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Aycliffe West Walkabout

Local Councillors Kate Hopper and Eddy Adam are holding a Ward Walkabout at 9.30am on Tuesday, 14th May, meeting at The Turbinia, Scott Place. Where available, representatives from partner organisations will be in attendance. We look forward to meeting local residents who are welcome to join us or, if they have any concerns they wish to make, but can't make it on the day, get in touch using the contact details below.

DCC Councillors Eddy Adam & Kate Hopper
Cllr Eddy Adam
03000 268670
eddy.adam@durham.gov.uk
Cllr Kate Hopper
03000 268727
kate.hopper@durham.gov.uk

Aldi Launches Partnership with Local Charities

Aldi's Newton Aycliffe store is now donating surplus food directly to two local charities that provide housing and support for vulnerable young people in the area, ROCSOLID and County Durham Floating Support. The new partnerships follow on from a successful trial between the supermarket and community engagement platform, Neighbourly. Aldi has paired up a total of thirteen stores in County Durham with local good causes that are now collecting surplus food up to five days a week. Each store is donating perishable items such as fresh fruit and veg, long life items and baked goods. The trial began in January 2019, and following its success, was rolled out across Aldi's entire store



estate. Last year the supermarket donated two million meals to charity and expects to increase this by 50 per cent now the trial has been extended to its 827 stores. Fritz Walleczek, Managing Director of Corporate Responsibility at Aldi UK and Ireland, said: "We're always looking for new and creative ways to increase the amount of food we are able to donate. This partnership is enabling us to distribute even more surplus stock, while supporting a vast range of good causes, across County Durham. "Our aim is for fresh, healthy food to be accessible for everyone, and Neighbourly are helping us to extend this commitment beyond our affordable range of fresh products."

Steve Butterworth, Neighbourly CEO said "We are delighted to be partnering with Aldi on this programme and to help them realise their ambition to benefit those communities local to each and every one of their stores across the UK. Food surplus is a challenge Aldi is committed to playing its part to address. This approach is critical to ensure surplus food finds its way easily to the good causes supporting those communities that need it most." Any local charities in Newton Aycliffe looking to partner up with an Aldi store should email aldi@neighbourly.com to apply. Aldi has not sent any waste to landfill since 2014, and has also pledged to reduce operational food waste by 50% by 2030 as part of the

Friends of Champions 12.3 now also partnering with Neighbourly to explore the benefits of more direct relationships within the communities its stores serve.

Singing it all Back Home

If you are a fan of folk music then why not get yourself along to the Ship Inn, Middlestone for a night of "Appalachian Ballads of English and Scottish Origin"? Join Naomi Bedford and Paul Simmonds with special guests Gary Miller and Mick Tyas (Whisky Priests) for a great night of live music. It all takes place on Wednesday 8th May from 8pm (doors open 7pm). Tickets are priced at £12 each and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk The Ship Inn is located at Low Road, Middlestone, Bishop Auckland DL14 8AB

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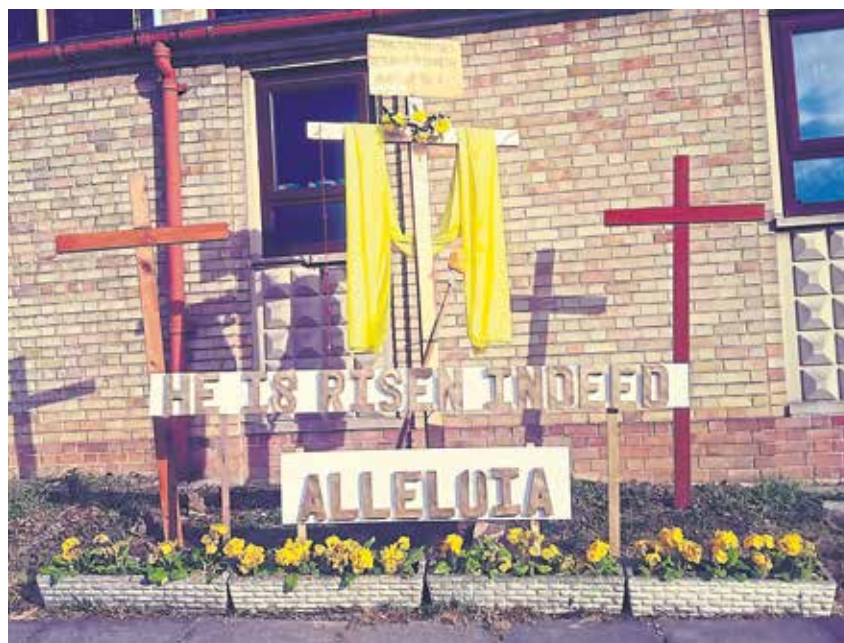
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COBBLERS HALL ROAD AN EYESORE

Dear Sir,
In response to the article regarding the newly proposed housing in Eldon Whyns by Keepmoat, It has been stated that the Woodlands project, off Cobblers Hall Road has now been completed. While in fact building has been completed, we are still awaiting roads and footpaths to be completed and in some cases residents have lived in their homes nearly 5 years. I would also like to point out that the green areas around the housing, especially on Cobblers Hall Road are left with infrequent cutting of the grass and very deep holes have been left, where flag poles were erected and not filled afterwards. Whilst sales were taking place everywhere was kept in pristine condition, but as soon as the building work was completed and they had left the site, it has become an eyesore!!

Mrs Lynn Downes, Resident

St. Clare's Easter Message



The above Easter Message outside St. Clare's Church was the work of our Deputy Warden, Ric Hargreaves. Ric has worked long and hard on this project and all who have passed by have seen his work. The Parish of Great Aycliffe wish to say thank you to Ric for his mission outreach in our town. We hope that all who have seen this Easter message have felt Gods love and peace in their hearts. Amen.



Junction7 invite you to a Jumble Sale to be held on Saturday 4th May at Silverdale House in the Western area of Newton Aycliffe from 11.00am until 2.00pm. Bacon butties and a cuppa will be on sale as well as lots of bargains. Contact Junction7 on 07804 454471 for further details.



The Phoenix Club Newton Aycliffe

MAY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday 3rd - "Karaoke & Disco"
Ray Von with Tony - FREE Entry

Saturday 4th - Charity Night iao Air Ambulance
£4.00 per ticket, available from the bar

Sunday 5th - Absolute Entertainment "Karaoke & Disco"
with Lee, Fabulous solo artiste **"Sarah"** FREE Entry (Afternoon)
Superb **"Steve Dee"** - FREE Entry (evening)

Thursday 9th - "Line Dancing"
With Ricky West - £3.00 entry

Friday 10th - Absolute Entertainment
"Karaoke & Disco" with Lee

Saturday 11th - great solo artiste "Bernie Jackson"
and fabulous duo **"2 Teds"** £3 on the door

Sunday 12th - Absolute Entertainment "Karaoke & Disco"
with Lee - FREE Entry (Afternoon)
Fabulous solo artiste **"Ritchie P"** £1.00 Entry (Evening)

Thursday 16th - "Line Dancing"
With Texas Gun - £3.00 entry

Friday 17th - "Karaoke & Disco" FREE Entry

Saturday 18th - "Eddie Popescu" FOREVER ELVIS SHOW
Featuring Powerplay Entertainment Disco - £6 ticket, available at the bar

Sunday 19th - Absolute Entertainment "Karaoke & Disco"
with Lee - FREE Entry (Afternoon)
Fabulous solo artiste **"Kelvin James"** - £1.00 Entry (evening)

Thursday 23rd - "Line Dancing"
With Country Cousins - £3.00 entry

Friday 24th - "Almost Pink" with Kyla Porter and
Absolute Entertainment Disco - Tickets £6 available at the bar (selling fast)

Saturday 25th - The fantastic "Kayleigh Louise"
and the amazing **"Chris Atkins"** £3.00 on the door

Sunday 26th - "Karaoke & Disco"
with great solo artiste **"Mark Carter"** - FREE Entry (Afternoon)
Fabulous solo artiste **"TS Short"** - FREE Entry (evening)

Thursday 30th - "Line Dancing"
With Brian Gibson - £3.00 entry

Weekly Offers on Draught Beers and Spirits
Ask staff for details



Restaurant Specials

Kids Eat FREE Monday to Friday 5-6pm
with every adult meal purchased from the main menu
(not available in conjunction with any other offer)

Pensioners Special - Every Monday
One course meal with tea or coffee - £6.00

Two for £12 - Thursday 5-8.30pm

Fish Friday - Two Fish & Chips
with a round of bread and butter, tea or coffee - £15.00

Full English Breakfast - Saturday
9.30 to 11.30am - £5.95

"Bingo & Quiz - Every Sunday - 7.00pm Start"

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Sunday Carvery 12-2.30pm

PLEASE NOTE: May 2nd Jazz Night has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances



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THURSDAY - GRILL NIGHT

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Riffs Online Review: "An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league".
Covering tracks by Bad Copany, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, U.F.O., ZZ Top and much more.

Saturday 11th May - "Overdrive"
Covering tracks by Stereophonics, Band Company, Nickleback, Bowie, The Fratellis, Green Day, T-Rex, Foo Fighters, Madness, Sex Pistols and more.

Saturday 18th May - "Fossil"

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www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
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Bridge Club Support Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group



I am a member (and Chair) of Newton Aycliffe Bridge Club. Recently, myself (Linda Lawson) and fellow Committee Member, Joyce Coxon, attended the monthly meeting of the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group to present them with a donation from our club funds of £150. Each year, funds permitting, we like to give to a worthwhile cause to help them in their

support or research. We had seen an article on the above group and as they are local, doing great work, felt that we would like our donation to go to them in 2019.

