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Continuing Support From Honest John

John Hilton, known more fondly as 'Honest John', has supported County Durham & Darlington NHS Trust Charity since 2017 donating £6000.00 in total towards the MRI Scanner Appeal and has stepped up again to support the 2020 for 2020 Appeal. The 2020 Appeal is challenging businesses, groups, associations or individuals to pledge to raise £1000 during 2020 to help build a centre of excellence for cancer care in County Durham. John signed his pledge to raise £1000.00 as part of our 2020 Campaign for the appeal and this week donated a cheque to Trust Chair Professor Paul Keane OBE for a total of £1500.00.



Professor Keane said, "We are delighted to receive this wonderful support from Honest John and his customers in Newton Aycliffe. We hope this very generous donation will help to inspire other businesses to get behind this campaign and help us improve our cancer facilities within County Durham."

Honest John has joined others who have already made their pledge for the 2020 Appeal including Sparta Group, Maguire's Country Parks, Frank's for Flooring, Latimer Hinks, Martin Lowes of Capital Radio, Kier Group, Vinci Construction, Sawmills Kitchens, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Kathryn Fox-Wright and David Head, Corstorphine & Wright (NE) Ltd., Ocreas Financial, The Gym Group, Sawmills Kitchens, Excelpoint Ltd., Go Swim Academy, BT for Business, Nando's, Alderson Funerals, Highgrove Mortgages, Fatso's (x 2 locations), Civic Estates, Productive Plus, My Lock Up, Bliss Financial Solutions, Liane Pacewith, Jack Doyle, The Doyle Family, Snap

Continued on page 3

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DEMENTIA FRIENDLY BUSINESSES



Thanks to funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has developed a new project, Town of Our Times, which aims to help Newton Aycliffe become a Dementia Friendly Community. A Dementia Friendly Community is a town where people living with Dementia are understood, respected and supported. Current statistics show that 47% of people living with Dementia feel a part of their community and 28% said they have given up going out of the house. (Source: Alzheimer's Society, 2013) Carol Gaskarth, PCP Chief Executive, said, "Learning to appreciate things from the perspective of a person living with Dementia completely opened my eyes to how the Pioneering Care Centre needed to change to be more inclusive. As a charity who focuses on health and wellbeing, it is important that we do all we can to make our services

accessible and simple steps can make a huge difference! "Through the Town of Our Times project we aim to support others to think about what they can do on a very practical level to raise awareness of Dementia and support people to continue to feel part of their community." To become a Dementia friendly organisation can be relatively straightforward and take less time than you might think. It involves a short training course for staff or volunteers to become a 'Dementia Friend' and considering accessibility; this could include simple changes to signage or providing a quiet space. Whether you're a shop, community centre, working in a small unit on the Business Park or a large employer we are here to support you. If you would like help, support and advice to become a Dementia Friendly organisation please contact Jane Cunningham 01325 321234, email jane.cunningham@pcp.uk.net

GREENFIELD ARTS TRIP TO BOWES MUSEUM

As part of their season of collaboration and connectivity, Greenfield Arts were delighted to offer the opportunity of a visit to The Bowes Museum, near Barnard Castle.

Collaborative artist Richard Bliss has been working in partnership with Greenfield Arts over the past few years and is presently exhibiting as part of a residency programme and the Untitled 10 exhibition at Bowes Museum. A group of twenty-two people from the local community were able to meet up with Richard and enjoy a guided tour of the museum and the Untitled 10 Exhibition.

The exhibition is a wonderful selection created by ten local artists and craft makers who have responded to the collection and interpreted stories surrounding the history of the museum itself, how it was made and the many crafts people involved. Richard's artwork is inspired by stories of workers who were essential to the creation of the museum but enjoy little historic celebration.

The group found the artwork thought provoking and inspired conversations surrounding art and the representations created as part of the exhibition. This was a first time visit to Bowes for many of the group and a chance to enjoy a lovely new experience. Philip Clark, from Horndale Residents Association, brought the group together and helped to organise the trip and its logistics. Feedback was very positive, one member of the group stated, "I didn't think I would enjoy it but found it a great insight into art...it has given me the confidence to maybe visit these places by myself". Philip recognised the value of this cultural experience through his own connection



with Greenfield Arts and supported local community members to access the opportunity. Philip worked with local councillors Paul Howell, John Clare and Scott Durham to support the visit. Greenfield Arts is committed to bring creative opportunities to the wider community that promote

and stimulate creativity, questioning and curiosity, encouraging us to explore ideas and express ourselves through experiencing, making or producing new work. A big thank you to Philip Clark, Horndale Residents Association, Richard Bliss and Bowes Museum for making this such a great experience.



PARLIAMENT TALK

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Once again I had a busy end to the week, last week saw me up and down to London as usual. I was able to get a meeting with the Police and Victims Commissioner, Steve White, who is acting in the role following the sad death of Ron Hogg. This was primarily to discuss the anti social behaviour issues in the Sedgefield and Trimdon areas although discussions expanded into areas like Ferryhill and Spennymoor.

This week in Westminster has been the usual variety of debates but has also seen a lot of activity around Select Committees. First was the appointment of chairs followed by committee members being appointed. I have put myself forward to

be on the BEIS (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) committee and at the time of writing await the result of the votes.

Select committees are set up to oversee the work of government departments or agencies and being on the BEIS select committee will enable me to scrutinise and make representations to the department that influences the environment for our local businesses like Hitachi, but also the myriad of smaller businesses that are the backbone of our economy.

I will let you know next week whether I was successful.

Paul Howell
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield



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Saturday 8th - "F.M."

Review: "Was this our best pub gig ever? Probably! What can you say about FM, this was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock n roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zep and no real cheese, OK they did 'Whisky in the Jar', but hey! FM put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes mid week gigs just don't seem to have the same wow. The atmosphere was great, as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, ie: instead of sticking to 'Sweet Child Of Mine', they did 'Welcome to The Jungle'. How long have FM been around now? Many a year, and on this performance, many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome."

Saturday 15th - "Revenant"

Sam Hauxwell Review: Revenant own the current local music scene, for no other band has yet managed to reach their live music experience, it's a phenomenon that is only understood by those who have seen them, my only advice is to watch out, for when Revenant change your world".

Saturday 22nd - "This Machine"

Saturday 29th February - "Four Letter Word"

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Newton Aycliffe Deaf Fellowship

Dear Sir,
Losing your hearing can be so isolating, meeting with others facing similar challenges can really help. Newton Aycliffe Deaf Fellowship meet on the fourth Tuesday each month at St. Elizabeth's Church, St. Elizabeth's Close, Woodham, DL5 4UE.

What do we do?

From 5.30pm we have a short Service of Worship based around a short film clip which is signed throughout. We have a BSL signer present on the evening too. Afterwards, at 6pm, we have food, lots of chatter, spoken audibly and signed, and a good bit of laughter. We enjoy a game of bingo and a raffle.

It is a simple way of making friends and breaking through the barriers and sense of isolation that hearing loss brings with it.

Did I mention it is free?

We would love to see you there; you are very welcome!
Reverend Ann

Woodham Academy Present High School Musical



The newly formed Performing Arts Academy has made a fantastic start to their first official year at Woodham Academy. The Academy is made of four different sessions: Light and Sound, Drama, Rockademy and Stage and Costume Design, in order to allow students with an interest in all areas to take part. Students who have been attending the Drama sessions made their debut in the school's annual Christmas concert, which featured a sneak preview of this year's performance



of High School Musical. This performance also showcased students who have been attending Rockademy, as they provided the live musical accompaniment for the cast of the show. Students who have been attending the Stage and Costume design sessions (pictured) have been working incredibly hard in order to produce all the various pieces of scenery, staging and costumes that are required for the performance. The Performing Arts Academy were also

delighted to receive funding of nearly £8000 from GAMP. This money has been used to buy brand new microphones, instruments, items of staging and other pieces of equipment in order to ensure the future success of the group. All this hard work will come to fruition on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th February as the students perform High School Musical. Tickets for the shows are on sale from the school and are selling fast so make sure to buy yours soon to avoid disappointment.

Cadets Awards Ceremony



Monday 27th January saw 1407 (Newton Aycliffe) Squadron Air Cadets celebrate 2019's accomplishments at their annual awards evening held at The Canopus Club.

To start the evening we welcomed four new cadets into the squadron with their enrolment ceremony led by our Wing Chaplain, Major Liz Hancock.

Over the course of the night certificates and badges were presented for a wide range of activities: Classifications, First Sid, Cyber & Radios, Shooting, Duke of Edinburgh and Wing Blues for participation in Wing events.

The squadrons's trophies for 2019 were also awarded to deserving cadets who have put a lot of time and effort in to their cadet careers.

The night ended with promotions for two of our more senior cadets who have worked exceptionally well over the course of 2019 - congratulations to Flt Sgt Tinkler and Sgt Harman. The Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Karin Scott RAFAC, would like to thank all the

parents that attended, and Squadron Leader Houghton and Major Hancock for assisting with the evening.

Trophies were awarded to:

Scott Trophy for Citizenship: **Cdt Shaun Williams**
Crabbe Cup for Aircraft Recognition: **CWO Paul Ughra**
Veterans Trophy for Attendance: **CWO Paul Ughra**
Tom Downs Trophy for Endeavour and Service:

Cdt Anthony Guy
Most Improved Cadet:

Cdt Gracie Johnson
Simon Drill Trophy:

Cdt Will James
Mess Tin Award:

Cdt James Sillett
Sport Trophy:

Sgt Kieran Newbery
Best Probationer:

Cdt Makayla Ellis
Boddy Trophy for NCO:

Sgt Joshua Tinkler
Fryer Shield - Cadet of the Year:

Cdt Will James

Honest John Changes

Honest John has changed his opening times, which will now be Monday to Saturday 12noon to 4.00pm. This is to start from Monday 10th February until further notice. John would also like to apologise for the inconvenience this may cause, but is down to unforeseen circumstances. Please do not leave donations outside when the shop is closed.

Thank you, John

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MIDDRIDGE HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 13th February
7.30pm at Middridge Village Hall

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Everyone is most welcome, entrance £3.00 to include refreshments. Members free.



