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Woodham Burn Primary School Visit Specsavers



Reception children from Woodham Burn Primary School have been focusing on the topic "People Who Help Us". A visit to Specsavers in Newton Aycliffe was one of the children's favourite experiences. Jeremy, the optician, explained how they help us by giving us an eye test; showing us sunglasses and special swimming goggles; and helping us choose some glasses. Children tried on some different glasses that represent eye conditions to see what different people feel like. They

visited the test room and even had a little eye test, looking at some very small letters and pictures. Reception staff reported: "We all had a great time during our visit and would like to thank Jeremy and the staff at Specsavers for such a fun and informative experience. The children are all now looking forward to coming to get their eyes checked as they made our experience a pleasure." Miss Wood, Reception Teacher said "We have an optician's role play area in the classroom and

it has been great to see the children apply their learning into their play. By visiting the opticians, we hope that the children are more confident when visiting in the future. We are now eating more green vegetables after Jeremy told us they keep our eyes healthy." Mrs Edwards, Head Teacher added: "It is so important that we teach children about those people who help us in every aspect of life. This helps children understand their community to a much greater degree. Thank you to Specsavers Newton Aycliffe for the wonderful experience".

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THE BIG CLUB


Official Opening Day for the New Sheraton Bar

Saturday 2nd March 2019

Come along and join The Big Club staff from 12noon and meet the Heineken Team. Enjoy a drink from the newly installed Heineken products range, 'sample' some free tasters on the day.

The Sheraton Bar will be open daily from Monday February 25th as follows:
Monday 12pm-10pm, Tuesday 12pm-6pm, Wednesday 12pm-6pm,
Thursday 12pm-10pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 12pm-Close


THE BIG CLUB

MASTER OF HYPNOSIS

Comedy Hypnotist
JAMES HENRY

A comedy show of hypnotic brilliance turning you, the volunteers, into the stars of the show.

Saturday 2nd March - Show of the Month

Opening preview of the newly refurbished **Concert Hall** and **Sheraton Bar**
Complementary evening entertainment provided by
"James Henry" and "Four-Letter Word"
Grab your free tickets from the Club to avoid disappointment.



Playing music by:
Beatles - Oasis
The Kinks - Morrissey
David Bowie
The Specials
The Killers
Undertones
Stone Roses
The Cure - AC/DC
Pulp - Billy Idol
The Clash - The Jam
U2 - Muse - Blur
Led Zeppelin
Kaiser Chiefs
Arctic Monkeys
Stereophonics

What to Expect on a Speed Awareness Course

Million of speeding motorists opt to undertake speed awareness courses rather than accept a fine and penalty points, now new research has revealed the content of the courses.

Researchers from car leasing giants LeaseCar. uk spoke to prosecuted motorists to report exactly what happens on one of the courses.

Drivers who break the speed limit must meet certain criteria to be invited to the course meaning they will avoid a fine of £100 and three penalty points.

The course is offered to motorists who have not exceeded the speed limit by more than nine miles per hour plus ten percent of the given zone they were travelling in.

The cost of completing a speed awareness course varies by region but is typically priced between £90 and £100.

The four-hour long course is designed to educate motorists about the life-threatening risks they pose to themselves and other road users when breaking the speed limit.

Tim Alcock of LeaseCar. uk said: "Speeding is a very serious offence, no matter how well a motorist knows an area or if they are only a few miles per hour over the limit they are still breaking the law.

"A lot of motorists who attend find it a sobering experience and while the aim is not to make anyone uncomfortable, the shocking effects speeding can cause are not shied away from.

"It could appear daunting but the course is not a telling-off exercise, which is why we have revealed what happens on the day."

This is what drivers can expect when they complete a speed awareness course:
No Police
Although guilty drivers are

caught by the police or one their cameras no officers are present on the day of the course. They are run by advanced driver trainers who are there to simply prevent guilty motorists from re-offending.

However, this does not mean strict rules are not in

place as a driver who turns up ten minutes late will be asked to leave and will be referred back to the police. Similarly, anyone caught on a mobile phone during the course will also be told to leave.

Not a fail or pass

Attendants are not required

ALTERNATIVE AYCLIFFE PUNK ALL DAYER

Aycliffe Radio have given Gaz 'n' Alby the platform to play their specialised genre of music and with hundreds of listeners from all over the country they are taking their show to the next level with a specialist all dayer on the May bank holiday weekend, Sunday 5th May 2019.

From 1.00pm till 11.00pm you will hear at least eight punk bands play live at The Turbinia public house in Sid Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PA. Tickets for the event are priced at £6.00 each and are available from The Turbinia, Newton Press reception or direct from Gaz on 07952 244404.

The "Punk All Dayer" will hear live music from local bands "Boilermaker", "Amazing Space-frogs", "All Out Attack", "MC16", "Numskulls" and "Snide

Remarks". Travelling from Manchester, and also appearing at Rebellion this year, are "Dead Objectives" and from Derby "The Lengthmen" - plus lots of classic punk tracks from Gary Avery and Alby Denham on the decks.

Make a note in your diary . . . get your ticket purchased . . . enjoy a Sunday afternoon with Gaz 'n' Alby at The Turbinia with the "Alternative Aycliffe Punk All Dayer". More information can be seen on the website at www.ayclifferradio.co.uk/punk-all-dayer

To get a taste of how the day will go, you can tune in to Alternative Aycliffe every Wednesday night from 8.00pm to 10.00pm on Aycliffe Radio via the app, smart speaker, website or any wif-fi enabled device.



The Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

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

Friday 1st March - Private Party

in the Main Hall

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

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Monday to Thursday 12noon-6.00pm
Friday and Saturday 12noon-5.00pm

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MONDAY AND TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

Yorkshire Pudding Night
(choice of five deep filled puddings)

THURSDAY - GRILL NIGHT

6.00pm-9.00pm - mix and match any 2 meals from the grill menu and receive a free bottle of house wine

2 x 10oz Rump and bottled house wine for £20
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SUNDAY LUNCH

12noon-7.00pm - Bookings advisable

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Saturday 23rd February - "Dakota"

Quote: "Dakota are a really tight act who look like they enjoy every second of their set. They like to keep their set list varied covering music from many different periods and genres. All rockers at heart, their set has a definite rock feel but there is something to keep everyone happy!" - Trimmers Arms, South Shields, March 2017
Covering songs by Chilli Peppers, Oasis, Green Day, Killers, Blink 182, Metallica, U2 and much more

Sunday 24th February - "OasisJam" (4pm £3 cc)

OASISJAM are a tribute to two of the greatest bands ever, OASIS and THE JAM. We are a 4 piece band and create the greatest hits of both bands such as Wonderwall, Going Underground, Town Called Malice, Don't Look Back In Anger - all killer and no filler!! OASISJAM are based in the North-East of England and play regularly in the area. Band Members: Tim Lowe, Vocals and Guitar; Richard Coxon, Bass and Vocals; Alan Batchelor, Lead Guitar and Vocals; Scott Fenner, Drums and Percussion.

Saturday 2nd March - "Revenant"

Female fronted Classic and Hard Rock covers band including AC/DC, Saxon, Iron Maiden, Ozzy, Scorpions, Guns 'n' Roses, Motley Crue, Whitesnake, Heart, Def Leppard, Aerosmith etc.

Every Friday is Open-Mic / Buskers featuring some great local talent, players welcome

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke



Restaurant Specials

Kids Eat FREE Monday to Friday 5-6pm

with every adult meal purchased from the main menu
(not available in conjunction with any other offer)

Pensioners Special - Every Monday

One course meal with tea or coffee - £6.00

Two for £12 - Thursday 5-8.30pm

Fish Friday - Two Fish & Chips

with a round of bread and butter, tea or coffee - £15.00

Full English Breakfast - Saturday

9.30 to 11.30am - £5.95

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Sunday Carvery 12-2.30pm

NOSTALGIA NIGHT

The Bishop Auckland Fundraising Group of Marie Curie is aiming to reach its target of £100,000 by the end of March.

To support this worthwhile cause - dust off those platform soles, raise your hem, backcomb your hair, wallow in nostalgia* - and come along to The Park Head Hotel on Friday, 1st March at 7.00pm and

wallow in nostalgia at a 60s and 70s Night. Dance to topical music, supplied by lead vocalist, Jenna Highfield. Tickets £10 - to include 60s supper - chicken or scampi in a basket! Contact Elizabeth Varley (01388) 606075 or mobile: 07816 306910.

**Fancy dress optional but prize for best vintage-dressed guest!*

Honest John Helps Eagles Soar to Blackpool in Style



Honest John has once again shown his kindness and support for a local cause, this time in donating the funds for the Newton Aycliffe Under 8's Eagles to obtain new tracksuits for their summer football tournament in Blackpool.

The team and families of the players have been raising funds to enable the boys to travel to the tournament free of charge, so everyone has the opportunity to attend. Extra funds which were generated from a Race and Quiz Night were going to be put towards the tracksuits and purchasing the new kit or equipment for the team to help them, not only in the summer trip to Blackpool, but heading into the new season.

Honest John was asked if he would like to support the boys and to the absolute delight of the parents, John kindly offered to pay for all the boys' tracksuits which was incredible.

This now enables the team to put the extra funds gathered towards new equipment. The manager and parents hope the trip to Blackpool will be one that creates ever

lasting memories for the boys and having these tracksuits will go a long way to help achieve this goal and will make the boys and the club look a professional outfit as they represent the town at Blackpool.

The boys, parents, management and anyone connected to the Under 8s Eagles would like to express their sincere gratitude to Honest John and the incredible job he does in supporting local causes and clubs within the community. A selection of the team visited John this week to say thank you and give him a card signed by the boys. When thanked by the parents, Honest John said, "I couldn't do it if it wasn't for the people of the town who kindly donate and buy the goods."

The parents of the team are running a Quiz Night on Saturday 9th March in Aycliffe Village Hall with the funds going towards the club. A raffle will also be held on the night with many prizes which have been donated from local businesses. The members thank everyone who has been involved in helping support the boys. If you are interested in supporting the boys, willing to donate a raffle prize for the quiz, or simply

interested in coming to the Quiz Night please contact johnpaulhowarth@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Bake Sale Raises £90

Millie Waites from Shildon had her very own bake sale at her School. Timothy Hackworth School in Shildon.

