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Friday 15th March 2019

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Aycliffe Radio working in partnership with Newton News
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THANK YOU GAMP

Play Cafe would like to say a big Thank You to our seven County Councillors who have each contributed to funding which will ensure this Holiday Hunger project can continue. "We are delighted that our bid for funds has been successful," said Alison Firby, Treasurer. "The £11,000 will enable us to continue taking this support for families to different venues across the town."

The Play Café is helping address the difficulties families experience during the long school holidays, when there are no Breakfast Clubs or Free School Meals.

The pop up cafes will be held in local venues, offering the families a meal, time to play and talk and some groceries. All family members will benefit.

It is particularly difficult for some families during the six week summer break. Families struggle from week to week on low incomes and a change to Universal Credit can cause significant financial problems. The Play Café can help.

For further information email: aycliffeplaycafe@gmail.com or text 07576 134194

Spring fair

There will be a Spring Craft & Gifts Fair on Saturday 23rd March from 10.00am to 2.00pm, at Neville Parade Methodist Church.

There will be a variety of stalls taking part with lots of handmade goods on sale. Call in for a breakfast bacon or sausage sandwich or come along at lunchtime to sample our homemade broth and pie & peas and the delicious desserts, all at bargain prices.

Admission is 50p, which includes a free tea or coffee.

We look forward to seeing you there. Mark the date in your diary.



Community Champion Shirley, donating food for a Play Cafe lunch to volunteer Alison Firby

Another Sponsored Workout for Vince



Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre (NAYCC) are looking to purchase a defibrillator for the Centre and its users. Volunteer and former Chairman Vince Crosby suggested that he completes another workout in NALC gym. The target was set at £2500, so, with the help of the fitness instructors, Vince was given this workout which was called the "Race to Paris" without leaving the gym.

Activity
60 mins Fitness Activity
60 mins on the Cycle
60 mins on the Treadmill
45 mins Swim + 45 mins Row
60 mins on the Cycle
60 mins on the Treadmill
60 mins on the Climber

Equates to
Training to London
London – M25
M25 – Dover
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By agreeing to sponsor Vince you will be helping the Centre towards the target of £2500, you can pay online at Facebook Fundraiser / Vincent Crosby or call in to the Youth Centre.

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The Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe

MARCH ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 15th March - "Disco & Karaoke"
by Absolute entertainment with Lee - Free Entry

Saturday 16th March - Solo artiste "Antonio"
plus great band "Starz" - £3.00 on the door

Sunday 17th March - "St. Patrick's Day"
We have a fantastic **FREE DAY** lined up for you
Bingo will start earlier (books on sale from 11.30am), Bingo starts 12pm
followed by "Jake Roberts" and "Kayleigh Louise"
and "Karaoke/Disco" with Lee in the Afternoon
and "Penny Harris" on the Evening - **ALL FREE**

Friday 22nd March - "Ray Von Disco & Karaoke"
with Tony - Free Entry

Saturday 23rd March - Solo artiste "Chad McDonald"
and great duo "K2 Revival" - £3.00 on the door

Sunday 24th March - "Disco & Karaoke"
Free Entry (Afternoon)
Great solo act "Jon Doc" £1.00 Entry (Evening)

Friday 29th March - Private Party in the Main Hall

Saturday 30th March - "Abba Again & Forbidden"
£6.00 per ticket, on sale behind the bar

Sunday 31st March - "Karaoke and Disco"
with Gary - Free Entry (Afternoon)
Fabulous solo act "Mark Thomas" £1.00 Entry (Evening)

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

SOULFUL SOUNDS OF CATS Get Hairsprayed SHANAYA NO. 2

Dear Sir,
I have decided to do this, my second charity gig, after the sad news that a very close family member is terminally ill with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.

As you can imagine it will be an emotional evening for my family, yet I will do what I am best at and sing for all I'm worth!

I will be supporting Bright Red (Ward 33 at Freeman Hospital). Bright Red is a brilliant charity that helps those with blood cancer and their families with practical support and funding for research.

Please can I call upon anyone wishing to purchase a ticket for this gig to get involved by calling 01325 303141 and I will be there to deliver your tickets. A superb charity supporting people in the North East. Together lets try to help find a cure for this horrible, awful disease.

The event will take place on Friday 29th March at the Cricket Club, Moore Lane from 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £5.00 each. The other charity which will benefit from the evening is Junction 7.

Junction 7 is a place for the Aycliffe Community, where you can get help with and access a variety of services.



They offer emergency food services, red vouchers, pre-loved school uniforms, pre-loved furniture and white goods. They are a forward thinking organisation and the staff are non-judgmental, offering respect and empathy. They are based at 7 Silverdale Place and open Monday to Thursday

from 10 to 12 noon. Contact 07754 244547 or email junc7tion@gmail.com I do hope you will join me on the night of Friday 29th March at the Cricket Club to support these two fantastic hard working charities. Thank you Shanaya

JAZZ NIGHT
ACOUSTIC INFUSION
THURSDAY 4th APRIL
Food served from 6pm-9pm
New Orleans inspired menu
Enjoy a delicious meal whilst listening to a live 4 piece Jazz Band
Monthly Event Jazz Club
Please call 01325 318454 to reserve your table
FREE ENTRY - Booking is essential
WOODHAM Golf & Country Club

Cyber Safety Talk

Our next monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th March at 6.45pm in Neville Community Centre.

Our speaker for this month is Katie Bartle from Durham Constabulary to talk to us about Cyber Safety.

Refreshments are available from 6.30pm. All residents are welcome to pop down for a cuppa and a chat.

The CATS Youth Theatre Group will be performing their latest production "Hairspray (The Musical)" at the Civic Hall, Shildon on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd March, at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Sunday 24th March at 2pm. A spokesperson said "The cast, dancers and singers are all young people, aged between 8 and 15 years old, and are now into their final week, after 5 months, of rehearsals. They are all excited about the coming week when they get to perform the four shows in front of a live audience. For some of the young folk this will be their first performance, and others their final one. Amongst the young Dance Troupe are local girls, Katelyn Freeborn, Rose Stenger, Sophie Capstack, Esther Hodgson, Tallulah Selby Willis, Imogen Jones, Sophie Davies and Sienna Birkett. With cast member Emma Dixon who plays the hateful Velma Von Tussle in the two hour show. So please come along and support your local Youth Theatre Group." Tickets priced £6 Adults and £3.50 Children can be prebooked by ringing 01325 313363 or text Tickets to 07747 826324.

DISCO @ The Big Club
13 April
7 - 11pm
Over 21's Only
DJ: John Melvin
Tickets: £2.50
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The Soulful Sounds of Shanaya No 2



Singing at
Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club
Moore Lane DL5 5AG

Friday 29th March 2019 (7.30pm)

Enjoy an evening of fun, friends and entertainment.
Charity Raffle • Bingo • Games

Tickets £5.00 each
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Saturday 23rd March - "Pistoleros"
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£10000 Grant for A.C.E.

Aycliffe Community Engagement are thrilled to announce the receipt of a grant for £10,000 from Awards for All. This is part of a £35,000 package of bid applications, which will, if received, employ two part time staff to work with the Trustees of ACE, to set up an office that will be fully equipped to deliver training sessions, trips out, educational trips, job club and employability opportunities.

A.G.M.

Dear Members,
Just to inform you the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th March 2019. The time of doors closing will be 8.00pm. Please would all members please attend promptly.
A Young, Secretary

Grease is the Word at Woodham

Woodham Academy Students Performance of The Musical

Students at Woodham Academy took to the stage last week for their performance of the hit musical Grease. The show was a massive success, with students from all year groups taking part, as was a testament to the huge amount of talents that students within the school have. Mr Gales, Head of Music, commented, "All three nights were of a very high quality but the Friday performance was unbelievably good. The atmosphere in the hall, when there are nearly 300 people inside, is brilliant and you could tell that the students were reacting to having such a big crowd. Grease is such an enormous show to do, but the effort of the students and staff has been fantastic. Students from Year 11 through to Year 8 have taken on some of the challenging leading roles and the commitment from

the students from the very beginning has been fantastic. They have been attending rehearsals four times a week since the beginning of the school year and were also out in force a few weeks ago in Tesco to help raise money for some of the costumes and props that they needed. One of the best things about this show was the whole school effort that was behind it. We had Mrs McAulay, Mr Gore, Mr Cochrane and Mr Walker helping build the set and make merchandise, Miss Gray and Miss Thomas working on the drama aspect, we also had Miss Kent working with her Dance Academy to provide some fantastic choreography to some of the more challenging scenes within the show, we had Mrs Taylor and Mrs Godfrey in the band and Miss Elliott and Miss Cook helping back stage on all three nights."

Lead roles Danny and Sandy, played by Sonny Fielding and Darcy Kent, rose to the challenge of such difficult characters magnificently and are clear examples of the high level of talent within the cast. A special mention must be made to Darcy Kent, as she has just been offered a place in London at the Pauline Quirke Academy from September, as she pursues her career in theatre.

Tune in to Aycliffe Radio on Sunday 24th March at 11.00am to listen to the cast singing the songs as well as interviews with the stars



HELPING HANDS IN A FINANCIAL CRISIS

Helping Hands is a Lifeline Community Action project set up in 2010 to help and support people in crisis in an around the Newton Aycliffe area.

The project supports people who find themselves in financial crisis for reasons that can hit anytime like redundancy, illness, benefit delay, domestic violence, debt, family breakdown and paying for the additional costs of heating during winter, are just some of the reasons why people find themselves in difficulty.

The project supports them through the provision of basic goods such as cleaning products, warm clothing, blankets, personal hygiene products, etc.

Recently Lifeline Community Action received

a grant from County Durham Community Action from The Winter Warmth Fund which provides grants for groups who are reaching out to those hit hardest by the winter and are changing things for the better. Many of Lifeline Community Action's service users have already benefitted from this grant and we know it has made a tremendous difference in their lives.

One of our service users has said winter has been one of the most stressful times of the year due to trying to keep warm but with the help of the grant we have been able to alleviate that burden. If you are in crisis please phone the Helping Hands team on 07936 431262.

Opening times: Monday and Friday 10am - 2pm

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Red Box Project



A large collection of products donated by Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre who are the latest addition to The Red Box Project in Great Aycliffe. All donations of sanitary products, pants, bags and hand wipes will be used to help young people there and in our local schools and colleges, free of charge. NAYCC joins The Thames Diner and The Centre for Children, Stephenson Way as the Project's latest Donation Point. If your shop, business, office or factory would like to be considered as a donation point, if you would like to make a donation in cash or kind, or if you would like to become a Red Box Project volunteer in our community, please contact theredboxprojectdurham@gmail.com or phone 07935 321665.

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Saturday 23rd March

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SATURDAY

10-12pm	Saturday Brunch	Sean Lawless
12-2pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
2-4pm	The Saturday Big Show	Graham Dale
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby

"The Saturday Night Experience"

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

SUNDAY

10-11am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
11-12pm	Conversations	Mary & John
17th March Guest - Amy Harrison		
12-130pm	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

17th Mar - Guests: **Mel Wilson, Scott Durham, Carl Mustill, Samantha Townsend**

8-10pm	The Live Rock Show	"CAD"
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY

9-11am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	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

9-11am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
3-5pm	MusicMania	JAG

Sports Show sponsored by Honest John

6-7.30pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
19th Mar - Gregor Mills (Jr. International Ice Hockey)		
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby
9.30-12am	Motown Classics	

WEDNESDAY

9-11am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker

TTO & Community Connect sponsored by ROFS9

5-6.30pm	Tea-Time Out	Phil & Amy
6.30-8pm	Community Connect	Amy & Phil
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gary & Alby

THURSDAY

9-11am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
3-5pm	MusicMania	JAG
6-7.30pm	POLITICAL (R)	John D Clare
8-10pm	"Beat" Roote	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

9-11am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
3-4pm	The Weekend Starts Here	Kieron Mills
6-8pm	Tech-House Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	Guest Presenter Session	

22nd Mar - **Pauly Mac** (Rare Vinyl Mix - Electric Soup)

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 Runner Supports 'ManHealth'



Friday night presenter, Nathan Abbott (right) is taking on the London Marathon on Sunday 28th April to raise funds for ManHealth CIC.

