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£140m Business Park Takes Step Closer as Plans Submitted



Above: An aerial view of the site at Forrest Park, near Newton Aycliffe Business Park.

Developers have submitted a planning application to deliver a £140 million business park - with more than 1.75 million sq. ft. of accommodation in Newton Aycliffe, which could create thousands of new jobs. Joint venture company Forrest Park Newton Aycliffe Limited, supported by leading commercial property developers Richardson Barberry, has applied to Durham County Council for outline planning consent for the expansion of Aycliffe Business Park on the 116-acre Forrest Park site located on Junction 59 of the A1(M). The proposals include a range of business, industrial

/ distribution units varying in size from 30,000 sq. ft. to 500,000 sq. ft., a trade park consisting of 11 units from 5,000 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft., and ancillary amenity uses including roadside food offerings, a public house and a restaurant. There is also the potential to accommodate a rail freight interchange. Forrest Park - which has attracted £13 million funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership - could create 3,200 jobs and deliver a gross value added economic boost to the area of £495 million over the next 10 to 15 years. A planning decision is expected in April. Jonathan Robinson, Barberry Developments director, said: "It has been a pleasure working alongside Forrest Park Newton Aycliffe and we are excited at the prospect of delivering one of the North East's premier business parks and it's great that we have reached the stage where the proposals are now with the planners for them to consider. "Working alongside Durham County Council, the Forrest family and the Local Enterprise Partnership, our vision is to

Continued on page 3

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TONGUE IN CHEEK

Dear Sir,
No racing for six days! Doesn't that just prove Theresa May was telling the truth when she claimed that we were nearing the end of horse-terity?

Seriously, this could change the world as we know it! EG: possibly a movie - where horse, Lester Piggots father could have a number one hit single "horse of the rising sun".

We will have no chance of Newton Aycliffe having a New-market every Tuesday and what about the jocks? How will they cope?

The Labour Party now having a new image, thanks to JC, could be renamed The British Grand National Party (BGNP) - why not?
Honest John



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FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 15th - Disco and Karaoke
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Saturday 16th - "Howie B" & "Karen Kennedy"
Two great solo artistes - £3 on the door

Sunday 17th - Karaoke and Disco
Dave's Retro Roadshow - (Sunday Afternoon) - Free Entry
Fabulous Solo Artist **"Shirley Mac"**
£1.00 on the door (Sunday Evening)

Friday 22nd - Charity Night for MENCAP
Joanne Foster is hosting a night of entertainment in aid of MENCAP with John Melvin's Disco and sensational solo act "Cassandra Bowtell".
Tickets on sale behind the bar. Event in memory of Anthea.

Saturday 23rd "Laura Cairns & "Ska Man"
Superb solo artist Laura Cairns and Madness Ska review by Ska Man
£4 on the door

Sunday 24th - Karaoke and Disco
with Gary (Sunday Afternoon) - Free Entry
Great solo act **"Angie"**
(Sunday Evening) £1 on the door

Don't miss the Fantastic **"Betch By Golly Wow"**
Saturday 2nd March - Tickets £6 available behind the bar.

Line Dancing every Thursday - Weekly Offers on Draught Beers and Spirits
Ask staff for details

Scorching Jazz Hot Hoot from New Orleans



Straight from the heart of the Big Easy itself, the popular dynamic young street group Frog & Henry is hitting Darlington's New Orleans Jazz Club on Saturday 16 February.

Based in the New Orleans French Quarter, Frog & Henry play and record old dance and jazz music from the early 1900's on brass and string instruments, with plenty of vocals. Bringing the tradition of early jazz songs and dance tunes to life, they feature violin and mandolin-banjo as melody instruments along with clarinet and baritone saxophone. And if the audience is really lucky, they get to see and hear the foot-operated tuba the band's designed that allows one person to play tuba and six-string banjo simultaneously. Just two weeks later on Saturday 2 March, the Club hosts a visit by clarinetist and composer Adrian Cox and his show 'Profoundly Blue' (in the jazz sense!). Adrian's a star of the European jazz circuit, playing with masters including Wynton Marsalis, Dr. John and Ronnie Wood and Profoundly Blue celebrates the music of his favourite clarinet player

Edmond Hall. The gig is guaranteed to delight. Darlington New Orleans Jazz Club meets at St Augustine's Parish Centre, Larchfield Street, Darlington, just a short walk from the bus stops on Tubwell Row and Darlington railway station. Doors open at 12 noon, entry is just £10 on the door, and children under 16 go free if accompanied by an adult. For more information go to www.darlingtonjazz.co.uk

STELLAR LINE-UP FOR HARDWICK LIVE FESTIVAL

Organisers of the North East's biggest live music event have announced a star-studded line-up of acts.

Hardwick Live Festival will return to Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield from 17 - 18 August for two days of live performances.

And this year British music is firmly in the spotlight, with Manic Street Preachers headlining on Saturday, followed by James on Sunday. National treasures, Manic Street Preachers, will play hits and anthems from their exhaustive back catalogue, stretching from their 1992 album, Generation Terrorists, to last year's release, Resistance is Futile.

James, dubbed champions of the Madchester era and famous for anthems such as Sit Down and She's a Star, reformed in 2007 after a five-year hiatus and have continued going strong ever since.

And there are more big names joining the bill as support, including The Zutons, Stiff Little Fingers, Sister Sledge feat Kathy Sledge and The Sherlocks, will all take to the stage on Saturday. Then, on Sunday, fans can enjoy performances from Lisa Stansfield, Ziggy Marley, Billy Bragg and A Certain Ratio, with more to be announced across both days.

Tickets are on sale at £55 for one day or £99 for both days. Concessions available for

children and 13-17 year olds. buy tickets visit:
For more information or to www.hardwicklive.co.uk

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Pulp - Billy Idol
The Clash - The Jam
U2 - Muse - Blur
Led Zeppelin
Kaiser Chiefs
Arctic Monkeys
Stereophonics

Free Online Training for Co. Durham Businesses

Businesses can take advantage of free online training designed to upskill workforces and boost productivity. Durham County Council is offering continuing professional development (CPD) courses in everything from health and safety, to equality and diversity throughout February and March.

The courses are just some of the programmes being delivered as part of the council's Durham Learn scheme, an innovative pilot project aimed at breaking down the barriers that prevent adults from improving their employment prospects or growing their businesses. These short online qualifications are fully accredited and designed to broaden staff horizons and enhance skill levels, which can help to boost business productivity. Available qualifications include:

- Level 1 in health and safety
- Level 1 in healthy living
- Level 2 in healthy living
- Level 1 in mental health and wellbeing
- Level 1 in equality and diversity.

After attending a registration and induction event, learners can complete the whole course online, allowing them to fit study in around work and family commitments.

Registration events will take place at the Sjøvoll Centre in Front Street, Pity Me, near Durham, on Thursday, 21 February from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, and Monday, 25 February from 12pm to 1pm. These are no obligation sessions where people can find out more about what is on offer and sign up to courses if interested.

CLlr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, which includes adult learning, said: "We are thrilled to offer these flexible CPD courses for free in County Durham.

"By supporting businesses to upskill their staff we can help increase productivity, which has the potential to lead to further expansion and more jobs for local people.

"It also improves the job prospects of employees, empowering them to move up the career ladder and take on new challenges."

Course provision can be tailored to suit the needs of each business and can be delivered at the company's headquarters or offices if eight or more staff sign up. A short exam, which must be taken before Sunday, 31 March, can be sat at a Durham Learn test centre or onsite for businesses with eight or more staff enrolled.

Level 1 courses take an estimated ten hours, while Level 2 courses take 20 hours, although this is just a guide and learners may finish their programmes sooner.

For more information about Durham Learn and the courses on offer, visit www.durhamlearn.co.uk

To arrange a time to discuss business requirements over the phone contact durhamlearn@durham.gov.uk

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Saturday 23rd February - "Dakota"

Chilli Peppers, Oasis, Green Day, Killers, Blink 192, Metallica, U2 and more

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Durham Achieves Record Year For New Businesses

Figures just published show that more new businesses were established in Durham during 2018 than in any previous year – despite the challenges of political and economic uncertainty surrounding Brexit.

In terms of new companies, 5,223 were registered in the county compared to 4,077 in 2017 which represents an increase of 28.1%. This brings the total number of registered companies in Durham to 28,771, up from

26,562 at the end of 2017, which equates to 8.3% growth.

The statistics come from the Inform Direct Review of UK Company Formations using data from Companies House and the Office for National Statistics.

County Durham formed the most new businesses (2,335), followed by Darlington (1,582) and Stockton-on-Tees (783).

John Korchak, Director of Operations at Inform Direct

said: “These record high figures for new company formations in Durham show a very positive picture for business against a background of political and economic uncertainty. It is clear that the county continues to provide a supportive environment, both for new business ventures and existing enterprises.”

“It is heartening to see entrepreneurs making their mark with increasing numbers of new businesses being formed. This picture

is mirrored elsewhere in the UK, with a number of regions seeing more new formations in 2018 than at any time in their history and the UK as a whole achieving a new record total of registered companies.”

Across the UK as a whole, a record number of new companies were formed – 669,855 compared with 634,116 in 2017.

