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## St. Clare's Spring Fair



Great Aycliffe Mothers' Union held their annual "Daffodil" Coffee Morning at St. Clare's parish church last Saturday. We were thankful that a beautiful sunny day welcomed visitor's into our hall, and they all enjoyed viewing our home made cake stall deciding what to take home for tea!

Our packed tombola stall was very tempting along with a raffle table loaded with prizes. The highlight of the day was when everyone settled down with bacon sarnies and enjoyed delightful singing from Aycliffe Village School Choir. It was plain to see how much the children enjoyed singing for us, their choice of songs were first class. We wish to thank Mrs. Helen Sutherland, the head teacher who organised the visit. The whole morning had a sense of togetherness, and we were over-joyed to make over £570 to help with the upkeep of St. Clare's. A very big "Thank You" to all our fantastic team who helped on the day. It would not have been the success it was, if not for YOU the people who came to support us, we truly appreciated each one of you.

### REGULAR COFFEE MORNING

Just to remind you, that we have a smaller Coffee Morning every Saturday with cakes to buy at St. Clare's from 10-noon, please feel welcome to pop in.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT RAISE £355 WITH MOTHER'S HAMPER



With the co-operation of Wilko's Store in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre, Community Spirit raffled off this beautiful Mother's Day Hamper with all profits going into their Charity Fund.

Joanne Jones, of Community Spirit, made the hamper and together with other Volunteers manned the stall for two days. Joanne said "we benefitted from the excellent footfall that the Wilko's store enjoys and a massive £355.00 was raised. The Wilko's store staff were amazing too, so helpful and friendly". The hamper was delivered to the winner, Mrs Doris Kelly of Rowan Place, on Sunday morning.

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## THE BIG CLUB LIVE MUSIC



Our monthly 'Show of the Month' programme has gone so well, we would like to reward our members and guests with only £1 door entry to the March event, held on Saturday 30th March.

Tickets Available from Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club  
Telephone: 01325 312949  
Doors Open at 7.00pm  
Come early to avoid Disappointment

## Charity Night for ManHealth



A charity night is being organised from which all proceeds will be donated to MIND/CALM. The date of the event is Saturday 20th April at Woodham Golf & Country Club. Tickets are priced at £7.00 and will include pie 'n' peas supper. Tickets can be purchased through the Golf Club or by contacting Ann Hendrix, Sheila Wheatley, Nicola Fletcher and Jade Copelin. Top class singer, Mark McCann will entertain, plus a disco, raffle, and tombola; charity waxing for men and Ann will be losing 12 inches of her hair, which will be sent to the Princess Trust to be made into wigs for kids. All monies raised will go to the nominated charities and hopefully raise more awareness for men's mental health. So what do you guys think, are you up for this?

## Afternoon Tea Week!

Thomas Wright House in Bishop Auckland are holding an Afternoon Tea Week in aid of Butterwick Hospice all next week. 20% of every Afternoon Tea sold that week will come straight to Butterwick Hospice as a donation. From Monday 1st April - Sunday 7th April the Afternoon Tea will be available. Their afternoon tea is delicious and if you have never been to the pub it is fantastic! Enjoy a selection of homemade sandwiches, homemade scone with jam & cream and a selection of homemade desserts. All for just £12.95 with a hot drink or £14.95 with a glass of prosecco. Call 01388 664716 to book your Afternoon Tea now.



## 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

## The Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe

### MARCH ENTERTAINMENT

**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)

### APRIL ENTERTAINMENT

**Friday 5th April** - "Karaoke and Disco" Free Entry

**Saturday 6th April** - Fabulous Trio "Get Carter"  
plus great solo artiste "Aryana" £3 on the door

**Sunday 7th April** - Super solo artiste "Steve Powell"  
plus "Karaoke and Disco" - £1 on the door (Afternoon)  
Great solo act "Jess Wilks" £1.00 Entry (Evening)

**Friday 12th April** - "Karaoke and Disco" Free Entry

**Saturday 13th April** - "New Jersey Tones"  
plus "Powerplay Entertainment Disco" Tickets £7

**Sunday 14th April** - "Karaoke and Disco"  
Free Entry (afternoon)  
Fabulous solo artiste "Dixie" - £1 Entry (Evening)

**Friday 19th April** - "Karaoke and Disco" Free Entry

**Saturday 20th April** - Fabulous Duo "Velvet"  
plus great solo artiste "Lewis Laking" £3 on the door

**Sunday 21st April** - "Karaoke and Disco"  
Free Entry (afternoon)  
Great solo artiste "Ashton Hayes" - £1 Entry (Evening)

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

## THE BIG CLUB

The official tribute to P!nk, Alecia Karr in company with the amazing talents of Stu Clements and Stu Arnold

### Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club Saturday 6th April

Doors open 7.00pm - Tickets £6.00  
Ticket Hotline: 01325 312949

The only girl to meet and sing live with Pink teams up with Barlow and Lemon to bring you a night of Laughs and Entertainment.

Stu Arnold as Keith Lemon  
Alecia Karr as P!nk  
Stu Clements as Gary Barlow

## THE TURBINIA

### \* Saturday Night Live \*

The Very Best of Rock - NO Cover Charge (unless stated)

**Saturday 30th March** - "Broken Toys"  
Review: "Saw these lads at the Oak Pub, Morpeth, at the Draconians Rally - excellent, good mix of music and had everyone up dancing - so much so, I have booked them for our Xmas Rock Night".  
Covering tracks by: Killers, Foo Fighters, Bowie, Green Day, Zutons, Queen, Buzzcocks, Kaiser Chiefs and many more.

**Sunday 31st March** - "Breakfast Club" (4pm, £3cc)  
**Ultimate 80's Tribute:** An afternoon of classics performed by the North-East's top 80's tribute. Recently formed with very talented musicians that have 1000's of gigs under their belts, with top bands (Tyne Lizzy, The Kill, Bon Jovi Forever, Antmusic and more).  
Covering tracks by: Duran Duran, Nik Kershaw, Billy Idol, Spandau Ballet, Gary Numan, A-Ha, Aztec Camera, David Bowie, Inxs, Dead Or Alive, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, OMD, Depeche Mode, Ultravox, Tears For Fears and more.

**Saturday 6th April** - "Alcatraz House Band"  
Fantastic high energy rock band, stars of 'Stormin The Castle' and every other major local festival.

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

For more information on bands go to  
[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034  
**Free Function Room** - Free Disco/Karaoke

### FOOD SERVED ALL DAY

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Monday to Saturday 12-6.00pm - Please ring for details

### MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Exciting New Menu - Two Dine for £20

### WEDNESDAY

Pie Night  
(choice of four pies)

### THURSDAY - GRILL NIGHT

6.00pm-9.00pm - mix and match any 2 meals from the grill menu and receive a free bottle of house wine  
2 x 10oz Rump and bottled house wine for £20 (best offer ever)

### SUNDAY LUNCH

12noon-7.00pm - Bookings advisable

### LIVE MUSIC TWICE A MONTH

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## The County

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## Spring into April Offers at The County, Aycliffe Village

### Tuesday is the New Sunday!!! Every Tuesday in April

Lunch 12 - 2; Dinner 5.30 - 9  
2 x Tuesday Roasts of the Day for £16  
Includes Roast of the day, served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables, mashed potato & jug of gravy.

### Fish Pieday - Every Friday in April

Lunch 12 - 2; Dinner 5.30 - 9  
2 x Fish pies topped with Cheddar cheese mash and served with a glass of crisp white wine for £20.

### Easter Bank Holiday Weekend

Good Friday 19th to  
Bank Holiday Monday 22nd April  
**Bookings now being taken!**  
Easter Sunday Lunch 12noon - 6pm

### Spring into a New Job at The County

We are now recruiting for a part time Kitchen Assistant to work an average of 8-12 hours per week, evenings and weekends. Send a current CV to  
[info@thecountyaycliffevillage.com](mailto:info@thecountyaycliffevillage.com)

01325 312273

The County, The Green, Aycliffe Village  
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# Dance Academy Annual Showcase

The Spring half term is always a very busy time for Woodham's Dance Academy, and this year is no exception. Dance Academy have been working hard in preparation for their annual Dance Showcase, but this has not been their sole focus. Once getting over the Christmas concerts, they returned in the New Year ready for Woodham Academy's Grease performance. Every lunchtime, the Dance Academy have rehearsed nonstop to prepare for

two major performances. They have been given the opportunity to showcase their talent at the annual 'Feet First Dance Showcase' held at the Gala Theatre in Durham. This is where schools in the County Durham district perform pieces that tell a story and grab the audience's attention. Woodham performed two pieces; 'All these things that I've done' choreographed by Hannah Ken, Director of the Sports Academy. This involved all



of the students in the Dance Academy and was the largest group performance of the night. The second piece was 'Rise' choreographed by Kay Clarey of Joanne Banks Dancers. This piece involved 10 students from Year 7 right through to Year 10. Both pieces were moving, uplifting and left students and staff inspired by their hard work and commitment. Two days after the Gala Theatre, Woodham's Dance Academy travelled to Halifax where they took part in a full day competition. 'The Great Big Dance Off' is a prestigious competition where there are a lot of schools competing in regional heats. Woodham entered the North heat and showed true performance skills in both pieces. The Dance Academy really met The Great Big Dance Off's ethos "our desire is to give as many pupils a chance to get up on stage and have a great time". Watching the students perform, it was clear to see they loved every second of being on the stage in Halifax's Victoria Theatre. They were outstanding and were a true asset to the



school. The next performance falls on Tuesday 2nd April which is Woodham Academy's Dance Showcase. This is a fantastic night where the students perform everything they have done in Dance Academy this year. Each year the Dance Academy gets bigger and better and this is the biggest group yet! Tickets are available through

ParentPay or from the main reception at Woodham Academy. Adult tickets are £3.50 and student tickets are £2.00. Doors will open at 6:30pm with the show starting at 7:00pm and finishing at 9:00pm.

## DESERVED AWARD

Dear Sir  
The Parish of Great Aycliffe wish to send their CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to all at Newton Press on their fantastic achievement in "Heart of the Community" award.

This family run firm truly deserves this award for all they do for the people of Newton Aycliffe and beyond.