Joyce and I were pleased to meet Allison White and members of the group, find more details about what they do. We were amazed at how many members they had, how friendly and happy

everyone appeared to be despite their problems and we felt very humbled to be part of their meeting. We were certainly made to feel welcome!

Our friendly Bridge Club meet at the Oakleaf Sports Centre, School Aycliffe Lane every Monday evening at 7.00pm and are always on the lookout for new, like minded pairs of bridge players to join us, so please come along - you'll be made to feel very welcome. For more information, contact Linda on 01325 312883.

Photo: Joyce and Linda presenting a cheque for £150 to Allison and members of the Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group.

Litter Picking on Business Park



Aycliffe Business Park is one of the greenest industrial spaces around and many of the people who work there enjoy the lovely views from the office or on a walk during lunch breaks. Unfortunately, the look of the area is being spoilt by the amount of litter being left behind.

Here at Sabre Rail, we have decided to take action by

organising a regular litter pick, in order to improve the local environment so that it looks cleaner and more presentable and to make the Business Park a place we can be proud of.

We feel that it will also be a great opportunity to meet some of our neighbours, get some gentle exercise and achieve something really valuable at the same time.

The local Council are kindly supporting our efforts, as well as a few local companies in the area including Travik Chemicals and ALM Products.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in, please visit our page on litteraction.org.uk/sabre-rail for updates of our upcoming litter picks.

Sunday Coach Trip

New Friends, New Places, invite you to join them on their monthly Sunday trip to Sunderland Glass Factory and then on to Roker/Seaburn seaside on **Sunday 5th May**.

Cost is £10 per person, pick up points at Wilkinson, Town Centre 9.30am and Stephenson Way Cemetery at 9.40am.

To book your place please ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

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Councillors' Surgeries

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Councillors Sarah Iveson and Jim Atkinson will be in attendance at St. Mary's Meeting Room, Burn Lane on **Saturday 11th May from 11.00am - 12 noon**.



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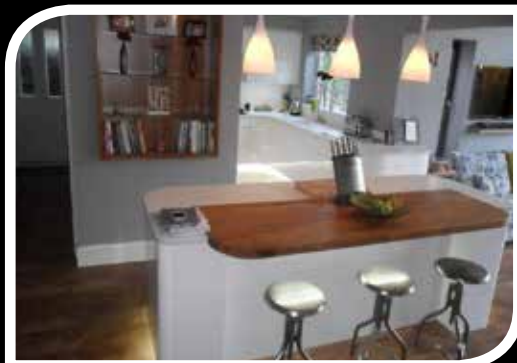
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AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS CELEBRATE TEN YEARS OF SUCCESS

The contribution Area Action Partnerships make to communities across County Durham has been recognised at a special event marking their tenth anniversary.

Since 2009, Durham County Council's 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAP) have delivered more than 6,000 community projects, engaged with more than 30,000 people and have helped secured funding in excess of £100million.

Just as importantly, they have strengthened links with the towns and villages they serve, giving residents more say on how funding is spent, as well as the opportunity to volunteer as board members and further shape their local area.

At the event, AAP staff, board members, residents and community groups attended a celebration, supported by sponsors including Banks Group, Esh Group, Livin and Teescraft Engineering.

Each AAP had nominated a project they felt was "without equal" over the past ten years and awards were given out to representatives from the initiatives. From working with local pubs and cafes to provide meals in community venues to tackle social isolation in Weardale, to tackling plastic pollution in rural areas of East Durham, to establishing an advice hub in Stanley – the winning projects have helped improve the lives of people of all ages.

Cllr Brian Stephens, the council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "This event is about thanking everyone who has



contributed to the success of AAPs over the last ten years and recognising the difference they have made to people's lives.

"The projects highlighted demonstrate just how great an impact AAPs have. They empower communities to tackle the issues that matter to them, whether that be raising the aspirations of children and young people or providing social activities for older people." AAPs were set up in 2009 when Durham County Council became a unitary authority. Each board has 21 members with a variety of experiences and backgrounds, including seven public and seven partner representatives, six county councillors and one parish council representative.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of the council, said: "Helping to create strong and vibrant communities is a core function for local authorities, especially in times of austerity. Making

this happen is not always easy but our 14 AAPs have a proven track record of success.

"Not only do they attract millions of pounds of funding for community projects but they offer practical advice and support to bring these ideas to life, as well as providing a forum for discussion. They have certainly lived up to the 'action' part of their name."

The winning projects are:

- Derwent Valley AAP: Beat the Scammers - a project delivered by Age UK County Durham that protects elderly people from scam phone calls and emails, providing free call blockers and advice on what to look out for.

- Spennymoor AAP Sponsor a Grown Up – a project delivered by Success North East that engages young people and their adult relatives in physical activity together.

- Teesdale AAP and Teesdale YMCA: The

Intergen Project – a project that sees young people and youth workers attend Manor House Care Home to enjoy craft activities together.

- Stanley AAP: Stanley Advice Centre – a community hub which is open five days per week and offers advice and support services from Durham Christian Partnership's Durham Money Advice Centre and Food Bank, Citizen's Advice County Durham and Durham County Council's welfare rights team.

- Mid Durham AAP: The Intergenerational Project and Community Buildings Project – a combination of two different but complimentary projects. The Intergenerational Project is delivered by Age UK and brings young people and older people together. The Community Buildings Project has created four new community buildings and is being delivered in partnership with residents

in Hamsteels, Burnhope, Meadowfield and Buttsfield.

- Durham City AAP: Cheesy Waffles Project – a project that provides activities for children, young people and young adults with additional needs.

- East Durham AAP: Welfare Champions – a project delivered by volunteers under the guidance of East Durham Trust to support people experiencing financial hardship.

- Chester-le-Street AAP: Market Activity Week – a project delivered by Chester-le-Street Neighbourhood Police Team which provides a free family focused summer event in the market place. The aim is to deliver community safety messages and to forge better relationships between uniformed services and young people.

- Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP: Employability Skills Fund

– a project managed by Bishop Auckland College that provides funding of up to £1,000 to support unemployed people aged 16 and over into employment. It also helps those on low wages or zero hour contracts to enhance their job prospects.

- Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP: Crisis Intervention – a project delivered by Woodhouse Close Church and Community Centre that supports people in need to access food, furniture, mobile phones, heating, utilities and advice.

- East Durham Rural Corridor AAP: Plastic Fantastic? – a project delivered by Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) that has been piloted in three schools in the AAP area. Children are given the opportunity to speak to older members of the community about life before single use plastic and are taught about the impact it has on towns and villages in the area.

- 4 Together Partnership:

Days of our Lives – a project delivered by Enter CIC which provides social events for elderly members of the community, ranging from informal gatherings to large scale performances to commemorate the First World War.

- Weardale AAP: Wheels to Meals – a project delivered by Weardale Community Transport to tackle social isolation in rural areas. In winter months, cafes and pubs provide set price meals at community venues across the dale and residents are picked up from home and dropped off again after the meal.

- 3 Towns Partnership: The Victory Programme – a project delivered by the Salvation Army which teaches people how to prepare nutritious and affordable meals based on Second World War recipes. Advice is also given on household budgeting, as well as how to 'dig for victory' so people can grow their own food.

To find out more about Durham's 14 AAPs visit www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs



MRI SCANNER APPEAL

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

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

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

- Text **SCAN02 £10** to 70070 to donate £10 to CDDFT.
- To discuss fundraising or for more information, ring 01325 743786 or email: cddft.charity@nhs.net
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Town Council

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2019 - 7.15 pm

Agendas are available on Notice Boards, by request at the Council Offices (01325 300700) and the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

Would you please note that prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Council to be held on Wednesday, 15th May 2019, I will be making a presentation to my nominated charity:-

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

The presentation will commence at 7.00pm prompt and the public and press are cordially invited to attend.

Councillor John Clark
Mayor of Great Aycliffe.



Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Some significant events this week, two important newsletters ... and some interesting things to do next week. Find more information on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB113

And don't forget to join me on POLITICAL / Aycliffe Radio, 6-7:30pm, Sunday 5 May, when the Big Story will be the local election results: bit.ly/ARLIVE

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- DCC Environment Scrutiny Meeting on Climate Change, Wednesday 30 April.
- Celebrating a decade of AAPs, Wednesday 24 April.
- Business Durham Advisory Board meeting, Wednesday 24 April.
- Launch of Discover Brightwater, Friday 26 April.
- Extinction Rebellion: 'Funeral for Our Future', Saturday 27 April.
- Ron Hogg PCVC assures residents on Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Neighbourhood Watch May newsletter.
- Healthwatch County Durham - May news update.
- 'Fleet Revolution' seminar for SMEs on EVs, Friday 26 April.

THINGS TO DO NEXT WEEK

- Wildlife Watch (5-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am-noon Saturday 11 May, £1.
- Egyptian Mummy (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, 1-3pm Saturday 11 May, FREE.

- Watch the Durham Locomotive Preservation Group at work, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm Tuesday 7 May and Thursday 9 May, FREE.
- O-Gauge Model Railway Group live demos, Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm, Saturday 11 May, FREE.
- Multimedia Exhibition: 'Exploring Masculine Gender Stereotypes', Locomotion Museum Shildon, 10am-4pm, 11-21 May, FREE.
- Georgian Fair, Beamish, 10-12 May (entrance fee).
- Guided Walk: 'In Search of a Lead Mining Railway' (10 miles/5 hours hard walking/ bring a packed lunch), meet 10am Saturday 11 May opposite Black Bull Inn Frosterley DL13 2SL, £4: phone 03000 264 589.

Win Take That Tickets

Take That are playing at The Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough on Saturday 1st June and Community Spirit have two tickets up for grabs in a fantastic raffle offer. There are only 50 tickets in this raffle at a cost of £10.00 each. Get yours now before they are gone. Contact Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe via their Facebook page for full details.

