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Friday 29th November 2019

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Celebration of Christmas

The Christmas festivities will start with gusto this weekend in Aycliffe Town Centre with live entertainment including Carol singing - as well as a visit from Santa Claus. The Town Centre management have organised the event which will take place on Saturday 30th November in conjunction with Aycliffe Radio.

A large marquee and seating for the 'Celebration of Christmas' will take place between 1.00pm and 4.30pm. Performing on stage will be the M.A.D. Choir and St. Clare's SHINE Choir (children's choir), helping to put everyone in the festive mood.

Aycliffe Radio's Professor Nincompoop will comper the afternoon introducing the artistes and entertaining the children (and adults) with tricks and competitions.

Special guests for the day are Dene Michael (from legendary party group Black Lace) and Jeni Jaye. Dene will be performing some Black Lace hits as well as popular Christmas songs, giving the whole day a Christmas party atmosphere.

Come along and enjoy this FREE event, under cover with seating provided.

The party will continue into the evening as Aycliffe Radio present Xmas Live at the Big Club with three superb artistes performing. Local girls Cassandra and Rhian will pay tribute to Rhianna, Ariana Grande, Beyonce, Pink, Tina Turner, Dua Lipa, Little Mix, Whitney Houston and Diana Ross.

While guest artiste Jeni Jaye will give her award winning performance of Kylie, Madonna and Britney Spears.

Dene Michael will also join the party and finish the night off with his renditions of some of the best Christmas pop songs.

The doors open at the Big Club at 6.30pm, first act is on stage at 7.00pm.

If you haven't already got your ticket, there will be a few available on the door at £5.00 each.

The Xmas Live event is part of the Aycliffe Radio second birthday celebrations. Come along and enjoy a superb night of entertainment.

Children (over six) are welcome, under 16s must be accompanied.

The bar will be open and refreshments will also be available.

Celebration of Christmas
Saturday, 30th November, 2019
Aycliffe Town Centre, 1pm to 4.30pm
***** ALL UNDER MARQUEE COVER *****

Dene Michael from Black Lace
Music from Aycliffe Radio, Host Professor Nincompoop
Singing from Jeni Jaye, MAD Choir and Shine Choir
Free gifts for the children from Santa

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Festive Activities at Locomotion

If you're looking for seasonal activities for all ages, then check out Festive Fun at Locomotion, Shildon, available from 30 November 2019 to 5 January 2020.

Every day during the Festive Fun period, visitors will have the chance to make a Christmas card or calendar in a FREE craft activity, suitable for all ages.

On 7-8, 14-15 and 21-22 December, visitors can join the Locomotion Explainers to make a Christmas gift to take home. With a different gift available to make each weekend, sessions are recommended for ages 5-11 and cost just £3 per gift.

Locomotion's Festive Film Sessions will also take place on 7-8, 14-15 and 21-22 December.

Recommended for ages 5-11 and priced £14.50 per person, participants will be invited to take a seat in a film screening area to watch a family-friendly festive movie, before enjoying some festive refreshments and then making a Christmas gift.

The Festive Fun programme also includes an afternoon tea offer priced £11.95 per person, and Christmas wreath making sessions priced £30 for person. For more information, please call Locomotion on 01904 685780 or visit locomotion.org.uk

Locomotion is open from 10am to 4pm daily and parking and admission are free of charge. The museum reserves the right to change the programme.

Greenfield Invitation to Festive Celebrations



Greenfield Community College are delighted to announce a festive afternoon event for members of the community. Aimed at the more senior element of the Shildon area, the afternoon promises a traditional Christmas party atmosphere with food and entertainment provided from 1.45pm to 3.00pm on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at our Shildon site.

We look forward to celebrating with you, just book your place through our school reception on 01325 300378 and choose the option for Shildon site. Places are limited so early booking is recommended.



COUNTY NEWSBITS
Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

A really quiet week for County Newsbits as the focus falls on the General Election ... the bonus being another interesting POLITICAL this Sunday 1 December.

There are internet links to find out more about all the following on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB140

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- DCC support for tree planting.
- DCC has spearheaded a Safeguarding Awareness campaign.
- DCC 'Stay Warm, Well and Safe' campaign during cold weather.
- Durham Council Digital Conference, working towards a more digital Durham County Council.
- 'Free after 3' parking in DCC car parks for shoppers during December.
- Tübingen - A Green City.
- Global award!
- Durham Constabulary's 'Checkpoint' programme has been named winner of the 2019 Goldstein Award for problem-solving in policing at a ceremony held in California.
- All the Party manifestos for the General Election - plus useful précis by BBC's Richard Moss.

AYCLIFFE RADIO
• On POLITICAL / Aycliffe Radio, live at

6-7:30pm, Sunday 1 December, my guests will discuss the latest news on the General Election and three listener-chosen topics: bit.ly/ARLIVE

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

Mardi Gras

e
escapade

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Festive Period Events

THE BIG CLUB

CHRISTMAS EVE
Upstairs Lounge - 6pm
Ticket Event £2.00
'Micky Glamz Christmas Party'
Complimentary drink for all guests on arrival

CHRISTMAS DAY
Open from 11am until 10pm

BOXING DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION
'Taking the Mick'
Cabaret Duo plus Sensational Vocalist **KRIS ATKINS** AND Vocalist from **STARLIGHT**
Entertainment from **STARLIGHT**
Disco Tickets Adults £5, Children £2.50 - Doors open 3pm

NEW YEARS DAY
BIG CLUB LEGACY DAY
Doors open 11am with Entertainment all day from **JOHN MELVIN DISCO** plus **GET CARTER & SIMPLY VOCAL**
All welcome
£2 cover charge on the door

MAIN BAR
'Members Only'
Doors Open 11am

HEADLINE EVENTS
December 21st
HOWAYSIS fantastic Oasis tribute
Tickets £5 - Doors open 7pm
December 22nd - **Cinderella Panto** Tickets £4 plus selection box for every child - 2pm
December 28th - **FREDDIE MERCURY TRIBUTE**
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £4

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY NIGHT
Upstairs Lounge -
Superb Vocalist **'MIKE WILD'**
plus music from **STARLIGHT DISCO**
Tickets £2 - Doors open 6pm
Complimentary drink for all guests on arrival
Concert Hall - Aycliffe Soul Club
Doors open 6.30pm - Tickets £5
MIDNIGHT COUNTDOWN at both events!

Tickets for all events are now on sale at the Big Club.
Call into the Club to purchase your tickets or telephone
01325 312949 to reserve for same day collection.



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Saturday 30th November - "Over Drive"
Bio: "Over Drive are a dynamic rock covers band playing a selection of classic rock songs from the 60's to now. Taking you through the great ages of music, from the 'Who' to 'Kings Of Leon', 'Madness' to 'The Sex Pistols', 'Deep Purple' to 'Foo Fighters'. With an all action front line, big sound and bad lights, this is a band not to be missed" Covering tracks by: Stereophonics, Bad Company, Nickle Band, Bowie, The Fratellis, Green Day, T-Rex and more.
"Singing and dancing guaranteed! These guys know how to party"

Saturday 7th December - "7 Sins"
Gig Pit Review: "First time for me to catch the 7 Sins, I really enjoyed the band a great selection of rock covers from Tom Petty, Free, Kings of Leon, Def Leppard, Bad Company, Kaizer Chiefs, Simple Minds. The standard of playing was excellent, Bill Brown on rhythm and lead vocals has a great tone to his voice and is a great front man, who likes to get the audience involved with his jokes and banter, the other members play to a very high standard."

Sunday 8th December - "OasisJam" 4.00pm
OASISJAM are a tribute to two of the greatest bands ever - OASIS and THE JAM.

Saturday 14th December - "This Machine"
Every Friday is Open-Mic/Buskers featuring some great local talent, players welcome
For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Successful Community Spirit Trade & Craft Fair



The Community Spirit Christmas Craft & Trade Fair had a lovely Christmasy atmosphere, with an amazing 27 local businesses taking a stall and the wonderful winter wonderland with Santa in his Grotto. We welcomed over 350 visitors through the door to enjoy the day us. The event has raised just over £1000, which will be added to further fund raising events to help us deliver 100 Christmas food hampers and hot Christmas Day lunches. We would like to thank all the residents of Newton Aycliffe and the Big Club in helping us create the lovely community event and raising funds towards this mammoth task.



PCSO Visits School



PCSO Abigail Hill came to visit the Mini Police at St. Josephs to talk about her role in the community.

Turbinia & Aycliffe Bike Club Toy Run



Every year 'Aycliffe Bike Club' and 'The Party Fire Engine' tour pubs collecting toys that have been donated, to be handed over to 'Bishop Auckland Women's Refuge'. This event has been running for 12 years and handed over thousands of toys, giving kids a Christmas they could only have dreamt about, so please support this worthwhile cause.

If you can, buy an extra present this year and leave it, unwrapped at The Turbinia, or better still, hand it over in person and greet the cavalcade of motorcycles (many in fancy dress) and the 'Party Fire Engine' at 3.00pm on Sunday 15th December. All bikers are very welcome to join in the fun, suitable for all sizes of Bikes, Trikes and Scooters etc., just donate a toy. Meet at the Turbinia, Aycliffe. DL5 7PA - 11.45am - For more details call GARY 01325 313034.

Thank You

Dear Sir,
Heighington Christmas Fair took place on Saturday 23rd November and raised over £1500. Thanks to all who made event a huge success.