Their commitment is second to none and it is so heart warming to see how Paul, Stuart and Chris, (The Howarth brothers), have strived to keep Newton News the best free local newspaper in the forefront of all other editorials we have to purchase. Their Dad, Syd, must be looking down on them all with so much pride and love, as they take the paper he made and edited into a new dimension. Thank you all at Newton News and lots of luck in the finals, you deserve to win. God's blessing be with you. Pam Lovelass

# NEW TUESDAY CLUB

New Friends, New Places "Tuesday Club" meet every Tuesday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm at The Navy Club on Burnhill Way.

The No. 7 bus from the Town Centre or Woodham stop opposite and you can use your bus passes.

This week we were entertained by a great singer "David" and members of our group danced and enjoyed themselves. There will be another singer to entertain us on the fourth Tuesday of every month as well as Line Dancing, Armchair Aerobics, Bingo and a group of our members go bowling each month on a Thursday to Planet Leisure, if you would like to join us, you are very welcome.

This group is the ideal place to make new friends and continue enjoying life. Many of our members

joined us when we first started 10 years ago.

We are currently compiling a list of places to go, including Theatres and evening/day trips out for meals during the next year.

The singer this week was funded by GAMP.

For further information ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

**Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour this weekend**



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**LIGHTS DOWN, MUSIC UP**

<b>Agers 7-11</b> 7.00-9.00pm	<b>15th February</b> 15th March 19th April	<b>Agers 11-13</b> 7.30-9.30pm	<b>16th February</b> 16th March 20th April
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For more information follow us on Facebook. email [hello@rof59.co.uk](mailto:hello@rof59.co.uk) or call 01325 728 222  
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## Fun Day at Aycliffe Sports Club

A Fun Day will be held at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club at Moore Lane on Saturday 18th May – supporting The Hub of Wishes mental health charity and M.E.

The day will run from 12noon till 5.00pm, with plenty of activities both inside the building and outdoors.

Activities on offer will be Punch & Judy, Professor Nincompoop, games, tombola and raffles. Representatives from the local Police Force and Fire Brigade will be in attendance on the day.

A treasure hunt is also planned and there will be a Novelty Cake competition and a Best Victoria Sponge cake competition.

We would be very grateful for any donations for prizes and anyone wishing to donate, please contact: The Hub of Wishes on 01325 300121.

The Hub of Wishes is open 10.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday with lunches and bingo on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have singing and art on Mondays, Colour Me Calm and a film show on Wednesdays and exercise and wellbeing on Fridays.

Email: thehubofwishes@gmail.com  
PLEASE NOTE OUR WEBSITE IS: www.hubofwishes.co.uk (no “the” before hub).

## SSAFA Move to Big Club

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, supports the person behind the uniform; any time they need us, in any way they need us, for as long as they need us. Every year, SSAFA helps more than 73,000 people from the Forces family get back on their feet; those currently serving, reserves, veterans and their families.

Support is there for people at any stage in their military career; from the youngest recruit to the oldest veteran – no one's service is ever forgotten. We give hope, help and personal support for as long as it takes to get that person's life back to where they want it to be.

### HOW WE HELP

Through our UK-wide branch network, we have more than 5,000 volunteers. Of these, we have more than 3,000 trained SSAFA volunteer caseworkers who provide personalised, face-to-face support to those in their local area. Our trained welfare advisors and volunteers work with each person to find out exactly what they need. Once we've assessed what is required, we'll help the individual or family access the required assistance. They may just need someone to listen. More often than not, we put them in touch with the support services they need to help them get their lives back on track. Whether



it's financial, practical or emotional, we provide the right kind of support – ensuring independence and dignity are protected at all times.

### WHAT DO WE DO?

Welfare advice and support - Our UK-wide and overseas network of branches in local communities and service committees on military bases offer practical, financial and emotional support. We help serving personnel, reserves, veterans and their families with everything from financial hardship to family breakdown.

Specialist services - We mentor people as they transition from the military to civilian life, help families adapt, aid veterans in the criminal justice system and provide a support service to the UK Gurkha community. All our services are designed to meet the specific needs of the Forces community and are run by SSAFA employees, with support from teams of volunteers. Housing - We offer a range of safe and comfortable housing options, including long-term accommodation for older and disabled veterans and short-term housing for families of injured service personnel and victims of domestic violence. Health and social care services - We provide primary and community healthcare and social work services, on contract to the Ministry of Defence in 12 countries, including the UK.

SSAFA (Sedgefield Division) have now transferred the “Drop In” service from NAYCC to The Copper Room (Gin Bar) at The Big Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 5NU. The service will be available every Monday morning from 9.30am until 12.00noon.

So come along, drop in for a chat and a cup of tea/coffee (we even have biscuits!) and we will do our best to help wherever we can.

Sometimes even the strongest among us need help. When anyone in our Forces family finds themselves in need, SSAFA is the charity they can turn to.

We are aware that there are others that may well require our help but may not know what assistance is available to them. They may prefer to chat with a caseworker face to face rather than contact

SSAFA by telephone. It is SSAFA's policy to offer lifelong support to those in need within the armed forces community and this confidential and friendly service is available to our armed forces serving members, veterans and their families.

During last year alone 39 former service families in Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas were helped and more than £40,000 of support was raised to meet very specific needs.

For anyone wishing to contact us by telephone, you can contact 01388 827346 7 days a week, alternatively our email address is durham@ssafa.org.uk

## HORNDALE COMMUNITY UPDATE

Horndale Community Association would like to thank Mandy, John, Staff and their patrons for their continued support which we appreciate greatly. Yesterday we collected a cheque for £100 which will be used to subsidise our Lightwater Valley trip in April. We would also like to thank Tesco for their support, they have donated gift cards which we will use as raffle prizes on our coach trips. We appreciate all the support we receive which assists us to deliver trips and events for the residents of Newton Aycliffe.

Our next meeting is this Wednesday, 3rd April, at Greenfield Arts Centre starting at 6pm with refreshments at 5.45pm.

Your local Councillors will be in attendance and hopefully representatives from Livin and local Police beat team where you can discuss any issues or ideas you may have.

We are well on with our plans for our Free Community Fun Day which will be held in August which promises to be another great day. Philip Clark, Chair

## Warm Welcome Back for Savannah Jazz Band



After a fantastic trio of new bands to start its 2019 season, Darlington New Orleans Jazz Club is looking forward to welcoming some old friends and firm favourites back to entertain its ever-growing audience.

On Saturday 6 April, the Savannah Jazz Band is back at the club, putting together a foot-tapping, heart-warming performance packed with excitement, humour and raw good music.

Savannah's driving and exciting New Orleans style attracts large audiences whenever they play, and they're constantly adding new numbers to their extremely wide repertoire. As well as New Orleans jazz standards and some driving rhythm and blues numbers there'll probably be a dash of gospel and Johnny Cash-inspired country, if the band is in the mood for fun. Just one week later on Saturday 13 April the Club

extends a great welcome to Shades of Jazz, a band that includes a firm Darlington favourite in its front line – international reedsman John Hallam.

John's career stretches across Europe and America and he's held the front line in bands featuring jazz greats including George Melly, Stephane Grapelli, Digby Fairweather and Humphrey Littleton. With Shades of Jazz he'll be playing dixieland, trad-jazz and swing, guaranteed to please all tastes.

Darlington New Orleans Jazz Club meets at St Augustine's Parish Hall, Larchfield Street, Darlington, just a short walk from the bus stops on Tubwell Row and Darlington railway station. Doors open at noon, and entry is just £10 on the door; children 15 and under go free when accompanied by an adult. For more information go to www.darlingtonjazz.co.uk

## Community Commemorates Cornish Centenary

Norman Cornish – A Slice of Life Opening, Saturday, 6 April 2019



*Boys Climbing Fence by Norman Cornish - Copyright Estate of Norman Cornish - Courtesy of Mining Art Gallery The Auckland Project*

The County Durham mining community, that provided a lifetime of inspiration for artist Norman Cornish, will sit at the heart of a special exhibition, commemorating his centenary year.

Perhaps one of the most celebrated artists of the north east, Norman Cornish lived all his life in Spennymoor, County Durham. Now generations of the former mining town have come together to co-curate an exhibition of his work at the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland.

Titled, Norman Cornish – A Slice of Life, the exhibition is part of a county-wide celebration marking 100 years since the artist's birth, it will open on Saturday, 6 April 2019.

Describing his hometown, Norman Cornish said, “Spennymoor has all that a painter needs to depict humanity.” And for decades the streets, faces and landscapes that surrounded him were a constant source of inspiration.

The pit road he walked every day to work in the mines, children playing in the street and men leaning companionably at the bar all feature in his work. And whether in paint, pastel or his famous Flo-master pen, each scene is captured with the same compassion and warmth that characterised Norman's popular renderings of everyday life.

Norman Cornish - A Slice of Life opens at the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland Market Place on Saturday, 6 April 2019.

Now, to celebrate this legacy, residents of Spennymoor have joined Norman's children, John and Ann in choosing some of their favourite Norman Cornish artworks to be displayed at the Mining Art Gallery.

Spennymoor Settlement Sketching Club was a central part of Norman Cornish's life and his journey into art. He joined on his 15th birthday, just one year after starting work at Dean and Chapter Colliery and it was at the club where he developed his unique style and first exhibited work in an annual exhibition. Norman remained loyal to his roots at the Sketching Club, continuing to exhibit there, whilst also showing work in galleries across the north of England, nationally and alongside artists such as Henry Moore and L.S. Lowry.

Norman's son, John and daughter, Ann, have chosen more personal works, portraits of them, their home life and childhood, lovingly captured and preserved forever by their father. These artworks bring back memories of being instructed to “hold that pose” by Norman as he grabbed a pen and paper to take down a sketch.

Norman Cornish - A Slice of Life opens at the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland Market Place on Saturday, 6 April 2019.

## “DON'T BELIEVE A WORD”

Dear Sir,

Regards to a letter in last weeks edition: “Outraged MP over Hitachi Snub”.

I have no idea why Phil Wilson, our so-called M.P. representative, is so ‘Outraged?’, bemoaning the fact that trains for the London Underground are to be built in Austria, and not here in the North East.