The number of registered companies in the UK also continued to grow, finishing the year with a total of 4,308,022.

Sparta Security Celebrates 12 Years



Sparta Security turned twelve years old this week, which has seen the company profile rise dramatically in recent years.

The owner, Francis Jones, says “the company has gone from strength to strength due to the staff we have on the books being covenant holders with the Armed Forces and putting military personnel on business sites.” Julian McBride, was a tank commander with the Dragoon Guards and is the new General Manager at Sparta. “It is doing things properly with organisation and planning. Francis and I set a goal and we are following this plan effectively using the best officers around, which gives us quality recommendations from our customers.” “We are also working towards various accreditations which will help lift the company to another tier and using this framework gives Sparta the

edge and a great foundation to build on”.

Sparta provides manned guards, static security and now has a TASK FORCE which serves across the North East patrolling both commercial businesses and estates, reacting to CCTV and alarm activations.

The North East based company have an office on Aycliffe Business Park as well as CCTV monitoring in Teesside, Hurworth and Newcastle.

“In order to build you have to trust. My team have to be singing the same tune and we regularly have management meetings which is essential to build the team”.

Sparta's Stuart Cutty is a Close Protection Officer and manages all the V.I.P.'s coming to the region. Sparta have also branched out into other roles and now provide chauffeur services to A* celebrities and key government officials.”

NRA Discuss 2019 Trips & Activities

Dear Sir,

The next meeting of Neville Residents Association is on Tuesday 19th February 2019 at 6.45pm

We will be discussing what trips and activities we would like to provide in the next 12 to 18 months.

Come on down if you would like to be part of the discussion.

All residents are welcome and refreshments are available from 6.30pm.

Mrs Heather Brewster
Chair

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MATE OR DATE NIGHT

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£5 per child | £1 Socks

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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For more information follow us on Facebook, email hello@rof59.co.uk or call 01325 728 222

ROF 59
ROF59 | Durham Way South | Aycliffe Business Park | Newton Aycliffe | Co. Durham | DL5 6XN

£140m Business Park Takes Step Closer as Plans Submitted



How the business units may look at Forrest Park.

Continued from front page create a business park that provides a wide range of high quality accommodation to attract major investment and jobs to the region.”

Aycliffe Business Park is already home to around 500 companies and around 10,000 employees. The preparatory groundworks, site infrastructure including new substation, service connections and highways improvements known as the Forrest Park enabling works began in 2016 and have now been completed.

Jonathan Robinson added: “The LEP funding clearly illustrates a valuable commitment to fast-tracking the new infrastructure improvements, including a new 24MW primary substation, connecting services, and a new highways access that will enable us to bring forward the development pipeline and investment necessary to attract occupiers and new jobs to Newton Aycliffe.”

Cllr. Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: “The submitting of this application is a major milestone towards delivering thousands of jobs to the Newton Aycliffe area. This is a joint venture between the council and the Forrest family, and is just one of a number of sites the council is bringing forward to help deliver long-term economic growth and prosperity for the people of County Durham.”

Ben Holmes, director on behalf of Richardson, said: “It's great to see the Forrest Park proposals making real progress and we are delighted to be working

alongside both new and existing joint venture partners to deliver this important development.

“This will be our fourth major project in the region in recent years, having already delivered two phases at Freemans Reach in Durham, and adding to our existing Milburngate project. Richardson and Barberry have a successful and long-standing relationship that spans over 35 years, having completed numerous developments together. We are very much looking forward to working together again to deliver 1.75 million sq. ft. of employment space.”

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Thousands Continue to Flout Mobile Phone and Seatbelt Laws

The UK's biggest independent road safety charity IAM RoadSmart is concerned that too many drivers continue to ignore warnings about the dangers of hand-held mobile phones and not wearing a seatbelt – putting countless lives in danger.

This follows the results of a major Department for Transport survey on 7th February revealing hundreds of thousands of motorists were still ignoring seatbelt and mobile phone usage laws in 2017.

The survey (reference 1) found that in 2017, 1.1% of all vehicle drivers were observed using a hand-held mobile phone while driving on weekdays in Great Britain, of which 0.4% were observed holding the phone to their ear, with twice as many (0.8%) spotted holding the phone in their hand.

The worst offenders were taxi/private hire drivers (3.3%), followed by van drivers (2.1%), then car drivers (1%).

While there is good news that seatbelt wearing rates remain high with 96.5% of all vehicle drivers observed using a seatbelt on weekdays in 2017, that means 3.5% of all vehicle drivers are choosing not to wear a seatbelt which can be a matter of life and death if you are involved in

a collision.

Seatbelt use varied with 93.1% of front seat passengers and 90.7% of rear seat passengers buckling up in Great Britain. For car drivers, 98.6% were observed using a seatbelt in Great Britain in 2017.

Neil Greig, IAM RoadSmart director of policy and research, said: "In spite of these being small percentages, this still amounts to hundreds of thousands of people who daily flout the law and put themselves and others at risk."

"The best way of tackling this ever-present issue is to make people believe there is a high chance of being caught. This could start tomorrow if consistent guidelines on using mobile speed camera vans to enforce seatbelt and mobile phones laws were issued."

"Currently there is no standard approach on using this high-profile resource across the UK. Making non-wearing of seatbelts an endorsable offence is also a quick win. Not only would it persuade more people to take the offence seriously, but it might tempt them to take a seatbelt awareness course. People avoid using seatbelts for a wide range of individual reasons and these views need to be challenged face-to-face."

Discover More at Durham Adventure Festival

A daring cave diver who helped to rescue Thailand's Wild Boars football team is among the inspirational speakers heading to a North East adventure festival this spring.

Jason Mallinson will share the real story behind the unprecedented rescue of the 12 young footballers and their coach when Durham Adventure Festival returns from Friday, 26 April to Sunday, 28 April.

Jason, whose exploits have led him to set distance and depth records in caves all over the world, carried four of the trapped boys to safety after Thailand's Tham Luang cave flooded last July. Festival-goers will hear about this and other daring rescue missions when Jason speaks and answers question at the Gala Theatre in Durham on the Saturday at 3pm. Tickets cost £12.50.

Aimed at encouraging people to explore the outdoors and embark on their own adventures, the festival features compelling talks, an action-packed film programme and opportunities for people of all ages to try new activities. Last week, organisers Durham County Council announced that legendary mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington was headlining the event at 5.30pm on the Saturday, and now the full line-up has been revealed on the festival website.

One athlete sure to captivate the crowds is



world champion boulderer Shauna Coxsey, who has just embarked on the toughest year of her career to date. Hear all about Shauna's quest to learn two new elements of the sport ahead of climbing's three-pronged debut at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. The talk takes place on the Sunday at 8pm and tickets cost £14.

From a fearless athlete, to a daredevil explorer, with 2011 European Adventurer of the Year winner Ed Stafford. A former British Army captain, Ed holds the Guinness World Record for being the first person to walk the Amazon River. He also inspired millions of people by filming and blogging throughout his epic two-and-a-half year journey all over the world.

The Discovery Channel presenter, who is married to fellow adventurer Laura Bingham, will speak at the Gala on the Saturday at 8pm. Tickets cost £20.

The event is presented in partnership with Kendal Mountain Festival and is part of the 2019 Year of Culture campaign, #Durham19. The inaugural event in 2018 attracted thousands of people to County Durham and this year is shaping up to be even bigger and better. Once again, Millennium Place and the Gala Gallery will be transformed into a base camp, complete with a free climbing wall and demonstrations by the 3Sixty bike display team. There will also be free

speaker sessions, pop-up bookshops, food and drink offers and a chance to speak to outdoor experts from Montane and Cotswold.

Robin Byers, manager of the Gala Theatre, said: "This festival is all about showcasing the very best in adventure, exploration and endurance to encourage more people to explore the outdoors."

"A key to the success of the event is welcoming speakers who are leaders in their field, alongside ordinary people, who have done extraordinary things."

"With the great outdoors as popular as ever, it feels like we've tapped into something special. So we hope we can inspire people to come along and share the adventure."

Other speakers appearing at the festival include Scottish endurance cyclist Jenny Graham, adventurer Laura Bingham, mountain runner Jenny Tough, explorer Ash Bhardwaj, and climber and mountaineer Leo Houlding.

To view the full programme and to book tickets, visit www.durhamadventurefestival.co.uk or call the Gala box office on 03000 266600.

Organised by Visit County Durham with Durham County Council and other partners, the 2019 Year of Culture campaign showcases the enriching programme of arts and sporting activities taking place this year. To find out more, visit www.durham.gov.uk/durham19



RELAX KIDS AT PCP



Relax Kids Darlington & Aycliffe has recently relocated its weekly community class to the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), Newton Aycliffe. Designed to help children suffering from anxiety, low self-esteem, worries or general stresses these sessions promote emotional wellbeing and good mental health.

Until the summer holidays we will be looking at our emotions, learning how to identify and name them and then learning how to not let them get the better of us!

I have been working in schools in Darlington, Aycliffe and the surrounding areas for the last 3 years and am very happy to be re-introducing this weekly class in our new base, which is open to everyone.