The Aycliffe Radio presenter is keen to raise awareness for ManHealth, who will be launching a new group in Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre on Monday 29th April.

Mr Abbott is seeking local companies to sponsor him and in return will have their logo printed on his shirt for the marathon run next month. The logos will be emblazoned across the back of his shirt, as Nathan is confident that is where most people will see it as he zooms past them!!

If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to the runner, please contact Nathan direct via email:

modtro_clubtour@hotmail.com

See article below for more information on ManHealth.

All male peer support social enterprise goes from strength to strength with the launch of another new group. ManHealth CIC, the Big Lottery funded peer support network for men established to address male depression and suicide, is launching another group in Newton Aycliffe in late April.

The County Durham based not for profit, with four existing groups in Shildon and Spennymoor, Darlington and Barnard Castle was created after Paul Bannister realised talking to other men who were dealing with shared issues and experiences was a powerful tool to deal with mental health.

Paul said: "The idea came to me when I saw someone I hadn't seen for years who was clearly suffering with depression. After agreeing to meet up regularly and talk to one another I realised that the benefits for both of us were huge as I had also been living with depression - something I previously found hard to admit to anyone."

"We launched the first group in Shildon in April 2018, followed soon after by another in Spennymoor, Barnard Castle and Darlington opened in January 2019, with more groups in the pipeline."

"ManHealth is a pro-active project that helps men to deal with their mental health issues before they reach crisis point by allowing them to talk in a safe and non-



judgmental environment. This peer to peer support offered by men with lived experience can really make a difference and ultimately save lives."

The new group will be launched and run by men with lived experience of mental health issues who have been influenced and benefitted from attending ManHealth groups.

A member of the Darlington Group said, "The reason I attended ManHealth this year is because I could tell the familiar feelings of deep sadness were returning and I was worried I was going to have another bout of depression. By attending ManHealth and sharing my fears and thoughts with like-minded people in a safe environment I've not returned to negative behaviours. My experience of ManHealth has really helped me maintain a positive focus and share issues with other men with similar ones. ManHealth has helped me change my negative behaviours."

For more information visit ManHealth CIC at www.manhealth.org.uk connect with ManHealth's many social media platforms, call 01388 320023 or simply pop-in to one of ManHealth's scheduled groups.

Sergeant's Blog

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By Sergeant Andy Boyd



The Newton Aycliffe Beat Team are continuing to problem solve around the issues affecting you the most. We work very closely with partners to reduce demand on our services, but at the same time trying our very best to increase your confidence and satisfaction in what we do. Over the last month, we have been very busy in contributing to projects which reduce Anti-Social Behaviour by increasing youth provision across the town.

Two multi-agency projects in full swing at the moment are the TLP (Time Limited project) which aims to increase the amount of activities for youths in the Western area and also create a community garden, and also another project in the town centre working with key stakeholders to reduce issues there. These are not "quick fix" projects, it is hoped that these will give us a sustainable solution to problems in these areas over the medium to long term, but efforts are still being made to interact, educate and divert youths from participating in such behaviour in the short term too.

Youths drinking alcohol on a weekend remains an issue, and when we attended the plantation behind Cobblers Hall just last Friday we found in excess of 50 youths in the dark and in possession of alcohol, clearly putting themselves in a vulnerable situation.

Youths found in possession of alcohol had it seized, details obtained and further work will take place to educate them around the associated dangers. It is clear that adults are still purchasing alcohol for youths, this has to stop! You are putting your kids in danger by doing so, not only due to the associated health implications, but it also makes them easy targets for assault. Please help us to keep your kids safe!

PCSO Atkinson has been doing some great work with the St Marys School Mini Police team. On the 6th February, they were outside the school carrying out Community Speed Watch, and on the 10th February they staged a mock shoplifting exercise in Tesco's to learn

how to capture evidence..... some have argued that they did a better job than us!!

I was privileged to be asked to attend an Aycliffe Community Engagement (formerly GACAP) meeting to discuss community policing. There are many meetings taking place like this across the town, and what is clear is that there is some fantastic work being done by all to improve the area.

On the 22nd February Skye-Marie was presented with an ACE (Aycliffe Community Excellence) award, this was for assisting the Park Wardens with a clean-up of West Park. The ACE awards were created to reward youths for doing great things in the community, McDonalds and ROFS9 have been very supportive of this initiative and provide the rewards, well done Skye-Marie.

Do you know we have a Facebook page? To see what we get up to please follow us on there. Till next month, take care.

Sergeant 1430 Boyd
Newton Aycliffe NPT

Film Show

"Topsy-Turvy"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 19th March features the 1999 British musical drama "TOPSY-TURVY" starring Jim Broadbent, Allan Corduner, Timothy Spall, Lesley Manville and Shirley Henderson.

After ten smash hits, a Gilbert and Sullivan show flops. This is the story of the two geniuses conflict after the flop, the family and people around them. It is also a glimpse of life in Victorian theatre, and shows all the colour of their famous operettas.

Everyone is welcome, please come along and enjoy. Tea and coffee are served at 1.00pm, included in the £2 admission.

The film starts at 1.15pm and 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 contact Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.



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SUIT OVER 13 YEARS OR ACTIVE RETIREES

Century of Wedding Gowns Fashion Show

Wedding gowns from the last 100 years are to be showcased by one man who had a hand in creating one of the most iconic dresses ever seen.

Kevin Thornhill worked alongside dress designers David and Elizabeth Emmanuel to create Diana, Princess of Wales', wedding dress in 1981.

On Thursday, 11th April, he will host a Fashion Show with a difference "A Century of Wedding Gowns" - with all profits going towards the Bishop Auckland Scanner Appeal.

Kevin will tell the story of each of the original period pieces from the late 1800s through to the modern day as his models walk down the catwalk at Shildon Civic Hall from 7.15pm onwards. Organised by Shildon and District Flower Club, tickets are priced at £10 and include a glass of Prosecco and canapes.

Tickets, which must be pre-booked, are available from Cynthia Scott (01325) 313055 and Pauline Wadge (01388) 417145.

[editorial]

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

OUR TOP-PERFORMING POLICE

Our local Police feature large in this week's edition of the Newton News. Andy Boyd's 'Sergeant's Blog' details the proactive work our Neighbourhood Police are doing to address anti-social behaviour; and the article 'Police Crack Down' informs drivers of a campaign to catch people who won't wear a seatbelt (so we have been warned)! Finally, we publish this week notice that, after 39 years in uniform, Chief Constable Michael Barton is to retire. Mr Barton has turned Durham Constabulary into the top-performing police force in the country, and we echo the comment of PCVC Ron Hogg that we have been very fortunate for his time at the helm.

FINANCIAL SHORTFALL

You may not agree with the political comments in the article about the 'PM's Brexit Bung', but the factual statements at the beginning of the article are nevertheless alarming about the vast amount of money lost by the North East since 2010. The government seems to have addressed the deficit by transferring it to local government, and our councillors face significant financial challenges as they struggle to maintain services

in the face of continuing cuts - whatever political party they represent.

CYCLING TO WORK

We were amused by the challenge in John Snowball's letter that the County Councillors who had supported the County Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy should themselves cycle to work at County Hall!

His letter encouraged us to look up the Strategy (www.durham.gov.uk/article/21052/-Cycling-and-walking-plan-gets-into-gear), which seeks to improve the cycling and walking networks, and to encourage greater participation. Looking at some of the roads round Newton Aycliffe (notably to Middridge, Eldon and Rushyford), it seems to the Newton News that a key aim must be to make the network infrastructure safer.

GETTING RECYCLING TO WORK

Whilst we are talking things sustainable, and with Climate Change looming over everything, we cannot end without drawing readers' attention to the article reminding us not to use black bags in our recycling bins. If the bin men spot a black bag in a recycling bin, they will not empty it, because they cannot verify that it contains recyclable items.

PM's 'Brexit Bung' Leaves North East £468m Short

Local authorities in the North East now receive £573 million less in government funding than they did in 2010, Best for Britain analysis can reveal.

Analysis of House of Lords Library figures for Local Government Finance settlement data by Best for Britain uses Settle Funding Assessment data to expose the devastating scale of austerity cuts in the north and midlands since 2010.

The data shows that across the English regions meant to benefit from the 'stronger towns' fund, there has been a fall of £8.3 billion in funding for local authorities between 2010/11 and 2019/20 - making a mockery of the £1.6 billion being offered by the Prime Minister over the next four years.

Best for Britain's analysis also shows that if all of this extra cash were directed to the 'coalfield' communities, there would still be a local government funding deficit amounting to a whopping £700 million.

The North East is meant to receive £105 million from the government's newly announced 'stronger towns' fund, but Best for Britain have calculated that this would only reduce the funding shortfall to £468 million when compared to 2010.

The Best for Britain analysis does not include other funding cuts associated with the UK leaving the EU. According to MyEU data, the EU has invested £347 million in the North East alone since

2007.

Moreover, if the UK remains in the European Union, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions estimates that it will receive roughly €13 billion in regional development funding for the 2021-2027 period (about €3 billion more than it receives under the current EU regional funding package given many areas of the UK have fallen behind the EU average for regional prosperity).

Commenting on the analysis, Best for Britain supporter Dr Paul Williams MP said: "These cuts have been devastating for some of the most deprived areas in our country and their consequences will be felt for years to come."

"The Prime Minister was a key cog in successive governments who forced through this mean-spirited political agenda. She should be hanging her head in shame, not offering petty bribes and false promises to buy votes for her botched deal."

Best for Britain supporter Alex Sobel MP added: "This analysis highlights the devastating and cruel nature of Tory austerity in the north and the midlands."

"This is mean-natured, brutal cutting of vital local authority funding. Not only does this seriously call into question Theresa May's ability to provide any meaningful 'coalfield' regeneration fund post-Brexit, something I care greatly about having worked within those areas, it also completely undermines the

integrity of her promises to Labour MPs given she was a key cog in governments that cut those areas to the bone."

Also commenting, Best for Britain CEO Eloise Todd said: "These cuts have been devastating and provide an insight into why the country voted to Leave back in 2016. Billions has been sucked out of local authority funding across England since austerity began. What the

Prime Minister is offering doesn't scratch the surface.

"Meaningful regeneration of these areas won't be achieved with a cheap bribe and will be much more difficult outside of the EU, which will see communities around the country lose out. MPs in these areas shouldn't be tricked into backing a botched Brexit deal by a Prime Minister that was so heavily involved in cutting back local resources to the bone."

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Miners Pension Compensation



We are successfully claiming compensation for former miners in the North East who transferred out of the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.

Many miners in the North East were advised to transfer out of their British coal pension scheme to a private scheme which paid considerably less! This was bad advice and many retired miners or their widows have lost out.



See our adverts in:

Hartlepool Mail, Shields Gazette, Morpeth Herald, Northumberland Gazette, Newcastle Chronicle, Sunday Sun, Newton News, News Post Leader.

Example 1 - £77,000

Mr H a former miner from **EASINGTON** was made redundant in 1993. After the pit closed he was advised by an agent from Sun Life transfer £9,000 from his miners pension to them. He was promised a better pension which wasn't true. Sun Life agreed compensation of £77,149.

Example 3 - £48,000

Mr P is a former miner from **BEDLINGTON**. When the pits closed in 1986 he was advised by an Independent Financial Advisor to transfer his pension to Standard Life. He was told it would be a better pension which wasn't true. Even though the Independent Financial Advisor was no longer trading we were able to secure him a lump sum of £48,000.

Example 2 - £53,000

Mr K a former miner from **CRAMLINGTON** was made redundant in 1988. He was advised to transfer £5000 from his miners pension to Prudential. His pension was nowhere near as good as it would have been if he had stayed in the miners scheme. We obtained a lump sum payment of £53,302.

Example 4 - £82,000

Mr R is a former miner from **HOUGHTON LE SPRING**. In 1991 he was persuaded by an agent of the Prudential to transfer £5600 from his miners pension to them. He received a poor pension and we were able to show the advice was bad and secured compensation of £82,877.