As an EU favouring Parliamentarian his statement has very little in the way of honesty or integrity, and I, like most of his electorate, don't believe a single word.

The sooner we can find and elect a new M.P. that is willing to work for the community that elected him, the better for everybody concerned.

R. Giles, Heighington



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**ALTERNATIVE AYCLIFFE ALL DAYER**

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



## Think Autism in Co Durham

Progress on the development of an all-age approach to autism in County Durham will be heard by councillors next week.

Durham County Council's Cabinet will hear of a new joint strategic approach, developed through partnership working with adult and health services and children and young people's services, when it meets on Wednesday, 3 April.

Autism affects each individual differently and a person on the autism spectrum may experience difficulties with social communication, social interaction and thinking. Until recently the needs of children with autism in the county have been addressed separately from adults.

Following the council's Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in September 2018, it was agreed that there should be a combined 'Think Autism in County Durham' action plan and an overarching all-age strategy for 2018-20. The aim of this approach is to improve support for individuals during the transition from childhood through to adulthood.

If approved by councillors the strategy will be launched as part of World Autism Awareness Week, which runs from Monday 1 to Sunday 7 April. During the week the council will be working to raise awareness of the range of services and support available around the county.

Information stands and representatives from a range of organisations will be available in the Durham Room in County Hall, on Wednesday 3 April between 10am and 12 noon, Thursday 4 April from 1pm to 3pm and Friday 5 April 9.30am to 3.30pm to offer advice and guidance to individuals, parents and professionals. There will be information leaflets available across the full three days and everyone is welcome.

## The Red Box Project Tackling Period Poverty



A warm welcome to the Red Box Project for Manager Nichola Davis, at McColl's store, Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe. The store has become the latest community donation point in the town and it is hoped to extend the Project to the company's other local stores soon. A big thank you to Nichola and her staff for their support; we look forward to working with you!



Vane Road Primary School in Newton Aycliffe this week became the first local primary school to take delivery of a Red Box. Head Kieran Pavey, pictured with Red Box Project volunteer Shona Hornsby, is enthusiastic in his support of the Project and believes it will be well received in school.

Many thanks to school Health Care Assistant Christine Wilson for taking on the role of "keeper of the box". We hope it makes a difference for the girls in their school and look forward to regular updates.

Welcome to The Red Box Project, Vane Road!

## Little Mix Grant Wish for Local Teen

Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity fulfils 16-year-old's wish to meet global superstars.

This week, 16-year-old Millie Robson, from Newton Aycliffe, had her wish granted to meet British girl group Little Mix at an exclusive event in London, thanks to Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity. Rays of Sunshine ambassadors, Jade Thirlwall, Leigh-Anne Pinnock, Perrie Edwards and Jesy Nelson, took time out of their busy schedule to meet a group of 12 children with life-limiting conditions, including Millie. Millie is a survivor of the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, where she was seriously injured and sustained damage to both legs, one arm and her ears. She had two operations to remove the nuts and bolts from both of her legs and has Tinnitus as a result of a perforated ear drum. Despite everything that she's been through, Millie is a very strong and mature teenager who loves music. Her family says that they are extremely proud of how Millie has dealt with the operations, countless hospital appointments and police interviews following the attack.

At the private wish event, Little Mix spent time with the 12 children and their families who travelled from across the UK to meet their idols. Before having lots of pictures taken with the 2019 BRIT Award winners, the children got to ask the band questions including: "What artist would you like to collaborate with on a song?" To which the group revealed, "Ariana Grande, Bruno Mars and Calvin Harris." The wish children also asked if any of the girls in the group could "floss", to which Jess, Leigh-Anne, Jade and Perrie proceeded to demonstrate the dance move!



Following the wish event, Marie, Millie's mum, said: "Spending time with Little Mix was very special. Millie's first concert after Manchester was to see Little Mix in Newcastle, to be able to tell the girls that in person was very special. Thank you to all involved in making Millie's wish happen. It was a lovely experience for all of us."

Little Mix posted on their social media channels, sharing photos from the event and said: "We LOVED meeting these brave and inspiring children at our Rays of Sunshine wish day! We're honoured to be ambassadors for this amazing charity, thanks for having us the girls x."

Millie's wish was made possible thanks to the support of CODE Beautiful who donated 10% from the sales of their lip products throughout February to Rays

of Sunshine in support of the charity's #kisses4wishes campaign.

Rays of Sunshine Children's Charity was formed in 2003 to brighten the lives of seriously ill young people and their families across the UK by granting wishes and providing ongoing support in hospital and within the community. For more information, or to apply for a wish to be granted, please visit [www.raysofsunshine.org.uk](http://www.raysofsunshine.org.uk)

## [editorial]

paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

*What has caught your eye when you read through this week's Newton News? This is what appealed especially to us:*

**NORMAN CORNISH**

Norman Cornish MBE was a much-loved local artist, perhaps one of the most famous British artists of his time. 2019 marks the centenary of his birth and the article 'Community Commemorates Cornish Centenary' describes Norman Cornish – A Slice of Life, one of a number of exhibitions and events that have been organised throughout the Centenary year (you can see the full list online at <https://normancornish.com/centenary#exhibitions>). We recommend a visit: Cornish's paintings do not just evoke fond memories of the past – they brim with an uplifting joy for life.

**AUTISM AWARENESS**

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition which affects communication, cognitive processing, the senses, and social understanding. Once understood only as an 'impairment', we are becoming aware that it is actually often accompanied by a wide range of special skills. World Autism Awareness Week runs from Monday 1 to Sunday 7 April,

so it is good to read that Durham County Council has developed a 'Think Autism in County Durham' action plan, and will be, on 3-5 April, organising an exhibition in County Hall to offer advice and guidance to individuals, parents and professionals. And we congratulate the North East Autism Society's Acorn House, which has achieved an Outstanding Ofsted report; we salute those teachers and care workers who have the commitment and expertise to unlock the potential of children on the spectrum.

**A BRIGHT FUTURE IN A NEW HOME**

We were inspired to read the story of Rola El Mgharbel, who came to Newton Aycliffe in 2017 as a war refugee, and 18 months later has qualified as a dental nurse. Given the background and barriers she has had to overcome, practice owner Chris Bennett's description of her as 'remarkable' seems an understatement. But it was her description of her arrival in Newton Aycliffe which spoke to us most: "We were a little afraid when we first arrived. But from the very first day people were welcoming and friendly. We felt it was home here and we were safe."

## Neville Resident's Easter Fair

Our Easter Fair takes place on Saturday 13th April from 11am to 3pm in Neville Community Centre.

Loads of activities, stalls and prizes to be won. Treasure Hunt, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Craft Table, Raffle and Tombola. Easter Bonnet competition (all materials provided). Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks, Teas and Coffees are available to buy.

Admission fee £1.00 per person.



## OPEN EVENTS

- 2nd April (Yr 12) 2019 5.30pm - 7.30pm
- 4th April (Yr 10) 2019 5.30pm - 7.30pm

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

You can book onto these events by going to these links:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/y10-open-evening-tickets-56486110477>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/year-12-open-evening-tickets-56485706268>



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## Film Show

### "MY FAIR LADY"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 2nd April features the 1964 musical romantic comedy "My Fair Lady", starring Audrey Hepburn, Rex Harrison, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Stanley Holloway and Jeremy Brett. A great cast and songs like "Wouldn't it be Lovely", "With a Little Bit of Luck", "An Ordinary Man", "I Could Have Danced All Night", "Just You Wait", make this a true feel-good film for all ages. Everyone is welcome. Please come along and enjoy. Tea and coffee are served at 1.00pm, included in the £2.00 entry fee. The film starts at 1.15pm. A variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.



## COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by  
County Councillor John Clare

This week's County Newsbits feature a DCC Scrutiny meeting, a comment on the UK's drugs policy, local business successes ... and some ideas of things to do next weekend. Find more information on my blog at: [bit.ly/CNB106](http://bit.ly/CNB106) and don't forget to join me on POLITICAL / Aycliffe Radio, 6-7:30pm, Sunday 31 March: [bit.ly/ARLIVE](http://bit.ly/ARLIVE)

### COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- DCC Economy Scrutiny Committee, Tuesday 26 March (Visit County Durham update; County Durham economic performance).
- DCC and partners pledge to tackle single use plastics.
- Listen to Durham PCVC Ron Hogg talk about the failings of the UK's drugs policy.
- Sign up to a FREE Functional Skills course in Maths or English, from Entry Level to Level 2.

- St Clare's Court care home in Newton Aycliffe rated top 20 home in North-East carehome.co.uk awards 2019 for fourth year running.
  - Aycliffe Business Park News & Networking event, Friday 22 March.
  - Hitachi secures £100m order for Newton Aycliffe site.
  - Big new investment at Finlay Structures.
  - Congratulations to Aycliffe Business Park's Excelpoint.
  - Cycling Team Sky is to become Team Ineos.
- ### THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEK
- Norman Cornish Centenary Celebrations, the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland Market Place, 10am-4pm, from Saturday 6 April, £1-£5.
  - Low Barns Wildlife Watch (6-11s), 10am-noon, Saturday 6 April, £1: 0191 584 3112.
  - Park Trail: Cin-egg-matic superstars, Hardwick Park, 6-22 April, £1
  - Supertato (Toddler Tales & Trails), Hardwick Park, 10am-11.30am or 1pm-2.30pm, Wednesday 3 and Saturday 6 April, £4 per child, book on 03000 262 899
  - Great Wall of China (6-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop-in 1-3pm, Saturday 6 April, FREE.
  - Wonderful weaving (6-11s), Palace Green Library, drop-in 1-3pm 6-7 April, FREE.
  - Easter Trail, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-5pm 6-22 April, FREE.



**Newton Aycliffe Marie Curie Group will be hosting a Coffee Morning at Defoe Court Care Home on Wednesday 10th April from 10.30am-12noon. There will be a jewellery stall, knitted items and a tombola. Delicious cakes will be provided by Defoe Court, please come along to give your support.**

## Children's Blessing Benefit from Knit & Natter Donation



Shena, Liz and Yvonne from Children's Blessings receiving Easter gifts to distribute to families in Newton Aycliffe from members of the Knit and Natter Group at St. Elizabeth's Church. The group meet every Monday from 2-4pm and everyone is welcome to join us for knitting and/or nattering!