SYRIAN DANCE GROUP AT SIMPLY XMAS FAIR



St. Clare's are delighted to welcome the Brahim Al Sham dance group to our Simply Xmas Fair on Saturday 7th December, beginning at 10.00am. The young Syrian children have been practicing very hard and it would be lovely to give them a warm welcome and a good audience, so please come along. There will be a Festive Cake Stall, Raffle,

Christmas Parcels, Tombola and Bottle Stall. This year we have a massive hamper filled with luxury goodies to present to one lucky winner. Enjoy a bacon sandwich with a hot cuppa and relax in this the busiest of seasons. We look forward to seeing you at St. Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe next weekend. Helen McCormick



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Adults (16+) £22.50, Children (-16) £15
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Food- Adults- Roast Sirloin of beef, Dauphinoise, buttered greens, red wine reduction. (Gluten Free)
Homemade mars bar cheesecake with salted caramel ice cream.
Kids - Roast Sirloin of beef, mash potatoes, buttered greens and gravy.
Or Slices of pizza with fries.
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Duo of strawberry & vanilla ice-cream
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WALK THE WALK

Secretary of State Visit



Dear Sir,
On Tuesday I had the pleasure of hosting Liz Truss, visiting the award winning Crafters Companion. The business, employing over 200 people, has its headquarters in Newton Aycliffe and was created by Sara Davies with a launch product called the Enveloper and is now internationally successful and Sara is also one of the dragons on Dragons Den. Liz, Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade is also the Minister for Women and Equalities. We met with Simon Davies, Managing Director, who explained the business to Liz and we then discussed the importance of delivering an environment free of uncertainty and the need for both politicians and business leaders to promote the strength of our businesses and in particular SME's which are the beating heart of jobs in the UK.

We have a range of tremendous businesses, like Crafters Companion, on our doorstep and they all need to see the end of the Brexit uncertainty. As a previous business director I am well aware that uncertainty is the enemy of investment and believe that as soon as we get Brexit done we will then see our businesses invest. It is also a fundamental part of a politicians role to not only talk about supporting business but to actually walk that walk and actively support our businesses. This would include lobbying to support business.

If elected as your MP I would challenge the North of Tyne Labour authorities on their apparent exclusion of Hitachi from the £400m contract to replace trains on the Newcastle Metro which risks our local jobs, and I will continue to support Ben Houchen, the Conservative Tees Valley Mayor, in his efforts to reinvigorate Teesside Airport, and get infrastructure investment in our region.

At a more basic level everyone has the opportunity to direct their spend towards our local businesses, an easy example for me is the printing of election leaflets. Mine were done at Newton Press, as I said you have to walk the walk and not just talk the talk, please join me in doing everything you can to support in particular our local businesses. Paul Howell
Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Sedgfield.

Don't Get Bogged Down

Dear Sir,
Now we have the names of the Candidates for the forthcoming general election it is obvious that my vote will go to the Labour Candidate Phil Wilson and would urge your readers to consider the issues, ask what happens after Brexit?

Since 2007 Phil Wilson has held an office in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre, fully staffed by good people who handle all his case files.

We now find that the Brexit Candidate is based in Suffolk, while Paul Howell from the Conservative Party, who lives in Darlington and also sits on Durham and Darlington Council. How can he cope with this workload and be an MP? The other candidates all come from Darlington with the exception of Lib Dem who comes from Gateshead. Only Phil Wilson lives in the Sedgfield Constituency.

What can these people contribute to the people of this constituency and how can they represent our people when they don't live in the locality?

We need to ask about working to continue to deliver jobs like NetPark and Hitachi. We need to invest in our NHS, something that Farage says we need to move to an insurance type NHS which is not free at the point of delivery. Education for All, making our Communities Safe and a Strong National Defence. It is my belief that Phil Wilson will take these issues forward on behalf of the Sedgfield Constituents.

Brexit is a single issue, when that is done will Mr Bull go back to his day job in the EU? Don't get bogged down with Brexit, it will cost jobs and cause untold damage to the NHS. Not, as Boris Johnson would have you believe, give more funding to the NHS Vince Crosby
Hambleton Court



FOR THEIR FUTURE

Dear Sir,
Today's younger generations will be the first to be worse off than their parents' generation. Tory policies over the last decade have decimated their life chances and narrowed their opportunities, from simply being able to afford to move out of the family home and becoming independent, to benefiting, as previous generations have, from such things as a well-funded NHS, a free university education and a social security safety net when things go wrong.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently released research which showed one in three children are now living in absolute poverty in the UK, and Shelters figures show that 130,000 children were homeless last Christmas, and this is expected to rise again this year. The Tories hiked up tuition fees meaning students leave university with huge debts, they stopped the education maintenance allowance in England which enabled young people to stay on at school and make it to university.

Young people get paid less for doing the same job as those around them and cuts to youth services and counselling services have left our young people in crisis with nowhere to go or turn to for help. Charities and community initiatives cannot fill the gap

of well-funded professional support services and they shouldn't have to.

The issues this new generation will have to face when it comes to climate change are enormous, it is not acceptable or responsible to hand this future down to them as their legacy.

Labour will ensure people are paid fairly for the work they do, by bringing in a real living wage for everyone, no matter what their age. They will invest and restore the services previous generations have enjoyed, they will ensure there are enough affordable social houses so young people can start their lives and, through Labours new green deal, create jobs and provide lifelong training while working to negate the worse effects of climate damage and leading the world in green technologies. Labour will end tuition fees and bring back maintenance grants, invest in our schools and feed our hungry children, so they can achieve their potential. We CAN already afford to do this; it is just about a shift in priorities. Who does our economy work for, if it is not to feed our children and give our young people the future they deserve?

Young people have been leading the calls for change and Labour have listened. For their future, vote Labour.

Kathy Beetham.

I RESIGNED MY LABOUR MEMBERSHIP

I have been a Labour party supporter all my life, and a fully paid up member for about 40 years, but the decision by the Labour Party to abolish the Married Couples Allowance has caused me to resign my membership with immediate effect, because my wife and I (and others like us) will be paying for the billions of pounds that Corbyn will need to borrow to pay for all the "handouts" that the Labour party proposes to finance, and not just those earning £80,000 which Corbyn often tells us.

So if there are any pensioners out there, and I feel sure that there will be many, who are in a similar position as my wife and I, think very carefully where you place your X on the 12th of December, because it could cost you a lot of well earned money if you decide to vote Labour.

I did visit MP Phil Wilson's office this week to register my concern, but got absolutely nowhere.

Terry Farley MBE
Former Labour Party member/voter.

BEST RESULT IS A HUNG PARLIAMENT

Dear Sir,
My quandary with this election is that I want neither of the two main parties to win. Neither represents the best solution to my Country's problems, future prosperity or ability to determine our own future. Neither of these two parties are fully, openly honest.

My MP's flyer says he wants re-election to 'continue to fight for you', he didn't - so I won't. For the record, my Oxford Dictionary defines a delegate as a 'chosen representative' so, despite protestations, he is my only 'both'.

References to austerity ignore that it resulted from the profligacy of the Blair/Brown New Labour years leaving the Country broke, needing painful correction. Worse are the impractical, unaffordable promises made by his Party. The manifesto cannot be fulfilled and will run us into worse debt than the last Labour experience!

So....

The prospective Conservative candidate, an ex-Accountant, should be a useful asset. But I don't

believe his Party manifesto. His boss says 'the deal' is done, cooked, ready to pop in the microwave. It isn't. There is a long way to go. Not all in the 'deal' is known. His claim of a Free Trade Agreement by June greatly conflicts with Barnier's estimate of three years. Promises roll off tongues - in all Parties - without regard to truth or practicality. All bribe us with our own money.

If these benefits are not Election 'bribes' why were they not implemented last year? They insult us. The raising of the NI level will actually benefit a worker by some £80/90 not the £500 banded around for some time in the future - perhaps. What about the £500 billion (£500 billion) we are to sign up to as Guarantors which continues beyond the Transition period? Then we are to pay a divorce settlement, plus £1 billion a month, obey EU rules (including new ones) with no say in any proceedings. No thanks Boris. That is capitulation not leaving 'Getting Brexit Done' for an ego trip.

The best, most sensible, most affordable manifesto I have read is the Brexit Party 'Contract'. It's good sense, without bribery, sadly the Sedgfield candidate may be an 'outsider', although time may tell a different story.

I think the best result would be a hung Parliament. We are all sick, not necessarily of Brexit, but the political gyrations, posturing and lies

surrounding it. True, a hung Parliament will have it's problems, but - so would a Conservative majority giving Boris a full head of steam, at a whim - so would a Labour majority giving Jeremy unlimited room to dither; or not, on a whim.

Very beneficial to have a hand brake or an anchor to chuck overboard. Douglas Whittaker

CLIMATE CONFUSION

Dear Sir,
Could somebody help me as I'm very confused.

I contacted Durham County Council regarding wood burners and their effect on climate and was told they are 'Carbon Neutral' which I assume to mean you grow a tree and then burn it and new trees will absorb the carbon released from burning.

My problem comes with the time to grow a tree and the time it takes to burn it. Election parties are saying they are going to plant millions of trees to try and reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere but where does that fit in with the growing trend to put in wood burners.

To add to my confusion the old part of the town is a smokeless zone but the new part is not.

I'm sure there must be an environmental expert who can clarify the situation for me.

Regards

D Williamson

Phil Wilson and Brexit

Dear Sir,
Phil Wilson's agent, Paul Trippett, thinks that Phil Wilson's actions in the last Parliament were consistent with his election promise, "to respect your Leave vote". Clearly, like Labour/Momentum Cllr. Beetham, he thinks all Leave voters are morons!

As for Paul Trippett's, 'Representative v Delegate' argument. This has been addressed by veteran Labour MP, Frank Field. He considered that he was honour-bound to respect the PROMISE to implement the result of the democratic Referendum vote. That is, he accepted that, on the matter of Brexit, he was delegated to support the majority will. What the electorate were OFFERED during the Referendum was to decide whether we would leave the E.U., or remain in the E.U. Simple! The requirement to negotiate an orderly withdrawal was only mentioned in Article 50.