If you transferred out of the British Coal Pension Scheme and would like a **FREE REVIEW**, please either call us on **FREEPHONE:**

0800 988 7997
or return the form below

Did you transfer on the advice of any of the following:

- An Independent Advisor
- Scottish Amicable
- Prudential
- Sun Life
- Scottish Widows
- Pearl assurance
- Phoenix Life
- Legal and General
- Co-Op
- Friends Life
- Friends Provident
- Allied Dunbar
- Windsor Life
- Scottish Equitable
- Abbey Life
- Lloyds TSB
- Reassure
- Aviva
- Aegon
- Agincourt
- Bale Insurance Services
- Mansion House Financial
- Northern Financial Management
- Braemar Financial Planning
- Houlder Financial Services
- John Robert Wood Esq
- Mentor Financial

Name

Address

Tel

I transferred out of the mineworkers pension to

Please can I have a Free Review to see if I am eligible for a payout ☒

Signed

Date

Please address to: Miners Pension Compensation Dept, Corries Solicitors Ltd, 11 Melroses Yard, Walmgate, York, YO1 9XF.

Miners Pension Compensation is a trading name of Corries Solicitors Ltd, Melroses Yard, Walmgate, York YO1 9XF. Regulated by Solicitors Regulation Authority no. 424101.

Chief Constable Barton to Retire in the Summer



After 39 years in uniform and seven years running Britain's best performing police force, Durham's top cop has revealed plans to step down on June 7.

This week, Mr Barton, who led Durham to three successive Outstanding ratings in the annual Peel inspections, confirmed his retirement in a letter sent with "mixed emotions" to Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg. Chief Constable Barton

said: "There remain many challenges in policing that I would have relished tackling, but there comes a time when one should hand the baton to the next generation of talented and committed people who will bring their own style, thinking and approach". In response, Mr Hogg said he had been "very fortunate to have such a dedicated, forward-thinking and passionate" chief constable during his term in office.

100 Children Take Part in Fitness Extravaganza



COMPETITIVE

1st Dean Bank
2nd Vane Road
3rd Sedgefield Hardwick

PARTICIPATION

1st Cotherstone
2nd Sedgefield Hardwick
3rd Dean Bank

100 children from 8 primary schools participated in the inaugural Fit for Life Festival this week at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The children took part in a carousel of activities which included skill stations and workout stations. The event is the first of its kind to be delivered to Primary School children in the area. The children enjoyed learning new skills including barbell movements with a plastic pipe and weighted medicine ball movements. The workouts the children took part in tested their fitness and determination, as well as their teamwork skills as they worked in teams of 2, 4 or 6. The event had

two sections competitive and participation. The competitive section was scored on the total number of reps completed in a workout. The participation section was scored on the level of perceived intensity reached and their teamwork skills. All children were fantastic at the event and now have the opportunity to join two community clubs that will start next week:

Tuesday Nights
4.45pm-5.30pm
at Aycliffe Leisure Centre
Thursday Nights
4.15pm-5pm
Ferryhill Sport & Education Centre
The clubs are open for ages 7-11 and open to all abilities.

Retro Day at Darlo F.C.

Darlington fans are being encouraged to wear their old shirts and maybe win a prize when the club stages its "Retro Day" against Chester this weekend.

The club has had a variety of contemporary fashionable shirts over the years using an imaginative array of colours and designs, and now fans have their chance to dig them out of the attic and wear them for the game against Chester.

And there are also some good prizes at stake on Saturday. The club's photographers will be walking around the ground taking photos of fans wearing old shirts, and three images will be chosen at random to win a 2019-20 season ticket, a home shirt and a table in hospitality for the game of the winner's choice.

Quakers need the points from the game on Saturday, because they dropped a place in the table to 17th, seven points above the relegation zone, when they were beaten 4-2 at Hereford last weekend after being 2-0 up at one stage.

Chester are quite familiar to Quakers, the two clubs having played each other over 50 times in the Football League over the years, and since those days, both have suffered turmoil and enforced relegations to a lower level.

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Saturday



Ready, Sett, Splash

Swimming pool fun and games for your little one

Ready, Sett, Splash is a fun session for young children to help build their confidence in the water. Sessions are suitable for children aged 2-6 years with an adult and include 30 minutes of instructor led fun and games. Followed by 30 minutes of free time in the pool to practice.

Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Saturday 2pm - 3pm

£4 per session

Call or visit your local leisure centre or book online at
www.durham.gov.uk/swimming

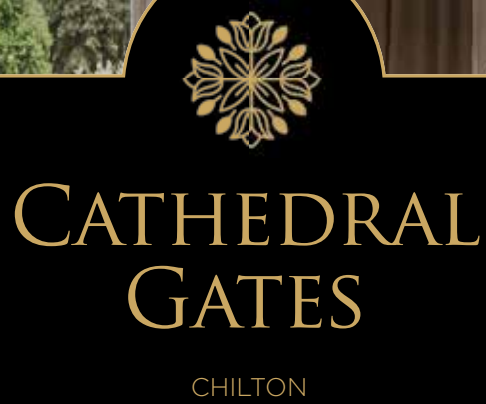
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- Timber core composite door, wood grain effect, secured by Design and PAS 24 accreditation


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 4 bedroom





 **The Abbey**

 3 units
 3 bedroom



 **The Canterbury**

 7 units
 3 bedroom

To register your interest go to **www.homesbycarlton.com/magicalmarch** or call our sales representative on **01740 73 10 20** for more information



Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Some important Council meetings this week, a prestigious award won, a campaign to support ... and some amazing things to do with the family next weekend. Find more information on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB103

And don't forget to join me on Political Aycliffe Radio, 6-7:30pm, Sunday 17 March, where the 'Big Story' will be Trade Unions: bit.ly/ARLIVE

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- Special DCC Economy Scrutiny meeting, Monday 11 March (Industrial Strategy; Private Sector housing).
- GATC Policy & Resources Committee, Wednesday 6 March (Councillors' allowances; golf course machinery; footpath resurfacing).
- Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway meeting, Thursday 7 March.
- International Women's Day with the Women's Banner Group, Friday 8 March.
- Blue plaque campaign launched to celebrate women's part in making the North great.
- County Durham Fire & Rescue Service won Fire & Rescue Service of the Year 2019 at the IPSE Public Sector Transformation

Awards held in London on 6 March.

- PCVC Ron Hogg is hosting a 'Modern Slavery is closer than you think' business event.

• Victims of #modernslavery are often hidden in plain sight; if you believe someone is trapped in a situation or has been coerced or deceived, report it on 08000 121 700.

• Good news for Aycliffe Business Park firms Crafter's Companion, Mobile Rocket and Homes By Carlton.

THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEK

- Spring Equinox nature walk (all ages), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am Wednesday 20 March (no dogs), call 0191 584 3112.
- Dinosaur World Live, Darlington Hippodrome, shows from 4:30pm Friday 22 March to 2:00pm Sunday 24 March, £14.
- Easter Wonderland Family Fun Event, Durham Castle, 11am-4pm Saturday 23 March, FREE but book on 0191 334 2932.
- Holi Festival (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop in noon-5pm Saturday 23 March, £4.
- Plumes and Pom Poms of the DLI (5-11s), Palace Green Library, drop in 1-3pm 23-24 March, FREE.

Finding your Ancestors

A family history session will invite people to trace their family back to the Victorian workhouse.

Durham County Record Office's Branching Out series offers family history courses for those ready to move on from the basics.

The next session will revisit the Victorian workhouse where those too poor to support themselves were sent to live and work as inmates, given tasks such as unpicking rope or cleaning, depending on age and health. The talk will also help people to trace workhouse staff, including doctors, teachers and chaplains as well as clerical staff.

Attendees to the talk can learn about daily life in the workhouse, for both staff and inmates, and how to use surviving records for personal research.

Dawn Layland, education archivist at Durham County Record Office, said: "The Victorian working classes dreaded the workhouse and with good reason. It was a very strict, institutional place where, for example, married couples were sent to separate male and female wards and parents were separated from their children.

"This talk will tell you more about the workhouse, but also how to trace ancestors who were inmates or staff. It has been an extremely popular topic in previous sessions."

The session runs on Thursday 21 March, 10am to 12 noon and Monday 25 March, 6pm to 8pm.

As with all Branching Out sessions, there will be an hour after the talk to browse and use the Record Office research facilities, with support from an archivist.

Tickets must be booked in advance and are priced at £10 per person. Book online at <https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgEventResult> or call 03000 267 619.

Thank You

Dear Sir,

I have experienced a terrible tragedy within my family and suffered a great loss very unexpectedly in September last year.

The first people to reach out was my children's school, Woodham Burn Primary. Mrs. Robinson has been there from the very start, and still to this day, with her physical and emotional support to myself, my husband and our children. She helped us out during the Christmas period with donations, including toys, food and school uniforms. They allowed my youngest child to stay in school for full days, so I could go to appointments and help my family through the hard times.

We would like to express our gratitude to them and to tell them we really are grateful to have such a caring community around us and are very much thankful for the kindness that Mrs Robinson has shown us.

Name & Address Supplied

Fundraising Continues as Local Charity Plans Pop-up Boutique

North-East leading health and wellbeing charity Pioneering Care Partnership are full steam ahead with their fundraising efforts for the 'Dive In!' Hydrotherapy Pool campaign.

The Customer Service staff of the Pioneering Care Centre are inviting the public to come along to their pop-up boutique, which will be in the Forster Room of the centre Thursday, 28th March from 10.30 – 15.30. Find items perfect for you in a decorated room equipped with a changing and seating area for you and your friends to try before you buy, or sit and relax with refreshments from the centres Garden Kitchen.

Discover perfect pre-loved items – some with the tags still attached! Hunt for bargains including shoes, bags and much more! All proceeds made from the boutique will be going to the Hydrotherapy Pool campaign for PCP.

If you would like to donate your pre-loved good quality items to a worthy cause; please bring them to the Pioneering Care Centre.

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

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories.

We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Paul
01325 300212
or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

CHARITY NIGHT

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL - 7pm

Newton Aycliffe WMC

£5 per ticket

With Entertainment from
Our very own **CHRISSY**
& The Hudson Sisters

Plus Raffle and Fundraising Games

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& IN AID OF



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Great Aycliffe Town Council NEWSLETTER



15th March 2019

Telephone: 01325 300700 • Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY



The Town Council has some great events scheduled for the Summer together with local organisations and groups who have been awarded funding to assist with the cost of organising their events.

The following is a list of dates for the Summer events programme, however, there may be others added so check our website for up to date information (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)



BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY AND EGG HUNT	Oakleaf Sports Complex	Sun 21st April Morning	£1 games and egg hunt or £3.50 to include breakfast
MUSIC IN MAY - LIVE BAND 'SMOKIN' SPITFIRES'	The County, Aycliffe Village organised by Acle Scouts	Sat 4th May 6.30pm - 11pm	Evening, £20 per person
SKATE COMPETITION & DEMONSTRATIONS	Town Park	Sat 25th May 11am - 4pm	Free
SENIOR CITIZENS EXCURSIONS	Various	Mon 3rd June - Tues 9th July	Free
LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL	Town Centre organised by Aycliffe Radio	Sat 8th & Sun 9th June 12 noon – 6pm	Free
PARTY IN THE PARK - DURHAM BRASS FESTIVAL	Town Park in conjunction with DCC	Sun 14th July Afternoon	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Town Park	Wed 24th July	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Oakleaf Sports Complex	Fri 26th July Animal Theme	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Woodham Park	Wed 31st July Adventure Theme	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	St. Oswald's Park	Fri 2nd August Teddy Bears Picnic	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Moore Lane Park	Wed 7th August Circus Theme	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Horndale Park	Fri 9th August Paw Patrol Theme	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Aycliffe Village Park	Wed 14th August Disney Theme	Free
FUN IN THE PARK	Simpasture Park	Fri 16th August	Free



Senior Citizens Excursions



The 'Trips' will commence on Monday 3rd June, 2019. To be eligible you **MUST** be a resident of the Electoral Parish and 60 years of age before the 1st April in the year of travel.