## MIDDRIDGE SPRING CRAFT FAIR

in the Village Hall  
Sunday 7th April  
2.00pm to 4.00pm

There will be a range of stalls with refreshments which will include homemade cakes and scones. Entry is 50p and all are welcome.

## EASTER NURSING HOME VISITS

As usual, anyone at all is most welcome to join us at any or all of these visits. If you know anyone who has family in any of the homes, please tell them the date we are calling, and if they would like their family member to attend the Service to ask staff. Thank you, all help, whatever you can manage, is greatly appreciated.

**Monday 1st April**  
Rose Lodge Home (Cobbler's Hall), 11.00am.  
**Wednesday 3rd April**  
Aycliffe Care Home (Burnhope), 11.00am.  
**Friday 5th April**  
Woodham Grange (Bottom of the bank along Burn Lane, turn left into home) 11.00am.  
**Monday 8th April**  
Bethany Home & Day Centre, Woodham (near St. Elizabeth's Church), 11.00am.  
**Wednesday 10th April**  
St. Clare's Court (Town Centre), 2.00pm.  
**Friday 12th April**  
Defoe Court (near Hardinge Road and Defoe Crescent), 11.00am.  
**Monday 15th April**  
Lindisfarne Home (near Silverdale Place), 11.00am. Please note that with it being Easter we hope all will come in Easter bonnets if possible. Please contact Pam Lovelass if you require more information. Thank you

## NETHERLAND VISITORS

Greenfield Arts were delighted to welcome visitors from the Netherlands last week as they worked together with Greenfield Community College to gain an insight into learning and school development at Greenfield. Greenfield Arts have worked with colleagues from The Netherlands for the past six years and have been twice to conferences there to present alongside colleagues from Newcastle University and Durham University. The visitors were interested in the creative approaches and enquiry based student learning at Greenfield and how this develops the skills and attributes of learners. The visit was a great success and Students Leaders were excellent ambassadors for the school as they led an introductory workshop outlining how student led learning takes place at Greenfield and how students can support, lead and develop learning in their school. They also visited two Time4Success (daily lesson and vertical tutor group system) to understand how the students



develop a self-led enquiry based approach to topics, such as the current topic 'Being Green'. Katy Milne, Director of Arts and Creativity, was very proud of the student groups and "I was so impressed by the way the students spoke and listened, engaging with the group and each other, it is exciting that they will be developing their ideas using skype in the future to continue this relationship".

There was over a hundred students involved in the visit and a number of staff who will now have the opportunity to share their experience further within the school. Thank you to our visitors from the Netherlands and to everyone involved in the visit. Greenfield Community College are committed to sharing learning and continuing to develop international links.

## Line Dancers Celebrate

Dear Sir,  
On Thursday 18th April in the Phoenix Club the Line Dancers Sec are holding a party night to celebrate St. George's Day and everybody is most welcome. Learn to line dance between 8.00 and 9.00pm with our fully qualified teacher, then listen to a great country artiste from 9.00 to 11.00pm. There will be an interval for food (open buffet, bring a plate), raffle and bingo. Admission is £3.00 which includes a free raffle ticket. For a great night out come in red and white! Come on down, dance or listen the night away.

## Furniture Factory Outlet

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## IT'S EASTER PANTO TIME

Enchanted Entertainment presents Bobby Davro, Dani Harmer and Lloyd Warbey in Peter Pan on Sunday 14 and Monday 15 April at Darlington Hippodrome. Let your dreams take flight at Darlington Hippodrome this Easter.

Join Peter Pan, the boy who never grows up, and take part in his adventures with Wendy as they fly off to Neverland and meet some fantastical characters along the way: Tinker Bell, The Lost Children, Tiger Lily, Nana the dog, Pirates, Smee and of course Captain Hook. Don't miss another spectacular family pantomime from the same team behind previous brilliant Easter productions of The Wizard of Oz and Beauty and the Beast.

With an all-star cast, impressive music, energetic dance routines, lots and lots of laughter and flying that will thrill the child in all of us. Come and see Peter Pan soar to new heights at Darlington Hippodrome during the Easter school holidays.

HOOK your tickets early to avoid disappointment...The CROC is ticking!

Peter Pan runs at Darlington Hippodrome on Sunday 14 & Monday 15 April.

For more information or to book call 01325 405405 or visit [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk)

## Creative Summer Season at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts are delighted to announce their summer season and invite you to the many events and activities that are on offer.

The Greenfield Gallery is presently hosting the annual Open Art Exhibition and welcomed over a hundred visitors for the 'let's play' preview evening. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to visit the exhibition and enjoy the demonstrations and taster sessions on offer. Thank you to all who came along, the exhibition is open until Tuesday 23rd April and is a must see.

Coming soon to the gallery 'A Creative Community' Event will preview our next exhibition, this is an opportunity to join artists from the exhibition and artists Laura Degnan, Nic Golightly and Elaine Vizor to explore what creative community means. The event will take place on Wednesday 1st May from 18:00 - 20:00, this is a free event and everyone is

welcome.

Creativity is the word this summer with new opportunities and popular favourites coming together to give you the chance to explore your creativity. Sessions include creative writing, painting and drawing and needle felting. We will also be continuing our popular favourites including Spanish and yoga and our free activities for young people. Creative Forum, a community artist group led by mixed media artist Sharron Bates, will be extending their offer this summer just visit our website for full details and to book online, [www.greenfield-arts.co.uk](http://www.greenfield-arts.co.uk)

We are also looking forward to exciting new partnerships with artist in residence Richard Bliss investigating identity through his work. Watch this space to keep up to date with our full programme or sign up to our mailing list, just follow the link (about us) on the website to receive our newsletter.

## Safeguarding Changes Ahead of Schedule

New arrangements for safeguarding children in County Durham are set to come into place well ahead of a Government deadline. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board is to be replaced by a new body as part of national changes to safeguarding provision. Partner organisations across the country have until the end of June to notify the Secretary of State of their new structures.

However, in County Durham, arrangements for the new Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP) have not only already been confirmed but the partnership will be up-and-running on Monday, 1 April.

DSCP will be jointly led by Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and the Clinical Commissioning Groups with responsibility for North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield.

They will be supported by a wide range of organisations representing the criminal justice service, education sector, health service and the voluntary and community sector.

The DSCP will take over full responsibility from the LSCB for ensuring that:

children are safeguarded and their welfare is protected; partner agencies collaborate and share responsibility for improving outcomes for vulnerable children; organisations hold each other to account; safeguarding issues are identified at an early stage; services learn, reflect and implement changes; and information is shared effectively.

Michael Banks, independent chairman of Durham LSCB, said: "Every child should have the opportunity to flourish and achieve their full potential, and this invariably depends on promoting their welfare and ensuring they are safe."

"The new Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership has been established to coordinate many agencies to get the best possible outcomes for children and their families in County Durham."

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "The new arrangements for safeguarding children in County Durham will enable us to continue to build on the good work already taking place with our partner agencies."

## OUTRAGED CONSTITUENTS

Dears Sir,

### Outraged MP! What about the

### Referendum winners?

Our MP expressed 'outrage' about the fact that the Labour/Momentum London Mayor awarded a train contract in accordance with E.U. bidding rules. Leave voters (the majority of his electorate) are outraged that he has blocked Brexit. Had we not been in the E.U., Transport for London could have excluded the winning bidder from the bidder's list! He has been told this over and over again!

Once again the E.U. and the Labour/Momentum Remain voters in London have had a detrimental effect on the North East economy. The money being spent is taxpayer's money which should have been allocated more fairly to other Regions. When are our Remain supporting Labour MPs, in leave constituencies, going to properly represent the needs of the North East economy? When are they going to respect the fact that we voted leave so that we could properly control our Government without breaking E.U. Rules?

This week MP's voted to take control of business in the House of Commons so that they can attempt to stop Brexit. The Speaker (who should be unbiased but who selected the relevant Amendment) celebrated this by a wantonly verbally

abusing a Conservative MP. There was uproar on the Conservative benches among Leave supporting MPs while the Labour Remain side of the house sat back smirking. This is a speaker who is being investigated for bullying his staff. Surely, our Labour/Momentum MPs should realise that this man is an objectionable little person and that relying on his machinations to take control of Parliament is constitutionally abhorrent. No MP in the current Parliament has a mandate to change the constitution in order to stop Brexit. The Speaker is not fit for purpose and as long as he remains in the chair, Parliament is not fit for purpose! This is a matter of democracy and common decency. I hope when the speaker is investigating other arcane procedures for him to apply to suit his own ends he comes upon the one that resulted in seven of his predecessors being beheaded!

We now need the opportunity to take back control of our 'freelancing' MP's. However, if we get one via a General Election we must resolve to put 'party politics' aside and make sure we elect an MP who believes in, and supports, LEAVE. Not Phil Wilson!

Yours sincerely,  
Alastair P.G. Welsh

## AYCLIFFE RADIO

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### Programme Schedule

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

#### SATURDAY

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
<b>"The Saturday Night Experience"</b>		
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	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
12-130pm	Sports Round Up (R)	Darren & Lee
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin McNeillie
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-730pm	POLITICAL	John D. Clare
31st Mar	Guests: Paul Howell, Darren Newton-Woods,	"CAD"
8-10pm	The Live Rock Show	Paul Kjenstad
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	

#### 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
<b>"Through the Decades"</b>		
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

6-730pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
2nd Apr	Mark Reay (MMA)	
730-930pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby
930-12am	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
<b>TTO &amp; Community Connect sponsored by ROF59</b>		
5-630pm	Tea-Time Out	Phil & Amy
630-8pm	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
6-730pm	POLITICAL (R)	John D Clare
8-10pm	BeatRoote	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	

5th Apr - Nathan Abbott (90s Classix)

Check our website for full schedule

[www.ayclifferadio.co.uk](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk)

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festival, please contact Paul:

**07931 701444**

or email: [info@ayclifferadio.co.uk](mailto:info@ayclifferadio.co.uk)

to view last year's event visit [www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/ourevents](http://www.ayclifferadio.co.uk/ourevents)



# Aycliffe Care Home Rated in Top 20 Four Years Running



Clare's Court also boasts an impressive average user rating of 9.9/10.