ACORN ANNUAL PETTING ZOO GREAT SUCCESS

A dark wet Saturday morning loomed large as the ACORN team were setting up for the annual ACORN Petting Zoo. As usual there was a clamour by various Petting Zoos, Charities and good causes to utilise the lifts in Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre to access the main hall.

The Petting Zoo turned out to be a great family day, commencing with the grand opening by Mr Ron Hogg, County Durham Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner. Ron has been a regular visitor to the group's meetings, and we thank him for his support.

I would like to thank our friends at the Women's Institute for providing tasty food and hot drinks at great prices to feed the hungry hordes, well done ladies the corned beef and potato pie was particularly scrumptious.

Farmyard Flyer, Animal Story and Crazy Creatures Petting Zoo's entertained everyone with creatures domestic and exotic which enthralled visitors. Animals including rabbits, guinea pigs, giant hissing cockroaches, frogs and snakes were petted and cuddled by visitors young and old alike. Meanwhile for those who were nervous of the creatures Professor Nincompoop was heavily engaged in making balloon models for the young and not so young. WeCan were busy applying glitter tattoos, Harry Potty was kept more than busy with face painting and such was the demand that the poor guy was still going when everyone else was



leaving.

British Red Cross, Play Café, Marie Curie Cancer Care, ARMMS, Woof Cuts, Junction7, Darlington Hedgehog Society, Children's Blessings, David Sutton Lloyd Defibrillator Project, Youth Council Cake Stall raising funds for a defibrillator, Scranimals and Ark on The Edge were all in attendance along with many others running Tombola's and other fundraising activities for their own organisations.

All Weather Flying Disc Dogs were in the centre of the hall entertaining those who attended with their highly trained antics this new sport just becoming popular in the UK teaches dogs discipline and tricks using a flying plastic disc. Anyone who wishes to teach their pooch discipline whilst having fun can contact Sonia on 07999 304078 or can find her on facebook under All Weather Flying Disc Dogs. Children's favourites Jet and Ben were there to meet the public and as usual behaved impeccably. A special thank you to Farmyard Flyer for bringing their German Shepherd to promote Blood Donor Dogs. A project that not many people have heard about.

Of course, the event couldn't be as successful as it is year on year without the dedication of our ACORN volunteers; Keith Lovejoy, Betty Tharby, Alison Paling, Jen Bewley, Ray and Carol Gordon, Marie Moses, Joan Wheatley, Jillian Hillary, Arun Chandran, Ken and Elaine Robson and of course Joyce Woods.

We would also like to thank John Hannah for donating a kitchenware package which was raffled to raise money to buy plants for ACORN's community plant tub project. Once the plants are

bought, we can look forward to a summer of fabulous floral displays in and around the neighbourhoods. Finally a big thank you to the Leisure Centre staff for their help and assistance on the day. Ken Robson, Chairman ACORN Residents Assoc. 01325 321471

[editorial]
paul@newtonnews.co.uk

in the community, with the community, for the community

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

When Durham County Council became a unitary authority in 2009, the new Council set up what it called 'Area Action Partnerships'. Roundly opposed and criticised at first, since then the AAPs have been a major point of contact between the County Council and residents. They have run participatory budgeting events, have been consulted on every important policy-decision, and have themselves raised local concerns with the Council. They have also been the conduit by which the Council has funded specifically local spending. What this has meant for Newton Aycliffe – which is part of the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership AAP (GAMP) – is that GAMP has received over the decade some £1½ million in Council funding, which has paid for dozens of initiatives such as the Employability Scheme (a grant to help unemployed people get the qualifications necessary to get a job); the 'Buddies Befriending' Scheme (to tackle social isolation); and Cobblers Hall Play Park.

When the Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre recently restarted its Youth Club, it did so with a GAMP grant. These schemes have

supported the community through a decade of savage cuts in public spending and – as DCC Leader Cllr Simon Henig said at the celebration-and-thank-you event reported in this week's Newton News – have helped protect County Durham from the damage of Austerity.

We are very quick – and often justified – in criticising the Council, but GAMP has been a quiet boon to our community for a decade, and Newton News wishes it every success for the next decade.

DOING GOOD

This week's edition of the Newton News is just full of people volunteering; collecting money for charity; organising community events, visits and treats; and raising awareness of good causes. We live in a community full of genuinely good people doing genuinely good works.

Thank you to all of you.

WALK OF SHAME

Looking at the promotion materials, the Newton News suspects that Eleanor Conway's comedy event at The Stand Club in Newcastle will not be everybody's cup of tea. But we applaud her work to raise awareness of the damage that alcohol, and alcohol addiction, can do at a personal – as well as at family and community – level.

ZUMBA GOLD - IT'S ZUMBA BUT NOT SO FAST!

A FUN, EASY-TO-FOLLOW PROGRAM THAT LETS YOU MOVE TO THE BEAT AT YOUR OWN SPEED. WITH MODIFIED LOW-IMPACT DANCE MOVES FOR OLDER PEOPLE, THOSE STARTING OUT OR GETTING BACK TO EXERCISE.

Zumba Gold at The Big Club, Newton Aycliffe
Thursdays 12noon to 1pm only £4 per class
Bring this advert to receive a class for £2.00
Promotion running for two weeks weeks commencing 6th & 13th May

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Find me on Facebook

10% discount with this advert throughout May

Great Aycliffe CANCER Support Group

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY
11th-18th MAY 2019

CHARITY SHOP
BARGAIN PRICES
in aid of Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Newton Aycliffe Community Shop
37 Beveridge Way
9.30am to 3.00pm

REFRESHMENTS ON SALE
SATURDAY ONLY "HOOK THE DUCK"
BRIC-A-BRAC
HOMEMADE CAKES

TOYS
LADIES CLOTHING
MEN'S CLOTHING
KIDS CLOTHING
TOMBOLA

Supported by
Aycliffe TOWN CENTRE

GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE NEW UNIFORMS



After five years, the charity has replaced its orange two-piece suits with more contemporary red and black equivalents. Critical care paramedic Jamie Walsh said: "We needed new, better quality uniforms to meet the demands of a fast-paced pre-hospital care work environment. With our base move just around the corner, the time felt right to move away from the orange of old to the new red and black suits. Everyone is really happy with them."

Last week, a large group of team members gathered for a photo ahead of their regular meeting (above).

The new uniforms were secured thanks to grant funding.

Mr Walsh added: "As with everything we do, we owe it to our supporters for providing the financial backing. With

them behind us, the service is getting better all the time, and these uniforms are just another small but not insignificant improvement along the way. Thank you."

Eleanor Conway's 'Walk of Shame' Tour

After a sell-out, 100 date tour over 10 countries, Eleanor

Conway is back! Premiering her award winning follow up show, 'Walk of Shame - Part 2 (Reality Bites).'

Join Eleanor as she explores life post-dance floor slut, dropping after too many vodkas, styling out the grim walk home in last night's clothes and the subsequent humbling, fear and loathing. However, the show is also about Eleanor becoming sober, and discovering that reality is harsh when you don't have something to take the 'edge' off.

Eleanor used to be an alcoholic and has battled with anxiety but she is now an advocate for drug and alcohol rehabilitation. In 2018, she hosted the Kaleidoscope's 50th celebration at the House of Lords as well as wrote about her experiences dating in sobriety for The Guardian and featured on BBC's Woman's Hour.

Eleanor is at The Stand Comedy Club, 31 High Bridge, Newcastle NE1 1EW on Sunday 12th May 2019, tickets £12.50: <https://www.outsavy.com/event/2633/eleanor-conways-walk-of-shame-2-reality-bites-newcastle-tickets>

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Dear Sir,
Well, obviously too late to avoid this election, but again, I can't help but wonder how long the MEP's will be in post before we leave the EU as promised. Anyone with any reasonable answers?
Maybe our current MEP can satisfy my curiosity?
PC

Keep Your Hair On, Or Not! Options Fundraiser Success



There is quite often a buzz of excitement at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe, but recently the buzz was hair clippers in readiness to shave a willing volunteer's hair off!!

PCP Options members would like to say a big thank you to Cath Casey from Sainsbury's Local at Cobblers Hall for her head shaving fundraising idea. Options supports adults with learning and physical disabilities and they were delighted to become Sainsbury's Local Charity of the year in 2018. Cath, who works for Sainsbury's, recently completed a sponsored head shave, raising a fantastic £195.13.

Linda West, Options Project Co-ordinator said, "Everyone thoroughly enjoyed seeing Cath bravely have her hair completely shaved off. Some of Options members even got hands on and at one point there was a queue of people taking turns! The funds raised will provide resources for a range of activities and trips – all of which Options members choose and plan themselves." Cath said "I have worked closely with Options as Sainsbury's representative and have supported them with a number of fundraising activities. They're an amazing group and I've enjoyed getting to know them and seeing the huge range of things they get up to. I admire the work that happens and wanted to



support the group further, so what better way to visibly show my support than shaving my hair off! There is still time if you would like to sponsor me through the virgin money giving site: <http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/OptionsShave>" Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive showed her appreciation and said, "Without the support of people like Cath, and organisations such as Sainsbury's Local, PCP and our projects could not achieve half as much. Options was established almost 20 years ago and continues to grow from strength to strength through the generosity of spirit and

kind donations of time and money from local people and communities. Braving the shave is definitely not something I could do – well done Cath you are a star." As well as thanks to Cath and Sainsbury's Local, thanks are also expressed to Judith from Hair We Go, based in Newton Aycliffe town centre, who supported the event with her mastery of the clippers helping Options to have a go too! If you have any ideas to help with fundraising or would like to know more about Options please contact Linda West at the Pioneering Care Centre Tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net



DIVE in

Hydrotherapy Pool Refurbishment

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

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

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

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

Your donation will help us to:
Double the size of the original pool
Provide improved lifting and hoist equipment
Provide larger and better equipped changing rooms

Visit www.diveinPCP.co.uk to find out how you can help
Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF Tel: 01325 321234



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Facebook – [affordablefurnitureuk](https://www.facebook.com/affordablefurnitureuk)

Open weekdays and Saturday





Aycliffe Care Home Makes Football Fan's Wish Come True



Two football fans from HC-One's St Clare's Court in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham had their wish come true when the care home team organised for the pair to attend the Sunderland vs Coventry match on Saturday 13th April.