Continuing Support From Honest John

Fitness, Councillor Mike Renton, Darlington Ward, Messy Hands Productions, Cleaning Angels, Ellie Jackson, Ann Coxon, Leggs Fashion, Brown's Hairdressers, Shotton Hall Academy, Nick and Sandy Wallis, The Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, Freeman of Durham City, Shakespeare Temperance Trust, Castle Insurance, Sherry Fairbairn & Tony Clark, Ramside Golf, Freemason's Chapter of

Vigilance, St Cuthbert's Lodge and Province of Durham and of course the lovely 'Honest John' in Newton Aycliffe.

We are so grateful to everyone for their support and we hope it inspires others to join them.

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ROF 59

HEIGHINGTON A.F.C.

RFYL under 8s

Bitter sweet for our young guns today, 2 games in the wind was always going to be a big ask.

Chester Town Lions 6 - 4 Heighington FC
Heighington FC 7 - 2 Chester Town Jets

Missed out on the title but very proud of 2nd place. 1st season together and most of these kids first experience of football. They did amazingly well to pick themselves up for the second game and clinch promotion.

We are swiftly moving on with a tournament next weekend and a busy pre season.

TJFA Green Division

Heighington Whites 3-0 Darlington Young Bulls.

This was our first game in 3 weeks and we had a debut for Charlie Murray, welcome to the team.

The match started with Young Bulls playing 3 at the back to try and nullify the Whites fast attacks.

Attack after attack from the Whites forced young bulls keeper into numerous saves. The breakthrough finally came when Chris won the ball back and fired low into the bottom corner.

2 further goals in the 2nd half from Oscar and MOM Dan led the Whites to victory. The score line could have easily been another 5 or 6 had it not been for their keeper who had an amazing game and rightly so collected the MOM.

Credit where credit is due Young Bulls competed all games and have improved massively since our last encounter.

We started this team in August and the boys have worked their socks off for each other week in week out. Myself and James are so proud of what they have achieved so far and we know they can and will get

better as a team. Well done to you all - Lochlann, Harry, Joseph, Charlie, Lucas, Kyran, Cruz, Benjamin, Oscar, Chris and Daniel.

This season we have played 12 league games, 10 wins and 2 draws. Absolutely amazing.

TJFA Blue Division

Heighington Blacks 2 - 1 Newton Aycliffe Juniors
Heighington beat Newton Aycliffe Juniors 2-1 to claim back to back wins over the Clarets, with goals from Oliver Malsbury and a wonder strike from Cole Raine allowing David Raine's side to reduce the gap at the top of the league on Sunday. The crowd went wild with emotion and DR could be seen running onto the pitch celebrating with his team.

Malsbury opened the scoring in the "Newtonian" derby in the 5th minute when the unmarked winger latched on to a free kick to chip the oncoming keeper. Throughout the match the Blacks defensive unit of Malco, Rose, Brown & Wilkinson kept Juniors at bay and controlled the game. Moving forwards the Blacks had a number of chances and with constant pressure from Robson, who has a few chances that hit the post, Raine & Malsbury supported a high line defence.

Aycliffe equalised with 8 minutes remaining when an Aycliffe shot was deflected into the net, well deserved equaliser due to constant pressure at the Heighington goal.

However, Heighington reclaimed the lead in the 37th minute when Raine scored when McKenna pulled it back to him with a sublime back heel and Raine shot from 20 yards out with 70mph speed past the stranded Juniors keeper.

Aycliffe Youth Football News

U10 Angels Yellow - NAYFC

U10 Angels Yellow drew against Foundation of Light. Unusually, our Yellows kicked off this morning's Angels' games. 9 players were available. We started solidly and restricted chances for the Foundation, with a solid defence. We had most of the first half possession, but didn't create too many clear chances. Several players got the opportunity to play in different positions. The team is becoming a very solid unit and so it can be quite tricky to move the girls out of position for fear of upsetting the good balance they've got. That said, it's still really important to give them opportunities in new positions. Daisy, Belle, Alice and Holly were the players that rotated most today. Amy and Hannah are forming a great partnership up front and produced a real attacking threat. The player in the midfield role can have a really hard job tracking back and breaking forward at pace. Holly, Daisy and Belle all had a good go in this position and each brought something a little different. Daisy and Belle shared the sweeper role and did well in that position. Lily & Pippa provided the defensive width and also brought the ball forward at every opportunity. Alice and Holly had runs in defence too, battling hard. Alice and Daisy also had opportunities up front. Alice had one of her best games yet and came close to scoring on two occasions. Our goal came from good set up play down the right with Belle and Hannah battling to create a chance for Amy, which she finished well. We had a couple of great opportunities to extend the lead at the beginning of the second half, but couldn't grab that all important second goal. Unfortunately the opposition took advantage and scored a really good equaliser. They then came close to winning the game as we rode our luck a little, as they struck the bar and post. Izzy (today's Captain) made some good saves too. In the end a draw was a fair

result. We started stronger, but the Foundation of Light Girls finished the game on the front foot. A second draw of the season for the Yellows in a well fought contest.

Star player: Daisy adapted well to each position she was put in, showing control and a cool head with the ball at her feet.

NAYFC U11 Wildcats won in a nail biter against Washington AFC Girls

We travelled to a very windy Washington. For the second week running, the girls came from behind twice during play to secure another win. First half we must have had around 10 corners and stacks of chances, and goals against us came against the run of play. At half time the score was level, so the Wildcats went in with a determined mindset. Aycliffe were the better team throughout the game but Washington managed to gain all goals from counter attacks. Goals from Freya, Emily, Lana and Demi Lee. POM went to Emily who is getting more confident and gelling with the team every time she plays. Also bagged her first goal for Wildcats.

Hebburn Town 0 - 4 NAYFC U13 Girls

An important game as our opposition are only 1 point above us in the table. Deciding to play into the wind in the first half and use our strength and fitness was definitely the way to go. The first few minutes allowed the girls to get used to the wind and adjust their kicking angles. The passes began to flow and a long ball from the defence to midfield, and a lovely one two from Enya and Lily, pushed the ball forward to Daniella who slot it into the net to open the scoring. The girls were finding their feet but a fighting Hebburn were doing their best to stay in our half. The defence were solid at the back forcing Hebburn wide or high of the target. Before we know it Lily has the ball and a curling cross finds the net.

The second half sees us with the wind as an advantage and a tired Hebburn start to struggle. Shot after shot from Aycliffe sees very excited spectators. A curling corner from Greta flies straight into the net. Another corner awarded to Aycliffe and Greta scores, however the ref has different ideas and disallows the goal. Four more attempts at the corner and Hebburn clear the ball. Our solid defence send it back and a huge kick from Greta at the half way line is blasted into the net only to be followed by the full time whistle. A great performance and a clean sheet. NAYFC U10 Angels Blue beat Hebburn Honeys.

Last time we played Hebburn was a great game with an unfortunate scoreline. This time the girls showed control and plenty of skill, to get a deserved result.

The first goal started with keeper Faith (today's Captain) who cleared the ball out of defence to Erin's feet on the half way line. Erin took the ball on the turn and drove towards the Hebburn goal. A heavy touch just outside the box gave the Hebburn defender a chance to clear, but Erin was tenacious and won the ball back, firing home in off the near post. A great finish to give the Angels the lead. Defensively we were really strong today with boundless midfield energy, extinguishing

Hebburn attacks in their early stages. Charli got her reward after quick thinking from Evie on a throw-in, which used the wind to beat the Honey's defence. Charli let the ball run across the front of her, controlled and then smashed the ball in from an acute angle at the near post - taking us into HT leading.

The second half saw two superb goals from Sophie. Sophie had already scored two outstanding goals for our Under 9's in her 20 minute appearance in that game. She continued her attacking threat in this one. She picked up the ball in her own half and rounded several Hebburn players before firing home for a bigger lead. Isobel won the ball in the Angels half and played the ball out to Sophie. She went on another mazy run, outpacing their nippy midfielder and producing another unerring finish.

Erin was having a great half between the sticks. She'd saved brilliantly with her legs as the opposition had a close range effort. She faced another strike which she tipped onto the post, the ball unfortunately landed at an attackers feet and the resulting strike sneaked over the line. We ended the game with 4 or 5 corners and the team continued to push. A great game in tough conditions. Star player went to Evie who has showed steady improvement throughout the season and is playing with a real smile on her face.

NAYFC U9 Angels beat Bishop Girls Pink in a close fought contest.

NAYFC U12 Hawks lost out to Chilton in what was their best team performance of the season.

PCP Staff Support Local Food Banks



Kind-hearted staff at North East health and wellbeing charity, Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP), have been championing local Food Banks, generously giving time to collect and donate much needed items to local food banks across County Durham, Stockton and Billingham.

Throughout 2019 Healthwatch County Durham worked in partnership with Kidzone Nursery and Lorna Moore Childcare in Crook collecting an incredible 335kg of food and toiletries to donate to Durham Food Bank.

55 packages of mini toiletries to support local families in need were made by senior manager, Toni McHale, and receptionist Nora Brewster has worked with Options members to donate over 30 bags of food to Shildon Alive.

Barry Knevitt, Chair of PCP Board of Trustees, said: "Many of PCP's staff work directly with local communities giving them a real insight into the issues that affect individuals and their families on a daily basis. We encourage staff to make a difference and take positive action to support local people. We're very proud of our staff and volunteer team and know they will keep up the great work in 2020."

To find out more about the work of PCP please contact us on 01325 321234 or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net.

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Available from Newton Press or via Greenfield College Reception

Winner will receive £100 cash and a spot on the
Aycliffe Radio Music Festival in 2020

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talent@ayclifferadio.co.uk

We require your: name, address, contact number,
email address, age and

brief description of the act you will perform.

Closing date for entries is Friday 5th March 2020

Entrants must be 16 years of age or under.

Competition run by Aycliffe Radio and Newton News



International Space Challenge



On Thursday 23rd January 2020, a group of six Year 10 students from Woodham Academy volunteered to take part in the International Space Challenge, taking place at the Excel Centre in Newton Aycliffe. The event was designed to challenge students to create a space hotel and deliver a presentation in

French to promote it. Whilst building their craft model hotel, students were supported by the astrophysics department at Durham University and had to bear in mind the challenges associated with low earth orbit, solar radiation and space debris. These topics were introduced to the students by keynote speakers from

Durham University. This was a fabulous opportunity for students to gain a valuable insight into the career paths involving a combination of Science and French. The day ended on a high as the Woodham Academy team won the language prize in the competition amongst 14 other teams.

NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE! Holiday Activities with Healthy Food – Easter 2020

Following a recommendation by the Poverty Action Steering Group, Durham County Council has allocated £10,000 to each Area Action Partnership for 2020. This money is to ensure that as many children and young people as possible have access to food, alongside enriching activities, in particular considering those children and young people who would normally receive a Free School Meal during Term Time. In Phase One (Easter 2020), funding of £3,000 has been made available for the Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership (GAMP) area for a Holiday Activities with Healthy Food grants scheme. This fund will provide the opportunity for groups and organisations to apply for a small grant to help them deliver projects locally. **Aim of the Scheme** The scheme aims to support local community groups

and organisations based in the GAMP area to deliver Holiday Activities with Healthy Food during the Easter 2020 school holidays. **How much can you apply for?** Applicants can apply for amounts between £250 - £999 and are limited to one per organisation. Projects who are looking to apply for between £500 and £999 would be expected to deliver activities at multiple locations within the area and/or over several days during the holiday period. **Funding Criteria** Projects that apply to the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Fund must meet the following criteria:

- the project must take place during the Easter 2020 school holidays (w/c 6 & 13 April)
- the beneficiaries of the project are from the GAMP area
- the project must not have already started
- applicants must provide a healthy snack, breakfast, lunch or tea as part of the activity that aims to meet Food Safety Requirements. If you need any further assistance on Food Safety Requirements, please contact Durham County Council's Food Safety Team on 03000 261016 or email ehcp@durham.gov.uk
- applicants must demonstrate how they will engage/target children, young people and families who are most in need
- GAMP AAP is fully credited in all publicity associated with the project

Who can apply? Any not for profit organisations including:

- Voluntary and community sector organisations

Statutory bodies, including DCC Services, Police, Fire and Health bodies

- Parish & Town Councils
- Schools and Colleges
- Church and faith-based groups who operate activities and services where there is wider community benefit

How to Apply Please contact the GAMP team for an application form and guidance notes (telephone: 01325 327441 or email: gampaap@durham.gov.uk) The closing date for applications is Sunday 16 February 2020.

ACORN Community Association

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13th February at 6pm in the Phoenix Club (upstairs). Little Acorns at 5.30pm. Our speaker for the evening will be from the Auckland Project. We have been told this is very interesting and anything that improves Bishop Auckland can only be good for the whole area. Our trips for the next 6 months will be announced so bring your diaries. We look forward to seeing you - everyone is welcome. Free tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 26th February 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

Apprentice of the Year Competitions



to thank Concept magazine for giving us the opportunity to host the competition. It was an amazing experience for the students. We wish all of the winners good luck in the Concept hairdressing final in London in March." Ian Gaskill, Head of School of Technology, commented: "This was such a great opportunity for our students and all who took part. We would like to thank HIP and Sparks magazine for choosing New College Durham to host the competitions. We would like

to wish the finalists the best of luck as they go forward to represent our region on a national stage." The winners of the 6 regional Concept magazine heats progress to the Grand Final which takes place at L'Oréal Professional Academy, Hammersmith, London on 26 March 2020. The winners of the HIP and Sparks regional heats progress to the Grand Final which takes place at Schneider Electric Innovation Hub, in Coventry on 29-30 April.

New College Durham has welcomed some of the best apprentices in the country to participate in regional heats for two national competitions. The College hosted the Concept Hair Apprentice of the Year competition, and the HIP and Sparks competitions for Heating and Plumbing apprentices, both in the same week. On 27 January, students from further education colleges in Scotland, Yorkshire and across the North East region, descended upon the city to take part in the North East heat of the inaugural Concept magazine competition. Apprentices and full-time students showcased their skills in seven categories including styling, hair up, barbering, colouring and avant-garde with opportunities for Level 1, 2 and 3 trainee hairdressers and Level 2 and 3 trainee barbers. British Hairdresser of the Year, Robert Eaton, judged the competition alongside renowned hair professionals Jacqui McIntosh and Marcello Moccia. New College Durham student Niamh Thompson was the winner of the Styling Level 1 category with fellow student Ellie Melvin taking the runner-up

spot. The host college was also successful in the Hair Up Level 2 category with Samantha Twist taking first prize. The HIP and Sparks regional heat took place the following day on 28 January, with students arriving from further education colleges across the North East region. Apprentices and full-time students showcased their skills in a five hour practical challenge which involved carefully following drawings and schematics. Sam Scott of Middlesbrough College won the plumbing category while Georgia Owens, also of Middlesbrough College, took first prize in the electricians. Mark Anderson, Vice Principal at New College Durham, said: "We are delighted to host the first ever Concept Hair Apprentice of the Year competition and the HIP and Sparks competition. It has been an honour to welcome students from across the region and beyond to the College. These kind of competitions provide an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their skills." Lindsay Deswert, New College Durham's Lead Practitioner for Employability and Skills, commented: "We would like

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BUSINESS DURHAM APPOINTS INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sarah Slaven is taking on the role of Interim Managing Director at Business Durham, the economic development arm of Durham County Council, following the departure of Brian Archer.

Sarah was part of the management team that established Business Durham in 2012 and held the post of Operations Director until taking on her current position as Interim Managing Director in January 2020. Sarah will hold this position while recruitment for a replacement Managing Director takes place. In her previous role, Sarah

had responsibility for leading Business Durham's business engagement, inward investment and enterprise activities.

As Operations Director, Sarah led the implementation of the £20 million Finance Durham Fund with Maven Capital Partners, which has made 14 investments totalling £4.3 million into 10 dynamic businesses across County Durham.

She was responsible for securing over £10 million in ERDF funding for projects to support businesses in the county, such as the Durham Business Opportunities Programme (DBOP),

Digital Drive County Durham and the County Durham Growth Fund.

Sarah was also instrumental in setting up the Durham City Incubator based at Salvus House, a unique collaboration between Business Durham, Durham University and New College Durham to retain graduate talent and support graduate enterprise in Durham.

Sarah is a Member of the Institute of Economic Development, and holds a BA (hons) in Law and Economics, and an MBA from Durham University.

Currently, Sarah is a Director of County Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Network (CDEM) and of Aycliffe Business Park Ltd, as well as serving on the Board of the County Durham Economic Partnership and Innovate North East Ltd.

Sarah Slaven, Interim Managing Director at Business Durham, said: "I'm proud to be given the opportunity to lead and build on the great work that Business Durham is already doing to support business growth, create jobs and attract inward investment to Durham."

"Business Durham is a trusted advisor to hundreds of business owners across the county and we will continue to provide expert knowledge, in-depth advice, and ongoing support for every stage of business growth."

"I'm passionate about the fantastic assets and businesses we have here and I look forward to the opportunities that 2020 will bring."

Tania Cooper MBE, Managing Director of Steel Benders UK Ltd and member of the Business Durham Advisory Board, said: "Sarah has over 25 years' experience in economic development, business support and partnership working in County Durham, in particular leading on business engagement to help businesses start-up, develop and grow in County Durham."

"I have no doubt that Sarah will continue to deliver exceptional results in her role as Interim Managing Director at Business Durham."

Labour Candidate for GATC By-Election

On Tuesday evening the Woodham Ward members of Aycliffe Northwest Labour Branch were pleased to select our Labour candidate for the upcoming Great Aycliffe Town Council by-election. Brandon Fleet was selected for his enthusiasm to serve his community.

Brandon is keen to help shape our towns future by ensuring our young people are

represented and have a voice within our local democracy.

The seat has been vacated by Keith Henderson who has served diligently for many years and is well respected in the community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Keith for the many years of service to our town and the Labour party.

Aycliffe North West Branch Secretary.

Multi-Million Pound Investment Powers Aycliffe Expansion



Waste recycling and sustainability firm, Warrens Emerald Biogas, is set to ramp up its processing capacity at its plant by 40 percent following a multi-million pound cash injection.

The Newton Aycliffe-based waste management firm Warrens Group was recently acquired by Bio Capital, a major environmental investment fund.

The site turns food waste into power and was the region's first-ever commercial anaerobic digestion facility in 2012. The business processes 115,000 tonnes of food and agricultural waste each year at its site in Newton Aycliffe, in County Durham.

The waste is then converted into more than 100 million kWh of clean, green energy to power the equivalent of 19,000 homes in the region, as well as supplying local farmers with 100,000 tonnes of biofertiliser.

The latest plant expansion marks the fourth stage of investment in the facility and will see the company increase additional biogas upgrading capacity at the anaerobic digestion plant by upgrading front-end waste reception facilities alongside increasing pasteurisation, digestion and biomethane capabilities. Warrens Group is committed to helping businesses across a range of different sectors reduce the amount of food waste they send to landfill and incineration across the region. The business also aims to fully decarbonise its lorry fleet by 2025.

In October last year, Warrens Group announced it had

updated the company's fleet with four new vehicles that run on biofuel. The group has also just taken delivery of another new gas truck to add to this.

Kevin Quigley, Commercial Director at Warrens Group, said: "We continue to make impressive strides towards helping our customers evaluate their operations so they can reduce their overall environmental impact in the communities they serve."

"Expanding our capabilities is not only really exciting for us, it also provides businesses across the region with the opportunity to act in more responsible and sustainable ways to reduce their own carbon footprint."

"Almost every new conversation we have about food waste results in new customers for Warrens, each of whom want to do something positive with the food waste they generate."

"We see recycling food waste as a win-win. Once businesses pay closer attention to the waste they generate, we find they generate less of it. But where food is wasted, we convert it into 'good' energy for local communities."

Mick Fishwick, Chief Operating Officer of Bio Capital, said: "We are delighted to have added Warrens Emerald Biogas into our national portfolio of green power facilities. We are very supportive of the company's expansion plans and look forward to working with our customers, businesses and communities throughout the North East."

For more information on Warrens Group, visit <https://www.warrens-group.com>

Greenfield Students Mean Business



Students from Greenfield Community College have been taking business seriously showing innovative and entrepreneurial skills. The students are taking part in the (FBM) Future Business Magnates competition for schools, showcasing their business sense and working together as a strong team.

Working alongside Mrs Randall, Subject Specialist in Maths and House Leader, this year students are invited to come up with business ideas that will 'protect the planet'. A group of Year 8 students enjoyed their third challenge in the process recently, 'Designing a Business Plan', at Ushaw College. The business initiative has provided a valuable opportunity for students to work together and with external partners, learning new skills and preparing them for careers

in the future.