What the local electorate were offered at the last election was a choice between the two main parties: BOTH promised to negotiate our leaving the E.U.

The difference between Phil Wilson's actions and the actions of the Leave supporting Conservative MPs who were elected in 'Remain' voting constituencies is that, in the last election they stood on a Leave Manifesto and they honoured their manifesto promises. Phil Wilson broke his. It is about honouring your promises to your electorate and not about whether you supported Leave or Remain.

The people voted LEAVE! Corbyn has now backed Phil Wilson's proposal for a so called, 'peoples vote'. Who are these people?

The matter cannot be properly decided by any

further vote where the majority preferred LEAVE option is not on the ballot paper! This would be ludicrous, undemocratic, immoral and insane! The people have decided that they want to Leave. We have to Leave!

If Parliament want to know whether the people are happy with a deal, ask them; but LEAVE is, and must remain, on the table.

Times have moved on and Labour/Momentum Party and the Ill-Liberal Undemocratic Party are both promising to keep, 'Free Movement of People' and to borrow billions of pounds to build hundreds of thousands of houses. Who are we being asked to borrow and build houses for?

Our housing costs are so high simply because demand has always outstripped supply. Those who support unlimited immigration do not seem to appreciate that migrants need housing, jobs, schools, hospitals and, if they stay here, they get old and retire and need care. Indeed, the only difference between many migrants and the indigenous population is that migrants will tend to earn less and will spend a greater proportion of their earnings/benefits back in their country of origin. It does not make them bad people, however, it does affect the cost of housing for everyone! Let us TAKE BACK CONTROL of our borders and let the Euro Zone address its rampant unemployment and not just export its responsibilities. We cannot go on borrowing billions of pounds to subsidise E.U. failures.

After all, it was Socialist Gordon Brown who called for 'British jobs for British workers'. All I'm adding is, 'British houses for British Workers'.

Yours Sincerely
Alastair P.G. Welsh



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Where is Mr Wilson? PCP COMMUNITY OUTDOOR GYM LAUNCHED

Dear Sir,
Where has our MP, Mr Wilson, gone? I have patiently waited for him to do his usual of informing his constituents of his mandate for this election through the media, but nothing has appeared yet. How can we put our trust in someone who, in the last election, told us he would support the majority of his constituents; vote to implement Article 50 and get us out of the EU and so they voted for him, remember 'local man local values'.

Once he got in, the values disappeared and the next we heard from him, again through the media, after a secret meeting with others, he would rather take the advice of outsiders than his constituents. I now believe that one of them concerned was our run-away ex PM and MP, Mr. Blair, after listening and reading articles in the media. Through his time he has never had the guts to talk to us face to face, only thing he does is use the media, always in conjunction with others. Like most of the other so called Labour MPs he tries to tell us what we need not what we want. Blames the Conservatives for the NHS problems, and let's not forget that the Labour party, Mr Blair, opened the flood gates to allow all and sundry into this country with no thoughts on how it would affect the NHS and all other establishments financially, when they were voted out they left the country in such a state that we are still trying to sort it out today.

As to Brexit, if the northern Labour MPs had stood by the majority of the Leave constituents and not their own personal ideas, we would not be in the predicament we are now, with the loss of orders that have gone abroad to EU companies, so they must take some of the blame for this. When the time comes to vote can we put our trust and faith in Mr Wilson on his past record? I would say a definite NO.

The Labour party in the north east has gone from a party to represent the working classes to a party to dictate with a "do as I say attitude". The best party to sort this out, with the best leader for us, is now the Conservatives and

deserves to get the votes of the people.

I wonder if Mr Wilson has gone to ground in our town centre, below his office, in one of the unattended empty shops are posters, one advertising Santa's Grotto, I wonder if this is his next job just a thought.
John Armstrong
Defoe Crescent
Newton Aycliffe.

WASPIs CAMPAIGN

Dear Sir,
Few women born in the 1950s would not have been disappointed when they learned that the sunlit uplands of retirement at 60 with a state pension were no longer in their grasp. Then in 2011 another kick in the teeth moved the goalposts yet again. Many people were not even told of these changes. Approaching 60, these women were faced, unexpectedly, with several more years of hard slog in sometimes demanding, physical work. Many women were not only disappointed, they were outraged, at the unfairness, speed and lack of communication with which the changes were implemented, and WASPIs have campaigned long and hard for the resulting damage to be addressed by government.

The Labour Party recognises that there is a case to be answered and have committed to recompensing women should they be elected to government. Calculations show that the level of recompense will be between £15,000 and £30,000 over 5 years. Yes, there will be a cost, but how many times has the Conservative government found the money for their plans when it suited them? Recompensing 1950s women did not suit them and, as usual, their harsh policies fall most heavily on working class women. Vote Labour for a more just society.
Sedgefield Labour Women.



for people to exercise and we are very grateful to both Sport England and Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Area Action Partnership for their support."

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



The Pioneering Care Partnership recently launched their outdoor Green Gym located in the community garden of the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

A section of the garden has been fitted with outdoor gym equipment – including a cross trainer, rowing machine, static bike and much more. This wouldn't have been possible without the generous capital funding from Sport England. The range of new outdoor activities in the centre aims to create a relaxing, social space for everyone to enjoy. In addition to the funding from Sport England, Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Area Action Partnership (GAMP) provided funding to support memory gardening and which has enabled PCP to employ a worker to develop sensory areas, memory trails and deliver sessions for the community. The PCP invited members of Sport England and GAMP to the launch of the outdoor

gym and encouraged everyone to have an exercise session to experience the benefits of outdoor activities and fun social interaction. Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, explained, "When compared with exercising indoors, exercising in the natural environment is proven to help people to have increased energy and feel more positive or revitalised. Through funding from Sport England, PCP is able to offer use of the outdoor exercise equipment free of charge to groups and individuals and we hope this facility becomes very popular."

Barry Kneviatt, PCP Chairperson, added, "PCP's mission is 'Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All' and we are continually thinking about how we can provide new services for local people and communities. The development of an outdoor gym at the Pioneering Care Centre provides a safe space

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St. Elizabeth's Events

St. Elizabeth's Church invites you to our Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December at 10.00am. Selling Christmas cakes and preserves and Christmas goodies, gifts, jewellery, festive tombola and raffle. Seasonal refreshments are available and all are welcome.

On Wednesday 11th December is our ever popular Christmas Souper Lunch. A seasonal menu with two soups and at least two puddings plus Christmas treats. Served at 12 noon and all for £4.00. Reserve your place for an enjoyable time by contacting Norma on 01325 312930, payment please, before the event, tickets can be delivered.

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Greenfield Welcome Wizard & The Typhoon

Greenfield Arts are delighted to be part of a creative project that engages students in the arts and explores the musical heritage of Shildon. The Wizard and the Typhoon is a project supported by Northern Heartlands and co-ordinated by Friends of the Wizard and Typhoon. It offers students at Greenfield Community College the opportunity to work with professional artists and musicians.

The Wizard and The Typhoon celebrates the creativity of inspirational musical composers from New Shildon (George Allan and Thomas Bulch) who were renowned for their contribution to music during the late 19th and early 20th century.

To celebrate their lives and their legacy two artists will be leading workshops at Greenfield Community College, Theresa Easton

will be working with art specialist Laura Peaker and students to create a graphic magazine called a zine. Elizabeth Corney will be exploring composition alongside music teacher John Gomez-Gill.

This will be a brilliant opportunity for a unique insight into their lives and their ability to succeed. The project aims to inspire students to explore their own skills and creativity and to realise that they can achieve.

Funding has been secured through Northern Heartlands. Northern Heartlands is one of sixteen Great Place Schemes in England, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England. Greenfield Arts are delighted to be able to bring the project to students and give an extended opportunity for learning.

Woodham Raise Money for Children in Need



Friday 15th November saw the return of the annual Children in Need fund raising event at Woodham Academy. The academy has been raising money for the charity for over 11 years; this year the event was organised by Miss Ellesha Gray, teacher of English. The whole school actively participated in the event, in terms of sponsored silences, fancy dress, a movie night, and the sale of raffle tickets in order to win a Pudsey cake made by the Academy's resident chef Linda Vipond. In addition to a raffled cake, other sweet treats were made and sold by students during break and lunch time.

The day was a resounding success, allowing a day of fun to be constructive in terms of raising both money and awareness for the cause of Children in Need. The day started with a guest appearance from Pudsey himself who welcomed the students into school. Members of the public even stopped to say hello to Pudsey and donate at the gate. Pudsey was, once again, at the gate at the end of the day to thank students for their participation.

Throughout the day, students were witnessed braving the cold dressed in their pyjamas and onesies. All year 7 and 8 students were encouraged to take part, with some organising the usual sponsored silences and fancy dress day, for others, there was the addition of innovative ideas which

some pupils participated in during their weekend such as: sponsored car washes, a sponsored run and a cinema night at school where pupils watched and sang along to the new Aladdin film.

The students made a superb effort in both raising money and their positive attitude towards the event. Woodham's very own Mrs Harrison was the fortunate winner of the Pudsey cake raffle and enjoyed sharing Linda's delicious creation with her tutor group at the end of the day.

As a result of the massive success of the Children in Need event hosted by Woodham Academy, the students, teachers, staff and other contributors managed to raise over £500 for this incredibly worthwhile cause. Thank you to parents for supporting the charity and providing fantastic costumes.

St. Clare's Court Xmas Fair

7th December 2019
1.30pm – 4pm

Please come along and join in the fun we have a raffle, tombola, craft and cake stalls and the children can meet Santa in his grotto. We will also be selling refreshments in our dining room.