If you'd like to give our class a try get yourself to the PCP on a Wednesday from 5-6pm. As a weekly drop in class you just need to register the first time (which is free) and then it's £5 week. Please contact Sam on 07710 478583 (text is fine) or get more details at www.relaxkidsdarlington.co.uk



Enjoy a walk in beautiful scenery and plant snowdrops in support of Child Bereavement UK

- Snowdrops available to purchase
- Children's art and craft activities in Visitor Centre
- Book of Remembrance in quiet corner of Visitor Centre

Hardwick Park, Sedgfield

SUN 24 FEB 2019 12-3pm

Entry is FREE, however donations will be gratefully received

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childbereavementuk.org

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OPEN EVENT

• **28th February 2019 5.30pm - 7.30pm**

We are a state funded school specialising in Engineering, Technology and Science. The event will offer a fantastic opportunity for you to come along and see the building, have a tour by our students and meet the UTC team.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 1st MARCH 2019

You can book onto the event by going to this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/utc-south-durham-year-12-open-evening-tickets-49212254177>



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STUDENT'S FUTURE PROSPECTS STAND OUT IN OFSTED INSPECTION

Staff and students at UTC South Durham are celebrating after it was recognised for its efforts in preparing young people for the world of work.

Ofsted inspectors were so impressed with the development of students that they awarded a 'Good' rating – a fantastic achievement for a school and Sixth Form only in its third year.

The employability skills of the students have already been recognised by local businesses with all students leaving in Year 11 or 13 progressing on to either higher or further education, training, apprenticeships or employment. In fact 52% of the 18-year-old students went to meaningful paid apprenticeships with local employers – more than seven times the national average. The school and Sixth Form which specialises in engineering, technology and sciences for students aged 14-19, was praised by her majesty's inspectors for improving the quality of education and raising students' aspirations.

Ofsted announced last month that there will be a future rebalancing of the inspection process with a greater focus on students' curriculum, behaviour and personal development, something South Durham UTC has focused on from the start. Principal Tom Dower said, "We are all delighted with the outcome of our first Ofsted inspection. We exist to help students make up their minds about what they want to do in the future by offering them exposure to a variety of different careers. To establish the first UTC in the North East is a real privilege but to be able to lead a team that teach the next generation of business leaders is truly inspiring. In their time at UTC we equip our students with the workplace and industry skills required to futureproof their careers. We are told by companies that our students are innovative,



professional and technical in their approach and that the UTC difference makes them employable. The specialist education that we give here has placed students in STEM university courses, bespoke apprenticeship programmes and real jobs. I am very proud of our students and staff and the impact we are already having in the business community."

The education watchdog examined five key areas, which have all been judged as good: effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare; outcomes for students and 16 to 19 study programmes. Feedback from parents was outstanding. In Ofsted's standard survey, Parent View, there were 94 responses (which is six times more than the national average); UTC parents really care about the education their children are getting. 94% of them would recommend the UTC to other parents, 98% said that their child is happy and 100% said that their child is well looked after at the UTC.

One parent said: "My son started his year 10 study at the UTC in September 2018 and is having an extremely positive experience. He is flourishing, learning new skills and feels like he has

a future now. This is all because the staff at UTC treat pupils as individuals and adults, which prepares them

well for the real world."

UTC South Durham is a state-funded, purpose built technical school for 14-19 year olds, which opened on Aycliffe Business Park in September 2016 founded by regional employers, Hitachi Rail EU and Gestamp Tallent in collaboration with University of Sunderland. Applications for year 10 and year 12 studies for a specialist technical education at UTC are currently open. The next Year 10 Open Evening is taking place on 14th February and Year 12 Open Evening on 28th February places can be booked via the UTC South Durham website: www.utcsouthdurham.org. For additional information call 01325 430 250.

HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Newton Press are delighted to be shortlisted in the "Heart of the Community" category at the Durham, Sunderland & South Tyneside heat of the North East Business Awards 2019.

The shortlist for each category consists of just THREE companies/organisations, the winner of which will be crowned at the Durham, Sunderland & South Tyneside Regional Business Awards heat on Thursday 14th March 2019 at Ramside Hall Hotel.

Newton Press have made the final three out of a field of over 1000 companies across the north east.

The prestigious black tie evening will host a drinks reception from 6.00pm with formal proceedings commencing at 6.45pm.

A bumper awards supplement will be published in The Journal and The Gazette on Friday 12th April featuring all of the sub-regional winners.

A short film about Newton Press will be made to be shown during the awards ceremony.

Newton Press, a family run business, are specialists in the print industry and have been established for over 55 years. The company experienced record sales in 2018 as well as significant growth in the last 18 months.

Newton Press are committed to new technology, purchasing the latest Eco-Friendly print machinery allowing planet friendly exceptional fast printing.

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Better Health at Work Earns Council Regional Award

Activities aimed at improving mental and physical wellbeing at work have earned Durham County Council a regional award.

The Better Health at Work Award helps organisations set goals towards improving employees' health whilst at work. It is a partnership project, led by the twelve local authorities in the North East, the NHS and the Northern TUC. The County Durham locality is managed and delivered by the Pioneering Care Partnership.

Durham County Council has been successful in attaining the silver level award, acknowledging a more holistic view of the workplace, as well as engaging with local and national campaigns. Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Cabinet member for adult and health services said: "A huge part of our lives is spent at work. It is therefore important that people are given the best opportunities to take care of their health. We also know that when people feel well and are active, they are often more productive. This award is a great way of recognising the important ways we are creating a workplace that contributes to the good health of our staff."

Employees took part in a range of initiatives,



targeting different aspects of health.

Forty-eight people completed Dry January in 2018, and over 100 took part in alcohol awareness training. Everyday habits were challenged, with 77 taking the stairs instead of the lift in the Step Jockey challenge, burning 34,402 calories and taking 355,661 steps. Fifty-three people got their running shoes on, joining in the Couch to 5k. As well as physical activities, specialised training encouraged people to take care of their mental health. More than 700 people completed stress and resilience training and a further 500 people completed mental health awareness training.

The council also took part in Time to Talk, a campaign

encouraging everyone to talk about mental health. This is part of the wider Time to Change campaign, that aims to reduce stigma around mental health.

Over the next year, Durham County Council will be aiming to attain a Gold Award. This includes undertaking further employee engagement surveys, building on physical and mental health activities, promoting healthier lifestyles, and encouraging more health checks.



Guarantee Pension Credit as a Couple Changes

Currently, if you are in a couple you can claim Guarantee Pension Credit as soon as the oldest member of the couple reaches the state pension age for a woman. The government has named these couples "mixed aged couples". If you are eligible for Guarantee Pension Credit it is important to claim this even if it is only a small amount each week as you may also be entitled to other help.

The current rules about claiming Guarantee Pension Credit are due to change with effect from 15th May 2019. From this date mixed aged couples will both need to be over state pension age in order to qualify for Guarantee Pension Credit. If both members of the couple are not over state pension age, then the youngest member of the couple will need to make a joint claim to Universal Credit. Universal credit rates are much lower than Guarantee Pension Credit rates.

People who are eligible to claim Guarantee Pension Credit before 15th May will be able to do a late claim for up to 3 months after this date to avoid the need to claim Universal Credit. You will also be able to do late claims for Housing Benefit if you are on Pension Credit before 15th May 2019 and vice versa.

If you are a member of a mixed aged couple and think you may be entitled to Guarantee Pension Credit, then please call into your local Citizens Advice office for benefits advice.

Durham Stages Major Low Carbon Conference



Leaders in low carbon energy solutions gathered in Durham to discuss green issues.

Greener, renewable energy was the hot topic of a major conference last week, organised by Durham County Council. This formed part of the REBUS programme (Renovation for Energy Efficient Buildings), a European partnership project that aims to share knowledge on best practices for making buildings energy efficient.

The REBUS Mid Term conference focused on sharing knowledge and looked to develop new, low carbon opportunities across County Durham and the wider region.

The conference built upon the strategic vision for County Durham, as Durham County Council shared its outcomes from the project, including a focus on using renewable heat (from minewater) to replace gas as a heat source and a schools LED lighting retrofit project called 'Enlighten'.

Cllr John Clare, Cabinet Support Member for Economic Regeneration, who opened the conference, said: "Our commitment to low carbon must be embedded in and run through everything that we do. There are just so many opportunities in Durham."

A range of speakers from national government attended, including Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), national organisations; The Coal

Authority, regional agencies; North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP), Durham Energy Institute, and the European Institute for Innovation from Germany.

Rich Hurst, REBUS manager said: "We are delighted to have been able to attract such a strong list of speakers connected with the low carbon sector. We know that delegates found it an informative and useful day which will develop new project ideas for the county and wider north east region." The event was funded by Interreg Europe as part of the REBUS programme. The council has been engaged in this project for three years and is set to continue for another two years.



Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

You can find more information about these DCC achievements, community messages, and things to do next week, on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB97

And don't forget to join me on Aycliffe Radio, 6-7:30pm, Sunday 17 February, where the 'Big Story' will be Housing and Homelessness: bit.ly/ARLIVE

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- DCC Cabinet meeting, 6 February (Medium Term Financial Plan; Children & Young People's Strategy; phasing out single-use plastics, Velo of the North; Council activity report).
- DCC has won a silver Better Health at Work award.