The Bake Sale was in memory of her Father. Millie lost her father a year and a half ago and has been attending Butterwick Family Support sessions for the last year.

Millie wanted to raise money and awareness for Butterwick Hospice. She wanted to let other little boys and girls know about the work we do here and how we helped her deal with the loss of her father.

Millie is a lovely young girl who went out of her way to raise the money last week at school, she



raised an incredible £90. Butterwick would like to say a huge thank you to Millie and we hope to see her again in the future.

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ROF 59 ACTIVITY CENTRE

WEEKLY DEALS

TUESDAY
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SUPPORT NIGHT
A dedicated session on the trampolines to help with a wide range of sensory, developmental and physical disabilities, offering therapeutic exercise to participants in a fun environment with trained marshals. For members of recognised disabled groups and families and siblings.
£5 per hour (One Carer Free) | £1 Socks

WACKY WEDNESDAY
With every adult having a main meal, one child can bounce for £1 between 5-7pm. Socks are an additional £1

THURSDAY
BOUNCE & BITE
Enjoy an hours activity and a kids meal between 5-7pm
£9.50 per person
Socks are included

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MATE OR DATE NIGHT
We watch your kids whilst you get to relax and enjoy a meal with your partner or friends. With every adult main meal, three children get to bounce and climb for 3 hours between 5:30-8:30pm
£5 per child | £1 Socks

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult on the trampolines. Please arrive 15 minutes before your session time. All times include a briefing

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

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

Film Show

"THE MISTRESS OF SPICES"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 26th February features the magical romantic comedy "THE MISTRESS OF SPICES", a young girl, Tilo, becomes one of the mystical Mistresses of Spices in India, and she has to go to America and set up a spice shop in San Francisco.

There are rules which a Mistress of Spices must follow or face dire consequences; however when love comes along that proves difficult.

Everyone is welcome, Please come along and enjoy. Tea and coffee are served at 1pm, included in the £2 entry.

The film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

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<small>When purchased with a main meal</small>	<small>When purchased with a main meal</small>	<small>When purchased with a main meal</small>

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Brexit Advice for North East Businesses

A North East leading law firm is running a free seminar in Newton Aycliffe this month aimed at helping businesses prepare for Brexit, amidst continued uncertainty over the UK's withdrawal from the EU. With the clock ticking towards 29 March 2019 and the terms of the UK's departure still shrouded in uncertainty, a breakfast briefing event has been organised by Muckle LLP

following the success of a similar event held in Newcastle last month. The 'Preparing your business for Brexit' event will be held on Wednesday 27 February, from 8am to 10am at the Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe, where both Muckle LLP and co-hosts the Engineering Manufacturing Network hope to see many more businesses from across the region.

Organisers are expecting high demand for the seminar, which is open to businesses of all sizes and sectors that want to learn more about preparing for the many options still on the Brexit negotiating table. The event will feature expert insight from Luke Donockley and Robin Adams, solicitors in Muckle LLP's commercial team. The pair will review the UK's future relationship with the EU, share their top tips for Brexit planning and advise on how the process will affect existing commercial contracts. Luke Donockley said: "We have been inundated with so much interest and this is the second event we will have held across the North. We expect the Newton Aycliffe event to also be oversubscribed. It's fantastic to see such a tremendous appetite for these events and I think that speaks volumes about how businesses currently feel about Brexit. "As lawyers, we are

traditionally risk averse, but it really makes commercial sense to prepare for a no deal Brexit, a process which will include steps that will be useful to businesses no matter what deal is agreed. It is the best way of future-proofing your company and I hope that attendees pick up lots of useful tips and ideas to help them negotiate the legal landscape ahead." Ben Gilhespy, Engineering Manufacturing Network director of operations, added: "We're getting closer and closer to 29 March, yet the terms of the UK's departure from the EU remain uncertain. With so much speculation on the subject, we wanted to do something to help all kinds of businesses in the region understand what they genuinely need to prepare for." Businesses can sign up for the event by visiting <https://www.muckle-llp.com/events/preparing-your-business-for-brexit-wednesday-27-february-2019-extra-date>

Hays Travel Helps Secure Foundation of Vital Local Project

Match funding cheque hits the spot



Together 21, a project supported by the Pioneering Care Partnership and based in Newton Aycliffe, yet again welcomed their friends from Hays Travel, Newton Aycliffe as they presented a very special cheque to this deserving project, which provides vital support to children with Down syndrome and their families. The local branch who have been fundraising for the children's project that has become close to their heart, helped boost their total by securing match funding adding a massive £930.99 to bring their total so far to an impressive £1861.99. These match funds are thanks to The Hays Travel Foundation. The Foundation was created in 2015, specifically to help young people by supporting projects that assist them to reach their full potential. As well as branches fundraising in the communities they serve, charities who meet the criteria may also apply for grants from the Foundation and branches can put forward their fundraising efforts and request that the Foundation matches the amount they raised."

Together 21, a parent led project supported by local charity the Pioneering Care Partnership and based at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe, offers Learning, Fun and Friendship to children with Down syndrome and their families from across the North East. It provides access to a comprehensive programme of tailored learning and life skills for children from birth to 18 years old, helping them to acquire the essential skills that will equip them to meet the future with confidence. The service provides access to:

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

"Here at Hays Travel Newton Aycliffe we are committed to making a difference to the lives of people in our local community and are thrilled that the Hays Travel Foundation have match funded our efforts. Hays Travel is a proud member of the communities that it operates in. The smiling faces that welcome you in each of our branches we

hope are more than just travel agents, striving to give back and be community champions committed to making a difference in people's lives. Each branch has a yearly budget that they can use to participate in or organise any fundraising activities for charities, projects or individuals they wish to support and we are very proud to have the opportunity to support Together 21" Andrea Peat – Hays Travel Newton Aycliffe "The continuing generosity and support of Hays Travel Newton Aycliffe is very important to all of us here at Together 21 and the Pioneering Care Partnership. We feel it is very important for our community based project, especially as it serves families from throughout the North East, to work closely with local businesses to both raise awareness of the need for such a project and to raise vital funds. These funds are crucial to ensure the continuation of our essential work which allows our children to take advantage of every opportunity that early intervention can provide. Diane Goodwin Project Leader - Together 21. For more information about

Together 21, please visit them via, Facebook: www.facebook.com/Together21PCP/ or the PCP website www.pcp.uk.net/projects/Together21.html For further information about the PCP's work please contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net Picture shows: Hays Travel, Newton Aycliffe presenting their match funding cheque from The Hays Travel Foundation to the Together 21 Families.

MRI SCANNER APPEAL

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

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

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

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

Gentleman Jim's Tattoo Club

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07817109754

tattoos_by_jamie_hawkes

gentleman jims tattoo club

unit 9
blue bridge centre
newton aycliffe
dl5 6ds

Jamie Hawkes
www.gentlemanjims.tattoo



THE LITTLE BUDDHA

"How many ways do we say it's OK?"



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- 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

Child Bereavement UK
REBUILDING LIVES TOGETHER

0800 02 888 40
childbereavementuk.org

Selfishness knows no bounds and the selfish person sets no limitations to their actions. They will do whatever we allow them to do. What we condone will continue for there are no reasons for them to change, their selfish actions gets them what they want. We each have a responsibility, a duty of care, to protect our health and wellbeing which requires us to have a clear understanding of our self worth. How many ways do we give permission for others to do what they do? How many ways do we condone another's actions while complaining about their lack of thought and selfishness? Without saying it's OK we give our approval in so many different ways. When someone offends us and we ignore it, we condone their behaviour. When we resent what they do, yet make excuses for them, we are justifying

their behaviour. When we turn a blind eye to their insensitivity, we are giving them permission to be selfish and thoughtless. If we blame ourselves for their actions, we free them from personal responsibility. When we accept responsibility for their bad behaviour, we take away their need for self control. When we choose to carry the consequences of their actions, we rob them of the ability to stand on their own feet. When we avoid confrontation for the sake of an easy life, we make life easy for everyone but ourselves, and then carry the burden of misplaced guilt. Allowing ourselves to be victims, we are saying it's acceptable to be used and abused, and sanction the things they do. We may resent the way they are without realising we have given them permission and said its ok in so many ways.

COFFEE MORNING

A Spring Coffee Morning will be held at St. Elizabeth's Church on Saturday 2nd March from 10.00am. Home baked cakes and preserves, Bric-a-Brac stall including "All Kinds of Everything", seasonal raffle and of course coffee and scones. Come along to meet your friends and make new ones.

Honest JOHN



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YOUR SUPPORT,
JOHN

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www.jack4.co.uk



"Put on your boots and get on down,
There ain't nothing like it in this town"

READING MATERIALS FOR CURIOUS KIDS

Looked after children are set to receive exciting new reading packs, with the hope of inspiring them to fall in love with books.

Durham County Council's Virtual School, working in partnership with Durham Learning Resources, has designed a reading pack called Curious Kids that will be delivered to the homes of children in care.

Intended for those in Year 2 to Year 6 each pack will contain a fiction and non-fiction book along with some activities, gifts and an exciting quest. Everyone who completes the quest will have the chance to win a prize at a celebration event in July.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "We believe that children in care should have the opportunity to hear stories, learn to love words and escape into a book. We want them to enjoy meeting new characters, to become excited about a plot, to wonder about the world, to be curious kids".

The Virtual School, which promotes the education of looked after children and previously looked after children and young people, has liaised with local schools to line up the packs with the education curriculum.

Cllr Gunn added: "We are very excited about this new project and we are looking forward to catching up with our 'curious kids' in the summer to see what they think."

At 10am on Tuesday, 26 February, to help looked after children enjoy their books, there is an event for carers and parents where they will look at how best to engage children with reading and how to enjoy the books along with them. To find out more and to book a place contact Durham Virtual School on 03000 267800.

For more information visit:

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/durhamvirtualschool>

Defoe Court Receives Donation from Local Woodcraft Firm

Residents at HC-One's Defoe Court care home in Newton Aycliffe were delighted to receive a handmade bench as a kind gift from local woodwork company, Endeavour Woodcrafts.

The Ferryhill-based woodcraft firm, which helps train adults with learning and mental health issues in woodwork, arts and life skills, has established a fantastic relationship with Defoe Court over recent years.