The application forms and full itineraries will be available from Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, the Library, Council Offices, Oakleaf Sports and Golf Complexes and our website from **9.00 am on Wednesday 24th April**.

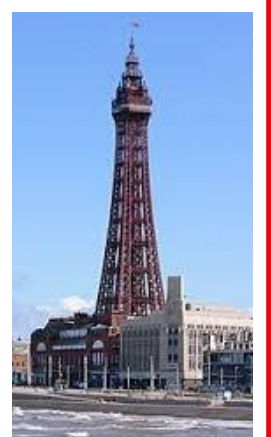
Venues for 2019 will be Scarborough, Berwick, South Shields, Keswick, Blackpool and Alnwick.

Just choose your venue and date of travel (from the schedule) and we provide a three-course meal with tea or coffee in

a good quality establishment. On most of the excursions we also have a comfort stop on the outward and/or return journeys.

Transport is by executive coach with toilet facilities. Some coaches have a wheelchair hoist to enable people with mobility problems to get onto the coach without using the steps at the front, or to enable wheelchair users to remain in their chair whilst travelling.

If you have a query regarding your entitlement to book an excursion, please telephone 01325 300700.



Great Aycliffe Town Council 2019/20 Budget and Council Tax Setting Update

Introduction

The Town Council has recently met to agree its Revenue and Capital Budget and set the Precept and Council Tax increase for the forthcoming 2019/20 financial year.

We appreciate that the budget that we set is important to our local community, both in terms of how our spending plans impact on the provision of services and investment in assets for the benefit of our town, and also in how the budget affects the level of council tax that local householders pay.

We are aware that the proposal to increase the Town Council element of the Council Tax bill by 5% this year has created a lot of interest, comments and debate in the local community, particularly on social media, in recent weeks.

The purpose of this newsletter article is to provide some background information around the budget setting process and the reasoning behind the 5% increase in the council tax, whilst also providing some factual information around the council tax system and the Council's financial situation, in response to some of the comments made on social media.

Current Financial Situation

The Council's is currently in a relatively strong financial situation with continued delivery of savings on the Revenue Budget in the current financial year, capital investment in pursuit of the delivery of the Council's Asset Management Plan, tax base growth from new housing development, and healthy levels of balances and reserves.

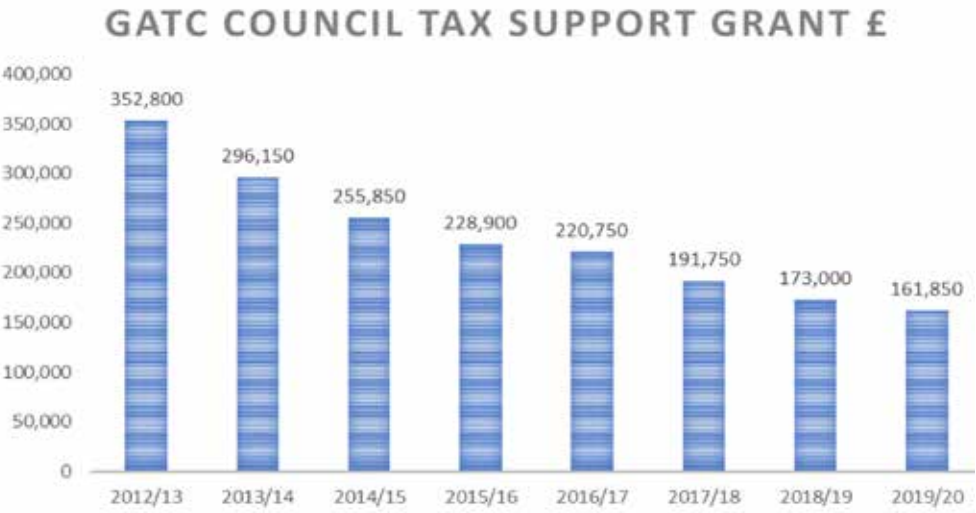
This healthy financial situation has been made possible by the careful management of the Council's finances over an extended period by Council Members and officers, underpinned by strong budgetary control, proactive financial planning, delivery of year on year efficiency savings, effective procurement and asset management, and the generation of additional income.

However, the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan highlights that the Council is facing an increasingly challenging future and as such must ensure that it prudently plans ahead for the difficulties that it will face in the coming years.

Future Financial Challenges Faced

Council Tax Support Grant Funding Cuts

The Council is suffering year on year cuts to the Council Tax Support Grant on which it is reliant. The cuts to this funding since 2012/13 are highlighted in the graph below:-



This funding is linked to the government's grant allocation for local government and current indications suggest the grant will be cut by a further £50,000 or 30% over the next four years.

Increases in Staffing Costs

The Council faces significant increases in its staffing costs over the medium term linked to rises in the National Living Wage and the proportionately higher pay increases for lower paid staff implemented by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services via the Local Government Pay Agreement.

The latest local government pay agreement implements a minimum local government pay rate of £9.00 per hour, with annual increases of up to 6% for lower paid staff, and 2% for all other staff. The Council employs a high proportion of staff in the lower pay grades, and the pay award for 2019/20 will amount to a year on year increase in the Council's staffing costs of 4%.

On top of this, the Council has also needed to undertake a review of the lower end of its staff grading structure to deal with the significant erosion of differentials between jobs with varying levels of responsibility, caused by the above issues.

The ongoing increases in the National Living Wage and proportionately higher annual pay awards for low paid staff are likely to be an ongoing budget pressure for the Council in future years.

Other Revenue Budget Pressures

The Council faces a number of other budget pressures including future pension contribution increases, inflation on running costs, possible pressure to take on services from Durham County Council and increasing requests for financial assistance from community organisations.

Government Limit on Town Council Tax Increases

The financing of these funding cuts and spending pressures is made more difficult by the fact that the Council could be made subject to a Government limit in terms of how much it can increase the council tax without being required to hold a public referendum from 2021/22 onwards.

Future Capital Investment Commitments

Another major financial challenge identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan is the fact that the Council has potentially substantial capital investment commitments over the next five years of more than £1 million, whilst longer term commitments over the ten-year period of the Council's Asset Management Plan total more than £2 million.

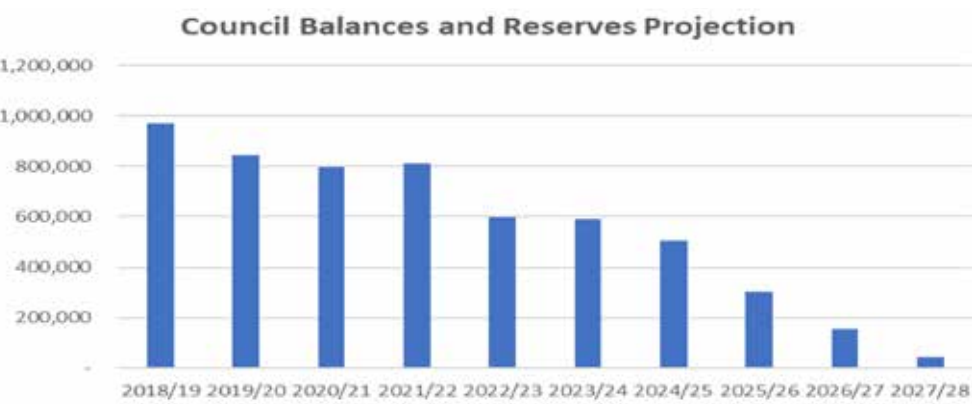


These capital investment commitments relate to essential investment in Council and community assets such as buildings, works vehicles and machinery, parks and play areas, office equipment and street equipment

The funding of this capital investment and ensuring that sufficient balances and reserves are available over the longer term is a key budget challenge facing the Council.

Forecast Fall in the Council's Balances and Reserves

The funding of this capital investment presents a risk that Council balances and reserves will fall significantly and could even run out by the end of the next decade, if they cannot be replenished by Revenue Budget savings, capital receipts or council tax base growth.



The issue of how to ensure the replenishment of the Council's earmarked capital reserves is one of the major challenges that needed to be addressed by the Medium-Term Financial Plan and was therefore a key consideration in the setting of the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget.

A major part of the reason for implementing a 5% increase in the town council proportion of the council tax bill was to put in place an annual contribution to capital reserves to facilitate the replenishment of the Council's balances. If the Council had not taken this action it is likely that its balances and reserves would have run out within five years.

The Council's 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget

The 2019/20 Revenue Budget was prepared on the principle of protecting and maintaining all current services, facilities and events next year.

The setting of the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget also needed to recognise the longer-term budget pressures faced and the need to maintain contingency resources, whilst addressing the key risk identified in the Medium-Term Financial Plan relating to the forecast reduction in the level of the Council's balances and reserves and ensuring the replenishment of those balances moving forward.

As a result, the Council agreed to set its 2019/20 Net Revenue Budget, as represented by the Precept at £1,661,050, an increase of £90,050 or 5.7%.

Full details of the Council's 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budget, including the background to the budget setting and key increases and decreases, can be viewed on the finance section of the Council website.

2019/20 Council Tax Increase

The Town Council proportion of the overall Council Tax bill is calculated using the Council Tax Base for the Parish. This is a statutory calculation of the total number of chargeable properties in the area for council tax purposes and is calculated by Durham County Council as the council tax billing authority.

The Tax Base calculation takes the total number of properties in the Parish and adjusts this to reflect property values in the area, as well as the number of households in receipt of council tax benefits, exemptions and discounts, and the council tax collection rate achieved by the County Council.

The Precept divided by the Tax Base provides the Band D Council Tax figure.

Durham County Council notified the Council that the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 has increased by 48 properties from 6,743 to 6,791, driven by new housing development in the Parish.

The 2019/20 Council Precept of £1,661,050 divided by the 2019/20 Tax Base of 6,791 results in a 2019/20 Band D Town Council Tax of £244.59 per year.

This represents an increase of £11.62 per year or 97p a month on the 2019/20 Band D Council Tax.

However, it is important to note that around six out of every ten of the properties in Great Aycliffe fall within Council Tax Band A and therefore pay only two thirds of the Band D Council Tax.

The 2019/20 Band A Council Tax is £163.06 per year which equates to around £14 per month or £3 per week. This is an increase of £7.75 per year or 65p per month.

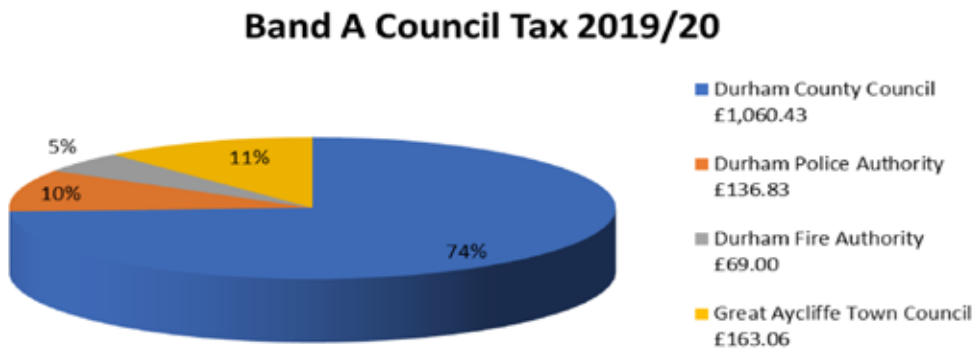
The Council appreciates that any increase in the monthly outgoings of our local taxpayers will not be popular, and the decision to increase the Town Council Tax has not been taken lightly.

However, we hope you will agree that a monthly increase of 65p is a modest price to pay to ensure that all of the important services provided by the Town Council to the community of Great Aycliffe can be protected for another year, whilst ensuring that a sufficient level of contingency sum and replenishment of council balances is maintained to help steer the Council through the difficult times that lie ahead.

We feel it is important to clarify that the Town Council makes up only a small part of the total Council Tax bill that we all pay.

A breakdown of the 2019/20 Council Tax is shown below demonstrating that 11p in every £1 of the total Council Tax comes to the Town Council.

Of the remaining 89p in every £1, 74p funds Durham County Council, 10p funds the Police and 5p funds the Fire Service.