- Business Durham is holding an event for local businesses: Routes to Contract Success – Support for Durham Businesses, Xcel Centre, 9am-1pm Thursday 21 February, FREE.

- FREE for County Durham businesses throughout February and March:

online training in health and safety, healthy living, mental health, and equality and diversity: <https://t.co/DxtRnXOGHW>

- Durham County Council is seeking your views on a new Durham Bus Station.

- Arriva are changing some of their local bus services.

- 10 Apps teenagers are using that parents need to know about.

THINGS TO DO

- Half-Term Fabric Workshop, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm 18-23 February, FREE.

- Spy School (age 6+), Hardwick Park, 10-11:30am or 1-2:30pm Tuesday 19 February, £6 per child – book on 03000 262 899

- Little Wild Things, Hardwick Park, 11am-3pm Thursday 21 February, £3 per child – book on 03000 262 899

- Super Swords (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop in 1-3pm Saturday 23 February, FREE.

- Local charity Community Spirit are organising an event at The Big Club on Saturday 2 March.



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[editorial]

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

BATTLING MISFORTUNE

Tilly Lockey, from Consett, lost both hands after contracting Group B meningococcal septicaemia as a toddler. Since then, her life has been one of indomitable spirit. She is an ambassador for Meningitis Research, one of the faces for The Meningitis Help Charitable Trust, and an active fundraiser in her own right.

This week's article on her 'battle hands' is uplifting on every level. It is a pleasing example (in an increasingly brutal world) of the kindness of strangers – in this case, Bristol firm Open Bionics. It showcases the amazing things that technology can achieve nowadays and gives us hope for the future. But, most of all, it is a testimony to the courage of a girl who, although still young, is surely an inspiration to us all.

FOR THE RECORD

Aycliffe Business Park is the powerhouse of the County Durham economy, so it is appropriate that this edition of the Newton News which reports the county's 'Record Year for New Businesses' should also report the submission of the planning application for Forrest Park.

In a worrying world, we acknowledge how much the Newton Aycliffe community owes to the entrepreneurship and ambition of the companies on the Business Park.

A PROUD MOMENT

Finally, have you noticed that Newton Press has been shortlisted in the local heat of this year's North East Business Awards? Our technologically-progressive, planet-friendly business has been serving the people of Newton Aycliffe since 1963, and we are proud of our place at the "Heart of the Community".

New Project Opens Door To Employment For Young People

County Durham teenagers are benefitting from a new initiative designed to tackle anti-social behaviour and bridge the gap between academic qualifications and the workplace.

Young people from the Peterlee area are gaining valuable social skills, training and work experience as part of the Sliding Door Project.

The initiative is a partnership between Durham County Council's building and facilities maintenance service, East Durham College and Durham Constabulary's Peterlee Neighbourhood Policing Team. It provides five students, aged 14 to 16, who have been struggling to engage with mainstream education, with a chance to succeed through an alternative education programme.

All of the students have come into contact with the police, who are supporting the project as a way of actively steering the young people away from behaviours that may lead to criminality and supporting them to make positive changes in their lives.

The project's young people are gaining construction industry experience by working on Durham County Council's refurbishment of Peterlee Leisure Centre and Library.

Paul Burr, Durham County Council's building and facilities maintenance manager, said: "The Sliding Doors Project gives these young people a fantastic opportunity to learn a wide variety of building construction skills, such as plastering, painting and joinery. Our site manager Les Todd and the construction team have been very impressed by the students' passion and willingness to learn. We hope that the experience will inspire them to work towards the required qualifications for a future career in construction, either with Durham County Council or another employer."

Greg Cocoran, from East Durham College's Engage Programme, said: "The Sliding Door Project is a fantastic opportunity for these young people to learn about the world of work and the requirements to gain an apprenticeship or paid work. We are really proud of them and their ongoing efforts taking part in this project."

Students from Sliding Door Project met with the HM Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Sue Snowdon, who was visiting Peterlee to learn about youth provision and partnership working in the area, and spoke about their enthusiasm for the project. Student Cameron Baines said: "The work at the leisure centre has been great and I look forward to learning something new each time I come here".



Photo: (left to right) Les Todd (Site Manager) Sue Snowdon (HM Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham), Dylan Freeman, Cameron Baines, Dylan Shepherd, Liam Ridley (students) and Michelle Burr (PCSO).

Battle Hands for Local Meningitis Star



County Durham meningitis survivor Tilly Lockey got the full megastar treatment when she was invited to the premiere of one of Hollywood's latest blockbusters in London's Leicester Square. Standing with Rosa Salazar, the star of Alita: Battle Angel, Tilly proudly showed off her brand-new bionic hands made by Open Bionics, the company which works with Tilly to help develop bionic hands for kids, collaborated with Fox on the movie. Thanks to this partnership they were asked to nominate someone to receive a free pair of "Alita hands" and immediately thought of Tilly.

The icing on the cake was that not only did Tilly get a new pair of hands, she also got to be a star for an evening at the premiere of the movie. Sarah hopes that others seeing Tilly standing on the blue carpet outside the premiere of a huge movie like Alita will be an inspiration to others of her age.

But as well as that, the experience must have been very exciting to Tilly – even though she looked like she was taking it all in her stride.

surprise when the film crew came in and presented her with her new arms, telling her she was a real-life Alita. "She was completely gobsmacked".

Directed by Robert Rodriguez, Alita: Battle Angel is described as a "cyberpunk action film" set in a future where cyborgs are given bionic limbs. Open Bionics, the company which works with Tilly to help develop bionic hands for kids, collaborated with Fox on the movie. Thanks to this partnership they were asked to nominate someone to receive a free pair of "Alita hands" and immediately thought of Tilly.

The icing on the cake was that not only did Tilly get a new pair of hands, she also got to be a star for an evening at the premiere of the movie. Sarah hopes that others seeing Tilly standing on the blue carpet outside the premiere of a huge movie like Alita will be an inspiration to others of her age.

WALKERS

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Programme Schedule

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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)
12-130pm Sports Round Up (R) Darren & Lee
2-4pm Bear Blues Show Colin McNeillie
4-6pm Folk/Celtic/Rock Show Steve & Col
6-730pm POLITICAL John D. Clare
17th Feb: Kevin Shaw (DCC Housing), Tanya Tucker (DCC Cabinet Support) & Sean Lawless (Listener/Guest)
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
6-730pm Sports Round UP Darren & Lee
26th Feb - Gregor Mills (Junior Ice Hockey)
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
TTO & Community Connect sponsored by ROF59
5-630pm Tea-Time Out Phil & Amy
630-8pm Community Connect 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
6-730pm 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
22nd Feb Pauly Mac (Rare Vinyl Mix - Sydney, Australia)
10-12am Alternative Aycliffe (R) Gary & Alby

Watch out for new presenters starting soon

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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COUNCIL PRECEPT INCREASE EXPLAINED

Dear Sir,
On Wednesday 23 January and Wednesday 30 January, Great Aycliffe Town Council unanimously decided to increase the Council Precept (that is what we charge the ratepayers to provide our services) by 4.99%. This will result in Band A (60% of properties) being charged an extra 65p per month, which is £8 per year. Band D properties will be charged an extra 97p per month, £11.64 per year.
At the time of writing this letter, the other three precepting authorities have not published their demands, but I believe that they will be very close to my prediction: Durham County Council will request close to 2.99%, which is the maximum they are allowed without a referendum, plus an additional allowable charge of 2% to meet the increased costs of adult and child care, which will result in an increase at Band A of just over £50 a year.
The Durham County Police Commissioner, Ron Hogg, is seeking an increase of over 13%, which will see an increase in the region of £16 in the year.
The Durham Fire Authority

will be looking for an increase in the region of 3%, which will result in a £2 increase in the year.
As a result of all of these increases, Council rates increase next year at Band A will be in the region of £76. The Town Council increase will be about 12% of the total increase.
Over the past ten years, Great Aycliffe Town Council precept has risen by 17.45%, an average of 1.75%. This is well below the rate of inflation over this period of time. This is no mean achievement as we have been subject to inflation, pay rises including the Living Wage, but also massive drops in income.
In the financial year 2012-2013, the Council received a Council Tax Support Grant of £352,800 from central government. In 2013-14, Durham County Council had to administer this grant, but the government reduced its contribution and the Town Council lost £56,650. Cuts in the grant have increased year on year, so that this year the grant is only £161,850, a cut of £190,950 from the £352,800 we received in 2012-2013. The total loss of income over this period amounts to £1,055,000. Over

the period we have also lost a double taxation grant from Durham County Council of £50,000 a year, a total of £300,000.
The Town Council's Medium Term Financial and Asset Management Plans show that our earmarked capital reserves for 2018/19 are £900,250 and our predictions show that unless we take immediate action, by 2025/2026 this amount will drop to £44,750, and by 2026/2027 there will be a shortfall of £102,750.
Next month, in the Council's Spring Newsletter, there will be a detailed account of the Council's finances. Finally, two points which I would like to emphasise:
One – we do not receive any business rates or rates from the Business Park.
Two – we have never owned any part of the Town Centre and are not allowed to trade in opposition to local trades. The Policy and Resources meeting on 6 March will be discussing Members' Allowances. I hope to give you my opinion before that meeting.
Councillor Bob Fleming
Leader of the Council,
Chairman of Policy and Resources.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Well Done Newton News