Located on Central Avenue, St Clare's Court offers short and long term care packages for older members of the community needing residential and residential memory care.

St Clare's Court Home Manager, Michelle Jones commented: "Everyone at St Clare's Court is proud of this amazing achievement, thank you to my colleagues for their dedication to providing the kindest care."

HC-One Managing Director Stephen Butterworth said: "This result is fantastic news, and well done to all at St Clare's Court. I would like to thank the whole team for their commitment and hard work to achieve such an impressive award."

"At HC-One we are dedicated to achieving our aim of being the care provider of choice for those looking for the very best care and support, and employer of choice for the best, most professional, and kindest care staff in the communities in which we are proud to serve."

HC-One's St Clare's Court care home in Newton Aycliffe has been voted by residents and relatives as one of the top 20 recommended care homes in the North East in the carehome.co.uk awards 2019 for the fourth year in a row.

Carehome.co.uk is the UK's leading care home comparison website, and this recognition for St Clare's Court is based on

reviews received from residents and their family and friends, demonstrating real life opinions and thoughts from those who use the home.

HC-One is committed to providing the kindest care, which is demonstrated by the company achieving a 9.5/10 average and being voted as one of the top 20 large care home groups 2019 by carehome.co.uk. St

## "Every Little Helps"



Sedgefield District 75 Swimming Club would like to say a huge thank you to Tesco Newton Aycliffe, their staff and the amazing generosity of the local community for their donations to our bag pack on Sunday 24th March. The club have been overwhelmed by the kindness of everyone and really do appreciate every single penny that was given - it certainly was a case of every little helps! We are proud to say that thanks to Tesco and their shoppers we are now able to buy the special back stroke start wedges that will enable our talented swimmers to practice and improve the back stroke dives that they need for competition.

While some swimmers and their parents were raising money this weekend, 4 others were competing at 3 different events in various parts of England. Matthew Bradley competed at the Billingham Masters Meet on Saturday 23rd March. Matthew who now works for Gestamp swam in 5 events taking 3 gold medals, 3 silver and a bronze, a brilliant result from his continued hard work as shift working does not always make regular training easy. Niall Coulthard also competed this weekend at the ESSA Competition



(English Schools Swimming Association) outside London. The event held in a 50m pool in Crawley saw him swim 3 events, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle and 4 x 100 freestyle relay. He took a silver and bronze medal personally and the North East region won overall.

Finally, but importantly, over the same weekend Leah Smith and Emma Price competed at the Sunderland National Qualifier Meet. With no medals awarded at this event, achieving qualifying times for the Regional Championships to be held in Leeds in May was in the sights of our two swimmers. Both girls achieved 2 personal best times, Leah who got PBs in 50 freestyle and 50 fly then secured Regional Championship times in these 2 events. Emma's PBs in 100m Breaststroke and 400m Individual Medley (where she took an incredible 27 seconds off her previous time), also secured her 2 Regional Championship target times. Thanks to everyone who represented and supported the club this weekend whether swimming or fundraising!

## Thank You, Honest John

A huge "thank you" from the Red Box Project, Durham, to Honest John (John Hilton) for his magnificent donation. He is a credit to his community and this will make such a difference to the girls and young women of Great Aycliffe. Red Boxes filled with sanitary products will start to be distributed this week to our local schools, ensuring that no one misses out on their education through period poverty.



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## MUSIC SOCIETY



Bishop Auckland Music Society follows on from its successful Sarah Beth Briggs concert at its new venue in Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, with a concert of note featuring Charlotte Ashton (flute) and Joseph Havlat (piano). Charlotte is in demand as a soloist and chamber musician, as well as appearing as Principal Flute with major orchestras across the UK. She was recently made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Joseph has performed in prestigious concert venues around the world as a soloist and as part of chamber groups.

He is currently serving a Piano Fellow at the Royal Academy of Music in London. They will perform in the second of the BAMS 2019 concert series on Friday, 3rd May at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church in Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, featuring works by Bach, Schubert and Debussy amongst others. Tickets priced £13.50 (£15 on the door) are available from Brotherton's Music or from Brian Varley (01388) 606075.



**The latest donations from Honest John include:**

- £600 to the Great Aycliffe Red Box Project.
- £1000 to the National Animal Sanctuaries Support League.

During April, next in line is the Darlington & Bishop Auckland Scanner Appeal (MRI). This is in memory of a great man, who brought the scanner appeal to the attention of the people of Great Aycliffe, Mr Syd Howarth, MBE. Thank you for everything Syd. As the Seekers once upon a time did sing, "I know there'll never be another you." It must have been dedicated to you Syd, RIP. John xxx

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We're inviting the local business community to come along and join us for networking, canapés and celebration on **Wednesday 1st May** at the **Xcel Centre** - it's sure to be a night for all to enjoy!

There are a limited number of tickets available, so we strongly recommend businesses plan ahead and purchase tickets at the earliest opportunity.

Businesses on the park can nominate themselves and others for the awards by **April 5th**, as well as sponsoring the event, details of which can be obtained, by emailing: [hello@aycliffeawards.co.uk](mailto:hello@aycliffeawards.co.uk).

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# ROLA QUALIFIES AS DENTAL HYGIENIST

Reproduced by courtesy of The Northern Echo

A Syrian refugee who fled war-torn Damascus as an 18-year-old student has spoken of the welcome she got in the UK and her gratitude at being given the chance to qualify as a dental nurse here.

Rola El Mgharbel, 24, arrived in the country with only a smattering of English about 18 months ago.

But, determined to make a success of her new life, she travelled by public transport from her home in Newton Aycliffe to Cestria Dental Practice, in Chester-le-Street, for two years to complete her placement.

She said: "When the war started in 2012 there were bombs falling around our home. We tried to take shelter underground.

"But, it was too dangerous and my father decided after a week the whole family should leave. We did not have time to get any of our belongings and left with nothing. It meant that I had to give up my place at university too."

Rola, along with her parents, sister and young twin brothers, moved to Beirut, in Lebanon, where they lived for four years, making ends

meet by working in clothing shops.

She said: "Life was very hard, as it was so expensive. Then the UN contacted us and said we had the opportunity to be on the resettlement programme and could go to the UK.

"We were so relieved. My sister, who got married, stayed in Lebanon and we came to England in November 2016.

"I had studied at school in Syria and did an English course in Lebanon, but when I arrived here it was difficult to speak the language. I could understand, but the accents were hard.

"We were a little afraid when we first arrived. But from the very first day people were welcoming and friendly.

"We felt it was home here and we were safe. We feel part of the community now and want to do something for all the people around us."

Rola was helped by Durham County Council's English as an Additional Language (Eal) Team to get on a dental nursing course at New College, in Durham. The family also got help from City of Sanctuary.



Rola said: "Within six months I got a placement in at Cestria Dental Practice. I am so thankful. It gave me confidence to do things and to go out and improve my English."

Practice owner Chris Bennett said: "When I was introduced to Rola, who was trying to find a placement, I appreciated straight away she was a remarkable individual and was happy to help.

"The main issue at that time was she wasn't able to drive, so she was travelling three hours a day on a bus to Newton Aycliffe and back, which was quite a commitment. She has been reliable, punctual and immediately demonstrated a

real aptitude for the job. Rola is a very empathic person. She has grace in everything that she does and is lovely to work with."

He added: "When she started, she only had limited conversation in English, which you would expect. To go from that 18 months ago, to be able to write academic essays and present course work, including specialist health care vocabulary, is remarkable. We are really proud of her."

Rola, who qualified last month, is working part-time at the practice. She aims to do an access to higher education course, with the view to studying further to become a dental hygienist.

# £510 DONATION FOR BUTTERWICK HOSPICE

This week, Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland received a cheque for £510 from the Civic Society in Bishop Auckland.

In the photograph is Glynn Wales, the quiz master, Kathryn Brocklesby, Butterwick Hospice's newest fundraiser, and Robert McManners, the Civic societies chairman.

Every year the Civic Society holds a quiz night in aid of varied charities, this year, because of the struggle Butterwick have had recently, The Civic



**St Elizabeth's will be holding a Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th April at 10.00am.**

**Lots of delicious cakes and preserves, an Easter Tombola and Raffle.**

**We do enjoy meeting you and the friendship you give to the church and look forward to seeing you again.**

Society decided to chose Butterwick Hospice as their chosen charity for the Quiz. They work closely with The Town Hall in Bishop Auckland to organise a fantastic quiz night, with food, fun and even a raffle. Gillian Wales helps to organise all their quiz nights also, Gillian said 'I would

like to thank everyone who helps us, it's the people who give up their spare time free of charge to help us raise the money for fantastic charities'. Butterwick wanted to say a huge thank you to The Civic Society for raising such a wonderful amount of money.

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## Chapter Homes Celebrate 100th Sale



Chapter Homes are delighted to announce the completion of the 100th sale at our popular Eden Field development in Newton Aycliffe.

The keys were today presented to the Chappell family who reserved their home "off-plan" over 2 years ago at the official launch event of Eden Field, and have since made their house their own with a wide range of bespoke optional extras. Mrs Chappell said, "We wanted to reserve this plot at the open event and have been kept up to date by Chapter Homes throughout

the process, we are all excited to have received the keys and to now be moving into our new home."

Developmental Director for Chapter Homes Richard Roddam added, "To see our 100th customer move into their new home is a fantastic moment for not just the company, but more importantly for Mr and Mrs Chappell who have really been a part of the process."

"With the remaining 14 exclusive homes now released for sale we are excited to be handing over more keys over the coming months."

## Top Marks for Acorn House!

"Children who have short breaks with the North East Autism surpass the expectations of professionals and even their parents."

These are the powerful words delivered in the latest OUTSTANDING Ofsted report for our children's services.

After inspecting Acorn House, situated within the grounds of the North East Centre for Autism in Newton Aycliffe, manager Donna Williams and her team were given the top accolade.

This is the third 'outstanding' within the North East Autism Society's care services for children, in as many months.

The inspection report said that all the children and young people attending progressed from their starting points and included a quote from a healthcare professional praising our innovative programmes.