Future Business Magnates is a business enterprise competition for schools and helps introduce students to the basics of starting and running a business and inspires confidence and resilience, working in conjunction with local businesses.

The FBM team at Greenfield are looking forward to future challenges in the competition and to developing their innovative business idea. Greenfield Community College are committed to supporting students in extended learning opportunities such as FBM where they can achieve success through qualities supported and encouraged by staff including collaboration, responsibility, resilience, reflection and creativity. We wish the young entrepreneurs every success in the future.



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Giving Tree Yields £100 for Community Spirit



Whitehouse Funeral Service, Newton Aycliffe have a Christmas Giving Tree placed in their reception from 1st December to 1st January each year. Families are sent out gift tags and asked to write a message of remembrance to their loved ones and hang it on our tree. All we ask is that they make a donation for the charity we have chosen – this year the collection was made in aid of Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe.

Amy and Kelly from Whitehouse Funeral Services presented a cheque for £100 to Russ and Leanne Gibson from Community Spirit

Newton Aycliffe to contribute to the wonderful work they do within our community, helping those in need.

If you would like to receive a tag and contribute to our Giving Tree this year please feel free to pop into our office any time in December, as we would encourage anyone to take part, not just those families we have helped in the past.

We are also looking for suggestions for our Christmas 2020 charity so if you would like to nominate a cause please contact us on 01325 318600 or on our Facebook page, Whitehouse Funeral Service Newton Aycliffe.



COUNTY NEWSBITS

Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Here is this week's news update on developments in the Council and community. As always, there is more about all the following on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB150

(I) COUNCIL

As we prepare ourselves for extreme weather events, you will be interested to read about the DCC Environment Scrutiny Committee's special meeting on Monday 3 February, which looked at the provisions the County Council and its partners have made to address flooding. On Climate matters, DCC has been invited – despite the fact that Britain has left the EU – to share its business energy-efficiency practices across Europe in an EU-funded project called 'SME Power' ... and there was also a press release this week about DCC's new solar farm at Tanfield, built to provide power for its Comeleon House offices.

DCC has also been successful in a number of bids to help meet local housing needs – notably to support the development of a local lettings agency, and to pay for the continuation of 'Somewhere Safe to Stay' (SSTSs) – sites for people with a housing need who are not eligible for temporary accommodation.

The local Area Action Partnership (GAMP) Board met on Tuesday 28 January and considered the Police & Crime Commissioner's report, a Neighbourhood Policing Update, and the Bishop Auckland Hospital and Fire Service consultations.

And Great Aycliffe Town Council's Full Council meeting on Wednesday 29 January heard about a new home for three looked after children, approved the 2020/21 precept, and debated a complaint that it had not adhered to standing

orders.

(2) COMMUNITY

This month's HealthWatch County Durham newsletter is published, with a large number of items including the 'Everything in Place' project; reports on 'Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children' and the 'Supportive Volunteer Driver Scheme'; along with a 'Mental Health Attitudes Survey'.

Also, please complete two DCC consultations (your views genuinely do make a difference) on:

- Health & Wellbeing;
- The Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

And finally, why not finish by enjoying some good news items about Aycliffe Business Park (Warrens, Stiller, Homes by Carlton, Kunasan, CPI, and Tekmar).



Durham Constabulary is dedicated to making your neighbourhood safer. If you have any issues affecting your quality of life and want to discuss it with your Neighbourhood Policing Team, then get involved in your local PACT meeting.

Next Meeting:
Thursday 27th February
from 6-7pm
Woodham Community Centre

The meeting will start at 6.00pm and will be attended by a representative from your Neighbourhood Policing Team. They will be specific to your area and individual neighbourhood priorities will be discussed. All members of the community are welcome. You can talk to us privately afterwards if you wish.

Community Calendar

A new service for the organisers of events throughout Newton Aycliffe. Publicise your event with activity, date, venue and price. Send your information to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

Valentine's Day Party Night

Thursday 13th February at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

Club Anniversary 23rd Birthday Party

Thursday 27th February at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

Back to the Eighties

Saturday 29th February at The Big Club
Tickets £4 from the Club or Newton Press

St Patrick's Night Special

Saturday 14th March at The Big Club
Tickets £7 from the Club or Newton Press

St Patrick's Party Night

Thursday 19th March at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

Under 16s Talent Competition

Thursday 19th March at Greenfield College
Tickets £1 from College or Newton Press

Easter Fair

Saturday 28th March at St. Clare's Church (10am)

90s Classix v 00s Clubland

Saturday 4th April at The Big Club
Tickets £6 from the Club or Newton Press

St George's Day Party Night

Thursday 23rd April at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

VE Day Celebrations

Friday 8th May at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free Event

Punk All Dayer 2

Friday 8th May at The Turbinia
Tickets £10 from Gaz Avery or The Turbinia

The Forge Festival

8-10th May at Hammers & Pincers
Tickets £7 day or £15 for weekend

Our People Are Crazy Party Night

Thursday 11th June at The Phoenix Club
£3cc inc. free raffle ticket

Aycliffe Radio Music Festival

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free Event

5k/10k Fun Run

Sunday 21st June at West Park
Contact Aycliffe Running Club for details

Phoenix Motor Cycle Club Bike Rally

Sunday 4th July at Town Centre
Times to be confirmed

Emergency Services Day

Wednesday 12th August at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free event

Christmas Celebrations 2020

Saturday 28th November at Aycliffe Town Centre
Free event

Aycliffe Radio Xmas Live 2020

Saturday 5th December - TBC

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The Grudge - Richard Jewell



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Programme Schedule

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTON AYCLIFFE
TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT

"Aycliffe Town Centre... Shopping for You"



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

SATURDAY

10-12am	Moderation	Jack & Garvey
12-2pm	Kitchen Floorfillers	Carol Hall
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
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	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
Yesterdays Music Today Sponsored by MV Mobility		
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Mystery Year	Paul Baker
12-130pm	Sports Talk (R)	Sean Lawless
Blues Show Sponsored by Whitehouse Funeral Service		
2-4pm	Bear Blues Show	Colin & Monica
4-6pm	Folk/Celtic/Rock Show	Steve & Col
6-730pm	Jazz Time	Mike Dixon
8-10pm	The Rock Show	CAD
10-12am	Paul's Down Time	Paul Kjenstad

MONDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
5-6pm	Teenage Tunes	Ellarae Bower
6-7pm	60s Show	Karl Simons
7-8pm	70s Show	Peter Rush
8-9pm	80s Show	Gary Avery
9-10pm	90s Show	Paul Baker
10-11pm	00s Show	Producer Dan
11-12am	Teens Show	Andy Fittes

TUESDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
Sports Talk sponsored by Honest John		
6-730pm	Sports Talk	Sean Lawless
730-930pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
Community Connect sponsored by ROF59		
5-630pm	Community Connect	Amy & Carrie
630-8pm	Independent Music Show	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gaz n Alby

THURSDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoots	Graeme Roote

FRIDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-8pm	Techno Trance Mix	PVR Studios
8-10pm	Guest Presenter Session	
14th Feb	Martin Norris - Movin' Melodies	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

Check our website for full schedule

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk

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LISTENING OPTIONS:

www.ayclifferadio.co.uk - Free App (all formats)
TuneIn - Radios Online - Internet Radio - Alexa
UK Online Radio - Radio Garden - Online Radio Box
Streema - StreamFinder - Deezer
Radio Shaker - www.radio.net

Excellent Labour Council

Dear Sir,
Last month, Great Aycliffe Town Council published the results of its 'Your Town, Your Choice, Your Voice' satisfaction survey. 92% of respondents thought that Great Aycliffe is a pleasant place to live, 88% declared that they were satisfied with the town's Labour-controlled Council ... and 87% stated that it gives value for money.

This stands in stark contrast to a letter in last week's Newton News, which accused the Council of making 'faulty' judgements. None of the claims were true, as can be proved from the Council minutes.

• GATC P&R Minute 81 (December 2019) records that the Council voted to leave the decision on a 'paper-light council' to

the new Council after the 2021 elections (i.e. NOT to set aside £39,000 to buy ourselves "new shiny laptops and ipads" as was claimed last week).

• GATC Full Council Minute 90 (December 2019) records our agreement to prepare in our Medium Term Financial Plan for the renegotiation of the contract with DCC regarding the streetlights on the A167 (i.e. NOT, as last week's letter claimed, to have the lights removed if DCC won't pay).

• Also, may I point out that the Labour Group is a voluntary meeting of Labour councillors who believe (as their membership card states) that "by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone". Contrary to what last week's letter

claimed, it has no whips, and has no powers to expel anyone from the Labour Party.

We live in a world which, politically, is unsettled and angry. By contrast, voters in Great Aycliffe have chosen for many years to give control of their town council to the Labour Party, and I would suggest that that trust evidences itself in our green environment, well-regarded town council services and events, and in stable and well-managed council finances.

Please do not believe these electioneering claims that the town council is run by corrupt extremists; it is just not true. And please let's not reduce our town council, and the coming by-election, to unpleasant and untrue accusations.

John D Clare



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A TORY AND A BULLY

Dear Sir,

Since leaving the Labour Party almost 20 years ago, I have been totally independent of any political party. I am doubly pleased that I have not been on the Councillor Arun Chandran's puppet Independents.

At the Council Meeting on Wednesday, I was appalled by the way Cllr. Chandran attacked the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Mary Dalton, over a petty incident. Mary has served this Council and the people of Great Aycliffe with dignity, giving herself to the best of her considerable ability. Cllr. Chandran's attack left an old lady terribly upset and unable to continue to chair the meeting.

I am pleased that the Leader of the Council gave Cllr. Chandran a good old-fashioned dressing down, because Cllr. Chandran had shown himself as a bully to an old lady, showing no compassion or sensitivity to a person who has given so much to our community.

Secondly, I have recently been informed, by a very reliable source, that Cllr. Chandran was openly canvassing in Chilton with the Tory candidate and now our MP.

So much for him being Independent, he is a Tory supporter hiding under an Independent cloak. With Cllr. Chandran, you do not get what you see.

You don't get a decent Independent, but a Tory and a bully.

Bill Blenkinsopp

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Dear Sir,

I would be obliged if you would print the following letter, but do not want my name published.