Dear Sir,
An issue regarding the delivery of the Newton News arose last week on a Facebook page by a local resident.
The problem appeared to affect the Horndale estate with many people saying they hadn't received their copy last weekend.
I emailed Paul at Newton News at 7.30pm expecting a reply the following day, however, Paul responded immediately with the answer that the person assigned to deliver the papers that weekend had 'dumped' them, they were subsequently found by the Town Council wardens and that person was sacked.
Newton News always welcomes comments or ideas regarding the paper and its delivery.
To contact your local community newspaper email: paul@newtonnews.co.uk
Thank you
Philip Clark

Stop Town Councillor's Allowances

Dear Sir,
I refer to Cllr. Chandran's "Notice of Motion" published in the Newton News and to the Editor's reference to this as a "political conundrum".
The matter was further addressed in the Darlington & Stockton Times on 8th February 2019 by no other than our very own Cllr. John D. Clare!
Labour/Momentum's Cllr. Clare considers Independent Cllr. Chandran's proposal as being "popularity-craving". One thing is for sure, it is popular with taxpayers and electors!
The question that now arises, why Cllr. John D. Clare did not address the matter in the Newton News where the question was posed?
The Newton News serves the Town Council area and is read by all the Town Council taxpayers and electors. Could it be that, in condemning the motion in the regional press, Cllr. John D. Clare hoped that the Town Council taxpayers and electors would not be aware of his opposition to this popular motion?
In the past, Cllr. Clare has not been so reticent about publishing his views on matters affecting the Town in the Newton News. Why has he changed in this instance?
Yours sincerely,
Alastair P. G. Welsh

LUMIERE BAD FOR BUSINESSES

Dear Sir,
I feel that I must write in response to your article in last weeks Newton News - Lumiere 2019 To Have a Lasting Community Impact - to provide balance to the actual impact that this biennial event, specifically with regard to the businesses in Durham.
I have a shop in Durham's Indoor Market and, along with the majority of business owners, have real concerns regarding the impact that Lumiere has on Durham's trade. For four days, in the lead up to Christmas, we have had to endure significant losses in revenue over the past few years, at a time when retail businesses are struggling enough as it is. In fact in 2017 it took 10 days to erect the installation in the Market Place, severely impeding access to the shops in the Indoor Market. So it's not just the few days of the display that affect businesses. Small, independent traders, myself included, lose thousands of pounds during this event.
It would appear that the only businesses to benefit are hotels, bars and restaurants, although this cannot account for the £7.6 million that Artichoke quoted in the article. In fact I would not be surprised if the NETT revenue was actually a deficit, but Artichoke or Durham County Council have never asked how much money is lost to the City during Lumiere. The reality is that our regular shoppers stay away during Lumiere. Why? Because

it's impossible to park and shoppers are prevented from entering the centre after 2.30pm without a ticket! So for four days we have no afternoon trade, and significantly reduced morning trade. We are told to make the most of attracting the new visitors who come into Durham. The reality is that the visitors to Lumiere do just that - visit Lumiere. People don't come to shop and carry heavy bags between the art installations! This is a fallacy perpetuated by Artichoke and Durham County Council. In fact, traders have approached the Council to sell on the streets and have been told it's not possible. However, in 2017 there were scores of Eastern European traders being allowed to sell cheap glow sticks and the like throughout the city centre. None of that income staying within Durham!
I have asked Artichoke for their data regarding their estimate for the number of visitors and the 'economic impact', but have yet to receive a reply. In 2017 I asked for their feedback from local businesses but they didn't provide any. We get no compensation or thanks from either Artichoke or Durham County Council and just have to bear the losses. Lumiere causes chaos in Durham, is bad for business and has long since outgrown the small city of Durham as a location for it's light displays.
Yours faithfully
Colin Flett

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MENCAP CHARITY NIGHT

Dear Sir,
Joanne Foster of Newton Aycliffe is running the London marathon with her partner Jock in aid of Mencap on Sunday 28th April.
To help with the fundraising Joanne will also be holding a charity night at the Phoenix Club on Friday 22nd February from 7-11pm. Tickets are priced at £5.00 each and available from behind the bar.
The night will be special to Joanne as her son, Rory, has autism and she recently lost her mother Anthea to cancer and the Phoenix Club was a big part of her mum's life.
Please come along and support Joanne and Mencap on this night. Entertainment from John Melvin's Disco and the fabulous Cassandra will be performing with great raffle prizes and a tombola.
Thank you.
The Foster Family

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Review of Statement of Policy Under the Licensing Act 2003

All licensing authorities must prepare and publish a statement of their licensing policy every five years. Our current policy which was published in 2014 must be reviewed this year. We will be developing a new policy over the coming months that will be adopted by the Council by the end of October 2019. In carrying out that review, we want to consult with existing licensed premises and with organisations, persons and bodies representing responsible authorities, the public and most importantly, the licensed trade in our area. As with the current policy, the new one will be focussed on

the following four licensing objectives which the policy will seek to promote:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

We believe that the Council's licensing policy should benefit the operators of licensed premises and the public alike. Our policy will reflect and incorporate the freedoms and flexibility provided to the licensed trade and leisure industry by the Act. However, it is important that our licensing policy balances the legitimate needs of

businesses in the county and the demand for leisure and cultural activities alongside the need to protect those who could be adversely affected by licensed premises.

We would very much like to hear your views in relation to our current licensing policy. We would welcome any suggestions you may wish to make that might lead to improvements in our policy for the coming five-year period.

To have your say on the policy you can let us know via the following link: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation> or send an email to licensing@durham.gov.uk. Comments must be received by Friday 3rd May 2019.

Milestone Achievement for St. Teresa's



Darlington Building Society CEO Andrew Craddock and St Teresa's Hospice CEO Jane Bradshaw

Over the past 22 years, Darlington Building Society has raised £100,000 for St Teresa's Hospice, which supports people with life-limiting illnesses at its Darlington base, and recently handed over a cheque for £100,000 representing the total amount provided over the years.

The building society's Chief Executive, Andrew Craddock, said: "Building societies were formed to help the communities they serve, something that is still a high priority for us.

"It's wonderful to see the difference the funds provided by our staff and members have made to St Teresa's Hospice and we're proud to have reached the incredible milestone of £100,000 generously given."

The funds given by the society have helped to fully equip the Rainbow Room, part of the new inpatient unit, which provides a space for terminally-ill patients to spend time with their loved ones. The room was named by Darlington resident Wendy Goold, after the society hosted a competition on its Facebook page.

The donations have also funded the installation of a memory tree sculpture, allowing family and friends to remember their loved ones, which will continue to be a source of fundraising income for years to come.

St Teresa's CEO Jane Bradshaw said: "The building society has been with us since the very beginning of the hospice and has supported us not only by providing £100,000 of funds, but also participating in events and even featuring collection boxes in-branch.

"The generosity of the society and its members is crucial to the successful running of the hospice; this support and that from other businesses and the community in Darlington, has ensured we can provide ongoing palliative care services for the people of Darlington and district."

The types of charities and organisations supported by Darlington Building Society's 5% pledge, which gives five per cent of its net profits back into the community, are chosen by members, with St Teresa's Hospice aligning with the desire to support people helping people.

For more information about Darlington Building Society and its 5% pledge, visit www.darlington.co.uk/

community/sharing-funds/ For more information about St Teresa's Hospice, visit: www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk Twitter: @DarlingtonBS

1407 Squadron Annual Awards



1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets recently held their annual presentation evening at the RAFA Club. The squadron continues to provide excellent opportunities for the cadets as was evident by the number of awards and certificates given out. The event began with the presentation of badges for academic achievements within the Corps and nationally recognised awards such as Heartstart first aid certificates and BTec Diplomas. These were followed by the presentation of Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

The second half of the evening saw the awarding of the squadron's trophies for 2018 by Sector Commander, Sqn. Ldr. Gavin Houghton, and the squadron's former Commanding Officer, Sqn. Ldr. (rtd.) John Scott.

The recipients were:

Scott Trophy for Citizenship:
Cdt. S. Williams;

Crabbe Trophy for Aircraft Recognition:
CWO. J. Hastie;

Sedgefield Veterans Trophy for Attendance:
Sgt. Paul Ughra;

Tom Downs Trophy for Endeavour:

Cdt. J. White;
Scott Shield for Most Improved Cadet:
Cdt. G. Nadin;

Simon Drill Award: Cpl. J. Tinkler;
Sports Trophy: Cdt. L. McAndrew;
Mess Tin Trophy: Cdt. E. Johnson;
Best Junior Cadet: Cdt. W. James;
Boddy Trophy for Best NCO:

Sgt. Paul Ughra;

Fryer Shield for Best Cadet: Cdt. A. Stride. To round off the awards five cadets were promoted in rank. Well done to Cpl. Stride, Sgt. Tinkler and Sgt. Newbery, Flt. Sgt. Ughra and Flt. Sgt. Lakey!