Joe Brazier, a Resident at St Clare's Court was a Sunderland FC season ticket

holder for many years, but he had not attended a match for some time due to his health. One of his three wishes was to see Sunderland play at the Stadium of Light again. Jay Malik, Wellbeing Coordinator at the home got straight to work to make Joe's wish come true. Ian Foggett, from Oomph! Out and About kindly

NEWTON AYCLIFFE W.I. UPDATE

Your local Women's Institute has been very busy over the last few of months. Our meeting nights are always very friendly with a variety of activities and speakers. At our meeting on May 14th we have someone from the Great North Air Ambulance coming to talk to us about the history and background of the organisation and incredible service they provide. In June we have a fun evening planned with a belly dancing demonstration, come along and have a go. Our ladies have taken part in many and varied workshops and visits. There are more workshops planned at W.I. House in Spennymoor including Dorset Buttons, Photography, Crochet and Flower Arranging. There is always a lot going on within the county including darts

competitions and quizzes and other social events. Some of our ladies attended the St George's day dinner and had a great time. Within our own W.I. we have had very enjoyable trips to the theatre with more planned as well as other excursions including a day trip to Edinburgh by train in November. We are also out and about in the community and we had a stall at the Petting Zoo in the leisure centre where we served tea and coffee and sold lots of delicious homemade sandwiches, pies, cakes and biscuits. Your W.I. meets at St Clare's Church Hall at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Come along ladies and make new friends. Any enquiries please contact Helen Webster on 01325 315017.

Horndale Community Association Visits Lightwater Valley



On Saturday 27th April Horndale Community Association visited Lightwater Valley. Everyone enjoyed themselves despite the weather being a bit wet, the upside there were very few queues to access the rides. This trip was subsidised through money generated from our GAMP funded trips, this shows how we get great value from our funding. We estimate for every pound we get in funding we generate approximately 30p-40p in funds to use on other events for the community. This trip was also supported by the Bay Horse, Middridge. On the day we were joined by Durham City of Sanctuary who also took a

coach full of people so in total 97 people enjoyed the community event. On the same day Acorn Community Group held their highly successful annual Petting Zoo, Easter Sunday saw Junction 7 hold a community dinner for approximately 100 people, the 13th April saw Neville Community Association holding their Easter event. Community Spirit have held several events over the last few months, plus lots of groups working across our town working for the better of others, I can't think of another town our size that has so many groups making a difference to others. Thank You Philip Clark

Sporting Achievements at Greenfield



Students from Greenfield Community College have been achieving great things in football recently. Both the Year 8 and Year 10 boys football teams have enjoyed a successful cup run reaching the final of the Ben Potts Cup. The Year 10 football team beat Bishop Barrington in the semi-final 3-2 to take them to final where they will play either Sedgfield or Parkside. The final will take place at St. Johns Catholic School, Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6JT on Thursday 16th May at 16:00, supporters are welcome! Meanwhile in the BASFA Cup the boys Year 8 team also showed resilience as they fought back from 1-0 down to beat Durham Johnston to get into the final for their age group on the 13th May. We wish both teams the best of luck.

Girls football at Greenfield Community College is going from strength to strength. The squad has grown and there is now a regular cohort being led by former professional player and manager Martin Gray, who is providing regular coaching and inspiring the players. The teams all train regularly at Greenfield and are able to make use of the state-of-the-art football facilities using the 3G pitches, indoor gym and sports hall to improve their skills and work together as a squad. The excellent facilities are also available to hire, if you have a team or club that is looking for a venue or are interested in joining the new football leagues please contact Community Sport on 07879 117224 after 17:00 or contact through facebook, Greenfield Community Sports.

AYCLIFFE RADIO

LOCAL RADIO brought to you by LOCAL PEOPLE

Programme Schedule

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



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

SATURDAY

10-12pm	Saturday Brunch	Sean Lawless
12-2pm	Moderation	Jack & Daz
2-4pm	The Saturday Big Show	Graham Dale
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience"		
6-8pm	Evening Session	JimJams
8-9pm	Chart & Dance Remixes	Alan Hastie
9-10pm	Retro Tech Trance 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
5th May - Guests: Paul Howell, Ken Robson and Maura McKeon		

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

MONDAY

9-11am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
5-6pm	Teenage Tunes	Ellarae Bower

"Through the Decades"

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

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
7th May - Stephanie Storry (Ladies Squash Captain)		
Sharon Chapman (Ladies Squash Player)		
730-930pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

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

TTO & Community Connect sponsored by ROF59

5-630pm	Tea-Time Out	Phil & Amy
8th May - Heather Brewster & Carole Benson		
Neville Community Centre		
630-8pm	Community Connect	Amy & Phil
8th May - John D Clare - Aycliffe Through the Ages		
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
4-6pm	Councillor DJ	John D Clare
6-8pm	Tech-House/Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	Guest Presenter Session	

10th May - **Andy Little** (CentralFM, Spain) 80s Classics

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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AYCLIFFE RADIO

ALTERNATIVE AYCLIFFE
ALL DAYER

SUNDAY 5th MAY 2019

THE TURBINIA PUBLIC HOUSE

Sid Chaplin Drive, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7PA

Doors open 1.00pm till Midnight

8 Live Bands - First band on stage at 2pm

Also Live DJ sets from Gaz 'n' Alby

Tickets only £6.00 each

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

Creative Writing at Greenfield Arts

Greenfield Arts are offering the opportunity to be creative by putting pen to paper and learning skills that allow you to express yourself. The two creative writing workshops will be led by writer Dani Watson and will focus on writing techniques, question



what writing is and inspire you through creative games and practical tips.

The sessions will run on Friday 14th and Friday 21st June from 13:00 – 15:00 in a lovely environment and form part of our summer programme where we are exploring who we are and ways to express ideas and develop our voice. The sessions cost just £25.00 for the two sessions and are suitable for all levels.

If you would like to know more about the workshops or our programme of events and activities why not contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email at info@greenfield-arts.co.uk you can also check out our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk where you can use our simple online form to enrol.

Less Bile, More Kindness

Dear Sir,
If you will permit I would like an opportunity to respond to Councillor Clare's letter under this heading.

He is concerned as to 'whether we will have anything left of our stable and tolerant democracy', I worry more where it has already disappeared to. Waiting for the next General Election is no panacea. I am unaware of any Government (elected since the war years) who fulfilled their Manifesto promises.

True, politics is awash with bullying, name calling etc ... and that is most prevalent within the Palace of Westminster where our 'illustrious political elite' promenade to the whole world, an appalling example of internecine squabbling for personal or party advantage over their principal trust of caring for the well-being of our Nation. Their promises are meaningless, democracy is twisted by the whips and over-ruled by the personal opinions of our 'Elected Representatives'. They disgrace and dishonour themselves - worse - in so doing they betray us and we deserve better. Tolerance of such behaviour is past acceptance. Time for a different 'whip' - the (metaphorical?) 'Whip of Cords'. Time for the Cleansing. As a Christian gentleman I am sure the good Councillor will recall the 'Clearing of the Temple'. If you want confirmation, it's covered in Ecclesiastes 3 v 1-12

Patience and tolerance would

certainly be welcome in our split society. It seems to me that the best way to start is for the leading lights of both Leave and Remain factions to stick to facts and simply tell the truth instead of the emotive outpourings we hear daily. The most potent, the most damaging way to lie is to not tell the whole story; the whole truth.

At present both are polarising their views and, in my opinion, neither are being totally honest. The Government is possibly being less than helpful in not releasing all the facts surrounding Brexit. But in the end each of us has to take our own decision on Brexit and only by examining facts for ourselves can we reach a sound answer. Facts not hype.

I do not try to persuade but must state that my decision is to leave, No Deal. Despite my Member's opinions, to me to remain under any control whatsoever of the EU, whether it be of market, law, immigration, quotas or other and to continue to be committed to pay hefty subscriptions to them especially without voting rights is not to leave but is to be subjected to a Central European Control. I believe we are much better placed for our future outside the EU than all the scare stories being spread. But that is my belief and I am quite happy to listen to alternative opinions - either over glass or cup or in print and to respect a different view.

Douglas Whittaker

Wilko Easter Winners



As part of the Wilko's Easter events the staff were happy to present prizes to:

Leia, age 3

Oscar, age 5

Isla, age 6

Megan, age 9

Olivia, age 10

Wilko's would like to thank all the children of Newton

Aycliffe for the fantastic art work. It was a lovely display admired by many customers and staff.

All the winners received a £5.00 gift card and a bag of Malteser bunnies.

Watch out for future events in store and thank you for your continued support.



Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th May at the Phoenix Club at 6.00pm in the upstairs lounge. Little Acorns meet at 5.30pm.

Our speaker this month will be from the Stockton & Darlington Railway. Local Councillors will be in attendance, if possible. We welcome anyone who wishes to come along for a chat and refreshments.

YES YOU CAN . . . MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT, . . . AGAIN!

In the referendum in 2016 the chancellor at the time George Osborne told us, the need for emergency budgets, interest rates would rise, taxes would go up, companies would flee the country, half a million people would lose their jobs, immediately. Project fear was in full swing, we were going to be poorer, weaker, it was all going to be a disaster.