They said: The staff are incredibly person-centred [about the] individual needs of children and young people and are passionate about finding the right care. They really do go the extra mile. The children and young people could not cope in other environments without that level of commitment.

Manager Donna Williams added: "We are thrilled to have received 'Outstanding' from Ofsted because we truly believe we make a



difference.

"A lot of people think these kind of services are just 'respite' – a break for the families. But here at Acorn House we provide a place our children look forward to coming to."

"We help develop life skills and offer experiences, we've seen children make lasting friendships and we know that those hours, or nights spent with us offer families a time to rest, to nurture other siblings, and that time offers the children and young people a home from home, even if it's for a short time."

"I'm incredibly proud of our team." It was also noted within the report that transitions – which can be particularly

difficult for children who are autistic or who have other examples of neurodiversity – are an area in which Acorn House staff excel.

A social worker commented: "Transition planning is working really well. Staff often come up with ideas which have been invaluable. There have been lots of challenges and I am really pleased at the staff and the manager in their support."

With another professional reporting that one child in particular, 'is very settled and relaxed. He gets to go out all the time in the community,' despite his initial report from social services describing his behaviour as 'very challenging'.

## Stephenson Way Pupils Journey to Narnia

Earlier this week, the junior hall in Stephenson Way Academy was magically transformed into a theatrical wonderland of sound, colour light and fun as pupils taken on a journey to Narnia, courtesy of M & M Theatre productions.

Pupils watched in awe as Lucy, Susan, Peter and Edmund stepped through the wardrobe and were magically transported through time to a different realm to meet Mr Beaver, Aslan and The White Witch. The key literary characters from the classic novel The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, written by C.S Lewis, helped pupils to see the importance of kindness, bravery and teamwork in action. Leiland, a Year 5

pupil told us, "I hoped all along that the children and the lion would defeat the Witch because she was up to no good and evil should never win!"

During the annual visit from the theatre company, the children were fully immersed in the engaging performance by the cast. Mr Stephenson, Assistant Headteacher, said, "Each year M & M Theatre Company visit our school to retell a classic tale, which ensures our pupils have a wide literary diet. They never fail to amaze us with the exciting way in which the actors bring the stories to life. This wonderful treat provides an invaluable and enjoyable arts experience for our children. We're already looking forward to next year's performance!"



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## Darlo F.C. Update

Darlington just about secured safety in the National League North last Saturday when they won 2-1 at bottom club Nuneaton.

The game wasn't the prettiest on a dreadful bobbly surface, but Quakers prevailed with goals by Stephen Thompson – his 92nd for the club – and ex Nuneaton player Jordan Nicholson.

The win put them ten points clear of the relegation zone, with a healthy goal difference that is worth an extra point.

Quakers maybe need another win just to make sure in their seven remaining games, but most of the anxiety has now been lifted around the club, and plans can now be made for next season.

The Academy is already looking ahead to the 2019-20 academic year, and is holding another talent ID day at Blackwell Meadows on Tuesday 16th April beginning at midday. Anyone interested should email academy@darlingtonfc.org. The club is also holding two Soccer Camps over the Easter holidays. The first is between Monday 8th and Friday 12th April, then the

second between Monday 15th and Thursday 18th April. The cost is only £12 per day, with discounts for siblings. Coaching is carried out by qualified coaches who are DRB registered and trained in first aid, while there will also be visits by Darlington FC players.

Details are available by emailing footballinthecommunity@darlingtonfc.org or ringing on 0790 3614570

## Thank You

Dear Sir,  
I would like to thank the gentleman and ladies who helped my Mother and Father in the Town Centre on Sunday 10th March when my 86 year old Mother fell and broke her wrist and my Father, due to his age and health, was unable to assist on his own.

Thank you so much for your help and kindness, it was greatly appreciated and it is good to know there are still people of this calibre in the world today as all too often we only hear about the opposite.

Thank you  
Name & address supplied

## RUNNING CLUB NEWS



Karen Harland

The focus in this weekend's racing was the Dishforth Dash 10k and Ropner Park.

The Dishforth Dash was in its second year and takes place on the unused Airfield at RAF Dishforth which means it is almost completely flat and a great venue for PB potential.

It was a good turn out from the Club for this race and although dry there was strong wind which felt worse for being on an open airfield. That didn't stop the runners however, with most securing PB's or bettering previous times on that course.

First home for the club, in 5th place overall, was John Surtees in 35.34, he was followed immediately by Mark Wade in 35.57, Richard Campbell in 38.30, Floyd Jones 38.50 (also 1st in his age Category), Andy Talbot 40.08, Richard Holland 40.53, Angela Sutherland 47.21, Lindsey Brown 55.44, Denise Evans 56.43 and Gemma Holland 58.09.

Elsewhere there was a good turnout of runners for the last race in the Tees Trail Winter Series. This 5k race took place at Ropner Park in Stockton. First home for ARC was Dave Blewitt in 22.06 followed by Michelle Jane 22.06, Peter Smith 22.57, John Burnside 23.13, John Richardson 24.28, Trish Kay 24.38, David Stothard 26.50, Jane Burnside 30.14, Yvonne Williams 30.19, Susan Clark 31.00, Sam Baronowski 32.52, Jan McLuckie 34.56 and



Eve Doe 36.02.

We also had two runners competing in longer distance races further down the Country. Richard Tonge took part in the Ashby 20mile race (near Leicester). Richard was very happy with his time of 3:52:42. In Kent, Simon Matthew Turner completed the Leeds Castle Ultra 22 mile race in 3:50:48.

As always we also had people take part in the local parkruns on Saturday. There were two PB's both achieved at Shildon by Husband and Wife, Tracey and Cliff Pickering. Tracey achieved a PB of 31.03 and Cliff 34.05.

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 7.00p.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.

### Junior Section Update

With the end of the cross country season, the Junior running is now focused on Junior Parkrun and some local 'fun runs'. This weekend saw Felicity Lineton continue her good form and run a 35 second PB at Darlington's Parkrun with a time of 9.40 for 2 kilometres. She placed 20th of 108 runners and was 7th girl home. The Aycliffe Junior Section train on Tuesday evenings at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

## Juniors Football Report



After the heavy rain washed out the majority of the fixtures last weekend it was back to action for the Aycliffe Juniors football teams this week.

The Under 6's played a series of mini games at Bishop St Mary's Kings. They won one, drew one and lost two with Will scoring five goals during the games.

The Under 7's White lost out in their game against Easington by five goals to nil. The man of the match was Joel.

The Under 7's Juniors played a friendly away at Stockton Town Yellows. Despite goals from Jonah (2), Kai (2) and Marley this one ended in defeat.

The Under 9's played a friendly away at Hartlepool St Francis. They lost out by the odd goal in seven with man of the match Preston, Callum and George scoring the goals. The development game ended in a 2-0 loss with Jamie and Ethan sharing the man of the match award.

The Under 10's Whites played away at Shildon Reds, the hosts took an early lead and extended this to make it 3-0 at half time. In the second half Aycliffe came back in to the game but were denied by some great saves from the Shildon goal keeper. A counter attacking goal added to the home teams tally and they won the game 4-0. The Aycliffe man of the match was Joel.

The Under 11's White played in a keenly contested encounter with league runners up Hartlepool FC. Archie was

the man of the match in a game that ended in a 1-0 defeat.

The Under 12's played their first 11 a side friendly against Hartlepool. Zak scored a hatrick in the first half and Jake added two after the break in a 5-1 win. This was a good performance and the friendly also allowed the opportunity for three new players to enjoy their first games for the Aycliffe team.

The Under 13's Russell Foster League team travelled to Swalwell Swifts and were unfortunate to lose an entertaining game 4-2. Lewis and Herbie scored the Aycliffe goals.

The Under 13's TJFA League team were reduced to only ten available players for their trip to play Grangetown. Despite being a man down they battled hard to get something from the game. Unsurprisingly they were stretched with a numerical disadvantage and conceded three goals. Lucas scored to get one back but the match ended in a 3-1 defeat.

The Under 17's looked to bounce back from last weeks narrow Challenge Cup semi final defeat when they hosted Northallerton Town at Woodham. The visitors strength was apparent as they opened up a 4-0 half time lead, showing why they sit second in the league. A change in formation and an improved performance after the break saw Aycliffe get two goals back through Noah but the game ended in a 5-2 defeat. Curtis was named as man of the match.

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# Northern Powergrid Powers New Careers

Northern Powergrid is powering a new generation of engineers to light up the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire and deliver future investment and innovation to improve the region's power network. The company, which is responsible for the network that keeps the lights on for 3.9 million homes and businesses, is looking for up to 23 people who are ready to light up their career by joining Northern Powergrid's 2019 Graduate

and Technical Staff Trainee Engineer Programme and Trainee Engineer (Foundation Degree) Programme. The opportunities come as part of the electricity distributor's on-going commitment to attract and retain a skilled, diverse workforce to help deliver its £3 billion, eight year (2015-23) investment programme. The recruitment also demonstrates Northern Powergrid's commitment to supporting the national

'Energy and Utilities Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy' to encourage more people to consider a career in the energy industry. The Trainee Engineer (Foundation Degree) Programme is a three-year tailored programme, which includes a Northern Powergrid-funded foundation Degree in Electrical Engineering, undertaken during the first two years. In addition, the trainee

engineer will gain a broad range of experience through placements across Northern Powergrid's business, as well as completing formal courses. The two-year Graduate and Technical Staff Trainee Engineer Programme offers those with a degree in engineering, or a HNC/HND or equivalent in electrical engineering backed up with an industry based background, training and development to help progress their career. These trainees spend 18 months learning about all engineering activities in an electricity

distribution business, from operations to design and asset management, before completing an extended placement in their chosen specialism. The programme ensures that they are fully trained to take up a suitable role within Northern Powergrid on completion of their programme. Applications are now open and interested candidates can find out more about entry requirements, the selection process and how to complete an online application form at [northernpowergrid.com/careers](http://northernpowergrid.com/careers). **Applications close on 2nd April 2019.**

## Stephenson Way Rocks



At the beginning of the academic year, pupils from Years 4 and 5 of Stephenson Way Academy began a project that was centred around kindness. Through this work, they explored the impact that a kind thought, word or smile could have on others and vowed to take a positive approach to every situation they met, both in and out of school. Inspired by a local group Aycliffe Rocks, who decorate and hide beautifully designed rocks for others to find, each pupil lovingly hand-painted a rock with an image or message to promote positivity. These rocks were hidden in the local community and linked to our very own facebook page 'Swans Rocks' so that we could see the impact they had on others and track how far and wide our positivity spread. Last week, our group

received a wonderful message from a lady in Hove (on the south coast of England), who told us, "I found one of your beautiful stones outside Hove museum. I am really missing my husband so finding this today made me cry because it filled my heart with love. It's amazing how something can have such far reaching effects. Thank you so much." The year 4 and 5 children were thrilled to discover that their rock had travelled so far and had such an impact on someone's day. In line with the sentiments of Mahatma Ghandi's inspirational quote, their mantra is now, "Be the positivity you want to see in the world".