It is also important to point out that over the last ten years, the Council has kept the increase in the Town Council Tax well below the rate of inflation with an average increase over the period of 1.75% including not increasing the Council Tax for four years between 2010 and 2013, as shown in the table below:-

Year	Band D	Increase	% Rise	Band A	Increase	% Rise
2010/11	£205.81	£-0.31	-0.15%	£137.21	£-0.21	-0.15%
2011/12	£204.10	£-1.71	-0.83%	£136.06	£-1.15	-0.83%
2012/13	£204.10	£0.00	0.00%	£136.06	£0.00	0.00%
2013/14	£204.10	£0.00	0.00%	£136.06	£0.00	0.00%
2014/15	£209.18	£5.08	2.49%	£139.45	£3.39	2.49%
2015/16	£213.32	£4.14	1.98%	£142.21	£2.76	1.98%
2016/17	£217.57	£4.25	1.99%	£145.04	£2.83	1.99%
2017/18	£221.89	£4.32	1.99%	£147.93	£2.89	1.99%
2018/19	£232.97	£11.08	4.99%	£155.31	£7.38	4.99%
2019/20	£244.59	£11.62	4.99%	£163.06	£7.75	4.99%
Total Increase		£38.47	17.45%		£25.64	17.45%
Average per Year		£3.85	1.75%		£2.56	1.75%

National Council Tax System

It is also important to clarify how the national Council Tax system works and how this system disadvantages councils in the North of England.

Council tax is calculated based on property values, via a calculation known as the Tax Base. As highlighted earlier, the Tax Base calculation reflects a number of factors including the number of properties in the Parish, the value of those properties, numbers of empty properties, single person households and the number of households in receipt of council tax benefits or reductions.

The higher the property values in an area and the lower the incidence of empty properties and council tax benefits, the higher the Council Tax Base will be.

The opposite is true in less affluent areas.

For example, in Great Aycliffe there are more than 12,000 properties, but our Tax Base is less than 7,000. This is because a high proportion of those properties are low value and in receipt of Council Tax Benefits.

There is therefore a clear advantage in the council tax system for council’s in more affluent areas.

In simple terms the higher the Council Tax Base is, the lower the council tax needs to be set. A lower Tax Base results in council tax needing to be set at a higher level.

Another important factor to note is that the Council Tax that must be statutorily reported is the Valuation Band D figure.

This is the reason why council tax bills appear to be higher in the North East and why Great Aycliffe Town Council’s Council Tax appears high in comparison to Council’s elsewhere in the county and country.

This is because 6 in 10 households in our Parish are currently valued in Council Tax Band A, with nearly 9 out of 10 households in Valuation Bands A to C.

The actual council tax paid by most households in Great Aycliffe is therefore much less than the widely reported Band D figure.

Conversely, most households in more affluent areas such as Sedgefield and City of Durham, are in the higher council tax valuation bands and therefore pay much more than the Band D figure.

Making comparisons based on the Band D figure can therefore be very misleading.

Council Services and Subsidies

We also feel it is important to clarify that all Town Council services are run at a net cost to the council tax payer.

This is not uncommon in the public sector as Council’s tend to provide the services that the private sector will not provide i.e. those that do not make a profit, and are more likely to provide services free or at a subsidised cost e.g. parks, events etc.

Whilst for example the golf and sports complex are both run at a deficit to the local taxpayer, the same is true of every other service that the Council provides e.g. pre-schools, cemeteries, allotments, and events.

In fact, some of the services provided by the Council do not actually generate any income at all e.g. flower beds, the environment, parks and play areas.

How to Get Involved and Hold the Council to Account

Whilst we do monitor the local press and social media, the Council can only respond formally to issues raised directly with it.

There are many ways to do this including telephoning, emailing or private messaging the Council via social media to raise an issue or concern, contacting your local Town Councillor, or attending a meeting of the Council and submitting a formal question via the Public Questions Section of the Agenda.

If an issue is not dealt with to your satisfaction the Council also has a formal Comments and Complaints Procedure.

Transparency and Publishing of Information

The Council prides itself on its data transparency arrangements and goes over and above the statutory requirements for publishing information.

The agendas, minutes and supporting reports for all meetings are published on the Council website, as well as contact details for all members and officers, details of Council land and property, news, performance information, plans and targets.

There are specific pages for each service provided and a dedicated finance section under which all budgets, accounts, financial plans and policies, fees and charges, spending and income records, payments over £500, senior officer pay, procurement information, members’ allowances, and staffing structures are published.

The Council is also increasing the amount of information and news published on social media such as Facebook and Twitter, so please do ‘like’ or ‘follow’ us.



www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

School Aycliffe Lane
Newton Aycliffe
Co Durham
DL5 6QZ
Tel no 01325 300600



MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH

Sunday 31st March

Served in the Function room between 12noon & 2pm

2 Course Carvery

£9.50 per adult - £6.50 per child (under 12's)

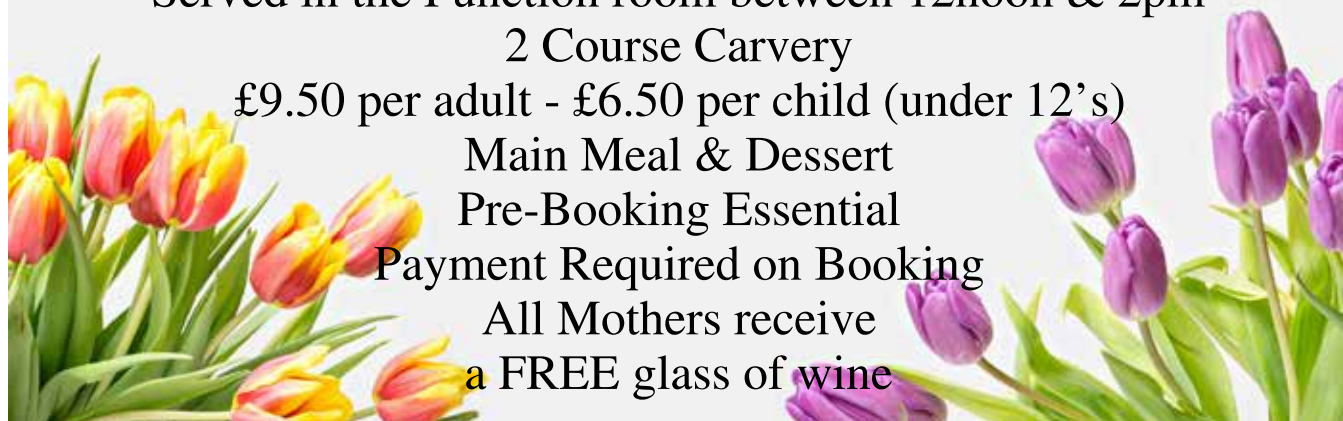
Main Meal & Dessert

Pre-Booking Essential

Payment Required on Booking

All Mothers receive

a FREE glass of wine



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Sunday 21st April

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny plus Egg Hunt

10am - 12noon

£3.50 per child

OR just come to our Egg Hunt

from 11am until 12noon

for £1 per child

(includes small gift from the Easter Bunny)

Adults may also purchase breakfast for £5



BOWLS

DROP IN SESSION

Starting Wednesday 1st May, 6.30pm - 8.30pm
for 10 weeks

Never played before? Well, why not come along and give it a go! A great way to meet new people.

BEGINNERS ONLY - £1 per week

Just bring your own carpet slippers or bowling shoes, but don't worry if you don't have any, we have all the equipment needed.

Meals, snacks and hot drinks available from the bar.



Special Offer

Play between 1pm and 5pm Monday to Friday
£10 per round (adult) & £7.50 per round (concessions)

Golf Memberships Unlimited 'til 31 March 2020

18-hole course, floodlit driving range, buggy hire, changing facilities & shop. Coaching from PGA Pro Ralph Givens. Bar and catering available at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

Adult 7 day	£385	*19 - 24	£125
Adult 5 day	£340	Junior 15 -18	£50
Over 60 - 7 Day	£340	Junior (14 & under)	Free
Over 60 - 5 Day	£290	*In Full Time Education	

Visiting Party Package Available

Driving Range
£2.50 small
£4.50 large

Green Fees
Mon - Fri £13
Weekends £16

Tel: 01325 310820 or see www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk for further details

PRE-SCHOOLS - VACANCIES

Please note that we currently have spaces available in our 'Tots in the Park' facility. We accept golden tickets, which entitle children up to 15 hours free childcare and in our pre-school room children can access both the 15/30 hour entitlement. Further information



or to arrange a viewing of our facilities please contact Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager) on 07968 379 009.



Recyclers Reminded to Avoid Using Black Bags in Blue Bins

Residents are being reminded not to place items in black bags when they fill their recycling bins and boxes as part of a campaign to reduce contamination.

Durham County Council's Recycling Matters campaign aims to educate residents about what can and cannot be recycled.

One mistake people can sometimes make when recycling is putting items within black bin liners. It may seem like a clean and organised approach but it prevents crews and sorters at recycling plants from seeing what is inside. This makes the process more time consuming, as the bags need to be opened, costly and potentially dangerous if sharp objects are included.

To help raise awareness, the authority has arranged for new 'no black bag' stickers to be attached to all recycling bins in County Durham in the new year.

Oliver Sherratt, head of direct services at Durham County Council, said: "Eighty-five per cent of household recycling collected in County Durham can be reprocessed into new materials, which is fantastic and we would like to thank residents for their support."

"However, this means that 15 per cent of what we collect can't be recycled and should



not have been included in that bin. Black bin liners are a good example, as not only can we not recycle them, but our crews cannot see what is inside.

"It may be good recyclable materials or contaminations, such as food waste or nappies, but sometimes black bags and their contents are discarded at recycling plants, especially during busy times."

"We have produced these stickers to remind residents to only include loose clean items in their recycling bins and boxes. We are already doing a great job when it comes to recycling here in County Durham, and by acting on this simple reminder we can do even better."

Residents are encouraged to place plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles in their blue bins, along with cans, aerosols, foil, paper and cardboard. Glass bottles and jars should go into the recycling box.

All objects should be clean and dry, and any excess recycling should be placed in a clear plastic bag next to the recycling bin.

Recycling properly not only helps the environment - with every recycled can saving enough energy to run a television for four hours - but it is also financially rewarding. In fact, it costs Durham County Council three times more to dispose of general household waste than recycling.

However, if contamination levels get too high, the authority could receive financial penalties that can run into thousands of pounds.

For more information about what can and cannot be recycled in County Durham, visit www.durham.gov.uk/recycling

Which of our County Councillors will be Cycling or Walking to County Hall for their Meetings?

Dear Sir,
I was dismayed to see DCC's Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan go through without amendment, having responded to consultation on it. It was, unfortunately, evident that the weight of responses were from walking and cycling groups, with vested interests, in support of the Plan, rather than car drivers being discriminated against by it. I guess motorists felt unaffected by the plan (which is not the case), or that there was no point in responding, because they would be ignored, or they were unaware of the consultation.

The plan gives priority to cyclists and walkers over motorists and targets scarce public money into developing specialised cycling routes, one aim being to get people to cycle rather than drive. Meanwhile car users have to endure increasingly pot-holed and boded roads because there are insufficient public funds to repair them properly. I am a keen cyclist and walker, and a car user, but I strongly object to the approach of prioritising cyclists and walkers over motorists. Having cars standing around and waiting for cyclists and pedestrians while throwing off emissions is bad for the environment, and it is inappropriate to inconvenience the majority of travellers for the sake of a few cyclists and walkers. I feel that all travellers should have equal priority and car users should not be discriminated against.

Cycling and walking are great recreational activities to fill spare time and get a work out, but for the vast majority of people, they are not feasible ways of getting to work, especially in bad weather. If you are a factory floor worker working a mile or two from home, cycling to work may be a good option. If you are a clerical worker, you are unlikely to want to arrive at work covered in spray from the road, and oil from the chain, sweaty, possibly soaking wet. You will need to dress twice - cycling clothes at home, office clothes at work, after a shower at work. You may have to dry off your cycling clothes and/or bike - and you will need to change back into your cycling clothes later to return home, where you will probably change clothes again! You may be working an 8 hour day and have family to look after. You don't have time for all this!

