fitness resolutions.”

The community of Barking Mad host families mainly consists of active retired people and those who either work from home, or have extended periods away from work. It offers the opportunity to care for dogs in your own home, while their owners are away on holiday. Hosts experience all the benefits of dog companionship without any of the emotional or financial responsibilities of full time pet ownership.

To find out more about becoming a Barking Mad host, you can call Joanne Hewitt on 0191 5805111 or visit: www.barkingmad.uk.com/local/county-durham/durham/ Barking Mad is part of the Franchise Brands plc group of companies and is the UK’s favourite dog holiday company, as verified by TrustPilot. Contact Barking Mad at www.barkingmad.uk.com to find your dog’s home from home today.

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and
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Dog Fouling at Woodham

Dear Editor,
I feel that it has become necessary to highlight the problem of dog fouling in the Woodham area, which over the past few months has become a serious issue. In particular the grassed area next to Brafferton Close opposite the bike track is littered with dog waste which has not been picked up and it is now so bad that I am avoiding walking my dogs on this section of land because of the risk of my dogs, as well as myself, treading in it. Several of my fellow local dog walkers in the area have been commenting on how bad the situation is now, and it has come to light that one particular person, with a larger breed of dog, has been spotted on more than one occasion, not picking up after their dog has done its business. Because this individual has been identified they will be reported to the authorities as it is only a matter of time before we find out where they live and perhaps obtain video evidence of their actions or lack of them!

Having said this, I am sure there are one or two other guilty parties as well, so be warned anyone who thinks it is acceptable to leave this mess laying around, that it is not going to be tolerated by the majority of us who take responsibility for our dogs and do the right thing by clearing up after them. A pack of 300 nappy sacks can be purchased from Tesco for around 36p if anyone thinks the cost of ‘proper’ dog waste bags is too much, so there’s no excuse at all.

I will be speaking to local councillors this week to explore ways of addressing this matter so any developments will be communicated to local residents via Newton News. Name and address supplied.
Councillor John D. Clare comments:

I thank the correspondent for highlighting this disgusting act, where people fail to pick up after their dog. It not only exposes residents to dirt, smell and disease, but spare a thought for the Council workers who operate the grass-cutters and strimmers, who go home night after night splattered in dog-

dirt. Do people who fail to pick up appreciate that they are committing one of the foulest acts of anti-social behaviour?

Limited quantities of dog bags are available free (contact the Town Council on 01325 300700), so the writer is correct; there is no excuse. If you know the name and address of someone you have witnessed failing to pick up after their dog, you can contact Durham County Council on 03000 260 000, or your local County Councillor. Upon receipt of a complaint DCC wardens may visit the perpetrator and, dependent on evidence, may be able to issue a fixed penalty notice.

However, this is an act which is very difficult to catch or to punish and will only be stopped when the perpetrators realise how negatively others view their actions, which is why this letter is so welcome.

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



The Phoenix Club

EVERY FRIDAY FREE KARAOKE / DISCO

Friday - 18th **Burnbaby** Karaoke / Disco free entry.

Sat 19th - Solo artist **MARK ALLEN** and comedy duo **TAKE THIS** £3 entry.

Sunday 20th - **DISCO DAVE** Karaoke / Disco in the afternoon and solo act **SANDIE SMITH**
In the evening - Solo artist **LACY** and bingo £1 entry for both.

Friday 25th - **BURNBABY** Karaoke / Disco free entry.

Saturday 26th - Solo artist **TONY BURNETT** and duo **ALTER EGO** £3 entry.

Sunday 27th - **GARY** Karaoke / Disco in the afternoon free entry.
In the evening solo artist **ANDY JAMES** £1 entry.

Line Dancing Every Thursday

WEEKLY OFFERS ON DRAUGHT BEERS & SPIRITS

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



It was another full weekend of racing this week which as always began on the Saturday with numerous members taking place in Parkruns. This saw two of our members record PB's both at the event in Hackworth Park, Shildon. John Richardson completed this in 26.37 and Tracey Pickering in 32.48.

On Sunday it was the return of the cross country fixtures following the Christmas break. This event was the Cathedral Relays. These are usually hosted by and held at Durham. However, this year, Birtley AC took over this race and the race was held at the Lord Lawson School.

The weather wasn't in the runners favour however, with the conditions really windy. If that wasn't bad enough the course was set out with 4 short sharp hills in to make the runners work extra hard in the wind. ARC had 7 teams entered in total. Four male teams and three female teams each with three runners, with each runner covering a distance of 3k.

In the men's race first team home were Andy Talbot, Richard Holland and Richard Campbell with a combined time of 37.27. They were followed by Rob Nicholson John Burnside and Trevor Needham in 45.14, Lee Wren, David Stothard and Ian Baronowski in 45.40

and John Heywood, Anne Kellett and James Wilson in 49.16.

In the ladies race first home was Sue Milburn, Cyd Denise and Julie Nisbet in 46.28, followed by Lindsey Brown, Jane Burnside and Gemma Holland in 54.35 and Anne Kellett, Melanie Rowland and Susan Clark in 55.15.

Elsewhere three of our members took part in the Tees Trail Race at Wynyard. This was a 5k race which utilises the old railway line at Wynyard and also requires the runners to climb a steep section of steps very close to the end. First home for Aycliffe was Dave Blewitt in a time of 24.04. He was followed by Michelle Scott in 24.29 and John Richardson in 27.50. Finally on Sunday Mark Bainbridge travelled to York to take place in the Brass Monkey half marathon. This is a really popular half marathon race which starts and finishes at York Racecourse. Mark completed this in 1.37.52 achieving a PB.

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.

BREXIT STATEMENT

On Tuesday 15th January, the Government suffered the greatest parliamentary defeat of any Government in British history. Theresa May's Brexit deal was defeated by a massive 432 votes to 202, a staggering majority of 230.

The Prime Minister's deal was defeated for 3 reasons: 1. The deal on offer was not a better deal than the one we have now.

2. The deal did not fulfil the promises made to Leave voters during the 2016 EU referendum campaign.

3. The deal would lock the United Kingdom into negotiations with the EU for years to come.

At the time of writing, the Government is quite rightly facing a vote of no confidence. If Theresa May loses the vote of no confidence by two thirds of MPs voting against her, there will be an immediate General Election.

If the Prime Minister wins the vote, she will need to look again at what to do next.

The Prime Minister has said she is now prepared to reach out across Parliament to solve the issue, something she should have done months ago.

I will be looking for a solution which does not make our country poorer and I find it difficult to see what that solution can be if it is not the deal we have now as a member of the European Union.

I know the majority of people in Sedgefield constituency voted to leave the EU in 2016. I respect that decision. I have a duty, however, to outline

what the issues facing our country are with Brexit and I feel that the mood in the country is changing. I can tell this from the hundreds of emails I've received and the number of constituents I've spoken to who want a final say on the Brexit outcome.

A 'no-deal' Brexit would be catastrophic for Newton Aycliffe, the North East and the country as a whole. When a Government needs to stockpile food and medicine and plan for massive traffic jams at our ports, you know a 'no-deal' Brexit is not a good idea. Therefore I believe the Government should extend Article 50, negotiate a new deal and then put that deal to the country in a public vote.