We voted, despite all of that, by a very clear majority of 1.3 million votes, to leave the European Union. In that document that Cameron put through each and every one of our letterboxes said, whatever the result, our vote would be respected, and the government would implement it, that is what they said, and the next year, in a general election, both the Labour and Conservative parties said in their manifestos vote for us and we will implement the results of the referendum and take you out of the European Union. Then 498 members of Parliament voted for article 50, which said, we would leave the European Union at 11.00pm on 29th March 2019, with or without a withdrawal agreement. They promised this, the Prime Minister promised this, we leave on 29th March, we didn't.

This Prime Minister promised us we'd leave on 12th April. We didn't. This Prime Minister promised us we'd leave on the 30th of June. And we won't. And now this Prime Minister tells us we will leave at the end of October, on Halloween, ask yourself . . . really?

The will of over 17.4 million people has been deliberately, openly and wilfully betrayed by our Prime Minister and our political class in this country. This is about more than leaving the European Union, this is now about whether we are living in a functioning democratic nation.

Here we are with the mother of Parliament's, who exported that very concept of democracy to America and changed the 20th century. This scandal, this outrage,

this abuse is happening in our own nation, and we've got to put a stop to it. Sheer wilful betrayal, of our democratic system and our vote.

I think it's very clear that we now have a parliament that does not represent the will of the people, there is talk that the EU elections may not happen. But I doubt that because the only way this could be stopped is if Mrs. May does a deal with Mr. Corbyn. If Mrs. May signs up to a permanent customs union, if Mrs. May signs up to alignment was single market rules, that it would appear to me as the only way this EU election can be stopped. 5 million people voted Labour and voted for

Brexit. 83% of Labour MPs want a second referendum. "We know better than you. And it's time you change your mind." So actually, if you believe not just in Brexit, but if you believe in democracy being enacted, you cannot vote for the Labour or Conservative party in these European elections.

I'm not prepared to stand aside nor prepared to be rolled over by our career politicians. I am going to vote in the European elections for the Brexit Party on Thursday 23rd May. Voting does matter we'll prove it.

Lets shock them again.

Arun M Chandran
Independent

APPRENTICESHIP OPEN DAY

Thinking about an apprenticeship?
Would like more information?
Optimum Skills Open Evening
Wednesday 8th May at 6.00pm

We are a training provider in Newton Aycliffe and are teaming up with local artisan butcher Emlyn Huggill from 'Cleaver and Quill' to deliver a butchery masterclass, sharing his inspirational story on how he started and developed his skills in butchery through an apprenticeship which took him from Aycliffe to London, Melbourne and back.

If you're 16-19 years old and not too sure what you want to do but would like to know your options, this event is a fantastic way to get an idea on what Optimum Skills Ltd has to offer from our traineeship programme to apprenticeship vacancies (some of which are on the Aycliffe Business Park). Equally if you are a parent or guardian and would like to know what is on offer in the local area, it's a chance to chat to our tutors to discuss and gather information; to see how we support learning and help to achieve career goals. Optimum Skills Ltd



cover a wide variety of apprenticeships from Butchery to Business Admin, Customer Service to Construction, IT and the list goes on.

The event will take place at Bede House, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DX

To register for this free event please book your tickets on: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/optimum-skills-traineeship-open-evening-with-a-masterclass-in-butchery-tickets-60863911598?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> or for more information please contact us on: 01325 311832

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39 Bondgate, Darlington, DL3 7JJ www.hallps.com

Film Show

"MASK"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 7th May features the drama "MASK" based on a true story.

Starring Cher and Sam Elliott. Disfigured teenager Ricky, with the help of his mother Rusty (Cher), has to overcome pain, loneliness and prejudice to live a normal life. Everyone welcome, please come along and enjoy.

Tea and coffee are served at 1.00pm, included in the £2 admission.

The film starts at 1.15pm.

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.

A SNAG at Byerley Park Primary School



Byerley Park Primary School are celebrating the success of their in-house catering and congratulating

their kitchen team on a job well done!

The school decided to bring their catering in-house last year, in order to improve the quality and standard of meals for the children.

Head Teacher, Mrs Gargan said, "As a school, we know how important it is that our children are served healthy, nutritious and good value meals. Our kitchen team have worked extremely hard to achieve this and this has paid off, with a very successful first year."

The School also has a SNAG group (School, Nutrition Action Group) where pupils regularly meet with kitchen staff to discuss menus, recipes and future ideas. Comments from the SNAG pupils include, "We really enjoy our school meals and love it that the kitchen staff listen to our views on what we like to eat and change our menus to make us happy." The kitchen run a rolling 3 week menu and regularly theme the dishes to coincide with events or special occasions. When pupils go out on school trips, children get to choose what they would like to include in their packed lunches, ranging from bread, baguettes and wraps with a variety of fillings.

Terry Deary To Appear at Hippodrome

Terry Deary - author of the acclaimed Horrible Histories series of books - is to appear in the stage shows of Awful Egyptians and Terrible Tudors at Darlington Hippodrome in June. We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! So it's time to prepare yourselves for two amazing shows live on stage. Using incredible actors and ground-breaking 3D special effects, these two shows are guaranteed to thrill audiences young and old. Historical figures and events will come alive on stage and hover at your fingertips. Terrible Tudors and Awful Egyptians at Darlington Hippodrome from Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 June. For further information or to book call the box office on 01325 405405 or visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

Cancer Support Group in Community Shop

Aycliffe Town Centre Management has once again given Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group the use of the Community Shop for a week.

The shop will open on Saturday 11th May, which will be a bit of a family day with Hot Dogs for sale as well as serving refreshments, cakes and Face Painting etc.

The shop will then be open Monday 13th May until Saturday 18th May from 9.30am - 3.00pm.

For sale will be clothing and Bric-a-Brac in good condition or new. We also will be showing off the new Chemo Bags that are handmade by our Cancer Patients. The group were featured on ITV Tyne Tees News recently giving out these special bags to a local hospital.

On Wednesday 15th May we will have the Cancer Awareness Team from the PCP coming down to talk to anyone who has any questions regarding screening programmes and symptoms, and also we will be asking other Cancer Services such as Welfare Rights to attend.

Money raised during this week will be used to pay for the free services we provide our members, such as patient transport, respite breaks and social outings.

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group would like to thank Bryan Haldane at Aycliffe Town Centre Management for helping and supporting our charity, he has been amazing with us for the last 3 years.

£300 Raised for Butterwick Hospice



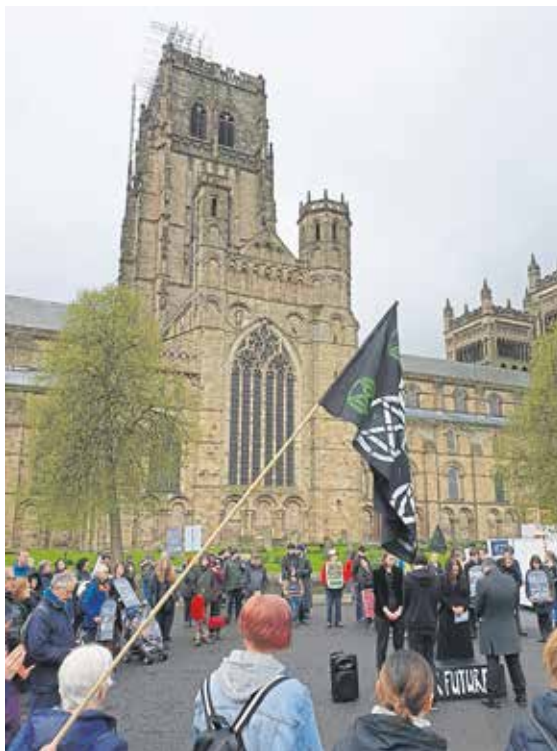
Thomas Wright House in Bishop Auckland have raised a fantastic £300 last month by dedicating an Afternoon Tea Week to us. 20% of every afternoon tea which was sold that week was donated straight to Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland. Esther and her team worked really hard on pleasing all of their guests with a delicious afternoon tea, and amazing customer service. We had over 8 happy customers call

us at Butterwick to let us know how beautiful their afternoon tea was and that they will definitely be back again. One lady said 'Thomas Wright House is a hidden gem and if you haven't been before you have to go'.

We are over the moon with their fundraising efforts and cannot wait to work with them again in the future.

Thank you to Esther (the owner) and all the team at Thomas Wright House.

County Newsbits Extra



Dear Sir, CLIMATE ACTION

This week I attended two events which deserve more than a line each in my County Newsbits column.

FUNERAL FOR OUR FUTURE

Last Saturday I went through to Durham to join Extinction Rebellion Durham's 'Funeral for our Future': bit.ly/FFOF419

The Extinction Rebellion people have been in the news recently for some very disruptive demonstrations, but on Saturday they simply conducted a number of symbolic funerals - at a number of locations in the city - mourning the loss of species, the planet and potentially the human race. "We refuse to bequeath a dying planet to future generations by failing to act now," they chanted solemnly.

For my sins, I ended up being a steward at the march, and it was an honour to be able to join these earnest, principled people as they campaigned for all our futures.

CLIMATE

EMERGENCY SCRUTINY

Whilst the Extinction Rebellion people have successfully raised awareness of climate change, we need also to do something about it and, in February, Durham County Council passed a 'Climate Emergency' motion, pledging to achieve carbon neutrality in both Council and County. One of my roles as Cabinet Support for Economy and Regeneration at DCC is to usher in safely the Council's Climate Emergency strategy, so I was delighted this week to attend a Special Meeting of Cllr Eddy Adam's Environment Scrutiny Committee, which looked at the issue: bit.ly/DCCENS419

The committee heard a learned presentation on minewater heating, reports on what the Council has already achieved as regards climate change and low carbon, and an outline of the work being done to prepare a Climate Emergency Plan for the Council meeting in July.