"I read with joy and appreciation the letter published by "Tired of it all" entitled "Muddled Thinking" in last week's publication.

I entirely agree with the sentiments therein. Since at least 2016 we have had to suffer Mr Welch's bigoted missives and character assassinations on virtually a weekly basis. He is entitled to his views but so are the rest of us!!! We are intelligent, educated people and do not need his attempts to indoctrinate us. He has had more coats than Joseph. I have been tempted on numerous occasions to write to Newton News on this matter and print my name but did not want to play to his ego and begin a slanging match. These sentiments I have also heard from many of your readers, so let's have an end to it and let him and us get on with our lives. I am sure there are many good causes he could divert his obvious free time to.

At a time when our country is so divided we do not need weekly inflammatory articles, we all need to come together in peace, whatever our views may be. Let that be an end to it please. He has had more than his fair share of print time.

"Time to Move On"

Thank you.

Name & Address supplied

JUST IMAGINE

Dear Sir,

Imagine being elected as a County Councillor and pledging to support the people of your electoral division.

Imagine receiving a basic allowance of £11,000 per annum for undertaking that role.

Imagine then being elected to a neighbouring District Council and receiving a further allowance of £8,000 for undertaking the second role.

Imagine then being elected as an MP and receiving a salary of £79,468, plus expenses.

Imagine no longer being able to attend either Council, due to your new job.

Imagine that you then decide not to stand down from the Councillor roles you cannot undertake, but continue to take the monthly allowances.

Imagine denying the electorate an elected representative on the County Council.

Oh what a dilemma? What do I do?

Apparently, the answer is to do nothing. Apparently

the answer is to tell people you'll choose your moment for stepping down.

Apparently, the answer, in the meantime is to take the allowances and tell your electorate that you'll donate the allowances (public monies received from cash strapped Councils) to charity.

Durham County Council has suffered 55% funding cuts from the Conservative government in the last ten years, amounting to £263 million.

This isn't a hypothetical issue. It's an ethical issue. It's happening right now in Newton Aycliffe.

Name & address supplied

NEWTON NEWS

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Sharing Durham's Good Energy-Saving Ideas Across Europe

Dear Sir,

Did you realise that Durham County Council has an international reputation as a leader in the area of low carbon, energy-saving and climate change?

For a number of years, the Council's Low Carbon team has been a partner in the EU-funded 'REBUS' carbon-reduction project, in which local authorities around Europe are sharing good practice with the aim of producing a fund of ideas for others to copy. Recently a team of people from Sweden came to learn from DCC's energy-monitoring systems, and in March I have been invited to a conference in Italy to speak to partner organisations about what DCC is doing to reduce its carbon footprint.

Meanwhile, DCC's EU-funded 'Business Energy Efficiency Project' (BEEP) is so well-regarded that it has been funded for a second term and (despite

Britain leaving the EU) Durham has now been asked to participate in another EU energy efficiency project called 'SME Power' – a project sharing good practice about how exemplar local authorities and agencies (from Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Spain, Ireland and Finland) are helping local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to save energy (and money). The project's ambitious challenge is to publish guidance on: "How can we help SMEs become drivers for change?"

Therefore, in my role as DCC's Climate Change Champion, I was delighted to attend this week the first meeting of the regional stakeholder panel ... along with DCC officers; local partners from Business Durham, Newcastle and Sunderland Councils; the government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and its Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). After a brief introduction to the scheme, we spent a very profitable time comparing our advice and engagement processes, looking at what makes them work ... and what factors sometimes threaten success. SME Power is a four-year project with a total funding from the Interreg Europe Programme of €1.5 million (of which Durham will receive €188,120). The project has intentionally built-in flexibility to acknowledge that Britain has left the EU and may have different structures and rules.

John D Clare

I'm Retired

Dear Sir,

In last week's issue of the Newton News, "Tired of it all" asked me to, "put down my pen, cease the ranting and concentrate on the day job". I'm retired, ranting is part of my day job! I sign my letters, and am unwilling to enter into a series of correspondence with someone who hides behind an alias when expressing his opinion (of my views).

However, I would like to point out that Archbishops and Bishops are un-elected members of the House of Lords and are appointed by the Queen as head of the Established Church. The Queen has kept herself aloof from Brexit and therefore, it is reasonable to assume that she would wish her appointees to do the same. That having been said, I doubt if, "Tired of it all" was as pleased as I was to see that Clive Taylor-Sholl is standing as an Independent Candidate in the up-coming election of a Town Councillor for Woodham. Indeed, I was also pleased to see that Cllr. Arun Chandran was supporting Clive.

Like Cllr. Chandran, I have never believed that the 'Party System' has any proper place in Local Government and will always prefer independent candidates. All Town Councillors should have allegiance to their electorate first.

We have changed politics at a national level. If we support independent candidates at a Town and County level we can also change local politics for the better.

Yours Sincerely
Alastair P.G. Welsh

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The facilities at Darlington Memorial Hospital are no longer providing patients with the space and dignity they need and deserve during treatments. A planned new unit will be four times bigger. To donate to this appeal please donate via phone to: 01325 743781 or by BACS to: CDDFT Charity Sort Code: 60-70-80 Account: 10011056.



Council Leader Responds

I must start my reply to Councillor Arun Chandran's letter last week with an apology. Like many other people after a referendum, two general elections, watching the bear garden which the House of Commons became prior to the election, I was sick to my back teeth of the antics of some politicians. I hoped to get back to my job of making Newton Aycliffe a good place to work, play, live

and bring up your children. I then read Councillor Chandran's letter and I must reply because Cllr. Chandran is deliberately misleading you, has lost the plot or has lost the plot and telling you fake news.

Cllr. Chandran, as a former President of the then Bishop Auckland Constituency Labour Party and, until four years ago, Group Secretary of the Labour Group at Great Aycliffe Town Council, had to know that the rules of the Labour Party do not apply to town and parish groups. It is not in the power, and has never been in the power of a Labour Group to expel a member and we are not able to suspend members. We do make decisions but we don't have a whip. We have discussions on a number of issues and normally come to a consensus of opinion. That does not mean that members of the group can decide to act differently.

I will give you an example. At the Council meeting last week I proposed to suspend Standing Orders. A number of Labour Councillors did not support me. This would not have occurred in the distant past.

No longer must a Labour Councillor vote for a nominated Labour Councillor for Mayor. This was the practice in the past. It was a practice which Cllr. Chandran and two other opposition Councillors took advantage of to become the Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council (is this not a case of don't do what I did, but do what I tell you?).

Cllr. Chandran puts forward the case for Cllr. Sandra Haugh to become Mayor owing to her long service. I

have no doubt that at some time Sandra will make an excellent Mayor and I wish her well. Long service does not always result in being Mayor. Cllr Bill Blenkinsopp, John Clare and Eddy Adam have all served for many years and have not been Mayor. Oh yes! I have served for almost 33 years and will never be Mayor.

In his letter, Cllr Chandran claims that Labour Councillors have set aside £39,000 to buy 'new shiny laptops and i-pads' after the next election. This is untrue. Great Aycliffe Town Council Policy and Resources Committee Minute 21 (December 2019) records that the Council resolved that 'Officers work on a feasibility study for the Council to go paper-light, after which it would be recommended for consideration by the newly elected Council in 2021. The reason for this was that between one third and one half of the present councillors will be standing down or not be re-elected in 2021. With only 17 months to the election, it was decided that it would be unwise to proceed at this time. We also did not want to tie the hands of those Councillors who will be elected in 2021, no matter which party they support. The money quoted has been removed from the 2020/21 budget and will be retained in the Medium Term Financial Plan, if it is needed.

Cllr Chandran accuses the Labour Group of not making provision of funds in order to renew the contract with Durham County Council on the A167 street lights. This contract is not due for renewal until August 2025. Cllr Chandran quotes a figure of £47,507 to renew the contract. Councillor Eddy Adam, who is also a County Council Member, has established what the predicted cost to renew the lights in 2025 will be. These are the predicted costs from the County Highways Department:

Service Delivery Agreement - £60,000
82 light standards at £2,000 per standard - £164,000
65 replacement LED units - £32,500
Electrical power over 10 years - £47,000
A total of £243,500

There will be Council elections in 2021 and then in 2025. Those Councillors elected in 2025 will have a very difficult decision to make, as the sum indicated will have to be paid up-front. The current Medium Term Financial Plan indicates the Council will be able to retain its activities and services for the next 5 years and also maintain our assets for the next 10 years. This is a result of many years of prudent management of our finances in both the long and short term. These predictions are subject to future councillors being prudent and not indulging themselves in personal extravagant pipe dreams.

Cllr Bob Fleming
Leader of the Council
Chairman of Policy and Resources

TWAS THE MONTH AFTER CHRISTMAS

The tree's back in the attic, the last mince pie has gone, and just about now the credit card bill for December is about to land.

So; what to do? Well even if the envelope is a bit thicker than usual don't panic – but perhaps it is time for an early financial spring clean.

First, if you can, it's probably best to clear that credit card debt – especially if the interest rate is high. If you can't clear it then consider transferring to a 'nil rate' alternative to give you the breathing space to clear it over the next few months. Second, go through your direct debits (DDs) and make sure you're only paying for the things you really need and want. It's amazing how a little 'DD' can get left behind if you forget to cancel a service – just don't cancel anything you need!

Third, make a note of when all of your utilities come off their introductory rates and when your insurances are due to renewal, and shop around. Again you can make significant savings by checking what else is available out there.

Finally, check your mortgage. Are you still on that fixed rate you thought you were on? When does it come to an end? If you're on, or will be going onto, your lender's standard variable rate (SVR) then it's worth having a chat to see if there's something more suitable out there. This could potentially save you thousands over the term of the mortgage in interest payments.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

History Talk Back By Popular Demand

Family historians will have another chance to find out about their relatives' burial and cemetery records when a popular talk is repeated.

The archivist-led course will explore the wide range of records that may need to be searched in order to determine where an ancestor was buried.

Durham County Record Office will host the event, which has been brought back in response to public demand, on Monday 10 February from 6pm to 8pm and again on Thursday 13 February from 10am to 12 noon.

The session is part of a series of regular Branching Out courses aimed at people who are already familiar with the basics of family history. Each talk focusses on a different type of record and offers visitors a chance to research their past in more detail.

