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Celebrating Christmas

Members of Aycliffe Radio were in Aycliffe Town Centre last weekend for the Celebration of Christmas event held in conjunction with Aycliffe Town Centre Management. Even though the weather was dry, it was freezing cold, but that didn't deter many Newtonians and visitors who came along to see Santa in his grotto and watch the children from the SHINE choir and the wonderful harmonies of the MAD Choir.

Along with the antics of Professor Nincompoo on stage was Dene Michael from the legendary 80s group Black Lace as well as Jeni Jaye who tried their best to get the crowds up dancing and get them warmed up. Santa also visited the Aycliffe Radio marquee and handed out selection boxes to all the children before leaving the town centre. Community Spirit were also in the town centre, with Santa's Grotto set up in the Community Shop and a queue of excited children waited in line to see him and Mrs Claus.

A quick break for the Aycliffe Radio team before heading over to the Big Club for the annual Xmas Live event. The event had practically sold out, although those in attendance were wondering why there were so many empty seats in prime positions, which was put down to the virus currently doing the rounds.

Dene Michael and Jeni Jaye came with us to the Big Club and joined Cassandra Bowtell and Rhian Harrison and all sang and entertained with their renditions of Kylie, Madonna, Britney, Beyonce, Whitney, Arianna Grande, Little Mix, Tina Turner and Diana Ross. JimJams hosted the event introducing various members of the Aycliffe Radio team who in turn introduced the artistes.

Aycliffe Radio would like to thank event sponsors ROF59 and Honest John and the Big Club for the use of the venue. Listen to Aycliffe Radio and read your Newton News for notices of our forthcoming events.



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Aycliffe Care Home Resident Visits Nissan



Peter Barron, a Resident at HC-One's Defoe Court care home in Newton Aycliffe, was thrilled when his wish to see how cars are made came true with a tour of the Nissan factory in Sunderland. The team at Defoe Court wanted to help make Peter's wish come true, so they reached out to Robert Sanderson, a Relative of another Resident at the home who kindly arranged a personal tour of the Nissan factory for Peter and his fellow Residents. The tour showed the different elements of the car manufacturing process, providing details about how the car is assembled and tested from start to finish. Residents were excited as they watched cars being built

right in front of their eyes. A great time was had by all at the Nissan factory on Friday 22nd November, especially Peter who was amazed to discover that it only takes the company two hours to build a car. Defoe Court Home Manager, Sarah Todd, said: "I am so pleased that we were able to make Peter's wish to visit Nissan come true, I would like to say a big thank you to Robert for his help arranging the trip." Located on Defoe Crescent, Defoe Court offers outstanding care and support for older people. The home also boasts an impressive 9.8/10 average user rating on the sectors leading comparison website, carehome.co.uk

AYCLIFFE HAS GOT TALENT

Aycliffe Radio hosted an Aycliffe's Got Talent competition on Friday 22nd November which originally had 25 youngsters ready to perform and entertain at Woodham Academy main hall. Due to ill health and a couple of stage frights only 18 of the children performed on the night, and boy did they perform. Dancers, musicians and singers all took to the stage and did what they have practised for the last months, not only wowing the judges panel, but also the appreciative audience. Amy and Carrie hosted the event on behalf of Aycliffe Radio and calmed down all the contestants as they came on stage and conducted a brief interview with each one.

The judges for the evening included Mr Gale (Woodham Music Tutor), Adrian Dixon (singer), Glenn Fletcher (ROF59) and Mary O'Sullivan. The judges took the occasional opportunity to make a comment on the performances. Points were awarded on various aspects of the performance and the eventual winner was Aimee Ballantyne singing "Almost There" from the Princess and the Frog. Aimee won £100 cash and a slot on the 2020 Aycliffe Radio Music Festival. Runner up on the night was John Jameson and second runner up was Evie Wilde. Aycliffe Radio would like to congratulate all the children who entertained on the night and look forward to seeing you again soon. An over 16 version of this competition will take place on Saturday 29th February in the Big Club, Newton Aycliffe, as well as another under 16s competition in March 2020. Watch Newton News for more details.

BACK ON THE ROAD

Dear Sir,
I would like to say a huge thank you to Cycleways at Neville Parade for fixing my brakes on my four wheeled walker. He is very reasonable and does a great job, so anyone else with problems with their walker, brakes, definitely take it there.
Best wishes
Sheena Stephenson

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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.

Residents Meeting

Williamfield Residents Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th December 2019 at 5.00pm in The ARK, Silverdale Place (formerly Western Area Community Centre). We are inviting residents to attend to put their opinions forward and enable us to make this area as it was several years ago; to raise awareness of the anti-social behaviour around the shop area and to have some urgent action from the police to make it once again an area that older people can go to shop in Silverdale on a night, without being met by the hooligans that are hanging around at the moment. Please try to attend. Call 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

CHILDREN'S DISCO

A Children's Disco will be held every Friday night starting 13th December from 4.30pm until 7.30pm, this will be held at The ARK (formerly Western Area Community Centre). Admission is £1, parents are free. A special Christmas Disco will be held Friday 20th December, hopefully Father Christmas will be dropping in to see you dancing. Call 07967 901477 for further info. Tiny Tots group is held every Tuesday and Friday from 9.15am until 11.30am.

THE TURBINIA

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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, Kaiser Chiefs, Simple Minds."

Sunday 8th December - "OasisJam" 4.00pm
OASISJAM are a tribute to two of the greatest bands ever: OASIS and THE JAM. OASISJAM are based in the north-east of England and play regularly in the area. Band Members: Tim Lowe - Vocals, Guitar; Richard Coxon - Bass, Vocals; Alan Batchelor - Lead Guitar, Vocals; Scott Fenner - Drums, Percussion.

Saturday 14th December - "This Machine"
Review: "Well, I don't know what to say, apart from... THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best... especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar."
Gig Pit Review: "One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol and Thin Lizzy".

Saturday 21st December - "Fire Lady Luck"
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

Neville Community Association

We are holding a Kids Christmas Activity Day on Saturday 14th December in Neville Community Centre from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

There will be a bouncy castle, face painting, kids free tombola, craft activity table and a special visitor. Children 3+ £2.00 each, under 3's and adults free.

Food will be available on the day to purchase. Bring your children down for an amazing afternoon of fun.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th December at 6.45pm in Neville Community Centre, (doors open at 6.30pm).

As it is our last one in 2019 we are going to finish the year with a bit of fun and a Christmas Quiz!

Refreshments will be available as usual along with mince pies and biscuits. Come down and join us for a cuppa and a chat and join in the fun.

A Rare Outstanding Hat-Trick



A "compassionate and kind" Newton Aycliffe company working with children and young people with complex needs has been awarded CQC Outstanding for the third time running.

Families told the inspector that ROC Support Network made a huge difference to their lives and one local authority professional praised the working relationship they had with the company, adding that they have a "genuine care for our children and their families".

The inspection, which considered whether the service was safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led, included interviews with service user families, local authority commissioners and staff.

"We are absolutely delighted with the result," said director Sally Bishop. "Achieving outstanding is a great accomplishment but to get it three times running shows the skills and commitment of all of our team."

The company, which used to be called Reach Out Care Support Network, works with under 25s with autism, learning disabilities and other complex needs. Services include independent living skills training, confidence building activities, home support and a sleep over service.

In her report the inspector wrote: "Parents told us the management team and support staff were exceptionally compassionate and kind. 'Support staff told us they received excellent support from the management team and were extremely proud to work for the service. There was a very open and transparent culture where all young people were empowered to be involved in their care and voice their opinions. Without exception, all parents spoken to told us the service was exceptionally well-managed.'"

One parent told the

inspector that without the service, she would not be able to keep her daughter at home as her own health was also very poor.

The inspector also wrote: "Safeguarding was at the core of the service's practices and the needs of all young people were paramount. Staff were clear on safeguarding protocols and demonstrated a good knowledge of the actions to be taken to keep young people and their families safe."

The company is part of the wider ROC Group – its portfolio includes children's homes, extra supported housing for 16 to 18 year-olds with challenging behaviours and a supervised contact service. Its directors also founded a supported housing charity, ROCSOLID, which supports vulnerable people, including care leavers, trafficked people, pregnant young women and people with learning difficulties.

The group also holds Investing in Children accreditation and enhanced accreditation National Association of Children's Contact Centres.

Photo: CQC Outstanding three times running for ROC Support Network in Newton Aycliffe - from left to right are operations manager Louise Williams, support worker Charlotte Purdham and directors Dot Butler and Sally Bishop.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton, will host a Civic Carol Service on Sunday 8th December 2019, 4.00pm at St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe.

The Service will be attended by Civic Dignitaries from the surrounding areas and Councillor Dalton would also like to cordially invite members of the public to join her for this Christmas Celebration.

Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall following the Service.

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HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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Tel: Paul
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Inspiring Visit to Nissan for Students



Students from Greenfield Community College were amazed by future technology when they were given the opportunity to visit Nissan car plant in Sunderland. Students from Year 9 and 10 BTEC Engineering visited the factory as part of their studies and were able to see first-hand the hi-tech approach and intricacies of production of the Nissan Leaf and Qashqai. Through an informative tour of the factory students learned more about the

history of the plant and a valuable insight into future technological developments. It showed the importance of electric vehicles and what the students might expect a career in engineering to involve. The group were introduced to engineers from the plant who explained their roles, providing key information about engineering. They had the chance to meet an environmental engineer, investigating sustainability and recycling and another involved in the development of robotic technology. "It was inspirational for the students to see engineers working together at a state-of-the-art production facility. Students got the chance to hear how engineers solved problems on a daily basis and how this related to the work they have been doing in school" said Mr Graham Stead, Subject Specialist in Visual Arts. The students left with a well-rounded picture of the company and possible career choices. Greenfield Community College are committed to developing opportunities that support students through extended learning and an appreciation of business and possible career strategies.