In 2016, the referendum was run on myths and promises that could not be kept. The majority of those who pushed for Brexit, such as Boris Johnson, David Davis and Dominic Raab have all resigned from government because they couldn't stick the course, leaving it to others to pick up the pieces. Nigel Farage resigned as UKIP leader the day after the referendum, not even he was prepared to stick around to help sort out what happens next.

If there was a public vote on any deal then the British people will have the facts before them. They should have the final say on whether we continue down the Brexit road or remain in the EU and reform it from within. I am still of the opinion, however, that whatever deal we secure it will not be as good as the one we have now. I honestly believe this is the best way forward. If the British people still want to leave the EU having considered all of the details and facts of the deal, so be it. This would be the final decision on the Brexit issue.

I believe the people should now have a final say. If a general election is not secured, then a final referendum should be held. I know people 'just want it over', that 'Leave means Leave' but if two years' of negotiations have shown us anything, it's that Brexit isn't as easy as that and it is irresponsible of those politicians who pedal that view. At present, I can see Brexit dominating our national life for years to come. And I don't think any of us want that.

I'm always keen to hear what you think as my constituents. How should the Prime Minister proceed now her deal has been defeated? Do you support a second referendum? If you voted to leave, what does leave mean to you? Please do get in touch and let me know your thoughts. You can write to me at 'Office of Phil Wilson MP, 4 Beveridge Walkway, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4EE' or email me at phil.wilson.mp@parliament.uk.

TRIBUTE TO LEGENDS AT THE STADIUM OF LIGHT



Kevin Ball and Gary Bennett with the artist of the mural

Sunderland supporters have paid tribute to five iconic captains with a stunning new mural. The artwork was unveiled last Saturday as the Stadium of Light's South Stand was officially renamed 'The Roker End'. Bobby Kerr, Charlie Hurley, Kevin Ball, Gary Bennett & Raich Carter all feature. Bennett said it was an 'honour' to be part of the mural and took part in the unveiling ceremony alongside Ball. "It's a fantastic honour.

"The mural is really good, being part of the parcel of the Stadium of Light, to be selected as one of the five,

it's a real honour. "It'll stay with you for the rest of your life." Funding for the project was provided by The Football Supporters' Federation, Kick it Out and the Charlie Hurley Statue fund.

The project was led by the Red & White Army fan group, with Chairman Andrew Hird saying that the mural would help a new generation of supporters connect with Sunderland's illustrious history. The mural is the first in a number of projects designed to improve the Stadium. The artwork was produced by Illumination Wall Art.

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Programme Schedule

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



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

SATURDAY

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 9-10am | Kitchen Floor Fillers | |
| 10-12pm | Saturday Brunch | Sean Lawless |
| 12-2pm | Weekly Edition | Paul Baker |
| 2-4pm | School Disco | |
| 4-6pm | Northern & Classic Soul (R) | Kevin Sowerby |
| "THE SATURDAY NIGHT EXPERIENCE" | | |
| 6-8pm | Evening Session | JimJams |
| 8-9pm | Chart & Dance Remixes | Alan Hastie |
| 9-10pm | Retro Tech House Mix | OZDJ |
| 10-12am | Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass | MC Supa |

SUNDAY

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 10-11am | Church Service | Xcel Centre |
| 11-12pm | Conversations with Mary & John O'Sullivan (1st & 3rd Sunday - Mystery Year 2nd & 4th) | Darren & Lee |
| 12-130pm | Sports Round Up (R) | Colin McNeillie |
| 2-4pm | Bear Blues Show | Steve & Col |
| 4-6pm | Folk/Celtic/Rock Show | John D. Clare |
| 6-7.30pm | POLITICAL | |
| Guests 20th Jan | Alison Batey, Kathy Beetham, Eddy Adam, Paul Howell and Scott Durham | |
| 8-10pm | The Live Rock Show | "CAD" |
| 10-12am | Paul's Down Time | Paul Kjenstad |

MONDAY

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 11-1pm | Lunch Break with | Paul Baker |
| 1-3pm | Afternoon Delight | |
| 3-5pm | Driving Home with | Paul Baker |
| "Through the Decades" | | |
| 6-7pm | 60s Show | Karl Simons |
| 7-8pm | 70s Show | Peter Rush |
| 8-9pm | 80s Show | Paul Gittins |
| 9-10pm | 90s Show | Paul Baker |
| 10-11pm | 00s Show | Producer Dan |
| 11-12am | Teens Show | Steven Harrison |

TUESDAY

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 11-1pm | Lunch Break with | Paul Baker |
| 1-3pm | Afternoon Delight | |
| 3-5pm | Driving Home with | Paul Baker |
| Sports Show sponsored by Honest John | | |
| 6-7.30pm | Sports Round UP | Darren & Lee |
| 22nd Jan | Dougie Grant Youth Football Coach | |
| 7.30-9.30pm | Northern & Classic Soul | Kevin Sowerby |
| 9.30-12am | Motown Classics | |

WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| 11-1pm | Lunch Break with | Paul Baker |
| 1-3pm | Afternoon Delight | |
| 3-5pm | Driving Home with | Paul Baker |
| Community Connect & Rewind sponsored by ROF59 | | |
| 5-6.30pm | Community Connect | Amy & Phil |
| 6.30-8pm | Rewind | Amy & Phil |
| 8-10pm | Alternative Aycliffe | Gary & Alby |

THURSDAY

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| 11-1pm | Lunch Break with | Paul Baker |
| 1-3pm | Afternoon Delight | |
| 3-5pm | Driving Home with | Paul Baker |
| 6-7.30pm | POLITICAL (R) | John D Clare |
| 8-10pm | "Beat"Roote | Graeme Roote |
| 10-12am | UK Number 1's | |

FRIDAY

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 11-1pm | Lunch Break with | Paul Baker |
| 1-3pm | Afternoon Delight | |
| 3-5pm | Driving Home with | Paul Baker |
| 6-8pm | Tech-House Mix | PVR Studios |
| 8-10pm | Guest Presenter Session | |
| 25th Jan | Pauly Mac - Rare Vinyl (Australia) | |
| 10-12am | Alternative Aycliffe (R) | Gary & Alby |

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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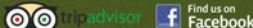
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Students from Greenfield Community College have

Greenfield Students Experience Life Internationally



been engaging in learning through snow sport activities and broadening their horizons through extensive travel.

A group of 44 students and staff have recently enjoyed a brilliant week on the slopes in Italy's Aosta valley taking part in the annual ski residential. Now in its 19th year, the visit lived up to all expectations offering students expert tuition and the chance to improve skills not only in skiing but by enjoying a life changing educational experience. Students grew in confidence throughout the trip, working hard both on and off the slopes participating in a full programme of après ski which included completing school work. Once again, students made fantastic progress, developing from beginner to intermediate skiers and several more experienced students attained the highly respected 5* award for skiing proficiency.