Dawn Layland, education and outreach archivist, said: "Family historians often want to know where their ancestors are buried and this talk will show you how to go about tracking them down."

"Over the course of an hour, we will explain how best to determine where relatives are buried, looking at what records exist, where they can be found and what information they contain."

Following the talk, visitors will have an opportunity to spend a second hour conducting their own research using the Record Office's facilities and an archivist will be on hand to offer advice.

Tickets for the session, priced at £10 per person, must be booked in advance and are available to buy online at <https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk> or over the telephone on 03000 267 619.

MESSY CHURCH

February MESSY Church, on Saturday 15th at St. Clare's, will be a fun packed afternoon filled with Fun, Faith and Fellowship! Registration at 3:30pm for a 4pm start, followed by at "Love" inspired tea at 5:15pm.

We will be learning just how much God loves each and every one of us by learning about Zacchaeus we will be creating, making, building, sticking and learning through a wonderful afternoon of craft. Come along and make Coin biscuit and a pair of binoculars, be a special part of building a tree in church, and send your loving prayers that travel all the way up to heard by God and much, much more!

Tea will be home made tomato soup with heart shaped bread followed by a special LOVE pudding!(vegetarian and gluten free option available). MESSY Church, as always, is free to all, but any donations are always very much appreciated.

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Additional Information: Must hold a valid driving licence.

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Successful applicants will undergo References and an Enhanced DBS Check.

For further information and to request an application form contact: rozzlynn@btinternet.com



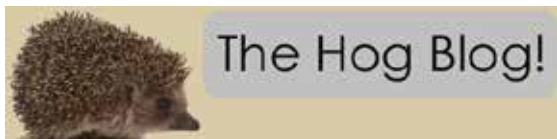
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YEAR 10 OPEN EVENING
Thursday 13 February
5.30pm – 7.30pm





News from the Women's Institute

Your local W.I. members have been very active over the last few months. We have had some interesting and entertaining speakers at our meetings. Coming up on February 11th we have a talk called Enigma or a great puzzle? A story of bravery and courage. On March 10th we will hold our annual silent auction, a chance to donate unwanted goods to raise funds for our W.I. and on April 14th we have the ever popular Chris Lloyd from The Northern Echo to talk about Lewis Carroll's Croft connection.

Alongside the monthly meeting we have also enjoyed a varied programme of excursions and taken part in activities involving other W.I. members in the County Durham Federation. These include quizzes, lunches and coffee mornings. A recent addition to these activities is walking netball, which takes place on Mondays at 10am in Newton Aycliffe leisure centre. A fun activity for all abilities. There is also a lot going on at W.I. house in Spennymoor, home of Durham federation. Our ladies have attended lots



of different workshops and regular self help craft groups. We have learned crochet, sugarcraft, flower arranging, scone making, and many more. Coming up there are more scone making, chigiri vase decorating and iris folding techniques to make beautiful cards. There are also other activities coming up including darts, poetry, drama, and kurling. A very varied programme with something for everyone.

The W.I. is very welcoming, a place to meet new friends and have some fun with old ones. Your W.I. meets at St. Clare's Church Hall at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Come along ladies and make new friends. Any enquiries please contact Helen Webster on 01325 315017.

Eagles Raise Funds at Bag Pack



Tesco kindly played host to the Newton Aycliffe Youth FC Under 9s Eagles on Friday night as they took part in a bag pack in order to raise funds for an upcoming tournament. The competition, which takes place in Blackpool in May, will be the second time the boys have taken part and was found to be invaluable for both football skills and team building last year. Whilst working hard helping the people of Aycliffe pack their bags, the boys were thrilled to be able to help Middlesbrough Football Club stars Lewis Wing and Marcus Tavernier, who kindly donated and had their photos taken! The team would like to say a big thank you to Shirley, Community Champion for Tesco, for allowing us to visit the store and thanks also to the generous customers who

helped us raise £340.57! Newton Aycliffe under 9 Eagles travelled to Division 1 side Riverside Juniors Blues in the last 16 of the challenge cup. It was a chance to play against a really good opposition. Riverside Blues have 3 academy players already signed up to Middlesbrough and Newcastle with 2 further players who already signed pre contracts for next season. The boys raised their level and fought with every ounce of desire they had today. With some great saves from Carter and the whole team putting in an amazing defensive display we went in level at HT. Second half was much of the same until about 10 minutes to go when a shot took a deflection and ended up in the back of the net. The boys weren't

disappointed and in fact it spurred us on as we started to pressure Riverside and had 2 good opportunities to equalise late on but on this occasion it wasn't to be. MOM went to the whole team. Today the boys raised their level to compete with a higher standard of opposition and did themselves proud. As a coach today I was so proud of the effort shown by every player. All 12 players today proved they can compete when they get their mindset right and focus at the job in hand.

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18-19	£100	£15	£10	£125
20	£150	£15	£10	£175
21	£190	£15	£10	£215
22	£240	£15	£10	£265
23	£290	£15	£10	£315
24	£340	£15	£10	£365
25	£390	£15	£10	£415
26+7 Day	£505	£15	£10	£530
26+5 Day	£450	£15	£10	£475
Joint	£950	£30	£20	£1000
70+7Day	£450	£15	£10	£475
70+5Day	£410	£15	£10	£435
Student	£125	£15	£10	£150
Direct Debit				
26+7Day DD	£539.95	£15	£10	£565.95
Joint DD	£984.95	£30	£20	£1034.95
70+7Day DD	£484.95	£15	£10	£509.95



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Coates Joins The Mini Elite

North Yorkshire based racing driver Max Coates is set to join multi-championship winning team, Elite Motorsport, for both their maiden seasons in the MINI CHALLENGE. Coates has retained the support of Primex Plastics, RPC bpi PLASgran, Jic Transport, RGPS, Gala Performance, NGK Spark Plugs, Jackson and Graham Accountants, CTL Dental and Olfi Camera as partners for the 2020 season. Coates will join Lewis Galer to create a two-car Elite Motorsport entry for the 2020 season.

2020 sees the MINI CHALLENGE entering its most exciting season yet as it steps up to become a support series at eight of the ten British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) events. Featuring live ITV4 coverage reaching 20 million in the UK alone and average crowds of 38,000 people, it replaces the Renault UK Clio Cup where Coates has enjoyed 14 race wins and championship challenges over the past four seasons. Likewise, Elite Motorsport have been champions for the last three years in Ginetta Juniors and are 2019 Ginetta GT4 Supercup Champions which both support the BTCC. The joining of Coates and Elite Motorsport is therefore an exciting one. Although Coates and Elite Motorsport have no previous experience racing the Gen 3 F56 MINI Hatch JCW car, both Richard

Skeels and Martin Poole as chief engineer and number one mechanic for Elite Motorsport have fronted a championship winning campaign in the MINI CHALLENGE in former roles.

After a successful pre-season test at Calafat in Spain both are confident going into the season ahead, Coates said, "After a very successful test with the Elite Motorsport team I am happy to be signing with them for the 2020 season. I drove the car for the first time two weeks ago and immediately got to grips with it. The three-day test was very useful and we were able to make a number of changes to the car to understand how it would react. I'm confident that with another few days under our belt before the season starts, we'll be ready to hit the ground running at Donington. I'm really looking forward to working with Eddie, Rich and Martin this year alongside my long-standing mechanical team. I'd like to extend a thank you to Elite Motorsport as well as Primex Plastics, RPC bpi PLASgran, Jic transport and all my other partners who have continued to support me in 2020."

"I'd like to thank Team HARD. Racing for all their efforts last season, whilst it had been my aim to step up to the BTCC it just wasn't possible this year. The BTCC is my aim and I believe being in the

Mini Challenge with Elite Motorsport is the best place to achieve that, I'm really excited for this season." Ed Ives, team owner of Elite Motorsport said, "We are extremely excited to have Max onboard. With his experience of front wheel drive cars and having run at the front in the Clio Cup, there is no doubt that he will be an integral part of Elite Motorsport's fight for the MINI CHALLENGE title." The first round of the championship is at Donington Park in

Derbyshire on the 28th / 29th March 2020. Coates' local round of Croft will feature on the 15th / 16th August. Fans will be able to follow the season via Max's, Elite Motorsport and the MINI CHALLENGE social media as well as live on ITV4 from each event. Tickets for each race meeting are available via the individual circuit's websites.

Photo: Elite Motorsport – L-R (Martin Poole, Rich Skeels, Eddie Ives, Max Coates).

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



This weekend again saw many members participating in the local Parkruns on Saturday morning and we had two members achieving Parkrun PBs. First was Paula Lambert who achieved her PB at Shildon in a time of 32.54. At Sedgefield Jayne Rudd achieved a course PB of 32.57.

Also on Saturday we had two people take part in races on the Town Moor in Newcastle. This was the winter warmer run with distances of 5k and 10k to take part in. In the 5k Hannah Richardson finished this in 33.38 and in the 10k Helen Boyd completed this in 1.09.29.

Sunday then saw the start of the road racing for the year with four members travelling to take part in the Dewsbury 10k. The course is an out and back route along Bradford Road towards Batley with the Start and Finish located on the Dewsbury Ring Road adjacent to the Railway Viaduct and it is known as a fast course.

First home for ARC was John Surtees who also achieved a PB in a time of 33.51. He was followed by Paul Dalton in 36.22, Tracey Surtees in 39.29 (also a 10k PB) and

Corey Horn in 40.29.

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 6.30pm, Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00pm, 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.



Juniors Football Report

As we entered the second month of the year, the football fixtures continued to come thick and fast for our Aycliffe Junior teams.

Our **Under 8s Whites** had their final game of their season knowing that getting at least one point would win them the league. The team hadn't lost a single fixture up until this point for their entire season, winning all games except the one they drew. Their opponents were second placed Crook Town. It was always going to be a great game of football and this matchup didn't disappoint, however the determination of the Aycliffe side proved too much and they walked away 4-3 winners. Three of these four goals came courtesy of Jack with Dom also getting on the score sheet with the man of the match award going to Jensen for an excellent goal keeping performance. This final game wrapped up what can only be described as an incredible campaign for the team and their coaches. The lads now move onto division one where they will continue to face tough opposition and hold their own.

The **Under 8s Blacks** travelled to Durham for their match. It was a closely contested game with chances at both ends of the pitch. For the whole game Aycliffe pushed forwards with the ball hitting both posts and the crossbar, however this, and a goal from Rhys, wasn't enough to secure them any points to wrap up their league campaign. The man of the match was awarded to Benjamin.