Adopters Needed to Give Children a Loving Home

"To be able to adopt a child, especially a child with behavioural issues or a learning difficulty, you need to be determined, to have empathy and be honest about what you can take on, but the most important things are to have a loving heart and mind and you'll be amazing."

That is the message to would-be adopters from a County Durham woman who has chosen to speak out about how adopting has changed her life as part of a campaign to encourage more people to follow her lead.

Figures recently released by the government show the North East has nearly three times as many children awaiting adoptive families as there are adopters, with 350 children and only 105 families approved to adopt. Figures from the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board also show children with a plan of adoption are currently waiting 509 days to be matched with a family. There are also children with additional needs such as autism and ADHD who are waiting even longer to find a loving home.

On the back of National Adoption Week, Durham County Council is in the midst of its own campaign to recruit more adopters. The council, which was recently praised by Ofsted for its "excellent" adoption services, organised events last month to allow people interested in adopting to find out more and ask any questions.

As part of the campaign, Allison Cowen, from Chester-le-Street, has opened up on how she became a 'single adopter' in her 30s, by which time the family scenario she had envisaged of a husband and children of her own had not materialised.

"I realised in my mid 30's that this supposed 'perfect' scenario was not relevant or important – I was in a position on my own to love and care for a child who needed me..."

"I learnt that a family wasn't ready made and your family can come from anywhere and be anyone."

Allison, who has three foster siblings and whose grandma was adopted, contacted the council to ask about adopting and was ultimately approved, receiving training to prepare her for life as an adopter.

"I met some wonderful people... some in the same situation as me and others with completely different circumstances. It was a relief to share that experience and those emotions with people who were feeling the same as you."

The next step was 'matching' which includes events at which adopters meet children in need of a loving home.

Allison was contacted about one-year-old Thomas, who



had minor additional needs. "As soon as I read his profile, I knew I wanted to be this child's mum. As soon as I saw a photograph of him, I fell in love – he was meant to be my son."

To her delight, Allison was told Thomas would become her adopted son.

"I just burst in to tears, I could not wait to love him and to give him everything he needed."

Allison, who like any new adopter was supported by a range of professionals including paediatricians, recalls the moment it was made official: "I hugged my boy so tight and just remember repeatedly saying 'I'm your mam'."

Since adopting Thomas, she has got married, to father-of-two Paul, with whom she had a son, Joshua in July.

"We have grown in to a big family, the children all love each other, and Thomas adores his daddy and his brothers and sister. All the children are loved and supported equally, and we do not apply labels to each other either such as stepbrother, half-sister or adopted. My favourite things about my family are simply that we are just that - a family. Seeing how much the children all adore each other makes every day special.

"I am very thankful, and I feel privileged to be able to call Thomas my son."

Helen Fergusson, the council's head of children's social care, said: "Allison

can adopt, whether or not they live in their own home, have children or work and regardless of whether they have adopted before.

"Allison's account of the joy Thomas has brought and continues to bring, to both her and the family he is an integral part of, is proof of just how rewarding adoption can be.

"I would encourage anyone who has ever thought about adoption to come along to one of our information sessions or to contact us for an informal chat."

To find out more about adopting with the council, visit www.durham.gov.uk/adoption or @DurhamFosterAdopt on Facebook, or email adoption@durham.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

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11.00am to 4.00pm
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(B6444 HEIGHINGTON LANE LEVEL CROSSING, NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2019

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on 75 m of B6444 Heighington Ln, Newton Aycliffe from the junction with Station Rd westwards to the entrance to Heighington Station car park to enable Network Rail drainage installation works to be undertaken. Alt route from the eastern side of the closure from A167 southerly to A1(M) Junction 59 (Aycliffe) Interchange, south westerly along A1(M) to Burtree Interchange (J58) then northerly along A68 and A6072 to the western side of the closure, and vice versa. A local (non-HGV) diversion will also be signed from the eastern side of the closure northerly via C147 Spring Rd and then Whinbank Rd, then westerly on Horndale Ave, then south westerly on School Aycliffe Ln to the A6072 roundabout junction with B6444 to the western side of the closure on Heighington Ln, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The anticipated duration of the Order is approximately 6 weeks and is to be applied at intermittent periods on the times/dates listed: 10pm, 4 January to 9am, 5 January 2020; 10pm, 11 January to 9am, 12 January 2020; 10pm, 18 January to 9am, 19 January 2020; 10pm, 25 January to 9am, 26 January 2020; 8am to 3pm, 29 January 2020; 10pm, 1 February to 9am, 2 February 2020; 10pm, 8 February to 9am, 9 February 2020. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly. Access will be maintained for emergency services.

Dated: 6th December 2019



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

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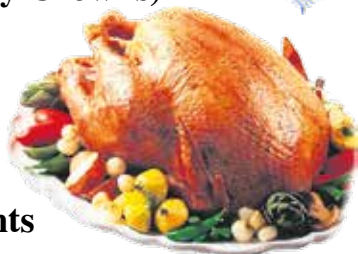
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Random Acts of Kindness

Dear Sir,
I would like to give many thanks to the teachers and children from Vane Road Primary School for the surprise and thoughtful Christmas Card, brilliantly made by MICAH (year 6). My good wishes for a happy season.

Also, going back to Halloween, three young boys reversed the trick or treat and actually handed me a "toblerone" bar, saying, we are giving this as an act of kindness. A great gesture. Thank you

Washington Crescent.



MEMORY GARDEN Mondays and Wednesday 2-4pm



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*Mondays alternate between Memory Garden & Memory Cafe

Big Project to Restore St. Andrew's



The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that in 782, there was 'a synod at Acleah', which is presumed to be Aycliffe, Acleah being one of its earlier names. Undoubtedly therefore there has been a Christian building or purpose in this village for over 1300 years. When they originally constructed St Andrew's our forefathers were more concerned with building a house in which to worship and glorify our Lord, than to cater for its visitors and mere mortals.

It could be said also that in 1882, when the last major restoration took place, our Victorian forebears missed a trick also, for those of you who have attended this wonderful old church, will have noticed, or maybe were even inconvenienced, by its lack of facilities.

St Andrew's does not have a toilet, or a place to wash your hands. Nor does it have the facility to provide you with a cup of good cheer! It is proposed to remedy that at last.

Discussions have taken place amongst the DCC and with an architect following the last Quinquennial report, and some designs have been considered. The proposal is to provide toilet facilities adjacent to the church, but as an integral part of the building. In addition, a place to make a hot brew.

To capitalise on our heritage and the wonderful Saxon crosses and carvings, we would also like to create

a viewing and study area at the back of the church, perhaps under the tower, but including the rear sections of the North and South aisles.

This as a big project, and before we charge on in to it we would like you, the parishioners, and the people St. Andrew's serves to consider its value, and perhaps make suggestions, as to what exactly you would like us to achieve.

Please contact us with any questions via our website: <http://parishofgreataycliffe.co.uk>

David Blair
Parish of Great Aycliffe

ACORN Community Association

Our last meeting for this year will be held on Thursday 12th December 2019 at 6.00pm. Little Acorns meet at 5.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings. We are a friendly bunch and enjoy meeting new people. Come along for a cuppa and mince pie on the 12th.

We will be organising further excursions and events in 2020 at our January meeting.

We would like to wish all residents of our town a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Some interesting meetings, an opportunity to congratulate your neighbour, and how to report a rough sleeper ... plus an opportunity to listen to some of the Darlington Parliamentary candidates on POLITICAL / Aycliffe Radio.

There are internet links to find out more about all the following on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB141

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

• DCC County Council meeting (Council Tax, Corporate Management), Wednesday 4 December.

• OASES Climate Action meeting, Tuesday 3 December.

• GATC Environment (Allotments AGM; South Agnew Plantation; town centre bus shelters; Cobblers Hall Wood biodiversity improvements) and Recreation (Oakleaf reports; Parks update) Committee meetings, Wednesday 27 January.

• GATC Policy & Resources meeting (Events staff appointments, a 'paper light' Council, St Oswald's boiler).

• Awards success for County Durham youth services at the Social Worker of the Year Awards.

• Have your neighbours enhanced your life with their Christmas display? Nominate them for recognition by GATC.

• Report rough sleepers via the Street Link app, or phone 03000 260 000.

• HealthWatch County Durham December News Update (mental health at Christmas; Kooth; Bowel Cancer campaign; Dry January and more).

THINGS TO DO

NEXT WEEKEND

• Guided Walk – to the

very end of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (8 miles, 5 hours), meet 10am Wednesday 11 December in St Helens Auckland (behind Hollands Tractors, DL14 9AX), £4.

• Wildlife Watch (4-11s), Low Barns Nature Reserve, 10am Saturday 14 December, £1.

• Chinese Ball Puzzle (5-11s), Durham Oriental Museum, drop-in 1-3pm Saturday 14 December, FREE.

• Father Christmas in the Park (plus Christmas trail, craft activities and story time), Hardwick Park, 14-15 and 21-22 December, £10:50 – need to book.

• Christmas at Durham Castle (Families), 1-3pm, Sunday 15 December, FREE.