'It is always a fantastic week away. Most of the beginners have no idea what to expect,

until they stand on the slopes and take in the breath-taking panoramic of the Alps. Students have to work hard, adapt quickly and respond to intensive five hour daily tuition, but they reap the rewards. It is fantastic to see our students growing in confidence, developing lifelong skills and experiencing the culture, language and uniqueness of this beautiful town and ski resort in the Aosta valley'

German schools, as well as improve their leadership skills. I would recommend this project to all schools who are keen to embrace languages and explore new cultures." Greenfield Community College are continually developing and embracing opportunities such as these to ensure an outstanding learning experience for young people as part of a broad curriculum offer.



said Assistant Headteacher Mrs Dixon.

"This month we will be launching our Ski residential for 2019 and 2020. We hope that by initiating both trips, additional families will be able to save up, spread the cost and enable more of our students to take up this fantastic opportunity. If you want to see what we achieved this year, look no further than @GreenfieldTweet #Ski2018."

During a very busy calendar at Greenfield students were also able to take advantage of an exciting opportunity to visit Giessen near Frankfurt in Germany. Five students were chosen to act as mentors and accompany students from Ramshaw Primary School as part of the 'Magical German Trips' project.

It turned out to be an amazing experience for all as they got the chance to visit partnered German school Ostschule and generally find out more about German culture and visit the renowned Christmas markets. Students were accompanied by Subject Leader Mrs Welsh "it really was a magical experience with students able to use their German skills by buying presents from the market and learning new words" said Mrs Welsh.

"This has been a valuable experience for both the mentors and the mentees as they have had the opportunity to learn about German traditions and

GOD IS STILL CHANGING LIVES

'I was a rebellious teenager with my anger at God after the sudden death of my dad. I went to uni, where I studied environmental and evolutionary science to prove that God didn't exist, and was offered a job in Zakynthos as a manager of a conservation project. I had everything I wanted. But there was still something missing.'

This is the beginning of Danielle Gault's story. Her life was heading in one direction when God intervened, brought healing and a new career opportunity.

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For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact Julie Gale on mobile 07968 379009 / 01325 319880 or by email at julie.gale@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

WOODHAM STUDENTS VISIT BUDDHIST MONASTERY

On the 14th of December, Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students and staff at Woodham Academy embarked on a fieldtrip to the largest Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Europe – the Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. The monastery is internationally known for the authenticity of its teachings and tradition, and offers instruction in Buddhist cosmology and meditation within the Karma Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. It is also a centre for the preservation of Tibetan religion, culture, medicine, art, architecture and handicrafts. Founded in 1967 by two spiritual masters, Dr. Akong Tulku Rinpoche and Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to be established in the West and was named after Samye, the very first monastery to be established in Tibet.

The journey began at dawn by coach and took students into Scotland via the scenic landscapes of County Durham, Cumbria, and Northumberland on a sunny yet icy day. Isolated in a beautiful natural location of Scotland amidst rolling hills and rushing waters, students were greeted by a friendly and serene Scottish nun who had taken her vows a decade ago. Upon arrival, students and staff were amazed with the location, architecture, and beauty of the monastery. Despite the lack of the soaring peaks of the Himalayas, the monastery was so genuine that it could have been in Tibet. The nun



began the tour detailing the history and symbolism of various monuments of the monastery and how these relate to the cosmology and practices of Tibetan Buddhism. Students even witnessed an ageing Tibetan monk walking in circles around the monastery reciting mantras in pursuit of his own enlightenment. How close he is was a mystery to everyone. Some of the highlights were the various shrines dotted about in gardens with statues of the Buddha and other Bodhisattvas, the prayer flags flapping in the soft but chilling wind, the magnificent stupa containing relics of the Buddha, and the prayer wheels to generate good karma for all humanity. To seek refuge from the frosty weather, the group sat in the vegetarian dining hall to eat, relax, and warm up. Present were other guests and visitors, pilgrims – some sitting in absolute

silence, others in jest – and the resident monks and nuns.

The truly remarkable experience, though, was the temple itself looming over the monastery with two great statues of yaks greeting visitors. The monks and nuns were kind enough to allow students to witness an ancient Tibetan Buddhist ritual consisting of the burning of incense, endless mantras and chanting, drumming, and praying in the ceremonial temple hall beneath the gaze of an enormous statue of the Buddha. The temple was of extraordinary beauty, with an array of statues and artefacts, countless scrolls, walls the colour of gold decorated with prayers in Tibetan, sacred symbols, and exquisite tapestries. One of the nuns took the group into the adjacent meditation hall to discuss what Tibetan Buddhism meant for her, to answer any questions about Tibetan Buddhism and her own reasons for joining the monastery, and to teach the basics of samatha meditation. The students excelled in this, and were surprisingly able to remain in a strenuous cross-legged meditation posture for some time in deep silence. After an hour or so students were allowed to wander the scenic gardens of the monastery, visit the café, and explore the handicraft shop with all manner of religious objects, clothing, and books.

The group then returned to the main temple for an hour-long discussion with one of the senior monks, an entertaining South African lawyer who since taking his vows had become one of the monastery's major international speakers and teacher. He spoke of his life as a monk and about the mission of the monastery. Students asked him various questions regarding Buddhist attitudes to religious, ethical, and social affairs, whereby he constantly challenged students to seek their own



answers to their questions in a jovial manner.

Dr Damon Lycourinos, Head of Religious Studies, Woodham Academy, said, "As our time was coming to an end, upon walking back to the coach the nun privately told me that Woodham Academy's students were the most polite, inquisitive, and respectful students she had ever encountered. Truly acknowledging that Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery is a place of worship and residence for a living religious tradition, all students strictly abided on their own accord to monastery's code of conduct in terms of respect, behaviour, and self-presentation. The fieldtrip was a magnificent experience for students and staff alike, and hopefully next year's Year 11 students will be able to proudly represent Woodham Academy visiting the Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery."

ORCHESTRA TO OPEN DURHAM VOCAL FESTIVAL



A world famous orchestra will perform Handel's hugely popular Messiah on the opening night of a vibrant vocal music festival. The renowned Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will open this year's Durham Vocal Festival, performing with Durham Choral Society, in Durham Cathedral on Saturday, 26 January at 7.30pm. Composed in 1741, Handel's most popular and well-known piece will include the rousing Hallelujah chorus and a series of impressive solo arias by soprano Rowan Pierce, alto Helen Charlston, tenor Nicholas Pritchard and bass Dingle Yandell.

The performance, conducted by Steven Devine, is just one of the many highlights of the broad-ranging festival, which features professional musicians, local school children, specially composed works, world premieres, community choirs and much more. Other highlights include Life of St Cuthbert, a unique pilgrimage piece by Solfa Carlile, starting in Northumberland and culminating in a World Premiere at Durham Cathedral on Friday, 8 February, performances by festival-favourites Northern Lights and Northern Spirit Singers, and a new addition to this year's programme – the Office Choir of the Year competition. Fans of professional group VOCES8 will also be delighted to hear that they will perform alongside hundreds of local singers in a specially composed piece, Dunelm Lux Aeterna,

written by Paul Smith working with five local schools.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "I can't wait for the opening of this year's festival. The performance of this seminal work with such world-class performers will be an event not to be missed."