Our **Under 8s Juniors** played at Woodham against Hartlepool Pools Youth Whites. It was an excellent game of football with the lads showing their ability in a 5-1 win. Jack bagged himself a brace with Jonah, Dom and Man of the Match Daniel all grabbing themselves a goal apiece.

The **Under 9s** travelled to play Middleton Rangers in what was always going to be a tight game. Aycliffe soon found themselves a goal down, however this didn't affect their performance and two brilliant goals from man of the match Tyler got them straight back into this fixture and won the Aycliffe side all 3 points.

Our **Under 10s** faced off against Heighington in horrible conditions. After a one sided half Aycliffe somehow found themselves a goal down going into the break. Early in the second half JJ got his first goal for the club levelling up the scores to 1-1. Unfortunately for the juniors Heighington also got a goal in the second half and this got them all 3 points. It was a valiant effort from the Aycliffe team who put in an excellent performance. Liam was awarded man of the match from this fixture.

The **Under 11s Blacks** made the trip to play Gateshead at the weekend. It was a great game for the spectators, however it wasn't Aycliffe's day with a goal from Alex



not being enough to get any points for the Juniors.

Our **Under 11s Clarets** hosted a well organised Riverside Blues team. Aycliffe had a slow start as the visitors put the team under some pressure, however the home side held their own and fought back into the game with goals from Ashton, Alex and man of the match Harry being enough to get Aycliffe the victory.

The **Under 11s Whites** played hosts to Prissick Madrid. The last time these two teams met it wasn't a good outing for the Juniors side with them getting beat by a 12 goal difference, so they were keen to make a better account of themselves this time out and that they did with Aycliffe showing there was a massive improvement in the teams ability and willing to battle for the results they want. Ethan got Aycliffe's goal and the man of the match award was given to Joshua for his work rate throughout the fixture where there was a 2 goal difference between the two teams.

Our **Under 12s Whites** faced Billingham Synthonia at the weekend. It was an excellent game for the high scoring Aycliffe team with Niall grabbing 5 goals and Tyler, Jayden and Harvey also getting in on the act. Niall was awarded the man of the

match award for an excellent attacking performance.

The **Under 12s Blacks** travelled to play Bedale. The team started very slow and conceded from kickoff. However this forced a reaction and the team joined together to play some inspired football spinning the game on its head and earning them a 6-5 win. Rhys, Jake and Lucas all got 2 goals a piece with the man of the match award going to Emrehan for an excellent performance.

Our **Under 13s** faced off against Kader in a top of the table clash. It was an amazing game to watch with 8 goals being scored. Although it could never be called who was going to be the victor from this fixture, when the final whistle was blown it was Aycliffe who were 5-3 winners thanks to goals from Daniel H, Joe, Thomas A and Josh.

The **Under 14s** faced Shotton Colts in what was an interesting matchup. Although the game had its controversial moments there was some good football being played. There was a penalty saved, and a lot of fierce competition, both teams made sure that when the two sides face off again in a fortnight, the game is not to be missed. Both goals Aycliffe scored came courtesy of man of the match Charlie.

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Open Monday to Saturday Noon to 4pm

Crafter's Companion Welcomes First Lead TV Presenter

Crafter's Companion is expanding its in-house TV team with the appointment of its first lead presenter. In what has become a huge area of expansion for the business and a vital part of its ecommerce strategy,

Joe Remblance has joined Crafter's Companion to host the schedule of shows on its channel, Crafter's TV. Joe's role will involve guiding his craft expert co-stars and viewers through the programme, driving

the social conversation and interacting with the audience live on air. With nine years' experience in the TV shopping industry, Joe brings a wealth of expertise to his new position. Prior to this, the presenter worked in the hospitality industry as a chef and general manager,

and for his family's catering company. Crafter's Companion currently produces six weekly shows and employs nine craft experts to present product launches, inspirational projects, demonstrations, giveaways and special live offers. In the past 12 months,

Crafter's Companion has invested in an expansion of its studio space, which has included the creation of two studios and a control room. To support the surge in demand for its TV division, the company has also bolstered its in-house production team, recruiting an online video content producer, a graphics and video editor, an assistant producer and a manager for

the TV division, in addition to promoting an existing team member to production manager. Joe said: "My new role as a host for Crafter's TV is very exciting. I have known Sara and the team for a number of years and have admired their passion and support of the wider craft community. I've also had the opportunity to work with Crafter's Companion's brilliant team on a regular basis.

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know the customers on a larger scale, whether that's interacting online, meeting them in stores or at the company's crafting retreat, Craftaganza. I am always keen to learn new skills and techniques and I'm not ashamed to say that sometimes I will be learning alongside the viewer!" Sara Davies MBE, founder and creative director of Crafter's Companion said: "Crafter's TV has become a really exciting venture

for the business. We have created this platform solely to excite, entertain and educate our customers. It's a place where they can preview our upcoming launches, find inspiration or take advantage of one of our great offers and we soon realised that having a presenter would take Crafter's TV to the next level.

"When the opportunity presented itself, we knew that Joe was a perfect fit. I have known Joe for years, he has a fantastic personality and will do a tremendous job of driving engagement so we are thrilled to have him on board."

Crafter's TV is available on:
• Our Website <https://www.crafterscompanion.co.uk/page/category/crafters-tv/>
• YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8U4HMAhDlk4p0ShZ8MpY2g>
• Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CraftersCompanion/>

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MasterChef Star Heads to Bishop Food Festival

Top television chef John Torode will headline a County Durham food festival this spring as organisers pull together all the ingredients for

an irresistible culinary weekend. The MasterChef co-host is the first famous guest to be announced ahead of Bishop Auckland Food Festival's return on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April.

Entry to the Durham County Council festival has always been free but this is the first time that visitors can also watch demonstrations by celebrity chefs without buying a ticket in a new cookery marquee.

John, who also presents John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen with his wife Lisa Faulkner on ITV, will demonstrate a selection of delicious dishes on the Saturday.

Australian by birth, he is credited as one of the major players in introducing Australasian food to the UK in the 1990s. His television career has also seen him travel the world in search of vibrant cuisines and exciting recipes for the BBC and UKTV.

John said: "I am really looking forward to coming to Bishop Auckland Food Festival. I have heard great things about the event and the wonderful produce that can be found in the North East. Please come along and say hello. I love to meet people who share my passion for food and cooking."

Last year, the festival attracted more than 29,000 people to the town's historic

Market Place, boosting the takings of local businesses and more than 150 traders. Hundreds of people enjoyed demonstrations by celebrity chefs including John's MasterChef co-presenter Gregg Wallace, who described Bishop Auckland as "one of the nicest, friendliest places I've been."

And this year's festival is shaping up to be just as appetising, with traders from across the North East serving up the finest produce the region has to offer, along with tasty street food, tempting tipples and indulgent cakes and desserts.

As well as the main cookery theatre, the festival has also teamed up with Savour Magazine to showcase the North East's most talented chefs and restaurateurs on the free Market Place Stage. An action-packed programme of workshops, meanwhile, will educate and inspire children and adults alike.

Music has always been a popular part of the festival and once again, an eclectic line up of bands and singers will create an uplifting soundtrack to the foodie fun on offer.

Cllr Joy Allen, the council's Cabinet member for transformation, culture and tourism, said: "Bishop Auckland Food Festival is a wonderful day out for the whole family and boosts the local economy by hundreds of thousands of pounds."

"It is such an exciting time for Bishop Auckland, as the town hall is also reopening this spring following a major revamp. What better time to plan a visit or a weekend break to enjoy the festival and everything else the area has to offer."

To stay up to date with the latest festival news, visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk and follow @bishfoodfest on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

RESIDENTS MEETING

Williamfield Residents Association next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th February at 5pm in The Ark (formerly Western Area Community Centre Silverdale House). Local issues will be discussed. Please come to support your community. Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477 for more details.



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Second Phase at Travellers

Dear Sir,
The latest stage of the development of Traveller's Green / Clarence Green is under way with the

demolition of the remaining bungalows. This work is resulting in an enormous amount of mud and rubble being spread onto the roads

as far as the Blue Bridge and beyond by the skip wagons removing the waste material. Despite complaints to the site foreman, and his promises of a road sweeper to keep the area clear the roads are an utter mess along with several damaged verges where heavy vehicles have been driven across them.

If this is not nipped in the bud now it will only get worse when construction of the new buildings begin & the volume of vehicles increases. When the apartments of stage 1 were under way there was some consideration given to the residents who live adjacent to the site. This no longer appears to be the case.

We have already endured 4 years of noise, dust and general mess in this area, and we are no doubt faced with the same for at least the next 30 months.

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250 UP FOR AARON Positive Experience of County Services

Newton Aycliffe skipper Aaron Brown made his 250th appearance for the Club in Saturday's win over Consett. Before kick off chairman Allan Oliver presented Aaron with an engraved salver to mark the occasion. In his programme notes for the game Head Coach Col Stromsoy praised Aaron's dedication, hard work & leadership. As ever, members of Aaron's family attended

the game with niece Orla assisting the chairman with the presentation. Aaron previously played for West Auckland and Sunderland RCA before spending two campaigns in Sweden playing professional football. He returned to the North-East & joined Aycliffe in 2014/2015. He was Player of the Year and ever present in 2018/2019, becoming Club Captain for 2019/2020.



New mums in County Durham and Darlington have told a national survey they feel they're getting the best care. Results of the annual survey of maternity services reveal that those women surveyed who used maternity services delivered by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, gave their experience a higher rating than most other trusts achieved in six of the categories surveyed. The Care Quality Commission's 2019 survey highlights women's views on all aspects of their maternity

care from the first time they saw a clinician or midwife, during labour and birth, through to the care provided at home in the weeks following the arrival of their baby. Each month 300-400 babies are born under the care of the Trust. Areas surveyed where it scored particularly

well, included the number of women expressing confidence and trust in the staff caring for them during labour and birth, the information and explanations they received in hospital after their baby was born and that their decisions about how they wanted to feed their baby were respected by midwives.

The Trust didn't score below national average in any categories surveyed.

Commenting, Anne Holt, associate director of nursing, family health, said, "Pregnancy, labour and childbirth are one of the most important experiences women

have and we're proud of the dedicated members of our teams who care for women throughout this period. We're delighted to have received this excellent feedback."