BECKY, BRINGING THE TROPHY HOME

The Pioneering Care Partnership's very own Becky Gustard has been crowned the Community Employee of the Year at The Investors in People Awards 2019!! This Award aims to recognise someone who isn't necessarily in a senior position but works just as hard as any leader, inspiring colleagues to be the very best they can be on a daily basis and rewards a person who is truly valued by those they work with.

Becky was thrilled to be nominated, elated to become a finalist and overwhelmed to be the overall WINNER! Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, explained, "Not only is Becky PCP's longest serving employee, she is highly regarded by everyone she works with. I had absolutely no hesitation in nominating Becky for the sheer breadth of her passion, enthusiasm and her willingness to help others which, along with her PCP career journey, is truly remarkable. Whilst her role is mainly back-office Becky loves to see the difference that PCP makes in communities. She always attends the AGM and truly values the work we all do. Becky is motivated by PCP's mission and often moved to tears with the stories of personal success and the journey of our clients. Caring, compassionate,

supportive and friendly are words I would use to sum up Becky. Becky has made a huge contribution to the organisation and importantly the people we help....Becky you've always been a winner in my eyes and now you are a winner on the global stage!! How brilliant, well done!!" Becky being crowned the winner in the Community Employee of the Year category of The Investors in People Awards 2019 is a fantastic achievement and something everyone at PCP is really proud of. Becky had a fantastic time at the Awards ceremony in London and has been astounded by the kind words, cards and gifts from friends upon her return work. We look forward to continuing the celebrations in the North East! Investors in People believes that looking after your people is something that matters to all of us and that's why these awards are so special. Companies and people who are finalists and winners in the globally recognised Awards are really getting it right. These are the ones we're all learning from; the ones with new ideas and the ones that make work better. PCP is very proud to be considered to be champions of people management and an Investor in People.

Photo: Becky with her IIP 2019 Community Employee of the Year Award.



One Punch UK

As the Christmas party season approaches, One Punch UK launches its 2019 Punched Out Cold campaign - now in its 6th Year.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the devastation one punch can cause, and urges people to think about the long-term consequences of their actions.

One Punch UK hopes to get every police force in the UK supporting the campaign so the hard-hitting poster and important message reaches as many people as possible. In 2018, the poster was viewed more than 1.6 million times on social media, something the campaign hopes to double this year.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness, who is supporting the campaign, along with all three regional police forces and their PCCs, firmly believes that education is key.

She said: "Every act of violence is one too many. My vision is to prevent crime and tragedy before they happen. This campaign is about making safe choices, recognising the warning signs and teaching people to think again when they face potentially violent situations. An impulsive action, with clouded judgment, on a festive night out can result in a lifetime of regret.

"By starting early and educating young people, we can make a difference. Identifying and tackling the root causes of crime and harm in our communities is a top priority for me and I will be working closely with One Punch UK as part of the prevention work that's at the heart of my Violence Reduction Unit. Violence is not inevitable, it is in large parts predictable and through campaigns like this we can help prevent it."

Committed campaigner and founder of One Punch, Maxine Thompson-Curl, said: "This campaign is so important to educate people what a single punch can and the devastation it can cause".

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Film Show

"DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 3rd December features the comedy drama "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" starring Sandra Bullock, Ellen Burstyn, James Garner, Maggie Smith and Ashley Judd. Mother and Daughter are at war, neither is going to try to mend things, so mum's lifelong friends decide to mend things; no matter what! Everyone is welcome, please come along and enjoy. Tea and coffee are served at 1.00pm, included in the £2.00 admission. The film starts at 1.15pm and a variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Heighington / Bay Horse Bonfire & Fireworks



This year's event was held on Saturday 2nd November, and despite some drizzle, a very large crowd packed the village green in anticipation of the bonfire lighting and the fireworks. The bonfire was as large as last year and was really spectacular when lit. The fireworks that followed were fantastic and were enjoyed by all the spectators. This event wouldn't be

possible without the funding and support from Tony and Diane Goodman of the Bay Horse. They fund the public insurance, the fabulous fireworks and other incidental expenses. A big thanks to all their staff who worked hard on the outside catering and kept the drinks flowing on a very busy night.

Thanks are also due to the following people without whom the bonfire event would not happen.

* Simon Shepherd (Edgar Shepherd Saw Mill) for donating 40+ wooden pallets to build the bonfire perimeter.

* Brian Knox (Bracks Farm) for donating the hay bale used to light the bonfire.

* Peter Cockburn (Newbiggin Farm) and Alan Gibson for the metal stakes for the public safety barrier.

* Rob (North Yorkshire Timber, Darlington) for donating timber for the safety and instruction notices.

* Jane and Peter Gosnay (Spar Shop) for collecting donations towards the fireworks.

Finally, a big thanks to the following for their efforts in building the fire, marshalling on the night and helping in the clear up afterwards.

John Wood, Shaun Wilson, Shaun Thompson, Steve Jackson, Tony Kay and Darryl Gregory.

Well done to all those who contributed and especially to all those who came and enjoyed the event.

C.S.I. AYCLIFFE

Three local men have put their heads together to help the people on the town who may be struggling financially through Universal Credit or may need to use the food bank because of sanctions.

Tom Carroll - founder of Fishing with Tom, a charity set up to give coaching and life skills to disabled and disadvantaged young people.

Brian Agar - founder of TBA Coaching, which was a football coaching programme for disabled children and adults.

Neville Jones - Who is best known on the town for J&C Coaches and also for his hard work through his charity "Community Spirit", whose name we hijacked and tinkered with to come up with CSI

Aycliffe; which we hope you will find catchy, useful and easy to remember.

The idea behind this project is to help the people of Aycliffe in a positive way with cheap goods and free items. We are still in our infancy but if it continues the way it is going it will be a positive solution for locals. We will be holding a sale at the Scout Hut, Burnhill Way on Monday 2nd December, open from 10am to 4pm. Most items priced at 25p with some 2-4-1 and some freebies.

There may be a small section of larger items which will be priced to clear - so first come first served.

Money raised will help local people struggling in these times of austerity, so please come along and show your support.

"FOLLOW THE STAR"

We are sending out an invitation to all in our Newton News area (and beyond) to our "Christmas Memory Service". It will be lovely to see you there.

This will be held on Sunday 1st December in St. Clare's Church at 4.00pm. All are very welcome to attend this simple and peaceful Service where some short Carols are sung, prayers are said and you can write a message on a "Memory Star" to your past loved ones, and place it on our Advent tree in church. You can, if you wish, also take a star home for your own tree.

You will be given a small glass pebble as you enter, and during the Service your loved ones name will be read out and you (and family) can come forward to place your pebble on The Memory Tray.

There will be refreshments after the Service and a chance to talk to a member of the clergy if you wish, and look at our memorial book.

Please come early to place your loved ones name on our list in church. Any other information can be had from Pam Lovelass APM-AFM on 01325 316841.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

STATE PENSIONS

For most people the State Pension provides the main underpin of income in retirement. In the current tax year a full new State Pension will pay £168.60 per week - £8,767 a year - and under current rules this will increase each April by the higher of inflation, average earnings, or 2.5%.

Given the important role that your State Pension will play in your retirement it's really useful to know how much you have built up to date, when you are due to receive it (your State Pension Age), and how much you are on track to receive when you get there.

For a lot of people it's a little bit more complicated than knowing you've always paid National Insurance throughout your working life. For example you may have paid a lower rate of National Insurance in previous years as a result of 'contracting out' of the additional State Pension (State Second Pension or its predecessor SERPS). You may also have received credit for years when you looked after children at home, formerly known as 'Home Responsibilities Protection' or if you were getting Carer's Allowance

for looking after someone else.

You can see then that it's quite easy to over or underestimate how much State Pension you'll get in retirement. Fortunately it's relatively straightforward to check this - either online at www.gov.uk/check-state-pension or by filling in an application for a State Pension Statement - known as a BR19 form.

Once you are armed with this information you can see if any action needs to be taken, such as filling in any gaps in your record. We would always suggest checking sooner rather than later to give you the maximum amount of time to make any changes.

As always it's best to seek advice before taking any action to ensure that you're doing the right thing and that there are no unintended consequences. This is built into our service for our clients to ensure they are providing for retirement in the most efficient way possible.

Jon Bean is a Newton Aycliffe based Chartered Financial Planner for Carter Thompson Wealth Management, Tel: 01325 245288.

AYCLIFFE RADIO

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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

11-2pm	Moderation	Jack & Daz
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway		
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

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
Yesterdays Music Today Sponsored by MV Mobility		
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Conversations with Mary & John O'Sullivan	John O'Sullivan
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
• 1st Dec: Oliver Sherratt, Eddy Adam		
8-10pm	Sunday Set List	Sean Lawless
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY

9-10am	Amy in the Morning	Amy Stevens
10-12am	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" Sponsored By Woodham Golf & Country Club

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

TUESDAY

9-10am	Carrie in the Morning	Carrie Howarth
10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker

Sports Show sponsored by Honest John

6-730pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
• 3rd Dec - Jack Slatcher (Football & Cricket)		
730-930pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker

Community Connect sponsored by ROF59

5-630pm	Community Connect	Amy & Carrie
630-8pm	Independent Music Show	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gary & Alby

THURSDAY

9-10am	Carrie in the Morning	Carrie Howarth
10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
6-730pm	POLITICAL (R)	John D. Clare
8-10pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

9-10am	Amy in the Morning	Amy Stevens
10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	Guest Presenter Session	
• 6th Dec - Nathan Abbott - 90s Classix		

**Check our website for full schedule
www.ayclifferadio.co.uk**

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www.ayclifferadio.co.uk - Free App (all formats)
TuneIn - Radios Online - Internet Radio - Alexa
UK Online Radio - Radio Garden - Online Radio Box

St. Andrew's Church

Gift Day

Saturday 30th November
10am—2pm
Aycliffe Village Hall

Come along and put your gift on the tree.
Enjoy a cuppa and a mince pie, then listen to the Piper at 12 noon.
There will be a selection of stalls to help with your Christmas shopping.