With a commitment to helping the local community, Endeavour Woodcrafts have already donated five beautiful bird tables to Defoe Court last year. These have proven popular with Residents at the home, who enjoy sitting outside in the garden in summer months watching birds pass by. Residents have also been admiring the new bench in the home, as well as the two planters which were donated alongside it.

One Resident commented: "The new bench and planters are absolutely lovely. The donation has made me even more excited to start gardening again in the spring."

Sarah Todd, Home Manager at Defoe Court, said: "Everyone at the home is so grateful for the

donation from Endeavour Woodcrafts. The new garden features will look beautiful outside in the summer months, and it is such kind gestures like this that will make a huge difference to the lives of our Residents." HC-One aims to be the first-choice care provider in each of its communities for Residents looking for the very best care and support, and the employer of choice for the best, most professional, and kindest

care staff, with sector leading career progression opportunities.

HC-One consistently invests in staff and is currently celebrating achieving a 9.5/10 average rating on the sector's leading care home comparison website carehome.co.uk, with Defoe Court itself achieving an impressive 9.8 rating. This high rating puts HC-One homes into the very best company in the care home sector.



Woodham Academy Announces New Headteacher



Andrew Bell has been appointed as Woodham's new headteacher from September. He will replace the current headteacher, Christine Forsyth, who is retiring in August. Andrew joined Woodham in 2013 and, as deputy headteacher, has been responsible for student outcomes. Under his leadership, students of all

abilities have made good progress, achieving very pleasing exam results. Headteacher, Christine Forsyth, says "I am delighted that governors have appointed Andrew to take over the leadership of Woodham in September. I have no doubt that he will build on the school's current success to deliver an excellent education to our young people."



Do you enjoy listening to and helping people?

Does influencing and creating change motivate you?

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

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

For more information on how you can volunteer with us please contact:

volunteering@mndassociation.org
or 03456 044150



Registered Charity NO 294354

Dig Deeper into Co. Archaeology

An annual day for archaeology enthusiasts is back next month.

County Durham Archaeology Day, arranged and hosted annually by Durham County Council, returns to County Hall on Saturday, 9 March with a fascinating day of talks and displays highlighting the history, archaeology and historic architecture of our region.

This year the talks will include an update on the investigations at Auckland Castle, accounts of the excavation of the newly discovered Roman sites located at Morton Park, Darlington, and Hurworth-on-Tees, and talks on the further research and improved facilities at Binchester Roman



Fort.

On the day attendees will get the chance to hear about the new findings that have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and the findings of investigations at Middleham Quarry and the Lady Seaham Pit, West Rainton.

Dr David Mason, Durham County Council's principal archaeologist, said: "Come along to hear about what has been happening in the world of County Durham archaeology over the past year."

"Our county has such a rich and fascinating history, from Roman forts to medieval cathedrals there will be something that is sure to spark your interest."

Taking place on Saturday 9th March the day runs from 9.50am to 4.05pm with tickets priced £16 per person, including a buffet lunch and refreshments.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/doitonline and choosing 'Archaeology Day' from the services listed.

Alternatively, places can be booked over the phone by calling 03000 260 000.



South Durham U3A

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

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

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

Call Carol or Dave for further information on

01325 496153

and/or visit www.sdurhamu3a.org.uk

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

MORE THAN CHEMOTHERAPY

CHE-MORE

PLEASE DONATE, HELP US ENHANCE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2019 St. Patrick's Night - 16 MARCH -

7pm until late

Ceillidh with Blind Stag in aid of the Chemotherapy Unit Extension at UHND

Radisson Blu Hotel, Durham Frankland Lane, Durham DH1 5TA

Dress Code - wear something Green or even come as a leprechaun!

Tickets £25

To book your tickets contact cddft.charity@nhs.net or call 01325 743781

<https://www.justgiving.com/cddft>

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Your NHS Charity

County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity

Charity No 1053467

@CDDFTCharity

TV Stars at Bishop Auckland Food Festival

Two television personalities who have been entertaining people of all ages for more than a decade will help to ensure a County Durham food festival is fun for all of the family.

TV presenters and foodies Angellica Bell and Stefan Gates are the latest celebrity guests to be revealed ahead of Bishop Auckland Food Festival's return on Saturday, 13 April and Sunday, 14 April.

The pair will join BBC MasterChef co-presenter Gregg Wallace at the Durham County Council event, which attracts thousands of people to the market town each year. As the 2017 winner of BBC Celebrity MasterChef, and a mother of two young children, Angellica knows all about cooking tasty and nutritious meals the whole family will enjoy.

The One Show regular and co-presenter of The Martin Lewis Money Show on ITV is passionate about inspiring families to cook together and passing culinary skills down through the generations.

Angellica will be preparing dishes from her children's recipe book, Fantastic Eats! & how to cook them, at 12.30pm and 3pm on the Saturday. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for children. There are also a limited number of VIP passes for the 12.30pm session, priced at £10 for adults and £6 for children,



which include demonstration tickets and a meet and greet opportunity.

Angellica said: "I have a soft spot for the North East of England having been lucky enough to work in the region throughout my career and also taken part in the Great North Run many times. The people are always so warm and friendly and I can't wait to share some of my family recipes from my new cookbook to help children get excited about cooking."

From delicious dishes to the science behind what happens next with CBBC Gastronuts and Incredible Edibles presenter Stefan.

Known for his love of extraordinary culinary adventures, Stefan has written and presented numerous food science television programmes, making him the perfect choice to lead the festival's outreach programme. In early April, he will take hundreds

of schoolchildren on a journey through the human digestive system, complete with fascinating facts and explosive experiments.

Stefan, who has written six books including Fartology: The Extraordinary Science Behind the Humble Fart, is sure to be a big hit with younger audiences but grown-ups can join in the fun too.

The father-of-two will deliver similar sessions for people of all ages at the festival at 11am and 1pm on the Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost £3.

This year Bishop Auckland Food Festival will be bigger and better, with more than 150 traders from County Durham and beyond selling local produce and delicious dishes from all over the world.

There will also be live music, workshops, children's entertainment and cookery demonstrations.

The free festival is part of the #Durham19, a campaign showcasing the many sporting and cultural events taking part in the county this year.

To book tickets to see Angellica, Stefan and Gregg and to find out more about the event visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk, like the Bishop Auckland Food Festival Facebook page or follow @bishfoodfest on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

A REMAIN AGENDA

Dear Sir,
I had the privilege of attending the meeting to share community views with some fellow community members and Councillors on Friday 15th February at the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. There were clearly 2 vocal groups which emerged. 4 were Leave means Leave and 3 were Remainers. There were 2 late comers who only listened.

Before our Sedgefield MP arrived we were advised he would not be taking part in the first discussions but would just listen as he wanted to get a feeling of the represented community. The meeting was facilitated well by a non local councillor who asked some good questions of the attendees, getting a good mixture of factual and emotional responses from both sides. Of the Brexiteers there were none who agreed with the current deal on the table and all said they voted to Leave. What surprised and dismayed me was: in the final wrap up and analysis our MP made it clear his constituents voted leave (use the following link to see almost 60% of Sedgefield voted leave:) <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/every-leave-constituency-with-a-remain-mp/>

and yet Mr Wilson said during the remaining 10 minutes of the meeting, that due to the many emails he has recently received from many community members who now wanted to change their vote to remain, he would be pushing for a second referendum with only 2 options: Mrs May's deal for Brexit or Remain. Mr Wilson Sir, with all due respects you are as misleading as the media reports who claimed that there were over "700,000" Remainers (a proven vastly over exaggerated number by media) protesting in London to remain, which is totally irrelevant to reality as over 17million voted to leave. Mr Wilson, sadly you, like many of the other Remain elected officials, (there are some who have spoken in the televised Parliament debates who will vote according to their constituents feedback which interestingly the majority at our meeting still wanted Leave and not "Crashout" as you implied) are abusing your position by pushing your Remain agenda.

I sincerely hope when the next elections come someone, who will be unbiased, will be elected to the honourable position of MP to represent Sedgefield. Name and address supplied



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brexit Consultation

Dears Sir,

Brexit Consultation
I attended MP Phil Wilson's 'consultation' on Friday last, at which attendees were asked about their views on various aspects of Brexit and whether their views had changed or hardened. Needless to say, those who voted Remain still want to Remain and those who voted Leave expressed the view that they wanted to Leave with a deal but were adamant that a no-deal outcome was better than no Brexit.

The Irish 'Good Friday Agreement' was mentioned and we are threatened with civil disturbance if we installed a hard border in Northern Ireland. However, nobody mentioned the very real risk of civil upheaval in Britain if a democratic majority vote continues to be ignored by our MP's! However, the British Government has promised no hard border regardless of how we Leave and the Irish Government has also said it would not establish a hard border in the event of a no-deal Brexit. The 'Backstop' is therefore a 'red herring'. At the end of the discussion MP Phil Wilson declared that he was holding regular consultations but that he could not support Leaving and preferred another In-Out Referendum. (He thought that the country was now split 50:50 - wishful thinking?). I see no need for another Referendum; that the majority want to Leave has been decided! How could the electorate trust Parliament to enact Brexit after failing to do so the first

time they were told. MP's now have to either, agree on a deal which means that we actually Leave the E.U. or, pull us out without a deal. It will then be up to the E.U. to decide what best suits them! I cannot accept staying in the/a Customs Union which would restrict our ability to trade outside of the E.U. cartel.

I, for one, will not attend any further 'consultations' on Brexit. Our Northern MP's ignoring the majority Leave vote is not 'respecting' democracy. London MP's fight tooth and nail for their Remain voters!

On the date of this letter 7 No. Labour MP's have left the Labour/Momentum Party. All cited the fact that Corbyn is not fit to be elected Prime Minister. Like MP Phil Wilson, they all said, during the last General Election campaign, that they did not support Corbyn. Also like him, they all want another In-Out Referendum. That is, they are all Remainers who have no 'respect' for the majority Leave vote, or for the misguided (looney left?) majority of the Labour/Momentum Party who elected Corbyn.

Come on Mr. Wilson; it is time that you PROPERLY respected the large majority view of your constituency electorate and support Brexit. We only want to Leave the E.U. The last thing we want is to have to don yellow vests and fight with riot police in order to restore some semblance of democracy!