• Christmas Walkabout Weekend, Durham City Centre, 11am-3pm, 14-15 December, FREE.

AYCLIFFE RADIO

• On POLITICAL / Aycliffe Radio, live on Friday 6 December, my guests will be Darlington parliamentary candidates Anne-Marie Curry (LibDem: 4:30pm) and Matthew Snedker (Green Party: 5pm), and live at 6-7pm, Sunday 8 December, Jenny Chapman (Labour): bit.ly/ARLIVE

POSTPONED

Men Talking Together inaugural meeting is postponed because of reasons beyond our control (forthcoming elections etc.). It will now be held at the same venue at the same time but on Monday 16th December. Still in time for Christmas! Sorry for any inconvenience. Dorothy, call 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

Living History at King James

King James I Academy recently brought World War II history to life in an intergenerational event involving senior citizens from the local community, primary school pupils from Crook Primary and students in Years 8-13 from the Academy.

The event was organised by Director of Learning for History, Leanne Whitaker, as part of the Academy's extensive Outreach Programme. Over 50 primary school pupils visited the Academy to take part in a variety of themed activities throughout the morning. Students learned the Jitterbug, made VE Day bunting, made WWII biscuits according to an authentic wartime recipe and took part in an activity which put them in the position of an evacuee deciding which of their possessions they should pack for their trip.

In the afternoon, the Main Hall was prepared for a VE Day street party, complete with traditional afternoon tea, and students were joined by three local residents, Winifred Lydon, Ann Lee and Colleen Marley, who were escorted by their care workers, Elaine Gardner and Sandra Baynham. As guests of honour, the ladies were treated to a lively performance of the Jitterbug which primary pupils had learned earlier in the day.

Students also heard the fascinating story of 96 year old Mrs Lydon, who was born in South Shields but moved to London during the war to join the RAF. At just 18 her job was to release barrage balloons. Primary pupils were keen to ask her all about her experiences and hear first hand what it was really like to live through such difficult times. Miss Whitaker said, "I organised this event because I wanted to give our young people the opportunity to really appreciate the



tragedies of war and the resilience of the people who lived through it. Winifred's story is truly inspiring and all students were engrossed in her honest account of life at that time. I am so grateful to the ladies for agreeing to attend; they made the event very special and I am sure pupils will always remember it."

Towards the end of the day, GCSE students at King

James were treated to a quiet interview session with Winifred and her friends. Year 10 History student, Iben Kirsopp said, "I really enjoyed the whole event and felt privileged to be able to hear Mrs Lydon's amazing story. I was so impressed by her strength, courage and determination."

Photo: Mrs Lydon is front centre and Miss Whitaker rear centre.

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Rotary Newton Aycliffe

Rotary Newton Aycliffe is delighted to announce the routes and dates for the Santa Sleigh tours. Each evening will start at 5.30pm and finish by 7.30pm, subject to weather conditions.

MONDAY 9th DECEMBER

Heighington (hopefully including new estates).

TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER

Woodham, starting at Pemberton Road, all streets off plus Stag Lane, Lowther Drive, Sandown Drive.

WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER

Cobblers Hall Road and streets off Ropemoor, Wakenshaw and Haselwood.

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER

Greathead Crescent, Bury Road, Van Mildert Road, Moore Lane, Creighton Road, Fowler Road, Mellanby Crescent, Vane Road and Langley Road.

MONDAY 16th DECEMBER

Simpasture, Watson Road, Cumby Road, Lowery Road.

TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER

School Aycliffe including Chestnuts and Oaklands.

WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER

Starting from Navy Club, Bluebell Way and streets off Westmorland Way and streets off.

Streets off means as many as time permits.

SANTA ROUTES 2019



'Inspired by Cornish' Exhibition



Greenfield Arts are thrilled to have been a major part of the Cornish Centenary celebrations and have offered a programme of creative events and activities engaging the community to be inspired by the artist's life and work. As a response to the exhibition our men's Cree group and students from Greenfield Community College have been working towards a mini exhibition exploring the social context of his work. Working alongside spoken

work artist Tony Gadd and visual artist Richard Bliss, the groups have brought together an intimate collection of inspirational artwork. There will be a celebration event, 'Inspired by Cornish', on Monday 16 December 2019 from 13:30 to 15:00 and the exhibition will run until Friday 20 December 2019. The Greenfield Gallery is open from 10:00 – 21:00 on Monday to Thursday and from 10:00 – 16:00 on Fridays. If you would like

to know more about the gallery and our new spring programme please visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk email inof@greenfield-arts.co.uk or call our friendly team on 01325 379048.

Brass Band & Carol Concert

St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village are holding the Annual Brass Band and Carol Concert on Monday 9th December in the Aycliffe Village Hall from 7.00pm.

Light refreshments will be available on the night as well as a raffle. Entry is £2.50, payable on the door.

Charity Statement

Charity Reg 1034862

Rotary Newton Aycliffe have published their final accounts for the year ending 30th June 2019. The club is fully authorised by the Charity Commission, and as such the accounts must be approved by the Trustees. The club's registration number is 1034862 where details of the charity, and indeed all registered charities, can be found. The club has once again met all its submission deadlines as laid down by the Charity Commission.

The club spent a record total of over £25,000 during the financial year. The major fund-raising efforts were built around the club's Christmas activities, Model Railway Exhibition and Annual Golf Day, which between them grossed £19,000 out of a total income of £23,000.

The funds were spent on donations to local charities, individuals in need of urgent help, dictionaries for each child in the area in the final year at primary school, helping fund leadership events for young people and funding the cost of the town's participation in the regional games for the disabled. For obvious reasons of confidentiality, we do not name individuals and organisations who receive funding.

For the past 15 years the annual Santa street collections and Tesco collections have allowed the purchase of many hundreds of Christmas hampers for needy families in Aycliffe. The club also supports national and regional cancer and children's charities where we request that the donation is used to fund the charities' work in the local area.

Members of the club do not take any expenses from the Charity Account. The club is grateful for the continuous support of the people of Newton Aycliffe, and we ensure that every penny raised is spent on a worthwhile cause, whilst ensuring that the correct administrative and financial procedures are adhered to and meet the strict criteria of the Charity Commission. The Trustees
Rotary Newton Aycliffe

Hays Travel to Invest Over £360,000 in Local Communities



Hays Travel will invest £360,000 to kickstart fundraising in local communities all over the UK.

The company is extending its Community Partnership scheme, which provides every branch manager with £500 cash, to its newly expanded portfolio of 745 shops.

The managers and their teams use the money to raise further funds for good causes of their choice in their local area. The innovative scheme has been running since the opening of the first Hays Travel store in Seaham, nearly 40 years ago.

The aim is to increase the figure significantly and make donations to a charity, school, individual, or other important cause in the local community.

"Our colleagues are encouraged to be creative with their fundraising activities," said Toni Gibson, Hays Travel sales support manager, who oversees the partnerships activity and the independent Hays Travel Foundation, which has separately donated almost £1m to charities since 2015.

"They are given the opportunity to have control over where the money is donated, which means the money raised is put to best use in each local community and year after year they outdo themselves.

Earlier this year, eight branches from the South West of England teamed up with the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Department to raise money for a six-year-old who was in a car accident that led to the tragic loss of her father. The Hays Travel branches managed to raise over £9,700 alongside the Fire and Rescue Department by cycling 150 miles, Hays staff cycling on exercise bikes in their shops, while the firefighters took to the road. This amazing effort allowed Amelie and her family to go on a special holiday to Disneyland.

The Hays Travel Foundation was established in 2015 by John and Irene Hays. Its aim is to help young people achieve their potential through better access to health, education, the arts, and sport.

So far this year the independent board of the Foundation has made grants of £306,592 to multiple

charities, with a total of £867,000 granted since 2015. The Foundation supports the local community partnership scheme by taking applications to match - double - any funds raised for charities.

One of the most recent cases where match funding was awarded from the Hays Travel Foundation was to Victoria's Wish, a charity set up to provide the best life possible for young people suffering from cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Colleagues from Hays Travel's Redcar branch hiked 35 miles from their branch to the company's head office in Sunderland and raised £1,525, which came to a huge £3,050 donation after it was match funded.

Toni, who announced the good news to the existing and new branch managers at the Hays Travel Retail Conference this year, said: "The decision to expand the funding is fantastic and the difference it will make to local charities and communities will be truly amazing. It is incredible that we can give this opportunity to all the new branches that have recently joined us and the reaction we have had from them has been overwhelming - they cannot wait to get stuck in and raise money for local causes in their communities."

To keep up-to-date with recent local community partnership achievements and the communities that benefit throughout the year, follow Hays Travel on Facebook and Twitter.

Dad's Fundraiser for Daughter's Fight for Sight

A Darlington native is embarking on a hat-trick of fundraising events for eye research charity Fight for Sight, in the hope of finding a treatment for his daughter's rare eye condition.

Emily was just three months old when her parents noticed that she wasn't responding to visual cues and her eyes were not focusing. She was quickly diagnosed with a genetic eye condition known as Lebers Congenital Amaurosis and now, aged five, Emily is legally blind.

Her father Andy described their shock at learning of Emily's condition: "It has been a steep learning curve since we first found out about Emily's diagnosis. We had an avalanche of questions that have slowly been answered over the years."

Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA) is the term used for a group of inherited eye conditions and is one of the most common causes of blindness in children, affecting around two or three of every 100,000 newborns. LCA mainly affects the retina, which is the specialised light-sensitive layer that lines the back of the eye. It affects the light-sensing cells called photoreceptors which play a vital role in making eyesight possible by converting light into electrical signals that are transmitted to the brain. When these cells stop working properly or are lost, this leads to sight loss.

There is currently no cure for LCA, but early research funded by Fight for Sight has led to a clinical trial of a gene therapy that is already restoring sight for patients with a different type of LCA. With more funding, new therapies could be developed to cover more types of LCA, like Emily's.

Emily's parents are determined to help fund such a breakthrough and have been fundraising in their hometown of Darlington for Fight for Sight. In 2020, Emily's father Andy will undertake a series of endurance events to raise money.

He said: "We know that it's only through research that a cure for Emily's condition can be developed. That's why we decided to raise money for Fight for Sight - it made us feel like we were doing something to help."



In July, Andy will be doing the Summer Edition Fan Dance where he will be carrying a 35lb rucksack over a 24km SAS selection route in the Brecon Beacons. While in September he will undertake a 10-mile challenge event, again carrying 35lbs, which is based on the armed forces' parachute regiments test week.

Andy said: "The third event is yet to be decided. I have a good friend who has agreed to do the events with me and the general consensus is that we will concoct a bespoke challenge ourselves. I'm not satisfied with just the two, it has to be a hat-trick of events! I am determined to raise as much money as possible now and in the future, for eye research."

Emily is now in school and her dad has described his delight at seeing how independent she is.

He said: "Emily is in a mainstream school and she has settled so well. She is involved entirely with her friends and loves to play in the playground just as well as her classmates. Emily has 1:1 support in the classroom, habilitation training in school to move around as safely and independently as possible, and a fantastic QTVI (qualified teacher of children and young people with vision impairment) who is with her through these early years and beyond. Such a framework of support is pivotal and already Emily is becoming fluent at Braille.

"There's a misconception that those with sight loss are not as capable and can't live a normal life, but it's just not the case. With the right support and encouragement great achievements can be made. Impossible is just an opinion. Emily is such a happy child, she's full of life!"

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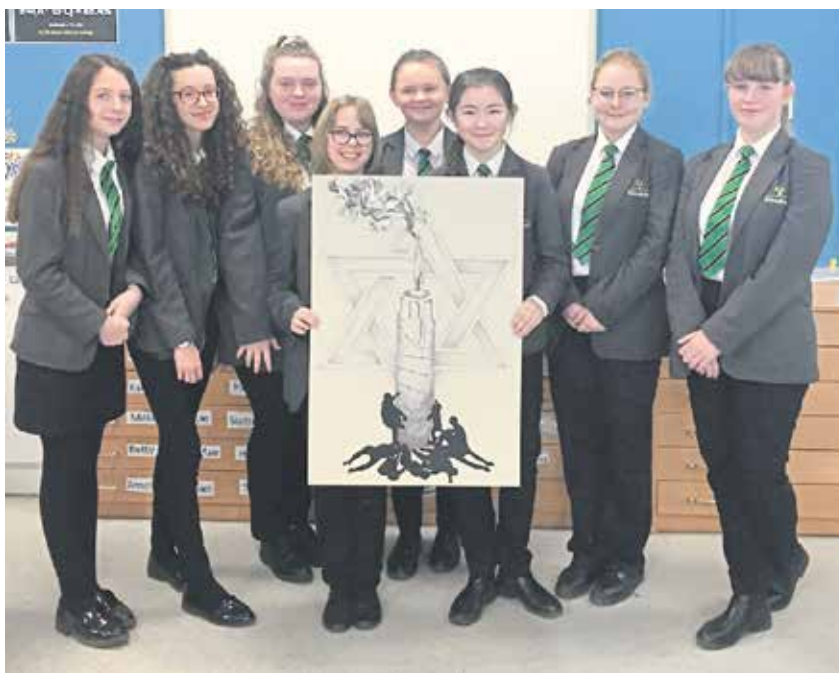
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Red Box Project Update

Dear Sir,
The Red Box Project is coming to an end. It has been a victim of its own success by drawing attention to the levels of Period Poverty. The government is taking over the provision of menstrual products in all schools and colleges in January and from the end of December the RBP will be defunct. We have made our last deliveries. We've spent every penny and distributed every last donated item. Schools have received a top up of their boxes and a generous supply of tights and pants. Forty-five individual bags have been given out to our primary schools to help girls during the Christmas break. And Humankind post-16 education department have also had a Christmas delivery. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation and to all our donation points, all of which are now closed. Many thanks to Great Aycliffe

Town Council for their £100 donation. We could not have done it without you all. A special mention goes to John Hilton, aka Honest John, for his fantastic donation of £600 right at the start. His contribution to the Project was invaluable and we are very grateful to him. Thanks also to Newton News for printing our updates and keeping everyone informed of progress. Girls will be able to access supplies at Newton Aycliffe Youth and Community Centre and Junction 7 at Silverdale. If anyone wishes to continue to make product donations they will be very pleased to accept them. We have enjoyed being involved with the RBP and are proud of the work it has done. Feedback has been very positive. When a community comes together like this anything is possible. Thank you everyone, goodbye and have a Merry Christmas.

Holocaust Art Work



On the 27th January 2020, Holocaust Memorial Day will mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In commemoration for this landmark anniversary, the Holocaust Memorial Trust have organised a county wide project for primary schools, secondary schools and colleges. The project involved creating a piece of artwork featuring a memorial flame, marking 75 years since the end of the Holocaust. These images will form part of a larger collage which will be on display in Durham Cathedral as part of the Holocaust Memorial service.

At Woodham, the Leadership Academy worked with Year 9 students within History and Art to participate in this project. The students undertook a research project to help formulate their ideas of what they wanted their flame to look like. Students used a range of artistic skills to represent the struggles that people faced during their time in concentration camps, with the flame and hands representing hope and liberation. They worked extremely

hard over lunchtimes to complete their design and we are extremely proud of the talent, time and effort that students dedicated to this project. Following its

submission, the piece has now been selected to be displayed in County Hall after the memorial service which is a reflection of their outstanding effort.



Gridlock at Byerley Park

Dear Sir,
Once again I wish to highlight the ongoing issue of traffic congestion around Byerley Park School, particularly the evening of Thursday 28th November, at approximately 5pm. On returning home from work and turning into Staintondale from Greenfield Way, the street was in a state of gridlock caused by parents dropping their children off at the school for an out of hours activity, it was absolute chaos with cars blasting their horns and blocking driveways, entrances to cul-de-sacs and preventing movement both up and down the street and also backing right onto the main road on Greenfield Way.

On trying to make my way through the traffic to get on my drive, I suffered verbal abuse from a man who thought I had no right to try to get to my home. The congestion went on for a good 45 minutes making it a very unsafe place for drivers and pedestrians alike. Arranging an event at the school to coincide with people coming home from work was not well thought out at all, it beggars belief that in one evening our road was congested at 3pm, 5pm and then 7pm when parents came to collect their children. I am all for the school arranging fun filled evenings for children but it is the lack of consideration of

parents parking that angers me, especially since I note that a number of parents live within walking distance of the school. On a last but very serious note, in the event that the emergency services were called out to a resident living on the Chase on that evening of the 28th November they would not have stood a chance of getting through the traffic! I would like to praise the headmistress of Byerley Park who was also clearly upset with the situation and made every attempt to have her staff marshalling the traffic at 7pm when the parents came to collect their children. Name & Address supplied.

AYCLIFFE RADIO

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Programme Schedule

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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
12-130pm	Sports Round Up (R)	Darren & Lee
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin McNeillie
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-7.30pm	POLITICAL	John D. Clare
8th Dec:	Jenny Chapman	
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

"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

6-7.30pm	Sports Round UP	Darren & Lee
10th Dec -	Ian Wilkinson (Tennis) - 100th Show	
7.30-9.30pm	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		
5-6.30pm	Community Connect	Amy & Carrie
6.30-8pm	Independent Music Show	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gary & Alby

THURSDAY

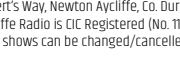
9-10am	Carrie in the Morning	Carrie Howarth
10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Paul Baker in the Afternoon	Paul Baker
6-7.30pm	POLITICAL (R)	John D. Clare
8-10pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

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	
13th Dec -	CAD - Classic Rock Show	

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

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JUNCTION 7

THE GENDER AUSTERITY Don't Give the Tories A Blank Cheque

Dear Sir,
We have had 10 years of Tory ideological policies which they rebranded as 'Austerity' measures. The hardest hit groups have been the disabled, the poor and the vulnerable, and 85% of those cuts have hit women the hardest, and the poorest of them hardest of all. Independent thinktank the Women's Budget Group, shows that tax and benefit changes since 2010 will have hit women's incomes twice as hard as men by 2020. Women will be £1,003 a year worse off by 2020 on average; for men, this figure is £555. The last ten years have seen women robbed of the pensions they were promised, they have seen child benefit limited to two

children, they have seen a massive rise in unprosecuted incidents of rape, denied access to legal aid, seen huge cuts to domestic abuse services, and the closure of 1000 successful 'Sure Start' centres which provided a life line for parents and their children. Poverty related Infant mortality has risen, survival sex work has rocketed with the roll out of Universal Credit. We have had a number of men writing in the Newton News urging people to make this election about voting for Brexit, but, if the majority of the experts are right, Brexit will have a negative effect on our economy and whose shoulders will have to bare this weight? Statistical evidence shows it won't be

those men taking the brunt of it. Historically, and as we have seen with 'Austerity' measures, there is a clear gender imbalance to the consequences of government policies. Labour WILL compensate Waspi woman's pensions, we will open Sure Starts again, we will stop the hell of Universal Credit, restore legal aid and save our NHS. OUR tax money will be used to pay for services WE use, not given in corporate handouts to the rich, it's just a question of priorities and we ALL, men and women, will benefit from that. Boris Johnson has made it clear he has no respect for the many women in his life, he says that a man should 'take control of his woman', and is happy to call single mothers 'uppity and irresponsible', when he himself doesn't even seem to know how many children he has. Labour has a long history of fighting for the rights of woman and gender equality, it's 100 years since women won the right to vote, this election is one of the most important there has been for women, as the last 10 years have seen our hard fight for rights eroded. Labour has always had our backs. It's been ten very dark years for all of us and especially for women, together we can let the light back in, by voting Labour. Sedgefield Labour Women.