The evening was a celebration of the achievements of all the members of 1407 squadron. The range of awards on offer and the high calibre of the cadets shows why the squadron is still amongst the top squadrons in Durham and Northumberland Wing. Flt. Lt. Scott would like to thank everyone involved with the squadron for their continued support.

If you are in year 8 or above at school and are interested in finding out more about us then come along to the Barnard Armoury ARC on a Monday or Thursday evening between 7pm and 9pm for a chat.

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BEAMISH IN AYCLIFFE ALOPECIA SUPPORT MORE ABLE ACADEMY

NEW NIGHT NEW VENUE for 2019



Alopecia Support County Durham is a growing support group for individuals aged 16 years and over who have been diagnosed with Alopecia. Our meetings offer support, advice and tips based on the members own experiences. We also provide activities to help members feel good, rebuild their confidence and make new friends.

In 2019 we have a new night and a new venue for our meetings, now on a Tuesday night and at Woodham Community Centre but the time remains 7-9pm! The meetings for 2019 are confirmed for 26th February, 30th April, 25th June, 3rd September and 29th October. We will also be having a Christmas celebration . . . watch this space for more details!

This month only, we will be joined by Charlotte Crowther – Journalist and Presenter – who is raising awareness of Alopecia by producing a documentary as part of her dissertation for her final year at University. She will be doing some filming during our meeting however participation is voluntary.

Attendance and refreshments are free and so are the laughs, all we ask is that you help us wash up! So if you have been affected by Alopecia please come along and meet the group, however if you're not quite ready to attend then contact us for further information and support alopeciafriendscodurham@outlook.com Twit: @alopeciafriends and Facebook: alopeciasupportcodurham



Aycliffe Town Centre Management were delighted to host a day with Beamish here in Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 9th February 2019 and look forward to doing more with Beamish again and other partners to reflect our towns history during this our 70th anniversary year.

Natasha Anson from Beamish Museum said "Thank you very much for having us, we had a great response from people on the day."

Watch Newton News for details of upcoming events in the town centre including Live Music Festival, Beamish Visit, Blue Light Day, Army Day, Fair Ground and more.



One of the aims of the More Able Academy is to break down barriers and access to Higher Education. One way in which this is done is by engaging with local universities, particularly, the prestigious Durham University. In January, 16 Year 7 More Able Academy students visited Palace Green Library, Durham University, to take part in workshops with Durham4schools.

These sessions are organised and run by current university students who, as well as offering specialist subject activities, also speak to students about their experience of university. The first session 'What is a book?' is designed as an extra-curricular activity to challenge students, asking them to determine what



makes a book a book before considering what books and manuscripts can tell us. The afternoon session focussed on the first world war artefacts and used primary source materials to examine what life was really like on the Western Front. The students tried on uniforms and looked at maps and photographs from

the trenches. As well as allowing students to access primary source material and artefacts, the day allowed students from Woodham to really take on the role of a university student and pupils really rose to the challenge! The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and many asked if they could visit again.

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Greenfield Showcase 'The Shildon Cantata'



From left to right: Mayor of Shildon Luan Deakin, David Priestley, Executive Headteacher Greenfield Community College, Charlie, Ebony, Darren, Theatre Practitioner Alex Elliott, writer Paul Summers, Bev Briggs The Forge

Students at Greenfield Community College have been participating in an exciting project that explores ways to express opinions and ideas with confidence.

'Your Voice, Your Say' has been developed by Greenfield Arts in partnership with The Forge, working with drama practitioner Alex Elliott. Through creative learning, the students have been encouraged to develop their communication and debating skills and be inspired to 'make a difference'.

This certainly was evident at their recent celebration event as they showcased their new-found voices on film. Students produced a collaborative piece of poetry entitled 'The Shildon Cantata' engaging the audience in a sense of place and identity. The young people had also prepared a question and answer session to encourage discussion and debate, displaying confidence and communication skills.

The evening was a great success attracting parents, staff and members of the local community, including the Mayor of Shildon. The event was held at Greenfield's Shildon site and was a testament to the hard work and creativity achieved by the students. A big thank you to The Forge, and well done to all involved. The project was funded by IWill and Country Durham Community Federation to support young people to have a voice and develop an interest in social action.

Going forward the group want to open up further debate with staff and students at the school and are already organising this by showing the film school-wide, developing ideas for the next staff training conference and working towards their contribution to our student voice conference in July.

Film Show

"MR. HOLMES"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 19th February features the 2015 detective drama "Mr. Holmes" starring Ian McKellen, Laura Linney and Hiroyuki Sanada.

It is 1947, Sherlock Holmes has retired and is living in anonymity with his housekeeper and her son. Frustrated by Watson's best-selling but inaccurate novels, he decides to look into an unsolved case. Everyone is welcome, please come and enjoy. Tea and coffee are served at 1.00pm, included in the £2.

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.

DARLO F.C. NEWS

Darlington now have three successive home games coming up as they try to climb into the top half of the table. Quakers' 1-0 win at Blyth last Saturday, courtesy of Stephen Thompson's 90th goal on his 250th league start, put them 16th in the table, nine points above the relegation zone and six points below the top half.

They take on another former Football League club Southport this Saturday, and then on Wednesday tackle FA Trophy holders Brackley.

They don't have a game on 23rd February because their scheduled opponents Telford are on FA Trophy duty, and then on 2nd March league leaders Chorley are the visitors. Meanwhile, the club is looking forward to hosting its half term Soccer Camp next week, places are available by ringing 07903 3614570.

The club is also holding a talent ID day for its academy next Tuesday at Blackwell Meadows, details are available on academy@darlingtonfc.org.

And the club is also asking fans to choose next season's strip from four alternatives.

Spectrum RSC - Iddybidybox Challenge



Spectrum Skaters took part in The Iddybidybox Challenge this week and raised over £300!

Spectrum Roller Skaters were given a challenge to decorate a box and fill it

with tiny items. To raise money for the club, the skaters collected sponsors and in total have raised £310! Winner of Top Fundraiser went to Molly Corbett and runners up were Kam and Iris Comerford. Winner of the most items in the box was Lucy Richardson with runner up Liam Stevens.

The money will be used towards the cost of running the clubs first skating festival later in the year. Roller skaters from around the country will be coming along to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre to take part in the event planned for 20th/21st July 2019. The club has set a target to raise £2000 before July. Anyone who could support the club with sponsorship, fundraising or any other ideas please contact Coach Tracy Stevens 07891 461958. The club are also on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



After a few quiet weeks it was a full return to racing last weekend.

Starting with the local Parkruns on Saturday morning two members achieved PB's at the Darlington Parkrun. Lisa Dowell in 34.51 and Jan McLuckie in 34.52.

On Saturday afternoon it was the next cross country race in the NEHL, this one taking place at Thornley in County Durham. Despite the threat of Storm Erik, we still had 6 hardy male members turn out for this. This course is the hardest one in the NEHL in terms of its hilly profile but also the weather meant that the ground underfoot was very soft and provided the 'clarts and mud' that have been missing over this season. It was therefore a true cross country race.

First home for ARC was Paul Dalton in a time of 39.56. Paul started in the medium pack and therefore had a handicap on the runners starting from the slow pack. He was followed home by Richard Campbell in 42.33, Mark Wade in 38.39 (Mark started from the fast pack and had an additional handicap on that of Paul), Peter Milburn 45.58, Richard Holland 46.38 and Dave Blewitt in 54.54.

On Sunday there was a great turnout from the club for the Absent Friends Trail Race. This is a course that was just short of 5 miles and is run around the Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park. Billingham on a mix of terrain. It has always been a popular race with the club and indeed is part of the club championship races.

First home for the club was John Surtees in 29.02, followed closely by Mark Wade 29.10, Richard Holland 32.22, Andy Talbot 33.12, Tracey Surtees 34.13, Stuart Joyce 36.03, John Burnside 37.05, Trevor Needham 38.38, John Heywood 40.39, John Richardson 40.49, David Stothard 43.04, Trish Kay 44.32, Lindsey Brown 46.07, Heather Fenwick 46.09, Rob Nicholson 47.46, Linda McNamee (running for her first team Hunwick Harriers) 47.51, Kathleen Tonge 48.14, Richard Tonge 49.14, Gemma Holland 49.22, Denise Evans 49.55, Sandrine 51.16, Susan Clark 55.53.

Also on Sunday father and son competed in the Muddy



Boots 10k at Ripon. This is a race which starts and finishes at St Wilfrid's school and incorporates a run through multi-terrain, over undulating farmland and countryside. Rob Young completed this in 46.33 and John Young in 1.00.07. 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 6.30pm, Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00pm, and Thursday is a track session and this takes place at Shildon Track. Further details can be found on our website or facebook pages.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 27th February 2019 - 7.15pm

Environment Committee

Followed by Recreation Committee

NOTE:- Further information on Public Participation and Public Questions can be obtained by visiting the Council's Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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THE LITTLE BUDDHA
"The Seekers Prayer"

Every challenge we experience gifts us the opportunity to go beyond what we already know about ourselves and take us into the unknown to discover what we are capable of. As we venture ever further into this strange land courage born of comfort and certainty recedes until it's no more than a cold distant memory.