Yours sincerely,
Alastair P.G. Welsh

[editorial]
paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

A COMMUNITY OF SUCCESS

WELL DONE BISHOP AUCKLAND

Congratulations to The Auckland Project, whose Auckland Tower building has been shortlisted for a Planning Excellence award. Designed to look like a medieval siege engine, the tower offers panoramic views of the town. It has certainly polarised opinions, with descriptions ranging from "beautiful" and "quality craftsmanship" to "a monstrosity" and "a gross invasion of privacy". Whatever you think of it, however, you cannot deny that it is remarkable, and it has certainly caught people's attention. Many people will criticise it, until in years to come they try to knock it down, when everyone will fight to save it as a loved landmark - is that not how things work!

WELL DONE MAYOR

Last Friday Town Mayor John Clark held his civic dinner at the Hallgarth Hotel, raising money for his chosen charity the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, which does vital work to support its members.

Great Aycliffe Town Council has suffered a few controversies this past year but, through it all, our Mayor has served his term with a quiet, down-to-earth dignity. Well done John.

WELL DONE ALL

Indeed, as we read though many of the articles in this week's Newton News, do you not agree with us that it is full of events and people that deserve a hearty 'well done'?

In a world which can too easily seem full of failure and despair, week by week the columns of the Newton News record the achievements of many, many local people, who together contribute to make us a community of success.

DIVE in

Hydrotherapy Pool Refurbishment

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

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

People like Mandy, pictured here, use the Hydrotherapy Pool to relieve pain and to regain their independence.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

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

Your donation will help us to:

- Double the size of the original pool
- Provide improved lifting and hoist equipment
- Provide larger and better equipped changing rooms

Visit www.diveinPCP.co.uk to find out how you can help

Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF Tel: 01325 321234

Furniture Factory Outlet

Fulbeck Road, Aycliffe Business Park - Tel 07825 777966

Facebook - affordablefurniture uk

Open weekdays and Saturday

Become a Litter Hero With the Big Spring Clean

Communities and individuals across County Durham and Darlington are being urged to become Litter Heroes by joining the annual 'Big Spring Clean'. LitterFree Durham & Darlington, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, has once again teamed up with Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council to inspire local residents, community groups, schools and businesses to give their area a spring clean in the annual litter-picking campaign. A special launch event was held at Locomotion Museum in Shildon on Valentine's Day, when volunteers were asked to show their love for where they live, ready for the start of this year's Big Spring Clean, which runs from Tuesday, 19 February until Tuesday, 9 April and will see litter picks organised across County Durham and Darlington.

Campaign organisers gathered at the museum and used train tickets, donated by Northern Rail and The Bishop Line, to travel along the track between Newton Aycliffe and Shildon, clearing rubbish as they went. 42 volunteers collected 86 bags of waste; 47 of non-recyclable and 39 of recyclable items. During last year's Big Spring Clean campaign, 3,041 volunteers took part in 204 litter picks across County Durham, donating more than 5,267 hours of their time during which they collected 3,021 bags of rubbish. In the Darlington area, more than 1,090 people took part in 68 events, donating more than 1,150 hours of their time to clean up streets, parks and green spaces from which 1,102 bags of litter were collected. Councillor Gerald Lee, chair of LitterFree Durham & Darlington, said: "As we celebrate ten years



of LitterFree Durham & Darlington we'd like to see more people than ever before become litter heroes. "Public awareness about the problems litter creates in our environment and the damage it can do to our wildlife has never been greater and we all need to do our bit to tackle it. "Everyone needs to either bin their litter, in an appropriate recycling or waste container or take it home and if appropriate recycle it; and we'd love you to take the next step and join our litter army – we can provide everything you need to get started and even organise a litter pick of your own."

Councillor Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "The Big Spring Clean has seen fantastic success so far, with tens of thousands of people taking part of the decade it has been running, and I'm very proud to watch it continue to grow, with more volunteers joining in each year. "For 2019, we're hoping to make the campaign even greener, by recycling as much of the collected litter as we can. Previously, all waste from the litter picks was sent for incineration, a process which creates usable energy, but which is not as energy efficient as recycling. "This year, we're encouraging volunteers to collect recyclable plastics, tins and glass separately so they can be recycled rather than incinerated, making the whole scheme even better for the environment."

Councillor Nick Wallis, Darlington Borough Council's cabinet member for leisure and the local environment, said: "We're delighted to once again be working with LitterFree Durham & Darlington and Durham County Council for this year's Big Spring Clean. "We have a growing army of Street Champions who regularly take part in litter picks across the borough and more and more people are joining this annual initiative. We're incredibly grateful for the efforts of all those who take part and to those who help keep our streets clean year round."

In County Durham, Big Spring Clean focusses on communities taking pride in where they live and running their own volunteer litter picking events to remove waste from their neighbourhoods and green spaces. • Durham County Council will be supporting Easington District Angling Society with a litter pick on Saturday 2 March. To organise a litter pick in County Durham email litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 26 0000. Darlington Borough Council is leading organised events in its area, including: • A special event to mark the end of this year's Big Spring Clean will take place at Broken Scar on Tuesday 9 April, from 10am, when

volunteers from Darlington and County Durham will take part. Meet at the car park next to the play area. Details of other organised litter picks will also be announced on Darlington Borough Council's Facebook and Twitter pages, where volunteers can also share photos of their completed Big Spring Cleans.

To register to help clean up an area in Darlington Borough, email litterfreedurham@darlington.gov.uk or call 01325 406719. For information about how to help keep our streets clean and how to organise a litter pick log onto the website at www.darlington.gov.uk/litterpick or www.durham.gov.uk/bigspringclean

To register to help clean up an area in Darlington Borough, email litterfreedurham@darlington.gov.uk or call 01325 406719. For information about how to help keep our streets clean and how to organise a litter pick log onto the website at www.darlington.gov.uk/litterpick or www.durham.gov.uk/bigspringclean

Aycliffe Radio Winner



To help Aycliffe Radio reach the dizzy heights of 1000 Facebook likes, a competition was run which would enable all who liked the page to be in with a chance of winning an Amazon Echo Show, worth over £200. The competition reached its end this week when the 1000 mark was reached (and exceeded). Presenter Amy Harrison drew the winner on Facebook live and Yvonne Williams name was drawn randomly by the computer generated software. The Echo Show was then delivered to Yvonne, who lives in Newton Aycliffe, and is an avid listener to Aycliffe Radio.

Aycliffe Radio would like to thank all who entered the competition and urges listeners to listen for more competitions and giveaways, only on your local community radio station. To listen to Aycliffe Radio you require a wifi enabled device - a phone, smart speaker, computer, tablet etc. Visit the website www.ayclifferadio.co.uk for more details.

AYCLIFFE RADIO

LOCAL RADIO brought to you by LOCAL PEOPLE

Programme Schedule

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



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

SATURDAY

9-10am Kitchen Floor Fillers
10-12pm Saturday Brunch Sean Lawless
12-2pm Weekly Edition Paul Baker
2-4pm Saturday Big Show with Graham Brooksdale
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)
12-1.30pm Sports Round Up (R) Darren & Lee
2-4pm Bear Blues Show Colin McNeillie
4-6pm Folk/Celtic/Rock Show Steve & Col
6-7.30pm POLITICAL John D. Clare

24th Feb: Stuart Timmis, Stuart Dunn,

Samantha Townsend, Catherine Richardson
8-10pm The Live Rock Show "CAD"
10-12am Paul's Down Time Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY

11-1pm Lunch Break with Paul Baker
1-3pm Afternoon Delight
3-5pm Driving Home with Paul Baker

"Through the Decades"

6-7pm 60s Show Karl Simons
7-8pm 70s Show Peter Rush
8-9pm 80s Show Paul Gittins
9-10pm 90s Show Paul Baker
10-11pm 00s Show Producer Dan
11-12am Teens Show Steven Harrison

TUESDAY

11-1pm Lunch Break with Paul Baker
1-3pm Afternoon Delight
3-5pm Driving Home with Paul Baker

Sports Show sponsored by Honest John

6-7.30pm Sports Round UP Darren & Lee
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

5-6.30pm Tea-Time Out Phil & Amy
6.30-8pm 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
6-7.30pm POLITICAL (R) John D. Clare
8-10pm "Beat" Roote Graeme Roote
10-12am UK Number 1's

FRIDAY

11-1pm Lunch Break with Paul Baker
1-3pm Afternoon Delight
3-5pm Driving Home with Paul Baker
6-8pm Tech-House Mix PVR Studios
8-10pm

Guest Presenter Session

1st Mar Nathan Abbott (90s Classix)
Guest DJ Alan Hastie
10-12am Alternative Aycliffe (R) Gary & Alby

Watch out for new presenters starting soon

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

Newton Broadcasting Limited (t/a Aycliffe Radio) is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered on 19th February 2018 in England and Wales
Registration number 11211835. Registered office: Aycliffe Radio, c/o Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DS.
Aycliffe Radio is CIC Registered (No. 11455404)
Scheduled shows can be changed/cancelled at any time.



AYCLIFFE RADIO

ALTERNATIVE AYCLIFFE
ALL DAYER

SUNDAY 5th MAY 2019

THE TURBINIA PUBLIC HOUSE

Sid Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PA

Doors open 1.00pm till Midnight

8 Live Bands - First band on stage at 2pm
Also Live DJ sets from Gaz 'n' Alby

Tickets only £6.00 each

available from The Turbinia, Newton press Reception or
contact Gaz via Alternative Aycliffe Facebook page



AYCLIFFE RADIO

Experience the best 90's Dance Music performed live



SATURDAY, 6th JULY, 2019
The BIG CLUB, 7pm till late

Tickets £6.00 each available from
The Big Club and Newton Press Reception

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk - www.ultra90s.com

ACORN SPRING INTO 2019 ACTION

As spring flowers are emerging through the ground bringing brilliant colours to regenerate and cheer us up, ACORN are surging ahead with plans for 2019.

Our first excursion has been announced as a visit to the Newcastle Discovery Museum on Sunday 10th March leaving the Phoenix Club at 9am. Of course, this is a perfect opportunity to visit other attractions in the city too and the coach will not be returning until 4pm giving travellers a chance to shop, etc.

PETTING ZOO

Plans for this highly popular annual activity, to be held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on 27th April are well underway with Mobile Petting Zoos, Facepainting, Balloon Modelling, Bouncy Castle, Craft Stall, Tombola and even a performance by our local Ukulele group.