ONLY ONE OPTION

Dear Sir,
As Christians we believe the Gospel calls us to care for the sick, home the homeless, declare justice for the oppressed, address inequality, seek peace and justice, and protect God's Creation. The Labour Party under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn has produced a Manifesto which seeks to address these issues – the health service, house building, running an economy to address obscene inequality, and a Green Revolution to save the Creation. If this is the Christian society you want to work for and live in then there is only one option – Vote Labour. Mike & Mary Dixon, John & Barbara Clare.

POLLING STATIONS

12th December 2019 General Election:
Middridge Village Hall
Aycliffe Evangelical Church, Ladybower
Scout HQ, Bluebell Way
Silverdale House, Silverdale Place
The Turbinia, Sid Chaplin Drive
St. Joseph's Primary School, Garburn Place
Stephenson Way Academy and Nursery School
School Aycliffe Community Hall
Woodham Village Community Centre
Agnew Community Centre, Morrison Close
Aycliffe Village Hall
Neville Parade Methodist Church
Simpasture Court Supported Housing
Sugar Hill Infants School, Sheraton Road
Vane Road Primary School
Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre
Heighington Village Hall
Brafferton Village Hall

After nine years of the Tories being in power our public services are on their knees. Chronic underfunding and understaffing has left the NHS at crisis point. Waiting times are at their worst-ever level. Cancer patients are waiting longer to receive potentially life-saving treatment. People who suffer the same illness but live streets apart can end up receiving vastly different standards of care. This is wrong. The Tories keep saying they will do this, and fix that. But I don't believe them. They've had nine years, why haven't they done so already, why have they waited until now? Parents tell me they need to fundraise for basic school equipment. Durham police have seen their numbers cut by 400 since 2010. Crime is rising. The Bobby on the beat do a great job, but are a rare sight. A network of food banks provide thousands of food parcels to local people every year. My office, in the town centre, issues vouchers for people in need so they can receive the food they need. Something that never happened until the Tories came to power. The Tories cannot get away from the fact all this has happened on their watch. That is why we cannot give Boris Johnson a blank cheque so he can deliver nothing more than 5 years of the same. A right wing Tory majority would only continue to destroy the vital services we depend on. Newton Aycliffe is home to the largest business park in the North East of England. 10,000-12,000 people work there, employed by 500 companies. However, if you remember, we fought long and hard to ensure Hitachi built its train-building factory here, providing about 1,000 jobs. I supported the creation of the South West Durham UTC in Aycliffe. Situated next door to Hitachi, the college is producing first class apprentices for local businesses so they can thrive, providing young people with fantastic opportunities. I want to continue delivering for Aycliffe. I have a proven track record. I am my own man, who stands up to leadership when it is wrong.



I also do not sidestep the big issues like Brexit. Brexit is the defining issue of our age and now we know what Brexit looks like with Boris Johnson's deal I believe you have the right to compare it with what he promised as leader of the Leave campaign back in 2016 in a final say ballot. Boris Johnson knows as well as I do that his deal will not see the end of Brexit. Instead it will go on and on for years. He needs to be honest about that. But honesty is not his best quality. So if you're tired of Brexit today, imagine how tired of Brexit you will be when we are still discussing it in a year's time! As I've said. Don't give Boris Johnson a blank cheque and remember: a right-wing Tory majority government will be for 5 years, not just for Christmas. Phil Wilson Labour Party Candidate for Sedgefield

LOCAL CANDIDATE

In reply to Vince Crosby's letter in last week's Newton News where he questions both my localism and my capacity to perform the role, I would say it is absolutely normal to see local Councillors standing to be the MP, as they have an in depth knowledge of the constituency they wish to represent. Whilst I thoroughly enjoy being a local Councillor it is absolutely the norm to stand down as a Councillor in order to fulfil the role of MP. When it comes to being local, I was born in Ferryhill, went to school in Newton Aycliffe and have lived in Darlington ever since. Whilst Newton Aycliffe is the largest town in the constituency and where I would base my office if elected, there is also so much more to it. The Sedgefield constituency includes over 40 towns or villages and reaches from Hurworth to Thornley and from Middridge to Bishopthorpe and when I leave my front door in Darlington whether I go north, south, east or west I arrive in the constituency. If elected I will serve all the residents of all the constituency. Paul Howell Conservative Party Candidate for Sedgefield



Vision of an Unfair Future

Dear Sir,
I challenge Kathy Beetham to name a working and self-sufficient family that benefited from the aftermath of the Blair/Brown, New Labour Government. Under Tony Blair the left wing University lobby demanded more money. It was Blair who dreamt up the scheme that students should borrow money to finance Universities. He then increased the amount students had to borrow, twice. At the time I decied this policy and referred to it as a tax on learning. i.e. "Pay Before You Earn". After Blair was drummed out of office for wrecking the economy, the Left wing Universities demanded more money and the Coalition Government, which stood on, and was elected on, a manifesto of Austerity, had to raise student fees. The country was almost bankrupt, our credit rating was in jeopardy: they HAD to get Government spending and borrowing under control. It is a bit rich that Phil Wilson is now standing on a Labour /Momentum manifesto which promises to undo Blair's New Labour 'Flag Ship' policy. As a family, I estimate that supporting our two sons through university has cost us in the region of £30,000 more than it would have done pre-Blair/Brown. This is over and above the student loans that my sons are still paying off. Thank God the Tory government have been able to create

sufficient, good jobs such that students can pay off their loans. Kathy Beetham now expects my family, who have paid for their university education, to also pay for the next generation of university education. That does not seem fair to me! What have we done to her to make her hate us so? Yes, I voted Leave, but so did 60% of the local electorate! Kathy Beetham seems to think that borrowing now secures the future. It does not. It only puts off the day of reckoning. Our Children and our children's children (to the Nth generation) will be paying for a Corbyn Government. It will take their working lifetime for most students to pay-off their student debt. That is Tony Blair's legacy! Live with it. Don't blame the Tories. Also, the Terrorist in the London Bridge attack was released from prison under a sentencing policy introduced by Tony Blair. Again, don't blame the Tories. Since we joined the E.U. most British Governments have run a deficit. This means that we have been (wrongly in my view) borrowing money to pay our £8 billion to £10 billion E.U. membership fees. Please vote to get Brexit done so that we can end this nonsense. Tory Paul Howell, is my favourite for Brexit and a good government thereafter. Yours Sincerely Alastair P.G. Welsh

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Closing date Sunday 8th December 2019

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

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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



I WILL DELIVER FOR SEDGEFIELD

We are now rapidly approaching decision day for this most important election.

The role of your MP is to represent the views of their electorate in as influential a manner as possible. I have already undertaken to fully represent the Sedgefield constituency vote to leave the EU and deliver Brexit but there is more to parliament than Brexit.

You need an MP who both listens to you and promotes your views in Westminster, you currently have neither. Over the last few weeks I have met with the Prime Minister and The Chancellor as well as The Secretary of States for Health, Transport and International Development and been able to discuss Sedgefield with them all. Should I and the Conservatives be elected to govern then I can continue this dialogue and deliver for Sedgefield. Any other outcome removes direct communication with the top table.

I have spent my life in the Sedgefield constituency area, starting in Ferryhill and then on to Newton Aycliffe before Darlington and I was married in Bishopclee.

As the son of a fireman, born in a mining village, with a working life in industry and married to a farmer's daughter, I can appreciate all aspects of the constituency. From the town to the villages both mining and rural, I can relate to them.

As a businessman, I understand the needs of our industry and our retailers. As a councillor I understand the needs of residents and as a school governor, I understand the pressure on local services. As your MP I would work for all of you on all of these and I sincerely



hope you will give me that opportunity. If you want to be listened to and represented please vote Paul Howell, Conservative on 12th December.

GRINNING GOONS

Dear Sir, The sight of two men together last week almost made me puke (and no, I am not homophobic).

While watching a local news item, once again criminal Blair had crept into Newton Aycliffe and was being interviewed about the forthcoming election.

Who on this earth would be interested or believe what the Blair liar had to say? Well one person does.

Trailing alongside was our very own Benny from Crossroads tribute act, Phil Wilson, as usual looking like he was chewing a brick. There's a word, chew, not as in pardon me, Phil is that Hitachi's latest choo choo. Seriously though, talk about the devil and his disciple. Surely this duo is all the more reason to vote Tory on 12th December and wipe these two grinning goons off the face of Newton Aycliffe for good.

Yours sincerely
Honest John Hilton

USE YOUR VOTE RIGHT

Dear Sir, Vince Crosby says that by not living in the Sedgefield constituency area it can't make you a good MP, unfortunately we have an MP who supposedly does live in the area and cannot support the majority of the constituents that he has now.