"We're thrilled to be involved with so many fantastic singers and musicians and are particularly delighted to be hosting the world famous Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment for the opening night."

"Durham Vocal Festival is now in its third year and has grown to become an important event in Durham's cultural calendar, with this year promising to be the best yet. The city is developing a real reputation

as a key destination for music-makers and music-lovers alike and we're proud that our vocal festival is playing a key part in that."

Cherry Forbes, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment education director, said: "We are delighted to be returning to Durham for the 2019 Vocal Festival and to be performing Handel's masterpiece 'Messiah' in the Cathedral with the Durham Choral Society is a treat indeed. The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will be joined by some of our Rising Stars and we look forward to what we know will be a magical evening!" Tickets for all Durham Vocal Festival events are available via the Gala Box Office on 03000 266 600 or via the festival website www.durhamvocalfestival.co.uk

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COATES TO BATTLE FOR RENAULT UK CLIO CUP WITH TEAM HARD

North Yorkshire's Max Coates will remain in the Renault UK Clio Cup for 2019 joining Team HARD. After winning four races Coates narrowly missed out on the title in 2018 having led the series for the majority of the championship. Entering his fourth season in the Clio Cup Coates has finished in the top four on every occasion and will continue with the same team of three mechanics he has used each year. Last term he also notched up the most pole positions in the UK series and finished second in Renault's Internationale Finale event at Paul Ricard. Team HARD, headed up by Tony Gilham, currently competes in a number of race categories including the British Touring Car Championship – 2019 will mark its debut in the Clio Cup, Europe's premier single-model saloon car arena. 18-year-old Ethan Hammerton, who lives just ten miles from Max in nearby Northallerton, will also join the team. Max coached Ethan during his 2017 Clio Cup Junior campaign in which he finished 2nd. Both Max and Ethan will drive one of the teams BTCC cars in the mid-season tyre test. Coates said: "This will be my fourth season in the



championship, we came so close to taking the title in 2018. I've learnt more and more each year, as have my mechanics, and we feel confident about the season ahead. I'm particularly looking forward to racing a Clio at Knockhill which will be a great spectacle for drivers and fans alike. "It's a very exciting moment to confirm this deal with Team HARD who do so much to support drivers; their offer of a BTCC test is evidence of this. The Clio Cup features close racing and great business opportunities, commercially this works really well for my sponsors, more of whom I will be announcing soon."

"Ethan has a sensational ability to put what he is told into practice and very good car control, having coached him from the passenger seat of a Clio I know this first hand! He'll be a good team mate."

Team HARD boss Tony Gilham added: "We've wanted to join the Clio Cup for some years and the timing is just right with Max and Ethan – both will also test our BTCC car during the championship's mid-season official tyre test. "With his results in the Clio Cup, Max is going to be a very strong contender for the title. Ethan was the winner of our young driver scholarship and is a very exciting talent."

"Together they make for a very strong driver line-up and our plan is to take them both back into the BTCC with us."

All 18 of the Clio Cup's rounds in 2019 will race at the BTCC's high profile events which attract trackside crowds of over 38,000 people and are broadcast live on free-to-air television (ITV4/ITV4 HD) and to mobile devices via ITV.com. The first race of the season takes place at Brands Hatch on Saturday 6th April.

Team HARD., Max and Ethan are set to announce sponsors and other key team personnel in due course. Photo credit: John Beardon

Hospitals Helping Patients Get A Good Night's Sleep

The importance of a good night's sleep for patients is at the heart of an initiative in hospitals across County Durham & Darlington.

The Invest in Rest Charter aims to ensure wards offer a restful environment at night, so patients can benefit from a good night's sleep which can be an essential part of their recovery.

Associate director of nursing at County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Jason Cram, said, "Clinical care continues regardless of the time of day or night, but we've taken some practical steps to minimise disturbances and interruptions during the night so our patients can rest. We want them to have the very best experience in our care – and that includes a good night's sleep."

"Our Invest in Rest Charter, offers information, guidance and useful tips for patients, visitors and staff on the role they can each play. We've placed a copy of the charter above each patient's bed to act as a reminder to all of us. We also give a copy to new patients when they're admitted. After all, good sleep can help recovery, even reducing the length of hospital stays. We're doing this across all our hospital sites."



"Corridor lights are dimmed from 8.30pm and lights in patient rooms are switched off at 10.00pm – though patients can continue to use the light above their bed after that if they wish to read, for instance. These lights can be set so they minimise the effect on other patients. We also offer ear plugs and eye masks for patients who want them. "Most of our ward doors now have 'soft close' hinges so they don't bang shut and as we replace waste bins, they also have 'soft close' lids. Ward teams are asked to keep their voices low and to remind doctors and other colleagues visiting patients during the night to do the same. At night, ward phones and bedside buzzers also

have their volume settings lowered, so they can still be heard but with minimal disruption."

Charge nurse, Lee Hardy, who manages a ward at Darlington Memorial Hospital, added; "These are simple steps but they're making a huge difference to our patients. As well as creating a calm environment, we're also helping patients to be as comfortable as possible, including having pain relief if they need it, going to the toilet before settling into bed, have enough blankets, for example. As a ward team, we're also committed to doing all we can not to disturb our patients during the night, prioritising their need to sleep."

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YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER THE PAST

Children as young as seven, are getting hands on with history as founding members of a new Young Archaeologists' Club.

From the Roman era to the present day, the club delves deeper into the hidden past of Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

Members meet monthly to explore different aspects of archaeology, learn new skills and see the past from a new perspective.

The new club has been established by The Auckland Project, the latest in a nationwide network of Young Archaeologists' Club, co-ordinated by educational charity, the Council for British Archaeology.

Sessions to date have included a visit to Binchester Roman Fort where the young historians got up close with Roman ruins, had a go at identifying archaeological finds and learned to write Latin phrases with Roman-style ink made from ash.

At the latest meeting of the Young Archaeologists' Club in January, children explored the archaeology of battlefields and had a go with a magnetic susceptibility meter, a piece of archaeological equipment used to learn more about the remnants and signs left behind on sites such as battlefields.

Over the coming months, the group will also investigate the lives of the powerful Prince Bishops of Durham, from leading armies to entertaining royalty at their former home, Auckland Castle.

And as part of The Auckland Project, members of Young Archaeologists' Club will have unique access to the latest finds and fascinating insights from archaeological excavations taking place there.

Carys Harper, Learning Officer at The Auckland Project, runs the sessions alongside a team of volunteers with a wealth of experience in fields including archaeology, anthropology and forensics. Carys said: "Archaeology is a great way to spark young imaginations and help history come to life.



Members of the Young Archaeologists' Club with group leader, Learning Officer at The Auckland Project Carys Harper (back row, second left) and The Auckland Project volunteers. Photo credit: Barry Pells, courtesy of The Auckland Project

Archaeological finds, excavated from ordinary looking fields can tell you what people who lived hundreds of years ago would have eaten, how they dressed and how they spent their time.