So far many of our local and national community groups have come forward to request tables to promote and raise funding for worthwhile projects.

ACORN welcome any groups who wish to take part in making this a fantastic event for the whole of Aycliffe and beyond. There is no charge for tables, but we would welcome a £1 donation per person.

WHITBY GOTH WEEKEND

ACORN are planning a visit to the popular Whitby Goth Festival on Sunday 14th April leaving the Phoenix Club at 9am.

BIG LOTTERY FUND

ACORN is funded and supported by the Big Lottery Fund to whom we are eternally grateful.

Please contact Ken Robson for details on 01325 321471 for details or to book.

Auckland Tower Finalist for Prestigious Planning Award



A County Durham landmark has been shortlisted for an award.

Auckland Tower, in Bishop Auckland, is in the running to pick up an award in the excellence in planning for the heritage and culture category at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence 2019.

Durham County Council submitted the application to the RTPI, on behalf of the Brighter Bishop Auckland Partnership Board, in recognition of the collaborative partnership that helped make Auckland Tower possible.

The 29m high building, created as the welcome centre for The Auckland Project visitor destination, opened to the public in 2018. To help make it a reality the council brought together officers from development management, regeneration, design and conservation, landscape design and strategic traffic, to work alongside The Auckland Project and its design team from Niall McLaughlin Architects, as well as Historic England.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "As part of our plans to rejuvenate Bishop Auckland town centre we needed to make the most of the area's fascinating heritage and enhance the visitor experience, which is exactly what The Auckland Project's new welcome

centre does. Auckland Tower is helping the town to further become a cultural tourist destination for local and international visitors."

The chair of the partnership board and the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, added: "The Auckland Tower is a wonderful addition to the Bishop Auckland skyline. Its views are terrific and the first floor is exquisite. It is a thoroughly worthy nominee for this prize."

Chris Blacklock, property director at The Auckland Project, said: "Auckland Tower would not have been possible without the realignment of Bishop Auckland Market Place, which was funded by the

North East Local Enterprise Partnership and delivered by Durham County Council. It is fantastic to see this partnership working now being recognised in the RTPI shortlist."

The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence are the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry. Running for over 40 years, they celebrate exceptional examples of planning and the contribution planners make to society.

The winners will be announced during a ceremony held at Milton Court Concert Hall in central London on Wednesday, 24 April.

Prepayment Scheme for County Taxis

Taxi drivers across County Durham are being allowed to request payment in advance if a journey is likely to cost more than £10 thanks to a new scheme which aims to reduce crime.

Durham Constabulary has set up 'Over 10 Pay There and Then' because incidents relating to people not paying for their taxis were found to be on the rise.

The scheme, which is currently being rolled out across most of the county, allows taxi drivers to request pre-payment when the fare involves certain risk factors, including intoxication, large groups and fares taken at night.

All Private hire firms have been invited to join the scheme, which is being supported by Durham County Council and Durham Agency Against Crime.

A number have already signed up so passengers can expect to start seeing the 'Over 10 Pay There and Then' badges appearing inside vehicles.

Drivers who have signed up can ask for the full payment in advance, although they will still run the meter so passengers can see they have been charged the correct amount.

Any difference in what was requested at the start of the journey will need to be paid

by the passenger or returned by the driver once they have arrived at the requested destination.

DS David Bailey, who has been working alongside A/DI Gavin Wilkes to set-up the project, said: "This is a ground-breaking scheme, as previously, taxi drivers haven't been able to ask for money in advance but now hopefully this will reduce the number of offences taking place."

"It is not intended that it will be used for someone off to do the weekly shop, it will mainly come into force during peak times of the night time economy. "The drivers who have signed up to the scheme have welcomed this as these incidents waste a lot of time for everyone involved."

"These offences tend to happen when officers are at their busiest so it has meant that drivers were losing out on fares waiting for us to attend and deal, when their priority is collecting the money they are owed and to return to their business."

Police cadets will be approaching Hackney carriages in the coming weeks in order to get them on board.

Taxi drivers wishing to get involved should email over10paythereandthen@durham.pnn.police.uk

Still Time for Fortnite Fans to Win Big

A HUGE cash prize is up for grabs when a gaming tournament heads to the North East next month – and there's still time to enter.

Fortnite has taken the gaming world by storm, with millions of players logging on to play every month.

And EStars featuring Fortnite is turning Newcastle's St James' Park into a real-life battleground from 1-3 March, with tickets still available for players for Saturday 2 March, hoping to win a place in the grand final and take home the £25,000 prize money.

Part of a series of tournaments taking place all over the country, Fortnite fans will enter the playing area through a replica battle bus – which is the spawn point in the online game – and battle it out during a pre-booked hour-long slot in one of three sessions taking place each day.

Those who score the highest in their session will take home £25 and at the end of the three-day event the overall top scorers will win £250, £100 and £50.

And there is plenty to do after a slot has ended, with character meet and greets, Fortnite dance competitions

and spot prizes to be won.

The top nine scorers will also qualify for a place at the grand final at London's Stamford Bridge on 31 March, where they can compete against the best players from around the country to win the £25,000 first prize.

Maeve Finnigan, of EStars, believes it's an opportunity North East gamers will not want to miss.

"It's not difficult to see why Fortnite is so popular and this is a fantastic event for fans of the game to showcase their skills in a really exciting environment," said Maeve.

"There are some amazing prizes on offer throughout the tournament and it's certain to be a really fun event for players of skill levels to take part in."

Tickets cost £25 and include at least two games played during an hour-long slot, which must be booked in advance.

The event is open to players aged 12 and over, but those under-16 must attend with an accompanying adult, who can attend free of charge.

For more information, or to book, visit <https://www.esters.pro>



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MAYOR'S CIVIC CHARITY DINNER

An evening of food and fundraising was held on Friday 15th February at the Hallgarth Hotel and Country Club, Darlington, for the Mayors' Civic Dinner 2019.

The event was hosted by the Mayor, Councillor John Clark and was in support of his nominated charity for his year in office, the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.

The Chair for the Group, Allison White, spoke to the guests describing the work that the group carries out and the various forms of help they give to their members.

Jon Bean, President of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, gave a response to the Mayor on behalf of the guests and Entertainment Heroes provided the music for the evening.

The Mayor would like to thank friends, family and Councillors for their support throughout the year. He would also like to thank the following local businesses who kindly donated prizes for the raffle and tombola, special thanks to Roman Ltd for their donation of a patio furniture set and Husqvarna for their donation of a lawn mower which helped us to raise £559.00 on the night for this worthwhile cause:

Roman Ltd
Husqvarna UK Ltd
Crafters Companion
Croxdale Fast Fit
Hallgarth Hotel & Country Club
Redworth Hall Hotel
EHL UK
Hedley Tyres
Tesco
G-Sport

Win Horrible Histories Tickets at County Durham Libraries



Discover British history with the nasty parts left in at a County Durham theatre next month.

The critically acclaimed West End production of Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain has embarked on its first national tour and will arrive at Durham's Gala Theatre on Sunday, 3 March.

The show is inspired by North East author Terry Deary's much-loved books and, to celebrate its County Durham stage debut, libraries across the county are running a competition to win a family ticket.

From mounting a mutiny against King Henry VIII, to helping Georgian detectives find the headless man, to discovering the fate of Queen Elizabeth I's teeth – the production features all new scenes and the opportunity to meet some of history's most notorious characters.

Gala-goers may also recognise the show's star, Pip Chamberlin, who played Corporal Crosby in the theatre's pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, last year.

The talented actor, who has appeared in numerous television programmes and theatre productions, said: "The Barmy Britain shows have taken me all around the world, but it's such a buzz to come back to the Gala Theatre. The crowds here are

the best and I'm sure we'll have a lot of fun.

"Horrible Histories is not a boring history lesson; essentially it's interesting facts with gags. I think the secret to the books' success is that they are subversive. They poke fun at the establishment and makes you question things and laugh a lot.

"We can all learn a lot through laughter, and if people leave our show having had a great time and discovered something new, then we've definitely done our job."

CLr Joy Allen, Cabinet member for transformation at Durham County Council, said: "The Horrible Histories books have been entertaining young people and their parents for more than 20 years. They are a popular choice at all of our libraries and we are delighted the West End show is coming to Durham.

"We hope the play and competition will inspire even more people to read these wonderful books and the many other titles we have on offer in our libraries."

It is free to join all council-run libraries, where members have access to a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books including toddler, children and teen titles. In addition, they can download a huge range of eBooks and eAudiobooks for free by logging into the BorrowBox app. Libraries also offer regular Toddler Time sessions, where little ones can listen to stories, sing songs and do crafts.

Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain takes place at 1.30pm and 4pm on Sunday, 3 March. Tickets cost £15.50, £14 for concessions, £54 for a family ticket or £12.50 for groups of ten and over.

To book, visit www.galadurham.co.uk or call 03000 266 600.

For library information, including locations and opening times, visit www.durham.gov.uk/libraries

'ONE YOU' DIGITAL HEALTH WORKSHOP AT PCP

North-East leading health and wellbeing charity Pioneering Care Centre (PCP) along with Wellbeing for Life will be hosting a FREE digital health workshop, showing participants around the NHS website 'One You' - promoting physical fitness. The workshop will take place in the centre Thursday, 7th March 2019 from 10.00 – 14.00.

'One You' has a range of apps to help people keep track of their fitness on a daily basis and encourage people to start exercising regularly to create a better version of themselves. PCP will host the workshop in March to show people how to use these apps and improve online and mobile knowledge. Wellbeing Practitioners from Wellbeing for Life will be on hand to offer support to those wanting to improve their fitness levels.

Everyone is welcome to take part in this FREE workshop. Enjoy finding out how you can track many different things on your phone; from heart rate to exercise count to a balanced diet! These apps will allow you to stay focused and be in control of your exercise levels without falling behind; create plans suitable for you and build on them as you go. Take small steps to becoming a healthier you!

If you have any further questions, please contact the Pioneering Care Centre for details.

For further information about PCP please contact us at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net.

Or follow PCP on Twitter: @PioneeringCare and Facebook: @PCPandCentre



"SMALL FOOT"

Small Foot has excellent reviews and will be shown at Kidsflicks on Saturday 2nd March at 2pm in St. Clare's Movie Hall, complete with large screen and surround sound to help create that cinematic experience - but not price. Admission is £1 with hot chocolate and ice creams only 50p.