Phil Wilson is our 'Invisible MP', who will not correspond with people, I contacted him four times and I am still waiting for a reply, and as for his office, I have passed it quite a few times only to find it closed and a notice with a telephone number if you want to contact him.

We now find he is being advised by our previous runaway PM and MP and, according to Sunday's press, he has signed up to a sort of stay charter without telling his constituents, but still tells us he is trying to find a deal to suit us.

He was absent from the gathering of Labour party canvassing in Newton Aycliffe last Sunday, apparently, I was told he was away at Whitby.

I spoke to four people, one said he did not know of him but was there to try and get a new Labour in government, another seemed not amused when I mentioned Tony Blair's name in connection to Mr. Wilson, but showed no support for him. Of the other two, one was trying to give out leaflets and was having no success in anyone talking to them and the other person I spoke to had a lot to say for the Labour party, but not for Mr. Wilson, but he was the one who told me where he was, but not why he was not there to meet his constituents.

It seemed to me that they were there to sell the Labour party as maybe they now realise he may not get re-elected.

As for the distance they live in the Sedgefield constituency, Darlington is a stones throw away. I would think that anyone with any sense would realise that the Tory, future, prospective MP, would give these up to get the job done for them.

Mr Crosby is a bit hypocritical as he had seven things on the go at one time. I think we can now accept that Mr. Wilson is not going to listen or talk face to face to his constituents, but act as an independent person who is going to push for what he dictates to us and not what we want.

Use your vote right, vote Conservative and let's get democracy back to our area. John Armstrong Defoe Crescent

HOLD YOUR NERVE A DECIMATED NHS

Dear Sir, On December 12th, the sixth national poll in as many years takes place and we Liberal Brexiteers have a dilemma: Who to vote for?

Certainly not the Liberal Democrats whose post-referendum antics suggest they are neither liberal nor democratic. It was their idea to hold a referendum, albeit in the expectation we would vote to stay in the EU, so it's outrageous that they resolved to ignore the referendum result, accusing older voters of "shafting the young". They are a disgrace to the British liberal tradition.

We cannot afford another Labour government; the Treasury is still cleaning up the mess left by the last one.

Moreover, Labour's proposed second EU referendum could not be held until the Autumn of 2020, causing further business uncertainty.

The Brexit Party was supposed to be the nation's backstop if all else failed. All else has not failed, so they should have sat this one out rather than risk splitting the BREXIT vote.

That a long-standing Liberal is considering voting for the Nasty Party speaks volumes about the abysmal state of British politics, especially when some senior Tories come across as uncaring, socially divisive dolts. Even so, the Conservatives know about money, they are business savvy, they have experience of government and they are committed to BREXIT. After all, you don't have to like the plumber who unblocks your drains.

I imagine voters are heartily sick of all parties and wonder why politicians can't pull together for the common good, just as we all do at work. While we look to a new dawn for our democracy, right now, for this election only, to get BREXIT done, I shall hold my nerve, hold my nose and vote Conservative. I suggest everybody else does too.

Yours faithfully,
David Green
A Liberal Brexiteer

LABOUR ABUSE

Dear Sir, I was out shopping on Sunday and there were Labour canvassers outside the TSB bank, one of them stepped in front of me to give me a leaflet.

I politely said 'no thank you' and carried on walking. He then shouted after me "are you Conservative? You are blooming stupid if you are".

I replied that "whatever I was, was my choice, you cheeky devil."

I should never have been put in that position. To me, I was verbally abused. I don't want to be minding my own business and then get told that I am stupid.

Let them canvass, but don't abuse people on how they want to vote, he didn't know who I was voting for. Name & address supplied.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Newton News, Newton Press or any of its Directors or staff.

All parties have had the opportunity to put forward their points of view before the election on Thursday 12th December.

Let's be frank, all the polls are showing Boris Johnson is going to win an outright majority on Thursday 12th December. If this is the case, the question facing us is, how big do we want his majority to be?

Consecutive Conservative governments have continuously failed us. They have left our NHS at crisis point.

My wife, who is severely disabled and suffers from advanced secondary progressive multiple sclerosis, has recently been discharged by her MS Nurse. Not because she doesn't need him, she needs an MS Nurse now more than ever as her condition deteriorates, but because the funding isn't there.

Originally we had an MS specialist nurse visit us at home and monitor my wife's condition offering advice on how to manage it and putting us in touch with the various agencies that could help. He also prescribed any medication she required.

This was stopped and we were told that to have access to the service we would need to attend the Butterwick care day, which we did, this service has now been withdrawn leaving us

without any specialist care. This isn't just a problem faced by my wife. It is a problem facing many people who rely on the NHS.

People aren't receiving the medical care they desperately need because the Tory government simply hasn't invested in the NHS. In fact the opposite is true with over a decade of cuts to funding and it is people like us that have borne the brunt. The question people need to ask themselves is can you really trust a Boris Johnson led right wing Tory government to do right by the NHS?

My fear is a right-wing Tory majority government will continue to decimate the vital services we rely on. If we think the NHS is on its knees now, I truly fear where it will be in 5 years time if the Tories have a landslide victory on December 12th.

Whatever happens nationally, we could still have a Labour MP in Sedgefield, and a Labour MP in Sedgefield could make the Tories victory a little smaller, stopping them having free rein to pillage our NHS and sell it to the highest bidder in return for a trade agreement.

Allan Siddle

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 15th January 2020 - 7.15pm
Environment & Recreation Meetings

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



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ORGANISATIONS - You are invited to come along and record a 5 minute info slot about your club.

ADVERTISE - Could your business benefit from advertising on Aycliffe Radio?

LOCAL BAND/CHOIR - Send us a pre-recorded session of your set or invite us along to record for you.

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AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB RACE REPORT

NEWTON "AYCGUFF"

The weekend just gone was a very quiet one for the club by way of Parkruns, and not because the icy weather had resulted in some being cancelled. It was due to the fact that this weekend was time for the Ravenstonedale 10k.

This has been a very popular race for the members of ARC over the last few years and this year was no different with the club putting on a bus due to the amount that wanted to take part. It is a very picturesque but hilly race near to Kirby Steven and is also one of the races in the clubs Championship.

This year, Andy Talbot was first home for ARC (1st vet 55) in 41.16, followed by Martyn Knox 45.18, Mark Bainbridge 45.27, Susan Cranswick 46.02 (1st in her age and 2nd female overall), John Burnside 47.24, Peter Smith 47.37, Sarah Dixon 48.14, Simon Turner 48.20, Michelle Dixon 48.40 (3rd in her age cat), Heather Morgan 49.20, Dave Blewitt 49.35, Jason Dixon 50.23, Sandra Collins 50.36 (1st in age), Trish Kay 52.02, John Richardson 54.31, Alan Kellett 55.35, Bev Phillippo 58.34, Anne Kellett 1.00.02, Ian Baronowski 1.01.03, Richard Tonge 1.01.07, Tracey Pickering 1.01.22,

Kathleen Tonge 1.01.25, Lindsey Brown 1.03.23, Jane Burnside 1.06.02, Susan Clark 1.08.53, Eve Doe 1.12.24, Sam Baronowski 1.13.26, Cliff Pickering 1.14.22, Hannah Richardson 1.18.42, Helen Boyd 1.18.42 and Jan McLuckie 1.23.49.

There was first prize for the ladies team also.

Elsewhere, and a little closer to home, we had four members take part in the Croft 5k. This took place on the Croft race circuit and is a relatively new race. First home for ARC was John Surtees in 16.40, followed by Tracey Surtees in 19.31, Jayne Rudd in 29.50 and Steph Colvin who completed this with her 8 year old son in 31.34.

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.



Care Home Xmas Fete

At Aycliffe Care Home we are raising money for our residents fund and to do this we are hosting a Christmas Fete, we have lots planned for it with a visit from the man himself Santa Claus.

It's free to meet Santa and all the children will receive a little gift from the big man himself.

We will also have a tombola stall, raffles, cake stalls plus more and will also be selling reindeer dust, reindeer poo and snowman poo.

All money raised will enable us to offer our residents an amazing social life from entertainers to chair exercises and trips out.

We can't wait to see you there, please come and support us at Aycliffe Care Home on Burnhope.

Dear Sir,
I write to you in relation to the horrendous, pungent smell that is encompassing Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas. The smell; some sort of spicy food manufacturing, is emanating from somewhere on Aycliffe Business Park and is extremely strong and overpowering. I have reported this to the Environmental Health at the Council, however they seem to expect me to do the investigation myself and sent me a diary... It is absolutely preposterous that anyone should have to complete this especially as it was stated very clearly to them that this smell was being created every single day, surely an investigating officer could have a drive around and I am certain that this malodorous pong could not go unnoticed. I was travelling through Darlington tonight and could even smell this on the other side of the town. I am absolutely certain that I will not be the only person who is offended by this guff!

Yours Faithfully
Mr A. P. Anderson

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CHRISTMAS CRACKER



Sedgefield 75 swimming club's latest excursion was to Stanley last weekend for the annual Derwentside Swimming Club Christmas Cracker Meet. 12 clubs from the North East competed, not just for times and medals but also the added bonus of a selection box for each heat winner!

Charlotte Lee had a fantastic competition as she set new personal bests in all five of her races including over five seconds off her 100m breaststroke and almost ten seconds off her 200m breaststroke in which she won the bronze medal.