Cllr John D Clare

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Harris Tweed - Amy Stevens - Athena Sports
Hollywood Boredom - Anthony Fish
Call of the Wild - Darren Kent

Sunday Headline: 'BLACK LACE'

Aycliffe Dance Academy - Copper Beach
Shania Twain Tribute - Whiskey Haze
Four Letter Word - Becky Sawyer
Kylie Minogue Tribute - Chris Mardula



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SWIMMING TO SUCCESS AT LEEDS



total of 48 swims, bringing home 11 medals and 38 long course personal best times.

Competing for Sedgefield were:

Ethan Craig, Katelyn Craig, Tom Curran, Chloe Harding, James Hodgson, Zoe Hodgson, Charlotte Lee, Kathryn Lee, Charlie McEwan, Oliver Turnbull, Mateusz Wilczynski and Matthew Wimbury.

All medals and races were really hard fought for at this gala, as Sedgefield were competing against some much larger clubs from Manchester, Leeds, York and Hull, to name but a few. Katelyn Craig took bronze in the 100 fly and 50 back.

Tom Curran took silver in the 100 back.

James Hodgson took gold in the 50 free, 200 free, 1500 free and silver in the 50 back. Mateusz Wilczynski took silver in the 50 fly, 400 IM and bronze in the 100 fly. Matthew Wimbury took gold in the 50 breast.

Well done to all swimmers who competed.

Scarlet Takes First Pole Position and Another Podium at Teesside



Scarlet Dunn took her first ever Pole Position in her fledgling racing career and also finished with another Podium at Teesside last weekend.

Scarlet took control in qualifying to gain her first ever Pole Position, setting the time that took her to the top on her final lap.

She showed consistent pace throughout the day, with a brace of top 3 finishes with the front runners separated by only a few tenths of a

second. Scarlet also posting her best lap so far around Teesside in a competitive event by 1.2 seconds.

Her good performances in the heats converted to a 2nd place start in the final and she finished in 3rd place, giving her a 3rd podium in a row.

She will be racing again at Wombwell, South Yorkshire in two weeks time.

For more information on Scarlet and her racing visit ScarletDunnRacing.com

12 swimmers from Sedgefield 75 swimming club travelled to the 50 metre pool at the John Charles Centre in Leeds recently to compete in the April Fool meet, hosted by Richmond Dales ASC. Sedgefield took part in a

Football Festival Winners



After finishing a season of mixed results the Darlington 21st Allstars Under 9 junior football team have just returned from the Flamingoland Football Festival triumphant as the winners of the 2019 Yorkshire Cup.

The boys who are sponsored by local haulage company Fracks Transport Ltd and La Piazza restaurants finished the day on Saturday as the winners of their group.

The Sunday morning they were met with the first leg of the finals by a very talented group of boys from Liverpool who sadly beat them 2-1 but the Allstars fought back winning their last 2 remaining games which crowned them champions winning the Cup in a fantastic achievement and display of exceptional teamwork and a well deserved win.

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



It was again a week with racing during the week.

First up was John Surtees who travelled to the Monkton Stadium for the North East Grand Prix for North East Counties Athletic Association.

On this occasion John was competing in the 10,000m which is 25 laps of an outdoor track. John completed this in 35.15.11

Closer to home ARC had 9 teams competing in the Neptune Relays. These are hosted by Sedgefield Harriers and take place at Hardwick Park taking in the main lake before looping round the Serpentine Lake. It was a record number of entries with 121 teams competing in total on what was a lovely spring evening.

First team home for ARC were Mark Wade, Floyd Jones, Dez Fielden and Richard Holland in a total time of 37.38, they were followed by Andy Talbot, Lee Wren, Matt Heron and Mark Bainbridge 40.40, Richard Campbell, Trevor Needham, Alan Wilkes and John Burnside 43.12, Sandra Collins, Michelle Jane, Julie Nisbet, Michelle Scott 47.32, Stuart Joyce, Peter Smith, Richard Tonge and John Richardson 47.36, Trish Kay, Tracey Surtees, Heather Fenwick and Trish Kay (again) 50.53, Becki Pedelty, Anne Kellett, James Wilson and Warren Raine 56.32, Lindsey Brown, Bev Phillippo, Denise Evans and Jan McLuckie 59.54, Kathleen Tonge, Jane Burnside, Sam Baronowski and Sandrine Boinet-Hewitt 1.00.27.

On Saturday we had a few members take part in the Run Durham Hamsterly 10k hosted by Run Nation. This was a course that was mostly uphill for the first half before a good descent in the second half of the race. Mark Wade was first home for the club in a time of 37.48 which put him 2nd place overall (also 1st in his age category). He was followed by Paul Dalton in 39.51, Sandra Collins 54.24 (1st in her age category V50), John Young in 1.01.31 and Kathryn Waterworth in 1.02.47.

On Sunday the first venue was Washington with a couple of members taking part in the Washington Trail Race. This is a very undulating trail race which is part of a series of races known as the trail Outlaw Series. First home was Carley Gibson in 1.12.46 and Sandrine Boinet-Hewitt in 1.12.49. Linda McNamee also took part in this race but was running for her first club Hunwick Harriers. She completed this in 1.12.43.

We also had Andy Talbot take part in the Blackpool Half Marathon staged by



Flyde Coast Runners. Andy completed this course in a time of .30.13 and was first in his age category V55.

The main focus of this weekend however, was on the London Marathon for which we had 5 members taking part. Susan Cranswick was first home in 3.55.35, followed Andrew Lumley 4.07.33, Ian Baronowski 4.58.35, Heather Morgan 4.42.03, Sam Elwell 5.29.31.

For anyone interested in joining the club, you can simply turn up at one of our sessions all of which

start from the Oakleaf Complex in Newton Aycliffe. Monday night is beginners run at 6.30p.m., Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00 p.m., and Thursday is a track session and this takes place at Shildon Track. Further details can be found on our website or facebook pages or alternatively you can message the club via Facebook for more information.



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Disappointment Turns to Delight in Pit-Lane to Podium Bounce-Back



Photo credit: Jakob Ebrey

Max Coates scored a podium finish in the Renault UK Clio Cup at the weekend in the championships second event of the season held at Donington Park. It wasn't without a mixture in fortunes for the Yorkshireman who experienced a number of setbacks during the weekend. The early championship leader qualified his Primex Plastics and RPC bpi

PLASgran car second on the grid for the weekends two races as conditions dried out at the Derbyshire venue. It wasn't all plain sailing however, as tape covering an air vent to prevent the windscreen steaming up in wet conditions was left on when he switched to slick racing tires for the qualification session. Whilst no competitive advantage was gained Coates and two other cars were excluded from the results of qualifying for a 'technical infringement'. The penalty meant starting from the back of the grid with a 10 second penalty.

Whilst Coates pace was evident, he had a lot of work to do to propel his Harron Homes and Polydist sponsored car into a strong finishing position. Electing to start from pit-lane negated his 10 second penalty, Coates, significantly helped by an early safety car, romped through the field to sit in 3rd place on lap eight. Coates luck was certainly out, a stone hit his auxiliary belt at just the wrong point causing it to snap and the engines water pump to stop working. The engines temperature soared and forced the RMB Automotive and Bennett Renault backed car into retirement.

Coates had to start from the pit-lane again in race two and this time, live on ITV4, he had to do the work all himself. Without safety car help he scythed through to third on lap ten having run side by side for several corners with various drivers. With four laps to go Coates set about trying to get fastest lap in the final stages as he held on to his podium finish to the chequered flag.

Afterwards Coates said "It's been a weekend of disappointment, the punishment in qualifying put us firmly on the back foot and knowing we had the pace to challenge for the lead and not being able to do so is very frustrating. I felt like a second place may have been on the cards in race one but it wasn't to be, it's our first mechanical retirement in three and a bit years in the Clio Cup which is testament to my mechanics abilities as this one was purely down to 'bad luck'. I had a lot of fun battling through the field and I am definitely looking forward to pushing for race wins at my home race at Croft. I'd like to thank all my sponsors for their support throughout the weekend and hope I repaid theirs, and Team HARD's efforts with the podium result."

The championship now enters a month and half break before it's next rounds at Croft, North Yorkshire, on the 15th / 16th June. Max will compete in the Britcar Endurance Championship with DAT Racing in the break at the Brands Hatch Indy circuit and GP version of the Donington Park circuit on the 11th May and 1st June respectively. He is also set to announce the return of his 'sponsor a tyre' sponsorship scheme where local business can get onboard for the local round of the championship.

Juniors Football Report



Whilst the Easter holidays were being enjoyed there were fewer games for the Aycliffe Juniors football teams, but over the last two weeks there has been the conclusion of league seasons for some teams and friendly games for others.

The **Under 7's White** played an Easter friendly against Darlington 21st All Stars. Over the three twenty minute games ten goals were scored by Aycliffe with Jack R (4), Jack C (3), Ryan, Sammy and the mornings man of the match Tyler all on target. Their league programme also continued and they enjoyed a 4-2 win over Chester le Street with Jack R, Jonah, Alfie and an own goal providing the scoring.

The **Under 8's** enjoyed an inter club friendly against the Under 7's Juniors. All the players enjoyed the game and Jonah (2), Kai, Evan, Sam, Harry and Logan all got on the score sheet.