A bright young Yeti finds something he thought didn't exist - a human!!! News of the small foot Percy (played by James Corden) throws the simple Yeti community into uproar over what else might be out there in the big world beyond their snowy village.

Join us to find out - everyone is very welcome, with or without grown ups. Doors open 1.30pm and we have our FREE PRIZE RAFFLE for everyone at the end of the film (3.45pm) Please come along and bring your friends.

Same Sex Couples are Eligible to Foster

National fostering organisation impleors LGBTQ community in Durham to explore foster care roles to support growing number of young people entering the care system this LGBT History Month.

National social enterprise, Five Rivers Child Care, is calling on Durham's LGBTQ community to explore career opportunities in fostering as new research highlights stark misconceptions about the industry could be impacting foster carer recruitment numbers.

There are currently 450 children and young people needing foster homes across the North East of England yet there are common misconceptions around who is eligible to foster, from age through to living circumstances and sexual orientation.

Sixty percent of people across Durham are unaware that same sex couples or those from the LGBTQ community are eligible to foster. A misconception Five Rivers Child Care is keen to eliminate this February, which marks LGBT History Month, in a bid to recruit more foster carers from currently underrepresented communities.

In addition to serious misconceptions surrounding LGBTQ rights to foster, a further



60 percent of people across the UK believe that those in rented accommodation are unable to foster, and 40 percent of us believe that those without their own children wouldn't be allowed to be foster carers.

Commenting on the findings, Martin Leitch, Head of Fostering Operations at Five Rivers Child Care, said: "The findings from our recent research paint a massively outdated picture of the fostering industry, but it highlights that more needs to be done to reach those within LGBTQ communities to tell them about the career opportunities available to them in fostering. And it's not just a career, it's a life choice. It's deciding to change the life of a vulnerable young person that otherwise might not have a home or a family. It's extremely important to have a diverse range of foster

carers across the country to reflect the diverse nature of the children and young people entering the system and provide role models from all walks of life. We already have some fantastic carers from the LGBTQ community who are enriching children's and young people's lives on a daily basis.

"We want to make it common knowledge that anyone can foster, providing they have a spare room and they are over the age of 21. A foster carer is not determined by whether they own a house, or whether they're married or have children. Single people, those in rented accommodation, those with disabilities and those from the LGBTQ community all have the opportunity to make great foster carers."

For more information on Five Rivers Child Care and fostering opportunities, visit www.five-rivers.org

COMMUNITY SPIRIT NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Charity Craft & Trade Fair Saturday 2nd March

£1 Entry 11am - 3pm
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Families Needed for Food Waste Challenge



Families that are fed up of throwing away food waste are being invited to take part in a challenge.

Durham County Council is looking for volunteers to take part in the Food Waste Challenge, which is a fun way to help households reduce their food waste and help make the most of their food by rethinking their planning, shopping, storing and cooking habits.

With the help of external partnership funding, ten chosen families will be given £40 worth of shopping vouchers to buy kitchen products, such as storage devices and food blenders, to help them create and save meals from extra unused food. Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "Every year households in the UK throw away 15 million tonnes of food and drink,

nearly half of which could have been eaten.

"Activities such as the Food Waste Challenge are a great way to raise awareness of the issue and we would encourage everyone to visit our website for top tips on how to reduce waste and save themselves money."

The challenge lasts for four weeks and those who complete it will be given an additional £20 shopping voucher as a thank you for taking part.

The council's waste management team will be on hand to offer advice and support throughout the campaign and a free cookery workshop will also be available for families taking part.

If families are interested in taking part in the challenge, email wasteaware@durham.gov.uk by Sunday, 24 February. Visit www.durham.gov.uk by Sunday, 24 February. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/recycling for tips and tricks on how to reduce waste.

WIN BIG, WIN ELMER!

Fans of the children's storybook character, Elmer, can now win their very own sculpture of the popular patchwork elephant.

Ahead of Elmer's Great North Parade, a free public art trail delivered by St Oswald's Hospice, the colourful character is heading out on tour to meet families across the region.

And not only can people meet the adorable elephant but they can buy raffle tickets to be in with the chance to win their very own full-size Elmer elephant sculpture.

From now until the 10-week long art trail stomps on to the streets of Tyne and Wear on 21 August, Elmer and his herd of staff, will be stopping off at venues across Sunderland, Newcastle, Gateshead and North and South Tyneside, where they will be selling raffle tickets and telling people all about Elmer's Great North Parade.

Just like its predecessor, the Great North Snowdogs, the Parade will feature individually decorated statues, this time of best-selling author David McKee's colourful character. Elmer's herd are guaranteed to both delight and fuel the imagination of visitors of all ages.

The Parade will draw to a close on 27 October and the beautiful sculptures will then be sold to the lucky highest bidders at an exciting live auction at Sage, Gateshead on

12 November.

"Some of our wonderful Snowdogs raised as much as six thousand pounds when they were auctioned in 2016," said Jane Hogan, Head of Fundraising at St Oswald's Hospice.

"So, while we can't place an exact value on the Elmer sculptures, it's a good indication of what our fantastic Elmer raffle prize may be worth.

"We also have two hampers of official Great North Elmer merchandise, worth £100 and £50, to give away to runners up, so I'd urge everyone to have a go.

"Just by buying a ticket people are supporting the Hospice's Children and Young People's Service – where we support children 0-25 years who have incurable conditions, and

their families and loved ones too.

"We rely on the generosity of the community to help us continue our vital work with people right across the North East and we are very grateful for their support."

Elmer fans don't need to worry if they can't get along to meet Elmer on tour as tickets for his ele-phantastic raffle are also available to buy online at www.stoswaldsuk.org/elmer/raffle.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale at each of St Oswald's Hospice's 23 charity shops across the region until the end of May. Tickets cost £1 each or £20 for a book of 20.

The raffle is open to anyone over the age of 16 and the Hospice can only cover the cost of prize deliveries to a UK mainland address.



Thank You from City of Durham Lions



The group, City of Durham Lions, raised a wonderful £150 in aid of Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland over the last month. They devoted a day to a bucket collection in Morrisons to raise the money for the Hospice.

Here in the photograph are two gentlemen from City of Durham Lions, Gil Dowson and Peter Oakley and our Bishop Auckland fundraiser Milly Toner.

Butterwick would love to say a huge thank you to the group

for raising the money for the Hospice. If any groups would like to help in any way to raising funds for Butterwick please call Milly on 01388 603003 or email millytoner@butterwick.org.uk



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Membership prices April 1st 2019 - 31st March 2020

Age	Mem. Fee	Affiliation	Levy	Total
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15	£50	0	0	£50
16-17	£60	0	0	£60
18-19	£100	£14	£0	£114
20	£150	£14	£0	£164
21	£190	£14	£10	£214
22	£240	£14	£10	£264
23	£290	£14	£10	£314
24	£340	£14	£10	£364
25	£390	£14	£10	£414
26+7 Day	£505	£14	£10	£529
26+5 Day	£450	£14	£10	£474
Joint	£950	£28	£20	£998
70+7Day	£450	£14	£10	£474
70+5Day	£410	£14	£10	£434
Student	£125	£14	£0	£139
Direct Debit				
26+7Day DD	£539.95	£14	£10	£563.95
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70+7Day DD	£484.95	£14	£10	£508.95



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CYCLING & WALKING PLAN GETS INTO GEAR

A new plan that sets out to make cycling and walking in County Durham a part of everyday life has been put into action.

Durham County Council's Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan 2019-2029, which looks at active travel rather than recreational cycling and walking, focuses on making all cycling and walking networks in the county safe, accessible and well maintained.

The ten year plan seeks to encourage more people, across all demographic groups, to take up cycling or walking for everyday journeys to improve the quality of people's lives, health and fitness.

CLlr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "Our county is set to become more cycling and walking friendly with the implementation of this exciting new delivery plan."

"As part of our way of attracting investment in County Durham we need to change the way we think about travel. Cycling and walking help you get in shape, stay healthy and they are cheaper than alternative means of transport."

"We will be ensuring that our cycling and walking networks are safe, accessible and well maintained so more people will enjoy cycling and walking for everyday journeys, improving the quality of their lives, fitness and health."

The Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan for County Durham will supersede the Cycling Strategy 2012-15, and set out a long-term local approach to deliver against the government's ambitions to make the UK a cycling and walking nation, as established in the Department for Transport's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. For more information on cycling or walking in County Durham visit www.durham.gov.uk/cycling or www.durham.gov.uk/enjoyoutdoors.

RUNNING CLUB NEWS

It was another great weekend of racing and running achievements and as always I will begin with the parkruns. We had three people celebrating achieving PB's this Saturday. First up was Tracey Pickering who attended Hackworth Parkrun in Shildon and obtained her course PB of 32.22.

Over at South Park, Darlington, Sam Baronowski achieved a course PB of 33.11 and Jan McLuckie achieved 33.54.

On Sunday we had four members make the journey to the Lancashire Coast to take part in the Blackpool half Marathon. This is an out and back course along the coast. Our runners here were Mark Bainbridge 1.57.33, John Joseph Richardson in 1.57.34, Carley Gibson in 2.10.40 and Ian Baronowski in 2.11.59.

We also had one member Simon Mathew Turner take part in the Headcorn Half Marathon in Maidstone.... he completed this in 1.49.33.

Finally on Sunday it was the last meeting in the NYSD Cross Country League. This race took place at the Old Racecourse in Richmond and is stern favourite with the members of ARC. This is an undulating course which also has hard trails and uneven grass sections. The women (and men over 65) run two laps of the course to a distance of 5k and the men do a short lap before completing 3 larger laps to run a distance of approximately 10k. Although it was again dry it was quite windy making some sections a little tougher. First to run at this event was Felicity Lineton one of our juniors who ran in the Under 11 race. Felicity had to run a full short lap, a distance of 2k, which she did in 11.13.

Next up were the women (and men over 65). First home was Sue Milburn in 26.41, followed by Lindsey Brown 28.51, Gemma Holland 29.44, Kathleen Tonge 30.07, Denise Evans 30.46, Sandrine Boinet-Hewitt



31.090, Melanie Rowland 31.40, Jane Burnside 33.04, Susan Clark 34.17, Penny Johnson 34.42, Yvonne Williams, 34.42 and Ray Todd 40.42.