SATURDAY • 7 DECEMBER 2019 • 11AM TO 3PM

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

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NEWTON AYCLIFFE**

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JUNCTION 7



Newton News recently ran a couple of competitions in conjunction with Warner Bros and Vue Cinema, Darlington. The winner of the Good Liar competition and pack of merchandise from the film is Pat Pickersgill, who also wins a couple of tickets to Vue in Darlington. The second competition was won by Julie Evans, who won a family ticket to Vue Cinema to a film of her choice. Congratulations to both winners - watch Newton News for more in the near future.

Andreas Ensemble

Come and fill St. Mary's Church on Vart Road, Bishop Auckland on Friday, 6th December at 7.30pm and support Marie Curie Nurses in providing end of life care to families in the Bishop Auckland area.

Celebrate the festive season by joining with The Andreas Ensemble, Bishop Auckland's own Chamber Choir, in singing favourite carols for this excellent cause.

Advance tickets, priced at £7.50, to include seasonal interval refreshments, are available from Brotherton's Music Shop or by contacting Brin Varley on 9013880 606075

Tickets may also be purchased on the door.

New Funeral Director Helps Residents with their Dementia



A funeral director is helping people with dementia tap into their memories after joining

a family firm which prides itself for being at the heart of the community. John Watling has been working with nursing homes in Darlington to help residents recall their pasts using games and music.

Darlington-born and bred and with 25 years' experience, Mr Watling has just joined Whitehouse Funeral Services, which has branches in Cockerton and Newton Aycliffe.

"Dementia is such an awful condition but we are having some success with residents by taking them back to their youth," he said.

"Music is a very powerful medium for triggering memories and we have many examples of people being brought out of their shells by playing the right tunes. Talk of outside toilets and Izal toilet rolls also gets them remembering."

He said many of the nursing homes' activities co-ordinators shared the same problems of a lack of funds for equipment so they had formed the Darlington Activities Fundraising Team. This was organising quiz nights, Motown and Ska music events at Cockerton Club to raise money for games.

Whitehouse Funeral Services managing director John Whitehouse said: "We have always been at the heart of the community helping people through very difficult times. It is great to be able to give something back by helping people in nursing homes."

The company is also trying to raise awareness in the community about the growing issue of funeral poverty.

Mr Whitehouse said: "In the past people tended to save and plan for their funeral expenses but currently 'a live for today' mentality is prevalent. If a family can't afford a funeral there is a perception that the council or hospital will pay. But they don't have the funds either."

"We are looking at ways to raise funds for situations like these if people meet certain criteria."

Whitehouse Funeral Services is also organising a Christmas memorial service at Holy Family Church on 3rd December, at 7.00pm, for people to remember their loved ones. Church of England, Catholic, Methodist and Celebrant representatives will take part in the service.

Photo: At the heart of the community, Whitehouse Funeral Services' new funeral director John Watling.

Horndale Community Association A.G.M.

Wednesday 4th December

We are holding our Annual General Meeting this Wednesday, 4th December, starting at 6.00pm with festive refreshments at 5.45.

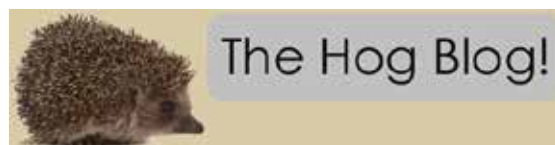
We will discuss our achievements of 2019 and look forward to 2020, over the last 12 months we have been on 8 days out to various places Whitby, Craggside, Lightwater Valley, Scarborough and more. In August we held our Free Community Fun Day with approximately 1,500 people enjoying the many rides and exhibits. We worked with other Community Groups to hold a Community Pop up Shop held in the town centre, this event allowed the groups to show off the great work being carried out across our town on a daily basis by volunteers for the benefit of others. We held a Race night in October to raise funds to subsidise our children's Christmas trip on the Teesside Princess. We have continued our support towards David Sutton-Lloyd's Defibrillator project to place Defib units across our town. We purchased replacement adult and children's pads for the unit that is held inside the Greenfield Convenience shop. To find out more about this vital project email woodham.community@gmail.com

At the beginning of the year we pledged to engage with 10% of new people joining us on our days out, we smashed this target with approximately 40% of people enjoying the trips, meeting new friends.

We have also worked closely with local Councillors, Livin, Police, Councils, and Community Groups to improve our great neighbourhoods making them better places to live and work. There are many people and groups to thank for their support over the past year, G.A.M.P., Newton Aycliffe County Councillors, G.A.T.C., Rotary Club, Livin, Bay Horse Middridge, Tesco, Wilko's, Simpature Fisheries, Village Pharmacy, Heads Up Hairdressing, Durham Constabulary, Greenfield Community and Arts College, Newton News, Aycliffe Today, Phoenix Club, without support our work would be impossible.

At this meeting we will elect the new committee for 2020, if anyone wishes to stand please come along, everyone is welcome.

Philip Clark, Chair horndalestrongertogether@outlook.com



The weather is getting colder and as the ground hardens hedgehogs will not be able to forage for food so hibernating is their only option, even when they are supposed to be hibernating, they can still wake up briefly feeling hungry, their food supply is still very low so if you can put some food and water out or make it possible for them to pass through your gardens using a hedgehog portal by cutting a hole in the bottom of your fences about the size of a Compact Disc (approx 5 inches).

It's crucial that they have the necessary fat reserves so they wake up next year, maybe about March/April time, if you think you have seen an autumn juvenile who isn't big enough to get through the toughest time of year please, pick them up, wrap a hot water bottle containing warm water in a towel, keep them warm and seek advice, please find useful numbers and Facebook sites at the end of this article. Meanwhile in this rescue centre, and others across the UK, our work continues, any underweight or unwell hedgehogs will be kept warm to prevent them from hibernating, our most recent hoggie has been brought to us from Pauline of NASSL, we have called him Pudsey, he has been here just over a week now and is eating and settling very well, can I also thank Viv and Roy Gibson for being the most outstanding fosterers, had it not been for them four babies would have surely died in the cold, all hedgehogs will remain here now for the foreseeable including Pudsey, we also have the Hogwarts four, courtesy of Ian, Hester, Hazel, Hagrid and Hermione who has been very unwell but seems to be recovering well and eating again, she has had intestinal fluke and a bacterial infection which kill hedgehogs, especially little small ones like Hermione (pictured).

As I have mentioned, we need to continue our work and fundraising is a necessary part of Rescue and Rehabilitation so on Saturday we attended the Community Spirit Christmas Fair at the Big Club, your support was

phenomenal and all proceeds go to these beautiful mammals food and general care needs for the next few months. Can I also thank Eddie for his generosity because he has sent some Brambles hedgehog biscuits.

British Hedgehog Preservation Society 01584 890801

Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society on Facebook they have all rehabbers numbers on their page or your local vet for the more urgent cases, please don't email, especially when it's an urgent situation.

Excellent Local Service

Dear Sir,
As a disabled older person who finds shopping tricky, I have recently been delighted to discover that I can have the convenience of home delivery in Newton Aycliffe without using big-name supermarkets, and support local businesses in the process.

I've used Thames Fruit & Veg in the Thames Centre, along with Slaters Butchers and Aycliffe Dairies for home delivery of fruit, veg, meat, milk, orange juice and bread respectively.

All three have given me superb service.

However, it occurred to me that many other older and/or disabled people living locally might benefit from these services.

In every case I used Facebook to find out details/contact the businesses.

There must be many in Aycliffe and the surrounding area who don't have Facebook, but could benefit from these home delivery services.

If you do use Facebook, why not investigate and pass on the contact details (phone numbers) from their pages, to someone you know who could benefit? Or help them to set up a regular order?

This might be an older family member or neighbour who has difficulty shopping, but wants to keep our local businesses alive.

Let's "keep it local!"

Yours

"Local Resident"

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 4th December 2019 - 7.15pm
Policy & Resources Meeting

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

FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

Christmas: - Friday, 20th December

Deadline: Wednesday 18th December, 2pm

No Edition - Friday, 27th December, 2019

Friday, 3rd January, 2020 (back to normal)

Deadline: Monday 31st December, 5pm

Advertisements are accepted at our offices via email to paul@newtonnews.co.uk or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 4.00pm on Friday 20th December
Skeleton Staff in attendance until re-opening on Thursday 2nd January 2020 at 8.30am

The Management and Staff of Newton Press and Newton News would like to wish all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous New Year



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Hustlers - **Midway**

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Vue have teamed up with Newton News to offer TWO lucky families tickets to a showing of their choice. To be in with a chance to win simply email your name, address and telephone number to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Closing date Sunday 8th December 2019

LONDON TO PARIS BIKE RIDE

Dear Sir,
On behalf of The Royal British Legion, I will be taking part in the '25th Anniversary Pedal to Paris' event in September 2020, which will see me and around 300 others cycle from London to Paris on a four-day charity bike ride for The Royal British Legion charities Poppy Appeal.

Having ridden this event in 2018 (100th Anniversary since the end of WW1), I have decided to return in 2020 and with your support would like to beat my fundraising target - my fundraising page is: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pedaltoparis2020-nigelblackburn

I am proud to have served in the Armed Forces for 22 years and now work in collaboration with the UK's Ministry of Defence to give people leaving the Armed Forces the chance of a second career within the Engineering Consultancy sector.

As holders of the Armed Forces Gold Covenant Award, WYG work in partnership with schemes that help ex-forces members transition into a new and progressive career which matches the skills and attributes they have developed and gives our sector the work ethic and attitude for all to be successful.

Christmas Fair

St. John's Church, Shildon, will host its ever popular Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November between 10am-1pm.