Chloe Harding swam in four events including 100m individual medley in which she made an improvement of over four seconds.

Filip Wilczynski had a busy weekend, swimming in ten events which proved very productive for him winning two gold, two silvers and three bronze medals across a range of strokes and distances and set seven new PBs.

Ellis Dickinson swam a huge PB in 50m freestyle, taking 8.4 seconds off and followed up with a fantastic first backstroke swim over 50m, finishing inside his target time of 60 seconds. Kathryn Lee won silver at 200m backstroke, one of six events that she swam in. Charlie McEwan also picked up silver in 50m freestyle, breaking 30 seconds for the first time in the process and hit another good PB in the 100m.

Emma Price took five golds out of five setting four PBs in the process, the highlight being a 21 seconds PB at 200m breaststroke.

The Turnbull brothers, Oliver and Lewis, both returned with a 100% PB success rate with Lewis taking one and two seconds from his 50m freestyle and backstroke bests. Oliver sliced between 0.7 and 4.7 seconds from PBs in his five events.

Matthew Wimbury swam two races over 50m, freestyle and breaststroke, setting PBs in both and securing Northumberland & Durham County Championship times as well as bronze in the

breaststroke.

Another to achieve County qualification time was Tom Curran at 200m freestyle with a 3.8 second PB. It was a hat-trick of PBs at freestyle as he also improved over 50 and 100m.

Interested in competition swimming? Sedgefield 75 is based at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and operates three squads of varying abilities from age 8. Visit sedgefield75.com or come down on a Monday 6:45 – 7:15.

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Lunch time for squirrel, photo taken by Peter Russell. Send your photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

FOOTBALL AT LAST?

Newton Aycliffe FC will be hoping to return to action this week after an extended break. A great run saw Aycliffe climb the Ebac Northern League table but November saw just two competitive games.

The wet weather has caused havoc with fixtures across the region & all clubs now

face a catch up. Aycliffe are due to play seven games in December starting with trips to Ryhope on 3rd December & North Shields on the 7th. The Newtonians then return to the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium for four consecutive home games. On Tuesday 10th December Guisborough Town (kick off 7:45pm) will be the visitors followed by Thornaby on Saturday 14th. Aycliffe entertain Stockton Town in the Durham Challenge Cup on Tuesday 17th before the visit of Ashington on Saturday 21st. A hectic period for Aycliffe who will be hoping to pick up where they left off before the wet weather set in.

"BRAVE THE SHAVE"

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club FC raise over £1500 for ManHealth.

Wear Valley Sunday League Team, Newton Aycliffe Sports Club FC, made the decision to participate in November to help raise money for a worthy local not for profit charity. Team Captain, Will Kelly, persuaded a number of players and management to Brave the Shave to help support ManHealth, a Community Interest Company who provide support to men through a range of methods including training and peer support. They support men experiencing mental health issues through peer support groups which are all ran by male facilitators who have a lived experience and campaign to raise awareness about men's health.

The facts are that working aged men (25-54 years old) account for the largest number of suicide deaths in the UK. Suicide is the biggest killer of men aged 50 or under.

- These men are also the least likely to receive any kind of support.

- They don't talk about it with their friends.

- They don't share with their family.

- They certainly don't seek professional treatment.

- They are the victims of problematic thinking that says mental illness is an

unmanly signs of weakness. 10 members of the Football Club completed the task of growing moustaches during November and provided weekly updates on social media, showing the progress (or lack of it in some cases) and canvassed rigorously for sponsorship during the month to hit the target set of £500.

By the end of the month, not only was the target achieved, but actually trebled, raising over £1500 for ManHealth.

Club Chairman for the Sunday Team, Paul Eales, said "This is a fantastic achievement for such a worthy cause. Some of our team have either gone through difficult times themselves or have friends and colleagues who are either going through or have gone through difficult times also. We were proud to help support ManHealth, to try and raise awareness within our Town, a Town which has seen mental health issues sadly affect so many. We hope what we have raised, both in terms of money and more importantly, awareness, will go some way to helping these guys continue their great work in our local community"

Should anyone wish to find out more information about ManHealth and the fantastic work they do, or if you wish to donate then please log on to: <https://www.manhealth.org.uk>

Juniors Football Report



It has been another two weeks where the weather has played havoc with the NAJFC fixtures with lots of games called off due to unplayable pitches. However a small majority of teams still managed to brave the winter conditions and compete in some grassroots football.

23rd/24th November Fixtures

Under 7 Whites played in some brutal conditions again. Each week the team are showing their progression with some great passing, however they were unlucky in their performance. Man of the match going to Harry C.

Under 8 Whites played in the very wet conditions against last year's league winners Spennymoor. The boys put in a massive performance and it showed with the determination to keep battling when they went behind early on. Goals from Jack X2, Dom and Tyler. Man of the Match was given to the whole team for their performance as they all produced some last ditch tackles to keep

the lead for the team.

Under 8 Blacks played in the RF league and managed an outstanding performance for their first league win. There were 3 goals from Rhys, 2 goals from Benjamin, 2 goals from Max and man of the match going to Rhys for listening to the saying "If you don't shoot you don't score". Also a special mention to goal keeper Jake who is showing some great improvement in goal and that showed with some great first half saves.

Under 10's played host to Billingham Whites. In an incredibly tight match, which saw some outstanding saves from goal keeper Jack, it just wasn't enough to secure the win. The boys however played really well and stayed positive, always pushing hard to get an equaliser. Man of the match was Jack. The development game was a bit more open with lots of chances for both teams. This time man of the match went to Oscar who played excellent in both defence and attack.

30th November and 1st December Fixtures

Under 7 Whites played a tight game but unfortunately in this game they didn't have the luck required. The juniors played with great spirit. Man of the match this week going to Oscar.

Under 8 Juniors played away against a very strong Leven side. Despite only having 5 players the boys battled and created some decent chances but couldn't match the quality of Leven. The only goal for the juniors came from Jack and Man of the Match went to goal keeper Dom for some fantastic saves

Under 12 Blacks managed to complete their game, unfortunately the opposition were more on the ball this weekend. The juniors however never let their heads go down and battled to the end.

Our ever enthusiastic junior players and coaches are hopeful for a milder and drier weekend as we approach the final few fixtures before the Christmas break.

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ENACT PRODUCTION



Year 9 students at Woodham Academy have recently taken part in a production with Enact Solutions called 'Destination for Success'. The performance was provided by FutureMe which is a programme involving all universities and colleges in the North East, who are working

together to support higher education and educate students about their available options. Enact provided an enlightening, down to earth performance which the students engaged in and learnt more about the importance of their GCSEs and the impact of this on their future. Students were also encouraged to raise their aspirations and attend further education to achieve their desired career. Following the performance students were given time to reflect on what they had learnt and have begun to explore their options and choices beyond Year 11. This was a great opportunity for our Year 9 students who greatly enjoyed the production.

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The Society is passionate about ensuring each mortgage application is assessed individually by people, not computers, and this personal underwriting service allows it to consider each case thoroughly, taking into consideration all circumstances and income, no matter how complex. Darren Ditchburn, Chief Customer Officer said: "Over the summer period we have been working with a number of mortgage intermediaries in Scotland and are excited to extend our mortgage offering through the Legal & General Mortgage Club.

"The Scottish property market has performed well in recent years and despite economic uncertainties, the market remains robust.

Borrower circumstances are becoming more complex, with strong growth in contractor and self-employment circumstance, as well as people living and working for longer.

"Given this changing environment, our personalised approach to mortgage lending is perfect to support Scottish borrowers in achieving their home ownership aspirations."

The Legal & General Mortgage Club prides itself on adding value and working closely with lenders making the process of finding the right mortgage better for advisers.

Danny Belton, Head of Lender Relationships at the Legal & General Mortgage Club said: "It's great that through working in partnership with Darlington Building Society, Legal & General Mortgage Club members in Scotland now have access to some much-needed products and criteria, that will provide excellent opportunities for advisers and their customers."

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Dear Sir,
My name is Fiona Neal and I recently experienced a black out as I was leaving Tesco on 21st November. I'd just like the people in Newton Aycliffe to know that if they take poorly in Tesco's, they'd be well looked after. I can't thank the staff enough for the great care and kindness I received. I remember coming round to people talking to me and

telling I was in good hands. As soon as they managed to stop the bleeding they would try and sit me up and got a wheelchair to take me inside. I remember a man called Ken, who I found out was a manager, the first lady I can't remember her name and other female staff came to my aid along with a nurse and my friend Vi, who was a nurse. They were all lovely and so helpful. My friend Vi hadn't

realised it was me with my face covered in blood and blue roll. She took me to A&E at Darlington Memorial in her car even though the Tesco staff wanted to call an ambulance. I declined the ambulance as I know how short staffed and busy they are.

The receptionist called for a nurse straight away after I was given a vomit bowl as I was feeling sickly and my face was a right mess.

All the staff that came to look after me were also first class and I received the best care and I think that praise and thanks should always be given when due.

Thank you to everyone involved with my care.

Best wishes
Fiona Neal

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NHS Trust Award Successes



County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is celebrating winning the Innovation Champion category, and coming second in another, at the recent 2019 Bright Ideas in Health Awards run by the Academic Health Science Network for the North East and Cumbria.

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and innovative ways to support patient care and improve outcomes."