Finally in the men's race, first home for the club was Mark Wade in 36.46, he was followed by John Surtees in 40.06, Richard Campbell 41.09, Richard Holland,



42.22, Andy Talbot 42.36, Martyn Knox 44.14, Alex Lineton 44.21, Dave Blewitt 49.42, David Stothard 54.22 and Richard Tonge in 1.01.23. 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 or alternatively you can message the club via facebook for more information.

A Week of Experience

Northumbrian Water is offering Year 10 students from across the North East a chance to take part in a special week of activities to help them prepare for the world of work.

Students will spend time with people from a range of teams covering science, engineering, customer service, IT and marketing roles.

They will also visit water and wastewater treatment works to see key elements of the water cycle in action and learn about CVs and recruitment from members of the team.

Online applications are now open for the 30 spots available on the programme and the closing date is April 23, 2019. The week of experience will take place from Monday, July 15, to Friday, July 19, 2019 and will be based in Pity Me, Durham, with a working day of 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Sophie Carvin, Northumbrian Water's NWG Academy Manager, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get a taster of what goes on at Northumbrian Water and learn about some of the wide range of different jobs and activities that make up a successful utilities company."

"As well as working with our people, the students will work alongside people from other schools. The experience is aimed at giving young people meaningful insight into a range of career options, helping them to grow in confidence, whilst giving them a better understanding of what a working environment is like and what is expected."

"We are looking for young people who are reliable and hard working and who demonstrate in their applications that they are genuinely interested to learn all about Northumbrian Water and its customers."

People can apply under the "Opportunities" tab at <https://www.nwl.co.uk/careers/NWGAcademy.aspx>.

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Closing date for applications is Friday 8th March 2019

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- Organise travel arrangements, appointments, meetings etc.
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- Training will be provided.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to: Mr W Manners, A-Tech Fabrications Limited, Fulbeck Road, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 6TX



REME MEETING

REME Association, South West Durham Branch, monthly meeting will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 27th February 2019 in the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe.

All serving and ex-serving members of REME are welcome.

"Arte et Marte"

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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FIND A DOG a home

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Loveable Mackie is a 4-year-old Terrier cross who is very cute and likes to keep busy. He arrived at Dogs Trust Darlington in November 2017 and almost found his forever home a few weeks later but sadly it wasn't meant to be. Since then he has been patiently waiting for his special someone to come along. One of his favourite things in life is playing with his toys; he has lots of energy and can happily keep himself entertained for hours and play the day away.

Mackie gets lots of people asking about him which is great, however he does have some specific requirements from his new home. Mackie would need an adult only, quiet home, preferably with only one person living there; as well as infrequent visitors. He would like to be the only pet in the home, with a secured indoor kennel or baby gate where he can retreat to when he wants. He is particular about other canine companions so would prefer there to be no neighbouring dogs, with lots of quiet places for walks.

If you can appreciate the company of a busy, independent little Terrier then Mackie could be the one for you. Check out his website profile for more photos and video. Before travelling to the Rehoming Centre please contact the Dogs Trust Darlington training team on 01324 333114 to further discuss Mackie's requirements in a home.



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Murder at the Hippodrome



Tickets are on sale now for the smash hit musical comedy *Curtains* starring Jason Manford at Darlington Hippodrome from Monday 11 to Saturday 16 November.

It's murder putting on a new musical - literally!
Jessica Cranshaw, star of the new Broadway-bound musical *Robbin' Hood*, has been murdered on stage on opening night! The entire cast and crew are suspects. Time to call in the local detective, Frank Cioffi, who just happens to be a huge musical theatre fan. With a nose for crime and an ear for music, Frank has his work cut out trying to find the killer whilst giving the show a lifeline.
Starring Jason Manford (The Producers, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Guys and Dolls), this hilarious whodunnit is packed full of catchy songs, unforgettable characters and plot twists galore! Written by Kander and Ebb, creators of *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, this Tony award winning backstage murder mystery musical will have audiences laughing and guessing right to the final curtain. *Curtains* opens at Darlington Hippodrome on Monday 11 November and runs to Saturday 16 November. Tickets are on sale now.

Lino Print Making Studio Session Greenfield Arts



There are still a few places left on the popular print making studio session at Greenfield Arts. Why not come along to this fabulous workshop and learn the skills of lino-cut print making with artists Alan and Helen Holcroft, using both hand and portable print press methods you can create your own original piece of artwork to take away. The workshop will take place in our purpose-built studio and is sure to be a lovely session with tea and coffee provided, it will run from 10:30 - 16:00 on Thursday 28th February 2019 and costs just £45.00, all you will need to bring is your own pack lunch. The session is suitable for all abilities, why not come along and try something new and get creative.

visit our website to enrol on a simple online form. If you would like to find out more about the projects, courses and activities at Greenfield Arts please check out our website at www.greenfield-arts.co.uk email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk or call our friendly team on 01325 379048 for further details and to join the mailing list.

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On Thursday 14th February, Mrs Kengyelics, our school Parent Support Advisor and Chair of the Friends of the School, handed over a cheque to Rachel and Trevor Taylor, who lost their daughter, Seonaid, in January 2018 as a result of an unknown heart condition. The family have set up a campaign and have already completed lots of fundraising events to raise money to install a defibrillator in St. Mary's Church, which is next to the school. The family have also organised other fundraisers,

such as breakfasts after Sunday morning Mass on 24th February and 10th March. They have their own community charity group called 'Kick it 4 Seonaid.' The family have organised a St. Patrick's three course dinner in the parish meeting room on Saturday 15th March, with tickets costing £10 each. All of the money raised will go towards installing the defibrillator which is expected to cost around £2300.

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Councillors Agree Additional £74 Million Capital Investment

Councillors in County Durham have today (Wednesday, 20 February) committed to additional capital investment of £74 million bringing the total investment between 2018 and 2022 to £391 million.

The cash, which is ring-fenced for capital projects and has a clear focus on regeneration and growth across County Durham, was agreed by elected members as part of Durham County Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), which outlines the council's financial position and sets out its budget for the next four years.

The capital programme is mainly financed from government grants, capital receipts and prudent borrowing.

The multi-million pound investment programme includes details of a £2.4 million capital budget over the next two years for the county's towns and villages. This capital investment will be supplemented by further earmarked revenue funding of £7.6 million – bringing the total available for town and village projects to £10 million.

Investment in the highways network is set to continue with an additional investment of £17.5 million, including £5 million additional funding from the council to supplement government funding which is not on its own sufficient to meet the required need.

A further £6.6 million has been approved for 2020/21 towards a project that will see the creation of a Durham history centre bringing together archive and heritage services for the county. Other projects set to benefit include the Finance Durham

Fund, which will receive £2.75 million to provide loans and equity to help County Durham businesses grow and prosper. This brings the total investment from the fund to £10 million to date.

In addition, almost £2 million will be used to extend Escomb Primary School in order to meet expected increased demand created by new housing developments in Bishop Auckland.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "Continuing austerity means that we are going to have to manage significant financial pressures for the foreseeable future. However, it is vital that we continue to invest in capital infrastructure if we are to grow our local economy.

"Additional investment will not only improve infrastructure but will help us retain existing jobs and create new ones as well as ensuring that key council services are maintained."

As a result of continued government funding reductions, pressures on social care and other services and uncertainty about future funding allocations, the council needs to make further forecasted savings from its revenue budget of £39.5 million over the next four years. This includes a savings requirement of £15.8 million for 2019/20 while the total savings estimated between 2010/11 to 2022/23 now stands at £263 million.

Cllr Henig added: "We continue to work hard to protect frontline services but as the financial pressures on the council increase this is becoming more and more difficult. Not only are we

having to deal with cuts to our funding but we are now facing uncertainty caused by proposed changes to the way local government is funded."

The MTFP highlights a £14.2 million reduction in Revenue Support Grant for 2019/20, which is a 34 per cent decrease from 2018/19. Since 2010/11, the council will have lost 55 per cent of its core government funding. Funding will be further reduced if a proposed new methodology for calculating public health grant is introduced from 2020. The change would see the council facing a potential loss of £19 million – the largest reduction in the country.

These reductions are compounded by increased pressure on specific services where the authority is struggling to cover costs such as children's social care and special educational needs support, with additional demands in these areas forecast to be more than £12 million in 2019/20.

The council has agreed to provide £5.5 million from its reserves in a bid to meet demand but this approach is not sustainable in the long-term.

Sally Green, Chair of County Durham Schools Forum, said: "We know that school budgets in general and high needs budgets in particular are really under pressure across County Durham and in other areas. We welcome this additional support from the council and will continue to work with them to lobby for additional government funding and do what we can to make this funding as sustainable as possible."

The Government's Fair Funding Review is casting further uncertainty over the level of funding that will be available to provide services in the future. The review could see funding moved to more prosperous areas of the country if a proposed new formula fails to properly take account of need and the real drivers of cost in local areas.

At today's meeting, councillors also agreed a 2.99 per cent increase in Band D council tax for 2019/20 with an additional 2 per cent increase to the Adult Social Care Precept. This equates to a £1.45 per week rise for Band D properties and 97p per week increase for the majority of council tax payers, who live in Band A properties.



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

A thin fare this week, but please make sure you take part in the GP Appointments survey. Find more information and internet links on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB98

And please join me on Aycliffe Radio, 6-7:30pm, Sunday 24 February, where the 'Big Story' will be the County Durham Plan: bit.ly/ARLIVE

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

• GP Appointments survey for HealthWatch County Durham – it is really important that people have their say on this vitally important issue: phone 0800 304 7039.

• The Big Spring Clean was launched on 14 February.

• Newton Aycliffe ASB Group met on 14 February.

• Newton Aycliffe Youth Club to start 6 March.

THINGS TO DO

NEXT WEEK

• Wildlife Watch (5-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am-noon, Saturday 2 March, £1: book on 0191 584 3112.

• Japanese Hina Matsuri dolls (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop-in

1-3pm, Saturday 2 March, FREE.