There is a place for cycling to work, but to expect huge numbers to do it is pie in the sky, and focus should be on ensuring there is good, cheap, convenient public transport and good roads and workplace parking so that drivers are not wasting fuel, giving off emissions finding a place to park. In the real world, only the keenest cyclists will travel more than a few miles to work, especially as this is an undulating county - not the Netherlands, Belgium or Denmark - and cycling is a strenuous activity for many people.

Safety is rightly a key strand of the draft plan, but cycling carries obvious dangers, notably of falling off, especially in icy conditions. The risk is greater for older people, yet more of these are being encouraged to cycle. Some will be able to cycle, but many won't - many older people are in fact moving onto disabled scooters, which are themselves a risk to pedestrians, but quite necessary for many otherwise house bound people. There is also the problem of bikes (especially kids' bikes) being left outside shop entrances, which often represent a serious trip hazard.

The Plan's claim that walkers and cyclists spend more at shops than car users is very hard to believe - most of the people I know do their main grocery shopping in their cars, as this is the best and healthiest way to transport large numbers of bags which need to be got home before the frozen goods defrost. Others

use taxis (which are also cars!).

I have used the Locomotion Way once since it was surfaced, and there were a few users on it, but I also used it before it was surfaced, and there were people using it then too. It is a good route, and a welcome development, but whether it was best use of taxpayers' money is another matter. This applies moreso to a number of routes in the County, which often look great and are good when you use

them, but they don't appear to have much use at all, certainly not as much use as one would think would be justified by the likely expenditure (£2.7M on infrastructure from 2012-15 is a significant sum for a few users, and this will need to be maintained at further cost).

I would like to ask which of our County councillors will be cycling or walking to County Hall for their meetings to demonstrate their support of the Plan they have adopted?

John Snowball

PILATES CLASSES

Held Every Tuesday 1.30pm to 2.30pm
at Woodham Village Community Centre
Suitable for all levels - Call **07825 290866** for details



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 10th April 2019 - 7.15pm

Environment Committee

Followed by **Recreation Committee**

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

Hall Properties

Sales & Lettings

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Let us sell your home
Fixed Sales Fee **£795**

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- No Tie in Contract, No Cancellation Fees

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£20.00 per week

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Now Available, £55 per month

House Contents • Small Businesses • Car Storage
24/7 CCTV and Guards Patrolling • Established 2008

Contact Allan on **07496 423440**
email: sangsteralchris@aol.com

(DURHAM WAY NORTH, AYCLIFFE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2019

The Council on 08/03/2019 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on 560 mtrs of Durham Way North southerly and westerly between its junctions with St Cuthberts Way and Woodham Way (crossing the junctions with Redworth Way & Carlbury Way), Aycliffe Ind Est to enable carriageway resurfacing works. The alternative route is from the north side of the closure from St Cuthberts Way westerly along Horndale Avenue, southerly along Whinbank Rd leading to the junctions with Redworth Way and Whitworth Ave to the western and southern sides of the closure, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The works are expected to commence from 7am on 23/03/2019 and are anticipated to be completed in 8 days between 7am and 7pm by 01/04/2019. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 15 March 2019



Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL



Charity Auction & Raffle Night

Hosted by Nick Whitehead

Live Entertainment
by Singer Tom Wyllie

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH 7pm - 11.30pm

Tickets £15 inc. Hot Food



Come & Celebrate Your Town Centre Church

On Saturday March 23rd the Parish church of St. Clare's is holding their annual "Daffodil Coffee Morning Appeal". All funds raised on this morning go towards the upkeep of this church which has always been there for our towns people. Please come along and show your support for the many times the church has been there for YOU.

Enjoy a bacon buttie with a cuppa while you have a natter with our Mother's Union members who organise this get together. There will be a packed home made cake stall at ridiculous prices, along with a super raffle and tombola prizes. There will also be an Usborne book stall along with crafts and books on sale.

We really look forward to seeing you there, why not bring your family or a friend along. This church has supported all in our town for over fifty years, so please try show your support, we really would appreciate it.

Entry is free.
Thank you.

CO. DURHAM ACTION PLAN AIMS TO GET MORE YOUNGSTERS INTO GOLF

An action plan has been launched to get more young people playing golf and joining clubs in Co Durham. The four year plan has been drawn up by the Durham men's union and women's county association, working in partnership with England Golf, to offer more

opportunities to youngsters. Christine Mair, Chair of the Durham Golf Development Group, said: "We've got some great successes, like club events and coaching, county competitions, the Northern Junior Golf Tour, the Order of Merit and Girls Golf Rocks. We're also thrilled

that 11 young people from Co Durham are currently studying at university in the USA on golf scholarships. "So, we know there's plenty of interest in golf. But we want to get more young people involved. This plan will help us to show them that golf is a great game and

that golf clubs are a good place to be, where they can enjoy themselves with their friends." Lee Dolby, England Golf Young People Manager, added: "It has been really good to work with the county to help them look at how they plan to grow participation amongst young people and change their perception of the sport.

"We hope that the clubs will support this plan and get involved with the projects so that we can be successful." The aims of the new plan include getting clubs to sign a junior pledge to develop the game; to have a junior action plan in place by 2022; and to offer short courses or forward

tees. It also wants to encourage clubs to put players forward for county coaching and to have 30 clubs playing in the Durham County League by 2022.

The plan also envisages 30 clubs achieving the SafeGolf accreditation by 2022, to show they offer a safe place for young golfers.

The county organisations will be providing six-monthly updates on progress.

• Durham is one of five counties working with England Golf on special projects to get more juniors involved in the sport. The others are Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire & Herefordshire and Somerset.

Juniors Football Report



The wet weather led to a number of postponements this week as pitches were left waterlogged. A few of the Aycliffe Juniors football teams did manage to get their games on.

The **Under 7's Whites** played in an exciting four all draw with Crook Town Hornets. Man of the match Jack R scored a hatrick and Tyler also scored.

The **Under 8's** played the last game of their league season away at Darlington Spraire Lads. Evan and man of the match Alex scored in a 6-2 defeat. The

development game ended with a 2-1 victory with Sam and Layton scoring the goals.

The **Under 10's Claret** played away at Darlington 21st All Stars. Both teams took time to settle in to a game played in bitterly cold conditions. Aycliffe managed to equalise twice after going 1-0 and then 2-1 behind and they went on to get a late winner to make the final score 3-2 to Aycliffe. The scorers were Ashton (2) and Danny with Kai named as the man of the match.

The **Under 11's Black** were involved in a great game against South Park Rangers. Rhys scored the first goal but South Park went on to build a 3-1 lead. Aycliffe then showed great improvement with Charlie and Jake scoring to bring the scores level. Rhys' second goal capped a great comeback to win the game 4-3. The whole team were named as men of the match. The **Under 11's White** lost out 3-1 to Hartlepool FC. The goal was scored by Harvey Lee and the man of the match was Jack Lewis.

Youthy Football Round Up



U12 Falcons 7 South Park Rangers 2

The Falcons travelled to South Park Rangers on a wet and freezing day. In horrendous conditions the lads really did go out and show what they are all about. Great display and despite being stood there soaked and freezing it was a pleasure watching them play. Today was possibly one of our most attacking performances this season with everyone really pushing forward when they saw the opportunity. Great bravery from all the players to take ownership of their own game. Calm in possession and always played with the best intentions. From the Goalkeeper right through the team all players were excellent. Keep it going lads.

Goals from Dylan, Travis, Zack and Aiden. MOM was Travis - he came on from the bench and really was a menace to the opposing defence. He helped us push their team back allowing other players the space to capitalise. Not forgetting also bagging two goals himself. Tough man of the match to pick today because all of the players were worthy of it in my eyes. Well done all.

NAYFC Angels Blue

Boldon Girls v NAYFC Angels Blue

Nine girls arrived for their second cup game, and what an explosive match this was against the current unbeaten premiership champions.

The game kicked off to lots of passing and movement, and the teamwork was top drawer. Angels led with an early goal from Charli, however Boldon then got organised and used their shape to their advantage. Erin in goal came out to several balls, sweeping them away, putting pressure on the attack and getting some great saves in. With Boldon remaining on the attack, they proceeded to get three goals in succession therefore the Angels changed tactics. Our defence held fast with blocks from Evie and tackles and runs from Macie and Ella - allowing Heidi and Isobel to push forward. Ella made countless tackles to then direct the ball with precision upfield and Heidi was relentless in her runs. Many goal attempts and many smiles...the girls were having fun and visibly on the attack. They pushed hard and found themselves running on the ball with fluid passes. Macie made a great run up the wing and a tap pass across to Isobel converted solidly to pull us a goal back on the half time whistle.

Going into the second half down a goal, the Angels were challenged to keep their shape and go towards the ball rather than waiting for it. This was a close game, with lots of chances to both sides. Sophie was intercepting balls with speed and taking the ball on runs, always with her head up looking for the pass or the net. Isobel was a menace to their attack, getting precision touches on tackles and finding space to lead counter attacks. Macie was quick to pick up any stray ball, or just any ball! She took advantage of a short keeper kick, striking the ball sweetly from outside the box - it spun over the keepers head and straight into the net, taking us level. Evie and Ella worked hard defending, any balls getting through were swept up by Heidi in goal. The Angels controlled the latter part of the game with top quality passing and movement and the energy didn't falter. Sophie made a strong tackle, took the ball down the wing and struck the ball at the net, the keeper got a touch but the rebound was straight at Hannah who deftly bounced the ball back at the net. Now with a lead, the girls were on fire. Teamwork was fantastic, Erin passed a

great ball through to Isobel, who touched it into Charli's path - another goal. Despite another goal from Boldon, our girls finished the game on top, with Coaches from both teams commenting on what a fantastic game this was. Well done girls. **STAR PLAYER** went to Heidi who had an amazing all round performance - great job, always 100% effort.

CLS Amazons v U7 NAYFC Wildcats

This was another tough game for the girls after the draw with Boldon last week as we came up against a much improved Chester-le-Street side. For the first 7-8 mins it was a midfield battle with few chances falling to Ava and Lucy. Ava had two across the face of the goal and one the keeper saved, whilst Lucy had an effort just past the post. Mia was performing well making some decisive tackles whilst getting forward when she could. Skye looked extremely confident whenever the ball came in and Kaitlyn was winning tackles as their attackers got forward. On about 10 mins, CLS got a breakaway and as Skye came out the shot deflected into the goal. Lucy and Kaitlyn came off for Sofia and Nyah to go on and they continued to work hard and press, but no more real chances before half time. After Steve and I gave them some positive encouragement the girls came out fighting as they always do and continued pressing. Sofia got some great tackles in to break up attacks and Nyah worked hard up field to get forward and support Ava, who was again working tirelessly. The hard work paid off and after Ava hit a great effort towards goal the keeper could only parry it and following up was Mia to score from the rebound. The girls confidence was up again now and the momentum continued. Skye's handling was again great and her distribution superb. Lucy and Kaitlyn came back on for Sofia and Mia and they continued to push, not settling for a draw. Within two minutes the game changed when a ball from Nyah came to Lucy who took a first time shot, but, although she didn't get the full power, it fell to Ava who tucked it away for another goal. Straight from kick off, CLS attacked and had a rebound off the post, with the resulting attack Ava took the ball down the left and hit a wonderful strike across the keeper and into the far corner. The girls really don't know when they are beaten and again they battled to the final whistle. Great win vs tough opposition.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS



It was a weekend full of racing which, as always, starts with Parkruns on a Saturday morning. The majority attended Hackworth Parkrun in Shildon which was celebrating its 6th birthday. I'm sure the promise of cake at the end had nothing to do with our members attending. Two members also achieved PB's at this Parkrun, Lindsey Brown in 30.32 and Cliff Pickering in 34.41.