"And with the excavations taking place at Auckland Castle and Binchester Roman Fort, we're really lucky to have new opportunities to learn more about our past and we wanted young people to be a part of that."

Auckland Castle is currently undergoing a major programme of conservation, supported thanks to National Lottery players via the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). It will form the centrepiece of The Auckland Project, a visitor attraction being developed in the town. The Project has a dedicated Engagement Team which works with the community to deliver programmes for all ages, as part of a long-term aim to create opportunities for learning, employment and skills development.

The Auckland Project Young Archaeologists' Club is suitable for children aged between seven and 11 years old and meets on the second Saturday of every month, between 10am and 12pm. The next meeting will be on Saturday, 9 February

at the Learning Room, Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland Market Place and will focus on art in archaeology, from creating their own prehistoric art to using modern techniques to analyse paintings.

All Young Archaeologists' Club sessions are £2 each and places are limited so booking is essential. To book, please email bookings@aucklandproject.org or call 01388 743 797.

For more information on The Auckland Project Young Archaeologists' Club visit: aucklandproject.org/events/categories/young-archaeologists-club/

The national network of Young Archaeologists' Clubs are available to a range of ages, typically from eight to 17-years-old. For more information visit, www.yac-uk.org

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

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Free Reiki Personal Development Courses

International Reiki teacher trainer Phillip Hawkins is preparing to offer free Reiki Personal Development training to anyone who wants to learn how to build confidence and improve their quality of life, health and wellbeing.

A trainer with nearly twenty years experience gained working at University level, colleges, special educational needs schools, and HM prison service, is currently providing on line support and training to a number of students worldwide. He is working with Free The Way drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Seaham and delivering a community based Reiki training programme in Kirk Merrington and would like to make the same training available in Newton Aycliffe.

The ten week certificated course consists of a weekly two hour training session with the opportunity to progress onto a higher and more advanced level of training. The training and study materials would be provided free of charge either on line or hard copy for those who don't have computer access. The costs to the student would be a minimal session fee to cover the cost of facility hire, printing and refreshments.

Anyone interested in improving their confidence, health and wellbeing and would like to see this training programme in Newton Aycliffe can contact Phillip at Aycliffe Radio where he presents their show with fellow partner in crime Amy Harrison, or they can contact Phillip direct on his FaceBook page Phillip Hawkins Reiki Personal Development.

Leisure Centre Newbies Offered Free Fitness Pass



People looking to get active this New Year can pick up a free taster pass to discover what's new at their local leisure centre.

Anyone visiting a Durham County Council leisure centre between Friday 18 and Monday 21 January can pick up a free three-day pass, which they can use to try out the gym and swim sessions, and selected fitness classes.

Gym users will receive a free individual introduction to the centre, including a tailor-made personal induction plan.

Kaye Stephenson, principal aquatics manager, said: "New year can be a great incentive for people to get fit and start new habits. For people who are new to our leisure centres, who may not know what to expect, this gym and swim offer is a great chance to come and try out the great range of activities and facilities we have available."

For those who are ready to commit, a great membership offer is available this month too. Anyone who signs up to a direct debit gym or swim membership between Saturday 19 and Thursday 31 January can sign up for just £5 and pay nothing until March 2019.

Memberships can be purchased online at www.durham.gov.uk/leisurecentrememberships or in person at a participating leisure centre.

The membership and three-day pass offers are available at:

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- Chester-le-Street Leisure Centre
- Consett Leisure Centre
- Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre, Durham
- The Louisa Centre, Stanley
- Meadowfield Leisure Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
- Riverside Leisure Complex, Chester le Street
- Shildon-Sunnydale Leisure Centre
- Spennymoor Leisure Centre
- Teesdale Leisure Centre

Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre, Bishop Auckland Leisure centre users can also take advantage of the new thrive active swimming app to get into shape. More information about the app, which gives instant access to the latest swimming pool timetables and pool news, can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/thriveactive

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS



Visits and gifts from local organisations, businesses and individuals made sure younger patients didn't miss out on the exciting build-up to Christmas. Those who generously gave their time, presents and the spirit of Christmas, included the casts of pantomimes at Darlington's Hippodrome and Durham's Gala theatres, Durham Police, The Northern Echo and TV presenter, Scarlett Moffatt. We're very grateful to all of them!

Healthy New Year with Cornmill Shopping Centre

Cornmill Shopping Centre is working alongside Darlington College to promote a healthy start to the new year following the indulgent Christmas festivities.

Throughout January the partnership will aim to support residents and local shoppers by seeking to boost health and wellbeing across the borough.

On Monday 21st January, Cornmill Shopping Centre will host a 'Body MOT' pop-up event from 11am to 2pm with health and social care students from Darlington College on hand to provide information and advice, including Blood Glucose and Haemoglobin Tests - used to manage blood sugar levels.

Wanting to tone up after Christmas? Head to the centre on Wednesday 23rd January from 11am until 2pm where local companies such as Rockliffe, fit fresh and The Gym Group will teach health and wellbeing skills to help residents adopt a healthy and active lifestyle. Alongside the demonstrations, the students will share advice on course specific health awareness techniques

including regulated heart checks and handwashing with exposure to UV lights - a technique aiming to target and eliminate key hygiene problems.

Claire Turner, Marketing and Engagement Manager at Darlington College "We are delighted to be able to bring our health and social care students into the Cornmill Centre to allow them to gain real experience and demonstrate their understanding and learning by carrying out Body MOT's to the public."

Susan Young, centre manager at the Cornmill Centre, said: "We'll be supporting the movement to get the town fit and healthy on Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd January. Promoting a healthy lifestyle and showing how important regular health checks are, is vital to any local community. We can't wait to start our health kick this year with the residents of Darlington and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2019."

To find out more about the Cornmill Shopping Centre and other promotions and events please visit <http://cornmillcentre.co.uk/>

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SEARCH ON FOR THE UK'S MOST MARVELLOUS MOGGY

Cats Protection is asking cat owners in the north east to nominate their furry friends in this year's National Cat Awards.

For over a decade, the Awards have celebrated the difference cats make to owners' lives by highlighting heart-warming stories of

devotion, companionship and courage.

Could your cat follow in the paw prints of Toby, from South Yorkshire, who won Cats Protection's Hero Cat Award last year?

Annette Sterland-Burton suffered from functional neurological disorder, which caused memory and mobility problems as well as debilitating seizures. Yet thanks to intuitive Toby, who sensed when Annette was about to suffer a blackout, Annette was able to prepare herself and son Kieran, aged nine at the time.

Cats do not need to have been adopted from Cats Protection to be nominated for an award and owners have from 15 January until noon on Friday 8 March to enter one of five categories:

• Hero Cat – Cats that save the day

• Most Caring Cat – Cats that positively impact a person's health or wellbeing

• Furr-ever Friends – Tales of friendship between children and cats

• Outstanding Rescue Cat – Fabulous felines adopted from animal charities

• PURINA® Better Together – Celebrating the special bond that has transformed and enriched the lives of both a feline and human

The National Cat Awards is sponsored by PURINA® and a panel of celebrity cat-lovers will select the winners. The winning cats' owners will then

be presented with their trophies at a star-studded ceremony at London's Savoy Hotel on Thursday 8 August – coinciding with International Cat Day.