The **Under 9's** played their final league game against Leven at Woodham. It was to be a tough test as the visitors had won the reverse fixture 10-0. Thomas though put Aycliffe ahead before Leven equalised. Thomas then scored again after a lovely passing move involving Oliver and Callum making the score 2-1 at the break. Leven improved and attacked well in the second half to eventually win the game 3-2. After a great performance the whole Aycliffe team were named as men of the match. The development game ended in a 6-0 defeat with the hard working Joe given the man of the match award.

The **Under 10's White** had a busy time playing their final three league games. First up before the Easter break were Hartlepool St Francis and the Aycliffe team played the better football in the first half but couldn't convert the chances created. Hartlepool were the better team after the break and went on to win the game 3-0. Joel was named as man of the match. They went on to play Eaglescliffe Elementis at Woodham and then travelled to Darlington TSC. Against Eaglescliffe they stormed to a 4-0 win with Ethan opening the scoring then Jayden adding goals either side of the break. Grace

struck a stunning goal to mark a comprehensive win and the whole team were named as players of the match. In their last game at Darlington TSC a tight match ended in a 3-2 defeat. After being 3-0 down at half time goals from man of the match Ethan and Jayden were not enough to take any points. A nine a side development game followed with Jack scoring and Reiss the man of the match in a 3-1 loss.

The **Under 11's White** played some great football in a midweek friendly against Crook. Niall (2) and Aidan got the goals in a 3-0 win. They then gained another friendly win against Darlington All Stars over the weekend. This one ended 4-1 with Jack C (2), Layton and Jayden scoring. The **Under 13 Russell** Foster League team played a midweek match against Sunderland Athletic Pumas knowing victory would likely secure eighth place in the league. Man of the match Archie scored and several chances were created but the Pumas won the game 3-1. Their final league game saw them host second bottom Durham County Youth and if Aycliffe avoided defeat they would finish above their opponents. Aycliffe were 2-0 down at half time but Taylor scored to half

the deficit with five minutes remaining. Sam then added a last minute goal to make the final score 2-2 which gave the team a ninth place finish in Division 4.

The **Under 13 TJFA** League team played their final league match against Billingham Synthonia at Woodham. They went 2-0 down in the first half but battled back after the break. Zack scored and they pushed for an equaliser but the game ended in a 2-1 defeat. This result saw them finish the season in ninth place in Division 1.

The **Under 14's** are guaranteed at least seventh place in the league before their last two games are played. Their penultimate league game was away at second placed Greatham. They put in a great performance which deserved a win but narrowly lost 5-4. Dylan got a hat trick and Brandon also scored whilst Ben was named as man of the match. They will finish their season next week with a home match against Darlington 21st All Stars.

As this season comes to an end the club would like to extend their thanks to the players, coaches, volunteers and parents involved in running our teams for all their support throughout the year.

Aycliffe Cricket Club

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store managed to beat the poor weather but couldn't quite take victory away at Bedale 1st XI in the NYSD 2nd division and had to be content with a draw. Aycliffe lost the toss and were asked to bat first in tricky conditions and were bowled out for 186 after 49.1 overs. Adam Gittins top scored for the visitors with a workman like 41, Sam Telford smashed 33 from just 15 balls faced, with other contributions coming from Adam Randall who scored 32 and Patrick Howe (sponsored by Tom Steele) with 20 runs.

In reply, Aycliffe bowled and fielded well to restrict the home side to 184 for 6 from their allotted 49 overs. Michael Howe, playing his 250th senior game for Aycliffe, was the pick of the bowlers taking 2 for 45 and Luke Telford, Patrick Howe, James Layfield-Carroll and Jack Slatcher all chipped in with a wicket apiece. The second team's first game of the season got off to a damp start as their game at home to Bedale 2nd XI in the NYSD 4th division was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to persistent rain.

The U11's also suffered the same fate as their first game of the season away at Darlington RA was also postponed because of the weather.

Newton Aycliffe's ever growing under 9's squad entered three teams into the Sedgfield Softball 6-a-side Cricket Festival on Sunday 28th April and this included our very first all girls cricket team.

This was the first time that many of the players had played in a cricket competition and they all played very well and represented our town with credit. Phoebe Sproat was named player of the tournament for the girls team and Micah Thomson and Joey Hayman were named players of the tournament for their respective teams.

Top: U9s Girls Sedgfield Festival.

Middle: U9s A Sedgfield Festival 2019

Bottom: U9s B Sedgfield Festival 2019

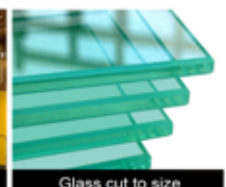


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THE HAMSTERLEY BEAST - BIKE FESTIVAL

It's hard to imagine what those lads thought around that pub table a few years back, but you can bet they hadn't expected the Beast to be where it is today. One of the most anticipated and biggest events in the North of England. A huge and well respected fundraiser for the Great North Air Ambulance Services (GNAAs). "Let's give something back" was the gist of the conversation amongst mates. This year, the Beast wants to break the £100,000 mark. This would

be most fitting when the Forestry Commission itself is celebrating 100 years.

645 riders signed up last year

Let's put into context why the Beast has chosen the GNAAs to support. Mountain biking as we all know can be a dangerous sport, and often takes us to remote and difficult places to reach, and this is why services like GNAAs are called in to support us when we run into serious trouble. It's not uncommon to see

the helicopter flying over or into Hamsterley Forest. That's why, around the table post ride, a group of mates chose to launch the Beast. Running a service like GNAAs doesn't come cheap. It's therefore important to remember that servicing one of the helicopters wouldn't leave much change from 1 million pounds. But not only that each time a patient is treated by the amazing team, they have a better chance of survival, but again this costs in the region of £4000

per casualty. They have consultant medics onboard who have the skills to treat patients onsite and even induce COMA in order to help save patients from the most serious of injuries. You hear people asking why such a valuable service in the North of England is run by charity, and you only have to listen to the CEO Graeme Pickering to understand that it's about being independent from government rules and regulations, and being able to provide an astonishingly superb service.

Always time and energy to pose for the camera
The 2019 Hamsterley Beast



© JWD Photography

is now promising to be bigger and better again, there will be a twist, but my lips are sealed for now. We

can however say that riders will be riding where they have never ridden before and amongst fresh virgin trails. The date for your diaries will be the whole weekend of 11th & 12th of May 2019. Saturday it will all kick off with food, beers, demos and a few select stalls. Camping will be available for the Saturday night and entertainment will be provided by local bands with Friday Street returning by popular demand. Again, the Beast will kick off early on the Sunday morning with 3 different challenges. Firstly a young rider only 10-12 mile challenge, then a 20 mile and 40 mile challenge ride. There'll be a group of select event photographers volunteering and donating the profits to the Beast again for 2019.

The Beast has become more of a Bike Festival
To sign up head over to the British Cycling site. To follow the Beast and keep up to date with the latest information you should head over to the Beast's Facebook Page or the official website here Kids can enter the Mini Beast for £15 (Adults £35) and the main events are £35. Make 2019 huge, lets smash £100,000 total raised.

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Aycliffe Community Engagement A.G.M.



Monday 29th April saw the AGM of Aycliffe Community Engagement, ACE (formerly GACAP). The late Syd Howarth, MBE, was the founder of GACAP and Ron Mitchie the President Elect for GACAP paid his own tribute to Syd, who he had known for many years. Ron referred to Syd as Mr Aycliffe, Syd, he said had a way of getting things done. He said ACE had had a few very difficult months, but in the memory of Syd the trustees refused to let the partnership sink, he said the trustees were determined to achieve the aim of a one stop shop for people in Newton Aycliffe who were in need. The Vice Chairman, Peter Driver, led the meeting, the Assistant Secretary gave the Chairman's Report and the trustees report which was agreed by those present. Treasurer, Joan Mitchie, referred to the breakdown of monies held in separate headings compiled of Capital, Discretionary and Ring Fence Funds from Awards from All, Reserves and General Funding. Because of the balance of monies in the account it was necessary to apply for a charity status. This would be referred to by a future partners' meeting for acceptance. Changes to the current constitution, to allow for an annual post of President as apposed to Life Post; a further change was to allow the President to be a serving officer. Also, regarding the trustees, an alteration was to be made allowing for trustees to come from outside the partners and elected at the AGM and co-opted if relevant skills would

benefit the partnership. After some discussion these items were accepted. Nominations had been received for most of the officers' positions and the new trustees were elected. Joan Mitchie took on the role of Chair, with Peter Driver standing down due to work commitments overseas. Mark Catmull, a new trustee, took over as Treasurer. Michael Stead and Stacy Porter were elected as Trustees and Chris Palmer and Ron Mitchie remaining as Trustees. Ron took over as Secretary from Terri Driver who will be joining her husband with his move overseas. This left a vacancy for Assistant Secretary and Vice Chairman and two places as trustees. The remaining posts would be co-opted should suitable members surface. With the business part of the meeting over, Peter introduced Phillipa Parsons from County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity. The two biggest projects the charity is raising money for is the Chemotherapy Appeal to enlarge and improve our cancer treatment facilities at University Hospital of North Durham. The MRI Scanner appeal was launched to replace the two scanners, one in Bishop Auckland and the other in Darlington. Phillipa said the scanners were 18 years old, but no funding was received from central government. The appeal raised an amazing £750k with the Trust providing the balance needed to buy the scanner and build a new MRI Suite at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

The second speaker was Paul Howarth from Newton Press he gave reflections about his Dad, Syd, and the work ethics that had been instilled on him. Syd was so involved in community activities in Newton Aycliffe, at one time he sat on 18 different committees. Paul gave an interesting potted history of the Newtonian and the

Newton News. He was, he said astonished at the way Aycliffe Radio had grown in such a short time. The radio now had 41 volunteers. The meeting was closed with the presentation by Paul of a photograph of his Dad, Syd Howarth MBE, Founder and President of GACAP/ACE to the first Annually Appointed President Ron Mitchie.