Several members then took the trip to Dent in Cumbria for their popular Dentdale Races. They have two races that take place 7.9 and 14.2. The weather had changed over the preceding days and this had resulted in some flooding in the area which meant that the course had to be slightly changed. This didn't hinder our runners however, who all seemed to have good runs on the hilly course. In the 7.9 mile race, Martyn Knox was first home for the club in 1.01.55 followed by Trish Kay in 1.03.33 and Susan Clark in 1.22.10.

In the 14.2 mile race, Mark Wade was first home (13th overall) in 1.34.07 followed by Richard Campbell in 1.38.31, Andy Talbot in 1.43.32, John Richardson 2.12.19 and Richard Tonge 2.36.38.

On Sunday one of our members took part in the Brett Lydd 20 mile race in Kent. Simon completed this in 3.09.07 commenting that he had battled through wind, rain and broken down trees which made it seem more of an obstacle course than a road race.

Also on Sunday it was the last fixture in the NYSD Cross Country season albeit on the paths of South Park. This event was the relays which see teams of 3 x women and 4 x men each complete 2 miles (two laps of the parkrun course).

In the women's race, the first team home were Tracey Surtees, Michelle Jane and Angela Sutherland in an overall time of 42.18. This secured them 3rd place overall. Next home were Heather Fenwick, Lindsey Brown and Gemma Holland in 52.29, then Mandy Heywood, Melanie Rowland and Susan Clark came in in 55.29 followed by Jane Burnside, Denise Evans and Sam Baronowski in 59.12.

In the men's race, the first team home was John Surtees, Dez Fielden, Floyd Jones and Mar Wade in 47.05 overall. They were followed by Richard Holland, Stuart Joyce, Andy Talbot and Richard Campbell in 52.14,



next was Dave Blewitt, Lee Wren, Mark Bainbridge and Rob Jayne in 55.49 followed by John Burnside, Rob Nicholson, John Richardson and Peter Smith in 1.02. After the races the presentation took place for the medals and trophies for the Cross Country Season. We had two members received medals in what has been an excellent season for us in the cross country with many members taking part for the first time. Sue Milburn received Gold Medal for the Ladies O/60 category and Ray Todd received Silver for the Men O/80 category.

Youth Section

Also on Sunday 6 of our under 11's attended Lord Lawson school in Birtley to take part in the relays there which marked the end of the Harrier League Cross Country Season. For most it



was the first time taking part in such an event. The event itself was 1.25k distance on a school field with a few steep hills. Team 1 consisting of Sophie Fleming, Hannah Brischuk and Fearnie Brischuk completed the course in an overall time of 19.47 coming 17th out of 29. Team 2, Millie Greathead, Elizabeth Clay and Courtney Bowes completed this in 21.50 and came 25th. Great achievements by the girls on their first relay outing. For anyone interested in joining the club, you can simply turn up at one of our sessions all of which start from the Oakleaf Complex in Newton Aycliffe. Monday night is beginners run at 6.30p.m., Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00 p.m., and Thursday is a track session and this takes place at Shildon Track. Further details can be found on our website or facebook pages or alternatively you can message the club via facebook for more information.

Heighington Juniors FC

Heighington AFC 9
v
Hetton Juniors Inter 4

The mighty Red and Blacks played their second match of the spring league this week. Playing against Hetton Juniors Inter the lads were brilliant for the whole match. Some really excellent play from both teams.

Scorers were, Dylan x3 (2nd hat trick in two matches), Oliver M x2, Oliver C x2, Preston x1 (first goal for the team) and finally Joshua x1. Man of the Match went to Coleby, he played the first half in goal keeping a clean sheet and being a constant menace in the second half playing in midfield. Massive well done to the whole team. Our Defenders, of Ollie A, Benjamin and Cole, had a stormer helping our keepers keep it really tight at the back.

10k Obstacle Course Raises £12k

Butterwick Hospice held their very own 10k Obstacle Course on Sunday 10th March, raising over £12,000 and still counting!

One of our runners, a local Newton Aycliffe girl, Leanne Cooper, ran in memory of her grannie, Annie. Her grannie was diagnosed with terminal cancer in May 2017. They were told she only had weeks to live and she died that August. Her dying wish was to pass away in the comfort of her own home. Leanne and her family took turns in sitting with her grannie for her last two to three weeks, and they were so lucky to have Butterwick night sitters who helped give that extra support. Taking a lot of pressure off the family in the last days of Annie's life.

Leanne decided to take on a challenge this year for Butterwick, she wanted to say a huge thank you for all of our support and she believed by challenging herself in our 10k Obstacle Course she would be able to do this.

Leanne set herself a target of £200. After the event last Sunday, Leanne smashed this target, raising over £600 for Butterwick Hospice Care.

Milly Toner, Butterwick Hospice's fundraiser said, "the event on Sunday was incredible and Leanne had a huge smile on her face the whole way around the course. Knowing people who are running in memory of their loved ones for Butterwick because we helped them is an incredible feeling". Butterwick are overwhelmed with everyone who attended their 10k Obstacle Course and wanted to say a huge thank you.

Situations VACANT



WOODHAM ACADEMY
Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4AX
Telephone: 01325 300328
www.woodham.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. C. Forsyth

School Cleaner - Permanent

Grade 1, Scale Points 6-7. 16 Hours per week (equals approximately £7812 p.a.)
(Proposed Grade and Salary Details following implementation of revised Grades from 1 April 2019)

Term time hours – start/finish times to be agreed
approximately 2.30 p.m. to 5.50 p.m. (Mon-Thur), 2.40 p.m. to 5.20 p.m. (Fri)
School holiday hours – Full days worked on Wednesdays & Thursdays weekly
8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Start Date – as soon as possible following pre-employment checks

Woodham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to enhanced disclosure; the successful applicants will be subject to relevant vetting checks before an offer of appointment is made

Woodham Academy is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. Applicants with disabilities will be invited for interview if the essential job criteria are met.

An application form, job description and person specification can be downloaded from the school website at <https://woodham.org.uk/> or please contact the reception desk.

Closing Date Friday 23rd March 2019



WOODHAM ACADEMY
Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4AX
Telephone: 01325 300328
www.woodham.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. C. Forsyth

Assistant Catering Manager

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(Proposed Grade and Salary Details following implementation of revised Grades from 1st April 2019)

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We are looking for an enthusiastic and professional assistant manager to assist the manager in our award winning catering facility. Woodham Academy is proud to run its own in-house service providing nutritional lunch and break time meals to students. The service also offers a morning breakfast club and occasional after school facilities for students, staff and visitors.

The successful candidate will hold NVQ Level 3 in a relevant discipline and be required to develop menus, undertake stock checks, place orders, manage kitchen staff and produce meals in accordance with current and future legislative requirements.

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Closing Date Wednesday 27th March 2019

Greenfield Students are Inspired Readers



World Book Day was another wonderful way for everyone at Greenfield Community College to celebrate reading. Reading plays a vital role in learning and is an integral part of the teaching and learning at Greenfield Community College. Students are provided with a dedicated space to read for 20 minutes each and every day during the Time For Success programme. This programme, which is part of the school's curriculum, promotes the skills and attributes needed to be the best learners that students

can be. Reading every day for 20 minutes has proven to increase reading and writing skills and in some cases has improved reading by two years. Greenfield enjoy celebrating World Book Day and have developed many projects to support reading including our speak up for writing initiative across the whole school, which is having a great impact. Students have produced amazing results in previous years including building little libraries across the county, creating anthologies, poetry books and some students have worked with artists to create 'suitcase libraries' which

have been used to explore ideas and create new work. Greenfield develop creative approaches to learning and regularly work with many authors and writers to support students to thrive. Accelerated Reader is one powerful tool used at Greenfield to help monitor and manage independent reading practice and helps to motivate students to read for pleasure. The leaderboard is showing impressive statistics as each word read is recorded; Year 7 student Courtney May, has read an impressive 3,490,735 words "I like reading at Greenfield to learn and to sit down and relax with a book" said

Courtney. Student Ethan Berry (Year 9) has read 2,321,496, Lucy Heron (Year 7) 2,219,085, Sophie Lenegon (Year 7) 1,856,600, Adam Gibson (Year 7), 1,447,885 and at least another eight students over both sites on a million words read. "We couldn't be prouder of these results and to see how all of this dedication to reading pays off - not only in English but most other subjects also. Well done!" said School Librarian, Miss Howe.

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Crafter's Companion Invests £120k in Shoppers' E-Commerce Experience

Leading craft supplier, Crafter's Companion, has invested more than £120,000 in a new digital platform and recruited 13 employees to support its ongoing growth. Following a sales growth of 38%, with an export sales growth of 59% in 2018, Crafter's Companion has made significant investments in its ecommerce, social media and creative production operations.

The company has appointed a new global ecommerce team with four full-time staff and an apprentice, in addition to four employees to oversee its global social media operation. Crafter's Companion has also appointed three new employees to run its new TV-studio service and a full-time photographer to support the company's content and marketing requirements. The new Magento 2.3 web platform, which includes rebuilt UK, US and brand-new EU consumer websites, will aid the company's international growth strategy. The company's investments have enabled Crafter's Companion to increase its educational content online, including more step-by-step demonstration videos and live streaming features from Sara Davies MBE and the Crafter's Companion design team, in addition to new product



launches and project ideas being integrated through the web pages.

Crafter's Companion founder, Sara Davies, MBE, said: "We

have seen phenomenal success throughout the past year and we wanted to invest in a new platform which reflects the direction Crafter's Companion

wants to take as a global craft supplier.

"Our head office team has been working tirelessly to ensure that the move to the new website has been as seamless as possible and it has been fantastic to have some new recruits on board to help us with the launch and to support our ongoing growth. We have completely transformed our website into an even better platform for both new customers and loyal crafters to enjoy and we are all extremely proud of the result."

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Police Crack Down on Drivers Not Wearing Seatbelts

Roads policing officers across
Durham and Cleveland will
crack down on those who
don't wear seatbelts during a
new campaign.

Officers will carry out
enforcement action to target
drivers and passengers who
are not wearing seatbelts, as
well as educating them on the
dangers of ignoring the law.
Legislation states that drivers
are responsible for ensuring
that suitable safety restraints
are worn by all passengers

under 14 years old. Children
must use an appropriate child
car restraint for their weight
until they are 135cm tall, or
their 12th birthday, whichever
is first.

Passengers over 14 are
responsible for wearing their
own seatbelt and can therefore
face prosecution. Last year, 228 drivers were
issued with fixed penalty
notices across Durham for
not wearing their seatbelts. 30
passengers were also found
not to be wearing seatbelts,
of these, three were under the

age of three.

Inspector Jon Malcolm,
from Cleveland and Durham
Specialist Operations Unit,
said: "There is absolutely
no excuse for not wearing a
seatbelt, but all too often our
roads policing officers have
to deal with crashes where
the simple act of wearing one
could have saved someone's
life. In a crash you would be
twice as likely to die if you
are not wearing a seatbelt.
Not only is it criminal but it
is totally unacceptable and it
costs lives.

"If you travel in a vehicle and
do not wear a seatbelt, you are
not only putting yourself at
risk, but other road users as
well. We want to keep drivers
and passengers as safe as we
possibly can and reinforce
the message that children are
especially vulnerable.
Failure to wear a seatbelt
carries a fine of £100. If
prosecuted, the maximum
fine could be anything up to
£500.

Ron Hogg, Police, Crime
and Victims' Commissioner
for County Durham and
Darlington, said: "For most
people it's normal and
natural to put a seatbelt on
the minute they get into a
vehicle. I strongly support this
campaign, which will really
contribute to making the
roads safer for all road users."

Personal

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Lost & Found

LOST CAT



ASHLEY, a Grey Persian
cat, 18 months old.
Went missing
Saturday 9th March
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Sorely missed.
Any information to
Allison 07985 074463

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



The above photo was taken by Peter Russell at Sloses Farm on Saturday 9th March 2019,
showing a new born lamb. Send your local interesting photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Water Confidence for Children

County Durham classes,
which teach little ones water
confidence, are back with a
splash.

Children between two and
six years old can enjoy 30
minutes of instructor-led
fun and games, followed
by 30 minutes of free time
in the pool when the Ready,
Sett, Splash sessions return
this month.