Obituary

Joan Dobson (nee Cooper) Newton Aycliffe

On 4th February, peacefully, after a long illness, aged 68 years. Beloved Wife to Alan; loving Mum to Christine and Ian; dear Mother-in-Law to Shane and Julia; devoted Grandma to Mitchell and Mia and a beloved Sister to Tommy, Bobby, Andy and Val. She will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends.

Funeral Thursday 13th February. Would friends kindly meet for Service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations will be much appreciated in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care and may be given at the Crematorium or will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN Tel: 01325 318600.

Mary Winter

19th January, peacefully in her sleep. Mary aged 88 years of Mellanby Crescent, Newton Aycliffe. Loving Sister of Eileen and Andrew also a much loved Aunty and Great Aunty. Funeral on Friday 14th February. Would family and friends please meet at 11.30am for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon. Family flowers only.

Ken Chester

Passed away peacefully, but unexpectedly, in hospital on 30th January, aged 87 years. Beloved Husband of Val; devoted Dad of Terry and Gail; dearly missed Father-in-Law of Michelle and David; much loved Grandad of Zoe and Richard. Will family and friends please meet for a Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Tuesday 18th February at 2.30pm.

Birthday Remembrance

Allan Shelton 6/2/1943 to 7/6/2010

Allan, wherever I go, whatever I do. Memories keep me near to you. Love always, Maureen, family and friends

Betty McFarlane 3/2/1939 to 7/2/2018

A true lady and good friend, always in our thoughts. Love, Maureen, Marie, family and friends

Bob Ward

of Newton Aycliffe, passed away on 21st January, aged 87 years. Devoted Husband to Lilian (recently passed); loving Dad to John, Colin and Phillip; cherished Father-in-Law, Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday 13th February at Wear Valley Crematorium at 10.30am. Donations in lieu to the Alzheimer's Society, collection box at the crematorium.

In Memoriam

Dawn Elliott 29/06 - 6/2/14

It is six years since you left us and not a day has gone by without thinking of you and never will. Love you forever. Dad and Kathy

Dawn Elliott 6th February 2014

Always in our thoughts. Love and miss you so much, Mam, Bill and Stephen

Ena Forster 6th February 2019

The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day. But the love and memories of you shall never pass away. From your loving Sisters, Pat, Joyce, Val and Susan

Tony Dobson 5 years - 7th February 15 John Parkinson 1 year - 9th February 19

Beloved Sons of Ken and Brenda Robinson, so deeply loved and sadly missed. Loved Brothers of Bryan and Andrew; Husband of Leanne; Dad of Courtney and Amber; Uncles to Jason and Keiran, Jack and Morgan. Also dear Brother-in-Law. Much loved. Never to be forgotten

Acknowledgement

Laura Ryder

Mary and the family of the late Laura wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy during their recent bereavement. Thank you for the cards and donations for the RAF Benevolent Fund. Thank you to Tamara Bibby Celebrant for the lovely Service. Thanks also go to Barry and Staff of Gordon Fletcher & Sons for their services and to Marion of the Thames Diner for the lovely buffet

Rita Watson

The family of the late Rita would like to thank family and friends for the kind donations which raised £364.78 for Cancer Research UK. Thank you also for your kind words of comfort, cards of condolence and support. Dennis and Family

Dance School Open Day



Macadam School of Dance are holding a celebration and Open Day for their new studio on Saturday 15th February, 1pm-4pm. Please come along and have a look at what we have to offer, we can answer any questions etc. We are a community interest company and all about offering the same opportunities for all. We are based at Acorn House, Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6HP.

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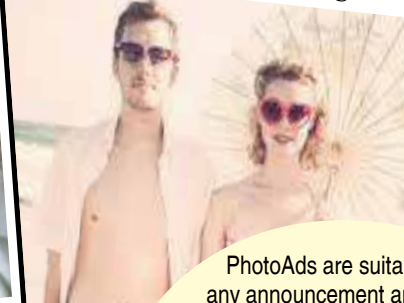
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Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



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N.A.F.C. REPORT



Newton Aycliffe beat high-flying Consett 3-0 at the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium. It was an outstanding performance in which they could have scored more goals (hitting the post twice) and looking in no real trouble at the back.

The game was preceded by a minute's silence in memory of Luke Raine. Luke was a former chairman of Newton Aycliffe FC who sadly passed away recently. Aycliffe had the ball in the net after only five minutes when Liam Jarvie was played in and rounded the keeper, only to be deemed offside. Aycliffe were bossing the game and went ahead on 19 minutes. Man-of-the-match Ethan Wood played a clever ball to Adam Burnicle, who beat his marker and smashed a shot past Hayes in the Consett goal. Aycliffe had a good penalty shout three minutes later when Jake Petitjean appeared to be impeded, but the appeals were turned

down. Burnicle and Jarvie both had chances from difficult angles, and then right on half time a Jarvie cross was deflected against the post and out.

Aycliffe came out for the second half and initially they weren't as effective as in the first, as they got to grips with Consett's changes. Adam Pickford had to make his first save in the 58th minute, but the shot wasn't strong enough to trouble him. Aycliffe got going again and Andre-Vasile Ardelean hit the post after a good move. Jarvie was then denied a goal by the offside flag for the second time in the match.

Consett pushed on in an attempt to claw their way back into the game, and Aycliffe had keeper Pickford to thank as he made a fantastic double save to maintain the narrow margin. Aycliffe were not

Saturday 1st February
Ebac Northern League Division One
Newton Aycliffe 3 v Consett 0

to be denied and on eighty minutes got the second goal their fine play deserved. Substitute Johnson Ballan turned and hit an early shot from distance, Hayes could only push it out to Ardelean who slotted home.

Deep into injury time, Aycliffe got a deserved third goal to delight the home fans and cap a fine performance. A long ball was swept out to Burnicle on the left-hand side and he went straight in on goal before despatching the ball beyond Hayes. This was his third brace in as many matches since joining the club. The win saw Aycliffe climb to seventh in the table, with games in hand on the teams above them.

Next match is at home to North Shields on Saturday 8th February, 3.00pm)

Photo: Players observe a minute's silence in memory of Luke Raine

RUGBY UPDATE

After an unbeaten run of 5 matches Newton Aycliffe 1st XV succumbed to league leaders Redcar last Saturday after a well fought match in excellent conditions at Moore Lane.

Supported by an ever-increasing crowd of keen rugby fans, they were treated to some exuberant match play from both sides. Redcar started the match with intent and for the first 15 mins were camped in Aycliffe's half. The home side defence tactics held out well and there was some impressive tackling by the forwards and backs. Once Aycliffe stemmed the onslaught of Redcar's attack they started to push visitor's back with some good running and tactical kicking into the Redcar half. However, Redcar showed how much of a well drilled side they were by counter attacking at every opportunity. Eventually breaking the deadlock with strong forward pressure and scored their first converted try. 0-7 (30mins). Despite the setback Aycliffe continued to counter in what remained of the half. Aycliffe's big pack prevented Redcar from dominating the scrums. As Redcar advanced before the halftime whistle blew, a ruck had formed, and the Aycliffe forwards were desperate to overturn the ball with players almost using what resembled scuba diving methods to come up with the ball. The referee spotted the handling in the ruck infringement and awarded Redcar the penalty, which they converted. 0-10 (40mins) Half time score.

The barmy army of supporters knew Aycliffe were still up for this match and were not too disappointed with this score. Remembering the devastating away score of 83-5 to Redcar, rather than head towards a transitional withdrawal, this was a much-improved performance by Aycliffe. The second half started pretty much the same for the visitors who attacked with strong forward play once again to score another converted try. 0-17 (45mins). Aycliffe started to increase the tempo from then on and pushed back Redcar close to their try line when Aycliffe Nr 8 decided to pick up and go from a ruck and powered himself over to score. Kicking maestro Euan Kitching was back in the side to slot over the conversion 7-17 (62mins). This lifted the crowd and the buzz was back but short lived when Redcar countered, and some unusual defensive errors by Aycliffe allowed them to increase their score with yet another converted try. 7-24 (67 mins). The match was full of intensity and some great tackling from both sides. Aycliffe's big front row consisting of Jeff Hodgson, covering for the absent James Hanlon, Dale Patterson and Karl Chapman held their own superbly



against the big Redcar pack. The return of Captain Luke Harty helped Aycliffe in the lineout control, with Alfie Wilson deputising at second row. The back row of Neil Anderson, Littlefair and Drew Gibson all tackled well. Patterson's powerful running and great work at hooker awarded him the Man of The Match. Time was still ticking and with 10 minutes left on the clock. It was inevitable that all the good work from the home side should be awarded with another opportunistic move from centre James Thacker who intercepted the ball amongst the Redcar back line and from over 30 meters out picked a powerful line to score a superb individual try under the posts. Kitching easily converted. 14-24 (70mins). This boosted the home-side and started to utilise the back division more with some good angles of running by centre Luke Tinkler and full back Gareth Parsonage. Unfortunately, the handling across the backline was often disrupted by the well drilled Redcar defence which agonisingly prevented Aycliffe from adding to their score. Amongst the moments of real tough intensity there was a light-hearted moment witnessed by all. When a high territorial kick from Redcar was watched by prop stalwart Hodgson who literally impersonated a Falklands Island penguin watching a squadron of jet aircraft fly over its head and he literally fell over backwards much to the amusement of the crowd. That aside the final score remained 14-24. Both sides knew they had been in a very tough match, but the division leaders gained all the points and march on to become potential champions. Aycliffe can be satisfied with the excellent shift put in by all the players. There is no planned game for Feb

Wool Wanted

Dear Sir,
I would like to put out an appeal for unwanted/unused wool that any reader may have as I am crocheting blankets for the Dogs Trust. If you have wool to donate, please contact me on 07973 769345.

Mrs Stapleton

Film Show

"RED JOAN"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 11th February features the 2018 mystery drama "RED JOAN", starring Judi Dench, Sophie Cookson, Tom Hughes and Stephen Campbell Moore. A widow living in quiet retirement is suddenly confronted by her past... was she a spy? MI5 seem to think so.

Everyone is welcome.

Tea and coffee are served at 1pm, included in the £2.00 admission, the film starts at 1.15pm and a variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company. For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.



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