There will be numerous stalls including crafts, cakes, bric-a-brac, toys, gifts and much more. Santa will also be in his grotto. A fun day for all.

Entrance is £1.00 which includes tea/coffee.

Best Takeaway of the Year 2019

The Chef TV reality show are very pleased to announce Jamie O'Driscoll, the North of Tyne Mayor, announce Rahim Uddin as the winner of series 2 on Monday evening.

Syed Sani Miah and Jahir Ullah were also handed awards for their 2nd and 3rd place finishes.

The Chef is a reality TV show that celebrates the best of Indian cuisine. It pits best chefs from the all over the North of England, against each other in a world class cooking competition, broadcast to thousands.

Mr O'Driscoll one was one of many special guests in attendance at Newcastle University Students' Union on the 11th November, as the team behind Northern Eye Productions held an event to celebrate the best of Indian cooking. Mr O'Driscoll said it was a fantastic event stating how important it is us to chefs to come out of the kitchen and have their moment in the spotlight once in a while.

Michelle Ord, Senior Relationship Manager Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, who was also attendance, said they welcomed the Indian restaurants and other businesses to work closely with the Chamber and help local economy thrive.

The event was also an opportunity to give a little back, last year we held a fundraiser for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, with 17 restaurants from around the region getting together and hosting a curry night for a wonderful cause.

On Monday, on behalf of all those restaurants, Northern Eye productions Founder Mohammed Alamgir, CEO Titu Ahad, managing director Abdul Karim and Financial Director Abul Boshor handed over a cheque for £1207 to Lady Elsie Robson, the wife of the late Sir Bobby. Aside from the individual



awards, there was also time to celebrate 7 of the best restaurants and 1 takeaway in the North East, ranging as far as Alnwick to Wakefield. The restaurants were hand-picked by our dedicated team and we would like to congratulate those who made it on to our list.

The winners are as follows:
Lal Khazana Indian Restaurant; Northumberland Cafe Spice; Newcastle Shampan; North Tyneside Jolsa Marton; Teesside Bengal Merchant; Tees Valley Bengal Brasserie; Leeds Cinnamon Lodge, Wakefield.

Best Takeaway
Masala Tandoori Newton Aycliffe
Northern Eye Productions Founder, Mohammed Alamgir said, "It was a wonderful night with around 200 people in attendance. I would like to thank all of those who came but also the lovely Elsie



Robson, Mr O'Driscoll and all of the other wonderful people who presented awards.

"I would like to say a special thanks to our chief judge Douglas Jordan and our competition ambassador, Keka Ferdush, who flew in all the way from Bangladesh. I hope you all have enjoyed series 2 of The Chef and we will rest and look forward to series 3".

KIDZ FLIX

Come along on Saturday 7th December and enjoy "The Grinch"

Watch as the film tells the story of a cynical grump who goes on a mission to steal Christmas, only to have his heart changed by a young girl's generous holiday spirit. Funny, heart warming and visually stunning, it's a universal story about the spirit of Christmas and the indomitable power of optimism.

As always there will be a fully stocked tuck shop, selling sweets, crisps, drinks etc... for you to purchase and at half time, the hatch will open for hot chocolate and festive ice cream sales all at an affordable cost of 50p!

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Vikki Todd took this picture of a butterfly in her back garden. When she looked at the image later, she realised that she had captured a bee as well!

Send your photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

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Year 11 Careers Fair at Woodham



On the evening of Thursday 7th November, Woodham Academy once again opened its doors to welcome businesses, students and parents to its annual Careers Fair. A wide array of providers exhibited to support the school's Careers Education programme and the evening provided essential information to young people in Year 10 and 11 about post-16 and post 18 progression routes.

At the event students were offered the opportunity to speak on a one to one basis with a careers advisor and the event was preceded by an information evening for parents of students in Year

11.

This session aimed at empowering parents to support their child to move on successfully post-16.

Dave Walker, the event's organiser, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for students to speak directly to providers of their choice to find out about what is available to them once they leave Woodham Academy. The event continues to be successful because of the excellent relationships the school has with external providers and the dedication it gives to ensuring each and every young person is aware of the post 16 and post 18 pathway choices locally."

Thank you for Making Christmas Special



Congratulations to the Great Aycliffe Town Council, This is the best tree we have ever had! Small and lush and full of beautiful lights. The star on top finishes it off superbly. Thank you for making our Christmas special.
Lesley Hislop
Aycliffe Village

AYCLIFFE ENGINEER LANDS £1.7M CONTRACT

A subsea engineering company is on the crest of a wave after landing the biggest contract in its history for hardware for a project under the Caspian Sea. Supergrip (UK) Limited, which specialises in supplying bespoke equipment for the subsea industry, has secured a £1.7m order with a global engineering, procurement and commissioning company working in the gas and oil industry.

Supergrip, run by directors Gordon Conlon and Darren Blackburn, specialises in supplying bespoke equipment for the protection of subsea umbilicals, flexible risers and steel pipelines during installation and operation.

The engineering offices are in Coniscliffe Road, Darlington and the production facility is located in Colne, Lancashire, with CNC machine shops in Accrington.

Supergrip is currently working with clients from across the world including Malaysia, Australia and Norway.

The latest contract will see the firm supply, manufacture



and test a wide range of fabricated and machined hardware, including tensioners, bearings and winches, for subsea platforms to be constructed in the Caspian Sea, as well as offering engineering assistance.

Mr Conlon, of Newton Aycliffe, said: "The timing could not have been better as we have just expanded the business by acquiring the machine shop. This has allowed us to add bespoke hardware to our product sourcing and service offering."

He said: "These are exciting times and since we

rebranded in 2015 we have seen significant growth. The latest contract, which comes in the wake of other exciting projects secured this year, will allow us to progress further and result in the company posting record results at the end of the financial year."

Two further research and development projects are at an advanced stage thanks to business funding assistance.

Photo: Celebrating success, director of Supergrip UK Gordon Conlon with designs for subsea equipment destined for the Caspian Sea.

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RUNNING CLUB NEWS



This week the racing began as usual on Saturday with many members taking part in the local parkruns. This was despite the atrocious weather and a few members achieved PBs.

First up in Shildon, Craig Robinson achieved a PB on that course in 29.57. At Sedgfield Sarah Dixon achieved a PB of 24.58. Finally over at Darlington, two members achieved PBs for that course, John Young in 25.12 and Jayne Rudd in 29.16.

On Sunday three members travelled to Ponteland to take part in the Run Nation 10 mile race. First home was Paul Dalton in 1.03.45 (3rd in his age category) followed by Heather Morgan and Mark Bainbridge, both coming in at 1.20.49.

Sunday also saw another Cross Country Fixture in the NYSD league, this time at Fox Rush, Redcar. Although the weather had calmed the ground was still wet but this didn't put off members and we had a great turn out including juniors. This race saw the juniors progress with their biggest ever turn out for a cross country. 5 girls toed the start against some of the best runners in the region in the boggy conditions. Megan Thom and Elizabeth Clay ran their first cross country along with Felicity Lineton, Hannah Brischuk and Fearnie Brischuk.

Next up was the ladies race which was approximately 3.5 miles. First home was Tracey Surtees in 25.57, followed by Michelle Jane 28.31, Susan Milburn 31.57, Bev Phillippo 36.54, Anne Kellett 37.44 and Jane Burnside in 43.21. In the men's race



(approximately 5.5 miles) John Surtees was first home in 34.07, followed by Richard Campbell 38.21, Andrew Sedgewick 39.07, Peter Milburn 39.39, Andy Talbot 39.56, Alex Lineton 40.13, John Burnside 43.24, Ryan Pearson 43.38, Dave Blewitt 45.54, John Richardson 49.54, Ian Baronowski 57.41. 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.

SSAFA Life Membership for Liz



On Monday 25th November Mrs Liz Wilson received the SSAFA Honorary Lifetime Membership Certificate for her 11 years service to servicemen, veterans and their families across Newton Aycliffe and local areas. Liz and Brian Wilson retired from SSAFA in September this year having completed a combined total of 37 years as volunteers with the organisation. The presentation took place at the Quarterly Meeting held in the George & Dragon Heighington and was attended by friends and colleagues. Although

Brian and Liz are no longer active caseworkers for the charity, they will continue as ambassadors and fundraisers for SSAFA. While we wish them a long and peaceful retirement, we know that they will continue to be at the forefront of charitable activities across Newton Aycliffe for many years to come.

Interested in volunteering for SSAFA? Please contact: durham.branch@ssafa.org.uk or call David on 01388 827346.

Photo: Presentation of Life Long Membership Certificate to Liz Wilson.

FANTASTIC SEASON FOR SCARLETT!



Local racer Scarlet Dunn was awarded 3rd place in the Teesside Owner Driver Sprint Bambino Championship 2019. The Teesside Karting and SG Perth 2019 end of year presentation took place at The Northern Echo Area and Scarlet's award was presented by up and coming female racing driver Sarah Moore who is currently racing in the W Series. What a year it's been in only Scarlet's first full season of racing! "Scarlet has shown great potential and enthusiasm all year" said Mam Amanda. Scarlet hopes to progress

as soon as possible into the faster and higher powered Honda Cadet 200cc, for drivers age 8-13 years for some winter testing ready for 2020.

For more information on how to support Scarlet to reach her goal please email Amanda at amandadunnracing@outlook.com.