Kaye Stephenson, principal
aquatics manager at
Durham County Council,
said: "Teaching children
to swim is much easier if
they're already relaxed with
being in the water.
"Our Ready, Sett, Splash
sessions are perfect for
introducing young children



to the pool. By joining in
with Brock the badger and
his friends' games, little
ones will become confident
and happy in the water, all
whilst having lots of fun."
Sessions, priced at £4 per
child and adult, take place
at:

• Newton Aycliffe Leisure
Centre, Tuesday, 11am – 12

noon and Saturday 2pm –
3pm

• Woodhouse Close Leisure
Complex, Monday 11am
– 12 noon, Thursday 12
noon – 1pm and Saturday
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YOUNG ENGINEERS VISIT 3M FOR BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Sixth formers visited 3M's Aycliffe site ahead of British Science Week (BSW) to learn about manufacturing and devise projects that will inspire their scientific creativity.

Promoted by the British Science Association (BSA), BSW is an annual 10-day festival, this year running from 8 to 17 March, celebrating the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

As a major partner of BSW, 3M has been hosting activities at its sites across the UK with the aim of inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in these fields.

On 6 March, three students from Framwellgate School Durham's STEM internship programme attended the science-based technology company's manufacturing site, in Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

The day began with a short talk about 3M and what happens at the 192,000 sq ft plant, which employs around 380 workers and makes disposable and reusable respirators, as well as car care products.

Next, the Year 12 students were given a tour of the facility, during which they learnt about the processes, technology and challenges involved in making respiratory protective equipment.

They then brainstormed ideas for an extra-curricular project they could work on

over the coming months, based on what they had seen and learnt. The group chose to work on a project looking into the automation of packaging for 3M's respiratory filter cartridge production.

The team will return to the 3M site in May to present its work to a panel of 3M STEM Ambassadors, who will then provide feedback.

David Gurden-Williams, test laboratory supervisor at the 3M Aycliffe site, led the visit. He said: "The students really seemed to enjoy the day. We were greatly impressed by how well they engaged with our discussions about engineering and innovation. They have scoped a great project to work on and we look forward to seeing their results during their return visit."

"It is so important that we inspire the next generation to pursue subjects such as science and engineering, as these fields are the key to improving lives around the world."

"This is a vision that 3M shares with the BSA, which is why we are so proud to be a major partner of British Science Week for a fourth year running."

Debbie Spoor, enterprise and STEM enrichment officer at Framwellgate School Durham, in Newton Drive, added: "We're incredibly grateful to 3M for supporting us with our STEM internship programme each year, of which the project forms an integral part."



"The visit was a really valuable opportunity for the students to learn about how an engineering company

works and how to conduct a scientific research project. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day."

Mrs Galaxy UK Winner

Dear Sir,
I am contacting you with an update of the amazing UK Pageant finals. I was featured on the front page for being a finalist in the biggest pageant in the UK 'Galaxy Pageants', which was held last weekend! I am so proud to announce that, I, Kayleigh Atkinson, won the title, Mrs Galaxy UK, meaning I will be flying to the USA to represent the UK. The international finals will be held in Orlando in August 2019! I am from Newton Aycliffe and aged 27. I have been interested



in pageants for a few years now and wanted to recreate the definition of a 'beauty pageant'. I truly believe that beauty comes from within and that's what makes us shine.

I am unique in the pageant world because I am Curvy! I am beating stereotypes and promoting body confidence.

As part of my journey I have raised over £2000 for charities. I have travelled to Morocco to volunteer in a baby orphanage, I have featured on BBC radio as most inspirational woman and I launched my online campaign to be confident in your own skin which has been a massive hit.

I have created a campaign as part of my pageant journey 'every-BODY is beautiful' and hope to inspire more young women and men that it's OK to love yourself for who you are.

In today's society we are faced with social media! A world of filters and body shaping apps. The reality is this is creating negative self image and poor mental health in today's society.

My campaign will continue for the year I am your Mrs Galaxy UK Queen and I am excited to launch my Body Confidence project in all the local schools!

I am excited for the opportunities ahead, any sponsorship in terms of financial or products will be considered in return for advertisement and I am also looking to attend any local events or charity events as a guest.

Please get in touch via my social media Facebook or Instagram page Mrs Galaxy UK or contact me on 07595 944927.

Kayleigh Atkinson

Mobile App Developer Shortlisted for North East Business Awards

Aycliffe Business Park resident Mobile Rocket are delighted to have been shortlisted for not one but two North East Business Awards. The business has been shortlisted in the categories of innovation and digital technology, recognising their innovative approach to developing new products and services within the mobile apps market.

They will attend the Durham, Sunderland and South Tyneside heat to be held at the prestigious Ramside Hall Hotel in March and if successful, will go on to the grand final in May.

Adam Lee, Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to be recognised for our innovation and digital technologies. We offer our customers the most up to date technology for their mobile app platform. We work with our customers to understand their requirements and can offer them a standard or bespoke app solution to ensure the app acts as an extension of their brand, adding real value through engaging and timesaving features."

Due to our continued development, our mobile apps feature reusable elements enabling customers to make significant cost-savings and quickly realise a return in investment. They are also user-friendly allowing customers to manage their app and access a host of statistics and reporting tools."

Adam added: "Our continued investment into our app platform adds further value to our customers as they benefit from future features at very little or no further cost."

The company has built a strong customer base since it was established in 2014 specialising in the recruitment, health and fitness, education, hospitality and business sectors.

They have a team of highly skilled project managers and developers who can exploit the most up to date technologies to deliver the best results for customers.

With over 268 billion mobile apps being downloaded a year and businesses continually looking for new ways of engaging and

retaining customers via mobile technology, the future is exciting for Mobile Rocket.

For more information about Mobile Rocket, please visit www.mobilerocket.co.uk, follow them on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, telephone 01325 633287 or email sales@mobilerocket.co.uk

Birthday Remembrance

FRANK SWINBURNE, 18th March, thinking of you today and every day. Love from all your family.

Congratulations

WENDY HILL 14th March. Happy birthday to my wonderful Wife (and Nannan). From Andy, Claire, Craig, James, Casey, Katie, Richard, Joshua, Noah, Sophie, Luke
LESLEY RAINE Happy 50th. Have a great day. Love from all the family

Thank You

THANK YOU

On the 5th March, 2 days before my 92nd birthday, I had a fall near to the bus stop on Stephenson Way, opposite the Leisure Centre in Newton Aycliffe. I wish to give my sincere thanks, especially to the chap who was quickly on the scene and phoned for an ambulance and gave all information to them. Also, the young people from the Leisure Centre who were "angels" and to the ambulance crew. God bless you all.
Alan Kay

Acknowledgement

JOHN O'KANE The family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and many cards for John at this very sad time, also Co-op Funeralcare, Petals for the beautiful flowers, everyone at St. Teresa's and the lady volunteers who help out there. £200 was donated to St. Teresa's Hospice. Many thanks to everyone.

In Memoriam

MARGARET TRON (Meggie)

14th March 2018

Peaceful be thy rest dear Mother, 'tis sweet to breathe thy name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. When days are dark and friends are few, dear Mother how we long for you. Love, Susan, John and Family

MARGARET TRON (Meggie)

14th March 2018

Mam, one year has passed since that sad day, when one we loved was called away. God took you home it was His will. But in our hearts you liveth still. Sadly missed, Yvonne, Jimmy, Miki and Marc

FRANCES WOODHEAD - 19th March. Her loving face I hope to see again. Though the days have passed away. Sleep, dear Wife, and take your rest. Missed by us who loved you best. All my love, Peter xxx
FRANCES WOODHEAD - 19th March. In my heart your memory lingers. Always tender, fond and true. There's not a day, dear Mother, I do not think of you. Lots of love, Gary xxx

FRANCES WOODHEAD - 19th March. There is a sad but sweet remembrance. There is a memory fond and true. There is a token of affection, Mother. And a heartache still for you. Lots of love, Mandy and John xx
MARY HIND 15th March 2009. We miss you so much. You are always in our thoughts and our hearts. Never forgotten. All our love, Janet, Tony and David xxxx

Obituary

JANET (Jan) MACMILLAN

of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on 1st March, aged 81 years. Beloved Wife of Bill; much loved Mum of Susan, Fiona, John and Andrew; also a dearly loved Mother-in-Law, Nana and Great Nana. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 19th March at 1.30pm.

MARGARET ROSE FURNESS (Nee Jackson)

of Newton Aycliffe (Formerly Coatham Mundeville). Passed away peacefully in hospital on 4th March, aged 78 years. A dearly beloved Wife of Fred; a much loved Mam and a treasured Grandma and Great Grandma. Will family and friends please meet for Service and cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium on Friday 22nd March at 11.30am. Any floral tributes may be sent to Co-op Funeralcare, Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4LH.

EDYTHE SWINDALE. Peacefully on 22nd February, Edythe, aged 77 years, passed away. Funeral Service to take place on Thursday 21st March in Neville Parade Methodist Church at 12.45pm prior to interment in West Cemetery at 1.30pm. Friends please meet at church.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

Tel: Paul
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DIVE in
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Take a look around our pop-up boutique filled with pre-loved items: including designer labels and some brand new with tags still attached!

Equipped with a changing and seating area, enjoy food & drink refreshments whilst browsing around all types of clothes, shoes and accessories!

PCP's Foster Room
Thursday 28th March 2019
10.30 - 15.30

Do you have anything you would like to donate to our boutique? Please drop off all good quality unwanted materials into the Pioneering Care Centre!

Please call 01325 321234 or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net for more information
Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF Tel: 01325 321234



New Zumba Classes Dance Their Way into The Big Club

April 2019 sees the arrival of two new group exercise classes; Zumba and Zumba Gold; which are open to all people, of all fitness levels within the local community. Zumba is the Columbian originating dance class that involves dance and aerobic movements to energetic music and incorporates

moves from Salsa, Merengue, Hip Hop, Soca, Samba and Mambo. Dance Yourself Fit Instructor, Emma Blackmore, who has over 8 years teaching Zumba in the fitness industry says, "Zumba is brilliant. It's accessible to anyone, is a really great workout because it gets the whole body moving

and the heart pumping, in a welcoming environment where everyone encourages each other to have fun whilst dancing their way to fitness." All local residents are encouraged to give Zumba, or Zumba Gold - which is for active older adults who want a modified Zumba class with all the awesome original moves at a lower intensity - a try to see how great they will feel afterwards.

Zumba will take place every Tuesday night between 6.30pm and 7.30pm as from Tuesday 2nd April 2019, and Zumba Gold will take place every Thursday between 12.00pm-1.00pm at The Big Club (working men's club), Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5NU.

For further details contact Emma Blackmore on 07926 987499 or via her Dance Yourself Fit Facebook page.



Rain Beats Aycliffe



Aycliffe's game against Hebburn Town fell victim to the weather last Saturday. Heavy rain left the Moore Lane pitch waterlogged & unplayable leaving officials no choice other than to postpone the game. The game will now be rearranged.

In the meantime the Newtonians play away at Consett this weekend. Head Coach Colin Stromsoy, has been busy bringing in new players to strengthen the squad with defender Liam McNamara joining from Seaham Red Star this week. He joins fellow recent signings Kevin Carr & Alex Barnes as the latest in what has been a long list of players in this year's squad. By contrast, defender Aaron Brown is the only ever present this season having topped last season's appearances also.

Aycliffe now have just five games remaining this season. As well as Saturday's trip to Consett on Sat 16 March there are visits to Sunderland RCA on 23 March & North Shields on 6 April. The season ends with a home game against Guisborough Town on Sat 13 April with the postponed game against Hebburn to be slotted in.

Photo: Colin Stromsoy

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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
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Joint DD	£984.95	£28	£20	£1032.95
70+7Day DD	£484.95	£14	£10	£508.95



Golf Days 2019

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Tea/Coffe & Bacon Roll

18 Holes

Weekday £21.00

Weekend £26.00

Silver Package

Tea/Coffee & Bacon Roll

18 Holes

1 course meal

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Weekend £33.00

Gold Package

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Followed by 2 course meal

Weekday £48.00

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