• Walk: Locomotion Way and Shildon's Railway History (10 miles), led by Ian Gray, meet Middridge Village Hall Car Park, 10:30am Sunday 3 March, £4: 03000 264 589

In Memoriam

JUNE IVESON

February 19th 2016

Gone are the days we used to share, But in my heart you are always there, Never more than a thought away, Loved and remembered every day. I miss your smile, your gentle face, Nothing will ever take your place. Your Loving Husband Bill

No one knows how much we miss you, No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you. Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, Sweetly, tender, fond and true, There is not a day Dear Mam, that we do not think of you. Lynn, Ken and family

It only takes a little space, To write how much we love and miss you, But it will take the rest of our lives, To forget the day we lost you. Paul, Elaine and family

Deep in our hearts, You will always stay, Loved, missed and remembered every day. Malcolm, Sarah and family

ROSE GALLEY (nee Skelton)

17th February, peacefully in Riverside View Care Home, Darlington. Rose (nee Skelton), aged 88 years, late of Newton Aycliffe and Weardale. Dearly loved Wife of the late Norman; also a dear Aunt and Great-Aunt. Funeral on Thursday 28th February. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 11.30am.

PETER REDDEN (1972 - 2013). Beautiful memories silently kept, of the one that we loved and will never forget. Love you loads, all the family

JENNIFER BEESTON Always remembered. Rachael and family
JOHN ARRAN HUGHES 22nd February 1992. If memories bring us close, we are never far apart. Because you are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. You are always our last thought before we sleep and our first thought when we wake. All our love we send to you every single day, our beautiful boy. Mam, Dad, Garry, Vicky, Paul and Daughter Maxine xxxx

Congratulations



MACKENZIE JACKMAN. Happy 21st birthday on 24th February, with love from Grandad, Rose, Nan, Davy, Grandad, Rachel, Uncle Simon, Bryn, Aron, Rachael, Gary, Aunty Bev, Dougie and family, Maverick, Marley, Merlin, Madison and all your family and friends xxx

Connor Wheatley



Happy 21st Birthday
28th February 2019

Hope you have a great day and enjoy Elrow with everyone in March. Love from SJ, Craig, Macca, Madison and Cayden xx

BRAD - RACE. Happy 21st birthday Son, so proud of you and how far you have come. Love, Mam and Dad xx

BRAD - RACE. Happy 21st birthday to my little Brother. Love Katie, Kerry and Boys xx

BRAD - RACE. Happy 21st birthday to my lovely Grandson Bradley. Love, Nanna Ann

BRAD - RACE. Happy 21st birthday to my Grandson Bradley. Love, Nanna Mary
TOD STEED Happy 18th birthday to our handsome Godson. Love from Uncle Jeff, Auntie Lynn and family xxxx

Mackenzie Jackman



21 TODAY!

24th February 2019

Happy 21st Birthday Son We are so proud of you. Hope you enjoy your birthday meal at Red Chilli and celebrating with your friends at Elrow in March. All our love, Mum and Dad xxxx



Erin Dunn



Happy 18th Birthday
Erin

Have an amazing day!
Lots of love from
all your family xxxxx

Mackenzie Jackman



Happy 21st Little Bro

Hope you have a great birthday. Love from Madison and Martin xx



Happy 21st Uncle Macca You are my favourite Uncle and I love you lots, from Nephew Cayden xxxx

Obituary

KEITH CORBETT

Died suddenly at home on 7th February 2019, aged 52, of Newton Aycliffe, formerly Ferryhill. Much loved and greatly missed Partner, Brother, Dad, Grandad, Father-in-law, Brother-in-law, Step Dad and Doggy Dad. Funeral to be held on Tuesday 26th February 2019 at 1.30pm at Wear Valley Crematorium and afterwards at The Phoenix Club, Newton Aycliffe. Family flowers only, donations in lieu for The British Heart Foundation can be left at the crematorium, The Phoenix Club or Gibson's Funeral Services. To honour Keith's love of football the family respectfully request that Sunderland Team colours are worn.

GEORGE E. THOMPSON (Garry/Gaff). We are sad to announce the passing of George on 4th February 2019. For details of funeral please contact Lisa on 07393 210422.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 6th March 2019 - 7.15pm
Policy & Resources Committee

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

Congratulations



Andrew Foulds



Happy 50th Birthday
27th February 2019

Congratulations on your 50th birthday.
Have a great time.
Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Family

Hawkshead Court Open Day



Scheme Managers Diane and Melissa would like to invite the wider community to our Open Day on the 28th February from 10.00am until 1.00pm.

It is an opportunity for people to enjoy a cup of coffee and a piece of cake with staff and residents. You will be able to find out what living at Hawkshead Court is like for our residents and what it can offer you. We will also give you a tour of the facilities and provide you with information about the AnchorHanover services.

We look forward to meeting you on the day, if you would like further information please contact Diane or Melissa tel 01325 315462

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Aycliffe Grab Late Point



Newton Aycliffe travelled to Stockton Town and earned a respectable 2-2 draw after being 2-0 down with 20 minutes to go. Stockton went into the game on a

6-game winning streak, but Aycliffe matched them for long periods and fully deserved the draw. Stockton started brightly and got three shots away in the first five minutes, but Aycliffe keeper Adam Pickford was equal to them. Aycliffe then had a good chance when Marc Costello nodded down a free kick, and Kurt Matthews hit a good volley just over the bar. Stockton came straight back and Pickford made a great save, pushing a Craggs free kick onto the bar and out. Aycliffe then put together a great move resulting in Jermaine Metz putting a cross into the six-yard box, with the Stockton defence just managing to get the ball away. Stockton then had a couple of half chances before they took the lead on 41 minutes. They broke away quickly and a low cross from the right was turned in by Mulligan. Metz then put another great cross into the danger area, but again the Stockton defence cleared under pressure. Roberts had a clear-cut chance for Stockton right on half time, but he volleyed well over the bar.

Aycliffe suffered a blow four minutes into the second half, when Marc Costello was carried off on a stretcher. Aycliffe had a good spell near the hour mark, with Matthews having a good shot blocked and Aaron Brown heading against the bar. But it was Stockton who got the next goal when Nicholson headed in a corner for 2-0. Aycliffe kept playing their football and a spell of pressure was rewarded when Kurt Matthews turned in a loose ball, with Kevin Carr getting the assist. Aycliffe kept pushing, and in the 88th minute Warren Byrne brought a good save from Moody in the Stockton goal. A minute later Aycliffe drew level when Carr put in a great cross and Aaron Brown headed home. Final score 2-2.

Next game is at home to Sunderland RCA on Tuesday 26th February at 7.30pm. This is followed by a home game against Ashington on Saturday 2nd March at 3pm.

Pic: Aaron Brown celebrates his equalising goal.

Juniors Football Report

The football season continued for many of the Aycliffe Juniors teams who enjoyed games over the weekend.

The Under 6's continued their development in preparation for joining the league next season. This week they played in joint training sessions with three teams from Hetton and really enjoyed the opportunity. The Under 7's Juniors also enjoyed a friendly game against Tekkers Yellows. They played three twenty minute games winning two and losing one. Scorers on the day were Jonah (2), Marley (2) with Kai and Alfie also getting one each.

The Under 8's put in a brilliant performance away at Leven. A hatrick from Harry and two goals from Evan secured a 5-2 win. In the development game Evan scored again and Layton grabbed two goals in a 3-3 draw.

The Under 9's travelled to play Wynyard, a team who had already beaten them this year in both league and cup. A tough day was expected but a spirited effort and some great defensive work from George and man of the match Jamie restricted the hosts.

Fire Authority Seeks New Members

Members of the public are being invited to apply to serve on County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority. The authority is seeking two people to serve as independent members to help it maintain standards of conduct.

The successful candidates will be involved in dealing with any complaints against other members and will need to attend at least three meetings per year.

Anyone applying should have a keen interest in upholding democracy and standards in the public sector and wish to serve the local community. They will need to demonstrate high standards of personal integrity and be objective, independent and impartial. They should also have direct experience of implementing and upholding standards and/or dealing with complaints and customer care issues.

The positions are unpaid but travel and subsistence allowances will be paid for attending meetings. Training is provided.

Application forms are available from Ian Croft, legal and democratic services, County Hall, Durham. Call 03000 269 702 or email ian.croft@durham.gov.uk

Further information on the work of the fire authority can be found at www.ddfire.gov.uk/combined-fire-authority The closing date for applications is Friday, 22 March 2019 with interviews expected to take place on Friday, 26 April.



Unfortunately one break away goal was conceded and the game was narrowly lost by a goal to nil. In the development game Finley and man of the match Joe scored with this one ending in a 4-2 defeat.

The Under 10's Claret played at Woodham against high flying Stockton Hardwick. An exciting first half ended goalless with Aycliffe having the two best chances to score. Stockton scored early after the break but Kai's goal cancelled this out. The game looked like ending in a draw but the visitors headed in from a corner to pinch a 2-1 win. Ashton was named as the man of the match.

The Under 11's White played away at Redcar and it turned out to be a disappointing performance. The game

was lost 4-0 with James Chadwick named as man of the match.

The Under 12's travelled to Bedale and a bright start was rewarded when Thomas broke down the right and set up Zak to score. The lead was doubled with a great solo effort from Charlie which sealed a 2-0 win. Alfie's hard work earned him the man of the match award.

The Under 14's played their Challenge Cup quarter final against TIBS Yellow who play three leagues higher than the Aycliffe team. A determined first half effort kept the half time score at 1-0. TIBS though went on to dominate the second half and win 4-0. An assured performance from Georgie Johnson saw him named as the man of the match.

Darlington F.C. News & Update

Darlington's Soccer Camp has been very popular this week - and the club is almost certain to organise another event in the Easter Holidays.

The Dolphin Centre has been the base this week for a soccer camp for 5 to 12 year olds with all sorts of football-related activities no matter how good or bad their football skills are.

The feedback has been that the days are great fun, and the youngsters have met one of Darlington's leading players, Stephen Thompson, and the Darlington manager, Tommy Wright.

Each day has cost £12, which is great value for money, and the course is carried out by suitably-qualified coaches.

Meanwhile, the manager has also been heavily involved in an Academy ID talent day, which attracted over two dozen youngsters, who are thinking about what to do with their careers after their GCSEs in the summer, to Blackwell Meadows on Tuesday.

The club received some bad news earlier this week - left wing back Sam Muggleton, who was making his home debut, suffered badly ruptured ligaments in a challenge on Saturday against Southport, and will miss the rest of the season.

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