The Trust's cardiac arrest prevention team took second place in the Demonstrating an Impact upon Patient Safety category, for their strategy in reducing the number of patients having a cardiac arrest whilst in hospital, by 54%. The work, led by Lisa Ward, early detection and resuscitation lead nurse, and matron Claire Stocks began seven years ago, moving away from a focus on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to one of identifying patients most at risk of having a cardiac arrest and doing everything possible to prevent that happening. Lisa, Claire and their team began this work in 2012 by taking an in depth look at all cardiac arrests to inform how best to prevent them.

Lisa said, "This analysis gave us a real understanding to allow focused education programmes in clinical areas, however, the project could not have been successful without the support of the Trust's leadership team in us changing our approach to focus on prevention. The Trust has a culture of encouraging innovation, listening to and acting on the ideas of its staff, then taking them forward. The project's success has also been dependent on the commitment, engagement and hard work of clinical teams across our services and it was an honour to accept the award on behalf of them all, in recognition of their dedication to constantly improving our patient's outcomes."

Beer, Wine and Carols at the Huntsman

On the evening of Monday 16th December you are invited by the Huntsman Pub in Woodham to an evening of Joyful Caroling. We start at 7.00pm and we invite you to come along and sing all of your favourite Carols! The singing will be led by St. Elizabeth's Church - Join us for this fun annual event.

Sudoku (Medium, difficulty rating 0.48)

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

FESTIVE FUN FOR LITTLE ONES AT THE GALA THEATRE

Little adventurers and their grown-ups can journey to a winter wonderland at a County Durham theatre this Christmas.

The Gala Theatre's production of One More Sleep will transport youngsters to an enchanting world, where dreams comes



Holiday Snaps



We have just returned from a holiday in Lanzarote, one of the Canary Islands off the coast of West Africa administered by Spain, known for its year-round warm weather, beaches and volcanic landscape. Staying at the east-coast resort Puerto del Carmen, is home to whitewashed villas, beaches and dive centres, so had a photo taken to show how the Newton News newspaper travels worldwide.

Bob & Angela Stevenson

Ed: if you are going on holiday take your Newton News with you and take a photo near a landmark and send to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

true on the most magical night of the year. The play runs at the Durham City venue until Sunday 29th December and tells the story of Roo, a little girl who has never seen snow before. On Christmas Eve, Roo's father tells his daughter that it might snow that night, and the little girl is so excited she feels as though she might pop. Snow is all Roo wants for Christmas – apart from a shiny red bike with her name on it of course.

However, as Roo's dad warns, sometimes you should be careful what you wish for. Roo soon finds herself on an unexpected snowy adventure that takes her and her toy lamb, Mr Pickle, far from home – but will she make it back in time for Christmas?

One More Sleep is the sixth festive show for under-fives to be staged at the Gala and is the third to be produced at the venue. It follows the success of Mrs Claus' Kitchen and Once Upon a Christmas and draws upon the rich theatrical talent that exists in the region.

Written by Susan Mulholland and directed by Kate

Sorahan-Turner, One More Sleep stars actors Charlotte Ryder and Stanley Hodgson and features original music composed by North East singer and musician Katie Doherty.

Designer Katy Gardener has created a magical set and the seating area has been redesigned to create a more sensory experience with cushions, bean bags and special lighting.

The play is also interactive, and audiences can look forward to lively singalongs, opportunities to build snowmen and a big snowball fight at the end.

Robin Byers, Gala Theatre manager, said: "There is something so magical about snow at Christmas, especially for young children who may never have experienced it before. One More Sleep brings this sense of awe and excitement to the stage, and the storyline is sure to captivate little adventurers. It really is the perfect advent treat."

Performances of One More Sleep will take place at various times between Monday 2 December to Sunday 29 December and tickets cost from £6.50 to £8. To book, visit www.galadurham.co.uk or call 03000 266 600.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR HOSPITAL TEAM

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust has been recognised for its commitment to providing superior treatment to patients with Myeloma, which is the second most common form of blood cancer and currently affects around 17,500 people in the UK.

Myeloma UK has awarded teams working at University Hospital of North Durham and Darlington Memorial Hospital, its Myeloma UK Clinical Services Excellence Programme Award.

Mark Jones, deputy associate director of operations, said, "We're delighted to have achieved the very high standards required to receive this award. It's particularly pleasing that, in addition to the care our patients receive, their views and those of their family, on their experience, were taken into account. I am very proud of the whole team."

Deborah Grimes, haematology clinical nurse specialist, said, "Myeloma is a complex cancer which originates in the bone marrow and has non-specific symptoms, so it can be difficult to detect. Each year 5,700 new cases are diagnosed in the UK – that's 15 cases every day. We're committed to ensuring our patients receive the very best care and benefit from the improvements in treatment



that have become available over the last ten years, which mean survival rates for patients with Myeloma are increasing faster than for most other cancers.

"Treatments include chemotherapy and biological therapies, plus supportive therapies such as blood transfusions and infusions which help bone integrity. We work closely with The Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, Myeloma team, on behalf of patients requiring bone marrow stem cell transplant procedures. Our consultant haematologists and clinical nurse specialists are part of the multi-disciplinary team with their Newcastle-based colleagues, at which each patient is discussed individually and a joint plan agreed to take their care forward."

In Memoriam

John McRoberts
7th December 2018

One year has gone by so quick, I still can't believe you are gone. I think of you every minute of the day, wishing you were still with us. Miss and love you so much Son. All our love, Mam, Jonny, Brandon and Ellie xxxxxxxx

John McRoberts
7th December 2018



Aged 31

It's a year since you left us. We love and miss you so very much. We think about you every day. Lots of love, Dad, Tyler, Nanna, Stuart and Michael

Trevor Plaskitt
12th December 2010

No matter how life changes, no matter what I do, a very special place within my heart is always there for you. Love, Valerie xxxx Shirley, Julia, Adam Loving Grandchildren Jonathan, Maxine, Louis, Mia and Family xxxxx God Bless, So Sad

Peggy Dickinson
8th December 2016
Bob Dickinson
10th December 1991

In Loving Memory
If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane. I would walk right up to Heaven, and bring you home again. Thinking of you Mam and Dad. Love from Susan and all your family xx

Congratulations

Ken and Ray Kidd
2nd December 2019



Newton Aycliffe twins Ken and Ray Kidd celebrated their 90th birthday on 2nd December. They were joined by family members for a birthday lunch at The Thomas Wright House in Byers Green.

Ken and Ray spent their early years in North Bitchburn before moving to Howden-le-Wear. After National Service in the RAF they lived and worked in the Crook area. The twins were amongst the first residents of Newton Aycliffe. Ray moved to the town in 1957 and married Connie the following year. He worked at RW Toothills Furniture in the town making sofas for over 30 years.

Ken followed his brother to Newton Aycliffe in 1961 with his wife Maureen and worked alongside Ray at Toothill's. Photo left to right. Ken Kidd, Ray Kidd

New Year Wishes

LOVELASS, Pam and Michael, would like to wish their family, friends and neighbours around the town, a Happy and Peaceful Christmas time, and a Happy and Healthy New Year. We will be donating to Alzheimer's as usual. God bless xxxx

Obituary

Eddie Turner

of Newton Aycliffe passed away suddenly on 8th October, aged 74 years. Much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad. Miss you forever. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Wednesday 18th December at 3.30pm. No flowers please, donations in lieu, to Prostate Cancer UK and James Cook Hospital ICU.

John & Hazel Ward

Congratulations on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Lots of love from all the family xxxxxxxx

Jean Forbes
9th December 2019

Happy 80th Birthday
To a wonderful Mam, Nanny, Wife, Auntie, Sister and Friend. With all our love on your special day xxxx



FIND A DOG a home

Dog of the Month - Disney

Dogs Trust Darlington's Disney is an energetic five-year-old whose wish is to find a forever home. Shy and sensitive when first meeting new people, Disney prefers to be the one to initiate interactions. Once he has made friends, he is an affectionate lad who really enjoys being around people. He loves to be active and always on the go, making him a fun character to be around.

Disney's main passion in life is his squeaky toys; although not so keen on sharing, however he has learned to do a nice swap for either another toy or a very tasty treat. Having lots of energy, he is happiest when out exploring or running around playing with his toys. Disney is looking for a home where he is the only pet, however he can have walking buddies as long as they are calm, respectful and polite.

In his new home Disney is looking for

- An experienced active home committed to continuing his training
- A garden for playtime
- To be the only pet in the home
- Someone around for most of the time as he enjoys company
- Lots of opportunities to go on walks and explore new places



Can you be the one to give Disney the fairy-tale ending he desires?

Disney is just one of over 60 dogs currently looking for a home both at the centre and in foster homes. We have an amazing selection of shapes, sizes, ages and breeds that are looking for a wide variety of homes. For more information on the lovely dogs we have at Dogs Trust Darlington please contact the centre on 01325 638143, visit the website or email us at Darlington@dogstrust.org.uk

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VANE ROAD ATHLETICS TEAM



Vane Road talented athletics team secured a place in the SSP Sportshall Athletics finals following a fantastic all-round team display at Sunnysdale Leisure Centre. Our tremendous team worked hard to collect as many points as possible to finish first against 5 other competitive

teams.

As well as working as a team, there were some individual personal bests from Maddie, Jackson and William. The team will now go to represent the Sedgfield area in the County Finals, which take place next March.

Thank You

Dear Sir,
I'd like to express sincere gratitude to the mature couple that gave much support, following an upsetting incident in Young's Newsagents, town centre.

The lady stayed with me, with comfort and support, while her partner went outside looking for the culprit.

They both went above and beyond, as they also offered me a lift home.

Thank you so much.
Local resident.

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