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Are You Registered?

People in County Durham are being reminded that they need to be registered to vote if they wish to have their say in the forthcoming European election.

The European Parliamentary election is taking place on Thursday, 23 May.

Polling cards will be delivered to County Durham residents who are eligible to vote and are registered to do so from today (Friday, April 26) to Monday, 29 April. These will have details of allocated polling stations.

Anyone who is not registered to vote can do so online up until Tuesday, 7 May at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Anyone who has recently moved home and has not informed Durham County Council's electoral services team can also register their new address online by Tuesday, 7 May at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

European Union (EU) citizens living in County Durham who are not from the UK can choose to vote in either their home country or here. Those wanting to vote in the UK must be registered and can do so online by Tuesday, 7 May at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Non-UK EU citizens must also send a completed European Parliament voter registration form to electoral services by Tuesday, 7 May. A letter, containing the form and information on how to return it, has been posted to all non-UK EU citizens who are registered to vote in the county.

It can also be downloaded at: https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/255197/EU-citizen-European-Parliament-voter-registration-form-English.pdf

Anyone wanting to check whether they are registered can phone electoral services on 03000 261 212.

Anyone eligible to vote and registered to do so can request a postal or proxy vote.

The deadline to sign up for postal votes is 5pm on Wednesday, 8 May and for proxy votes is 5pm on Wednesday, 15 May.

To request a paper copy of either application form, contact electoral services on 03000 261212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk

SUMMER OUTINGS

New Friends New Places invite you to join us on their Summer outings to the following places.

Wednesday 15th May York Sunday 26th May Dalton Park Shopping Centre and Seaham.

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Cooling the Climate This Compost Awareness Week

As part of International Compost Awareness Week, Durham County Council is offering discounted compost bins to encourage residents to recycle their kitchen and garden waste.

Compost Awareness Week, which runs from 5 to 11 May, aims to get more people composting by highlighting the benefits it brings to the environment.

This year's theme, Cool

the Climate – Compost!, recognises the connection between soil health and the climate. The campaign highlights how composting can return nutrients to the soil, help capture carbon from the atmosphere, resist drought and disease and provide fresh air.

The council is promoting a special buy one, get one free Share and Save offer on a selection of compost

bins, in partnership with getcomposting.com, so residents can team up with a family member, friend or neighbour to each get a discounted compost bin. The bins will allow household organic waste to be recycled into peat free compost, that will improve the quality and yield of home-grown fruit and vegetables, providing an abundance of produce to share between family and friends.

Victoria Burrell, Durham County Council strategy team manager, said, "Around a third of the average household bin can be composted and although many households already compost at home, we want others to get involved. "This is a great incentive to encourage more residents to get composting and set up their own composting communities, sharing the rewards. Home composting organic waste also helps to significantly reduce carbon emissions and can also be used as an effective and sustainable waste management method."

A range of compost bins and accessories are available to suit both new recruits and seasoned gardeners from www.getcomposting.com, or by calling 0844 571 4444. Further information on home composting can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/composting or by e-mailing wasteaware@durham.gov.uk



Outstanding Young Talent to Perform in Arts Festival



**3.00pm, Sunday 19th May
Central Hall
Dolphin Centre**

The outstandingly talented Chen brothers – Jeremy (13) and James (15) – are both students at the esteemed Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, having begun their piano studies aged six.

James was awarded his LRSM at 13 and performed his debut piano concerto with Teesside Symphony Orchestra in 2016 at age 12! Jeremy achieved his ABRSM at the age of 12. Both were the prize winners in Chopin International Festival in Warsaw in 2016 and in April this year, James won the prestigious Emanuel Trophy Piano Competition 2019 at the North London Arts Festival. Each will give a recital either side of the interval

and their programmes will include works by J.S. Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, Debussy and Prokofiev. This is a great opportunity to support young, local talent.

Greg Johnson, Chairman of Darlington Piano Society said "the Arts Festival gives us the opportunity to showcase the brilliance of these two youngsters, outside of our usual recital seasons. This will be their first ever recital performance in Darlington and I'm hoping that many will join us in an afternoon of exhilarating music making".

Tickets can be purchased online at the Society's website – www.dpiano.co.uk - and at the door on the day - £10 (U21 – Free). No tickets will be on sale at the Dolphin Centre beforehand.

Specsavers Team Member in London Marathon for Blind Charity

A member of staff at Specsavers, Newton Aycliffe swapped specs for sports last month in support of Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).

Sam Elwell, merchandiser in the store, ran the London Marathon in the capital city on 28th April on behalf of RNIB. So far, the store has raised over £600 to contribute to Sam's fund by holding raffles and hosting staff 'bake-offs'.

Sam says: "I was thrilled to be competing in my first ever marathon and so delighted to have raised so much money for RNIB. I have been training three or four times a week with my sister whilst running with the Aycliffe Running Club. I would like to thank everyone for their very kind donations, including my friends and family and the customers from Specsavers in Newton Aycliffe who have been generously supporting me."

"The store actively supports RNIB throughout the year, and many of the staff are trained as RNIB ambassadors, and we know the massive difference its work makes in changing



people's lives" said Sam. Specsavers and RNIB have been working in partnership for the last three years to raise awareness in the importance of eye care. Their research* has revealed that 250 people start losing their sight every day even though at least half of all cases are avoidable. Early intervention is vital in the management and successful treatment of many conditions, with regular eye tests being key. But despite that, one in four people are not having an eye test every two years

as recommended.

The store is encouraging people to visit the store and have their glasses cleaned, and donate to the cause.

* YouGov Survey commissioned by Specsavers and RNIB 23rd June -7th July 2017 of 6,430 UK adults aged 18+.



Congratulations

LUCIE HILL

**Happy 18th Birthday
1st May 2019**



Have a great time celebrating. Love, Mam, Graeme, Rosie, Kyle, Olivia, Gran, Grandad and all the family xxxxx

Birthday Remembrance

JOANNE McCOURT (Turner). 5th May 1961. Happy birthday Mum/Yaya. Another birthday without seeing you smile. You are forever in our hearts. Love you so much. Michelle, Colin, Cameron and Amelia xx xx

Obituary

EVA TINKLER
(nee Dye)

Peacefully on 21st April, aged 93 years. Treasured Mam Tink of Barry, Teddy, Margaret, Joyce, Derek and David; beloved Gran of Sarah, Angela, Brenton and Kira and Great Gran of Henry. Funeral Service to be held at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe on Thursday 9th May at 11.00am prior to interment in West Cemetery, School Aycliffe. Would family and friends please meet at the church. Donations in lieu of flowers, if so desired, for Alzheimer's Society.

In Memoriam

**ANN
BATCHELOR**

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed, and very dear.

Geoff, Amanda
and Leslea xxx

**Georgie
Stokes**

Died 5th May 2015

A devoted Husband of Joy-Marie. Your love and all our special memories I treasure.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Adrian
Cairns**

1st May

Tears still flow since you left us, with a huge void in our lives. But we have memories, all good, of a loving and caring Son. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Dad and Mam xxx Also sadly missed by Brandon and Ebony xxxx

**ELIZABETH
TRIPP**
(Betty)

Peacefully at Lindisfarne Care Home on Sunday 28th April, surrounded by her family, aged 83. Dearly beloved Wife of Brian; much loved Mam to Paula, Jeff, Colin, Graeme, Paul and Simon; treasured Nana and Great Nana. Family and friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Monday 13th May, 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, plate will be provided at the Crematorium.

NEIL EVERETT
Died 2nd May 2018

In loving memory of the best Dad. Loved and missed every day.

Lesley, David, Pam, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

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This role includes some heavy lifting, up to 20kg.

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Aycliffe Velo Cycling Club News



Aycliffe Velo Cycling Club based in Newton Aycliffe, have just completed our third club trip to Puerto Pollensa, Majorca. This has been one of our most successful trips with 15 club members joining us.

Our first ride, as always was to the Lighthouse at Cap de Formentor. This is a stunning route with terrific views and marvellous scenery, riders of all abilities completed this challenging ride resulting in an enjoyable

day for all.

We had terrific weather and were able to complete some epic rides, one of which was the Sa Calobra climb which challenged us all. A category 1 climb, 9.4km long with 26 hairpin bends and 670 metres of climbing. Absolutely fantastic.

Anyone interested in joining us on some local rides please check us out on our Facebook page where contact details are available.

St. Joseph's Primary School Need You!

St. Joseph's Primary School, on Garburn Place, celebrates its 50th Anniversary this term.

Towards the end of the term during the week of 1st July, St. Joseph's will be hosting Open Days culminating in a celebration event.

We will serve refreshments in the hall and are hoping to display photographs from the last 50 years. If you have any photographs for the display please bring them into the school and we can scan them. We would also love to see any report cards or memorabilia from the school.

Mrs Brown would like to display any memories or stories about the school so if you have anything you would like to share with us please get in touch.

Please contact the school on 01325 300337 if you have anything you think would be useful.

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DARLO F.C. UPDATE

Darlington are looking for a new manager following the decision to part company with Tommy Wright before Saturday's 1-1 draw with Leamington. The club's statement revealed that poor results was the reason behind their decision especially compared to the potential loss of revenue from season ticket holders and the Boost the Budget payments.

Wright remained in charge for the Leamington game, and was given a warm send-off by the 1146 fans, who are now speculating on who his successor will be.

There were a dozen applications before the job was formally advertised on Sunday evening, and there have been several suitable applicants. Bearing in mind the urgency in terms of team building for next season, the board is hoping to announce a new manager within the next fortnight. Wright's assistant, Alan White, is staying at the club and will continue to run the successful academy, which hopes to have an intake of over 20 new students for the next academic year.

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