Cats Protection's Awards organiser Kate Bunting said: "This event is the highlight of the feline calendar and gives us the chance to celebrate everything we love about cats."

"Every year, the entries we receive go to show why cats make such great pets – whether it's for helping their owners through times of sadness or loss, heroic moggies who come to the rescue or brave felines who survive against the odds."

The overall winner will inherit the title of National Cat of the Year from Theo, who helped his owner

Charlotte Dixon survive a potentially fatal blood clot. Broadcaster and writer Andrew Collins, whose own cat Gerry was previously a stray, will be one of a panel of celebrity judges selecting the National Cat of the Year. He said: "Cats make a house a home and whatever stage of life they join you, it improves everything. The National Cat Awards honour acts of extraordinary bravery, empathy and loyalty. Humans are lucky to be chosen and adopted by cats of all ages."

For further information about the awards email nationalcatawards@cats.org.uk or phone 03000 12 12 12. Anyone wishing to nominate their cat should visit www.cats.org.uk/national-cat-awards

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THE NEXT MEETING of Wear Valley Photography Club is on
Monday 28th January at Etherley Methodist Hall, South Road High Etherley DL14 0RH.
Award winning photographer Pauline Pentony MA of Northallerton Camera Club will be presenting images and prints of her recent work. Much of her stunning work is done in her dance studio with excellent use of lighting and props combined with great expertise in post editing of images.
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A Durham theatre is celebrating, having charmed thousands of audience members during its most successful festive season ever. Gala Theatre's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs proved to be its most popular pantomime since the venue opened in 2002. Over 33,000 theatre-goers enjoyed more than 70 performances in its six week run.

The theatre's Christmas show for the under 5s, Once Upon A Christmas, also proved to be a hit with more than 6,000 people turning out for its 75 performances. Robin Byers, manager of Durham's Gala Theatre said: "We're delighted with the sales of both this year's Christmas shows. We're proud that these are shows created in the heart of Durham for our audiences. All of our staff work so hard to put the shows together, it is such a team effort, and it's really rewarding to know that families are enjoying them. And we are really pleased to see many people returning year after year as part of their festive traditions. "The curtain may have fallen on one Christmas season of fun and laughter, but we've already begun planning for this year's festive show. Gala favourites Neil Armstrong and Paul Hartley will return to write, direct and star in the much-loved, Aladdin, and we will make sure the show is



filled with more slapstick, mischief and laughter." More than 6,000 people have already booked for this year's pantomime and audiences are encouraged to book now to snap up a bargain with an early bird ticket offer. The genie-us Aladdin will run from Thursday 21 November to Saturday 4 January and by booking before Thursday 31 January 2019 theatre-goers can save up to £5 on tickets for select performances between Saturday 23 November and Wednesday 18 December. As well as having BSL performances on Sunday 8 December and Thursday 2 January at 1pm, and a relaxed performance on Thursday 2 January at 6pm, a captioned performance will be introduced for the first time on Thursday 2 January at 1pm. Tickets for Aladdin can be booked in person at the Gala box office, by calling 03000 266 600 or online at www.galadurham.co.uk

Parking In West Park



Dear Sir,
There is an epidemic of cars driving over grassed areas and footpaths just to park their car in front of their homes. I refer to Whinlatter Place where once one gets away with it, others follow. Their blatant disregard for neighbours and other people beggars belief. Name and address supplied

Youthy Football Round Up



NAYFC Under 23s 6 Seaburn 5

The 23s played Seaburn from the north division in the cup, running out 6-5 winners with goals from Johnson Ballan x4 Lewis Greenwood x1 and Jake Keitly, this takes the lads to the quarter finals of the cup. Today also showed how hard the league is with everyone from the League beating teams from the North League.

Thirsk 3

NAYFC U15 Hawks 5

First game back since the festive break and a nice trip down the A1 to Thirsk. First football in over a month and on a really heavy pitch, the boys were asked to start fast. Today was going to be a scrappy game. We hit the bar early on but the next 30 minutes was all Thirsk. We were 2nd to every ball and very sluggish. Charlie made 3 great saves to keep us in the game although we were 3 nil down. A couple of changes and a good break helped us reduce the deficit just before HT with James finishing off a nice move. HT 3-1 Thirsk.

Having seen these boys play good football in the past couple of seasons, today the boys had a stern team talk and we came out 2nd half a different team. We took charge of the midfield and started to dominate play. We scored a 2nd through James, quickly followed by a 3rd from Jack. We added a 4th from the penalty spot as Jack was fouled by the on rushing GK. Jack dispatched the penalty with a little help from the pitch. James added a 5th late on to complete a great come back win.

MOM Dylan for a dominating performance 2nd half, winning all his tackles and taking charge at the heart of the defence and getting us on the front foot.

Shotton Colts Blues 4

NAYFC U11 Falcons 4

1st match back on a cold morning and our lads started off well putting Shotton under

pressure but missing lots of chances with scrambles in the box - then we finally got the starting goal. Aycliffe 1-0 continued putting Shotton under a lot of pressure until they then got a break and equalised before halftime. Going into the 2nd half Shotton seemed a different team and had 3 breaks scoring on each of them. Score was 4-1 with 10min to go. The Falcons heads never went down. With Caleb and Deacon running down the wings and pinning them in we got a goal back, then another. With about 2 min to go Will made a great run down the middle and scored the equaliser.

Caleb received MOM. Great result and a great show of character.

NAYFC U10 Wildcats 6 Pro Direct Teesside 0

The girls warmed up well and within a couple of minutes, after a fantastic tackle and a great pass from Anna, Thea was granted the space and time to open the scoring. Most of the first half was spent in and around the Teesside half but the midfield battles were coming thick and fast. Ruby came close to getting our second but a great save from the keeper pushed it just around the post. We had 11 girls playing today so lots of changes throughout the game brings its own challenges but the girls worked hard to take control. Safiye pulled off a couple of great saves today showing no fear. Second half, Aycliffe picked up the pace. They gelled better and created space. Faith scored two bullet type goals before firing an awesome corner to Lana's feet after a great shout for the ball. Lana made it look easy as she controlled the ball and left footed it into the goal to make it 4-0. Our two defenders Freya and Tilly also got on the score sheet today with two fantastic individual goals, dribbling and taking on players, well done. A great team effort today and a

fantastic clean sheet for Safiye saw the girls go unbeaten in 7 games and with 3 games to go team spirit is high.

Players of the Match: Anna for strong challenges and being attack minded. Lana for being an all round player with a great attitude (great goal). Faith for being the team player, creating chance after chance for her team.

NAYFC U10 Eagles 1 Whickham Fellside Yellow 1

Team today: Trystan, Kian, Nathan, Jayden, Will, Adam, Kai and Kayden.