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# Family Focussed Housing Development Underway at Chilton

County Durham housebuilder Homes by Carlton has started work on developing a luxury 14-home site at Chilton, eight miles from Durham City. The award-winning Newton Aycliffe based developer is starting to roll-out its multi-million-pound plans to start work on at least three housing developments in Durham and Tees Valley during 2019, bringing around 300 new homes on stream. Homes by Carlton, through an innovative funding package, recently started its latest housing development – Cathedral Gates, at Chilton. This comprises 14 spacious



plots with a mix of 3 and 4-bed detached and semi-detached homes.

All the properties are built to the highest standards and combine hand-built craftsmanship, character and a high attention to detail.

Craig Peterson, co-founder of GCV and Homes by Carlton, said: "We're delighted to be bringing the Carlton brand back to the North East. The region and the country are crying out for good quality homes in sought after areas." The standard specifications of the three house types is unusually high, featuring bespoke designer kitchens, stylish bathroom and full

wet room, cottage-style oak internal doors, oak-finished handrails and posts on staircases, along with cedar wood garage doors.

A partnership with Nixons Kitchens allows homebuyers to choose from a range of designed kitchens in a variety of finishes.

Jordan Dargue, operations director at Homes by Carlton, said: "These are exceptional homes, designed to the highest finishes and beat anything in similar price ranges on the market."

"These affordable, stunning new homes are ideally situated near local amenities and main transport links between

Durham and Darlington and other major towns and cities. We're confident they will prove popular with families who are seeking an excellent

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More details on Cathedral Gates and future sites can be found by visiting - [www.homesbycarlton.com](http://www.homesbycarlton.com)

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29-3-2019

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# AIR AMBULANCE SEEK VOLUNTEERS

The Great North Air Ambulance Service is moving to Uray Nook, near Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, later this spring.

The move will see the charity's back-office functions from Darlington and Newton Aycliffe relocating to the new site, with the critical care team and aircraft, currently based at Durham Tees Valley

Airport, moving later in the year.

The charity bought the new site off Elementis Chromium. It features established lawns, hedging and shrubbery that need ongoing maintenance.

Ben McWilliams, volunteer coordinator, said: "Volunteers already play a vital role in raising money for the charity and helping in the office, but we are now able to offer an opportunity to help keep our new base in tip-top condition."

"As with all volunteers, these individuals will play a vital role in keeping our service flying." The Ground Maintenance Volunteers are asked to pledge between two to five hours a week, depending on the season, and will be tasked with general grounds care, clearing weeds and maintaining pathways, mowing lawns and trimming bushes.

Grahame Pickering MBE,

the charity's chief executive, said: "Work is progressing to schedule and we are all looking forward to moving into our new home in the spring."

"Volunteers have always played a crucial role at the charity and that will continue in the new base - we look forward to welcoming some

new recruits."

To find out more about the role, visit <https://www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk/support-us/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/volunteer-ground-maintenance/>

The charity is only able to accept applications from over-18s.

# LORD LIEUTENANT'S ANNUAL AWARDS



Last week, Cadets and Adult Volunteers from across County Durham were invited to the Lord Lieutenant's Awards Ceremony in Bishop Auckland. Mrs Sally Lakey, Chair of 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron ATC Civilian Committee was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service for her services to the Squadron and to Durham/Northumberland Wing.

Mrs Lakey has been with 1407 for 14 years and has been chairperson since 2012. Along with the other committee members Mrs Lakey raises funds for cadet activities and supports the squadrons uniformed staff in running the unit.

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**Aycliffe Business Park**



## Local Software Innovator Excelpoint on Target for Record Growth



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In recent months, the business has won a number of high-profile customers to add to its growing portfolio. Excelpoint's software is currently utilised across numerous sectors including engineering, manufacturing, oil and gas, the NHS, local and central government, construction, utilities, nuclear, energy, mining and the service sector, and is used by organisations of all sizes from SME's to global business brands recognised worldwide.

As an award-winning software developer, Excelpoint understands every business works differently. Their consultants work in partnership with customers to deliver and implement cost-effective automated software systems.

What differentiates them from their competitors is they can process, map, configure and implement software within just a few days or weeks.

They are also unique within the software sector as their platform creates customer-specific automated business systems without writing a line of code, saving customers valuable time, money, resources and future proofing the software.

Managing Director Ian Brown explains: "What makes us stand out is that we offer a system that can manage all business processes which include CRM and sales management, inventory control, manufacturing process, risk management, planning and resourcing, distribution and customer service, amongst others. Our software can be configured to meet the needs of any business model.

For example, we developed a fully automated software system for Polar NE to eradicate the inherent workarounds, providing real-time data and full visibility of their order pipeline. The new system enabled them to match resources to projects,

improving efficiency and enabling them to deliver a first-class service.

In comparison, our customer NACRO required an Incident Management and RIDDOR system to enable them to record and manage incidents."

Ian added: "Businesses no longer need to work with multiple software suppliers, purchasing multiple licences and integrating different systems. They can now resolve all their software requirements with one easy to use software system. Our business philosophy is to make our software work for our customers, not expect our customers to change the way they do business to match the software."

The Excelpoint technology is also very strong at protecting investment in existing systems enabling integrated business processes that will embrace current information and negate or minimise retraining needs.

The software is an easy to use platform which will assist organisations to enforce compliance with best practice and approved processes, regardless of location, and will transform the way information is collated, integrated, used and reported. It also enables users to access the system from any device enabling field-based users to comply with processes.

Ian said: "With the increasing demands from a discerning customer, it is essential to ensure efficient processes, information, software and people are working together to meet their needs. Software and business strategy need to work hand in hand to improve efficiency and meet the demands of the business." For more information about Excelpoint, please visit [www.excelpoint.co.uk](http://www.excelpoint.co.uk), follow them on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, telephone 01325 328839 or email [sales@excelpoint.co.uk](mailto:sales@excelpoint.co.uk)

### NEWTON NEWS

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## HELP WILDLIFE BY RECORDING SIGHTINGS OF BRITAIN'S 'BIG FIVE'

As spring approaches, wildlife charity People's Trust for

Endangered Species (PTES) is calling for volunteers to take part in the its annual Living with Mammals survey. Last year the top five mammals recorded were (in

order): grey squirrels, foxes, mice, hedgehogs and bats. From April, PTES is asking members of the public to record sightings of Britain's 'big five', plus any other mammals they see, to aid future conservation efforts. Volunteers can take part

between Monday 1st April and Sunday 30th June, reporting the mammals they see, or their signs, in any local green space – from gardens and allotments to parks or green spaces near to work. The chosen survey site can be in an urban, suburban or rural location, so long as the area is within 200 metres of a building.

Volunteers can spend anything from ten minutes a week at their chosen site to several hours and can take part either individually or as part of a group.

Please record your findings online at [www.ptes.org/LWM](http://www.ptes.org/LWM) and if you're on social media upload your photos using #livingwithmammals.

To take part in the 2019 Living with Mammals survey, register via [www.ptes.org/LWM](http://www.ptes.org/LWM)

### Birthday Remembrance

**WILLIAM WILSON**  
(Billy)  
28th March 2930

Happy Birthday Dad.

Wish you were here to celebrate your 89th birthday. You are missed every day.

Love from Billy and Joyce

### Thank You

**GLADYS LAING** would like to thank her lovely family for the wonderful 90th Surprise Birthday Party. It was a big surprise. Thank you to all the many friends who attended and for the very kind and thoughtful cards and gifts. Hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did

### Congratulations

**TINA LOUISE ALLAN**

There is a garden in my heart, where happy memories grow. Of those who mean the most to me, as seasons come and go. And among the fairest flowers that there could ever be, is the memory of my Sister and how much she means to me. Love you always Jacquie

**TINA LOUISE ALLAN** 30th March. Missing you as always, not just on your birthday, but every day. Cakes and candles and family gatherings, have come and gone for lots of years. Always one face is absent, always an ache in our hearts. Wishing you were here amongst us. All my love, beautiful Daughter, safe in my heart, on your birthday and always. Mum xxxx

**GRANT EDGAR.** Special Son on your birthday, 27th March. Though we miss you always, each and every day. It seems to hit us even more, because it's your birthday. We send wishes to heaven, carried to you upon a prayer to the place where you are now. With sweet tender loving care. Love you always, Mam, Paul, Lee, Andy and all the family xxxxx

**JOHN McROBERTS** 3rd April. Happy birthday. You would have been 32 years old today, still can't believe you are gone. All our love, Mam and Jonny xxxxx

**JOHN McROBERTS** 3rd April. Happy birthday Bro. Love and miss you. From Ellie and Brandon xxxxxxxx

**JOHN McROBERTS** 3rd April. Happy birthday to a special Nephew. Love you. Love from Auntie Deb, Uncle Andrew and family xxxxx

**PATRICIA FISK:** (Pat). 24th March 1936 to 7th July 2000. Love always, Tony, Susan, Michael and Family xxx

**DES WALKER** 29th March. Our birthday wish must be a prayer, this special day we cannot share. But in our hearts you are always there. Love always, Julian and all our family xxxxx

**LUKE MOLYNEUX**  
21 TODAY



Happy 21st Birthday Luke

Good luck against Eastleigh on Saturday and enjoy Wembley on Sunday.

"Ha'way the Lads".