In the emptiness our thoughts, like unwanted echoes, return again and again as the fear of our failure gives life to the shadows of our mind. Ever more uncertain we stumble over the remains of our past mistakes buried by the sands of time, only to be uncovered by the winds of change. Fearful of what lies ahead and seeking comfort we cling ever tighter to the remnants of our fragile successes as the winds of change look to tear them from our grasp. Exhausted, our energy spent; supplicant, we plead for a moment's peace, and in the eye of the storm the seekers prayer is answered.

Amidst a stillness that comes from beyond silence, a realisation that the shadows have passed and taken with them the debris of dead and decaying beliefs long outgrown. What appeared in our darkest hour as a barren landscape has been transformed by the light of a new dawn into a blank canvas ready to receive that which we hold to be true.

A challenge is a new skill waiting to be developed, a new strength to be tested or a new relationship waiting to be forged out of fear and uncertainty. Change is uncomfortable, but development always lies in that distant land beyond the barriers and borders of limitation that we set ourselves, and sooner or later each one of us must make that journey to seek out the truth and to be all that we can be.

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Greenfield Arts Say 'Let's Play' for Open Art

Greenfield Arts are opening their doors to celebrate the annual 'Open Art' exhibition. This year the preview evening will take on a playful theme offering exciting opportunities to get a taste for the arts and take part in a range of activities. The evening will welcome artists and tutors who will demonstrate their craft taking inspiration from 'Play'.

The free event will be held on Wednesday 13th March from 18:00 - 20:00 and those attending the celebration event will get the first chance to visit the exhibition, featuring fabulous work from over thirty artists. Why not come along to see the exhibition and try something new for yourself.

Mixed Media artist Sharron Bates will be on hand to play with collage materials and create wonderful pieces of art. You can also get playful with languages, our popular Spanish classes run termly and tutor Daria Coates will demonstrate creative learning through games and exploring Spanish delicacies. Tutor and artist Dawn Belshaw can often be found at Greenfield Arts inspiring young people and leading our popular Art Club and holiday activities. Dawn will be showing you how you can make wonderful art from recycled materials.



Finally, there will be a chance to meet artist Richard Bliss who will let you into the secret of 'The Quest for the Perfect Shirt', Richard is a ground-breaking artist in the field of identity and gender stereotypes. This creative mix is sure to make for a very special event.

The evening is free and open to the public and there will be refreshments available. It is sure to be a creative and playful evening in a lovely environment - a great start to the annual exhibition! This is just one of our many events and specialist opportunities on offer through Arts and creativity.

If you would like to know more about the gallery programme, projects and activities at Greenfield Arts check out the website on www.greenfield-arts.co.uk call 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Advertising Increase for Newton News

Over the past two years Newton Press and Newton News has absorbed many price increases from the paper mills, ink manufacturers, general running costs and overheads.

We have managed to maintain our advertising rates, but due to the constant rises we cannot sustain the current prices.

As from 1st March 2019 there will be a small increase in the cost of advertising in the Newton News.

Newton News is owned, published and printed by Newton Press - we receive no financial support from organisations, government bodies or individuals; we bring the Newton News to you each week, free of charge, by selling the space to advertisers to cover our costs.

Editorials have always, and will always, be free - however this can only be made possible by support from the business and residential community through advertising their services and events.

We thank business owners and event organisers for promoting themselves via the Newton News and hope it will long continue.

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NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Employers and young people can find out more about the benefits of apprenticeships at two events being hosted by Northumbrian Water as part of National Apprenticeship Week. The events on Monday, March 4, kick off a week of activity led by the Apprenticeships Ambassador Network North East and take place at Northumbrian Water's offices in Pity Me, Durham.

Businesses that are actively involved with, and passionate about, apprenticeships will be sharing stories about their experiences at the first event, which takes place on the morning, from 8.15am to 10am. The aim is to help those companies that currently do not utilise apprenticeships to understand the benefits and find out more about how an apprentice can help them.

At the evening event, from 5pm to 7pm, young people and parents can hear from companies and apprentices, to help them understand more and decide if an apprenticeship is suitable for them.

Tracey Greener, Workforce Development Manager at Northumbrian Water, said: "National Apprenticeship Week is a great opportunity for employers, young people and parents alike to find out more about the value of apprenticeships. We're really looking forward to working with the Apprenticeships Ambassador Network North East to help tell the stories of employers and apprentices, so that others can understand what it's all about and how everyone can benefit."

To find out more about, and sign up to, the employer event, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/north-east-apprentice-ambassador-employer-event-tickets-55724187545>

For further information and to sign up to the parents and young people event, visit:

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Join us at Silverdale House, Silverdale Place, on Tuesday 19th February, where community garden experts and youth providers will be on hand to listen to your ideas and help us turn them into reality.

Anybody from the community is welcome, and the event will be attended by representatives from all organisations involved in the TLP, including the Newton Aycliffe Beat Team.

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Sing-a-long-a The Greatest Showman is at Darlington Hippodrome on Saturday 11 May at 2pm and 7pm.

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Love you more.
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SJ xxx

Helen
My one and Only
Stephen
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Caroline
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as always
Vince

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A. Cullimore, Newton Aycliffe

Youthy Football Round Up



U8 Eagles 6 Hartlepool St Francis 6

The boys were back in league action today and were a little slow getting going but we managed to take the lead as Dan was brought down for a Penalty and stepped up and smashed the ball home. Hartlepool created chances but Carter made some good saves. We made some silly mistakes and were soon 2-1 down, but we fought back and won another penalty, this time Brandon smashing it home. We quickly added a 3rd as Dan grabbed his 2nd. Dan added his 3rd and our 4th just before HT. 2nd half Hartlepool came out fighting and quickly drew level. The boys came back fighting and started working hard, unfortunately we fell 5-4 down. We responded well as James brought us back to 5-5. We were soon 6-5 up as Evan got on the score sheet. With 1 minute left on the clock we made an error at the back and Hartlepool drew level. FT 6-6 MOM to Carter for some great saves in goal.

Chester le Street Ladies 2 Newton Aycliffe Women 2

Today was the first game of the additional cup competition put in by the league and the women were away to Chester le Street whom they beat 3 weeks ago 3 - 0. The game started off slow

with neither side troubling the keepers, then some good passing on the left hand side and a cross into the box, where Zoe was waiting to tap home from close range, took the score to 0-1. For the remainder of the first half Newton Aycliffe were on top but couldn't get the second they needed. Second half and the women were now kicking up hill, Chester-Le-Street were now attacking but the defence held strong. On 70 minutes a ball was whipped across the Aycliffe box which found the unmarked striker who forced the ball over the line to take the sides level. Chester-Le-Street were pushing for the winner and Aycliffe couldn't get out of their own half and were

punished on 78 minutes, the score going to 2-1. An injury to Nicole and Zoe meant the last 10 minutes Aycliffe were down to 10, the women kept pressing and were awarded with a corner, a great ball in from Amber found Katie in the middle of the goal who finished from close range, again drawing the score level. One more chance came at the end but the women couldn't quite convert it. Final score 2-2.

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NAYFC Angels U9 Girls 3 - 1 Easington CW Girls
Division 1 Winners in their first season.

LOCAL BEAUTY SPOT



English Heritage gardeners at Mount Grace Priory tending the Snowdrops. The gardens open to the public from Saturday 16th February as the start of the new season that will see visitors flock to the Priory to take in the spectacular displays of snowdrops. Mount Grace Priory is located in the parish of East Harlsey, North Yorkshire, England, within the North York Moors National Park, it is the best preserved and most accessible of the nine medieval Carthusian houses in England

In Memoriam

COLIN MacCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest peaceful bonnie lad, till we meet again. My love always. June. God bless xxxxx

COLIN MacCORMACK (Mac). In loving memory of our wonderful Dad and Grandad. Miss you every day Dad. From Ian, Heena, Andrew, Tina, Rachel and Philip. Loads of hugs and kisses from Rebecca, Cameron and Haley xxxxx

COLIN MacCORMACK (Mac). Just a prayer from those who love you. Just a memory ever true. In our hearts you will live forever. Because we thought the world of you. Rob and June.

EDWARD HUBERY (Eddie). 17th June 1938 to 25th February 2011. Husband, Father, Grandad, Uncle, Brother and friend to many. Sadly missed by Gwyn and all his family.

CHARLES HEDLEY (Charlie). 14th February 1926 to 4th March 2013. His Wife JOYCE HEDLEY 14th December 1938 to 2nd July 1995. Their Son, MICHAEL HEDLEY 14th February 1953 to 3rd November 2008. Sadly missed by all the Hubery family.

PAUL STEVENS 17th February. We can dream that we can turn back time and we are stood side by side; but no matter how hard we try, our hearts will never let us tell you goodbye. Loved always. Mam, Dad, Julie and family xxxxx

Obituary

MARY TRAINER (nee Burrell)

Peacefully in hospital in Grimsby on 10th February, late of Newton Aycliffe, Mary (nee Burrell), aged 66 years. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Friday 22nd February.

Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Mary's R.C. Church at 10.45am, followed by Interment in the West Cemetery, School Aycliffe.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, may be sent in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care.

WILLIAM WILSON (Billy)



Formerly of Wilson's Bakery of Newton Aycliffe. Peacefully on 10th February, aged 88. Beloved Husband of Jean; dear Dad of Pam and Billy; Father-in-Law, Grandad and Great Grandad.

Funeral Service to take place in St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Friday 22nd February at 11.30am followed by Committal at Wear Valley Crematorium at 12.30pm. Would family and friends please meet at the Church. Family flowers only please, donations, in lieu if so desired, for Alzheimer's Society & Cancer Research UK.

Thank You

THE NEW MR & MRS TODD

Would like to thank each and every person who shared our special day with us on Friday 1st February 2019. You all made it amazing. A special thanks to Audrey, Glynis, Joan, Simon, Kyle, Wayne, David, Katie, Alex and Megan for all your support, love and help throughout. Nicky, Samantha and George Todd xx

VIOLET BENNETT (Vi)

of Newton Aycliffe. Passed away peacefully on 5th February, aged 86 years.

Dearly beloved Wife of the late Arnold; much loved Mam to Sheila and the late Forgham; Mother-in-Law to Billy; treasured Nana to Sean, Dean and Rebecca; also a Great Grandmother. Will family and friends please meet for cremation at Darlington Crematorium on Friday 22nd February at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, if so desired, may be made to GNAA and Dementia UK.

Congratulations

BIG 40 Samantha Cole



Congratulations on your
40th Birthday
17th February 2019

Hope you have a lovely day.

Love always, Neil, Courtney, Ellie, Megan, Hattie and Grayson Ford

THOMAS WILLIAM DOCKERTY (Tom)

of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully at home on 10th February, aged 85 years.

Dearly beloved Husband of Nancy; a much loved Dad to Angela, Michael, Karen and Pamela; Father-in-Law to Peter and Paula; a treasured Grandad and Great Grandad.

Family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 21st February for 12.30pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired, for Cancer Research.

Followed by refreshments at the Phoenix Club (The Legion), Newton Aycliffe.

Public Notice

NEWTON AYCLIFFE TOWN CENTRE

Please note that all access to the lift tower area is closed to allow major works to be carried out to the structure both internally and to the external fabric, this will take approximately six weeks. All other car parks with level access to the centre are open.

Please note also that there is only staircase access from the top deck of the multi-storey car park to Beveridge Way.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Town Centre Management
Telephone: 01325 300 605

GREENFIELD FOOTBALLERS REPRESENT DISTRICT

Students at Greenfield Community College are taking their sport seriously as they achieve exciting results.

Tom Ord and Josh Jukes represented the Under 15 District team recently and were both influential in their quarter-final, beating Redcar 3 - 0 last week. The two boys performed extremely well and can now look forward to the next round.

Mr Allison and all staff would like to wish Tom and Josh, who is captain of the district side, all the very best in the Under 15 District team semi-final match against Newcastle district. This match will be played at home at the Bishop Auckland stadium and is sure to be an excellent spectacle. The achievements have resulted from their footballing skills and resilience, training in all weathers and with great enthusiasm.

Greenfield Community College are committed to promoting sport and are presently engaging students in activities through the 'Change for Life' initiative. Students are being offered the opportunity to try out new sports to improve their health and fitness and encourage habits to last a lifetime. The take up has been excellent so far and students are lucky to have role-models such as Tom and Josh to inspire them.

Juniors Football Report



After all their matches fell foul to the weather last week it was a wet and windy return to action for the Aycliffe Juniors football teams this week.

The development team for Under 6's played away at Swalwell. It was another great game for these young players with William scoring a fantastic five goals and Oscar also on target. All involved showed great skills throughout the game.

The Under 7's Juniors played their last league game of the season at Woodham against Norton & Stockton. Man of the match Jonah scored both goals in a 3-2 loss. The development game ended in a 7-0 victory with goals from Daniel, Kai, Jonah then two each for Alfie and Jack.

The Under 8's played at home against Billingham

Synthonia in what was a brilliant game of football. Evan scored a great solo goal in a 3-1 defeat. The development game was lost by four goals to nil.

The Under 9's reversed their fixture against Bishop Auckland St Mary's to make use of their 4G pitch. It proved to be a great game with lots of chances. Zeke and Oliver nearly grabbed a winner in the final minutes but the game ended 0-0. George was deservedly named as man of the match. The development game ended in a 4-0 loss but it was good to see Finley return after injury and put in a man of the match display.

The Under 10's Claret also chose to switch venues and play at Darlington FC's 3G pitch against previously unbeaten opponents. Resilient defending kept

the score at 0-0 then man of the match Ashton and Kai scored to open up a 2-0 lead. Darlington got one goal back but they couldn't match the Aycliffe team who won 2-1. The Under 10's White ended their losing streak with a goal less draw against neighbours Sedgefield. The Churcher twins were outstanding in defence with Ethan named as man of the match.

The Under 11's White hosted league leaders Leven. Their performance deserved more but the game ended in a 2-1 defeat. Jayden Bowes scored the goal and the man of the match was jointly awarded to Jack Lewis and Harvey Lee.

The Under 11's Black played away at South Park Rangers. After conceding the first goal Jake Smith made a great run and chipped the keeper to make the score 1-1. In the second half man of the match Jack Gibson made some great saves and ensured the game ended in a draw.

The Under 12's hosted Hurworth Albion from four divisions and forty league places above them in the quarter final of the Challenge Cup. They put in a fine effort but were 2-0 down at half time. Then after three substitutions they got back in to the game when Zak scored with a cool finish. They couldn't find an equaliser but this was a great performance against a team playing at a much higher league level. The man of the match was Lewis.

The Under 13 Russell Foster League team travelled to play Wickham. They came away with a 1-0 win despite losing Archie and Lewis to injury and finishing the game with only nine players. The only goal of the game came from Herbie's first half penalty and the whole team were named as men of the match.

The Under 13's TJFA league team hosted high flying Marton FC Blues. They had a tough day at the office and eventually lost 9-0.

The Under 14's put in a great effort at home against Shildon, creating several chances. They came away 4-1 winners with McKenna scoring one goal and man of the match Dylan Maughan grabbing a hatrick.

The Under 17's travelled to Kader and after a much improved effort it was disappointing to concede two late goals and lose the game 2-0. Elliot Dixon was the man of the match after an assured performance at right back.

Sedgefield 75 Results

The championships took place over three weekends 26/27th January, 2/3rd February and 9/10th February. Sedgefield 75 ASC had five swimmers competing. Katelyn Craig and James Hodgson competed in the senior gala which was held at Sheffield. Mathew Wimbury, Mateusz Wilcznski and Emma Price competed in the Age Group Gala held at Sunderland. They took part in a total of twenty events over the three weekends and swam in a total of fourteen finals, Emma, competing in the eleven year age group, had a golden weekend on the 9/10th February taking first place in the 200 FS in a time of 2:27. Great to win a county gold but to do it in a time that ranked her fastest in the country was very special. The silver lining for her championships was the results she achieved in the 200 Backstroke, the 100 FS, the 400 FS and the 200 IM, silver medals in all four events. Mathew, swimming in his first N&D Championships, made the final of the 50 Breast stroke. He improved on his entry time in the heats and achieved another PB in the final. An excellent performance. Mateusz, competed in the 100 Fly, making the final in a new best time, as well as the 50 FS and 50 Fly. James competed in the 50 and the 100 FS and Katelyn competed in the 50 Fly and the 50 FS and both achieved

personal best times just missing out making the finals. Great performances from everyone so early in the new year.

Scarlet Fights for the Podium at Wombwell



School Aycliffe's 7 year old girl racer Scarlet Dunn had a race long battle for 3rd place at Wombwell in South Yorkshire this weekend in the Bambino Comer kart racing class.

Racing for the first time at the circuit, and as the only girl on the grid, Scarlet quickly got on the pace in free practice and took 3rd place in two heats and qualified in 3rd for the final in her Wright kart.

Although she slipped back to 4th at the start, she quickly closed the gap back down to 3rd and looked for

a way past for several laps, but then unfortunately the 3rd place driver got caught in a tangle with a faster IAME kart causing Scarlet to take avoiding action and she dropped to 5th. Scarlet showed her pace to close the gap, setting the 3rd fastest time of the race and finished 5th by the chequered flag. Scarlet really enjoyed racing at the circuit and wasn't phased at all by the new challenges. She competes again at her local circuit Teesside Autodrome, Middlesbrough in two weeks time.

BENGAL LOUNGE

Contemporary Indian Restaurant

One of Best 5 North East Takeaways 2018

We would like to say a massive thank you to the British Takeaway Awards on behalf of Justeat for inviting us to such a prestigious evening!

It was a truly wonderful night meeting all the celebrities and the competitors for the Award of the Best Takeaway in the North East.

Sadly, we did not receive first place but it was an honour to get to this position today, this is thanks to our customers and your loyalty. Thank you for everyone's support for allowing us to be recognised as one of the **BEST FIVE** British Takeaways in the North East!



EURONICS

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