Today the team took on Whickham who were sitting 4 places above us in the league so we knew it would be challenging. We started brightly but were finding it difficult to find each other. We were a little unsettled on the ball as Whickham were piling on the pressure whilst being a very physical side. The boys in midfield had been asked to help out their defence and they did this well as Whickham played some good attacking football. Will was fouled and awarded a free kick about 20 yards from the goal. He stepped up to the ball and drilled it into the top right hand corner, an amazing goal. Well done Will. We went into half time 1-0. The boys were asked to continue with their effort and be aware that Whickham would be looking for the win and we were right. Whickham came out fighting but the Eagles really stepped up second half. They managed to get the ball on the ground, make some good passes and played very well as a team. Trystan made some brilliant saves, one which was nearly an own goal but he got a strong hand to it, well done Trystan. Whickham did manage to find the back of the net with a very scrappy goal which Trystan could do nothing about. Both teams had further chances but at the full time whistle the score remained 1-1. Good result for the Eagles today and at times thought we could of managed a win but more than happy with the draw and the boys' performance. Well done everyone.

MOTM has to again go to Will this week for his outstanding performance. His effort, vision and football knowledge is brilliant. He got the goal but the difference he makes to the team when on the pitch is so noticeable.

NAYFC U14 Girls 6 Chester-le-St. Amazettes 0

Having beaten this team comfortably away from home, most were expecting an easy morning but CLS had other ideas. Our girls

played well but the opposition were battling for every ball. Several excellent chances were squandered by our strikers who just couldn't find the target. HT 0-0. Another 20 mins of the second half passed by until at last a quick free kick from Hattie found Alex who slots it past the advancing keeper. CLS were still pushing forward but the girls were now taking control. A corner from Hattie beats everyone and ends up in the net and a soft penalty that Hattie converts takes the score to 3-0. Alex goes on to get a second, Hattie her hat trick and a final goal of the game for Olivia put the FT score at 6-0. Patience and perseverance were shown today by the girls.

Western Area Community Centre

Western Area Community Centre Silverdale Place. FREE Children's Disco every Friday Night 5pm until 7pm AGE UP TO 9 YEARS.

Parents are welcome to stay.

Friday 9.30 am until 11.30am Tiny Tots mother and child group with occasional outings to Ruff and Tumble

Transport provided. For further details ring 07967 901 477.

Bishop Auckland Music Society Announces the 2019 Concert Series



Supporters of Bishop Auckland Music Society can look forward both to a new season of delightful classical music and a new venue. The elegant surroundings of the Methodist Church on Cockton Hill Road, directly opposite the Hospital, with easy access and parking, will play host for the 2019 season which begins on Friday, 22nd March when pianist Sarah Beth Briggs, described as 'an artist of extraordinary magnetism', performs works by Bach, Mozart and Ravel amongst others.

Charlotte Ashton (flute) and Joseph Havlat (piano) will perform works by Bach, Schubert and Debussy on Friday, 3rd May, followed by The Pomegranate Trio on Friday, 7th June. Since first forming in 2014, the trio, Fenella Barton (violin), Rebecca Hepplewhite (cello) and Andrew West



(piano), has quickly established a reputation for fine performance and works by Schuman, Ravel and Beethoven can be enjoyed at the evening concert.

On Friday, 19th July, Beethoven's Horn Sonata in F major and works by Scriabin, Richard Strauss and Schubert will feature in the repertoire of the 2016 BBC Young Musician Competitor, horn player Ben Goldscheider, accompanied by pianist, Richard Uttley. The season culminates with a performance by Alexandra Lomeiko (violin) and Antonina Suhanova (piano) on Friday, 6th September. A winner of multiple National awards and a solo recitalist at Wigmore Hall, Alexandra will play work by Grieg, Bartok and Beethoven. Individual concert tickets are £13.50 if purchased in advance (£15 on the door). Season Tickets at £55 for all 5 concerts are available from Brian Varley (01388) 606075 or from Brotherton's Music on Newgate Street.

All concerts start at 7.30pm, in the welcoming surroundings of the Methodist Church. We look forward to welcoming regular subscribers and new visitors alike to the delights of the new season of classical music concerts in historic Bishop Auckland.

Obituary

GRISDALE (nee CAYGILL)

Olive of Woodham, Newton Aycliffe formerly of Shildon. Passed away peacefully in Bethany House Care Home on January 9th aged 86 years. Dearly beloved wife of Cresswell, a much loved Mam to Karen and Stephen, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Family and friends please meet for a service at Durham Crematorium on Thursday January 24th at 3 pm. Family flowers only by request.

ALAN SIMPSON of Newton Aycliffe. Suddenly on 4th January, aged 73 years. Dearly loved Husband of the late Linda, loving Dad to Kelly and the late James. Much loved Grandad of Owen, Brandon and Olly, loving Father-in-law to Stephen. Family and friends please meet for Service at Durham Crematorium on Friday 25th January for 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Retired Greyhound Trust.

JEFFREY HOLMES (from Walsall) Died suddenly 4th January 2019. Jeff, aged 93 years. Beloved Father of Keith and Ann, a much loved Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Funeral Service to be held at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Monday January 28th at 10.30am and afterwards at RAFA Club, Newton Aycliffe. A much loved friend of many.

BRIAN W COX. Died peacefully at home with all his family around him on Monday 14th January, age 69. Devoted Husband to Gloria, a wonderful Dad to Bryan, Tina, Jonathan, Lucy and Michael and a special Grandad to 22 Grandchildren and 6 Great-Grandchildren. Funeral to be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Shafto Way, Newton Aycliffe on Friday 25th January at 10.30am. All welcome.

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Congratulations

CAMERON TURNER NEILL Happy 16th birthday. What a charming handsome young man you are, we are so proud of you. Hope you have a fab time. Love always, Mum, Dad, Amelia xxx

Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU to Anita of Customer Services in Newton Aycliffe Tesco. She sorted out a query I had in an efficient and friendly manner. Both she and the rest of the team went that extra mile and I am very grateful to them. In these days when shops are closing and you can never get a real person on the telephone it is nice to speak to someone like Anita face to face. A grateful customer, name and address supplied.

In Memoriam

EVA ELIZABETH (Betty) MAVIN Died 19th January 2016. A silent thought, a secret tear, Keeps her memory ever dear. Time takes away the edge of grief, But memory turns back every leaf. Remembered always and forever, Husband Alan, Jeffrey and Mandy, David, Nicola and Eva
JEAN BISHOP Another year has passed, still thinking of you with love and affection. Mick and Marion

Birthday Remembrance

Freda Poulter



Happy birthday to my Wife. Love you always from Fred xxxx

Happy birthday to our very special Mam. Love and miss you always from Karen, Fraser, Jonathan, Claire and Leanne xxxx

Happy birthday to our beautiful Gran. Love you always from Lisa, JohnPaul, Toni, Louise, Tom, Leah, Ian, Liam, Amber, David, Sophia, Kaitlyn, Charlotte and all your Great Grandchildren xxxx

JESSIE WHARTON 21st January. Remembering you on your birthday Gran. Miss you and love you always. Love from your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren



First Test of the Year for Scarlet & Harrison

School Aycliffe brother and sister Kart drivers Scarlet & Harrison Dunn had their first outing of the year in their Bambino Karts at Teesside Autodrome last weekend.