Love from Grandma, Grandad, Philip, Ashleigh, Dougie, Lena and Robyn xxx

**LUKE MOLYNEUX**  
29th March 2019



Happy 21st Birthday Luke

Enjoy your trip to Wembley and hope you will have something to celebrate after the game. Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxxxx

**TYLER COOKE.** 21 on 27th March. Many congratulations from Mum, Lee, Olivia, Grandma, Grandad and Aunt Joanne.

**SCOTT BAILEY** Happy 30th birthday. Lots of love from Mam xxxxx

**SCOTT BAILEY** Happy 30th birthday. Lots of love from Meg and Alex xxxxx

**UNCLE SCOTT** Happy birthday. Love you lots, Alivia xxxxx

### In Memoriam

**VALERIE GRAVELING**

29th March 2016



It's hard to believe, But it's been 3 long years; With mountains of pain, And oceans of tears; The loss that I feel, I can not describe; For now all I do, Is try to survive; Until the day when, I'm relieved of this pain; And I can come home, And join you again. Your loving daughter, always, Tracy.

**TRACEY SAVAGE.** 1st April 2017. The bond we shared will never end. Even though we are apart. I miss you more than words can say. The world lost someone precious. On the day you went away. Love always, Jason

**JOHN WALTER LINDLEY** 29th March 2018. Forever in my heart, sadly missed by Anne and all the family

**JEAN COOK** Fondest memories of a dear friend. Always in our thoughts. Pat, John and family

**JEAN COOK** (nee Lowery). 30th March 2009. 10 years today. Always in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. Love, Don and family xxx

**TRACEY (REAY) SAVAGE.** 8th November 1970 to 1st April 2017. We know you soar with angels now, and that your heart has wings. We know you're watching over us, whatever this world brings. We know you were a gift from God, and that you're safe above. We know we will see you again, and once more feel your love. We know you live in Heaven now, and that we must go on. We know our hearts will ache for you, until the our time is done. Loved and missed every day by your loving family xxxxx

**RHODA JOHNSON** 3rd April 2018. Remembering our friend and neighbour. Never forgotten, sadly missed. Love from the Wainwright Family

**ALAN NORTON** (Cockney). 31st March. Three years have gone since you left us. Still in our hearts and thoughts every day. Love, Carol, Tony, Lydia, Stephen, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

### Obituary

**MARY BEATTIE**  
Newton Aycliffe

21st March, peacefully at home after a short illness. Mary aged 86 years.

Dearly loved Mam to Graeme, David and Susan; dear Mother-in-Law to Tracey and Suzanne; much loved Grandmother to Rachel, Tom and James and Great-Grandmother to Jack.

Funeral on Tuesday 2nd April. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Clare's Church at 11.30am prior to private cremation.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care, will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service.

**KATHERINE CARR**

Peacefully at home on 24th March, aged 56 years.

Dearly loved Mam of Becky; dear Sister, Auntie and Partner.

All enquiries to John Meynell Funeral Service, Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe. Tel: 01325 301405.

**NANCY KNOWLSON**

Passed away on 25th March, aged 82.

Dear Wife of the late Barry; dearly loved Mother of Kenneth and John; dear Mother-in-Law of Sally and Jane; treasured Grandma of Emily, Eve, James and India.

Funeral Service and Cremation to be held at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 3rd April at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for British Heart Foundation.

### Mothers' Day Greetings

**SYLVIA SPENSLEY** Happy Mother's Day Mammy. Thank you for everything you do for me. I love you more than you will ever know. Love always, Julie and Den xxx

**AMY BURN** Happy Mother's Day Mamma, you are the best in the world. I love you so much. Love, Eddie xxx

**AMY BURN** Hope you have a lovely Mother's Day. Thank you for being there for us and for everything you do. Love, Poppy and Thomas xxxxx

**CARRIE** To my Mummy on Mother's Day. Have a great day, lots of hugs and kisses, Sebastian xx

**DEBBIE LIVERMORE:** Love, Curt, Cloe and Wilson xxx

**JULIE HOWEY** Happy Mother's Day Mam. You truly are the best Mam in the world, we love you so much. Love, Ste, Mick and Paul xxxxx

**JEAN WILSON** To a special Mam. Happy Mother's Day. Lots of love, Billy and Joyce xx

### Mothers' Day Remembrance

**JENNY TARVIT** Still miss you every day Mam. Wish I could share Mother's Day with you. Just to hold you and spoil you like old times. Sending all our love to you for Mother's Day. Forever in our hearts. Love from your Kaff, Martin and family xxxxx

**BARBARA SUTTON** On Mother's Day we all remember our great Mother and Nana. So angels up above, give our Mother and Nana a hug and say Happy Mother's Day from all the family. Always in our hearts.

**FEATHERSTONE** Eleanor: Love always, Tony x

**PATRICIA FISK:** (Pat). Missing you today and always. Susan, Michael and Family xxx

**SHEILA TWOHIG** - Remembering a Special Mam on Mother's Day. Love, Carol and Family xx



## JUNCTION 7 INVITE YOU TO AN EASTER LUNCH

Following on from our Community Christmas Dinner, we are pleased to announce we will be celebrating Easter with another FREE, 3 course family Community Dinner on Sunday 21st April at Neville Community Centre. We will also have entertainment and activities for children. Come and enjoy home cooked food, make new friends and have fun. Everyone welcome.

Any donations will be greatly welcomed as these community events are organised by volunteers and self funded.

Please contact Jane 07804 454471 to book a place or pop into Junction7, 7 Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7DZ on Mondays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm.

## Youthy Football Round Up

### U12 Falcons 2 Leven Royals 0

The game started with Leven really pushing to get an early goal and it took us until midway into the first half to really get a good grip of the game. Once we did get on top we really did start to play some good football at times and that was especially evident in the well worked combination leading up to our first goal. After the first goal was scored the team kept on pushing until the 2nd came from a corner. Really good result for the lads but more pleased with how the team collectively adapted to the game and solved the problems set by Leven. Well done to all the players. Goals by Dylan and Louis. MOTM to Alex - great defensively and in possession, enabling us to go from defence to attack quickly. Great assist with a corner for our 2nd goal. Well done.

### NAYFC Under 23s 3 Bishop Auckland 2

We started the game slowly and found ourselves a goal down when they headed home from a corner. This became two goals down as they

scored from the spot after been given a strange penalty. The lads dug deep and fought back when Johnson took our own penalty, tucking it into the top corner to take us 1-2 into HT. We were by far the better of the two teams during the second half, but missed a lot of chances to take control of the game. Kallum then tucked home our second goal and with 10 minutes to go, Johnson rounded the keeper for his second and the match winner. Very good team performance with everyone doing their jobs.

**Girls Semi Final Cup Action - NAYFC Under 11 Girls** were in semi final league shield action this weekend against Seaham. They were by far the better team, yet the game ended 1-1 and sadly Aycliffe lost on penalties. Great performance from all of the girls who shouldn't be disappointed as they showed today just how great they are and only narrowly lost out on a place in the final.

**NAYFC Under 14 Girls** semi final league cup against Billingham Utd. As the game kicked off it was Aycliffe who created the most and the best chances. A couple of corner kicks from Hattie found the head of Macy but each time the ball went over the bar. Then a great move down the right found Ruby who took

on the full back and a low cross to the back post found Alex who slotted to put us 1-0 up. A few more chances went by and Billingham still weren't getting into the game. Just short of half time a ball somehow bounced through to their striker who scored at the second attempt HT 1-1

Second half a different Billingham took control of the game and another ricochet fell nicely for their striker to take the lead 2-1. Aycliffe consolidated and coped with the Billingham midfield and attack but we needed to change, a couple of positions swapped and we were getting at Billingham, 2 glorious chances were not taken and a great save from their keeper kept us at bay. Inevitably Billingham got the third goal and the tie was over despite the girls keeping their heads up and kept probing, we couldn't get anything. FT 3-1. Great team performance from all 13 girls who all played their part in an excellent cup tie.

The **NAYFC Under 14's Falcons** are playing in the FINAL of the Russell Foster League Vase on Saturday 30th of March at the Russell Foster Centre in Newbottle, Houghton le Spring. Kickoff 1.15pm. Feel free to come along and show the lads some support.

## START OF NEW SEASON FOR TOWN TENNIS CLUB

Now that the tennis season is approaching, this is an opportune moment to remind readers that Newton Aycliffe has an LTA Affiliated tennis club, open to anyone interested in playing. Greenfield Tennis Club operates in partnership with Greenfield Community College and has use of the courts and facilities at the College on most evenings and weekends, with floodlighting allowing play in hours of darkness.

The courts are porous macadam and were resurfaced to competition standard in 2017 with the aid of grant funding from local councillors via GAMP.

The Club runs junior coaching sessions on Saturday mornings, which are not expensive, and are a great way to get kids active and involved in the sport. The Club runs adult Club nights two nights a week and plays in two local tennis leagues. Membership rates are extremely reasonable.

Whether you are an experienced player looking for a local club, or a beginner interested in taking up tennis, do check out the Club's website [www.greenfieldtennis.co.uk](http://www.greenfieldtennis.co.uk) to find out more details on what the Club has to offer. Anyone in town interested in tennis should be interested in Greenfield Tennis Club.



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9.00-12.00pm Saturday**

Opens Monday  
1st April

We also take donations for the Women's Refuge in Darlington and Bishop Auckland

## Scarlet Dunn Takes Second at Teesside



Seven year old County Durham girl racer Scarlet Dunn took her first ever podium position at Teesside Autodrome this weekend when she finished in second place in the final of the Bambino Comer race.

Driving her Amaron Racing Wright kart, the School Aycliffe racer got a good start to the weekend by qualifying in third. She also took third place in all three heats and went one better in the final, after a good battle on track with the previous race winner Thomas Potter

and Felix Smedley (son of ace ex-Ferrari and Williams Formula One race engineer Rob Smedley).

The Bambino class is for 6-8 year olds and speeds reach in excess of 40mph at the fast Teesside venue, one of the longest in the UK, with 4 hairpins combined with some long sweeping corners. The result keeps Scarlet in contention for the NRG Cycles Sprint Championship Comer Bambino Honours at Teesside this year. She next races at Rowrah in Cumbria on Sunday.

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