Scarlett would like to thank everyone involved at Amaran Racing and local companies JohnsonLand Home Improvements and NRG Cycles for their financial support this year and Teesside Autodrome for putting on and running a great season of racing.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Join Bishop Auckland Choral Society and the choir of St. John's Academy for an evening of festive entertainment, with Carols and seasonal music from around the world at St. Mary's Church, Vart Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ on Wednesday 18th December at 7.00pm. Admission £7.00, £5.00 for concession, from Sophie Hassall 01388 834359, or Jane Smith 01325 360514 or see the website at bachoral.org.uk

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

Tel: Paul

01325 300212
or paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Ladies Water Polo Recruiting



Sedgefield Water Polo Club have claimed their 9th national title and have been crowned Swim England U15 Boys National Age Group champions after an excellent performance at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on 2nd November. In addition, this is the first time in many years that the club has also been able to enter a girls U15 team in the same competition.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the day and played well together. Although they weren't in a position to win any medals, the girls have learnt a lot from the day and are already looking forward to working

together in order to enter next year's competition.

The Club would also like to thank all sponsors – Maygreen Marketing and The Springfield Centre - for their help and support, in addition to GAMP and Newton News.

Anyone interested in taking up water polo as a fun and exciting hobby is asked to call/text the club on 07579 030598, email sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com or contact us via our Facebook page. We offer free trials on most Saturdays at 4.00-5.30pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre – and these should be booked in advance.

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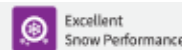
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GREENFIELD STUDENTS GAIN ENVIRONMENTAL RECOGNITION

Students from Greenfield Community College have been showing their passion for the environment through having a strong voice and taking part in practical solutions.

Earlier this year students from Forest Elder tutor group attracted the attention of councillors as they voiced concern about the local environment in their T4S enquiry. Councillors were keen to listen to the students and accepted an invitation to Greenfield Community College to hear more about their concerns and solutions. The students are continuing to keep up an eco-friendly dialogue and help in practical ways, recently giving up their own time to take part in a litter pick with Shildon Town Council. Tutor Ms Airey was thrilled with their commitment, "It was a great outcome on the day although it was a shame

about the weather!" Student Leaders at Greenfield were also keen to visit Shildon Council regarding the environment and have been strong ambassadors for the school, sharing environmental concerns regarding waste management and realising the opportunities for recycling. They have helped lead their student conference 'Make it Matter' where the environment was one of the top concerns addressed.

The groups have subsequently been recognised for their passion for our planet and our community and were nominated for their contribution in the recent Skypan Awards. Greenfield Community College have also received a 'Highly Commended' accolade in the Durham County Council annual Environment



Awards, great achievements and a testament to all the students involved in helping the community and wider environment.

Greenfield Community College are committed to offering a broad and balanced curriculum with opportunities to develop through extended learning in the community.

Darlington Piano Society

ROMANIAN ALEXANDRA

Darlington Piano Society welcomes Romanian-born pianist, Alexandra Vaduva, for its recital at 3pm on Sunday 8th December, in Central Hall, Dolphin Centre. Alexandra began playing the piano at the age of 4 and came to the UK in 2009 to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she has successfully completed the Bachelor of Music, Master of Arts and Advanced Diploma courses. She is currently a PhD student there, researching the piano



redolent of the styles of Bach, Couperin, Handel and Scarlatti, among others and two movements from the Suite Op 18/3, "the Choral and the Carillon nocturne" were written in the quiet of the Romanian Carpathians, in June and July 1916, a month before Romania entered WW1.

Tickets are available on line at www.dpiano.co.uk, at the reception desk of the Dolphin Centre and on the door on the 17th, priced £14, free for U21.

compositions of her fellow Romanian, George Enescu. She brings a varied and challenging programme to Darlington. She begins with two sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti, whose sonatas (555 in total!) are extremely attractive and appealing pieces to open the recital with. In between Schubert's early sonata in A minor, D537 which follows, and Beethoven's ever popular "Moonlight" sonata which end the programme, she plays works from the C20th in the form of Bartok's impressionistic Suite Op.14 and two works by her compatriot Enescu. The Suite Op 3/1, commonly known by its subtitle "Suite dans le style ancien", is

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PCSO Recruitment Now Open

One of the top-performing
police forces in the country
is recruiting new Police
Community Support
Officers.

Applications to join Durham
Constabulary as a Police
Community Support Officer
(PCSO) is now open, with
potential new recruits
having until 5pm on Friday,
13th December to submit
their application.

PCSOs are full-time, paid
employees who play a
vital role in keeping our
communities safe.

The force is looking to
recruit around 40 new
PCSOs who will work
alongside warranted officers
to help tackle antisocial
behaviour, deal with minor
offences, investigate low-
level crimes, conduct house-
to-house enquiries and
guard crime scenes.

As part of the role, they
also work with individuals
and partner agencies to
support vulnerable people
and solve local concerns and
problems.

The role has a starting
salary of around £18,951 per
annum.

You will also be paid extra
for shift allowance and
weekend working of 23%,
giving an overall starting
salary package of £23,350
rising to £24,800 per annum.
Applicants must be at least
18 years old to apply, and
there is no upper age limit.
Chief Inspector Steve Ball,
from Durham Constabulary,
said: "PCSOs play an
absolutely vital role in our
policing family and are the
bedrock of neighbourhood
policing in County Durham
and Darlington.

"Working out on the
frontline, they get to the very
heart of our communities by
tackling local issues, dealing
with antisocial behaviour,
engaging with different
groups of people and
building up key relationships
with the people we serve.

"This is a fantastic
opportunity for anyone
considering a career in
policing to join our team. As
with all constabulary roles,
it is important that PCSOs
reflect the communities
they serve and applications
are being encouraged from
people from a diverse range
of backgrounds.

"Whether you're just starting
out in life and want a career
that makes a difference,
or are more experienced
and looking for your next

challenge, we want to hear
from you."

Steve White, Acting
Police, Crime and Victims'
Commissioner said: "The
role of PCSO is at the heart
of our neighbourhood
policing service.

"They play a vital role
supporting police officers
and their communities and
I would encourage people

from all walks of life who are
interested in public service
to consider applying."

For more information on the
role of a PCSO, visit [https://
recruit.college.police.uk/.../
Pag.../What's-it-like.aspx](https://recruit.college.police.uk/.../Pag.../What's-it-like.aspx)
Application packs can be
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Free Parking Returns for Festive Shoppers

An annual free parking period has returned to give festive shoppers a small boost to their Christmas budgets.

Durham County Council is bringing back its 'Free after 3' offer which will see free parking available in council owned car parks after 3pm, every day in December. Off street car parks and on-street spaces will benefit from the waiving of charges, with stickers being placed on all payment machines to let drivers know.

As well as 'Free after 3,' free parking will be available across the county after 10am on Saturday 7 December in all Durham County Council off-street car parks and on-street spaces. This coincides with Small Business Saturday, a national campaign which encourages people to

'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

Kieron Moralee, parking and transport infrastructure team leader at Durham County Council said: "Every year we try to help with one less cost for people, as the run up to Christmas is a busy time and can be expensive."

"Free after 3 also supports local shops who rely on footfall for a prosperous festive period. The free parking after 10am on the 7 December encourages people to shop local and support our small businesses." Details of all council car parks can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/parking Drivers are advised that payment machines will not be switched off at times when charges are not in

place and that money paid will not be refunded.

Ed: Please remember to support your local shops in Newton Aycliffe where parking is free all year round.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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

Interactive Exhibition

Families are invited to join in with all the fun of the fair when an engaging new art exhibition and a series of live dance performances premiere at a Durham City art gallery.

Fairground Reminiscence celebrates the history of fairgrounds and tells the stories of the extraordinary lives of the people who travelled with and worked on them.

Artistic director Adam Russell was inspired to create the exhibition, which runs at Durham City's Gala Gallery until Saturday 25th January, by his dad's childhood as part of a showman's family. Visitors can explore original fairground objects, posters, photographs and video footage, and there are even fun fairground games to play.

The interactive installation will be complemented by a specially created sound track of traditional funfair music and interviews with showmen and their families, who share their memories of working on and growing up with the fair.

A series of live dance performances will accompany the installation on Saturday 14th December at 12 noon and Saturday 28th December, also at 12 noon. Tickets for the performances are free, and can be booked online at www.galadurham.co.uk or by calling the Gala box office on 03000 266 600.

Families are also invited to take part in drop-in workshops in the gallery, on Saturday 7th and 21st December, Saturday 4th and 18th January, where they will have the chance to perform within the installation. Further information about the workshops is available at www.adamrusselldance.com

BRINGING PEOPLE CLOSER TO WILDLIFE



Durham Wildlife Trust has launched a new initiative to bring people closer to wildlife in their area.

The Natural Connections group offers opportunities to take part in regular wildlife-themed activities at the Trust's Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve near Houghton-le-Spring. People taking part can do anything from nature walks, crafts and yoga to birdwatching, wildflower planting and wild tea making.

The group is aimed at people in the coalfield area and is perfect for those who would like to meet new people, make friends and have a go at some wildlife and nature-themed activities.

It takes place every Monday between 10am and noon (November) to the end of February. Attendance is free and transport can be arranged.

Participant and Durham Wildlife Trust member Linda Vickers, 75 from Hetton-le-Hole, said: "I love nature and was delighted that I could make this group. I'm enjoying learning about different aspects of nature, such as the names of trees, and the crafts are great fun."

"I enjoy meeting new people and being out in the fresh air. I feel it's important to reconnect to nature. I would recommend coming along and trying something new. You may find a new passion in your life, new friends, and new activities."

For more information contact Dee at dkealoha@durhamwt.co.uk Book online: www.durhamwt.com/events

Quiz Night

Bring your friends and family (15+) and have a team of up to six people to win prizes for each team member. Spot prizes and other games on the night with prizes available. There will be a bottle raffle on the night too.