Fresh from her seat fitting, 7 year old Scarlet tried out her new Wright Centaur Kart on the West circuit and flew around, recording some good lap times. "I really enjoyed the new new kart and I'm looking forward to racing here in February" she said.

It was the first practice on a big circuit for 5 year old, Harrison and he gradually



built up speed, shaving over 6 seconds off his lap time by the end of the day.

"We're so proud of Scarlet and Harrison - Scarlet did some great lap times and Harrison was very sensible and mature and is really coming on" said Dad Anthony. The pair are supported and run by Amaran Racing.

Scarlet will be competing in Teesside Karting's new 2 Stroke Championship this year as well as some select rounds at Rowrah and other circuits.



For more information on Scarlet & Harrison's racing visit www.ScarletDunnRacing.com and www.HarrisonDunnRacing.com

DARLINGTON F.C. NEWS

Darlington FC is organising a Soccer Camp during the half term holidays!

Further details will be announced soon, but the club's Football in the Community staff will be organising a full week's course in the Dolphin Centre between the 18th and 22nd February.

There are sure to be plenty of activities for boys and girls of all ages and of all abilities, and who knows there might be a star of the future!

On the field, Quakers have a local derby at home to Spennymoor on Saturday with a big crowd expected at Blackwell Meadows.

Quakers have won their last three home matches, while Moors have an excellent away record in the league this season, with only three defeats in thirteen away league matches.

Quakers had a good 0-0 draw at Alfreton last week which means they have lost just once in six matches, while Moors knocked big guns Sutton United out of the FA Trophy.

Heighington AFC News

The mighty Red and Blacks, Heighington AFC under 9s, played against South Shields FC Clarets today. We ran out 4-1 winners, every single player had an excellent match and did themselves really proud. The South Shields keeper made a lot of very good saves to keep the score line down.

The scorers, with a goal each were Cole, Dylan, Oliver C and Oliver M. MOM was given to Dylan for his tireless running and some amazing bits of skill. This result moved them back to top of the league. Brilliant first season together with 1 more match to go.

Under 9s

Darlington TSC 0 - 6

Heighington Blacks

Heighington returned to league action on Sunday in turbulent conditions as the Blacks collected all three points on away soil. 5 goals from Cole Raine and a strike from Dylan Robson secured victory after dominating for much of the game.

Some good battling all over the pitch and a solid back line of Malco, Brown, Wilko, Robson, Whiting kept the hosts at bay and another clean sheet, 6 for season now. MoM - Dylan Robson.

Juniors Football Report



Another weekend of footballing action for the Aycliffe Juniors was enjoyed by all our players and supporters.

The Under 6's played a development game away at Durham City, they faced both tough opposition and a strong wind. William scored a hat-trick with Regan and Finley also on target in a brilliant match.

The Under 7's White faced high flying Durham City Colts and put in a great performance. There was a hat-trick for Jack C and two goals each for man of the match Jack R and Tyler in a fine 7-2 win.

The Under 7's Juniors played against Wynyard at Woodham and managed some difficult conditions in a first half that ended 3-3. After the break they capitalised on the wind to win the match 10-3. The scorers were Jack C (3), Kai (3), Daniel (2), Jonah and Marley. In the development game a further ten goals were scored by Jack C (3), Jonah (2), Dom, Dan, Kai, Mason and Marley with the whole team named as men of the match.

The Under 8's played away at Middleton Rangers and came off second best in the league game. The final score was 4-1 with Jack getting the Aycliffe goal and Alex the man of the match. The development game ended in a 5-1 win and the goals were scored by Sam (2), Evan (2) and David.

The Under 9's played away at Stockton Town they dominated the first half and Thomas hit the bar twice. However the more clinical hosts went on to take the lead and at half time the score was 2-0. Jamie and man of the match Preston were strong in defence but the Stockton pressure told

and they won the game 5-0. In the development game Oscar and Callum scored in a 3-2 loss with Zeke named as man of the match.

The Under 10's Claret faced Hartlepool St Francis they played well in the first half and hit the post with one shot but the game was goalless at the break. Hartlepool were stronger in the second half and won 3-0, Harrison was named as the man of the match.

The Under 11's White enjoyed an exciting game against Bishop Auckland Kings. They twice went behind after conceding from corner kicks. However Niall Armstrong and then Jayden Bowes scored equalisers and the match ended in a 2-2 draw. The man of the match was Connor Maitchell.

The Under 11's Black were away at Hardwick Youth. They were 2-0 down before Jake made a great run from half way before scoring to half the deficit. The home team started the second half 3-1 up but the Aycliffe team were on form and man of the match Jake completed his hat-trick with Noah also adding two goals in a great 5-3 win.

The Under 12's played really well to beat Normanby 5-0 at Woodham. There were five different scorers with Ellis, Charlie, Jayden, Thomas and man of the match Zak each getting a goal in a comprehensive win.

The Under 14's remain unbeaten in their last six matches after a 2-2 draw against local rivals Sedgfield. Jake Wilson and Jacob Hume both scored to open up a 2-0 lead but goals were conceded in the last minute of each half and the points were shared. McKenna was the man of the match.

C&A

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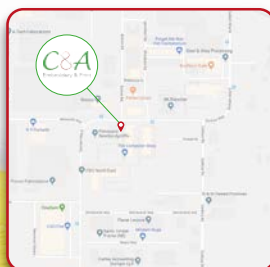
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N.A.F.C. REPORT

Saturday 12 January 2019
Ebac Northern League Division One
Seaham Red Star 3 Newton Aycliffe 1

Newton Aycliffe parted company with manager Deano Browne by mutual consent on Sunday. The Club placed on record its thanks to Deano for his hard work and commitment over the last two years. Browne's departure followed a disappointing 3-1 defeat at second bottom Seaham Red Star.

Aycliffe started sluggishly, and Seaham took advantage, scoring after 7 minutes. A low cross was put in from the right to Weir, and he beat his marker before putting the ball past keeper Adam Pickford. Aycliffe lost captain Danny Mitton to injury after 24 minutes, and he was replaced by Daniel Wright. Aycliffe came into the game and had a couple of half chances, before equalising on 28 minutes. Jermaine Metz played a defence splitting ball through to Wright, who slotted it past home keeper Bannon. A dull first half finished all square.

The second half followed a similar pattern, with neither side excelling. Aycliffe's best moves were being prompted by man-of-the-match Ethan Wood. They had good attempts on goal through Stuart Thompson and Jermaine Metz.



The game swung in Seaham's favour on 67 minutes. A back pass was played to Pickford, who slipped trying to make his clearance, leaving Wilson with a tap-in. Seaham got a third five minutes later, when a good low cross was pulled back from the by-line for Johnston to score. Aycliffe pushed on to try and get themselves back in the game, but couldn't make a breakthrough. The defeat sees Aycliffe in 13th place (of 18 teams).

Chairman Allan Oliver now begins the task of recruiting a new manager. In the meantime Danny Mellanby is supervising training ahead of the visit of Dunston UTS on Saturday 19th January at 3pm.

Photo: Aycliffe goalscorer Daniel Wright

EURONICS

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