Cost is £6 per person which includes homemade pie and peas all in aid of Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club (bring your own drinks). Come and test your knowledge at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 7th December. Contact John-Paul for tickets 07946 853052 or email johnpaulhowarth@hotmail.co.uk

Sudoku (Medium, difficulty rating 0.47)

	2		5		8	4		
					6	5		9
4	9			3				
		7					9	5
	3	9				1	2	
1	4					6		
				7			6	1
6		3	9					
		2	3		5		4	

Christmas Giveaway to Raise Funds for Hospice



Businesses are joining forces to support a North-East hospice by donating an array of gifts to a Christmas fundraising draw.

The "Big Teesside Giveaway" has been organised in aid of Butterwick Hospice Care by entrepreneur Stuart Coupland, who recently became one of the charity's Corporate Supporters.

Stuart, who launched Coupland Leather nine months ago, has persuaded 16 local companies to donate prizes worth more than £2,000 with more businesses coming on board and more prizes added every week.

They will all be scooped by one lucky winner, and each donation can be individually re-gifted to a member of their family or friends to make this year an extra special Christmas. Winner will be drawn on 6th December, 10am. To enter the prize draw, participants are asked to donate £5 to the hospice.

Stuart said: "The idea was for local businesses to give something back in support of an extremely important local charity. None of the gifts have been donated by chains or national organisations, it's all local businesses who are proud to support their local community."

The prizes are:

- Rockliffe Hall – golf 4 ball;
- LV Shipping & Transport – two Corporate match day tickets at Middlesbrough Football Club;
- PG Legal Solicitors and Commercial Advisors – £100 Smyths toys vouchers;
- Peking Garden Stockton – £40 voucher; Paul Swift Stunts – stunt ride-along experience;
- DJM Aerial Solutions – professional drone recording & video of the stunt ride experience;
- The Little Quaker Distillery – two 20cl bottles of Quaker Gin, original and blueberry;
- Coupland Leather – 100% hand-crafted leather wallet;
- Pali Ltd - £50 Marks & Spencer Voucher;
- facebook.com/destressretailers - Tom Ford, Lost Cheery and Armani, Acqua di Gio Inspired Fragrances;
- Daz Mack - photographer extraordinaire, family photo shoot; Gamers Lounge – two one-hour gaming tokens;
- Boho Bytes – hand-crafted traditional Christmas cake;
- Illustrated Identity – personalised hoodie;
- Hamilton & Lewis Jewellery – men's leather bracelet;
- Darlington Mowden Park - executive suite for ten people at a home game.

For more info go to www.facebook.com/teessidegiveaway to enter and make your £5.00 donation, visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teessidegiveaway

Photo: Stuart Coupland receives his Butterwick Corporate Supporter certificate from hospice chief executive Debbie Jones.

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SUGAR HILL PUPILS 'TACKLE IT!'



A group of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from Sugar Hill Primary School have been attending the 'Tackle It' programme over a period of ten weeks. Nine weeks based in school with Christian Taylor from the Foundation of Light at Sunderland FC and Belinda Atkinson-Jones Social Learning Mentor at Sugar Hill. The children have been working on communication skills, listening skills and problem solving. They have

done this by taking part in creative activities and physical exercises. This programme has given pupils the opportunity to build confidence, strengthen relationships, work as part of a team, prove their resilience and develop leadership skills. The programme culminated in a fun packed visit for all involved to Sunderland F.C. Stadium. What an amazing day! Pupils participated in team work activities and a water workshop! Certificate presentations were followed by a football match and penalty shoot out on the roof top astro-turf pitch. The children were then taken around the stadium where they visited the away and home teams changing rooms, experiencing the walk through the tunnel onto the pitch and being able to sit where the manager and players are seated during matches. Mrs Atkinson Jones and Miss Brister accompanied the pupils on the visit. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and Miss Brister commented, "That was the best school visit ever!"

Prizes were awarded to **Isaac Proctor** - All round superstar, thoughtful, kind and caring. **Sam Heath** - Grown in confidence. **Jack Mason** - For his resilience. Staff and pupils would like to say a huge thank you to

Shopping Trip

Newcastle Christmas Festival Shopping Trip on Thursday 12th December, £5 per seat. New Friends New Places invite you to join them leaving Wilkos bus stop, town centre 9.15am and Stephenson Way Cemetery bus stop 9.30am. Ring 308094 or 07967 901477 to book and further details.



Christian, for leading the programme and to Jas who organised this successful intervention at Sugar Hill Primary.

Birthday Remembrance

William Reid

Happy Birthday For Today

Hope you are partying with Mam and Dad. Lots of love from all your family xxxx

Obituary

David John Cooke

of Newton Aycliffe. Passed away peacefully at Lindisfarne Care Home on the 16th of November aged 88 years. Dearly beloved Husband of the late Edith; much loved Dad to Chris, Kevin and Jacqueline; also a dear Grandad and Great Grandad. Family and friends please meet for a Service at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 2nd December at 10am. Followed by a private family burial. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired to Cancer Research.

Congratulations

Grace Gill

27th November

Happy 18th Birthday to a beautiful Daughter with a heart of gold.

Love always, Mam & Charlie xx

John Ward

Happy 60th Birthday Have a great day. Love from all the family xxxxxxxxx

In Memoriam

Stephen Paul Ibinson



It's 10 years since you left us Son. We love and miss you more than ever. Mam, Dad and family Wife Marion and Children Aaron, Levi and Grace God Bless

John Piggott

(Jackie)

on 16th November, in hospital, suddenly, surrounded by his loving family. Loving Husband of Norah; dearly loved Father and loved Step Father; treasured Grandad and Great Grandad; much loved Brother of Adam and will be missed by his many friends. Funeral on Friday 6th December. Friends please meet for a Service at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Newton Aycliffe at 10.00am to be followed by Committal at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

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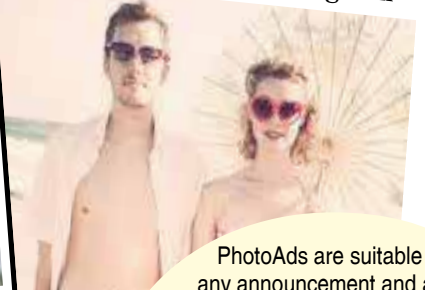
Alice Springs



Happy 21st Birthday

10-10-10 to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden

Anniversaries Mar on 1st Jan 1981, Gra

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Aycliffe Fight for a Draw at Moore Lane

Newton Aycliffe 1ST XV played host to Yarm at Moore Lane last weekend. The recent challenges of squad players being unavailable were somewhat eased by the return of some key players. Yarm have slowly crept up the table with games in hand, so Aycliffe were keen to slow their recent good run.

Conditions on the day were wet with the pitch churning up quite a bit. The resulting mud bath quickly transformed the strips of both squads, so it was difficult to tell who was on whose side at times.

However, within the first 20 minutes both sides settled down to what turned out to be a great contest. Yarm were first to score an unconverted try 0-5. Yarm's over eager defence in the

rucks awarded Aycliffe a penalty which in form kicker Euan Kitching converted. 3-5.

The decent crowd that endured the wet conditions were treated to some gutsy rugby from both teams. The home supporters were then jubilant when scrum half Ben Walton took the opportunity to dart over for a superb try. Kitching added to the score with a conversion. 10-5. Not to be outdone Yarm bounced back with another unconverted try. Half time score ended at 10-10.

The crowd banter was great, this was going to be a good game and what played out in the second half proved them right. With both teams dealing with soggy underfoot conditions and some unorthodox handling

it was pretty much stalemate for a time until Yarm once more broke free to score a try but this time it was converted. 10-17. For a while, as the time started ticking down, the local supporters got behind their team. With only two minutes left on the clock their prayers were answered when Kitching was fed the ball from some slick handling and ran in to score, which he duly converted himself, close to the touchline, a magnificent effort that left the supporters in awe. His conversion ended the tie 17-17 at the final whistle much to the relief of all at Aycliffe.

The tie ends a small run of defeats and there was a lot of positives to carry forward to the next league game scheduled against arch-rivals Richmondshire on

7th December 2019 at home at Moore Lane. Aycliffe Rugby Club wish to thank Steve Thompson for his continued sponsorship from his company The Mortgage Advice Centre.

Aycliffe have no fixture this week on 30th of Nov. However, there is a squad training session planned for Saturday. Any new or old players interested in joining the session will be made most welcome. There will always be room for more senior players at this great club.

Prior to the 1st XV match Aycliffe hosted another training session as part of their KIDS RUGBY initiative. These training sessions, mostly run by Director of Rugby, Peter Ryans with help from qualified coaches, whom

have all been DBS checked, are proving to be a growing success. Numbers are going up week on week and it will never be too late to bring your kids down to try the sport. It's all fun based, with lots of skill and team building exercises. The kids loved wallowing in the wet mud this weekend. The more the merrier, so talk to your kids, bring them down and let them have a go. The sessions start at 12.00pm and finish at 1.30pm. For any further information please contact Peter on 07796 172599.

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SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS



Last week 120 students from four local secondary schools took part in a School Games Qualifying competition. Year 7 and Year 8 boys and girls were competing for the chance to represent their area at the County Durham School Games Finals at the Louisa Centre in March 2020.

Athletes took part in field events including Long Jump, Triple Jump, Vertical Jump, Speed Bounce and Shot Putt. Then they competed in a series of running races including sprints and a variety of relay races. Schools competing included Sedgfield Community College, Greenfield Community College, Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College (winners of the Year 7 Boys competition and joint winners of the Year 7 Girls competition) plus Whitworth Park Academy (winners of the Year 8 Boys and Girls competitions plus joint winners of the Year 7 Girls competition).

There was a great atmosphere and students produced some fantastic performances as well as an excellent sporting attitude. What was great to see was the vast majority of the athletes competing had also represented their primary schools in previous competitions over the last few years.

Pupils from Byerley Park, Woodham Burn, Stephenson Way and Sugar Hill primary schools were all represented and we wish the winning teams all the best of luck in the County Finals next year.



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